

BUNDARA

A magazine of the Central Coast Grammar School Community Issue 47 2016

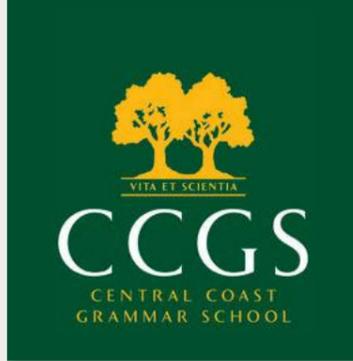
Cambodia Humanitarian Tour: Changing lives



VITA ET SCIENTIA

CCGS

CENTRAL COAST
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



BUNDARA

BUNDARA is the magazine of the Central Coast Grammar School Community. BUNDARA is published biannually.

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From the Board

It is the goal of Central Coast Grammar School to support each student to reach their full potential. Our aim is that students' pursuit of academic achievement does not come at the expense of their other interests and passions. From their immersion and participation in humanitarian activities through to extending themselves on the sporting field or even the world stage we offer something for everyone.

Our strength is as a multi-focus school. We perform very well both academically and beyond the classroom. Reading through these pages, it is evident the zeal which our students explore their various talents and seize the opportunities presented to them across a whole range endeavours, reinforces our reputation as a vibrant and well-rounded school.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank teachers, staff, students and the entire school community for a fantastic year.

Ken A. Jolly, AM

Chairman of the School Board

From the Headmaster



The Cambodia Humanitarian Tour continues to change lives for both the Cambodian people and our own students and staff. Each year 28 students and their families raise \$25,000 to build houses and water wells for the rural poor in Cambodia.

CCGS students and teachers have worked with the Tabitha Foundation over a number of years to build over 130 houses. I'm incredibly proud of the work our students and teachers undertake whilst in Cambodia and in the 12 months leading up to the trip. They grow and develop as a result of what they experience and many students return home with a new perspective and humility which can stay with them a lifetime. The tour is character building and we hope their experiences will positively benefit their local and broader communities in the future. Please take the time to read more about this life changing trip in this issue.

2016 has been a year of innovation and our individual and collective achievements are numerous. 2017 will bring more exciting change as we develop and improve our communication and learning platforms through the implementation of a new Learning and School Management System, a new school app and the launch of a new school website. We will also continue to develop, integrate and innovate key aspects of the *Next Generation Teaching and Learning* strategic plan.

As the academic year comes to a close, I wish to take this opportunity to thank our students, teachers, parents and friends for their support this year.

William Low

Headmaster

Cover Image: Georgia Wales and Alexandra Jennings (Y11) building one of the sixteen houses built in Cambodia this year.

Eyes wide open

Cambodia Vietnam Humanitarian Tour

Words by Christine Hodgkinson, Manager Development and Community Relations

I was lucky enough to get a place on the 10th annual Humanitarian Tour to Cambodia and Vietnam in September alongside 28 students and 6 teachers. If you've been in the school for a while you've likely heard about 'Tabitha' and have contributed in one way or another. I'd heard of it too over the years, but had no idea of the scope and achievements of this remarkable project until I got involved. So I'd like to share our incredible experiences.

The actual 'tour' was for two weeks during the school holidays but it's so much more than a tour! Our personal growth journey started 12 months before departure, when our group began working together to serve others.

Our fundraising journey

The main focus is to build houses with the Tabitha Foundation to alleviate poverty in rural Cambodia. Every fortnight we made cupcakes and BBQ'd to raise money for the houses and every week in between we met as a group for coaching and planning to keep us on track. The time commitment from students and staff is significant. Each house which comes with a water well costs \$2000 and we were able to build 16 with your support.

We also had working bees after school and in the holidays to make decorations for our Hoedown fundraising dinner in March. Students asked their families, employers and friends for donations and prizes and we cannot thank our sponsors enough for their generosity, making the Hoedown such a fun evening and a brilliant fundraiser. Yee ha!

Over the years the project has also built relationships with Sunrise Children's Villages and Allkids and students organised the collection of craft supplies and toothbrushes from our school and wider community to deliver to these children.

The project continues to grow and evolve. This year a student instigated a new relationship with Days For Girls, who make and deliver re-usable feminine hygiene packs to girls who would otherwise stay at home from school without access to these products. Girls and boys on the tour team, alongside parents and students from the school community, cut and sewed these packs which our girls delivered during the tour.

The fundraising and community service is so much bigger than the tour group. It's a whole school tradition. Junior School students got together with family and friends to run farmer's markets with their home grown produce and organised a colouring competition. The gold coin collection at Grammar's Got Talent helped AllKids fund a new mini-bus.

Incoming Study Tour

On top of the tangible, physical results of building houses and delivering supplies, the project also builds capacity through an incoming study tour. A month before our departure, four teenage students and two teachers from Sunrise Children's Villages were hosted by our warm-hearted school families. The four girls attended Middle School lessons alongside their buddies and joined as many excursions and incursions as possible during their stay. The teachers worked in our classrooms to broaden and enrich their practise. So many in the school got to know our visitors and

through them were connected to the wider project. Sunrise works hard to build and sustain local education and communities and this reciprocal aspect of the project is amplified when these visitors, who are the future of Cambodian society, return home with aspirations for new ways of living and learning. I had the honour and privilege of hosting the female teacher, Chanthoeun, and we had lots of fun cooking, laughing and learning about each other's lives.

