FRENCH-AUSTRALIAN COMMEMORATION
ACADEMIC DRAMA AT GRAMMAR
JAMES MORRISON INTERVIEW
FIRST AID INSTRUCTION
ERRATA

The editor wishes to acknowledge and apologise for a number of errors that appeared in the last edition of SGS, (Issue 6, November 2017) and wishes to publish the following corrections:

On page 8 – the photo accompanying the Jotting titled ‘Fencing Firsts win AJ Rae Shield’ is of boys at the AJ Rae Shield Championship in Alexandria, NSW.

On page 43 ‘Battle of Beersheba Centenary’ – William Grant was a Brigade Commander with the 4th and 12th Light Horse Regiments at Beersheba.

On page 47 ‘Grammar Generations’ – The image caption ‘SGS Staff that served during WWII’ should read: Lance Corporal (L/Cpl) IM Edwards, Lieutenant LW Webster, Lance Corporal (L/Cpl) F Holloway, Captain CD Taylor and Captain AJ Hill. Ian Edwards was later commissioned and served with distinction; On the same page, the caption for the second and third images should read: ‘Kerry Bos in his leaving year of 1959 and as a pilot in the Royal Australian Air Force’.

Thanks and acknowledgements

Thanks to Simon Abel, Robert Catto, Jim Cattlin, Rohan Chapman-Davies, Paul Eichorn, Sharon Ditmarsch, Rita Fin, Michael Fisher, Matt Flynn, Tim Grey, Kristin Hamnett-Stevens, Daniel Lin, Walter MacCallum, Nopi Pappas, Tom Raeside, Valentine Sabouraud, Fiona Schmidt, Alex Stevens, Tom Watkins, Peter Whild, Adam Wills, City of Sydney Archives, Getty Images, Le Courrier Australien, State Library of NSW, St John Ambulance Australia, Sydney Theatre Company, Jean Luc Barbara (VI), Christian Fane (IV), Sam Duckworth (IV), Stuart Rich (V) and Laura Tönett at FGZ.

Every effort has been made to acknowledge the source of images used with this publication.
On 2 May, French President Emmanuel Macron and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull gathered at the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park South to pay tribute to soldiers from both homelands who died in action during the First World War. Under a cloudy sky, the ceremony took place at the foot of the imposing Memorial in the presence of veterans, soldiers and their families, and high school pupils from Sydney, Canberra and Amiens in France. President Macron stated: “Many of the 313,000 Australian soldiers fighting on the Western Front were your age or just over 60,000 have never returned. 11,000 of them fell in France and are now resting on our soil. We will never forget them.”

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull (OS 1972) highlighted the important commitment Grammar made to the war, now one hundred years ago. “Australia’s first casualty in the Great War was Lieutenant William Malcolm Chisholm, an old boy of Sydney Grammar School, just across the road from us here today. My old school in fact. He lost his life in the Battle of Le Cateau in Northern France in August 1914. Australia was a nation of 5 million. Over 400,000 volunteered and more than 60,000 were killed. Sydney Grammar was a school of about 600 boys – around 1800 former students and teachers signed up – 308 made the supreme sacrifice.”

Grammar was also represented at the commemoration by Dr Richard Malpass, Ms Rita Fin and ten senior boys including Senior Prefect Charles Abel (VI), who briefly addressed the attendees.

French-Australian WWI Commemoration Ceremony

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WWII Veterans Honoured

During the commemoration President Macron presented three veterans of the Second World War with the Legion of Honour, the highest order of merit award bestowed by the French Republic on foreign nationals. One of the three, Louis Solomons, is the great grandfather of Edgecliff Preparatory boys, Asa Wills (K) and Jordan Wills (2) who were in attendance with their father Adam Wills (OS 1994) to witness this very special moment. In 1940, Louis was 23 years old when he enlisted in the British Army Royal Fusilliers. In August of 1944 he landed in France on a beach near Bayeux as part of an artillery division and participated in the liberation of several Norman towns.
Academic Results

The Grammar HSC 2017 cohort produced an outstanding set of headline figures that reflected an excellent performance throughout the whole range of results and across the range of subjects offered at the School. The School was set up at its founding to provide boys with a pathway to university and we continue to focus on university entry as a key goal. 2017 ranks alongside 2016 and 2010 as one of the most successful years for Grammar in terms of university entrance rankings (UAI/ATAR) since the reworking of the Higher School Certificate in 2001.

In all the categories for which we report ATAR distributions, the results for the 2017 cohort were comparable with our strongest results over the past decade: 46 boys achieved an ATAR of 99 or above; 71 boys achieved an ATAR of 98 or above; 115 boys achieved an ATAR of 95 or above. Given Grammar’s ongoing commitment to breadth of study requirements in an academically-focused secondary curriculum, it was particularly pleasing to see the highest number of boys yet featuring in the NSW Education Standards Authority’s All-Rounders list: 53 boys achieved a top band result in 10 units or more. A significant number again featured in the Top Achievers in Course list: 27 boys achieved results among the very best in their course.

Dr Alex Stevens, Director of Studies

JOTTINGS

French Dignitaries at Grammar

Following the ceremony at the Anzac Memorial, foreign dignitaries and pupils from Lycée Edouard Branly High School in Amiens, France (President Macron’s home town) who accompanied the President to Australia, as well as members of the Lycée Condorcet from Sydney, Telopea Park School in Canberra and Lycée Franco-Australien de Canberra, attended a reception hosted by Grammar in Big School. The President of the French-Australian Friendship Group, Marc Daunis addressed members from both the Grammar and French community, reasserting the importance of the strong relationship between our two countries.

President of the French-Australian Friendship Group Philippe Gomès, President of the Government of New Caledonia Philippe Germain and Mayor of Villers-Bretonneux Patrick Simon were also present on the day.

A display set up for our visitors on Grammar’s first WWI casualty WM Chisholm, killed in Le Cateau, France.

Grammar Goes Green by 2019!

College Street staff and boys will be trialling a number of initiatives that are being rolled out across the whole School by 2019, including choosing suppliers who are conscious of their environmental impact. Plans are also well underway to repurpose materials wherever appropriate and to implement recycling on a scale never before seen at Grammar. The Headmaster has given his full support to the campaign ‘Grammar Goes Green by 2019’ and we look forward to keeping you updated on our GGG19 progress.

President of the French-Australian Friendship Group, Marc Daunis

Dr Alex Stevens, Director of Studies

Boys recycling their diaries on the last day of Term I

Boys recycling their diaries on the last day of Term I
Australian of the Year

Current Grammar Trustee Professor Michelle Simmons has been named 2018 Australian of the Year for her work and dedication to Quantum Information Science. Professor Simmons is Scientia Professor of Physics at the University of New South Wales, Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow and Director of the Centre for Quantum Computation & Communication Technology, where she has established a large research group dedicated to the fabrication of atomic-scale devices in silicon and germanium using the atomic precision of a scanning tunnelling microscope. Her group is the only group worldwide that can make atomically precise devices in silicon: they have developed the world’s first single atom transistor and the thinnest conducting doped wires in silicon. In 2015, Michelle was awarded the Thomas Ranken Lyle Medal, and was the winner of the Eureka Prize for Leadership in Science.

Right at Home

For four consecutive years, Grammar’s Visual Arts Assistant Dale Miles has had artwork accepted into the popular annual ‘Sculpture by the Sea’ event along the Bondi to Tamarama coastal walk. Dale’s large timber work *Transporter* was on show at Marks Park and was the recipient of the Aqualand Sculpture Inside Award. Winners from the 2016–2018 exhibitions will be gifted to the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust following the exhibition and allocated a new home at Headland Park in Mosman.

Duke of Edinburgh’s Award – Ms Rita Fin Honoured

Assistant to the Headmaster Ms Rita Fin recently received a medal of recognition for long service and outstanding commitment to the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme, presented by the Governor of NSW General David Hurley at Government House, Sydney. An Award Coordinator is responsible for running The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award in any given organisation and plays a fundamental role in the success of the Award, engage developing the participants in the programme, and encouraging and inspiring participants throughout their Award journey.

Yuta Ito (OS 2017) and Lorenzo Rupolo (OS 2017) were also at the ceremony receiving their Gold Awards, the highest award in the Duke of Edinburgh’s program, in which youth aged between 14 and 25 must learn a skill, improve their physical wellbeing, volunteer in their community and experience a team adventure in a new environment. All Participants are supported by a network of adult Award Leaders, Assessors, Supervisors, and mentors.

There are four main sections: Physical Recreation, Skill, Service, Adventurous Journey. There is an additional Residential Project for Gold Level only. Achieving an Award recognises individual goal setting and self-improvement through persistence and achievement.
Staff Changes at College Street

A number of new positions on the School’s academic staff have been created from the beginning of this year.

Current Mathematics Master Ms Becky Lovelock will work alongside Dr Alex Stevens as the Deputy Director of Studies; Drama master Mrs Emma Kaufling will be introducing the new Drama curriculum here at Grammar; Deputy Senior Housemaster Mr Klaus Ossowski will assist Mr Tom Watkins.

Other appointments in existing positions include History master Mr Stephen Tong (OS) who has come on board with the new Head of History Dr Sally Cove, who joined the staff last year, and Mr Nicholas Green, our new Applied Arts Subject Master.

We also said goodbye to a number of academic staff at College Street: Dr Malcolm Binns, Ms Ruth Wong, Ms Alexandra Munton, Mr Frank Amati and Mr Hayden Danks. At the end of Term I this year, we said goodbye to English master Ms Sian Evans. We wish each of them well for the next chapter of their career.

Fulbright Scholarship

Dougal Robinson (OS 2008) has been awarded the 2018 Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship. The Fulbright Programme’s central focus is to develop long-lasting, productive bilateral relations, partnerships and connections between Australia and the USA.

As a Fulbright Scholar, Dougal will undertake a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies, International Economics and Indonesian language at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington DC. He will examine military and economic competition between the USA and China, which will have a major impact on Australia’s national security and prosperity.

Dougal is currently a Research Fellow at the United States Studies Centre at The University of Sydney, employed on secondment from Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Dougal’s research and writing on US foreign policy, US politics and the US-Australia alliance have featured in Australia’s major national newspapers, and his analysis has been quoted by international outlets including the Financial Times and The New York Times.

Cricket Memorial Trophy

A new award in cricket has been introduced in association with the Rice-Brading family, in memory of Cooper Rice-Brading (OS 2017) and in recognition of Cooper’s 5—20 against Melbourne Grammar School as a member of the Tri-Grammar cricket series team on 20 January, 2017. The five wickets were taken in the middle of Cooper’s immunotherapy regime on a day during this series when he underwent treatment and proceeded to travel straight to the game to play.

Cooper’s brother Mitchell Rice-Brading (OS 2014), presented Henry Munns (VI) with the inaugural Cooper Rice-Brading Foundation Award for 2018. Mitchell Rice-Brading congratulated Henry on an outstanding Tri-Grammar series and a remarkable cricket season overall. Henry’s efforts embody all that this award represents. Cooper and Henry also played together in the First XI in 2017.
Chapman-Davies at PyeongChang

Mogul skier Rohan Chapman-Davies (OS 2009) was selected for the Winter Olympic Games at PyeongChang in February 2018. The selection comes after a triple country reallocation, giving Australia the opportunity to take its largest ever mogul skiing team to the Winter Olympic Games. Chapman-Davies, who is now 26, said the moment he found out he made the team was really special. “Getting the call from my coach Peter ‘Toppa’ Topalovic when he told me I had been selected for the 2018 Australia Winter Olympic Team is a moment I will remember for the rest of my life,” Chapman-Davies said.

Rohan made his international debut in 2008 as a 16-year old. In 2015 he became the first Australian male to podium in the North American Cup standings, finishing third overall. He made three World Cup finals in 2016–17 before placing 15th at his World Championships debut at Sierra Nevada, Spain. Rohan was 22nd out of 29 to complete the Moguls program during this year’s Winter Olympics, making it to the Qualification 1 Stage.

Alex Taylor’s Fencing Success

Year 5 Edgecliff Prep pupil Alex Taylor has been making waves in Australian Junior Fencing. Last year, Alex competed for Australia in the Koala Mini Challenge fencing competition, coming sixth in the Under 11 Individual Foil competition and third in the team event. This year he won the Peter Witkop Shield and the Under 11 Future Foil competition at the Champions Cup in Adelaide. Furthermore, he came sixth in the Under 13 division. His team also won Gold in the Under 13 Mixed Team Foils.

The Edgecliff Fencing programme has been earmarked as an area for further development and it will be offered to all Year 5 and 6 boys from 2019. The programme is run by Mr Hugh Cotman who also coaches at College Street and is himself a highly accomplished fencer.

SGS and the Boer War

Altogether, 150 Old Sydneians fought in the Boer War of 1899–1902: an unusually high number of volunteers from one school. Among them are names famous in Australian military history, including Chauvel, Legge, Antill, ‘Mo’ Williams, and the designer of the Army’s rising sun badge. Another Old Boy was the famous bush poet, ‘Banjo’ Paterson, a Boer War correspondent. 13 Old Sydneians died fighting in South Africa. 11 are honoured on a memorial board at Sydney Grammar School. The best known was Keith Kinnaird Mackellar, whose letters to his sister, Dorothea (the famous poet), show his youthful enthusiasm for the conflict.

