



CENTRAL COAST
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

BUNDARA

Magazine

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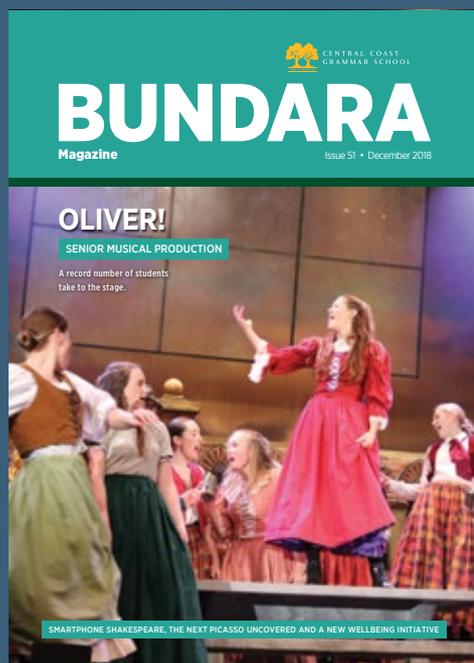
OLIVER!

SENIOR MUSICAL PRODUCTION

A record number of students
take to the stage.



SMARTPHONE SHAKESPEARE, THE NEXT PICASSO UNCOVERED AND A NEW WELLBEING INITIATIVE



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From the Board

It's hard to believe we're nearly at the end of another productive year.

Throughout 2018 we've worked solidly to implement the strategic goals outlined in our Next Generation Teaching and Learning strategic plan. As we enter into the final two years of the plan we're well placed to meet, and in many instances exceed, the objectives we first set out to achieve thanks in large part to the commitment of the wonderful staff and students at the school.

One of these milestones was the launch of our School Information System, MyCCGS, to the parent community following the earlier release to staff and students. I commend the hard work of the school's ICT staff in bringing this significant project to fruition and look forward to the continued implementation of new features which will enhance communication across the school community.

As a school, it's important that we're always on the lookout to innovate and improve. The provision of a new Junior School, providing cutting edge facilities, will allow our teaching staff to respond to the high ideals we have set for ourselves in our strategic plan 'Next Generation Teaching and Learning'. We expect to be in a position to announce the building timeline and further details about this exciting project very soon.

I am grateful to my colleagues on the Board for their continued commitment to the school. In particular I'd like to thank Arthur Stanley and Stephen Brahams for the time and expertise they contributed to planning the new Junior School with the Headmaster and Business Manager. Thank you also to Tricia Cotterell for her work as Treasurer and the planning for the budget, and to Daphne Wayland as Chair of the Governance Committee for continuing to improve Board governance.

As 2018 draws to a close and you reflect on your child's growth and success at CCGS, I hope you feel as satisfied as the Board with all that has been achieved this year and are excited about the potential for 2019 and beyond.

Ken A. Jolly, AM FAICD

Chairman of the School Board



From the Headmaster

As I look back over the past 12 months I am once again filled with immense pride at the accomplishments of our staff and students.

Whether it be academic performance, cocurricular success or the implementation of new initiatives that help to extend and challenge learning in the classroom, every individual has contributed to make our school community a place to collaborate, learn and grow.

Being well informed and involved in your child's education and school community is a great way to support their success. Available via desktop and a mobile app, MyCCGS has streamlined access to information and makes managing school life much more efficient. It's connected our learning community of students, teachers and families in new ways with an exciting range of additional features in the pipeline for next year.

Following extensive work on our master plan earlier in the year, the construction of a new K-6 Junior School and the rapid development of existing K-2 facilities for Senior College use will fundamentally alter the geography of our campus bringing teaching teams together in collaborative, contemporary learning environments. This is an exciting time for CCGS, poised on the brink of a leap forward in learning and facilities.

Interwoven throughout this edition of Bundara are the values of leadership, community spirit and teamwork. We share our innovative approach to learning in Digital Technologies where lessons learnt translate to life beyond the classroom. We celebrate the Junior School's new wellbeing initiative focussed on inclusivity, and get behind our community's fundraising events.

