When the evening is deep, against the sky
Let us go then, you and I,
Front cover artwork ‘Digital Me’ by
Julia Rheinberger Year 9 2012

Our school at a glance

Principal’s message

This report for Hornsby Girls’ High School is a celebration of the excellent and diverse achievements of all the students who attend our school. The success of the school is a reflection of the strong community that is Hornsby Girls’ High School. By working together, students, teachers, parents, caregivers and community members have achieved great outcomes for public education.

Our Students

Hornsby Girls’ High School is a selective school with 727 students. The amazing achievements of our girls are listed throughout this report. The school develops not only the intellectual, cultural and sporting capacities of our students but also their social and emotional intelligence. This ensures that students who are part of our learning community are ready to take their place as leaders in the community and in the democratic life of Australia. Students like Rea Agrawal of Year 10 who received the Environment and Sustainability Award at the Northern Sydney Regional Awards Night held at Taronga Zoo.

Our Parents and Caregivers

Our parents and caregivers strongly support our school. We have an active parent body represented by our P and C. Parents and caregivers are regularly nominated for awards due to their effective participation in the life of the school. Congratulations to Mrs Mel Jones of our P and C Association on winning the Outstanding Contribution to Schools Award. The award was presented by the Regional Director Ms Jane Simmons at a special ceremony in November held at Taronga Zoo. Mrs Jones has two daughters at the school and has been an outstanding supporter of the school. This award is a fitting recognition of her hardwork and dedication to the school. Mrs Jones’ award was also received in symbolic recognition of all our hard working parents and caregivers.

Our Staff

Our teachers are highly qualified, experienced and professional educators with a passion for gifted and talented education. Our teachers have high expectations for our students and are committed to providing expert tuition based on Gifted and Talented strategies so as to fully engage our girls. Over thirty per cent of our teachers have post-graduate qualifications.

Three teachers, Ms Motherwell, Mrs Lang and Miss Wilson were recognised by Rotary for their outstanding contribution to our students. Our
School Administrative Manager Mrs Julie Simpson was also recognised for her outstanding contribution to the school community at the Northern Sydney Regional Awards.

**Our significant programs and initiatives**

Hornsby Girls’ High School is a dynamic place of learning with significant programs and initiatives. One of these initiatives, the Inter-house Choir Competition has been very successful. These cultural, musical, leadership and sporting programs are discussed extensively throughout this report.

**Student achievement in 2012**

The school achieved outstanding results in external examinations. In the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 100% of Year 7 and 9 students in our school achieved at or above the minimum standard in NAPLAN. In the NSW Higher School Certificate 389 Band 6 results were achieved by 126 students with one student receiving a first place in NSW in Spanish Beginners. Eight students were placed in the top twenty in NSW in a variety of subjects. The dux Jainoor Rana achieved an ATAR of 99.85. These are tremendous results.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school’s achievements and areas for development.

**Dr Justin Briggs HGHS Principal**

P & C
2012 was another outstanding year for the parents and caregivers at Hornsby Girls’ High School. Events included cultural and social activities, information evenings and fund raising.

We are fortunate that contributions from parents continued to be high, and our community is to be thanked and congratulated for its generosity and commitment to supporting the school. Funds provided for the educational benefit of our daughters exceeded $140,000 and enabled the purchase of such items as interactive whiteboards, computers, musical instruments, upgrading of the school computer network, hardware and software improvements and landscaping in the school grounds.

The cultural and social calendar was managed by a fantastic team of willing parents, staff and student volunteers. In particular the Annual Multicultural Fair again demonstrated the wonderful harmony at the school amongst a diverse range of cultures. Mrs Parul Batra (Events Co-ordinator) and Mrs Melissa Jones (MCF Co-ordinator) deserve special recognition for their hard work.

Our Grounds Days continued each term under the direction of Dr Jo Motbey and Mr Jonathan Sanders. Special thanks are due to Jono for his ongoing involvement a number of years after his daughter’s graduation.

Our school’s musical talents continued to flourish under the baton of Musical Director Mrs Deb Dietz. Special thanks to the Band and Orchestra sub-committee led by Mrs Melissa Jones.

Our bi-annual Careers Information Evening saw almost 400 students and parents attend this special evening with 60 presenters from a variety of fields. Thank you to Mrs Chitra Shankar for leading this important information evening.
Thank you also to Mr Anton Cole our treasurer who kept our finances in order, to all the P and C Committee members for their ongoing commitment to the school and of course to all the staff at HGHS for all their hard work to ensure our girls continue to receive a great education.

Hornsby Girls is a truly special school. As parents we are very lucky indeed that our daughters are part of such a wonderful culture that encourages inclusion, leadership and excellence in all aspects of school life.

**Mr Ross Horsburgh HGHS P and C President**

**Student Leadership message**

Many exciting activities and ideas were initiated through student leadership to enrich the life of our school in 2012. The Prefects and the Student Representative Council (SRC) are the most visible elected leaders of our student population but there are also many other leadership positions within our school. These include House Captains and Vice-captains, Peer Support Leaders, High Resolves Leaders, Band Captains and Vice-Captains, as well as many other students who were willing to take leadership responsibilities in a variety of formal and informal situations.

It is this willingness to be part of our special events, and the preparedness to assist in organizing activities which create such a great unity and harmony among our students in all grades.

**Student Representative Council**

In 2012, the Student Representative Council (SRC), worked to again promote the concept of “integradalism” within the student population and foster school spirit and involvement. The SRC organised many school events to promote student involvement and encourage interaction between different year groups of the school.

These events included:

- Year 7 and New Students Barbecue;
- Valentine’s Day activities where flowers were distributed to students and staff across the school to promote friendship;
- School dances in conjunction with Normanhurst Boys’ High School;
- Harmony Day which promoted Multiculturalism with an orange themed Mufti Day.

Spirit Week, involving many activities to end Term 2, promoting the balance of school life between academic studies and having some fun.

**Prefects**

The 2012 the Prefects, led by Cindy Chee and Cayci Levitt, along with the Senior prefects Georgia Hayes and Rhea Nair maintained extraordinary standards of involvement in both the school and the wider community. The 2012 Prefect body was committed to social justice and welfare as seen in their organisation and coordinating of fundraising activities throughout the year. Some of these are outlined below:

Over a number of weeks in Term 4, the Prefects coordinated the Anglicare Toy and Tucker appeal, collecting food items and toys.

In Term 2, the Prefects auctioned themselves, in a ‘Slave Drive’. They managed to raise over $650 for the Make A Wish Foundation.

Throughout the year, the Prefects also coordinated the Annual ‘Blood Drive’.

In Term 4, the Legacy Badge Week saw our Prefects selling badges in the local Hornsby area. As a Prefect body they raised an amazing $3,700, which provided much needed support to the widows and dependents of the soldiers killed whilst on active service for Australia. The Prefects have also been involved in the wider community through regular Children Hospital visits and Nursing Home visits.

