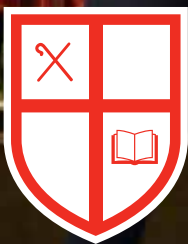


# The Arcadian

THE MAGAZINE OF **NORTHHOLM GRAMMAR**  
EDITION 48 | AUTUMN 2021



**Northholm**  
Grammar

*Challenging minds.*  
*Creating futures.*

# The Arcadian

Edition 48 | Autumn 2021

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## From the Editor

**It is with absolute pleasure that I welcome you to the 2021 Autumn edition of *The Arcadian*.**

Northholm Grammar is immensely proud to begin this issue by celebrating the success of our 2020 Year 12 cohort (pictured above) who ranked 61st on the *Sydney Morning Herald* HSC State ranking, making Northholm the most successful independent co-educational school in the Hills District. What an outstanding achievement and a testament to our students' character, determination and resilience during a most difficult and challenging year. It is therefore pertinent that this issue's theme is 'Excellence'. As you read through the pages that follow, you will note excellence permeating throughout the publication. It is evident that Northholm students and staff have commenced the new academic year with great zeal, focus and fervour!

In this issue, we give tribute to Mr Ken Coad, a Foundation parent and former Chair of Council who sadly passed away earlier this year, and to Mr Graeme Phillips, former Deputy Principal at Northholm Grammar (1999 - 2013) who passed away suddenly on 10 January. All those who knew Graeme will remember him for his warmth, compassion, generosity and his immense passion for teaching and, of course, cricket! May you both rest in peace.

Until Spring, keep well.

**Gabriela Moore**  
Editor

*...Northholm students and staff have commenced the new academic year with great zeal, focus and fervour!*

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Remembering: Ken Coad and Graeme Phillips

## From the Principal

**Welcome to the first edition of *The Arcadian for 2021*. We hope you enjoy our reflection on some of the experiences and moments that truly capture our students thriving, striving and achieving at Northholm Grammar.**

As outlined in the '*Challenging minds, Creating futures*' Strategic Plan 2020-2023, Northholm Grammar's educational philosophy is firmly based on the principle of *academic intentionality with pastoral attentiveness*. Because we value the importance of achieving one's potential, we seek to challenge every student by raising academic expectations and celebrating their growth. At the same time, we also seek a holistic approach to their development, maintaining an inclusive pastoral character in their education: children are engaged in learning that will bring them joy and our delivery attends to those with learning needs in a personalised way. The student is viewed as both a learner and a person.

We know that student achievement is closely connected to student wellbeing. Establishing a high-performance culture within a school context is dependent on both challenging students to achieve their best academically, as well as providing the care and support necessary for personal growth and development. We also know that education is about preparing our young men and women for life beyond Northholm, therefore our core business is to grow and develop each student intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually.

The learning outcomes of academic intentionality (scholarship) includes the realisation of a child's potential, active encouragement to do one's best, the development of discipline to solve tricky problems, preparation for the real world and the building of capacity to make

a valuable contribution to society. The learning experiences of personalised pastoral attentiveness include the affirmation and understanding of the learner, attentiveness to the students' needs, development of personalised learning plans, a concern for the whole person and an awareness of the variety of skills, including social and emotional, that are needed in real life.

Northholm Grammar is intentional and deliberate in establishing a learning environment that successfully incorporates the positive benefits of these principles. We want our students to experience the very best of both models in their engagements with excellent teachers. A superb, highly competent teacher will discern what a student requires in the moment, whether it is the forward momentum of a challenging assignment or the encouragement to explore an area of interest. A great teacher will also be attentive to the personal circumstances of a child and will have a repertoire of skills to call upon which enable their students to experience the real-world application of their learning. We want to ensure that the Northholm educator will both challenge and support our students in achieving their full potential and valuing a love of learning.

What is particularly satisfying about our current position, achieved over the past two years during our rebuilding phase, is that the school has been deeply committed to maximising student achievement as our core business. Meanwhile, we are continuing to enhance our pastoral approach in supporting, nurturing and challenging our students. This has been at the forefront of our thinking: a Northholm education needs to be personalised, with various approaches, so students themselves are part of the process of defining and achieving their best. Just as we celebrate the outstanding HSC success of our 2020 Year 12

cohort, we also celebrate student excellence in the areas of sport, the creative and performing arts, service learning, co-curricular involvement and intellectual endeavour.

Our educational philosophy, *academic intentionality with pastoral attentiveness*, actioned in collaboration with our parents/carers, has allowed us to shape the pathway to excellence for our students. Let us be reminded also that an unrelenting focus on high expectations has allowed students to be better placed to reach their full potential. 'Expectation' includes expectations we have of ourselves, expectations that we have of others and expectations others have of us. At Northholm Grammar, we want our students to ensure that the expectations they have for themselves should always exceed the expectations others have of them. Too often we can fall into the trap of setting the bar low in order to avoid future disappointment but that only serves to diminish the accomplishment of individual growth.

Let us continue to work together on this purposeful journey and live our days continually inspired to convert vision into action and find the momentum of a growth mindset-approach to living, learning and developing.

**Christopher Bradbury**  
Principal



*Our educational philosophy ... has allowed us to shape the pathway to excellence for our students.*

# Outstanding HSC results in 2020

## RESULTS

**Congratulations to the Class of 2020** on your truly remarkable HSC results

**Northholm Grammar recorded an outstanding achievement, and continued academic growth, by moving a further 52 places on the *Sydney Morning Herald* HSC rankings to be positioned 61st in New South Wales. We celebrate being the most successful independent, co-educational school in the Hills District.**

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 on your truly remarkable HSC results. With a global pandemic in the background, heavily influencing their final year of schooling, our students were superb in meeting the challenges of the HSC Examinations. The sacrifices were many, including the postponement of significant rites of passage, and they had to navigate the changing landscape from face-to-face teaching to the untested experience of remote learning. However, they did all of that and more with enormous resilience and character throughout the year. It is with much pride we celebrate their achievements and recognise that our vision and commitment to academic growth and scholarship has now been rewarded in consecutive years. The School is enormously proud of our fine students' work culminating in improving the School's ranking by 186 positions in the past two years.

Northholm Grammar is deliberate in its strategic intent to foster a learning environment where students thrive and flourish in the pursuit of their personal best and achieving excellence. The narrative continues to develop with reference to achieving teacher excellence coupled with personal responsibility, where our teachers are the experts in modelling appropriate practices to achieve excellence and our students take ownership of their learning by being personally committed to continuous growth and improvement. The legacy of the Class of 2020 is their capacity to provide visibility to our school vision by demonstrating what learning through scholarship looks like in practice and setting high expectations for student achievement in future cohorts.

Our goal is to develop confident and compassionate students, who are effective contributors to society, successful learners and responsible citizens. As much as we are enormously proud of the academic achievements, it is equally important that it's complimented with character development and pastoral attentiveness. 'The Northholm Way' focuses on a broad education centred on allowing students to grow as individuals and find their passions so they can lead a well-rounded life and contribute to a thriving society. Our

Year 12 students have again led by example through their involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh Program and achievement of three Gold Awards, success in Creative and Performing Arts through nominations in Encore and ArtExpress and their leadership in service education raising awareness and resources for Destiny Rescue and Project India. Scholarship is what our students will take from Northholm and leadership is what they will give to the world.

These achievements would not be possible without the pastoral attentiveness, hard work and support from our staff, parents and community. Most importantly this would not be possible without the effort, determination and teamwork of the 2020 Year 12 cohort. We look forward to following their progress as they move into the next phase of their journey.

**Christopher Bradbury**  
Principal

## HSC Distinguished Achievers 2020

The following students achieved a Band 6 or E4 result in the following subjects, meaning they scored over 90%.