On a final note, I'd like to take the opportunity to personally acknowledge one of the school's most recognised faces, Trish Burne, who is retiring after 28 years at CCGS. Trish's official role is my Personal Assistant, but everyone in the school community who knows her would agree her contribution to the culture and life of CCGS extends far beyond this. On behalf of us all at CCGS I'd like to express the deepest gratitude for her dedication and service over almost three decades. She will most certainly be missed.

William Low

Headmaster/Chief Executive Officer



Teaching tomorrow's technological whizzes

Students empowered to code, design and develop.

From the earliest years through to the final year of schooling, CCGS provides a technology-rich learning environment for students.

Learning in Digital Technologies becomes an even more dynamic and immersive experience in Year 7 thanks to a comprehensive program designed to demystify complex digital processes and build skills that reflect real world practices.

Website design and coding, custom Fitbits and app development are all explored, with the skills learnt in each component designed to extend and enhance those previously mastered.

Starting with the fundamentals of website design, students are taught the two core technologies for building webpages: HTML

and CSS coding. Learning HTML provides the tools to create the structure of the webpage, while skills in CSS give students creative licence to experiment with different page visuals such as colours, logos and fonts. The result is a fully functioning website landing page designed and coded entirely by the student.

The challenge of making a custom-made Fitbit is then set, where over five weeks students use Python software - the same used by developers at Google - to program a series of tasks such as step counting, fitness goals and coding motivational messages into the interface.

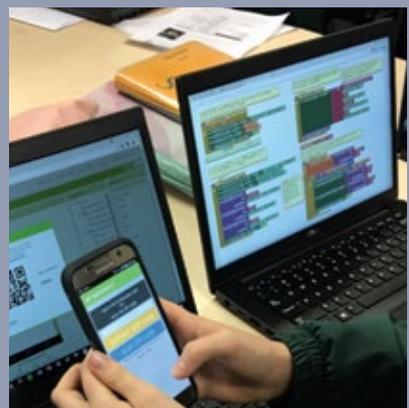
The final part of the course sees students use the software 'App Inventor 2' to plan, code and build an app. A big part of the program is the 'Where's my car?' app where students

take on the complex task of building an app to track a vehicle using GPS location technology.

Head of Computing, Janine Comber said the program provides a unique opportunity for students to learn skills that are relevant both inside and outside the classroom.

"In our ever-changing technological landscape it's vital that we enhance student understanding and capacity using digital technologies. That's why we've specifically designed a program that exposes students to learning centred on the very latest technology.

"This year, we've grown the program from one to six lessons per fortnight as a course within the wider Technology curriculum. The additional time dedicated to the



“In our ever-changing technological landscape it’s vital that we enhance student understanding and capacity using digital technologies.”

development of these skills has seen a major increase in learning outcomes for students.

“It’s not just about practical skill development. Valuable lessons are embedded in each course component including how data is passed from different devices, how the internet works and how computers talk to each other.

“Year 7 is the optimal time to engage students in Digital Technologies as it builds on the foundation skills learnt in the junior years, while also introducing concepts and study pathways they may not have thought about for their senior school years and beyond,” Janine said.



Introducing our Head Prefects

We sat down with Head Prefects Isabelle Bennett and Patrick McGimpsey to find out what makes them tick and how they plan to serve the community.

What are your passions?

IB: I'm really passionate about understanding the world through experience. I spent three months in Germany in 2017 and was also lucky enough to have the eye-opening experience of visiting Nganmariyanga, a remote Indigenous community in the Northern Territory.

PM: One of my biggest passions is volunteer work with both people and animals. I've travelled on three different humanitarian trips to destinations including Tanzania, Cambodia and Nganmariyanga. I regularly volunteer at Sydney's Taronga Zoo and love the opportunity to work with different animals like koalas, penguins and even sea lions.

What's your favourite subject at school?

IB: I enjoy the challenge of Maths, which is why it's my favourite, but by no means my best subject.

PM: Economics. I find it really challenging at times, but I think the challenge is what makes me enjoy it so much. I also find the concepts that are introduced extend beyond the classroom and I often find myself putting on my 'Economics cap' in day-to-day life.

