Hornsby Girls High School
Annual School Report 2013
School context

Hornsby Girls High School is a selective school with 722 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.

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 of Hornsby Girls High School.

By working together students, teachers, parents, caregivers and community members have achieved great outcomes for public education.

Hornsby Girls High School students participating in Harmony Day 2013

As an academically selective school Hornsby Girls High School maintained its excellent performance in the 2013 HSC with Aparna Balakumar and Karen Lin receiving awards for their First Place in NSW in Society and Culture and General Mathematics. Additionally Jenny Wei received the top ATAR of 99.95 one of only sixteen females in a total of 48 students who received the highest ATAR possible in 2013.

Aparna Balakumar and Karen Lin HSC 2013

The staff is regularly recognised for their service to the community. For instance in 2013 our Deputy Principal Mrs Jeanmaree Sexton was awarded a Rotary Pride of Workmanship Award by Hornsby Rotary. She has been providing wonderful service to our community since 1998 as Deputy Principal and previously as Head Teacher Welfare. Additionally in this capacity she has maintained a great record of superb results for her HSC Economics classes with one of her students achieving a first in the state in HSC Economics. Her broader commitment to the school shows her understanding of educating the
whole child, evident in particular in her leadership of the Welfare Team as Head Teacher, as Band and Orchestra Committee Representative and also in her supportive role with every graduating Year 12 group through the school. She has also provided professional support and guidance to staff over many years.

Our students, staff and community highly value Jeanmaree’s commitment.

HGHS staff at the Rotary Awards 2013

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

P & C message

P & C

2013 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.

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 2013

Student Representative Council

Many exciting activities and ideas were initiated through student leadership to enrich the life of our school in 2013. 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 are willing to take on 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 organising activities which create such a great unity and harmony among our students in all grades.

In 2013, the Student Representative Council 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.

Margaret Cai and Esther Barnes SRC 2013

Prefects

The 2013 Prefects, led by Angelina Chua and Annabel Ellis, along with the Senior prefects Melanie Mui and Cecilia Li maintained extraordinary standards of involvement in both the school and the wider community.

The 2013 Prefect body were committed to the social justice and welfare of others 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. These donations went towards assisting and supporting those in our community who would have previously gone without during the Christmas period.
- A number of Prefects attended Hornsby RSL’s ANZAC service and took part in the march along the closed Pacific Highway along with other veterans, cadets and school students.
- In Term 2, the Prefects auctioned themselves, as ‘Genies for a Day’. They managed to raise over $430 for the Make A Wish Foundation. This foundation contributes to making a difference to children and young people with life threatening medical conditions. Granting wishes has a lasting impact on physical, mental and emotional well-being.
- Throughout the year, the Prefects also coordinated the Annual ‘Blood Drive’.
- In Term 4, the Legacy Badge Week saw our Prefects involved with selling badges in the local Hornsby area. As a Prefect body they raised an amazing $1800, these funds providing much needed support to the widows and dependents of the soldiers who have been killed whilst on active service for Australia.

The Prefects also coordinated several events throughout the year promoting community participation and 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 this year. It was held at the end of Term 3 and raised over $800 for Stewart House, who provide short term respite care for public school children in need, giving them a break from their current circumstances.

Student information

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

Student enrolment profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>620</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>700</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>722</td>
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### Student attendance profile

**Student attendance rates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>State DEC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
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### Retention to Year 12

**Retention to Year 12 (SC to HSC)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School SEG</th>
<th>SC06-HSC08</th>
<th>SC08-HSC10</th>
<th>SC10-HSC12</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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### Post-school destinations

#### Number and Frequency of University Offers

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<th>Course</th>
<th>US YD</th>
<th>UN SW</th>
<th>U T S</th>
<th>M U</th>
<th>A N U</th>
<th>US / U T S</th>
<th>U W S</th>
<th>A C U</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Humanities</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science /Tech</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psych/Soc Wk.</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Arts</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vet &amp; Bio Vet.</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined degrees</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. Offers</td>
<td>46(38)</td>
<td>41(34)</td>
<td>4(3)</td>
<td>13(11)</td>
<td>10(8)</td>
<td>2(2)</td>
<td>4(3)</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Year 12 students undertaking vocational or trade training

TAFE delivered Vocational Training (TVET) courses have not featured very strongly in 2013 at Hornsby Girls High School with only three Year 12 students enrolled (a little more than 2%).

*Aparna Balakumar with the Hon Adrian Piccoli NSW Minister of Education*
Year 12 students attaining HSC or equivalent Vocational educational qualification

100 per cent of our students completed the HSC.

Workforce information

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

Workforce composition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal(s)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal(s)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Teachers</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teacher(s)</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Reading Recovery</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning and Support Teacher(s)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of ESL</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Counsellor</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>61.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Australian Education Regulation, 2013 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce.

No member of staff has identified as Aboriginal Australian.

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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Institute of Teachers Accreditation</td>
<td>25</td>
</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.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of financial summary</td>
<td>30/11/2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>570,004.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>480,574.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>116,269.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>1,013,853.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>24,995.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>644,363.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>2850059.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>207,239.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>276,867.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>342,998.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>13,925.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>10,890.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>104,709.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>140,700.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>291,038.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>111,334.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>55,694.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>589,864.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>27,323.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>2172586.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance carried forward</strong></td>
<td>677473.66</td>
</tr>
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A full copy of the school's 2013 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meeting of the parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2013

School Carnivals

Swimming Cup – Coghlan House

Cross Country – Stephens House

Athletics Cup – Stephens House

Agnes Brewster Cup for Overall House Participation – Stephens House

Senior Sportswoman of the Year – Clementine Kind

Abi Rajkumar with the Governor Marie Bashir
Junior Sportswoman of the Year – Sarah Zeng

Swimming Carnival

The Annual School Swimming Carnival was held at Parramatta Pool on Wednesday 20th February.

