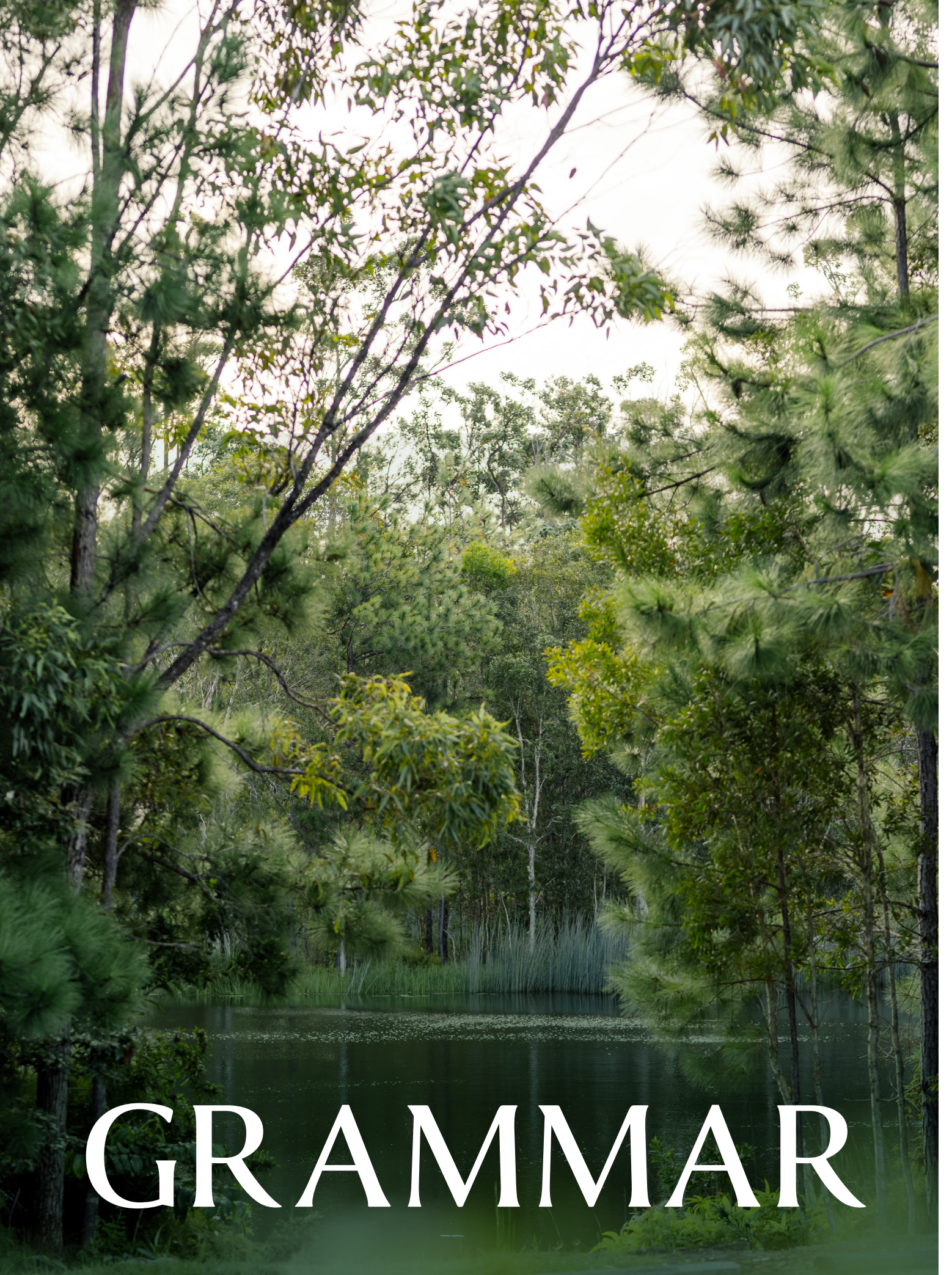


G.

SUNSHINE COAST  
GRAMMAR  
COMMUNITY  
MAGAZINE





# GRAMMAR



# Contents

## Leadership

- 4 From the Principal - An Evolving Truth

### 1

#### PERSONALISED EDUCATION

- 8 Academic Insights
- 10 Future of Education
- 12 Tomorrow's Innovators
- 14 A Family Legacy
- 15 2023 Dux Inspiring Excellence
- 16 Grammar Rugby Triumph
- 17 Supporting Aspiring Athletes
- 18 Performing Arts

### 4

#### Business Stewardship and Future Focus

- 30 Building Updates
- 32 Celebrating Excellence and Sustainability
- 34 Broadening Horizons
- 36 Empowering our Students

### 2

#### Faith, Service and Wellness

- 20 What does legacy mean to you?
- 22 Spotlight on Director of Music Performance
- 23 Understanding Student Wellbeing

### 5

#### Celebrating Community

- 38 Championing Equality
- 40 National Volunteer Week
- 41 Celebrating our Swimmers
- 42 A Legacy of Learning

### 3

#### Exploration

- 24 Fostering Holistic Education
- 25 Celebrating World Environment Day
- 26 Commitment to Community Service
- 28 Inaugural Culture Tour to Sydney
- 29 da Vinci Decathlon









## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

# The Evolving Truth

---

In March of this year, I travelled to the UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, to share Sunshine Coast Grammar School's Purpose Program with Principals from all around the world. I intended to be inspiring and invite collaboration. I returned feeling deeply humbled and inspired.

