



CENTRAL COAST  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# BUNDARA

Magazine

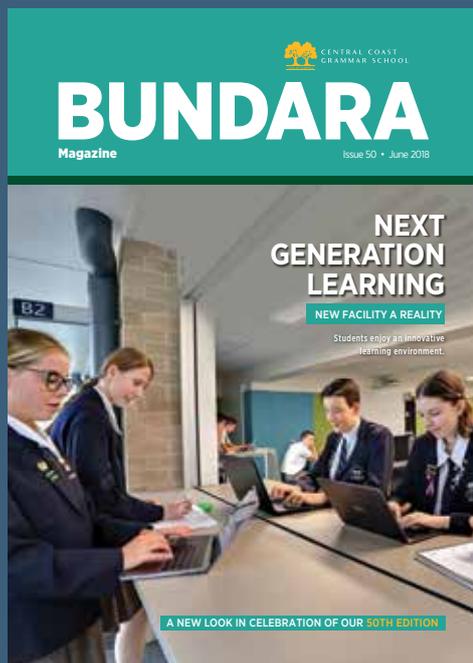
Issue 50 • June 2018

## NEXT GENERATION LEARNING

NEW FACILITY A REALITY

Students enjoy an innovative  
learning environment.

A NEW LOOK IN CELEBRATION OF OUR 50TH EDITION



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

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## From the Board

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May was an opportunity to reflect on the great work of our staff and students in 2017. It was also a chance to reaffirm the school's direction for 2018 and beyond.

We remain resolutely committed to the objectives set out in the Next Generation Teaching and Learning strategic plan and this year, our third implementing the plan, there is a focus on wellbeing and further embedding next generation learning within the school.

We recognise the importance of cultivating learning environments that will help students thrive in a world where teamwork, leadership and collaboration are increasingly viewed as fundamental skills. Much is already being done including the continued implementation of the Harvard Business School's Teaching for Understanding framework and the completion of new learning facilities purposely designed to support next generation learning. As a Board we're also working hard, through the master planning process, to ensure the school is as well positioned in the next thirty years as it has been in the past thirty.

The AGM saw a number of changes within the Board. We had the retirement of our long-serving Deputy Chair Alan Williams, Secretary Christian Hobbs and Professor Rosemary Johnston, who all made outstanding contributions during their tenure. We were also privileged to welcome new members Anne McGregor, Dr Brok Glenn and Dr Denis Crimmins whose diverse skills and strong business acumen will complement our existing Board. Stephen Brahams has been appointed as Deputy Chair, Tricia Cotterell as Treasurer and Kylie Tritton as Secretary. I am excited to work with them and our whole Board to build on the magnificent work already being done to enhance and develop all aspects of the school.

#### **Ken A. Jolly, AM FAICD**

Chairman of the School Board



## From the Headmaster

The start of 2018 has brought with it a renewed energy, focused determination and commitment to learning from our staff and students.

We're now over halfway into our five-year Next Generation Teaching and Learning strategic plan with a significant number of objectives already met and many others well underway.

Our cutting-edge English, History and Geography building was completed for the start of the school year and it is rewarding to see how eager our senior students are to learn in the new space. Designed to reflect the latest international thinking in learning environments, this facility is just one tangible example of our continued dedication to next generation learning. You can read more about the new classrooms and their impact on learning on page four.

The school's master planning process has involved a comprehensive audit of current facilities and a draft scope of works has identified new

Junior School buildings as a priority. I'll have more to share with you on this as the year progresses.

My Headmaster's Report, highlighting our 2017 achievements, is available for viewing on our school website ([ccgs.nsw.edu.au](http://ccgs.nsw.edu.au)). I encourage you to take a look to see what we've accomplished and where we're heading in the next 12 months.