The Prefects also coordinated several events throughout the year promoting positive school philosophy. This included their involvement at Year 7 camp, introducing themselves to Year 7 and helping ease their transition into high school.

The Annual Lipsync Concert was one of the main
events for the Prefects. It was held at the end of Term 3 and raised over $1,700 for Stewart House.

**School context**

**Student information**

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all students must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

**Student retention to Year 12**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SC06-HSC08</th>
<th>SC08-HSC10</th>
<th>SC10-HSC12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>SEG</td>
<td>State</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student enrolment profile**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>727</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student performances at Speech Day 2012**

**Student attendance profile**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>727</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student Attendance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>727</td>
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### Post-school destinations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Number and Frequency of University Offers</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science/ Tech</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Medicine</td>
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<td></td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>Health</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psy/Soc. Wk.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Arts</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vet &amp; Bio Vet.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>38</td>
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<td></td>
<td>25*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combin ed</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. Offers</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The first number in each column is the number of students offered a position in a course at a specific university. The number below represents the percentage of the total offers for that course within each specific university.

Co-op Scholars (4)
- Amelia Carbonie
- Cindy Chee
- Alyse Chow
- Hao Do

B.Acc.(1)
- Kitty Liu

Advanced/Hons degrees (9)
- B.Phil. – (1)
- B.Nurs(Ad) – (1)
- B.Sc.(Ad) – (3)
- B.Psy(Hons) – (3)
- B.Fine Arts(Hons) – (1)

### Staff information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all staff must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

Mrs Moldrich, Mrs Hood and Mr Hatton were all well-respected members of staff who retired at the end of 2012. We wish them all the best for their retirement.

### Staff establishment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal(s)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Teachers</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>39.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning Assis</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
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</table>
The National Education Agreement requires schools to report on Indigenous composition of their workforce. There are no members of staff who are of an Indigenous background.

**Teacher qualifications**

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Financial summary**

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of financial summary</th>
<th>30/11/2012</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>483,642.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>104,492.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>987,936.87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>33,997.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>525,849.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>2,788,177.29</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Expenditure</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance carried forward</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A full copy of the school’s 2012 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

**School performance 2012**

**Achievements**

**Arts**

**2012 Report for Bands and Orchestra**

Symphonic Band 65 members

Concert Band 79 members

String Orchestra 50 members

Jazz Band 22 members

**2012 Captains and Deputy Captains**

**Symphonic Band**

Captain – Neta Arad Year 12

Deputy Captain – Nicola Smith Year 11

**Jazz Band**

Co - Captains – Elizabeth Joannou Year 12 and Kristin McCormack Year 12

**Concert Band**

Captain – Mekala Shanker Year 9

Deputy Captain – Cheryl Chan Year 8

**Flute Ensemble**

Captain - Anika Ng Year

Deputy Captain – Joanna Li

**String Orchestra**

Co - Captains - Jessica Harvey Year 12 and Joanne Mackellar Year 12

Deputy Captain – Ivana Marinov Year 11

**Activities for All Groups**

Autumn Concert - Thursday 10 May
All groups played

**Yamaha Festival** - June 13, 14

Symphonic Band gold - B grade

Concert Band diamond – C grade –chosen as best group of section

String Orchestra – gold – A grade

**Spring Award Concert** –Thursday 13 September

Involved all groups, farewelled 22 Year 12s

Many girls were involved in the Orchestra of the musical Pirates of Penzance.

**USA Tour** - rehearsals September to December for tour in Jan 2012 to LA-San Diego area.

**Ku Ring Gai Philharmonic Orchestra Concerto Competition**

Finalists in the Multiple Section

Anika and Naomi Ng Year 10 Flutes

**Activities for the Concert Band only**

**Band Workshops** - Staff Development Day Term 2
Monday 23 April

**Band Workshops** - Staff Development Day Term 3
Monday 16 July

**NSW School Band Championships** Sunday 22 July - Concert Band UNSW

**Gold – C Grade**

**Open Day** – Friday Oct 12

**Prefect Induction** - Friday 14 September

**Minitour** - Friday November 30 Epping North PS, concert and workshop with Year 6 girls

**Orientation Day** - Wednesday December 5

**Activities for the Symphonic Band only**

**SRC Induction** – Thursday 16 February

**Band Workshops** - Staff Development Day Term 2
Monday 23 April

**A Grade prep workshop** with professional tutors – Sunday 3 June

**Band Workshops** - Staff Development Day Term 3
Monday 16 July

**NSW School Band Championships** Saturday 21 July

Silver in A grade

**Activities for the Jazz Band only**

**Multicultural Fair** - Saturday September 1 HGHS

**Year 12 Graduation** –Thursday Sept 20

**Activities for the String Orchestra only**

**Australian Chamber Orchestra Workshop** - Jessica Harvey Year 12, violin chosen to participate, only 1 student per school

**Schools Spectacular Orchestra** – 1 violinist chosen; Sherrie Zheng Year 10

**Speech Day – Symphonic Band**

**Speech Day** – Monday December 17 Town Hall

Extra-curricular music continued to provide our girls with many opportunities in 2012.

**Sport Years 7-11**

The compulsory sport program continued in 2012 for Years 7-10. The sports program aims to provide students with sporting opportunities that are both challenging and enjoyable, and that improve the students’ capacity to move with skill and confidence in a variety of contexts.

Year 7 participated in integrated sports program which included Endball, (modified Netball) Soccer and Cricket culminating with a Games Day Competition involving the following schools: - Asquith GHS, Macarthur GHS, North Sydney GHS and Riverside GHS. The students played teams from these schools and rotated through the respective sports. Students not only enjoyed the opportunity to compete but also the social
aspects of interacting with other students from other schools.

Year 8 participated in Netball, Aquatics, Lifesaving, Soccer and Softball internal competitions throughout the year and these also culminated in a Games Day where students played other school teams from Asquith, North Sydney, Riverside and Macarthur in Volleyball, Soccer and Netball. Students enjoyed a day’s competition and social interaction with students from other schools.

Year 9 participated in Zone interschool sports – playing Netball, Oz Tag, Softball and Soccer. 2012 teams performed especially well with Hornsby Girls Teams being placed second overall in the Zone Grade Competition. This is an excellent result considering Hornsby Girls is the smallest school in the Zone. In Terms 1 and 4 Year 9 students participate in Tennis, Table Tennis, Badminton and Basketball.

Year 10 participated in “Life be in it” Recreational Games such as Volleyball and Ultimate Frisbee, Zumba Fitness, Indoor Futsal Sports. Year 10 also attended the Surf Educate Day as part of their Life and Resilience Program. 100 Year 10 students were transported to Manly Beach where they took part in an array of activities to educate students on how to enjoy the beach and surf safely.

Year 11 have a flexible sport program. This is to provide students with a more self directed approach to their involvement in physical activity. To enhance the Year 11 program, the P and C have continued to assist in funding coaches for extracurricular activities which enables the Sport Department to provide a very broad range of activities.