Age Champions
12yrs  Kiri Kerr
13yrs  Olivia Se
14yrs  Soo Bin Lee
15yrs  Michelle Lokugamage
16yrs  Carrina Lee
17yrs  Melva Yiu

Champion of Champions – Carrina Lee

Zone Swimming Carnival

29 students represented Hornsby Girls at the Zone Swimming Carnival.

2013 Overall Results
1st – Cheltenham – 792 points
2nd – Riverside – 787 points
3rd – Asquith – 712 points
4th – North Sydney – 698 points
5th – Hornsby – 555 points
6th – Macarthur – 189 points

Regional Swimming Carnival

Kirr Kerr (Year 7) and Melva Yiu (Year 12) represented the Sydney North West Zone at Regional Swimming Carnival.

Cross Country Carnival

The Annual School Cross Country Carnival was held at Normanhurst Boys High School on Thursday 2nd May.

Sub Junior Champion – Sabrina Utharntharm
Junior Champion – Sherry Zhang
Senior Champion – Clementine Kind

Zone Cross Country

63 girls across Years 7-12 represented Hornsby Girls at the Zone Cross Country Carnival held at Macquarie University Sport Grounds on Friday 31st May.

Overall Results
1st – Cheltenham
2nd – Riverside
3rd – Hornsby
4th – Asquith
5th – North Sydney
6th – Macarthur

Outstanding Individual Performances
Clementine Kind (Year 12) – 1st Place 18 years
Bella Vick (Year 11) – 1st Place 17 years
Sabrina Utharntharm (Year 7) – 4th Place 12 years

Regional Cross Country

The following girls competed at the Regional Cross Country held at Gosford Racecourse on Thursday 13th June: Sabrina Utharntharm (7), Sherry Zhang (10), Elizabeth Paulino (10), Isabella Vick (11), Annelise Nguyen (11), Melva Yiu (12), Clementine Kind (12), Elle Turner (12), Grace Park (12).

Outstanding Individual Performances
Clementine Kind placed 3rd in the 18 years age group.
Combined High Schools Cross Country

Clementine Kind (Year 12) placed 11th at the Combined High School Cross Country Carnival and her team placed 1st in their age division.

Athletics Carnival

The annual school Athletics Carnival was held at Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre on Tuesday 21st May.

Age Champions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Champion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12yrs</td>
<td>Sarah Zeng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13yrs</td>
<td>Cherie Pan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14yrs</td>
<td>Jessica Xu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15yrs</td>
<td>Katherine Du</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16yrs</td>
<td>Maddy Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17yrs</td>
<td>Bella Vick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Champion of Champions 100m – Maddy Jones

Zone Athletics Carnival

70 girls across Years 7-12 represented Hornsby Girls at the Zone Athletics Carnival that was held at Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre on Friday 14th June.

Overall Results

1st – Cheltenham
2nd – Riverside
3rd – Asquith
4th – Hornsby
5th – North Sydney
6th – Macarthur

Regional Athletics Carnival

The following girls were selected to represent at the Regional Athletics carnival held at Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July.

Lauren Lancaster (7), Sarah Zeng (7), Mary Bajo (8), Jasmin Borosovszky (10), Nicole Fatt (10), Maddy Jones (10), Heidi Liu (10), Annelise Nguyen (11), Isabella Vick (11), Clementine Kind (12)

CHS Athletics Carnival

Maddy Jones and Clementine Kind competed at the Combined High Schools Athletic Championships between Thursday 5th – Saturday 7th September.

Noni Cole (Year 10) – Represented Sydney North Team in the NSWCHSSA Girls Cricket State Championships in February.

Academic achievements

NAPLAN

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.

Year 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)
Year 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9)

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
and enter the school name in the *Find a school* and select *GO* to access the school data.

**NAPLAN Year 7 - Literacy** (including Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation)

**Percentage in bands: Year 7 Reading**

**Percentage in bands: Year 7 Writing**

**Percentage in bands: Year 7 Spelling**

**Percentage in bands: Year 7 Grammar & Punctuation**
NAPLAN Year 7 - Numeracy

Percentage in bands:
Year 7 Numeracy

NAPLAN Year 9 - Literacy (including Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation)

Percentage in bands:
Year 9 Reading

Percentage in bands:
Year 9 Spelling

Percentage in bands:
Year 9 Grammar & Punctuation
Higher School Certificate (HSC)

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).
The Class of 2013 – Our students performed brilliantly in the HSC. The following results reflect not only their excellent work ethic but also the superb teaching of our expert teaching staff and wonderful supportive parents. The following are some of the highlights from the HSC Class of 2013.

- **Jenny Wei** received the highest ATAR possible of 99.95. Only 48 students across NSW achieved this ATAR score. Of these 48 students, Jenny was one of 16 girls across NSW to achieve this outstanding result.

- **Twenty five students** achieved ATARs of 99 or above. Congratulations to the following students - Aparna Balakumar, Elsie Cheung, Jessica Dai, Pavani Divakarla, Alpa Gupta, Annie He, Sophie Ho, Cimaine Hoang, Annie Hu, Seyoung Jang, Alexandra Jina Lee, Cecilia Li, Ann Wen Lim, Lisha Lobo, Angela Ni, Sylvia Park, Praba Sekhar, Yingran Sun, Elaine Tao, Jenny Wei, Alison Xiao, Rong Yan, Amanda Zhang, Charry Zhang and Vicky Zhang.