From our youngest students through to our alumni, this edition of Bundara illustrates how a CCGS education inspires future thought leaders, creators and community achievers. We share the stories of Year 6 student Eoin McAweeney's recent address to the NSW Parliament, a group of compassionate Middle School students who raised over \$12,500 for charity, and one of our accomplished alumni who built a multimillion dollar empire from her garage.

As we celebrate the 50th edition of Bundara I hope you enjoy the new-look magazine which has been designed to refresh the style and format of our community news.

### **William Low**

Headmaster/Chief Executive Officer



# Next generation learning facility a reality

**New classrooms reflect the latest international thinking in learning environments.**

**Students were excited to start the school year in the new senior English, Geography and History facility (B Block) which was completed by Stevens Construction in January.**

The refurbishment is part of the school's broader master plan and has been designed to reflect the very latest international thinking in learning environments.

Over the past 18 months CCGS has invested significantly in next generation learning facilities that develop cutting-edge teaching, learning and digital literacy capacities.

## **Research phase**

Prior to the work commencing, an extensive prototyping and testing period involved feedback from both teachers and students. This created a high degree of ownership of the final design.

Significant effort was devoted to researching best practice models, ensuring that everything from the structural design to the

inbuilt technology and even the furnishings would support the most productive learning environment for students.

## **Flexible design**

Existing classrooms were purposely expanded and re-designed to create larger, more innovative spaces that foster enhanced collaboration and digital literacy capabilities.

Headmaster, Bill Low said a key feature of the new space is its flexibility, where furnishings can be easily adapted from open discussion mode, to lecture mode, small group work and back again - all in the space of a lesson.

"The design has also taken advantage of our beautiful natural surrounds, in particular the large café style windows which increase natural light and seamlessly connect indoor and outdoor learning areas."

Operable walls between classrooms add to the flexibility of the space.

A film studio is also available for students, encouraging them to showcase their

learning and understanding through multimedia creation.

## **Technology**

Digital collaboration zones and innovative technological enhancements are a standout feature within the building.

"Multiple high-definition videos can be streamed simultaneously via Wi-Fi from multiple devices. We believe the interconnectedness of these elements make this a world first use of this technology in a classroom."

"David Soede, our Director of ICT, developed the unique copper mesh system, based on leading NASA research, to stop interference and allow for a significant increase in Wi-Fi speed."

"Over 500 square metres of copper mesh, specifically sourced from the USA, was used to serve 24 wireless access points and over 40 screens within the building. Vivi wireless projection broadcasts digital content quickly



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There is a tangible link between the physical space in the classroom and the mindset of students and teachers.”

and reliably from any device in the room.”

### **Collaborative learning**

While the design of the building was important, it is the interaction and engagement of students and teachers within the space that is key to fostering a collaborative learning culture.

“There is a tangible link between the physical space in the classroom and the mindset of students and teachers. In this new environment default positions are being challenged as learners are liberated to work together in new ways. Students are at the centre of their learning rather than more traditional teacher-centred models.”

“Teachers and students have been keen to book in and experience the new facility, and it is envisaged that this design will help inform the development of future learning environments within the school,” Mr Low said.



### **TECHNOLOGY**

Over 500 square metres of copper mesh has been used to serve 24 wireless access points and over 40 screens within the building.

Vivi wireless projection broadcasts digital content quickly and reliably from any device in the room.



### **FLEXIBLE SPACE**

Furnishings can be easily adapted from open discussion, to lecture mode, small group work and back again - all in the space of a lesson.



### **ENVIRONMENT**

Large café style windows increase natural light and seamlessly connect indoor and outdoor learning areas.



### **NEXT GENERATION LEARNING**

Students are at the centre of their learning rather than more traditional teacher-centred models.

## TOP 100

For the fourth consecutive year CCGS ranked in the top 100 NSW schools based on HSC results.

Strong results from our Performing Arts department saw a clean sweep of HSC nominations across Dance (Callback), Drama (OnSTAGE) and Music (ENCORE).



