

Autumn / Winter 2024

Nexus

GOULBURN VALLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Pam Pogue
Retiring after
36 Years of
Service

INSIDE:

GVGS Alumni

Matthew Kettle

Zoe Vise

Claire O'Toole





From the Board Chair

Nexus

Nexus is a GVGS school community publication. We welcome submissions to **Nexus** from staff, students, alumni and those connected with the school community.

Contributing Writers for this edition:
Samantha Schelling (Past Parent)
Clare Winter-Irving (Class of 2010)

Goulburn Valley Grammar School
455 Verney Road, Shepparton,
Victoria, 3630.

Telephone: 03 5833 3300,
Email: gvgs@gvgs.vic.edu.au,
Web: www.gvgs.vic.edu.au.

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Pictured L-R: Principal Mark Torriero, 2024 School Captains Felix Dom and Denise McCarthy and the Board Chair Andrew Galbraith



COVER PHOTO: Pam Pogue retired in June 2024. Her story is on Page 10 & 11.

I certainly like each year “turning its corner” as the dark nights and mornings subside slowly. This year is no exception. I expect that many students and parents have the same feeling too.

I was privileged to attend another Yakapna Assembly, an event run by a number of our First Nation students. I was proud to see our students from Years 5 to 12 speak with passion about their culture and its importance to them and to see the School continue to embrace and foster the need for everyone to continue learning more about it. Each student spoke so well and the choir was great to listen to.

As you will see from the Principal’s Editorial, Mark took an opportunity to observe some of the most successful schools in low socio-economic areas of London. This is another marker of good leadership. Despite the continuing excellent outcomes the School is achieving, the School wants to continue to self – evaluate, to compare with others and pick up on points where it can do

it differently; to do it better. The Board was keen to see this trip happen and, since then, Mark has been working on his observations to follow the mantra that I mention above. We are also glad that he took the added opportunity of enjoying a break as well.

Our Year 12 students are coming close to the pointy end of their studies. One or two more SACs to go I expect. We have all just witnessed many athletes giving it their all in the home stretch. It’s no different for our Year 12 students. You will be well supported by our staff and your parents. Good luck and we will be “cheering” for you.

Semper Ulterius
Andrew Galbraith, Chair of the Board

From the Principal

Earlier in the year I was privileged to have the opportunity to take sabbatical leave for professional and personal growth.

Our School's improvement journey has been informed by professional readings, high quality research and writing from evidence informed educational leaders. Key themes that consistently reoccur include the importance of key foundational knowledge, instructional implications of cognitive and evolutionary psychology and the power of whole class interactive explicit instruction.

I planned my sabbatical to learn about the successful implementation of these practices in schools, intentionally visiting non-selective schools achieving nation leading levels of student learning growth. Two of the schools are located in relatively low SES communities.

During my visits I observed many lessons and met students, teachers and school leaders. The schools included the

Michaela Community School and the King Solomon Academy, both located in inner London. Each was ranked among the top UK schools for student learning growth. They are some of the most remarkable schools I have ever experienced. They literally transform the lives of their students enabling genuine social mobility. I thank these schools and their staff for the welcome I received and their generosity and kindness.

Everything that I saw and heard on sabbatical affirmed for me that our improvement focus areas are well founded and that they will help maximise the learning that matters most in the lives of our students. Our Knowledge Rich Curriculum review is well underway with new units of work being implemented in English and Humanities at Years 5 to 8.

This work is in its early stages, but we will continue in the years ahead.

One common feature among these schools was the explicit articulation of culture. While we believe our School

has a very positive and healthy culture, we can see areas for improvement. We have now partnered with internationally recognised teacher trainer Tom Bennett to assist a school culture review and refresh. An enhanced school culture will help promote every one of our school aims, not the least of which is being a safe, happy and effective learning environment for all.

My sabbatical experience was an inspirational and powerful one. I have returned with newfound enthusiasm and commitment to our own school improvement agenda. I sincerely thank the School's Board for the opportunity.

Semper Ulterius
Mark Torriero, Principal

Premier's VCE Award 2023

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

The 2023 Premier's VCE Awards were presented on Wednesday 17 July, at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. Out of approximately 50,000 Students completing the VCE, only 300 receive Premier's VCE Awards based on their outstanding 2023 VCE study scores.

