I hope you had a lovely holiday and are ready for the new school year.

Congratulations to the **Class of 2015** for their exceptional efforts in the HSC.

Some highlights include the following -

Nineteen students received an **ATAR of 99** or above.


Our highest **ATAR was 99.85** attained by Jasmin Borsovzsky and Sanjna Kalasabail.

**Twenty four** students were ‘All Rounders’ scoring 90 or above in 10 or more units in the HSC.

Congratulations to Shobitha Balakumar, Gizem Bilgin, Jasmin Borsovzsky, Cherie Chen, Annabel Cheung, Ankita Choudhary, Chantelle D’Souza, Sanjna Kalasabail, Sampavi Kanagalingam, Hannah Lee, Sophia Lin, Heidi Liu, Monica Ng, Daisy Ou, Keerti Paidha, Maya Patel, Bridie Peters, Claire Qiu, Betty Wong, Katherine Xie, Yuanze Xu, Lin Yang, Janice Yung and Cheria Zhu.

Students gained **393 Band 6 results** across a range of subjects.

Students gained **two first** in course and **ten top twenty results**.

Keerti Paidha eighth in English Extension 1

Joanne Ho seventh in English Extension 2

Hannah Lee first in Financial Services (Hornsby TAFE)

Phoebe Fei Yang (Year 11) fifth in Geography

Shobitha Balakumar sixth in Mathematics

Annabel Cheung third in Society and Culture

Rhea Kohli fourth in Society and Culture

Jasmin Borsovzsky first in Spanish Beginners

Mekala Shanker third in Spanish Beginners

Kylie Kwok seventh in Visual Arts

Based on these results all students received individual offers of placement at **Australian universities**. Students received 57 offers from the **University of NSW**, 30 offers from the **University of Sydney**, twelve
offers from Macquarie University, eleven offers from the University of Technology Sydney, six offers from the Australian National University, five offers from Western Sydney University, one offer from the Australian Catholic University and one offer from the University of Wollongong.

Well done to the Class of 2015.

There are a number of additions to the school staff for 2016.

Ms Rebecca Wallace is our new TAS teacher. She gained the position through the merit selection process. Ms Wallace taught TAS at Rooty Hill High School for seven years and is a HSC marker.

Mr Richard Truong is a targeted Department of Education (DoE) graduate in History and replaces Mrs Riches who has retired from the DoE after many successful years of service.

Mr Kyle Moss is a targeted Department of Education graduate in Social Science and replaces Mrs Dunn who is on leave throughout 2016.

Mrs Jillian Turner is our new Ancient History teacher and replaces Mr Foster. Mrs Turner gained the position through the merit selection process and taught at Narrabeen Sports High School for a number of years. She is a highly experienced HSC marker and a nationally recognised expert in the teaching of ‘Big History’, a course developed at Macquarie University.

We have advertised for a new French and Spanish teacher to replace Mrs Barbeau who has retired from the Department of Education after many years of service. She has accepted a position at Kambala. I hope to announce a permanent replacement in Languages by the end of February.

Mrs Lara Sholl is our new Band and Orchestra conductor and will also be teaching Music. She replaces Mrs Dietz who retires from the Department of Education after nineteen years’ service to the school’s band and orchestra program.

Mrs Elizabeth Harnwell is our new SRE teacher. She replaces Mrs Stephanie Brown who has accepted a teaching position at Rouse Hill Anglican.

There are also a number of staff coming back after extended leave or whose roles have changed.

Mr Gary Horan is our technical support officer. He will also be teaching Computing.

Mrs Johnston returns to Music, Mrs Shepherd to PDHPE and Mrs Dryburgh to Mathematics.

The school was also able to secure permanent employment for two of our excellent new English teachers, Mrs Christie Smith and Mrs Janet Walker.

We welcome all our new and returning staff.

Our first parent meeting is on Tuesday 2 February from 7pm for all Year 11 students and parents. Our next parent meeting will be on Tuesday 9 February from 7pm for all Year 10 students and parents. Food and drinks will be provided by the P and C from 6:45pm on both nights. Our first P and C meeting is on Wednesday February 17 from 7pm. This will be a meeting where Year 7 parents can meet their daughters’ teachers. I encourage all Year Parents to attend this meeting with their daughter.

I wish you all the best for the coming year

Dr Justin Briggs

Vale Peggy Morrison (HGHS Old Girls Union)

Peggy Morrison was a former President of the Old Girls Union and more recently a committee member. Peggy loved Hornsby Girls High School and continued her association with the school through the Old Girls
Union. She died over the holidays after a lengthy battle with cancer. Members of the Old Girls Union were able to attend her memorial service. The school passes on its condolences to Peggy’s family and friends.

85th Birthday Celebrations

Over 300 former students of Hornsby Girls High School and their families attended the magnificent 85th Anniversary Celebration of HGHS on Saturday 5 December. The day was a great example of the collaboration between the Old Girls Union, the P and C and the school. Over 30 current students attended the day as tour guides, performers, helpers and servers. Memories were shared, songs were sung and friendships re-kindled. The Old Girls Union is to be commended for their extraordinary efforts. A special mention to the five Old Girls from the 1930s - Pamela and Patricia (1932 - 1935), Morveth (1932), Gwen and Beryl (1935 - 1938) with Patricia coming from Queensland to attend the special day!
2015 PASS ELECTIVE EXCURSION

The PASS elective on Friday December 4th, travelled to Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve, Manly to participate in a snorkelling experience.