# HSC highlights

## FAST FACTS

- 15% of our students achieved an ATAR over 95
- 30% achieved an ATAR over 90
- 40% achieved an ATAR over 85
- 57% achieved an ATAR over 80
- 81% achieved an ATAR over 70
- 42% of our students were noted on the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Distinguished Achievers list for achieving a Band 6 in 1 or more of their subjects.



## INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Samuel Wait and Jemma Smith (left) were both named Dux of the school with ATARs of 98.15.

Callan MacLeod and Jemma Smith were included on NESA's All Rounders list for achieving Band 6 in ten or more units of study.

## PIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Hannah Sterling, Bella Salvo and Aimee Ball (right) were awarded a Certificate of Distinction from the Society and Culture Association for their outstanding Personal Interest Projects (PIP). Their PIPs were ranked in the top twenty out of over 4,800 projects and covered the topics of: 'Boys will be boys', 'The superficiality of success' and 'Strong is the new skinny'.





Image credit: Jordan Roach Photography.



I have to go in to bat for myself. I have to ask for a fair go. This is self advocacy.”

# Eoin speaks at parliament

**Not many people can say they’ve been invited to speak at the NSW Parliament - especially not at the tender age of 11 - but that’s exactly what Eoin McAweaney (Year 6) did in April.**

He was selected, along with five other students who are hard of hearing or deaf, to share his personal experiences with members of parliament including the Minister for Health and Disabilities.

Eoin spoke about some of the challenges he has faced, the importance of self-advocacy and the support of his family and teachers.

**Read an excerpt from Eoin’s moving speech:**

“If one piece of my equipment fails, if one person fails to get involved, there is no clear picture for me. For example, if the coach of my basketball team doesn’t wear my FM system, I can’t hear instructions or learn how to play.

If I’m debating and the opposition team member does not have a microphone at the right time, I can’t hear and there’s no way I can

support my team. If there are no captions in the classroom, I miss important information and I don’t get to learn. If I don’t sit in the right spot, I can’t lip read. If you don’t face me when you’re talking, I can’t hear. If you tell a joke and cover your mouth, I won’t get the punchline, and in all these situations I’m left feeling like a failure.

I have to go in to bat for myself. I have to ask for a fair go. This is self-advocacy. Self-advocacy is speaking up for yourself, it means understanding your rights, and it means having to be assertive, often in tricky situations involving adults. Advocacy is a skill - you learn it. It has to be taught and practiced.

Advocacy means the difference between whether I can or can’t succeed.”

**You can read his full speech in the news section of our website at [ccgs.nsw.edu.au](http://ccgs.nsw.edu.au)**



# Hair-raising generosity

**Over \$12,500 raised for the Leukaemia Foundation**

**THE COASTIE SHAVERS:**

**TALON WOODWARD, CHARLIE**

**PATE, OLIVIA ROGERS (YR 8)**

**AND SHAYA TAVNER (YR 9)**

Four students - Talon Woodward, Charlie Pate, Oli Rogers and Shaya Tavner - came together earlier this year to form the 'Coastie Shavers', raising over \$12,500 for the Leukaemia Foundation.

The team worked tirelessly to collect funds and raise the profile of leukaemia in the school community, with their impressive efforts even drawing the attention of ABC Central Coast who interviewed them live on radio the morning of their big chop.

## The big event

Nervous energy and excitement filled the air as students from across the school packed into the auditorium to witness the team have their heads shaved.

The boys were first on the chopping block, with months of hair growth shorn off in an instant. Next Shaya, who donated her long locks to make a wig, had her hair sectioned

into small ponytails so it could be neatly snipped-off, before the big moment of having her head fully shaved.

Each team member was given rapturous applause from the crowd as their tresses fell to the floor, inspiring many students to donate any spare change to the worthy cause.

## The motivation

Each student had a different reason for why they wanted to take part and raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation.

Shaya wanted to donate her very long hair to charity.