What cocurricular activities are you involved in?

IB: The range of cocurricular activities is one of my favourite parts of the school. I've been involved in basketball since Year 3, debating since Year 5 and I've played soccer for the school since Year 7. I've also played the flute in the school concert band.

PM: Rugby union is my main cocurricular activity. I've been playing since I was six and joined the CCGS rugby team in Year 7. There is nothing quite like enduring a tough match to finally score a winning try in the dying minutes of a game.

Who is your role model and why?

IB: My role model is Malala Yousefzai, a Pakistani female education activist and the youngest ever winner of a Nobel Peace Prize. I really admire her confidence and bravery. As an advocate for female education and the founder of the Malala Fund, her incredible true story of resilience after being targeted in a terrorist attack is inspiring.

PM: It's probably a bit cliché, but I would have to say that my mum is my role model. Mum always has an answer to every problem, and even when things get tough, she will push through and drag the rest of us along with her. She is definitely the number one role model in my life, and I'm not sure what I would do without her.

What is something that most people might not know about you?

IB: I'm a dual citizen. I was born in the United States, in a state called Minnesota - 'the land of 10000 lakes' - and moved to Australia when I was eight.

PM: When my parents first told me we were moving to Australia from Ireland, I was completely against it. My family has always been into outdoor activities and eventually my parents persuaded me that my time outside would only grow by moving to Australia, and they were right! Whether it be out on my boat fishing or freediving, or out in the bush camping and four wheel driving, I'm always in my element when in the outdoors.

At the end of your time as Head Prefect, what do you hope to have achieved?

IB: I really hope to perpetuate the inclusive culture at CCGS. I'd also like to build House pride especially through the senior years (go Acacia!)

PM: I remember being in Year 7 and looking up to the Head Prefects at the time. To me, they encompassed all the values and attributes of the person I wanted to be. Now, I'm in the fantastic position to be able to give back to the school community and be that same role model that inspired me all those years ago.

Read the full interview with Isabelle and Patrick at ccgs.nsw.edu.au/news

WINTER SPORTS WRAP-UP

A spectacularly strong winter sporting season was capped off with 11 teams across rugby, football, hockey and netball making it through to the Independent Sporting Association (ISA) grand finals - one of the highest numbers in CCGS's sporting history.

The finals proved to be fast-paced, high-energy and nail-biting with skilled players across five teams emerging victorious including the Netball Firsts and Netball Intermediate A, Hockey Open D, Girls Football Junior B and Rugby 14s.

Image credit: Ethan Campbell



RECORDS SMASHED ON THE TRACK

A huge contingent of 57 students competed in the HICES Athletics Carnival at the Sydney International Athletics Centre, with CCGS winning both the Overall Championship Shield and the Percentage Shield (which is based on performance on the day).

Some of the sensational results included Ava Simos (Year 6) who broke the 12 year old girls record in both the 100 and 200 metre events.

The senior girls relay - made up of Ava Simos, Samantha Cameron, Lindsay Hallam and Jess Stone - also smashed the record, winning their final by over 40m.

GIRLS READY TO RUCK AND ROLL

Boys rugby has had a long and illustrious history at CCGS. Now, the girls have joined in the action, breathing new life into the sport at the school.

The first-ever CCGS Open Girls 7-a-side Rugby team put on a stellar effort at the Central Coast Schools Gala Day where they competed with other teams from across the region.

Although the majority of the squad had never played a competitive game before, their skills and tenacity resulted in them winning all their qualifying games to secure a place in the grand final.



Oliver!

A record number of students shine on the Performing Arts Centre stage



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There was a collaborative spirit and energy on stage unlike anything we've seen before."

“We want some more!” was the cheer from audiences after witnessing this year’s highly anticipated senior musical production, *Oliver!*

A pioneering production for CCGS Performing Arts, *Oliver!* featured not only the biggest cast but also the youngest lead in senior production history.

Director of Performing Arts, Lee Fleming said that a production of *Oliver* had always been on his ‘to stage’ list, and this year was the right time to bring it to the Performing Arts Centre (PAC).

