

# The Arcadian

THE MAGAZINE OF **NORTHHOLM GRAMMAR**  
EDITION 51 | SPRING 2022



**Northholm**  
Grammar

*Challenging minds.  
Creating futures.*

# The Arcadian

Edition 51 | Spring 2022

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# From the Principal

**Welcome to the second edition of The Arcadian for 2022. The pages of this spring edition showcase the efforts and achievements of our students as they experience rich and diverse learning opportunities provided by our dynamic staff.**

What a joy it is to be writing to you about the Northholm Grammar journey based on 'growth, excellence and renewal'. Every day I spend here, I marvel further at the warmth and talent of Northholm's vibrant students, staff and community; the depth of learning and exploration that occurs here and the breadth of co-curricular opportunities offered to our young men and women. I am proud that we are committed to delivering a holistic and balanced curriculum that is about the development of the whole student and engages with the academic, cultural, spiritual and practical domains of learning. I am inspired by the active pursuit and expression of Northholm Grammar's 'Our School' values: Learning through Scholarship, Caring for Others and Self, Living a Faithful Life and Contributing to the Community both within and beyond the classroom.

The current crisis in Ukraine has highlighted to us all that a defining virtue in the achievement of success is courage. From the very beginning, the Ukrainians were fighting for their homeland and fought passionately, brilliantly and almost impossibly bravely. The Russian troops, once they suffered setbacks, had no real idea why they were there at all. The first critical moment was Ukraine's decision to fight. You could make half an

ethical case that if the Ukrainians had gone along with Russian domination, they would still have retained a degree of local autonomy and mostly avoided bloodshed.

But the Ukrainians decided to fight for their country. This was not a decision imposed on them by an unpopular or tyrannical government. To commit to war, when the world says you have little chance of success, requires quite extraordinary courage.

The Americans offered to take Zelensky to a safe location outside of Ukraine so he could form a government from exile. Not a chance, Zelensky said. "I need ammunition not a ride." Zelensky has become Ukraine's Winston Churchill.

A profound challenge for schools is providing young men and women with the necessary skills to withstand the many negative influences our modern society holds as being worthwhile. In order to do that, we need to be courageous, as demonstrated by Zelensky and Ukraine. Courage is, in many respects, the most important of all the character virtues because without courage, you can't practise any other virtue consistently. Every day, when making difficult decisions and solving complex problems we can choose to be courageous.

Shortly after the Cuban missile crisis marking the climax of an acutely antagonistic period in U.S.-Soviet relations, US President John F Kennedy said:

*"The stories of past courage ... can teach, they can offer hope, then can provide inspiration. But they cannot supply courage itself. For this each man must look into his own soul."*

Courage enables you to maximize the potential in yourself and others: life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage.

Courage propels you to reinvent yourself as often as needed. It's the power to leave the familiar and move to the uncomfortable so that you can learn and grow. Robert Ingersoll defines this as, *"the greatest test of courage is to bear defeat without losing heart."*

Courage sustains you to hold on long enough to win. Courage is holding on a minute longer. Anne Landers says:

*"Expect trouble as an inevitable part of life, and when it comes, hold your head high, look it squarely in the eye and say, 'I will be bigger than you. You cannot defeat me.'"*

As a school, we celebrate our achievements and we recognise the importance of fostering a community where each student might continue to flourish and thrive, contributing all they have for the benefit of their fellow men and women. This allows them to go out in confidence to explore opportunities and challenges, and achieve competence and a sense of personal satisfaction and fulfillment knowing that by sharing their gifts and capabilities, they have truly made a difference and made their mark on the world.

Be Strong... *Be Traist...*  
Be Courageous

**Christopher Bradbury**  
Principal





*“Courage is, in many respects, the most important of all the character virtues because without courage, you can’t practise any other virtue consistently.”*

# Wellbeing program building real connections

**The world can be a complex place for any growing and developing young person, however, due to the nature of the past few years, this complexity has taken on a whole new meaning for our students. Not only have they been required to traverse the usual challenges of physical growth and maturity that young people normally experience, but this has been compounded by the added stresses and unknowns brought about by an extended pandemic.**

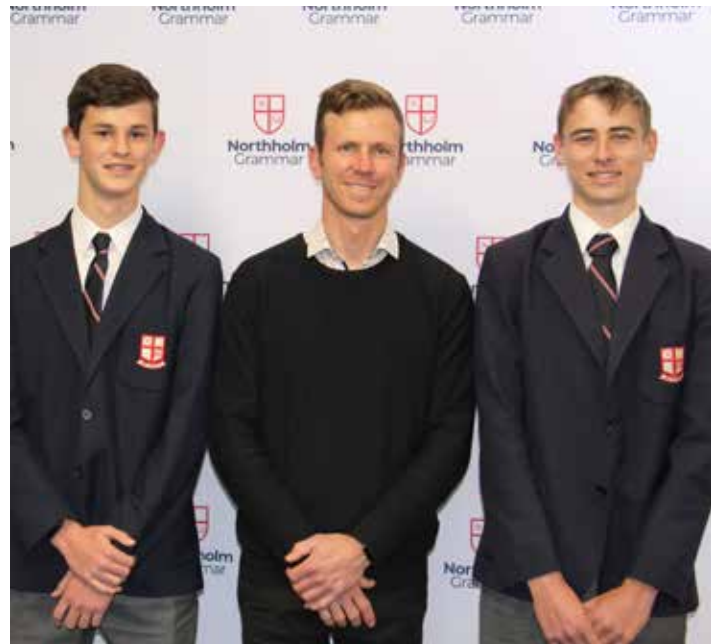
The past two years have thrown in the additional complications of trying to form healthy relationships in a disjunct world, understanding an appropriate online presence and navigating a new paradigm of learning. These are difficult elements to master for young people who are also in the years of self-discovery. In a world where teens seem to be more connected than ever before, so many are struggling with real and meaningful connections. Young people are starting to experiment much earlier with greater online interactions, some of which can be quite concerning, which we saw exacerbated by lockdown.

As such, it has never been more important for us as educators, hand in hand with parents and families, to focus on and educate students in regard to their digital and personal citizenship, on forming healthy 'live' and online relationships and in understanding their own growth and development. Our intention to support our students and families through these challenges was explicit in the engagement of experienced and engaging presenters David and Katie Kobler and Dr Kristy Goodwin to work with our Primary Years and Secondary Years students.

David and Katie Kobler worked with our Year 9 and 10 students in two sessions: *Connections that Count* and *Respectful Relationships*. These programs provided students with insight into how their online choices can affect their friendships as well as future relationships. Additionally, students were assisted in finding genuine, helpful and satisfactory answers to the growing problem: How do I find, build and navigate healthy, happy and safe relationships? Following these insightful and engaging gender specific masterclasses, conversations were ongoing through our Pastoral Program in Tutor Groups and through key subject areas such as PDHPE.



Left to right. Olivia Knight, Katie Kobler and Chloe Fader.



Left to right. Taine Cassar, David Kobler and Harrison Blake.

# ns ctions

We were also fortunate to engage Dr Kristy Goodwin who worked with the Primary Years and Secondary Years students in age targeted presentations. Our Primary Years students learned about the impact and effects of students' being constantly tethered to technology on their mental and physical wellbeing. Dr Goodwin provided students with realistic strategies to help them manage their time and focus when online. In another session, Dr Goodwin presented Secondary Years students with research-based, realistic strategies to manage their attention in the digital world. Students learned about what happens to their brains when they multi-task and received practical strategies to boost focus and minimise digital distractions to improve student learning and mental health.