"My ponytail will be used to make wigs for cancer patients. While cutting my hair might be seen as trivial compared to the hardship of cancer patients, the money raised will contribute to research," Shaya said.

Charlie Pate has a very personal connection to the cause, as his dad has battled leukaemia.

Talon and Oli, in a show of true mateship, wanted to support their friend Charlie in his fundraising efforts.

## A personal connection

Charlie Pate shares why taking part in the World's Greatest Shave was so important to him:

"On 29 October 2014, my dad visited the doctor for a blood test and check-up. He had been healthy and felt well. Later that day he received a phone call from his doctor telling him to go straight to the hospital emergency department.

After multiple tests, dad was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML). He spent the next six weeks in hospital



during which he received countless doses of chemotherapy. This made him very sick and wiped out all of his blood cells. I wasn't allowed to see him on his ward, but saw him when he was feeling well in the hospital foyer.

Dad came home just before Christmas, but continued to receive chemotherapy for the next six months. During this time he lost a lot of weight and his hair.

Although it was hard for our family, we received support from wonderful friends and caring hospital staff. Dad was very lucky that his leukaemia was picked up

before he became too ill- which would've been only days away. He responded well to the chemotherapy and has now been well for nearly three years.

All of his hair grew back which he is happy about and he regained his weight and maybe a bit more!

Blood cancer is the third most common cause of cancer deaths in Australia. Each day another thirty-five people will be given the devastating news they have leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma or another blood disorder," Charlie said.

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**My ponytail will be used to make wigs for cancer patients. While cutting my hair might be seen as trivial compared to the hardship of cancer patients, the money raised will contribute to research.”**



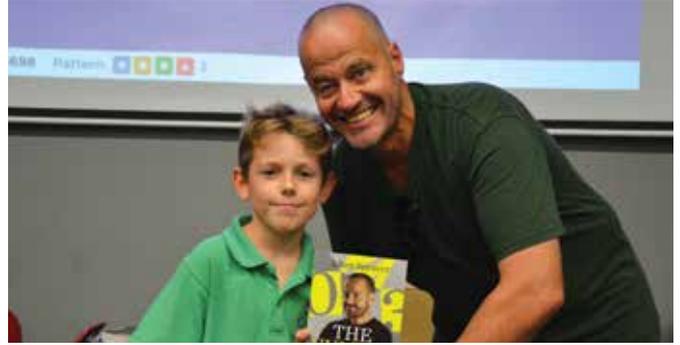
## MUSIC SHARED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Our mini-Mozarts have been busy performing at a number of local retirement villages, treating residents to a vibrant sound extravaganza.

Continuing their five-year tradition, the Year 3-6 Junior Choir delighted residents at Tarragal Glen, while for the first time the Junior String Ensemble amazed audiences at Aurrum Aged Care Facility.

Performances of Come to the Fair and Let's Sing All Together by the sixty-nine strong choir were popular with residents at Tarragal Glen with many tapping along and joining the singing.

The Junior String Ensemble which features violins, cellos and even a double bass, performed their favourite piece Action Movie, with the The Russian Music Box and Simple Syncopation other crowd favourites.



## FIRST EVER PI WEEK

March saw the launch of CCGS's first ever Pi week to celebrate World Pi Day.

In tribute to the number that keeps on giving, mathematically-themed activities were held across the school throughout the week including daily puzzles, mathematical bingo and a tangram challenge.

Australia's most famous mathematician, Adam Spencer, joined in the festivities as the special guest and quiz-master of CCGS's biggest Kahoot (a quiz-style learning game) which challenged students to solve complex mathematical problems.

Another highlight of the week was the Rubik's Cube challenge where one Year 12 student, Oskar Rubie, completed the mind-bending puzzle in just 35 seconds!



## A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE

The Junior School went around the world and back again as part of inaugural Harmony Day festivities - a vibrant celebration of our cultural diversity.

