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Cover image:
Annabelle Dryden and Chloe Friedlander in Seussical the Musical, Parade Theatre May 2013

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FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Creativity and innovation

“The best employers the world over will be looking for the most competent, most creative, and most innovative people on the face of the earth.”

Tough Choices or Tough Times,

We don’t know what the world will be like in 20 years’ time – and given how technological innovation has changed the world over the past 20 years, it is hard even to imagine what’s to come.

What we do know, however, is that creativity and innovation will drive that change, and is as vital to future prosperity as it has been to past.

This Bulletin celebrates these skills. With articles from the performing arts to flipping the classroom to serving our community, we see the creativity and innovation that underpins these activities. Our hope for all our girls is that their education enables them to think, to create, to innovate, and to help shape our world over the next 20 years and beyond.

Dr Julie Townsend
Headmistress

Year 10 elective art canvas painting by Annie Kilbane
Creating a global classroom

St Catherine’s is taking education technology to new heights through its ICT for Learning program. We are pushing the boundaries of teaching and learning; preparing girls for a global future using cutting edge technology and innovative teaching techniques.

St Catherine’s teachers are now flipping the classroom, allowing students to take ownership of their learning, take part in meaningful work and create their own learning tools. Every student can be a learner, teacher and a global publisher.

PDHPE teacher Ms Julie Park has been successfully flipping the classroom. “As part of PDHPE the girls viewed content at home. In class they researched websites using Diigo and created a video about adolescent health issues and shared it via YouTube. By the end of class the video had been viewed over 200 times. The girls utilise technology and collaboratively take responsibility for their own learning. They have a sense of pride when they are able to publish to the whole world. The classroom is no longer confined to the four walls of the room – it’s a global space,” said Ms Park.

With the flipped classroom model the traditional classroom and homework tasks are reversed. Students view resources, videos or animations as a homework task, before the lesson, reviewing content as many times as they need.

Class time is then used more efficiently; the teacher facilitates the review and application of knowledge, engages with the subject, guides student interaction and assimilates new ideas; allowing students to find their own path to solutions for problems.

Head of Information and physics teacher Mr Paul Carnemolla said “I have never found a more effective way of teaching for true understanding. It’s measurable and observable in the classroom and in students’ learning. In contrast traditional methods are less effective in developing deep understanding in students. Lync technology also allows students to learn from anywhere and at any time – it’s revolutionising learning.”

Using Microsoft Lync, students can instant message, video call, audio call and share their desktops and whiteboards with teachers. The technology can be used, one to one, group to group or one to a group. Combined with stylus based Samsung slates, students at St Catherine’s can draw, write or type while conversing with their teacher and other students online.

Using this technology, students can still join the class when they are unable to attend school. Likewise, teachers can continue to teach when away from school; aiding students with homework tasks and helping absent students keep up with school work.

Year 11 student Sasha Lian said “I find this way of learning so helpful. It means that I can keep up with work if I am away from school and I can speak with my teachers if I need help with my homework. When we share a whiteboard, the fact that they can see my work and hear me explaining, means they can easily see where I need extra help.”
There is an overwhelming variety of creative opportunities for both Senior and Junior School students at St Catherine’s, ranging from visual arts using mixed media and new digital technologies through to dance, drama and music.

In the pursuit of broadening girls’ horizons and diversifying their skills, students were introduced to the professional work of the Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO) and Opera Australia, two top level performance groups that visited St Catherine’s.

Members of the Senior string ensemble enjoyed a challenging workshop with the world renowned ACO Quartet; providing the girls with a rare opportunity to expand their musical capabilities.

The collaboration then performed to a full house in the Dame Joan Sutherland Centre theatre, under the direction of Ms Sylwia Waples.

The Senior School orchestra took centre stage, conducted by Mrs Marnie-Ruth Dunstan before the ACO Quartet closed the performance with Haydn’s String quartet opus 20, no.4. ACO’s Helena Rathbone performed on a 1759 Guadagnini violin, worth well in excess of one million dollars.

The celebrated Opera Australia presented to a lively and enthusiastic audience when they visited the Junior School. The girls were enthralled by the creative production of Mozart’s opera The Magic Flute and jumped at the chance to take part in the interactive performance.

Junior School teacher Ms Felicity Dowdell said “Seeing such talented opera singers perform the songs the girls learn in class is so valuable to them, they can see how powerful music can be. The girls flocked from the classrooms to the Jane Barker Hall to enjoy an afternoon where they engaged with an opera. The performers made opera singing appear effortless. We each left with a song in our heart and a smile on our face.”