The Boer War had a powerful influence on the School, setting an example that inspired Grammar boys to volunteer to fight in WWI in the largest numbers of any school in Australia. The origins of the Gallipoli ‘baptism of fire’ beliefs of Charles Bean, the Australian WWI official historian, can also be linked to Grammar’s Boer War experience, given his strong connection to the School.

The launch of Dr Glozier’s book Sydney Grammar School and the South African Boer War 1899–1902 was held in Big School on 7 May, under the gaze of Headmaster Albert Bythesea Weigall and the memorial to 11 Old Sydneians who died fighting in South Africa. 11 are honoured on a memorial board at Sydney Grammar School. The best known was Keith Kinnaird Mackellar, whose letters to his sister, Dorothea (the famous poet), show his youthful enthusiasm for the conflict.

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The 328-page hardcover book is available for purchase through the Grammar Archives and Alumni Office or via www.lulu.com.
GPS Swimming Record

The intermediate (Under 15 and 16) swimming team raced their hearts out on Friday night March 23 to win the AAGPS competition for 2018. This is the first time SGS will appear on the trophy since the intermediate competition started in 2004.

It was very close with St Ignatius’ College, Riverview creeping back into the game as the evening progressed. At one point in the evening, Riverview were within 20 points; each championship race win is worth 20 points. It came down to the final 4 x 50 metre freestyle relay results. The Under 15s coming in behind Riverview and the Under 16s hitting the wall mere seconds ahead of Riverview to claim the title and a GPS record!

It was a fantastic effort from all the team, juniors and seniors included, and a great result for the intermediates who have worked so hard in the pool all season.

OSU Scholar

Established in 1916, the Old Sydneians’ Union Scholarship is awarded to a senior boy who is outstanding in scholarship, sport and influence among his peers.

On behalf of the Committee, President Ian Plater (OS 1969) announced Nicholas Rice (VI) as this year’s OSU Scholar. Nick was selected for his leadership skills, outstanding record and his initiative in establishing the model United Nations Club at the School.

Above: Incumbent OSU President Ian Plater, OSU Scholar Nicholas Rice (VI) and Headmaster Dr Malpass

NSW History Essay Competition

Patrick Ryan (OS 2017) was recently awarded third place in the History Teachers’ Association NSW History Extension Essay Competition, an award contested by the best candidates in the state. Patrick’s essay on ethnography in the works of Caesar and Polybius combined his talents in history, classics and analytical writing. He had chosen the topic himself and developed the work carefully over almost a year.

The sophisticated argument, supported by university graduate-level research, was a reflection of the work he and other members of Grammar’s Extension History cohort have produced recently.

Above: Patrick Ryan (OS 2017) with Ms Kandalaft upon receiving his Competition award

Athletics Carnival

On Wednesday 21 March the Annual Sydney Grammar School Athletics Championship was held at Weigall Sportsground. The School’s inter-house competition was won this year by CXR House, victorious in both the junior and the senior tug-o-war, a highly contested competition!

Well done to all competitors in the Grammar Gift: Oliver Hervir (VI), Charles Lilley (VI), Ethan Tsui (VI), Damon Wan (VI) and Mr Brian Rocks, Mr Max Jones, Ms Emily Kaufling and Mr Luke Wilson. Ms Kaufling was fastest on the day.

Right: Some members of the victorious CXR House with Housemaster Mrs Rupolo
A special concert jointly organised by the Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney and the Chinese Language Teachers Association of NSW was held at the Sydney Town Hall on 23 October 2017 featuring performances by Chinese language students including poetry recitals, storytelling, rapping, choirs, musical ensembles and folk dance. Established in 2014, it aims to boost Chinese learning across NSW schools. Boys from Sydney Grammar School recited ‘A Flower in the Haze’ under the direction of Modern Languages master Ms Ruth Wong.

In November, Form VI boys James Arnall, Kieran Connor, Alexander Crawford, Duncan Currie, Oliver Hervir, Hugo McAhon-Boersma and Harry Thawley were invited to present their research at the annual Royal Australian Chemical Society Organic Chemistry Symposium held at the University of Sydney.

The boys presented their work towards identifying and synthesising potential new antiprotozoal medicines for toxoplasmosis and malaria, including the successful three-step synthesis of one of their target compounds (6-ethyl-5-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pyrimidine-2,4-diamine) in good yield. As well as attending the Symposium lunch and attending a range of presentations on recent advances in organic chemistry, the boys also enjoyed discussing their work with academics and postgraduate research students from around Australia.

Alexander McKenzie’s Trio Vitruvi

Alexander McKenzie (OS 2006) on piano, Niklas Walentin on violin and Jacob la Cour on cello make up the multiple prize-winning chamber music group, Trio Vitruvi, playing together since the summer of 2013. Since then, Trio Vitruvi has performed all over Europe, Russia and in China in concert halls such as Wigmore Hall, The Mariinsky Theatre, Salle Cortot, Tivoli Concert Hall, Schloss Grafenegg, and in 2015 together with Adam Fischer and The Danish Chamber Orchestra. In 2014, Danish National Radio characterised Trio Vitruvi as “an extravagant ensemble. The trio is made up of three individual soloists, who fill the music with a warmth, energy and instrumental mastery rarely seen or heard – it is the essence of chamber music…” Trio Vitruvi released their debut CD recording of Schubert’s Trio, Op. 100 and Nocturne, D. 897 at Carnegie Hall on 17 April 2018.

Sydney Chinese Language Spectacular

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She comes at midnight hour; she goes with starry rays.
She comes like vernal dreams that cannot stay;
She goes like morning clouds that melt away.

Malaria Project

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花非花，雾非雾，
夜半来，天明去。
来如春梦不多时，
去似朝云无觅处。
JOTTINGS

Science Olympiad Summer School

Seven Form VI boys were selected to join 91 of Australia’s most talented Science students at the Australian Science Olympiad Summer School held at the Australian National University (ANU) in January. Duncan Currie and Stephen McCarthy were selected for the Biology Summer School, James Arnall, Kieran Connor, Alexander Crawford and Harry Thawley for Chemistry, and Hugo McCahon-Boersma was selected for Physics. The boys lived in student accommodation at the ANU campus for two weeks, participating in an intense scientific programme roughly the equivalent of a first-year university Science course. The programme included lectures, tutorials, laboratory work and of course examinations, as the students competed for the opportunity to represent Australia in the 2018 International Science Olympiads. The Australian teams will be announced later this year.

Zimbabwe Orphanage Visit

Last December, Edgecliff Preparatory School Kindergarten master Mrs Stephanie Dardagan and her husband Paul initiated a fundraiser to support the Glen Lorne Orphanage in Harare, Zimbabwe. With the support of Edgecliff staff and Paul’s work clients, enough money was raised to purchase essential food supplies and contribute to the cost of school fees for children at the orphanage.

These children sadly have nothing; no food, family, clothes or healthcare. They had never tasted popcorn, experienced swimming in a pool or had something to call their own.

While Stephanie and Paul were on a visit to the orphanage, and with the help of funds raised by Edgecliff, a surprise Christmas party was held for the children. Local businesses in Harare also donated food, drinks, games and presents to create a most special and memorable day. Stephanie and Paul were honoured to be involved and witness how the small generosity of others can mean the world to someone else.

St Ives Amphitheatre

A wonderful addition to the grounds and learning spaces at the St Ives Preparatory campus is our new outdoor amphitheatre. Nestled in amongst the trees and grassy slopes of Lower Field the amphitheatre is a beautiful spot for multiple activities. It has already been utilised for such things as class reading time, art lessons, group forums, public speaking, drama and musical performances. The amphitheatre is a wonderful way to bring nature into our learning and bring our learning out into nature! Here we see our Arcangel Strings ensemble playing for some of our Year 3 boys.
Open Day

On Thursday 15 March we held the first of our two annual Open Days. After an online marketing campaign we welcomed prospective parents and boys in the recently refurbished Alastair Mackerras Theatre. Nearly 400 visitors attended on the day – a cross-section of parents and boys from all over Sydney.

Dr Richard Malpass and Mr Rollo Hesketh spoke to visitors about life at Grammar and Prefect Ethan Tsui (VI) spoke eloquently about his busy School life. Visitors also enjoyed performances by the Grammarphones and were met at the College Street main gate by Mr Khusid’s Big Band jazz ensemble as well as observing Grammar in action as per any normal School day, touring the School in groups, led by both members of staff and senior boys. As always, our boys spoke honestly and enthusiastically about life at Grammar and the feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive.

Our next Open Day is scheduled for Thursday 23 August 2018, and everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Kim Ho wins Playwright’s Award

Kim Ho (OS 2013) has won this year's Patrick White Playwrights’ Award, beating 126 entries to receive a prize worth $7,500 for an original and unproduced script, established by Sydney Theatre Company in honour of the Nobel Prize-winning playwright. Kim’s winning play, Mirror's Edge, also received a rehearsed reading at the Roslyn Packer Theatre during the ceremony.

While a pupil at Grammar in 2013, Ho made a short film titled The Language of Love for YouTube, and was personally endorsed by celebrities Stephen Fry and Ellen DeGeneres, helping it to reach nearly 840,000 online views.

Mirror’s Edge interweaves three timelines between 1851 and the present day, using Lake Tyrell in central Victoria as a common location. The lake is popular now amongst Instagram tourists for the way the lake’s water meets the sky, creating a perfect mirror. The play is about the joys and difficulties of cross-cultural interactions through time.

Florentine guests

Following the Annual Examinations in 2017, Hugh Ashley (V) and Shaan Mahajan (V) departed Sydney for Florence, Italy to take part in a two-month, long-term exchange. After having hosted our exchange partners Thomas and Gabriele in Sydney over August, they were extremely excited to see them again and be immersed into their world and the Italian culture.
Realising the value of academic Drama

If you change nothing, nothing will change … Drama master Mrs Emily Kaufling provides an introduction into the subject.

When the opportunity arose to be one of the Drama masters at Grammar’s St Ives Preparatory School, I leapt at the prospect and called this school home for three years, eventually leading me to the exciting opportunity of introducing Drama at College Street in 2018. I knew very well that Drama was not offered as a part of the curriculum but that this school produced outstanding productions. The boys, well, they were bright, quirky and inquisitive; everything you want a drama pupil to be. In my meetings with Dr Malpass, I initially went armed with evidence to answer the ‘why Drama?’ question, but left knowing the question was really, ‘why not?’

Grammar is steeped in tradition and prides itself on preparing its pupils for university, but what if universities were changing the way they teach, or better still, the way their students learn? In 2016, Sydney University launched their new Strategic Plan which ‘recognises that graduates not only need to master a coherent body of contemporary knowledge…they also need the foundations and the capacity to continually deepen and broaden their knowledge and use it creatively and collaboratively’. Creativity and collaboration is the key. The Drama Syllabus (2003) further declares; ‘In Drama, [boys] can communicate in complex and powerful ways how they perceive the world’. They research and discover the contexts of different dramatic forms and performance styles as well as their place and impact on, or reaction to, history and society.

Drama is an experiential subject which ‘draws on the drama and theatre practices of making, performing and appreciating . . . These practices are active, experiential, critical and reflective’. Being active and having energy is a huge part of the drama learning environment. I strongly believe energy is a choice. Boys often work up a sweat from the physical commitment they make during our learning experiences. Grammar boys are busy and often lack the time or the conscious effort to be present in the moment. Before learning begins, boys have an opportunity for stillness and silence with Mindfulness, a concept used in the drama classroom by Amy Gill, the ‘Joy-Fueled Teacher’. After just fifty seconds of silence the boys come together to create a unified clap. From this moment on, they are ready to learn. I can sense from the moment of the clap, the precision in their timing and their movement towards the group, what sort of lesson we are going to have.
Our first term passed quickly with the boys discovering how to use their body as a performance tool and make meaning through movement and voice in relation to space. With foundations in mime and the Neutral Mask, they have created narratives to make meaning for an audience. They have presented their representation of Australia through images taken from different perspectives, using tableaux and soundscapes to show a journey. These journeys were varied; from cricket to migration to stories of Indigenous Australians – a diverse version of events – just like the members of the class.

Since then, Third Form have been exploring the history and stock characters of *commedia dell’arte*. They are currently preparing narratives which include *lazzi*, *burle* and *concetti* for their examination. That, combined with their written examination, gives them a chance to show their understanding of the subject through exploration, reflection and critical analysis.

Fourth Form moved into the study of Sophocles’ *Oedipus Rex* with a focus on working together as an ensemble to present key moments of the chorus. An opportunity arose for the boys to perform for other boys who take Classics courses. Having a live audience gave the boys a chance to feel what performing is all about; the risk taking, the nerves, the adrenalin, and the opportunity to reflect post-performance. The team spirit and bond that developed within the class over this task showed how they had grown as an ensemble, and I am really looking forward to seeing how this group progresses.

During all their learning experiences boys build ‘self-confidence, motivation and self-esteem through the devising, workshopping, rehearsing and performing of individual and collaborative works’ (Drama Syllabus, 2003). Our journey together has only just begun, and I am thrilled to be bringing the joy of academic Drama into their worlds.

*In Drama, [boys] can communicate in complex and powerful ways how they perceive the world.*
The Stones of Sydney

Jeffery Lin (l) discovers the true foundations of our city during the ‘Stones of Sydney’ Science Beyond the Curriculum tour, organised by Science master Mr Adrian Bowes.