The day kicked off with an assembly featuring performances in French, Chinese and Japanese, as well as Irish dancing and a global fashion parade. Guest speaker was renowned author and speaker, Abdi Aden who shared his uplifting story of coming to Australia as a Somalian refugee.

Students were then invited to take part in cultural workshops, with Indian dancing and African drumming just some of the amazing activities on offer.



## EXPRESSION THROUGH ART

Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 eagerly took part in our annual art competition to showcase this year's Junior School theme of 'Treat others the way you want to be treated'.

Creative interpretations of the theme ranged from edible cupcakes, dioramas, clay sculptures, imaginative stories and wildly coloured posters.

The beautiful artworks were put on display in the library to share this important message of kindness and respect with the whole school.

# Leaders of the future



Our Year 6 House Leaders recently took part in an external leadership development day with students from other independent schools across the region. The day empowered students with the skills necessary to become strong and resilient leaders in their school and wider community.

Fun and interactive activities challenged students to identify the qualities they consider essential to be a good leader. They learned how to recognise their own strengths and identify tools they can use to develop a strong sense of self and build confidence.

## Two House Leaders Noyo Akra and Lindsay Hallam share their thoughts on the day.

### What was your favourite part of the leadership day?

*Noyo:* Leadership Monopoly! You got to meet students from other schools and talk about interesting topics. I loved connecting and meeting new people.

### What was the most challenging element of the day?

*Lindsay:* One task involved us working together in our school teams to create an advertisement about a topic or idea that we wanted to implement to improve the school.

Our idea was to build an agricultural farm. We only had a short time limit before we had to perform our idea on stage in front of the whole group!

### What was the main message you took from the day?

*Lindsay:* The main lesson that I took away was that to be a leader you should be able to lead people you haven't met before.

*Noyo:* That great leaders need to be able listen to others and think fast on their feet.

# Festival of Big Ideas



Year 10 took part in CCGS's first ever Festival of Big Ideas, an innovative project that challenged students to use their critical and creative thinking skills to collaborate on a project or idea that mattered to them.

The festival was launched by teachers dressed as big thinkers and game changers such as Coco Chanel, Frida Kahlo, Charlie Chaplin and Einstein. They talked to students about why that person or idea was significant to them and their teaching.

Fuelled by a P&F Innovation Grant, the festival showcased next generation learning in action. Students choose their own groups, worked in open plan learning spaces and

were encouraged to be self-directed in their learning.

Kate Tracy, festival organiser and Head of English at CCGS said that the students enjoyed working on an idea they were passionate about, getting to present their ideas to Central Coast Council and working to make a change to the community that they live in.

"A program like the Festival of Big ideas can't help but encourage students to achieve their academic potential. They're enjoying themselves, they're engaged, they're focused, and they're totally committed," Ms Tracy said.

Some of the selected ideas included: how to maximise the potential of the Gosford waterfront, what to do with the old Masters building in West Gosford, and how to preserve the Avoca Theatre heritage site.

Six of the 'big ideas' were shortlisted with the festival culminating in a presentation to a panel of external judges, including industry professionals and the Deputy Mayor, at the Gosford Smart Work Hub.

See video highlights of the festival by searching 'Festival of Big Ideas' at [ccgs.nsw.edu.au](http://ccgs.nsw.edu.au)

# The Real Inspector Hound

Pushing the boundaries of casting, space and artistic direction



Audiences were invited to dust off their magnifying glasses and don their detective wear to enter into the fantastical world of Stoppard's play.

Term 1 saw senior Drama students reinvent the Tom Stoppard classic *The Real Inspector Hound* in a production that pushed the envelope of casting, space and artistic direction.

The absurdist drama followed theatre critics Moon and Birdboot as they become unwittingly involved in the whodunit mystery they've come to the theatre to review.

Stoppard's satirical style was brought to life by the formidable collaboration of Directors Natalie Parsons-Clair and Debbie Curtis, and Artistic Directors Linda Tebbs and Connie Russo.