“With a growing number of students engaged in the performing arts, it felt like the perfect show to demonstrate our youthful talent in Middle School, alongside the excellence already embedded in our Senior College.

“In fact, the lead role of *Oliver* was played by 13 year old Year 7 student, Nicholas Moroney. Never before has someone so young been cast as the lead role in the senior production, evidence of the breadth and depth of talent coming up in the school,” Lee said.

A record number of students were involved in bringing the classic tale of *Oliver Twist* to life, including over 125 students on stage and another 40 students in the orchestra or backstage.

“We wanted all students who expressed an interest in the production to be involved and take part. It was great to see how this challenged students and encouraged them to form new friendships and make life-long memories across different year groups.

“While the number of students posed some challenges - from the almost herculean task of costume and set design, to the logistics of music and choreography - it also brought a collaborative spirit, camaraderie and energy on stage, unlike anything we’ve seen before.

“Some of our larger music items such as ‘Consider Yourself’ and ‘Who Will Buy’ had over 95 students performing on stage at the same time; the vibrancy and electrifying atmosphere it created was incredibly special,” Lee said.

The pre-show buzz was heightened by an interview with the cast on ABC Central Coast radio where Kasey Barnes, who played Nancy, astounded everyone with a powerful rendition of ‘As Long as He Needs Me’ live on air.

In what proved to be the hottest seats in town, in excess of 1900 tickets were sold over the three nights, including a complete sell out of the PAC auditorium for the Saturday night show.

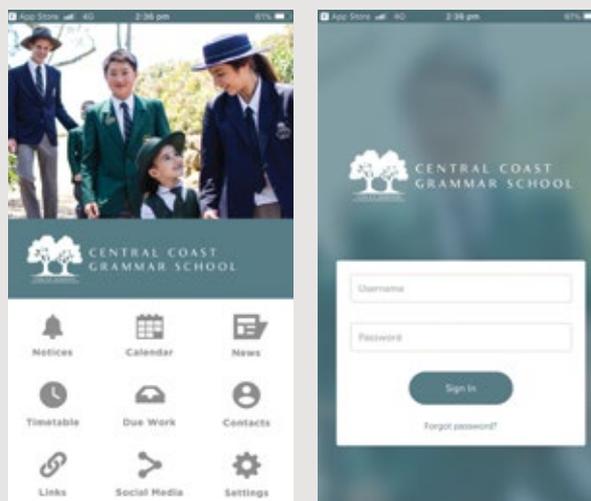


MyCCGS makes parents' lives easier

Organising school life is a whole lot easier following the parent launch of the online School Information System, MyCCGS.

Available on both desktop and via a handy mobile app, it allows parents access to their child's class timetable and calendar (including cocurricular activities and sporting fixtures) at the touch of a button.

Resources such as permissions notes, term dates and book lists are also available, making juggling school life less stressful and more efficient for the whole household.



Other handy features include bookings for parent teacher interviews and subject selection for Years 8-11. A number of class pages have also been established for the Junior School giving parents access to classroom activities.

Students and teachers have been using MyCCGS since late 2017 to support teaching and learning, providing a central location for school news, teacher resources and student timetables. As part of the school's commitment to improving information and communication for the whole school community, new features will continue to be rolled out during 2019.

You Can Sit With Me

"You can sit with me" - five little words that have the power to make a huge difference in a young person's life. They underpin a new Junior School Student Representative Council wellbeing initiative focusing on kindness and inclusivity.

Students from Years 3 to 6 were excited to hear first-hand from 'You Can Sit With Me' founder and ambassador Sophie Whitehouse when she visited the school to spread the message about how wearing a simple yellow wristband can change a life.

Led by class captains, the program encourages ambassadors to wear the highly visible wristband during recess and lunch as a visual reminder that anyone is welcome to sit and play with them. The initiative promotes respect and awareness and is designed to empower students to be inclusive of others, developing empathy and compassion within our school community.