## Inspired by Paris

The Principals that I heard present in Paris were dealing with unimaginable challenges within their schools, in countries where the UN had dispatched peacekeeping forces. At Sunshine Coast Grammar School, we have so many gifts, an appreciation and gratitude for these gifts, and the generosity of spirit to share our knowledge and actions.

## Our Purpose Program – People, Planet and Progress

We are fortunate to learn on a 100-acre campus made up of rainforest and open green spaces. The Purpose Program has a compelling origin that is a combination of our whole-school vision, commitment and good fortune as we are situated in the heart of a UNESCO designated biosphere.

*Sunshine Coast Biosphere is a community of shared values, working together to live, work, learn and play sustainably towards a future we are proud of.*

*Sunshine Coast Council*

Professionally, one of the most profound experiences I have had in the classroom occurred nearly 20 years ago. I showed former United States Vice President, Al Gore's, An Inconvenient Truth as part of an energy unit. The documentary brought tears to the students' eyes. Tears of frustration, helplessness and some anger. My observation has become increasingly relevant and reflected more broadly in the annual Mission Australia Youth Survey. The results show the top three concerns of young Australians between the ages of 16 and 19 over the last five years. The environment has shot up the charts like a bullet, surpassing the Youth Mental Health crisis.

The final piece of our whole-school framework puzzle fell into place when we zoomed out and looked to UNESCO as an overarching organisation to align our vision with and began investigating the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We are taking deliberate action, implementing the SDGs across all elements of the school, and by extension, being and creating good citizens within the Biosphere. We are bridging the gap between wanting to help and being helpful. UNESCO's intent is to build peace through collaboration between education, science and culture. However, life is lived down here on the ground, hence the name People, Planet and Progress. Within the Sunshine Coast Biosphere, and within our School's Purpose Program, the SDGs are integrated and indivisible, with a balance of human, economic and environmental principles applied during decision-making and collaboration.

## Outcomes and Impacts

Our Purpose Program is producing positive outcomes and helping to find solutions to some of the issues facing Australian schools today, including:

1. Issue - Youth mental health and the 'crisis of belonging' We have seen an increase in student well-being outcomes and increased affinity with and for our school.
2. Issue - Environmental concerns

The very strong desire by our students to help solve the exponential rise in reported environmental concerns within a region and context where they feel they are able to contribute meaningfully to programs and like-minded community groups.

The current generation of teachers and educators are perfectly placed to make a difference, not just through action, but through enabling and, put simply, getting out of young people's way.



The Program stretches across and within all areas of the school. From the Business Office and operational frameworks to our educational programs and beyond the school to include community groups, businesses, the Sunshine Coast Council and other schools across all sectors. Lifting our eyes to our purpose, and linking our School motto, Strength of Purpose, hold our community together. It articulates a common meaningful language and creates a context where students, staff and community move beyond feeling an alignment with the vision to being completely immersed and in tune with the vision. A context where we know we are enough and where we know we have enough.

### **Life Beyond School**

*It is no surprise that education is viewed as the most important key to sustainable recovery from current global crises. Whether it is about economy, environment, health, or peace of the world, we won't be successful in the end without education.*

Professor Pasi Sahlberg, Southern Cross University

Context is very important for young people and research has shown how small moves teachers and mentors make can sometimes, under the right circumstances, have life-changing effects for our students. The answer to most of the world's big problems is education. It's surprising how much meaningful engagement can have a lasting impact on people's lives. Igniting a passion and helping students to find their purpose moves them beyond school, where they are more likely to contribute to the world and create the world they wish for their children.

*Not only is there a moral imperative for solving climate change, the economic opportunities are profound. Entrepreneurs in the climate space will make billions. We've got to invest like our lives depend on it, because they do.*

John Doerr, investor, venture capitalist and philanthropist

Our mission is to continue to develop, through our Purpose Program, the right set of ideas, the right strategy and the right partners, to create real, sustainable and enduring change at the grassroots for a better world for all. Good schools have great academic outcomes. Great schools create great citizens who help to shape and drive the evolving truth.

**Anna Owen**  
Principal



# Mission Australia Youth Survey

15-19 Year Olds



# Secondary Learning Dispositions

Mrs Fiona Roush – Dean of Teaching

*“Think of Learnership in the same way you think of craftsmanship or leadership. It denotes a skilful act. As students develop their Learnership, they engage in the process of learning in increasingly effective ways.” (Anderson 2024)*

---

In 2002, Cognitive Scientist Guy Claxton referred to dispositions as “Learning Powers”. His work highlighted the need for children “to grow up being powerful, independent learners, willing and able to pursue their dreams and tackle difficulties calmly, confidently and creatively,”(Claxton). In the Secondary School, the use of language specific to dispositions in the Secondary School has been vital in ensuring we are best preparing students for their approach to learning, while at Grammar and beyond its gates. Educational research has long found that students, at times, can be stuck in a Learning Pit (Nottingham 2007)) and it is through dispositions such as curiosity and determination that they are able to climb out. Building upon the Primary School’s Learning Assets, dispositions assist students to become skilful learners.

Notably, educational authors such as James Anderson refer to this concept as ‘learnership’ and have created the formula – Student Achievement = Quality Teaching X Quality Learning (Anderson 2024) – to identify learning itself as a transferable skill. Recent communication highlighted that the key purpose of incorporating dispositions as part of our Visible Learning Framework is for improved student

outcomes.