On Sunday 4 March, Dr Ian Graham, Senior Lecturer School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of New South Wales, led Grammar boys and their parents around parts of inner Sydney to take a closer look at what was used to build this beautiful city. The City of Sydney is mostly built on Hawkesbury sandstone with most of the historic buildings of Sydney built of a beautiful yellow-coloured variety known as ‘yellow block’, a quartzose sandstone due to its high quartz content. An example of this is Grammar’s Big School or Hallen building on College Street. Due to erosion, some of the stones have had to be replaced over the years. If you look closely at some of the walls originally constructed from Hawkesbury sandstone, you will clearly be able to see where some original blocks have been replaced with modern ones, are paler in colour with straighter, more angular faces.

Next on the tour were Cook and Phillip Park Aquatic and Fitness Centre and St Mary’s Cathedral. Although quite a recent construction, the Aquatic Centre is already showing signs of deterioration including goethite spotting and wear (fracturing). St Mary’s Cathedral is also composed of Hawkesbury sandstone but the top spires are a different colour because they were built with Wondabyne sandstone that was artificially stained to match the colour of the existing stone. Due to erosion and weathering over time, the stain has leached out of the spires and they have gone back to their original colour making them stand out clearly from the rest of the building.

Macquarie Street houses buildings of different architectural styles and construction materials. Colonial, Georgian, Gothic Revival, Art Deco and Modern architecture were just some of the styles we observed along our tour. The Lands Department Building is yet another example of Hawkesbury sandstone. Some of the carvings and statues we saw here were made of bronze featuring pale green stains, being the mineral paratacamite. This was formed as a result of salt spray blown in from the sea reacting with moisture in the air and the copper contained within the bronze. The Hyde Park Barracks were built with a mixture of Ashfield shale bricks and Hawkesbury sandstone. The outer wall was comprised of crudely cut sandstone blocks of different dimensions and mortar containing crushed shells and sand.

At Circular Quay, we were shown many beautiful facing stones that included brecciated serpentinite, Moruya granodiorite and a number of different types of granite.

Further on, we discovered that The Rocks is one of the oldest districts in Sydney with the oldest building there being Cadman’s Cottage. When the Cottage was originally built, the harbour foreshore was located right outside the door to the Cottage. Thus, the seawall of Circular Quay was built to prevent flooding during early settlement.

Barangaroo Reserve is a fairly new development with blocks of Hawkesbury sandstone set aside from the time of construction now forming an integral part of its walkways and overall design. ‘Liesegang rings’ formed within the sandstone due to changes in oxidation state and pH as groundwater flowed through the rock. At Dawes Point, we observed the pylons of the Sydney Harbour Bridge which are made of Moruya granodiorite dated at 380 million years old. The granodiorite is very strong in terms of compressive and shear strength, as it is relatively homogenous and crystalline, making it an ideal building material large structures such as the Harbour Bridge’s pylons.
In the oldest sections of Big School they used crushed shells in the mortar. The stones were rough and hand-hewn.

All photos courtesy of Mr Daniel Lin

Who would have thought a wall could be so interesting?

“... take a closer look at what was used to build this beautiful city”
Making Music at St Vincent's Hospital

As part of a new Community Service initiative, the Form VI Music 2 String Trio (Alexander Lau and Yilan Yu on violin and Luke Poier on cello) accompanied by Ms Rita Fin, have collaborated with St Vincent’s Hospital’s Geriatric Ward on a mini-concert series for patients, their visitors and the medical staff. All were impressed by the musical skill of the performers and the variety of the pieces presented.

The first concert kicked off after school on 4 December with some classical favourites. By the end, many patients were joining in as the boys performed arrangements of some very well-known Christmas carols. A second concert followed on 6 April and was equally as successful.

Dr Shahrzad Jahromi, Senior Staff Specialist in Geriatric Medicine and Conjoint Lecturer at the University of New South Wales, remarked that the boys really brought a lot of life and lifted the mood for the patients and staff. We look forward to more concerts and collaboration in the future.

Grammarpalooza

Each year the standard of Grammarpalooza seems to get higher and the diversity of styles continues to impress. This year the at-capacity audience were treated to a French rap, AC/DC played on two cellos, covers of songs by Billy Joel, Ed Sheeran and George Michael and of course the talented Junior and Senior Rock Clubs. The fantastic trio Black Iguana, consisting of William Hobkirk (VI), Kye Milne (VI) and Piers Hobkirk (V), closed the evening with an original composition.
Both the Term IV and Term I Concerts featured our premier Music ensembles. Eric Rong (VI), the winner of the 2017 Form V Music Competition’s instrumental section played a two-piano version of the third movement of Piano Concerto Op. 38 by Samuel Barber in Term IV.

Grammar’s Chinese Language classes formed a special choir conducted by Mrs Ruth Wong as a fitting retirement farewell gesture (see also Jottings, p 9) and AMCO performed the popular Carnival of the Animals by Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns complete with two pianos featuring Stephen McCarthy (VI) and 2017 SGS Keyboard Fellow Mr Luke Moxey.

In Term I, Eric Rong also played with the School Orchestra, this time performing the first movement of Piano Concerto in F by George Gershwin.

AMEB

The Form IV String Quartet entertained at the AMEB Diploma Awards Ceremony at which Grammar were again awarded the Schools Shield, for most outstanding results by a school, for the twenty-third time out of the past 25 years. Daniel Lin (III) performed as a soloist at the ceremony accompanied by Grammar accompanist Ms Amanda Miller. Daniel was also awarded in Licentiate Diploma with distinction.

Encore

Following his wonderful performance on the Sydney Town Hall organ at Speech Day last year, Hamish Wagstaff (OS 2017) represented Grammar magnificently at the NSW Education Standards Authority Encore concert at the Sydney Opera House in February this year. Encore is a concert featuring a selection of the best performances and compositions from the year’s HSC cohort.

Hamish commenced his organ studies under Mr Robert Wagner in 2012 and performs regularly as both soloist and accompanist. He has performed at venues including St Andrew’s and St Mary’s Cathedrals in Sydney and St Clement Danes, London. He performed Allegretto Grazioso by Frank Bridge, a piece he describes as “a charming and graceful miniature in the English romantic style that utilises much of the organ’s softer tones”.

The boys in the 2017 Music cohort received a remarkable ten nominations for this special concert!

The NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition

Organised by the Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra, this competition is one of the most highly contested in Sydney. Of the six semi-finalists in the junior section for 2018, four were Grammar boys; John Wu (I), Milo Abrahams (I), Michael Chang (III) and Daniel Lin (III). Milo and Daniel were successful in progressing to the finals. They both will play a concerto with the Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra at a concert held at the Concourse in Chatswood in June.
Organ Concert

International concert artist Brett Leighton presented Grammar’s annual celebration of the music of JS Bach at a well-attended concert in Big School on the afternoon of Sunday 25 March. The programme included music by Bach and also composers such as Mendelssohn and attractive works by modern-day champions Kurt Estermann and Franz Danksagmüller. Most of the programme was performed on the Mander organ but some of the smaller works were played on Grammar’s beautiful 5-stop chamber organ; the only one of Swiss origin in Australia, built by Bernhard Fleig of Basel.

The School hosted not only Brett Leighton that weekend but jazz great James Morrison (see page 36), who was also pleased to acquaint himself with the organ during a break in rehearsal!

ABC Young Performers Awards

Congratulations to Waynne Kwon (OS 2013) and Benett Tsai (III) on winning a place in the semi-finals of the ABC Young Performers Awards (YPA).

The YPA has long been regarded as Australia’s premier national artist development programme for young musicians, instrumentalists and performing artists. Recipients of the YPA are young and talented musicians who are poised to have an exceptional career in music at the highest level and who will thus be exposed to significant performing experience, exposure and financial help to advance their careers as musicians.

Preliminary auditions were held in March in each state, from which the judges chose 12 finalists. All 12 finalists perform in a recital at the City Recital Hall in June.

Staff Recital

In what has now become a biannual event, staff from the SGS Music Department presented a recital in Big School in March. A variety of styles and ensembles were programmed including a jazz combo, string quartet, wind quintet and a piano duo. Pieces performed included works by Beethoven, Busch, Thuille, Rogers and Berners.
Drawing Inspiration

Author Jack Heath spent a fortnight with Edgecliff Preparatory School boys sharing his love of books and inspiring boys to write engaging, imaginative stories.

As part of our drive to promote a love of creative writing, Edgecliff welcomed award-winning children's author Jack Heath to be part of the School's annual residency programme. Jack delivered writing workshops with each class from Kindergarten to Year 6 during normal Library lessons.

We appreciate that creative writers have the power to entertain, to make you laugh, to make you cry … to make you think. With a pen or pencil, boys can make things happen; they can find their voice and communicate. The writing programmes at Edgecliff aim to allow the boys to connect; we want their words to reach out to an audience, known or unknown. Jack's programme supported the framework of our teaching, providing an author's perspective on developing engaging stories. Jack has written more than twenty action-packed novels for children, although he is probably best known for his Danger series. The residency championed the joy of reading, fostered an understanding of the craft of writing and connected readers and writers. All classes worked with Jack exploring techniques designed to tap into boys' creativity and an opportunity to share skills necessary to develop wonderful narratives. The experience of listening and working with such an engaging presenter was both enjoyable and memorable, and it is hoped that the creative energy triggered by the workshops has led to an appreciation of the emotional and intellectual power of language.

It's self-evident that reading makes you a better writer, but I've discovered that it goes both ways: writing also makes you a better reader … When I'm teaching, I encourage kids to write what they feel like reading, rather than what they feel like writing. This, too, encourages them to think about the stories they like in a more analytical way. Experiment. Take risks. Writing isn't heart surgery – no-one is going to die if you do it wrong.

Jack Heath

Each year group used the workshops with Jack as a springboard for more comprehensive writing projects, from creating short digital storybooks in the Infants to individually published narratives in Year 6. All boys presented their pieces to family and friends during our Open Day celebrations in Term II.
The Cherry Orchard

Director Dr Douglas Wilson reflects on Grammar’s production of this classic Chekhov play, performed in collaboration with Ascham, SCEGGS and Sydney Girls High School over 18-20 October 2017.

Successfully staging Anton Chekhov’s *The Cherry Orchard* was always going to depend on finding a sufficiently talented cast. Written and set just prior to the Russian Revolution and depicting an aristocratic family in terminal decline, the play is remarkable for both its shifting moods and the complexity of its characterisations and relationships. It was clear from the start that our lead actor would need to exude sufficient gravitational pull to make the trajectories of those around her convincing in their curvature, and into the still point of this turning world stepped Anna Hmelnitsky O’Rourke, quickly proving herself more than capable of giving life to Ranevskaya’s manic charm and brittle glamour. The ensemble followed suit: the cherry orchard owner’s flightiness found its echo in the vanity and immaturity of her brother, Gaev, played comically and later movingly by Joshua Lowinger (VI), and both were opposed to great effect by the wonderfully skilful Maddy Kowalenko, whose joyless Varya was left with the responsibility of holding the crumbling household together. The family group was rounded out by Ranevskaya’s daughter, the sweet but surprisingly resilient Anya (Georgie Hawkins).

With everything hinging on Ranevskaya’s next move, the options available to her were very effectively embodied by those playing the family’s hangers-on. In Pishchik (Felix Parker, V) we had the vision of an aristocracy reduced to a shameless, if sometimes amusing parasitism, increasingly dependent on goodwill and good luck, and in the worryingly hysterical political ramblings of Trofimov (Max Matison, V) we were offered a prescient glimpse of Russia’s approaching upheaval. And watching all this as if from afar was Max Danta’s (V) carefully balanced Lopakhin, determined but tolerant, not only a viable partner for Ranevskaya, being a wealthy merchant, but, Chekhov seems to suggest, a natural partner, given their long and affectionate acquaintance. The failure of their relationship to evolve is the failure of their entire society.

Much credit must go to the supporting cast for their ability and willingness to bring
to life the play’s eccentric and sometimes absurd minor characters. Elodie Jakes gave us a nervy Dunyasha, callow and hopeful and initially paired to the nicely unhinged Epikhodov (Arnold Walsh, V), and we even had contrasting butlers, with Douglas Cooney (IV) remarkably convincing as the ancient, muttering Firs, and Jack Zimmerman (VI) alternately smug and obsequious but consistently opportunistic as Yasha. And in bursts that were as colourful and bizarre as her headwear, Isabella Wilson gave us a memorably mad German governess, Charlotta.

Just as the success of our *Cherry Orchard* depended on the skill and dedication of its cast, I’m also very conscious of the exceptional work done by the play’s production team. Jonathan Hindmarsh designed a set so poetically suggestive as to be capable of swinging in mood from the warm sunset of Act II to the cool harshness of Act IV, and all scenes were beautifully lit by Ben Brockman, who, supported by Aaron Farley’s choreography, also allowed us to open Act III with a waltz of pure theatrical dreaminess. Dr Nicholas Vines sacrificed many hours to supervising the script during rehearsal, but was also generous (and talented) enough to arrange and conduct our deliberately ersatz orchestra. And, as always, the production’s many moving parts were kept in fine working order by Mr Marc Warry’s tireless attention to detail, and by the seamless operation of a tech crew led very ably by stage manager Corey Blyth (V).

