

# The Arcadian

THE MAGAZINE OF **NORTHHOLM GRAMMAR**  
EDITION 50 | AUTUMN 2022



**Northholm**  
Grammar

*Challenging minds.*  
*Creating futures.*

# The Arcadian

Edition 50 | Autumn 2022

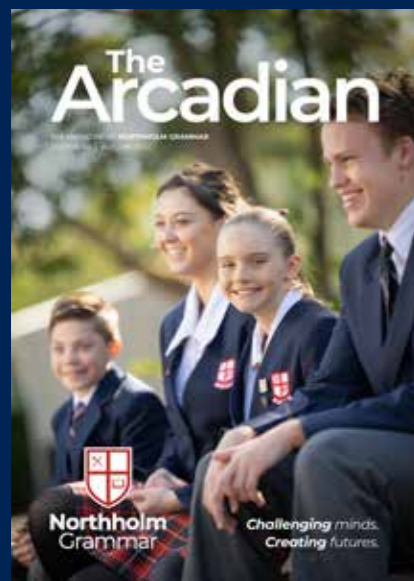
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## From the Editor

**Welcome to Autumn 2022, the 50th edition of the Arcadian.**

*We cannot be separated in interest or divided in purpose. We stand together until the end.*

– Woodrow T. Wilson, 28th President of the United States, 1856 - 1924

Our experiences and achievements over the past few years have proven that if we stand together, we can accomplish amazing things.

Whilst enough has been said about the unprecedented context the pandemic has created, I am compelled to mention once again, the incredible support from our community in facing the challenges of 2021. Indeed, united we stand.

The manner in which our students responded to these challenges is truly inspirational. Our 2021 Year 12 students united to support each other and achieve exceptional results – our best ever yet! Ranking 45th in the State is an outstanding achievement in any context but more so when you consider the current landscape – a testament of their strength, character and resilience.

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the amazing young men and women of Class 2021. Our staff and community have continued to work together to ensure our students continue to be challenged by delivering an exceptional learning experience, never compromising on the quality of our education.

*The energy of the mind is the essence of life.* – Aristotle, Greek philosopher and polymath, 384 BC - 322 BC

Over the past 6 months, our students continued to flourish academically, in leadership and character development, through camps and competitions, in sport and the creative and performing arts. We hope you enjoy reading these achievements in this edition.

The strength of Northholm is in our community and it is with great pride that we share our successes with you through the pages of *The Arcadian*.

**Gabriela Moore**  
Editor

*The strength of Northholm is in our community...*

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## From the Principal

**Welcome to our first edition of *The Arcadian* for 2022, where we take the time to celebrate and recognise the many achievements of our students at the end of last year and the commencement of the new year. The future is bright but, with the continuation of the pandemic, the challenge remains on how we continue to find contextual clarity through uncertainty and ambiguity.**

Imagine someone invites you for a run? For clarification, you might question: "Where are we running? How long will we run? How fast will we run? Are we doing a marathon or sprint-type run?" Your friend says, "just run" and you probably feel a little uncertain about your answer.

Two years ago, when the COVID-19 pandemic started, some predicted that it would end by Easter, then summer, then the end of the year, then when preventive behaviours (social isolation, masks, etc) prevailed, and then with vaccines and boosters readily accessible. Now with Delta, Omicron, and possibly other variants, we still have little clarity about the 'end game' for the virus and its impact.

Schools rely on clarity to get results – but how do we continue to lead when we have little clarity about the future? Or when the pandemic (and other contextual challenges like social justice, digital revolution or international crises) appears to have no end?

Leading without clear direction is not without precedent. Consider the great innovators and their ideas – Thomas Edison and electricity, Steve Jobs and personal computers, Bill Gates' software, the chemical breakthroughs of Marie Curie and Galileo's scientific method. These men and women may not have envisioned the specific outcomes of their ideas but they 'ran their invention races'. They were progressive leaders because they harnessed uncertainty, moved ahead without perfection and had a values-

based direction toward progress, rather than a fixed target.

The start of the 2022 Academic Year has again reinforced to us that the pandemic is not going away and schools must continue to deliver high performing and supportive learning environments, without certainty. At Northholm Grammar, our strength during the pandemic has been our size and our community. The challenges have been many; however, we have stepped through the uncertainty and ambiguity by being agile, nimble and adaptive. Our decisions will not always be popular with everyone, but our resolve will remain committed to fostering a culture, based on *academic intentionality with pastoral attentiveness*, that serves to inspire each student to be the best version of themselves.

There are many important lessons to be gained from our recent experiences. Northholm Grammar will succeed by not only attending to outcomes (which may be unclear or changing) but also by monitoring how well we manage the process to achieve these outcomes. We are concerned with what we can control, not what we can't. So, we will remain focused on our values more than our objectives and achieve long-term agendas by actioning short-term incremental improvements.

When the end goal is a moving target, we need to harness our community, by emphasising the personalised relationships with those we lead, to support each other and explore options to reach those targets. Never has it been more important for leaders to demonstrate empathy and emotional support by creating a sense of belonging and tailoring work requirements to the skills of each individual.

Perspective is essential. We recognise that not every moment or experience will go as planned. Progress does not require perfection – failure is an opportunity too and agility and

adaptability are essential. Perspective enables progress by not over or under-reacting. When things don't work, Northholm Grammar encourages resilience; when things do work, we share and celebrate credit.

The greatest challenge facing schools right now is managing frustration. When we start with clear plans, defined steps and a definitive end game it can be infuriating to have obstacles appear in our path. The key is to navigate – not manage – the paradoxes: to appreciate and accept the challenges, embrace the inconsistencies as part of progress, to identify predispositions and polarities, to recognise current states, to understand the other point-of-view and to find common ground and take responsible action. The paradox is that we must think both long and short-term. We must care about people and systems and we must ask questions and provide the answers, in order to succeed.

While we still may not have clarity about the 'new normal', we can run (and not become weary) by focusing on our ability to improve and learn from the past, to invent by anticipating the future and to be in the present through critical thinking. We also need to be mindful of what is and is not working and have compassion with both people and tasks, remaining calm and curious in the face of uncertainty. Northholm Grammar is proud of its students, staff and community in the way we have worked together during these extraordinary times. We should be proud of our many achievements in all spheres of the student experience, and we look forward to our future as we continue to embrace our journey of 'renewal, growth and excellence' as we find contextual clarity.

**Christopher Bradbury**  
Principal

*Never has it been more important for leaders to demonstrate empathy and emotional support...*



# Warmly welcomed into new role

**It has been a wonderful privilege to take on the role of Deputy Principal at Northholm Grammar in 2022. Professionally, I came from a very large Independent Boys school in the Eastern Suburbs in the role of Head of Curriculum, with a history of leading in the following portfolios: Dean of Creative Arts, Master in Charge of Co-Curricular Music and Head of Performing Arts and Music K-12. Embracing a role this year that affords me the capacity to work in both the academic and pastoral space, whilst still teaching in the creative and performing arts, is a dream come true and I have relished every moment afforded to me so far.**

I am extremely excited to have this opportunity to help lead a vibrant and thriving school community. Northholm is a school that supports the pursuit and celebrates the success of all individuals and their vast array of interests, skill sets and talents. I see this through Assembly recognition, House events, Tutor and Head of House engagement and knowledge of their students, and through the daily interactions between students and staff around the School grounds. The constant drive for holistic excellence based on *academic intentionality with pastoral attentiveness* is inspiring. It is not just a catch phrase, but a living and breathing daily realisation that permeates all facets of school life.