**Extra-curricular sports program**

Approximately 300 plus students have participated in the voluntary extracurricular sport program in 2012! This would not have been possible without the support of the Sport Staff and financial support from the P&C who help to fund outside coaches and referees.

Sports offered were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Location/Competition</th>
<th>Student Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athletics Club</td>
<td>HGHS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Thornleigh Brick Pit Basketball</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>PCYC</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Polo</td>
<td>Barker College</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Barker College</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>Yr 7/8, 9/10 Gala Days</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>School internal competition</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oz Tag</td>
<td>School internal competition</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taekwondo</td>
<td>HGHS + tournaments</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>HGHS</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>HGHS internal competition</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Tennis Championships</td>
<td>HGHS</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerobics</td>
<td>HGHS</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>HGHS</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Inaugural Hornsby Girls High School Tennis Championships-2012*

**Individual Achievements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sport Location/Competition</th>
<th>Award/Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noni Cole</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Youth Representative</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ariella Cabezas</td>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>Australian Indoor Soccer Representative</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aurora Crain</td>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Aerobics</td>
<td>1st Place – National Championships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerobics Team – 18 Girls</td>
<td>Years 8-10</td>
<td>National Aerobic Championships</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanessa Tan</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>National Table Tennis</td>
<td>Representative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pierre de Coubertin award:**

This award is for outstanding sporting behavior and for exceptional adherence to the Olympic ideals of sportsmanship and fair play.

**2012 Recipient – Georgia Hayes:**

Georgia has been an excellent sportswoman and role model throughout all her years at HGHS and this award could not have gone to a more deserving young woman.
Congratulations to the hundreds of Hornsby Girls who picked up their skipping ropes over a number of weeks in Term 3 to train for the Inter House Jump Rope for Heart Competition. With the help of some energetic music pumping in the background to set the mood, students from Years 7-12 made their way to the school basketball courts to participate in the final ‘Jump Off’ Competition that was held on Friday 27th July. The house leaders raised over $270 from donations made on the day and with money raised individually from students, Hornsby Girls donated over $900 to the National Heart Foundation.

2012 ‘Jump Off’ Competition Results
1st – Rainbow – 77 points
2nd – Stephens – 74 points
3rd – Turner – 68 points
4th – Coghlan – 57 points
5th – Scott – 53 points

_Aerobics_ Nineteen competitors successfully qualified for the Australian Aerobics Gymnastics Championships and were selected to represent NSW as state squad members. They travelled to Brisbane in August for the Australian Aerobic Gymnastic Championships with Naomi Roosevelt Year 12 receiving a third place. Two of our teams at these championships attained first place and were named National Champions. We had 2 teams nominated for Athlete of the Year
1. Aurora Crain, Sarah Wang, Gina Zheng
2. Naomi Ng, Marianne Cuasay, Celine Yao and Queenie Liang.

_Gymnastics_ At the NSW Gymnastic Awards in August three of our students were nominated for Sport Aerobics Levels Athlete of the Year with Aurora Crain Year 10 being named winner of this prestigious award.

Dance This year a Junior Dance Ensemble consisting of Year 7, 8 and 9 students and a senior dance group consisting of Year 10 and 11 students was selected to represent HGHs. Both groups auditioned for the Sydney North Dance Festival and performed at the Glen St Theatre in Belrose over a number of nights in June.

The Junior Dance Ensemble performed a piece called 'I will fix you' choreographed by Year 8 student Amelia Hiscock. The composition reflected the process of going through a crisis with the comfort and support of a loved one.

The Senior Dance Ensemble performed a contemporary piece called 'My home, my heart' choreographed by Year 11 student Lisha Lobo. The composition was a response to the quote by Oliver Wendell Holmes; "Where we love is home, home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts".

These performance pieces were also performed at the school's Multi Cultural Fair in September. Additionally, on Monday 30th July at 12:30pm in Australian cities and towns across NSW, over 4,300 government school students took part in a spectacular 'Simulaunch' to mark the start of Education Week, 2012. 32 Hornsby Girls High School students from Years 7-9 joined other primary and secondary school students from the Hornsby region to perform on Manly Corso.

The Senior Dance Ensemble also choreographed an inspiring piece for Speech Day, under the direction of Year 11 students Lisha Lobo and Erica Penollar.
The Junior Dance Ensemble also performed at the annual Xmas Concert. Year 9 students Lisa Csomore and Lisa Ryan choreographed an up-tempo Jazz number which was very enjoyable to watch.

**Duke of Edinburgh Awards**

In the Duke of Edinburgh Awards there are currently 295 students enrolled in all 3 levels - Bronze, Silver and Gold with 41 Bronze awarded this year, 17 Silver and 3 Gold awards to Sarah Spencer, Joanne Mackellar and Prachi Nagrath Year 12. The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme provides students with opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities. The additional Residential project at the Gold level has seen our students supervise Sport and Recreation camps, assist at an animal refuge in South Africa and travel to the US with the school band.

**Chess**

In 2012 the school entered 4 teams in the Metropolitan Secondary Schools Chess Competition. This competition was held on Friday afternoons during term 2. We had one senior team Years 11 and 12, one intermediate team Years 9 and 10 and 2 junior teams Years 7 and 8. The most successful teams were the junior (A) team who finished 2nd in their division and the open team who finished 3rd in their division. From this competition teams are invited to represent NSW at the National championships. Once again we were invited to play off to represent NSW in the Open Girls Division but unfortunately finished 3rd in these playoffs.

During Term 3 an Interschool Girls’ Teams Chess Challenge was held at Strathfield. We had one open and one junior team enter. The open team placed 3rd overall, while the junior team placed 1st becoming “Junior Girls Champions for 2012.”

**Academic**

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in these assessments.

Yr 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)
Yr 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)
Yr 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)
Yr 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9).

In the Higher School Certificate the performance of students is reported in performance bands ranging from Performance Band 1 (lowest) to Performance Band 6 (highest).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Year 7 students achieving at or above minimum standard (exempt students included)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Year 9 students achieving at or above minimum standard (exempt students included)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SSG = statistically similar group
The My School website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing (NAPLAN).

Click on the link [http://www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au) and enter the school name in the Find a school and select GO.

**Higher School Certificate**

Our 2012 HSC results were again spectacular!

Hornsby Girls’ High School continued its fine tradition of producing outstanding HSC results in 2012.

All students who completed the HSC at HGHS are heartily congratulated on their fine efforts. The following students have been highlighted in recognition of their meritorious efforts.