Ultimately our *Cherry Orchard* blossomed because so many individuals, on and off the stage, were willing to contribute their own share of excellence; given Chekhov’s deeply egalitarian sentiment, an outcome as satisfying as it is fitting.
An Enduring Legacy: First Aid Instruction

History master Dr Matthew Glozier and Honorary Librarian and Archivist for St John Ambulance Australia (NSW) draws our attention to one of Grammar’s most influential traditions.

Background

In 1881, NSW witnessed the first classes in ambulance instruction at Eveleigh Railway Workshops, using the rules of the British St John Ambulance Association. The British Association had itself been formed in England as recently as 1877. These classes were conducted by Dr Samuel Thomas Knaggs, MD. The initial issue in Australia of a St John First Aid Certificate occurred in 1884 in Newcastle, NSW. Dr Knaggs had no direct Grammar connections, but when he helped form the inaugural committee that began the St John Ambulance Association NSW in July 1887, its 21 members included 7 men with significant links to the School.

The First Call (1888)

The identity of “Ambulance” is impossible to determine exactly. However, it was clearly someone with an interest in First Aid and links to the School. For these reasons it is tempting to identify “Ambulance” as one of those Grammar men involved with the formation in Sydney in 1887 of a committee to create the St John Ambulance Association of NSW. Prime candidates include Captain Alfred Broughton (OS 1859) (appointed Treasurer of the Association), Dr Robert Vandeleur Kelly (a Grammar father and later Chairman of the Association, 1892-1902), and Surgeon-Colonel William DC Williams (OS 1873) (committee member of the Association).

Weigall’s Plan

First Aid classes were approved by the Trustees of the School in July 1892. Without lessening their significance, it is important to highlight the fact they represented something of a compromise. Initially, Grammar’s Headmaster, Albert Bythesea Weigall, had wanted to introduce for senior boys a full-blown course on human physiology. It was designed to be a pre-cursor for university level study of medicine, a profession many boys were naturally expected to join. However, the Trustees disliked the idea; they feared a focus on the body would result in “prurience” (Minutes of Trustees, 1892). In other words, boys’ immaturity might nullify the value of the lessons. Nevertheless, Weigall insisted on counselling boys about the moral dimensions of the physical body and he was determined they should also know something about its biological function. For Weigall, the compromise solution was to introduce “ambulance” classes that would give senior boys a practical knowledge of the human body alongside the ability to relate to it in circumstances of accident and injury. Thus Weigall initiated a tradition of St John First Aid instruction that has endured from 1892 to this day.

The Roth Brothers

Throughout his career, Weigall was instrumental in recruiting men of ability as masters. His original desire to initiate physiognomy classes at Grammar meant that Mr Walter E Roth was briefly employed by the School as an assistant master. Between 1890 and 1892 Walter, a trained surgeon, taught Science at Grammar. However, since Weigall never secured the necessary permission from the Trustees to offer medically related units of study conducted by
Walter Roth, this master was redeployed into First Aid instruction. It is likely Mr Roth taught the initial First Aid classes at Grammar. He later instructed classes around Australia and was elected an Honorary Life Member of St John in 1908. He left the School in 1893 and went on to become a well-regarded Protector of Aboriginals in Queensland, where he built up a nationally significant collection of ethnographic artefacts.

The years 1893–94 marked the beginning of a strong focus by the St John Ambulance Association on school-based training of young Australians. The Committee of the Association was anxious to establish First Aid classes in schools “as they were persuaded that the pupils would feel deeply interested in the subjects, and the knowledge thus acquired would be lasting” (St John Ambulance NSW Fourth Annual Report, 1894).

The First Aid classes also brought Dr Reuter Emerich Roth (later Chairman of the Association, 1903–09) into the School. Reuter Roth was instrumental in the establishment of the St John Ambulance Association in NSW. Like his brother, his employment at the School was brief (1896), in part because Roth was not a school teacher. He was, however, deeply concerned for the healthy growth of adolescents. After immigrating to the colony in 1883 he established a private medical practice on College Street, alongside heavy voluntary philanthropic commitments, including the delivery of many public

“Weigall initiated a tradition of St John First Aid instruction that has endured from 1892 to this day.”
lectures on health-related issues. He was particularly interested in youth physiognomy, exercise, and posture as aids to learning. This, combined with his personal passion for the sport of fencing and his youthful experience with military cadets, led to his appointment as Principal Medical Officer of the Public Schools Cadet Force in 1890. Dr Roth's connections to the School help explain the ongoing profile of First Aid training at Grammar. Throughout his career he remained close to Grammar, serving in the NSW Army Medical Corps alongside many Old Sydney in South Africa during the Boer War (1899–1901). Later, he became a Trustee of the Australian Museum next door to Grammar (1906–1921).

We know little about the Grammar First Aid classes that took place between 1893 and 1900, apart from the fact they were an annual occurrence. Mr Weigall maintained his belief in the benefit of First Aid instruction and in September 1901 he consented to lecture boys in Grammar’s St John First Aid class. In November these boys were examined by Dr Roth. In the following year in September 1902, a new class was formed, consisting of 27 boys. Of these boys 18 received certificates of First Aid attainment. A medallion was awarded to Rex Rabbett as an acknowledgement that he has passed three examinations, which places him as the first known Grammar St John First-Aider.

First Aid Today

From its beginnings as an optional activity undertaken by a handful of boys, St John First Aid training is now integrated into the end-of-year training program for Form IV boys at College Street. Over three days of intensive lectures, covering the theory and application of First Aid, the entire Form IV cohort of Grammar boys now qualify for the Senior First Aid Certificate from St John Ambulance Australia (NSW). The School thus produces about 190 boys annually, who are trained and ready to apply First Aid to their fellows in the playground or on the playing field, or to members of the public at large. Grammar masters are also encouraged to undertake St John First Aid training which also often takes place on School premises. A worthy tradition indeed.

Dr Glozier is very grateful to Mrs Betty Stirton OAM, from the St John Archives (NSW).
Melbourne Tennis Tour

During January, Director of Tennis Mr Fernando Ibarrola and Science master Mr Adrian Bowes accompanied a number of boys down to Wesley College in Melbourne.

The tennis tour and camp to Melbourne sought to hone the boys’ tennis skills, build camaraderie and inspire them to take their tennis to the next level. The boys watched some of the world’s best players compete in the Australian Open and enjoyed some sightseeing in Melbourne.

As well as 17 boys from Grammar, there were school groups from Brisbane Boys’ College and Trinity Grammar School, Adelaide. The boys played a number of competitions during their time at Wesley College and received expert training from a variety of different coaches. Through temperatures that ranged from the low teens to the high thirties, the boys played in the rain and blistering heat, often finishing their matches exhausted yet with a sense of accomplishment.

The tour hosts laid on a wide range of cultural events and visits, including visits to Melbourne Museum and Melbourne Gaol, to the MCG grand tour and a night down at St Kilda beach watching the penguins. The highlight was a surprise visit to the Eureka Skydeck which provided the boys with a panoramic view of Melbourne transforming from day to night.

Of course, nothing compares with the chance to see your sporting heroes live in action; in this the Australian Open did not disappoint. Boys had a chance to see a variety of matches including the second round Dimitrov versus McDonald blockbuster that provided three-and-a-half hours of thrilling first-class tennis. The boys also watched a variety of players practising including possibly the most loved and revered sportsman of all time – Swiss champion Roger Federer. All in all, it was a fabulous week that the boys will hold in fond regard for many years to come.
The world of Applied Arts

Applied Arts Subject Master Mr Nicholas Green introduces us to the world of Applied Arts and what is currently being created in Grammar’s technical workshops.

Boys usually suggest that Applied Arts involves technology, designing, drawing, computers, and making things. The practical aspect of making things is mentioned frequently and is an obvious part of the subject that engages the boys. Further interest really lies in what boys need to know before they make things and why we make things at all.

Applied Arts encompasses a wide range of skills, activities, topics, and ways of thinking. It falls between the Fine Arts, where aesthetics convey meaning in art works, and the Industrial Arts, that consider skill-based subjects combining materials and manufacturing. In the Applied Arts, the designer is mindful of the aesthetic and creates practical objects that engage visually; that have fitting appearance with reference to purpose, user, context, and appeal. Critically, such objects must meet specified needs and be of use; they must have a function. In the best examples of design, needs are met simply and elegantly by objects of structural integrity, efficient construction, and of beauty.

“I really enjoy the creative aspect of the subject. The subject allows us to learn to think outside the box.”

Benjamin Gayst (IV)

“In the Applied Arts, the designer is mindful of the aesthetic and creates practical objects that engage visually.”

Above: Zachary Marinos (I) filing the edge of his plywood logo to the perfect shape and below; Nicholas Ward (VI) adjusting the working model to test his powered ‘Lazy Susan’ Major Design Project.
Many parts of the work answer the question, “What is applied?” The end result of a project is a quality object fit for purpose, but that is not all that has application. Critical and creative thinking skills are applied to identifying needs and assessing alternatives for shapes, materials, and steps in assembling prototypes. Form I boys do this as they incorporate their initials and pictures into a logo that conveys a sense of who they are.

“I really enjoy the practical lessons and drawing the plan of the initials.”
Charles Cutbush (I)

Evaluative processes are applied throughout each project. Form II classes test the sound amplification properties of models before they finalise plans for a timber passive speaker for their phones. In Form III boys evaluate scale models as they design chairs that are aesthetically pleasing and ergonomically correct to ensure user comfort as well as visual appeal. Lego robots are built and evaluated as boys strive to code the most efficient algorithms.

Above: Benjamin Innes (I) and Julian Chew (I) getting ready to cut their shapes with the scroll saw, and below: A Lego robot ready for testing
All forms apply technologies seeking accurate and high quality outcomes. CAD/CAM operations – computer aided design and computer aided manufacture – use on-screen drawing to plan shapes and sizes and files are executed by laser cutting or 3D printing. Boys apply mathematical understanding and spatial thinking to move creative ideas from mind to device to reality. Form IV boys have studied Art Deco designs and analysed the geometric graphics and rich colours of the era to produce picture frames inspired by the opulent 1920s.

"Design and Technology taught me how to deal with a large project set over an extended period of time, encouraging time management skill development and discipline, both of which are incredibly helpful to have a handle on for university."

Matthew Weiss (OS 2017)

Senior boys in Forms V and VI apply further freedom of choice to their creativity and apply the skills from earlier years as they manage complex, long-term, technical projects that address social and environmental implications. A microprocessor-controlled indoor plant terrarium, low-cost share housing development, and motorised storage unit for people with impaired mobility are some of the projects in development this year.

The boys are still ‘building things’, but beyond the practical nature of the work, they apply their minds and efforts to making projects visually attractive, functional, and efficient; to making the lives of others easier, richer, better. And that is well worth their ongoing application, in school, and beyond.

"Boys apply mathematical understanding and spatial thinking to move creative ideas from mind to device to reality."

Matthew Weiss (OS 2017)

Above: Will Rogers (IV) testing the fit of parts for his Art Deco photograph frame, centre and below: William Woods (III) evaluating the ergonomic fit of his model chair design
In April this year, boys and staff embarked on St Ives Preparatory School’s pre-season football tour to Hong Kong. First XI coach, Mr Alasdair Gyngell, reports.

On the morning after the final day of Term 1, we had an early rise to catch our nine-hour flight to the bustling city of Hong Kong. Straight into matches on our first day, we experienced a tough 11-a-side tournament at the Hong Kong International School (HKIS). The Grammar team did well to adapt to the hot and sticky conditions, but the older and stronger opposition were hard to match.

However, we returned to HKIS the following morning to play in a 7-a-side competition, where the team found some confidence and played some entertaining football.

The facilities were exceptional at every venue. Harrow International School featured a state-of-the-art synthetic pitch, surrounded by a colosseum-shaped school building. The Hong Kong Football Club was just as impressive, with enormous high-rise buildings providing a dramatic backdrop.

The tour also allowed the boys to take in the sights and sounds of the city of Hong Kong. Our non-stop schedule included a ride on the Peak Tram, the city light show, a visit to the Big Buddha, and a trip to the top of the International Commerce Centre Building, the highest viewing platform in Hong Kong. Ever-ready and eager to part with their pocket money, the boys enjoyed a number of souvenir shopping sprees at the famous Night Markets of Temple Street and Mong Kok, where they learned the art of haggling and negotiation. The local cuisine tested the group’s culinary bravery, but everyone left with a favourite dish – even if it was boiled rice.

A day off from football at Ocean Park was a highlight for all. The boys were abuzz with excitement as they ran around the picturesque theme park. Not a ride went unridden or carnival game went unchallenged.

Our final school experience took place at the Australian International School (AISHK) where the boys spent the day with a Year 5 ‘buddy’ participating in lessons and activities in classrooms. The afternoon was spent training with and playing in matches. After a glimpse of what it was like going to school in Hong Kong, we were farewelled with an Aussie-style BBQ.

The overnight flight back to Sydney allowed the travelling party some much-needed rest. The boys arrived back with fantastic stories to tell and a renewed camaraderie.
SUMMER SPORT ROUND-UP

Sportsmaster Michael Curran reflects on another eventful season of summer sport.

Basketball

The 2018 basketball programme was very successful. The participation and the numbers continue to grow and it is clear that basketball is a very appealing sport here at Grammar. At times, the most difficult challenge was accommodating all our teams with enough playing courts. There were 21 senior and 22 junior teams; up by 4 teams from last season. The First and Seconds won a combined 24 games, exceeding all expectations. They won all ISA and CAS trial games as well as the various alternative competitions in which they entered.

