

Fidelis

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Celebrating
125 years



MERIDEN
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



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Old Girls' news

Front cover: Ms Jodie Spooner-Ryan conducts the Symphony Orchestra and Combined Choirs at the 125th Anniversary Concert in the Concert Hall of Sydney Opera House, 15 November 2022.

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Photography: Bianca de Marchi, James Gourley, Anthony Khoury, Petri Kurkaa, Stephen Reinhardt and David Swift.

Thank you to the staff and students who provided photos for this issue.

As we celebrate the 125th anniversary of Meriden, it is appropriate that this edition of *Fidelis* reflects the joyful theme of 2022 at Meriden. Throughout the year we have rejoiced over God's gracious provision to the School over its 125 years.

One of the ways that we have celebrated is to walk our way through the history of the School. In many Assemblies throughout the year, the girls and I have learnt more about Meriden's journey.

We saw Mrs Monckton (1897-1908) commence a school for her two sons and some neighbouring children in her home in Agnes Street Strathfield then into a home in Woodward Avenue.

Miss Turner (1909-1925), who relocated the School to a house called *Wariora* on the current Senior School site, introduced many features which she considered to be essential for a proper school: the school song, the school motto, the school uniform, the school crest and school Houses. These features still remain today although some changes have been made along the way. Due to ill-health and after some thwarted attempts, Miss Turner sold the School to a group of businessmen and women of Strathfield who were keen to ensure the longevity of the School.

In 1926, the first School Council appointed Miss Overy (1926-1940) whose kindness and strong Christian faith endeared her to the school community. Sadly, she died in office; the stained glass windows in The Chapel were purchased by Old Girls in her honour in 1941.

Miss Hannam was Principal from 1941-1957. With her cat at her side, Miss Hannam walked the school grounds with a strict eye. She resigned, probably out of frustration that the School did not have the funds to develop the School in those post-war years.

Miss Colbourne, a Science teacher at Meriden, looked after the School in 1958 until Miss James was appointed, sight unseen, from England, in 1959. During her brief tenure, her disappointment in the School's facilities became obvious. Miss James left Meriden during 1961.

Miss Fox, also on staff, ran the School from 1961-1965 during which time the School had settled after the preceding tumultuous years. She was followed by another staff member, Miss Morton, who was Principal from 1966-1984, overseeing a period of enormous change with the introduction of the Wyndham Scheme.

Mrs Thomas AM (1985-2002) further transformed the School into a quality place of learning. Her wonderful contribution to the education of girls in Australia was recognised with the appointment of the Member of the Order of Australia.

FROM THE Principal

Upon Mrs Thomas' retirement, Mrs Blanden was appointed as Principal and she held this position from 2003-2006 during which time much of the Junior School was rebuilt. Mrs Thomas then returned to Meriden for Semester 2, 2006, until I was appointed in 2007.

Once we weathered the Global Financial Crisis in 2009, the School quickly grew in number. With increased enrolments, the School Council was able to approve the construction of wonderful new facilities. A bigger school is probably my legacy (2007-2022) although I hope I have maintained Meriden as a Christian school with high quality and holistic teaching and learning, proudly for girls.

Yes, 2022 – a year of grateful celebration. Please enjoy these pages.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Greenhalgh".

DR JULIE GREENHALGH
Principal

Celebrating 125 years of Meriden



ADELAIDE LOANE,
Head Prefect, and ANNIKA
BOWDEN, Deputy Head Prefect



DR JULIE GREENHALGH



1897
Mrs Jeannie
Monckton



1900
Teddy Bears' Picnic



1916



1923
Gym in the Bungalow

This year we proudly commemorated Meriden's historic beginnings when Mrs Jeannie Monckton established the school in 1897, with fewer than twenty students.



1923

In the classroom



1925

Whole-school photo in front of 'The Briars'



1926

Class of 1926



1927

Art class

1930



Gymnastics display



Junior School Tennis



Boarders ready for Sunday church service



Dance performance



Swimming Carnival at Enfield Pool



1950



Sport

1951



Head Prefect, Diana Parkinson

1958



Skipping demonstration on Exhibition Day

1960



Head Boarder

1969



Boarders with Matron



1940

First day of school



1941

Wallis Building



1946

Tennis



1948

Prefects



1949

Photo day for the boarders



EDIE ARKELL,
Chapel Prefect

Our community marked Meriden's 125-year anniversary with a range of tributes and special events, which included commemorative badges, commissioning of an original composition, the opening of a new playground at the Junior School campus, a magnificent Celebration Concert by Junior School musicians, and the opening of the School's new building, the Greenhalgh Centre for Music and Drama, complete with a lighting installation commissioned to mark the anniversary.



GRACELYN YU and
HOLLY LAYSON, Music
Prefects (2023 and 2022 resp.)

Dr Greenhalgh also took Senior School girls on a historic journey during the year as she shared stories from the School's archives in many weekly Assemblies.

Meriden's finest music ensembles topped off the year's celebrations with a joyous concert at the Sydney Opera House featuring the world premiere of the choral and orchestral work by award-winning composer Oliver John Cameron, commissioned to mark the anniversary – making fitting testament to how Meriden has grown and thrived in its 125 years.



1973

Bean bag race



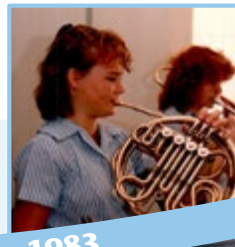
1979

Senior Singers



1980

Netball game



1983

Music rehearsal



1985

Friends in the playground

1990



Speech Day

1991



Girls in the quadrangle

1995



Wallis Cup

1996



Sack race

1998



Netball in the Ethel B Wallis Memorial Gymnasium



OLIVER JAMES CAMERON



REV DR ANDREW KATAY



2011



Richard Gill OAM conducts the Symphony Orchestra

2014



Water Polo

2016



Festival of Speech

2017



Students in the Bell Garden

2000



Community Service



Mini Olympics



2002

Speech Day



2003

Senior dancers outside Wallis Hall



2008

Hudson Library



2019

Cadets



2020

Robotics in Junior School STEM Lab



2021

Remote learning during the pandemic



In the Science Laboratory



2022

Junior School musical Moana Jr.

A fond farewell

to Dr Julie Greenhalgh

2022 has been a year of significant events for Meriden, not least of which was Dr Julie Greenhalgh's announcement that she will be retiring as Principal at the end of the year.

When Dr Greenhalgh commenced at Meriden in January 2007, among her key priorities was the development of the vision and strategic plan for the School, to be pursued in conjunction with the School Council, senior staff, student representatives and community representatives. A three-year strategic plan, titled *Moving Meriden Forward*, was launched that year and became the first of six sequential strategic plans developed under Dr Greenhalgh's leadership.

These comprehensive roadmaps – with titles such as *Women of the Future* and *Meriden Girls: Creating and Leading the Future* – reflect Meriden's journey over the last sixteen years. It has been a journey of progress which has seen significant and continued improvement in the quality of teaching and learning at the School; the standard of the facilities; the level of pastoral care; the depth of the values, ethics and Christian education on offer; and the extent and level of opportunities offered to the girls. Most significantly, it has brought the School to where it stands today at the forefront of education in Australia and as one of the leading non-selective girls' schools in NSW.

DR JULIE GREENHALGH PRINCIPAL 2007–2022

On the eve of her retirement, we asked Dr Greenhalgh to share some of her thoughts on her sixteen years as Principal of Meriden.

What have been some of the most rewarding aspects of your role as Principal at Meriden?

One of the joys (and challenges!) of being Principal of Meriden is that every day is different. Sometimes, I have yearned for predictability but, mostly, I have relished the variety and the unexpected challenges that seem to have arisen every day!

I have really enjoyed working with a wonderful team of teachers and Support Staff. I have loved seeing them display considerable expertise in their area of the School, I have admired their dedication and commitment to the learning and wellbeing of the girls, and I have appreciated their kindness to me.

But mostly, I have enjoyed working in a school full of happy, optimistic and unpretentious girls. They are funny, gracious, determined, generous and loyal. It has been a blessing to come to work every day.



Today, Meriden is recognised as one of the top independent girls' schools in NSW not only for its academic results but also for its remarkable accomplishments in music, sport, and a host of other student activities. What do you attribute to the amazing growth and development of the School?

I once read that a school cannot rise above the quality of its Staff Common Room, and I believe this. Over my sixteen years at Meriden, I have had the opportunity to employ impressive staff who do not settle for mediocrity. Consequently, the girls achieve well and they behave well. They learn to strive for excellence and, by and large, they reach their teachers' high expectations.

Furthermore, Meriden is a Christian school, and we believe in a Heavenly Father who answers prayer. So, I have frequently asked the School community to pray for the School and I have sought stamina and wisdom from God through prayer on a daily basis. And God has faithfully answered these prayers.

When you reflect on the past sixteen years at Meriden, what are you most proud of?

I'm proud to have played a small part in the history of a great school.

I'm proud to have worked with families to raise wonderful children.

I'm proud to have contributed to the holistic education of thousands of young women in Sydney.

I'm proud to have been in a team that has provided an education to Meriden girls that has fed their minds with skilful understanding, their hearts with compassion, and their souls with the love of Jesus.

What will you miss most about Meriden?

I won't miss sixty-hour weeks or unjustified attacks on independent schools by the media.

I won't miss dealing with emails morning, noon and night.

But I will miss the sound of the playground, the banter of my colleagues, and the friendly waves and smiles from families in the local community.

I will miss watching sport on Saturdays.

I will miss the music concerts.

I will miss having hectic but purposeful days.

I started at Meriden knowing there was a job to be done, although I didn't fully understand the extent of the job until after I had commenced in the role. And I leave knowing that the job has been done, and that the School is in a position to be handed over to the next Principal.

Sincere thanks to the Meriden community for giving me the joy and privilege to lead this School for the past sixteen years.

MEET OUR NEW PRINCIPAL



Mrs Lisa Brown is well known to the Meriden community having joined the School as a teacher in 2004. In addition to her teaching roles, Mrs Brown has held positions essential to the delivery of a well-rounded education for girls at Meriden, including Year Coordinator, Head of Sport, and Head of Campus.

In announcing Mrs Brown's appointment as Principal, Rev Dr Andrew Katay, Chairman of School Council, said that Mrs Brown comes to the role with deep experience across the 'crucial quartet' in independent schooling: academic rigour and excellence, cocurricular opportunities, pastoral care and Christian ministry. "A school can't major on any of these to the neglect of others. It needs to excel in all four," he said.

"I am deeply honoured to be appointed as Principal. I feel a great affection for the School and the wider Meriden community, Mrs Brown said. "The students and staff at Meriden are wonderful and it is a privilege to be asked to lead them."

"Dr Greenhalgh's exceptional leadership has been inspirational and has seen the School flourish. I am grateful for her mentorship and look forward to continuing her legacy," she said.