A farewell that 'Burnes' bright

28 years ago, the Headmaster's Personal Assistant Trish Burne walked through the front gates at CCGS for the first time. Little did she know that nearly three decades later – after a lifetime of memories, friendships and achievements – she'd become one of the school's most recognised and loved faces.

As she thinks about her next great adventure, we asked Trish to reflect on her career at CCGS and tell us what it's like to walk in her shoes.

Your official role is the Headmaster's Personal Assistant. Can you tell us about your unofficial roles?

Well, someone has to do it don't they? Yes, I'm referring to processing all the lost property from around the school – around 2500 items per year! I took on this job in 2002 and I think some of the stories about why things got lost could become a bestseller. It seems that school hats can magically disappear, with some Kindergarten students informing me it was my job at night to go around with a torch and find them!

Apart from lost property, I've loved my involvement as Front of House Manager for school productions. For many years I was also the gift buyer for the Common Room and wrote a number of 'odes' to anyone who was leaving, having a baby, getting married or retiring.

Top three memories of your time at CCGS?

- Seeing students support and cheer on a member of their year who was struggling to reach the finish line of their running race.
- Sitting in the audience and watching the students bring to life a body of work in drama, song and dance. I fill with pride as each performer comes on stage - I honestly feel like a proud mother hen of all her chicks!
- The official opening of the Performing Arts Centre with the most spectacular showcase of talent on offer at the school. A coup for the school (and for me getting through the event!)

What are your plans from here?

Renovations on the house first which means a huge de-clutter and clean out. I can probably run the 2019 Spring Fair second hand stall with all the things I need to get rid of!

I've also committed to going to Uganda to work alongside the African Children's Choir and help out in local schools, which I'm really looking forward to.

As my passion for theatre goes way back, I will of course reconnect with Gosford Musical Society and hopefully get back on stage again to sing and act.

Read the full interview with Trish at ccgs.nsw.edu.au/news





Inner artists unveiled

We think we may have discovered the next Picasso (or two) during CCGS's first Parent and Child Art Club.

Plenty of new skills were developed and a whole lot of fun was had during the first Parent and Child Art Club.

Inspired by a beautiful bunch of native flowers, budding artists explored a variety of different mediums including charcoal and paint during the six week course.

Senior Visual Arts Teacher and program facilitator, Linda Tebbs said the club was a wonderful and unique new initiative, offering a relaxed and encouraging environment for everyone to explore their inner artist.

"Seeing families work together to create some extraordinary artworks over the six weeks was very rewarding.

"We're hopeful that due to the success of this first year, the art club will now become a CCGS tradition," Linda said.

Three parents who took part talked to us about their experience.

Why did you want to become involved in the art club?

"Ashleigh has done studio art lessons since early primary school and the art club was the perfect opportunity to get involved in completing some artwork with her," Adam said.

"Brycen and I share a common love of all things art and design! It was a lovely opportunity to spend time together," Aneesa said.

How did you interpret the floral centrepiece?

"Brycen loves dinosaurs just about as much as he loves to draw! So while everyone else saw a vase full of flowers Brycen used components

of the Australian native wildflowers to create a Stegosaurus! I love that Mrs Tebbs encouraged this creativity and we weren't all boxed into creating the same thing," Aneesa said.

"Eliza and all the children interpreted and painted without inhibition or expectation, I tried to copy them by deviating from realistic interpretation as much as my non-artist adult mind would allow," John said.

"I blended the colours of the Australian native plant palette for the background in an abstract way. Ashleigh's painting was also abstract with a bright ochre orange background then two shades of green for the banksia leaf colour. We both focused on the banksia flowers but had our own interpretations and turned to each other for inspiration when we got stuck," Adam said.



“

Brycen and I share a common love of all things art and design! It was a lovely opportunity to spend time together.”

What did you take away from the art club experience?

“I’ve learned that art is a great way to spend Sunday morning with Eliza. It is also great to watch other people produce vastly different paintings from the same inspiration,” John said.

“There isn’t anything that can’t be turned into a dinosaur! We especially loved that there isn’t a right or wrong way to express yourself with art. I thoroughly enjoyed spending quiet Sunday mornings painting in harmony with my son in his favourite place in the school - the Art Department! It was especially lovely to display

our artwork on the final morning and have our friends and family view our work,” Aneesa said.