The most talented and committed group in the program this year were the 14-years age group. As a whole, they won 65 percent of their games throughout the season. Special mention must go to the 16As who went through the season with a 10–3 win-loss record, and were thus awarded the Fathers’ Association trophy for Most Successful Team.

Cricket

In the GPS competition, the First XI had an excellent win over Sydney Boys High School and finished equal sixth due to inconsistent performances overall. The Second XI fought hard to finish seventh against some challenging opposition. The Tri-Grammar series was held in Melbourne during January. Melbourne Grammar School was the dominant team winning all matches and retaining ‘The Bat’. Three Grammar players – Oliver Clarke, Henry Munns, and Harley Wijeyaratne (VI) – were selected in the 2018 Combined Tri-Grammar team.

The number of boys playing cricket remained consistent with the Club fielding 18 teams across all grades. The junior programme is strong with teams winning most of their matches. The 15A XI was the most successful side, remaining undefeated. The ‘Ball and Boy’ programme was again well attended. The inaugural Cooper Rice-Brading Award was won by Henry Munns (VI). Additionally, Henry Munns was selected in the Combined GPS First XI and Max Glen (III) was selected in the Under 15 GIS team. Tom Bell Bird (III) was the Club’s most consistent player winning the Eric P Barbour Trophy.

Rowing

This rowing season was one of building new foundations in the Boatshed, with the number of boys continuing this sport into their senior years steadily increasing. The Opens rowers now sleep over at the Boatshed on Thursday nights, not only to enjoy the flat morning water on Friday, but also to help build camaraderie amongst the boys.
1.42.50 in the second GPS carnival, breaking Newington College’s 2009 record.

The junior team were placed third and the intermediates were sitting in first with a mere 30 point buffer against St Ignatius’ College, Riverview. Form IV turned out in full force to support the boys as the winning place came down to the last race of the night for the intermediate team, the Under 16 4 x 50 metre Freestyle. The relay team swam their hearts out and touched the wall a second ahead of St Ignatius’ to secure the Premiership for 2018. The following boys were selected for the GPS representative team, and competed in the GPS-CIS Schools Carnival: Samuel Garvin (I), Ashwin Sivapirabu (I), Aidan Dow (II), Freddie Toone (II), Jack Xu (IV), William Boyden (IV), Michael Choi (IV), Gabriel Gorgas (IV), Ari Stathis (IV), Max Wait (IV), Liêm Grimes (V), Nathan Scotter (IV).

Following this event Aidan Dow, Jack Xu and Gabriel Gorgas were selected in the All Schools Team and William Boyden qualified for the Nationals competition.

Tennis

The 2018 tennis season passes on a legacy of players with unique experiences and greater maturity. The Firsts team faced a very strong competition during Term I. It was difficult to obtain the results the team wished for on the score sheets, yet individually the boys landed some great wins and performances against some top GPS players. The Seconds team had a very successful season. They finished fifth and had a great time achieving their final placing.

The remaining teams finished their season very strongly with most teams winning more than 50 percent of their matches. The 16A, 15C and 14C teams remained undefeated. The boys trained hard and didn’t miss opportunities to improve and this was reflected in the generally high attendance rate. The coaches’ comments were very positive. Grammar tennis is in good shape.

A tour to New Zealand in December for the Year 10 crews not only gave the rowers a chance to bond, but gave them valuable race experience and a taste of rowing outside the GPS programme. The Second and Third Year 10 VIII both finished third in their races at the Head of the River, and most of the Year 9 crews achieved top 3 finishes. There was greater depth to the talent pool this year in the Year 9 and Year 8 crews with increased numbers. The talk at the next Boatshed Open Day will surely be about hopes for competing at the top end of the competition next season.

Swimming

This season was a very exciting one for our swim team. Throughout the three points score carnivals some amazing results were achieved and many boys swam personal best times. The intermediate 4 x 50 metre Freestyle team consisting of Ari Stathis, William Boyden, Jack Xu and Gabriel Gorgas (IV) placed first with a GPS record time of 1.42.50 in the second GPS carnival, breaking Newington College’s 2009 record.

Swimming

A tour to New Zealand in December for the Year 10 crews not only gave the rowers a chance to bond, but gave them valuable race experience and a taste of rowing outside the GPS programme. The Second and Third Year 10 VIII both finished third in their races at the Head of the River, and most of the Year 9 crews achieved top 3 finishes. There was greater depth to the talent pool this year in the Year 9 and Year 8 crews with increased numbers. The talk at the next Boatshed Open Day will surely be about hopes for competing at the top end of the competition next season.

Swimming

This season was a very exciting one for our swim team. Throughout the three points score carnivals some amazing results were achieved and many boys swam personal best times. The intermediate 4 x 50 metre Freestyle team consisting of Ari Stathis, William Boyden, Jack Xu and Gabriel Gorgas (IV) placed first with a GPS record time of 1.42.50 in the second GPS carnival, breaking Newington College’s 2009 record.

The junior team were placed third and the intermediates were sitting in first with a mere 30 point buffer against St Ignatius’ College, Riverview. Form IV turned out in full force to support the boys as the winning place came down to the last race of the night for the intermediate team, the Under 16 4 x 50 metre Freestyle. The relay team swam their hearts out and touched the wall a second ahead of St Ignatius’ to secure the Premiership for 2018. The following boys were selected for the GPS representative team, and competed in the GPS-CIS Schools Carnival: Samuel Garvin (I), Ashwin Sivapirabu (I), Aidan Dow (II), Freddie Toone (II), Jack Xu (IV), William Boyden (IV), Michael Choi (IV), Gabriel Gorgas (IV), Ari Stathis (IV), Max Wait (IV), Liêm Grimes (V), Nathan Scotter (IV). Following this event Aidan Dow, Jack Xu and Gabriel Gorgas were selected in the All Schools Team and William Boyden qualified for the Nationals competition.

Tennis

The 2018 tennis season passes on a legacy of players with unique experiences and greater maturity. The Firsts team faced a very strong competition during Term I. It was difficult to obtain the results the team wished for on the score sheets, yet individually the boys landed some great wins and performances against some top GPS players. The Seconds team had a very successful season. They finished fifth and had a great time achieving their final placing.

The remaining teams finished their season very strongly with most teams winning more than 50 percent of their matches. The 16A, 15C and 14C teams remained undefeated. The boys trained hard and didn’t miss opportunities to improve and this was reflected in the generally high attendance rate. The coaches’ comments were very positive. Grammar tennis is in good shape.
From the Archives: The Palladium

What we now know as the Palladium building and the site it occupies on Yurong Street has had a fickle and at times uncertain future Jim Cattlin (OS 1961) writes.

In 1807, the ex-convict surveyor James Meehan (1774–1806) prepared a plan of the town of Sydney documenting the existing buildings and farm boundaries. Part of this plan was a line drawn from the western side of Woolloomooloo Bay following the present Sir John Young Crescent, crossing William Street at an angle to Yurong Street (named after Yurong Creek, which ran towards Woolloomooloo Bay) continuing to the south-east corner of Hyde Park and beyond. This grant boundary, which cuts across all streets east of Hyde Park at an angle, was still determining property boundaries almost 150 years later. In particular, the city block containing the Australian Museum, the William Street Superior Public School and Sydney Grammar School are all located to the west of the line and the triangular block to the east was vacant.

In the early 1900s, Sands Directories showed a number of houses and shops in Yurong Street, between William and Stanley Streets. By 1912, these buildings had been demolished and replaced by the Imperial Roller Skating Rink which opened in April of 1912. The rink was managed by James Charles Bendrodt (1891–1973), a Canadian who had worked his way to Sydney as a stoker, arriving by 1910 with five pounds in his pocket. He claimed to have held Canadian roller-skating titles back home, and with his business partner George Irving, he prospered as a trick-skater in Sydney and on regional tours. Bendrodt saw the interest among the locals in skating and took his proposal for Sydney’s first ever rink to a Dr MacDonagh and to professional boxing champion Larry Foley. The three formed a company with Bendrodt as general manager. Architect E Lindsay-Thompson designed a building on the unusually shaped site, incorporating an almost complete oval rink in Canadian maple wood, a refreshment room, a band stand, spectator seating, changing rooms and an office. The exterior walls were decorative with a sliding roof and skylights. The Evening News called it ‘a big structure on a most irregular piece of land’.

The rink was a huge success and thousands flocked to it as the most popular amusement in Sydney at the time. However Bendrodt, the entrepreneur and lessor, decided to close the rink in 1913. In September that year the new managers advised that the rink would be converted into the Imperial Picture Theatre at a cost of over 3,000 pounds. Pictures were first shown in two hundred feet (sixty-one metres) – the longest projection of any theatre in the Southern Hemisphere. After a change in
management, it was announced in March 1914 that the theatre would be converted into the Imperial Salon de Luxe, a palatial dance academy with Bendrodt again as manager.

The theatre and dance academy operated on different nights of the week. In August 1914, Bendrodt enlisted in the Navy as war broke out and sailed off to New Guinea. However, the Salon de Luxe continued until 1915, operating as a dance hall and cabaret venue known as the Palladium. This continued until late 1918 when the building was converted into the Paige Motor Garage. This existed on the site for a few years until, unfortunately, there was a fire one evening in May 1924, causing considerable damage to the building.

It wasn’t until March 1932 that a notice was posted indicating that the Theatres and Public Halls Act 1908 would apply to the Palladium building. The famous Wirth’s Circus held lavish shows there during March and April of this year, then followed in May by an announcement of the opening of the ‘New Palladium building’ for skating. Two years later, it was being used for ‘old time dancing’ with an entrance fee of one shilling for ladies and one shilling and sixpence for men.

It then continued to be a dance hall without much success. In October 1938, a camping exhibition was held. During the Second World War it was used by American troops as a depot and infirmary until 1944.

Various government departments occupied the building from the late 1940s until the mid-1950s when Grammar Headmaster Mr Colin Healey looked to expand the College Street site to relieve the demand for ‘the little space remaining’, with the hope of having ‘the chance of acquiring the old Palladium building’. The School’s Trustees had been interested in the Palladium since 1954, but negotiations with the Department of Interior were not pressed because of government uncertainty and limited funds at the Trustees’ disposal. Then a fortuitous meeting came in August 1957 when, at the Old Sydneians’ Annual Dinner, the Prime Minister Robert G Menzies casually asked Headmaster Healey if he could do anything for the School. They very briefly discussed the Palladium building, and in a matter of weeks, the Trustees were told they could take over part of the building from the Postmaster-General’s department for a modest rent. In February 1958, the Department of Interior agreed to sell the Palladium site to the Trustees, stipulating that it would become vacant within three years. After some alterations, this space was used for several classrooms, a gymnasium, room for play rehearsals and an office for the thriving Old Sydneians’ Union.

With the prospect of the complete Palladium building becoming available before the end of 1961, the Headmaster and Trustees began to conceive a master plan for development of the entire College Street site. Part of this was the extension of the new Science Block which would conjoin to a building on the Yurong Street site. A new fundraising scheme was devised with the aim of raising 75,000 pounds over a five-year period, to be used to assist the purchase and development of the Palladium site and to also assist upgrades for the two preparatory schools. The entire Palladium building was acquired in 1965, with the premises modified to provide several new classrooms for art, music and languages and a large new gymnasium.

An initial proposal for a brand new building on the site had already been prepared in 1963 by EA & TM Scott Architects, consisting of four storeys containing features such as a fifty-metre swimming pool, cricket nets, rifle range, library and a hall to seat 1,300 people. The question was raised again in 1969 when Mr Alistair Mackerras became Headmaster. A planning committee considered the School’s future accommodation needs and decided the development of the Palladium site as the project of prime importance.

Over the next year, the Trustees procrastinated over fourteen schemes and eight draft plans, even including a visit to the UK and the US to observe trends in educational building development. A report with their findings was presented in January 1971 with numerous (and some
controversial) recommendations on building planning which diverged dramatically from past proposals. After another array of grand building schemes, Mackerras reluctantly weighed in and wrote to the Trustees disagreeing with the suggestions. As a result, other plans were prepared, one of which the Trustees accepted in principle on 30 June 1971; however, Mackerras again objected and more delays ensued.

The final stage of planning to rebuild the Palladium was then further interrupted for several more years while the Trustees explored the possibility of relocating the School altogether, a proposal which was initially supported by Mackerras and driven by the Chairman of Trustees, Sir Norman Cowper. Several sites were considered, along with the estimated price of selling the College Street property. However, after protracted negotiations with various authorities and heritage groups – some of which were highly critical, attracting scathing reports in the local press – a sense of doubt developed among some of the Trustees as to the viability of a move. These feelings were increasingly shared by the Headmaster who eventually wrote a long letter in April 1974 to the Trustees saying if negotiations were still unfruitful by 20 June, then they should abandon the plan to move entirely from College Street and instead redevelop the existing site or the Weigall site at Rushcutters Bay. The Chairman finally concluded that focus should now be directed towards building on the Palladium site which was formally ratified on 18 June 1974.