Zachary Borg	Mathematics Standard II	Lauren Ivory	English Advanced, English Extension II, Drama, Modern History, Society and Culture
Ella Cotrona	English Advanced, Legal Studies, Mathematics Standard II, Society and Culture	Max Johnson	Economics, Engineering Studies, Mathematics Advanced
Andrew Date	Legal Studies	Tyler Johnson	Engineering Studies, Mathematics Advanced
Bridget Davey	Music II	Carey Maeder	Business Studies
Bethany Dewhurst	Drama, Legal Studies, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, Visual Arts	Emma Mercieca	Biology, Economics, English Advanced, Mathematics Advanced
Anthony Donaldson	Business Studies, Economics, Legal Studies, Mathematics Standard II	Thomas Ohlrich	Engineering Studies, Modern History
Sarah Franklin	Food Technology, Mathematics Standard II, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, Society and Culture	Kendal Reeves	Mathematics Standard II, Visual Arts
Elyssa Freame	Mathematics Advanced	Maximilian Schneider-Smith	Business Studies
Matthew Gadd	Society and Culture	Denique Shai-Hee	Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Abby Hawkins	Mathematics Standard II	Isaac Whicker	Mathematics Standard II
Ling Chi Ambrose Hon	IDT Examination (Web and Software Applications), Mathematics Advanced	Charlie Wilton	Visual Arts

## Performance in HSC Courses

The performance of each student in each of their HSC courses is indicated in levels, called Bands, from 1 to 6. Bands 5 and 6 are the highest levels. The table below shows some of the HSC courses studied at Northholm in 2020.

Course	% In Bands 5 & 6		Northholm's Top Marks In Each Course
	At Northholm	In State	
Agriculture	100	38	82
Ancient History	57	33	88
Biology	57	31	92
Business Studies	40	35	96
Chemistry	50	43	83
Design and Technology	63	47	89
Drama	71	47	91
Economics	100	34	93
English Advanced	82	63	93
English Extension I	67	93	42
English Extension II	67	82	47
Geography	80	42	88
Information Processes and Technology	83	32	86
Legal Studies	80	39	97
Mathematics Advanced	80	52	95
Mathematics Standard	65	25	94
Mathematics Extension I	100	74	44
Modern History	67	35	91
Music I	100	64	96
PDHPE	38	34	94
Physics	50	40	89
Primary Industries	22	16	83
Society and Culture	70	44	97
Visual Arts	100	65	92

## Northholm Students Awarded Band 6

Compared to the State average

Course	Northholm %	State %
Biology	14	6
Business Studies	30	9
Drama	29	19
Economics	75	13
Legal Studies	80	15
Mathematics Advanced	50	23
Mathematics Standard	30	5
Modern History	67	10
Music I	100	22
PDHPE	23	9
Society and Culture	40	11
Visual Arts	60	17

# New student leaders commissioned at service

## LEADERSHIP

### Primary Years Leadership Team

**The 2021 Primary Years Student Leaders and the Secondary Years Student Representative Council (SRC) were inducted into their leadership roles for 2021 at the Commissioning Service on Monday 8 February.**

The Primary Years at Northholm Grammar are led by two Captains and are supported by four House Captains who have each assumed responsibility of one of four portfolios: Scholarship, Environment, Community and Character. Additionally, two students in the Primary Leadership Team hold leadership roles in the SRC: one student is the Chairperson, their job being to coordinate members of the Council and raise issues with the

School leadership personnel, and the other student holds the position of Secretary, keeping accurate records of meetings and decisions.

Students in leadership roles must have a positive and willing attitude, display ability in making sound decisions, and demonstrate strong problem-solving skills and proficiency in organisation. A strong leader also shows resourcefulness and is able to tackle challenges head-on.

The following students are congratulated for taking on Primary Years leadership roles this year:

#### Primary Years Captains

Talia Apostolatos  
Andy Ward

#### House Captains

Capell	Amelia Grindley
Lincoln	Max Fader
Patteson	Isabelle Davies
Rowland	Charlie Johnson

#### SRC Chairperson

Claudia Davis

#### SRC Secretary

Tiana Attia





# ers ervice

◀ Left to right. Primary Years Curriculum Coordinator Erin Werner, Primary Wellbeing Coordinator Kellie Smith, Tiana Attia, Claudia Davis, Isabelle Davies, Amelia Grindley, Talia Apostolatos, Andy Ward, Max Fader, Charlie Johnson, Principal Chris Bradbury.

▼ Primary Years Captains  
Andy Ward and Talia Apostolatos.

▶ Left to right. Principal Chris Bradbury, Emily Wood, Kirralee Bray, Sophie Hamilton-James, Florence Kim, Joseph Clemmit, Spencer Henderson, Samuel Mules, Lauren Clemmit, Caitlin Stebbins, Head of Students Jenny Plüss.

## Secondary Years Student Representative Council

**The overarching goal of the Secondary Years SRC, which was reintroduced at Northholm Grammar this year, is to give a voice to all students within the school community.**

Led by Senior Prefect Joseph Clemmit (Community) and assisted by members of the Senior Leadership Team, the SRC aims to foster an inclusive school environment where students can make a strong contribution to the community, enact beneficial change within the School and help sustain our community values.

In previous years, initiatives implemented by the SRC have been the introduction of school jackets for wet weather, the surveying of student opinion to adjust the school uniform and the taste testing of new food

options introduced to the School Canteen. Additionally, the SRC has been able to coordinate and lead a variety of school events to bring the community together.

The elected members of the Student Representative Council demonstrate many of the attributes of young men and women of strong character: accountability, respect, strength in decision making and problem solving, and aspiration to achieve their best.

### Secondary Years SRC Members

Kirralee Bray  
Lauren Clemmit  
Sophie Hamilton-James  
Spencer Henderson  
Florence Kim  
Samuel Mules  
Caitlin Stebbins  
Emily Wood

**Jenny Plüss**  
**Head of Students**



# Community shares common goals

## PRIMARY YEARS

What sets Northholm apart is **the community culture that has been embedded in learning.**

**The role of a learning community is to connect people, set goals, enable shared learning, support distributed leadership and accelerate progress (Center on the Developing Child, Harvard, 2021). The Northholm Grammar learning community provides a space and structure for students, parents, carers and staff to align around shared goals – to achieve success and inspire a passion for lifelong learning.**

On Wednesday 24 March, Primary Years students and their families came together for an afternoon of ‘Sharing our Learning’ events, showcasing a range of learning activities that students have been working towards throughout the term. Creating effective platforms that are both aspirational and practical is fundamental to these events.

Kindergarten to Year 2 showcased how hands-on and practical learning enhances skills and strategies across a range of Key Learning Areas. There was a hive of activity as students identified letters with fly swatters, went on scavenger hunts for nouns and prepared fruit salad based on students’ instructions. Years 3 and 4 demonstrated their adept literary skills by testing parents’ knowledge of spelling, punctuation and grammar and writing limerick poetry. Years 5 and 6

hosted a myriad of activities involving both technology and written work led by the students, highlighting their inquiry skills gained through research and projects.

On the same day, selected students from Years 3 to 6 participated in the Australasian Problem Solving Mathematics Olympiad and Maths Games. The first round was held with great success as students were challenged to solve a series of five problems in a thirty-minute period. Their scores have been tallied and will contribute to their team’s cumulative score as they compete in five further rounds throughout the year. The next round will be held in May and we will be revising problem solving strategies in the lead up to the next event.