The move away from endeavour awards and a clear focus on learning proficiencies is critical in the development of skilful and agile learners of the future. While students may take time to identify connections between dispositions and learning, in recent forums it is most clear they are becoming quite adept at articulating the meaning behind each one. Students are now just working to evaluate their own learning dispositions for strengths and areas of growth.

#### References:

Learnership – The Skill of Learning ([www.jamesanderson.com.au](http://www.jamesanderson.com.au))  
Guy Claxton | Learning Power Approach – [www.guyclaxton.net](http://www.guyclaxton.net)



I  
PERSONALISED EDUCATION









# Future of Education

---

The influence of teachers can profoundly shape students' futures, often inspiring them to follow in their footsteps and pursue careers in education. This resonates for 2023 graduates, Chloe Merrett and Tamsin Roberts, who were also the recipients of the prestigious Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association (PMSA) Teacher Education Scholarships this year.

Chloe's journey towards her teaching career began during her time at school when she secured a traineeship at Grammar Early Learning Centre. Immersed in the vibrant world of early childhood education, Chloe's dedication and enthusiasm were clear as she completed her Certificate III in Early Childhood Education.

Reflecting on her journey, Chloe shared, "Since I was young, I knew that teaching was something I wanted to do and completing my Certificate III confirmed that for me."

Fellow student, Tamsin Roberts, is passionate about teaching and learning, and expressed a similar sentiment. "Primary school education has been my life-long dream; I can't imagine doing anything else."

Inspired by the impact of her parents' work in helping

children to learn and grow at school, Tamsin is excited to make a positive difference.

Currently, Chloe is working at Grammar Early Learning Centre while embarking on her teaching degree, alongside Tamsin, at the University of the Sunshine Coast, where they are pursuing a Bachelor of Primary Education. In addition to her studies, Tamsin continues to inspire young athletes as a dedicated coach at Maroochy Beach Gymnastics.



# Tomorrow's Innovators

---

In an era where technology infiltrates every aspect of our lives, the role of education in preparing our children for the future has never been more critical. At Grammar, we stand at the forefront of this endeavour, offering a dynamic Digital Technology program designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in the digital age.

At the helm of this innovative program is Mr Justin Pembroke, Head of Digital Innovation. With decades of experience and a passion for fostering inclusive learning

environments, Mr Pembroke is dedicated to advancing STEM education and educational technology. Mr Pembroke has integrated the LEGO Education SPIKE Prime Robotics program into the curriculum, and has been met with enthusiasm by both students and educators alike. Under Mr Pembroke's guidance, students design, build and program their robots, gaining a deep understanding of coding and engineering principles. Beyond technical proficiency, students also develop essential life skills such as teamwork, communication and perseverance through collaborative projects.





Our Principal, Mrs Anna Owen, a chemistry teacher with extensive experience both within the classroom and administration of schools, cautions that amidst the excitement of technological advancements, it's essential to tread carefully. Social media, in particular, has emerged as a double-edged sword, offering connection and community while also fuelling divisiveness and anxiety. By providing guidance and support, we can help our children navigate the digital landscape responsibly, empowering them to make informed choices and thrive in an ever-changing world.

Our Digital Technology program exemplifies our commitment to provide students with an opportunity to harness the power of technology by offering students a comprehensive introduction to the fascinating realm of

educational technology. Through hands-on exploration and innovative teaching methods, students develop essential design thinking, problem-solving, and reasoning skills.

As parents, it's essential to navigate the digital landscape with awareness and purpose. By embracing a balanced approach to technology use, promoting real-world connection, and supporting innovative educational initiatives like our Digital Technology program, we can nurture tomorrow's innovators to thrive in an ever-changing world.



# A Family Legacy - Eloise & Jessica Lawrie

In an inspiring story of academic excellence and family pride, two sisters have set a precedent by both achieving the prestigious title of School Dux. Eloise and Jessica Lawrie graduated from Grammar in 2021 and 2023, and have not only left a mark on our school, but have also created a legacy that celebrates their dedication, hard work and the supportive environment fostered by their family.

Known for her academic performance and leadership skills, Eloise was proud to lead the school as School Captain and found the role immensely rewarding. Reflecting on her experience, Eloise shared the best study advice she received was from Mr Miller, who emphasised the importance of knowing what you don't know.

Two years later, Jessica graduated as School Dux, solidifying the Lawrie family's unique academic legacy. Carving out her own path, Jessica showcased her distinct strengths and talents as a key member of the prefect and volleyball teams, and as an advocate for community service and international relations.

Jessica's approach to studying was influenced by her sister's advice and her own exploration of effective study techniques while balancing her academic commitments with active involvement in sports.

Both Eloise and Jessica highlighted the importance of their teachers and the supportive school environment to their success, stating that the commitment of their teachers and friend networks is one of the most positive aspects of their time at Grammar.

Beyond their academic pursuits, both Eloise and Jessica embraced an active lifestyle and while balancing their commitments posed some challenges, they recognised the importance of remaining active for their mental and physical well-being.

Eloise is currently in her final year studying a Bachelor of Health Sciences at the University of Queensland and is excited to begin a Doctor of Medicine next year.

Drawn by a focus on rural and tropical health, Jessica is now studying medicine at James Cook University in Townsville.



# 2023 Dux Inspiring Excellence

---

Achieving Dux of the School is a remarkable achievement that not only signifies academic excellence, but also leadership qualities, dedication and a passion for learning.

