HVGS held a gala Silver Anniversary Ball to celebrate 25 Years of Excellence in Education. The evening was a huge success with over 280 guests, all looking magnificent for the occasion.

The Cameron Centre was transformed with stunning floral arrangements, metres and metres of billowing organza-like fabric, wine barrels, romantic lighting and lush greenery.

Our dynamic Principal, Paul Teys welcomed guests to the special celebration and was very entertaining with his anecdotes and ‘legendary’ stories about the early years.

The Chair of the 25th Anniversary committee, Mrs Heather Russell – McLaren gave an insight into the early days from her perspective as a teacher and parent. (see page 4)

Mrs Kristine Littlewood, Board Chair, recalled the formative years of the School’s development and gave due recognition to the founders. (read below)

Entertainment was from our own talented Music Faculty, ensuring the dance floor was the place to be! Katie McCloskey from the English Faculty took everyone by surprise with her stunning voice when she made guest appearances during the evening.

Guests enjoyed champagne and fine wines from Ivanhoe Winery and delicious meals from Lillies & Limes Gourmet Catering.

Special thanks goes to Bob and Pauline Dunn and Olivia and Dwayne Bramble from Heritage Gardens, who loaned us an incredible number of trees and shrubs to help decorate the Cameron Centre, Jane Warren from Think Events, who had the enormous task of dressing the hall, and Peter Herd from Peter Herd Floral Design.

It was great to see so many faces from the HVGS early days, foundation students, ex-staff and board members. There was also a very enthusiastic group of past and present staff, board members and parents.

I think it’s safe to say that everyone had a ball!

From Mrs Kristine Littlewood, HVGS Board Chair

I am truly privileged and happy to join the Hunter Valley Grammar School family in celebrating its 25th Anniversary. It was a pleasure to attend the Anniversary Ball where I saw so many familiar faces from the School’s past and present.

As some of you know, a history of the School is currently being written by local author Helen Hopcroft. Helen has had access to the School archives and has interviewed some of the founders, staff, parents, students and Board members past and present, so she has many perspectives to compile and present.

It is impossible for me to give you a blow by blow recount of all the significant events and people in the history of the School, but I would like to share some of my memories.

continued page 30
Left page clockwise from top: the stage, current parents Eliza Carlson, Karen Dalziel and Karen Baker, members of the original School Board; Mr Garry Harvey, Mr Amos Mordue and Mr John O’Brien, the Littlewood family. Right page top from left: members of the original School Board, Mr Bob Dunn, Mr Digby Rayward with Mr Paul and Mrs Pip Tey; the entrance.

Middle photo: the popular place to be was the dance floor. Bottom from left: Mr Jack Machin - Director of Music; staff members - Mrs Denise Wheeler (1993), Miss Sue Richardson (1991), Mrs Elaine Barker (1990) and Mrs Lorraine Keith (1990); a stunning Peter Herd floral arrangement.
When Hunter Valley Grammar School opened its doors 25 years ago, I don’t think anyone imagined the success the School would achieve in 25 Years.

When we started out in January 1990 with 112 students we never dreamt there would be a waiting list to enrol.

I attended the laying of the School’s Foundation Stone by His Excellency the Honourable Bill Hayden Governor General of Australia on 18 July 1989. I remember standing on the red carpet outside the main gates and wondering, while looking at the bush what was ahead for this new School?

After attending a public meeting about the new grammar school I decided to enrol my two sons. Soon after I was a successful applicant for a position as Music teacher and appointed Head of Performing and Visual Arts and Recreational Studies.

In those early days, the bush surrounded the school and became part of our lives. Morning hazards like spiders on the verandahs were a regular occurrence. Kangaroos, birds, lizards and a few snakes threatened to outnumber the students and staff in 1990. Whole School assemblies were held under the original C Block verandah which has been replaced by the magnificent two-storey building housing Science and English today.

We started with virtually no equipment, no chairs or tables, but spades of passion and dedication to HVGS.

As a member of the Executive Staff we worked hard to establish the programs and policies that were necessary to pass the Department of Education’s inspection. This gave the School its Five Year Registration Certificates that were essential for the provision of the School Certificate and the Higher School Certificate.

Our next challenge was the Official Opening by the Governor of NSW Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair on 8 November 1990. The School Song was sung for the first time in public with the original School flag flying overhead, making everyone so proud of our achievement in such a short time.

In 1990, we kept adding to our year of achievement with successes across all faculties. We participated in competitions, joined Mock Trial and our sporting achievements were noticed across the region. The Foundation Ball was held at Maitland Town Hall, our Christmas Service at Maitland Uniting Church and Presentation Night at Tocal with guest speaker Kay Cottee. Prize donations came from the Board, staff or foundation parents and many of these awards are still in existence today.

continued page 30

Anyone who has had to wait for service while a shop assistant finished surfing the net on a smartphone will probably agree that there has been an obvious demise in the manners and etiquette of young people. Indeed, one can’t help but despair at the decline in customer service provided in retail, particularly larger chain stores. Retail assistants, it seems, are far more comfortable hiding behind a counter or computer than leaving their station and engaging with customers providing good old-fashioned service.

The latest handsets and other mobile devices may be helping a new generation to stay safer and better connected . . . but it’s making them rude.

Most adults believe manners have been wrecked by smartphones, laptops, tablets and social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter. Most adults claim that social skills are a lot worse than 20 years ago, while many blame mobile devices for encouraging rudeness in young people. Many adults tell me that the importance of online relationships to many young people has had a negative effect on the way they conduct themselves when face-to-face with friends or colleagues.

Having been in schools for over 30 years, I have found there is an obvious demise in courtesy and manners among young people, and the phenomenon has accelerated in the past five years.

Employers are seeking young employees with well-honed social skills rather than academic achievement. This is even more important when employers are awarding promoted positions - social skills trump technological and academic skills. Employers I speak to believe that a major problem among young employees is ‘constant use of mobile phones and social media in the office.’ A majority feel the written skills of young employees are ‘appalling’.

At the recent Year 11 Camp, I spoke to the students about the rift between virtual and real world personalities. Most young people are more confident creating a profile on social networking sites than more confident creating a profile on social networking sites than feeling confident when walking into a room where they don’t know anybody. I see anxiety and nervousness in young people when they are required to meet a new colleague face-to-face or when they have to stand up in a classroom and give a formal presentation. On the Year 12 Camp earlier in the year, I couldn’t help but notice how students would not engage with the presenters, at least verbally. They were clearly engaged cognitively but would not offer a view or opinion about the topics being presented. When I asked our young people why not, they said fear stopped them.

In my view, developing and maintaining a high level of skills across social and professional spheres is crucial to ensuring success in both the workplace and everyday life.

I worry about the impact of mobile dependency on this generation who have grown up with smartphones. Parents share my concerns. Parental frustration grows over teenagers who text at the table. Patrons at cinemas get angry at younger audiences holding phone conversations during the film, and I have witnessed occasional outbursts from actors at the theatre provoked by ringtones from the stalls.

It’s essential for teens to learn how to get along positively with others and show respect when interacting. A solid foundation in good manners and proper etiquette is the key when it comes to developing strong social skills.

Why be concerned with etiquette in this edition of Success? Etiquette and good manners ensures that people know what society, in general, expects. It provides standard rules for appropriate behaviour. The purpose of etiquette isn’t to put on a show for the benefit of others with appearances and facades. Instead, it involves an attitude of respect and concern for others to ensure that everyone feels valued and comfortable.