During the last Primary Years Assembly for Term 1, Northholm Grammar was proud to host the Primary Years Public Speaking Competition Grand Final. We had the honour of having Federal Member for Berowra, Mr Julian Leeser, as special guest member of the judging panel along with Principal Bradbury and Head of Humanities Ms Birch. The comradeship shown by all the competitors was inspiring. There were words of encouragement prior to everyone’s speech, and once completed, congratulatory high fives shared by all. That is the essence

of being a Northholm student — sportsmanship, respect, having a positive attitude and being supportive.

Congratulations to all students in the Primary Years who participated and a huge round of applause to the winners of each division:

### **Early Stage One**

Imogen McTaggart-Pate

### **Stage Two**

Adrien Batar

### **Stage Three**

Amelia Grindley

Term 1 saw students demonstrate their academic attentiveness and eagerness to not only learn new skills but also build upon existing knowledge. We look forward to continuing the school year with increased rigour, determination and thirst for learning.

### **Erin Werner**

**Primary Years**

**Curriculum Coordinator**



Above and right. Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 students and their families at 'Sharing our Learning'.



Above. Participants in the Primary Years Public Speaking Competition Grand Final with judges Ms Birch, Mr Julian Leeser MP and Mr Bradbury.



# Student excellence on display

**Northholm's amazing house spirit and energetic participation was on display in Week 2 at our opening sports event for the year: the Inter-House Swimming Carnival. Years 3 to 12 students attended a spectacular day at the wonderful Epping Aquatic Centre, making the most of the grandstands filled with lively supporters and vibrant house colours. Congratulations to Patteson as the overall winning House based on both swimming events and participation points.**

training and games in the Hills Zone Sports Association. Kyna is supported by Laura Romeo, who provides coaching and umpiring assistance at games every week. Both Kyna and Laura constantly encourage our teams to take on feedback and improve both individually and as a team.

Northholm entered a wide variety of teams in all HZSA sports offered this term, teams including Junior Boys Basketball, Intermediate Boys Basketball, Senior Boys Basketball, Junior Girls Futsal, Senior Girls Futsal, Intermediate Boys Football, Junior Girls Netball and Senior Girls Netball.

HZSA Open Girls Basketball selections were held in Term 1 with Brianna Cusick (Year 12) being selected. Olivia Charlton was selected in the HZSA Open Girls Netball team and Claudia Davis (Year 6) in the Primary HZSA Netball team, which is a fabulous result for these athletes. The School was represented by Max Williams and Mitchell Black at the HZSA Tennis Championships in Richmond in February. Congratulations to both Year 12 students for taking time out of their busy schedule to compete in this competition.

During our timetabled sport in Term 1, an Inter-House Competition was played in netball and football, with Years 7 to 8 and Years 9 to 10 playing for their Houses. Once again, House spirit was wonderfully alive in the round robin competition.

Primary sport has been a weekly event with Kindergarten to Year 6 participating in a swimming program at Galston Pool, working on improving stroke technique, learning water safety and increasing their confidence in the



In basketball, we welcomed Jeet Talati as our basketball coach for 2021. His role involves coaching our nine Northholm basketball teams in the weekly Hills Hornets Summer Competition and our three teams in the Hills Zone Sports Association (HZSA) weekly competition this semester. We congratulate our Under 17 Northholm Boys basketball team on their win in the Hills Hornets Summer competition, gaining victory by only one point in the Grand Final.

Kyna Diancin continues as netball coach for Northholm Junior Girls and Senior Girls netball teams, leading



Amazing results in the pool at the Inter-House Swimming Carnival



water. This semester has also seen a wonderful response to our Primary Northholm Sport Clubs. Our weekly Primary Years Cricket, Tennis and Netball clubs were full each week with eager students enjoying their sport and learning new skills.

We have been thrilled to add Northholm Aerobics to our sporting calendar this year. Our Secondary Northholm Aerobics team have trained all term and are ready to compete at Regional Championships in May at Brigidine College, St Ives. Coach Bethany Baynie has worked with our team, made up of eight students from Year 7 to 10, twice a week to get them prepared for their first on-stage performance. We are extremely proud of this group of girls who have embraced the challenge of learning a new sport.

Finally, we were also thrilled to hold the Inter-House Cross Country in Week 6. It was a perfect day for running and our course was in pristine condition thanks to the Northholm Grounds team. Kindergarten to Year 12 all participated in the carnival and earned valuable points for their House. Congratulations to Lincoln House as the overall winner of the carnival.

**Jamie Stimson**  
Sport and Coaching Coordinator



Top to bottom. Under 17 Northholm Boys Basketball team, Primary students enjoying a Water Fun Day and Inter-House Cross Country at Northholm.

## Best Performing School at HZSA Swimming Carnival

**The Carnival was a wonderful day of competition for our Primary and Secondary Years students, with Northholm receiving the Best Performing School trophy.**

Held at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre (SOPAC), Northholm was well represented. Congratulations to Lucinda Samyia on her runner up HZSA Age Champion result. Lucinda and Ollie Liddle both had strong swims to qualify for the Primary CIS (Combined Independent Schools) Carnival.

Our Secondary Years students were also highly competitive, with Olivia Charlton gaining Age Champion and Meet Champion for her amazing results, with first place in every individual race on the day and a record broken in the 200m. Chelsea Harkins was awarded runner up Age Champion for 18 Years Girls, along with Sam Shepherd in the 14 Years Boys. Isabel He placed third as overall best swimmer for her age group and Alex Tebbet and Archer Vogt were named fourth best swimmer of the meet for their respective age groups. Sophie Hamilton-James placed second in the backstroke. All of these students progress to the AICES competition as well as the Open Girls Relay team in freestyle and medley, which consisted of Olivia Charlton, Chelsea Harkins, Lucy Coad and Vanessa Norris. Our 14 Years Girls Medley Relay team, comprised of Alicja Wysocka, Emilie Blake, Isabel He and Lisa Tusnea, also placed third in their event.

At the AICES meet, held at SOPAC at the end of March, all Northholm students swam brilliantly. Continuing her excellent performance, Olivia was named Age Champion for U18 Girls and both she and Sam Shepherd, along with our Open Girls relay team, qualified for the CIS competition in May.



# Science and Engineering Challenge 2021

## STEM

**Congratulations to the Year 9 and 10 students who participated in the first round of the Science and Engineering Challenge at Olympic Park last term.**

The Science and Engineering Challenge (SEC) is a nationwide STEM outreach program, presented by the University of Newcastle in partnership with Rotary clubs, universities, sponsors and communities, designed to provide Year 9 and 10 students with a positive and engaging experience of science and engineering. The SEC runs various programs, with a focus on inspiring students to consider a future career

in STEM by choosing to study the enabling sciences and mathematics in Years 11 and 12. In this year's event, Northholm's team of 23 students competed against teams from eight other schools in activities that required their best teamwork, creativity and practical skills.

Students worked in teams to collaborate and problem-solve their way through a range of events: Future Power, Stringways, Turbine, Confounding Communications, Grasping at Straws, Bridge, Hover Frenzy and Helter Skelter Shelter. We are very proud of the way Northholm

was represented by our best scientists and mathematicians. Against their peers from across the city, they demonstrated impressive strategies in developing solutions. We are ecstatic to have placed second on the day against tough competition and students are waiting eagerly to find out if they have secured enough points to go onto the State Final later in the year.