1st in NSW Vitoria Passos (Spanish Beginners)

3rd in NSW Emily Centner (Spanish Beginners)

4th in NSW Cindy Huang (Textiles and Design)

4th in NSW Belinda Yuan (Spanish Beginners)

5th in NSW Marra Aghajani (Visual Arts)

5th in NSW Ariella Cabezas (Spanish Beginners)

9th in NSW Elsa Young (Society and Culture)

20th in NSW Jacqueline Chen (Biology)

The following 28 students received a Premiers Award for gaining more than 90% in their best ten units (two of these units must include 2 Unit English): Amelia Carbonie, Eugenia Chan, Hilary Chan, Jacqueline Chen, Alyse Chow, Georgia Hayes, Bethany Horsburgh, Cindy Huang, Shilpa Kala, Nina Karavdic, Michelle Lawson, Shayna Levitt, Hilaire Mak, Evangeline Mao, Irene McBride, Meiling McGregor, Kelly Newton, Jainoor Rana, Eleanor Schmiedte, Sarah Spencer, Melanie Tam, Elise Vanden Dool, Angela Wang, Charlotte Ward, Valerie Wong, Silvia Wu, Wing Wu and Elsa Young.

HGHS students were mentioned 389 times in Merit Lists of students who gained over 90% in a subject in 2012.

Unlike the HSC results, schools do not receive official notifications of student ATARs. However individual ATAR scores are provided to schools by individual students. Our top ATAR in 2012 was
99.85 awarded to Jainoor Rana. Congratulations to Jainoor Rana as Dux of HGHS 2012.

The following students gained an ATAR of 98+ in 2012: Amelia Carbonie, Cindy Chee, Jacqueline Chen, Pearl Elgindy, Cindy Huang, Michelle Lawson, Shayna Levitt, Evangeline Mao, Rhea Nair, Kelly Newton, Celine Ng, Jacqueline Ooi, Vitoria Passos, Jainoor Rana, Sarah Spencer, Alison Thai, Vanessa Ung, Elise Vanden Dool, Charlotte Ward, Valerie Wong and Elsa Young.

The following students achieved full marks in a subject

Vitoria Passos achieved 100/100 for Spanish Beginners

Valerie Wong achieved 50/50 for Music Extension. Congratulations to all our HSC students on another fine performance.
Social Sciences Faculty

The Social Sciences Faculty challenge students to become critically aware of the issues facing our natural and human environments. Students are encouraged to become active citizens equipped with the skills to fully engage and question the world around them. A vital aspect of teaching and learning in Social Science is the use of inquiry based learning. During 2012 staff undertook the rewriting of fieldwork tasks and assessments to better reflect the need to challenge our gifted students and to develop collaborative and creative thinking skills.

Year 8 at Camp Toukley

Activities

Visits to the District and Supreme Courts for Legal Studies students gave valuable insights into the criminal justice system and generated classroom discussion about the difficulties of achieving justice.

The real life operation of markets was investigated by Business Studies and Economics students at Flemington Fruit and Vegetable Market.

Geography excursions to rainforests, urban environments, coastal environments and dairying activities explored the issues of management of natural and human environments.

Year 10 were involved in the UTS Enterprise Challenge with Normanhurst Boys and were presented with a range of discovery learning tasks and teamwork activities. Students were mentored by students from the UTS School of Business. These activities culminated in a wonderful display at the end of the week. Judges from the Business School of UTS were extremely impressed with student achievement.

The Mock Trial team enthusiastically competed against a range of other schools and learnt some valuable advocacy skills.

Year 9 Elective Geography held a number of events such as the Africa Expo and created a class blog to review and share their learning with their parents and each other.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Karen Lin and Elaine Choong, who were the Australasian Group prize winners of the “Plan Your Own Enterprise” competition. Georgia Burley also was acknowledged for her excellent contribution and was an Australasian finalist.

Elsa Young achieved a mark of 99 in Society and Culture, this placed her 9th in the State. Elsa’s magnificent achievement was honoured in a ceremony in March 2013 at the State Library. Cynthia Ng achieved a HSC result of 98 in Society and Culture.
2012 HSC Course Summary Table 1

Courses with less than 10 students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>School Average</th>
<th>State Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>91.4</td>
<td>73.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Extension</td>
<td>41.6/50</td>
<td>36.7/50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music 1</td>
<td>88.9</td>
<td>80.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Extension</td>
<td>45.4/50</td>
<td>44.8/50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDHPE</td>
<td>90.2</td>
<td>72.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textiles and Design</td>
<td>93.4</td>
<td>77.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Continuers</td>
<td>92.2</td>
<td>81.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Extension</td>
<td>45.8/50</td>
<td>41.5/50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Continuers</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>79.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Extension</td>
<td>41.1/50</td>
<td>40.5/50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Continuers</td>
<td>88.1</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Extension</td>
<td>40.7/50</td>
<td>40/50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Beginners</td>
<td>95.5</td>
<td>73.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2012 HSC Course Summary Table 2

Courses with 10 or more students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>School 2012</th>
<th>School Average 2008-2012</th>
<th>SSG 2012</th>
<th>State DEC 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient History</td>
<td>86.0</td>
<td>88.9</td>
<td>83.4</td>
<td>66.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>88.7</td>
<td>87.9</td>
<td>84.7</td>
<td>71.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Studies</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>87.6</td>
<td>85.0</td>
<td>71.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>83.4</td>
<td>83.3</td>
<td>85.2</td>
<td>75.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>87.7</td>
<td>87.0</td>
<td>83.8</td>
<td>74.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English (Advanced)</td>
<td>87.8</td>
<td>88.0</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>79.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Extension 1</td>
<td>86.5</td>
<td>86.6</td>
<td>86.5</td>
<td>80.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Extension 2</td>
<td>87.6</td>
<td>89.5</td>
<td>81.8</td>
<td>76.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Mathematics</td>
<td>90.9</td>
<td>92.1</td>
<td>79.8</td>
<td>66.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Studies</td>
<td>85.2</td>
<td>87.7</td>
<td>86.8</td>
<td>72.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>88.9</td>
<td>88.1</td>
<td>86.5</td>
<td>76.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics Ex 1</td>
<td>87.1</td>
<td>87.0</td>
<td>88.4</td>
<td>82.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics Ex 2</td>
<td>85.3</td>
<td>87.1</td>
<td>88.2</td>
<td>83.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern History</td>
<td>90.2</td>
<td>89.7</td>
<td>87.2</td>
<td>73.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music 2</td>
<td>90.9</td>
<td>88.9</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>86.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>85.8</td>
<td>85.1</td>
<td>83.4</td>
<td>73.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society and Culture</td>
<td>93.8</td>
<td>92.7</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>75.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>92.5</td>
<td>91.9</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>77.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* figures not supplied by the DEC

Science Report 2012

463 of our girls entered the annual ICAS Science Competition and the results were tremendous. The total of 24 High Distinctions is one of our highest ever and represents an excellent achievement.

The following students received High Distinction Certificates - Year 7 -Julia Mokdsi, Nishka Tapaswi, Paromita Mitchell and Sakiko Okayama

Year 8 - Bianca Ng, Anna Stewart-Yates, Olivia Kong, Jessica Li, Niharika Sanghi, Nisali Wellege and Summer Guo,

Year 9- Keerti Paida, Andrea Wright, Fiona Brew, Elissa Georgans, Madeleine Jones, Aarthi Packirisamy, Gizem Bilgin and Naomi Huynh.