The instructors from Ecotreasures Tours not only engaged the girls in the eco sensitivity of the aquatic reserve but encouraged and instructed the girls in the basics of snorkelling. This experience was linked to the PASS elective learning modules ‘Participating with Safety’ and ‘Promoting Active Lifestyle’.

A wonderful day was had by all. A special thanks to Ms Coggins, PDHPE who assisted in the supervision on the day.

Mrs Lang - PASS elective Teacher

VA and TAS News ...

A big welcome to all our new students and staff and welcome back to all the ‘old girls’. We said a sad farewell to Ms Nelson last year who took up a position at Pymble Ladies College. We have warmly embraced our new TAS teacher, Ms Wallace, who comes with many years experience, most recently at HSC marking, and brings new ideas and enthusiasm to her new role in our school. Mrs McGuire is back from her exciting and adventurous trek through South America. We were very glad to see her return safe and well, with all her stories about trekking to Machu Pichu and diving off the Galapogas Islands. The VA and TAS faculties have some exciting changes in programing this year that we hope will inspire our students to even more creative and innovative project work. Included in the Torch is a wonderful letter from Dr Judith Briggs from Illinois State University who visited the school last year. Her kind words are a great reflection on the amazing work of staff and students at Hornsby Girls HS.
Biomimicry News

A big Thank you to all those new Year 8 parents who have RSVP’d for the launch day on the 11th February. We are very thrilled to have Dr Chris Turney from UNSW presenting on the day. He has a fantastic website that you might find interesting to view at http://www.intrepidscience.com Most of the new Year 8 students have completed the Kolbe Y surveys and I will be following up with those that might not have received the links yet. I encourage parents and students to discuss the results of these surveys and reflect on the strengths they identify in the way your daughter prefers to approach her work. If outstanding permission notes and money for the workshop days could also come in ASAP, it would be really appreciated. A huge amount of work has been undertaken by staff in Science, Visual Arts and TAS and there is a lot of interest in the innovative and collaborative way this PBL initiative has been realised. A big thank you to the senior executive for supporting this initiative. All the best for a positive 2016.

Nicole DeLosa Head Teacher TAS & VA

School of Art
119 Grove for the Visual Arts
Campus Box 5620
Normal, IL 61790-5620
Phone: (309) 438-5621

December 16, 2015

Dear Nicole,

I would like to thank you again for hosting Illinois State University (ISU) art education students and me at Hornsby Girls School in July 2015. Our students were very impressed with the very high quality of the work that you do with your visual arts students. We were impressed with the excellent level of writing and reasoning about art that your students displayed as well as with the high level of well-crafted and conceptualized practice that your students showed, both within their higher level courses and their mandatory ones. We shared the outcomes of your students' practice with others at our university: visual culture and studio faculty, students, and the ISU School of Art Director. As the ISU Art Education Area continues to rewrite its visual arts curriculum to reflect the Conceptual Framework, the Frames, and artists' practice found in the New South Wales (NSW) Visual Arts Syllabi, your expert advice in making these changes was greatly appreciated. We valued the curricula and other resources that you shared with us, and we have already put them to use in our classes. The art education students who visited your classroom and I used your ideas to teach others to create guided notes and to mind map vocabulary and ideas within theory lectures. Our ISU students who made the trip to Australia and then student taught this semester employed the NSW Syllabi method of critical questioning within their own lesson plans. The student teachers presented their units of study at the Illinois Art Education Association Conference in November 2015, and in March 2016 will share what they learned about the NSW visual arts education from their study abroad at the National Art Education Association Conference in Chicago. I am also grateful for your willingness to work with me to create a manuscript about your teaching practices for publication in a U.S. art education journal.

We look forward to attending your presentation at the National Art Education Conference in Chicago, Illinois in March 2016. We wish to invite you again to come to ISU as a visiting scholar. As we implement the NSW Visual Arts Syllabi into our teaching practices, we welcome your expertise. We would be able to arrange for accommodation. We believe that an exchange could truly deepen educational understanding. We would be thrilled if you could take us up on this offer. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Judith Briggs, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Art Education

An equal opportunity/affirmative action university, encouraging diversity
Carnival Dates 2016

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWIMMING CARNIVAL:</td>
<td>Wednesday 2\textsuperscript{nd} March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL:</td>
<td>Wednesday 9\textsuperscript{th} March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYDNEY NORTH SWIMMING:</td>
<td>Thursday 17\textsuperscript{th} March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL:</td>
<td>Thursday 28\textsuperscript{th} April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZONE CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL:</td>
<td>Friday 20\textsuperscript{th} May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYDNEY NORTH CROSS CARNIVAL:</td>
<td>Thursday 16\textsuperscript{th} June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL:</td>
<td>Friday 13\textsuperscript{th} May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZONE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL:</td>
<td>Thursday 30\textsuperscript{th} June</td>
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<tr>
<td>SYDNEY NORTH ATHLETICS:</td>
<td>Monday 25\textsuperscript{th} &amp; Tuesday 26\textsuperscript{th} July</td>
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Extra Curricular Sport