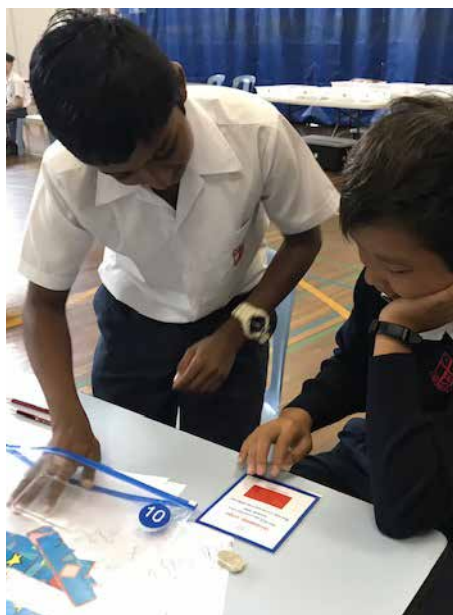
**Smriti Mediratta**  
**Science Coordinator and**  
**Head of House Patteson**



The Northholm Science and Engineering Competition team.



Opposite and above. Northholm students competing in a range of challenges at the Science and Engineering Competition.



Above. Maths enrichment at Northholm includes participating in Maths Challenge and the Australian Maths Competition.

## Discovery and Enrichment in STEM

In addition to opportunities such as the Science and Engineering Challenge, Northholm aims to provide opportunities for students to grow their understanding and participate in a broad range of STEM based activities.

In 2021, Northholm's STEM Department launched the Mathematics Enrichment program in which our most talented Mathematicians in Years 7 and 8 are invited to explore new mathematical ideas and develop their problem-solving strategies through a range of activities. These skills will serve them well as they participate in competitions such as the Australian Mathematics Competition and Maths Challenge.

Complementing this, the STEM Club for Years 7 to 12 meets during lunch time and provides an opportunity for students to work on a project individually or in pairs. In Term 1, the challenge was to design and test balloon powered vehicles. Students worked on designs that minimise friction, by varying materials and contact surface areas, and maximised thrust by varying the number of balloons and size and shape of the opening for air. Students are looking forward to a new and challenging project in Term 2.

**Smriti Mediratta**  
Science Coordinator and  
Head of House Patteson

# Principal for a Day

With **Chloe Fader**

**In November 2020, I was lucky enough to be selected to take part in the 'Principal for a Day' Program, shadowing Mr Bradbury and getting a taste of what it would be like to be a Principal.**

The day kicked off at 7.45am with a rundown of the day with Mr Bradbury. About five minutes later, we went down to the Bus Bay where we greeted everyone coming off the buses and conducted the daily temperature testing. Once everyone had arrived and all the empty buses departed, we went back to Mr Bradbury's office to prepare for his first meeting.

The first meeting was at 8.00am with Mr Anthony Wood, President of the Northholm Association. In this meeting, I discovered what the Northholm Association really is and the key responsibilities they have in working with the School. The Northholm Association is a group comprised of parents who organise fundraisers and look to support the School in specific projects. Once the meeting came to an end, we spent 30 minutes chatting before Mr Bradbury was called to talk at the 2021 Kindergarten Parents' Orientation Morning about Northholm Grammar, our values and the future of their childrens' education. Following that meeting and just before morning tea, Mr Bradbury met with Mr Millett (Head of Information Technology) to discuss some key issues regarding our technological infrastructure and social media matters.

At morning tea, we went for a walk around the School, talking to students and teachers. We did a circuit of the School, and by the end of recess, we were back at Mr Bradbury's office. Next up on the agenda was some essay marking with some Year 11 students from Mr Bradbury's Legal Studies class

during their Study Lesson. Mr Bradbury read their essays aloud and, as he read, he would stop and give them feedback. Overall, both essays were excellent. After another short break we had a meeting with Mr Muir (Head of Campus), discussing the future renovations and improvements for the School that would take place over the Christmas holidays including the Art Centre, the Brick Cottage and the newly refurbished Primary Years Play Area.

As this meeting ended with about 20 minutes left of lunch, and Mr Bradbury needed to attend to some emails and administration, I was able to catch up with my friends. I met him back at his office at the beginning of Period 5 and the final two lessons of the day were spent observing Mr Bradbury teach his Year 11 Legal Studies class. As he taught, I sat at a desk and listened and joined in with a couple activities. Most of the time, I had

no clue what they were talking about! Overall, I found the lesson interesting and it was positive to see a high level of enthusiasm from the students. That class ended at 2.55pm.

We then moved back to Mr Bradbury's office and prepared for a SAAC meeting. A SAAC meeting is the weekly Operations Meeting where some of the senior leaders meet to discuss the logistics for the upcoming weeks. They talked about Service-Learning Week, Speech Night, Speech Day, the Northholm Awards Ceremony, other upcoming events and how they were going to work. Once that finished, we were done for the day! I am so grateful for having been selected to take part in this program and I enjoyed it very much. It was terrific to get a better understanding of how a school operates and the diversity of issues that make up a great school.





# ANZAC Day Service



**On Monday 26 April, Northholm Grammar's staff and students from Kindergarten to Year 12 honoured and acknowledged the service of veterans who have engaged in wars, conflicts and peace-keeping operations as well as those who served in the auxiliary services. This event provided us with an opportunity to reflect on the experiences of these men and women who have served, who continue to serve and who sacrificed their lives for the continued pursuit of our freedom.**

As part of the service, Northholm Grammar's Family ANZAC Commemorative Wall, initiated by Mrs Christina Jordaan in 2019, displayed photographs of ex-servicemen and servicewomen who have served in the Australian or New Zealand Defence Forces, either in combat or auxiliary roles, and who are relatives of families in the Northholm community.

We were incredibly grateful to have had the following dignitaries join us for the service: Graham Bruce (Glenorie RSL Sub-Branch Secretary and veteran of Desert Storm), Donna Medway (Glenorie RSL Sub-Branch Operations Manager), Reverend William Rosier (Galston RSL Sub-Branch and Vietnam veteran), Jim Wilson (Castle Hill RSL Sub-Branch Vice President and Vietnam veteran), Phil White (Hornsby RSL Sub-Branch Executive Committee Member and Vietnam veteran) and Major Keith Lawton.

Thank you to Christina Jordaan who so expertly coordinated the Service.



► Top to bottom.  
Luca Dalla Fontana performs *The Last Post*, Northholm Grammar's ANZAC Day Service, ANZAC Commemorative Wall, Members of Northholm's Army Cadets participating in the ANZAC Service.

# Excellence Beyond Northholm

## Lauren Ivory Graduate, 2020

**As former Senior Prefect and Co-Curricular Captain, I have been very grateful for the numerous leadership opportunities that I have been able to participate in during my time at Northholm.**

I had the opportunity of being Middle School Captain and raised money for a charity that helps the orangutans in Borneo. In Year 10, I organised and facilitated a World's Greatest Shave Day at school. During this wonderful experience 13 students, including myself, cut or shaved our hair, raising funds and contributing towards a worthy cause.

A definite highlight of my time at Northholm Grammar was being a part of the Year 11 and 12 Leadership Team. This allowed me to gain more confidence in my leadership skills and granted me the opportunity to hold multiple events throughout the year to raise money and awareness for 'Project Help India' whilst also further enhancing Northholm's community spirit. The highlight was being able to hold Northholm Grammar School's 14th Annual Trivia Night, raising over \$12,500 for this wonderful charity. The night was a wonderful community event with past and current students, parents, family, friends and teachers in attendance. I learnt a lot from this fundraising event, developing my skills with team leading and also liaising with students and the broader community.

My Creative and Performing Arts involvement also included multiple drama productions where we even got to tour and perform in Kangaroo Valley to sold out shows. I also achieved my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award while at Northholm. These fundraising projects and leadership opportunities taught me the importance of communication and management, having an overall vision and goal and the importance of working within a dynamic team to delegate roles and engage with others.