Year 3 student Annabelle Strachan said “It was good to see this opera performance because we had studied the songs in music and it brought it to life.”

Thank you to parents Mark and Kate White of Katering who donated this invaluable ACO experience for girls in both 2011 and 2013.
Celebrating Physical Culture

This year marks 64 years of Physical Culture performances at St Catherine’s. This student-led inclusive competition celebrates physical activity and has over the years become a fixture in our school’s annual calendar of events.

The house system was first introduced in 1933 under the headship of Miss Ellen Lenthall (1903–1934) but at that time inter-house competition was limited to organised sport. St Catherine’s girls had always done a certain amount of ‘physical training’ with dumbbells and backboards and the ‘daily dozen’ exercises, but it was not competitive until the Physical Culture (PC) competition was introduced in 1949 by Miss Ella Mitchell (1948–1949).

From the very beginning, PC was a student-organised activity, with the house captains responsible for selecting and training the girls. Over the years the competition has been modified and has taken various forms. Originally the event consisted of a display which included folk dancing, as well as exercises and formation marching.

In the early 1950s fencing, wand and torch routines were included. In the 1960s gymnastics and various national dances were added.

Miss Faith Patterson (1955–1987) introduced a more formalised and organised structure, limiting each house to four minutes in 1965. She separated the PC competition from the display component – although both remained part of the family evening/carl service and award night, with the three houses performing their routines.

Mrs Jo Karaolis (1988–2000) changed the guidelines to control ‘inappropriate’ routines and costumes. From 1994 the competition was held during the day and only the winning house performed at the family evening.

Some of the guidelines and judges’ evaluations were set by Mrs Karaolis in 1994. Here is an excerpt:

“Music must be instrumental rather than vocal and be suitable for a school audience (no X-rated pop or rap). House leaders must use verbal cues. There must be a march on, march off component. Junior School students do not participate. Minimum props, minimum costumes which must not be expensive and must be acceptable in terms of modesty and decency. Judges evaluate the performances in terms of – has there been...

- visual impact and presentation, choreography, did it make an appealing impact?
- variety of movement in the routine, was the whole body used?
- appropriateness of music for both the theme and the routine performed, did the group keep in time, move rhythmically?
- degree of difficulty of the routine and was the routine safe and performed safely and creatively?”

Mrs Lynne Stone (2001–2009) later dropped the winning house award and encouraged two houses to perform at the family evening. The PC competition is now eagerly anticipated as an annual fun and physical event to cap off another great year.

Our creative, supportive family

It’s wonderful to watch our boarders chatting and laughing, watching a movie or sharing a tasty meal together in the dining room. The girls are always thinking of new and creative ways to entertain each other and manage the challenges of their youth.

It’s so satisfying to witness the support they give each other when life gets tough or perhaps, relationship difficulties need to be solved.

Such is life in our boarding family, where up to 70 girls – from country NSW and 10 different Asia Pacific countries – all live together. The girls enjoy the advantages of an education at St Catherine’s and social adventures around the exciting seaside city of Sydney.

The girls are encouraged to strike a good balance between work and leisure. We want our girls to feel like they belong to our boarding family, and they do!

Mrs Trish Wilson
Director of Boarding and Enrolments

Just like sisters...

I came to St Catherine’s because my mum used to teach here, and I love the school.

I take part in a lot of co-curricular activities; after school dance classes, private music lessons, and I’m part of the intermediate string ensemble. I really enjoy these activities and living on site makes it really convenient.

I love living in the boarding house as we have a lot of support with everything. We have tutoring available four nights a week for anyone who needs academic help and there is always someone to help in every situation. As I have brothers, I especially love having so many girls around me who are just like sisters.

Rebecca Thong Year 8

Nurturing with great food...

I’ll be completing my HSC this year and moving out of boarding after six years. I’m from Mudgee and I joined the school as a Year 7 boarder in 2008, following in the footsteps of my sunny Rhonda.

As part of my HSC Body of Work for visual arts I painted a portrait of my grandma. It was great to have my family here for the Creative Connections evening and show them my visual arts and design and technology work.

Being a boarding student in the school has really helped me develop my independence. I value the strong relationships I’ve developed with girls from different backgrounds and cultures. I’ve learned what it means to live in a community, to listen to others’ opinions and to compromise.