Under their direction the unconventional idea of seating the audience on stage was born. This innovative approach, inspired by Stoppard's vision to depict a 'play within a play', saw audiences perched high on stage so that they could examine what happens in the space they would usually be seated.

Reversing the traditional dynamic between the spectators and actors also limited audience numbers to only 100 people per show, creating a unique, intimate and engaging experience for those lucky enough to get a ticket.

In another first, and as a result of the growing talent in senior Drama, two entirely different casts were chosen with both groups performing one show each evening.

Performing in the space where audiences are traditionally seated challenged the cast to be creative in their use of space and props. Students embraced this new approach, delivering convincing and dynamic performances to delighted audiences.

The production also brought a fresh take on traditional humour, intellectually extending the cast's perceptions and insights of satire and wit, as well as the role of theatre as a voice of social commentary.

*The Real Inspector Hound* has set the bar high for this year's productions. Look out for more dynamic and exciting performances from the Performing Arts department throughout 2018.

### UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

- *Oliver!* will hit the stage on 9, 10 and 11 of August.
- *Beyond the Sea – the Adventures of the Little Mermaid* will be on show 30 and 31 August.

Visit the events page at [ccgs.nsw.gov.au](http://ccgs.nsw.gov.au) to book your tickets.



# Bundara's 50th edition

Join us for a trip down memory lane as we look back over the history of the Bundara magazine in celebration of its 50th edition.

## First edition

First published in June 1994, Bundara was created as a way for CCGS to communicate information, achievements and special events to the school community.

The first edition contained a message from the then Headmaster Richard Lornie on the factors that contribute to a good school, an overview of the production - Jungle Fantasy "a fast-moving romp set in the jungles of Africa" - which had a cast of 100 students, and the announcement of an architect to design the new school hall.

Opportunities to advertise were also available with many members of the school community keen to take up the offer to be a part of this exciting new publication.

## What's in a name?

The school knew what it wanted the magazine to be about but didn't know what to call it, so a 'name the newsletter' competition was held.

Open to students and parents, the competition criteria specified that the name should: "remind people of CCGS, not date, be no longer than two to three words and not be in Latin".

An overwhelming number of entries were received, but the stand out and winner of the \$50 prize was school parent, Phillip Crowther.

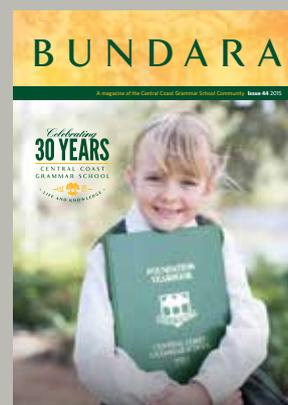
We caught up with Mr Crowther to talk about his winning entry and why he chose the name Bundara.

"Having a great interest in the meaning of Aboriginal place names and words, I thought Bundara was an ideal name for the newsletter. It means a clump of trees, they being the Australian natives of the school houses - Acacia, Grevillea, Nicholii and Ironbark," Mr Crowther said.

## The 50th edition

In honour of this 50th edition, the format and style of the magazine has been refreshed, giving it a more modern look and feel.

While the publication may have undergone a facelift, Bundara is, at its heart, still focused on bringing stories about CCGS school life, achievements and school events to the school community.



# Students gallop into championship wins



## A number of CCGS equestrians have bolted home with a swag of awards at local, state and even international level.

Shilo Harvey (Year 11) was named the 2017 Champion Secondary Show Horse Interschool Rider and the Interschool Show Horse Captain for NSW at the 2018 Equestrian NSW awards held at the new Inglis Racing Facilities at Warwick Farm earlier this year.

Shilo was also recently crowned Australian National Show Riding Champion in the 15-17 age division. Additionally, she was runner-up Junior Rider at the 2018 international dressage event, Concours de Dressage International (CDI).