Most importantly, Northholm has given me the skills and confidence to do what I love outside of school with an outstanding co-curricular and in-school drama program which I was lucky to be a part of. It definitely influenced my decision to now pursue performing arts and journalism as a career. This year I began a degree in journalism at UTS and was also accepted to study acting at the National Institute of Dramatic Art in the Actors Studio program. This is thanks to the skills and opportunities that I gained during my time at Northholm.



## Max Johnson

### Graduate, 2020

**Following my graduation from Northholm Grammar last year, I am now studying Mechanical Engineering at UNSW.**

I joined Northholm Grammar in Year 7 2015 and I believe I have been quite successful in achieving the goals I set myself over the last five years. I had a clear expectation about the minimum entry mark required for the course I wanted to study and, thanks to the contributions and flexibility the teachers provided, I ended up attaining a great result in the HSC.

My teachers always made a real effort to be available for the students, particularly around exam time. They responded quickly to drafts with helpful points and always managed to fit extra time in to meet with us in the library or outside of classes to help us work on parts we had issues with. I never felt like we were being spoon-fed the answers – teachers would help us to a point and then allow us to learn from the mistakes, take on their feedback and find the solutions ourselves. I think their approach was highly effective when it came to exam time because they had given us the skills and tools to

be able to respond better to the more challenging aspects of exams.

The small grade and class sizes really stands out at Northholm, as it allows students the attention they need from teachers. Also, the School has a community feel, that comes from being smaller, which was really helpful in growing confidence and making sure no one ever fell behind. In Years 11 and 12 there is a huge focus on university skills and information so that all of us were really exposed to different career ideas and internship opportunities. Overall, I found that aspect very rewarding as it really helped me to work out what I wanted to do after Northholm.



*Northholm has given me the skills and confidence to do what I love ...*

# A Call to Character

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**Character education is a key component of a Northholm education and an important feature of the ‘Challenging minds, Creating futures’ Strategic Plan 2020-2023. Through our pastoral care program, our approach to wellbeing and the House and Tutor System, the development of character is essential in developing each student, so they have the capacity to know right from wrong when they leave school.**

Character refers to how people live their lives in the sense of belonging to their civic institutions, the fulfilment of their potential and their fundamental beliefs about what is good and right for them to do. It is seen by School stakeholders as a multi-layered concept that relates to the mark and measure of people – a notion that encompasses their characteristics and idiosyncrasies, the extent of their resilience and robustness, and their capacity to model and lead through their virtues and qualities. This character is the

result of processes that help people to realise their own character, while also replicating the character expected of them by others in terms of their civic obligations, performance standards and moral challenges.

A ‘Framework for Character Education’ at Northholm Grammar has been developed through the collaborative work and a series of seminars conducted by Dr Phil Cummins with our Secondary Years students through the following programs:

### Year 10 - Ready to Lead

Leading is about answering the question: How can I best serve others?

Leading well begins with who we are, flows into who we want to become and is demonstrated through deliberate and targeted action that aligns vision with intention. It means to direct, motivate, influence and inspire others to achieve willingly a preferred future for us all. Leading, therefore, is about the challenge of service that helps us to locate Our Practice within courage and compassion and to meet the expectation to go on a journey from me to you to us.

### Year 9 - Ready to Live

Living is about answering the question: Where do I fit in?

Living well helps us to understand and respect ourselves and each other, and the language, customs, honourable traditions, rituals and values of the people and places from which we have come and to where we are going. Living, therefore, is the search for relationship that helps us to appreciate Our People and Our Place with humility and gratitude and to meet the expectation to ‘earn our place’.

### Year 8 - Ready to Work

Working is about answering the question: Whose am I?

Working well is about building around us a supportive network of people for and with whom our sense of belonging, potential and propensity to do that which is good and right in our lives might find a meaningful home. Working, therefore, is about the discovery of commitment that helps us to connect Our Purpose, Our People, Our Place and Our Practice through vocation and diligence and to meet the expectation to ‘find our calling’.

### Year 7 - Ready to Learn

Learning is about answering the question: Who am I?

Learning well helps us to become stronger in all the facets of our lives and apply these strengths to realising an evolving and increasingly selfless reason for doing what we do. Learning, therefore, is about the quest towards self-awareness that fosters a sense of Our Purpose through curiosity and wisdom and to meet the expectation to ‘know ourselves’.

**Christopher Bradbury  
Principal**



# Student excellence demonstrated through extraordinary achievements

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

### Chelsea Harkins (Year 12)

Congratulations to Chelsea Harkins who competed in the 2021 Australian Open Water Swimming Championships hosted on the Sunshine Coast at the Oz Ski Resort Queensland.

Chelsea achieved fantastic results placing 2nd in the 10km event and 6th in the 5km event. This is an extraordinary achievement and Northholm Grammar is extremely proud of Chelsea's sporting prowess.

### Oscar Henderson (Year 11)

It is with great pride that we congratulate Oscar Henderson on being accepted as one of the Castle Hill RSL Secondary School's ANZAC Ambassadors for 2021.

Each year four students from high schools in the Hills District are selected to participate in the program. To be selected, Oscar had to undertake an interview in which he was required to demonstrate his knowledge of the ANZAC story and ethos, as well as his leadership and teamwork capabilities.

"It is extremely important that younger generations continue to honour and revere the sacrifices made by service men and women. I believe that attending ANZAC and Remembrance Day commemorations are a great way to honour all veterans who sacrificed their lives for our country." *Oscar Henderson*

### Justin Kim (Year 7)

Justin Kim has received a Young Historian Silver Certificate as a finalist in the 'Democracy Matters' category this year, reaching the state level of judging.

In addition, for his Outstanding Essays Award in the 2020 Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest for secondary school students in NSW and the NT, Justin was invited to receive his award from The Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Kiya Masahiko. This is an incredible achievement in light of the high calibre of competition across the state and the high standards established by Macquarie University and the Japanese Consulate.

### Tyler Old (Year 12)

Congratulations to our School Captain Tyler Old on winning the Public Speaking Section of the Lions Youth of the Year Quest. Tyler delivered an outstanding prepared speech combined with answering two impromptu questions to win the oratory component.

The Lions Youth of the Year Quest celebrates the contribution young Australians make in leadership and citizenship. It recognises student achievement in the areas of scholarship, creative arts, sport, leadership, community service and citizenship.



**Top to bottom.**  
Silver medallist Chelsea Harkins;  
ANZAC Ambassador Oscar Henderson;  
Justin Kim (left) with The Consul-General of  
Japan in Sydney, Mr Kiya Masahiko;  
Tyler Old (left) receiving her Lions Youth of the  
Year Quest Award.

# The Urban Challenge

## OUTDOOR EDUCATION

**In Term 1, students in Years 9 and 10 attended the Urban Challenge School Camp, which aims to develop independence, teamwork and social awareness.**

Over three days, students worked with a group of their peers to navigate their way around the city, gaining points for their team by completing challenging activities. With only a backpack full of clothes and equipment, they had to use their initiative and work as a team to find food, accommodation and public transport.

Each member of the team had an important role to play to ensure all their peers made their way around the city safely: a team leader who led decision-making, a navigator giving directions, a meal planner who ensured all members of the team received food according to their dietary requirements and a transport officer who organised travel on ferries and light rails. Initially, some students felt that their role was inconsequential, however they quickly realised their importance in the team environment. Students were challenged to find and decipher clues placed around the city to determine the location of meals and accommodation for each night as well as being responsible for carefully budgeting their money to ensure they could pay for meals and transport.

It was great to see students face and overcome challenges, such as getting lost, deciphering difficult clues and persevering through these challenges as a group. Extra points were available for their team by completing activities such as acting out scenes from movies and performing in a 'dance-off' against their peers in rival teams. Stepping out of their comfort zones, the students rose to the challenge. Northholm staff consistently witnessed each team grow in their ability to collaborate and negotiate over the duration of the program.