While different situations and places can have different rules of etiquette, the common foundation is still respect. A teen’s understanding that basic etiquette involves the principle of treating others respectfully should enable him/her to proceed successfully in any situation.

With a solid foundation in etiquette and manners, a teen should feel strong and confident, even in new or unfamiliar situations. This can be particularly important for adolescents who often feel self-conscious and anxious, having trouble acclimatising to new situations. When a teen has strong social skills and understands how to treat others respectfully and politely, he/she can navigate virtually anything from a college or job interview to a conversation with a teacher to meeting a new girl/boyfriend’s parents.

Children are not born with manners. They must be taught. Even though teachers try earnestly to teach manners in young people, teachers are not an island and require the whole village to support. Manners must be taught at home. Manners and respect are inseparable. Children begin developing respect for others by first developing it for their parents. Remember that this must be taught. Parents must expect their children to treat them with respect and to treat other adults with respect.

Insisting on manners and respect can lead to conflict and tension, worth fighting for, though, in the cooperative quest to develop young people of special calibre, who in today’s society will certainly stand out from the crowd.

Mr Paul Teys
Principal
It took 25 years and a major storm event for Hunter Valley Grammar School to be unable to open its doors on a school day. In the wake of the devastating storms, on the first day of Term 2 2015, the School found itself unable to open the gates and turning away staff and students, due to danger from fallen trees, torrential rain and cyclonic winds. As the day progressed the situation worsened with more trees falling and flash flooding.

Of course we were not an isolated case. The events of Tuesday and Wednesday 21 and 22 April in the Hunter were widespread and devastating for our community. Across the region there were tragic stories of loss of life as well as significant damage to homes and businesses. The following areas were declared natural disaster zones: Cessnock, Dungog, Great Lakes, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle City, Port Stephens and Singleton.

HVGS remained closed until Friday 24 April. The school suffered minor flooding and electrical damage in several classrooms including the ground floor of IT, C Block, the canteen and Junior School classrooms. Water flowed through D and F Block and the Cameron Centre roof leaked. The main Administration Building was under threat with the water cascading down the rear steps and lapping at the back doors. A total of 15 gum trees fell during the storm. One large tree fell across the roof of the canteen/girls toilets. Two gums fell between the Art Block and A Block, with one landing on the roof of A Block. At the peak of the storm on Tuesday afternoon the pathways through the school from the Cameron Centre looked like a river of rapids. The school was left littered with branches and debris and the ground waterlogged.

On Wednesday morning, there was a break in the rain and staff who could get to school arrived to help with the clean-up. They mopped, swept, raked, gathered small branches to make it easier for the cleaners and arborists to get in and do their jobs. Our maintenance team, headed by Facilities Manager Mr Simon Brookman, worked relentlessly, looking after everyone during the storm and then coordinating the clean-up afterwards.

Some families had to wait over a week to have power restored and Gillieston Heights and some areas of Wallalong and outer areas were isolated until the following Tuesday. Tragic stories of loss and damage filtered through to the school and many children were unable to attend until the following week. The New England Highway was closed for eight days and caused frustrating delays for motorists. A 15-minute trip could take up to two hours.

No doubt there are many stories of tragedy and generosity surrounding this extraordinary time in the Hunter that families and friends will share for many years.
In early February, Hunter Valley Grammar School held the Annual Distinguished Achievers Ceremony in the Cameron Centre. This ceremony celebrated the successes of the Year 12 2014 graduating class. Years 7-12 attended the ceremony and were joined by many of the Class of 2014 along with their families.

Our special guest speaker was Rebecca O’Grady, Alumni Class of 2008. Rebecca is now a qualified pharmacist, and she spoke of her time at HVGS as well as her progress towards her goal. We celebrated the achievements of each of our Class of 2014, especially those who were on the NSW Board of Studies Distinguished Achievers list and those who attained high ATARs. Our Distinguished Achievers are listed below.

The Dux of Year 12 2014, based on the ATAR result, was Grace Logvyn. Distinguished Achievers are the students who received a Band 6 or E4 in any of their courses. These represent the highest levels of achievement in 2 Unit and Extension Courses respectively.

Christopher Balshaw
Liam Beiers
Madison Boyd
Angus Bradford
Isobel Braham
Brooke Carroll
Sevcan Eminov
Charles Fielder
Vanessa Fowosere
Alex Humphreys
Laura Levick
Thomas Levick
Grace Logvyn
Bridget Marshall
Mitchell McColl
Samuel McKenzie
Adon Murray
Morgan O’Doherty
Raven Sandow
Chantelle Thornton
Sebastian Van Camp
Courtney Webb
Rebecca Winder

The list represents, once again, a statistic that has been consistent over the past four years, where between 35 and 50% of the cohort achieve in the top band in at least one of their HSC subjects. The achievement of these students is a testament to their hard work as well as the support of the teachers and the school as a whole.

Mrs Pauliene O’Grady Director of Teaching and Learning
Farewell for the Hunter Schools 2015 ANZAC Centenary Tour

After five years of planning, the selection process, endless amounts of fund raising and organising, Maitland RSL Vice President, Mr Fred Goode’s idea was finally turning into a reality. On Monday 13 April HVGS hosted a breakfast to farewell the Hunter Schools Gallipoli Centenary Tour. Over 100 guests attended, including the 20 students chosen to represent their Hunter school (pictured below). Brayden Duignan - Teys (Year 12) was selected after a rigorous process to represent HVGS. Brayden, (pictured left) like the other 19 members of the tour, worked tirelessly leading up to the event to raise funds to support the tour. They were all very excited at the prospect of their ‘once in a lifetime’ adventure.

With the support of their families, friends and dignitaries the students were farewelled with a hearty breakfast provided and cooked by the invaluable members of the RSL. The group then moved into the Latter Hall for a brief presentation and formal farewell. Special guests included the Deputy Mayor of Maitland, Cr Steve Procter; the Mayor of Cessnock, Cr Bob Pynsent; the Senior Vice President of RSL NSW, Mr Peter Stephenson; the District Council President, Mr Brian Broughton; the President/Chaplain Mr Eric Bell and the Vice President Mr Fred Goode of The Maitland RSL. A commemorative scarf and badge were presented to the adventurers.

The students and chaperones gathered for a photo and finally their emotional goodbyes before boarding the bus for the journey to Sydney Airport. They flew from Sydney to Rome via Abu Dhabi early afternoon. After a short visit to Venice they boarded the MSC Opera for a two-week cruise through Istanbul and the Port of Canakkale. While in the Dardanelles they visited Anzac Cove, North Beach, Lone Pine and Shrapnel Valley for a very memorable experience.

Students meet His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex

On Tuesday 4 November 2014, Duke of Edinburgh students Maddy Meagher, Lauren Donlan, HVGS Duke of Edinburgh coordinator Mr Walker and myself attended a trivia evening with a difference at the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney.

His Royal Highness Prince Edward was in the country to commemorate Australia’s more than 50-year participation in the Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme. Part of his visit included attending a trivia night at the Powerhouse Museum. We were lucky enough to be invited to attend along with Duke of Edinburgh students from all over Australia.

Once we arrived, each group was allocated a table. We shared ours with some friendly Tasmanians and two Macquarie Corporation sponsors. One seat at the table was empty. It was reserved for the Prince. He was to move around the tables as the evening progressed. A few rounds into trivia, Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, arrived at our table. He was extremely friendly and outgoing and helped greatly with many of the hard trivia questions.

The night was run by Commonwealth Games athletes, and this too was quite special.