Sophie Walker (Year 10) rode away with a number of awards at the Grand Nationals, most notably the Champion Owner Rider. She was also named Champion Rider U17

at the EA Southern Stars competition.

Kaitlin Martin (Year 8) cantered into fifth place in her individual event and third place in the Junior Quadrille at the 2018 CDI.

These impressive accolades are the result of their determination, resilience and amazing talent. Congratulations Shilo, Sophie and Kaitlin!

# Sensational finish to summer sports

## Basketball

CCGS girls basketball continued to 'slam dunk' after receiving the Girls Basketball Champion School award in the Independent Sporting Association (ISA) competition. CCGS has now won the shield an impressive nine times in the last ten years! Four out of the eight teams won their premiership titles, with another two placing as runners-up.



## Cricket

After an extremely close match, the under 12s cricket team emerged victorious in their grand final against Northern Power, claiming both the major and minor premiership titles. This is the first time our junior cricket team has won the premiership and is a testament to their teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the competition.





# Sports training accelerated

**Training for the winter Firsts sporting teams went up a notch after the recruitment of specialist coaches Tim Knight and Layne Fletcher from Alta Athletic who will help players track their fitness and improve on-field performance.**

PDHPE teacher, Emma Davies said this new approach stemmed from player feedback.

“Feelings of fatigue and a lack of stamina towards the end of games was affecting player confidence and the outcome of some of our matches, where we were missing out on a win by the smallest margin.

“Our players are busy and time poor so it was important for us to create opportunities to get them motivated and goal-orientated to improve their fitness, which in turn improves their individual and team performance,” Ms Davies said.

## **The training schedule**

Students wanting to try out for the Firsts football, netball, hockey and rugby teams were given the opportunity to attend a training session at the end of 2017 where they were given individualised fitness programs to work on during the school holidays.

Fitness levels were gauged during sport trials in Term 1, which formed part of team selection for each sport. Once each team was formed, Alta Athletic put together a series of seven sport-specific training sessions to develop each team and work on individual fitness goals.

Netball players Emelia Corlett and Zoe Mitchell reported significant fitness improvements and increased camaraderie between the team as just some of the benefits.

“The biggest change has been focusing on

training activities specific to our sport. This has encouraged us to adopt a ‘game mentality’ and think more strategically when we’re on the court,” Zoe said.

“Training together like this brings us closer as a team. It motivates us to support each other, build on our strengths and work on the areas we need to improve,” Emelia added.

## **Specialised sporting coaches**

We spoke with Alta Athletic Coach and Director Tim Knight about working with CCGS players.

### *Who is Alta Athletic?*

Alta Athletic is made up of Layne Fletcher and myself (Tim Knight). We’re both passionate about sport and have backgrounds coaching in elite sport both locally, nationally and internationally.



*How is the work you're doing with CCGS players different to traditional training?*

We were approached by CCGS to deliver a high performance program to the winter Firsts teams.

The programs have so far been focused on developing an aerobic base - meaning athletes can perform at a higher intensity for longer periods. From here forward, the program focus will start to shift towards repeated sprint ability and speed and power work.

A good training program does the simple things well. In saying that we aim to not only coach but educate the CCGS athletes so that they can start to think and care about their own bodies.

*How will the training help improve the players' sporting performance?*

The programs aim to enhance critical performance criteria required for each sport. Blended with sport and skill-specific coaching, we will start to see the benefits manifest themselves in the team performances.

Our aim is to improve the mean physical output of each and every athlete. While some may progress at a rate faster than others, we will be in constant consultation with coaches about how best to address these possible differences so that we maintain steady improvement. Overall, this will improve both physical and sporting prowess and give CCGS athletes an advantage over their competition!

“

**The biggest change has been focusing on training activities specific to our sport. This has encouraged us to adopt a ‘game mentality’ and think more strategically when we’re on the court.”**



Melissa began at CCGS in Kindergarten and was a student until Year 10 (1999). In 2009 she started an eBay store that's since grown into a multimillion dollar international enterprise, operating throughout Australasia and the US.