For 2023 Dux and School Vice Captain, Scye Collen, reaching her academic goals and receiving an ATAR of 99.95, has opened doors and secured her a place at Flinders University in Adelaide, studying a Bachelor of Clinical Sciences/Doctor of Medicine.

Scye revealed that her key to academic success was understanding the importance of consistent effort and noted that her involvement in various sports, volunteering and leadership positions added a vibrant dimension to her secondary education experience. Balancing commitments and study can be demanding, but Scye acknowledges how her extra-curricular commitments contributed to her personal growth.

“Volunteering has taught me valuable skills, brought me out of my comfort zone and improved my own personal development,” said Scye.

Scye also recognises the positive influence our Principal, Mrs Anna Owen, had during her time as Vice School Captain and expressed her gratitude.

“I was excited to be called to the Principal’s Office. Mrs Owen was kind and patient, and was a big factor in making my time as a leader enjoyable and positive,” said Scye.

Fuelled by a passion for medicine and a thirst for adventure, Scye is looking forward to the challenges of tertiary study, a new city and fresh opportunities.







Grammar 1st XV win 12th Premiership

# Grammar Rugby Triumph

---

Grammar Rugby once again demonstrated their dominance in this year's prestigious Sunshine Coast Secondary School Rugby Union competition, with all five teams securing a place in the Division One Grand Finals.

The competition was marked by outstanding performances from each team, highlighting the depth of talent and strong mentorship within the Rugby Program.

Our U15, Second XV and First XV teams all secured victory, with the First XV winning the Premiership 12 times in the last 13 years, which is more than any other school in the history of the competition.

# Roar Performance Supporting Aspiring Athletes

It is common for student-athletes to face challenges around heavy training and competition commitments as they balance rigorous training and competition schedules with academic responsibilities and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. At Grammar, we are committed to supporting aspiring athletes as they work to achieve their goals through our Roar Performance Program.

The program provides the framework for our student-athletes to pursue academic and sporting excellence, and is designed to foster a healthy balanced lifestyle, focusing on academic support, athletic development, pathways and personal growth of each athlete.

From 1:1 mentoring sessions to seminars and workshops delivered by world-class athletes and professionals within the sporting industry each term, our students are empowered to succeed on the field and in the classroom. Students have gained insights from industry professionals and athletes including Surf Ironwoman, Carla Papac, four-time Paralympian, Ryan Scott OAM, mental health performance coach, Jeff Lancaster, and Sports Dietician, Ali Miles.

Supported by 42 dedicated staff members and professional athletes, the program has been instrumental in nurturing talented athletes. Among the rising stars are nationally recognised AFL players, triathletes and swimmers, many of whom are competing on the world stage and preparing for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles and Brisbane.



Grace Brimelow; Grammar's first and youngest ever Australian Para triathlete who competed at the Paris Paralympics in 2024





# Performing Arts

---

We were proud to present Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Musical this year.

We joined Charlie Bucket and his eccentric group of golden ticket winners as they embarked on a whimsical journey through the mysterious and enchanting Willy Wonka chocolate factory. The stage came alive with vibrant colours, toe-tapping tunes and larger-than-life characters, all brought to life by our talented theatre cast and production crew.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and supported our students to create this wonderful production.







# SCHOOL CAPTAIN REFLECTIONS

## WHAT DOES LEGACY MEAN TO YOU?

### Alex Pennay School Captain

"She dreamed she could, so she did." When I started at Grammar in 2015, my mum blu-tacked this quote right above my bed so that it was the last thing I saw before I slept, and the first thing when I woke. Yet, I never gave much thought to its meaning until a few years ago. I realised that I would graduate in a few years, and I asked myself, Was I reaching my full potential? What set me apart from my peers? What about the exchange I had always dreamed of?" And that was when my life changed.

Coming home from abroad presented a whole new world I had never even dared to imagine. I found myself involved in every extra-curricular activity possible, creating deeper friendships with my peers and teachers, and becoming the young adult I had aspired to be.

It has been my privilege and above all else, my immense joy, to be School Captain this year. To me, 'legacy' is a lasting testament to resilience and the creation of new boundaries. I want my Grammar legacy to be one that reminds young students that they will eventually find their feet and that they are truly the creators of their own destiny!

### Liam Evans School Captain

Legacy. To put it into an analogy, say that my time at Grammar is a plate of food. I've been here since Prep. I may have a great dish, it may be inspiring, it may be delicious, it may be all the things you want it to be. But once the bowl is empty, the meal will leave a good feeling for a while. But shortly after, the food will be digested and forgotten. Onto the next bowl. How do I think legacies are shown? I think the legacy is the sauce that gets spilled on your shirt. The stain you leave on this place.

You may forget the dish, but every time you look down at the stain, you will remember. So, with my time left here at Grammar, I want to leave my stain and a long-lasting memory of what my fellow captains and I have achieved - Alex Pennay, Grady Murray, and Zara Kerin-Bird. What did we do for Sunshine Coast Grammar School? I'm figuring it out as I go. But, I'll find my stain.







## Zara Kerin-Bird Vice School Captain

In my eyes, legacy is the influence that one has on people without the expectation of immediate reward. Legacy can be as simple as the way in which people treat one another or the ideas and values that you bring to every interaction. While you may never see the immediate effect of the kindness or change you initiate, there is no doubt that these actions and words can profoundly alter the way people perceive the world and perceive you. In my experience, I have aimed to consolidate my legacy through the way I advocate for certain things and how I make people feel at Grammar.