After a statement of ‘minimum requirements’ by the Headmaster, for a new building to cost about $1.5 million, the architects Peddle, Thorpe and Walker were chosen to construct a new building consisting of four floors with a library, lecture theatre, audio-visual room, eleven classrooms, a gymnasium, equipment room, change rooms and two squash courts. By August 1976, boys and staff had moved into all sections of the new building. Minor changes to the building have been made since, including development in 2011 of part of the ground floor to make way for a street entrance and foyer for the John Vallance Hall development.
A modern epic within a world crisis

Fighting the Kaiserreich: Australia’s epic within the Great War, a new book by former History Subject Master Dr Bruce Gaunson (1993–2005).

Two decades ago, the 1914-1918 letters in the School’s archives enabled me to write College Street Heroes – about the host of Old Sydney volunteers and the war they fought in. Pondering this two-theme structure on a bigger scale, I found that no book had ever depicted Australia’s modern saga upon the vast canvas of World War I itself. So I launched into researching, writing and re-uniting these two narratives which had, after all, unfolded together.

Sources from thirteen countries made it a fascinating journey. Because it coincided with the war’s centenary, new books (including memoirs, letters, useful documents) kept pouring out to offer new material. Like Emilio Lussu’s memoir of Italy’s army, with its brandy-marinated officers, and poorly-equipped men relying mainly on raw courage in battle after battle. Or Colonel Mehmet Sefik’s reports from Anzac Cove, as he attacked the Australians long before Atatürk arrived. Or the diary of a lucky Bavarian captured by fired-up Diggers near Ypres. Or the Adelaide musician in Germany, hiding secret letters in her sheet music. Or the exhausted French poilu after another bloody attack, struggling to write the letter his fiancée needed.

In a war which might have baffled Napoleon, leaders are assessed without unfair hindsight; but it’s hard to excuse Asquith’s negligence, Gough’s lethal stupidity, or powerful Germany being dangerously underrated, or Haig’s whole Flanders campaign. Ludendorff bursts through his front in March 1918 and the crisis erupts. Allied units hasten to plug gaps, and Australian battalions stop formidable onslaughts with skill and valour. Later, and no longer shackled to defective generals and strategies, the Diggers under Monash win a series of superb victories leading to and through the Hindenburg Line.

Among fascinating discoveries, one stands out: clever espionage in every Australian capital port, right up to 1914. Suspected but never detected, it’s wondrously detailed by the German consuls and maritime experts’ own reports, in the Kaiserreich’s archives. This intelligence would help Graf von Spee’s Pacific warships to wreak havoc when war began. Australia was called the winner’s “glittering prize”. Why this naval plan failed, and only the audacious Emden was left to attack shipping, is a great story. On the ultimate question – was that catastrophic war unleashed intentionally? – this book deploys authentic evidence (discovered over five decades by German and international historians) to show what happened.
On the evening of 23 March, the School hosted jazz maestro James Morrison for a night of musical fun. Mr Vlad Khusid, the School’s Director of Jazz Studies, is a colleague of Morrison’s from their days at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in the early eighties. Both were taught by Don Burrows. Ever since, Mr Morrison has been a strong and incredibly generous supporter of Grammar, directing masterclasses at College Street from time to time and adding stardust to a range of jazz concerts.

The School’s two large ensembles, the Stanley Street Big Band and the Sydney Grammar School Big Band, opened the show with soloists Eamonn Murphy (flute, II), William Hobkirk (guitar, VI) and Alexander Crawford (piano, VI) turning heads with their clever improvisations. Morrison, conducting both bands, added his own soaring trumpet to renditions of *The Best of Basie* and *Recorda Me*. Dr V’s Swing Thing, the well-travelled Old Boys’ big band, then rounded out the first half, their performance of contemporary compositions especially notable for a cameo by none other than Dr Richard Malpass, a Big Band stalwart at Grammar in the early nineties. Morrison had never met Dr Malpass prior to this concert, but he quipped to the audience that it is not often that one meets a Headmaster ‘who shakes hands with one hand, and has a flugelhorn in the other’.

The second half was devoted to Morrison’s own ensemble, the maestro this time joined by his two sons William (on electric guitar) and Harry (on double bass), as well as up-and-coming musicians Adelina Martinez (vocals) and Patrick Danao (drums). Just as this superb concert was about to come to a close, Morrison then invited the SGS Big Band’s lead trombonist, Kye Milne (VI), to share the stage with him. Showing no signs of nerves, the Form VI Grammar boy traded solos with Morrison over a spirited F major blues, with both trombonists exploring the upper registers of their instruments and wowing the audience with their musical ideas. For Kye Milne, as for all of us, it will be a night that will live long in the memory.
Big Band member Jean Luc Barbara (VI) had the opportunity to ask James Morrison a few questions before the concert in the John Vallance Hall on 23 March.

How did you first become involved with bringing jazz to schools and with jazz at Grammar?

I was playing jazz in a big band in school myself, (some years ago now!), then as my career progressed ... schools invite guests to come and join them. Particularly at Grammar here, it’s because of the wonderful musician you have here, Vlad Khusid. I’d worked professionally with Vlad, and we knew each other, we’d played in big bands and various jazz gigs together, so when he ended up at Grammar here and said ‘would you come and play with the school band’, I said of course! I knew he was such a fine musician I was really interested to hear how the school bands were going, and of course that was quite a few years ago. So that became a thing, every few years he said ‘come back, I’ve got a new bunch of guys, a new band, let’s play!’ So I always look forward to it!

Of course over the years some things have changed, I mean the [John Vallance] Hall we play in now didn’t exist until more recently. When it was done, [Vlad] said ‘wait ’til you see this!’ It’s such a great venue! I’ve had different bands over the years as my career progressed so it’s a long association now, but it really came together thanks to Vlad. Having a good curriculum and all of that is important, but it’s the really passionate teachers who can bring it together and lead all of the brilliant students, with the skills and knowledge to pass on to the boys.

What's your favourite piece of music and why?

Well, that’s tough! I don’t really have a favourite piece. It changes, depends on what mood you’re in. It’s kind of like asking someone what their favourite food is, they might say ‘oh, it’s that’, but they don’t want it every night ... Mind you, with pizza it’s close!

But it changes with different moods. I have a few pieces I play quite often: The Basin Street Blues is close to my heart, because it was the first jazz piece I ever heard - I always remember that ... but no, it’s the same with instruments ... They all have things they’re good for, and different personalities. I have sort of a favourite way, for this song, like trumpet, or for a different one saxophone, or piano, but overall, all songs have their place.

What is your most memorable performance?

Look, you mostly remember the disasters! I mean, no one ever says, ‘hey, you remember that gig where everything went right?’ No one ever says that! Well, there were various things: I walked out to play a concerto with a symphony in Munich and forgot my trumpet! I’m just so used to having it on a stand out on stage, I just walked on without it! That...
was a funny one. . . . Obviously some of them that went right, like playing the opening fanfare of the Olympics, you don’t forget that in a hurry; walking out, the whole Olympics starting with a solo trumpet, and that’s me, that’s a big moment!

Of course there are tip hinges like when I got to meet my heroes, like the first time I got to play with Dizzy Gillespie. But is that ever any bigger than the first solo you play, when you’re 8 years old, and you come out from the school band and take your solo? It was in the local hall on a Sunday afternoon for the mums and dads, and it’s no Olympics, but for you at the time that’s such a big moment. I have so many, I wouldn’t be able to choose!

What is your most defining aspect apart from music?

Well, it’s very closely related to music, I mean I’m kind of cheating here because it’s still music, but definitely education. I have an academy, it’s a university, courses for a bachelor degree, my school, and you know, that’s the next big thing, in some ways, it’s every bit as big as or bigger than just me performing. At this stage of my career, I’m not done. But I have done lots of things, so one of the most exciting things is to pass it on. Certainly education is a big part of that. Apart from that, I think you used the word defining, I’m adventurous. It’s defining, as a musician, it comes out in what I play, and it makes sense if you’re a bit of an adventurer you’re going to choose jazz. I’ve done a lot of sailing, ocean sailing that’s an adventure and lots of other things like that. If I had to say what am I apart from a musician I’m an adventurer. Even when we’re just on tour, and we’re in parts of the world I haven’t been in, I’m like okay, how can we get into trouble here . . . in a good way! We really get out there, not just sit in our hotel and be safe.

If you could choose anyone, who would you want to collaborate with next?

Well, I’ve been so lucky to collaborate with so many amazing musicians over my career … it’s hard to say. I’m just today talking with the Confucius Institute about collaborating with some Chinese musicians. That’s so different to what I normally do, I’m just so excited about it … to find out what that’s all about, how their music and my music comes together; I’m always looking for something new.

So, who would you say is your most important influence in Jazz?

Gee . . . look obviously Dizzy Gillespie is one given that he’s one of the greatest trumpeters, but I have piano heroes too like Oscar Peterson. I toured for some years with the great Ray Brown, who played with Oscar Peterson and Count Basie and everyone else, so they are definitely heroes of mine. I don’t know if I could choose only one, but there’s my mentor, Don Burrows, one of the greatest Australian musicians certainly . . . they’re all my heroes.

Finally, how would you like to see Jazz develop?

I don’t tend to think of it like that really. You never know what the developments are, they just happen out of what people do. I do stuff like the Chinese collaboration, the collaboration with Grammar tonight, and . . . who knows, some young jazz musician out in the audience tonight might be inspired by what I do, and I’ll never know . . . but that might send it off in a whole new direction!
For Australians, having the experience of a snowy white Christmas and huge snowball fights is tremendous fun. We spent most of our time in Zürich which is simply gorgeous and fascinating because of its rich history, having started as a Roman settlement. Vast parts of the city are made up of exquisite old buildings, known as die Altstadt.

During our exchange, our Swiss hosts welcomed us into their families and it was brilliant to experience their culture from within. At our partner school, Freies Gymnasium Zürich, the first day of classes all in German put our language skills to the test. We improved significantly during our time at the school. Much to our relief, there were some classes taught in English as well. These offered some respite from the overwhelming sense of having to speak German most of the time. The Freies Gymnasium Zürich was enjoyable and had a different approach to Grammar's more traditional educational style.

During our stay in Switzerland, we went on a number of day excursions, accompanied by Ms Suzanne Hirner. Our first was the Swiss capital of Bern, a relatively small city with its own great Altstadt. Most of us took the opportunity in Bern to buy a much warmer pair of gloves as we were feeling the bitter cold. We also went to Konstanz, a tiny town in Germany of only 80,000 people. Konstanz and its gemütlichkeit (or cosiness) made for a fantastic visit. We also had the opportunity to visit the Lindt Chocolate factory. The smell was intoxicating and it was great to actually taste the chocolate where it was made.

After two weeks of school, we then embarked on a two-week holiday with our host families, which fell over the Christmas and New Year period. All boys on exchange got the incredible opportunity to ski at St Moritz in the Swiss Alps. Overall, the exchange was an amazing experience, as we improved our German language skills and enjoyed great European food and culture.

Patrick Cahill (V)
Oh, SGS! It’s marvellous!

Impressions from exchange pupil Laura Tönnett on her time spent on “the other side of the world” as part of the FGZ-SGS Exchange Programme, originally published in German for FGZ’s school magazine.

Soaked through from the rain, I stand on a sloping field, beside a river. My clothes are stuck to my skin, my hair dripping and my shoes soon turn a muddy brown. An icy cold wind blows in my face and my whole body tenses up with the cold. Suddenly, a cheerleader’s war cry is heard “Jump up SGS!” This was exactly how I imagined my exchange would be: immersed in unique local cultural idiosyncrasies with my exchange partner, Tiger Perkins (VI), with whom I stayed in Sydney for 11 weeks. In my guidebook on the city of the white Opera House, I had already read about the massive ‘Coat Hanger’ Bridge with its 50,000 tonnes of steel that crossed the harbour of Australia’s largest city. Standing up there, 134 metres above sea level at the summit, you really get a Titanic-like feeling. I immediately loved Sydney, not just because of the Opera House, Harbour Bridge, numerous parkland areas and white beaches … and who has not heard of Bondi Beach with its breaking waves and frolicking surfers?

As well as surfing in their free time, Sydney Grammar School students are obliged to choose a sport that they practice two afternoons a week during term. In addition, the ensuing competitions every weekend support and encourage team spirit in extra-curricular activities.

On this rainy Saturday afternoon, everyone pushes forward to cheer on the sporting competitors. All the boys wear long grey tracksuit pants, their set uniform. We are standing on the banks of the Parramatta River, exactly where the Sydney Olympic Games took place nearly 18 years ago. At 9.15 am they’re off! The starter’s gun is heard, the teams take the first powerful pull on their oars through the water, and students cheer for their teams as the race begins.
The older Year 11 students are next. The sun forces its rays to earth through the cloudy skies. The damp morning air gradually evaporates. The tension slowly increases. The crowds go wild as the rowing teams approach. Everyone puts their sweaty arms around one another and count down from three to one and jumps, some still entwined into the air, again and again. At the same time, one of the boys cries “Oh, SGS! It’s marvellous!” and the others join in loudly. It’s a head to head race between the top five favourite teams. St Joseph’s College and Shore are slightly ahead, but Grammar are close on their heels.

I can understand how the rowers feel because, exactly five weeks earlier, I had been faced with the challenge of finding my way around an all-boys school. They are probably afraid to fail, feel the angry stares of their competitors, but when they sit in their boats, only one thing counts: rowing. With the flick of a switch, they are oblivious to their surroundings. For me, these insecurities and the slightly uncomfortable feeling also disappeared gradually. Thanks to my friendly and open host family, the students and teachers of the school who welcomed me – a stranger – with open arms and with understanding for my situation … I soon felt at home. In a positive sense, a lot can be said for the strict rules that guide the students.