Year 10 Justina Sun, Alicia Evans, Kay Song and Helena Kertesz. Year 12 Elizabeth Joannou.

Many other students performed to a high level with 134 students receiving a Distinction Certificate and 241 students receiving a Credit Certificate
After a rigorous selection process, Lisha Lobo and Yingran Sun from Year 11 were selected to attend the prestigious National Youth Science Forum in 2013.

33 students entered the RACI National Chemistry Quiz. An Extended High Distinction awarded to Jasmin Borovszky of Year 9, High Distinctions awarded to Year 8 Oliva Kong, Year 9 Keerti Pada, Year 10 Alicia Evans, Year 11 Felicity Lee, Lisha Lobo, Karishma Madan and Alison Xiao. Other award winners included 7 Distinctions and 8 credits.

A team of Year 7 and 8 students called “Flying Pig Nation” entered in the First Lego League Senior Solution Challenge on 8 December. The girls were placed 21st out of 35. For the first time, a team of Year 9 students “Simultaneous Explosions” entered in the First Technical Challenge (FTC) to build, program and operate a robot to compete against other robots. They competed in the national Final and were placed 5th out of 8.

The best student research projects from Year 8 and 10 were entered in the STANSW Young Scientist Competition. Two students achieved outstanding results and attended the Award ceremony at UWS Milperra. Melissa Lin of Year 10 received a special award for proficiency for her project on the use of asthma reliever medication and Anna Stewart-Yates of Year 8 was awarded 2nd place in the Year 7-9 Biology division for her project comparing the effect of hand writing or typing on the retention of information. Anna’s project also made the final of the National BHP Billiton Competition where she received third place. Kay Song was awarded a certificate of excellence. Certificates of high achievement were awarded to Lorraine Ohk, Helena Kertesz, Avanti Gomes, Louise Wilson and Naomi Ng, while Amelia Scott and Isabella Shen were awarded with certificates of commendation.

A number of Year 12 girls also participated in the RACI Titration Competition at Barker College, while 30 Year 10 students competed in the regional qualifying round of the Science and Engineering Challenge at Macquarie University where they placed 2nd.

ESSA Results

The ESSA results were excellent, especially compared to rest of state and other selective schools and these results are part of a strong continuing upward trend in students attaining higher levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>School</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Other Selectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>53.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HSC Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Band 6</th>
<th>Band 5</th>
<th>Band 5/6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
<td>96.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
<td>72.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
<td>78.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Biology – maintained a very high performance level, and second highest Band 6 percentage ever.

Chemistry – maintained a high level of performance in top two bands, with a pleasing increase in Band 6 % from previous 2 years.

Physics – maintained a high level of performance and highest percentage of Band 6 ever.

History - Higher School Certificate Results

Ancient History - Out of 25 candidates 36% gained Band 6 (State 7%) and 44% gained Band 5 (State19%) with 5 students (20%) gaining Band 4 (State 28%).
Modern History - Out of 24 candidates 62% were in Band 6 (State 12%) and 38% were in Band 5 (State 34%). This was an excellent result.

Extension History - At Hornsby Girls’ High in 2012 100% of students reached Band E3 while 65% of the State gained the top two bands.

General Comments

From Year 7 to 12 students are continually challenged with work designed to meet the needs of gifted and talented students. In Year 7, work is prepared using concepts and information from Year 11 Ancient History textbooks. In the Junior School students are conscientiously prepared for the high level skills required in the HSC 2Unit and Extension Courses. The Elective classes in particular develop a good grounding in Modern, Ancient and Extension History skills. Senior students are frequently working to the standard of tertiary level.

In all years History students undertook work that developed their creative talents and enhanced their problem solving skills. Each Year group developed historical hypotheses and critically analysed their findings through examination of sources and an appreciation of historiography. Their empathetic understanding of past cultures was made possible by the Ancient and Mediaeval Day presentation for Year 8 students. Vietnam Day was a study day for Year 10 students whereby Vietnam veterans shared their experiences of Australia’s involvement in the war and the effect of this on the people of the time. The Elective History Year 9 students attended a hands on day with archaeological artefacts at the Museum of Ancient Cultures at Macquarie University while the Year 10 Elective students attended the Jewish Museum to complement their studies on the Holocaust and Oscar Schindler. Elective History students gain a sophisticated understanding and appreciation of the achievements of civilisations and the endeavours and triumph of the human spirit over adversity that shape our society today.

All of these experiences equip our History students with skills that are essential for the workplace and make them fit citizens for the 21st century.

Languages Faculty

2012 HSC Results were again excellent and students in all 4 languages performed above the state average. Following are the Continuers course results.

French – 92.2% class average mark
German - 85.0% class average mark
Japanese – 88.1% class average mark

The Extension courses also all scored above the state averages for those languages.

Spanish Beginners – 95.5% with students gaining 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th places in the state.

It was a busy and exciting year for Language study at HGHS with various competitions and scholarships over the year.

The Australasian Languages Certificates was undertaken by French, German and Japanese students in Years 9 and 11. The results in all sections and year levels were exceptional, with several students scoring 100%.

The Alliance Française French Challenge, saw all Year 11 students who sat for this achieve a High Distinction, including Rebecca Xu, who was an accelerant in Year 10.
Concours La Perouse. Jenny Wei and Angela Ni in Year 11 participated and Jenny Wei narrowly missed out on the first prize trip. Angela gained 3rd place and won several prizes, including a set of boules. These girls were also shortlisted for the trip to New Caledonia.

Jessica Dai continued a 5 year tradition of winning the coveted SAGSE (Society for Australian-German Student Exchange) scholarship to travel to and study in Germany from December 2012 until February 2013.

Michelle Lawson went on a scholarship to New Caledonia.

The Year 11 Japanese had a Language Immersion Day in Term 3 at the Japanese House in Kirrawee, including a delicious obento lunch.

Our Japanese Sister School, Shukutoku Yono, visited in March and sixteen HGHS students provided home stay hospitality during which time strong bonds of friendship were forged.

The annual Nagoya Visit for all Year 10 students was a great success. The day was spent sharing Aboriginal culture, dancing and painting with the Japanese students. It was an inspiring, fun and culturally diverse day.

Lorraine Rouzard from Albi in France was hosted by Belle Shum in Year 11. Lorraine has organised “pen” pals via email on Facebook for the Year 11 class.

Multicultural Day is always exciting for French, German, Japanese and Spanish students as they run food and craft stalls and perform songs and dances on the open air stage. This day is a celebration for language students that enable them to showcase culture, language, national dress and the authenticity of their chosen subject.

Students doing Languages had many opportunities to practise the language, experience culture and food, and just generally enjoy the study of Languages, in 2012.