Regardless of its scale, legacy becomes increasingly significant over time, growing to impact every day of our lives. Whether it is the values you learned from your family or the inventions of people from centuries ago, examples of legacy surround us in day-to-day life. The crux of this lies in deciding what legacy we wish to leave, whether through leadership, academics or sports. The choice is always ours to determine how we leave a legacy, even without immediate knowledge of its impact.

## Grady Murray Vice School Captain

I still remember my first meeting with Mrs Owen as Vice -School Captain. The first question that was asked was what legacy did you want to leave behind? I sat there thinking, was being on the advertising not enough? But upon deeper thinking, I realised my legacy could be to continue to support the one our school has already built. Grammar has grown a culture of togetherness within the school grounds.

Every experience I have had within the school gates has made me feel a part of something bigger than just a school. Whether it's the rugby home games with full stands, our packed musicals or the huge attendance at our school's beach clean ups, Grammar has truly become a place that feels like home. The students support each other like family, and I personally believe that's what puts our school above others. Since 1997, Sunshine Coast Grammar School has constructed a legacy that I believe is more impactful than academic or sporting success, it's our community. Although I'll leave behind the legacy of being on the billboard for a few years, I want to continue to nurture a legacy I find to be the most important, our school's legacy.





# Victoria Bradbury

## Director of Music Performance

---

We were thrilled to welcome our newly appointed Director of Music Performance, Victoria Bradbury, this year. With an impressive background in music performance and education, Victoria joins us with a wealth of experience and an infectious enthusiasm for music.

Ms Bradbury spent the last 12 years at her previous school, where she excelled in teaching instrumental music and serving as the Musical Director for productions spanning from Primary to Year 12. Ms Bradbury's experience and passion will be an asset to the Grammar community where she aims to elevate the school's music department and create exciting new opportunities for students and our community to enjoy.

Ms Bradbury is eager to utilise her experience as a performer and a conductor to enrich Grammar's music program, ensuring that opportunities are accessible for students regardless of their skill level or experience. We can look forward to many exciting events this year including pop-up performances around campus showcasing the extraordinary talent we have at Grammar.

"I take a multi-faceted approach integrating non-traditional instruments such as bucket drums, with traditional band and orchestral instruments, and combining these with new technologies. I envision us transitioning into a dynamic department that seamlessly integrates into everyday life here at Grammar."

Ms Bradbury fosters a love for music by actively demonstrating and playing alongside students in bands, and we have been fortunate to see this in action at Anzac Day, Open Day and Foundation Day.

Ms Bradbury's advice for students who aspire to pursue music professionally or academically is to seize opportunities, find a mentor, perform regularly and never stop learning.

On a personal note, Ms Bradbury has recently been accepted as a member of the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra, playing the clarinet, and will collaborate with local musicians, including many Grammar Music Specialists who are also performing members of the group.



# Understanding Student Wellbeing

Year-on-year statistics reveal that anxiety and stress in students is our most common wellbeing challenge within schools. This reflects a community-wide concern with about 1 in 5 young people experiencing high levels of psychological distress, with anxiety and depression being the most common concern.

At Grammar one of our central goals over the past 18 months at Grammar was to expand the Psychology Team, enabling us to cater to individual student needs and also offer preventative programs in the wellbeing space.

These programs were delivered across the Primary and Secondary Schools and included whole-class Kimochis, Stand Up to Anxiety and Meet Your Amygdala programs.

In the Primary School, we also established a supported play lunchtime space, which provides a play option for students in Year 1 – 4 once a week to form stronger connections with classmates, and build social and friendship skills in a semi-structured environment. This complements our Mindfulness Mondays at school, with art activities in Primary and yoga in Secondary.



# Fostering Holistic Education

Schools are about more than what happens in the classroom and we are proud to be championing regional education opportunities for our students. With a commitment to social and environmental responsibilities, we continue to focus on people, the planet and progress.

For the second consecutive year, Sunshine Coast Grammar School has been selected as an Excellence Awardee in The Educator's Australian Education Awards and this year, we are thrilled to be recognised across three categories, Prime Super Regional School of the Year, Best Co-Curricular Program and Primary School Teacher of the Year - Non-Government.

As an advocate for environmental stewardship, our Principal, Mrs Anna Owen, has been championing sustainability initiatives that align with the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). The recognition for the Regional School of the Year award confirms our commitment to fostering holistic education that empowers students to become compassionate and conscientious global citizens.

We are proud of our Grammar Helping Hands Co-Curricular Program, led by Mr Ben Princehorn, which has earned national recognition for instilling a sense of social responsibility and environmental stewardship in our students. The driving force behind the success of Grammar Helping Hands is the genuine interest and passion of our students and staff to deliver sustainable change. Their enthusiasm and initiative have been instrumental in delivering impactful projects that contribute to the UNSDGs, and foster a sense of social responsibility and environmental stewardship.

Primary School Teacher, Mrs Kylie Chesterfield, has been selected as a finalist at the Awards in recognition of her 25 years of teaching experience, volunteering and wellbeing initiatives.



## AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION AWARDS 2024 FINALISTS

FINALIST

Prime Super  
Regional School of  
the Year

FINALIST

Best Co-Curricular  
Program

FINALIST

Primary School  
Teacher of the Year -  
Non-Government





# Celebrating World Environment Day

The spirit of environmental stewardship continues to thrive within our school community, with our Year 2 students launching an inspiring, wrapper-free, lunchbox initiative to demonstrate their commitment to making a difference in our school and beyond. This simple, yet powerful initiative reduces waste, and encourages mindfulness about consumption and the environmental footprint of our daily choices.