It has been pleasing to see the rapid growth and development of our students as they returned to full time 'on campus' learning in 2022 and their capacity to quickly recalibrate to the learning environment at Northholm. I have been encouraged by their interactions with staff and peers and their acknowledgement of the challenges they face in today's world.

**Andrea van den Bol**  
Deputy Principal

*"In a world where teens seem to be more connected than ever before, so many are struggling with real and meaningful connections."*



Left to right. William Caffyn, Ashleigh Mansell, Dr Kristy Goodwin, Grace Ward and Phoenix Rupert.



Left to right. Kyle Tesoriero, Emma Reiss, Dr Kristy Goodwin, Charlie Johnson and Anisha Anandh.



# Class of 2022

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

**The Valedictory Service is a celebration of the Class of 2022 and a reinforcement of the value of a quality education. Schooling has the potential to open students up to new horizons.**

They challenge, they liberate, they teach. It is our hope that Year 12 will look back on their years as a student of Northholm Grammar as happy and fulfilling. As they reflect, they will know that they have much to celebrate, much to be thankful for and much to look forward to as well.

Before us sit the leaders of tomorrow. By the nature and privilege of attending a school such as ours, these young men and women will be tomorrow's employers, entrepreneurs, members of parliament, accountants and solicitors. Men and women who will shape economic and social change in leadership. With the privilege of their

education comes great responsibility, a responsibility that they will always guard the good name of the School and try to ensure that by their actions, deeds and words, Northholm Grammar will always be a better place - through the education it gave them and through the ongoing connections they will have with it.

Worthy of note has been the Class of 2022's commitment to others. Schools have a charter to produce men and women who seek beyond themselves and strive to make a difference in others' lives as well as their own. These graduates are such men and women, by and large, and that too is to be celebrated.

We are reminded of just how fortunate they are as a group of young men and women growing up in Australia. They are fortunate because they have the enduring support of parents and families; they sit here

surrounded by great mates – mates whose friendships they will continue to enjoy and cherish as they move into the next phase of their lives. They are fortunate because they are valued and affirmed by our School and its community; they have the potential to be anything they want to be – and the world lies at their feet, waiting for their young feet to stride upon it graciously, joyously and confidently, as your parents and your School have taught you and prepared you to do.

Congratulations Year 12 on an extraordinary year and wishing you every success in your HSC Examinations!

**Christopher Bradbury**  
Principal







*"...they have the potential to be anything they want to be – and the world lies at their feet..."*



# Looking back and looking forward

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

### Reflecting on 2022

**The 2022 Senior Leadership Team's campaign focused on Pride, Purpose and Legacy (PPL), with a specific focus on developing a greater sense of belonging and bringing people together within the Northholm Community.**

Having discussed our 2022 aspirations and goals for Northholm, we selected Pride as an element in our vision in order to encourage the Secondary Years to be proud of themselves and passionate about what they do and what they stand for. By creating a strong sense of self-worth, feeling content and grateful, our goal was that these students develop a passion for motivating and inspiring others to do the same.

Purpose was the next element in our campaign, chosen to prompt the Secondary Years to reflect on their priorities, and in turn, dedicate themselves to a greater cause. Drawing focus on your sense of purpose fuels a sense of motivation in life, whilst also providing you with the resilience required amidst hardships, which gives life meaning and direction toward making a significant contribution in the world.

The Prefect Body challenged the Secondary Years to also reflect on their Legacy and how their gifts and abilities can make a difference in the lives of others. More specifically, to learn from the past, live in the present and build for the future.

In Term 1, due to COVID-19 restrictions, our Assemblies were

delivered online and we were very thankful when we could return to face-to-face gatherings in Term 2.

In addition to the coordination of each Prefect's portfolio, the Team's contribution included the organisation of charity fundraisers, including Roses for Valentine's Day and A Taste of Harmony for Harmony Day, and support of whole school events such as Trivia Night, the Masquerade Ball, Music Showcase, the Senior Drama Production, the CAPA Evening and sports finals, as well as daily assistance

at the Canteen. The introduction of Prefect lunchtime duties throughout the week provided an opportunity for the Leadership Team to build connections with the Secondary Years within the school environment.

We congratulate the incoming Student Leaders and wish these students all the best as they take on their roles from the start of Term 4.

**Amber Garth and Oscar Henderson  
2022 School Captains**



Left to right. Jack Dawson, Calum Fraser, Principal Christopher Bradbury, Holly Lawton and Sienna Arena-Milne.





Back Row. Jack Street, Ryan Baxter, Calum Fraser, Lauren Clemmit, Mitchell Tesoriero, Taine Cassar, Kai Strickland and Ryan Freame.  
Front Row. Sienna Arena-Milne, Jack Dawson, Holly Lawton, Abigail Kafkis, Sophie Hamilton-James, Mia Lawton, Chloe Fader and Sienna Borg.

## Looking forward to 2023

During Term 3 each year, Year 10 and 11 Northholm Grammar students have the opportunity to apply for the leadership roles of School Captains, School Prefects and House Captains. Congratulations to the students who have been appointed to Senior Student Leadership positions.

Over the course of the next 12 months, these Student Leaders will meet regularly, work collaboratively and develop a greater understanding of the key elements of strong leadership.

We look forward to the impact the new Student Leadership Team will have on developing character and building community connections in 2023 and thank the 2022 Student Leadership Team for their contribution to Northholm Grammar.

**Jenny Plüss**  
Head of Operations

### School Leaders 2023

*School Captains:*  
Holly Lawton and Calum Fraser

*Senior Prefect (Community):*  
Sienna Arena-Milne

*Senior Prefect (Character):*  
Jack Dawson

*School Prefects:*  
Ryan Baxter  
Ryan Freame  
Abigail Kafkis  
Jack Street

*Capell House Captains:*  
Lauren Clemmit and  
Sophie Hamilton-James

*Lincoln House Captains:*  
Chloe Fader and Mia Lawton

*Patteson House Captains:*  
Taine Cassar and Kai Strickland

*Rowland House Captains:*  
Sienna Borg and Mitchell Tesoriero



# What is technology costing you?

## PRIMARY YEARS

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed Dr Kristy Goodwin, an expert on digital wellbeing and productivity, to Northholm Grammar in August to address Years 3 to 6.

Dr Goodwin presented us with the scientific reasons behind why our brains are wired to continually seek more time on screens and the effects this time can have on our young students.

Dr Goodwin provided three key principles as to why using devices or online platforms are so enticing:

### Reason One: The Need to Belong

Interacting through social media fulfils the basic human need to feel belonging. Students who engage in online activities feel in control by making decisions about how they interact and with whom. This is in stark contrast to their daily lives where parents and teachers heavily influence their decision making.

### Reason Two: Executive Brain Function

Students heard how their pre-frontal cortex (frontal lobe) can be inhibited by their amygdala. Located in the middle of their brain, the amygdala controls how emotions are processed and the more tired a child is, the more they are affected by their emotions.

This can then impede their ability to make informed and rational decisions. Additionally, this ability can also be affected when dopamine (also referred to as the 'happy hormone') is released, overpowering the pre-frontal cortex. For that reason, there are usually more instances of social conflict online in the evening, when students are tired.