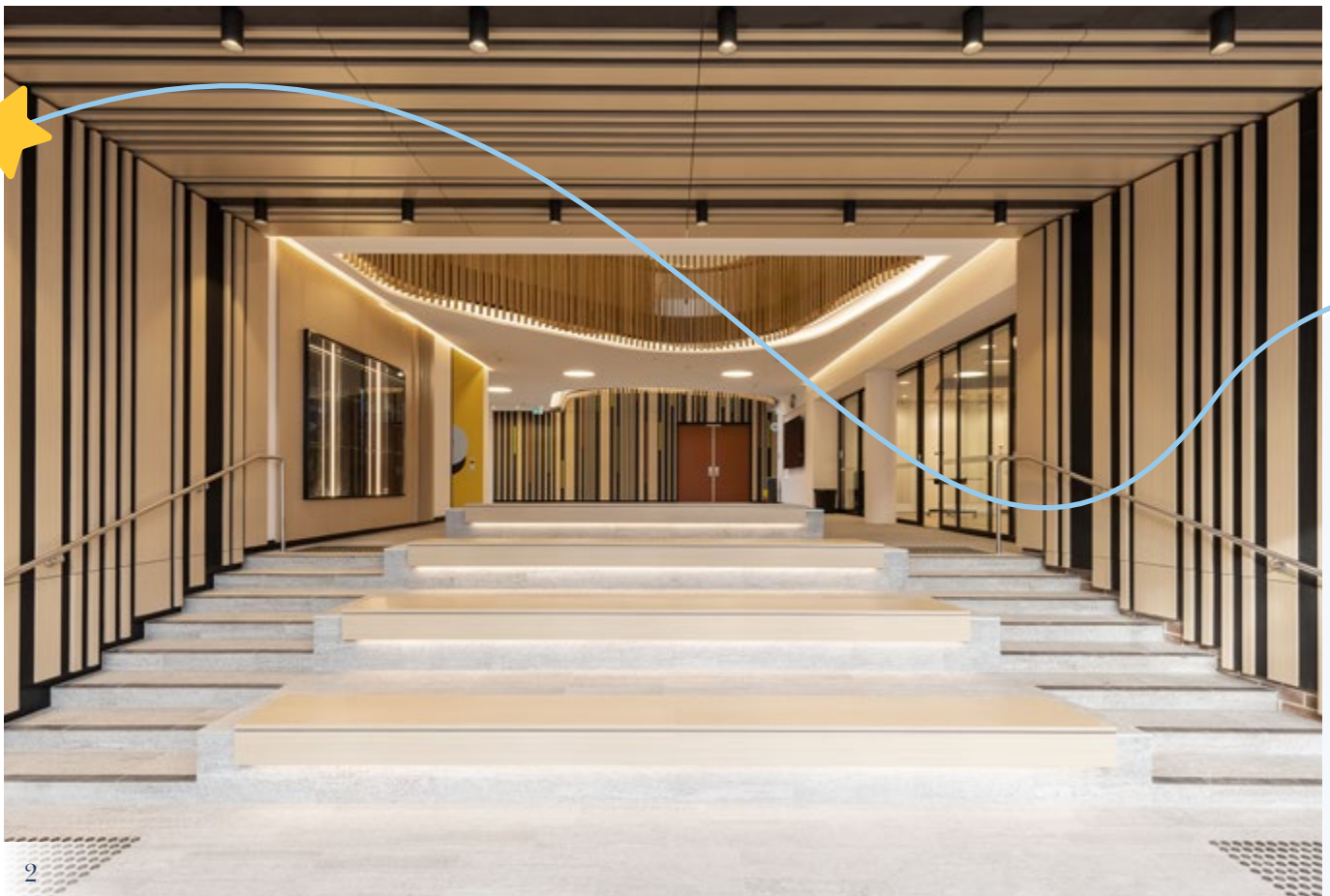
Mrs Brown is currently completing a PhD on the topic of Women in Leadership. Her two daughters, Scarlett (Year 10) and Claudia (Year 9), have attended Meriden since Pre-Kindergarten.

"Dr Greenhalgh's exceptional leadership has been inspirational and has seen the School flourish. I am grateful for her mentorship and look forward to continuing her legacy."

—MRS LISA BROWN

New facility set to inspire a generation of performing artists

In May this year, the School was honoured to welcome the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, who opened Meriden's spectacular new Centre for Music and Drama.





3

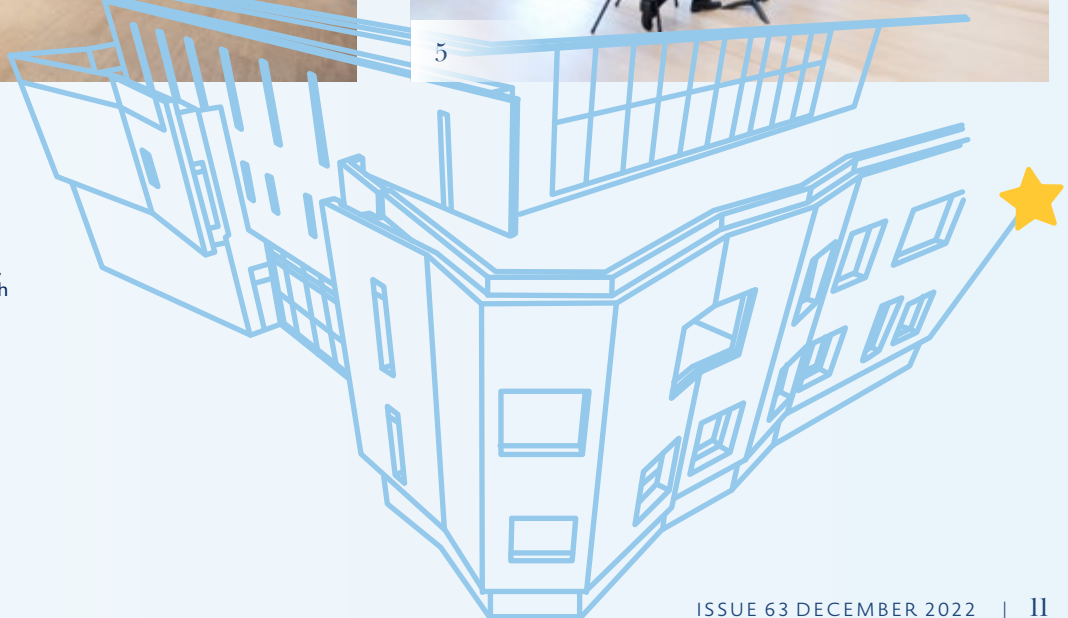


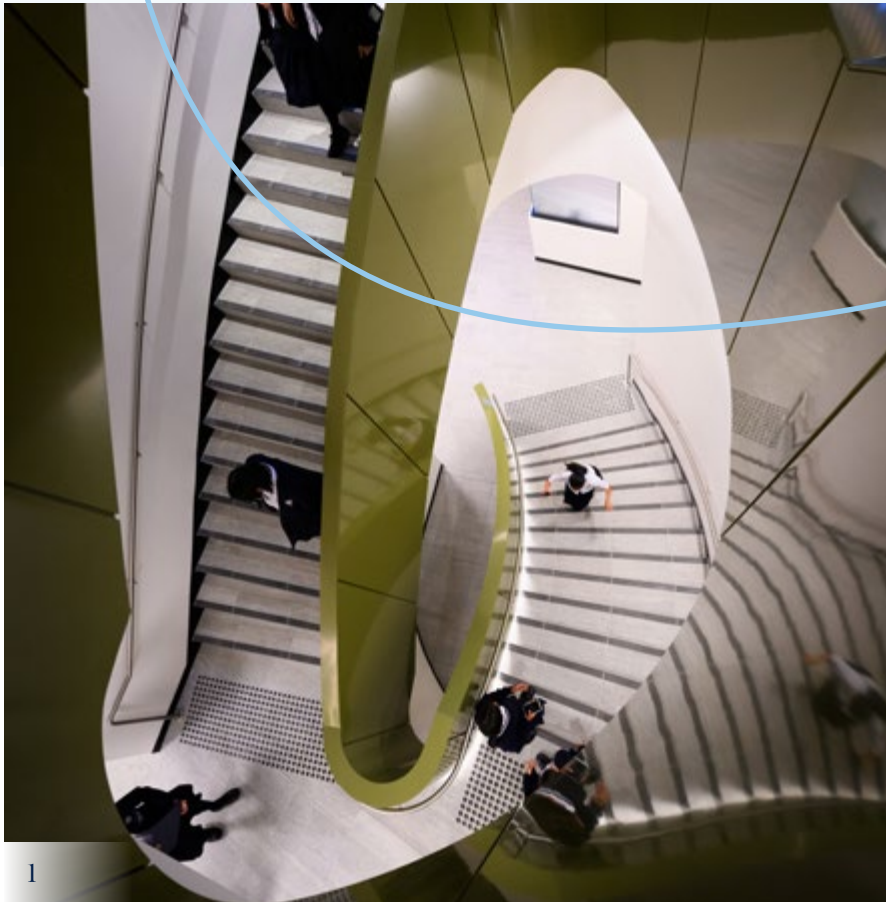
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5

- 1 Talitha Moss, Deputy Head Prefect, and Adele Dang, Head Prefect, with The Hon Margaret Beazley AC KC
- 2 Amphitheatre
- 3 Ensemble Room
- 4 Level 1 contains a purpose-built Composition Room and spacious classrooms
- 5 Recital Room





The Greenhalgh Centre for Music and Drama – named to recognise Dr Julie Greenhalgh’s significant contribution as Principal of Meriden – will serve a new generation of musicians and performing artists, as Meriden celebrates 125 years of educating girls and young women.

The new building was designed by AJ + C Architects and built by Buildcorp, and was commissioned to advance Meriden’s highly successful music programs which attract some of the best and brightest young musicians in the country.

“It brings me considerable joy to walk through our beautiful new facility, and hear music and laughter rise from every classroom,” said Meriden’s Principal, Dr Julie Greenhalgh.

“The Greenhalgh Centre for Music and Drama was created to recognise the excellence of our young performers and musicians and provide a space appropriate for their hard work; it’s a magnificent addition to our School and will be loved by generations of students to come,” she added.

Director of Music (P-12) at Meriden, Ms Jodie Spooner-Ryan, said the success of the building mirrored the success of Meriden’s music and drama programs.

“Meriden’s music and drama programs have gone from strength to strength, and now the programs will find a home in a building that has been carefully crafted to extend and enhance learning,” she said.

Ms Spooner-Ryan said that both students and teachers were enjoying the new specialist spaces.

“Students can use specialist music software in our composition classroom, and can then record their compositions in the recording studio. Then in our Recital Room, students can perform and rehearse in an intimate chamber setting, while large ensembles and smaller bands can rehearse together in our Ensemble Room,” said Ms Spooner-Ryan.

“We’re excited to stage concerts in the open spaces for the school to enjoy, rehearse musicals in our dedicated Allison Howell Drama Theatre, and to see our Music Academy students keep developing their love of music and performing,” said Ms Spooner-Ryan.

“We couldn’t believe our eyes when we first walked through the beautiful new Centre,” said Year 12 student, Chaewon Park, who adds that all the students feel very fortunate. “I love to practise my cello in the music studios and I’m looking forward to performing in the bigger spaces.”



- 1 The magnificent spiral staircase connects all levels in the building
- 2 Lighting installation commissioned to mark the School's 125th anniversary
- 3 Music Academy recording studio with adjacent control room
- 4 Classroom
- 5 Studio 13
- 6 Drama Theatre control room
- 7 Allison Howell Drama Theatre

Meriden musicians top Sydney Eisteddfod



Meriden's musicians celebrated a phenomenal winning streak at the Sydney Eisteddfod this year, claiming seven top-two placings at the prestigious competition. The School's Symphony Orchestra, Intermediate Chamber Strings, Junior Chamber Strings and Senior Singers all placed first in their events, with the Senior Chamber Strings, Sinfonia and Wind Symphony groups each nabbing second place.

Meriden's Symphony Orchestra was awarded first place in the Premium Youth Orchestra (19 and under) division, and the judges commended the girls for their evident passion for music and their mastery of a repertoire usually reserved for professional orchestras.

The Intermediate Chamber Strings won the Secondary School Intermediate String Ensemble division, while the Senior Singers gave a showstopping performance to win the Youth Choir for Female Voices (19 and under) event.

After placing third last year, the Junior Chamber Strings were determined to give it their all on stage and were named the top Primary School Premium String Ensemble.

Meriden's Director of Music (P-12), Ms Jodie Spooner-Ryan was proud of the girls' success.

"Our musicians shone throughout the competition week and once again raised the bar at the Sydney Eisteddfod. The girls have worked so hard in rehearsals to make sure they delivered high-level, technical performances," said Ms Spooner-Ryan.

"These results speak to the girls' unwavering dedication to their craft and the quality of Meriden's music program. Every musician who has participated should be very proud of her achievements."

— MS JODIE SPOONER-RYAN
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC (P-12)

Congratulations to the following Meriden ensembles on their outstanding results:

SENIOR SINGERS

First Place, Youth Choir for Female Voices (19 and under)

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

First Place, Premium Youth Orchestra (19 and under)

INTERMEDIATE CHAMBER STRINGS

First Place, Secondary School Intermediate String Ensemble

JUNIOR CHAMBER STRINGS

First Place, Primary School Premium String Ensemble

SENIOR CHAMBER STRINGS

Second Place, Secondary School Premium String Ensemble

SINFONIA

Second Place, The Wenkart Foundation Intermediate Youth Orchestra (19 and under)

WIND SYMPHONY

Second Place, Secondary School Premium Concert Band



“The activities centred around helping us perform the pieces in a historically-informed and accurate way.”

—ANASTASIA IBRAHIM

“The activities centred around helping us perform the pieces in a historically-informed and accurate way. We participated in sectional tutorials where we played period instruments and had workshops where we learnt about successful female composers and the revolution of recording music,” she said.

Helen said she was grateful for the unique opportunity to work intensively on a historically-informed style.

“The program has allowed me to be part of a network of musicians who are experienced in this type of performance. It was inspiring to learn from tutors from all over Australia. They taught us the many aspects of this type of performance and I was even able to try a period clarinet!” said Helen.

Anastasia and Helen are members of Meriden’s Amadeus Program for exceptional musicians. They both have a passion for classical music and agreed that participating in the Young Mannheim Symphonists program has developed their skills as performers.

“It was wonderful to learn so much and have new knowledge to take back to our solo repertoire,” said Anastasia.

“During our rehearsals, we did not have a conductor, so we had to learn to communicate in other ways and ensure we watched our fellow ensemble members throughout each piece. I think this experience will help us perform better in ensembles in the future,” said Helen.

Anastasia and Helen selected for prestigious youth orchestra program

Meriden girls have taken to the stage alongside some of the state’s finest young musicians as part of the Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra’s Young Mannheim Symphonists program.

ANASTASIA IBRAHIM, Year 9, and **HELEN LIU**, Year 11, were selected to participate in the youth orchestra program that focuses on delivering historically informed performances of masterpieces by the likes of Schubert, Mozart and Beethoven.

Hosted by principal musicians of the Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra, the program involved workshops, tutorials and orchestral rehearsals and culminated in a celebratory public performance that showcased participants’ impressive grasp of repertoire.

Anastasia, who hopes to pursue a career in music in the future, said she enjoyed connecting and making music with like-minded musicians.

Drama students delight judges with their theatrical improvisation skills

Meriden took out first place in the All Girls' Shield for Theatresports this year, competing against teams from three other schools in a lively three-round competition.

Judges complimented the members of Meriden's winning team, **SIENNA KANG** (Year 11), **KATERINA KOJEVNIKOV** (Year 10) and **ELISSA FRENEY** (Year 8) on their creativity and humour throughout the improvisational drama contest.

In Theatresports, teams of three to five students create scenes live on stage and are scored based on the story they tell, the techniques they use, and how entertaining the performance is for the audience.

"It takes real courage to compete in Theatresports," said Mr Jonathan Borg, who is Meriden's Drama teacher and Theatresports Coordinator.

"Under the pressure of a live performance, you have to think quickly on your feet, accept and give offers to your team members, shape a narrative and try to be funny – all in real time," Mr Borg said.

Team member Elissa Freney said she really enjoys the creativity that comes with participating in Theatresports, which is offered as a cocurricular option at Meriden.

"Theatresports is a great way to develop skills like storytelling, entertainment and comedy," she said. "And I also enjoy making people laugh."

Year 10 student Katerina Kojevnikov, who also represented Meriden this year in Theatresports, was inspired by watching her older sister compete. "I thought it was the coolest thing that you could do in drama," she said. "It is really fun and a great way to brighten your mood, especially on a tough day."

Students prepare for Theatresports competitions through weekly training sessions where they play a range of Theatresports games with their teammates while working on improvisation, theatre and performance skills.

"Communication within the team is key to establishing that everyone is on the same page and prepared," said Katerina, adding that feedback from the coaches is also really helpful.

"It takes real courage to compete in Theatresports."

—MR JONATHON BORG,
DRAMA TEACHER

Back row: Elissa Freney, Shivani Arora and Sienna Kang
Front row: Prachi Samantara, Katerina Kojevnikov and Youya Wei



Elissa agrees and said that training sessions also help the girls get to know their team mates better, understand how each person likes to perform and also refine skills like ‘endowment’, where you give your scene partner a characteristic or back story through a statement.

“The most challenging part of Theatresports is coming up with our ideas,” said Elissa.

For Katerina, it’s the on-stage exposure that is the most challenging aspect. “You need to learn how to be vulnerable on stage, be up for anything and give 100 percent no matter the circumstances,” she said.

“You are on stage in front of other teams and have no idea what prompt you’ll be given to perform for the scene or how the

scene will turn out. As scary as it sounds, it is such an incredible feeling when everything goes well.”

Elissa said that Theatresports has improved her ability to talk to large crowds. “I have developed my public speaking and improvisation skills and made friends with girls from all years,” she said.

“I am so proud of our Theatresports members for their enthusiastic participation on the stage,” said Mr Borg. “The girls have learnt about improvisation skills and techniques, and it has been a pleasure to see them grow in confidence as performers and individuals.”

BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHER CAPTURES THE SHOT

Amy Liu’s newfound passion for photography has earned her a place as a finalist in the prestigious international photography competition, Head On Photo Festival.

The Year 9 student’s work was displayed at an exhibition at Bondi Beach throughout November.

Amy embarked on her new hobby after learning some of the tricks of the trade as a member of Meriden’s Media Team.

“I like photography because it helps to record memorable moments in life, things that don’t happen all the time and the sceneries that we don’t often get to see,” said Amy. Amy’s stunning entry in the Head On Photo Festival was taken from a hot air balloon during a flight over the Hunter Valley.



AMY LIU

Students gather real-world data on the Great Barrier Reef



Other trip highlights included seeing the important work of volunteers at the Fitzroy Island Turtle Rehabilitation Centre who care for sick and injured turtles, and completing a guided tour by a local Kuku Yalanji Indigenous Ranger through the Daintree Rainforest.

Social Science teacher, Mrs Julie Shannon, said seeing the challenges faced by the region has been an invaluable learning opportunity.

“The girls really benefitted from exploring the region and witnessing the positive and negative effects that humans have had on this special part of our world,” said Mrs Shannon.

“The experience has expanded their learning and provided opportunities to apply the knowledge they have been learning in class to the real world,” she said.

Year 10 student, Katerina Kojevnikov, said she highly recommends the trip for other Meriden girls studying Geography.

“It was a phenomenal learning experience. We were able to immerse ourselves in the local community, see incredible wildlife and gain a better understanding of ways to help the reef in the future,” said Katerina.

1 Students preparing to snorkel at Fitzroy Island

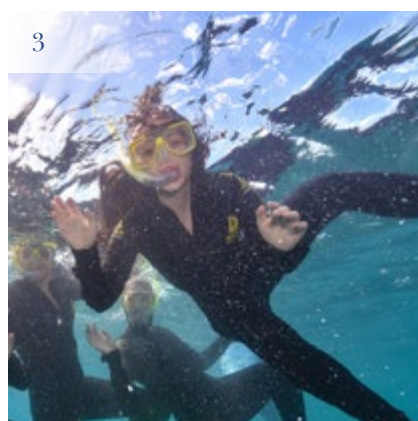
2 A Welcome to Country and traditional smoking ceremony at Mossman Gorge, Daintree National Park

3 Students snorkeling at the outer Reef

Senior Meriden girls spent their Easter holidays helping to protect and conserve one of the world’s most important ecosystems – the Great Barrier Reef. The group of twenty-eight senior Geography students spent a week in tropical North Queensland helping to collect valuable information about reef health and marine life from the outer reef, as part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority’s “Eye on the Reef” monitoring and assessment program.

Year 11 student, Phoebe van Niekerk, said the program was a fantastic way to see the reef’s marine life while learning about environmental and human impacts.

“We learnt about the major causes of coral loss including coral bleaching and the damaging impact of crown-of-thorns starfish on the outer reef,” said Phoebe, adding that the experience enhanced her passion for Geography.





Jasmine to represent Australia in Geography Olympiad

JASMINE YE

Year 11 student, **JASMINE YE**, will represent Australia at the 2023 International Geography Olympiad to be held in Indonesia. Jasmine is part of the four-member Australian team which topped both the Australian Geography Competition (AGC) national exam, and Geography's Big Week Out.

"Sixteen high-achieving students participated in the Geography's Big Week Out held in Darwin, where we did four days of fieldwork, then a final exam where we applied our knowledge," said Jasmine.

"It is an incredible honour to be selected for this team, and it is truly testament to all the amazing Geography teachers I have had at Meriden who have pushed me to perform at my very best."

Next year, Jasmine will join the best young geographers in the world at the 19th International Geography Olympiad.

Each participating country sends four to six of their best high school students to the week-long competition involving three academic challenges: a written response test, a multimedia test and a fieldwork exercise requiring observation, cartographic representation and geographical analysis.

The event, which will be held in August 2023 in Bandung – the largest metropolitan city in West Java, Indonesia – will be the first in-person International Geography Olympiad since 2019.

The 2022 International Geography Olympiad saw teams from fifty-four countries take part online, and Jasmine said that she can't wait to meet other students from all around the world.

"It's an incredible opportunity to learn about other countries and cultures and connect with like-minded young people who are also passionate about this subject," Jasmine said.

Jasmine will be travelling just before her final Year 12 exams and the intensive preparation for the Olympiad competition typically equates to a first-year university-level subject, but she's not deterred. "It's a fantastic opportunity to learn about things that won't be covered in the classroom."

She said that Geography blends scientific enquiry and sociology and has taught her to better understand and appreciate the world around her.

"I'm passionate about issues such as climate change, inequality and poverty; Geography gives me practical skills and tools to make sense of our increasingly complex global society and the interactions between the smaller communities existing within it," said Jasmine.

"I'm proud to be representing my country at an international level and will try my hardest to achieve the best results I possibly can."



“It was so rewarding to see how our actions had a positive impact.”

—HANNAH LUI

- 1 Year 9 students, Mrs Brennan and Ms Lenthall with Indigenous Elders at Cape York
- 2 Sophie Yi, Selina Wang, Angel Long and Olivia Lim sorting unsold clothing for repurposing
- 3 Kiera Nguyen and Vanessa Wang clearing ground for a firebreak in preparation for the bushfire season
- 4 Susana Sun, Karen Ouyang and Zehn Lim visiting nursing home residents
- 5 Elena Whitfield helping at the Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Association
- 6 Olivia Choi with a rescued joey

Students access a wide range of service opportunities throughout their years at Meriden, particularly in Year 9, where the School makes time and space in the school year for students to focus on service, and supports them with organised service activities.

“This year, we extended the practical application of our Year 9 Service program to allow students to connect with various groups and organisations in the local community,” says Mrs Vanessa Kirolos, Meriden’s Dean of Community Learning.

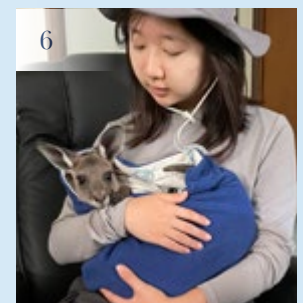
“We connected with about twenty groups and the girls submitted their preference for which activity they wished to support,” she said, adding that the idea was to recognise the value of learning from multiple community settings.

The students chose from a wide range of different ways to help others – from sourcing useful items and packing hampers for people who were homeless, to sorting clothing donations for charities, planting garden beds and cleaning up the local area.

One group of Year 9 students joined a working bee to spruce up the garden and grounds at St Andrew’s Church in Strathfield, and they were gratified to discover first-hand, the impact of their work.

YEAR 9 SERVICE PROGRAM:

Learning through community connection



“A passer-by stopped to say how much our help was appreciated by the community and how glad they were to see we cared,” Hannah Lui said. “It was so rewarding to see how our actions had a positive impact.”

“Our Year 9 Service program aims to give students an understanding that through service they can discover purpose, learn new skills and take meaningful action to support the community,” Mrs Kirolos said.

The students benefit from genuine opportunities to learn and participate with communities, she says – and also develop transferrable skills which are vital for their future.

Angelina Joannou and Gabriella Protopsaltis were members of the group that worked with the Rev Bill Crews Foundation.

“Over three visits, we packed hundreds of hampers to be sent out to people in need across Sydney,” says Angelina. “We also held a food drive with all Year 9 students at Meriden to collect food to donate to the Foundation, and we held two bake sales where we raised money to purchase more food items for the hampers,” she says.

“The volunteers at the Foundation told us stories about the people who receive these hampers so we could better understand the positive impact the hampers have,” said Gabriella, adding that the group really appreciated being able to serve people in their community.

Year 9 students also help support communities farther afield through their annual Service Camp, where they travel to various locations in Australia so they can be part of different activities which could

include volunteering at a wildlife rehabilitation centre, visiting nursing homes or helping with building projects.

The Service Camp resumed this year after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19 and the Year 9 girls were thrilled to visit communities in Cape York Peninsula, south-east Queensland and southern New South Wales.

“Service to the community is not only important for the positive impact it can make on the world, it is also important for the positive impact it makes on the students who participate in the activities,” says Mrs Kirolos.

“It expands their worldview and develops enterprising skills such as adaptability, collaboration and leadership.”

Dreaming with eyes open

The Lingwood and Junior School campuses were abuzz with excitement during Book Week as the girls shared their most beloved books with their classmates. Students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6 dressed up as their favourite literary characters in keeping with the theme, “Dreaming with Eyes Open”. The girls wore an array of creative and colourful costumes, from *The Little Mermaid* to *Alice in Wonderland* and Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz*.



- 1 Christina Poulos
- 2 Elena Kanawati
- 3 Felicity El Daghil and Alexandra Sedrak
- 4 Juliet Maroun, Olivia Tartak, Daniella Rofail and Kyana Jajoo
- 5 Hannah Mathew, Victoria Pineda, Katrin Dohmel and Angela Safian

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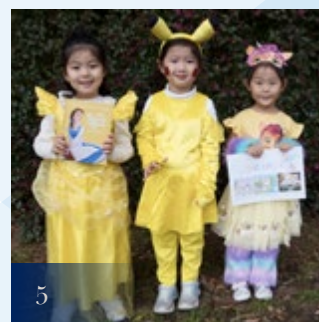
- 1 Joanna Tan
- 2 Lucy Daher
- 3 Sahana Ragavan-Iyer and Mia Armaneous
- 4 Constance Gus
- 5 Ailee Kim, Emma Pan and Emerson Kim
- 6 Cecilia Bi, Charlotte Girgis, Renae Cai and Antonella Agaibey
- 7 Adelyn Wai
- 8 Annabelle Nguyen
- 9 Elise Tan
- 10 Elise Kabega and Ariane Yeung
- 11 Alannah Sibai
- 12 Leah Dhar
- 13 Amelia Shehata
- 14 Esme Pan



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AUDIENCE ACCLAIM FOR MERIDEN'S PRODUCTION OF

Moana Jr.

Wallis Auditorium was transformed into a tropical oasis for the Junior School's musical production of *Moana Jr.* After months of preparation, the girls were thrilled to share the production with the School community and the audience feedback was glowing!

- 1 Warrior Face monsters (5A and 5C students)
- 2 Gramma Tala (Juliet Maroun)
- 3 Ancestor Maui (Rebecca Ball) with 6M and 6D Ancestor Ensemble in *In the Beginning*



All students in Years 5 to 6 contributed to the production, with the cast particularly enjoying learning to sing in Samoan and Tokelauan languages for the music written by Opetaia Foa'i.

Ms Annemaree McLeod, Production Director, said the show had an important message for the School community.

“At its heart, *Moana Jr.* is a story of identity and courage; understanding your past so that you can learn who you are and see just how far you can go. At this significant time in the history of Meriden, this story acts as a reminder that our shared history strengthens us as we look toward the future,” said Ms McLeod.



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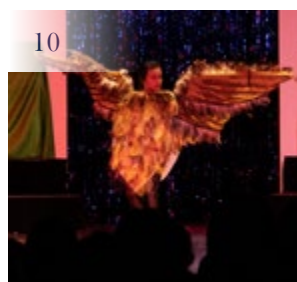
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- 4** Maui (Gisella Lim) is outsmarted by Moana (Kyana Jajoo) and her Ocean on the canoe
- 5** Sina (Katerin Dohmel), Moana (Kyana Jajoo) and Chief Tui (Amaya Korkis)
- 6** Tamatoa with Right Claw and Left Claw (Teagan Mirabito, Grace Henry and Sarah Greenwood)
- 7** 6C and 6W Villages with main cast presenting *Where You Are*
- 8** Chief Ancestors and classes 6M and 6D Ancestor Ensemble presenting *We Know the Way*
- 9** Featured Ocean dancing with Moana
- 10** Maui's Hawk (Estella Yan) spreads her wings
- 11** Year 5 Ocean Ensemble bow in the finale
- 12** Finale with Year 6 class ensembles and main cast



Isabella Lu, Andria Poon, Katherine Kljajic, Valentyna Rosa, Amala Thillainadesan, Victoria Lyu, Saanvi Nanda, Amelia Wong and Lucinda Buckley

“We listen to each other’s opinions and we take turns doing different things, coding, testing and designing.”

—AMELIA WONG

explains Amelia. “Our STEM teacher, Mrs Betbeder, always encourages us to have fun rather than worry about the problems.”

“I found that it is really important to enjoy the work and be proud of the challenges we overcame together,” Amelia said.

Students can choose between five RoboCup Challenges which include Prime (designing); OnStage (robots are part of a staged performance); Rescue (robots negotiate a maze obstacle course) and Soccer.

The team of Amala, Katherine and Victoria also picked up a Highly Commended Award in the National Spike PRIME Challenge which took place earlier in the year.

In this challenge, students were asked to design and program a robot that addressed the theme of “Journeys”. The girls chose the children’s picture book, *We’re Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen, as their inspiration. Using colour sensors and voice recordings, they custom-built their robot to act out the story, moving past obstacles until it found the “bear”.

“RoboCup is a team effort and it has definitely improved my coding and engineering skills,” said Amala. “I understand different codes and variables now and have learnt how to build robots that perform better in competitions.”

Junior School girls display their skilful coding abilities

Meriden’s young technology buffs were recognised for their coding and engineering prowess in the 2022 RoboCup Junior Challenges, receiving second and third placings and a Highly Commended Award. The series of robotics challenges attracts thousands of students from around Australia.

In the Primary Rescue category of the NSW RoboCup Competition, students were challenged to design, build and program robots that could complete an unseen maze while avoiding obstacles along the way.

Meriden’s Year 6 team of **AMALA THILLAINADESAN, KATHERINE KLJAJIC** and **VICTORIA LYU** placed second, and the Year 5 team of **AMELIA WONG, LUCINDA BUCKLEY** and **ISABELLA LU** placed third in the competition.

“Being part of the team is lots of fun because we love working on the design and code and when we find our way around a challenge, we celebrate together,” explained Amelia.

After two years of virtual competitions, the girls said it was exciting to compete at an in-person event. “When we heard that we had got to the final of the competition, were all jumping around with joy and excitement,” Amelia said.

In the Junior School STEM Lab, students learn how to build and code robots which they can then enter into RoboCup Junior Competitions.

“Coding is not all just staring at a computer screen and making your eyes sore. We listen to each other’s opinions and we take turns doing different things, coding, testing and designing,”

Young authors scoop the awards in WriteOn competition

All three entries by Meriden Junior School students have received awards in WriteOn 2022, a statewide competition recognising the creativity and literary talent of budding young writers. Winners were selected from around 500 entries from over 250 primary schools, and announced at a presentation at the State Library of NSW on 12 September.

CLARICE ZHONG in Year 1 and **KAITLYN XI** in Year 4 won Gold Awards in the Stage 1 and Stage 2 divisions respectively, and Year 6 student, **JULIET MAROUN**, won a Bronze Award in the Stage 3 division.

Students from Years 1 to 6 could enter, writing up to 500 words as a narrative, poem, journal entry or letter, prompted by a photo stimulus supplied by the State Library, which this year featured a colourful photo of children playing a carnival game.

Clarice wrote a poem titled *I Look up. They Look down*. “The photo reminded me of all my beautiful soft toys and I decided to write a poem where I could give each toy a unique character trait and bring it to life,” Clarice said.

A recent visit to the Royal Easter Show gave Kaitlyn the inspiration to write her poem, *Carnival of Wonders*. “The games that the children were playing in the photo reminded me of the amusements at the Easter Show. It was the first time I had been to the Show in three years because of COVID-19, and I was swept off my feet by all the vibrant colours and sounds. While writing the poem, I pictured myself in every line of every stanza until I pressed the last full stop on my keyboard,” Kaitlyn said.

In Juliet’s story, *Playtime*, a toy panda tells of being won as a prize by a little girl named Audrey. The panda and Audrey spend the summer sharing tea parties, playing in the garden and doing everything together until one day, while Audrey is away at school,

events take a turn. Juliet won her second Bronze Award in the competition this year, after participating in WriteOn every year since she was in Year 1. “I look forward to writing a story for WriteOn each year. The teachers at school encourage us to explore different genres and styles. I also like learning about grammar as I find it really helps me get all my creative ideas across in a clear way,” Juliet said.

The award-winning works by Clarice, Kaitlyn and Juliet have been published in *The Best of WriteOn 2022* anthology which can be purchased from <https://shop.nesa.nsw.edu.au/>



KAITLYN XI, JULIET MAROUN (at back)
AND CLARICE ZHONG

Giselle achieves her Wimbledon dream



— GISELLE GUILLEN

Competing on Wimbledon’s grass courts is something most tennis players can only dream of, but it’s a dream that Meriden student, **GISELLE GUILLEN**, has already achieved. In July, Giselle competed alongside her tennis heroes at Wimbledon’s first ever under-14 tournament.

The Year 8 student competed against sixteen of the best young tennis players from around the world, holding her own in the high-pressure situation to finish second in her pool and sixth place overall.

“Wimbledon was very different from any other tournament that I have played before,” said Giselle. “We had chair umpires, linesmen, ball kids and even had our ball replaced after seven games - just like the professionals,” she said.

“It was such an amazing feeling hearing the umpire call my name before matches to introduce me to the crowd,” Giselle said, adding at first she was a bit overwhelmed, never having played in front of such large galleries before – but she adjusted quickly.

“I focused on channelling the crowd’s energy, and I loved when the crowd would politely clap and cheer when either myself or my opponent hit a nice shot during a rally.”

Giselle also met many of her tennis heroes at Wimbledon and watched them compete in person, including the 2022 Wimbledon Women’s Singles Finalist, Ons Jabeur.

“We were given special access to the training courts at Wimbledon, where the professional players warm up before their matches. I got to see Nick Kyrgios, Coco Gauff and former players including Martina Hingis, Jelena Janković and Kim Clijsters,” she said.

The road to Wimbledon has been long and hard; at just three years old, Giselle started playing tennis in the backyard with her dad who encouraged her love of the sport.

Tildesley Champions thirteen years running

“Meriden has played a big part in my tennis since I started here in Year 7, and my coaches in both private sessions and squads have not only improved my tennis game and style, but also showed me resilience and persistence in training. Their encouragement and motivation made those early morning sessions and tough midday sessions in the heat worthwhile.”

Giselle spent months preparing for the tournament after winning the Australian Qualifying event in Albury in January featuring Australia’s top thirty-two players in her age group.

She trained daily with Meriden’s tennis coaches, who helped her prepare for Wimbledon’s notoriously difficult grass courts. “My coaches designed specific drills and strength exercises to help me adapt to competing on a grass court prior to flying out to London,” said Giselle.

Head Coach – Performance and Development, Mr Ross Anton, said, “Giselle’s focus, grit, teamwork and consistency helped her gain an opportunity to play at Wimbledon, a special place for all Australian tennis players.”

Before competing at Wimbledon, Giselle joined competitors from around the world in a high-intensity training camp in London, which gave her an insight into her competitors’ strengths and playing styles in a program involving two to three hours of daily coaching.

At Meriden, Giselle is a member of Meriden’s Tildesley Tennis Squad. This year, she helped win the championship trophy for the thirteenth consecutive year and, in 2021, she was named Tildesley Doubles Champion.

Giselle hopes to one day win a Grand Slam title and continues to work and train hard to achieve her dream.



1

After a series of intense and thrilling matches, Meriden’s Tennis squad brought home the Tildesley Shield for the thirteenth consecutive year.

INDIYA MCLEOD won the Singles Tournament, while **SARAH MAZARAKI** and **MIRANDA XU** were named Doubles Champions after a close match against Meriden teammates, **FARAH ZULFIQAR** and **NINA KRECKLENBERG**.

The School is proud of its Tildesley competitors who showed extraordinary focus and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Congratulations to the students and coaching staff on their hard-earned success.



2

1 Miranda Xu, Sarah Mazaraki and Indiya McLeod

2 Singles Champion, Indiya McLeod, in action



Back row: Alexandra Richards, Bronte Locane, Ivy Askew, Audrey Sutton, Rekha Levine and Ellen Murphy

Front row: Ada Rand, Olivia Achike, Karina Bell, Abigail Omage and Emmanuella Omage

Ada, Alexandra, Bronte, Ellen and Karina are now set to represent New South Wales and their School at the Australian All School Championships in December.

The sweeping wins come off the back of a year of phenomenal results in athletics. In August, Meriden dominated the IGSA Track and Field Carnival to place second overall – the best ever result in the School’s history. The team won an outstanding sixteen gold, seven silver and eleven bronze medals together with twenty-two personal best performances

Record-breaking results for Meriden’s athletes

Meriden’s star athletes produced record-breaking results at the 2022 NSW Athletics All Schools Championships, with the girls picking up five gold, two silver and four bronze medals.

Twenty Meriden students, led by Coach Nicole Boegman-Stewart, demonstrated their skill on track and field at the four-day competition, with every athlete giving her best.

Several standout performances were achieved, including **ADA RAND**, Year 11, who set a new meet record and improved her personal best time in the 17 Years 1500-metre event by over three seconds, and **ALEXANDRA RICHARDS**, Year 11, who set a new meet record and attained a personal best time in the 17 Years 100-metre Hurdles.

Year 11 student, **KARINA BELL**, shone on the field, picking up gold and silver medals in the 17 Years Javelin and Discus throw events and placing fourth in Shot Put.

BRONTE LOCANE, Year 8, achieved gold in the 14 Years 200-metre event after setting a personal best time of 24.9 seconds and bronze in the 100-metre Hurdles.

IVY ASKEW, Year 9, marked her Championship debut by bringing home a bronze medal in the 14 Years High Jump after jumping a personal best height of 1.60 metres.

Other impressive performances included **ELLEN MURPHY**, Year 11, who picked up a silver medal in the 16 Years 400-metre Hurdles and bronze in the 100-metre Hurdles, and **AUDREY SUTTON**, Year 10, who achieved bronze in the 15 Years Long Jump and finished in fourth place in the Triple Jump with a personal best performance.

“Our girls have shown that consistency and hard work pays off.”

—MRS NICOLE
BOEGMAN-STEWART,
HEAD COACH – ATHLETICS

by members of the team. This success was closely followed by the CIS Athletics Championships, where the Meriden squad picked up twelve gold, three silver and three bronze medals.

Meriden’s Head Coach – Athletics, Mrs Nicole Boegman-Stewart, said she is incredibly proud of every athlete in the team.

“Our girls have shown that consistency and hard work pays off. Despite the uncertainty surrounding competitions over the last two years, the girls remained committed to utilising their time well and giving their best at each training session,” said Mrs Nicole Boegman-Stewart.

“These record-breaking results are testament to our strong team atmosphere and the enthusiasm, athletic ability and sportsmanship demonstrated by the girls.”



Badminton soars to new heights

ALLISON LIU

The Olympic sport of Badminton is one of Meriden's fastest-growing sports and, with 210 players this year, the numbers have tripled since the sport was launched in 2017. Senior School students compete all year, while students in Years 3 to 6 train and play socially in Terms 2 and 3 in the School's Sports Centre.

Meriden's success in external competitions saw the School named a performance pathway partner (PPP) with Badminton Australia, which supports sustainable high-performance programs to develop athletes from the basics right through to the sport's elite level.

A stellar Badminton coaching line-up includes sixteen coaches who are all at the top of the game. "Some of our coaches are former Olympians, and all bring national and international tournament skills and experience," said Mr Patrick Hii who is Meriden's Head Coach for the sport and a NSW Representative player.

"As a result, we've seen excellent representation and performances from Meriden students in Badminton competitions," Mr Hii explained.

Year 9 student, Victoria Tjonadi, took out the Australian National Championships in a clean sweep and was named the Under 15 Women's Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles Champion this year. Victoria is only the second Australian female to achieve this incredible feat.

Meriden's Badminton players also dominated the Sydney Open Tournament. Year 10 student, Sydney Tjonadi, took home three championship titles, after winning the Open Grade Doubles, Mixed Doubles and A Grade Doubles events. The A Grade Singles Final was an all-Meriden event with Isabella Yan, who is also in Year 10, winning against Sydney in two straight sets. Victoria Tjonadi was named B Grade Doubles Champion and was the runner-up in the A Grade Doubles and Mixed Doubles events.

Sydney and Isabella were both selected for Badminton Australia's National Development Program and for the national team, the Junior Falcons, for the second consecutive year.

"We've seen excellent representation and performances from Meriden students in Badminton competitions."

—MR PATRICK HII, HEAD COACH -
BADMINTON

Meriden's Badminton performance looks set to continue, with real depth demonstrated by younger players during the Term 3 Invitational Competition when the Meriden Year 6 team played up a division to compete against Year 7 teams and won the competition.

Mr Hii said that the School tailors its Badminton program to be as social or as competitive as a student requires. "If a student would like to take a more relaxed and fun approach to badminton, they will be matched with like-minded students in their team," said Mr Hii. "Similarly, those who want to improve their skills and compete at a higher level are supported by our team of elite coaches."

Lucy competes in Greece as vice-captain of national water polo team

Earlier this year, Meriden's Senior Firsts Water Polo player Lucy Levenberg-Penkliis (Year 10) was named vice-captain of the Australian Cadet Women's Water Polo Team.

"It felt unreal when my coach approached me and asked me if I was willing to be the vice-captain. It was an honour to be one of the captains of the team," said Lucy.

As vice-captain, Lucy's role included supporting and helping her teammates. "To be entrusted with that responsibility meant a great deal to me," she said.

In August, Lucy travelled to Larissa in Greece, to compete in the first-ever FINA Water Polo Cadet World Championships, for players aged sixteen years and under.

Lucy said that the selection process for the Australian team began following the Water Polo State Championships in January this year when she joined around forty players at a five-day training camp where their abilities were assessed during swimming trials, strategy, skills and games against other teams.



"To be entrusted with that responsibility meant a great deal to me."

—LUCY LEVENBERG-PENKLIS

"There were three more camps before the final team was selected," she said.

Lucy was thrilled to represent Australia to play against teams from different countries and loved meeting and training with other national teams, including Japan, USA, Greece and Croatia.

The Australian Cadet Team's first training camps were in Eger, Hungary. "We were training partners with the Hungarian team and we all got to know each other and became friends," she said.

The gruelling competition rounds in the FINA Cadet World Championships included matches against Greece, Switzerland, Hungary, USA, Italy and Spain, with Australia finishing a highly respectable fourth overall, after a tough bronze medal match against Spain.



Lucy said that meeting girls from all over Australia has been one of the highlights. “I’m also exposed to so many awesome coaches all with their own unique experiences and skills.”

As well as her academic schedule, Lucy spends more than eighteen hours a week playing or training and said that her focus is on “getting faster, fitter and stronger.”

Lucy is a member of the Australian National Age Group Squad (Youth), NSWIS (NSW Institution of Sport) Talent Squad, Sydney University SSL Squad (Sydney Super League Squad), Sydney University Women’s First Division (W2s), Sydney University U18s and Meriden’s Senior First Team.

She is working towards being selected for the Australian Youth Team that will go on tour in 2023.

“Otherwise, my goal is to get as far as I can while still keeping up with my academics,” said Lucy.



LUCY LEVENBERG-PENKLIS

A Q&A WITH Meriden's champion sports staff

After two years of disruptions, 2022 saw the return of international sporting competitions. The School community enjoyed following the performance of Australian teams throughout the year. Members of Meriden's talented sports staff had the opportunity to attend some of these sporting events, with Sports Administrator and Australia's current number one female long jumper, Ms Samantha Dale, making her Commonwealth Games debut in Birmingham, while Mr Stelios Pikoulas, Meriden's Head Coach – Strength and Conditioning, travelled with the Young Socceroos as a member of their coaching staff.

We caught up with Coach Stelios and Ms Dale to hear about their experiences.



COACH STELIOS PIKOULAS HEAD COACH – STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING

Coach Stelios was invited by Football Australia to serve as Sport Scientist for the Young Socceroos. In September, he travelled with the team to Spain where they competed in the Under-20 Costa Calida Supercup and played matches against Morocco, Chile and the reigning Under-19 European Champions – England. Coach Stelios is now assisting the team in preparing for the Under-20 Asian Cup that will be held in Uzbekistan in 2023.

What has been the most rewarding part of the experience so far?

The most rewarding part of my role is eliciting positive changes in players' physical performance behaviours and guiding them in their development as young athletes. As a coach, I see myself as having a service role as I am helping my athletes improve every day.

What do you enjoy most about coaching?

I most enjoy seeing players develop and reach the next level. The people I work with also make the experience pretty special.

Do you think there are any similarities between coaching Meriden girls and the Young Socceroos?

Definitely! My goal is always to improve athletes' physical and mental abilities and behaviours and provide them with a high-quality training environment.

I believe the most significant thing I have been able to transfer to my role with the Young Socceroos is my experience with high-performing young athletes and the standards of practice. At Meriden, and especially in the Tennis Academy, we aim to be the leaders in what we do in sport, whether it be the resources we use, the way we train, or the ideas and cohesion we have as a team.

I also believe the skills I have developed at Meriden of listening, communicating and empathising with a wide range of people have enabled me to have an impact on both players and staff within my Young Socceroos role.

1 Coach Stelios at the U-20 Costa Calida Supercup in Spain

2 Coach Stelios in Meriden's Fitness Centre



MS SAMANTHA DALE
MERIDEN'S SPORTS ADMINISTRATOR

Samantha Dale represented Australia in the Women's Long Jump at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. She progressed to the final after completing a 6.35 metres jump and finished ninth place overall. Earlier this year, Ms Dale achieved a personal best jump of 6.70 metres at the Queensland Championships. Two weeks later, she completed a 6.72 metres jump at the Melbourne Track Classic. In June, she also finished in second place at the Oceania Championships with a jump of 6.31 metres.

Can you tell us about your background as an athlete and what your path to the 2022 Commonwealth Games looked like?

I have been competing in athletics since I was ten years old when I joined my local Little Athletics club. Growing up, my main sport was Netball, but I loved playing a variety of different sports. I qualified for my first National Championships in athletics when I was seventeen years old. Since then, I have gone on to win the Long Jump event at the National Championships in the Under-18, Under-20 and Open Women's age groups.

For me, the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games was like any other season. I was training six days a week and was focused on my preparation. I jumped a personal best and won the National Championships which put me in strong contention for the Commonwealth Games selection. After being selected for the Commonwealth Games, I also qualified for the World Athletics Championships. This competition was held in Oregon, USA, and was another great experience competing against the top athletes in the world. It was the first time I had had the opportunity to compete overseas and was significant for my personal development as an athlete.

What was the highlight of the Games for you?

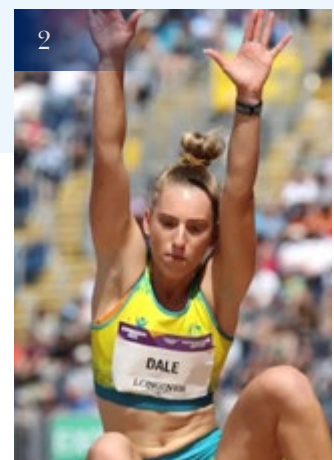
There were many highlights, but a stand out was the moment I walked out into the stadium for the Long Jump final and saw the crowd. There were so many people from all over the world cheering me on. I had never competed in front of so many people before and it is an experience I will never forget.



1 Ms Samantha Dale in Meriden's Sports Centre
2 Competing at the Commonwealth Games

Do you have any advice for young women hoping to be selected for the Australian Team one day?

For any young woman hoping to be selected for an Australian team one day, my advice is to make sure you do not let yourself think that it is too hard. Sometimes it can feel too hard, but just remember to keep the end goal in sight and put in the hard work. I have also learnt how important it is not to compare yourself or your way of training to anyone else. Everyone who makes it into an Australian team has a different journey. My final encouragement would be to make sure you continue to love your sport!





Silver medal for Australia at International Science Olympiad

Year 11 Meriden student JACINTA REES won a silver medal for Australia at the 2022 International Earth Science Olympiad hosted by Italy in August this year.



School Colours

After a rigorous year-long selection process, Jacinta was selected in June as one of eight members of Team Australia from thousands of applicants from across the country, and was presented with her Australian team uniform in Canberra at a ceremony at Parliament House.

Jacinta's journey began last year when she outperformed more than 20,000 students in the qualifying exams, followed by intensive specialised training programs which secured her position on the team.

"The content we were taught for the Olympiads is geared towards first and second-year university study," Jacinta said.

This year's award is Jacinta's second international medal; she was also awarded a silver medal as a member of Australia's inaugural International Junior Science Olympiad Team in 2021.

The 2022 UNESCO-sanctioned International Science, Informatics and Mathematical Olympiads are held in six disciplines (biology, chemistry, earth science, informatics, mathematics and physics) and are the world's most rigorous maths and science competitions for high-school students.

Italy hosted this year's Earth Science Olympiads, and students competed remotely against the brightest minds of their age group from over thirty-seven countries, with contestants completing a week-long series of challenging theoretical and group examinations.

The prestigious international competition tests participants' knowledge and skills in all major areas of Earth Sciences, including geology, geophysics, meteorology, oceanography, terrestrial astronomy and environmental science.

Meriden's Acting Head of Science, Mrs Alexandra Phillips, said that she was very proud of Jacinta who is an 'exceptional student', and that Jacinta's wealth of knowledge across a range of scientific disciplines had made her a brilliant asset to the team, and impressive representative of her school and her country.

Before the competition kicked off, Jacinta and her teammates also prepared a project investigating the presence of microplastics in Australian soil that formed part of their assessment.

"What fascinates me most about science is that it's a continuous learning process," said Jacinta. "Science is never finished. We keep building upon our understanding, questioning our assumptions and our own biases – it's this process that appeals to me so much," she said.

Jacinta is hoping to undertake a career in biomedical engineering following her HSC exams and said participating in the Olympiads has motivated her to achieve her dreams.

"I am finding inspiration from women in science who have paved the way for success in their respective fields. They have shown me that women can have a career in science; it's not just a dream," she said.

Back row: Indiya McLeod, Sarah Mazaraki, Piper Freeman and Samantha Hardingham

Front row: Shirley Wang, Chaewon Park, Annabelle Strachan, Heather Kim and Dr Julie Greenhalgh

School Colours are awarded to Year 12 students who have achieved an outstanding level in a cocurricular area. Each recipient must have been an exemplary ambassador of the School during her time at Meriden and contributed to the School through her area of expertise over a number of years. School Colours recipients for 2022 were:

PIPER FREEMAN

Tennis

SAMANTHA HARDINGHAM

Water Polo

HEATHER KIM

Music

SARAH MAZARAKI

Tennis

INDIYA MCLEOD

Tennis

CHAEWON PARK

Music

ANNABELLE STRACHAN

STEM

SHIRLEY WANG

STEM



Stephanie's pitch earns CSIRO prize for innovative fabric design

In May this year, Meriden student STEPHANIE CUI was awarded first place in a scientific pitch competition with an idea that could reduce the risk of contracting malaria.



"I am especially interested in chemical processes and biotechnologies that can be used to promote sustainability and improve human welfare."

—STEPHANIE CUI

The Year 12 student also scooped the People's Choice Award at CSIRO's Circular Fibres Pitch-a-thon for her innovative idea to add lemon eucalyptus oil to natural fibres to create a fabric to repel mosquitoes.

Stephanie, who studies Biology and Chemistry, said she was thrilled to win the competition which challenges students to generate and pitch an idea that incorporates sustainable fibres. She said her desire to solve a practical problem using science motivated her to enter the competition and inspired her pitch idea.

"I fear staying outside in summer due to being a possible target for mosquitoes, and this led me to wonder if I could make a piece of clothing that would make us immune to insect bites," she said.

Her research led Stephanie to uncover further information about the perils of mosquitoes. "Mosquitoes are vectors for infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue fever, the leading culprit of infant deaths in many developing countries," said Stephanie.

Stephanie's pitch was titled The Mozzie Cure and, in it, she outlined the benefits of using eucalyptus oil as a natural mosquito repellent woven through garments.

"Existing insect repelling ingredients can cause dermatitis and could harm aquatic life so I decided to turn to natural, environmentally-friendly resources that have no recorded side effects," said Stephanie.

"I discovered that lemon eucalyptus oil has a lower vapour pressure than the volatile monoterpenes found in most plant oils, and it also provides very high protection against a range of insect vectors. It poses no hazard to native wildlife and its by-product of spent leaves can be used as fuel or for gardening," she said.

Stephanie hopes to complete a degree in biochemistry or molecular bioengineering at university following the HSC. She loves all things science and said she particularly enjoys applying multiple scientific concepts to solve a problem.

"I am especially interested in chemical processes and biotechnologies that can be used to promote sustainability and improve human welfare," said Stephanie.



JASMINE YE AND
ISABELLA YAW

Thought-provoking essays explore important philosophical questions

Meriden students were awarded first and third places in the 2022 Philosophy in Schools Essay Competition in May, with **JASMINE YE** winning the competition, and **ISABELLA YAW** achieving third place. Both girls submitted thought-provoking essays exploring the question, “How we can know so little, given we have so much evidence?”

The Year 11 students’ success marks the fourth consecutive year that Meriden girls have earned a top-three placing in the state-wide competition hosted by the Philosophy in Schools Association of NSW.

Associate Professor Michaelis Michael from the University of NSW, who judged the contest, congratulated both girls and commented that their work met the standard of students completing their first year of a philosophy degree at university.

Jasmine said her interest in political philosophy and technological advancement shaped the way she approached her essay.

“I found myself reading several of George Orwell’s essays, including *Politics and the English Language* and *Notes on Nationalism*, which deepened my understanding of political rhetoric and propaganda,” she said. “Then I found that Ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius’ insistence of truth and clarity in communication was consistent with information I found in western philosophy,” she said.

Jasmine also cited modern literature in her essay, drawing on author Eli Pariser’s book *The Filter Bubble* to describe how technology and social media contribute to the spread of misinformation in society, and said she found philosophy to be both abstract and practical.

“Philosophy gives me a space to discuss hypotheticals that may seem absurd to outsiders.”

— ISABELLA YAW

“As a member of Meriden’s Philosophy Club, I meet like-minded peers who also find it interesting to discuss different theories and concepts and see how they are reflected in the world around us,” she said.

Isabella, who is also a member of Meriden’s Philosophy Club, said she jumped at the opportunity to enter the competition as it allowed her to combine her passions for classical literature and philosophy.

“Philosophy allows me to think about things that would not usually occur to me. It gives me a space to discuss hypotheticals that may seem absurd to outsiders. It’s really fun to allow yourself to think out of the box for a while,” said Isabella.



“It was a fun process, especially having the teacher helping us learn new words.”

— PRIYANKA THANIGASALAM

**ARIANNA LI, EMILY YANG
AND JODHI KANTHAN**

Participating students recorded themselves reciting their chosen foreign language poem. Poetry recitation is an important and culturally significant learning component in both French and Chinese, with entrants judged on their use of voice, tone and pace and communication of the poem using gesture, expression and even music.

“Our teachers played recordings of the poems so we could become familiar with new vocabulary and some of the more difficult pronunciation,” said Year 9 French winner, Emily Yang. “We went home and researched and practised the poems before we recorded the final video submission.”

“It was a fun process, especially having the teacher helping us learn new words,” said Year 9 French student, Priyanka Thanigasalam.

“We put in a lot of effort in preparing for the poem,” said Arianna Li, who was still surprised when she won the Year 11 international first prize in Chinese.

Meriden’s Head of Languages, Mrs Françoise Reeves-Smith, said that the competition let students demonstrate both their linguistic skill, and their ability to master effective oral communication. “It also provided students with a wonderful introduction to some well-known poets and poems from their relevant language.”

Winning streak for Meriden in international poetry recitation competition

Meriden girls were recognised for their poetry-reciting skills in French and Chinese this year, winning four first-place prizes in the 2022 International Poésiae Poetry Recitation Competition.

This competition was first established in the UK and then became an online international competition during the pandemic. Over 250 schools from six continents competed in 2022, submitting a total of 1,347 entries.

Meriden’s Languages teachers encouraged students from Years 9 to 12 to submit an entry, with the top three students in each year group then invited to enter the global round.

Meriden girls performed outstandingly well, achieving the following results:

French

Year 9 First Prize: **EMILY YANG**
– reciting *Le poisson Fa*, by Boby Lapointe

Year 10 First Prize: **JODHI KANTHAN**
– *Le poisson Fa*, by Boby Lapointe

Chinese

Year 11 First Prize: **ARIANNA LI**
– 回答 (*Answer*), by Bei Dao

Year 12 First Prize: **AILINNA ZHANG**
– 你想做人鱼吗 (*Would you like to be a mermaid?*), by Guangzhong Yu

Another great debate



YIRU LI, ANNIE LI, ASHLEY SHU
AND ISABELLA JIANG

In September, Meriden's Year 7 Debating Team of **ISABELLA JIANG, ANNIE LI, YIRU LI** and **ASHLEY SHU** won the Grand Final in their division of the Archdale Debating competition, after successfully competing through seven rounds of the annual competition. The girls took on the negative side of a challenging debate topic: "The Head of Police of each district should be voted in by their local area".

Meriden's Debating Coordinator, Miss Stephanie Mantzouridis, said that the team had demonstrated rhetorical flair throughout the competition, providing sound arguments about complex topics whilst speaking confidently and convincingly.

"The pressure during the debates was the most challenging to cope with, and the limited time to prepare was sometimes hard to work with, but once you start to debate more and more, you get used to it and when you win it is really rewarding," said Yiru Li.

The Archdale Debating competition has been running since the 1970s and there are now twenty-four schools taking part in

the competition, which runs from May to September each year. Forty students made up the eight Meriden teams competing in Archdale Debating this year

"The teams trained each Tuesday afternoon across Terms 2 and 3 with their debating coaches. They received rigorous training according to the topic areas in the mandatory rounds of the competition, along with training on structuring and formulating their arguments and aptly substantiating those arguments with reason," said Ms Mantzouridis.

"We gave the girls the opportunity to debate within their teams, and younger debaters could also spectate for older debaters throughout the competition," she said.

The debate teams are also encouraged to engage with their world, current affairs and significant news stories, she adds. "Bringing this knowledge into the prep room gives girls such an advantage, because it provides support to the claims they make and can inform the quality of students' ideas, especially when students don't have access to technology during the preparation process for each debate."

Ms Mantzouridis adds that preparing for the competition as a team is one of the most important elements of debate training.

"The girls need to be able to communicate with and support one another effectively, brainstorm and contest ideas respectfully, and build knowledge together productively as a team," she said, adding that because speaker configurations are rotated in each round, each girl can experience different speaker positions, which improves their preparation for future rounds.

Ms Mantzouridis said that girls who take part in Debating at Meriden join a cocurricular community that runs across year groups, and always get enormous benefit from the exercise. "Debating builds a student's confidence, critical thinking, adaptability, improvisation and collaborative capacity in such specific and unique ways, that also transfer to other areas of their learning," she said.

"Since joining the Debating team, I have developed much more confidence and have learnt how to work effectively as a team," said Year 7 student Yiru Li.



SCARLETT DEAS
AND TRISHA CHARI

Going for gold in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award

In a demonstration of commitment, leadership and hard work, Year 12 students, Trisha Chari and Scarlett Deas, attained their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award whilst completing their academic study for the HSC.

The Gold Award is the highest and most challenging of the three levels of achievement in the program. To attain it whilst completing Year 12 is an exceptional accomplishment.

In meeting the requirements of the Gold level, Trisha and Scarlett committed to a rigorous program of activities, including developing a skill, physical recreation, volunteering in their community and embarking on a team adventure in a new environment.

Trisha participated in fitness and strength training to complement her gymnastics training. She learnt the electric guitar

INDIKA KANDARAJAH,
GRACE WEBSTER,
CLAIRE FOOTE AND
EMMA HOLLAND

and played in a rock band for her skill component and volunteered with the St Vincent de Paul Society. As a competitive swimmer and water polo player, Scarlett regularly swam for her physical activity and undertook training to become a fully qualified water polo coach for her skill component. For her voluntary service, Scarlett assisted at the Women's and Girl's Emergency Centre which supports women and children who have been impacted by homelessness, domestic violence and social disadvantage. Both girls also completed a five-day residential activity – Trisha attended a youth camp with a STEM focus, while Scarlett participated in a study camp.

One of the highlights for Trisha was the Adventurous Journeys component. "I developed my navigation and route planning skills and enjoyed canoeing to different locations each day. Completing the Award has made me more open-minded about trying new activities," said Trisha.

To attain the Gold Award whilst completing Year 12 is an exceptional accomplishment.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a highly respected program that develops leadership, perseverance and communication skills, encourages participants to take on new opportunities and aims to foster a sense of adventure and community-mindedness.

Both girls will receive their certificates and badges from the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, at a ceremony in December. Congratulations to Trisha and Scarlett on this excellent achievement.



Talent abounds at HSC major works showcases

Meriden students who undertook HSC major works in 2022 demonstrated vision, creativity, drive and exceptional planning. The outstanding works produced by Meriden's Design and Technology, Visual Arts, Drama, Music and English Extension 2 students demonstrated an array of talents and explored a breadth of contemporary issues.

TALENT ABOUNDS AT HSC MAJOR WORKS SHOWCASES



AMAYAH RYAN



SOFIA BORG



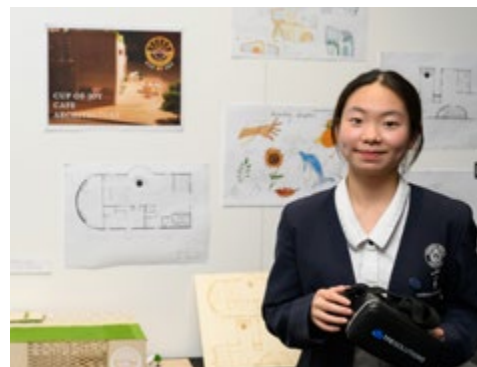
LILIAN JENKINS



EUNICE THI



GRACE WEBSTER



BIYING XIAO



MOLLY FLANAGAN



English Extension 2 students, REBECCA STARLING, CHLOE LAY, PARIS CHIA, CHENG CHENG and EDUARDA DA COSTA with their teachers, MS KATIE BOWIE and MR TIM ARCHER, Head of English



CHAEWON PARK



HEATHER KIM



INDIKA KANDARAJAH



ISALI BATUWANGALA



PRABHSHARAN JABBAL



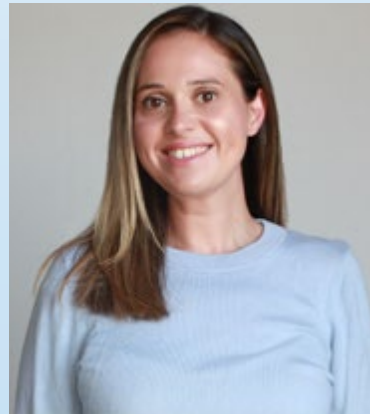
BEATRICE KU



ELLEN CHEN

President's Message

KYLIE KAPELERIS (2004)



It has been a successful year for The Meriden Old Girls' Union (OGU) and we have had an overwhelming response of support from our OGU network. Our improved social media presence is proving to be effective, with Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram reaching a wider audience than ever before.

I am proud of what our committee has achieved over the last twelve months and what we continue to deliver for the OGU network. The OGU is all about connection: a connection to a part of ourselves and our School experience, a connection to Old Girls and shared memories, and a connection to the School and current students who we welcome to our network each year. It is a privilege for us to serve on this committee, and we look forward to seeing the community of Old Girls continue to grow.



This year marks Meriden's 125th Anniversary, and we share in the celebration of such a special occasion. On behalf of the Old Girls' Union, we extend our congratulations to the School on reaching this significant milestone. All our members, past and present, hold fond memories from these 125 years and are proud to be part of Meriden's legacy of educating young women.

We started this year with one of our most successful events in over two years. We were honoured to welcome and hear from Old Girl and Keynote Speaker, Shirley Chowdhary (Class of 1985). Shirley is an internationally experienced Executive and Director who is currently serving on the Board of the Australian Associated Press (AAP), as a Non-Executive Director, and was formerly CEO of the GO Foundation - The Goodes O'Loughlin Foundation. Shirley is also the host of Women's Agenda's Leadership Lessons podcast and was named in The Australian Financial Review's 100 Women of Influence in 2019.

Despite a drizzly Sydney evening, the energy was electric inside Aqua Luna Waterfront Dining, as Shirley reflected on her Meriden years and her career in the not-for-profit sector. Shirley shared her passion for inclusion, women's empowerment and the importance of Indigenous awareness across our learning, working and community environments. Approximately fifty Old Girls across multiple generations attended and we welcomed many Old Girls who had not previously attended an OGU event.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 9 June 2022 at The Oxford Hotel Drummoyne. It was a great evening to reconnect during which we heard from Dr Greenhalgh and elected our new Executive Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Greenhalgh for her continued support of the OGU as Principal. We wish her all the very best with her future endeavours and look forward to welcoming her back to OGU events in the future.

OGU Committee

KYLIE KAPELERIS (2004)

President

KRISTIN STOJCEVSKI (2004)

Vice President

BILLIE LOTTEY (1980)

Treasurer

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ELIZABETH BEVERLEY (2005)

MAREA SOULOS (1996)

IRENE KARANTONIS (1994)

MARINA MITREVSKI (2000)

HERMIONE KIDD (1980)

JANE RUSTON (1980)

BROOKE TAYLOR (2010)

Back to Meriden Day was held on 27 August 2022 with a wonderful turnout of over 120 Old Girls. The day began with a Chapel Service, followed by tours of the School and lunch in the GCMD, where Old Girls spent the afternoon catching up and reminiscing about their time at Meriden. Congratulations to all the cohorts who celebrated their reunion milestones, and we look forward to seeing you all again next year. Thank you to Irene Karatonis (1994), Marea Soulos (1996), Jenny Whiteman (1982), Valda Bray (1959), Jane Ruston (1980), Rev Moss, Dr Greenhalgh and the Year 10 Ambassadors for their contributions to this wonderful day.

We also had the privilege of attending the Pre-Kindergarten – Year 12, 2022 Students' Dinner where we presented the girls with an embossed Bible, a long-standing tradition of the Old Girls' Union. We hope the Bibles serve as a reminder to the girls of God's presence and guidance, as well as the support of the Meriden Old Girls' Union.



I am pleased to announce that our Vocational Prize Scholarship for 2022 has been awarded to Year 12 student, Beatrice Ku. We look forward to following her journey beyond the Meriden gates.



One of our aims this year was to foster a stronger connection between the Meriden Senior School students and the large and talented community of Meriden Old Girls who await them on the other side of their schooling journey. This year we hosted our first Alumni Debate, initiated by Phoebe White, Year 12 Prefect from the Class of 2007. Although some Old Girls were apprehensive at first, it was a successful evening that saw an energetic debate between the mixed teams of students and Old Girls. We hope to make this an annual event to connect with students and to give Old Girls the opportunity to reignite their passion for debating. We also had the privilege of participating as mentors at the Year 10 Futures Day in November this year.



Many thanks to Dr Greenhalgh, Mrs Chilton, Mrs D'Souza and Mrs Hales who have supported the Old Girls' Union throughout the year. We look forward to continuing to cultivate relationships with the staff at Meriden and being involved where we can to support the students and the School.



We send our best wishes to the graduating class of 2022; these girls have already made their mark. Their tenacity is testament to the Meriden ethos of faithfulness, courage, and perseverance. We wish Year 12 girls, and all Meriden students, the very best in their studies.

On behalf of the Old Girls' Union, I look forward to connecting with you in 2023.

Semper Fidelis



- 1 Back to Meriden Day 2022
- 2 Members of the Class of 2017
- 3 Members of the Class of 1987
- 4 OGU Committee members with Dr Greenhalgh
- 5 Old Girls with Mrs Jessica Chilton, Head of Student Wellbeing, at Back to Meriden Day

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- 1** Meriden Girl Guides camping at Jamberoo in the 1950s
- 2** An album containing photos of Meriden graduates in 1962
- 3** The archive display at Back to Meriden Day

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Back to Meriden Day

The School was delighted to host over 120 Old Girls at Back to Meriden Day in late August this year. As part of the day, an archival display was organised to help take our Old Girls through a walk down “memory lane”. Old school hats from different eras, a 1980s Prefect’s blazer, a Globite heritage-style suitcase, school magazines and many photographs of Year groups and events were part of the exhibit. Old Girls enjoyed perusing these treasures and chatting about the memories they evoked. Some favourites from the day included the leather-bound photograph album from the 1960s with images of senior students (pictured) and photographs from the 1950s including a candid snap of some of the Meriden Girl Guides on camp.

Many of these items were available for all to enjoy due to the generosity of our Old Girls donating items from their school days. If you would like to donate any of your school memorabilia, please contact Archives at 9752 9444 or camiller@meriden.nsw.edu.au

MS CARROL MILLER
Archivist

Old Girls’ News

Past Meriden students are invited to keep in touch with the Meriden community by sending news and updates to the School. Please email your news, memories and photographs to communityrelations@meriden.nsw.edu.au or write to:

**OLD GIRLS’ NEWS
MERIDEN
PO BOX 78
STRATHFIELD NSW 2135**

You may also connect with us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

■

Old Girls return to Meriden to inspire the next generation



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- 1 Year 10 students, Emma Lubke, Rachel Quek and Guneet Sachdeva
- 2 Stefanie Costi (2007)
- 3 Year 10 students, Eleanor Kenyon, Evangeline Lee and Zoe Leeson
- 4 Melissa Marsh (2011)
- 5 Kylie Kapeleris (2004)
- 6 Lucy Levenberg-Penkliis, Year 10
- 7 Eirene Sidiropoulos (2014), Genevieve Benness (2015) and Hannah Makris (2011)

The inaugural Student Futures Day held in November saw over fifty Meriden Old Girls return to the School to take on a mentor role to Year 10 students. The day presented an invaluable opportunity for the girls to benefit from the wisdom of Meriden alumnae in a wide range of professional fields. Meriden Old Girls enjoyed reconnecting with familiar faces and seeing how much the School has changed since they last entered its gates.

Through group mentoring sessions and mock job interviews, Meriden alumnae gave their time to the Year 10 girls, equipping them with skills for life beyond school and providing an insight into what pursuing a career in their fields may look like. The girls heard from Old Girl and keynote speaker Shirley Chowdhary (1985) who referred to her own wealth of diverse and varied career experiences. She encouraged the girls to continue to take risks and push themselves outside their comfort zones. Shirley also reassured the girls that it's okay to make significant changes to their career direction. OGU President, Kylie Kapeleris, encouraged the girls to see that when it comes to thinking about their careers, they already have a highly-valuable resource in the talented network of Meriden Old Girls.

The day was a resounding success and with Student Futures Day set to become an annual event, we look forward to further developing connections between current Meriden students and the community of Old Girls who await them beyond the Meriden gates.



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- 1 Meriden's new Principal from 2023, Mrs Lisa Brown, and Milica Mitrevski (2005)
- 2 Dr Julie Greenhalgh and Shirley Chowdhary (1985)
- 3 Narmatha DeLillo (2019), Penny Dawson (2019) and Emily Liao (2019)
- 4 Martina Hudaly (2012), Mrs Christine Kenny, Head of Teaching and Learning, and Shareen Dhillon (2012)
- 5 Anna Linfield Kent (2014)
- 6 Stefanie Costi (2007), Jacqueline Huvanandana (2009), Stephanie Lowe (2010) and Sarah Karavasilias (2009)
- 7 Adriana Burns (2006)



CAREER MENTORING PROGRAM AT MERIDEN

Meriden would love to hear from Old Girls who are interested in being a career mentor to current Meriden students.

Meriden Old Girls are a valuable resource for advice and guidance on career opportunities and tertiary pathways for our senior students. The settings may include year group presentations, small group discussions and industry events for students and parents.

If you would like to lend your support to this program, please contact us in one of the following ways:

- Complete the online Expression of Interest form on the Old Girls' page of the Meriden website: <https://www.meriden.nsw.edu.au/community/meriden-old-girls/>
- Drop us a line via email at communityrelations@meriden.nsw.edu.au and let us know about your career, industry sector and why you would like to be involved in mentoring Meriden students
- Allow the School to communicate with you via LinkedIn by adjusting your LinkedIn profile to include Meriden School in the Education section and enable notifications from Meriden.

We look forward to hearing from you!

 www.linkedin.com/school/meriden-school-strathfield/



- 1** Kylie Kapeleris (2004), Kylie Benson (1997) and Dr Julie Greenhalgh
- 2** Margot McKeown (2018), Arushi Vasrivastava (2018) and Pavitra Ravi (2019)
- 3** Meriden Year 10 students meeting with their alumnae mentors
- 3** Mrs Vanessa Kirolos, Dean of Community Learning, launches the new digital portfolio for Year 10 students



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