From our youngest learners to our senior students, each member of our community plays a vital role in fostering a culture of environmental sustainability. At Grammar, we have a rich history of environmental stewardship and remain committed to delivering a greener future.



# Commitment to Community Service

---

At the recent Australian Heads of Independent Schools Association (AHISA) Conference in Sydney, our Coordinator of Community and Service, Mr Ben Princehorn, shared an inspiring presentation titled “Gifts, Goals and Gratitude.” Mr Princehorn’s address highlighted the vital connection between mental wellbeing and community service, emphasising the importance of embedding community support into the very fabric of our school culture alongside academic and sporting achievements.

Mr Princehorn spoke passionately about the issues faced by teenagers today, and showcased the numerous opportunities our school has created to support and engage students in meaningful community service, detailing how we align our projects with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs).

Gratitude is a value that must be taught and nurtured, and our service learning program has successfully instilled this ethos in our students. Students themselves have expressed deep appreciation for the purposeful and meaningful opportunities available through our Grammar Helping Hands program.

Through a series of signature programs, our students have connected with local charitable organisations and environmental sustainability initiatives. This foundation has driven the “Goals at Grammar” journey, ensuring that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to promote sustainable development within their communities, now and in the future.

Our students engage in a variety of activities such as beach clean-ups, volunteering with the Sunshine Coast Disabled Surfers Association, backyard makeovers for cancer clients, donation drives, sleepouts for homelessness, guest environmental campaigns, and tree planting for native wildlife habitat support.

The road ahead is one of continued growth, gratitude, and giving and we remain dedicated to fostering future leaders who are prepared to meet the needs of a rapidly changing world, grounded in the values of service, sustainability, and empathy.



### 3 EXPLORATION







# Inaugural Cultural Tour to Sydney

---

Immersive experiences bring classroom lessons to life and our inaugural Cultural Tour to Sydney ignited our students' curiosity. Senior students studying humanities subjects embarked on a cultural tour, diving deep into the rich history, vibrant art and diverse heritage of Sydney.

Over four days, students explored iconic landmarks, including the Opera House, Australian and Jewish Museums, and the Blue Mountains and conquered a thrilling Sydney Harbour Bridge climb.

Each destination offered a unique glimpse into Australia's past and present, making history come alive in an engaging way. These hands-on experiences broadened their knowledge beyond textbooks, and made learning both fun and impactful.

# Students Earn Distinction at da Vinci Decathlon

For the second consecutive year, we hosted the Regional da Vinci Decathlon Championships and achieved outstanding success, with Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 teams all progressing to the State Finals.

Competing against 45 of the best Queensland schools and over 1250 students, all seven Grammar teams placed in the top three across the ten disciplines, with the Year 11 team achieving a commendable second place, and the Year 9 team placing first overall and securing a place in the National Finals.

Over two days of intense competition at the National competition, the Year 9 team rose to the challenge achieving first in Ideation and second in Engineering and Legacy. Throughout the competition, the team demonstrated remarkable resilience, creativity and determination.

With an emphasis on high-order thinking and innovation, the da Vinci Decathlon serves as a launchpad for future leaders, thinkers and innovators.

Our Head of Extended Learning, Mrs Brenda Gahan, expressed her pride in the students' achievements, commenting, "The success at the State level is a testament to their hard work and the support of our teaching staff. We are proud of all students and were excited to see our Year 9 students represent Grammar at the National Finals at Knox Grammar School in Sydney."

"Our students have demonstrated exceptional dedication and talent across all ten disciplines and their performance at the State and National Championships highlights they are leading the way," says Mrs Gahan.

What began as a local competition in Sydney, has flourished and grown to be a national and global phenomenon, involving thousands of students from Years 5 to 11 across Australia.

Beyond the competition, the event offers a unique opportunity for teachers to network and exchange ideas, further enriching the educational landscape of our region.



Year 9 National da Vinci Decathlon Team - Jude B, Toby C, Michelle C, Charlotte E, Addison H, Sophia P, Finn R and Seb R.





# Building for the Future

---

After 19 years of dedicated service, our Business Manager, Ms Lyn Stokes, is retiring, leaving behind a lasting legacy. Throughout her tenure, Ms Stokes has been the driving force behind numerous transformative projects that have shaped our campus into what it is today.

Under her visionary leadership, we have seen the completion of major builds, including the Visual Arts Precinct, Science Building, state-of-the-art Aquatic Centre and our Primary Precinct. The latest build, the Rainforest Cafeteria, was recently unveiled, offering a welcoming space for students to gather and enjoy a variety of nutritious meal options.

With outdoor seating for over 200 students, the cafeteria offers a perfect spot for socialising and relaxation amidst a busy school day. Additionally, the building will house our Heads of Year and provide extra meeting spaces,

enhancing the overall functionality and community feel of our school.

Looking ahead, the next phase of the Primary Precinct is set to open in 2025, continuing the legacy of growth and innovation that Ms Stokes has championed. The impressive three-storey building will support our continued growth and provide age-appropriate solutions to enhance learning experiences for our young students.

These building projects reflect our commitment to providing top-tier facilities that support the educational journey of our students. They are set to significantly enrich the school environment, offering modern, comfortable and efficient spaces that foster learning, collaboration and community.