In Year 9, every Grammar boy chooses four subjects alongside the obligatory English and Maths. This allows students to focus on specific areas of ability and to go into more depth in chosen fields earlier than in Switzerland, as every student decides on his own priorities. Early on, they learn not just to study simply for examinations, but they can choose how and when they prepare for the mid-year and end of year examinations. However, alongside all the structure and rules we observed, variety remains an absolute necessity.

“I am so grateful to have had the opportunity for an unforgettable exchange with such wonderful people. Sydney and Grammar will always have a place in my heart.”
An exchange programme offers a lot more than the opportunity to improve your conversational English and vocabulary. You grow as a person, you master life in a new environment. Getting off at the correct bus stop is a challenge, alone. In addition to all the daily hurdles are some unforgettable moments, like the Harbour Bridge Climb organised by Freies Gymnasium Zürich. After enjoying the breath-taking view of the Sydney Opera House from the summit of the Bridge, and to finish off the evening after an enriching day, we – Alyssia Matter, Barbara Bürgi, Dominique Rechsteiner, Lisa Dallafior, Lukas Walker, Mira von Fournier and I – enjoyed Yum Cha at a Chinese restaurant with Mrs Schmidt, FGZ coordinator of the FGZ-SGS Exchange Programme.

In the same sense, the Grammar boys could enjoy a celebratory meal after the rowing regatta. Despite the long hard training sessions, only the Year 11 category managed a win. Some students still cannot believe their success. One boy remarked “Can you pinch me?” and burst into tears of joy, while others shed a few tears of frustration. How does the saying go? ‘Neues jahr, neues glück’ (‘New year, new opportunities’), perhaps next time.

I would like to thank everyone for their open-mindedness and support, especially my exchange partner, Tiger Perkins, without whom my exchange would not have been half as good. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity for an unforgettable exchange with such wonderful people. Sydney and Grammar will always have a place in my heart.

“Oh, SGS! It’s marvellous!”

Translated by Fiona Schmidt, April 2018
Old Sydneians and the Second World War

History master Dr Matthew Glozier is embarking on a School history project to tell the story of Old Sydneians who were involved in this war, and to record a definitive list of all who enlisted – with the total number as yet unknown.

Throughout WWII (1939–1945), The Sydneian attempted to keep a tally of participants and their progress through the war. The School published a list of overall OS combatants in The Sydneian of 1946, following the conclusion of hostilities. However, that list is inaccurate. For example, the entries included under “A” mention 43 OS veterans of WWII. However, eight of these are errors (repeats, typos of similar names, etc.), whereas the listing below includes 90 veterans with a surname beginning with “A”. This equates to 55 additional OS introduced to our recollection.

The names of 162 OS who lost their lives in the struggle are recorded on the Honour Board in Big School. That memorial was erected originally in June 1953, at which time it included 149 names (soon after updated to the present number). The unveiling of the memorial by the Governor, as Official Visitor of the School, was the occasion of solemn reflection:

‘There’s a wealth of history in the old bricks of Sydney Grammar School, and tomorrow some more will be added. At 2.30 pm, the Governor, Lt.-Gen. Sir John Northcott, will lay the foundation stone of a new memorial building which will follow the style of the old building, and unveil a war memorial board inside the school. It will be quite an event, with a guard of honour lined up for the Governor, and all traffic stopped in College Street for 20 minutes from 2.15 pm. All old boys of the school and relatives of those whose names are on the memorial board are invited to attend.’

The Sun, 18 June 1953

Photo courtesy of Philip Creagh
Old Sydneians and the Second World War

FLGOFF Rodney Bainbridge Archer (OS 1934)

Born in March 1918, Rodney Archer attended Grammar from 1931–1934, distinguishing himself in swimming, rugby and the cadet corps. Enlisting in Flying Officer Rodney Bainbridge Archer was awarded the DFC for gallantry in attacks on the Gneisnau and Scharnhorst in March 1942. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force. In June, F/ORB Archer was reported missing in air operations over the Prinz Eugen target, with The Sydneian of December 1943 publishing his presumed death on 17 May 1942.

PTE John Latima Assheton (OS 1941)

After attending Grammar for two years in Second Form from 1940–1941, Pte John Latima Assheton used his brother’s documents to enlist on 9 September 1943 in Sydney. He died from injuries on 9 July 1944 in Pymble, Sydney. Newspaper reports stated that Pte Assheton was killed when a fuse cap of a mortar shell exploded in the garage of his uncle, while on leave from an Infantry school. Pte Assheton was the only son of Lieutenant Colonel Charles Frederick Assheton, who was killed on 9 February 1942 during the fall of Singapore. Pte Assheton was only 15 when he enlisted to avenge the death of his father, Colonel Assheton. Pte Assheton was buried in the Sydney War Cemetery aged 16 years.

PTE Assheton (on right), 41 Battalion CMF, with two unidentified soldiers. Image courtesy of the Australian War Memorial
A Surnames

The following excerpt of the nominal roll represents Dr Glozier’s initial research into OS participants based on The Sydneian the School’s Liber Nominum; (c) and Australian military sources including the Australian War Memorial and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

ABBOTT, 167061 LAC Graeme Kenneth Cameron RAAF (1935-39)
ABBOTT, N238475 CPL Ronald Crawford ARMY (1935-39)
ABEL, N238653 Sapper Edward Valentine ARMY (1925-28)
ABIGAIL, 444211 LAC Ernest Robert RAAF (1936-43)
ABRAHAMS, N218995 LCPL Eric Weston ARMY (1925-29)
ABRAHAMS, 20081 WOFF Frank Victor RAAF (1923-24)
ABRAHAMS, N225519 PTE Louis Frederick ARMY (1923-24)
ABBOTT, de Lauret ARMY (1928-34)
ARNOLD, NX790 CAPT Brian Thomas Aldous ARMY (1925-29)
ARNDELL, NX90614 PTE Geoffrey Cooper ARMY (1921-22)
ARNITAGE, 37931 LAC Norton Clyde RAAF (1935-39)
ARMSTRONG, N11722 GNR Stanley James RANVR (1930)
ARMSTRONG, N230100 PTE Oscar Reginald Clyde ARMY (1921-22)
ARMSTRONG, N11722 GNR Stanley James ARMY (1935-39)
ARNOLD, NX790 CAPT Brian Thomas Aldous (Alldis) “Tom” ARMY (1936)
ARNOLD, NX12405 CAPT Montague Guerry de Laurent ARMY (1928-34)
ARMOTT, NX173323 GNR Kenneth Helms ARMY (1925-26)
ARMOTT, 432732 WO 1st George Edward RAAF (1926-42)
ARNOTT, 432732 WO 1st George Edward RAAF (1926-42)
ARTLETT, 139151 AC1 Edgar Frederick RAAF (1941)
ASHCROFT, 130579 LAC Ronald Arthur RAAF (1939)
ASHER, NX169510 PTE Donald Ferguson Herbert ARMY (1938-41)
ASHER, 412094 FLGOFF Raymond Clifford RAAF (1935-39)
ASHER-SMITH, N99203 CPL George Henry ARMY (1916-17)
ASHLEY, N275660 FLGOFF Douglas Gordon RAAF (1937-38)
ASHLEY, N275661 GNR / 434390 WOFF Harold James ARMY / RAAF (1937-38)
ASHTON, L NX94240 CPL John Edward (Jack Edmund) ARMY (1925-27)
ASHTON, NX80056 Sapper Julian Richard ARMY (1926-29)
ASHKINS, NX202253 PTE John Latina (Latama) ARMY (1940-41)
ASTILL, 421143 FLGOFF Alan Edwin RAAF (1936-37)
ASTRIDGE, NX103812 PTE Ronald Dudley ARMY (1925)
ATKINS, NX260968 CPL Thomas Mervyn ARMY (1930-31)
ATTWOOD, N202409 CPL Baden ARMY (1917)
ATTWOOD, 265349 FLGOFF Eric Haigh RAAF (1916-22)
AUCHER, 2 Mate Arthur Tudor MN (1930-32)
AUDL, V352425 LCPL Robert Alexander R. ARMY (1918)
AUROSSEAU, 1365 FLGOFF Sylvain Hyppolyte RAAF (1917-20)
AUSTEN, NX81670 SG1 James Dyson ARMY (1915-18)
AUSTRALIA, 411726 FLGOFF Arthur Neville H. RAAF (1931-35)
AUSTIN, NX54450 PTE Colin Campbell ARMY (1935-37)
AUSTIN, NX54450 PTE Colin Campbell ARMY (1935-37)
AUSTIN, 444216 LAC Kenneth Norman RAAF (1936-42)
AUSTIN, N458473 SGT Stanley Keith ARMY (1935-38)
AUSTIN, S/5786 AS Frank Ernest RAN (1936-38)
AUMES, NX29952 LT Bruce Hadfield ARMY (1926-28)
AUMES, NX29952 LT Bruce Hadfield ARMY (1926-28)
AVERILL, NX9053 CAPT Victor Edward ARMY (1924-27)
AYLWIN, NX71050 PTE Donalda Ferguson Herbert ARMY (1938-41)
AUMES, NX29952 LT Bruce Hadfield ARMY (1926-28)
AVERILL, NX9053 CAPT Victor Edward ARMY (1924-27)
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AVERILL, NX9053 CAPT Victor Edward ARMY (1924-27)
For many boys who for the first time attend one of the oldest GPS schools, entering the hallowed Big School to see those serious faces of former headmasters frown upon you and observing all the great men who have passed through the School before, it may be a daunting experience. But for me it was slightly different. I would look up at the honour boards, see my forebears’ name and feel a strong connection to not only forebears but the School itself. Save for my father, all those MacCallums had died long before I was born. This comforting feeling of familiarity with the School was often balanced out with a healthy weight of expectation – to reach the heights of my forebears.

My family’s connection with the School commenced with my great uncle, Mungo Lorenz MacCallum from 1894. He was followed by my grandfather Walter in 1908. Both were Senior Prefects, Mungo Lorenz becoming a Rhodes Scholar in 1906, a barrister and later, as a journalist at The Sydney Morning Herald. Mungo had three boys – Mungo Ballardie, Duncan and George. A strong literary gene ran through the family, with Mungo Ballardie becoming a broadcaster at the BBC and later a producer in the ABC’s first night of television in 1956. His son Mungo Wentworth MacCallum, who left Grammar in the 1960s also became a well-known journalist and political reporter in Canberra – three generations of journalists. Mungo Jr has now retired and lives near Bangalow, but still finds time to contribute to the Byron Bay Echo.

Regrettably, I never had the privilege of meeting my grandfather Walter (and after whom I was named) as he died at the early age of 64, before I was born. However, through stories told by my father and others, he left an indelible mark on me and is a source of inspiration. My father filled me with stories of an exemplary man; exalted academic, a great sportsman, a wartime hero and compassionate doctor. At school he rowed in the First IV and then the First VIII with Leonard C Robson (OS 1912), who went on to be one of Shore’s most influential headmasters. A keen rugby player, he played in the First XV at Grammar and at The University of Sydney. However, with the outbreak of the First World War he deferred his studies, seeing action in Gallipoli, Egypt, Belgium and France. As part of the 5th Infantry Brigade, he was involved in the Allies’ capture of Mont St Quentin in 1918. After returning from war in 1919, Walter returned to University to complete his degree in medicine, also playing in The University of Sydney First XV Premiership-winning team.

Walter MacCallum (OS 1987) takes us through four generations of the MacCallum family at Grammar.

After completing his medical degree, Walter worked in numerous Sydney hospitals before setting up a general practice next to the family home at Edgecliff, where Edgecliff Station now sits. In 1940, Walter returned to war – this time in a medical capacity – in Palestine, North Africa, Greece, Crete, Indonesia and the South Pacific, rising to the rank of Brigadier and Deputy Director-General of Medical Services for the Armed Forces. In an obituary published in the Medical Journal of Australia, colleague Dr Angus Murray wrote:

“Walter MacCallum carried an aura of distinction with him throughout his life, and it always appeared entirely fitting that he should assume positions of responsibility, and thereby influence the affairs of his fellows in whatever conjugation he found himself. This pattern was set in his school days, when he was an outstanding figure in his work, sport and qualities of leadership and a natural selection as senior prefect. The Prefect’s standards of honour, loyalty and discipline remained with him throughout his life...”

But it was the other side of my grandfather that most intrigued me. By all accounts, he was a reserved and extremely modest man, despite his achievements. My father told me that participating in the two World Wars really affected Walter and after he returned to domestic life he was more reserved, even withdrawn at times, but his passion for helping others never ceased. He would often
Walter had two sons who were the next generation to attend Grammar – Peter MacCallum and my father John, who was known as Jock. Going to prep school was considerably easy for them as their home adjoined the old Edgecliff Preparatory School (or EPS as it was previously known). With a push of a paling in the fence, they would arrive in the school yard. Somehow Jock often managed to be late, to the dismay of the Headmistress, Miss Van.