When we visited the two Sunrise Children's Villages during the tour we met up with our visitors and they were so proud to show us around their schools. A personal highlight for me was having dinner with Chanthoeun and her family at her home. They had created a feast fit for a palace, and invited family and neighbours to meet me.

Travelling in Cambodia and Vietnam

You can imagine that by the time we assembled at the RLC at 5.45am on the morning of our departure we were already a very tight team. But we would become so much closer over the coming weeks. Our leaders had created a fantastic schedule that packed in as much as humanly possible.

The house building itself was undoubtedly the most rewarding part of the tour where the team really bonded during two hot days of gruelling work. The frames, floor and roof are in place and our job was to nail down countless narrow bamboo floorboards and build the walls. Breakfast at 6.30am and a two and a half hour bumpy mini-van ride from Pnomh Penh each way made for very long days but the work was carried out with humility and never a complaint.





Our minds were on the privilege of being able to enact our fundraising and make such a significant contribution to the people around us, who had saved up money for their new houses too. We were repaid with a warm welcome, a helping hand and happy smiles when the finished

houses were handed over. Kim reflected on her feelings of fulfilment seeing the looks on their faces: "I knew that I'd worked arm in arm with my team mates to change their lives."

Visiting two Sunrise Children's Villages and AllKids added to our personal understanding of the real meaning and impact of all the fundraising and collecting. There was

high-spirited singing and dancing

with tumultuous applause when our students

performed their Grammar's Got Talent routine, in answer to exuberant entertainment from our hosts. Our soccer and volleyball skills were tested by agile and enthusiastic opponents. There were fun and games of all sorts and also quiet conversations as we got to know each other. We only work with the most progressive and ethical non-governmental organisations and as Isabella said, "I understood and experienced for myself how much of a significant impact these organisations have in establishing a better life for kids and families. It opened my eyes and created a personal connection to those suffering as a result of poverty."

Our teachers trained the AllKids teachers for a day, sharing resources and equipment for learning activities in Art, Science, CPR, Food Handling Hygiene and Geography, that they could in turn use with their students. Meanwhile our students relaxed across the road at the beach. The idea of some beach cricket had come up the night before and one of their teachers whittled a home-made cricket bat for us overnight. Many joined us for a game the next day and the bat has come back home with us as a memento.

The scale and magnificence of the 12th Century temples at Angkor Wat, the largest religious monument in the world, bore witness to the majesty of the ancient Khmer Empire and added a spiritual dimension to our experience.

Visiting the Tuol Sleng (S21) Genocide Museum and the killing fields of Choeung Ek gave us profound insights into the history and circumstances

that have shaped so many of the issues facing Cambodians today. This was an emotionally confronting day and we absorbed and processed this disturbing information in different ways with teachers on hand for de-briefs. Our guide's personal family story, together with those of other survivors, made these relatively recent and devastating events very real.

Moving on to Vietnam, we absorbed the idyllic beauty of the villages around Sapa staying in the homes of the ethnic people of this mountain region and enjoying their simple hospitality. Adventure lovers got their fix boating, cycling and water buffalo riding. We split up into small groups for a chef's tour of the Hanoi food markets, followed by a boat ride to the Red River Cooking School where we re-grouped to prepare and consume our own feast. Talking with a Viet Cong veteran soldier and visiting the War Remnants Museum in Ho Chi Min City gave us an alternative



perspective on the 'The American War' and brought home the terrible impact of the war on Vietnamese civilians.

There were lots of intriguing foods to try, including tarantulas, crickets and cocoon worms. We spent much of our food budget in restaurants that support and train marginalised youth for the hospitality industry and enjoyed delicious meals in Sunrise, Friends and KOTO (Know One Train One) restaurants in Cambodia and Vietnam.

Deep Learning

By now you're realising, why 'tour' doesn't start to cover this all-encompassing journey and you must also be starting to comprehend the incredible work done year in year out by our leaders Michele Hockey and Sandra Peebles. To build and sustain these relationships, facilitate raising so much money over so many years, and to inspire successive tour groups and our whole school community to engage with this humanitarian project is a monumental achievement. Working alongside them for twelve months I've seen just how much passion, time, sweat and tears they put in. They are fantastic leadership role models and have made a difference to countless lives as a result of this project.

Projects like this are a key strand of the balanced education and wellbeing at the heart of the CCGS student experience. It's been a challenging opportunity for every single one of us at times and our hands on, deep learning will play out over the years to come. Student evaluations show how much their involvement has empowered them and developed key skills for life post-CCGS including: gratitude, leadership, self-belief,

service, empathy, teamwork, perseverance, self-confidence, resilience and independence - to name just a few.

- "I'm determined to find happiness in everything I do and always focus on the positive, inspired by our guide Manay's beautiful nature and constant happiness, despite the tragedies he's experienced in his life." *Cooper*
- "I've learned that a small insignificant human being like me has the power to change a single life, in the long run the world. I've learned to trust myself rather than rely on others." *Georgia W*
- "I've come to see what I value inside people." *Stuart*
- "People you don't know very well can become really close friends if you make the effort to get to know them." *Kim*
- "Goal setting allows individuals to achieve great things together (e.g. making cupcakes to build houses) and I'm inspired to set more goals to achieve." *Nic*
- "I learned that I can push through anything regardless of the circumstances." *Georgia H*
- "I've learned to widen my former narrow perspective allowing me to understand the imbalance in our world." *Harrison*

Above all this journey has inspired us all to serve others. As Tasmin put it, "helping people gives me true joy and this trip has really uplifted me."