### Reason Three: Persuasive By Design

Online gaming specifically aims to keep consumers engaged by offering rewards such as additional levels or extra features. They are designed to 'hook' their audience into continuous play, making it more challenging for users to switch off.

For Northholm students, the presentation asked them to consider one overarching question – What is technology costing you? By understanding the science of why we seek screen time, we can be more conscious to the fact that every hour spent on a screen, is an hour spent not doing other things.

Some of the other key messages that we learnt from Dr Goodwin included:

- Students between 5-12 years old need between 9 and 11 hours of sleep every day.
- Devices need to be turned off at least 60 minutes before sleep. Blue light omitted from devices affects how students sleep. Importantly, the smaller the device, the greater concentration of blue light.
- 'Green time' should consist of at least 90 minutes outside in sunlight and 1 hour of movement every day.
- In place of a phone or device to set an alarm, it was recommended to use an 'old school' alarm clock to avoid the temptation to look at your device.
- We should balance media choices by adopting the 20-20-20 rule: for every 20 minutes of screentime, take a 20 second break and look at something 20 feet away.
- Headphones should be set at no more than 60% volume capacity for no longer than 60 minutes each day.
- To improve posture, lay on your stomach to raise your head and neck.



The presentations by Dr Goodwin were insightful for both students and teachers. Understanding the science behind why we seek to be on devices more so than other activities encouraged our Primary Years students to be more aware of their time spent on screen, helping them develop a healthy relationship with technology.

Families are encouraged to read more at Dr Goodwin's blog at [drkristygoodwin.com/blog-parents](http://drkristygoodwin.com/blog-parents)

**Mrs Erin Werner**  
Primary Years Curriculum  
Coordinator

*"...every hour spent on a screen, is an hour spent not doing other things."*



Winners of the Primary Years Book Parade.



Winners of the Primary Years Colouring Competition.

# Book Week

**Book Week in August is always an exciting occasion on the Northholm calendar. With this year's theme of Dreaming with Eyes Open, this annual celebration of stories, authors and illustrators brought our Primary Years community together as they engaged in shared experiences.**

We enjoyed the usual parade of costumes and characters, were visited

by renowned children's authors Kate and Jol Temple, went to the Scholastic Book Fair, watched a puppetry presentation from Camp Quality and finished the week with a movie and afternoon tea.

We congratulate our students (and parents) for their imagination and creativity in the range of costumes we saw.

# Showcase performance experience

## CAPA

**Providing opportunities for our young musicians to experience performing in a professional environment, for family and friends, is an essential part of the Northholm Music Program.**

One of the highlights of this year's Music calendar was the 16th Annual Music Showcase, held in June at the Hornsby RSL Club. Encompassing performances featuring over 120 students from Years 3 to 12, this highly successful event is the culmination of the year's learning, practice and rehearsals.

The process of working as part of a musical group helps our students develop strong team building skills and learn the importance of the role each member plays within that team. In addition, the challenge of performing in public, for the first time for some students, helps our performers build courage and self-control.

The Music Department presented a wide range of musical styles from our large Ensembles including

Senior and Primary Years Choirs, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Training Band, and Combined Years 5 and 6 Band and Strings. Our many and varied small groups including Guitar, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone and String Ensembles also performed.

There were special performances presented by Year 12 HSC Music 1 and 2 students — Shreya Narain, Sophie Oates, Wade Coltman, Elouis Wright and Amber Garth — who each showcased a featured piece from their repertoire that they have been preparing for their HSC performance exam.

It was wonderful to experience the show in the Showroom at Hornsby RSL Club, which was packed with family and friends enjoying this celebration of the students' achievements.

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





# Night of Excellence 2022

## CAPA

**The Night of Excellence, held in August, is an important rite of passage in the final year of schooling for those undertaking a Major Work project. It is an outstanding reflection of the pursuit for academic and cultural excellence, impressively capturing the hard work, grit and perseverance in the process of creating a fine piece of work.**

Highlighting the commitment and enthusiasm demonstrated by our students, The Night of Excellence event welcomes a wide audience. The showcase allows the Northholm community to be proud of the wonderful relationships that exist within the learning process and to celebrate the strong partnership that exists between students and teachers.

The journey taken to complete a Major Work demands a student develops a sustained and reflective practice, through dedication to the ideation and resolution process. Our Major Work students engage in the process in a subject of their choice across Design and Technology, Drama, English Extension, Music 1 and 2, Society and Culture and Visual Arts.

The Design and Technology students inspire the audience with a variety of innovative products and systems aimed at meeting the needs of the individual, society and the environment. Their Design Folios communicated the design process thoroughly and some of this year's highlights included: a system to help control anxiety, a bike rack with built in charging capabilities, a retro arcade game that is compatible with both old and new games, record storage solution, space-saving furniture and an adjustable learning environment to suit the different learning needs of students.



**Above. Visual Arts Major Work by Cassandra Modde.**



**Right. Sophie Oates performing for her Music performance.**

**Below. Henry Gierek and his Design and Technology bike rack project.**





Visual Arts Major Work by Caitlin Stebbins.



Chloe Martin's costume designs for her Drama Major Work.

In Drama, Major Works projects ranged from monologues to works in theatrical design. Along with these wide-ranging individual works, Drama students also devised their own Group Performance Pieces. Armed only with a select few words provided by The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) to stimulate them, students brainstormed, improvised, tried ideas, went back to the drawing board and tried again! This year we have two groups with clever pieces that have grown from these hours of development.

In Music, the sophistication in performance demonstrated by all five students was exemplary and the commitment they made to perfecting the technical and musical elements of their pieces has been nothing short of inspiring. Music students are also most fortunate to have the assistance of Mr David Stratton and external professional musicians, who worked with them in providing exceptional band environments which have not only propelled our students further in their musical delivery but given an added level of musical education in understanding performance nuance.

Our nine Society and Culture students worked tirelessly to produce a 6,000-word research project on a subject of their choice. These topics are connected to what each student is passionate about and this year included Feminism, the romanticisation of mental illnesses, how stereotypes impact female pop stars and more. Not only does the Personal Interest Project enable students to pursue a topic of

their choice, they are also given the opportunity to develop their research skills and to ascertain and consider how other individuals feel about their chosen topics.

Collectively, our Visual Arts students developed an exhibition of works that demonstrate immense creativity and meaningfulness, technical sophistication and conceptual resolution across a range of Expressive Forms. Each year there is a natural evolution of themes and trends that come out through the Works. This year, the Works have a focus on material practice both traditional and contemporary, along with a rich exploration of alternative mediums. Investigation into mark making, photography, videography, ceramics, installation and drawing demonstrate the breadth of talent and interest across our students. This year beyond any other, the students have pushed their understanding and experimentation with space, installation technics and curatorial practice.



Visual Arts Major Work by Olivia Jehn.

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

*“The showcase allows the Northholm community to be proud of the wonderful relationships that exist within the learning process...”*



# A Midsummer Night's Dream

CAPA

**Northholm Grammar's Senior Production in 2022 gave our young actors a fun and challenging return to the work of William Shakespeare with the romantic comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.**

It's 1979 and disco is king!