- **First Place in Course**
  Aparna Balakumar, Society and Culture (and Sol Ensol Award Recipient from the Society and Culture Association) and Karen Lin, General Mathematics

- **Nine students** achieved a top twenty place in various subjects. Our Top Achievers are - Aparna Balakumar, 1st in Society and Culture Karen Jiaying Lin, 1st in General Mathematics Jenny Wei, 2nd in French Continuers Jenny Wei, 2nd in French Extension Chloe Wong, 2nd Information Processes and Technology Praba Sekhar, 5th in Economics Georgia Burley, 6th in General Mathematics Sophie Ho, 6th English Extension 2 Alison Xiao, 8th in
History Extension, Annie Angelina He, 11th in Business Studies

- Thirty one students achieved Premier’s Awards (10 units including English with a HSC mark of 90 or more) - Aparna Balakumar, Eunice Chan, Jessica Dai, Pavani Divakarla, Michelle Fu, Luyue Jessica Gao, Alpa Gupta, Sophie Ho, Annie Hu, Jessica Lee Hughes, Seyoung Jang, Reena Marie Jarabe, Clementine Kind, Alexandra Jina Lee, Felicity Lee, Cecilia Li, Ann Wen Lim, Karen Jiaying Lin, Lisha Lobo, Ivana Marinov, Melanie Mui, Angela Ni, Sylvia Park, Praba Sekhar, Elaine Liya Tao, Jenny Wei, Alison Xiao, Rong Ice Yan, Melva Yiu, Amanda Zhang and Charry Zhang

- 410 merits (or Band 6 results) from 123 students. This is the highest number of merits received by the school. Further every student who studied Food Technology, Information Processes and Technology, Textiles and Design, French Extension and German Continuers received a Band Six or Merit for those subjects.

- Abi Rajkumar received a Certificate of Distinction for Outstanding Research in the Personal Interest Project in Society and Culture and received the prestigious Tuckwell Scholarship to ANU

- In Music Extension 1 Unit Michelle Castro achieved the perfect score of 50/50

- Annabel Ellis was selected for TexStyle the NSW showcase for Textiles major works projects.

- Yingran Sun and Karen Lin were selected for Art Express.

Congratulations to all members of the HSC class of 2013.

**Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)**

**HSC Results for 2013**

1st in the State for Aparna Balakumar in Society and Culture

Distinction for Abirami Rajkumar for her Personal Interest Project in Society & Culture

5th in the State for Prabha Sekhar in Economics

8th in the State Alison Xiao for History Extension

10th in the State for Annie He in Business Studies

Outstanding results were achieved across all HSIE subjects, congratulations to all of our students.

**Other Achievements for 2013**

- Alexandra Motbey placed 3rd in the Australasian Plan Your Own Enterprise Competition.
- Mrs Boden won the Department of Fair Trading Award for Commerce teaching.
- Mr Hindmarsh and family and their charity ride through Europe raising funds for Clinica Verde in Nicaragua.

**Accelerated Geography**

A new course of Accelerated Geography was launched in 2013 and so far the students are achieving excellent results and tackling the key challenges facing humanity, such as population growth, environmental degradation and climate change.

**Excursions and Events in HSIE**

Aspects of life in the medieval and ancient world were brought to life for Year 8 History during Ancient and Medieval Day 2013. Students discovered how people fought with medieval weapons and just how heavy chain mail was. There were lots of wonderful costumes, from hessian sack dressed peasants to beautiful
maidens. Even some plague affected peasants were there to join in the fun.

At the Museum of Ancient Cultures at Macquarie University our **Year 9 Elective History** students got close up with artefacts from Pompeii as part of their studies of Ancient Greece and Rome.

The 60s and 70s also arrived at Hornsby Girls in the form of Vietnam Day and **Year 10 History** looked groovy in their paisley prints, headbands and flowing dresses. Vietnam War Veterans took the girls through their personal experiences of that time and students saw historical artefacts and explored the issues surrounding the Vietnam War.

For the **Year 10 Elective History** girls a sombre and insightful visit to the Sydney Jewish Holocaust Museum enriched their empathy and understanding of the events that led to the genocide in Europe as part of WWII.

Senior Modern, Ancient and Extension History students attended excellent and informative history lectures and Year 11 Ancient History students attended an archaeology seminar.

Years 9 and 10 **Commerce** continue to take advantage of our excellent location in terms of commercial activities. The Year 9s made a number of visits to Westfield to look at marketing and supermarket persuasion. Year 10 Commerce went to the local Subaru dealership to investigate buying a car. A range of guest speakers were also brought in to give expert advice to our students and inspire them in their choice of future careers.

**Year 11 Business Studies** students took on Normanhurst Boys in a quiz night this year, there was lots of fun and pizzas to be had and hopefully some learning as well. Students also combined with **Economics** to visit the Sydney Markets at Flemington for an early morning look at the wholesale markets for fruit and vegetables.

**Year 11 Legal Studies** was involved in practical advocacy through the Mock Trial interschool competition.

The UTS Enterprise Challenge week in combination with Normanhurst Boys was an outstanding success in 2013. UTS supported our students through the provision of prizes and tutors, who were young and enthusiastic Business Studies students from UTS. Academic objectives included collaborative learning, teamwork, risk taking and problem solving to create, design and synthesise unique business solutions.

At the end of 2013 we said farewell to Mr Hindmarsh who has moved to Merewether High School and Miss Wilson, who retired. The expertise of both of these staff will be missed.

Thanks to the HSIE staff for all of their wonderful work in providing so many excellent educational activities for our students. Mrs Boden, Mr Clarke, Mrs Dunn, Mrs Dunnett, Mrs Eakins, Mrs Goodwin, Mrs Gilmore, Mr Hindmarsh, Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Sexton and Miss Wilson.