CONNECT

Follow the 2017 tour at
www.facebook.com/CCGSHumanitarianTourCambodia



SEE FOR YOURSELF

We've published a collection of videos documenting our fundraising journey and the tour itself at www.ccgsw.edu.au/cambodia-humanitarian-tour.aspx



SUPPORT US

Donate a prize, buy a cupcake, sausage sandwich or raffle ticket.

Help sponsor a house for the 2017 tour at
www.tabithaaustralia.org.au/edonates/form

Donations are tax deductible, so depending on your tax break you could build a house for little more than the cost of a cup a coffee a day for a year.

Contact Michele Hockey for more information
mhockey@ccgs.nsw.edu.au



Investing in INNOVATION

P&F Innovation Grants

Innovation is about looking beyond what we currently do, supporting great ideas and putting them into practice. This year the CCGS Parents and Friends introduced a new initiative to support innovation in teaching and learning by providing grants totalling \$12,000 to creative and diverse projects which enhance the intellectual infrastructure of students and teachers.

"The P&F usually provide funds to improve the physical capital of the school - which of course are very important in enhancing the learning environment," said Geoff Dent, P&F Member. "This is an opportunity for seed funding to further develop great ideas in the school. Who knows where these projects can lead our students and teachers!"

This year four projects were successfully funded and are currently in various stages of implementation.

Student Digital News Crew

Lights! Camera! Action! The Digital News Crew comprised of nine students from Years 6-10 are currently filming, editing and producing a new digital news program made for students by students. The student production team are learning all aspects of designing and creating news content including reporting, camera operation, direction, audio, graphics, editing and writing.

"After a rigorous selection process, successful students and IT Curriculum Support Staff received expert filmmaking training from Tropfest winning producer and director, Jason van Genderen," said Gavin Summers, Director of Innovation/Digital Literacy. "They are currently filming and editing their first of three, 3-minute episodes to share with the entire student body. Not only are they enjoying working on developing their film production skills, but they are learning from experts who are out there doing this for a living. Many students have expressed a passion for making film beyond their schooling years, so this is a great learning opportunity for them."

Students learn the finer details of interviewing



Near Space Exploration

Imagine a group of students huddled around an inflated helium balloon (decked out with sensors and equipment), waiting with anticipation for the exact time to let it go and watch it ascend (via video) over 35kms to the edge of the Earth's atmosphere! This exciting experiment is almost a reality for a team of scientifically minded students who will be launching a weather balloon during November.

The team of students from Years 6 - 10 have been meeting regularly to nut out the finer details of the launch. "We've thought about what data we want to gather and what sensors and video to attach to the balloon," said Bridget Weller (Year 10). "We've liaised with experts regarding local weather patterns, secured a date and time for the launch and set up the satellite tracking navigation - which we tested by running around the oval with a tracking device! We're planning to add an old Smartphone so we can live stream its journey skyward. It's a very exciting project, and we can't wait to see what information we get back and what we learn from this experience."

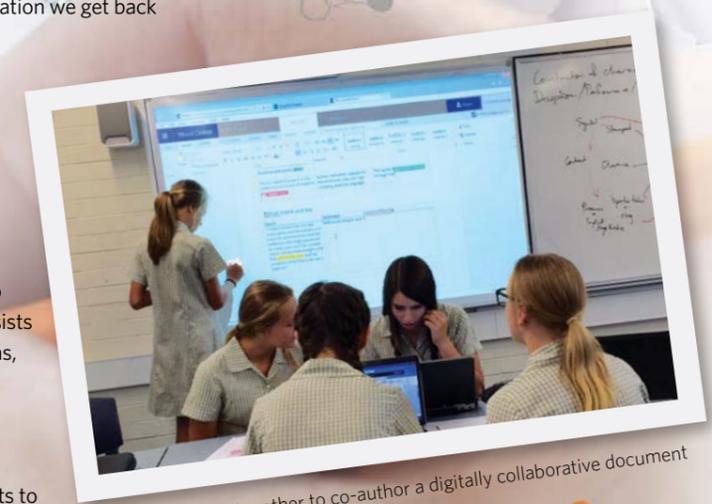


Students track weather data prior to launch

Digital Collaboration Zones

The innovation grant will enhance rich learning opportunities for English students by creating flexible, collaborative zones that enhance next generation learning. New digital technologies have been integrated into existing English classrooms to create Digital Collaboration Zones. Each zone consists of a whiteboard for students to brainstorm big ideas, laptops for individual research and large screens so students can co-author digitally collaborative documents.

"This personalised way of learning allows students to work in ways which benefit their individual learning styles while engaging in a cooperative learning activity with their peers and teachers," said Damon Cooper, Director of Teaching and Learning. "Students have commented that this collaborative approach, supported by appropriate technologies, gives them a better insight into the ideas and thoughts of others which assists to develop their own ideas or even create new ones!"