My role as Deputy Principal is an addition to the senior leadership structure at Northholm. My responsibilities are based on the operational and strategic leadership of Teaching and Learning, Pastoral Care and Character Development across the whole school. I work closely with all senior and middle leaders to ensure we have exceptional systems and practices in place to support every facet of a student's growth and development across all areas of school life. Additionally, I teach Secondary Music to Year 11 and 12 students and have the great opportunity to work with the entire Year 7 cohort once a fortnight on character appreciation and development.

I've already seen in my short time here, that Northholm Grammar is a wonderful school. The students and staff are warm, friendly, polite, service focused and generous of spirit. Additionally, the parents I've had the privilege of speaking to have been whole-heartedly supportive and truly invested in both the success of their children, but also the success of the School as a whole. Moving forward, my purpose and core drive is that I continue to ensure we are foundationally strong.

This means that I will have a determined focus on academic rigour and attention to detail as well as connectiveness, making certain our teachers know both each other and each and every one of their students.

We will not only have open, inclusive and regular communication with our students and parents, but also with our extended Northholm community. I will be working with teachers and Tutors to make sure that students feel well supported, challenged and understood in discovering their passions in and out of the classroom.

I take this opportunity to thank the students, staff and parents of Northholm Grammar who have gone out of their way to make me feel welcome, supported and trusted. I feel very confident and happy in my decision to come to Northholm and have enjoyed every moment. I encourage the community to continue their open and transparent communication with myself and the staff of the School, just as we too will strive to keep the door of communication open with you all.

I look forward to continuing to learn and grow in my role as Deputy Principal and look forward to engaging with more students and families as the year progresses.

**Andrea van den Bol  
Deputy Principal**



# 2021 HSC excellence

## RESULTS

Positioned in the Top 50 Schools in the State **is a stunning result!**

**It is with a great sense of pride we announce that Northholm Grammar is now ranked 45 in New South Wales standings of best performing Schools in the HSC. Our continued achievements in scholarship through our HSC results is recognition of our vision and commitment to academic growth and developing the character of each student.**

With the global pandemic heavily influential in the background of their final year of schooling, our students were amazing in meeting the challenges of the HSC Examinations. The sacrifices were many including the postponement of significant rites of passage and the sudden adjustment to the changing landscape of face-to-face teaching to the 'remote learning experience'. However, they did all of that and more with enormous resilience and character throughout the year.

Our outstanding HSC results in 2021 are testament to the targeted program and the exceptional academic care our teachers provide to every student. Northholm Grammar's standing as one of the leading schools in the Sydney metropolitan area is reflected in the following highlights:

- **13 students** recognised as NSW Distinguished Achievers
- **3 students on the Honour Roll** (Niamh Cassar, Gemma Squire, Tyler Old)
- **3 State Ranks** - Joseph Clemmit 1st (Music), Gemma Squire 8th (Ancient History), Niamh Cassar 19th (Legal Studies)
- **79%** of students gaining at least one Band 5 or Band 6
- **88%** of courses achieved above State Average marks
- **Congratulations to Niamh Cassar**, Dux of the School with an ATAR of 99.65.

During my conversations with Year 12 students over the course of the past few weeks, a strong sense of collegiality within the cohort, as well as their teachers, were relayed as key factors for the student's extraordinary success. Northholm's strong culture of learning and our nurturing community are, as always, at the heart of what we achieve. The continued growth in our HSC results over the past three years are indicative of our exceptional teachers and rigorous educational programs.

Three years ago, Northholm Grammar made a commitment to embrace a stronger professional learning program in developing our

professional practice, as well as an unrelenting focus on explicit teaching, engaging in deliberate practice and delivering regular feedback.

A strong relationship between the teacher and student is critical to achieving *academic intentionality with pastoral attentiveness*.

Teachers don't just teach disciplines (Mathematics, Science, English, etc), they teach people. Education is about connectedness, belonging and being relational. From a learning perspective, a strong sense of relatedness and connectedness better positions students to take on challenges, set positive goals and establish high expectations that extend and motivate them.

These results are the outcome of incredible commitment, courage, grit and ambition, particularly in the context of the challenges arising from the COVID pandemic over the past two years.

We also acknowledge our community – parents, friends and family – for their support of the Years 12s, in contributing to these excellent results.

Congratulations again to our Year 12 2021 cohort on their magnificent results. We are very proud of their achievements.

**Christopher Bradbury**  
Principal

## HSC All Rounders

The following students achieved Band 6 results across all their subjects.



Niamh Cassar



Tyler Old



Gemma Squire

## HSC Distinguished Achievers 2021

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

|                            |   |                                    |   |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Mitchell Black             | Legal Studies, Mathematics Advanced, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education        | Chelsea Harkins<br>Tyler Old       | Drama, Visual Arts<br>English Advanced, Legal Studies, Mathematics Advanced, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, Visual Arts |
| Niamh Cassar               | Economics, English Advanced, Legal Studies, Mathematics Extension 1, Mathematics Extension 2    | Ethan Reiss                        | Business Studies, Mathematics Advanced, Primary Industries  |
| Olivia Charlton            | Biology, Geography, Mathematics Standard 2, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education | Gemma Squire                       | Ancient History, English Advanced, English Extension 1, Mathematics Standard 2, Society and Culture, Visual Arts                              |
| Joseph Clemmit             | English Advanced, Legal Studies, Mathematics Extension 1, Music 2                               | Faith Trestrail<br>Imogen Williams | Visual Arts<br>Agriculture  |
| Brianna Cusick             | Mathematics Standard 2, Primary Industries  | Daniel Han Xing Zhang              | Mathematics Advanced  |
| Bodie<br>Greatbatch Murphy | Drama, English Advanced, English Extension 1, Modern History, Society and Culture               |                                    |   |

## 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 to 6 are the highest levels. The table below shows some of the HSC courses studied at Northholm in 2021.

| Course                  | % In Bands 5 & 6 |          | Northholm's Top Marks In Each Course |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|
|                         | At Northholm     | In State |                                      |
| Agriculture             | 100              | 34       | 90                                   |
| Ancient History         | 50               | 34       | 98                                   |
| Biology                 | 67               | 31       | 91                                   |
| Business Studies        | 42               | 36       | 90                                   |
| Design and Technology   | 60               | 54       | 89                                   |
| Drama                   | 38               | 45       | 97                                   |
| Economics               | 100              | 34       | 93                                   |
| English Advanced        | 73               | 69       | 94                                   |
| English Extension I     | 100              | 94       | 45                                   |
| Geography               | 67               | 44       | 90                                   |
| Legal Studies           | 75               | 42       | 97                                   |
| Mathematics Advanced    | 88               | 50       | 98                                   |
| Mathematics Standard 2  | 65               | 25       | 96                                   |
| Mathematics Extension 1 | 100              | 74       | 95                                   |
| Mathematics Extension 2 | 100              | 86       | 90                                   |
| Modern History          | 33               | 38       | 93                                   |
| Music 2                 | 100              | 88       | 99                                   |
| PDHPE                   | 83               | 31       | 93                                   |
| Physics                 | 40               | 40       | 85                                   |
| Society and Culture     | 80               | 45       | 95                                   |
| Visual Arts             | 100              | 63       | 97                                   |

## Northholm Students Awarded Band 6

Compared to the State average.

| Course                  | Northholm % | State % |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------|
| Agriculture             | 50          | 10      |
| Ancient History         | 50          | 9       |
| Biology                 | 33          | 7       |
| Drama                   | 25          | 18      |
| English Advanced        | 33          | 16      |
| English Extension 1     | 100         | 41      |
| Geography               | 33          | 9       |
| Legal Studies           | 50          | 15      |
| Mathematics Advanced    | 50          | 23      |
| Mathematics Standard 2  | 18          | 6       |
| Mathematics Extension 1 | 67          | 37      |
| Mathematics Extension 2 | 50          | 43      |
| Music 2                 | 100         | 45      |
| PDHPE                   | 58          | 7       |
| Primary Industries      | 50          | 4       |
| Society and Culture     | 40          | 13      |
| Visual Arts             | 80          | 17      |

# 2022 Student Leaders

## LEADERSHIP

The Northholm Grammar Leadership System is an inclusive model that allows students to achieve recognition for the high standards of leadership they have already shown at Northholm and their capacity to grow further. A School Leader is an important role model for other students and assists in the efficient and harmonious functioning of the School.