Welcome back to another year of sport! Once again we have a range of sports being run afterschool. Below is an outline of the afterschool sport program for Term 1:

**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Badminton Club</td>
<td>• Water Polo Competition</td>
<td>• Yoga</td>
<td>• Fencing</td>
<td>• Zumba</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30-4:30pm</td>
<td>Evening Games between 6:00-8:00pm</td>
<td>2:40-3:40pm</td>
<td>3:30-4:30pm</td>
<td>3:30-4:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Boxercise 3:30-4:30pm</td>
<td>• Sport Aerobics Training 3:15-4:30pm (TBC)</td>
<td>• 7/8 Basketball Competition</td>
<td>• Volleyball</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Taekwondo 3:30-4:45pm</td>
<td>Evening Games</td>
<td>Evening Games</td>
<td>3:30-4:30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Year 9/10 Netball Competition 3:15-5:00pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Sport Aerobics Training</td>
<td>3:30-4:30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 9/10 &amp; Senior Basketball Competition Evening Games</td>
<td></td>
<td>3:15-4:30pm (TBC)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Dance groups will be run during lunchtimes at school.

If you are interested in finding out more information about any of these sports, please check the Sports noticeboard outside the junior toilets or speak with one of the PE staff.

**REMINDER:**

A reminder to parents and students to make sure that you read permission notes closely and return payments into the school bank by the due date to avoid missing out on participating in your sport.
There was a flurry of activity in the last 4 days of Term 4, 2015 and numerous students were awarded Duke of Edinburgh’s certificates.

Congratulations to the following students:

**Silver Duke of Edinburgh:** Sakina Abbas, Joyontee Mitra and Smriti Srivastava

**Bronze Duke of Edinburgh:** Maria Olivia Chen, Caitlin Cubie, Brianna Hadiwijaya, Monica Kim, Grace Roberts, Christina Shen and Louise Wilson. A wonderful achievement by all these students.

**Premier’s Volunteer Recognition Program**

Also received in the last week of Term 4 were certificates for the Premier’s Volunteer Recognition Program for Volunteering Effort in the Community. The certificates were ‘in recognition and appreciation of your contribution to the community’.

The following students are to be congratulated for their efforts: Avan Daruwalla, Asha Hossain, Alisha Mathias, Naveena Sankaran, Daphne Wang, Sophia You, Natalie Chua, Kassandra Di Bona, Lily Henke, Xenia Lopes, Nirosha Pillalamarri, Jenny Qian, Joy Yang, Phoebe Yang, Puen Yeung, Annie Zhang, Jasmin Borovszky, Annabel Cheung, Leila Chye, Grace Hang, Ashleigh Jo, Beth Jones, Kangying Lin, Tiarne Lu, Leanne Mak, Sahana Murali, Christie Ng, Mekala Shanker and Catherine Wilson.

I would like to take this opportunity to say how rewarding it has been to be HGHS Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Leader since 2008. The students have embraced the programme and clearly demonstrated that participation encourages preparation, organization, commitment, decisiveness, perseverance and flexibility: builds friendships and confidence: creates PB’s and promotes leadership. All the very best in all your future endeavours Duke of Ed’s!

*Mrs Robyn Riches* Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator 2015
Professor Phil McManus  
Head of School of Geosciences  
21st January 2016

Dr Justin Briggs Principal  
Hornsby Girls High School Edgeworth David  
Avenue Hornsby NSW 2077

Re: Geography 2015 HSC

Dear Dr. Briggs,

This letter is to congratulate your school on its achievement in Geography in 2015. Phoebe Yang’s performance in coming fifth in the state in this HSC subject is definitely a cause for celebration.

Please pass on our congratulations to Phoebe, and to the Geography teachers at Hornsby Girls High School. I am acutely aware of the importance of excellent teachers in inspiring students, not just the very top students but also other students who may choose to study geology, geography, geophysics and environmental studies at a tertiary institution. Recognising the achievements of students and the people who have supported them along the way is crucial in raising educational outcomes.

Congratulations and best wishes. Yours

sincerely,

Professor Phil McManus  
Head of School of Geosciences  

School of Geosciences Faculty of Science  
Rm 352, Madsen Building F09  
Sydney  
NSW 2006 Australia
Hornsby Lions Netball club invite you to play with them in 2016 at Pennant Hills Sports Complex.

Registration is on 4 Feb from 5pm - 7pm at Asquith Bowling Club.

Registration costs are $195 for a Junior player (6-15yrs) and $230 for a Senior player (16+). These fees include player insurance, umpiring costs and all relevant levies.

For more information please email Lea: hornsbylionsnetball@hotmail.com, call Mandy 0415 125 466 or visit our website www.hornsbylionsnct.nsw.netball.com.au.