I am head of the Boarders’ Council and it’s been a privilege to work with the council members to provide the girls with a range of exciting activities, such as the boarders’ dance and lique with the chef. Food is such an important part of boarding and I’ve enjoyed a wide diversity of dishes and flavours over the years. Our current chef, Mr Joseph Favorito, provides exceptionally tasty food and uses an amazing variety of spices in his dishes.

I’ve grown to love the nurturing environment of our boarding community and I know I’m going to miss it.

Spencer Murdoch Year 12

Year 12 student Katie Prince is one of a growing number of Indigenous students completing their HSC at St Catherine’s. Katie has been a fantastic role model in the boarding house, as a prefect and AIEF scholarship recipient.

Katie recently featured on the front page of The Australian as a pioneer for Indigenous students.
Year 12’s passing parade
Ms Marilyn Miller came to St Catherine’s in 2010, taking on the newly created role of Coordinator of Special Education. Mrs Rickard was inspired to take a post graduate diploma in special education, in preparation for the Senior School. The opportunities for Ms Miller to experience life overseas, being herself in London. She worked for three years in tourism, before returning to Australia. After a few years she returned to teaching.

“Having specialised in depression and learning difficulties for my Masters, I was very happy with the introduction of positive psychology at St Catherine’s, it’s a great tool for the girls. There’s a very positive and supportive community of parents and students here at St Catherine’s, it’s a real highlight in my work.”

Ms Miller enjoys spending time with her partner Greg and their three children Mia, Kody and Cooper, making regular trips to Queensland. She is proud to have become an Australian citizen this year.

“Ms Miller came to St Catherine’s three and a half years ago as Head of Academic Support. In Term 3 this year she took on the exciting new role of Director of Learning Enrichment, overseeing gifted and talented programs and learning support throughout the Junior and Senior Schools.

“I am very excited about the new role, my current focus is in the Junior School, mainly surrounding literacy intervention. Supporting and helping from an early age really improves the girls’ development for the future.”

Ms Miller has a wealth of experience in education, having worked at Moriah College for 12 years as Coordinator of Education Support.

After leaving school Ms Miller had to make the tough decision between a career in art or education. She settled on combining the two: training to teach art and history at the University of Cambridge. After many years teaching in London, and lured by the lifestyle, after completing a Masters in Special Education, she began her role at Moriah College.

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Ms Miller enjoys spending time with her partner Greg and their three children Mia, Kody and Cooper, making regular trips to visit family in Brisbane.

“I am a very social person, I love to spend time with my friends, dining out and catching up.”

Ms Miller also loves to be active. She has a passion for running and last year achieved the impressive feat of running her first marathon.

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HSC Creative Connections

Showcase was an extraordinary evening celebrating the breadth and depth of the girls’ HSC Bodies of Work. Hundreds of parents, students and staff shared in the girls’ talents and creativity; exploring their outstanding work across the arts.

Pictured are HSC works by:
- Bebe Bettencourt
- Emily Boden
- Tiffany Chu
- Ella Deane
- Koko Van de Laak
- Felicity Lane
- Raina Lin
- Gina McCluskey
- Ella Mather
- Spencer Murdoch
- Laura Ng
- Stephanie Ng
- Venus Notarberardino
- Imene Panaretos
- Eleanor Redding

... And watch this space for future creative talent, as promised by these artworks by Bronte Scott Year 10 (top) and Claudia Lehman Year 11.
Junior School highlights
Inspired giving through service education

St Catherine’s service education program has been going from strength to strength with girls running organised events, creating their own fundraising initiatives and even heading overseas to work on international projects.

Service Education Coordinator Ms Sarah Hatch said, “There is a growing community of fundraising and so many girls are getting involved, making a real difference to the lives of others, not only in Australia but world-wide.

“It is inspiring to see St Catherine’s students develop creative ways of promoting awareness for charities, in a way that speaks to the whole school community.”

Since 2010, Year 12 student Anastasya Lonergan has made a significant contribution in the promotion of harmony and social justice between those of different economic situations, cultures, races and abilities.

Anastasya has been heavily involved in many events for a number of organisations. Through her perseverance and energetic leadership she has been nominated by her peers to be a child representative to the World Vision Triennial Council in Tanzania in November. She is one of 35 representatives elected from every region in the world, a fantastic opportunity for such a dedicated, influential student.

ENCORE is a program of outstanding performances and compositions by students from the HSC Music examinations. It is held annually at the Sydney Opera House.