“Everybody sees things differently and possibly I should listen to my daughter a bit more - she had some great ideas! I now appreciate the effort and thinking that goes into all my kids’ artwork when they bring it home,” Adam said.



CENTRE STAGE FOR CONTEMPORARY DANCE

CCGS's contemporary dance troupe relished the opportunity to perform at one of the best venues in the world – the Sydney Opera House – after making it to the national finals of the Sydney Eisteddfod.

They were one of only eight groups selected for the prestigious competition, which was judged by three of Australia's top artistic dance directors.

The nine CCGS dancers performed in the Advanced Lyrical Dance category showcasing the highest level of technical skill.

Learn more about our progressive Year 9-12 Dance program for girls and boys at ccgs.nsw.edu.au/grow/dance



PERFECTING THE ART OF PERSUASION

'Internet access should be a basic human right'. That was the winning argument of our Middle Division debating team at the HICES debating grand final in September.

Over 40 schools, 1400 students and 500 debates made up this year's competition, where the CCGS squad was named the overall Champion Debating School for 2018.

Seven CCGS teams entered the competition, with two – the Middle Division and Open Division – successfully making it all the way to the grand final.

This is now the third time in the past four years that CCGS has been named the Champion Debating School, with Year 8 student and member of the Middle Division team, Hannah Leggett also being awarded 'Speaker of the Grand Final'.



CHECKMATE FOR CCGS CHESS

Rook no further, nine Junior School students from the CCGS Chess Club used their strategic skills and tactical talents to take out the Central Coast Junior Schools Chess Championship.

In a tough competition, Noyo Akra (Year 6) won his age division and came second overall in the individual Junior School Championship. He won five of six matches, drawing his final game, which saw him secure an impressive final score of 5.5 out of 6.

The chess club is open to all students in Years 3 -12, whether a novice or chess master. The club encourages strategic thinking and teaches skills in logic, problem-solving and decision making under pressure. To that we say, checkmate!



HAY DAY FRIDAY FUNDRAISER

The CCGS community came together, opening their hearts and their wallets during two Hay Day Friday fundraisers, raising over \$12,300 to help Aussie farmers in need.

Thanks to the tenacity of students and the generosity of families, the final amount raised was more than six times the initial target of \$2,000, with some of the funds going towards the purchase of a semi-trailer load of hay for drought-stricken areas.

The fundraiser was the collective idea of students from across the school and started with dedicated House Family activities and a special student presentation at School Service to help educate younger students on the plight of Australian farmers.



Smartphone Shakespeare

All the world's a stage
for budding Year 9 filmmakers.

We have a swimming carnival and an athletics carnival, so for those with a love of words why not embrace a Shakespeare carnival?

A group of Year 9 students did just that after entering into the Sport for Jove's third annual Shakespeare Carnival.

Held at a school, regional and state level, the competition encourages students to develop their artistic, academic and personal skills.

This year, for the first time in the competition's history, a Smartphone Short Film category was introduced, enticing 11 CCGS students to take on the challenge of creating an original film inspired by the works of Shakespeare.

Students gave up their lunchtimes to collaborate, storyboard and brainstorm their plotlines before spending time in the school holidays filming and editing their videos. New filming skills were developed along with a deeper appreciation of the Bard.

The hard work paid off with two groups making it to the Regional Shakespeare Carnival with their films 'All the World's a Stage' and 'Romeo and Juliet: Tragedy or Irony'.

'Romeo and Juliet: Tragedy or Irony' progressed to the state championship, where impressed judges commended the group's interesting characterisation, clever use of dialogue, great choice of setting and unique take on Shakespeare's afterlife.

Visit ccgs.nsw.edu.au/news to see their great work in action.



**A FATHER AND SON,
A BEAT-UP FORD FIESTA
AND A 16,000KM
TREK ACROSS EUROPE TO
RUSSIA - WITHOUT A GPS**

Rallying for a good cause

PDHPE teacher, Jim McAtamney and his son Jacob embarked on the journey of a lifetime as part of the famous Mongol Rally, raising money for charity along the way.