Premier's VCE Awards recognise students who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in the Victorian Certificate of Education.

Over the years, a substantial number of GVGS students have achieved this

outstanding distinction. This year we are delighted that Erin Hicks (Class of 2023), has received a 2023 Premier's VCE Award for her study of History Revolutions, which was taught by Mrs Laura Smithers-Shaw.

Erin was the SRC Prefect in 2023 and participated in many co-curricular activities at the School, taking the opportunities presented and making the very most of them. I am sure Erin can take confidence from this recognition regarding 2023 and beyond. Erin's achievements will be inspirational for students and staff alike.

This exceptional achievement reflects both Erin's commitment and discipline but also the School's culture of learning and personal growth. It also reflects

the outstanding quality of teaching provided by our staff. On behalf of the school community, we congratulate Erin's teacher Mrs Laura Smithers-Shaw for her hard work, encouragement and commitment to learning that inspires our students.



Class of 2023 High Achievers



Back Row L-R: Marcus van Maanen (98.65), Midushith Pradeep (97.30), Zachary Ranson (97.50), Xavier Schmedje (99.90), Sanuda Diyagama (97.40)

Front Row L-R: Shahmeer Khan (99.30), Jesunifemi Kehinde (99.15), Layla O'Callaghan (99.70), Imogen Templeton (98.80)

Insert: Millar Carter (97.35), Erin Hicks (99.00), Heidi Smith (98.85)

2023 Dux Profile Xavier Schmedje

Xavier Schmedje started at GVGS in 2018, commencing Year 7 with both old and new friends.

"It was nice because I already knew some people who were starting at the School, but it was also a good opportunity to meet new people," he says. "I've always thought the School was inclusive, welcoming and that there were lots of good opportunities. From sports to science competitions, there were always a lot of options and chances for me to bond with people who have similar interests."

In 2023, Xavier was both School Captain and Dux. He says his time in the most senior student leadership position helped him to fine-tune his organisational and public speaking skills.

"Being School Captain was a fulfilling experience and it definitely made my final year more enjoyable because I had this other responsibility outside of studying to focus my time and energy on," he says. "Having the younger students feel comfortable enough to come over and say hello was really nice. They were looking at me the same way I had looked at past

School Captains and that was a good feeling to have."

With numerous academic, leadership and sporting accolades to his name, his years of dedication were aptly reflected in his ATAR of 99.90. Reflecting back on his achievements in his final year of high school, Xavier credits his success to realistic work-life balance.

"It helped to have a few set days per week locked in where I knew I wouldn't be studying at all. It meant I could switch off and enjoy what I wanted to do, like playing sport," he says. "It's all about time management in VCE and I think it's important to have something to look forward to that isn't study - having a break from that stress is key."

Xavier also notes the importance of both perseverance and self-care when faced with so many competing priorities.



"The hardest part was when you got a little bit behind and you felt like all of a sudden you had this huge hill in front of you that you had to climb. Being aware of that, chipping away consistently and gradually working through what needed to be done was how I got through it," he says. "I also made sure I got plenty of sleep and I'd never let myself stay up past 10:30pm. Even if I was stressing about something I'd make sure I prioritised getting to bed so I could be ready for the next day."

In 2024, Xavier will commence the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) Accelerated Masters Program at Monash University and will live on campus at Mannix College. Xavier also received a scholarship from Monash University in recognition of his achievements.

Congratulations to the VCE Class of 2023

The school community sincerely congratulates the entire Class of 2023.

Over the years their commitment to learning was evident throughout periods of remote classes and the return to onsite learning due to the pandemic. Their knowledge and recollections of the School pre pandemic enabled them to lead the School on our return to traditional normal school life and activities.

Throughout their time at the School they demonstrated a commitment

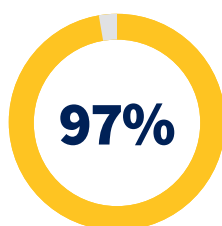
to the precious gift of learning. Our teachers reflecting on how respectful, positive and determined they were, with a genuine appreciation for being part of the school community.

The Class of 2023 have a wide range of experiences, backgrounds, skills and interests. As a year group they have embraced this diversity as a strength. We particularly acknowledge the resilience of students who experience deep challenges including illness, loss and grief.