It’s safe to say that Peter inherited the academic gene while Jock was blessed with considerable sporting prowess. Peter became an experienced architect, lecturing at the University of Sydney and being involved in the design of Grammar’s Palladium building of the mid-1970s. Jock was an extremely capable sportsman all round; a junior boxing champion, swimming and diving for the school, and rowing in the First VIII for two years. But it was on the rugby field where he felt most at home, playing in the First XV for three years, culminating in a premiership in 1949 and the captaincy of the GPS First XV. He was coached by the inspirational ‘Butch’ Edwards (see SGS Issue 6, November 2017), renowned for his dedication to the boys’ growth, not just as footballers but as young men, and his uncompromising approach to training. Dad once told me that he was sent home with a note from Butch to his mother one day after school which read:

“Dear Mrs MacCallum, Jock is playing admirably but needs to put on some weight. Could you please spare some extra dripping and bread for him when he gets home.”

As for my time at School, like my son Jock (now in Form I) I attended Grammar’s Edgecliff Preparatory School from 1977–81 and then College Street – leaving in 1987. My time at College St will always be remembered fondly, with an array of activities on offer and the opportunities that they created; debating, choir, orchestra, rowing and rugby. My only regret was that I had to choose the School Orchestra over Cadets, the two activities clashing on Fridays, but what I missed out on bivouac I made up with an amazing tour to England and France in Form V.

Although it was 70 years after my grandfather had been there, the same values and culture existed in my time at College Street – encouragement for an independent mind and thirst for knowledge, integrity in all things, respect for others and a sense that there is greatness within all of us. I look around the School today (as a parent) and see the same values continuing to be at the heart of Grammar’s ethos.
POSTCARDS

We hear from five Old Sydneians making their mark at home and abroad.

In my final years at Grammar I was well on my way to career in computer science or engineering. I loved science and maths, but had always grown up around music and literature. A chance diversion into public radio at Radio Skid Row during Sixth Form inspired me to change paths and apply to do a degree in social work at the University of New South Wales.

It was the early 1990s and I like many of my peers I ended up heavily involved in the local music scene. I gained some renown as a DJ and music writer while undertaking an undergraduate degree which then became the start of a PhD studying subcultures. I never ended up with a career in social work, but continued my electronic musical interests and ran music festivals and parties, toured DJs and bands from all over the globe, founded a music magazine, and moved my radio show to 2SER.

In 1995 the web was young, and when I first got a ‘proper’ job, it was back in IT. In the early 2000s, I was working at the Powerhouse Museum designing websites and producing interactive games, becoming fascinated in all the collection material inside arts institutions that indefinitely stay locked away in storage – and ended up spending a decade helping these institutions adapt to ‘digital’.

By 2011 I had moved to New York to assist in rebuilding the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Institution’s design museum on Manhattan’s Upper East Side. I spent four years there designing and building a new type of museum, working with some of the smartest minds in technology, media and design. I’m now back in Australia as the Chief Experience Officer at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) which is our national museum of film, TV and video games, where I’m helping them rethink everything. I’ve ended up in a hybrid role that merges all the interests I’ve had since I left Grammar – social change, human interaction, technology, sound and music.

The greatest privilege is the ability to do things that you love.

Chris Bendall (OS 1992)

Theatre Director
Sydney

Ever since I was a pupil at Grammar I knew I wanted to work in theatre as a director and producer, but I’m not sure if I ever thought it was something I could actually forge as a career. I completed a Bachelor degree in Arts (Theatre and Film) Hons, then after a brief stint returning to College Street to teach Drama and taking secondments at Sydney Theatre Company, I moved to Melbourne for postgraduate studies in Theatre Direction at the Victorian College of the Arts.

After graduating, I formed my own theatre company, Theatre@Risk to make new work, whilst supporting myself through teaching and directing, reading scripts, being an actors’ agent, a casting agent for television, and assisting all the directors I admired most. I secured grants and fellowships to research theatre in Germany and the UK. Then in 2008, I was appointed Artistic Director of Deckchair Theatre in Fremantle, WA, where I stayed for five years, creating new Australian productions and curating seasons of contemporary theatre for audiences in Fremantle and Western Australia.

When I returned to Sydney in 2013, I was appointed CEO of Critical Stages, a national touring theatre company, responsible for bringing live performance to audiences right around Australia, and in particular to regional and remote areas of the country. It certainly is an exciting and rewarding role.

Sebastian Chan (OS 1990)

Chief Experience Officer
Melbourne

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Richard Potok (OS 1977)
CEO Aurora Education Foundation
Sydney

Since 2010, Richard has been working to grow the number of Indigenous Australians studying overseas at the world’s best universities.

Before 2010, no Indigenous Australians had ever undertaken a full-time degree at either Oxford or Cambridge Universities, this year ranked number one and two in the world, respectively. Through the combined efforts of the Aurora Education Foundation, the Charlie Perkins Scholarship Trust and the Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation (all managed by Richard). 23 Indigenous postgraduates have now completed degrees at Oxford (13) and Cambridge (10). Another two have graduated from Harvard. Australia has also appointed its first three Indigenous Rhodes Scholars, all of whom have been involved with Aurora. Currently, 18 Indigenous scholars are studying overseas, with another six headed over to the UK later this year.

In his ‘Closing the Gap’ speech to the House of Representatives in February, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull referenced Aurora’s work and the role that these scholars have in acting as role models and building a stronger Australia.

As a result of this success, in 2017 Richard was appointed national adviser for diversity for Rhodes in Australia. He is working to expand the number of Rhodes Scholars coming from diverse backgrounds and locations. Richard was also awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Canberra in recognition of his work in Indigenous education. Richard holds a Bachelor of Commerce / Bachelor of Laws from the University of New South Wales and a Bachelor of Civil Law from Oxford, where he studied on a Rhodes Scholarship.

Jalal Khan (OS 2004)
Dentist
Australia-wide

Born and bred in Sydney, I never thought I’d find myself one day sipping a coffee at the local café in Cunnamulla, Queensland. A kangaroo hops past along the road. I am in the proper Australian outback. Life’s beauty is in its unpredictability.

Attending Grammar was a privilege. I received a rounded education. Academics featured strongly, as did sport. My experiences on the sporting field fighting for the GPS cricket Premiership are still vivid in my mind. However, it was the exposure to different cultures and thought, be it through my colleagues, the subjects I studied or various readings in assembly, which really made me aware of how much I didn’t know.

A medical science degree followed as did a search for something more. I was lucky to be accepted into the Dental program at the University of Sydney. Two years after graduating I started my own private clinic, The Dental Station.

Then I stumbled upon a unique opportunity – establishing a mobile dental truck. The novelty was irresistible. Once mine, I took the truck to outback Australia and began treating the locals in towns that have never had a dentist before; Cunnamulla, Quilpie, Thargomindah, Bourke. Now I had a ‘Dental Station’ in Sydney and a ‘Dental Truck’ in the outback. I spend one week each month working in the truck in remote areas and always come home to my family with an overwhelming feeling of satisfaction that I’m making a difference.

As a student it is hard to know what your calling is. My advice is to travel as much as you can in your youth. Through travel, you will discover the world and also yourself. The Dental Truck is personally funded and I am looking to expand the service to include more towns and more states. If you would like to lend your support please visit www.thedentalstation.com.au

Ahil St George and Theeban Rubasingham (OS 2004)
Co-Founders and Directors
Sydney

Theeban and I met at Grammar in 1999 and have been best friends ever since. Following school we both enrolled at the University of New South Wales, completing Civil Engineering, Commerce and Law and Commerce degrees.

After graduating, we pursued careers in our respective fields, however, we quickly found our corporate jobs unsatisfying, unable to make a substantial impact on society and use our time in a more meaningful way. Our ultimate goal was to give back to the community and provide meaningful services. We identified a gap in the aged care market by observing our grandparents struggle to receive the services they required and deserved, so decided to work towards trying to improve aged care services.

Vitality Club started in 2014 as a free walking group and has grown organically ever since. We interacted and listened to our elderly attendees and learned that they wanted to become fitter while being less socially isolated, so we created ‘Empower Hour’ – a circuit-based group exercise class.

Today we have a young and passionate team of over 30 staff transforming the lives of everyday Australians. In 2015, we won a Government tender to run Assessment Services under the new My Aged Care portal. In 2016, we were selected for government funding to offer subsidised Allied Health services to seniors across Sydney. This grant allows our multidisciplinary Allied Health team to deliver clinical services to clients in their homes.

We are always looking to spur innovation in healthcare with our business and are currently working on establishing a specialist clinic for frailty in Sutherland and the advocate the project to state-wide universities and Health Districts. We have built our business with the goal of helping elderly Australians remain mobile, active, and independent in their homes, and we hope to continue our work across Australia and internationally in the years to come.
THE TIES THAT BIND

Old Sydneians continue to reunite and rekindle their friendships, forged during their school years at Grammar.

ANZAC Assembly and Lunch

The 2018 ANZAC Assembly and Lunch was held on Friday 4 May. The reader at the Assembly was Flg. Off. Anthony H Adams (Ret’d) who left College Street in 1939. The guest speaker at the Assembly in Big School was former Head of History Dr Bruce Gaunson who addressed the theme ‘Corridors of Victory: Australian in France, 1918’.

Air Commodore Robert Brown AM (OS 1967) and Air Force Cadets and 306 Squadron Leader addressed boys in the John Vallance Hall during their concurrent ANZAC commemoration.

Old Sydneians London Dinner

Twenty-six Old Sydneians gathered on 18 April in London to dine with the Headmaster, Dr Richard Malpass (OS 1994), who spoke brilliantly of his first year in the job. It was pleasing to see such a wide variety of Old Sydneians, including several attending their first dinner, and especially pleasing to see four boys from leaving year 2017.

Adam Pacey (OS 2017) enlightened us on his time at College Street, which the older generations found fascinating, and proposed the toast to the School and Union. We were all grateful to our host, Squadron Leader Ben Goodwin (OS 1997), Aide-de-Camp to the United Kingdom Chief of the Defence Staff. What was most pleasing to see was the wide-ranging conversation across the age groups, and we are grateful to the Headmaster for his keen interest in the OSU UK Branch.

Old Sydneian Singapore Drinks

Thursday 2 August, The Singapore Cricket Club

1988 30-year Reunion Drinks

Saturday 18 August, The Light Brigade Hotel, Woollahra

Back to Weigall Day

Saturday 18 August, Weigall Sportsground

1968 50-year Reunion Lunch

Saturday 25 August, Nick’s Bar & Grill, Darling Harbour

1963 55-year Reunion Dinner

Saturday 1 September, Weigall Pavilion

Old Sydneian Brisbane Drinks

Friday 7 September, venue yet to be announced

OSU Annual Dinner

Thursday 27 September, Big School

1978 40-year Reunion Black Tie Dinner

Saturday 20 October, Tattersalls Club
First VIII 1978 Reunion

Grammar’s victorious GPS Head of the River rowing VIII crew of 1978 and Major Rennie trophy winners reunited for the 40th anniversary of their win, holding a dinner at the Royal Automobile Club of Australia on 21 April.

The dinner was attended by coach Mr Don Craig and the First VIII crew (less coxswain Rob Glenn) along with Murray Clarke and Peter Bennet from the winning LC Robson Trophy Second VIII crew of 1978. This group proved to be the last 2400 metre winning Grammar crew, as the current distance is a now 2000 metres.

A (long emptied) bottle of champagne shaken into the crowd at the conclusion of the race in 1978 and kindly kept and borrowed for the evening by the McQueen family, served as a focal point of the reunion, seeing as Major Rennie’s trophy was not to hand.

Class of 1995-96 Cricket Reunion

Ragavan Thuraisingam (Singapore) coordinated Old Sydneians from the First and Second XI cricket teams of 1995-96 for a reunion game at Weigall on 13 January, reuniting to share many fond memories over a game of cricket and a barbeque. Masters, coaches, Old Sydneians and their families joined in good spirit for a wonderful day.

With the help of Mr Slater, Mr Watkins and masters involved in cricket at Grammar, the group donated to the Prefects Charity and declared to make it an annual fixture which will continue to contribute to the School.

Australia Day awards

Officer (AO) in the General Division of the Order of Australia:
The Hon. Justice AM Blow AO, OAM (OS 1967) – For distinguished service to the judiciary and to the law, particularly as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Tasmania, to legal education and professional standards and to the community.

Member (AM) in the General Division:
Michael Andrew Shobbrook AM (OS 1986) – For significant service to the chiropractic profession through leadership in education, accreditation and development programs.

Medal (OAM) in the General Division:
Richard Geoffrey Cranna OAM (OS 1962) – For service to war widows and their families.
Peter Joseph Janssen OAM (OS 1973) – For service to conservation and to the environment.

1973 45-year Reunion Lunch
Friday 26 October, The Union Hotel, North Sydney

1950-51-52 Annual Lunch
Friday 26 October, Weigall Pavilion

1945-46-47 Annual Lunch
Friday 30 November, College Street

1948-1949 Annual Lunch
Wednesday 5 December, the Greenwood Hotel, North Sydney

1953-54-55-56 Reunion Lunch
Details yet to be announced

Old Sydneian New York Drinks
September-October, details yet to be announced

For more news on Old Sydneian events, or to sign up to the Old Sydneians’ e-Newsletter, emailed every term, please contact the School’s Alumni Officer Wendy Scotter on (02) 9332 5843 or at wes@sydgram.nsw.edu.au.
Sydney Grammar School

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St Ives Prep has installed two vertical Lego walls for the boys to create their own wonderful creations. Each wall has its own large tub of Lego that was accumulated through parent donations.