The music department is proud and delighted to announce that three of our Year 12 2013 music students have been nominated for ENCORE.

Laura Ng and Stephanie Ng are flautists who studied the Music 1 course. Raina Lin is a pianist who studied the Music 2 course.

This accolade is a result not only of their talent, but of their dedication to practice and their willingness to listen to advice.

Their performances for the HSC reflected an ability to perform with flair, style and technical dexterity.

Congratulations to these outstanding musicians.

Year 8 student Tara Lian has been very enthusiastically involved with service education. Motivated to help, Tara has baked all her own goods and enlisted the help of her sister and fellow students to run two bake sales for the organisation Seeds of Hope, Peru. The funds raised from Tara’s generosity will assist disadvantaged children in Peru to gain an education, supporting them with nutritious snacks.

In 2012 and again this year, Year 8 student Helena Motoney sold bags of jelly beans throughout the school and local community. This year she raised $1150 for JDRF an organisation helping children with juvenile type 1 diabetes.

Along with Anastasya Lonergan, Year 11 students Francesca Earp, Mia Maric, Zoe Raat, Isabella Murphy and Perri Roach were instrumental in helping to find creative ways to promote the 40 Hour Famine at St Catherine’s.

They presented at year meetings, made videos, promotional posters and encouraged participation around the school community. St Catherine’s was the third highest fundraiser in Australia for World Vision’s 40 Hour Famine.

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On Friday 30 August 2013, the St Catherine’s P&F sponsored what has now become the biennial Art Show – a P&F funded school community event.

The word community is important in the P&F’s approach to the event, but it is also a fundraiser. I am pleased to advise that the evening achieved a profit of $12,500.

And what a wonderful evening, showcasing individual and compilation artworks from both the Junior School and Senior School. From the creation of the Art Show invitations (which a number of us agonised about) to the fairy lights in the trees, the mood music, the black and white photographs, and the auctions, the night was a great success and lots of fun.

The P&F Executive want to thank the Art Show Committee for their amazing and incredible energy. There were many many volunteers who made the Art Show a success: by both making the art look spectacular and working to make the event a sparkling evening. It is important to note that we had a bit of a rocky start to proceedings, with a much shorter lead up time for producing the artworks, but with massive amounts of help and creativity, we made it across the line on Friday 30 August with honours!

The P&F in 2013 have already donated generously to the school, with donations of a 12-seater bus that does not require a specific bus driver’s licence, four marquees for use at sporting and social events, a state of the art laser cutter for the technology and applied sciences department, and a kiln for the Junior School.

The parents of St Catherine’s should feel proud of our school, our girls and the contributions of the P&F – which, at the end of the day, is us the parents, working collaboratively with the school.

However, it is on this occasion that the Art Show has the limelight and we look forward to the next Art Show in 2015.

Ms Louise Campbell
President
As we said goodbye to the current Year 12s recently and welcomed them as St Catherine’s Old Girls, we spoke to them about the role and the importance of their year representatives.

Year representatives were introduced in 1980 to assist their year group keep in contact with one another, organise reunions and keep a link with the school community. Originally there was only one year representative and this person was voted for by the girls of Year 12. However, over the years this has changed to two girls – usually a boarder and a day girl – and the Old Girls' Union executive chooses the girls based on their nomination letters.

It is always quite touching to read these letters from girls about to leave school, who tell us how important their years at St Catherine’s have been and how they would love to help keep their year group together and remain involved in school life.

The year representatives are presented with an Old Girls’ scroll at Speech Night and are given life membership of the Old Girls’ Union. We have many year representatives on our Old Girls’ committee, which helps them to keep their year up to date with activities both at school and in the Old Girls’ Union – as well as representing their year’s views on a myriad of issues.

It is now 30 years since I left St Catherine’s. Patricia Wong, our year representative (as well as Vice President of the Old Girls’ Union), organised our reunion in June at Cenvice in Congee. Thirty girls from the Class of 1983 enjoyed a beautiful dinner together while sharing lots of stories and adventures from the last 30 years, and of course reminiscing about our school days.

We would like to thank the school and the Old Girls’ Union for assisting in organising the reunion. Patricia liaised with Barbara Peatman (the school’s Old Girls’ Executive) to get copies of the school rolls and put the information on the website and Old Girls Online. This way we attracted one Old Girl whom we hadn’t seen for many years. Evangeline Galettis helped with school photos and magazines for the girls to look at, and the Old Girls’ Union provided assistance by providing up to date addresses and helping in the financial organisation for the event. The school and Old Girls’ Union also helped organise a tour of the school in the afternoon.

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From the Old Girls’ Union, a big thank you to all the year representatives who give up their time to help their year stay in touch with each other and with the school community.

Mrs Cathy Ridge
President
Victoria Baron (Class of 2002) is a makeup artist specialising in fashion and celebrity makeup. She is based in Sydney but travels all around the world working with different teams and fashion labels.

At St Catherine’s she loved design and technology and art – especially anything to do with design. So this is the perfect occupation for her! After a career in show jumping in the UK, she started a makeup course in Sydney and then assisted other makeup artists and slowly worked her way up the chain. Her clients include Jennifer Hawkins, Jessica Mauboy, Dita Von Teese, Rhanna, Delta Goodrem, Miranda Kerr and Eve. Her work can be seen in the following fashion magazines Vogue, Harpers Bazaar, the new Australian Elle and Russh.

Katherine Galettis (Class of 2001) attended St Catherine’s School from Kindergarten through to Year 12. She was always interested in the creative arts and is thankful for the supportive and nurturing environment at St Catherine’s and its approach to creative studies.

While at school, Katherine was involved in musical events and ensembles, including the choir, jazz band, a capella group and many more. An enthusiastic artist, Katherine was encouraged to develop her skills in painting and drawing at St Catherine’s. Although a challenge completing three major works for her HSC in art, design and technology and music, Katherine was selected to exhibit her art major work in the 2001 NSW ARTEXPRESS. In addition, her paintings were also selected as the advertising visuals for the State Library of NSW event.

Katherine gained a place to study at the University of NSW, graduating with honours in a Bachelor of Interior Architecture. After completing her studies, she went to work for a variety of award winning architectural firms, such as Bates Smart and Marchese & Partners.

As well as working full time, Katherine found an opportunity to share her knowledge with design students, working as a tutor in the interior architecture program at UNSW and at the CATC Design College in The Rocks. In 2012, Katherine co-founded design firm studio ia, which specialises in high-end residential and commercial design.

Katherine believes that her education at St Catherine’s School has built a solid foundation in her dedication to design and the creative arts; not only in the skill and knowledge of design, music and art, but the ability to be enthusiastic about learning, and discovering that your passion can also be your career.

Reunions

Jane Barker Luncheon
The Headmistress Dr Julie Townsend had pleasure in welcoming 62 Old Girls back to St Catherine’s in May for the annual Jane Barker Luncheon. This luncheon is to honour Old Girls who have left the school 50 years ago or more.

Those in attendance ranged from the Class of 1942 to the Class of 1963 – who were presented with a silver picture frame as a memento of the day. The Senior string quartet performed and everyone enjoyed catching up with former classmates and reminiscing about their time at St Catherine’s.

Canberra reunion
On Sunday 11 August the Headmistress Dr Julie Townsend and the treasurer of the Old Girls’ Union and school archivist Mrs Evangeline Galettis travelled to Canberra for a reunion with Old Girls living in that area. High tea at the Canberra Hyatt was enjoyed by six Old Girls, the oldest from the class of 1947.

Weddings
Katie McLennan (1998) was married at the Briars in Bowral on 24 November 2012 and Catherine Owen (1998) was married on 31 August 2013 at Clandon Park in Surrey UK. Both girls attended each other’s wedding.

Mother and Daughter Breakfast
Dr Julie Townsend hosted the annual Old Girls’ Mother and Daughter Breakfast at the school on Thursday 21 March. It was wonderful to see so many Old Girls, who are mothers of current students, enjoying this time together.

Old Girls attending the Jane Barker Luncheon

Old Girls with their daughters at breakfast with Dr Julie Townsend
To the bride and groom...
We are very excited to share the news that our Junior School teacher, Ms Emma Kelly, married Mr Andrew Henderson on February 16 in Bowral.

On Saturday 28 September Mrs Barbara Peatman (Alumni Relations Coordinator) married Mr Ian Beasley at the Sydney Rowers Club. Their children, family and friends helped to celebrate this wonderful occasion. Ian is the brother-in-law of Marilyn Rickard, Director Community Relations at St Catherine’s.