**Languages**

‘French, German, Japanese and Spanish Beginners are thriving at HGHS’

**Scholastic Achievements**

**2013 HSC**

There were two languages represented in the 2013 HSC. In French and Japanese the results were significantly above the state mean in all areas. French Continuers marks overall were very high and this translated into the marvellous Band 6s for 5 of the 6 students. Jenny Wei came second in the state in both the Continuers and
Extension French courses. This is especially noteworthy as she has never been to a French speaking country.

**Australasian Languages Certificates**

Year 9 and Year 11 French, German, Japanese and Spanish students participated in the Australasian Languages Certificate and scored exceptional results. Four students scored 100% in one of the 2 sections of the tests. Overall in Languages there were 41 High Distinctions in the Year 9 certificates and 19 in Year 11 with 65 Distinctions in Year 9 and 33 in Year 11. We in the Languages Faculty could not be prouder.

**French Competitions**

One of our students Sophie Ho won the prestigious Concours La Perouse, an Australia wide competition, and she was invited, together with the Principal to an award ceremony to recognise her scholarship in the Alliance Française tests.

**Overseas Language Study and Cultural Awareness Trips**

**German Sister School**

It was exciting to welcome students from our German Sister School for a 4 week home stay in March and April. Then in exchange, a group of 12 students went on an extensive Germany and Austrian trip for 4 weeks from late September until the middle of October. Thanks go to Frau Arch and Dr Turner for the wonderful experiences, sights, cultural enrichment and language development that this trip provided.

**Japanese Sister School**

Our Japanese Sister School, Shukutoku Yono hosted 20 HGHS students in April for a week providing opportunities to see many famous sights and experience everyday school and home life before we travelled for the next week to Hiroshima, Miyashima, Kyoto and Tokyo. Mrs Black, Dr Turner and Mrs Roberts also immersed themselves in the traditions, sights and wonder that is Japan.

**French Exchange**

Year 11, Amy Thomas experienced a European winter with a French family. She went to a French school, went skiing, and of course improved her skills in the language.

**German Scholarship**

Jessica Dai won the SAGSE scholarship to Germany where she spent 10 weeks over last summer attending a German school and immersing herself in German culture and language.

**Technology in Languages**

A new venture for this year, with thanks for support and assistance from the P&C, has been the introduction of the computer based self-learning programme, “Language Perfect”. This has proved to be popular and a fun way to learn vocabulary, recognize script and consolidate some grammar.

The DET school laptops are invaluable as a resource for individual research and enrichment. Authentic, original sites provide stimulus material and insight into the language for the 4 languages offered here.

Smartboards are in all the Languages classrooms and used extensively.
Moodle supports course content, listening activities, suggestions for web/internet research among many other applications.

**School Activities**

**Year 8 Day**

In Term 3, all Year 8 French, German and Japanese students had a special Languages Day. The Trivia, Hat Parade and the Treasure Hunt were intellectually challenging and the morning tea of sushi and French croissants much enjoyed. The taiko drumming, French workshop and German painting were all exciting.

**Year 10 Day**

In June, all Year 10 students welcomed 90 students from Nagoya. Activities included Aboriginal Culture and dancing, Aboriginal Art, bush dancing and a fully catered, hot lunch. There were many friendships forged on that day.

**Multicultural day**

On Multicultural Day French and German classes ran food stalls with the help of parent and student volunteers. It was great to get together and help the P and C raise funds for us to use!

**Excursions and extracurricular activities**

Peer tutoring and mentoring in Japanese has been offered to students for many years. The Year 11 students voluntarily help younger students with their studies on a weekly basis after school.

Year 10 French attended a day of immersion into the language at Macquarie University. The Year 12 French students finished off the year with a wonderful game of boules (French bowls) near the school oval.

Two French girls from Lyon spent a day with the French classes in August.

In the Easter holidays Simone Luca, Year 11, spent a week in northern NSW, speaking French every day with 8 other students. Amy Thomas, Year 11 enjoyed the opportunity to go to a “Stage” at Maison St Claire in Murwillumbah during the September holidays.

Year 10 **German and History** elective classes made their annual visit to the Sydney Jewish Museum. Year 11 had a **Japanese Language Immersion Day** at the Japanese House set up in Kirrawee high school.

The Transition lesson in December for Year 6 Waitara students, **Leap into Languages**, was entertaining and fulfilling for all.

Overall, students doing languages had many opportunities to practise the language, experience culture and food, and just generally enjoy the study of French, German, Japanese and Spanish at Hornsby Girls High School.

Alliance Française winners: Amy Thomas and Simone Luca. (La Pérouse winner Sophie Ho was absent.)

83 percent of the Year 12 French cohort achieved Band 6 - Jenny Wei (2nd from the right, coming 2nd in the State in French Continuers and Extension).
Mathematics and Computing Mathematics

Australian Mathematics Competition

All students from Years 7 to 10, and interested Year 11 and 12 students, entered in the Australian Mathematics Competition.

Overall, the school achieved 10 High Distinction awards, 156 Distinction awards and 240 Credit awards. The students who achieved the High Distinctions were:

Year 7: Keerthi Pilli

Year 8: Vicky Xu, Jenna Lim, Solina Liang

Year 9: Betty Wang, Louise Zhang, Christie Chan

Year 10: Joanna Chan, Naomi Huynh

Year 11: Justina Sun

Maths Challenge for Young Australians

Challenge Stage

Eleven students from various year groups elected to take part this year in a competition that allows students to further explore their interest in mathematics. The students enjoyed competing in the Challenge and achieved excellent results, especially Josephine Tosley and Stephanie Lau (both Year 7), and Solina Liang (Year 8) who received Credits and Nishka Tapaswi (Year 8) and Gizem Bilgin (Year 10) who received High Distinctions.)

Enrichment Stage

15 students worked on problems over Term 2 and Term 3, submitting their solutions on a weekly basis in their respective categories. Students worked on their booklet of problems independently and learnt a great deal over the Challenge.