As we bid farewell to Ms Stokes, we extend our deepest gratitude for her years of service and her lasting contributions.









Taylor Ladd-Huddson (Year 10), Anna Owen (Principal), Ben Princehorne (Coordinator of Community and Services) Ella Woodborne (2021 Alumni)

# Celebrating Excellence and Sustainability

---

Sunshine Coast Grammar School has long been recognised for its commitment to educational excellence, environmental stewardship and social responsibility. This year, our dedication was celebrated as we were named finalists in three prestigious categories at the inaugural Sunshine Coast Biosphere Awards, Organisation of the Year, Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year.

Our esteemed Principal, Mrs Anna Owen, had the honour of being the keynote speaker at the awards ceremony. As the Acting Chair of the Sunshine Coast Biosphere Advisory Board, Mrs Owen has been a driving force in promoting sustainability and environmental awareness throughout the Sunshine Coast community. Her leadership and vision have been instrumental in shaping Grammar's approach to holistic education and environmental stewardship.

From our innovative curriculum that aligns with the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) to our extensive co-curricular offerings, we strive to cultivate a love for learning that extends beyond the classroom. Being nominated for Organisation of the Year highlights our commitment to sustainability and community service, values that are integral to our school's ethos.

Ben Princehorn, Grammar Teacher and Coordinator of Community and Service, was a finalist for Citizen of the Year. Mr Princehorn's leadership of the Grammar Helping Hands program, which is now in its 14th year, exemplifies his dedication to social responsibility and community engagement. Through partnerships with local organisations such as Bloomhill Cancer Care and Youturn Youth Services, Mr Princehorn has created opportunities for students to actively participate in initiatives that promote social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

Year 10 student and shark conservation activist, Taylor Ladd-Hudson, was a finalist in the Young Citizen of the Year category. Taylor's work in marine conservation and her commitment to protecting vulnerable species has inspired her peers and brought significant attention to the importance of environmental stewardship. Her passion and advocacy exemplify the values we instil in our students – to be informed, responsible and proactive global citizens.

Through our innovative programs and collaborative efforts, we will continue to inspire positive change and advocate for a more sustainable future, both locally and globally.







# Broadening Horizons

---

Many of our students who have participated in our France and Japan Tours and Exchanges have continued friendships well beyond the limits of the program, and have long-standing relationships with families in these countries. Whilst it is difficult to quantify the impact of such programs on academic performance, the lives of our students and families have been enriched in many ways. University exchange programs, overseas employment, international study, gap years, work experience and Embassy Internships; once the door to global pathways has been opened our students and alumni have had the confidence and independence to engage in the full range of opportunities available to them.

Within the Queensland Curriculum, the concept of 21st-century skills encompasses a range of competencies that prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of the modern world. These skills go beyond traditional academic knowledge and focus on practical abilities that empower students to thrive in an ever-changing global landscape. They are skills that are highly valued by employers, and combine cognitive, emotional and social competencies.

As our young people navigate the complexities of our interconnected world, embracing global citizenship through Tours and exchanges offers myriad benefits. From broadening our horizons through travel to honing critical thinking skills; each step contributes to a more compassionate, informed and responsible global community. In the ever-evolving landscape of the 21st century, the concept of global citizenship transcends borders and cultural boundaries. It's not merely about holding a passport or international travel; it's a mindset, a way of being and a commitment to positive change.

In April 2000, twelve Grammar students embarked on their first exchange to Aurillac, France and next year we will commemorate 25 years of our association with ELO Séjours and our sister schools in Aurillac. We have also enjoyed a strong Sister School relationship with Shohei Junior and Senior High, Japan since 2017.

These first visits were the start of what is an enduring relationship allowing hundreds of students to experience life on the other side of the world firsthand, immersing themselves in another culture and language.

## Reference

Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority – 21st Century Skills for Senior Education – [qcaa.qld.edu.au](http://qcaa.qld.edu.au)  
21st century skills for senior education: An analysis of educational trends ([qcaa.qld.edu.au](http://qcaa.qld.edu.au))





Alex Anstee – Exchange 2022-23

*“Exploring a new culture opened up a world of opportunities and experiences beyond my wildest dreams.”*

Pete Choradol – Exchange 2019

*“Studying a language at school has helped me succeed as Treasurer of the UQ Taiko Drumming Club.”*

# Empowering our Students

---

In 2023, we launched the Future Tech Series, an initiative aimed at empowering tomorrow's innovators. These seminars provide our students, families and staff with invaluable insights into emerging opportunities in the technology space. Through the wisdom, real-world examples and personal journeys of industry leaders, the Future Tech Series has inspired students to envision and create a brighter technological future.

The first series welcomed Mr Tim Kelly, an internationally experienced Aeronautical Engineer and Mr Luc Pettett, a private investor with a passion for technology. Their presentations highlighted cutting-edge advancements in their respective fields and demonstrated the vast potential for future technologies.

The second instalment featured two visionary leaders, Noah Wasmer, Co-Founder and CEO of Røev and Owen Bowling, CEO of Coach Welly. Noah discussed his company's pioneering efforts to decarbonise transport and increase electric vehicle adoption worldwide. Owen introduced his AI-powered health platform, Coach Welly, illustrating how technology can enhance engagement,

support and rewards for members of gyms, corporations and insurance companies.

Earlier this year, we were excited to welcome the newly appointed Head of Digital Innovation, Mr Justin Pembroke, who spoke passionately about the opportunities available to students in both the curricular and co-curricular spaces.