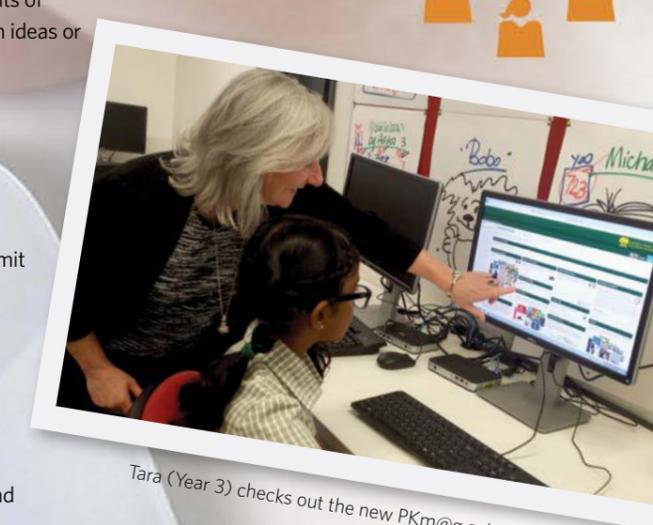


Students work together to co-author a digitally collaborative document

Online eZines to nurture creativity

A new online subscription to Spineout, PKm@g and Good Reading, three online eZines, will provide an online national platform for students K-12 to express their ideas and share their creativity in words, art, film or music. Students can also submit reviews of books, poems, short stories and even music lyrics and can access the subscription from school or from home.

"We've already had students publish book trailers that have been created as part of their Library program and review newly published children's and young adult books," said Karen Seeneevassen, Teacher Librarian. "The new subscription will academically and creatively challenge students and enhance digital literacy throughout the school. When students can express themselves and their ideas and find an audience for their work beyond the school gate, everyone benefits."



Tara (Year 3) checks out the new PKm@g subscription

I looked at my matador with pleading eyes. The lances stabbed into my back were slowly weakening me, every drop of blood hitting the ground with a splash, shortening my life by a second each time. The matador waves his cloth, waiting for me to charge, confusion on his face. But I stay, every moment an eternity, waiting for him to see the error of his ways, and the terror in my gaze. Slowly, ever slowly, he backs away and sits, his head in his hands. My legs give out and my vision darkens, closes in and I struggle to breathe, the sound of my heart pounding in my ears.

- Zane, Year 6

Philosophy for children



Philosophy is 'the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality and existence'. The new Philosophy for Children Program (P4C) has been introduced for students in Years 3-6 who have been identified as 'big thinkers and good speakers' and who show concern for wider community issues. P4C supports and enhances cognitive, affective and social skills to stimulate curiosity and allows students to think more deeply about issues and ideas that are important to them.

Benefits of philosophy to junior school children

In the school environment, the study of philosophy is not about finding the answers to life's greatest questions. More so it involves developing the skills of applied reasoning and higher order thinking skills to make sense of the world and articulate and evaluate thoughts and ideas clearly, whatever the subject. The teacher guides students to think for themselves, allowing them to reflect on their ideas and those of others, rather than being taught a particular set of values. Evidence suggests that when children are introduced to philosophical inquiry at an early age, it nurtures diversity and a deep empathy for the experiences and views of others.

"Providing students with an outlet to think creatively and critically about significant issues that not only affect them but also others, teaches

tolerance and open-mindedness which can be applied to any number of problems both inside and outside of the classroom," said John Clugston, Learning Support and P4C Teacher. "Students learn to work in a 'Community of Inquiry', where discussion is the focus, students respect each other, value listening skills, play with ideas and become inquisitive and questioning."

The development of these philosophical concepts ultimately makes school a lot more meaningful to students while enhancing the essential communication and creative thinking skills prevalent in most learning domains. "It's been great to see students developing a tolerance for differing opinions, considering different ways to approach a problem and listening to others with respect. We've had many deep and insightful discussions about a variety of issues - conversations we may never

have had!" said John. "Watching students express their personal views in a safe and accepting environment has been enjoyable for everyone."

How is the program delivered?

Each week the group review a series of short, related stories that focus on moral and social themes. These might include right and wrong, friendship, lying, bullying, personal growth, fairness, freedom, community, care, discrimination and rights and responsibilities. Students consider the stories then offer their opinions, listen to others, write responses, and often as a result, change their initial point of view.

"We recently explored 'empathy' after reading about the story of a Matador in Spain who went on to become an opponent of bullfighting after he was confronted with a bull who refused to fight," said John. "Thinking about this situation from the perspective of the Matador or the bull provoked some deep thinking and discussion in the group, resulting in some emotively written responses about animal rights."

"Although the P4C program is only new, I already see far-reaching benefits. It's hoped that CCGS can further extended the program to facilitate more children in the future," said John.

A balanced education

The P4C program contributes to students overall sense of wellbeing, confidence and civic involvement. It also supports the school's notion of a balanced education for students.

The study of philosophy is not only available to Junior School students. Middle School students can also select this area of study as an elective in Year 9.



The Philosophy for Children Program was developed by Philip Cam. Philip was educated at the University of Adelaide and the University of Oxford and is Associate Professor in the School of Philosophy at the University of New South Wales.



TECHIE TEENS

Ben wins Technology ICAS medal



Ben Lamont (Year 8) has placed first in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) Digital Technologies test and will be receiving a medal from the University of New South Wales at an official ceremony in November.

ICAS is an independent, skills-based assessment program which recognises and rewards student achievement and is undertaken by students throughout Australia, Asia and South Africa. CCGS typically performs very well in ICAS tests.