Anna Lin and Oindrila Deb (Year 7) and Daphne Wang (Year 8) received Credit awards; Stephanie Lau and Sarah Liu (Year 7) and Jenna Yim (Year 8) received Distinction awards; and Nishka Tapaswi...
(Year 8), Gizem Bilgin and Cherita Zhu (Year 10) received High Distinction awards.

**Australian Mathematics Intermediate Olympiad**

In August, a small group of 3 Year 9 and Year 10 students worked on ten questions over four 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. Daniella Hyun (Year 10) achieved a Distinction Award.

**Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiads**

Year 7 also competed, both individually and as a class team, in the Australasian Problem Solving Mathematics Olympiad (APSMO). This series of five separate papers aims to build strong problem solving skills and develop higher order thinking skills.

We had 32 students enter into the competition. The girls finished in the top 25% of schools entered in the Olympiad.

18 girls finished individually in the top 25%, with 4 of those finishing in the top 10%: Ena Nam, Sarah Joung, Claire Zhou and Stephanie Lau. Stephanie Lau also received the award for the highest individual score.

**Computing**

Years 9, 10 and 11 Computing students entered the Australian Informatics Competition

Year 9 students achieved 3 Distinctions and 8 credits. Year 10 students achieved 3 distinctions and 5 credits. Year 11 students achieved 3 credits.

Two former students of the school, Karla Burnett and Vanessa Ung assisted with the UNSW C Course tutorials run at the school during semester 1 that some of our computing students attended. Both these girls were outstanding Information Processes and Technology and Software Design and Development students and are now completing Computer Science degrees at UNSW.

**Higher School Certificate Results**

The HSC results for Mathematics and Computing were outstanding in 2013.

Five Year 11 students accelerated and completed the Information Processes and Technology HSC course – Chloe Wong, Sophie Ge, Shirali Garga, Ifrit Choudhry and Ying Jie Ni. All students achieved Band 6, and Chloe Wong achieved 2nd position in the state.

The table below shows the band summaries for the top three bands for the Mathematics courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Band 6</th>
<th>Band 5</th>
<th>Band 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Mathematics</strong></td>
<td>68.75%</td>
<td>18.75%</td>
<td>12.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mathematics</strong></td>
<td>52.45%</td>
<td>40.98%</td>
<td>6.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mathematics Extension 1</strong></td>
<td>59.26%</td>
<td>38.27%</td>
<td>1.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mathematics Extension 2</strong></td>
<td>58.97%</td>
<td>41.03%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was pleasing to see that General Mathematics, Mathematics Extension 1 and Mathematics Extension 2 all had significant increases in the percentage of students achieving the highest band, with Mathematics Extension 2 increasing from 39.4% of students in the highest band in 2012 to 59% of students in the highest band in 2013. In General Mathematics, Karen Lin achieved first in state and Georgia Burley achieved 6th in state.
PDHPE

Year 7 – 10 PDHPE:

PDHPE contributes significantly to the cognitive, social, emotional, physical and spiritual development of students. It provides opportunities for students to learn about and practise ways of adopting and maintaining a healthy, productive and active life.

Students from Years 7-10 are taught the PDHPE syllabus which contains four strands; Self and Relationships, Movement Skill and Performance, Individual and Community Health and Lifelong Physical Activity. The integration of these strands in theory and practical lessons ensures that PDHPE issues are addressed in contexts that give them meaning and purpose. In 2013 Year 7 focused on ‘Strong Self’ and ‘Healthy Lifestyles’. Year 8 studied ‘Self and relationships’ and ‘Risky Business’. Year 9 studied ‘Looking After Myself’, ‘Diversity’ and ‘Sex, Drugs and Rock’n’Roll’. Year 10 studied ‘Mastering Life’ and ‘Choosing Wisely’. Problem solving, effective communication, interacting with others and decision making are some of the many skills that are developed by the PDHPE syllabus.

Sport Years 7-11:

The compulsory sport program continued in 2013 for Years 7-10. The program aims to provide students with the opportunity to play a wide variety of sports within competitive and recreational sports and contribute, through participation, to the social, cognitive, physical, emotional and aesthetic aspects of the student’s development.

Year 7 participated in an integrated sports program which included sports such as Endball, Soccer and Cricket which prepared them for participation in the Year 7 Games Day that took place in Term 3. The students competed against Asquith GHS, Macarthur GHS, North Sydney GHS and Riverside GHS.

Year 8 Sport involved students rotating term by term in Netball, Softball, Soccer and Aquatics. Year 8 also participated in a Games Day where they too competed against the schools listed above in netball, volleyball and soccer.

These annual events provide students with the opportunity to perform in a competitive environment and develop skills such as sportsmanship, interacting with others, decision making, problem solving and team cohesion.

Year 9 participated in the Zone Interschool Sports Program during Terms 2 and 3. Students trial to be placed in a representative team for Netball, Oz Tag, Soccer and Softball to compete against rival schools that make up the Zone. All teams performed exceptionally well with HGHS finishing second overall in the 2013 Zone Grade Competition. This is an excellent result considering HGHS is the smallest school in the Zone. In Terms 1 and 4 students participated in Tennis, Table Tennis, Badminton and Basketball on school premises.

Year 10 participated in “Life be in it” Recreational Games such as Volleyball and Ultimate Frisbee, Zumba Fitness, Indoor Futsal and Boxing. Year 10 also attended the Surf Educate Day as part of their Life and Resilience Program. 100 Year 10 students were bused 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 broader range of activities. Senior students have also made use of cardio equipment and strength training apparatus located in the Fitness Room to develop and maintain healthy physical activity levels.
Extra-curricular sports programs:

Approximately 500 students have participated in the voluntary extracurricular sport program in 2013. 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>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>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>Years 7/8,9/10</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oz Tag</td>
<td>School Internal Competition</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taekwondo Do</td>
<td>HGHS + Tournaments</td>
<td>30</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>Yoga</td>
<td>HGHS</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pierre de Coubertin Award

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

2013 Recipient - Clementine Kind

Clementine 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.