Visual Arts and TAS HSC results
8 students were preselected for Art Express – Sarah Kung (Selected for Hazelhurst & Blue...
Mountains), Cindy Chee (Selected for AGNSW), Dominika Duchna (Olympic Park), Sylvia Wei (Olympic Park), Celine Ng, Angela Wang, Sally Kim and Danni Hu. Sarah Kung also won a Digital Art Award and this was presented at their exhibition in Surry Hills. Further highlights include:

1 student selected for TexStyle – Mathilda Ho
State Placings in Visual Arts (5th) and Textiles (4th)

3 students selected for the National Art Schools Intensive HSC Studio Practice – Margaret Chan, Joanne Chen and Clementine Kind.

2012 Hornsby Youth Art Prize – Junior Prize winner – Yingran Sun

**The Arts**
The year started with a highly successful trip to New York and Washington – 24 students and 6 teaching staff over the April school holidays.

We mounted two very successful exhibitions – The HSC Body of Work Exhibition displayed 25 students work and a combined ‘Showcase’ exhibition – involving multiple faculties – TAS, VA, PDHPE, Drama, Music, Film, Visual Arts, Computing, History, Social Sciences and Languages.

All Year 8 students undertake an urban installation art work at Hornsby Fountain Precinct as part of a University of NSW (UNSW) Project titled “Curating Urban Ecologies”.

As a result Ms DeLosa was invited to present the project to the professional art educators association – VADEA’s annual conference at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA); A Sustainability & Design Conference at Customs House and the COFA Talks at UNSW.

Ms DeLosa was invited by COFA to present to Design students the practice of Visual Design in the course offered by HGHS in Years 9 and 10.

**General Minerva Magazine – School to Work Project**
The school was once again given funds through the School to Work Program which allowed us to continue developing the School Magazine. It involved students applying for key leadership positions on the Committee which included Editor and Art Director. Students undertook an application process which mirrored a real world position and these positions were awarded to Sarah Jang and Gina Zheng. The Committee, which also included Shirali Garga, Joumana Elomar, Jenny Chu and Alison Xiao spent the year formulating ideas and an aesthetic for the
magazine and have been working with our biggest committee group to produce the final product. They work with real life problems and opportunities in the coordination and production of the magazine, with the high expectations of the entire student body on them to succeed. This year the committee took on a strong mentoring role. The program has worked extremely successfully.

Showcase

This was our inaugural creative and performing Arts showcase celebrating the work done by students in classrooms. It was a wonderful celebration of many faculties (TAS, VA, PDHPE, Drama, Music, Film, Visual Arts, Computing, History, Social Sciences and Languages) who came together and worked collaboratively on one night. It was a dynamic and engaging evening that saw approximately 160 students performing and a terrific audience of parents and friends cheering them on.

Café Gratitude

Our ongoing commitment with Café Gratitude saw the continued support of Dianne McGuire and Jeanette Pike to the regular Thursday openings of our own Café. Year 9 girls are trained in barista techniques and work the Café with skill and enthusiasm.

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

Mandatory elements of the Aboriginal Education Policy have been integrated into school teaching and learning programs. Each morning the Aboriginal Flag is raised at the front of the school by the school prefects as a daily affirmation of our school’s commitment to reconciliation and social harmony.

Multicultural education

Multicultural education is a strong feature of Hornsby Girls High School. Over 86% of our student population comes from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds.

Our celebration of cultural diversity is exemplified in our Annual Multicultural Fair. This annual event in September 2012 was another triumph of the Hornsby spirit. The wonderful community atmosphere of harmony, fun and cooperation was inspirational.

This ongoing initiative by the P and C Association included colourful food stalls, cultural displays, children’s rides, cultural performances and national costumes. This event continues to grow in strength and diversity. Our coordinator was Mrs Melissa Jones who was supported by a tireless and hard-working organising committee. As in previous years, the 2012 Multicultural Fair was an outstanding showcase of our whole community in action, and profoundly demonstrates that our demonstration of multicultural harmony is not just superficial rhetoric but a very real and inspiring feature of our school.
Student Wellbeing

Hornsby Girls High School’s student wellbeing program aims to deliver programs that develop resilient learners who thrive in a safe and nurturing school. An effective Year 6 into Year 7 transition program includes a 2 day camp at the Baden Powell Scout Centre Pennant Hills and a revised 8 week Peer Support program which delivers key Positive Philosophy elements on a weekly basis. These include mindfulness, positive thinking, gratitude and kindness.

Student seminars are run for each year group covering wellbeing issues such as anti - bullying /positive relationships, Cyber Safety and Digital Citizenship. Year 10 Life and Resilience Week provides opportunities for students to develop personal leadership qualities and self- protection skills through a Fear Management and Self Defence workshop and the Beach Safety program. Camps in Years 7, 9 and 11 give students further opportunities to develop self - esteem and resilience. Year 11 students are supported through the Building Strength program to develop effective study skills and personal coping strategies. The Student Wellbeing team, comprising the HT Student Wellbeing, school counsellor, newly appointed Learning and Support Teacher and Year Advisers support students and provide professional learning to all staff on wellbeing issues. In 2012 students in Years 7-11 completed the Mind matters Student Wellbeing survey. Overwhelmingly students reported that they felt happy and supported at school.

USA Tour 2012 – San Diego - Palm Springs - Los Angeles

A group of 52 Hornsby Girls, 5 staff and 8 parents had a wonderful music tour to California, USA, from 12 – 24 January 2012. Included in the tour were 2 home stays at Monrovia HS and Eastlakes HS, where we were warmly welcomed and shared concerts. At Monrovia HS, Mr Brian Evans, one of the Principal trumpets of the Opera and Ballet Orchestra and Ms Dietz’s husband, and Mr John Thomas, one of the leading jazz and session players in LA, joined with their jazz band to give us a real treat. Maddy Jones Year 9 joined with Mr Evans to perform the trumpet piece, Bugler’s Holiday, at the school concerts.

Other musical experiences included performing outdoor concerts on Hollywood Boulevard and at Disneyland, doing a workshop at California State University with Mr John Carnahan, and doing recordings in a real studio to portions of Disney cartoons, like The Lion King. The players had to wear click track head phones so the music would match the speed of the cartoons.

We were busy with many other activities, including San Diego’s Sea World and Zoo, LA based Madame Tussaud’s Wax Museum, where you could pose with the models of your favourite stars, Universal Studios, Disneyland’s Resort and California Adventure, the Agua Caliente tribe of Palm Springs who took us through its home...
canyon and helped us sample native American culture, an outstanding performance of WICKED, an exciting ice hockey game, where we cheered the Anaheim Ducks to a victory, backed the Green Knight at Medieval Times and, of course, shopping (there was never enough time for shopping)!

We would like to thank all of the parents and staff, whose many hours of preparation made this tour such a success: Mrs Melissa Jones, Mrs Julie Harvey, Mrs Judy Mackellar, Mrs Jeanmaren Sexton, Mr Brian Evans, Mrs Alex Manton and Ms Deborah Dietz. We would also like to thank accompanying teachers and parents: Mr Peter Hatton, Mrs Deborah Hatton, Mr Grant Hughson, Mrs Bonnie Yiu, Mrs Karen Haig. Thank you also to Dr Iris Weingarten and Dr Jocelyn Lin who were our doctors for the trip.