Welcome to the world…
Bonnie Rogers, born 7 July, daughter of Mrs Renee Rogers, PDHPE teacher
Scarlett Inez Lobo, born 3 June, daughter of Ms Ramona Lobo, mathematics teacher
Yet to be named son of Ms Gabriela Konarikova, born 7 September, ICT Data Manager
Zachary, born 7 September, grandson of Dr Shantha Bose, Head of Mathematics
Jack Peter Draper, born 26 July, son of Mrs Gemma Draper, Community Relations Administrator
Jack Alexander Turnbull-Brown, born 19 September, son of Ms Daisy Turnbull-Brown, history teacher.

Life’s milestones

Prefects

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House Captains

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<th>Mia-Jane Ellis</th>
<th>Sasha Lien</th>
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<td>Bronte</td>
<td>Tate Soller</td>
<td>Holly Backelman</td>
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<td>Casterton</td>
<td>Tori Morrissey</td>
<td>Madison Bartlett</td>
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<td>Hulme-Moir</td>
<td>Alice Tricks</td>
<td>Gabrielle Mills</td>
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<td>Sutherland</td>
<td>Lily Davies-Long</td>
<td>Grace Wheeler</td>
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House Vice Captains

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<tr>
<th>Barker</th>
<th>Amy Giddy</th>
<th>Isabella Thomas</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bronte</td>
<td>Georgia Tomaszuk</td>
<td>Amella Simpson</td>
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<td>Casterton</td>
<td>Sophie Shanahan</td>
<td>Asia Bosich</td>
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<td>Hulme-Moir</td>
<td>Elizabeth McDonnell</td>
<td>Raine Giderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sutherland</td>
<td>Chrissy Christofa</td>
<td>Ashley Smith</td>
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BABIES, FROM TOP
Mrs Renee Rogers and husband Trent with Bonnie Rogers; baby Scarlett Inez Lobo; Mrs Gemma Draper with Jack Peter Draper; and baby Jack Alexander Turnbull-Brown.

RIGHT
Ms Emma Kelly and Mr Andrew Henderson.

ABOVE
Mrs Barbara Peatman and Mr Ian Beasley.

An Anglican day and boarding school for girls | 27
Fine accomplishments…

Congratulations to all staff for another great season at St Catherine’s. We would like to especially note the following accomplishments:


Mrs Jenny Birrell, Junior School music teacher, was the musical director for the Waverley Lugar Brag Players production of Guys and Dolls. As a directive from Musica Viva, Jenny also prepared a series of sequenced learning activities as a work unit for Australian Kindergarten using the Curriculum guidelines. This was launched nationally in May.

Ms Natalie Miller, Ms Katy Sonter and Mrs Robyn Blomfield completed the Colour Run around Centennial Park to raise money for the Cancer Council.

St Catherine’s production of Seussical the Musical at the Parade Theatre, NIDA was a huge success. Forty girls from St Catherine’s School joined forces with five boys from The Scots College and Waverley College to produce an exciting and colourful production. The musical follows the characters as they try to save Whoville and take care of Mayzie’s egg – while dealing with the mischievous Cat in the Hat.

Our woman of the future

St Catherine’s Junior School teacher Miss Susanna Matters has won a major prize for her work helping female Kenyan school students maximise their education opportunities.

The Australian Women’s Weekly ‘Women of the Future’ prize helps young women aged between 18 and 28 to fulfil their dreams. Miss Matters has won the ‘Judges Choice’ $20,000 scholarship for her charity, Goods for Girls, which operates in rural Kenya.

Eighteen months ago, while teaching in the village of Muhaka, Miss Matters found that girls were regularly missing school because of limited access to sanitary products. She decided to buy disposable sanitary pads in bulk for her students. “I’ve never seen anyone so excited about a sanitary pad in my life. It was such a valuable present for the girls, because this small product is the ticket to passing their exams and getting the most out of school.” Miss Matters said.

But on her return to Australia, Miss Matters came up with a longer-term solution. Goods for Girls now trains students on how to make their own safe, environmentally friendly and income generating sanitary products, as well as providing women’s health education to the students.

Miss Matters said “We believe that all children should feel empowered and safe in their educational environments, especially young women. My dream is to see this model spread throughout rural Kenya.”

The scholarship will be used to sustain and expand the program, which is currently funded by Miss Matters personally.

St Catherine’s is extremely proud of Miss Matters and commends her on the extraordinary work she is doing. Goods for Girls has been nominated by Junior School students as their special fund raising project for 2013.

“[We believe that all children should feel empowered and safe in their educational environments, especially young women.]”