At the end of the night, we managed to grab a few photos with the athletes and one of Prince Edward himself. It was a great opportunity to have not only met royalty, but to have been involved with other students completing the award around Australia. I would like to express a big thank you to Mr Walker and hope that events like this can again happen in the near future!

Bec Mullen
2015 School Captain
Biennially, students across Hunter Valley Grammar School, from Preschool to Year 12, come together to celebrate Christmas, to share fun-filled activities and to raise money to help others within the local community, who may be facing adversity. Christmas at HVGS 2014 was only the second time we had held the celebration and it was amazing. We were supported by families from within our School community who made significant donations in order for us to ensure that a gold coin procured an activity for all children. As well as this, local organisations such as our own Leo Club, who provided a barbeque, supported the afternoon in addition to the Bush Fire Brigade, who came along bringing their vehicles, providing demonstrations and allowing students to “experiment” with equipment in order to gain insight into the many things they do. The support mentioned and the physical support from staff and students who manned the stalls meant we were able to offer an extensive array of activities, craft, foods and fun for everyone! The school celebrated Christmas and came together as a community while feeling a deep sense of helping others.

Thanks to the generosity and participation of so many families we made significant donations to Ronald McDonald House, located at the John Hunter Hospital and to CanTeen. In return Ronald McDonald House invited our school to visit the facility and find out more about their work. We are proud to say that we now have a plaque on their friendship tree that recognises our support and contribution.

We are now planning for Christmas at HVGS 2016.

Mrs Liz Thompson
Head of Junior School
Young Archibald Finalists

Budding artists between the ages of five and 18 were invited to submit a portrait for the Art Gallery of NSW’s second Young Archie competition.

The portrait was to be of a person who is special to you – someone who is known to you and plays a significant role in your life.

Samuel Grebert (Kindergarten) and Hamish Grebert (Year 2) were both selected as finalists in the 5-8 years category. According to an Art Gallery NSW report, there were 1015 entries across all age groups and the standard was extraordinary! The competition was judged by Archibald Prize winning artist Ben Quilty.

The boys were presented with prizes and awards at the Maitland Regional Art Gallery.

Congratulations Samuel and Hamish.

Big week in Canberra

During the week of 9-16 May 2015, Anika Buining participated in the Rotary Adventure in Citizenship program in Canberra. The program is offered each year and open to Year 11 students.

Thirty-five participants from across Australia converged on the ACT, full of anticipation. Exhaustingly, days began at approximately 7.30am and concluded at 9.30pm.

Thank you to East Maitland, Canberra and Woden Rotary Clubs for their encouragement and support of Anika.

During her week in Canberra Anika Buining took the opportunity to meet the Treasurer, Mr Joe Hockey, on the steps of Parliament House during a press conference. She made national headlines by politely asking the Treasurer for a selfie. Instantly the press was completely distracted by Anika! She became highly sought after for interviews, pictures and comment. With her impeccable good manners and presentation she was a credit to herself, her family and a great ambassador for HVGS.

Year 12 Metal Engineering skills put to the test!

Simon Brookman and the HVGS Maintenance team had a breakdown with one of the school’s fleet of ride-on mowers. The new part was going to cost almost as much as the mower and incredibly was made of plastic and would most certainly fail again.

Teacher David Taylor came to the rescue with the idea that two of his Year 12 VET Metal Engineering students could design and make the part.

Dylan Bennett and Jack Mackenzie (2014) worked during their lunch breaks and after school designing and then manufacturing the blower part for the mower. They took measurements from the old blower, then they programmed the CNC plasma cutter to cut out the top component. Once they had completed it they drilled and taped the holes required. They then cut and rolled the outer shell from steel and lined the inside with stainless steel to increase the wear resistance. The component was then spot welded in place so they could carry out a series of tests. Once they were happy with the work, the whole unit was completely assembled and then fully welded.

Mr Taylor made the students responsible for the project by having them complete a quote and a delivery time to Mr Brookman. This way they gained valuable experience and had an insight into what it would be like to run a commercial project.

Mr Taylor said that the replacement is better than the original and he congratulated the boys for such a great job. The Maintenance guys are very happy too and predict that the part will outlast the mower!
Midway through Term One, the Junior School, including Preschool to Year 6, held International Day.

On HVGS International Day we ask all students to explore the many cultures that are present within our School community, while also learning the idea of belonging to the international community. Students attend the day in traditional dress from their chosen country, usually associated with their family heritage. The costumes provide much excitement and discussion among the children and broaden their awareness of diversity of cultures within our school family. A smorgasbord of food from all over the world is available for students to sample. Students experience activities, craft and games from different nations. They learn about shared family traditions, food, ideology and celebrations within cultures.

By experiencing this diversity we hope students will appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others to help them grow from the experience. International Day seeks to have children recognise our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

A fantastic day was had by all.

*The aim of all IB Schools is to develop internationally minded people who, recognising their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.*

*International Baccalaureate Organisation 2013*
INSPIRED, well doesn't the name just say it all! The Cameron Centre was standing room only for our wonderful concert. Our families, friends, staff and guests were left INSPIRED and excited after the spectacular performances by our Junior and Senior String Ensembles, Junior and Senior Concert Bands, Stage Band, Senior Percussion Ensemble and Choirs.

Every year we see our students achieving new growth and this year was no exception. In particular it was the quality of their musical ability that outshone previous years. A real credit to the hard work, dedication and collaboration of students, staff and our specialist Music teachers.

Mr Jack Machin  
Director of Music

Inspired Art Exhibition
An outstanding range of artworks went on sale for this year's Inspired art show attracting over 300 people to the opening night and a constant stream of visitors over the Saturday and Sunday. It is our fourth year now and the show has grown from 89 entrants to 239. Many of the artists who exhibited this year were first-time participants and it was exciting to see that the show is now attracting prominent artists who work in a wide variety of mediums. It was also very encouraging to see familiar faces returning to enter work again. On a sadder note some artists had to withdraw from the show as their work was either damaged or destroyed by the horrific weather the region received in the week prior to the event. Some artists had their studios completely flattened by falling trees or had to contend with water damage and could only salvage what had been stored off the ground. Many artists rallied to help friends and delivered their work for them when the roads became waterways.

Guest judge Gillean Shaw came with a wealth of experience from Newcastle University. Gillean is the current university curator and has also worked in many commercial galleries both here and in Sydney. Her task was not an easy one as she had to distinguish a winner from the entrants' best works in the Open Section. She deliberated over three works, finally deciding that the name of our show should help to guide her to choose the winner. Many of the entrants who won were both thrilled and humbled to have their work chosen from the competition.

Visitors to the show commented upon Inspired's reputation in the community with many impressed by both the show and our School. I was very happy to see works entered by our past students Ebony Bennett (2002) and Bryce Thomas (2012) and hope to see others in the future. The Youth Section was well patronised by current students with their talents on show for all to see.

I would like to thank all those involved in making Inspired a success, those who supported the show in a variety of ways and particularly the ladies who helped me in the tasks of collating, hanging and double checking the artworks, Jenny Smith, Lisa Blackwell, Rebecca Rath, Kerrie Fuller and Caroline Earp.

2016 Inspired has a lot to live up to so bring it on!

Miss Sue Richardson  
Inspired Curator
15

inspired

Ebony Bennett (2002) ArtExpress student with her paintings titled Brokenback Range (top) and Vermont View.

Bryce Thomas (2012) with his photography titled Corn Resident (left) and Road Walk Back.
David Kennedy
Maths Faculty
Commenced Term 1 2015
I grew up on the North Coast of NSW before moving to Newcastle to complete a Bachelor of Teaching/Bachelor of Science (Mathematics Teaching) degree in 2005. Growing up near the beach and in a reasonably small community has led me to have a keen interest in surfing and local sport – rugby, cricket, rugby league and soccer to name a few. While studying I joined the University of Newcastle Rugby Union Club, which eventually led to me gaining the opportunity to represent both the NHRU and NSW Country Cockatoos rugby union teams before leaving the Hunter to travel through the USA in 2011.
In 2012, I returned to Australia and accepted a position teaching mathematics at Waverley College in Sydney, where I was able to engage in two of my passions – education and coaching rugby union. A very busy, rewarding and fulfilling position. However, the chance to return to the Hunter and the opportunity to teach at HVGS proved the catalyst for my partner and me to return to Newcastle. She is a teacher at All Saints College, St Mary’s Campus in Maitland and we are very much enjoying being part of Newcastle and the Hunter again! Personally, I am very much looking forward to getting to know more of the students, staff and greater HVGS community over this year and into the future. The many opportunities offered here at HVGS, whether academic, sporting or cultural, will most certainly allow this to occur.

Kate Dwyer
English Faculty
Commenced Term 1 2015
I have joined Hunter Valley Grammar School after relocating from Sydney to the Central Coast. My family and I now live across the road from the beach, and that’s where you’ll find us on most afternoons and weekends. Before moving to the Coast, I taught English for eight years at St Patrick’s College, Strathfield. While there, I was fortunate enough to teach across the many English courses offered from Extension 1 to Fundamentals of English, Year 7 to Year 12. Like any comprehensive school, my students ranged from those who loved English and thrived in an environment where the canon of literature was both praised and appraised to those students who would rather have been anywhere but in an English classroom! The challenge is always to make all of these students feel welcomed and supported, and it is a challenge I relish.
At the heart of an English classroom is the ability to listen and tell stories, and it is my belief that we are all capable of this – just think of the gossip we exchange with friends and family when we gather.
Before St Patrick’s College, I was fortunate enough to work at Blacktown Boys’ High School. I learnt a great deal at this school, which was home to a diverse range of students, many of whom spoke English as an additional language. It was at Blacktown that I learnt the value of scaffolding written texts, and breaking information into smaller chunks. It was also at Blacktown that I learnt the value of a school community, and the importance of participating in the full life of a school. In this case, it was helping to teach newly-arrived migrants to swim in a three-day swim school, but I can think of many times since when enthusiasm in a school’s co-curricular or extra-curricular program has proved a worthwhile experience for me and my students. In fact, even my husband has been dragged in on the odd occasion to help set up an early morning football match!
My first term at Hunter Valley Grammar School has proved to be a busy but enjoyable one. The students and staff have been welcoming, and I look forward to continuing my work with them in the future.

Kerry Manning
Compliance Manager & Board Secretary
Commenced June 2013
I was delighted when offered the opportunity to work at Hunter Valley Grammar School. The School community creates a very attractive environment for any prospective employee or student. I grew up in Dubbo NSW and completed my HSC at Dubbo High School. I always loved attending school, particularly due to my involvement in sport. I was a keen sportswoman with an interest in hockey and athletics. I was fortunate enough to travel around Eastern Australia participating in representative athletics and hockey during my school years.
Upon finishing high school I decided to leave country NSW and attend Business College in Canberra. I was very excited to be awarded a scholarship at Martin Business College to support my studies while living away from home.
My passion for compliance commenced early in my career in Business. Upon completing my studies at Martin Business College I went on to study financial planning through Deakin University while working for an accounting firm in Dubbo. I enjoyed upholding compliance in line with legislation, regulations and professional standards.
During my return to Dubbo, I met my husband Luke. Luke was also from country NSW, growing up in Bourke. When Luke was given the opportunity to work for Rio Tinto in the Hunter Valley, we decided to make the big move.
Prior to commencing at Hunter Valley Grammar School, I spent some time working for a mining company that managed drilling projects across Queensland and NSW. This position provided me with further experience in maintaining compliance with legislation and regulations, particularly in the area of Work, Health and Safety.
We have grown to love the Hunter Valley and the opportunities available in the region. We are expecting our first child mid 2015 and look forward to her growing up in the Hunter and attending Hunter Valley Grammar School in the years to come.
Hunter Valley Grammar School’s Director of Sport, Mr Tony Burgess, and his wife Renee seized the opportunity to take their three children, aged from 5-10 years, to live in Canada for 12 months. Mr Burgess exchanged countries, houses, cars and schools with Mr Tom Andress. Tom, his wife and daughter experienced a fabulous 12 months at Hunter Valley Grammar School.

The exchange was with Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School (referred to as Hall) in Caledon, Ontario, Canada. The 750 students attending the school are Grade 9 to Grade 12.

Ontario schools run a semester-based program, which means students select four courses to complete for each semester. Mr Burgess started his exchange in January 2014, which meant he started Semester 2 of the 2013/14 school year and finished in January 2015 at the end of Semester 1 of the 2014/15 school year.

Courses taught: Grade 12 Weight Training, Grade 11 Weight Training and Grade 9 Physical Education.

This experience was more than a teacher exchange – it was a family adventure. As a family of five, we enjoyed the opportunity to live in the small rural village of Hillsburgh, Ontario – one hour from Toronto. This provided us with the platform to explore the beauty of an amazing and diverse country. Montreal, Quebec City, Jasper, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria all have their own appeal and are must-see holiday destinations. However, it was the day-to-day living that we grew to love. The kids at their new school, their friends, skating, ice hockey, softball, catching the yellow bus to school, then there is tobogganning, skiing, snowboarding, snow mobiling and dog sledding. Our children accepted every challenge and we loved watching them engage with every new adventure.

During our stay we made great friends. Everyone was so welcoming and generous. We were offered winter clothing, bikes, scooters and ski equipment. Nothing was ever too much trouble and we felt blessed to get to know these wonderful people. It was sad to say goodbye.

I will never forget my exchange, with the chance to interact with and learn from amazing teachers (now friends) and engage with polite and curious students. Teaching lacrosse, ball hockey and football, playing ice hockey and curling, taking students to Blue Jays baseball and Marlies hockey games – it does not get any better.

Mr Tony Burgess
Director of Sport
The 2015 Europe Tour took in the sights of Portugal, Spain, Germany and France. It included a visit to our sister school, Erasmus Gymnasium, in Germany and a quick trip into Belgium to the Menin Gate. We also ventured to the top of the Eiffel Tower on our first ever night tour and dined on the River Seine. In Spain we wandered the streets of Seville, enjoying the sweet aroma of the orange blossoms, visited a bull ring in Ronda and enjoyed the afternoon at Camp Nou, the stadium for the Barcelona Football Club. A highlight for many students was the ANZAC service at Villers Bretonneux. Students had also participated in the Adopt a Digger program, where they had researched a digger before we left. We then visited each grave and the students read a eulogy at the graveside and placed a cross on the grave. Our tour ended with a day at Parc Asterix and, despite the poor weather, the roller coasters were still a hit.

Here are some thoughts and highlights from some of the students who attended:

The Europe trip is an amazing experience that I thoroughly enjoyed. However, leaving Germany was very heartbreaking because I loved it so much and made so many new friends. France was also a highlight with its history plus seeing the Eiffel Tower and going up to the top is something I will never forget, along with Parc Asterix and its big roller coasters. I made so many new friends and had the time of my life that will forever stay with me.

Peta Van Camp, Year 8

Although the trip as a whole was great the best part had to be Germany. Just visiting the host families, seeing how they live differently to us and just experiencing it was the highlight of the trip.

Hayden Pearce-Bond, Year 10

The 2015 Europe trip was unforgettable. To roam the streets of Portugal, witness the Barcelona football stadium, make friends to last a lifetime, and see the Eiffel Tower for real and attend the historical ANZAC ceremony was AMAZING!! We went to places and experienced things I never would have been able to, had I travelled alone. And all the way I was privileged enough to have my friends there to support and make this trip even more cherished.

Gemma Fung, Year 10

My best experience on the trip would have been Mr Robinson’s surprise in Cuenca – the historical re-enactments, getting lost in the streets with the rest of my group. The best bit was probably the challenges to get the gems, and the competitive spirit that arose from the groups. It was a gorgeous city as well, scenic and picturesque. Not too keen on the drop though.

James McCaffrey, Year 11

My experiences in Europe were truly surreal. The cities we visited were beautiful and the cultural tranquillity in Europe is truly unique. I enjoyed experiencing the cultural division between the Australian cultures compared to the European way of life. Everything has its ups and downs but overall I enjoyed my stay in Europe and spending time with my friends.

Munesu Kazuva, Year 9

I found Europe to be extremely different to Australia. It was really good to have such a drastic change for a month. The German stay was also really good because we got to live in a different way, with different people and in a different country and culture for a week. All in all, I really enjoyed the entire trip and would recommend it to anyone who enjoys travelling and meeting new people.

Lachy Hughes, Year 9

The 2015 Europe Tour was an excellent learning as well as leisure opportunity and one which I will never forget. By being able to travel through Europe and see some of the countries’ most sacred sights, I have been given an insight into different cultures. I think I learnt the most in Paris, especially about how to not get lost on the Metro. I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and can’t wait to be able to go again.

Courtney Lawrence, Year 9

The Europe trip was one of the best trips that the school has to offer. Travelling with school friends, visiting our sister school in Germany and making new friends all added up to a great time. We tried lots of new food, rode push bikes, went to lots of cathedrals and even went indoor skiing. Special thanks to all the teachers who went.

Cameron Taylor, Year 9

The Europe trip was one of the best trips that the school has to offer. Travelling with school friends, visiting our sister school in Germany and making new friends all added up to a great time. We tried lots of new food, rode push bikes, went to lots of cathedrals and even went indoor skiing. Special thanks to all the teachers who went.

Cameron Taylor, Year 9

My experiences in Europe were truly surreal. The cities we visited were beautiful and the cultural tranquillity in Europe is truly unique. I enjoyed experiencing the cultural division between the Australian cultures compared to the European way of life. Everything has its ups and downs but overall I enjoyed my stay in Europe and spending time with my friends.

Munesu Kazuva, Year 9

I found Europe to be extremely different to Australia. It was really good to have such a drastic change for a month. The German stay was also really good because we got to live in a different way, with different people and in a different country and culture for a week. All in all, I really enjoyed the entire trip and would recommend it to anyone who enjoys travelling and meeting new people.

Lachy Hughes, Year 9

The 2015 Europe Tour was an excellent learning as well as leisure opportunity and one which I will never forget. By being able to travel through Europe and see some of the countries’ most sacred sights, I have been given an insight into different cultures. I think I learnt the most in Paris, especially about how to not get lost on the Metro. I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and can’t wait to be able to go again.

Courtney Lawrence, Year 9

The Europe trip was one of the best trips that the school has to offer. Travelling with school friends, visiting our sister school in Germany and making new friends all added up to a great time. We tried lots of new food, rode push bikes, went to lots of cathedrals and even went indoor skiing. Special thanks to all the teachers who went.

Cameron Taylor, Year 9

The Europe trip was one of the best trips that the school has to offer. Travelling with school friends, visiting our sister school in Germany and making new friends all added up to a great time. We tried lots of new food, rode push bikes, went to lots of cathedrals and even went indoor skiing. Special thanks to all the teachers who went.

Cameron Taylor, Year 9
For me, the trip was an amazing experience. We got to see so much in every place we visited. I would not be able to pick one single highlight because I enjoyed it all so much. Interacting with new people and making so many new friends was the thing I loved most. The trip is so long and there’s a mix in ages and year groups so you get to meet a bunch of new great people, not only from our school but from the school in Germany too. With these people you create some amazing experiences. The home stay in Germany was incredible. All the families were so lovely and would take us to do everything we possibly could in the time that we had together. The trip included memorable sights (churches, cathedrals, palaces, stadiums). I would love to thank all the teachers because they held it all together and made it a special experience for us all.

Finleigh Colquhoun, Year 11

I found the Europe Tour to be an amazing experience. Grevenbroich und Erasmus Gymnasium war sehr sehr gut! Parc Asterix was one of the best moments of my life, and the souvenirs hold many memories. I would definitely recommend it to anyone.

Sophia Van Camp, Year 11

My favourite part of the trip was visiting Camp Nou, Barcelona Football Club’s stadium. I also liked visiting my soldier’s grave that I researched. Parc Asterix was really good and had great roller coasters. It was also good to make new friends in other years. The pastel de nata in Portugal tasted awesome.

Ben Cashen, Year 8

Next Tour 2017

Our next European Tour will be held in 2017. A meeting for interested parties will be held later 2015.
Getting on the water

When Hunter Valley Grammar School was established in 1990 the School Board had a vision of a progressive School offering many extra-curricular programs, both sporting and cultural, that would enrich the learning experience.

Rowing was proposed by Board Secretary Digby Rayward as one of the potential activities that could achieve this purpose. Digby had seen first-hand the high levels of physical application, team work and self-discipline engendered by the sport. Due to its high profile in the GPS school system, rowing also had the potential to enhance the prestige of the School.

Mr Peter Bond was appointed Rowing and Mathematics teacher in late 1990. Peter Bond was well qualified to develop the rowing program at HVGS, having developed a similar program at Nepean High School that had seen the school reach the status of champion school at the 1978, 1980 and 1984 CHS Rowing Championships. He was an accredited rowing coach and had experience in rowing administration, with both Combined High Schools Rowing and the Central Districts Rowing Association.

Digby Rayward set about obtaining equipment for the fledgling rowing program. By the end of 1990, he had acquired six boats in various states of repair from The Scots College and Sydney Women’s Rowing Club. Initially, they were stored at a warehouse in Rutherford belonging to Board member John O’Brien. These boats were all timber fours, two being standard tub fours and one a fine racing tub plus three regulation (reg) fours. The three tubs were ready to be rowed immediately but the regs required some attention. A sufficient number of timber sweep oars had also been obtained.

One of the original tubs hangs proudly in the Cameron Centre foyer at Hunter Valley Grammar School. It was installed in honour of Mr Bond upon his retirement from HVGS in 2011.

Permission was granted by the Walka Water Works Trust for the School to train on their dam and to store the equipment within the main building.

In the first week of the 1991 academic year, students were invited to join the rowing program. Eight boys and four girls formed the initial rowing squad comprising Nigel Atton, Chad Edwards, Scott Evans, Paul O’Brien, Ben Rayward, Duncan Rayward, Ben Redman, Brad Russ, Nicole Callaghan, Amelia Faul, Cindy Newman and Emily Thorpe. As there were no launching facilities at Walka Water Works, the first outing on the water took place at Morpeth with the boats being launched from the public boat ramp. At that time, Bob Dunne of Heritage Gardens Nursery lent his trailer to the school to transport the boats from Walka Water Works to Morpeth. Also in attendance was Lyn Rayward, who shared the first rowing experience with the students. Lyn, as did Digby, maintained a long and close association with rowing at HVGS and later also with Endeavour Rowing Club.
In that first week of term, the Rayward and O’Brien families worked together to construct a floating pontoon that was of sufficient size to enable two fours to be launched at the same time, one on either side, with the buoyancy to support the two full crews of 10 rowers and coxswains. The second and all subsequent rowing sessions for the next 4 1/2 years could now take place on the Walka Water Works dam. During that first year, rowing training took place twice a week – after school on Tuesdays and during timetabled sport on Thursdays.

Competing
The Hunter Valley Grammar School rowers had their first taste of competition on 22 September 1991. This was an interschool challenge held at Morpeth. Crews from HVGS, Irrawang High School and novice crews from the University of Newcastle competed over a 400-metre course in tub fours between Morpeth Bridge and the boat ramp. HVGS won each of the races in the three categories Boys Four, Girls Four and Mixed Four, then went on to defeat the university crews as well. The rowing squad was ready for their first full-scale regatta.

The School’s first appearance at an official regatta was on 24 November 1991 at the Hunter Regatta conducted on Lake Macquarie at Speers Point. Five HVGS crews started and, although competing in tubs against racing fours, took out one win, three seconds and a third. Our first winning crew was Emily Thorpe, Cindy Newman, Nicole Callaghan and Amelia Faul with coxswain Kate Logan, who won the Junior Girls Four, defeating Warners Bay High and Irrawang High.

HVGS finished their first racing season with a single crew racing and winning at Taree followed by a trip to the Armidale Regatta and winning at Taree followed by a trip to the Armidale Regatta. The School’s first perpetual trophy, a silver salver won in the Boys Four, then went on to defeat the university crews as well. The rowing squad was ready for their first full-scale regatta.

Our first regatta
Hunter Valley Grammar School conducted its first annual regatta at Walka Water Works on 23 February 1992. Races were conducted over a 500-metre, four-lane course with entries from Hunter Rowing Club, Manning River RC, Port Macquarie RC, Armidale RC, Morpeth RC, TAS School (Armidale) and HVGS.

Morpeth Rowing Club, with three entries from two crews, was short lived, this being their one and only regatta. Because of a shortage of boat race officials, Peter Bond started every race from his own runabout then followed as the umpire. Trophies for winning crews were made from plywood in the shape of the spoon of an oar with a school crest at the centre. This regatta saw the first use of the racing four in addition to the tubs. From seven starts, HVGS had two wins (NM4+ and JB4+), one second and two thirds.

HVGS rowing uniform
During the inaugural season of competitive rowing, the HVGS racing uniform varied. At Morpeth and Hunter, crews competed in the school’s original sports polo shirt of navy blue. At the HVGS regatta they wore basketball singlets, the top half being white and the bottom half blue. For the last two regattas of the season, Lyn Rayward sewed together a set of racing singlets in navy blue with four coloured bands of red, yellow, green and sky blue. Subsequently, the School Board adopted this same design for the school sports shirt, which was to remain school uniform for the next 20 years. This racing uniform was registered with the NSW Rowing Association in June 1992. At the same time, the blade colours were registered as the single colour navy blue.

HVGS Rowing Club
The search for a suitable site for HVGS Rowing Club was realised in 1993 when Digby Rayward and Peter Bond found a two-kilometre stretch of water, six lanes wide on the Hunter River at Berry Park. The land was owned by Leon Harvey, brother of School Board member Garry Harvey. In November 1993, Leon agreed to sell the School a parcel of land, initiating a process that would eventually give the School a riverfront base.

Generosity
The HVGS Rowing Club was very fortunate to have committed parents and Board members, who constantly gave their time, effort, resources and financial assistance. The Rowing Supporters Club was formed in the mid 90s and was very hands-on loading boats, rigging and unrigging of boats, repairing boats, mowing lawns, cleaning the rowing shed bathrooms, fund-raising, transporting and feeding our crews. These traditions have continued over the years. At the end of 1994, the School received a generous bequest from the estate of the late Mr Philip Duff, a school parent. The bequest was for the purchase of sporting equipment and it was decided that some of the money would be used for boat purchases. Three new fibreglass single sculls were christened ‘Duff 1’, ‘Duff 2’ and ‘Duff 3’ by Philip’s wife Margaret and son Andrew at the school cocktail party.

Well and truly established
Hunter Valley Grammar School Rowing Club has a strong presence in the School and rowing communities and boasts too many achievements over the years to list here. The extension to the Boat Shed will be completed in the off season in 2015. We can look forward to a very bright future for the rowers of HVGS.

(Excerpts from “The History of HVGS Rowing” by Mr Peter Bond)
When the School was opened in 1990, it was decided that the Foundation of the School would be celebrated with a ball. The ball was known as the Foundation Ball and it had two purposes: to celebrate the founding of the School and to provide an opportunity to welcome the incoming Year 12 students as the senior students of the School. Each year the outgoing Year 12 are farewelled by the School community and the incoming Year 12 are presented – the passing of the responsibility from one year to the next.

For the students it is a rite of passage, a formal occasion that demands a range of responses. Students are presented to the School community, Year 11 students partner each other, the girls wear white with a sash of school tartan, the boys wear tails, with the school tartan in their bow ties and cummerbunds. They are expected to behave in a manner appropriate to the occasion.

In the late 1990s the name was changed to the Presentation Ball, to more closely reflect the role the occasion played. The ball is more than the night itself, it is an opportunity for Year 11 to work together as a group, to interact with the whole year in a different setting and to learn new skills. This social interaction is an important part of the learning process. It brings the students together so that they can work with each other in a positive and cooperative way in their final year of school. It is a night to celebrate their achievements, in learning the dance, the Grammar Glide, but more importantly an opportunity to welcome them to the next phase of their lives.

Mrs Sue George
Ball Coordinator 1999-2011
2005 presentation balls

2009

2014
On the morning of Sunday 8 March almost 200 members of the School and wider community took part in the inaugural HVGS Community Fun Run. Three distances were offered to cater for all levels of fitness and ability – from the 1km kids dash to the 8km run around the scenic Walka Water Works course.

The main aims of the event were to bring the community together in a healthy way and to raise much-needed funds for the Vietnam build project. The HVGS 2016 Vietnam Tour will be the fourth time over eight years that HVGS students have raised funds to buy materials to build a life-changing house for the Tày village people of Ban Ho, Vietnam. Many of the tour party donned Hi-Vis vests to marshal the course and man water stations. Tour staff, former tour members and volunteer staff took registrations and had the sausages sizzling.

The 5km event was won in a very respectable time of 19:00 minutes by Caleb Hill (16) closely followed by Nathan Kuszelyk (16). Third place was taken by the first female Kristina O’Brien (15) in 22:09. But it was very much a morning when everyone was a winner, with many families and friends running together. Results will show that our youngest runner was three years old and our oldest 69!

We hope to break all records in 2016 – times, attendance and money raised! Thank you to all those involved on the day and in planning the event.

Credit to Mrs Murray for the photographs.

Mr Paul Ivey
Fun Run Coordinator
On Monday 16 March the annual Cross Country Carnival was held at Tarro Recreation Reserve. It was a terrific day and some excellent results were registered.

2015 HOUSE CHAMPIONS

**PRIMARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BARRINGTON</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIVERPOOL</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLOUCESTER</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATAGAN</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SECONDARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIVERPOOL</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARRINGTON</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLOUCESTER</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATAGAN</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following students were Age Champions:

**PRIMARY**

7/8 years – Ashleigh Vetter, Luke Purdie
9 years – Charlotte Hallinan, Harry Carlson
10 years – Vani Nahar, Jesse Reid
11 years – Emily Fortunaso-Klocker, Thomas Feldmann
12+ years – Amy Dow, Billy Hughes

**SECONDARY**

12 years – Charlotte Harrison, Usayd Omer
13 years – Courtney Warwick, Sebastian Graham
14 years – Amelia Ross, Edwin Nicholson
15 years - Brittany Carroll, Darcy Buckhurst
16 years – Kristina O’Brien, Caleb Hill
17 years – Sophie Hodgson, Hugh Glasson
18 years – Annie Harris, Brayden Duignan-Teys

Congratulations to all!
Junior School Swimming Carnival

On Monday 2 February the Junior Swimming Carnival was held at Maitland Pool.

It was a beautiful day and the participation rate from the girls and boys was terrific.

**House Champions**

BARRINGTON  435  
GLOUCESTER  349  
WATAGAN  342  
LIVERPOOL  281  

**Age Champions**

8 years – Ashleigh Vetter, Angus Hicks  
9 years – Kristina Fortunaso-Klocker, Alexander Long  
10 years – Amali Jarrett, Henry Walker  
11 years – Emily Fortunaso-Klocker, Thomas Feldmann  
12/13 years – Ella Bendeich, James Nichols

One record was broken on the day. The 11 year boys 50m Backstroke was broken by Thomas Feldmann with a time of 39.30 seconds, which is 0.4 seconds faster than the previous time. Well deserved, as Thomas swam beautifully all day.

Secondary School Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday 4 February the Secondary School Swimming Carnival was held at Maitland Pool.

Perfect weather greeted the school with blue skies and the occasional cloud keeping the temperature down. It was to be a day of high drama, however, with a feat that has not been accomplished since 1998 taking place. Gloucester House has waited 17 long years to win the swimming carnival and finally did it this year. Yes, the Green Dragon sliced its way through the pool to record a monumental victory and have Mr John Guy shedding more than a few tears! He also copped a dunking for his troubles.

**House Champions**

GLOUCESTER  726  
BARRINGTON  694  
WATAGAN  674  
LIVERPOOL  578  

Gloucester breaks the drought after 17 years  

Barrington House Junior Captains: Ella Bendeich and Harry Gabites.
AGE CHAMPIONS

12 years – Sarah Abrams, James Patton
13 years – Ava Robertson, Riley Woods
14 years – Lupe Ngatuvai, Edwin Nicholson
15 years – Camryn Miller-Simmons, Reece Bell
16 years – Moana Ngatuvai, Joshua Raftos
17 years – Sophie Hodgson, Jamie Parker
18 years – Georgia Ross, Edward Goldfinch

There were seven records broken:

Jamie Parker (Watagan) broke the 17 Year Boys 50m Freestyle 24.19, 50m Backstroke 29.87, 50m Butterfly 26.47 and 100m Freestyle 54.78 records.

Sophie Hodgson (Barrington) broke the 17 Year Girls 50m Freestyle 28.93, 50m Backstroke 33.31 records.

Moana Ngatuvai (Watagan) broke the 16 Year Girls 100m Freestyle 1.05.15 record.

A big congratulations to these students for their wonderful record-breaking swims.

I’d like to extend a big thanks to Ms Amanda Osmond for her wonderful organisation of the event and the staff of Hunter Valley Grammar School for their assistance in making this carnival a huge success. Lastly, congratulations on breaking the drought, GLOUCESTER!

Mr Ross Murdoch
Acting Director of Sport
Early in 2013 I decided I was going to do a triathlon. Try something new, a box to tick, maybe a medal/ribbon. Done. As it turned out, I loved the sport, so it was only fitting I give duathlon a go too.

It just so happened that my first duathlon also turned out to be the National Selection race in Tasmania for the 2015 World Championships! Duathlon follows a run-bike-run format. The Hobart-based sprint race included a 5km beach run, 20km bike ride and then back to the sand for a final 2.5km run. This distance would generally be quite comfortable for me however coming off the back of a Half Ironman (1.9km swim/90km bike/21km run) only three weeks earlier, the fatigue levels were still quite high.

I drove through snow from Launceston to Hobart (late November) and once there we had a top temp of 13 degrees (#feelslike5), rain, hail and those ever joyous 40km/h winds. Did I mention the snow? I finished in second position in my age group, which gave me enough qualifying points to be selected for the National Team to compete at the World Championships.

The International Triathlon Union’s (ITU) Duathlon World Championships in Adelaide will be held from 14 to 18 October 2015. This will include elite, age group and paratriathlon duathlons. The event will be the biggest-ever duathlon in the southern hemisphere. The race course will have the City of Adelaide as its backdrop, with views over the River Torrens, Adelaide Oval, the Adelaide Hills and a race finish at Elder Park. I have chosen to compete in the standard distance race consisting of a 10km run, 40km ride and a 5km run. I can’t wait to represent Australia.

I also competed in a second qualifying race in typical Tasmanian weather in early February. This national selection race was for qualification for the Long Course Triathlon World Championships in Sweden in June (3.9km swim/120km bike/30km run). Despite my own race being a complete disaster, I have also been selected in the National Long Course Team. Unfortunately, due to work, life, uni and the short time frame, I am unable to make the trip to Europe this year. Competing at the World Champs at that distance is certainly on the bucket list for 2016 in America!
Holly Lawrence - Class of 2011

Holly Lawrence was a passionate and successful rower when she attended HVGS and nothing has changed!

When she graduated from HVGS in 2011 she wasted no time and was training with Sydney Women’s Rowing Club before she was even enrolled at university.

While studying a Bachelor of Science she has accomplished so much. Holly has medalled every year at both the Australian National Championships and the Australian University Rowing Championships. She was awarded a University Blue in her first year at uni. She has represented Australia, competing in Hamilton, New Zealand at the Great Boat Race. Holly has had the thrill of racing long distance in Sydney Harbour and living at the AIS, training with Australian Women’s Single Scull champion Kim Crow. Holly’s dedication and passion for rowing is obvious and her achievements are far too many to list here.

Holly was recently selected for the Australian Under 23 World Cup Team and has temporarily relocated to Brisbane to concentrate on training for the event in Bulgaria in July 2015.

We wish her every success and look forward to hearing more from Holly in the future.

2005 10-Year Reunion

The Class of 2005’s 10 Year Reunion is currently being planned for late October or early November. The invitations will be emailed (if we have your address) and published on the School’s website. Please contact the School with your current email address if you have not already done so.
Silver Anniversary continued from page 2

My association with the School began in 1989, when my husband Robert and I were first introduced to the idea of a new independent school in the Hunter Valley. At that time we had three young children (soon to be four) and their future education was a huge priority for us. All four attended the 25th Anniversary and, for me, are evidence of the fabulous young people who emerge from this School.

Suffice to say, Robert and I were both captivated by the prospect of helping to build a brand new school, so our family has been involved, one way or another, ever since.