Outstanding Achievements

Student	ATAR
Xavier Schmedje	99.90
Layla O'Callaghan	99.70
Shahmeer Khan	99.30
Jesunifemi Kehinde	99.15
Erin Hicks	99.00
Heidi Smith	98.85
Imogen Templeton	98.80
Marcus van Maanen	98.65
Zachary Ranson	97.50
Sanuda Diyagama	97.40
Millar Carter	97.35
Midushith Pradeep	97.30

Study Scores over 40	19.2% (State Avg. 9%)
Median Study Score	35
ATAR 99 +	5 Students
ATAR 97 +	7 Students



97% offered a University course

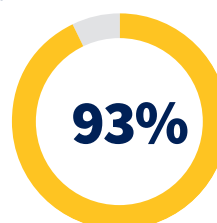
outperformed **94%** of Victorian schools
ranked **2nd** out of regional Victorian schools*
ranked **32nd** out of 538 Victorian schools

- 12** students ATAR 97+
- 20%** in the top 5% of the state (ATAR 90+)
- 42%** in the top 10% of the state (ATAR 90+)
- 63%** in the top 20% of the state (ATAR 80+)
- 85%** in the top 30% of the state (ATAR 70+)

*Excluding small schools



80% offered a course from Melbourne, Monash, LaTrobe, Deakin or RMIT Universities



93% offered a course from their top three preferences

The Class of 2023 made an enormous contribution to the School Music Programme. Despite, during pandemic years, losing the opportunity to perform to live audiences or have in person lessons, they persisted with music, including during their last year.

Many students were involved in either the Cast, Backstage Crew or Make Up Crew in School Productions held each year, including 12 students who performed in the 2023 Senior School Production of "The Addams Family".

They have been outstanding supporters of the School's Sport Programme. They have been regular participants, leaders and umpires. Highlights included 66 representing the School at ICCES level, 46 playing for the School in local sport and their commitment to the School House Sport.

In School House Sport, their participation rates have been amongst the highest of all cohorts.

Throughout they demonstrated genuine commitment to caring for and helping others. We saw this in their continuing of traditions, such as Year Level Migrations and Shave for a Cure, but also through their fundraising efforts, raising approximately \$13,000 which will support worthy organisations.

The Class of 2023 has left a fine legacy demonstrating the qualities of Semper Ulterius.

2023 VCE Season of Excellence

Top Class Music: Lillie Walker

Lillie Walker (Class of 2023) was selected to perform at Top Class Music, held in March at the Melbourne Recital Centre, Southbank. The concert was part of the VCE Season of Excellence 2023, presented by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

Top Class Music features outstanding young students who received very high grades for their VCE performance examinations in 2023. Performers are selected by panels who listen to the examination performance recording of students that received a high A+ in their performance examination. The concerts present a range of instruments, interpretations and styles by soloists and groups.

Lillie performed her VCE examination repertoire 'Nuit d'étoiles' by Claude Debussy. Lillie was accompanied by Mr Phil Tan, Head of Music at GVGS. "Lillie presented a highly confident, expressive and musical performance. She demonstrated a very high degree of control in her vocal tone quality and dynamics, especially in the higher range of notes, which captivated the audience. Lillie chose to approach this song performance by delivering at a slower tempo (instead of fast as indicated by the composer) to increase the expressiveness and emotions of the song, which created an atmosphere of airy dreamlike soundscape while expressing a lament for a lover that has died"

Mr Tan described Lillie's performance as "leaving the audience in awe and in suspense. You could have heard a pin drop at the conclusion of her song performance".

*Pictured: Lillie Walker and
Mr Phil Tan following Lillie's
performance at Top Class Music.*



Lillie performed her VCE examination repertoire and was accompanied by Mr Phil Tan. Being selected to perform at this prestigious event is a rare and distinguished opportunity and we congratulate Lillie on her dedication, hard work and consequent achievement.

Presentation Evening

Since the School's Foundation, GVGS has acknowledged excellence, achievement and effort in the domains of academics, co-curricular activities and citizenship at our annual Presentation Evening. Combined with excellence in achievement, students are rewarded and acknowledged for their commitment to the School Ethos through their endeavours to achieve highly.

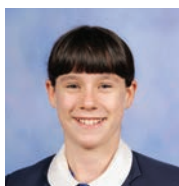
The annual Presentation Evening is held on the evening of the final school day of the year. This special event is hosted by the School Captains and

School Captains elect, showcasing the School Values which are reflected in student achievement through their awards, musical talent through performances by the major school bands and ensembles and a fond farewell to the Class of 2023.

The Presentation Evening is the premiere function of the year and a fitting finale, paying tribute to our high achieving students across all year levels.

We congratulate the following major award and citizenship award recipients from Presentation Evening 2023.

Celebrating the major and citizenship awards for 2023



Annabelle Ford
Year 5 and 6 All – Rounder
Glen Edwards Prize



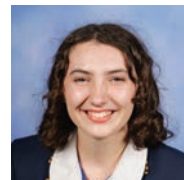
Layla O'Callaghan
Senior All – Rounder
Maxwell Brown Memorial Prize



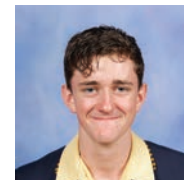
Sophie Plant
Junior Citizenship Award
Parents and Friends Association Prize



Nilani Murali
Principal's Junior Award for
Service to the School



Elizabeth Tivendale
Principal's Senior Award for
Service to the School



Millar Carter
Senior Citizenship Award
Hunter Family Prize



01



02



03



04



05

Year 12 Outstanding artistic pieces of 2023

- 01 Maddison Hodges – Art Creative Practice.
- 02 Maddison Hodges – Art Creative Practice.
- 03 Ella Novotny – Art Creative Practice.
- 04 Millar Carter – VCD Environments.
- 05 Edward Telford – Art Creative Practice

School Leaders 2024

Prefects

BACK ROW L-R: Principal Mr Mark Torriero, Ella Morgan, Tahlia Pate, Liam Adcock, Matt Whitlock, Jack Whitlock, Jackson Barthold, Zachary Rensford, Mai Abdelmawgoud, Yuvraj Malhi, Mrs Brooke McLeod.

FRONT ROW L-R: Sharanya Senthil Kumar, Janani Murali, Layla Trevaskis, Felix Dom, Denise McCarthy, Lily Fleming, Amy Jude, Sophia Uniacke



School Captain profile

Denise McCarthy

When Denise McCarthy was told she had been chosen as GVGS School Captain for 2024, she knew this was her biggest opportunity yet to give back to the school community that has given her so much since commencing in Year 5 in 2017.

"I was inspired to apply for the role by the past school leaders who've had such an impact on me during my time at GVGS. I've seen what they've been able to achieve during their time as School Captains, such as making younger students feel valued and being able to influence change to make people feel more included," she says.



House Captains

PICTURED ABOVE L-R: Trinity Cameron, Hannah Newman, Ava Lancaster, Will Broom, Alexandra Harvey, Harriet Gall, Mackenzie Clark, Sienna Winbanks.

“Over the next 12 months I’m looking forward to getting to know more people around the School. A goal of mine is to mix the year levels and help everyone get to know each other better. The year levels are already very bonded between themselves and I want to expand that and make it so each year level can have that same connection with students in year levels above and below.”

Along with her senior student leadership role, Denise is focused on making her final year of high school as academically successful as possible, starting on the front foot by fast-tracking Indonesian Studies in 2023.

“Older students who had already fast-tracked said it was a good move to make and I also wanted to learn more about the country because Indonesia is one of our closest neighbours,” she says.

“I like having another language under my belt and a lot of what I have learnt in Indonesian studies is relevant to other classes I’m taking this year, such as global politics and legal studies. I enjoy learning about how the world works, what systems are in place internationally and if they are working or not.”

Denise is looking forward to making the most of 2024 in collaboration with her School Captain counterpart, Felix

Dom. “We’ve both been at GVGS since Year 5 and we know each other so well,” she says. “I think we’re going to work together really well.”

Next year, Denise plans to pursue her studies in Law and Commerce but is unsure which university she will attend.

“Both of my parents are from Ireland and I would love to do university exchange over there at some stage.” “It would be a dream come true to study overseas and stay with my extended family for a semester.”

Denise is joined this year at GVGS by her younger siblings Gerry (Year 10), Patrick (Year 8) and Kate (Year 5).