Science

Australian Science Olympiads

This year, a number of girls sat the qualifying exam for the Australian Science Olympiads. Three Year 11 students were tutored in Physics by Dr Stokes and thirteen Year 10 students were tutored by David Aubusson, a 3rd Year Chemistry student from Macquarie University who was working with us as part of the Macquarie University PACE program. The exams were extremely challenging and provided a great learning experience for all who participated. The following girls were awarded with Credit certificates:

Physics – Kay Song


Training for the Olympiads will occur in 2014 and we will be looking for talented student in Years 9, 10 and 11 to become involved.

RACI Titration Competition

A team of three Year 11 students qualified for the National finals where Carissa Yu attained a Gold award and Elisa Lai and Kay Song attained Silver awards.

ICAS Science Competition

470 students sat the competition attaining a total of 16 High Distinctions, 116 Distinctions, 125 Credits,

RACI Chemistry Quiz

20 entrants - 4 High Distinctions, 11 Distinctions, 5 credits. Jasmin Borovszky was awarded a plaque for attaining 100 %

Rio Tinto Big Science Competition

4 entrants - 2 High Distinctions, 1 Distinction
STANSW Young Scientist and BHP Billiton Competitions

Anna Stewart Yates of Year 9 attained 3rd place in the 2013 BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards – Investigations. She travelled to the Intel International Science and Engineering Awards Phoenix, Arizona, USA as an International Delegate to the Broadcom MASTERS competition. Certificates of Excellence: Keerti Paida, Martine Illing-Kelly

Certificates of High Achievement: Andrea Wright, Jasmin Borsovsky, Malki Senanayake, Sampavi Kanagalingam

Certificates of Commendation: Katherine Allen, Tian Du

Science and Engineering Challenge

A team of 30 Year 10 students participated in the Science and Engineering Challenge coming 2nd in the regional round.

University Research

We have had ongoing participation in a research project with Sydney University using computer modelling to develop conceptual understanding of complex systems in relation to climate change in Year 9.

Robotics

Two teams of students competed recently in First Robotics Competitions. The First Lego League Team “We bought a Jeep” competed in the regional round of the “Nature’s Fury” against many other schools on Saturday November 2nd. The girls worked extremely hard over a long period of time including before school, during lunchtimes and over the weekends, displaying great teamwork, initiative and perseverance. These students represented themselves and the school with distinction and I am really proud of their efforts.

A team of Year 9 and 10 students “The Bright Eyed Deers” represented the school in the First Technical Challenge. This competition involves the construction of a remote controlled robot to play a challenge game with and against other robots. This team showed great skills in organisation and teamwork and worked extremely hard in preparation for the event. Their robot design was elegant and reliable and functioned very well in the competition. Their teamwork and dedication was recognised by attaining the “Inspire” trophy for the day.

HSC Results 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Band 6</th>
<th>Band 5</th>
<th>Combined band 5/6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>91.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>83.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Biology – maintained a very high performance level.

Chemistry – maintained a high level of performance in top two bands, with a pleasing ongoing trend of increases in Band 6 percentages.

Physics – Maintained a high level of performance and attained the highest percentage of Band 6 ever.

ESSA Results

Excellent, especially compared to the rest of the state and other selective schools. Strong growth trend in Band 6 and Combined Band 5/6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band Level</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Other Selective Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td>41.5 %</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>36.2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>55.9%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>53.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined 5/6</td>
<td>97.4%</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
<td>89.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Environmental Groups

The StreamWatch group under the mentorship of Mrs Tarran continued to regularly monitor the water quality of the creek running through Neal Park Hornsby.

The school’s environmental group FRED (Friends of The Environment Earth and Dirt) arranged a number of activities to raise awareness of environmental issues within the school community including Earth Hour Week, Clean Up Australia Day and Plant a Tree Day. Three girls led workshops at the OZgreen Youth Leading the World Congress.

Technological and Applied Studies

Every student who studied Food Technology and Textiles and Design for the 2013 Higher School Certificate received a band 6 (90 or above). This was well above the State average.

Annabel Ellis’ HSC Major Textiles Project was selected for TexStyle 2013, an exhibition of the best Textile Items and Supporting Documentations in the State.

The Year 10 Food Technology class entered the McCormick Flavour Forecast Design Challenge 2013 and were the NSW/ACT winners. They won some great prizes for the TAS Department including
- The Wusthof Essentials Classic 6-piece Block Knife Set
- Five piece Green Pan Rotterdam Collection that includes three fry pans, one wok and one saute pan
- A set of McCormick spices for the classroom

Each of the Year 10 Food Technology students will also receive a $50 McCormick gift bag.

In Term 4 2013, Year 9 Textile Technology students worked on a charity project where they designed and created soft toys, dolls and games for children in South Africa, living in extreme poverty or with HIV/AIDS. They studied a unit on sustainable design and used recycled fabrics and donated clothing for the toys and games. The class displayed some of their toys at the Hornsby Mall to raise awareness in the local community and to raise funds for postage.

The Year 9 Textile students also participated in the Technology Educators Association Textile Art Challenge. The theme ‘sweet treats’ inspired many creative projects. Amy Xu and Zahin Chowdhury’s designs were selected to enter the competition.

Café Gratitude

Our ongoing commitment with Café Gratitude saw the continued support of Dianne McGuire and Jeanette Pyke 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.

Visual Arts

Academic

3 students were preselected for Art Express – Yingran Sun, Karen Lin, Joanne Chen (Yingran and Karen were both selected)

All HSC students achieved 89 or better in Visual Arts with 81% receiving a Band 6 and an average
mark of 93 – all results were considerably higher than state average.

4 students selected for the National Art Schools Intensive HSC Studio Practice – Louisa Chen, Grace Sun, Priscilla Chee and Annabelle Buda. They produced some incredible work and exhibited at the National Art School in Paddington. All the girls received outstanding results for this course.

Olivia Kong was a finalist in both the Seeing Stars Art Prize and the Doodle for Google Competition where she ultimately became the National winner. She won a Chromebook and Tablet for herself, 10 tablets and $10,000 worth of technology for the school and a trip to Antarctica for Ms DeLosia. She was presented with her award at the National Gallery in Canberra.

3 students were selected for Operation Art Exhibitions – Anusha Pillai (7), Janette Ng (9) and Joanne Sun (9) with Joanne winning the competition. She was presented with her award at the Art Gallery of NSW.

The Arts

We mounted very successful exhibitions – The HSC Body of Work Exhibition displayed 19 students work across TAS and VA with the evening also showcasing HSC Music performances.

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

Year 9 Visual Design class submitted lighting installation works to the BEAMS festival in Chippendale and their artist submissions were successful. They were the only high school students to be selected as part of the festival in September.

Year 8 continued their Hornsby Installation Program and produced some engaging work for an appreciative general public.

General

Minerva Magazine

The 2013 School Magazine is bigger and better than ever. An outstanding committee of approximately 60 students were capably led by Shirali Garga, Louise Chen, Irena Astono, Chloe Wong and Binita Shah.

Record of School Achievement (RoSA)

As an academically selective school it is rare for students to leave Hornsby Girls High School prior to attaining a HSC. To date only one student has applied for a RoSA because she moved overseas to live.

Other achievements

2013 Jump Rope for Heart Inter House Competition

Throughout Week 2 of Term 3, Hornsby Girls High participated in the 2013 Jump Rope for Heart program, one of Australia's most popular physical activity and fund-raising programs in schools. Students across all years were seen jumping to music every lunchtime on the basketball courts. The week built up to the final ‘JUMP OFF’ day on Friday July 26 which has become part of our annual school house competition.

Year 11 house, sport and music captains were able to raise a total of $240 during the ‘Jump Off’ at lunchtime, contributing to an overall total of $342! All money was donated to the Heart Foundation of Australia, an organisation which has fought heart disease for over 50 years.

Dance 2013

This Year we had two Dance Groups the Hip Hop Group and the Contemporary Group made up from students from Years 7-12. Both Groups successfully auditioned for inclusion in the 2013 Sydney North Dance Festival and performed at two night time performances over one week to a very high standard.

The Hip Hop group was choreographed by Year 12 student Erica Penollar and directed by Mrs Wallwork
The Contemporary Group was choreographed by Year 11 student Aurora Crain and directed by Mrs Wallwork.

Aerobics 2013

This year we had 30 students competing for HGHS in aerobics. The students went to two state trial competitions which qualified them for the State Championships. At State Championships all students then qualified for the Australian National Championships which were held in Brisbane. We had some excellent results over the week of competition at the Nationals especially our level 4 trio which was placed 2nd at Nationals (Marianne Cuasay Year 12, Celine Yao Year 12 and Yvonne Chuk Yr 10), 2nd place for Aurora Crain Year 11 in the Level 6 individual athlete division (Aurora was also selected into the Australian Development Squad) Cherie Pan and Isabelle Parui Year 7 placed 5th in the level 3 pair division and Adela Yip Year 11 3rd in the level 3 individual.

Aurora Crain was nominated for Athlete of the Year and Mrs Wallwork was nominated for running Club of the Year at the 2013 Gymnastics NSW awards night.

Significant programs and initiatives

Student Wellbeing

Positive Education

Friday Focus Report

Friday Focus was a new welfare program for 2013 where the whole school was focused on an activity every fortnight in roll call to help students build strengths and understand more about themselves and how they can flourish and learn. Each term students experienced a range of activities aimed at enhancing their wellbeing.

Term 1 focus was Mindfulness – why it’s important and how and when to use it

Term 2 focus was Sleep – why it’s important and how to improve practices

Term 3 focus returned to Mindfulness – continued practice

Term 4 focus was Positive Philosophy specifically Gratitude and Random Acts of Kindness

The program successfully achieved its objectives and will continue in 2014 to ensure students are equipped with the skills necessary to cope with life events, learn to their potential and flourish as individuals.

The Gardening Club

The Gardening Club had about 20 members, mostly from Year 7 and Year 8. They met every Tuesday lunch. They grew herbs and vegetables: thyme, coriander, mint, chives, parsley, spinach, snow peas, carrots, lettuce and radish. The garden beds were handed over to the TAS department at the end of the year, as they have developed a unit of work on Sustainable Agriculture for Year 8 in 2014.

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 2013 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 2013 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.

School planning and evaluation
2012—2014

School evaluation processes

NSW public schools conduct evaluations to support the effective implementation of the school plan. The processes used include a school management review and a faculty review:

Faculty Review: Music

In 2013 the Music Department of HGHS conducted a survey on student and parent satisfaction based on Junior Music in the classroom in Stage 4. Feedback was accumulated from over 100 students who participated in the Mandatory course in 2013, and approximately 20 percent who continued into the Elective Course for 2014. These results listed below will assist the Music Staff in improving learning outcomes for the Junior Course.

There were five main areas for investigation:

- Lessons content and outcomes
- Teachers knowledge of course and ability to engage students in learning
- Communication of assessment tasks and notifications
- General opinions and motivation
- Resources, facilities and IT in Music to improve teaching and learning

This was a valuable exercise that enabled staff to gain first hand insights into the Junior Course, and provided discussion points to improve Teaching and Learning in Music. Feedback in general was extremely positive. Some highlights from the survey included:

- 83 per cent of students felt they had a good grasp of the concepts taught
- Approximately 90 per cent of students felt their teacher had good knowledge of the topics studied
- Approximately 75 percent of students felt they were able to demonstrate skills learnt in assessments
- Approximately 80 percent of students felt they gained useful and valuable information from Music
- 85 percent of students thought the Music Faculty was well equipped with instruments and technology

HSC Music

2013 witnessed some of the strongest HSC results to date. Music Extension was one of the biggest and most successful cohorts ever at HGHS – 80 per cent of Extension students achieved the top band, with three students receiving ENCORE nominations. The entire combined cohorts of Music 1, Music 2 and Extension achieved results in the top two bands.

With over 10 extracurricular ensembles available for students, Music at HGHS continues to flourish. Reviews of the faculty assist the staff to maintain our excellent reputation within the school community.

School Management Review
School Environment and Sustainability Review

A full school environmental audit was undertaken in conjunction with a group of Macquarie University Environmental Science students as part of the Macquarie PACE project. The information has been collated into a report that presents a number of recommendations for action that will form the framework for reducing the school’s environmental footprint into the future.
A group of students assisted Hornsby Council Environmental Sustainability Team to perform a Water Audit of the school. A Smart meter has been connected to the main water supply to provide real time monitoring of water consumption. The council report contains a series of recommendations for action and many of these recommendations will be put into place in 2014. The council, in partnership with Sydney Water, has provided us with some hardware and money that can be used to put these recommendations into action.

School planning 2012—2014: progress in 2013

School priority 1
Gifted and Talented Education
Outcomes from 2012–2014
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.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:
A minimum of 70% of faculty programs have G&T and QTF explicitly stated and embedded in classroom practice by the end of 2013.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014

- Engage in collaborative teacher professional learning on each of the dimensions / elements of the Quality Teaching Framework. Engage in teacher professional learning on gifted education
- Professional Learning Team to coordinate teacher professional learning to further develop literacy, Quality Teaching practices, Gifted and Talented Strategies and the use of technology in all classroom learning.
- Continued analysis of teaching and learning programs for Stages 4, 5 and 6 to incorporate Quality Teaching strategies and Gifted and Talented education in the light of the implementation of the Australian Curriculum for NSW in 2013 and the commencement of teaching the Australian Curriculum in NSW from 2014

School priority 2
Staff Professional Development
Outcomes from 2012–2014
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.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:
Minimum 6 days of professional learning logged by all teaching staff members (School Development Days, externally and internal provided Professional Learning) by the end of 2012

Minimum 7 days of professional learning logged by all teaching staff members (includes School Development Days) by the end of 2013

This resulted in our superb HSC results listed on pages 10-12.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Improve understanding of Leadership, Positive Education, Student Welfare, Quality Teaching and Gifted and Talented, Action Learning initiatives, Coaching conversations through workshops, collegial conversations, professional reading.
- Promote an understanding of the nature of school improvement and the contribution that can be made to school improvement by using DEC documents such as: SMART data (NAPLAN, ESSA, HSC), BOS RAP, Quality Teaching discussion paper and support documents, Gifted and Talented Policy and Literacy and Numeracy policy.
- All staff to have access to BOS RAP to undertake HSC item analysis

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 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.

Parent/caregiver, student and teacher satisfaction

In 2013, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

In 2013 the school sought the opinions of our Year 8 parents in regards to the implementation of the Hornsby Girls High School Year 9 Laptop Program for 2014. In May 2013 the Principal spoke to all Year 8 parents and students at the Year 8 Information Evening about the proposed implementation of the Laptop Program including timeframes, costs and benefits. The same information was sent to the parents via email which sought their feedback. In June 2013 the Principal spoke at the P and C meeting which focused on the new program to be implemented in 2014. Further updates were provided in the TORCH (the school newsletter). A parent committee also investigated possible options for the laptop program in 2014 and reported to the P and C meeting in August. This committee found that they agreed with the implementation proposed by the school. At all stages of the proposal parents were able to provide feedback to which the school responded. Due to the open nature of the discussion and the school’s willingness to maintain lines of communication, the implementation of the Laptops has proven to be a great success. Based on this the school intends to continue with this laptop program in 2014.

Program evaluations

Background

The school Gifted and Talented program was extended through the incorporation of Project Based learning for Year 7 students over four days in July. This was done to promote creativity and critical thinking. These skills are increasingly important for 21st century learning. Students were placed into groups of four and asked to consider the concept of Flight and to develop a presentation to be shown or demonstrated to all Year 7 and their teachers at the conclusion of the four days.

Findings and conclusions

The Project Based Learning Program was very successful. Students were surveyed and 90 per cent of students enjoyed the teaching and learning experience. Five per cent of students were undecided and a further 5 percent did not find it a valuable experience. Supervising staff were impressed with the high level of engagement in the project once the initial change from regular classes. Parents were invited to attend the presentations on the last day. These presentations took the form of plays, narratives, research based writing and drawing. Parents were most impressed with the presentations.

Future directions

The coordinators of this program Mrs Deb Black Head Teacher HSIE and Mrs Jo-Anne Drayton Deputy Principal are continuing to develop this project based on student, staff and parent feedback. The program will be implemented in the same form in 2014.

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.

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
Dr Susan Green Head Teacher English
Mrs Deb McClure R/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
Mrs Amanda Wallwork Aerobics Coordinator
Ms Erin Coggins Prefect Coordinator
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Parents can find more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the report and take the opportunity to provide feedback about the report at:

Cover art “Looking at the Stars”
by Olivia Kong Year 9 2013