During Term 3 last year, Northholm students in Year 10 and 11 had the opportunity to apply for the below leadership positions. Their Investiture Service, held at the commencement of Term 4, formally acknowledged them in their roles.

Congratulations to the students appointed to Senior Student Leadership positions:

### School Captains

Amber Garth  
Oscar Henderson

### Senior Prefects

Holly Behan  
Laura Jones

### School Prefects

Henry Gierak  
Shreya Narain  
Sophie Oates  
Mason Parle  
Caitlin Stebbins  
Rachel Wong

### House Captains

|          |                                    |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| Capell   | Caleb Eveniss<br>Cassandra Modde   |
| Lincoln  | Jonathan Eggers<br>Abigail Kafkis  |
| Patteson | Jack Dawson<br>Elouis Wright       |
| Rowland  | Charlie Johnson<br>Mai Linh Stolee |

Similarly, in Term 4, Year 5 students had the opportunity to apply for leadership roles for 2022. The Primary Years Leaders for this year are:

### Primary Years Captains

Harper Lorenz  
Dean Mansell

### Primary Years House Captains

|          |                      |
|----------|----------------------|
| Capell   | Jett Watkin          |
| Lincoln  | Christopher Whiteley |
| Patteson | William Davies       |
| Rowland  | Thomas Byrne         |

### Primary Years SRC Chairperson

Ray Lin

Jenny Plüss  
Head of Operations

◀ Lower left. Left to right. Primary Years Curriculum Coordinator Erin Werner, Jett Watkin, Ray Lin, Harper Lorenz, Principal Chris Bradbury, Dean Mansell, Thomas Byrne, Christopher Whiteley, William Davies, Primary Years Wellbeing Coordinator Mary Falvey.

◀ Lower right. School Captains. Oscar Henderson and Amber Garth.

▼ Primary Years Captains. Harper Lorenz and Dean Mansell.

▶ Back Row: Caleb Eveniss, Jonathan Eggers, Mason Parle, Calum Fraser, Henry Gierak, Jack Dawson, Rachel Wong, Caitlin Stebbins, Shreya Narain.

Front Row: Elouis Wright, Laura Jones, Holly Behan, Cassandra Modde, Oscar Henderson, Amber Garth, Abigail Kafkis, Mai Linh Stolee, Sophie Oates.

## A Northholm education

Northholm Grammar students are known, respected and cared for through our distinctive educational framework that is built on:

### Learning through Scholarship

Represented by the open book, Northholm challenges each student scholastically by encouraging high academic standards and intellectual rigour, providing inspiring teaching committed to personalised learning and designing and implementing our curriculum purposefully.

### Caring for Others and Self

Represented by the rod and staff of the shepherd, Northholm goes out of its way to support, coach and fulfil the potential of each student through strong pastoral care that is characterised by our attentiveness to individual growth, social and emotional development and wellbeing.

### Living a Faithful Life

Represented by the compass of the cross, Northholm develops the character of each student through inclusive Christian values that are enacted through chapel services, chaplaincy and educational programs.

### Contributing to the Community

Represented by our motto: *Be Traist* (Be True), Northholm promotes in each student a strong sense of belonging and service to the community through our opportunities for representation, leadership and community engagement.



*A School Leader is an important role model for other students...*

# Local and international awards

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



### Justin Kim (Year 9)

Northholm would like to congratulate Justin Kim for his outstanding achievement in the internationally recognised 2021 Kemper Human Rights Education Foundation Essay Competition.

Out of 83 essays received from entrants across 33 countries, Justin's essay — *Land of the Fair Go? The State of Income and Wealth Distribution in Australia and What Australia Can Learn from Finland* — was awarded second place in the international competition. The competition was open to students from Year 8 to Year 11 across the globe and Justin's result is a magnificent achievement.



### Raiyan Rahman (Year 7)

In an amazing accomplishment, congratulations go to Raiyan Rahman for being awarded the Blacktown City Young Citizen of the Year Finalist for his work in innovation and entrepreneurship. Raiyan runs the YouTube channels *Raiyan's Coding Hub* and *The Mathnician* to teach maths and coding to young students.

When asked about the award, Raiyan said "I think the council chose me for the award because I have educated many kids and I won a grant from VR Events Australia".



### Joseph Clemmit and Bodie Greatbatch-Murphy (Year 12 2021)

Northholm Grammar is also extremely proud of recent graduates Bodie Greatbatch-Murphy and former Prefect Joseph Clemmit on obtaining their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

To achieve this certificate, both students completed 12 months of activities across Physical Recreation, Skill and Service. For Joseph, this included playing basketball, cycling, playing piano and assisting at Arcare Glenhaven Age Care. Additionally, Joseph took part in a nine-day Adventurous Journey and a five-day Residential Music Camp.

Bodie completed a nine-day kayaking expedition and a five-day community Residential to obtain this milestone. Joseph and Bodie achieved all this during both their HSC year and the COVID-19 pandemic, which is a testament to their resilience and character.



# Personal experiences inspire artists

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

**Northholm Grammar's HSC artists continue to gain recognition in the community as evidenced by the sustained selection of students to exhibit in popular HSC Showcases. In 2022, two of our graduates were represented at ArtNorth, an exhibition held by the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery at Abbotsleigh. ArtNorth is an annual exhibition dedicated to celebrating exemplarily Bodies of Work by students in Sydney's North Shore.**

Tyler Old's *Memories that coloured me* is a personal reflection that explores the manipulative and influential nature of emotions and how they distort and colour memories, threatening their true authenticity. Using a series of ceramic sculptures and a projected film, Tyler captured the emotions that succumb to her most prominent memories, shaping who she is. She reflects towards the validity of her own experiences and encouraged the audience to question their reality and perception of memory. Curatorially, Tyler's Body of Work was an immersive installation for the audience, inviting them to walk throughout the installation and participate in the experience of unpacking the emotions through whimsical titles and a colour key.

Faith Trestrail's Body of Work, *Bury, Wash, Eat, Burn - Menguburkan, Cuci, Makan, Bakar*, presents a dynamic and personal experience with identity and being a person of mixed-race heritage. Through a collection of videos, large scale photography and

sculpture, Faith captured intimate moments of her life through mundane and ritualistic moments: bathing, eating, breathing and praying. Using herself as the subject matter, Faith's work demonstrates highly technical accomplishment as she produced four sculptural busts using contemporary media of chocolate, dirt, soap and mud. These busts reveal how Faith questions her own identity, influenced by external and internal feedback. Throughout the film she manipulates each bust as a metaphor for destroying the perception and assumption of her identity. Through the exploration of traditional museum preservation conventions, Faith asks the audience to question the history of colonial interventions and other societal issues concerning race, heritage and cultural identity.

These Bodies of Work demonstrate immense creativity and meaningfulness, technical sophistication and conceptual resolution. This year, our HSC visual arts students pushed their understanding and experimentation with space, installation technics and curatorial practice. Additionally, it's important to remember that Tyler, Faith and our other artists completed aspects of their Body of Work in periods of lockdown and school restrictions. This small, yet compassionate, cohort of students reached out to each other to show unity and support for their mental and emotional wellbeing. When they have been able to be together physically, they have worked collaboratively in our HSC studio space through the conceptual and refinement stages, inviting

imagination and intuition to push the boundaries of their ideas and skills.

Northholm is proud to have our students participate once again in the wider art world through exhibition. As leaders and outstanding artists, they represent the collective of young and talented artists at Northholm.

**Lauren Barlow  
Head of Creative and Performing Arts**



Top to bottom.  
Faith Trestrail's Body of Work.  
Tyler Old's Body of Work.

# Dedication and determination evident in results

**SPORT**

**Sport at Northholm Grammar continues to thrive with students taking up opportunities to be part of teams and sport at all levels, motivated to aim for their personal best and instilled with the determination to succeed.**

The Inter-House Swimming Carnival in Week 2 of Term 1 was a spectacular event with amazing House participation from students. The stands at the Epping Aquatic Centre were filled with colour and energy as students from Years 3-12 cheered on their peers. The carnival included the Invitational Event consisting of the fastest five swimmers for boys and girls across the School. Congratulations to Sam Shepherd (Year 10) and Isabel He (Year 8) for taking out their respective titles in 2022. Congratulations to Pattenon

House as the overall winner of the day based on swimming events and participation points.

Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre (SOPAC) played host to the Hills Zone Sports Association (HSZA) Swimming Carnival in March, with the Primary Carnival in the morning and the Secondary Years students competing in the afternoon. Northholm was well represented at both events, winning the Best Performing School Trophy for the Primary Carnival and the runner-up award at the Secondary Carnival. The following Primary students qualified for the Combined Independent School (CIS) competition which was held on 24 March: Oliver Bosward, E Dagg, Morgan Dagg, Jasmine Mann, Alexa Garcia, Sylvia Dagg, Rose Harrington and Willow Boyce. In the Secondary Association of

Independent Co-Educational Schools (AICES) carnival on 28 March, the School was represented by Isabel He, Callum Lindsay, Aaron Minnikin, Sam Shepherd and Archer Vogt. We congratulate all our swimmers on some fabulous results in the pool and we are proud to announce that both Archer Vogt and Aaron Minnikin qualified for the CIS Secondary Championships in May.

In Aerobics, Northholm's program has grown this year with the addition of a Primary school team, joining our Secondary team, to enter the Classic division; a division for new schools to the Aerobics competition. Both Northholm Aerobics teams trained throughout Term 1, twice a week at 7.15am, to prepare for the Regional Championships in May at Brigidine College, St Ives. We thank Coaches Sarah Walker and Tyler Old for their work with the teams and their commitment to our Aerobics program in 2022. We are extremely proud of our teams who have demonstrated amazing growth in such a short period of time.

Northholm entered a wide variety of teams in all HZSA sports offered this term. Our teams in the HZSA weekly competition include Primary Girls Netball, Primary Boys Football, Junior Boys Basketball, Intermediate Boys Basketball, Junior Girls Futsal, Senior Girls Futsal, Junior Boys Football, Intermediate Boys Football, Junior Girls Netball and Intermediate Girls Netball. We are thrilled to welcome back

our amazing coaches Laura Romeo, Nick Mercieca, Emma Mercieca, Sarah Walker and Kyna Diancin in 2022. To further strengthen our sporting program, we introduced Anyka Diancin, Max Williams, Olivia Charlton, Tyler Old and Mitchell Black to our expert coaching team. With so many of our former students returning to coach Northholm sports, it is testament to the strong community the School has built over the years. They have proved to be invaluable to our sporting program and we look forward to many successes in the future with teams and programs at Northholm Grammar.

At a representative level, HZSA Open Boys Secondary Basketball selections were held in Term 1 with Kai Strickland (Year 10) making the team. Liliana Favaloro (Year 6) was selected in the HZSA Primary Girls Netball team. This is a great honour for both athletes.

And finally, the Hills Hornets Basketball Club Summer 2021-2022 season recently concluded and we congratulate our Under 15s Northholm Spurs, coached by Laura Romeo, and Under 18s Northholm Heat, coached by Nick Mercieca, for their tremendous efforts in the Grand Final. Northholm Grammar has a long association with the Hills Hornets competition and it's great to continue seeing our basketball teams displaying Northholm pride in front of family and friends.

**Jamie Stimson**  
Sport and Coaching Coordinator



Top to bottom. Northholm Junior Boys Football Team, Northholm awarded the Primary Best Performing School at the HZSA Swimming Carnival, Intermediate Girls Northholm Grammar Netball Team.



The Primary girls relay team of Willow Boyce, Rose Harrington, E Dagg and Alexa Garcia.



# Champion riders win equestrian accolades

## EQUESTRIAN

**There are many admirable qualities which are associated with involvement in the Equestrian competition - responsibility, discipline, dedication, perseverance and grit to name a few. Driving all these, however, is an abounding passion for horses and riding. Our Equestrian team is comprised of riders who display all these qualities and a desire to achieve their personal best in their chosen disciplines.**

Jessica Callus (Year 10) has demonstrated these qualities, attaining outstanding results in recent Show Horse competitions. These include the Equestrian Australasian Nationals which were held in Melbourne in March. Jessica was awarded National Reserve Champion in the Child's Large Show Hunter Pony and in the Child's

Medium Show Hunter Pony. At the 2022 Equestrian Australia Southern Cross Show Horse Spectacular, Jessica was Champion Rider 15, 16 and 17 years, Reserve Grand Champion Rider Under 18 years and Reserve Champion in the Owner/Rider Small Show Hunter Hack. She was also Reserve Champion in the Medium Open Show Hunter Pony and 3rd Place (equal first) in the Child's division. Jessica also had a successful Sydney Royal Easter Show with many placings including winning the Open Girl Rider 15 years and Under 17 years and qualifying her Show Hunter Hack for the 2023 Grand Nationals.

Also competing at a high level and achieving impressive results, Lucinda O'Brien (Year 9) placed Grand Champion of Champions Childs Show Hunter at Emma's Summer Show Championships 2021. She was Reserve

Champion in the Child's Show Hunter Galloway at Show Horse Council Australasia Horse of the Year event 2021 and on the same weekend was awarded Runner Up Champion Senior Rider 12 and under 15 years at the ACT and Southern NSW Show Horse Championships. Sydney Royal was a highlight for Lucinda's horse Treelea Park Casino Royale, winning his Open Hunter Galloway 14 and ne 14.2hh and taking her to place 2nd in her Child's Hunter Gallowat division and 3rd in her Novice Girl Rider Under 17 years.

Alexa Garcia (Year 4) is another notable rider who has performed exceptionally well in her recent competitions. She competed in the Berry Interschool Championships, to be placed the 2021 Interschools Age Champion Year Three and Reserve Champion Primary Sporting. At the Minto Summer Horse Show she was Reserve Champion Under 12 years. Alexa was also successful at the Gunnedah Horse Show, 3rd in Junior Sporting and 6th in the Under 18 jumping at 75-80cm.

Performing at a high level requires commitment from both the rider and their family. Northholm recognises and supports our equestrians as they strive to develop their skills through competition.

**Sharon Bourne**  
Equestrian Coordinator



Alexa Garcia competing at the Hawkesbury Summer Horse Show.



Jessica Callus, Reserve Champion Child's Medium Show Hunter Pony at the Equestrian Australasian Nationals.

# Increase in academic club participation drives growth

## PRIMARY YEARS - CURRICULUM

As an educator and parent, the growth that we witness in students is what education is all about. These are the moments where the transmission of knowledge from the teacher becomes embedded in the students' own knowledge and understanding. Educators informally call these moments the 'Aha!' moments; where connections are made, examples make sense and learning becomes transferred. It is in these instances that educators know that their explicit teaching and guided practice have been successful.

Every student is a learner. Every teacher seeks to personalise learning for all students. It is through this approach that students are most successful and see themselves as being able to accomplish the goals that they set themselves at the beginning of the year. Northholm has made significant growth in developing independent learners in the Primary Years; students who seek out their own opportunities for development and achievement.

Northholm's Co-Curricular program offers a vast range of academic clubs and more students than ever are choosing to eagerly engage with higher order thinking skills across a range of activities. A notable example is from the Australasian Problem Solving Maths Olympiad, where we have seen a number of last year's participants actively seek practice papers in preparation for the 2022 competition.

Mrs Mary Falvey is coordinating the Bebras Computational Thinking Club and Mr Matthew Garrett continues to facilitate the DaVinci Club, both requiring the use of higher order thinking skills. The F1 in Schools Program, led by Mr Russel McCool, is a global competition requiring students to draw upon Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to utilise software to collaborate, design, analyse, manufacture, test and then race miniature compressed air-powered cars. For our Primary Years students, being able to use the equipment and facilities of the Secondary Years is fundamental to the development of

this program and offers a gateway into the Design and Technology course at Northholm.

In August, an opportunity for a small group of students to attend the Gifted and Talented Camp will be a wonderful chance for students to expand their skillset and interests by participating in workshops and masterclasses on a range of subject areas with like-minded students from a vast range of schools across Sydney and the Central Coast. This invitation to join such an opportunity is a testament to the calibre of Northholm students.

Students thrive on their School journey when they develop the skills to guide their own learning. Finding motivation and interest in academic co-curricular clubs, and being supported in exploring their interests by Northholm teachers, can instil a love of learning and intellectual curiosity in a Primary Years student.

**Mrs Erin Werner**  
Primary Years Curriculum Coordinator

*...more students than ever are choosing to eagerly engage with higher order thinking skills...*



# Colo River camp forges relationships

## CAMPS

**Leadership is an integral part of a Northholm Grammar education. It sets direction, builds an inspiring vision and creates a cohesive group able to collaborate and work together. Leadership is about mapping out where you need to go to succeed as a team or as an organisation. It is dynamic, exciting and inspiring. Teamwork is a vital component of leadership. Northholm's outdoor camps are an integral part of developing leadership qualities in our students.**

Northholm's Colo River Camp provides a range of open ended and valuable experiences for Year 6 students which create many learning and rewarding opportunities. Students participate in challenging activities which often pushes them outside their comfort zone. These events develop greater self-confidence and resilience amongst our young men and women within a fun and supportive environment. It also helps forge strong connections and friendships amongst the student cohort, in turn developing lifelong skills of cooperation, respect and appreciation

of others. In their quest to challenge themselves, students grow leadership skills and capabilities during their camp experiences.

"Honestly, I can't choose a single favourite task; the crawl through the trees and air, running frantically through the grass and hill and darting between coverage on Base 7, or even just around the fire with my friends (although I may or may not have eaten bark with my damper - oops)! Every shred of adventure was a savoury memory I'd love to revisit in the future."  
- Jessica Abbott (Year 6)

# Adventures at Lake Mac camp

CAMPS

Introducing students to Northholm's Outdoor Education program **through fun experiences.**

**A significant aspect of our comprehensive orientation program is our Year 7 Camp which takes place at Lake Macquarie, held in Term 1. Led by the Heads of Houses, this three-day camp includes a range of activities such as sailing, archery, rock climbing, rafting and giant stand up paddle boarding.**

The challenges inherent in these activities and the sharing of these varied experiences enable students to learn about themselves and each other. New friendships are made and teachers gain invaluable insights into individuals and the groups at School. This program gives students a 'head start' in meeting the challenges of the Secondary Years.

Members of Staff and CRU Leaders spoke very highly of our students at this year's camp – their behaviour, level of engagement and support of each other was outstanding. It was a wonderful opportunity for new friendships to be formed and we look forward to students building upon these connections throughout the rest of the year and beyond.



# Building character outdoors on Berowra Waters

CAMPS

**Northholm Grammar, positioned on the fringes of the beautiful Berowra Valley National Park, provides the perfect context to deliver a range of outdoor learning opportunities. The end of Term 4, 2021 sees the culmination of a focussed year of team-building, connection and a whole lot of fun with our annual Year 7 Outdoor Education Experience as part of our PDHPE curriculum, with students spending the day exploring Berowra Waters.**

Launching our kayaks from Berowra Waters Marina, students took the time to develop the skills to control their kayaks, learning basic paddle strokes to turn and stop. Some also had to learn how to get back into the boat after a couple of early capsizes! Learning these skills were hard for many and students showed resilience and grit in facing these challenges head on.

After we regained control of the kayaks, and felt confident to continue on our journey, we headed south to our destination of Crosslands Reserve. Students worked together as they navigated a gentle headwind, communicating effectively to keep their boats steady. As we journeyed on, students collected small pieces of rubbish from the waterways, in line with the message #takethreeforthesea. We saw a plethora of wildlife – eastern yellow robins, jellyfish and honeyeaters as well as a young brush turkey. One student had a closer than expected encounter, narrowly avoiding a jumping fish!

We finished the day working collaboratively in small groups to create a delicious 'bucket lunch' of vegetarian burritos, which was an unfamiliar, but surprisingly enjoyable dish for many.

Thanks to Mrs Stimson and Mrs Plüss for your time in supporting our students and also to the amazing staff from Optimum Experiences for sharing stories from an Indigenous perspective and your kayaking expertise. It was certainly a day we will all remember.

**Shannon Cameron**  
Head of PDHPE



Top to bottom. Giana Khanna. Students taking a brief rest.



# New musical memories at Collaroy camp

## CAMPS

**Music Camp in early March at the Collaroy Centre was the first major event this year for the Creative and Performing Arts department. This camp provided a perfect opportunity to get a head start on new repertoire for the year for the various competitions, concerts and other ceremonial events that our Ensembles, both small and large, will participate in throughout 2022. The Collaroy Centre is a spacious environment in which to rehearse with the myriad small and large combinations of musicians. Despite some inclement weather, the Saturday was a sunny day, showing off the extraordinary views of Collaroy Beach and cliffs.**

A critical benefit of this Camp each year is to assist with the integration of our new students into our program. Apart from the clear musical benefits of bringing everyone together for an intensive three-day workshop, it's also exciting to see friendships and bonds develop that will last over every students' time at Northholm (and beyond). These relationships are a key to sustained success within the Music Department.

The Camp was supported by Northholm's regular Tutors and special guest clinicians, who brought along their professional expertise to work in significant detail with the various Ensembles over the weekend. One of the highlights was both Senior and Primary Years Choirs combining rehearsal time to prepare a special song, *Oceans*, for the Easter Service at the end of Term 1.