The King of the Disco is Theseus Duke, head of the Duke crime family and owner of the hottest club in town — Studio 27. For the first time ever, he is closing his 24-hour club for one night only to prepare for his wedding to the matriarch of a rival crime family, Hippolyta. As preparations for the wedding begin, a father comes asking a request: that Theseus force his daughter Hermia to marry Demetrius, and not Lysander (whom she actually loves).

With the club closed, making it the perfect place to hide, Hermia and Lysander sneak in to wait until morning to flee town. Demetrius follows, hopelessly in love with Hermia, and flanked by a lovesick Helena who craves for his heart. The magical fairies, Oberon (the club's bartender) and Titania (the star singer), are having problems of their own. As a result of this fight, a love potion is accidentally used on the wrong people, lovers change affections under its spell and general chaos ensues.

*"...an absolutely magical performance that received standing and dancing ovations."*



## SCHOLARSHIP

With mixed up lovers, tradesmen trying their best (and failing miserably) to rehearse a play, meddlesome fairies turning these 'foolish mortals' into singers, dancers, and even a donkey, all set to a playlist of disco hits of the seventies, it was an absolutely magical performance that received standing and dancing ovations.

To create this wild magical place, you need a wildly magical cast and crew. That is, luckily, who we found. This show was, in many ways, its own kind of miracle. More than any production in our recent past, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was impacted by the uncertainties and regulations of a post-pandemic world. It takes a very special group of young people to band together and rehearse through an international crisis, but they did — often via Zoom, being carried around on a laptop on stage.

Through it all, our amazing Northholm students powered through. They showed a resilience and strength of character that would make professional theatre companies jealous. Each member of our cast and crew are talented and vibrant young people, and, as with every year, we find ourselves very lucky to have the privilege of working alongside them. These shows are a lot of hard work and long hours, but it is the students and their passion to create something great that makes it all worth it.

**Brad Turbott**  
**Drama Coordinator**





# Athletic accomplishments

## SPORT

The annual Northholm Athletics Carnival was held on 19 July with students participating, competing and achieving, proudly adorned in their House colours. We were overjoyed by the great spirit displayed by everyone at the Carnival and witnessing races full of eager athletes. Lincoln House was the 2022 winner followed by Capell, Rowland and Patteson.

Northholm again stood out at the Hills Zone Sports Association (HZSA) Athletics competition with outstanding individual and team results. Both Primary and Secondary Northholm teams were awarded the Best Performed School Trophy on the day. Jett Watkin was Under 12 Boys Runner up Age Champion for the Primary carnival. Olly Liddle was Under 12 Boys Age Champion in the Secondary



Above. Students representing Northholm at the Primary HZSA Athletics Carnival.

Left. Students cheering on their peers at the Primary HZSA Athletics Carnival.

Below. Eva Laws and Lucas Beckhaus receiving the Best Performed School Trophy.





## SCHOLARSHIP

Year's carnival with Justin Billingsley being awarded Runner up Age Champion for Under 14 Boys. From this event, many athletes qualified for the Association of Independent Co-Educational Schools (AICES) and the Combined Independent Schools (CIS) Championships, representing Northholm proudly at this high level. Secondary students that qualified for AICES included Olly Liddle, Aarush Anandh, Blake Billingsley, Justin Billingsley, Taine Cassar, Chloe Fader, Sophie Hamilton-James, Isabel He, Marcus Johnson, Holly Lawton and Hannah Storey. The Primary CIS qualifiers include Lucas Beckhaus, William Caffyn, Jasper Cook, Liliana Favaloro, Ashleigh Mansell, Connor Ryan, Jett Watkin and Christopher Whiteley. Congratulations to all athletes on their outstanding performances.

Northholm Grammar continues to enjoy the HZSA weekly Interschool competition with nine teams entered for Semester 2. Growth of the Basketball Program has led to both Junior and Senior Girls' Northholm Grammar teams entering the competition for the first time in many years. Along with basketball, Northholm selected strong touch football teams in both Junior and Senior, Girls' and Boys' divisions and an experienced Senior Futsal Boys' team. Year 5 and 6 students continue to be involved with the competition with the Girls' football team and the Boys' basketball team experiencing success. The Hills Hornets



**Northholm's Junior Boys Touch Football Team.**

Basketball Club competition continues to go from strength to strength with Girls' and Boys' teams ranging from Under 14 to Under 22 Men's teams in both winter and summer seasons.

Finally, Northholm Sport Aerobics again demonstrated its popularity as we added a Primary Aerobics team to the vibrant program. The Secondary team competed for a second year and were great role models for our Primary students in their first year of competition. Both teams moved through the NSW Preliminary Round to the State Championships where they

produced excellent routines. As a result, they received an invitation to participate in the National Championships at the Gold Coast in August. Our Secondary team finished with a bronze medal and our Primary team received a fabulous fourth place. This is an amazing effort from our athletes and their coaches, Sarah Walker and Tyler Old.

**Jamie Stimson**  
**Sport and Coaching Coordinator**



**Northholm Grammar's Primary Years Aerobics Team.**



**Northholm Grammar's Secondary Years Aerobics Team.**



EQUESTRIAN

# Riders striving at all levels

**Northholm Grammar encourages riders across all year groups to be part of our Equestrian Team which, at all levels, emphasises participation, enjoyment and each student striving for their personal best.**

As part of our ethos, we welcome riders with a range of experience, from those participating in their first competition, transitioning to a new horse or proficient riders placing as Supreme Champion. This is reflected in our recent Equestrian outcomes.

Bethany Hamilton-James has been working with her new horse in preparation for competition while Kayla Ghalloub's commitment to training and preparation led to her competing in her first Interschool event. Oliver and Arabella Izzard were part of the Northholm team for the Arndell Equestrian Carnival and Grace Ward and Amelia Foster performed exceptionally well to be Reserve Champions in their divisions at the same event. Skyla Feary demonstrated her commitment to achieving her best through her commendable



Skyla Feary competing at the NSW Interschools Championships.

representation of Northholm in the North West Equestrian Expo and the NSW Interschools Championships.

Over the past few months, each rider has been developing their skills, while at

the same time supporting each other as part of the Northholm Equestrian team.

**Sharon Bourne**  
Equestrian Coordinator



From left to right. Lucinda O'Brien, Kayla Ghalloub, Amelia Foster, Arabella Izzard, Grace Ward and Oliver Izzard.

# Student-led fundraising feats

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

**Contributing to the Community is one of the key pillars of a Northholm education, actioned through developing skills in leadership, service education and relationship building. Sienna Arena-Milne (Year 11), assisted by Year 11 students and the Northholm Grammar community, has contributed to the community in 2022 by coordinating a series of fundraising events in support of Camp Quality.**

Camp Quality supports children aged 0-15 years who have terminal cancer, by providing retreats and camps so that kids facing cancer can spend time out of hospital with their family and friends. It is where they can enjoy just being kids. Determined to provide as much assistance as possible, Sienna set her goal high, striving to raise \$30,000.

The campaign kickstarted at the end of Term 2 with a barbecue at Dural Bunnings. With the help of her peers, and the support of Bunnings and local businesses, the event raised \$1,500 — a great start to the fundraising campaign.

In Term 3, Primary Years students contributed to the cause with a Bake Sale. Coordinated by the Primary Years SRC, students donated a wide range of delicious hand-made treats. This was followed by a Puppet Show by Camp Quality for the Primary Years. Donations and funds from these events raised over \$800. A fundraising page was also set up through Camp Quality where members of the community and local businesses donated generously.