Of course, our story is just one of the many that make up the history of this School. Some families came because they were looking for an alternative to the local state schools and some were looking for an alternative to Sydney boarding schools. However, the idea began in 1988, with two people looking for an alternative to Newcastle Grammar School. Apparently, they were watching a school rugby match when the seed was planted and they were soon joined by a handful of other like-minded business and professional people. They were a passionate and idealistic group, and their early vision of the School is expressed in Helen Hopcroft’s book: “Marked from the beginning by high expectations, it was to be a school that blended best educational practice with the greatest strength of the Hunter region: the determination, resilience and toughness of its people.”

The idea was all very well, but there was a fundamental problem: money. They didn’t have the capital to even purchase land, let alone build anything on it. Then the idea of raising working capital by forming a private company and approaching investors was formulated, unanimously accepted and a series of public meetings was arranged to attract investors.

Without exception, the people who came forward were people with children; parents with the common dream of building in the Hunter Valley, a wonderful school, open to everyone, regardless of ability, social standing or religious affiliation.

Despite that idealism, there was also a strong thread of pragmatism. In those early days no one knew if the School would succeed; it was a risky business. Fall-back plans suggested at the time were to convert the School into a retirement village or sell it off for housing blocks. When the Governor General of NSW unveiled the foundation stone for HVGS in front of acres of tea tree scrub, he couldn’t believe that a school would be running there within six months.

The financial and logistical challenges that faced the Foundation Board and those who followed in the first few years were immense: setting up a legal structure that enabled the School to borrow from the bank; hiring staff, including our first Principal, John Weeks; starting the building process and all that entailed. Many of the early investors and Board members were hands on, laying turf, planting shrubs, driving tractors, wiring buildings, hauling materials. I don’t think the people who were asked at those first public meetings to “come and help us build a School” actually thought they would be physically bending their backs to get it off the ground. Many pitched in.

One of the biggest challenges the School faced was lack of any government funding. Many times it looked as if the School would have to close because it couldn’t continue on just tuition fees and its dwindling bank finances. The first Principal John Weeks, Board member Garry Harvey and the redoubtable bursar, Stan Grzanka made numerous unproductive trips to Canberra to meet with the Minister for Education to try to have the school’s funding re-classified. I love the story of Garry Harvey who was so fed up with knockbacks from the Commonwealth Government that he jumped up in one of those meetings, and while he didn’t exactly “shirtfront” anyone, said “we’ll see you in court then”. Not long after, the funding finally arrived.

Thanks to the drive and determination of such people, from foundation to the present time, the spectre of failure has gone for good.

Over its 25-year-history the School has been very fortunate in the calibre of the people who have volunteered to govern it. I am incredibly proud to have had the opportunity to work with so many of those people. I can’t name everyone, but I must pay tribute to the late Jack Latter, former Chairman Bob Cameron, and the legendary Gwen and John O’Brien, all of whom have had their contribution recognised by the naming of School buildings in their honour.

Former Board member Digby Rayward made the comment that the School was lucky because the right people for the job seemed to come along at just the right time. I would like to thank everyone who came along and contributed to the success of the School. It’s been a collaborative effort, which I can assure you continues today. We have quality staff, involved parents, aspirational students, a beautiful campus, the latest technology, solid finances supported by government funding and full enrolment, a burgeoning scholarship program, an outstanding Principal and a Board committed to creating an educational community that works together to provide a world-class education for its students.

Bring on the next 25 years.

Mrs Kristine Littlewood
Board Chair

Reflections continued from page 4

Music is my passion and it became a major focus in the life of our School. Cultural and sporting subjects certainly added to the success of the School. After five years of growth, in 1994, HVGS celebrated its achievements, impressive development and academic and cultural successes. Construction continued and in 1997 a new Primary Block and the Rayward Boat Shed at Berry Park were officially opened.

Throughout the School there was always a warm family atmosphere with Senior students caring for the Juniors. Both my sons, Jonathan and Adrian, who were foundation students and the 1997 and 2002 School Captains, became part of this atmosphere, which was important as it gave them such strong values that has provided them with guidance for their future.

On 3 December 2009, I was honoured to be invited to open the Music Faculty and the Senior Centre building. I said at this time that I likened the journey of the growth of HVGS as a mother with a child: nurturing, guiding, teaching, instructing and providing exposure to as many opportunities as possible to give a springboard into the students’ life beyond the boundaries of Hunter Valley Grammar School. It is my greatest joy to congratulate the Music and Performing Arts for their continued success! The Music Mafia rocks!

In 2003, Principal Michael Clapper gave me the opportunity to be Acting Principal while he took his sabbatical leave.

After my retirement from Hunter Valley Grammar School, I have been further honoured to receive Chairman of the Board Kristine Littlewood’s invitation in 2010 to become a Board Director to assist in the governance of HVGS.

As a Board Director, I have been able to watch the incredible growth of Hunter Valley Grammar School and the stunning achievements of our students both academically and in the cultural and sporting areas. Technology skills that are mandatory today have developed throughout the School campus over the past years and both staff and students have fully engaged with the future technological needs and challenges. As a Board Director, I am able to attend the presentation of awards for students and I have been able to become involved in the School life by assisting with the Music Scholarship Committee, the Judging of the Australian Business Week Displays and a member of the Inspired Committee. As Hunter Valley Grammar and its students
are challenged and gain their strengths it is the School’s values that enhance the present and the future.

The opportunity has been afforded to me, as the 25 Years Anniversary Committee Chairperson, to work with the committed and talented Hunter Valley Grammar School staff to ensure that the School celebrates its 25 years with pride. Their efforts have included the Silver Anniversary Ball in the Cameron Centre, the historical display in the O’Brien Administration Building, the aerial 25 years photograph of the School, a silver anniversary sport shirt and badge for both staff and students and the Soirée and Inspired celebrations.

Thanks must go to Committee Members Principal Paul Teys and Pip Teys, Susan Boyd, Amanda King, Jack Machin, Hannah Joliffe, Kerry Manning and Foundation Staff Elaine Barker and Lorraine Keith.

I do know that many of you will agree with me when I say that Hunter Valley Grammar School gets into your blood and becomes your life. Along with my sons, Jonathan and Adrian, I can honestly say it was an important part of our family for about 15 years.

It still remains a major passion in my life.

Hunter Valley Grammar School is true to its motto: “Success through Endeavour”.

Mrs Heather Russell-McLaren
HVGS Board Member
Foundation Teacher

Celebrating 25 Years of Excellence in Education
GET YOUR TEAM AND REGISTER NOW...

Our 10th Annual Golf Day is proudly sponsored by Bluegum Asset Advisory.

CYPRESS LAKES RESORT HUNTER VALLEY FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2015

This year the funds raised from our Golf Day will go to the HVGS Jabulani School service tour for 2015. The Golf Day is always extremely popular with players and sponsors alike so we suggest registering early to ensure your involvement.

TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT
Susan Boyd, Communications Manager
P 4931 0717 E boyds@hvgs.nsw.edu.au

There are FOUR ways you might like to support the event:

1. Sponsoring a hole
2. Entering your team of four
3. Make a cash or prize donation
4. On course product promotion

Blue Gum Asset Advisory are a leading-edge plant and machinery valuation, asset management and auctioneering company that you can trust. Blue Gum Asset Advisory strive for outstanding results with every project.

With over 20 years of experience our valuers and consultants have been involved with projects for:

Family Law • Tax Consolidation • Finance
Insolvency • Valuation Reviews
Merger & Acquisition • Insurance • Stock

We pride ourselves on attention to detail, experience, accuracy, quality reporting and excellent customer service.

Contact Tony Taylor P 0409 500 168