Throughout camp, students posted articles and pictures of their adventures on an interactive website where parents were able to follow along. Students learnt so much about independence and responsibility, for both themselves and their team, and made some unforgettable memories along the way.

*Stepping out of their comfort zones, the students rose to the challenge. Northholm staff consistently witnessed each team grow in their ability to collaborate and negotiate over the duration of the program.*







**YEAR 8 CAMP**

## Action and adventure through Outdoor Education

**As part of the Outdoor Education Program in Term 1, Year 8 students embarked on their annual camp to the beautiful south coast for three days of action-packed adventures.**

Starting at Mystic Beach, students learnt to stand-up paddle board, surf and played beach games before heading to their camp site for the next two nights at Shoalhaven Ski Park. They learnt new skills and engaged in adventurous activities which included kayaking, high ropes, mountain biking and exploring the surrounding bush.

Students were challenged around camp, working collaboratively to set up their own tents and cook their own meals. In true Northholm style, our students displayed positivity, resilience and grit throughout their adventure, coming home physically tired but reinvigorated and happy.

While many of these experiences were difficult both physically and mentally, 'giving it your best' and learning to handle difficult circumstances is what we seek to produce in every Northholm graduate. Excellence at Northholm encourages each child to be the best they can be and includes helping them cultivate the skills to make good decisions, accept responsibility for their actions and demonstrate a high degree of competence in a variety

of situations. Camps, as part of the Outdoor Education program, develops character, cooperation and resilience in our students while allowing them to experience the natural world, slow down and be grateful for the beauty that surrounds them.

Thanks to the staff who supported our Year 8s on camp – Mrs Stimson, Ms Plüss and Miss Bailey – and also to the staff at Optimum Experiences for the amazing adventures they shared with us.

**Shannon Cameron  
Head of PDHPE**



*In true Northholm style, our students displayed positivity, resilience and grit throughout their adventure...*



**YEAR 7 CAMP**

# Facing new challenges at Lake Mac camp

**The new school year brings a mixture of excitement and nerves. There is anticipation of exploring new subjects, working with new teachers and making new friends.**

Camps are an ideal way for students to build connections with their peers, their teachers and their community and the Year 7 Orientation Camp at Lake Macquarie early in Term 1 is always a highlight for students. It encourages the group to get to know each other and their teachers, and helps them to settle in.

The carefully designed program, developed in conjunction with Crusaders' Educational Camps Team, provides each student with the chance to strengthen resilience and cooperation as they learn new skills and push themselves in individual and team activities.

Mr Lockhart (Head of Rowland House), Ms Ennever and I (the core teachers) were fortunate to join the Year 7s on Orientation Camp. We are very proud of students who faced and overcame personal challenges. For some this was conquering the rock-climbing wall; for others it was climbing to the top of the 15-metre abseiling tower; and for others it was that breathtaking moment when they leaned back over the edge and jumped down the wall.

All students participated in archery; many were elated that they managed to hit the target and others that they scored a bull's-eye. The stand-up paddleboards were challenging initially, however students improved their skills and were able to paddle around the lake without falling off. Sailing was the favourite! For many students, it was the first time they had changed the jib and skippered a catamaran. Fishing from the jetty was also popular, particularly for those who managed to catch a fish. Evening activities of stratego, King Caractus and other group games gave students the opportunity to build their teamwork skills and have fun.

As well as gaining a great sense of satisfaction in their personal achievements and overcoming challenges, the camp also provided the students a wonderful opportunity for forming new friendships and making unforgettable memories.

**Jenny Plüss**  
**Head of Students**





**YEAR 6 CAMP**

## Wet conditions fail to dampen student’s fun **at Colo River Camp**

**As part of the Outdoor Education Program in Term 1, Year 6 students embarked on their annual camp to the beautiful south coast for three days of action-packed adventures.**

Students embraced a range of activities and challenges including high ropes, meal preparation, Base Seven stealth activity, archery, donutting in a tyre tube and kayaking down the Colo River. Our students participated with great gusto and enthusiasm, working together to support each other, developing teamwork skills, communication skills, building confidence, grit and resilience.

While camps provide a fun and exciting new experience for our students, the benefits are far-reaching and connect with Northholm’s character education offerings. Learning in the outdoors provides opportunities to develop independence and confidence, reinforce positive relationships with others and enhance an understanding of one’s strengths.

Students praised their experiences:

“The Colo River Camp was incredibly rewarding and fun. The food was good, the activities were amazing and they never let us get bored. The tenting was pretty soggy, but that’s just what camping is. I have learnt in this camping experience to become braver and how to do hard things like going on a really high zipline or in a really tight tunnel. When I camp from now on, I will be confident to do more things.” *Charlie Johnson*

“The Year 6 Colo River Camp was a blast. Apart from the food being a bit burnt it was really fun. I think this will change me in the future about trusting people better and knowing that other people are there to support and care about me. I know I will have another great time on our next camp to Canberra later this year.” *Claudia Davis*

“The Year 6 Colo River Camp was amazing. There were a few cons like sleeping in tents, but all of the activities were great fun and really enjoyable. At camp I also learnt that I

could sleep in a tent outside and I now feel I can do anything!” *Isabelle Davies*

“My favourite activity at camp was Base Seven. I liked it because I was in a group with my friends and it was great fun. The Year 6 Colo River Camp has made me feel so lucky to have shelter, my own comfy bed and great food. I definitely would do this camp again and it has been my favourite one so far.” *Tiana Attia*

**Russel McCool**  
**Year 6 Teacher**



“Our Year 6 Camp was very exciting and challenging. All of the activities were great fun. When I look back at what happened I now laugh and wish I was back there. The Camp was really good for me because it made me overcome my fear of heights a bit, so I could finish the high ropes course.”

**Talia Apostolatos**



# Staff Profiles

Corinne Smith

Literacy and Numeracy Mentor, Kindergarten to Year 2

**NGS: Tell us a little about your background**

**CS:** I have taught in both Australia and the UK, specialising and leading in Numeracy and Literacy, particularly Phonics, for the past 17 years. I had the fantastic opportunity to be a demonstration teacher for the London Borough of Wandsworth and attained my GTC in England and my Experienced Teacher Accreditation in Australia.

**NGS: What attracted you to Northholm and what do you love about working here?**

**CS:** Northholm Grammar is such a beautiful, vibrant and caring environment for children. There is a holistic focus on the needs and strengths of each and every student. The staff are amazing – they are so focused and dedicated to providing every student with the personalised learning they need to achieve positive outcomes. The students are engaged in exciting educational experiences in a wonderful bush setting and this makes for a really positive, happy learning environment.

**NGS: What excites you about your portfolio/curriculum area?**

**CS:** My role is to provide professional development and support to classroom teachers, to engage students in exceptional learning experiences, leading to high levels of progress and achievement in Literacy and Numeracy. I am excited to be working with teachers, to stay at the forefront of research-based strategies to ensure that all students are learning and achieving to their potential.



*“...exciting educational experiences in a wonderful bush setting... makes for a really positive, happy learning environment.”*

# Phil Waldron

Head of STEM and Mathematics Teacher

**NGS: Tell us a little about your background**

**PW:** My first career was in construction project management. I have a Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Teaching from UTS (University of Technology Sydney), and have now been teaching for the past seven years.

**NGS: What attracted you to Northholm and what do you love about working here?**

**PW:** Initially, Northholm felt like a great place to begin my career. However, as both I and the School have grown over the years, I have discovered that it is certainly much more than a starting point. There is so much potential within our students; the more that staff have embraced a growth mindset, so too have our students. Northholm believes that students are capable of growth and that they will rise to the expectations set before them. I love the idea that having high expectations of students is caring for them – by setting the bar high within a supportive environment, we are guiding students to be the very best version of themselves.