The Talented Writers Group

An initiative of 2012 was the inaugural Talented Writers’ Group created and led by Dr Susan Green. This was designed to celebrate and promote the talented and enthusiastic writers within the school. Students were required to submit three pieces of writing, one of which was a response to the word “Light” by a due date. Students who were interested enough to apply and who could meet the deadline were accepted into the two groups that were formed.

Group 1 included Katie Shead, Isobel Andrews, Louise Chen, Sarah E Thompson, Julia Rheinberger, Nicole Leong and Coco Huang. They chose the central motif “Glass” for their writing.

Group 2 included Alisha Mathias, Sophia You, Karen Cheng, Sunaina Salagame, Maggie Guo, Eeshaa Batra, Sijia Yan, Linda Jian, Wang Wang Xu chose the central motif of “Cake”.

The students met over a number of weeks in Terms 3 and 4 to practice various writing styles, to write in response to different prompts and to peer edit each other’s work. They were enthusiastic and worked diligently to produce a range of writing. They each received a copy of a journal produced.

Nicole Leong Year 8 was the NSW State winner of the Somerset Novella Competition where she composed a 15,000 word novella. This competition was open for students from Year 7 to Year 12. This is an extraordinary achievement for such a young gifted writer.

Public Speaking and Debating

In the NSW Premier’s Debating competition our Year 10 Debating team reached the Regional final. Jehannah May Year 10 was selected for the Regional Debating Team and attended a training camp held at The University of Sydney. We also participated in the debating competition run by the United States Studies Centre at The University of Sydney reaching the semi-finals. In Public Speaking we entered the Rostrum, Plain Speaking, Legacy and the UN Youth competitions. Georgina Oates Year 8 reached the Legacy semifinals. Lily Henke Year 7 reached the finals of the UN Youth competition. In the Zonta International Public Speaking Awards, an organisation that promotes the status of women and their participation in public affairs, Abi Rajkumar Year 11 won the Zonta Award and Aparna Balakumar was Year 11 runner up for the Ku-ring-gai Zone.

High Resolves

As part of our innovative Senior Accelerated Independent Learning Program, our High Resolves group of 22 Year 10 students worked on a community project to highlight the issue of domestic violence. Their project ‘Speak Out’ was communicated to over 300,000 people through speaking engagements, radio, press, and internet coverage. The Year 9 High Resolves group of 35 students’ project boosted self-esteem and promoted positive philosophy for all students with students from Years 7 -11 with the writing of positive messages which were made into acknowledgement cards that now hang on the Trees of Optimism in the school corridor.
**Songwriting Award**

The NSW Department of Education and Communities Song writing Competition was won by Anna Stewart-Yates and Olivia Utharntharm of Year 8. Their song ‘Creating Our Future’ was the theme song for this year’s Education Week and was used across all NSW public schools to help promote the great things that happen in public education.

The school also produced a CD of original songs through the Kool Skools Program. The CD has eleven student songs performed by over 30 performers and singers.

**Progress on 2012 targets**

The school planning policy provides direction for the preparation and implementation of school plans including the identification of priority areas, intended outcomes and targets that are consistent with the NSW State Plan and the Department’s planning documents.

**Target 1**

Increased engagement and motivation of students in class tasks and assignments through the use of gifted and talented strategies including higher order thinking skills, differentiation catering for individual learning needs, open ended questioning and concept based programming.

Our achievements include:

- 30 per cent of all teaching and learning programs have been re-written in 2012 to include explicit gifted and talented strategies and the quality teaching framework.
- The school now has a Gifted and Talented Education Plan that was written in 2012 in consultation with staff and parents which is published on the school website.
- The school employed an academic mentor Dr Jill Forster for six days as a gifted and talented expert to guide and facilitate learning, professional reading and dialogue.

**Target 2**

Students engage in lessons with teachers who are confident in their ability to use gifted and talented strategies and the Quality Teaching Framework to enhance student learning.

Our achievements include:

- Staff undertook at least 6 days of professional learning including School Development Days, external and internal Professional Learning, professional reading, mentoring in 2012.
- Nearly all staff maintained a professional learning log in which they engaged in the targets for 2012.
- Staff are embedding Gifted and Talented Strategies and the Quality teaching Framework into classroom practice.

**School evaluation**

NSW public schools conduct evaluation to support the effective implementation of the school plan. In 2012 our school carried out evaluation of the Mathematics Faculty.

**Mathematics Faculty Review 2012**

**Overview of the Review**

As part of the management review for the Mathematics faculty, samples of students in Years 7 - 10 in Mathematics were asked to complete a survey covering their teaching and learning in the Mathematics classroom.

These areas were:

*Feedback on lessons
*Feedback on their classroom teacher
*Feedback on assessments
*Feedback on the subject

The results of the survey reinforced the variety of different learning styles of our students and their individual preferences of what they think makes learning in Mathematics enjoyable and engaging.

**Lessons**

Overall, it was positive to see that the majority of students felt they had a good grasp of the concepts covered in the year. A majority of students indicated they had learnt new things in Mathematics this year, however, some Year 7 students commented that some of the content
had already been learnt in Year 6. Some Year 10 students commented they would like to cover more of the option topics in preparation for their senior studies. The majority of students agreed that the textbooks and handouts provided contained useful examples and exercises for their learning. Importantly, the overwhelming majority of students found that students in their class showed respect for each other, students helped each other to learn in class and that they could talk to students in their class to help them with their understanding.

Some areas identified by the survey for improvement in 2013 include:
* using more group work, physical activities and interactive technology activities (especially with DER laptops for Year 9 and 10) during the lessons to enhance learning with
* students being provided more challenging material if they wish
* students requiring more time for revision and learning revision skills and systems for consolidating work covered in class
* students wanting more individual assistance from their teacher

**Classroom Teacher**
A very positive result that came from the survey regarded the feedback on the teacher. Overall, our students overwhelming agreed or strongly agreed that:

* The teacher has a good knowledge of the subject taught
* The teacher is well prepared for the lessons
* The teacher provides clear explanations
* The teacher is well organised
* The teacher is approachable
* The teacher provides a positive and supportive classroom environment

In 2013, the Mathematics faculty will endeavour to consolidate on this strong feedback.

**Assessments**
Generally, the students found the assessment notifications were distributed early enough before an assessment, contained the textbook references of the content to be assessed, clearly indicated the content and also the required length of the assessment. One suggested area to improve communication is making assessment notifications available for all students electronically.

The survey also indicated that a majority of students believed the assessment level and length was reasonable, that assessments were marked and returned in a timely fashion and that receiving assessments back highlighted content and skills that needed to be reviewed or revised. An overwhelming majority agreed that the assessments contain a variety of questions with a mixture of basic skills and harder applications.

One area of feedback regarded student stress in examinations. To ameliorate this issue in our Junior years, we will have more non-examination style assessments to allow students to demonstrate their achievement and the faculty will continue to provide these assessment tasks and explore other opportunities to embed non-examination style assessments into the courses. In 2013, the examination periods have been removed for Year 7 and Year 8 school-wide, which should help to address some of the stress students experience with the formal examination period.