Another special moment is the Music Camp tradition of the Senior Leadership Team of Year 11 and 12 students managing and presenting the Games Night on Saturday evening, followed by *Northholm's Got Talent* on Sunday evening. As always, the team was brilliant in rolling out two fun-filled and entertaining experiences to students and staff. This initiates the younger students — school leaders of the future — into the traditions that they will carry on in subsequent years.

The students remain grateful to Northholm staff (both Music and non-Music) for so willingly giving of their time at Camp to engage in an exhilarating weekend of creative musical memories to last a lifetime.

**David Stratton  
Coordinator of Co-Curricular Music**

# Caring for the community

## SERVICE LEARNING

**Service Learning, as part of our philosophy of character development, aligns strongly with the key pillars of a Northholm education, specifically Caring for Self and Others and Contributing to the Community. The overarching goal of the program is to foster students' individual growth and wellbeing, and to promote a sense of belonging and desire to serve their community. Service learning is grounded in experimental education – learning by doing.**

From Monday 29 November to Wednesday 1 December last year, students from Kindergarten to Year 10 were involved in a range of experiences which exposed them to different perspectives that challenged their thoughts and views on the world.

### The Primary Years

Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 were involved in a Heal the World initiative.

One focus was on understanding the 'path of homelessness' and the resources available to those in need. A St Vincent de Paul Educational Liaison Officer addressed students, who then created Cards of Hope which were distributed from the Vinnies Night Patrol. Students also provided meals for distribution to the Redfern/ Woolloomooloo outlet from the AOK Community Outreach, which works directly with communities, to provide personal care and food to communities in need.

Students also examined the work that frontline carers do and how they respond to emergencies and disasters. They wrote letters in appreciation of the work of Doctors Without Borders, which were distributed to doctors

across the world.

Finally, the Taronga Zoomobile visited Northholm to teach students the importance of caring for animals and their environment.

### The Secondary Years

Years 7 to 10 shared in service learnings within their House groups.

Capell and Patteson students visited Fagan Park, where they participated in a series of workshops and practical experiences of planting in Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest, a rare native vegetation community. Students were also involved in bush regeneration projects at School.

Lincoln students rotated through three different activities. In the Youth Issues and Wellbeing Forum, they utilised the resources available from Kids Helpline, exploring ways they could help others in the community. Secondly, students participated in the construction of possum boxes which were delivered throughout the local community. For their third activity, Lincoln students were also involved in bush regeneration projects around the School.

Rowland students supported RizeUp Australia and the Hornsby Kuring-Gai Women's Shelter. Through a range of presentations from guest speakers, workshops and creating artwork and donation packages for their identified charities, their emphasis was on educating and upskilling students about respectful relationships, promoting decision-making in public life and understanding the impact of domestic and family violence within our community.

Students also attended a workshop by Consent Labs, which provided them with practical tools to boost

their confidence, as well as their understanding of healthy relationships and how to navigate consent respectfully. They worked in groups to create mini-Podcast episodes about their Service Learning projects, focusing on support networks, their charities and how to model respectful relationships.

**Jenny Plüss  
Head of Operations**



**Top to bottom.**  
Capell students engaging in bush regeneration at school.  
Ryan Baxter and Declan Gunther planting in Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest at Fagan Park.

# Connecting students beyond school

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education has never been more important. Growing youth populations, coupled with rising youth unemployment in many countries, is putting greater emphasis on job creation and enterprising behaviour within job roles.**

Through entrepreneurship activities, students can gain key entrepreneurial skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, risk-taking and teamwork.

Northholm Grammar believes that it is important to equip our students with the skills and mindset they need to navigate a world of work that we cannot

yet envisage. As part of Northholm's Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Program, our Year 10 students complete three key modules:

**1. Ready for Work** which involves attending sessions to develop skills needed when applying for a job including preparing a CV, writing a cover letter and practicing interview skills.

**2. Financial Literacy** is where students learn about the financial obligations associated with earning an income, including income taxation and superannuation.

**3. Foundation of Thinking** is presented with the renowned world expert neuroscientist and educator, Dr Jared Cooney Horvath. This module aims to teach students the

fundamentals of metacognition and neuroscience to help increase their understanding of the foundations of thinking, learning, memory and metacognition. Empowering them to explore their own thinking and learning processes allows students to grow into life-learners and cultivates a metacognitive culture both in the classroom and in the school as a whole.

The Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Program at Northholm provides an exciting opportunity to introduce students to a myriad of important life skills, the world of work and enterprise skills. Students meet with and learn from presenters who are leaders in business and in the community. The program aims to build an understanding of what it means to be entrepreneurial and to develop the knowledge and skills needed to think and work critically and creatively. The experience helps students better understanding themselves and prepare for the future.



Dr Cooney Horvath (centre) with Northholm Year 10 students.

*Empowering them to explore their own thinking ... allows students to grow into life-learners*

# Students celebrating each other

## WELLBEING

At Northholm, we educate the whole child, **both academically and pastorally.**

**Through our extensive Co-Curricular program, and a variety of other activities, Northholm helps students to make friends, build confidence and self-esteem — all necessary virtues that help develop the whole child and prepare them for their years ahead.**

The Primary Years theme for 2022 has developed the pillars of Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness, taken from our character development program, The Resilience Project. We added Successful to these pillars, to instil in students the belief that they can all

be successful. At the end of term, the Primary Years staff hosted a special morning tea for our GEMS of the term. This celebrated those students who continually demonstrated class and School values, giving their best in everything they do and showing respect towards others.

Another key event this term that developed a strong sense of belonging and focused on wellbeing was the movie afternoon where students from Kindergarten to Year 6 watched *Encanto*. The delicious afternoon tea was especially popular!



Top to bottom. Tiana Roberts and Jade Mann decorating an Easter hat. Celebrating our Primary Years GEMS.

As part of our vertical House system, School events where Primary Years work with their Secondary Years peers build a strong community and relationships. Recent events include the Swimming Carnival, Inter-House Dodgeball and the Inter-House Trivia afternoon.

This year we introduced a Kindy/Year 6 buddy system where one or two Year 6 students mentor their younger buddies. They helped settle them into school, read to them, assisted them to make an Easter hat and completed work for a shared book. Some of our Year 4 and 5 students took on a monitor role to develop their leadership skills, assisting the teachers to ensure the Primary Years department runs smoothly.

These wellbeing initiatives help build positive relationships and develop an inclusive environment between our students, staff and parents. Being resilient and positive, with a sense of wellbeing, enables our students to approach other people and situations with confidence and optimism. This mindset is especially important for our students given the enormous changes and challenges they face throughout childhood and adolescence.

**Mary Falvey**  
Primary Years Wellbeing Coordinator

# Subjects in the spotlight

Martin Plüss

Geography Teacher

## Being Geographers

**My roles at Northholm Grammar are to enable learned Geography students and guide them to become geographers. I was drawn to geography as I think I always had a reasonable spatial awareness of the human and natural environment. My honours thesis was on the Historical Geography of Strathfield and my Master's in Education had a geographical angle, focusing on non-formal education in Asia and the Pacific.**

I have been teaching since 1984, across four independent schools, and served on the committees of the Geography Teachers Association, Geographical Society of NSW, Australian College of Educators, NSWAIS and NESA. I was introduced to Northholm through my marriage to Mrs Plüss (nee Emery) who was a foundation teacher at the School. When she returned to the School in 1991, I was also appointed as a Geography Teacher. I taught at Northholm until 1999 and returned again in 2021.

I have always enjoyed observing in students the 'lightbulb moment' when they see the relevance of geography and how it can make a difference in the world. Northholm's philosophy of academic intentionality encourages students to use deeper knowledge as evidence to analyse broader geographical issues, which I believe enhances learning.

I would like to see a world where more Northholm students become geographers, implementing the knowledge gained in their personal, family and professional lives. There are so many employment opportunities

for students who are 'geographers' as, in my experience, geographers know how to balance perspectives and work sustainably within the natural and human environment.

Outside of teaching at Northholm, I enjoy being an ultrarunner and have the goal to run around and observe Sydney. To date, I've run Gosford to the

Opera House, Pennant Hills to Penrith, Pennant Hills to Richmond, Pennant Hills to Manly, Manly to Watsons Bay and Liverpool to Pennant Hills via Strathfield and Chatswood. Anyone willing to join me?



Rebecca Birch

Head of Humanities and English Teacher

## Immersed in English

**I am the Head of Humanities at Northholm Grammar and a passionate teacher of English. Not only have I been teaching for around eight years, as a life-long learner I am also currently studying for my Master of Educational Leadership at the University of New South Wales.**

Before retraining to be a teacher, I had a fruitful career in the advertising and fashion industry. I made the move to teaching after the realisation that I wasn't saving any lives. Now, I don't think the subject of English technically saves any lives either, but literacy makes a huge impact on life outcomes.

I was drawn to Northholm by its incredible improvement trajectory, and I was spurred by curiosity to answer the question: what was the secret to its marked academic success? As it happened, my teaching philosophy was perfectly aligned with the leadership and vision of the School. My views on teaching and learning are deceptively simple and because of this, easily overlooked: they can be summed up as 'I do, we do, you do.' With direct instruction and deliberate practice, along with a clear path to mastery and independence, students can become confident learners.

I don't expect every student to be a lover of literature in the same way that I am, but I strive to help them to see its importance in the world. There is no greater tool for fostering empathy than quality fiction. My real hope is that future generations can continue to rise above what is 'easy' in the world of entertainment and continue to engage in longform fiction. Of course, there are

always amusement temptations that are most instantly gratifying but they don't have the immersive potential of the novel form. Personally, the novel I have most enjoyed lately was the Man Booker Prize nominated *Klara and the Sun* by previous Booker winner and Nobel Prize in Literature awardee Kazuo Ishiguro.

*...literacy makes a huge impact on life outcomes.*



# 2022 Welcome Drinks

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community connection is an important and differentiating aspect of Northholm Grammar. Northholm is proud of its engaged, inclusive and interconnected community. This is reflected in the ongoing involvement and participation of parents, carers and staff who attended our Welcome Drinks evening on Saturday 12 March. It was a fabulous event and an absolute pleasure to have the opportunity to catch up and connect with so many of our Northholm families and formally welcome the new families to our community.

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who assisted in the set up and pack up - particularly Mel Greensill for creating such a wonderful atmosphere with her creative flair and event management skills. Thank you to the Northholm Association for their hard work and to our Council members for their ongoing support. Without their commitment such an event would not be possible.

**Gabriela Moore**  
Head of Enrolments and Marketing



# Parents supporting the School

## NORTHOLM ASSOCIATION

The Northholm Association has a proud history of working alongside the School in promoting an inclusive culture throughout the families within our community. Sometimes referred to as the P&C, the Northholm Association has a focus on building our community and encouraging closer networks between families and friendships that grow within the School. We also encourage open communications between our families and the School, as well as finding ways to contribute back to Northholm through fundraising or volunteer time.

2022 is a big year for Northholm Grammar and the Northholm Association with many activities planned and underway. Some of the things that may be familiar to families include the Mother's Day and Father's Day Breakfast events or the 'Bee Involved' working bee that has been postponed to Spring (due to weather), as well as the chocolate drive fundraising initiative.

In addition to this, the Association also provides services for personalised Pavers that are purchased and laid to commemorate families and the Second-Hand Uniform Shop that is an alternative to buying new uniforms (and an easy way for you to sell your unwanted uniforms while helping the School at the same time).

The Association also coordinates a network of class parents who help facilitate messages and chats amongst families. Yes, we mean the Facebook page or WhatsApp group that reminds you not to forget which uniform to wear tomorrow; another example of how the Northholm Association provides support within the community.

One of our highlights this year was the Annual 'Welcome to Northholm' evening that was co-hosted by the Northholm Association and the School Board. This was a fantastic night where we came together over some great food and drinks to welcome the new year and new friendships.

All families are members of the Association and we welcome everyone to join our General Meetings held the 3rd Wednesday of the Month during School terms.

| Date   | Event   | Details                   |
|--------|---|---------------------------|
| 18 May | May General Meeting                                 | 7.30pm Dural Country Club |
| 16 Jun | June General Meeting                                | 7.30pm Zoom               |
| 17 Aug | August General Meeting                              | 7.30pm Dural Country Club |
| 14 Sep | September General Meeting                           | 7.30pm Zoom               |
| 19 Oct | October General Meeting                             | 7.30pm Dural Country Club |
| 16 Nov | Annual General Meeting and November General Meeting | 6.30pm Dural Country Club |

You can also reach out to the Executive Team for any questions or queries on how you can be involved by emailing [ngspandc@northholm.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ngspandc@northholm.nsw.edu.au)

- Anthony Wood - President
- Frances Gray - Vice President
- Alan Martin - Treasurer
- Bianca Meredith - Secretary

For me personally, I love being part of the School and the Association and hope to see more of you at our next General Meeting.

**Anthony Wood**  
President of Northholm Association

# Vale Margaret Duckworth

Margaret Duckworth spent all her working life in the educational scene, both in Australia and overseas. After graduating from the Australian College of Physical Education, Margaret spent 17 years teaching Physical Education and Sport at various schools before returning to university to further her studies in Education.

Following her retirement as the Principal of Arden Anglican School in 1992, Margaret was appointed to the School Council of Northholm Grammar School, a role which she held until 2009. In addition to her role on the School Council, she chaired the Education Committee; her skills, knowledge and experience in schools being invaluable.

During her retirement, Margaret was also actively involved with various voluntary organisations, including the Girl Guides Association and the Sydney Emmaus Community. A woman of faith, Margaret was an integral member of St Jude's Anglican Church in Dural. Her motto, when things did not quite go as planned, was that all things work together for good for those who love God.

After serving the Northholm community with dedication and enthusiasm for 17 years, Margaret spent her free time after this pursuing her love of travelling, gardening and the theatre.

**Jenny Plüss**  
Head of Operations



Clockwise from Top Left.  
Margaret Duckworth.  
Margaret Duckworth at Speech Night.  
Margaret Duckworth with Ken Coad (past Chair of School Council).



# Graduate forges promising musical theatre career

Mitchell Old was a student at Northholm Grammar from 2010 to 2019, holding the position of **School Captain in his final year.**

**During his time at Northholm Grammar, Mitchell was an exceptional student who achieved numerous awards including the Caltex Medal for All Round Excellence, the Matt Kean Award, the Steve Wells Award, the Campbell Award and the John Lincoln Youth Award.**

Not only did Mitchell achieve excellent academic results, but he also made an extraordinary contribution to the community. As part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Mitchell volunteered at the Dural Salvation Army Store. He played in various school bands as well as community bands, marching annually in the Sydney ANZAC Day March and participating at the Castle Hill RSL ANZAC Day Memorial Service and the Hills District Orange Blossom Festival. At School, Mitchell coordinated various large-scale School events including two Colour Runs, a Trivia Night and a Jazz Café evening.

In other community events, Mitchell participated as a member of the School's team in the Hills Shire Relay For Life and took Northholm's musical groups into the local community at Mark Donaldson VC House at Rowland Village. He was a regular volunteer at School-based events, coordinating lunchtime activities, assisting at musical evenings and leading discos for younger year groups.

During his time at Northholm, Mitchell also worked on the School productions in a range of roles, such as the title character in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and Orlando in *As You Like It*. He secured a work placement in the

Australian touring productions of *Kinky Boots* and *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*. From these experiences, Mitchell discovered that it is the directing and producing aspects of theatre which he finds the most interesting and rewarding.

After graduating from Northholm in 2019, Mitchell enrolled in a Bachelor of Music Education at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, while also looking for an assistant musical director position. When the COVID-19 pandemic brought the arts and entertainment industry to a stop in 2020, Mitchell decided that he would have to make his own opportunities and so he started his own entertainment company, The

Mitchell Old Company (TMOC).

Jason Robert Brown's *The Last Five Years* was the debut production for The Mitchell Old Company. The intimate musical, with a cast of two actors and a small orchestra, played in February 2021 at the Pioneer Theatre, in Castle Hill. With the support of a cohort of equally talented and committed young people, TMOC set about providing opportunities for emerging creatives to "express themselves and develop their craft". This production was the first step in achieving that goal.

The Mitchell Old Company's second production was *HEATHERS: The Musical*, a high energy and immersive theatre experience. Running for a

month at the ARA Darling Quarter Theatre early this year, *HEATHERS* played to sell-out crowds.

Mitchell's fundamental goal of delivering excellence and innovation is well underway. He aims to produce increasingly larger musicals in different spaces and in different ways, and to engage and enrich local communities with musical theatre, believing that the accessibility and diversity of the artform allows everyone within the community to be engaged, whether as an audience member or as part of the production.



Anti-clockwise from top  
Left to right, Mitchell's parents Greg and Yasmin Old, Mitchell Old and Mitchell's grandmother at *HEATHERS: The Musical*.  
Head of Operations Jenny Plüss and Mitchell Old at *HEATHERS: The Musical*.  
The cast and crew of *HEATHERS: The Musical*.



# International Women's Day

COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Tuesday 8 March was International Women's Day

**This is an important day on the global calendar where we collectively focus on what it is to be a woman in the world, in the workplace and in greater society. It is a day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women around the world. It also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. International Women's Day has been celebrated annually since 1911 and is now actively supported by over 1 million people worldwide.**

On this day, we challenge the status quo and the thinking around gender equality, promoting open and honest discussion about where we place the value of women and the actions we take to support all women in all pursuits. But this is not just a day for women to support and promote each

other. It is a day for all society, both men and women, to take a good, hard look at what we accept as 'the norm' and challenge many of the archaic constructs that still exist around equality and equity in our homes, our workplaces, our schools and society in general.

On Wednesday 9 March, Northholm Grammar celebrated International Women's Day with a breakfast presentation and panel session. Our Keynote Speaker was Mrs Lorraine Farah who is an accredited executive organisational coach, culture transformation consultant and leadership development facilitator. She has enabled, facilitated and coached leaders and executives across the world throughout her career, whilst simultaneously leading large global teams in Retail, Banking and IT

Industries. We were extremely fortunate to have had such an inspiring female leader take the time to address our School community.

It was also inspiring to witness that the breakfast was attended by young women and men of Northholm collectively, from Years 5 to 12. Mrs Farah gave a riveting account of her journey through leadership and the important roles that both women and men play in supporting the voice and trajectory of women in leadership.

We look forward to continuing this tradition of celebrating International Women's Day at Northholm Grammar for many years to come.

**Andrea van den Bol  
Deputy Principal**



Right to Left. Mrs Lorraine Farah presenting at Northholm. Deputy Principal van den Bol and Mrs Lorraine Farah with Northholm students at the International Women's Day breakfast.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

# Northholm has always enjoyed a sense of community

**In 1989 we launched our first ever edition of *The Arcadian* with that opening sentence and those words are just as true now in our 50th issue as they were then.**

Northholm Grammar was only six years old when the publication launched, younger than almost all our students. Yet, in a few short years, a sense of family and unity was already strong amongst our community.

*The Arcadian* was designed to be a space to inform families of events and activities, engage everyone on our plans for the future and, most importantly, celebrate the achievements of Northholm students past and present.

A lot may have changed at Northholm since our Foundation 39 years ago, and in the last 49 editions of *The Arcadian*, but we have never wavered in our founding philosophy of being "a family-centred School which looks upon its students, parents and staff as part of a community striving for a common goal".

We thank all our contributors, writers, photographers, editors and printers over the last 50 issues for being a part of bringing Northholm stories to life. We look forward to sharing more outstanding achievements and exceptional opportunities offered by the School in the next 50 too.

Finally, we want to reiterate that Northholm families are part of our community for life and remind past students and staff "that you still belong to a community". We hope to see or hear from you all soon.



## The Arcadian

SEPTEMBER 1989

Issue No.1

### THE ARCADIAN

Northholm has always enjoyed a sense of community. Foundation parents well remember the co-operative effort needed to get the School into shape physically in time for classes to start in 1983. There were paths to lay, fences to build, renovations to the White Cottage. That sense of community has been an important feature in the School's short history. With the passage of time, students have moved on and, often, their families with them. The bond that characterised the early years is still present in the School, but we need to maintain it with our wider 'family'. There is now a whole generation of students who spent their entire secondary schooling at NGS, and, this year, the last foundation students will be leaving.

*The Arcadian* is designed to help us all keep in touch. The Weekly Record is very much a 'nuts and bolts' affair with immediate relevance to those currently at the School.

*The Arcadian* will be a regular newsletter to answer questions often asked — what is going on at Northholm? What are the plans for the future? What is the Association up to? Have there been significant achievements in academic and co-curricular areas? Is there news of former students? (Dare we call them 'Arcadians'?)

In this first issue, we hope some of these questions will be answered. *The Arcadian* will go to all members of the School family, past and present. Please send us your comments and your news so that we may keep in contact, and remember that you still belong to a community that has made exciting progress in such a short time.

### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

A new school takes time to build a reputation for academic success. All Northholm students are encouraged to work towards their potential and the School's record to date has shown that a caring school can be an academically successful school too.

A pattern has been established at the School Certificate in which the results over the last three years have been well above the average, with around twenty percent of Northholm students being awarded grades in the top ten percent state-wide.

A good number of Northholm students have proceeded to tertiary institutions, and some earlier alumni have completed degrees or diplomas, or are about to.

Northholm's first group to have had all its secondary schooling in Arcadia sat for the Higher School Certificate last year. The results were exciting, with five students achieving an aggregate of 420 or above. Todd Cash, Dux of 1988 achieved his ambition to gain entry to Medicine at Sydney University, and Karen Furini was selected for the actuarial studies course at Macquarie University with a scholarship as well!

Of course, not all successes make headlines, and some of the most pleasing results were gained by those in the middle range. An indication of the high success-rate is that seventy percent of all applicants were offered tertiary places. This is especially satisfying in the light of increased demand for university and college placement.

Northholm is a non-selective school, and there is good reason to find comfort in consistent achievement in public examinations.



Proposed Art Block



# Northholm Grammar

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