This year over 980,000 tests were undertaken in Digital Technologies, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing. Ben is one of only 600 students from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Region to receive a medal. "It's awesome to do so well in

Digital Technologies because it's an area of interest for me," said Ben. "Technology is always changing and evolving. New technologies come along all the time and they all provide new ways to create things. It's very exciting!"

Robotics: Mentees become the Mentors

Robotics is fast becoming a growing area of interest for CCGS students as numbers swell in our Junior and Middle School cocurricular robotics program.

In late July, Charles Crowley, Ollie Butcher and Jamie McPherson from our Year 9 Robotics Team travelled to Germany to participate in the International Robotics RoboCup Competition after placing 3rd in Australia. In preparation for the competition, Dr Aaron Wong from the University of Newcastle mentored the team, sharing his experiences of working in robotics and competing in the Robocup competition at the elite level. His advice and knowledge were fundamental in preparing the boys for a

competitive world-class robotics competition.

While the team didn't win, it was an invaluable learning experience which they are now sharing with likeminded youngsters both inside and outside the school. Working with primary students from Charlton Christian School, the boys have taken on a mentoring role meeting with the juniors and preparing them for their trip to the national competition.

CCGS students will also benefit from the boys experience and knowledge when our robotics club reconvenes at the school in 2017. They'll be on hand to mentor and guide our up-and-coming roboticists to develop and build their own robots for competition.



The team works with Dr Wong



Jye Lobasso, Ollie Butcher and Jamie McPherson assist students from Charlton Christian School

Snapshot of RoboCup International Competition



The boys discuss robotics with the University of NSW RoboCup team



Putting the finishing touches on the robots before the competition



Competing on the world stage



Reconfiguring robots after a long flight

NEWS FLASH

The Year 9 Robocup team has just won the 2016 National Championships in the Secondary Dance category. They are now eligible to participate in the 2017 World Championships in Japan for a second consecutive year.

See for yourself!

Scan this code to see our afterschool robotics program in action:



CCGS Life

Music to her ears!

Anastasia Hibbard (Year 10) was named the 'People's Choice' in the Concerto Soloist Competition judged at the Symphony Central Coast Prodigies Concert held mid-September.

The biennial Concerto Competition gives young Central Coast musicians the opportunity to perform a concerto with a symphony orchestra. The competition is open to all instrumentalists under the age of 25 and attracts talented musicians from across NSW. Anastasia was one of four finalists selected from the audition rounds which included tertiary students from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Congratulations to Anastasia who is an active member of the CCGS

music community. She's the Captain of our Senior String Ensemble and a member of the school's Symphony Orchestra and String Quartet. She took home a prize of \$1,000.



Wrap with love

Junior school students, parents and friends picked up their knitting needles (some for the first time!) knitting and crocheting beautiful woollen wraps for Wrap with Love Inc - a not for profit organisation who provide warm blankets to people from Australia and around the world who are in need of extra warmth.

Students came together in knitting sessions to create colourful knitted squares which were joined together to create 6 beautiful warm wraps.



Introducing our Head Prefects 2016/2017



Head Prefects play an important role in providing leadership and support to students right across the school. Not immune to the trials and tribulations of the student experience, new Head Girl, Demi Gerakios and Head Boy, Cooper Timewell, share how they pick themselves up when they've fallen short and how they intend to draw on their strengths to develop as school leaders.

When have you failed at something and what did you do?

Demi: I am not known for being particularly sporty, so there has been a lot of last place finishes in my life. That hasn't discouraged my participation though! If you've given things your best go and still fallen a bit short, embrace it, accept it and try again. We can't all be good at everything and failure is just a very small part of who you are.

Cooper: I remember back in Year 4 when I tried out for the school basketball team. Unfortunately, I failed to get into the team. I expected to get in because I was one of the oldest to try out, however I had never played basketball before. I learnt from this experience that you have to work hard to achieve your goals, and that becoming older in years does not give you more opportunities - you have to make these opportunities for yourself.

How do you intend to grow and develop as a leader?

Demi: I intend to draw on my strengths to represent and give back to the school community as best as I can. I believe that good leadership is mostly about serving others. I'm sure I'll learn a lot about myself and my own style of leadership while trying to do so.

Cooper: I'll keep learning from the teachers and students around me. I always ask others what they think I could do to be a better, more influential leader, and I take their feedback on board and apply it to my leadership style. I'll continue to meet as many people as possible from CCGS, because I believe a successful leader should get to know and be accessible to the people around them.

What three words sum up your time at CCGS?

Demi: Vita et Scientia!

Cooper: Challenging, amusing and rewarding

States of Science: **USA Science Tour**

Last school holidays 48 students and 5 teachers embarked on a Science and innovation tour of the USA, spanning 5 states, over 14 days. The diverse itinerary engaged students in learning experiences which touched on the key tenets of Science including Geology, Earth Sciences, Biology and Physics.



Why a science tour?

"Academic tours of this nature spark curiosity and students become motivated to learn more in depth about a particular area of interest or challenge," said CCGS Science Teacher, Ross Farrelly. "When a student can visit the Grand Canyon and see for themselves 35 layers of exposed sedimentary rock aging from 200 million to 2 billion years old, Science really comes alive!"

What did they learn?

