

105 YEARS
1920-2025



CAMBERWELL
GIRLS
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL

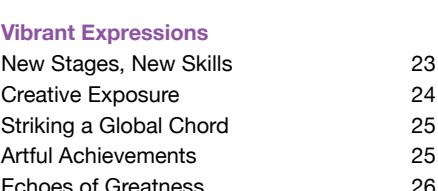
CamLife

Issue 80 ◀ Winter 2025



INTEGRITY ◀ COMMITMENT ◀ RESPECT ◀ HOPE ◀ COURAGE

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On the cover:
Barbara Richmond (1962) alongside her great-niece Audrey N (Year 9) at our Founders' Service, St Paul's Cathedral.

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Principal's Perspective



Recognition for Service to Girls' Sport

On behalf of the Council and the entire School community, we are proud to acknowledge Debbie's outstanding contribution to Girls Sport Victoria (GSV). At a recent event marking GSV's 25th anniversary, Debbie was recognised for her six years of service on the GSV Committee of Management, including her role as Vice President. In honour of her leadership and advocacy for girls' sport, Debbie was presented with a pennant as part of GSV's ongoing tribute to those who have shaped the association.

Nikita Weickhardt
Chair of Council

Our 105th anniversary year provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our history and show gratitude to those who have strived to enable the School's vision, alongside sharing the exciting learning opportunities for our students today. This winter edition of CamLife highlights these aspects of the vibrant life of Camberwell Girls over the past semester.

Students at Camberwell Girls have demonstrated leadership, creativity and community spirit across a wide range of events and activities. The Galentine's Gala brought together students from Years 7 to 12 for a joyful celebration of friendship, while Diversity Week showcased the power of student-led initiatives to foster inclusivity and understanding. The Junior School Captains' Values Project encouraged students to reflect on the meaning of our School values, and the Katalyst Foundation partnership saw much-needed uniforms arrive in Fiji – small actions that remind us of the impact we can have beyond our own community.

This semester has also been marked by significant moments in our 105th anniversary celebrations. The Generations Breakfast and Gala Ball were standout events, bringing our community together in recognition of the many connections that shape Camberwell Girls. A commemorative plaque was installed at the base of the Moreton Bay Fig Tree – an enduring symbol of our School's story – while the special Founders' Service at St Paul's Cathedral in the CBD was a fitting tribute to the generations of students, staff and families who have contributed to our community over the past 105 years.

Creativity has been at the heart of many learning experiences this semester. In the By Design section of the magazine, students and staff share stories of how creative thinking has helped them solve problems, express ideas, and explore new perspectives – demonstrating the value of a Camberwell Girls education which nurtures curiosity and critical thinking.

In Ribbon Memories, we reflect on the rich legacy of music at Camberwell Girls – an enduring thread in our story for over a century. It is fitting too, that this year we mark 60 years since the merger with Ormiston, Australia's oldest girls' school. The traditions and values shared through that merger continue to shape our community today, particularly in the Junior School, where music, creativity and community are celebrated in so many ways.

As we reflect on these experiences, I am grateful for the energy, care and generosity our students, staff, families and alum community bring to the School. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping our students thrive.

Debbie Dunwoody
Principal

By Design - Creativity

Creativity in Motion

Creativity is more than artistic expression – it is a mindset that fuels innovation, encourages curiosity, and drives deeper engagement with the world. At Camberwell Girls, we embed creative thinking across our curriculum, empowering students to explore ideas, take risks, and bring original thinking to complex problems.

In this section, our students reflect on learning experiences that challenged them to think differently – to design, invent, interpret and express. Our teachers share how carefully crafted units and activities helped students build confidence, develop empathy, and discover new ways of seeing and doing.

Puzzle Pressure



The clock was ticking, and the pressure was building – we had two hours to complete as many pieces of a 500-piece puzzle as possible, and the entire Year 8 cohort was competing. Our group launched into the task without a strategy. But we could all sense the panic setting in. We needed a plan!

We had to think quickly. We split the work – some of us focused on edge pieces, some on the middle, and we helped one another by chasing down pieces, handing them back and forth, and trading sections. It wasn't just about doing puzzles; it was about teamwork and making each second count.

The highlight? We clicked. The puzzle-solving momentum was infectious, and before long we were blazing through pieces. We didn't just solve puzzles – we tackled a stressful project and developed amazing teamwork skills. That moment taught me that creativity isn't just about the grand idea – it's about collaborating and leveraging one another's strengths, and our hard work paid off. We came in second place and left with newfound skills.

Ishana S
Year 8



Fake News, Followers, Filters and Feeds

In Year 9 English, students began exploring media as both a cultural influence and a form of argument. This unit marked the entry point into argument analysis, a foundational skill in Senior English. Students examined how opinions are constructed and communicated through media texts, building their ability to interpret persuasive devices, language choices, tone and audience.

A key feature of the unit was its creative design. Titled *Fake News, Followers, Filters and Feeds* it was designed to promote critical thinking and civic awareness through creative learning. Developed by English Teacher Christa Cook and championed by our English Department, the unit challenged students to move beyond passive media

consumption, encouraging them to actively question how media shapes perception and public discourse.

The sequence began with a collage activity inviting students to reflect on their digital habits and patterns of influence. From there, they investigated algorithms, political advertising, satire, and the role of echo chambers – building a more nuanced understanding of media and its impact.

The unit culminated in a student-led podcast project, where students scripted and recorded original episodes addressing contemporary media issues. This final task combined analytical rigour and creative expression in a multimodal format.

By embedding creativity within a critical inquiry framework, the unit helped students grasp key concepts of structure, purpose and audience – preparing them to engage thoughtfully and ethically with the media-rich world around them.

Secret Language



When I joined the GSV Junior Volleyball team, I thought it would just be about hitting the ball over the net. I didn't expect it to be like a puzzle where every piece, every player – had to move perfectly in sync.

In one of our early games, it felt like we were all speaking different languages. Balls dropped, calls clashed, and no one knew where to be. That's when we had an idea. At training, we created our own 'volleyball code' – quick hand signals and nicknames for plays. Instead of shouting "Mine!" or "Switch!", we used actions like a quick finger point. It was like turning our team into a secret club.

The next game, everything changed. We were smoother, faster, and most of all, we were having fun. It felt like we were dancing on the court – everyone in rhythm.

That experience taught me that creativity isn't just for art or writing – it's also for sports, problem-solving, and leadership. Now I look for ways to bring creative thinking into everything I do, on and off the court.

Angelina N
Year 7

Collaboration Is Key



A time at school when I used creativity was in the developing stages of a School Captain Project with Neesha N about our School Values. We had a very straightforward and simple design that lacked spirit and expression, which challenged us to think outside the box. We decided to open our original idea to some of our peers and teachers, and through collaboration, we eventually formed new ideas.

We started by setting up a table of brainstorming materials for outside of class time, and then gave a stack of post-it notes to each class teacher. We added school emblems, a title, and cursive lettering. By working with other students and harnessing creativity together, we were able to improve our project.

Audrey C
Year 6

Metamorphosis Through Art



As part of Upskill, I ran a creative masterclass with my VCE German students, exploring Franz Kafka's *Die Verwandlung* (*The Metamorphosis*). It is a surreal and quite dark story about Gregor Samsa, who wakes up one morning to find himself transformed into a "monstrous insect." I wanted students to really feel the atmosphere of the story, so we combined drawing, film, music, and reading extracts from the text.

We also used Roberto Maján's illustrated interpretation as a starting point, which really helped students visualise key scenes – Gregor's shocking transformation, his growing alienation, and the quiet tragedy of his fate. It was wonderful to see how the students responded: some created intricate drawings, while others experimented with 3D designs, imagining Gregor's new form.

Alongside the creative work, we discussed Kafka's biography and how his difficult relationship with his father influenced the themes in *The Metamorphosis*. Students explored ideas around work, identity, and social expectation – all topics that still resonate today.

This project was one of those times where I could see students really connecting with a text, both creatively and intellectually. It was a rich and rewarding experience for all of us.

Ingrid Beck
German Teacher



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Imaginative Build



In Term 1, we were challenged to design a 3D house on a platform called Tinkercad for our Energy Expo. This process was extremely difficult, and my group and I struggled to build a decent design that wasn't too complicated. We searched online for designs we could possibly build, but we soon realised we didn't have much time, so we decided to use our imagination.

We started drafting floor plans and models in our inquiry books, and our original complex design evolved into a creative and futuristic monument. The trickiest part of our design was placing, securing, and moving the shapes around on Tinkercad to create our architecture.

Using our creativity was extremely enjoyable, as we got to decide what went where. Creating a 3D house was an inspiring experience.

Aarza B
Year 6

Senses Of Love



A time I used creativity to express an idea was when writing a poem for Mother's Day. We had to write words about our mum and draw pictures.

The poem was about using our senses. For example, "My Mum smells like perfume," and "My Mum feels like a warm hug." I stuck it on a coloured piece of paper and wrapped it up with a bow. My mum said she really liked it when I gave it to her.

Scarlett O
Year 1

Family Symbols



A time I used creativity to express an idea was when I created my family symbol. Murrundindi's son, Pallyan, taught us about the Indigenous family symbols, then we all made one.

I used the Indigenous symbols for mother, father and daughter to show my family. I wanted to include my dog as part of my family. I created a paw print to include my dog. My dog is a boy, so I put it on the same side you would put sons or brothers.

Scarlett X
Year 1

“

The creativity and problem-solving skills the students showed were just incredible.”

Anna Clarkson, Sustainability Coordinator,
Geography & Mathematics Teacher

Designing for Change



I was working with our Year 7 students in a Fast Fashion Design Competition – an initiative aimed at getting students to think about the environmental impact

of the fashion industry and how we can make more sustainable choices. The challenge was to repurpose old sports uniforms into new products, and it really sparked some great discussions about fast fashion and its consequences.

We partnered with Unwanted FC, a company that specialises in upcycling unwanted football kits and gear into sustainable fashion and accessories. They gave us industry insights and inspired the students to think creatively. It was fantastic to see how quickly the students got into the challenge – they were brainstorming, sharing ideas, and bouncing off each other during the hands-on workshops.

Two ideas stood out so much that the business has actually taken them on for sampling – a wash bag made from socks and redesigned shin guard straps.

The creativity and problem-solving skills the students showed were just incredible. For me, this experience highlighted the importance of giving students real-world challenges and encouraging them to think sustainably. It is exciting to see them empowered to create change.

Anna Clarkson

*Sustainability Coordinator,
Geography & Mathematics Teacher*

Interdisciplinary Investigation

In Junior School, interdisciplinary investigations are purposefully designed to build the knowledge, skills, and understanding that help students become critical and creative thinkers.

As part of the Year 4 curriculum, students engaged in a cross-curricular learning sequence that integrated Science and Humanities to explore the concept of forces through a real-world lens. Developed by Year 4 Teacher Anjali de Quadros and Junior School STEAM Teacher Kylie Rose, the unit combined scientific inquiry with civic understanding to promote deeper engagement and practical application.

Students began by exploring the question, What makes a responsible citizen? They investigated the role of Local Councils,

the process of community consultation, and how individuals can contribute ideas to shared public spaces. This learning connected directly to the redevelopment of Norway Reserve – the park behind the Secondary School.

In science, students examined different types of forces through reading, modelling, and experimentation. During an excursion to the park, they evaluated existing equipment and analysed how forces operated in play structures.

Using a design thinking process, students worked in teams to propose new playground equipment. Their models demonstrated an understanding of forces, materials and design choices – linking science and citizenship in a meaningful and applied context.



Follow Your Passion



History Meets Heart

Year 12 student and School Debating and Public Speaking Captain Aashi S has a way with words – and that was solidified when she was named the Secondary School Winner of the Francis Forbes Society Australian Legal History Essay Competition. The Society, dedicated to promoting the study and understanding of Australian legal history, receives essay submissions from students across the country each year, encouraging them to reflect on the historical development of legal issues and events.

Aashi's award-winning essay, *Timelapse on Australian Citizenship*, was a powerful reflection on her personal journey to Australian citizenship. Through a compelling narrative, she explored broader themes of belonging and identity, offering both historical insight and heartfelt storytelling.

VCE Legal Studies teacher Mohita Sahni described Aashi's distinctive approach: "She adopts a unique time-lapse structure, examining the evolution of citizenship policies from the Naturalisation Act 1903 to more contemporary legislative changes." She added, "Aashi's essay offers insight into her own reflection on what it means to be Australian, while paying homage to her Indian heritage."

This national recognition celebrated not only Aashi's research and writing talents, but also her ability to communicate powerfully and meaningfully to the wider community.



Leading with Influence

Year 12 student Amanda L has been a dedicated and vibrant member of the Camberwell Girls community for many years – a commitment recently recognised by Deakin University, who named her a recipient of the prestigious Deakin Young Influencers Award.

A natural leader, Amanda served as Taylor House Technical Captain in 2024 and Taylor House Captain in 2025. Her leadership and enthusiasm extended beyond the School gates, where she also gives back as a passionate and committed tennis coach in her local community.

The Deakin Young Influencers Award celebrates high-achieving, motivated students who make outstanding contributions to their school and wider community. In recognition of her achievements, Amanda received \$5,000 to support her first year of study at Deakin University.



Honour Roll Recognition

Camberwell Girls proudly celebrated the inclusion of two graduates from the Class of 2024 and one current Year 12 student in the prestigious Premier's VCE Awards Honour Roll. This annual event recognises the state's top-performing students, with three of our students acknowledged at this year's ceremony.

From the Class of 2024, Xinning (Cindy) Gan received a Study Award for English as an Additional Language, and Sara Rowland was honoured with a Study Award for Extended Investigation. The School was also thrilled that current Year 12 student Olive C received a Study Award for Theatre Studies.

Olive's mother, Susan Clohesy (Class of 1992), also received a Premier's Award for a similar subject, Drama, during her time at Camberwell Girls – a special link between generations of Camberwell Girls students.

With only a select number of Study Awards presented per subject, these accolades place each student among the very best in Victoria.

The diversity of study areas in which our students were recognised reflects Camberwell Girls' strong teaching standards and broad academic offerings. Xinning, Sara and Olive's exceptional achievements are a testament to their dedication and continue to inspire our School community.

“

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Beaming With Pride

Camberwell Girls is proud to celebrate the selection of four exceptional students for the VCE Season of Excellence – the highest number from the School in recent history. This prestigious annual festival highlights outstanding work by VCE and VCE VET students across a range of disciplines, including design, multimedia, research, and the performing arts.

Laura Tong, Kisa Liang, and Erica Wang, Class of 2024 graduates, were recognised for their excellence in Extended Investigation, Creative and Digital Media, and Literature, respectively. Olive C, current Year 12 student and 2025 School Drama Captain, was selected for her outstanding Theatre Studies performance examination.

Those students' teachers and mentors were equally proud. Creative and Digital Media teacher Kim Perkins attended the Top Designs exhibition at Melbourne Museum, where Kisa's work was showcased – one of only seven statewide in her subject. Extended Investigation teachers Debbie Henson and Adriana Szili supported Laura at Top Talks at the State Library, with Laura being one of just four students chosen across Victoria.

At the Melbourne Recital Centre, Olive performed her monologue at Top Class Theatre Studies, watched by Head of Drama and Performing Arts Keira Lyons. English teacher Kate Manners celebrated with Erica at the launch of Top Scribe's inaugural publication, in which her piece is one of only 20 pieces selected from 200 applications.

Celebrating Excellence

At our annual Celebration Assembly, the School welcomed back recipients of the Principal's Awards for Academic Excellence from the Class of 2024. This formal event recognised the remarkable VCE achievements and ATAR results of our recent graduates, alongside their diverse contributions to the School community.

We were delighted to have three of the Class of 2024's top ATAR recipients – Katherine Mason, Sara Rowland and Sophie Chang – and their families at this special assembly. These alum were presented with a medallion and certificate in recognition of their outstanding academic accomplishments.

All three spoke eloquently, reflecting on their time at Camberwell Girls and sharing pearls of wisdom alongside relatable anecdotes about their secondary school experience. A common theme in their reflections was the importance of finding balance between academic and co-curricular pursuits, and taking time to rest, reflect and recharge.

The assembly was a heartening celebration of excellence, inspiring the next generation of Camberwell Girls students to pursue their passions and strive for their personal best.

Hitting the Air Waves

The LIVE FM Radio Hosting Program was the perfect platform for a group of budding broadcasters to develop their storytelling skills. Hosted by community radio station LIVE FM, the program offered hands-on workshops where students learned to produce and host their own radio segments.

Seventeen students from Years 7 to 11 eagerly embraced the opportunity, interviewing six remarkable individuals with diverse life experiences. Through the process, they sharpened their questioning, active listening and oral communication skills.

A highlight was an interview with Shima Ibuki, Maling Ward representative on the Boroondara Council, who shared her journey into local government and the passion that drives her community work. Students also spoke with three current Camberwell Girls parents, who offered honest reflections on relocating to a new city and launching small businesses before successfully expanding them internationally.

Year 7 Coordinator Kaitlin Barr inspired students with her dual roles as an AFLW umpire and educator, shedding light on the challenges and rewards of balancing both careers. Old Grammarians Jacqueline de Mamiel from the Class of 2023 captivated her audience with stories from her time at Camberwell Girls, her advocacy as a Little Dreamers ambassador, and her new chapter as a University of Melbourne student.

This experience empowered students to find their voice, connect with real-world stories and build the confidence to communicate with curiosity and purpose.

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This experience empowered students to find their voice.”





Future Ready

As a student, it can be difficult to imagine what life in the workforce is really like. What is it like to work for a large corporation? What is it like being an entrepreneur, or starting your own business? These questions were answered for five Year 11 and 12 students who shadowed HEX CEO and Founder Jeanette Cheah for a day of mentoring and work immersion in Melbourne's CBD.

Ency C, Ruby E, Sahana A, Charlotte H and Amelie T experienced the benefits of Camberwell Girls' partnership with HEX by stepping into the world of business. They explored a variety of workplaces – from large corporations like ANZ and Ernst & Young to smaller start-ups such as Give A Grad A Go, Mental Jam and Crazy Ideas College. The group toured co-working spaces at The Commons QV and visited StartSpace, a start-up community within the State Library of Victoria.

Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to meet and speak with female industry leaders who shared insights into their diverse career journeys. The experience offered each student valuable perspectives, practical knowledge and a renewed sense of purpose – equipping them with the confidence and curiosity to navigate their own future pathways in the world of work.



“

Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to meet and speak with female industry leaders.”

Young Scholars

Year 11 students Rithanyaa P and Annie G were accepted into the prestigious Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program at The University of Melbourne. This two-year academic enrichment program, which receives over 2,000 applications each year, is designed to support high-achieving secondary school students to reach their full potential.

Offering a unique and exclusive head start to university life, the program provides a range of opportunities, including events, activities and revision lectures at The University of Melbourne.

Rithanyaa and Annie's acceptance into this program not only reflects their academic excellence, but also highlights their leadership, active citizenship and commitment to community service – qualities that shaped their successful applications.



Science Stars

Camberwell Girls students demonstrated remarkable success in the Australian Science Olympiad at the end of 2024. As a result of their outstanding science results, sixteen Year 11 (now Year 12) students were selected to participate in the Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Earth and Environmental Science Olympiads.

These students joined approximately 1,000 peers nationwide in tackling the demanding two-hour examination, which featured university-level content that challenged participants to interpret and apply complex scientific concepts.

All Camberwell Girls participants performed admirably, with special recognition to Sunny S, who earned a High Distinction in Biology, and Dina M, who received a Distinction in Earth and Environmental Science – a subject that she does not study.

These achievements highlight the depth of learning and adaptability of our students, and their capacity to excel in challenging academic environments.



Leading by Example

Picnic with Purpose

A sea of picnic rugs, lively stalls and the sound of laughter set the scene for this year's Galentine's Day Gala. Led by our Year 12 students, the event brought the entire Secondary School together on the oval for a day of shared fun and friendship.

From a Taylor Swift sing-along by a talented student band to the buzz of the chocolate toss and three-legged races, the energy was contagious.

"The Galentine's Day Gala was a fantastic opportunity for students in the School community to catch up, connect and bond," School Captains Abigail L, Nysa R and Angela L reflected. "There was a real sense of

joy and friendship during the event, and we hope that it sets the tone for a year full of fun moments."

Every dollar raised from the day's activities went to the Heart Foundation – proof that while love was in the air, it was also in action.





Together in Diversity

Diversity Week at Camberwell Girls was a vibrant celebration of connection, learning, and inclusivity. Proudly led by Ash L and Sophie P from the Wellbeing Committee at the Secondary School, the week shone a light on the richness of our community, embracing gender, sexuality, religion, culture, neurodiversity and lived experience.

From the energy of the silent disco to the quiet creativity of making infinity cubes, rainbow bracelets and beautiful heart-shaped fidget toys in the MakerSpace, there was something for everyone. The Fig Tree

Café buzzed with students and staff sharing words in eleven languages, including Auslan and Afrikaans.

The week culminated in a rainbow-themed free dress day for IDAHOBIT, as students proudly made pronoun badges and joined together in a powerful show of acceptance.

Diversity Week was a reminder that our differences are something to be embraced – they are what make our community stronger, together.

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A vibrant celebration of connection, learning, and inclusivity.”

Our Values, Our Voices

What do our School values really mean? That's the question Junior School Captains Audrey C and Neesha N asked the Junior School students and staff as part of their first collaborative leadership project of the year.

Across the community, students and teachers wrote words and sentences that captured the spirit of each value – integrity, commitment, respect, hope and courage. A large installation in the Junior School Hall displayed the words 'bravery,' 'hero,' and 'fearless' which represented courage. Thoughtful phrases such as 'don't be scared to try new things' encouraged everyone to embrace challenges.

Audrey and Neesha's project was a beautiful reminder that the strength of our community lies in the values we share.



nǐ zài wǒ shēng mìng zhōng 你在我生命中

tài duō de gǎn dòng
太多的情感



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Joyful Connections

Language and Culture Week brought colour, music and flavour to the heart of our Secondary School. Beginning with a cultural dress day, students and staff celebrated the rich diversity of languages and traditions represented within our School community.

Throughout the week, food and music created moments of connection, from German pretzels and dumplings to a K-Pop Just Dance competition.

At Assembly, Year 7 sang in Chinese, Year 11 French students performed a light-hearted Petit Nicolas play, and Year 10 German students hosted a lively quiz show alongside our visiting exchange students.

The week concluded with the annual Culture Concert, a rich showcase of talent and storytelling from across the School. It was a vibrant close to a week of celebration, that brought our School closer together through language, identity and the joy of learning from one another.





“

Food and music created moments of connection.”

Walking Together in Reconciliation

Reconciliation Week united students and staff in a meaningful celebration of culture, connection, and shared learning. From ELC to Year 12, Camberwell Girls embraced the 2025 theme, Bridging Now to Next, through storytelling, performances, and reflection.

In the Junior School, all students took part in a Smoking Ceremony at the Yarning Circle, led by Wurundjeri educator Pallyan. Each child received a gum leaf as a symbolic ‘passport’ of being welcomed to country. Pallyan also introduced students to the Wurundjeri seasons and vocabulary through language, storytelling, and dance. A highlight for the Junior School students was learning the Buln Buln (Lyrebird) dance.

In the Secondary School, a Reconciliation Week Assembly featured a moving performance from Murrundindi, who played his didgeridoo alongside our Chamber Choir



and musicians. First Nations students Leah B and Leah P shared stories, traditions, and language from their cultures. At a lunchtime presentation, students received Reconciliation netball bibs and AFL jumpers from special guest, First Nations netballer Elisa Butterworth-Gonebale, before proudly wearing them at GSV matches and the Worawa Sports Carnival.

From storytelling and song, to boomerang-throwing workshops and a competitive match of Marngrook against Camberwell Grammar, Reconciliation Week provided an opportunity to learn from the past, celebrate culture in the present, and walk forward together with respect and purpose.



Useful in Service



Threads of Opportunity

Second-hand Camberwell Girls uniforms have found new homes in communities across Fiji, thanks to the ongoing partnership between the Parents and Friends Association (PFA) and the Catalyst Foundation.

Last year, pre-loved items that could no longer be sold through the Second-Hand Uniform Shop were donated to students and families in need – giving these uniforms a second life, worn with pride and purpose.

This initiative reflects Camberwell Girls' commitment to sustainability, social responsibility, and our School motto Useful in Service. It is heartening to know that these uniforms continue to provide dignity, belonging, and opportunity to others, and we are proud to support this important cause.

“

We were most grateful for the opportunity to be useful in service through our ongoing partnership with Days for Girls.”

Denise Tan, Head of Service Learning



Purposeful Partnership

Camberwell Girls' enduring partnership with Days for Girls – an international nonprofit that provides sustainable menstrual hygiene solutions and education to girls and women in developing countries – continued to offer students a meaningful opportunity to serve.

Around International Women's Day, the School's MakerSpace was transformed into a hub of purposeful activity as the Camberwell Chapter of Days for Girls came together with our Year 10 students. Guided by six passionate volunteers, students prepared hygiene kits designed to support girls in communities where access to basic sanitary products remains limited.

Living out the School's motto, students cut, sewed, folded and packed each element of the kits with care and precision. Their efforts contributed directly to improving the health, education and dignity of young women around the world.

“We were most grateful for the opportunity to be useful in service through our ongoing partnership with Days for Girls,” said Denise Tan, Head of Service Learning.

The collaboration not only raised awareness of global inequalities but empowered students to respond with empathy, skill and a strong sense of purpose.



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Snapshots



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Adventure, Activated

Whether hiking remote trails, exploring marine life, or learning about culture on Country, camps in Semester One offered students the chance to connect, stretch themselves and grow beyond the classroom. Students from Years 7 to 12 stepped away from the familiar for a broad range of experiences, each bringing its own challenges, discoveries and memories.

Year 7 students kicked off their Secondary School journey with sunshine, surf and shared experiences at Phillip Island Adventure Resort. From high ropes and canoeing to beach walks and campfire chats, the camp was a formative step into Secondary School life – and the start of new friendships.

In Warburton, Year 9 students selected from three immersive camp streams: Adventure, Adventure Plus and Artisan. While some hiked over 25km and camped for three nights, others explored mountain biking, caving, or hands-on creative and culinary experiences. A shared highlight across all experiences was time spent with Murrundindi, learning about the cultural significance and stories of the region.

Year 10 students blended adventure, service and self-discovery on their choose-your-own-adventure style camp. Whether helping social enterprises in Melbourne's CBD, learning about marine life on the Mornington Peninsula, or camping and paddleboarding along the coast, students developed leadership, adaptability and a deeper understanding of themselves and their peers. Reflecting on snorkelling, student Cosette T shared, "At first I wasn't the most confident and I remember being initially discouraged. However, I enjoyed everything, and it was a great way to finish my school camp experience."

Sixteen students undertaking their Bronze or Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award completed a four-day hike from Apollo Bay to Cape Otway Light Station. Supported by staff from Warburton Adventure Company, students planned their own meals, cooked dehydrated dinners and navigated the trails in small teams. Each student took turns guiding the group and making decisions collaboratively, building confidence and resilience step by step.

Music Camp brought together over 100 students from Years 8 to 12 for an immersive three days of rehearsals and performances. In preparation for the European Music Tour and other upcoming performances, students refined their skills through intensive practice, workshops, challenges and themed activities. The weekend ended with a spirited Orchestra Band performance of the Star Wars theme.





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The Power of House Pride

From the stage to the starting line, Semester One saw Junior and Secondary School students embrace every opportunity to compete, collaborate and cheer for their Houses.

The year kicked off with the much-anticipated House Dance competition – an electric showcase of student-led choreography, technical skill and vibrant performance. With two performances – one for peers and one for families – students from all Houses lit up the stage across both the Group and Theme categories. Lawrence was crowned overall winner.

Next came the House Cross Country Carnivals. Junior School students in Years 3 to 6 ran with determination under perfect conditions, with Singleton achieving back-to-back victories in 2024 and 2025. In the Secondary School, the annual House Cross Country saw Taylor claim overall victory.

Our Year 1 and 2 swimmers made a splash at their House Swimming Carnival. An enthusiastic group of parents cheered on the students as they participated in a range of fun novelty water races.

Taylor and Lawrence have proven to be superior communicators. The House Public Speaking competition celebrated student voice, with Lawrence winning both the Junior and Senior categories and Taylor securing the Intermediate category. The House Debating competition was heated, with Lawrence winning the Middle School division and Taylor winning the Senior School division.

From hurdles to high jump, Years 7 to 12 students threw themselves into a full day of competition across track, field and novelty events at the House Athletics Carnival, with Lawrence taking out the overall win. A few weeks later, it was the Junior School's turn, with Years 3 to 6 students participating in a wide range of events, from high jump to hurdles. The atmosphere was filled with camaraderie as every student contributed to encouraging their peers, and Lawrence emerged victorious.

Across both Junior and Secondary School, the first half of 2025 has been defined by joy, pride and healthy competition. House Spirit continues to thrive at Camberwell Girls – on the stage, on the track, and in every cheer from the sidelines.





Vibrant Expressions



New Stages, New Skills

For the five Camberwell Girls students who auditioned and secured roles in the Camberwell Grammar School production of *The Pirates of Penzance*, the most rewarding moments happened off-stage.

Year 11 and 12 students Olive C, Carisse S, Sophia Z, Isuli P and Amber C stepped outside their comfort zones to join a cast made up of students from Camberwell Grammar School and Canterbury Girls Secondary College. Unlike Camberwell Girls

productions, this experience challenged them to collaborate with unfamiliar faces, navigate new rehearsal schedules and adapt to a different creative environment.

"It was quite different to how Camberwell Girls productions are run," said Year 11 student Sophia Z, "but it gave me so many great opportunities to grow and challenge myself."

Fellow Year 11 student Amber C added: "It was an amazing experience to meet new people – many of whom are now close friends. I thoroughly enjoyed being part of the 'circus police' – we've become a really close-knit group."

Balancing VCE studies with a demanding rehearsal schedule wasn't easy, but all agreed it was a challenge worth taking. This experience not only developed their performance skills, but also offered a glimpse into the real-world demands of auditioning – a reminder that stepping outside your comfort zone can lead to new friendships, valuable learning, and personal growth.

Creative Exposure

Each year, Adelaide transforms into a vibrant stage of sound, spectacle and storytelling during its world-renowned Fringe Festival. This year, fifteen of our Drama and Theatre Studies students from Years 10 to 12 immersed themselves in a high-energy schedule, attending nine shows across just two days.

From absurdist plays and immersive sonic theatre to interactive clowning, dance tours, exhibitions and contemporary musicals, the experience was a sensory feast. It offered more than entertainment – each performance prompted students to think critically, respond creatively, and reflect on the emotional power of theatre.

Post-show debriefs became spaces for rich conversation and collaborative reflection, sparking new ideas for their own creative work and deepening their appreciation of the art form.

Our theatrical travellers returned with fresh inspiration, broadened perspectives and a renewed love of live performance. Experiences like this ignite imagination, strengthen creative practice and remind us of the power of storytelling to move, challenge and connect.





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Striking a Global Chord

In a performance that spanned continents and brought together young musicians from around the world, Year 9 student Elise F showcased her exceptional talent on the international stage.

Elise's piano performance of Intermezzo in A Major No. 2 by Johannes Brahms late last year at the prestigious Charleston International Music Competition was recognised for its technical precision and artistic interpretation – a rare combination for a performer of her age. Elise was awarded second place in her category, an outstanding achievement that reflects both her dedication and her musical gift.

This award-winning performance also offered Elise the chance to connect with the global music community – an experience that will no doubt inspire her continued growth as an emerging musician.



Artful Achievements

Bright colours and creative flair were on full display as two Junior School students impressed the judges in the annual Kew Easter Colouring Competition, hosted by local MP Jess Wilson.

Year 5 student Estelle K was awarded first place, while Year 2 student Tiffany C received the runner-up prize. Both were recognised for their exceptional attention to detail and thoughtful use of colour.

Estelle and Tiffany were presented with their prizes in a special ceremony at Jess Wilson's office, where they proudly represented Camberwell Girls – a wonderful recognition of their talent and creativity.



Echoes of Greatness

Rubbing shoulders with some of Australia's finest musicians, Year 12 student Hannah L (pictured centre) is refining her exceptional talent as a French horn specialist through her involvement with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO).

As a member of the Melbourne Youth Orchestra – a principal partner of the MSO – Hannah was selected to participate in the

prestigious Side by Side education program and concert at Hamer Hall.

Designed to inspire and mentor the next generation of musicians, the program gave Hannah the opportunity to rehearse and perform under the guidance of world-class conductors and performers.

"Of particular interest was learning how to listen for the delay of sound and play just behind the beat of the conductor's baton to better blend with the orchestra,"

Hannah shared. "I gained valuable insights into ensemble playing and used a range of techniques to further my French horn skills."

This invaluable opportunity is a testament to Hannah's musical talent and inspires her fellow Camberwell Girls musicians.

“

I gained valuable insights into ensemble playing and used a range of techniques to further my French horn skills.”

Hannah L, Year 12

Game On!



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Secondary Athletes Shine

Our Secondary School athletes have made their mark with a strong start to the GSV calendar, showcasing some stellar performances already. The year kicked off with a big swing from our small but mighty golf team. At the GSV Golf Competition, Chloe W in Year 10 competed with a handicap and finished 4th overall. Without a handicap, Jessica M in Year 9 came equal 4th, while Selinna W in Year 8 secured equal 12th place.

Bright-eyed and ready to race, our triathletes endured an early start at Altona Beach, achieving exceptional results at the GSV Triathlon. In the Intermediate (Year 9 and 10) division, Year 9 students Eden C, Nini C, and Amelia L finished 2nd. Not far behind, Jessica M, Olivia Y, and Anni Z, also in Year 9, came in 4th. In the Junior (Year 7 and 8) division, Lydia H, Georgia P, and Aneira P placed 5th.

The Camberwell Girls Swimming and Diving season began with fierce competition at

the GSV Preliminary A Carnival. Despite the challenging races, several students claimed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd ribbons in both individual and relay events. Our divers and swimmers finished 5th overall in both competitions.

Competing again in the GSV Division 2 Swimming Championship in 2025, our swimmers had their sights on defending the Division 2 Championship title they won in 2024. Following a stellar performance in the pool, the Junior team placed 2nd, the Intermediate team secured 1st, and the Senior team finished 2nd, earning Camberwell Girls the title of reigning champions of the GSV Division 2 Swimming Championships. Our divers also found success, placing 3rd in the GSV Division 2 Diving Championships. A total of 27 students participated in the GSV Swimming and Diving Finals Evening, proudly representing Camberwell Girls at this penultimate event.

Many distance runners competed in both the GSV Preliminary and Championship Cross Country Carnivals, maintaining their 5th place position in Division 3 for the second year – consistency upheld, ready for a boost in 2026!



In team sports, our Intermediate Softball team was named the GSV A Grade Runners Up after a hard-fought and thrilling Grand Final. The Junior Softball team also put up a good fight, progressing to the GSV B Grade Semi-Final. They were named Zone Premiers, indicating they finished in first place at the conclusion of the regular season – a fantastic achievement.

Power and Precision

Year 8 student Nawita D has achieved outstanding results at the Victorian Track & Field Championships, earning a silver medal in hammer throw and a bronze in discus for her age division.

Nawita's strong performance at the State level secured her selection to represent Victoria at the Australian Junior Nationals in Perth. She described the national event as "a wonderful learning opportunity" and valued the experience of competing alongside athletes from across the Country.

With her sights now set on the Australian Track and Field Championships (U13–U18) later this year, Nawita continues to demonstrate strength, determination and a passion for her sporting journey.



Court-Side Commitment

Amid the energy and excitement of one of the world's biggest sporting events, three Year 10 students – Chloe W, Nathinee E and Emily L – were among the elite few selected for the 2025 Australian Open Ballkid Squad over summer.

For Chloe and Nathinee, now in their fourth year as ballkids, the experience included leadership roles, helping to train and mentor new squad members. Emily, in her second year, worked on Rod Laver Arena during both the men's and women's quarter-finals and the women's semi-final – a remarkable opportunity to be part of the action at the highest level of the sport.

The tournament culminated in an exciting moment for Nathinee, who was selected to work at the prestigious men's final – courtside with her favourite player, Jannik Sinner. Following her successful season, Nathinee will go on to represent Australia in the Ballkid Exchange Program at the China Open in Beijing later this year.

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A remarkable opportunity to be part of the action at the highest level of the sport.”



Victorian Hockey Star

Year 11 student Anika S has once again represented Victoria with distinction, securing a bronze medal alongside her teammates at the 2025 Hockey Australia U16 Championships in Adelaide.

The Victorian team delivered an impressive campaign across the week-long tournament, with Anika playing in all seven matches and helping her team secure five wins, one draw, and a crucial victory over top-ranked New South Wales to claim a podium finish.

This marks Anika's sixth selection to a Victorian representative team – an exceptional milestone for the talented midfielder whose speed, stick-handling and skills are recognised by both coaches and teammates.

Anika reflected proudly on her experience as one filled with "great memories" both on and off the field. Her commitment and contributions to elite-level competition is inspiring.

Top of Their Game

Two Camberwell Girls students were recognised among the state's top athletes after being selected to GSV Representative Teams and helping secure victories in their matches against Associated Grammar Schools Victoria (AGSV).

Year 10 student Chloe W was selected for the GSV Representative Tennis Team for a second consecutive year – an impressive achievement, as eligibility begins in Year 9. Chloe delivered a convincing win in her singles match, contributing to GSV's overall 7-4 victory.



Adding to the celebration, Camberwell Girls staff member and former professional tennis player, Adriana Szili, coached the GSV Tennis team to success – making this a special win for the School both on and off the court.

Year 9 student Jenny J was selected for the GSV Representative Volleyball Team and played a key role in GSV's 3-1 win, bringing energy, precision and teamwork to a dominant performance.



Serving up Success

With a fierce determination and a powerful serve, Year 9 student Angela N has surged up the national tennis rankings – from top 100 last year to an impressive 12th place in the under-16 girls category.

Angela's success on the court continued over the Term 1 holidays, where she was crowned under-14 State Champion at the Victorian State Team Championships.

She then went on to claim both the singles and doubles titles at the prestigious J250 27th Eastern Region Association Tournament – the highest-level junior tournament in the State.

These achievements reflect Angela's commitment, focus and love for her sport – an inspiring example of dedication and excellence within the Camberwell Girls community.





Junior Record-Setters

Our Junior School athletes made an extraordinary start to the year, combining school spirit with sporting excellence. At the School Sport Victoria (SSV) North Balwyn District Swimming Championships, our students delivered outstanding individual performances, with many placing 1st or 2nd across freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly events. All relay teams also claimed 1st place – an exceptional team effort.

Sixteen of our 18 swimmers advanced to the Boroondara Division Championship, marking our strongest result to date. There, Year 6 student Claire Z placed 1st in both freestyle and backstroke, while Janice P and Alessandra R won their backstroke and butterfly events respectively. Two

relay teams also excelled, securing 1st and 2nd places, enabling eight students to qualify for the Eastern Metropolitan Region Championships.

At Regionals, Claire Z placed 3rd in freestyle and 1st in backstroke, achieving a personal best and earning a place at the State Championship – where she placed 1st once again and secured selection for the Victorian State Swimming Team.

Our students also excelled on land. A determined group represented the School in the SSV District Cross Country carnival, with four advancing to the Division level. Year 6 student Audrey C stood out, placing 4th at both the SSV and GSV Cross Country Carnivals.

Volleyball Horizons

Year 9 student Jenny J has taken her volleyball game to the world stage. As a member of the Volleyball Australia National Performance Program and the U18 national team, Jenny travelled to Tokyo, Japan for a 12-day development tour that tested her skills and broadened her perspective. Competing against university and secondary school teams, she refined her technique and deepened her tactical understanding.

Jenny's season continued in Hawaii, where she represented The Clover Volleyball Club at the Aloha Summer Classic 2025. Her team secured first place in the U16 division – an impressive achievement on an international stage. Jenny reflects, "I also participated in the college combine, which was an opportunity to showcase my abilities in front of college coaches and scouts. It was challenging for me to stand out, but I learnt so much from Hawaii and had a really nice time."

With a national training camp in Adelaide and the U19 National Tournament ahead, Jenny's commitment to her sport continues to open new opportunities and experiences.



Engaging Community



105 Years Young

On 11 February 2025, Camberwell Girls celebrated its 105th birthday!

To honour the occasion, a commemorative plaque was unveiled at the base of the Moreton Bay Fig Tree – a much-loved landmark at the entrance to our Secondary Campus. Since the School moved to this site in 1927, the tree has quietly witnessed generations of students pass beneath its canopy. Its deep roots and expansive branches are a fitting symbol of our strong foundation and enduring growth.

The plaque was jointly unveiled by Junior School Captain Audrey C, representing our future, and Old Grammarian Val Dyke (1962), honouring our rich past. We were also delighted to welcome former Principal Dr Barbara Fary OAM, Life Governors,

past and present Council members, and long-standing friends of the School.

In true Camberwell Girls spirit, students across both campuses embraced the celebrations with energy and enthusiasm. A photobooth, set up at the Junior and Secondary Schools, quickly became a highlight of the day.

With colourful hats, oversized glasses and playful props, students and staff posed for photos, capturing memories with laughter and joy. It was a fun and modern way to celebrate the Schools birthday and share in the sense of community that defines Camberwell Girls.

These special celebrations were a reminder that while our history is long and proud, our future continues to be shaped by creativity, connection, and shared purpose.





Generations of Connection

For many families, Camberwell Girls is more than a School – it is a shared chapter in their family story. The inaugural Generations Breakfast was a heartwarming celebration of families whose ties to Camberwell Girls span multiple generations. Sixteen families, including mothers, daughters and aunts, gathered for a morning of reminiscing, laughter, and connection.

The Brooksbank Library was buzzing as guests reflected on how Camberwell Girls has shaped their lives across the decades, highlighting the enduring values and sense of belonging that define our community. Several alum shared heartfelt stories, reminding us that while times change, the connection to Camberwell Girls remains strong. There was even some lively House Spirit shown throughout the morning, as alum reminisced on House rivalries!

Deputy Principal Davina McClure beautifully expressed the honour felt by the continued trust families place in our School:

“When a parent chooses to send their child to the school they once attended, it’s not just about academics or convenience. It’s a gesture of trust, of legacy, and of love. It says – This place shaped me, and I believe it will shape you too.”

The Generations Breakfast offered a chance to honour the past, celebrate the present, and strengthen the connections that shape Camberwell Girls today.



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“

For many families, Camberwell Girls is more than a School – it’s a shared chapter in their family story.”



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A Night to Remember

As guests entered the Gala Ball, they were welcomed into a sparkling venue adorned with glitter, balloons and twinkling lights – setting the tone for a truly magical evening. Held only in milestone years, the Gala Ball celebrated Camberwell Girls' rich 105-year legacy and brought together current parents, alum and staff.

As they walked down the long entryway at Leonda by the Yarra, guests were greeted by the dulcet tones of the Camberwell Girls Jazz Band. A generous spread of gourmet canapés, decadent desserts and beverages awaited them. Adding to the fun were the photobooth and video photobooth stations, along with a live sketch artist – all offering creative ways to capture joyful moments throughout the night.

A highlight of the evening was the AV presentation on the history of Camberwell Girls, structured by decade and voiced by Year 6 student Emma Z. Shown just before the excitement of the raffle draw, the piece had a lovely feel and left guests with a warm sense of connection – a fitting pause before the energy lifted again.

We were also fortunate to have alum and current parent Emma Race (1993) as emcee. Her wit, warmth and professionalism kept the night flowing seamlessly and added a personal touch that resonated with everyone in attendance.

The evening peaked with the announcement of the raffle, silent auction and door prize winners, before the live band took to the stage. Their high-energy set had everyone dancing and singing along – rounding off a joyful celebration of 105 years of spirit, connection and community.





Founders' Vision Endures

Students from Years 5 to 12, staff and guests gathered in the historic grandeur of St Paul's Cathedral for our annual Founders' Service. A fitting setting to commemorate 105 years of Camberwell Girls and reflect on the School's enduring legacy. The service offered a moment to give thanks and honour the vision of our Founders and the generations who have shaped the Camberwell Girls' story.

We were privileged to welcome back two of our former Principals, Anne Feehan and Dr Barbara Fary OAM, who joined our current Principal, Debbie Dunwoody, in a powerful symbol of leadership across generations. Together, they represent the values, dedication and forward-thinking that have guided our School for more than a century.

The Founders' Service was a meaningful celebration of gratitude, tradition and the shared history that connects us all.

“

A joyful celebration of 105 years of spirit, connection and community.”



A Celebration of Community Under the Stars

The Camberwell Girls community gathered on the Secondary School Oval for one of the year's most anticipated events – Moonlight Movie Night. As the sun dipped below the horizon, families and friends spread picnic rugs, settled in under the stars, and shared an evening of food, fun and film.

Before the movie began, the oval buzzed with an excited carnival atmosphere. Guests enjoyed an array of food and drinks, while children made the most of face painting, fairy floss, hair braiding and craft activities – there truly was something for everyone.

As the sky darkened, the highlight of the night began: a screening of the family favourite *Trolls Band Together*, which was enjoyed by a crowd of happy faces and relaxed conversations.

This wonderful evening was made possible by the incredible efforts of the PFA and more than 100 dedicated volunteers. From cooking on the BBQ, to donating baked goods and helping with activities, every contribution was valued and appreciated.

Events such as the Moonlight Movie Night are a reminder of the strength and spirit of the Camberwell Girls community. A place where families come together, memories are made, and the bonds of friendship grow stronger.



A Shared Beginning

Setting a welcoming tone for the year ahead, the PFA Welcome Evening brought together over 300 parents and staff from ELC to Year 12. Held in the heart of the School – the Fig Tree Café and Quadrangle – the summer evening provided a warm and relaxed atmosphere.

More than just a meet-and-greet, this annual tradition is a cornerstone of community connection, offering a space for parents to form new friendships, strengthen existing ones, and engage informally with teachers and staff.

The evening featured a delightful menu from the School's new caterer, served by dedicated PFA volunteers, and complemented by refreshing daiquiris. The highlight was dessert – an array of delicious cannoli that brought smiles all round.

The laughter and conversation throughout the evening reflected the shared commitment of our community to the School's values and our students' education.



“

The evening was a beautiful reminder of what makes Camberwell Girls special.”



Twilight Togetherness

With picnic rugs spread across the lawn, families soaked up the warm weather and lively atmosphere at the annual Junior School Twilight Picnic. A spirited community celebration, with over 400 parents, students and siblings, the evening was filled with joy and connection.

Thanks to the generous support of our PFA, children were captivated by face painters and bubble entertainers, while adults enjoyed relaxed conversations under the evening sky. Junior School staff served up crowd-pleasers, including a sausage sizzle, icy drinks, Zooper Doopers and refreshing slushies – perfect for the balmy night.

The evening was a beautiful reminder of what makes Camberwell Girls special: a strong, connected community where everyone feels welcome. It was a night of shared smiles, meaningful moments and lasting memories.

Strong Women, Strong Future

At Camberwell Girls, International Women's Day is a celebration of our shared mission, to support, uplift and stand in solidarity with women across all walks of life. We were delighted to host Lisa Chiba (2001), Managing Director of Momentum Energy and Non-Executive Director of Waverley Social Enterprises, as our guest speaker at this year's annual breakfast.

Lisa delivered an inspiring presentation focused on gender equality, emphasising her impactful steps to enhance equality within her industry. Her insights highlighted the challenges that persist and showcased the progress being made and the importance of continued advocacy.

It was a wonderful experience to welcome current parents, students, and alum from various years, all coming together for this special occasion. The event fostered a sense of community, encouraging dialogue and collaboration toward achieving gender equality.

Overall, the morning proved to be a powerful reminder of the collective responsibility we share in promoting equal opportunities for all, creating a brighter future for generations to come.



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Letters, Laughter and a Little Healthy Competition

Brains buzzed and laughter echoed through the Brooksbank Library as this year's PFA Trivia Night brought the Camberwell Girls community together for an evening of fun and friendly rivalry.

With 'Letters' as the theme, each table chose a letter – and embraced the challenge – arriving in imaginative costumes and adorning their tables with creative flair. From pirates to pineapples, the energy was as playful as the decorations.

Surrounded by shelves of stories, the library provided a fitting backdrop for a night packed with trivia, dance-offs, paper plane contests and raffle prizes. Our Trivia Master kept the pace lively and the competition close – particularly between the Staff 'Tradies' and the Parent 'Where's Wally?' teams. In the end, Wally was found – at the winner's table!

The evening was a joyful celebration of community spirit, creativity and connection – capturing the collaborative heart of Camberwell Girls.





Celebrating Remarkable Women

For the first time, our much-loved Mother's Day Breakfast was held off-site due to the exciting redevelopment of Barbara Sutton Hall. The historic Hawthorn Town Hall provided a stunning backdrop for the occasion, where 150 guests – including mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, mother figures, and daughters from Early Learning Centre to Year 12, gathered to celebrate the remarkable women in their lives.

Guests enjoyed a delicious breakfast and thoughtful presentations in the beautiful hall. Our Junior and Secondary School Captains hosted the event with warmth and poise. A highlight was a heartfelt and humorous poem about mothers, which brought smiles and laughter.

Generously supported by the PFA, the event featured door prizes, with some kindly donated by Camberwell Girls families. The PFA also ran a Mother's Day Stall, giving students the opportunity to purchase a special gift for the important women in their lives.





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Welcome, Fiona!



I'm privileged to step into the role of PFA President and continue the legacy of those who have helped shape such a strong and supportive School community. At Camberwell Girls, the PFA plays a vital role in enriching school life, fostering connections, celebrating milestones, and supporting initiatives that benefit all students.

Over the years, I've seen just how powerful a united community of parents and staff can be. Whether through events, fundraising, or simply showing up, the PFA helps create a sense of belonging that extends beyond the classroom. It's a space where ideas are shared, friendships are formed, and the collective energy is channelled into meaningful contributions.

The first half of the year has been a whirlwind of fantastic events that have brought our Camberwell Girls community together in wonderful ways.

We began the year with an energetic Welcome Evening, where over 400 parents and staff gathered to reconnect, forge new friendships and celebrate the year ahead. This was followed by the ever-popular

Junior School Twilight Picnic and then the Moonlight Movie Night, where we witnessed a wave of support from a large number of amazing parent volunteers.

Our first off-site Mother's Day Breakfast at Hawthorn Town Hall was a beautiful celebration, followed by the much-loved Mother's Day Stalls back at School. We wrapped up Term 2 with a lively Trivia Night in the Brooksbank Library, full of fun, costumes, and friendly competition.

Beyond these key events, we supported pre-show refreshments for performing arts and snacks at sporting events. The Second-Hand Uniform Shop remains a valuable resource for many, and we're proud to support co-curricular needs across the School wherever possible.

I'm thrilled to be working alongside a group of enthusiastic parents on this year's PFA committee, including both familiar and new faces. I look forward to engaging with our vibrant community throughout 2025 and beyond.

Fiona Nicholson Stocker
PFA President

Thank You, Cindy



The Camberwell Girls community acknowledges and thanks Cindy Wong for her extraordinary service and leadership as President of the PFA as she concludes her time in the role.

Since joining the community in 2019, Cindy has been a constant presence. She served as a Year Level Representative before stepping into executive roles, including Vice President in 2022 and President in 2023. Her presidency came at a pivotal time, as the School emerged from the challenges of COVID-19. With warmth, resilience and vision, Cindy helped rebuild and reenergise the community.

Under her leadership, the PFA hosted the hugely successful Christmas at Camberwell event, welcoming over 600 attendees. Cindy also played a key role in the School's inaugural Giving Day, where the PFA, under her guidance, matched an incredible \$100,000 in donations – an achievement that will be remembered for years to come.

Cindy's tireless volunteerism, inclusive spirit and unwavering commitment to bringing people together have left a lasting legacy. Whether chairing meetings, helping at events or simply offering a kind word, Cindy's boundless enthusiasm and inspiring leadership have helped create a community where every parent feels welcome.

Join Us!

We encourage you to engage in PFA activities and positively impact our School community. Your contributions are valuable and appreciated.

Contact

pfa@cggs.vic.edu.au
Phone: +61 3 9813 1166



Community Champions

Camberwell Girls is grateful for the support of volunteers from our School community who give their time and expertise to assist in various ways. Volunteers play a valuable role in supporting student endeavours and help build a sense of belonging within our School community.

We spoke to three valued volunteers – Leanne, Jason and Jaime – who reflected on their experiences volunteering with the School. Their contributions are instrumental in enhancing the educational experience for our students and fostering a strong community spirit.

Jaime Edge

A proud alum from the Class of 1994, Jaime has come full circle – now a parent of two daughters at Camberwell Girls and a dedicated community volunteer. Her return to the School has been both nostalgic and rewarding, deepening her connection to the Camberwell Girls spirit. “It brings back many great memories when I attend events like House Music – go Taylor!” she says with a smile.

When her eldest daughter started at the School, Jaime took on the role of Year Level Representative, keen to build relationships with other families and support the wider school community. In 2022, she began volunteering in the Second-Hand Uniform



Shop and continues to give her time each Saturday. Her contribution speaks to her values of sustainability and inclusion – helping reduce waste, improve access to uniforms, and strengthen connections across year levels.

Jason Lyster



Jason’s connection with Camberwell Girls began in 2019 when his eldest daughter, Cate, started Year 7, followed by Sophie in 2020. “From the start, we felt the culture and values of the School aligned with our own,” he recalled.

A Chartered Accountant and founder of JMLC Accountants & Business Advisors, Jason has decades of experience across auditing, company and superannuation accounting, and the Not-for-Profit sector.

Alongside his wife Maria, Jason quickly became an active member of the School community, often staying behind at events to lend a hand. “Before I knew it, I was at the PFA AGM being signed up as Treasurer,” he laughed.

Jason values the strength of the School’s community and the shared commitment of families. “Many hands make light work is how I think about being part of this larger community,” he said.

Leanne Lewis

Since joining Camberwell Girls in 2022, Leanne has embraced every opportunity to get involved. With a background in science and a career spanning banking and insolvency, followed by joining the family business, she brings both experience and energy to her role in the community. Leanne also serves on the board of her children’s soccer club – a further reflection of her commitment to volunteer life.



One of her favourite Camberwell Girls events to volunteer at is the House Athletics sausage sizzle. “It’s always a joy to see the girls’ excitement as they stop by between events,” she says. Leanne is also a regular at School concerts and productions, where she enjoys watching students’ talents take centre stage.

Encouraging others to take part, she says, “Big or small, every contribution makes a difference.”

Remaining Connected

Our alum play an integral role in the ongoing story of Camberwell Girls, enriching our community by returning to share their expertise, experiences, and insights. These visits create a sense of continuity, inspiring our students to approach their own journeys with confidence and curiosity.

Natasha Mak (2022) and Anastasia Konstantinou (2022)

Natasha and Anastasia, provided Year 12 students with insights into life after graduation and the diverse paths available to them. They shared their experiences and challenges, and how their time at Camberwell Girls prepared them for university.



Val Dyke (1962)

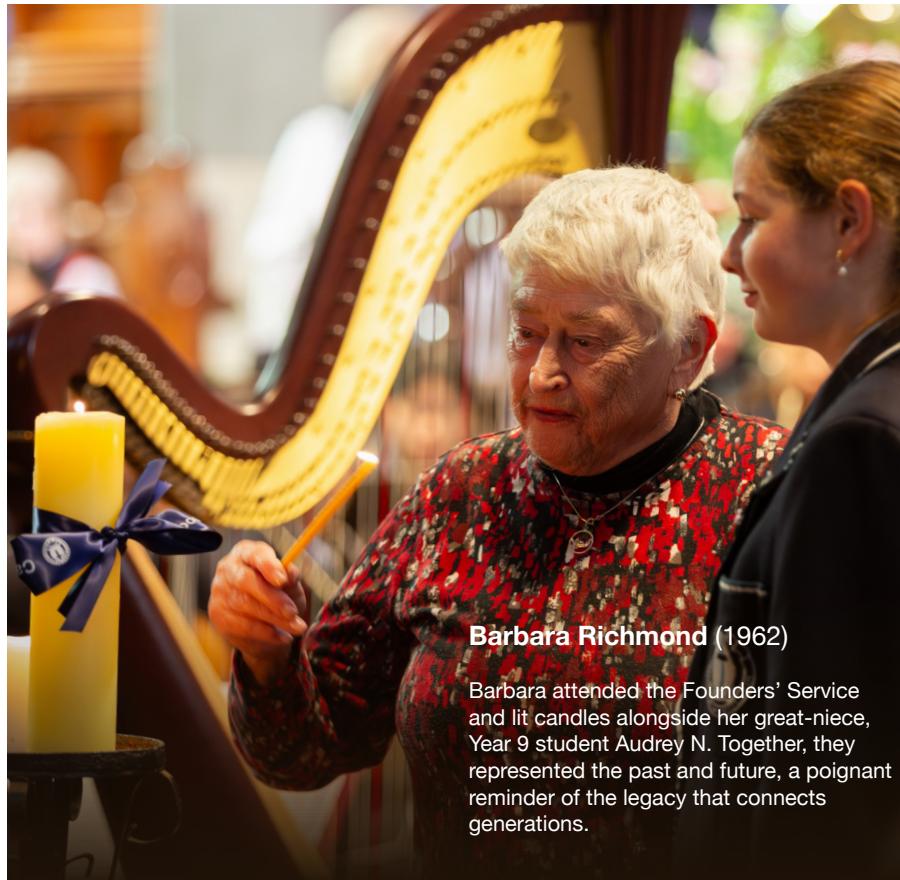
Val played a significant role in the unveiling of a commemorative plaque located at the base of the Moreton Bay Fig Tree as part of the School's 105th birthday celebrations. This tree has watched over Camberwell Girls since it moved to this site in 1927, and we were thrilled that Val, as a strong supporter of the School, was there to help unveil it. Val also attended the Founders' Service and delivered a meaningful reading.

Katherine Mason (2024), Salwa Saiba (2023), Scarlett Giang (2023) and Felicia Spiridonos (2020)

As part of Upskill, our Year 10 Science Masterclass hosted a group of alum from multiple graduating years. They shared their insights into university studies, courses and the options available, inspiring students to consider including STEM in their futures.

Angeline D'Leong (2022)

What fun it was to see Angeline, along with her mum, at the Moonlight Movie Night running the ever-popular choc toss game. Her enthusiasm brought smiles to participants as they tried to land their coin on a scrumptious chocolate bar.



Barbara Richmond (1962)

Barbara attended the Founders' Service and lit candles alongside her great-niece, Year 9 student Audrey N. Together, they represented the past and future, a poignant reminder of the legacy that connects generations.

Jacqueline de Mamiel (2023)

Jacqueline generously offered her time to be a guest on the CGGS LIVE FM radio show. As mentioned in this edition of CamLife, Jacqueline captivated her audience with stories from her time at Camberwell Girls, her advocacy as a Little Dreamers ambassador, and her new chapter as a University of Melbourne student.



Sarah Hui (2022)

Students had the unique opportunity to hear from Sarah, who returned to share her inspiring journey into the Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine at Monash University.

Sarah's talk was both insightful and motivating, offering a firsthand look at what it takes to pursue Medicine straight out of school. She spoke candidly about her experiences – from preparing for the UCAT and selecting her VCE subjects, to navigating the application process and adjusting to life as a medical student.



Samantha Wong (2018) and Alyssa Wong (2022)

We were thrilled to welcome back talented sisters Samantha and Alyssa to Camberwell Girls. Samantha has written the lyrics and music for a brand new musical titled, *A Wake to Remember*, which her sister Alyssa directed. *A Wake to Remember* is a powerful and moving production that explores themes of friendship, unrequited love, and chasing long-held dreams.

Stay Connected

We invite you to join the Camberwell Girls Old Grammarians Facebook page and LinkedIn group.

These platforms are fantastic resources for reconnecting with former classmates and teachers while keeping you informed about the latest news and events at the School.



Camberwell Girls Old Grammarians



Camberwell Girls Grammar School Old Grammarians Association

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From Classmates to Lifelong Friends

Reunions are a wonderful opportunity to honour the lifelong connections formed at School and the shared history that unites our alum community. This year, more than 130 past students returned to the School to mark a series of milestone reunions over our annual reunion weekend.

The classes of 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020 joyfully celebrated their 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25-year anniversaries, while the classes of 1985, 1990, and 1995 gathered to

commemorate their remarkable 40, 35 and 30-year milestones.

Attendees enjoyed nostalgic walks through the school grounds, marvelling at the changes whilst fondly reminiscing about their cherished experiences. Former classmates had the opportunity to reconnect and catch up on the past years, browsing old Marcians and photo albums which sparked memories and laughter. The atmosphere was filled with joy and camaraderie as stories from the past were brought to life again.

It was particularly special to welcome alum who are now current parents, a testament to the strength of our community across

generations. The presence of current and former staff made the occasion even more memorable, as they shared the joy of reconnecting with former students, reinforcing the enduring relationships at the heart of our School. The weekend was a beautiful blend of past and present, creating lasting memories that continue to shape who we are.

Over 80s' Honours

The Camberwell Girls community extends warm wishes to the following Old Grammarians who are celebrating significant birthdays in 2025.

Many happy returns to all and a wonderful year ahead.

Happy 80th Birthday

Bernice Charity (Travis, 1962)
 Elizabeth Denny (Chandler, 1962)
 Lorraine Davis (Goode, 1962)
 Pam Tacon (Pritchard, 1962)
 Jocelyn Parslow (Carrick, 1962)
 Kay Symes (Peters, 1962)
 Faye Backstrom (Du Lee, 1962)
 Yvonne Ryan (Sweatman, 1962)
 Joel Kusabs (Alderson, 1962)
 Anne Robins (Gillam, 1962)
 Pru Timpson-Wearne (Timpson, 1963)
 Lyn Whittle (Hadaway, 1963)
 Faye Peake (McClelland, 1963)
 Annette Long (Hoyle, 1963)
 Marion Gluyas (Brodie, 1963)
 Kaye Harrison (Jamieson, 1963)
 Libby Fairlie (Holt, 1964)

Happy 81st Birthday

Susan Walters (1961)
 Ruth Ingall (Kerrigan, 1961)
 Margaret Cooper (Sare, 1961)
 Leani Williams (Clarke, 1961)
 Jenny Stevens (Allen, 1961)
 Carolyn Wood (Locke, 1961)
 Helen Leftley (Thornton, 1961)
 Lynette Wright (Simmance, 1961)
 Barbara Richmond (1962)
 Val Dyke (1962)
 Carol Woolcock (Fox, 1962)
 Bronwyn Heffernan (Barwick, 1962)
 Wendy Wilson (Chadwick, 1962)
 Julie Charles (Wilson, 1962)
 Jan Lovelace (McPherson, 1962)

Happy 82nd Birthday

Alison Watson (Page, 1960)
 Jenny Ross AO (Newell, 1960)
 Kaye Pyke (Sawtell, 1960)
 Penny Thomas (Cook, 1960)
 Ann Ballard (Travis, 1960)
 Denise Eberbach (Bryan, 1960)
 Helen Bauld (Beasley, 1960)
 Julie Ross (Stone, 1960)
 Wendy Standfield (Bastian, 1960)
 Gill Millie (Duckett, 1960)
 Felicity Fullagar (Ware, 1960)
 Pam Swan (Willis, 1960)
 Anne Bready (Swann, 1960)
 Kae White (Strachan, 1961)

Happy 83rd Birthday

Judy Moore (Timpson, 1961)
 Sue Moss (Clark, 1961)
 Elaine Robinson (Bourne, 1961)
 Lyn Tritton (Johns, 1961)
 Trish Keene (Wain, 1961)
 Wendy Hollis (Davies, 1962)
 Elisabeth Bennett (Francis, 1963)

Happy 84th Birthday

Lenis Wells (1956)
 Felicity O'Leskin (Maggs, 1957)
 Wendy Billings (Hainke, 1957)
 Barb Joyce (Calderwood, 1957)
 Carolyn Sadler (Withers, 1956)
 Valrie Kollmorgen (Penny, 1957)
 Sue May (Hancock, 1957)
 Ruth McGennisken (1958)
 Pris Gormley (White, 1958)
 Barbara Mathers (Wallace, 1958)
 Clare Maglen (Quibell, 1959)
 Pamela Hore (Beasley, 1959)
 Helen McHugh (Woods, 1959)
 Andrea Gaythorpe (Davies, 1959)

Happy 85th Birthday

Noelene Dean (Nash, 1957)
 Louise Brearley Messer AM, (1957)
 Lorraine Warren (Bloom, 1957)
 Janne Oborn (Dewar, 1957)
 Christine Gordon (Puttman, 1957)
 Janice Hone (1958)
 Lyn Hahn (Code, 1958)
 Jo-Anne Carter (Chambers, 1959)

Happy 86th Birthday

Hilary Pinerua (Page, 1955)
 Jeanette Hudson (Hopkins, 1956)
 Jennifer Strachan (Stone, 1956)
 Joan Sedawie (Wall, 1956)

Happy 87th Birthday

Margaret Rudman (McRitchie, 1957)
 Julia Monger (Forbes, 1957)
 Bev Williams (Dear, 1957)
 Judith Harding (1957)

Happy 88th Birthday

Elizabeth Cope (Millership, 1956)

Happy 89th Birthday

Shirley Kemp (Fairbrother, 1953)
 Lorraine Nelson (Sambell, 1953)
 Anita Tolley (Riches, 1953)

Happy 90th Birthday

Pat Singleton (1951)
 Valerie Von Lagoda (King, 1951)
 Peggy Horner (Hill, 1951)
 Heather Collins (1953)
 Margaret Macdougall (Outtrim, 1953)

Happy 91st Birthday

June Close (1950)
 Marion Mathieson (Sword, 1951)
 Lynda Kaye (Cant, 1952)

Happy 92nd Birthday

Lois Brunt (Radnell, 1950)
 Joy Daniels (Ellis, 1950)
 Joan Chapman (Clarke, 1949)

Happy 93rd Birthday

Dawn Harvey (Hulme, 1949)
 Faye Curnow (Rennie, 1949)
 Phyllis Jaensch (Cooke, 1950)
 Jill Freake (Walker, 1950)

Happy 94th Birthday

Elaine Rawson (McLellan, 1948)

Happy 95th Birthday

Marjorie Reaburn (1947)
 Heather Schroeder (Fraser, 1947)
 Dorothy Hoffman (Golder, 1947)
 Joan Williams (Fisher, 1947)

New to Our Community

Daniel Loff (Year 9 Year Level Coordinator and Mathematics Teacher) welcomed his second child, Milo, in May 2025.



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Celebrating Weddings

Ellen Bailey (Swim School Coordinator) and Jordan were married in March 2025.



We Remember

Camberwell Girls pays tribute to Old Grammarians who are no longer with us and offers our condolences to their families and friends, who are in our thoughts and prayers.

Gweneth Spencer (Clarke, 1950) passed away in January 2025.

Joyce Howe (Coombe, 1957) passed away in February 2025.

Peggy Stirling (Bilsborrow 1946) passed away in June 2025.

Upcoming Reunions

Sapphire Circle Lunch

The Sapphire Circle Lunch is our annual reunion event for former students who graduated 51 years ago or more. If you graduated from Camberwell Girls in 1974 or earlier, you are a Camberwell Girls 'Sapphire'.

Saturday 18 October

11.30am – 12.00pm: School Tour
12.00pm – 2.00pm: Lunch

Please save the date, invitations will be sent out soon. We look forward to reconnecting and celebrating with you.

Class of 2024 – 1 Year Reunion

We are delighted to welcome back the Class of 2024 for their 1-year reunion. We're excited to reconnect, share stories and celebrate your first year beyond Camberwell Girls.

Thursday 20 November

6.00pm – 8.00pm

Please save the date as further details will be shared later this year. We look forward to welcoming you back.

Old Grammarians Spotlight

At Camberwell Girls, our students pursue diverse pathways after graduation and stay connected through our strong alum network. We are delighted to share the stories of several Camberwell Girls Old Grammarians who have embarked on unique and inspiring journeys since leaving School. These stories reflect the enduring bond between our graduates and their alma mater, highlighting the lasting impact of their education and experiences at Camberwell Girls.

Lisa Chiba (2001)

Lisa has an impressive academic background with a Bachelor of Arts in Media and Communication, a Bachelor of Law (Honours), and a graduate credential from the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



As Managing Director of Momentum Energy, part of Hydro Tasmania, Lisa champions workplace diversity and inclusion in a male-dominated industry. She is a member of the Champions of Change Coalition Energy Group, mentors in the Clean Energy Council's Women in Renewables program and is a frequent speaker at industry events. She also serves as a Non-Executive Director of Waverley Social Enterprises, supporting employment for individuals with disabilities.

Reflecting on her school years, Lisa values the strong community and lasting relationships she formed, stating, "The sense of community, camaraderie, support for one another, and shared values are things that have stayed with me over the years. I am grateful and proud to be an alum of Camberwell Girls."

Fay Chan (1995)

When asked how she thinks she will impact the world? Fay responded with a smile, "One tap at a time."

After completing a combined Commerce and Arts degree, Fay explored various career paths and discovered Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT), a self-help therapy involving tapping specific points on the body while focusing on uncomfortable thoughts or feelings. EFT is used to reduce stress, anxiety, and other forms of emotional distress.

Her journey from the corporate world to becoming a Clinical EFT Tapping Practitioner shows that making an impact can take many forms. EFT blends psychology and acupressure to foster healing. Fay now works with individuals eager to release stress, trauma, and limiting beliefs, allowing them to embrace life with renewed vigour.



Fay credits her passion for helping others to her time at School, "It brings me immense joy, and I cherish the foundational values instilled within those school halls: to heal, to question, and to redefine what is possible."

Brigette Warner (2010)

After graduating from Camberwell Girls, Brigette pursued studies in Health Sciences and Arts, focusing on exercise science, nutrition and psychology. In 2016, motivated by a desire to serve her community more directly, she made a significant career change and applied to become a Police Officer with Victoria Police. Eight months later, she entered the police academy.



"My passion for fitness, love of the outdoors, and commitment to teamwork were cultivated through the opportunities provided to me at Camberwell Girls, such as interschool sports, outdoor activities, and enriching overseas exchange programs."

Now a general duty officer in the Public Order Response Team, Brigette responds to diverse situations, from managing demonstrations to search-and-rescue operations. She finds purpose and fulfilment from supporting people during vulnerable moments, and her journey reflects a strong commitment to making a meaningful difference.

Ribbon Memories

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Sounds of History

Music has been a constant thread in our School's story, connecting generations of students for more than a century.

It all began in the 1920s at the original St Mark's Church School where students gathered for simple singing lessons in the St Mark's Church Hall. By 1928, the first concerts were held, including a themed

performance program called Beethoven Evening and a whimsical Fairy Play. In 1933, the School's All Nations Pageant and Fete celebrated music and dance from around the world.

In 1941, Margaret Schofield, daughter of founding Vicar Rev. James Schofield, became one of the first students to complete an Australian Music Examination, setting a precedent for formal music education.

Meanwhile, Ormiston Girls' School – Australia's oldest girls' school – had also fostered a strong culture of music through choral groups, hymn singing, and regular performances at church services, annual concerts, and Speech Night.

When the two schools merged in 1965, Ormiston's traditions blended into the life of Camberwell Girls. The Junior School in Mont Albert (Ormiston) carried forward a love of music that remains central to its identity today.

Under Principal Barbara Sutton's leadership in the 1970s, music at Camberwell Girls flourished. A Director of Music was appointed, soirees and ensembles grew, and the House Music Competition became a cherished tradition. The PFA enabled students to hire instruments, expanding access. In 1975, Camberwell Girls students performed at Melbourne Town Hall for International Women's Year – a landmark moment.

The opening of the Barbara F. Sutton Assembly Hall and Cultural Centre in 1988 provided a dedicated space for concerts, assemblies and productions – cementing music's place at the heart of school life.

Today, our students can choose from 31 ensembles and a music program that continues to evolve – providing opportunities to perform at School events, community gatherings, professional venues, and international tours. Music continues to be woven into the fabric of the Camberwell Girls experience.



Future Focus

A New Chapter Unfolding

Each school generation has left its mark on Barbara Sutton Hall – a space that has long brought our community together to share in the sounds, stories, and celebrations of Camberwell Girls. Now, the next chapter is beginning as construction commences on the redevelopment of this much-loved space.

After a final term filled with assemblies, performances, classes, and celebrations, Secondary students gathered in the Hall one last time for a reflective Easter Service led by School Chaplain Reverend Helen Creed. The service offered a prayer for those involved in the construction ahead and a moment of gratitude for the creativity, connection, and joy the Hall has nurtured across generations.

During the Term 1 holidays, preparations for construction began. Instruments were relocated, rehearsal spaces cleared, and the Music Department established its new

temporary home in Robinson Hall. Staff and students have since adapted to new learning environments as work progresses on site.

Planning approval was granted in early Term 2, and construction firm 2Construct was appointed as head contractor shortly after. Known for their expertise in educational and performing arts facilities, the team began site mobilisation, following a Groundbreaking Ceremony attended by School Council, staff, Life Governors, students, and project partners – marking the official commencement of construction.





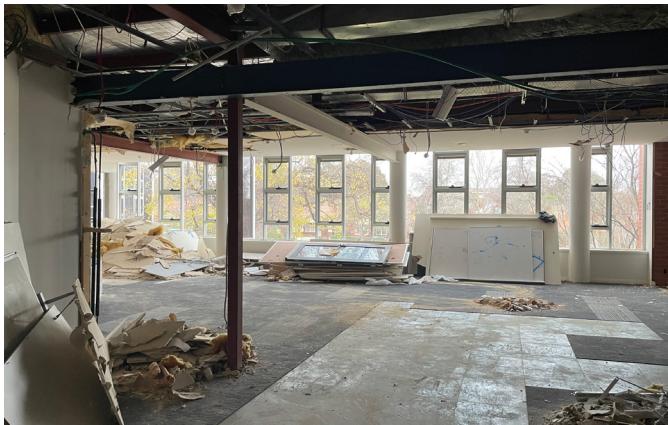
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Inspired by imagination and guided by inclusivity, the renewed Hall will be a vibrant, versatile space for the entire school community.”

The ceremony was both symbolic and heartfelt – a moment to honour what the Hall has meant to generations of past students and to recognise the promise it holds for the future. Chair of School Council Dr Nikita Weickhardt and Reverend Helen Creed reflected on its enduring role as a place of gathering, celebration and creativity. Principal Debbie Dunwoody acknowledged the community's vital role in shaping the vision for the redevelopment, noting how student voice helped inform the design of a space deeply connected to the values of Camberwell Girls.

The ceremonial turning of the soil was led by Debbie Dunwoody, Head of Drama and Performing Arts Keira Lyons, and Year 7 student Jenny W – each representing a unique thread in the Hall's evolving story: vision, creativity and the future.

The reimagined Barbara Sutton Hall has been designed to honour its legacy while meeting the needs of today's performers, audiences, and technical specialists. Major upgrades to performance facilities will be complemented by inclusive and functional accessibility features, as well as improved spaces for student learning and collaboration. From the



flexible foyer to the enhanced amphitheatre, music rooms, backstage areas, and rehearsal spaces, every element has been carefully considered.

Inspired by imagination and guided by inclusivity, the renewed Hall will be a vibrant, versatile space for the entire school community – now and into the future.



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YEARS
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