“When your son asks you to come on an adventure, you don’t say no,” Jim said. So, after 16 months of planning and fundraising the pair set-off from England in their \$500, 1.2L Ford Fiesta.

Jim and Jacob have been part of the school community for a combined total of over 44 years (Jim for 31 years as a teacher and Jacob for 13 years as a student), so the whole school got behind them to support their journey.

For a good cause

An important element of their trip was raising money for their chosen charities.

“We chose the Black Dog Institute, a mental health support and advocacy network, as well

as Cool Earth, an organisation dedicated to stopping deforestation. We are pleased to have raised over \$3,500 for them,” Jim said.

Unforgettable sights

Travelling across vastly different continents exposed the pair to some of the world’s most intriguing landscapes.

They journeyed to Mount Arat, famous for being the resting place of Noah’s Ark, where nearby dwellings that are thousands of years old are built right into the mountain face.

They were intrigued by Turkmenistan which boasts the world’s biggest indoor ferris wheel, and a population where 95% of people work for the government and only 1.5% of people use the internet. Navigating anywhere in the capital proved to be a challenge as all buildings are white and no signage is permitted.

“While there are a lot of stringent rules in Turkmenistan, there’s also some surprising aspects such as the fact they have a public holiday on July 10 every year to celebrate melons!” Jacob said.

Jim and Jacob also drove on the ‘roof of the world’, the Pamir Highway, which gets its name from being second highest highway in the world, where they spent four days following the Panj River along the Afghan border over mountains and through rural villages.

Learning from the locals

One of the biggest lessons the duo took from the expedition was the unwavering kindness and generosity of locals.

“In Turkey, whenever we stopped for lunch or to make camp, people came up to share whatever food and drinks they had – bread,



When your son asks you to come on an adventure, you don't say no."

homemade jam, fruit. Whatever they had, even if it wasn't much, they shared," Jacob said.

There was also a warm welcome in Iran. "On the drive to Chalus we stopped to get some water. Before we could get back into the car, a man in a battered old pick-up pulled over and greeted us like old friends. He asked for photos, gave us a bag of fruit and even added me on Instagram," Jacob said.

Overcoming hurdles

From mechanical issues and language barriers to checkpoint scams and even environmental disasters, they faced their fair share of challenges.

From the outset the duo knew the journey wasn't going to be all smooth sailing, but even they weren't prepared for some of the challenges they faced.

In order to finish on time, Jim and Jacob were driving up to 12 hours a day, culminating in a 30-hour endurance marathon through some extremely hot temperatures.

The ultimate goal was to get to Mongolia, but the area was hit by devastating floods just two weeks before they were due to arrive, washing many of the roads away. A lack of internet meant they couldn't get information from the teams ahead of them and to add to the pressure, their visas were for a fixed date. They took a chance and luckily arrived safely.

Lessons for the classroom

Never one to miss an education opportunity and despite some technical issues due to poor internet service, Jim recorded a series of videos that were uploaded for his students to follow along and learn all about the different countries he was visiting.

Interestingly, when asked the most important lesson he'll take back into the classroom, Jim said it was about the impact of pollution. "I've been talking to our kids about how important the three R's are – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. We're already really good at it in Australia and it's important the next generation continues to set this good example," Jim said.



Best mates Mike Tyrrell (2000) and Jordan Green (2001) forged their lifelong friendship at CCGS. Since then, they've used their strong bond and skills to work together on an industry leading innovator in first aid emergency solutions - Survival Emergency Solutions.

Mike Tyrrell and Jordan Green

You graduated in 2000 and 2001, what have you both been doing since leaving CCGS?

MT: After completing a Business Degree at UTS, a round-the-world backpacking adventure saw me on Phi-Phi Island for the Boxing Day Tsunami in 2004, an experience which altered the course of my life.

After returning to Australia, I completed a law degree and worked as a Public Guardian, advocating for those who were not capable of defending themselves. Over time, I began assisting more in the family business, Survival Emergency Solutions, and am currently working there fulltime to transform the former B2B model into an online consumer-based company, together with my best mate Jordan Green.