The final event, the Northholm Grammar Masquerade Dinner, took place on Saturday 17 September at the Dural Country Club. Attended by students, parents, staff and members of the extended Northholm community, the evening was an outstanding success. Our Northholm community dug deep to help this very worthy cause. Fantastic raffle prizes, silent and live auctions, and prizes for the best mask contributed to the excitement.

Mr Julian Leeser MP, Member for Berowra, Shadow Attorney-General and Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians, addressed the room, paying tribute to the efforts by Sienna and her

Student Leadership Team for creating such a sensational evening.

At the end of the night, Sienna was delighted to announce that the Student Leadership Team had far exceeded their goal, raising over \$37,000 for Camp Quality — an incredible achievement. This example of servant leadership, helping others in great need, demonstrates the way Northholm Grammar students are authentic in their resolve to contribute to the community.

**Jenny Plüss  
Head of Operations**



Sienna Arena-Milne (centre) with Jennifer Davis and Principal Christopher Bradbury.





Prizes for the raffle were kindly donated from our community.



Students contributing to the Primary Cake stall.



Mr Julian Leaser MP speaks to the attendees.



Sienna Arena-Milne (centre) with Nikola Bratkovic and Holly Lawton at the Bunnings barbecue.



Attendees enjoying the Masquerade Charity Dinner.

# Skills grown through debating

**STEM gets a lot of attention for preparing students for the modern workplace, but the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) lists a lot of human-centred skills we need to succeed in the ‘knowledge economy’ that students will enter after university.**

The Northholm Debating and History Debating teams exemplify the skills of communication, initiative, motivation and teamwork – these competencies defined as essential by the OECD for the world of work. For the second year in a row, Northholm had significant success at the JA Thompson

History Debate, making it through to the semi-finals.

The Humanities department also celebrated the exceptional achievement of our Northholm HICES Debating team in their first year in the competition. From a pool of 49 schools and 274 teams from all over the state, the girls made it to the Grand Final at Central Coast Grammar School. The secret to their success is not just their knowledge and skill, but their teamwork and their willingness to listen to feedback. Sophie Hamilton-James (Year 10) was awarded top speaker in her division.

**Rebecca Birch**  
Head of Humanities



From left to right. HICES Debating Team Charlotte Martin, Sophie Hamilton-James, Head of Humanities Rebecca Birch, Florence Kim and Mia Lawton.

# ANZAC Day

**In April, the Humanities Department hosted our annual ANZAC Day Service that drew on the talents and passions of our student body.**

We also invited community members to commemorate this important event in which we recognised the military contributions of minority groups like women and Australia’s Indigenous people at the special chapel service.

Mrs Cheryl Hill of the Castle Hill RSL sub-branch spoke to us about her role in the Navy as a radar and weapons analyst and the roles women played in major conflicts. Mrs Sandra Thomsett, our senior History teacher, presented on the contributions of our Indigenous service men and women, from World War I to today.

The Northholm Student Leadership skilfully conducted proceedings and

our cadets, Hayden Speight and Callum Witthuhn provided an escort for our Official Party. Holly Lawton, the Castle Hill sub-branch ANZAC Ambassador, led the laying of the wreath by Primary Captains Harper Lorenz and Dean Mansell. The Senior Choir led us in song and Luca Dalla Fontana performed a moving Reveille and Rouse. With a capable and skilled cast of contributors, staff and students alike were able to grow their leadership capabilities.

**Rebecca Birch**  
Head of Humanities





# Programs informed by Show results

## AGRICULTURE/TAS

**Northholm Grammar was well-represented again at the 2022 Sydney Royal Easter Show, with students preparing stock for a range of Poultry and Cattle competitions.**

Year 9 Agriculture students worked to prepare the School's entry of eight chickens in the 2022 Poultry competition. They entered hens and roosters of Vorwerk, Light Sussex, Barnvelder, Ancona, Silver Spangled Hamburg and Plymouth breeds. As part of their Agriculture studies, after the Show students used the data and feedback from the judges to inform the School's purebred and crossbred poultry breeding programs.



Additionally, under the careful guidance of Ms Heidi McKay, several Year 9 and 10 students strengthened their knowledge of poultry handling and breed-specific details to utilise those birds as part of the Showmanship poultry competition. Diligence and attention to detail around the knowledge of their bird, coupled with sound ringcraft in presenting to the crowd, led to a wonderful presentation by Northholm competitors. Of note, four students placed in this competition and received publicly awarded ribbons on the day.

Year 10 students, who are currently undertaking their first unit of study in cattle production, were assisted by members of the Cattle Show Team to prepare three steers for the Pure, School and Trade Street competition. They efficiently fed the steers to meet market specification, halter trained, fit and groomed them. Due to the rain impacting training time, this year the students entered:

- Riff, a pure-bred Angus steer who weighed well over 500kg and was entered in the Pure Steer class.
- Rocco, a Northholm Grammar born and bred Galloway X Square Meater steer entered in the Trade Steer competition, weighing in at near 450kg.

Students enjoyed the long hours at the show, taking time to listen to feedback, observe best practice, refine their techniques and their animal prior to its judging. They ultimately demonstrated a mature and diligent approach to every facet of cattle showing.

Overall, we were exceptionally proud of the team who attended the 2022 Sydney Royal Easter Show. Every student on the grounds and those involved in the preparation back on campus should be pleased with their efforts and we look forward to returning strong in 2023!

**Ian Fawbert**  
**Head of Agriculture/TAS**

- Minto Graem, a pure-bred Galloway Steer — donated by Minto Galloways of Yass — who weighed in at nearly 450kg, was entered into competition as our School Steer.



# Subjects in the spot

Ian Fawbert

Head of Agriculture/TAS

**Welcome back**

In 2022, I returned to Northholm Grammar to assume the role of Head of Agriculture and Technological and Applied Studies (TAS). In addition to managing the School Farm, my role also covers K-12 Agriculture, Technology Mandatory, Design and Technology, Food Technology, Information and Software Technology and Software Design and Development. I previously spent six years at Northholm Grammar from 2005 to 2011, followed by nine years at Knox Grammar.

Having grown up in the Hawkesbury and Hills districts, and always living on acreage with animals including horses, cattle and poultry, I learnt to love being outside and working with animals. As I grew up, I began to realise that I enjoyed helping people learn and deepen their understanding of an area, so it seemed a natural mix to combine a passion in agricultural production with the role of a teacher. I enjoy knowing that my lessons (and those of my staff) bring joy, knowledge and passion for the subject to my students.

I was drawn back to Northholm for the opportunity to further build upon the strong foundation at Northholm Agriculture and was attracted to the idea of being a leader in the development of Agriculture in a school which has so much to offer young people. In following the four key pillars of a Northholm education, as teachers we always intentionally develop the students we interact with to ensure a considerate and successful future for our students, staff and community. I am always taking into account both sound pedagogical practices as well as industry best practice, as my leadership and lessons have the ability to influence student perceptions and agricultural production for years to



come. I can see great passion, drive and capacity amongst the students, parents, staff and wider community of Northholm Grammar.