**NGS: What excites you about your portfolio/curriculum area?**

**PW:** As Head of STEM, it is exciting to offer programs that deliver a variety of opportunities that challenge students to see the bigger picture – to learn how Mathematics and Science work together and how they can be used in new technologies and inventions. Our Mathematics Enrichment Group and STEM Club are great examples of 'beyond the curriculum' learning that develop student interests and skills. These skills are critical in the 21st century where the ability to harness

advancements in technology is key to furthering the human race.

One example is modern advancements in surgical procedures, where doctors are rehearsing procedures using accurate 3D scanned and printed models of real patients. They can also pre-program robots to increase accuracy and reduce scar tissue caused by delicate procedures. Through exposure to rigorous academic and broad co-curricular programs, I anticipate with excitement the world in which our graduates will find themselves working, growing and leading.



# Community, Communication and Contribution

## NORTHHOLM ASSOCIATION

**Community, Communication and Contribution are the three Cs that underpin the Northholm Association constitution and form the focus of our 2021 objectives.**

The start of this year has seen us working towards achieving these objectives, despite the ever-changing COVID situation. While our first community event was a challenge due to these restrictions, our determination to bring the school community together ensured our Welcome to 2021 Wine and Canapé event was a very successful evening. A highly enjoyable night, it was pleasing to see so many parents reconnecting while welcoming new families into the School.

We are embracing technology to increase accessibility for our families, with Northholm Association meetings alternating between face-to-face meetings at the Dural Country Club and online Zoom meetings. This approach brings the best of both worlds together, with a great mix of social engagement, while still including the wider community who cannot always attend the evening meetings in person.

Towards the end of 2020, the Association coordinated a chocolate drive to raise money for new water fountains for the students - these were installed at the start of 2021 and have been well received by our students, who are excited about reducing their environmental footprint and enjoying the filtered water. At our last General Meeting we also passed motions for a new cooktop and renovations for

the canteen, as well as sponsoring the Digital Citizenship Wellbeing Program. These programs will benefit the students throughout the remainder of the year.

We are continuing this momentum with the launch of our 'Just One Thing' campaign, making it easy for our school families to find ways to be involved with activities and initiatives, to benefit our school community, that suit the time, skills and commitment they have to volunteer.

The Northholm Association is very proud of our hard working, dedicated and creative volunteers who bring us the events, services and initiatives that are so valued by our school families and students. We are looking forward to sharing more of these, including our Mothers' Day Breakfast, Clean-up Day and Fathers' Day breakfast, throughout 2021.

**Anthony Wood  
President**



## The Northholm Association (P&C) Team 2021 -

### Association Executive Team

Anthony Wood – President  
Tim Mann – Vice President  
Bianca Meredith – Secretary  
*Currently Vacant* – Treasurer

### Committee Coordinators

Yasmin Old – SHU Shop Coordinator  
LeeAnne White – SHU Supervisor  
Melissa Greensill – Year Group Parent Coordinator and Special Event Coordinator  
Michelle Button – Grants

### Special Projects

Angela Cooke – Entertainment Book  
Jenni Wray – Commemorative Pavers

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Year 10s caring for the health of the Northholm community

**At Northholm, we begin with the end in mind. Who are the citizens of the future we want to nurture and shape? How will they make the world in which we live a better, healthier place?**

The Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) curriculum plays a large role in developing the skills that ensure our students become empowered, self-confident and socially responsible citizens. We are incredibly proud of the contribution Northholm students make in educating our community about current health issues impacting the youth of Australia.

In PDHPE, Year 10 students were challenged to select health issues that were important to young people and work collaboratively to present a stall that would engage and excite our community, with the aim of connecting and educating Northholm students about important health issues. The Year 10 students created stalls which engaged their peers in important conversations about issues such as body image, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, road safety and sexual health.

Students heard from Jay Allen, from Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA), who shared his journey through melanoma. They were also joined by a range of other providers including Red Frogs Australia, NSW Police Force, Donate Life, Cell to Soul and Cancer Council Australia.

We are proud that the learning opportunities students experience in PDHPE provide them with a foundation to actively contribute to, and advocate for, the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves and others in the community and beyond school.

**Shannon Cameron**  
Head of PDHPE



COMMUNITY EVENTS

# Building connections with canapés

**The Wine and Canapés Evening, held on Saturday 20 March, was an amazing event and a terrific opportunity to come together as a community, especially following the lengthy restrictions due to COVID-19 over the past year.**

It was wonderful to have the opportunity to welcome new parents and carers to Northholm, as well as connect with existing parents across our School.

The importance of the partnership between home and school has never been greater. When parents choose a school for their child, they do so because there is alignment in the educational philosophy and approach to student learning – it is a team effort. We both want to achieve the same positive outcomes, therefore there must be an authentic relationship where there is consistent and regular communication about student learning and wellbeing.

It is important that our parents and carers know that the teaching staff at Northholm are dedicated and committed to providing the best possible educational experience for our students. Social engagements such as the Wine and Canapés Evening serve to highlight that commitment in the most authentic way.

On behalf of Northholm Grammar, we would like to thank our parents, carers, staff, School Council and the Northholm Association for your attendance at this event. We value your support and look forward to further opportunities to connect throughout the year.



*... there must be an authentic relationship where there is consistent and regular communication about student learning and wellbeing.*





# Vale Ken Coad

**It was my great privilege to know Ken as a key member of the Building Committee and the School Council at Northholm Grammar from 1995 to 2008.**

He served as Vice-Chairman and then Chairman of Council, willingly taking on the highest responsibilities as the call was placed upon him by fellow Council members. These were all voluntary positions, undertaken in time away from his own business practice as a successful engineer. He wanted the best for his own children and for the new school of which he and Sue were foundation parents. They gave their time and skills to working bees, community events and school committees. Always positive and friendly in their relations with others, Ken and Sue encouraged other parents to share in the School's life and give of their talents where needed.

Never ambitious for himself, Ken always sought to find the most strategic and advantageous steps the Council could take for the ongoing development of the School. As we sat around the table at Building Committee meetings with George Addison, Stephen Charlton, Denise White, and later Toby Wetherill and myself, Ken would bring practical and sensible ideas to our discussions. His desire for what would work, give a cost-effective result and achieve the School's aims was foremost. Ken's sense of humour, as well as his professional judgement, added greatly to the complex and sometimes heated deliberations of the Building Committee, because every dollar counted as the School grew.



Ken had a great interest in cars, especially that famous British marque, the Morris Minor, which he loved with a passion. His lighter side was seen in the fun and pleasure he found in motoring; a pastime that tends to get swallowed up for most people in the contemporary haste to 'just get somewhere'. As in his school roles, Ken knew how to take the time necessary to make something work – whether a classic car, a building project, or important decisions School Council was considering. He was meticulous, focused and patient in fixing a car or sorting out an issue.

After the retirement of Professor Barry Leal, Ken took on the role of Chairman of Council with humility and commitment. It was my privilege and pleasure, as Principal, to work closely with him during my final years at Northholm. I was especially grateful for Ken's humanity in dealing with others. He understood people's needs and motivations in his own understated way. He was a respected and trusted advisor and I valued his views highly.

Ken was a true Christian gentleman who lived out his faith in practical ways. He was generous and encouraging to all, finding the glass of life always half (or more) full rather than half empty. His fine qualities are reflected, too, in the upbringing of his family.

I believe Ken is now at peace with the Lord, after a life well-lived. I offer my tribute of thanks to Ken and also to Sue who was always supporting him. As pictured in Psalm 1, Ken's life was like a tree, planted by streams of water, that prospered and gave its fruit in season. An abundant life indeed.