JG: After gaining a Cert IV in Information Technology and working with companies including Scholastic Australia, I launched my own web design and development business, Jordan Green Designs. I've been working with Survival since 2013, redeveloping the business's ecommerce and online marketing strategies. Together with my wife, I manage a wedding and event prop hire business and I also have a Cert IV Fitness qualification and run personal training sessions in my spare time!

You were good mates at school and now you're both working at Survival Emergency Solutions, the company founded by Mike's dad and uncle. How did your work partnership come about?

MT: Survival was founded in 1988 and initially relied on sales of its pioneering Emergency First Aid Handbook. As the company expanded its product range to first aid equipment and the landscape changed to predominantly online sales, we started calling on Jordan for his expert knowledge in this area. We both began assisting more in the business and then the timing was just right to join forces and seamlessly merge our skills together.

JG: I had been working with Survival as a client for several years, but it came to a point where a complete online overhaul was required. Survival needed help to build a platform that would showcase its products to Australia and the world. I have been working with Survival fulltime since 2017 and there's never a dull moment! When I'm not managing its online presence, I'm chasing venomous snakes to capture SMART bandage footage or filming funnel-web spiders for educational online campaigns.

What is your favourite memory of your CCGS years?

MT: During the U/14 ISA basketball grand final my head was cut open after a head clash. Mr Lornie was on the sideline and came to the rescue - bandaging my head up and getting me back onto the court so we could win the game!

JG: I loved all the sporting opportunities CCGS offered. I always looked forward to the athletics carnivals and was part of the first-ever CCGS baseball team, which went on to win the grand final.

Both: Mr Gill's Modern History classes!

What is one piece of advice you would give to your high school self?

MT: You are so lucky to have the foundations that were laid for you with such an excellent education and support network. Make the most of the opportunities that present themselves and don't be held back by fear and doubt.

JG: Don't worry so much - it will all work out in the end.

Read Mike and Jordan's full interview at ccgs.nsw.edu.au/news



DARREN JAMESON

As a 1988 graduate, Darren was one of the first students to graduate at CCGS. Since leaving school he's built an impressive career around the philosophy of service for others, holding a number of high ranking roles in the NSW Police Force. Darren's police work has spanned high-level organised and transnational crime to illicit drugs, and internal affairs, but he says the most rewarding has been his work with the Child Protection Enforcement Agency helping children and teenagers seek justice.



SOPHIE COX

Sophie Cox (2011) first visited Cambodia in 2009 on a CCGS humanitarian tour where she saw first-hand the devastation of the Khmer Rouge regime. She's since gone on to study law and found her passion for human rights via coveted internships with Amnesty International and the United Nations. Recently, Sophie returned to Cambodia where she's working to investigate and gather evidence for the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials.



TIM COULSON

Following his passion and taking a leap of faith has seen Tim Coulson (2002) build an enviable career as an internationally sought-after professional photographer, capturing weddings, families and landscapes in enviable locations across the globe.

He's worked with brands such as Google, Airbnb, BMW and Qantas, but says the highlight of his illustrious career so far was shooting a wedding in a castle in Devon, England.

ALUMNI NEWS

Want to be in the know with the latest alumni news? Visit the news page at ccgs.nsw.edu.au for more alumni stories.

If you're a CCGS alumni contact Alumni Coordinator, Jacqui Raadsma on 4367 6766 or visit our alumni page at ccgs.nsw.edu.au to update your details today.

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Open Morning Dates 2019

Keen to experience Central Coast Grammar School first hand? We've reserved some special dates throughout 2019 to give you a deeper insight into our industrious school community.

Year 7 Information Morning
Friday 1 March - 8.45am

Open Morning K-12
Friday 7 June - 9.15am

Kindy Explorer Day
Wednesday 27 March - 9.30am

Open Morning K-12
Friday 2 August - 9.15am

Open Morning K-12
Friday 8 November - 9.15am

Register at ccggs.nsw.edu.au or call **4367 6766**.

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