

THE SOUBEIRAN

& KOG MAGAZINE

THE SUMMER ISSUE 2024/25

HUMANITY

DEPUTY
PRINCIPAL
WELLBEING

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KAMBALA

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01

HUMANITY: THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FUTURE AT KAMBALA

Ms Jane Danvers, Principal

At Kambala, education goes beyond academic achievement; it is about shaping compassionate, resilient, and purpose-driven young women who will make a meaningful difference in the world. Over the next four editions of *The Soubeiran*, we will explore Kambala's four cherished values – Humanity, Courage, Curiosity and Respect – and how these values influence the character and future of our students. This first edition begins with Humanity, the cornerstone of our ethos.

HUMANITY: A VALUE WE CHERISH

Humanity lies at the heart of Kambala's culture, encompassing empathy, understanding and compassion. It challenges us to embrace diverse viewpoints and cultivate meaningful connections. By fostering Humanity, we encourage our students to become thoughtful, ethical leaders who see the value in collaboration and respect for others.

While Courage, Curiosity and Respect bring strength, discovery and integrity, Humanity forms the foundation that ties these qualities together. It reflects our belief that true success is found in nurturing individuals of strong character who engage deeply with the world around them.

HUMANITY IN ACTION

Humanity is a lived experience at Kambala. Through thoughtful discussions, inclusive practices, and student-led initiatives, we cultivate an environment where understanding and kindness flourish. Our students are inspired to explore different perspectives, equipping them to engage meaningfully with the complexities of the world.

Whether it's tackling global challenges through social justice programs or leading initiatives to foster inclusivity, our students learn how to stand up for what matters. They are encouraged to act with conviction, ensuring that their efforts create real and lasting impact.

At Kambala, we cherish the opportunity to hear diverse voices and advocate for meaningful change. This culture of openness and action underscores our commitment to creating a school community that values equity and mutual respect.

WHY HUMANITY MATTERS

By embedding Humanity into the fabric of our education, we empower our students to navigate an interconnected and ever-changing world. Humanity teaches them to build bridges, form authentic relationships, and act with purpose.

Education is about fostering understanding, and at Kambala, that begins with nurturing the Humanity of every individual. Our teachers inspire students to embrace learning as a lifelong journey while modelling empathy, inclusivity, and the courage to lead with conviction.

SHAPING THE FUTURE

The world today faces challenges that require collaboration, innovation and moral leadership. UNESCO's Futures of Education initiative highlights lifelong learning as a crucial element in addressing these global issues.

Kambala embraces this call to action. By fostering a commitment to equity and empowering students to communicate their ideas clearly and with integrity, we prepare them to be the leaders of tomorrow. They leave our School equipped to tackle complex challenges with empathy and resolve.

"'Hope' is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul." – Emily Dickinson

Through a focus on listening to others, expressing their values with clarity, and championing what they believe in, Kambala students are ready to leave their mark on the world.

As we continue to reflect on our values, we invite our community to recognize the power of Humanity in guiding our actions and aspirations. It is a value that reminds us of the importance of connection, purpose, and understanding in building a future that celebrates both individual and collective strength.



“By focusing on these real-world problems, the students were able to develop solutions that reflected compassion and a desire to make a positive impact on society.”

01/ Ellie Lai, Year 8.

02/ Madeline Sleep and Natalia Desmond, Year 8.

03/ L-R Estella Walker, Zoe Terkasher and Audrey Mallos, Year 8.

HUMANITY THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND DESIGN THINKING

Ms Carolyn Gedling, Deputy Principal – Academic

Last year, Kambala Year 8 students embarked on a transformative journey as part of the Altius program, which launched its inaugural cohort. A key aspect of this program was its focus on entrepreneurship, where students were introduced to design thinking – a problem-solving approach that encourages empathy, creativity and innovation. However, this program went beyond simply teaching business skills; it challenged students to think deeply about the issues facing humanity, from personal struggles to global challenges. By focusing on these real-world problems, the students were able to develop solutions that reflected compassion and a desire to make a positive impact on society.

In exploring design thinking, students were encouraged to view the world from diverse perspectives. This required them to empathise with the needs of others and envision products or services that could address those needs effectively. Whether the problems they tackled were personal – such as navigating life as a Year 8 student at Kambala – local community issues, or global humanitarian concerns, the emphasis was on understanding and addressing the challenges that humanity faces.

One standout project came in the form of Granny on the Go, an app designed by a group of students who identified the struggles faced by elderly individuals in navigating busy public transport systems. Recognizing the difficulties many seniors encounter when trying to get to medical appointments, the

students created an app for a service that would connect elderly people with drivers who could transport them safely and comfortably. This innovative idea not only addressed a practical need but also demonstrated the students' ability to empathise with an often-overlooked group within society.

Another group turned their attention to the global issue of refugees. Understanding the difficult journey that refugees often face as they flee their home countries, these students worked on solutions aimed at offering practical advice to displaced individuals. Toiletry packs were thoughtfully designed to offer both practical support and a sense of dignity, showing how students used their creativity to respond to the needs of others in meaningful ways.

A further highlight was another group who considered the rising cost of living and people's ability to access the broad range of services that may be available. Their Thrive to Survive website was designed to connect local food, educational, legal and other services to people in the same physical locale. Thereby ensuring resources were efficient and effective.

The Year 8 students' work through the Altius program is a powerful reminder that at Kambala learning is not solely about acquiring knowledge, but also about developing empathy and social responsibility. By focusing on humanity in their entrepreneurship projects, these students have shown that they are not only capable of understanding complex problems but also contributing innovative solutions that have the potential to make a real difference.

Through the Altius program, these young students are proving that they are not only learning how to navigate the world of business, but also how to shape the future with empathy and a focus on humanity.

INTRODUCING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - PASTORAL CARE

Miss Samantha Gooch



It is both an honour and a joy to write from the office of the Deputy Principal – Pastoral Care. The view from my window here reflects the vibrant lives of our Kambala students and I am reminded of the privilege and responsibility that comes with an opportunity to lead and teach at our beautiful School.

As teachers, our core business is teaching and learning – but facilitating education at Kambala is so much more than what might happen in the classroom, or in the subjects we have chosen to teach. Today, we are charged with the need to prepare our students for learning that matters (Perkins & Chua, 2012).

A Kambala education for me is best described by two Kambala Principals Miss Fifi Hawthorne and Ms Jane Danvers. Miss Fifi Hawthorne, our longest-serving Principal of 33 years, stated in 1934: “What is needed is education in the fullest sense of the word. We must be well-informed citizens, fit to carry out our duties as members of the community in which we live.”

Today, our current Principal, Ms Jane Danvers, echoes this vision: “As Principal of Kambala, I have the privilege of providing an education that prepares girls for the global challenges and choices they will face as women and citizens of the future. Through their education and beyond, we want them to think deeply about current social and political issues and to develop advocacy and action with passion and bravery.”

This commitment to learning that matters inspires our girls to drive change in their local communities and advocate for the issues they care about, over time, and today. As we move into 2025, I cannot wait to see what our students have in store for us, and the world.

Samantha Gooch

Deputy Principal –
Pastoral Care

“... many years later and after I had graduated from University, it was my mother who sent me a job advertisement in the paper for a Junior School teacher, and encouraged me to apply!”

Tell me about your personal history with Kambala?

I came to Kambala as a Year 6 student, and finished my HSC here as a member of the Class of 2003. My younger sister Amanda also attended Kambala, and both of us were proud Hawthorne House Prefects. My mother chose Kambala for us because she thought it had a warm, community feel and she wanted us to belong to a school that was welcoming and special. It was interesting that many years later and after I had graduated from university, it was my mother who sent me a job advertisement in the newspaper for a Junior School teacher, and encouraged me to apply!

How did you feel when you first walked through the gates of Kambala as a teacher, compared to when you were a student?

I walked through the doors of the Junior School as an adult equally as nervous as I was on my first day of Year 6 – because I was going for a job interview! In saying that, I was excited and very hopeful. My nerves were soon eased – the then Head of Junior School Miss Jenny Holt and her little dog Cozzi made me feel back at home. I remember walking up the driveway after my interview, crossing my fingers in the hope I would make it to the second round.

What has been your best memory of Kambala?

It must be Hawthorne winning the Music Festival at the Sydney Opera House in 2003, which was my final year at Kambala. I remember running on stage, hugging and jumping around with my friends, just as the girls do today. It is wonderful that many years later, this tradition has continued.

Outside of education, do you have any personal interests?

I am a very keen netballer! The coaches, while I was at Kambala, brought a strong passion and love for netball. I still play today, for a local social club, and I follow the NSW Swifts closely. Being part of a team can be a really great way to not only stay active, but to reap the benefits of belonging to a community. I also have a three-year-old nephew Charlie and one-year-old niece Chloe ... they keep me very busy and I love spending time with them.

Your role as Deputy Principal – Pastoral Care is an integral executive leadership role at Kambala. How has the wellbeing of children and staff developed and changed over the decades?

There has been much technological and social change over the decades, in particular with the recent introduction of generative artificial intelligence. Despite this, the core pillars of what children and adults need to thrive has remained the same. We all need to feel a sense of purpose, to belong and to know that we play an important part in something greater than ourselves. At Kambala, we endeavour, to foster a sense of belonging, to remind our students that their participation matters and to equip them to make a positive contribution to our community and world more broadly.

What is the best part of your job?

That is an easy answer – our students! I have been fortunate enough to work in both the Junior School and Senior School, and have come to know many of our students from Preparation through to Year 12. To walk through our campus and have them say hello, or stop and chat, always brings joy to my day.

I am so proud of our students. On the first excursion I took my Year 5 class to, I recall members of the public approaching me to share how respectful and kind they were during our outing. Recently, I took our Year 11 leaders to a leadership event and accepted the very same feedback. It really is an honour to walk beside our girls in all that they do, both inside and outside of our School gates.

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01/ L-R Year 4 students Emilia Fischer, Alexandra Fermanis, Mackenzie Mancini.

02/ Year 3 students sharing the love L-R Veronika Reynolds, Olive Desmond, Sherry Huang.

HUMANITY IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Mr Stuart Coppin, Deputy Principal – Head of Junior School

The Kambala value of Humanity is at the heart of our School community, guiding students to understand and embody compassion, empathy and respect for others.

Humanity, as defined at Kambala, is not only about kindness but about active engagement in making a difference. It encourages students to reach beyond themselves, considering how their actions affect others and how they can contribute to a more compassionate world. This core value inspires students to be thoughtful, understanding and generous, fostering a spirit of giving and service that stretches across borders.

In line with this commitment, the Junior School recently held its annual Spellathon/Numberathon, a much-anticipated event that combines academic challenge with social impact. Students from all grades participate by raising funds through sponsored spelling, pushing their linguistic abilities to support a worthy cause.

The proceeds from the Spellathon were dedicated to supporting Gemma Sisia and the remarkable work of The School of St Jude in Tanzania. Founded by Sisia, The School of St Jude provides high-quality, tuition-free education to students from underprivileged backgrounds, offering them hope and the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. We are delighted, to date, that Kambala students have contributed close to \$120,000 in funds raised.

Every March, Gemma Sisia connects with our Kambala learners to share the meaningful impact of the community's giving.

Through their efforts, the Junior School students at Kambala are experiencing firsthand the power of giving and the global reach of humanity. They understand that their hard work in the Spellathon isn't just about spelling words correctly but about creating real-world impact for their peers halfway across the globe. By supporting The School of St Jude, Kambala students gain a sense of fulfilment and global responsibility, aligning with their School's commitment to humanity and learning that they, too, can make a lasting difference in the lives of others.

“Students from all grades participate by raising funds through sponsored spelling, pushing their linguistic abilities to support a worthy cause.”





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“Initially, the Boarders considered supporting an overseas charity, but after careful reflection, they chose to focus on an Australian-based organisation that aligns with Kambala’s core values.”

01/ L-R 2025 Head Boarding Prefect Ava Purvis, Principal Jane Danvers and 2025 Deputy Head Boarding Prefect, Hilary Guilfoyle.

02/ Kambala Boarders L-R Charlotte Steibert, Jacqueline Howe and Lilli Bartlett.

A LEGACY OF GIVING BACK

Mrs Joanna Andrew, Head of Boarding

Each year, the Kambala Boarding House community comes together to support a chosen charity, a tradition that has become a cornerstone of life in the House. The 'Boarders Charity' initiative, first introduced by Annabel Brooker and Sophie Purseglove four years ago, encourages students to unite for a collective cause, strengthening not only their bonds but also their sense of social responsibility. This year, the tradition will continue, and the Boarders are ready to make a significant impact on an important cause.

In 2024, the Boarding community rallied behind Dolly's Dream, an organization dedicated to supporting mental health awareness and suicide prevention for young people. Through various fundraising efforts, the Boarders raised over \$1,500 for this worthy cause. The energy and enthusiasm for Dolly's Dream spoke to the dedication of the students in the Boarding House, and the impact of their efforts was felt far beyond the School gates.

2024 Deputy Head Boarding Prefect Audrey Gill reflected on the power of this shared experience, saying, "The charity is a purpose for us to work together and strengthen the community. It is a goal that helps others, not just our Boarding House." Audrey's words encapsulate the heart of the Boarders Charity initiative – it's not only about raising money, but also about fostering a culture of empathy and support within the Boarding community.

This year, the mantle of leadership has passed to Head Boarding Prefect Ava Purvis and Deputy Head Boarding Prefect Hilary Guilfoyle, who are continuing the legacy of their predecessors. Ava and Hilary were inspired by the success of last year's efforts and were determined to choose a charity that would resonate deeply with the values of the School and its Boarding community.

Initially, the Boarders considered supporting an overseas charity, but after careful reflection, they chose to focus on an Australian-based organization that aligns with Kambala's core values. After much discussion, the Boarding Prefects decided to support the Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF), an organization that provides financial support and scholarships to students in rural and remote areas who face barriers to completing their education.

The decision to support CEF is grounded in the School's value of Humanity – one of Kambala's core values. Humanity is about understanding and showing compassion for others, recognizing our shared responsibility to make a positive difference in the lives of those who may not have the same opportunities as we do. By supporting CEF, the Kambala Boarders are embodying this value, helping to provide educational opportunities for students who might otherwise be overlooked due to geographic or financial constraints.



“Education is a powerful tool that can change lives and open doors,” states Ava Purvis, Head Boarding Prefect. “By supporting the Country Education Foundation, we are helping students in rural Australia access the same opportunities that many of us take for granted. It’s a cause that’s close to our hearts because it directly impacts the future of young girls and boys who are striving to make a difference in their own communities.”

Hilary Guilfoyle, Deputy Head Boarding Prefect, adds, “Choosing a charity that supports education feels so right for us. It reflects not only our values but also our commitment to giving back to the wider community. We believe that by helping others pursue their dreams, we are contributing to building a better future for everyone.”

The efforts to raise funds and awareness for the Country Education Foundation will be highlighted during National Boarding Week. The Boarders are already planning a series of events and awareness campaigns, all aimed at raising funds for CEF’s scholarships and programs. Their enthusiasm and commitment to the cause will have a lasting impact, and their collective spirit will undoubtedly continue the tradition of making a difference.

“We believe that by helping others pursue their dreams, we are contributing to building a better future for everyone.”

In supporting CEF, the Kambala Boarders are upholding the value of Humanity in a tangible and meaningful way. The act of giving, whether through time, resources, or financial contributions, reflects the School’s ethos of kindness and community. As the girls of Kambala Boarding House work together to make a difference, they are not only transforming the lives of others but also enriching their own, living out the School’s values in a powerful and lasting way.

SUN SAFETY AND SKIN CARE

Mr Simon Board, Head of PDHPE



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Sophie Alexander and the Sun Safety and Skin Care Committee display one of Kambala's key values, Humanity, as they actively engage with the world and become an inspiration to us all through the design and implementation of Sun Safety and Skin Care workshops.

In late August, the committee designed, organized and ran the Sun Safety and Skin Care workshop for our Year 8 Kambala students.

The workshop is underpinned by a research study conducted in collaboration with Charles Sturt University, with the key research question asking 'Can dedicated workshops be used to improve high school student's understanding and actionability of skin care and protection?'

This is a critical question as we examine the research below:

Girls have been identified as at greater risk where peer norms and gender-targeted messaging related to tanning as an acceptable and popular behaviour have been found to indirectly affect sun safety (Andreeva, V.A., et al, 2008). Adolescents are known to place great importance on social acceptance and cosmetic appearance, and in this context, the sun-related activities of young women have been reported to be engaged towards meeting physical and psychosocial needs (Norton et al 2014). These sociocultural norms and the belief that having a tan is healthy, the perceived attractiveness of having a tan, body image, peer norms and fashion are all known barriers to protective sun-safe behaviours (Andreeva, V.A., et al, 2008). These long-standing barriers, combined with the contemporary impact of social media (Banerjee, S.C., et al, 2019) and social influencers in glamorizing intentional tanning, and misinformation concerning the use of sunscreens, have significantly impacted sun-safe messaging.

The event was a tremendous success and brought together an amazing array of community stakeholders, Dr Philip Tong (Dermscreen), Gail O'Brien AO and Shirin Amirbeaggi (Chris O'Brien Lifehouse), L'Oréal, Emily Foster and Sophie Foster (Foster Grant SUNLUV), Anne Gately (Cancer survivor and Author of *Sunburnt*), which we look to continue to stay connected with to grow the capacity of this program.

A lack of curriculum emphasis, the growing influence of social media, strong evidence-based research in collaboration with student feedback led to the design of our Workshop. Simon Board, Head of PDHPE and author of Sun and UV at School NSW Curriculum resource, designed a 6-week Stage 4

“It is exciting that a project designed by Kambala students begins to extend its reach beyond our School.”



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curriculum to be taught in all Year 8 PDHPE classes leading up to the workshop. Integral to this workshop was the co-design of the project by the student committee. Everything from the use of Anne Gately's newly released *Sunburnt* memoir, which provided authentic learning experiences for the girls, to the theory and workshop design of stations, was supported and suggested from student voice.

The theory workshop thus, was designed around students viewing short TikTok videos and having experts discuss the validity of their claims. Students then engaged in practical stations which included: the use of a UV camera to identify skin damage and

checking the accuracy of sunscreen application; a skin care and sunscreen station where L'Oréal staff designed a skincare routine and shared samples of sunscreen for students; and a consequences station where students learned how to do a self-check and heard from dermatologists and plastic surgeons Kelly Thornbury, Kambala parent, about how skin cancers are identified, treated and recovery managed.

The event was a great success and the research results are showing us the benefit of students co-designing projects, and the benefit of combining the curriculum with an authentic workshop.

In addition, through our partnership with a variety of stakeholders, the media coverage has been beyond our expectations. Sophie Alexander has been interviewed by Channel 7, 9 and 2GB. Sophie met with Mr Greg Warren Parliamentary Secretary for Education to discuss necessary changes to the way Sun Safety and Skin Care is taught and administered in schools. These conversations are also supported by the connection Sophie has formed with Allegra Spender MP, who is passionate about supporting our cause.

The Committee for 2025 has suggested: compulsory hats in PDHPE lessons, conducting a shade audit to maximise shade for the girls on campus, and adjusting WHS requirements to drive Sun Smart policies at Kambala and beyond.

In December 2024 the Sun Safety and Skin Care workshop ventured to Inner Sydney High School at Surry Hills where 200 Year 7 students will have the opportunity to expand their knowledge and understanding in regards to Sun Safety and Skin Care. It's exciting that a project designed by Kambala students begins to extend its reach beyond our School.

Finally, the release of *Conquering Skin Cancer*, in cinemas in December 2024, which features Hugh Jackman, Anne Gately and Dr Philip Tong, helps to educate the community on the dangers of the Australian lifestyle in the sun and ways forward to limit its impact.

Through this experience, the students have connected with Humanity, they have cherished the opportunity to inclusively and actively engage with the world.

We are so proud of their achievements!

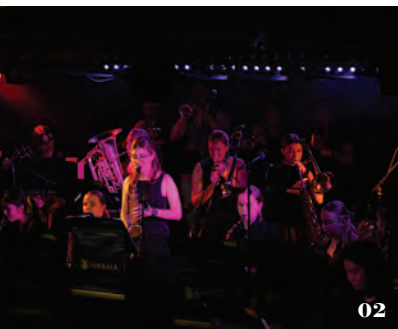
01/ Kambala students attending the Sun Safety workshop.

02/ Kambala students learning about effective sun and skin care.

JAZZ GOES LIVE AT KAMBALA!

Ms Jennifer Lewis, Music Teacher –
Coordinator of Winds, Brass and Percussion

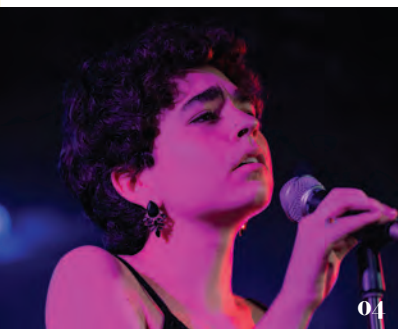
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For Music students, mastering an instrument or voice requires consistent practice, dedication and performance experience. While in-school performances at Kambala such as recitals and concerts are essential, performing outside the academic environment offers unique and invaluable opportunities to enhance musical and personal growth. These experiences are crucial for building confidence, adaptability and a deeper understanding of what it means to be a performing artist. Doing this regularly can help students to develop resilience and help them thrive in high-pressure situations, both in and out of school.

The inaugural Jazz and Burgers at Mary's Underground held on September 10th 2024, was a resounding success for Kambala jazz musicians. Formerly known as The Basement, this venue has hosted many famous contemporary artists since its opening in the 1970s. The intimate venue allowed our musicians to play on a professional stage, with advanced lighting and sound systems helping to provide an electric atmosphere. During the day our ensembles and soloists were able to take part in a technical run and were given feedback on how they could improve before the evening. Students were excited to change into their 'concert blacks' adding to the professional yet casual atmosphere.

After an Acknowledgement of Country, an impromptu heartwarming speech from our Year 12 student, Hayley Green, and a welcome from Ms Danvers, the night kicked off. Kambala Stage Band and the combined Kambala Big Band and Jazz Orchestra provided much of the music for the evening. It was lovely to witness the progression from our younger musicians to our more experienced players

at the end of the evening, performing a huge mixture of styles including jazz, rock, pop, funk and Latin charts to entertain the audience. One of the highlights of the evening was the dynamic solos delivered by students across various sections – saxophones, trumpets, trombones and rhythm. The opportunity for some to improvise in front of a live audience was especially thrilling. A special mention to Claudia Gerber with her saxophone solo feature, *Dusk to Dawn*, towards the end of the evening.

The evening was interspersed with a delightful array of other items including the Tango Orchestra and many vocal items. Madrigals managed to feature their dedicated Year 12s and provided some amazing a cappella jazz arrangements including *Sing, Sing, Sing*. We were also fortunate to hear from some captivating solo vocalists including Scout Abood, Olly Vassallo (Year 11), Annabelle Shepherd, Coco Manovel, Milla Sleijpen, Laura Halley (Year 10), and Annabel Rowney (Year 9). These students all performed with maturity beyond their years and their courage provided a great example for our younger musicians.

The audience's enthusiastic applause after each number reflected the pride and admiration they felt for the hard work and dedication that our performers had put into perfecting their craft. For many in the audience, it was a chance to see these students as budding musicians with immense potential. The event highlighted the importance of music education and how experiences like these foster a lifelong love for the art form.

This performance marked a significant milestone for these students, offering them the chance to play at a professional venue renowned for its vibrant music culture. A special thank you to the team who helped make this event happen: Mr Birchall, Mr Clark, Mrs Mitchell, Ms Easton, Mr Karamanos and Ms Buterin. The experience of performing at such a prestigious venue has undoubtedly fuelled the students' passion for jazz and live performance and we can't wait to perform again the year.

-
- 01/ Sophie Scanlon.
 - 02/ Claudia Gerber.
 - 03/ Quincy Sheldrick.
 - 04/ Olly Vassallo.

THE STRATEGIC PLAN LAUNCH EVENTS

During Term 3 and Term 4 last year, we held a series of five *In Conversation with Jane Danvers* presentations to our parents. These informative sessions provided details around the 2024–2027 Strategic Plan, and shared key insights and future plans for Kambala. The School’s activities and developments were discussed, and a deep dive into the longer term goals, operational priorities and key projects were made available. We thank all parents who attended the events.







01



02

OUR SCHOOL, OUR STAFF

Mrs Alexandra Panagopoulos

Massie Coordinator – Junior School

What was it about education that enticed you to become a teacher?

I've wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember. I hoped to be the kind of teacher who inspired and encouraged my students to strive for more, and to pursue their passions and achieve their dreams, just like some of my teachers did for me. I believe that education can be one of the most transformative aspects of a child's life.

When do you feel happiest in the classroom?

Every day has magic moments. When my young students enter their classroom, they are my priority and nothing else matters. I am in awe of their curiosity about the world around them and their attempts to understand how they fit into it. I delight in their funny conversations, their 'aha' moments when they acquire new skills, and the pride they feel in their achievements. The visible progress I see in my students each day brings me a great sense of fulfilment.

How do you maintain the attention span of young minds throughout the day?

It's all about creating a special place of learning for children. The environment needs to be happy, secure and harmonious, which promotes and values a love of learning. Experiences should be tailored to individual needs as much as possible and designed to engage them in thinking. Through collaborative and independent activities, my students participate in interactive lessons, which are challenging, exciting and fun. I give them opportunities to explore concepts and skills, and to consolidate their understanding. I make the classroom a place where they can reflect on their learning and to describe what they are thinking and doing.

What changes have you noticed in the way students learn throughout the time you've been teaching?

The rhythm of life nowadays and the technological world exposes students to quick and continual stimuli. This seems to lead young learners to expect immediate responses. Our students need to be taught to be aware of situations, to take time out and reflect, to engage in critical analysis, to observe, listen to others and pay attention to details. While the principles of good teaching may need to be refined in our changing classrooms, the intent of education has stayed the same. I believe it is our duty as educators to promote an active attitude and to teach students to 'think' rather than to just 'do'. As a result, we can work towards ensuring that future generations have the knowledge, skills and resources they need to navigate an ever-changing world.

How would you advise emerging teaching graduates to approach educating young people?

I would say there is no career more rewarding or more important than teaching. As an educator, you can have such a strong impact on young lives. Teach with passion and care for your students, the way you'd want your own children to be cared for in the classroom. Invest in parent-teacher relationships because it can make a world of difference to academic and pastoral outcomes. Constantly aim to better yourself as an educator. View your students as competent learners who have an innate desire to make sense of their world. And finally, remember the strength of values in education. It is these critical human tools that our children will take with them long after they forget the lessons they were taught in class. These lessons will act as foundation points to guide their everyday life.

Congratulations on becoming a grandmother recently. Do you think your passion for your profession will unconsciously shape the way you interact with your granddaughter as she develops?

Thank you. I already feel an immeasurable love and bond to this little person I have just met.

In my interactions with my granddaughter, I will always be mindful of my obligations to her as an educator.

I will encourage her to love learning. I will prioritise play, in the spirited way that grandparents can. It is such an important way for her to develop curiosity and ideas about the world.

I hope that my granddaughter receives a wonderful education. Just like the education I aim to provide to my students, I will try to create an environment where she will experience a sense of wonder, a feeling of safety, warmth and belonging.

I hope that through my actions and words, I can model and teach her kindness, resilience, empathy, responsibility, integrity, honesty and gratitude, just as I encourage my students every day.

“To be able to capture their milestones, big or small is very fulfilling.”



OUR SCHOOL, OUR STAFF

Mr Theo Miller

Content Creator – Marketing, Communications and Engagement

Tell me about your skill set and how you got in to photography.

I create content through photography and film-making, so my skill set is split across the technical aspect of using cameras, etc., and also story-telling. Initially I wanted to be a film-maker so I went to film school in Melbourne and got a degree. But, by the time I started working, I gravitated a little more towards photography. I get to do both in this job which is fun.

How does your role as Content Creator at Kambala allow you to engage with students and staff?

I engage with pretty much everyone around the School, students and staff alike. The student engagement is a tricky balance as I'm not a teacher but I'm still asking something of them – their image. The goal is to be slightly invisible and also have a presence they can trust. If both the students and staff can feel authentic while doing their thing at school and I can capture that, then that's a win! That's easier said than done though, obviously. Teenage girls have plenty of reasons not to want their picture taken. But if I can convince them that there's no standard they need to achieve aside from wearing the right uniform, if they can feel comfortable enough to be themselves and that they're good enough then that's the goal.

What does a typical day look like as Content Creator?

A typical day as a content creator is hard to define in a school as there is always something different happening. But generally, I'll arrive at work, eat my croissant at my desk, check the cricket scores, then get to work. I'll usually have a few shoots on if it's during term, so I'll prep my gear, make some notes then go and execute the shoot (photo or video). Then I'll come back to my desk and when I'm not shooting I'll be editing either a film or photos, or planning the next project. I also do a bit of the social media management so I may plan a social post or two. And I'll have as big a lunch as humanly possible from the Boarding House – I like to eat.

What do you like most about working and creating content with students?

I like how different and interesting the students are, even at such a young age. There are many stereotypes about teenagers, especially, but in reality they're all very complicated, smart and creative. To be able to capture that and also their milestones, big and small, is very fulfilling. Getting to know the students from the youngest years is really fun too, even if their favourite name for me is 'Mr Poo Poo Head'!

They say never to work with young people or animals – you do both! Any funny stories to share?

Well, it can get messy and your plans can go out the window pretty quickly, but it's fun sometimes just rolling with it. They're kids and kids are messy and unpredictable. The funniest times are probably when I make the Massie Graduation Films. I interview every Year 2 student in pairs and they come out with some great stuff. I asked Imogen W what she thought she would be like as an adult and she said... "stubborn".

As for the animals, anytime I'm trying to photograph the dogs when there's food around, is a virtually impossible task but it's a lot of fun.

You've created some amazing video content for Kambala, is there one piece that is particularly memorable for you in terms of the creation and also the audience response/reaction?

That's very kind. I'm not sure, I like bits of all of them. I guess the film we made about the Future Pathways program called *Careers*. It was a lot of fun to make and I had help from both the Kambala Media Club and two very talented actors from Year 10. Most of what I do is documentary style so it was fun to play something more scripted and of course to get Mr Peter Overton involved.



NETBALL AT KAMBALA: A CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS AND HUMANITY

Mrs Brigitte Athas, Sports Administrator

At Kambala, netball has become more than just a sport; it is a powerful avenue for fostering community, inclusiveness, and active participation.

From the Junior School through to the Senior School, netball has grown into a thriving program, embracing the values that underpin the School's philosophy of Humanity. Last year, in particular, was a landmark for netball at Kambala, with both the Junior and Senior teams achieving new heights through dedication, strategy and a collective spirit that mirrors the strength of our community.

The Junior School's Netball Program has flourished by nurturing the potential of young athletes while cultivating values of teamwork and compassion. At this developmental stage, the emphasis is not solely on winning but on participation, learning the fundamentals of the game, and instilling a sense of respect for each other and the sport. Coaches focus on ensuring that every girl, no matter their skill level, feels included and valued on the court. This approach has resulted in a remarkable increase in participation rates, with students eager to get involved, knowing that netball at Kambala is a safe and encouraging space for growth.

The Junior School's success can be attributed to a strategic balance between skill development and fun. By making the game enjoyable and creating an environment where players support one another, the program has seen incredible enthusiasm from students. Last season, although many games were rained out, was one of our most successful in terms of participation, starting with our netball skills in Term 1 through to the competition in Term 2. We ended our season with an afternoon of fun with our Year 9 teams, which was a huge success and something we will implement in future seasons.



01/ Kailani Bartlett aiming high.

02/ Year 9 netball.

03/ Year 5 netball.

04/ Senior netball team.



01



02



03

As students progress into the Senior School, the focus sharpens on competition while maintaining the values of inclusiveness and community spirit. In 2024, the Senior netball teams excelled, not just in terms of wins but in the overall camaraderie and dedication they demonstrated. The strategy behind the year’s success was threefold: fostering relationships; strengthening team bonds; and implementing an enjoyable and varied training regime. We began with a gala day against our neighbours Kincoppal-Rose Bay which really set the tone for the camaraderie and relationships we built throughout the season, not only with each other but with other teams. Having the consistency of our Senior A team playing in both the IGSA and Randwick Netball Association (RNA) competitions has seen this team be the most successful Senior A team in the School’s history. Winning the St Catherine’s invitational, being a Grand Finalist in the RNA Intermediate Division 1 Grand Final and winning the IGSA S02 Grand Final, a feat no other Senior A team has achieved.

The strategic framework driving the netball program’s success last year hinged on collaboration between players, coaches and the wider Kambala community. Coaching staff have taken a holistic approach, recognizing that the physical and emotional wellbeing of players is just as important as their performance.

Training sessions are designed to challenge the girls while also fostering resilience, teamwork and camaraderie. The result is a program that thrives on the value of Humanity – where victories are celebrated but so are efforts, whether successful or not. Ending the season with our House netball gala afternoon really showed the success of our year and we were able to celebrate all of our teams.

Kambala’s netball success is a testament to the School’s commitment to developing not only excellent athletes but also compassionate, driven and inclusive young women. Netball is more than a game; it’s a tool for personal growth and community building. The lessons learned on the netball court – teamwork, respect, perseverance – will remain with students long after the final whistle, shaping them into empathetic and engaged women.

As the season draws to a close, it is clear that Kambala’s Netball Program has achieved great things. The high participation rates and strong bonds across the Junior School and Senior School is a direct result of the strategy that places humanity at the heart of everything. With this strong foundation, there is no doubt that netball at Kambala will continue to grow, providing future generations of students with the opportunity to not only excel in sport but also in life.

01/ Year 9 netball.
 02/ Year 7 netball.
 03/ Year 4 and 5 netball.



WHAT DOES HUMANITY MEAN TO YOU?

Ms Mandy Tweweke, Head of Advancement and Community

It's a thought-provoking question. The concept of Humanity may hold a unique meaning for each of us. When I asked a colleague, what does 'Humanity' mean to you? Her response was "*the goodness of people, doing the right thing by people*". Another response was "*ethical treatment of another person*". Our beliefs are not just abstract ideas, they shape our actions and decisions. The way we interpret the concept of Humanity influences how we put these beliefs into practice in our daily lives.

The Australian Human Rights Commission outlines that "*human rights recognise the **inherent value of each person**, regardless of background, where we live, what we look like, what we think or what we believe. Respect for human rights is the **cornerstone of strong communities** in which everyone can make a contribution and feel included.*"

Volunteering and giving connect us with others and embody the kindness and collaboration essential to our Humanity. Embracing these values strengthens our communities and enriches our lives. The spirit of Humanity thrives within our School community, a testament to our collective efforts and shared values.

We are grateful for our girls and dedicated community members who generously offer their support. We also acknowledge those who contribute to communities beyond our own. This truly reflects the spirit of Humanity.

2024 began with the annual KPA Cocktail Party, a wonderful celebration that brought together our parents, guardians, staff and School Council. Following that, we enjoyed the KPA Golf Day, the Chinese Luna event, and the Mother's Day Stall. We also celebrated the Chinese Community Luncheon, the Father's Day Stall, and the KPA Junior School Cocktail Party.

Throughout the year, we had the Junior School Book Week, the Hampshire Family Fun Day, dance concerts, and various sports and co-curricular activities (a big thank you to the parent 'taxi drivers') and Year 12 events and celebrations. The KPA supported World Teacher's Day and the highly anticipated Carols on Tivoli Lawn.

We are grateful for our inspirational alumnae who generously volunteer their time as mentors and guest speakers, as well as our teachers and non-teaching staff who consistently go above and beyond.

We take a moment to recognise our unsung heroes – the countless volunteers who provide invaluable support. Whether they help in the canteen, assist with valedictory events, or drama productions, their efforts make a significant difference. Our KPA and parent volunteers have been instrumental in facilitating these activities and many others.

Our shared Humanity is what unites and defines us all.

-
- 01/ Kambala parents and staff enjoying morning tea on Tivoli Terrace.
 - 02/ Margie (Rawling) Merriman OG53 and current students Isabella Zhang and Sherry Huang.
 - 03/ A visit from Dr Diane Speed OG60 for the Marking Time event, with student Kate Mao.
 - 04/ Sunset views from the Harbourview Terrace.

Junior School Open Day



Massie Art Show



Boarding 'In' Weekend



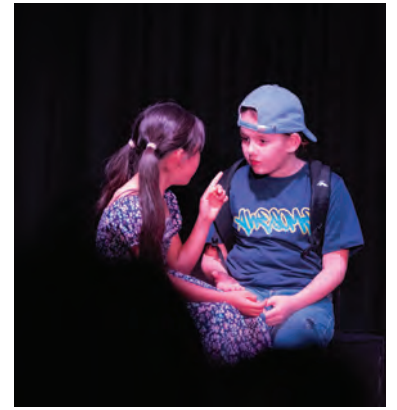
2024 Year 12 HSC and IB Showcase



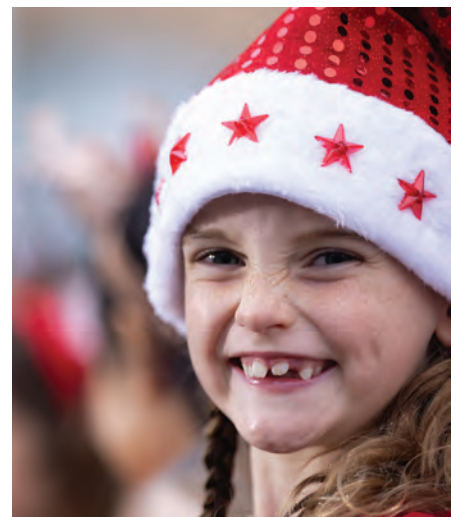
2024 Father's Day Breakfast



2024 Junior School Productions



Christmas Carols on Tivoli lawn



Nine Lessons and Carols



STAY CONNECTED

**Update or register your contact details using
one of the below methods:**

1 ONLINE

Visit **kog.kambala.nsw.edu.au**

Go to 'Your Account' and Register or Login
and Update your Contact Details

2 PHONE

Call us on **02 9388 6888**

3 EMAIL

Email us at **kog@kambala.nsw.edu.au**
with your name, cohort year, maiden name (if applicable)
and postal address details

4 LINKEDIN

Add Kambala to the **education section** of your LinkedIn Profile
by clicking on the Kambala logo and join our Kambala Old Girls Group
at **linkedin.com/groups/5118542**

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@kambalaoldgirls

KOG PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Amanda (Baird) Kirton OG88



A passion of mine is the expansion of the networking program for OGs – from Kambala girls at school learning from OGs across wide and varied industries, to those establishing themselves in their careers, to those OGs at the top of their profession.

It has been exciting to witness the cascading effect this has had on mentoring programs and participation at events. It has been incredible to discover the wide variety of careers that OGs have forged and have been so generous to share with those following.

I encourage everyone to sign up on LinkedIn to the Kambala Old Girls Group and the Kambala page, as it makes it so much easier to search for those working in career paths that interest our younger OGs. Every career is valued! Alternatively, get in touch with Donna Kelly-Smith, the Alumni Relations Manager and let her know what you have been doing.

In 2024, Kambala alumni kindly hosted two KOG business breakfasts. In June, Ruveni (Bandaranayake) Kelleher OG86, Senior Partner at Johnson Winter Slattery (JWS) welcomed Michelle Lie OG11 and Sonia Bassar (current Kambala parent) for an all-encompassing discussion on the future of AI and technology. In September, Hannah Hesse OG97, Partner, Deal Advisory – Tax at KPMG invited Dr Merriden Varrall to help OGs understand and navigate the complex global geopolitical environment.

The access to such incredible talent and content has been fantastic, and I encourage all OGs to grab the opportunity to hear from more of the amazing lineup of speakers we have scheduled for this year. The first networking event off the rank will be in March, hosted by Jessica Firth OG18 who works at the Private Equity firm Square Peg Capital. I can't wait to learn about what is next for investment in Australia. What is your passion? Please let us know if you are interested in strengthening the network by hosting or speaking at an event.

As our networking reach extends, we can connect more OGs with mentors. Our mentoring information and drinks evening was well attended in July, with several successful partnerships established. We were fortunate to have Devika (Bala) Murugasu OG87, Managing Legal Counsel – Corporate at Insignia Financial give insights into her mentoring and sponsorship journey.

Additionally, we have welcomed a steady stream of OGs to individually speak to current students through the Future Pathways program run by the Kambala Careers Advisor. We look forward to the re-establishment of our Internship program in 2025 to round out our networking offering, and we thank both Sally Dan-Cuthbert of her eponymous art gallery and Josephine Linden of Linden Global Strategies for continually championing internships over the years.

Of course, social connections lie at the heart of Kambala Old Girls. Each year we welcome news from the many reunions hosted for significant leaving years. In 2024, the Classes of 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994, 2004 and 2014 all held a reunion lunch, dinner or drinks to celebrate their cohort leaving year.

Additionally, multi-generational events including Sips in the Soub for Young OGs, the Brisbane Lunch and the Canberra Lunch were hosted for the first time. We encourage any OGs interested in hosting an event in their hometown – small or large – to reach out. We have had a request to hear from any New Zealand residents – call in!

In early November 2024, Principal Jane Danvers joined a London OG cohort for drinks. New York City continues to be a hub for our international OG network, where Josephine Linden works tirelessly connecting OGs to an amazing array of influential business colleagues and politicians. The Linden Fellowship welcomed Liv Kohan OG18 and Eloise Allen-Bowton OG18 into the fold, and KOG was excited to announce a new scholarship of AUD \$5,000 to help the Fellows fund their time in the Big Apple.

The Vintage Lunch celebrates KOGs who left the School over 50 years ago, with leavers from 1974 having the opportunity to be the youngest in the room. Over 60 OGS attended and all were young at heart, with special mention to Janet (Denovan) Bowen OG51 celebrating her 73rd year leaving school. It is a highlight of the KOG calendar welcoming back this diverse and enthusiastic group of women, and it certainly was a day of celebrating the strong ties established years ago. We encourage all OGs up to and including 1975 to connect with school friends and organise for this year's Vintage Lunch – rebranded Gold Lunch – on Thursday 16 October 2025. Laura Carmichael, School Archivist, thanks all OGs who brought and donated photos and artefacts at 2024 lunch – KOG always welcomes these treasures!

The Generations Morning Tea is another opportunity to celebrate the ties that continue to link KOGs to Kambala. Over 60 KOGs who have current relatives attending Kambala from Hampshire House to Year 12 were welcomed back to the School in 2024, and it was wonderful to see so many generations of KOGs, with grandmothers, mothers, aunts and godmothers enjoying this annual tradition.

We were excited to initiate the KOG volunteer day at The Infants' Home, with seven OGs from 2019 spending the day creating a planter garden, refurbishing furniture and undertaking general maintenance at the early learning centre. The Infants' Home wrote on their Instagram page "We loved having you here and the sounds of laughter and enthusiasm made the day so much fun. We can't wait to have you back. Thank you for your support". KOG is adding this experience to the Year 13 calendar and encourages all OG years to participate in this program in 2025. Let us know if you are interested!

The 2025 calendar beckons – we are adding a Sydney Lunch on Saturday 22 March at Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club (RPCYC) and the Country Lunch in Orange returns on 3 May. Consider connecting with the Execo and be involved. There are over 7,000 KOGs and we welcome the opportunity to connect and celebrate with all. Kambala Old Girls is a thriving organisation, with a diverse calendar, both professional and social, for young and old.

Apology and correction from Winter Issue 2024:
I LOVE NYC KOGs in The Big Apple feature page 40, Nicola Borton OG11, surname was misspelt.

2025 KOG EVENTS

*Note, these dates and events are subject to change.



MARCH

Wed 12 Mar:
Business Networking Event

Sun 16 Mar:
Year 13 Music Festival

Sat 22 Mar:
Sydney Lunch, RPEYC

MAY

Sat 3 May:
Orange Lunch

Tue 6 May:
Term 2 Execo

Wed 21 May:
2025 Mentoring Program
Launch

Wed 28 May:
Linden Fellowship Careers
Assembly

JUNE

Wed 4 Jun:
Inspirational Old Girls
Assembly

Fri 13 Jun:
Year 7 and Year 12
Fluoro Night

Mon 23 Jun:
Archibald Tour, AGNSW

JULY

Thu 24 Jul:
KOG Generations
Morning Tea

Tue 29 Jul:
Term 3 Execo

AUGUST

Sat 16 Aug:
Canberra Lunch

SEPTEMBER

Wed 17 Sep:
LinkedIn Presentation

Thu 18 Sep:
Business Networking Event

Sat 20 Sep:
Brisbane Lunch

OCTOBER

Thu 16 Oct:
Gold Lunch

Sat 25 Oct:
YOG Sips in the Soub

Tue 28 Oct:
Term 4 Execo

Fri 31 Oct:
Year 6 Test and Quest Day

DECEMBER

Wed 10 Dec:
Kambala Speech Day

WORK IN NEW YORK CITY!

Advance your career ... Apply for a coveted Linden Fellowship and spend three months working in New York City being mentored by our very own Kambala Old Girl Josephine Linden AM OG69.

Kambala Old Girls is delighted to offer successful candidates a AUD \$5,000 scholarship to support their Fellowship in New York City!

Wealth management advisory firm Linden Global Strategies offers a high degree of flexibility in the timing and commencement of a Fellowship.

If you're over 21 years of age and have completed (or almost completed) an undergraduate degree, you're eligible to apply.

If this sounds like you, please email kog@kambala.nsw.edu.au or call Donna Kelly-Smith, Kambala's Alumni Relations Manager on 02 9388 6888 for more details.



TIVOLI HERITAGE WALK PAVERS

To honour your personal journey and contribution to Kambala, you have the opportunity to be part of the Tivoli Heritage Walk by donating a brick engraved with the name of your daughter, or an Old Girl, and the years she attended Kambala.

The Kambala Old Girls' Tivoli Walk is a joint initiative between the School and Kambala Old Girls (KOG). All funds raised from this initiative are allocated to Kambala's Building Fund to support future physical enhancements to the School.

The cost per brick is \$500.00.

One name per paver – multiple names cannot be added to a single brick.

Your \$500.00 donation is tax deductible and a tax invoice will be automatically issued upon payment receipt.

Please note there is a non tax-deductible 2.6 percent booking fee.

Scan the QR code below to order:



If you have any questions or technical issues, please call Kambala's Alumni Relations Manager, Donna Kelly-Smith on (02) 9388 6888 or email kog@kambala.nsw.edu.au

Thank you for your generous support of our wonderful School!



FROM THE ARCHIVE:
**HUMANITY
 IN THE
 ARCHIVES**

Ms Laura Carmichael, Kambala Archivist

01

Humanity is what creates and cultivates the Laurie White Archive at Kambala.

Our Archive is an invaluable repository of history, preserving lives, stories, and the relationships that shaped them. It offers a glimpse into the past that would otherwise be lost to time. Last October, KOG held their annual Vintage Lunch and firsthand we witnessed the Humanity and shared community among our Old Girls. Several Kambala Alumni donated keepsakes from their time at Kambala and we are most grateful for these generous donations. Personal papers, photos and book prizes all help tell the story of our experiences at Kambala, shaped by the beauty and values of our School.

Thank you to the Old Girls who donated and for playing an important role in helping the Kambala community preserve our identity and our history with these shared experiences.

We are grateful for the generosity of the following donors:

Janet (Denovan) Bowen OG51: Scouts Ball, 1948.

Jill (Bradford) Corke OG61, Beth (Bradford) Redpath OG62, and Sue (Bradford) Moran OG65: Historical photographs from the late 1920s and early 1930s featuring their mother June Priddle OG32.

Jill (Bradford) Corke OG61: Kambala book bag from 1961.

Rhonda (Boyce) Benton OG65: Collection of book prizes, including the coveted JMC and Ida Forsayth Memorial Prize of a Holy Bible for General Proficiency for work in Sport and Conduct, as well as sports ribbons from 1957–1965, a Massie House Bow Tie, Wentworth and Kambala pins and a uniform tie from 1965 signed by her classmates.

Donation in Memory of Marcelle Jane Hoddle OG67: Young Mo, Nimrod, 1978, printed 1982 by Martin Sharp. This incredible donation will be part of the Kambala Fine Arts Collection. Marcelle always appreciated and loved art. In 1967, she gained second place in NSW in a United Nations Poster Competition.

01/ Scouts Ball, 1948.
 Generously donated by Janet (Denovan) Bowen Class of 1951.
 Labelled on the back L-R:
 Bruce Gayle; Bluey Nichols;
 Janet (Denovan) Bowen;
 Kirth Pandy; Jislyn Butler;
 Tony Kein; Bev Phillips;
 Miss Cousin; (unknown);
 Morah Wadge.



01



02



03

- 01/ Young Mo, *Nimrod*, 1978, printed 1982 by Martin Sharp. Donation in Memory of Marcelle Jane Huddle OG67.
- 02/ Collection of Rhonda (Boyce) Benton OG65. Pictured here are her book prizes, including the coveted JMC and Ida Forsayth Memorial Prize of a Holy Bible for General Proficiency for work in Sport and Conduct and her Wentworth and Kambala pins.
- 03/ From Left to Right: Beth (Bradford) Redpath OG62, Sue (Bradford) Moran OG65 and Jill (Bradford) Corke OG61,



01



02

BEYOND BOUNDARIES: HUMANITY'S ESSENCE

ANAIS MENOUNOS OG12

Ms Donna (Kelly) Kelly-Smith OG78, Alumni Relations Manager

What would your life be like if you had never attended school?

Approximately 16 percent of children and youth globally are not going to school today, with almost 20 percent (1 out of 5) African children currently not attending school (UNESCO, 2023).

I was blissfully unaware of this harsh reality when, in 2018, I decided to take a gap year between finishing my combined law degree and starting full-time work as a law graduate. After 18 long years of receiving a prestigious education from Kambala and UNSW, I put my career trajectory on hold for a desire to volunteer and give back to vulnerable communities.

I secured a volunteer position at an Non-governmental Organisation in Ghana, West Africa in their female empowerment team, with a mission to design educational programs to raise awareness about women's rights in the small community of Kokrobite.

One morning while I was out in the community conducting my research interviews, I spoke with a 23-year-old mother. She was married at 13 years old, already had three children and had never been to school. There I sat opposite her, also 23 years old, but with a completely different life, all because of the country I was born in. My privilege was a product of a geographical lottery that benefited me an education and opportunity which she could sadly only dream of.

While school in Ghana is officially 'free', public schools still charge small levies for uniforms, lunch and books, which prevents those living in poverty from accessing education. Families typically forgo educating their children to provide the basic necessities of food and shelter. Girls can also be seen as a burden to their family and are often married young, missing out on attending school in their formative years.

The most humbling memory I still carry with me was during a research interview when a child ran up to me and begged me for a book to read. This was the first time I had been confronted with desperation for something that we so commonly take for granted here. How many of us have unread books gathering dust at home? And yet here stood this boy ... not hungry for food or material possessions, but hungry for knowledge ... a book to read.

01/ Excursions in 2022.

02/ Inusah Amidu and Anais Menounos.



These are just some of many experiences that instilled in me a desire to eventually return to Ghana to provide education to as many children as I could. Educating youth can tangibly improve standards of living through access to new skills and opportunities, especially for young women. And of course, I was living evidence of just how important and transformative an education could be for someone.

What followed would change my life and the lives of hundreds of others in that small community forever. After finishing my initial volunteer work with the NGO, I returned to Ghana to start St Nicholas Mission Academy (St Nic's) with my co-founder, Inusah Amidu, who was a colleague I worked with at the NGO when I first arrived in Ghana.

The school started as a small initiative that was funded through the initial generosity of family and friends. I was able to fundraise \$500 to rent an old, empty church hall for one year – our new school premises! We then raised another few thousand dollars to purchase school furniture and supplies for our first 15 students and secured three teachers.

St Nic's is a school that provides education, a daily hot lunch, drinking water, school supplies, uniforms and national health insurance registration completely for free, as we opened our doors specifically for those living below the poverty line.

We named our school after St Nicholas because he was the patron saint of seafarers and would protect the fishing industry that this community relied upon. St Nicholas is also traditionally associated with generosity to vulnerable children, which we also resonated with.

Our first three classes comprised of Nursery and Kindergarten Levels 1 and 2. Every year, we have gradually expanded our school by taking our eldest class to their next grade, including hiring a new teacher.

Six years later, we have over 250 students divided across 11 classes and provide employment to 16 Ghanaian staff, including our teachers, cook, grounds keeper, cleaner and bus driver. St Nic's offers a range of extra curriculums (free of charge), including swimming lessons, football, cultural drumming, dancing, ICT and coding classes. We are also fully registered with the Ministry of Education (Ghana) and are hoping to open a Junior High School in the next few years.

St Nic's aim is to educate children out of poverty. By providing a quality education, we hope that our students will graduate high school with skills and opportunities that exceed far beyond what their parents were ever provided and will help them and their communities dream, aspire, succeed and thrive. We proudly host an annual careers day where members of the community from different professions attend as guest speakers to inspire our students about the range of professional careers that are available, including doctors, nurses, policemen, pilots, bank tellers, soldiers, teachers and football players, to name a few.

Our school bus purchase in 2022 was a pivotal moment as it not only guaranteed the attendance of students who lived further away, but gave us the opportunity to take our students on excursions. We have since taken our students to their capital city, Accra, to visit monumental sites, they have visited farm animals, seen a university where they conducted science experiments and visited the



“Somehow I manage to balance this with my job as a lawyer at Gilbert + Tobin in Sydney.”

historical Cape Coast. Previously, the majority of our students had never left the parameters of their small community, so being able to expand their horizons and see the joy in their faces as the bus drove into uncharted territory has been so special.

The building of our small library is also a focal point within our school, as improving literacy is one of our key priorities. Our volunteers take time to lead one-on-one reading sessions with our students, which has made a significant impact in their confidence in reading in English, which is the second or third language for most of our students.

The running of St Nic's has not come without its challenges. Attendance was an issue we tackled in the early years, as parents were worried that we would charge them hidden fees. In addition, most of our parents had never attended school themselves and did not fully appreciate the benefits of education in breaking the cycle of poverty. The parents therefore sometimes preferred their children to stay home and learn a trade or to work to earn a living, as they considered this a more productive use of time. It has taken years of regular Parent Teacher Association meetings to gradually shift their mindset to value the gift of education and see it as an investment in their child's and community's future.

COVID-19 was also a difficult time for us, as schools in Ghana were completely closed for 12 months. This didn't stop us! We set up five community learning centres throughout two communities where our desks and whiteboards were placed outside in public places. Maintaining a consistent

learning environment during an unstable time was important for us. We also continued to provide lunches to our students and proudly distributed over 7,200 lunch packs during 2020.

Being based in Australia myself has also been challenging over the last six years, however I always look forward to my regular visits to Ghana! My role at St Nic's has evolved into managing fundraising, partnerships, networking, marketing and communications, while working with my co-founder to coordinate the day-to-day running of the school together and the rollout of educational and other community services. Somehow I manage to balance this with my job as a lawyer at Gilbert + Tobin in Sydney. But despite this all, St Nic's has gone from strength to strength educating a growing number of students every year since it was established.

During my visit to Ghana in 2023, we celebrated our five-year anniversary since opening St Nic's. The two-day extravaganza began with a dancing procession through the community followed by a series of performances by the students showcasing their talents, including poetry recitals, singing, modern and cultural dances, drama, acting and modelling. The audience was filled with parents and esteemed guests, including our region's education coordinator, representatives of the Chief of Kokrobite and Assemblyman, all of whom made impressive speeches that highlighted the impact we have made in our community as the first school to commit to, and successfully provide, free education.



01

Our proudest achievement is our founding kindergarten class of 2018 who are now entering high school and are already more literate than their parents, with a big bright future ahead of them.

I could not have imagined that a small flame inside me to journey overseas to volunteer would have led us here. I am so humbled by the generosity of so many (including Kambala) that have helped to make St Nic's possible and its impact on the community of Kokrobite so powerful. While there remains much to do in Kokrobite, we are seeing the life-changing impact on the lives, hopes and aspirations of our students and their families each and every day.

Please visit our website at stnicma.org



02

01/ Learn to swim lessons for some of the students.

02/ Happy and smiling young students of St Nic's.

EVENT WRAP UP



01

2024 KOG GENERATIONS MORNING TEA

50 alumni attended our annual KOG Generations Morning Tea in late July.

Principal Jane Danvers and KOG President Amanda (Baird) Kirton OG88 welcomed everyone, and Nawal O'Neil OG22 shared exciting news about her current enrolment at Cornell University in New York studying Civil Engineering.

Laura Carmichael, Kambala's Archivist, was on hand to chat with KOGs about archival treasures and took one grateful guest to view an important award her daughter had received at Kambala.

Amanda reminded alumni about the many KOG events we plan each year and encouraged everyone to follow us on our own Kambala Old Girls Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn pages.

The sun was shining and everyone was smiling as the girls arrived at recess to join their family members for a delicious morning tea but the KOG cupcakes were the biggest hit and you had to be quick to secure one!

Please update your details with us at kog@kambala.nsw.edu.au to receive KOG communication about what's happening.

2024 MENTORING PROGRAM LAUNCH

The KOG 2024 Mentoring Program kicked off with a relaxed cocktail party in the Drawing Room in early August.

Following an acknowledgment of country by KOG President Amanda (Baird) Kirton OG88, KOG Execo Anna (Matt) Kuperman OG93 outlined the 2024 Program and introduced our special guest speaker Devika (Bala) Murugasu OG87, Managing Legal Counsel, Corporate at Insignia Financial.

Many thanks to Devika for speaking about her career progression in the law industry and highlighting the personal benefits for both mentors and mentees in a good mentoring relationship.

If you're interested in finding a mentor at any time, please email kog@kambala.nsw.edu.au for help.



02

01 / Delicious Kambala cupcakes for the KOG Generations Morning Tea.

02 / L-R, Anna (Matt) Kuperman OG93, Devika (Bala) Murugasu OG87, Donna (Kelly) Kelly-Smith OG78, Amanda (Baird) Kirton OG88.

2024 CANBERRA LUNCH

Overcast weather couldn't dampen the spirit of 23 KOGs from the Classes of 1955-2023 at a fun Old Girls lunch in Canberra in mid August!

Many thanks to Sally (Best) Curlewis OG65 and Susanne (Carr) Howell OG65 for organising this fabulous Canberra KOG event.

One YOG couldn't believe there were so many KOGs living in or near Canberra – she thought she was the only one.

Two other KOGs who knew each other from ACT musical events were surprised to see each other; neither knew the other one went to Kambala within a year of each other.

Our youngest attendee was Ashleigh (Keeling) Whelan's gorgeous 11-week-old daughter Lizzie – so content, she slept through the entire afternoon despite all the chatting and laughing.

Well received as a cross-generational event – Sally (Best) Curlewis OG65, her daughter and Kambala Council Executive Row Curlewis OG88, and granddaughter Zara Goodfellow OG23 were among guests; with some of the younger attendees already requesting another get-together, so we plan to keep this one on the KOG events calendar for the future!



01

01/ L to R: All smiles for cross-generations alumni: Rowena Curlewis OG88 with daughter Zara Goodfellow OG23 and mother Sally (Best) Curlewis OG65.

02/ L to R: Hannah Hesse OG97, KOG President Amanda (Baird) Kirton OG88, Dr Merriden Varrall and Nikki Marzbani.



02

2024 BRISBANE LUNCH

KOG would like to especially thank past KOG President Jane Poole OG79 for hosting a successful KOG Brisbane lunch at Greca restaurant on 24 August.

Thanks to Kate Horton OG90, Belinda Byrne OG94, Bianca Barrett OG94, Suzie Burgess OG79, Marianne Cremin OG62, Jane Poole OG79, Carolyn Shannon OG62, Helen Crestani OG76, Victoria Bucknell OG87 and Narelle Boyd OG88 for making the effort to come together and make our inaugural QLD KOG event such a fun afternoon.

The cross-generational company and restaurant service was fantastic with delicious food.

Happily, a Brisbane event is now established in the KOG annual calendar and we're all looking forward to the next one!

2024 BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT

KOG alumni were treated to a fascinating introduction to geopolitics – the study of how geography influences global politics, power, and international relations – by Dr Merriden Varrall, Partner at KPMG's Geopolitics Hub, at KPMG Sydney in late September.

A huge thanks to Hannah Hesse OG97, Partner at KPMG Australia, for hosting this enjoyable business networking breakfast for 40 alumni. And to Merriden who gave a thought-provoking talk about this fascinating area, sparking a very engaged Q and A.

KOG is grateful to both Hannah and KPMG for organising, and to Dr Merriden Varrall for inspiring us all!

These events are increasingly popular for their networking, mentoring, educational and social opportunities – we hope more of you can join us at these KOG events in 2025!

YOG SIPS IN THE SOUB

YOG Execo hosted a fabulous informal drinks event called 'Sips in the Soub' for 22 Old Girls from the Classes of 2013–2023 on a Saturday afternoon in the Year 12 Soubeiran Room at Kambala. The weather was perfect and alumni enjoyed their time together reminiscing about school days and taking a trip down memory lane, while enjoying drinks and delicious canapes.

Special thanks to Jess Lasky OG15 and Dr Sarah Li OG15 for co-managing the event and to Sarah for helping host the day. Attendees were thrilled to receive a long-stemmed yellow rose as they departed and said they looked forward to the next KOG event!

2024 VINTAGE LUNCH

Our 2024 Vintage Lunch was held at Kambala on Thursday 17 October and saw 60 alumni travel from far and wide to enjoy a memorable afternoon together.

KOG President Amanda (Baird) Kirton OG88 welcomed everyone and presented Janet (Denovan) Bowen OG51 with a beautiful bouquet and holding the great honour of being our oldest Old Girl at this year's event.

Principal Jane Danvers kindly addressed guests with Teesha (Carr) Forgas OG69 saying Grace and Julie (Wilkinson) Stratton OG64 toasting the School and also a timely tribute to the King.

Many thanks to: Dave and the Cater Care team at Kambala for providing a delicious lunch; Louise Mitchell and the Junior Quartet for their beautiful program of Elgar and Mozart; Kambala's Archivist Laura Carmichael for receiving more treasures for the archives; Roslyn Antico of Petal Element in Rose Bay for the magnificent 'Kambala' flowers; Peta Davidson of Treats By Pete for the scrumptious KOG branded chocolate chip cookies, cupcakes and rocky road treats.



- 01/ Kambala Archivist Laura Carmichael was thrilled to receive so many lovely donations to Kambala's Archive from guests at this year's Vintage Lunch.
- 02/ Sips in the Soub guests on the balcony.
- 03/ Attendees were delighted to receive a long-stemmed 'Kambala' rose.
- 04/ Some alumni were excited to win Tivoli puzzles as lucky door prizes at the 2024 Canberra Lunch!
- 05/ Principal Jane Danvers, Kerry (Scandrett) Thorn OG72 and Janet (Lipman) Robilliard OG72.

NOTICES



01

CLASS OF 1954 – 70 YEAR REUNION

On 17 September nine Kambala Old Girls gathered for a superb lunch at The Queen’s Club, Sydney, to celebrate 70 years since leaving school in 1954. Those who attended were Suzanne (Coghlan) Davidson, Janette (King) Bain, Susan (McCathie) Kelly, Susan (Litchfield) Monckton, Marie (Sawyer) Rowland Smith, Jan (Wilson) Lamens, Annette (Primrose) Small, Elizabeth (Hughes) Tremain, and Katina (Stylus) Marano. There were 13 apologies received, including some from country and interstate class members.

The lunch started off with a champagne toast to the School, followed by lots of happy reminiscing about our days at Kambala. Suzanne, Susan and Janette had been House Captains of Wentworth, Roseby and Gurney respectively, and Suzanne had been Head Prefect.

Only 18 girls in 5th Year (as it was then called) sat for the 1954 Leaving Certificate. The 1954 cohort has always been a close group of friends, many of us having started Kambala in Kindergarten.



02

Consequently, those who were in our classes throughout the years have always been included in our 10-year celebrations.

Will there be an 80-year celebration? Here’s hoping there will be.

Written by Suzanne (Coghlan) Davidson OGS4.

CLASS OF 1974 – 50 YEAR REUNION

The Class of 1974 celebrated their 50 Year Reunion with a School tour on Saturday 26 October prior to an 11am special service at St Michael’s Anglican Church, Vaucluse and delicious lunch at the home of Cornelia (Cordatos) Cassimatis.

With perfect Sydney weather and lots of smiling faces, alumni happily reminisced on a Saturday morning School tour as they strolled together around our magnificent School grounds.

Many thanks to ‘74 Reunion organiser Robyn (Brunskill) Ludowici and Cornelia (Cordatos) Cassimatis for hosting their 50 Year Reunion which was a huge success!

- 01/ Back row L-R: Elizabeth (Hughes) Tremain, Annette (Primrose) Small, Janette (King) Bain, Susan (McCathie) Kelly, Jan (Wilson) Lamens Front Row L-R: Katina (Stylus) Marano, Suzanne (Coghlan) Davidson, Marie (Sawyer) Rowland Smith, Susan (Litchfield) Monckton.
- 02/ The Class of 74 Reunion was hosted at the home of Cornelia (Cordatos) Cassimatis.
- 03/ Alumni from the Class of 1974 at the end of their School tour on Tivoli Lawn.
- 04/ L-R: Cornelia (Cordatos) Cassimatis who hosted the Reunion at her home with Class of 74 Reunion organiser Robyn (Brunskill) Ludowici under a magnolia tree by Tivoli Lawn.



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“I am thankful for a truly blessed life”, ‘Glennie’, May 2024

VALETE

Jennifer Frances Macqueen (Glennie)
OG56

(1938 – 2024)

‘Glennie’ as she was affectionately known at Kambala was raised on *Mooltunya* at Croppa Creek, then on *Eureka*, at Gulargambone.

Jenny married Ross Macqueen (deceased) at St Michael’s Anglican Church, Vacluse on 2 April 1956.

Ross and Jenny settled in Gulargambone for 30 years and built a well-regarded Stock and Station Agency business there. They had three sons Michael (deceased), Andrew and Peter and in 1980, they moved to Yamba and operated a successful Real Estate Agency for another 30 years.

Jenny moved to Wauchope for five years, and finally to Dubbo for two years enjoying her final years with so many dear and historic friends.

She was a revered sportswoman, both at school and later in life through polocrosse, tennis and golf. For 60 years, Jenny volunteered her time to the Anglican Church through music and diocese management roles. She volunteered in many sports clubs throughout her life, particularly Yamba Golf & Country Club where Jenny was Lady Captain and Lady President for many years.

Jenny is survived by her sons Andrew and Peter, her grandchildren Ben, Sam, Molly and Matilda, and her great grandchildren Meredith, Mackenzie, Philippa and Ollie, and loved by her daughters-in-law, Michelle and Lisa.

MARRIAGE

Barbara Kekatos OG13

Barbara is a fourth generation Australian of Greek heritage who was recently married in Athens, surrounded by her Kambala classmates of 2013.

Her great, great grandfather migrated from a small island in Greece (Kastellorizo) in 1896.



03

01/ Jenny and Ross on their wedding day at Vacluse in 1956.

02/ Barbara Kekatos OG 13 wedding.

03/ L - R: Claudia Waitsman, Olivia Wakefield, Bianca Soloman, Barbara Kekatos, Stephanie Spartalís, Sasha O’Sullivan.

Emma Antico, Sophie Alexander,
Hilary Guilfoyle and Ava Purvis.



Remarkable in the making.

TESTIS

SOL



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