A personal mission of mine is to improve the knowledge of the agricultural basics around production and terminology. For example, knowing that not all cattle are cows, with cow being the specific term for a mature breeding female bovine with eight incisor teeth: therefore a bull, a heifer, a steer, a yearling or a bullock aren't cows! I'm also interested by studies that showed how distant society has become from the food and fibre we consume. Strangely worrying facts that "three-quarters of Australian children in their final year of Primary

School believe cotton socks come from animals and 27 percent are convinced yoghurt grows on trees." (Sydney Morning Herald, March 2012).

In addition to my love of agriculture, I am an avid motorist, particularly enjoying cars from the vintage era of 1919 to 1930. I have a 1929 Oldsmobile and a 1942 Ford 'jeep'. Most of all though, I thoroughly enjoy doing anything with my wife and our two children, Will and Olivia. Whether it be helping my kids learn to ride a horse, working with them in the shed on the old cars, planning the next pet animal, inspecting a bug on the ground or simply just playing games, it all provides a great balance to give an enjoyable and successful life.

*"I can see great passion, drive and capacity amongst the students, parents, staff and wider community..."*



# light

## Jennifer Woods

English and  
Entrepreneurship Teacher

Duke of Edinburgh's  
Award Coordinator

*"...what excites me most is inspiring and motivating our students to achieve their potential and to believe in themselves."*

### Farewell

I have been at Northholm Grammar for the past 11 years, as part of the Entrepreneurship and Humanities Departments as a Society and Culture, Geography, English and History teacher, as The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator and Assessor and lastly as the Head of Capell House until 2020, transitioning to the role of Senior Tutor where I had the opportunity to mentor and work with our Senior Capellians.

My Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Anthropology connects to my interests in understanding different societies and cultures and my passion for reading literary works. My interest in Geography stems from my love of the outdoors, and helping students to understand how people can both positively and negatively influence our physical environments now and in the future. I have enjoyed unique experiences in my teaching career all around the world, from starting my career teaching English as a Second Language in Osaka, Japan to working in Leeds in the United Kingdom as a Secondary School teacher. Between these opportunities, I returned to Toronto, Canada to finish my studies and work in the Canadian public school sector and I will be moving back there at the end of the year.

I think it's important for students to understand the wide range of pathways and opportunities that are available through the study of Geography and Society and Culture, including town planning, environmental work, working with immigrants and researchers and in

areas of social issues. For me, teaching is a natural fit. As I've taught in a variety of subjects, what excites me most is inspiring and motivating our students to achieve their potential and to believe in themselves. Seeing students transform into young people confident in their capabilities and what they can achieve is what excites me the most in teaching.

When I met with the former Head of English, Karen Thrift (1994-2015), 11 years ago, she took the time to discuss how each child is cared and supported at Northholm. She then proceeded to show me around the beautiful School grounds, and I knew that this school, as a caring environment that supports each child, was the one for me. The students, staff and families of Northholm have become my second family. Being so far from home, I have always appreciated the kindness, care and support of our community. This will be the hardest part of leaving as I will miss everyone.

My favourite memories mostly relate to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award camps, but another special one was when I became an Australian citizen in 2011. Graeme Phillips, the former Deputy Head of Northholm Grammar (2000-2013), surprised me with a cake and an inflatable kangaroo and sang *Waltzing Matilda* to me in front of all the staff. While I have been here, the traveling bug has never quite left me either and I have been fortunate to visit many beautiful locations across all the states and territories of Australia. It is such a wonderful country and I will miss both it and all the friends I have made along the way.



# Myall Lakes Adventurous Journeys

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

**In April, we had the largest contingent ever — 67 Northholm Grammar students — join the Duke of Edinburgh's Award camp at Myall Lakes to complete their Bronze, Silver and Gold Adventurous Journey.**

Students had the opportunity to paddle to several different destinations including Mungo Brush and Korsmans Landing. Along the way, they were introduced to different canoe strokes and became quite the paddling masters by the end of this trip. They were also able to see some fantastic wildlife, while developing their leadership skills and making new friends with students in other year groups. Truly an amazing experience, one which our students will always remember.

As part of their Award, students need to participate in a Service. Year 11 student, Sienna Arena-Milne, has used this opportunity to raise money for the charity organisation Camp Quality, which supports children with terminal cancer. Sienna has completed several fundraisers (see page 20) and we applaud her, and all who have assisted her, for their efforts.

Congratulations to Year 12 students Lawrence Wen, Oscar Henderson, Elouis Wright, Lucy Coad and Vanessa Norris who achieved their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Term 3. To receive this, they completed one year of Service, Skill, and Physical Recreation, as well as an eight-day kayaking expedition, and a five-day Residential Project. This is a



**Left to right. 2022 Gold Awardees Lawrence Wen, Lucy Coad, Oscar Henderson, Vanessa Norris and Elouis Wright.**

wonderful accomplishment and we are immensely proud of all of them.

Additionally, Joseph Clemmit and Bodie Greatbatch Murphy, students from the Class of 2021 will be presented with their Gold awards at the Sydney Showground's Amphitheatre on 6 December. Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales, will officiate the ceremony. We congratulate our Alumni on their achievements.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of those who have helped with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program at Northholm Grammar. Students would not have been able to complete their Award without the support of their parents, carers, coaches and teachers and I am sincerely grateful for their assistance. Northholm Grammar looks forward to more of our students

attaining their awards in the future and I wish everyone a wonderful journey in achieving success.

**Jennifer Woods  
Duke of Edinburgh's Award  
Coordinator**



**Year 9 students Alice Hynes (left) and Teagan Paviour-Smith on their Adventurous Journey.**





# Year 5 step back in time

## CAMP

**As part of the History Unit, Year 5 travelled to Bathurst in August to experience first-hand life in Australia's Gold Rush.**

On the way, the students stopped at Carcoar, an untouched colonial village 52km south-west of Bathurst. At the Carcoar Hospital Museum, one of the earliest hospitals in Australia, they explored the diverse collection of hospital equipment, surgical instruments and photographs going back 160 years.

The students went on to the Carcoar Courthouse where they participated in a trial re-enactment. Izaak Apostolatos and Jamie Madafiglio played John Gilbert and John Dunn, two members of the Ben Hall Bushranger Gang, facing charges of gold stealing. The prosecution and defence made their arguments before the magistrate and jury, who ultimately decided they were guilty of all charges.

Onwards to Bathurst, the next day students discovered what life

was like for children in early colonial times, playing games from the era and making damper by the fire. Some assisted the blacksmith in making a tool to pick up a billycan off the fire. They went panning and were thrilled when they 'struck gold'!

Despite some wet and windy weather, students all enjoyed the adventure which will no doubt leave them with lifelong friends and memories.





# Year 8 Camp – bay and beyond

## CAMP

This year, Northholm Grammar Year 8 students ventured to the wilds of Jervis Bay, where the crystal clear waters of the Pacific Ocean meet the white sands of Booderee National Park. A camp experience like no other, the Year 8 Team Building Camp provided an amazing opportunity for students to connect with their peers, grow as leaders and craft lifelong memories held for many years to come.

Setting off at first light, Year 8 headed south and were greeted warmly by the Optimum Experiences Team, who were tasked with supporting and challenging students throughout the three-day experience. Upon arrival, everyone was quickly off the bus, enjoyed an energising game of *Waaah!* and we were straight into our first activities.