## Melissa Wilkinson (nee Forsyth)

### **What was your journey after CCGS?**

After completing an honours degree in Industrial Design at UNSW, I went on to design product ranges for clients including Disney, Adidas and David Jones. This experience taught me invaluable lessons in customer management and manufacturing which I have been able to take into my own business.

### **Why did you launch Personalised Favours?**

Through the process of planning my own wedding I saw a gap in the market for original, personalised, reasonably-priced wedding products, so I set out to rectify the situation by establishing an online store to fill this void.

### **Tell us about the growth of your business?**

I originally operated Personalised Favours as an eBay store from my garage! Over the past nine years my brother-in-law Matt and I have transformed it from a backyard operation into the company (Foresight Online Group) it is today.

The group currently incorporates six e-commerce businesses from personalised wedding favours and customised corporate gifts to Test Tag Outlet, a wholesale marketplace for electricians and specialist operators to purchase products and options to customise tags with company logos and contact details.

We recently expanded into an 1800m<sup>2</sup> factory premises on the Central Coast and employ 20 staff, dispatching orders across Australia, Asia-Pacific and the US every month. In February we launched our newest online store 'Keep It Custom' Australia – a customised corporate gift and promotional product online store.

### **What are you passionate about?**

I'm passionate about designing and creating beautiful, innovative products with a sentimental edge. I'm always on the lookout for new ideas and inspiration. I love getting hands-on in the production room, honing my laser engraving skills on one of the company's six state-of-the-art Trotec machines. Outside of work, I love scheduling holidays with my husband and am a Bounce Fitness devotee!

### **What is your favourite memory of CCGS?**

Out of all my great CCGS memories, a highlight would be the Year 9 Bali cultural trip I was fortunate enough to be a part of. This was an incredible opportunity to travel overseas and experience another culture with fellow students – an adventure which has seen many of us stay connected as lifelong friends.



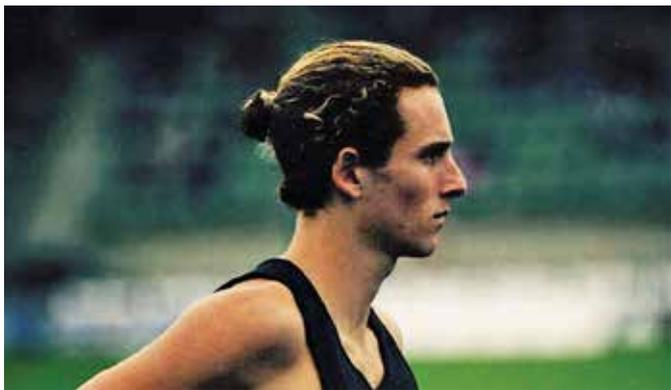
# CCGS Alumni

## MATT GRAHAM SURPRISE VISIT

Students were delighted when former student and Olympic silver medallist, Matt 'mogul' Graham (and his silver medal) surprised everyone at school assembly.

Students had filmed a special good luck video for Matt ahead of his Winter Olympic campaign and he wanted to come and thank students personally for the support.

Matt won silver in the men's moguls following a brilliant performance at the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang.



## CHARLIE HUNTER

Charlie Hunter's (2014) passion for athletics has taken him all over the world. Since leaving school he's won the Australian Under 20 1500m title and been selected for the IAFF World Cross Country Championships in China.

Now he's off to the running capital of the world, to attend Oregon University. Charlie will be aiming to further enhance his skills during his time at the university and has said his ultimate goal is to be competitive on the international stage, whether that be at the Olympics, World Championships or the Commonwealth Games.

## ALUMNI EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Want to be in the know with the latest alumni news?

Contact Alumni Coordinator, Jacqui Raadsma on 4367 6766 or visit our alumni page at [ccgs.nsw.edu.au](http://ccgs.nsw.edu.au) to update your details today.

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