**The Subject**
The majority of students agreed that it is important for them to achieve well in Mathematics and felt motivated to achieve in the subject, however a number of Year 10 students disagreed with the statement ‘the things I learn will be useful to know later on’. Despite this result, most students found it easy to learn concepts in Mathematics.

When asked for their motivations for completing work in Mathematics, the most important motivations were:
* This is what the teacher asks me to do
* Good grades lead to other good things I want
* That is what my family expects me to do
* My grades have a personal payoff for me
* I want my family to think I am a good student.

It is interesting to note that all these motivations are not driven by enjoyment or interest of the subject, but driven by wanting to achieve and to please teachers and parents. Intrinsic motivation is an area for future investigation so as to instil an understanding of lifelong learning and the benefits of self-improvement.

The Mathematics Faculty will use the results of these surveys to continue to evaluate faculty processes, policies and practices. This will ensure we continue to provide quality teaching and learning for our students.

**Westpac Mathematics Competition**

Overall, the school achieved 13 High Distinction awards, 153 Distinction awards and 252 Credit awards. The students who achieved the High Distinctions were:

Year 7: Puen Yeung, Daphne Wang, Fiona Jiang
Year 8: Betty Wu
Year 9: Ivy Yu, Soo Yeun Lim, Tavishi Arora, Andrea Wright, Janice Yung, Morgan McKenzie
Year 12: Jacqueline Chen

**Australian Mathematics Intermediate Olympiad**

In August, a small group of Year 9 and Year 10 students worked on 10 questions over 4 hours. The students needed to provide an answer that is a number between 0 and 100. Working may then be considered if the numerical answer is incorrect.

Irena Astono (Year 10), and Dha Hyun Cho, Morgan McKenzie and Keerti Paida (Year 9) achieved Credits in this very difficult competition.

**Australian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiad**

Each Year 7 Mathematics class have taken part as a team in the series of 5 problem solving Olympiads. Each Year 7 class team performed in the top 25% all teams. 66 students achieved scores in the top 25% of all individual scores, and 21 of these students achieved scores in the top 10%.

The following students achieved the Highest Individual Score in their team: Vicky Ma and Nishka Tapaswi (7K), Nazli Bahtigur, Solina Liang, and Rebecca Wang (7Q), Song En Yeung (7T) and Sonal Arora, Sylvia Lee, Liesl Yang (7X).

**Mathematics Challenge For Young Australians Challenge Stage 1**

19 students in March participated from Years 7,8 and 9. They had 3 weeks to solve 6 problems.

Gizem Bilgin Year 9 achieved a High Distinction, scoring full marks on each problem!

Shristi Mehta, Nadeesha Pallegedera and Solina Liang Year 7 gained Distinction certificates.

Samantha Tang, Vicky Ma, Nishka Tapaswi, Stella Oh Year7, Cherie Chen and Cherita Zhu Year 9 gained Credit certificates.

**Mathematics Challenge For Young Australians Challenge Stage 2**

Gizem Bilgin, Abisaini Padmasiri and Cherita Zhu (Year 9), Cheryl Chan (Year 8) and fourteen Year 7 students worked on problems over Term 2 and Term 3, submitting their solutions for 8 or 12 problems. These students worked on their booklet of problems independently and learnt a great deal.

Nishka Tapaswi, Nadeesha Pallegedera and Jenna Yim (Year 7) achieved High Distinctions and Stella Oh, Cynthia Zhuang, Puen Yeung (Year 7) and Gizem Bilgin, Cherita Zhu (Year 9) achieved Distinctions.
Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2012 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school. The use of student surveys was used on a variety of occasions to determine student satisfaction with the school and also to determine whether students were feeling anxious about their learning. Information from these surveys and in consultation with the students, teachers and parents was developed to produce Mindfulness sessions during roll-call to be implemented in 2013.

Professional learning

The primary target was to increase staff knowledge of gifted and talented strategies and the quality teaching framework. This was done to encourage and promote classroom practices that engaged all students at all levels.

Teachers also engaged with the emerging Australian National Curriculum and with new technologies integrated to support improved student performance and engagement including a class set of iPads.

Professional learning in the area of student and staff wellbeing focussed on Mindfulness. All these programs were underpinned by efforts to consolidate the ethos of positive philosophy now fully embedded within the school culture.

School planning 2012—2014

The school planning policy provides direction for the preparation and implementation of school plans including the identification of priority areas, intended outcomes and targets that are consistent with the NSW State Plan and the Department’s planning documents.

School priority 1

Outcome for 2012–2014

For the school to collect data on student wellbeing and implement strategies and programs to address areas of student need.

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- 100% of students have an improved positive sense of well being and are engaged, resilient, well balanced learners who feel safe and secure in the school environment.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- Students complete surveys (‘pre’ and ‘post’) on – resilience, sleep patterns, healthy life style, mental health, motivation and engagement and resilience.
- Promotion of a wide range of leadership opportunities for students at the school and community level
- Students participate in Mindfulness sessions during extended roll-calls on every second Friday to reduce anxiety

School priority 2

Outcome for 2012–2014

100% of staff members are engaged in the effective and relevant use of technology, supported by reliable and sustainable technology systems.

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Develop a technology plan for the purchase and implementation of new software and hardware. This will be published on the school website.
- Purchase of a class set of iPads for use in Year 7 English classes and subsequent professional learning for staff and the implementation of teaching and learning strategies to facilitate project based learning activities

Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- Ensure ongoing Information and Communication Technology Support is available to staff and students
- 100% of staff attending Professional Learning in Technology whether it be internally or attending DEC approved courses.

About this report

In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analysed other information about the school’s practices and student learning outcomes. The self-evaluation committee and school planning
committee have determined targets for the school’s future development.
Ms Angelina Chua, Student Representative
Ms Annabel Ellis, Student Representative
Mr Ross Horsburgh P and C President
Ms Julie Simpson SASS Representative
Mr Doug Marshall Head Teacher Mathematics
Mr Jon Re Head Teacher Science
Mrs Debra Black Head Teacher HSIE
Mrs Margaret Foster R/Head Teacher English
Mr John Burley Head Teacher Administration
Mrs Kathy Marriott Head Teacher Student Wellbeing
Mrs Faye Roberts A/Head Teacher Languages
Ms Nicole DeLosa Head Teacher Visual Arts
Ms Susan Davenport PDHPE Coordinator
Mrs Jan Lang Sports Coordinator
Ms Erin Coggins Prefect Coordinator
Ms Dianne McGuire TAS Coordinator
Miss Kerry Wilson History Coordinator
Dr David Turner Careers Adviser
Mrs Nicki Johnston Choir Coordinator
Ms Jo-Anne Drayton R/Deputy Principal
Mrs Jeanmaree Sexton Deputy Principal
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Parents can find out more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the reports and have the opportunity to provide feedback about these reports at: