Congratulations to our 73 music students, teachers Mrs Jo-Anne Drayton, Mrs Kathy Marriott, Mr Doug Marshall, Dr David Turner, parents Mrs Divya Mathias, Mrs Lynda Ng, Mrs Sally Lancaster, Mrs Kathryn Barlow, Mr Teik Lee and Mrs Niluki Gunaratne and Trumpet Soloist, Mr Brian Evans and Conductor Deb Dietz who toured Japan over the holidays as part of the Cherry Blossom Tour. Our students performed at five schools including our sister school Shukutoku Yono Junior and Senior High School. Our students, teachers and parents saw many cultural sites of importance and had many highly memorable experiences. Thank you to our parents Mrs Serena Cubie and Mrs Teresa Utharntharm for their organisation of the tour. Please see Ms Dietz comments and my additional report and photographs in this edition of the Torch.

Congratulations to the fourteen students and two teachers who toured Tasmania for four days over the holidays. Thank you to Mrs DeLosa and Mrs Frohlich (Visual Arts) who organised the highly successful Visual Arts tour.

As previously mentioned in my email to Year 7, 8 and 9 parents Hewlett-Packard have won the tender process with the DEC and are now the main suppliers of Laptops for the DEC. On Monday we placed an order for 380 HP Pro Book 430 G2 Laptops and we are in contact with the supplier regarding the arrival date of the laptops. As soon as I have further details on the distribution dates I will pass that information onto students and parents.

I received advice from DEC Asset Management Unit over the holidays that Hornsby Girls High School can proceed with our proposed project to demolish the Drama Room to replace it with a large new Multi-Purpose Space. I commenced this project and sought approval from the DEC almost three years ago in
June 2012. I hope the tendering process, building and completion take less than the three years it has taken to get this far. At the very least the first stage is behind us and I will be meeting with DEC representatives over the coming weeks to plan the tendering process. I will keep you updated on our progress.

The planning for the **Multicultural Fair** on **Saturday August 22** is well underway. Our coordinator for the Multicultural Fair is our parent **Ms Kate Bromley**. This year we will have a student designed logo for the Multicultural Fair and an official student photographer. Students will be involved in designing and drawing chalk murals to advertise various activities for the Fair. Students will be pleased to know that more rides will be on site for the Fair. We are also hoping that our Alpaca Team will be on display as well.

This morning Friday 24 April the whole school participated in the **100th Anniversary ANZAC Commemoration**. Thank you to the following Year 12 students **Tian Du, Gizem Bilgin, Annabel Horsburgh** and **Madeleine Jones** who led the school in this significant ceremony.

**Our Sister School, Shukutoku Yono Junior** and **Senior High School** and their **Principal Mr Satomi** flew me to Japan to be a member of the audience for the combined concert of Shukutoku Yono students and **Hornsby Girls High School** students. It was thrilling and humbling to be present on such a historic occasion to witness the musical talents of the students and conductors. On my arrival in Tokyo on Sunday 5 April **Mr Kawabe** the **Principal** of the **Shukutoku Yono Kindergarten** and I attended an annual commemorative ceremony of 1,000 **Jodo-Buddhists** at the **Zojoji Temple** in Tokyo.

At this ceremony Mr Satomi who is also a Jodo-Buddhist Monk and Temple Leader participated in the ceremony with 250 other monks. On Monday 6 April Shukutoku Yono and **Hornsby Girls High School** students and staff met and had a magnificent lunch together before the **sensational combined orchestral performance**. At the conclusion of the performance a fond farewell was given by all and our school then went onto the next part of their tour. While Hornsby Girls High School continued on the Cherry Blossom Tour I stayed in Saitama City as a guest of Shukutoku Yono Junior and Senior High School.
On Tuesday 7 April I was the guest of honour at the Shokutoku Yono ‘Beginning of School Ceremony’. The new Senior High school building was opened for the first time on this day and the students felt very privileged to be using classrooms in the new seven storey building. I was also guest of honour on Wednesday 8 April at a morning and afternoon ‘Entrance Ceremony’ for new Year 7 students and new Year 11 students. At all the ceremonies I spoke about our school and the seventeen year relationship with Shukutoku Yono Junior and Senior High School and the improved cultural understanding both schools have achieved over time. I was able to thank again Mr Yamaoka who supervised the Shukutoko Yono students who came to Hornsby Girls High School last term.

Additionally I also met Mr Yamazaki the English teacher who will be supervising the sixteen Shukutoku Yono students coming to Hornsby Girls High School in 2016. During lunch on Wednesday I met parents whose daughters had been billeted by our community during previous Shukutoku home stay visits to Hornsby Girls High School. A day tour on Thursday 9 April of the holy city of Kamakura, then to Yokohama and an evening tour of Tokyo concluded my time in Japan. Thank you to Mr Satomi the Principal of Shukutoku Yono Junior and Senior High School and to Mr Kawabe Principal of Shukutoku Yono Kindergarten for organising and sponsoring my visit to Japan. They are very generous hosts. Like all the students, teachers and parents who were on the Cherry Blossom Tour it was indeed an honour to represent Hornsby Girls High School in Japan.

Justin Briggs
Principal
Shakespeare Competition

The last two weeks of Term 1 saw exciting activity amongst our students in preparing for the year finals of the Shakespeare Competition. The photograph featured here is from the Year 9 Final. Further details of all successful Year winners will be included in a future Torch edition after the Grand Final occurs. Our students are extremely talented in their ability to perform so confidently and with such an engaged understanding of Shakespeare's plays.

Mrs S. Pilley
English Teacher

Band and Orchestra News

Next Committee Meeting - 2015 Monday 27 April - 7:30 – 9:00 pm in the Common Room

Come and be part of our terrific team and meet other parents. Enter through Thomas St gates for parking. The updated committee list can be found in the monthly Bulletin. There are still vacancies in several positions: Jazz Band and Flute Ensembles Contacts as well as many assistants. Parents of Year 7 and 8 students are encouraged to come along. Future Meetings – Mondays - 15 June, 17 August, 19 October AGM, 23 November Christmas party.

Committee Emails

If you are not receiving the committee emails or have changed your details, please send the correct information to the Information/Membership Manager: Mrs. Suja Murali 0413 206 450 or muralis@yahoo.com.au

Autumn Concert – Wednesday 29 April – 7:00 for 7:15 pm start

Everyone is invited to our Autumn Concert of Instrumental Music. All of our groups will be performing: including the String Orchestra, the Flute Ensembles, the Jazz Band, the Concert Band and the Symphonic Band. Donation $5 for adults; all children are free. Bring some finger food to share for supper. Don’t forget our raffle! If you have something to donate, please take it to Mrs. Sexton’s office or Dan and Divya Mathias 0418439810 dandivya@yahoo.com.au.

Deb Dietz (Ms.), Conductor
Melissa Jones (Mrs.) and Christine Sadek (Mrs.), Co-Committee Presidents
2015 Japan “Cherry Blossom” Tour

Thank you to all involved in our wonderful (but wet) 2015 Cheery Blossom Tour to Japan: Teachers – Mrs. Jeanmaree Sexton, Mrs. Jo-anne Drayton, Mr. Doug Marshall, Dr. David Turner, Mrs. Kathy Marriott, Committee Parents – Mrs. Serena Cubie, Mrs. Teresa Utharntharm, Mrs. Divya Mathias, Mrs. Lynda Ng, Mrs. Sally Lancaster and Mr. David Potter, Accompanying Parents- Mrs. Kathyrn Barlow, Mr. Teik Lee and Mrs. Niluki Gunaratne and Trumpet Soloist, Mr. Brian Evans.

The girls played magnificently at our concerts, giving the young students of Tokyo International School as special treat at our final concert. We witnessed the beauty of the cherry blossoms, snow on Mt Fuji, serenity of temples and shrines, busy-ness of markets, the sorrow of Hiroshima, and the friendliness of the Japanese people and students with whom we associated. More detail of our tour will follow in a student report. Where to in 2018?

Deb Dietz (Ms.), Conductor
Teaching someone to drive can be a happy experience.

You can learn all the simple steps on how to teach a learner driver at a **FREE** two hour workshop.

**The next workshop in your area will be held:**

**TIME and DATE:**
6.30pm to 8.30pm
Thursday
28 May 2015

**VENUE:**
Hornsby Shire Council
Chambers Building
296 Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby

**BOOK NOW ON:**
(02) 9847 6856
Bookings Essential

Helping learner drivers become safe drivers
Dear Parents & Carers

As young people approach driving age it is important they and their parents/carers are aware of what is ahead as a Learner driver and how they achieve the 120 supervised driving hours in their logbook.

In conjunction with the Roads and Maritime Service (RMS), Hornsby Shire Council is holding a free two-hour workshop on the evening of Tuesday 18th February, 2014 at the Hornsby Shire Council Chambers Building. This workshop offers practical advice and information to parents/carers and supervisors on how to help Learner drivers become safer drivers. The workshop will provide information about:

- Understanding the Graduated Licensing Scheme and the current laws of L and P licence holders.
- Completing the Learner driver log book.
- Understanding the benefits of supervised on-road driving experience.
- Supervising Learner drivers.
- Young Driver Issues.
- The Safer Drivers Course.

The workshop details are as follows:

**Date:** Thursday 28 May, 2015  
**Time:** 6:30pm to 8:30pm  
**Location:** Hornsby Shire Council Chambers Building  
**Address:** 296 Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby.  
**Cost:** FREE  
**To Book:** Phone Council’s Road Safety Officer, Lesley Tipping on 9847 6856

Please note that bookings are essential as places are limited.

If you require further information regarding this workshop please contact Lesley via email at ltipping@hornsby.nsw.gov.au or directly on 9847 6856.

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