Geology and Earth Sciences (Arizona)

Reflection by **Jake Vernon-Elliott** (Year 10)

The 2016 USA Science Tour provided an opportunity to explore and unearth the wonders of our planet and to experience firsthand the origins, formation, development and future of humanity. Our individual exposure to the world around us and the knowledge that we gain from this inspires us to continue discovering, to learn and to make a difference.

Our trip to the **Grand Canyon** and **Meteor Crater** provided a deep dive into Earth and Environmental sciences. The Grand Canyon was an experience like no other. The stunning abyss teeming with character and heritage, set the scene for discovery. The experience of witnessing this marvel of nature and the environment was indescribable.

Our visit to the Meteor Crater, sparked a sense of curiosity to explore the origins of Earth. Regarded as one of the most well preserved meteor craters in the world, we gained an insight into the early formation of our earth, the effect of astronomy on the environment and the significant impact that this event had on our landscape.

This trip was a one in a lifetime experience. It inspired me to continue the study of science and provided a wealth of unforgettable 'bucket list' moments that I'll always remember.



The USA was an excellent choice to see Science in action. "There are natural and man-made phenomena and institutions that we just don't have here in Australia," said Ross. "We could explore iconic locations and visit the top scientific organisations responsible for some of the most important and innovative work on the planet (and beyond!)."

Physics (Florida, Washington DC and New York)

Reflection by **John De Martin** (Year 11, Physics and Chemistry student)

A visit to **Kennedy Space Centre** and the **Smithsonian Air and Space Museum** showcased the past and future developments of space exploration. We were given such an unbelievable opportunity to experience and understand the history of the development of science. At the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, I visited the aeroplane exhibitions, which showed the development of small one man aircraft to the now huge modern planes which can fly much further and seat many more passengers, all due to the application of the fundamental laws of physics. I've always had an interest in planes and for me this experience was invaluable because I could better understand concepts we can usually only discuss in our physics classroom.

At school we'd just completed a topic on space. The museum opened our minds and showed us real life models of shuttles and equipment. We even got to experience a rocket launch and we felt the same effects which the astronauts experience. In class we had only talked about these ideas and being able to experience them first hand was exciting and extremely beneficial to my learning. The tour is a highlight of my time at CCGS!

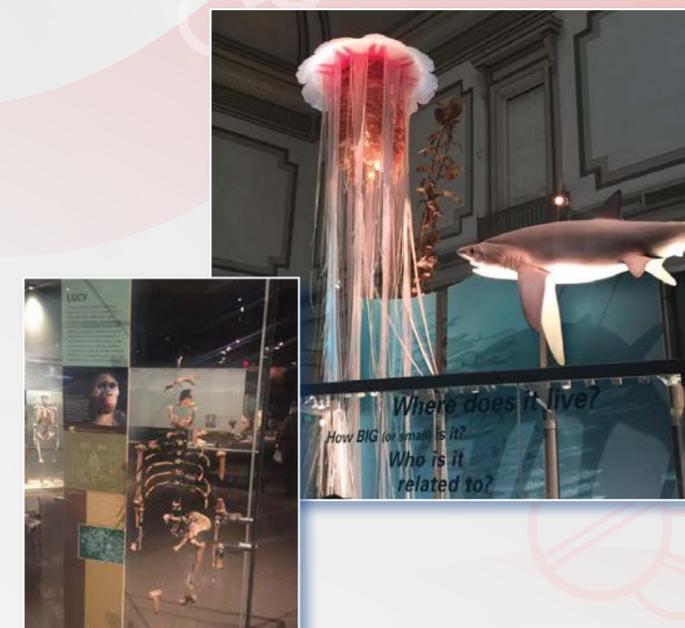


Biology (Washington DC and New York)

Reflection by **Maya Soni** (Year 11, Biology student)

Biologists study the structure, function, growth, origin and evolution of living organisms. **The Smithsonian Museum of Natural History** and the **American Museum of Natural History** have a huge range of exhibits which touch on human and animal evolution, the development of bird flight, dinosaur exhibits and a raft of others.

The animal exhibitions were fascinating. To see creatures that I don't usually see or get to study up close gave me a real appreciation for Earth's biodiversity and piqued my interest in evolution. I could see both their exteriors and their skeletal structures so I could examine and better appreciate how the bones have changed over time to allow animals to adapt, evolve and survive in their changing environment. These are structures you can never really examine deeply until you can actually see and experience them.



Increase in student engagement in Science

Since returning from tour, teachers are noticing an increase in interest, attitude and aptitude in Science. "I've seen the glances of acknowledgment between students who went on tour when we are discussing concepts related to the things they saw and experienced," said Ross. "They now have a real-world reference point to better understand and reinforce what they are being taught."

"The tour was a great way for Year 10 students to consider the study of Science in Years 11 and 12," said Ross. "Seeing the application of Science helped them realise that there are real world opportunities and diverse career possibilities in Science. They can see that their future contribution to Science, and mankind, could be enormous."

Sport stars on the rise

The Beach Boys

The surf was 'going off' for CCGS surfers at the Ocean and Earth NSW High School State Surfing Titles held late July.

Caleb Tancred (Year 10) and Lennox Chell (Year 7) blew the competition out of the water winning the event for 2016 and claiming the title of best Under 16 school team in the state. Fresh off his victory at the NSW Schools Titles, Lennox continued his red-hot form winning the Under-14 NSW Individual State Title.

Caleb and Lennox will go on to represent CCGS and NSW at the National Surfing Titles in Phillip Island later in the year - watch this space!