Students learned skills in mountain biking across a challenging course through the rainforest-like environment of Bristol Point and Green Patch, headed over to 'hang-ten' at Caves Beach and learned to ride the waves when surfing, and braved some wild weather on the sea kayaks. However, it was snorkelling that most students overwhelmingly rated as their favourite. Students were privileged to see a range of wildlife including a huge variety of fish, jellyfish, stingrays, octopus and even a wobbegong shark! They also had the opportunity to hold a large sea urchin and feel it as it moved around on their hand.

Students were also fortunate to learn about indigenous culture and identity, as well as uses for the range of plants and animals in Booderee, from Drew who is part of the Gaghungal Murring team. They were astounded



to learn that native plants were used for food, bathing, hygiene and even as insect repellent, and readily engaged with Drew to try out these uses. We were privileged to share in a corroboree and smoking ceremony in the evening, hearing stories of country and culture by fireside on the beach at Green Patch. A group of young indigenous dancers entered to share their culture proudly with us.

Students are commended on the self-reliance, independence and leadership displayed throughout the camp and should feel proud of the adventurous spirit they showed.

**Shannon Cameron**  
Head of PDHPE





## CAMP

# Inner-city challenges for Year 9s

**In Term 2, Year 9 hit the streets of Sydney for the Urban Challenge, their principal outdoor learning experience for 2022. In groups of 12-14, students worked in teams to navigate their way around the Central Business District (CBD), led by a series of clues they needed to solve to move to the next location.**

Along the way students engaged in a number of group work challenges as well as exploring the history of The Rocks via the 'Nurses Walk', a narrow walkway that provided access to the hospital in the colonial era. In this area they also learnt about the criminal activity of the notorious gang, 'The Rocks Push'.

Students spent the first night in tents on Cockatoo Island and enjoyed a Silent Disco in the abandoned convict barracks – what a unique experience! Their time on the island was relatively short-lived though as they were back on a ferry into the city immediately after breakfast. The weather was kind and teams participated in a series of Dragon Boating activities in Blackwattle Bay competing to score coveted points for their team. Every team member was assigned a role which included a photographer, journalist, treasurer, navigator, social media manager and equipment and safety officers, to name a few. With specific tasks to complete, everyone had responsibility for their team's progress and success.

The second evening was spent at the Sydney Central YHA and

students ventured out to Spice Alley in Chippendale. Here they were met with a grand choice of culinary adventures and the challenge of sticking within the negotiated budget of their team. With leftover funds destined for desserts, the stakes were high. A walk through Kings Cross, led by members of the Rough Edges organisation, was an eye opener for students to learn about the challenges of homelessness from those who have experienced it. It was a thought-provoking experience, instigating reflection upon the benefits of education and a supportive family.

Congratulations to all students who attended the event. We're sure they



will agree that the challenges provided by the experience were somewhat different to a traditional bush camp experience, but the opportunities for growth and learning in leadership, teamwork, urban navigation and negotiation were abundant, significant and meaningful. A special thank you to Ms Kasturi Sivaram, Ms Lorna Brettel and Ms Won Park who took time away from home to provide supervision and care for the Year 9 students.

**Phil Waldron**  
**Head of Mathematics**



# Academic decathlon tests critical thinking

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

**The da Vinci Decathlon is an academic competition designed to challenge and stimulate the minds of students, competing in teams of eight across 10 disciplines.**

The da Vinci Decathlon began in 2005 as an offshoot of the very successful da Vinci Program for gifted and talented students. The Decathlon is designed to celebrate the academic gifts of Australian youth by providing an invigorating and challenging competition, run in the spirit of an Olympic Decathlon. Students compete online in teams of eight across disciplines including: Engineering, Mathematics, Code Breaking, Art and Poetry, Science, English, Ideation,

Creative Producers, Cartography and Legacy.

This year, Northholm Grammar entered four teams in the 2022 da Vinci Decathlon that took place on Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 May. The Decathlon was held via Zoom, with over 300 teams competing across NSW in Years 7 to 10. The competition emphasises critical thinking, working collaboratively as a team and lateral approaches to solving problems that are often analogous to real-world scenarios. Through this experience, all students had the opportunity to work together and build upon their teamwork and communication skills. They found the experience to be intellectually stimulating, fun and rewarding.

We are incredibly proud to announce that Northholm Grammar students achieved impressive results and walked away with six academic awards. Congratulations to the following teams:

Year 8 – 1st in Cartography, 9th in Engineering and 13th in Science.

Year 9 – 5th in Legacy and 11th in Science.

Year 10 – 7th in Creative Producers.

**Smriti Mediratta**  
**Head of Science and Pateson House**



Northholm Grammar 2022 da Vinci Decathlon Teams.



# Celebrating Foundation Day

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Northholm Grammar opened the doors to our first students on 2 February 1983 and celebrated the first Foundation Day five months later, on 9 July.**

Historically, the date of Northholm's Foundation Day Service has been as close to the original ceremony as possible. Consequently, on Monday 18 July in Term 3 this year, we celebrated Northholm's foundations with the 2022 Foundation Day Service, this year being the School's 40th service.

At this year's ceremony, we welcomed back Northholm Graduate, Mrs Rebecca Scott, who delivered a very engaging presentation to the whole School. Mrs Scott, more commonly known at Northholm as Becky Gale, was a student at Northholm in our early days, completing Year 12 in 1986. As a student she was particularly well known for her involvement in the School's Music Program, including the lead roles she had in the musicals, *Oliver* and *The Mikado*.

Mrs Scott addressed the student body about her time at Northholm in 1985 and 1986, as well as her life after graduating. After leaving School, Mrs Scott studied to be an opera singer and lived overseas for many years performing across Europe. When she returned to Sydney, she continued to pursue her love of music as a teacher and a tutor. She is currently teaching music students at a number of places, including the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Mrs Scott concluded her presentation by performing an Italian aria.

Also at the Service, the Acorn students for 2022 were acknowledged. Acorns are the students who entered



**From left to right. Northholm Acorn awardees Ryan Ray, Ethan Saunders, Caitlin Stebbins, Annabel Part, Elouis Wright, Tobias Part, Bryson Herald and Mason Parle with Principal Christopher Bradbury (centre).**

Northholm at the earliest entry point and completed Year 12. For six students this was in Year 3 in 2013 and for two students this was in 2012. Furthermore, Mason Parle reflected on his ten years at Northholm in an address to the Assembly, and School Captain and Music 2 student, Amber Garth, played *Three Pieces* by Igor Stravinsky — one of the musical pieces she is preparing on the clarinet for the practical component of her HSC.

The Acorn students who were presented with their lapel pins include: Bryson Herald, Mason Parle, Annabel Part, Tobias Part, Ryan Ray, Ethan Saunders, Caitlin Stebbins and Elouis Wright.

### **Jenny Plüss Head of Operations**

**Top Right. Northholm Alumna Mrs Rebecca Scott performing an aria.**

**Middle right. Becky Gale (Mrs Rebecca Scott) performing in Northholm Grammar's production of *The Mikado*.**

**Right. Becky Gale (Mrs Rebecca Scott) performing in Northholm Grammar's production of *Oliver*.**



# Hollywood in Arcadia

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

On Friday 17 June, Northholm Grammar's Senior Students ran an outstanding Trivia Night event to support Kids Helpline. The Lincoln Centre was transformed into a dazzling Hollywood-themed function space, with the glitz and glamour of costumed guests walking the red carpet.