Pam Pogue Retires



Pam Pogue walked out of the school grounds for the final time as a staff member on the last Friday in June, after almost four decades working at GVGS.

"GVGS is going really well and so it seemed like the perfect time to depart," she says.

"I gave notice in January this year so there would be time to prepare for the change. I've had plenty of time to handover and it's all worked out perfectly."

Her connection to GVGS, however, pre-dates her time spent as Development Officer.

Mrs Pogue is one of the school's founding parents, mum to inaugural students Tara, Julianne and Cameron (Class of 1987) and Anna (Class of 1994).

"Back then, it was typical that you would leave Shepparton and go to Melbourne for secondary school if you wanted a private education," she says.

"We wanted our children to be close to home, but we also wanted them to have the private school education opportunity, so that's why we chose to send them here."

Over her 36 year tenure, Mrs Pogue's role evolved considerably to meet the growing needs of the School. In the early days, she was busy holding regular fundraising events to make new buildings around the school grounds possible.

"I was originally employed as the assistant to the Director of Development when I first started. Back then we only had one main building, a small music room and a small library," she says.



“Every few years we’d run a campaign and raise money to build another building. The number of students was growing and we needed to make sure we were keeping the School itself growing too.”

In recent years, she has played a key role in facilitating over 60 school events and functions each year. These range from regular staff functions to the Presentation Ball and Grandparents Day.

Even though she has waved goodbye to GVGS as her workplace, Mrs Pogue’s connection to the School will continue on. She is grandmother to Ashia (Class of 2017) and Milla (Class of 2019) as well as current students Angus, Harry and Finn.



Mrs Pogue currently lives on a rural property just outside Toolamba and is looking forward to travelling overseas, as well as some local activities in her retirement.

“Last Christmas I joined the Shepparton Golf Club. I played golf before I had children and after one lesson in December, I just knew I wanted to get back into it.”

Mrs Pogue would like to thank the whole school community for their friendship and care, saying that her time at GVGS has been a wonderful and unforgettable experience.





A soaring life-long passion for animals

Matthew Kettle's journey from a young animal enthusiast to Supervisor of Free Flight Birds at Sydney's Taronga Zoo is a testament to the power of passion, perseverance and the influence of supportive mentors.

Benalla-raised, Matt's love for animals was evident from an early age. "My parents liked animals, but we just had the typical dog and cat."

For Matt (Class of 1987), animals were a source of endless interest and curiosity, but the career paths back then were less obvious. Matt remained steadfast in his ambition, fuelled by his innate curiosity and love for nature, spending time on friends' farms.

"I wanted to keep reptiles, but Mum was not keen, so they built me a bird aviary. It mainly had finches and quails and then some roller canaries and native doves. I actually moved all the birds out at the end of Year 11 because I knew I would use it as an excuse not to focus on Year 12, but I struggled not having something, so built myself a small budgie aviary that year.

"I like all sorts of animals, but I've always loved birds and reptiles and predatory animals. That's probably where snakes, eagles and big cats have captured my

imagination as well.

"When I left home after Year 12, I started keeping reptiles as well, snakes, lizards, geckos and turtles." Laughing, Matt says, "It got a bit out of hand at one point, I had almost 100 individual animals."

Matt says those around him struggled to see how he could have a career with animals. "Their concern was purely because it didn't look very productive and back then you had to know someone to get a job at one of the zoos and I didn't know anyone."

Despite this, Matt found enjoyment in science subjects, thanks to influential teachers including Geoff Shacklock (physics) and Frank Field (graphics). "Vic Ryll was also quite influential. He was a very compassionate person".

"I got into science at uni, the thought was that I could teach, but I deferred and never actually went."

Matt's professional journey took flight at Healesville Sanctuary's Birds of Prey show, where he honed his skills and developed a strong bond with the majestic birds under his care. His expertise eventually led him to Taronga Zoo, where he has played a key role in raising and training Andean condors, a highlight of his tenure.

Reflecting on his time as an inaugural student at GVGS, Matt acknowledges the School's role in shaping his sense of community and fostering open-mindedness. Despite the challenges of a long trip to school back then, Matt says GVGS provided a nurturing environment where he formed lasting friendships and developed a strong sense of camaraderie and community.

His dedication to his craft and his love for animals have taken him on international adventures, including stints at Disney's Animal Kingdom and helping with animal shows in Portugal. Through his work, Matt continues to inspire others with his passion for conservation and his unwavering commitment to nurturing nature's finest.

Today, Matt Kettle is an excellent example of the transformative power of following one's passion and the profound impact of supportive mentors and educators. He remains grateful for the opportunities that shaped his journey and for the enduring friendships forged along the way.

Matt's older sister Lisa (Class of 1986) and younger sister Amy (Class of 1990) were also at GVGS.

Zoe Vise - crafting success in law

From the halls of GVGS to the dynamic world of law at HWL Ebsworth Lawyers, Zoe Vise's journey demonstrates the transformative power of dedication and persistence. Growing up in Shepparton, Zoe's early years were shaped by her passion for learning and innate curiosity. It was during her time at GVGS that she discovered her love for law, setting her on a path to a fulfilling career in the legal profession.

Reflecting on her journey, Zoe (Class of 2012) credits her Legal Studies teacher, Lauren Sibio (Nee McCarty), for sparking her interest in the field. "Mrs Sibio and the subject really opened my eyes to the world of law," she recalls.

Despite initially not envisioning herself as a lawyer, Zoe chose to pursue a law degree, drawn particularly to contracts and commercial law.

One of the highlights of her career so far has been her work supporting businesses through significant legal reforms to Australian consumer law.

"There were major changes introduced at the end of last year that significantly impacted businesses using certain types of contracts, essentially prohibiting the use of 'unfair' contract terms.

"I've been lucky, as someone fairly early on in my career, to be given the opportunity to get quite involved in this space and to develop a bit of a specialty. One of my incredible mentors – the partner I primarily work for, has let me come along for the ride with her and it's been a frenzy of contract reviews, advices, presentations and articles.

"It's been fulfilling to have experienced a small part of legal history in that sense."

Beyond her legal achievements, Zoe takes pride in her resilience and independence,

having moved to Melbourne at age 18 to pursue her studies while working to support herself.

"Looking back, that was a big deal, but I didn't think it was at the time. It was sort of the norm for a lot of country kids. It was challenging, obviously, but I think it's made me quite resilient and hardworking."

During her time at GVGS, Zoe enjoyed learning from her teachers, particularly Lauren Sibio (Nee McCarty) and Nicole Sleeth.

"My favourite subjects were English Lit and Legal Studies. It's funny, because when I chose law, I thought I was giving up that more creative route I could have gone down, but I've ended up in this legal career where I get to write every day, there is so much bespoke, strategic drafting in what I do and

having that foundation of loving to read and write has been a huge advantage for me.

"Contracts are actually structured a lot like a story in a book, it's just not the type of book most people are interested in reading!"

Highlighting the diverse range of experiences she enjoyed at GVGS, Zoe also fondly remembers learning violin with Fiona Morphet.

"I loved that about GVGS. It wasn't uncool to do well academically and you could get involved in whatever made you happy like art, music, theatre, sport. A lot of students were doing incredible things in their own unique way and the School valued that equally.

"I've definitely carried that with me, that sentiment of seeing everyone as an individual with something important to bring to the table."

Zoe's brother William (Class of 2014) also attended GVGS.



Catching up with Claire O'Toole

After completing secondary school at GVGS in 1992, Claire O'Toole went on to study a Bachelor of Planning and Design (Building) and a Bachelor of Building at Melbourne University, graduating with a double degree in 1998.

"Other than sports, I always enjoyed graphic design and art classes at school. When I was a teenager, instead of buying "Dolly" magazines I would get architecture magazines and think about how I would design my own house one day," she says.

"Dad taught me all the backyard skills while I was growing up, from how to mix concrete to how to use a chainsaw. When I did my undergraduate degree, there were 49 students and only seven of them were women, but I'm one of three girls and there was no glass ceiling or gender roles in my childhood. We were always encouraged to do it all and follow what we were passionate about by my parents, so that's what I did."

Claire currently works as a senior consultant with a property advisory and project management business and also has her own private business, Green Wave Projects, working with clients to make their homes more environmentally sustainable, affordable, healthy and carbon neutral.

In January 2024, Claire received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her life-long contributions to the building industry.

"I don't know who nominated me and I was very surprised when I received the email to say I was going to be receiving my OAM. I feel very privileged and honoured by this recognition for the time I've invested in the industry across my career," she says.



"It's such an exciting field to be a part of because the work you do plays a huge part in the economy and shaping the built environment around us.

Construction isn't only about wearing hi-vis and being a tradie, there are so many options to have an exciting and vibrant career that can take you around the world. Working in building and engineering gives you transportable skills that you can take anywhere. I've worked internationally and it made me appreciate and understand the different methodologies between countries, but also that construction is underpinned

by the same foundational practices no matter where you are."

As a registered builder, Claire is looking forward to focusing on her work through Green Wave Projects and assisting clients who are wanting to retro-fit their homes to make them more energy efficient. She currently lives in Sandy Bay, Hobart and enjoys spending her free time surfing at the local beaches and exploring the rugged coastlines and beautiful rainforests throughout Tasmania.

Claire's sisters Alexandra (Class of 1994) and Siobhan (Class of 1995) also attended GVGS.



GVGS Community News

Community announcements

Thanks to GVGS teacher, Alumni Coordinator and past student (Class of 1987) Mr Glen Edwards for sourcing many community news items. If you would like to share your news items with Glen, please email him on GVGS.Alumni@gvgs.vic.edu.au



Ella Murdoch married Nick Johnson (both Class of 2014) at a ceremony at Mitchelton Winery in April.



Olivia Mechkaroff (Class of 2017) married Tarun in January at Yamba, accompanied by 2 bridesmaids who are GVGS Alumni.



Riley Eyles (Class of 2014) married Cooper in November 2023 at the Olivehouse in Shepparton, accompanied by 3 bridesmaids who are GVGS Alumni.



Zane Stephens (Class of 2002) and partner Regina welcomed Xander in September, 2023.



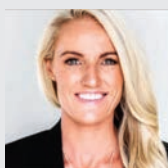
Jessica Rothwell (Class of 2007) and husband Hugh welcomed Valentine in January.



William Nevill (Class of 2008) and partner Jessica welcomed Elsa in January.



Georgia Innes-Irons (Class of 2010) and husband Nick welcomed Patrick in March



Vale - Ashlee Kate Good (Class of 2003)

The school community was deeply saddened following the tragic death of past student Ashlee (Ash) Good (Class of 2003), during the attack at Sydney's Westfield Bondi Junction Shopping Centre on Saturday 13 April, 2024.

Ash attended the School from Year 9 2000 to Year 10 2001. Ash attained excellent levels of learning achievement through her ever dedicated, motivated and organised approach and was thoroughly engaged in the broader life of the School, including writing for the school magazine.

Ash was a talented and enthusiastic sportsperson, representing Ryall House and GVGS in interschool competitions, represented the School in netball, basketball and athletics and was a school Athletics Year Level Champion. In 2000, she was

selected for the Victorian Secondary Schools U16 Netball Team. Students and staff admired her friendly, mature and positive manner. Held in high regard by her peers, Ash was elected as an SRC representative.

Ash formed strong friendships with students which lasted well beyond school. Ash went on to pursue a career as an Osteopath and more recently a corporate role at Docusign in Sydney.

The Goulburn Valley Grammar School community extends our deepest sympathies to the Good family and friends. We hold in our thoughts Ash's partner Dan Flanagan, daughter Harriet and parents Denise and Kerry, sister Lainie (Class of 2001) and extended family. We also extend our sympathies to the Echuca community, the Class of 2003 and the many past students and staff deeply saddened by this appalling event.

Senior Years Production

High School Musical

During May the GVGS Senior Production for 2024 'High School Musical' impressed audiences across three nights at the Riverlinks Westside Theatre.

This musical is well known and while the story is on the surface light and entertaining, there are relevant themes for all school communities. It encourages youth to explore their dreams, to challenge themselves and not to simply follow narrow expectations set by those around them.

Director, Helen Janke, praised the cast for their efforts in bringing to the stage a high energy show. Helen was assisted by Choreographer, Nicola Bolton (Class of 2013), Vocal Coach, Lillie Walker (Class of 2023) and Stage Manager, Amanda Harry.

The many other team members behind the scenes, including stage crew and lighting, make up and costumes, worked brilliantly to showcase the production.



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