Caleb (far right) and Lennox (second on right)

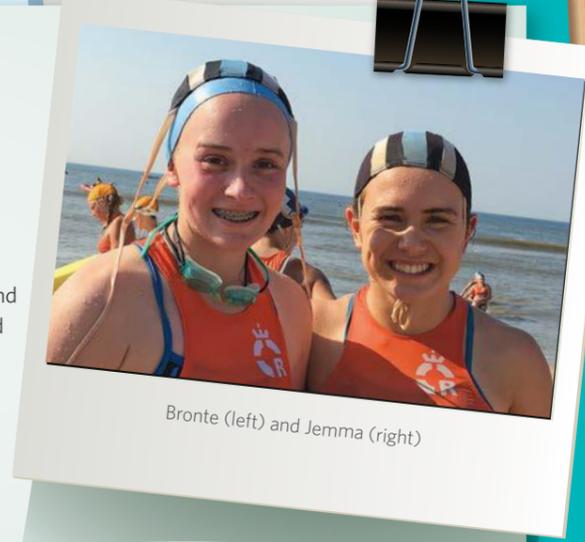
The Smith Family

Jemma Smith (Year 11) is a star on the rise. She was named 'Athlete of the Year' at the Surf Life Saving Awards of Excellence in August and has just returned from the Netherlands after representing and captaining the Australian Youth Surf Life Saving team at the International Surf Life Saving Competition.

Jemma won twelve World Championship medals: Seven gold, two silver and three bronze. She participated in both the World Teams (for Australia) and the Interclub (for Umina) components of the competition. The Australian Youth team which Jemma captained won the World Teams Competition.

To top off an incredibly successful year, she's just been named 'National Youth Athlete of the Year' at the 2016 National Awards of Excellence for Surf Life Saving!

Younger sister Bronte, is hot on the heels of her big sister too. She placed 4th in the Board Rescue together with Jemma, narrowly missing a Bronze medal. Bronte is the youngest ever Umina representative at a world event. What an amazing achievement for the Smith sisters.



Bronte (left) and Jemma (right)

Field of Dreams

The Major League Baseball Australian Academy recently invited Nicholas Anderson-Vine (Year 11) and 40 other elite baseballers from across Australia and NZ to participate in a four-week training camp focusing on high-level instruction and skill development.

He played alongside and against the best players in Australia, learnt from some of the best Australian and American coaches, received academic tutoring, sports psychology and lessons in life skills and was awarded the Coach's Award after finishing with a top 10 place in 14 of the 18 disciplines.

Since returning from camp, he's been selected to participate in the World Select Baseball Team, a collection of the top amateur talent from Africa, Australia, Europe and South America. He will compete in the Arizona Fall Classic, the premier collegiate showcase tournament in the United States and with Major Leagues scouts in attendance, Nicholas is proving he's one to watch in the future!



Nic takes a swing



2016 Spring Fair

Despite two days of rain leading up to the Spring Fair and some last minute reshuffling, it was a great success.

While it's a key fundraiser for the P&F and the school, it's the resulting community building and friend-raising that is the real measure of success and a true demonstration of the CCGS community spirit.

This year over 100 students got involved helping out. They assisted with the set-up, manned stalls on the day, organised sport activities as part of the Big Kahuna area, helped out with teacher dunking and assisted in the Kids Zone.

The Spring Fair is a mammoth undertaking and would not be possible without the support of the many volunteer parents and grandparents who put in so much effort on the day and in the months leading up to make this is very special event.

See for yourself!

Watch community spirit in action, scan this code with your smartphone



Young Entrepreneurs

"Our Young Entrepreneurs should be so proud of their stalls and the quality of their wares!" said Karen Evans, P&F President. "I was amazed by the high standard of the items they made and how they presented them." Congratulations to Robert Bacon (Year 8) who sold out of his speciality wooden chopping and cheese boards (which he made himself!). He's been asked by local business BamVino, to supply them to sell at their store.



CCGS Car Raffle

One of the highlights of the Spring Fair was the draw of the 4th CCGS Car Raffle. Previous winners have been a past student, a grandparent of a student and last year a parent at the school, so all were excited to see who would take home the car this year! The 2016 winner was Julie Toomey, a grandparent to 3 current CCGS students and 2 past students.

Julie had already bought some tickets in the raffle when her daughter Donna Hughes, decided on a last chance ticket for her mum on the day of the fair. It was this lucky ticket that saw Julie become the owner of a brand new car! In transit on an airplane during the draw it was some time before Julie learned of her amazing luck!

"When I turned my phone on there were all these beep beeps of messages coming through. I saw the missed called from CCGS and thought 'why would the school be calling me on a Saturday?' I remembered the Spring Fair and quickly pieced together that I must have won the car. I was so excited."

The Mazda CX-3 Neo Auto, worth over \$25,000 was generously



Raffle winner, Julie Toomey, with her new car

donated by Mr Arthur Stanley of Central Coast Motor Group, and was the 4th car the local business has donated to the school as part of their 5 year contribution to the Performing Arts Centre Capital Appeal. This year the raffle raised over \$38,000 with every cent going back to the school.

A special thank you must go to Jenny Waddington and her team of Parent Representatives who worked tirelessly in selling tickets and promoting the raffle at school events.