Attended by students, parents, carers, staff and members of the wider Northholm community, the evening involved 10 rounds of trivia questions which tested participants' general knowledge on topics such as sport, music and history. Additional activities including a game of Heads 'n' Tails, a Silent Auction and a series of fabulous prizes kept participants engaged throughout the evening.

The event was a huge success, raising \$5,000 for Kids Helpline, an incredibly worthwhile organisation that answers the call for help from children and young people across Australia.

Thank you to Holly Lawton for her leadership of this event, to the Senior Students who so ably assisted her, to Mr Brad Turbott for being our fabulous MC and to the Northholm community for supporting Kids Helpline.

**Jenny Plüss**  
Head of Operations





# Celebrating our special family

## NORTHHOLM ASSOCIATION

**A key goal of the Northholm Association is to create opportunities to bring together families within our School community. Two special events that we love hosting each year are our Mother's Day and Father's Day Breakfasts; these mornings provide our parents, carers and their children with a special occasion to spend time together.**

At both of these events, attendees enjoyed freshly served coffee from our student-run coffee cart, raffles, lucky door prizes and, for Father's Day, we added giant outdoor lawn games including *Jenga*, corn throw and the popular *Connect Four*. In the Primary Years, students could carefully choose something special from the gifts on offer at the gift stall and then decorate a paper bag to take it home for mum or dad. We were also delighted that, for both occasions in 2022, we introduced the presence of a professional photographer to capture beautiful family portraits.

A lot of work goes into preparing for and running these mornings; we are very grateful for the wonderful Events team, as well as the parent and student volunteers, who make our Mother's and Father's Day Breakfasts so special. From all of the members within the Northholm Association and the School, we truly hope everyone had a fantastic time and we look forward to seeing you all again at the next one.

**Anthony Wood**  
Northholm Association President



# Creating futures at Northholm

## STUDENT FUTURES

**We know the workforce and higher education studies that our students will be entering following their graduation at Northholm will undergo rapid changes in coming years. Schools have a responsibility to prepare students to seize opportunities and find solutions to emerging challenges.**

The *Creating Futures* evening is an important pillar in the career education of Northholm Grammar students. Over 250 attendees — Year 10, 11 and 12 students, accompanied by their parents — joined this recent community event featuring panels, presentations and booths with leading professionals and ambassadors. One of the most important messages to students that came out of the evening was that knowing what you want to do is not as important as developing the skills and dispositions to build resilience, integrity, confidence and relationships.

The evening began with an address from our keynote speaker, Northholm alumni, former School Captain and Associate Professor, Catherine Collins from the University of New South Wales Business School, School of Management and Governance. Associate Professor Collins asserted that graduates need the ability to navigate uncertainty, to appreciate and respect the perspectives and values of others, the ability to cope with failure and rejection and learn to move forward in the face of adversity. She also suggested students find the intersection of what they are naturally good at and what they love to do. They should invest in their strengths and passions and define the person they strive to become.



**From left to right. Christopher Bradbury, Catherine Collins, Alissa Taylor, Michael Ragg and James Solomons.**

Following the keynote speech, a panel discussion hosted by Principal Christopher Bradbury featured Michael Ragg (CEO of Western Earthmoving WEM), James Solomons (Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operating Officer of Xref Limited) and alumni Alissa Taylor (Global HR Director). The panellists offered illuminating perspectives on school, life and choosing a career.

After the official proceedings ended, a wide range of professionals and higher education ambassadors were available for students and their families to meet with. Among these were 15 School alumni who kindly gave their time to showcase their professional endeavours. Students enthusiastically embraced the Student Futures passport on the night: as they approached different ambassadors, they received a stamp and, more importantly, gained confidence in asking important questions for their future decision-making and an increased awareness of the range of options available to them. This also saw them go into a draw to win prizes donated by our education ambassadors.

Thank you to everyone for their involvement and enthusiasm in helping prepare our students for life after School. Northholm Grammar is known for its close, connected community: our alumni, current and past parents, teaching and support staff and members of the broader community all act as strong role models for what our graduates can become.

**Suzy Hughes**  
**Head of Student Futures**



**Caitlin Bastian talking to Northholm parent Renu Jagadish from IBM.**



# Class of 2012 reunion

## NOSU

**On Saturday 10 September, Northholm Grammar alumni from the Year 12 class of 2012 celebrated their 10-year reunion at the Lord Nelson Brewery in the Rocks.**

Students and Staff enjoyed catching up, reminiscing on memories of Northholm school days, as well as hearing news of jobs, families and future plans. Many thanks to Anja Bless (School Captain 2012) for organising the evening.





# Camp HUG, 1988

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Service Learning has been integral at Northholm Grammar since our early days. After participating in Northholm's Year 11 Leadership Program in 1987, a group of Senior students wanted to organise an event which enabled them to 'give back' to young people in the local community.

They made contact with St Edmund's School (now St Edmund's College) at Wahroonga and took up the challenge of organising a three-day camp for blind and visually impaired students.

Northholm students spent ten months seeking sponsorship and planning activities. They built relationships with the young people from St Edmund's through a series of sporting events in the lead up to the Camp, designed to help the younger students feel at ease when undertaking challenges outside of their comfort zone. With limited resources but a fierce determination to succeed, Northholm students spent a fabulous three-day weekend leading Camp HUG (Help Us Grow) in early 1988 at Illaroo Farm in Cambewarra near Nowra.

Camp HUG offered St Edmund's students the opportunity to participate in activities they had never tried before - horse riding, swimming, canoeing and abseiling. They sang around a bonfire at night, enjoyed dressing up for the 'bad taste' formal dinner, played games and danced at a disco.

Not only did the camp provide an amazing experience for the students from St Edmund's, but it was also a wonderful learning experience for Northholm's 1988 Year 12 students.

**Jenny Plüss**  
Head of Operations



## School wins Herald youth award

By PAUL CHAMBERLIN

A school which gave blind students the chance to participate in outdoor activities such as canoeing, horse riding and abseiling was a winner at the annual Sydney Morning Herald Youth awards last night.

The awards, held at Randwick Racecourse, honour schools and youth groups which make outstanding contributions to the community. They were presented by Mrs Katherine Greiner, the Premier's wife.

The winner of the schools group section was Northholm Grammar School, of Arcadia, which formed Camp H.U.G.

(Help Us Grow), at which sighted pupils helped blind students participate in canoeing, abseiling or horseback riding.

For three days, the sighted student was responsible for the care, well-being and entertainment of his or her charge.

Winners of merit awards in this section were the Christian Community High School, Masada College Charities Committee, Sefton High School, the St Vincent de Paul Group (St Leo's College) and Rivendell High School.

Encouragement award winners were Westfields High School, Tatton Public School and Warilla High School (Year 11 Community Studies).

Riverstone Community Centre's Youth Insearh Project was the winner in the non-schools section.

The centre instituted an intricate project involving young people with problems talking to peers, and professional counselling by youth workers.

Merit award winners were the Granville Multicultural Youth Committee, Manila Youth Action Group, Hanwood Rural Youth Club and the "Kids In Control" youth group. The "Helpmates" program for teenagers, The Young Friends of Manly Hospital and the Live Wire Youth Newspaper won the encouragement awards.



*“A group of Senior students  
wanted to organise an  
event which enabled them  
to ‘give back’...”*





# Northholm Grammar

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