**Dr Yvonne Smith  
Principal, Northholm Grammar  
1995-2008**

# Vale Graeme Phillips



**I was truly saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Mr Phillips, and I would like to extend my deepest condolences to his wife Chloe and sons, Nick and Josh, during this heartbreaking time.**

When I started at Northholm as a Year 7 student in 2003, it was very clear to me that Mr Phillips felt great joy in his role as a teacher. Each time I saw Mr Phillips walking on campus, he would have a warm smile on his face and stop to speak with students or members of staff along his path. Everyone knew that no matter how busy Mr Phillips was, he always had time for you.

Students always found Mr Phillips to be fair and reasonable. I often admired his skill to lay down the law one second, and then turn and crack a joke the next. He sure did have a great sense of humour.

In my final year of school, I was a frequent visitor to Mr Phillip's office (for meetings, not detention) with the other three senior leaders, Joshua, Morgan and Sophie, to discuss

upcoming events and logistics. Mr Phillips provided us with insightful guidance in our roles, but also reminded us that the last year of school should be an enjoyable time in our lives.

I fondly remember Mr Phillips explaining to our Year that it was possible to study 90 hours in the school holidays leading up to the HSC and still go to the beach or hang out with our friends every day. A valuable life lesson for me about balance and a great way for him to get another maths lesson in.

Mr Phillips was a constant and dependable presence throughout my time at Northholm. A kind-hearted man who truly wanted the best for each of his students and who was a great friend to his colleagues. He will be dearly missed.

We may have forgotten the mathematics lessons, but we will never forget the teacher.

May you rest easy, Mr Phillips.

**Mieka Hynec  
School Captain,  
Northholm Grammar 2008**



**Graeme came to Northholm from Cranbook School where he had been an effective and much valued House Master who cared for the students' welfare, as well as being a fine Mathematics teacher.**

His friendly and enthusiastic approach to his work as Deputy was immediately apparent to everyone and he and his family were soon very active in the school community. Graeme was a people person and that shone through, whether he was chatting with students, organising staff, leading an overseas study tour, cheering on teams at the Sports Carnival or compering the Grandparents' Day concerts. He always had the right sense of occasion, able to win people with good humour and ease of manner. His sons also attended Northholm for their secondary education, not an easy thing when your father is Deputy Principal, but Graeme's success in the role made their experience a very positive one overall.

Many students and parents commended Graeme's impact as a classroom teacher of Mathematics. He brought high motivation and professional knowledge to this part of his role. Graeme thrived on teaching and loved to guide young people's learning. Always fair in discipline, Graeme was highly respected even by those who ended up "in trouble" in the Deputy's office. With his love of sports always present, young people found it easy to relate to him as they got to know him as a coach and team leader.

While we greatly mourn his loss, may we find consolation in his life so well lived.

**Dr Yvonne Smith  
Principal, Northholm Grammar  
1995-2008**

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

# A history of student achievement

Northholm Grammar has long 'punched above our weight' in student achievement, including our talented sportsmen and sportswomen as this 1990 *The Arcadian* article shows.

In this year we had champion swimmers, divers, softball and European handball players reaching great heights.

The School believes now, as it did then, that having interests and skills in activities outside of the curriculum is essential in helping students become balanced, well-rounded individuals. Seeking to perform to the best of your abilities in sport, artistic or other co-curricular endeavours builds the skills needed to thrive against challenges.

These students were not our first students to represent at state and national levels, nor were they the last. We are proud of all Northholm students, past, present and future, who achieve outstanding results in their pursuits.

## STUDENT PROFILE: Our National Athletes

### Tiana Westbury: Softball

Tiana was a member of the open team that won the Inaugural Metro League and the regional championships, in 1989. She was also part of the U16 team that won the Australian Championships.

1990 has also been a great year for Tiana. She was a member of the team that won the Bayer Cup (best open teams in NSW), and was voted player of the final. Tiana was a member of the U19 team that finished runner-up in the Australian Championships. Tiana has achieved the distinction of being selected to train in the U19 Australian squad. This team will compete in the World Series, in 1991. She has again been selected in the district open team to compete at the NSW Championships in October.

These tremendous achievements have only come about through her dedication to the sport. Tiana was asked by the NSW Association to coach on two country camps, and a summer camp. She also coaches a team in weekend competition, and is a recognised Nordic Shoe Umpire.

### Simon Woods: Swimming

Simon qualified for his first Australian Championships in 1988, and had the distinction of becoming the fastest 17 year old in Australia for the 100m breaststroke. In 1989 he performed with distinction at both Metropolitan and State level. He won a gold medal representing NSW in the 4x50m medley relay at the Australian Championships. Simon was also placed third in the 100m breaststroke, and fourth in the 200m breaststroke.

1990 started very well for Simon, when he finished fourth in both the 100m and 200m breaststroke events at the NSW Winter Championships. He then qualified for the Australian Age Championships for the third year running. Simon reached the finals in both the 100m and 200m breaststroke events, finishing in fifth and seventh position respectively. Simon is a very talented swimmer. His aim is to become the best breaststroker in Australia, and he is well on his way to meeting this challenge!

### Meredith Smith: Swimming

Meredith's outstanding performance in these sports gained her the "Sports Person of the Year" award at her primary school in 1989. She represented the school in Athletics and Cross Country at the Metropolitan Championships and in swimming at State level. She then joined a senior swimming squad, and qualified for the NSW Championships.

This year, Meredith has continued her excellent form, winning a gold medal in the 50m backstroke, and a silver medal in the 50m butterfly, at the Shell Age Championships. She also received a gold medal in the 100m backstroke and a silver medal in the 100m medley, in the Metropolitan Championships. In the NSW Championships, Meredith qualified for six events and finished in fourth place in the 100m backstroke event.

Within two years of commencing training, Meredith has reached the top level of her chosen field. She qualified for the Australian Age Championships in the 100m and 200m backstroke and performed very well, to reach the finals of the 100m event. Meredith's aim is to win a medal at the next Australian Championships.



Alairya Glass, Tiana Westbury, Kristian Greenwood, Simon Woods, Meredith Smith.

### Alairya Glass — Diving

Alairya finished third in the 1989 Metropolitan Diving Championships. At the State Championships, she finished in the top ten of both the one metre and three metre events. Alairya then progressed to the National Championships, where she was placed 15th in the one metre event, and 19th in the three metre event. She finished the year with a respectable fourth place in the Shell Age Championships. Alairya's performance has been outstanding in 1990. After winning her club championship, she was then placed second in three events at the State Championships. She finished second in the one metre event, third in the platform event, and fourth in the three metre event. At the National Championships, Alairya continued her outstanding performance, and was placed in the top 10 of both the one metre and platform events. She also finished 16th in the three metre event. At the NSW Winter Inter-Club Competition, Alairya qualified to compete in the 1991 National Championships. She looks set for a long and distinguished association with this sport.

### Kristian Greenwood: European Handball

Kristian was first selected to represent NSW in 1988. He has retained his place in the State Junior team for three years running. In 1989, Kristian was a member of the Australian junior team that competed in the Tenuo Cup, an international championship held in Italy.

1990 has been another great year for Kristian, as he has recently toured Hong Kong with the highly successful Australian men's team. The team finished in second place, defeating Nepal and Hong Kong. At 17 years of age Kristian has been selected to tour New Caledonia with the Australian Men's Under 21 team, in 1991. Kristian has many years of international level European Handball ahead of him.

These champions have every reason to be proud of their outstanding performance at both state and national level. We congratulate them, and wish them well for the future.



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