Past Students

Emma Hunter (2015)



Emma during her final performance at CCGS (2015)

Past student Emma Hunter was spotted briefly in a new Weetbix commercial also featuring Fletcher Pilon, Jai Waetford, Kate Ceberano, Troy Cassar-Daley and the Sydney Children's Choir. Emma shared how she's been spending her time since leaving school and how she came to be in a Weetbix ad!

An Aussie kid?

It was a bit of a funny coincidence seeing Fletcher (also a past CCGS student) in the ad too as we were both in Mrs Robinson's house family (one of the most musical house families in the school!) I was asked to be in the Weetbix ad orchestra as a part of the Sydney Youth Orchestra Program and I actually had no idea we were shooting an ad at the time. Seeing the finished product starring so many great Aussie musical talents was fantastic!

What have you been doing since leaving CCGS?

I started studying at the Conservatorium of Music and it's been a huge shock to the system. No amount of practice is enough practice! I love it so much and I'm so grateful for Mrs Crowley, Mr Hunt, Mrs Hatfield and all of the music department for everything they did, especially in the HSC years as I wouldn't be here without them.

I was originally enrolled in a degree in Performance, however after a chaotic orientation day spent mostly in the office of the Chair of Music Education, I transferred to a Bachelor of Music Education. My experience at CCGS is really what made me so passionate about becoming a teacher.

I miss CCGS far too much, and I'm so grateful to have had such a wonderful experience. Music has been a huge part of my life for as long as I can remember and I will never forget the support that I received from the school.

See for yourself!

See if you can spot Emma in the commercial. Scan this code with your smartphone.



Georgia Wassall (2013)



In August Georgia Wassall officially opened the K-2 Olympic themed Athletics Carnival as our sports ambassador for the day. Georgia was excited to return to CCGS as our special guest to relive some of her 10 years spent here (from Year 3 to Year 12) and pass on some advice to our future generation of athletes.

"It's great being an Olympic year that the school replicated an Olympic Ceremony, hopefully this will inspire the kids to keep active and to have a go," said Georgia. I started running in the school Athletics Carnival and Cross Country and it was here I realised that I really enjoyed running and was quite good at it, that's what got me into running and I'm still running ten years later. My advice to the kids would be to never give up and keep trying lots of things, because you never know what can happen."

Georgia also spent time with Year 1 students sharing her experiences of competing for Australia and left them with a very special gift of her Australia running uniform.

Georgia has set her sights on representing Australia at the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. When she's not running, she's studying Exercise Physiology at the University of Sydney.

See for yourself!

Watch Georgia and our Infants in action. Scan this code with your smartphone.



In Memoriam Annabelle Deall (2001)

We were terribly saddened to hear of the tragic loss of Annabelle Deall (nee King) in early August. Annabelle and her husband Simon were both past students and current parents at CCGS. Annabelle will always be remembered as a positive, friendly and happy young woman and she will be missed by her friends and family.

20 Year Reunion - The class of 1996



The class of 96' gathered together at Wamberal Beach Ocean Beach Café on 1 October to remember the good old days. Some had seen each other recently, others not since the 10 year reunion and some had not been seen since they left school!

"As each ex-student arrived, there were smiles and laughter all around the room. Lots of kisses and hugs, and 'do you remember when?' conversations," said Ellissa Pyke, Reunion

Coordinator. "Everyone mingled and shared their stories. As we chatted and reminisced, the factors that can separate people in the adult world - parenthood, wealth, success, distance - disappeared and people came together on a common and defining ground. It was a great night and we're looking forward to catching up again"



At the time of writing the 10 year reunion for the class of 2006 had not yet taken place, but you can now check out pictures and the details at www.ccg.s.nsw.edu.au/Alumni/AlumniEvents

Retirements

Jill Robinson and Greg Walker on the 'after-math'



Jill Robinson (Head of Mathematics) and Greg Walker (Mathematics Teacher) have decided it's prime time to permanently put the calculators away and retire at the end of 2016. Jill and Greg shared some of their favourite memories of their time at CCGS and what they are planning to do next:

Jill Robinson

I started in 1987 so this is my 30th year here at CCGS. There's a few things I plan to do including a bit of travel and possibly dusting off the old viola and maybe even joining an Orchestra again! I may even do a bit of maths tutoring!

My best memory of CCGS is the privilege of being part of such a wonderful school from

the beginning. It is very special building and contributing to a school from the very early years. Of course I have always loved teaching the many students that I still fondly remember.

Greg Walker

My retirement plans are still a work in progress, but I have some ideas about improving my cooking skills, some travel, gardening and relaxing.

I've been at CCGS since 2003 and working with the wonderful students and staff, especially the Maths staff (you can always count on them) and the amazing school spirit of CCGS is something I'll always remember. I must also mention the students' enthusiasm and participation in the sporting carnivals, cocurricular sport, productions and so many incredible and varied musical performances also make for some great memories.

Being part of the mighty Nicholii House has definitely been an added bonus!

New Arrivals!



Look at these lovely dads from the class of 2001 with their new arrivals: Jonathan Stokes and Samuel; Michael Seton and Holly; Brett Healey and Emilia; Tony Ryan and Ernie; Chris Lee and Sophia.



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GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Open Morning

Join us for student-led tours of our facilities on a functioning school day.
Visit classrooms, chat with Key staff and meet the Headmaster.

Friday 3 March

9.15 - 10.30am, Arundel Road, Erina Heights

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