We also welcomed guest speaker, Derek Laney, a resident Technology Evangelist for the Salesforce Innovation Centre in Australia. His engaging presentation offered a glimpse into how emerging technologies can reshape the workplace and provided our students with a forward-thinking perspective.

By presenting new, emerging and future opportunities, these events not only broaden our students' horizons, but also inspire them to pursue their passions and transform them into professions.





Future Tech Series - Ammanda Yates (CEO SunCentral Maroochyore), Will Shrapnel (Founder HeliMods)









## Championing Equality

---

When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world. We are committed to supporting International Women's Day, celebrating women's achievements, raising awareness about discrimination, and taking action to drive equity for all.

This year, our annual breakfast featured CEO of SunCentral Maroochydore, Amanda Yeates, who spoke about her extensive experience in leading major public infrastructure programs, and her passion for advocating for inclusive and diverse workplaces.



Ella Woodborne (2021 Alumni)

# National Volunteer Week

---

In celebration of National Volunteer Week, we recognised the dedication of our Grammar community volunteers.

Danyelle Mailer, a Grammar parent, has supported the Music Department for the past five years as Treasurer, she coaches Grammar netball teams and supports Meals on Wheels.

Head of Year 10, Mr Nick Dutton, has patrolled our beaches for over six years and shared the valuable moments spent alongside his daughter.

P&F President, Sally Doran, shared her favourite part of volunteering is the sense of community it fosters and the opportunity it provides to connect with others.

Ella Woodborne (2021 Alumni), is the founder of the Grammar Green Team and we continue to be inspired by her efforts and passion for a sustainable future.

Our students embody the values we strive to instil in them and for Year 12 student, Mariselle Botha, her efforts have made a meaningful difference in our community. Mariselle's commitment to service shines through in her work with Youturn, Grammar Helping Hands and Amnesty International.

The passion and dedication of each volunteer brings joy and support to our students and community, and we are grateful for their acts of service.





# Celebrating our Swimmers

Sunshine Coast Grammar Swimming Club made its mark on the national stage this year, delivering outstanding performances at the prestigious 2024 Swimming Australia Age Championships. Competing against the best athletes in the world, 36 athletes, including 20 Grammar students, secured 22 medals and finished sixth place in the combined point score out of 239 clubs.

These performances saw ten of the top athletes participate in the Olympic Swimming Trials for a spot in the Australian Olympic and Paralympic Teams. The Olympic Trials stand as the pinnacle of domestic competition and offer invaluable experience for athletes as they set their sights on the future, including the LA 2028 and Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

“Their participation highlights their individual talent and reflects the collective effort and support of our coaching team, teammates, families and the entire Club community.”



# A Legacy Of Learning

Renee Enright (2005)

*'Education is important, but the right people can make a lasting impact and we are very proud to have our children embark on their learning journey at Grammar. We are excited about the bright futures they will carve out with the help of the supportive Grammar community.'*

---

Following her graduation from Grammar in 2009, Renee relocated to Brisbane and achieved First-Class Honours in Bachelor of Interior Architecture at QUT. Amidst her studies, she ventured across Europe, embracing numerous camping trips, which is a testament to her deep-seated love for the outdoors.

Early in her career, Renee flourished as a Senior Designer with a prominent Sunshine Coast architectural firm. Her creative skills left an undeniable mark on projects spanning multi-residential complexes, hospitality fit-outs and bespoke homes. It was during this time that Renee met and married Ash and had two daughters, who also now attend Grammar in Year 2 and 4. As a family, they embarked on establishing their own successful concreting business and recently celebrated their 10-year milestone.

*'Learning, growing and creating a family-run business, while raising two little girls, has displayed my definite "Grammar Grit" as my kids like to say,' remarked Renee.*

Reflecting on her educational roots at Grammar, Renee credits the school for instilling enduring values and providing a nurturing environment, which she says has influenced her commitment to both her family and business endeavours.

Last year marked a new chapter as Renee delved back into her passion for design and art, founding Collectively You Designs, where she creates architectural exterior house keepsakes.

Looking ahead, Renee envisions creating lasting memories with her family and exploring Australia's countryside. Renee remains connected to Grammar and seeing her children now having the same opportunity as she did is a true treasure for the family.

*'I formed some amazing lifelong friendships at Grammar, who are still now our family friends. This is a wish I have for my children, that they form lifelong friends in conjunction with being lifelong learners.'*

What inspired Renee and her husband to choose Grammar was the positive impact from the belief the teaching staff had in Renee during her time here; and being an outdoor family, Grammar's natural rainforest environment is very special and was a major drawcard.

*'Some of my teachers are still at Grammar now. This is such a testimony to the school as a whole, as well as the passion each teacher holds for their students.'*

Renee fondly recalls teachers, including Mrs Jeannie Baxter-Reid, whose supportive nature made a lasting impression on her, and now her daughter Mila, is sharing the same experience.

During her senior years, Renee reflects fondly on her Senior PE Teacher, Mr Paul Cross, who inspired and encouraged her love of sport as well as Mrs Fiona Roush, who nurtured her curiosity and love for language.



5  
CELEBRATING COMMUNITY





SUNSHINE COAST  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

GRAMMAR

Address 372 Mons Road, Forest Glen Queensland 4556 Australia

Phone +61 7 5445 4444

Email [enquire@scgs.qld.edu.au](mailto:enquire@scgs.qld.edu.au)

ABN 40 192 147 977

CRICOS Provider O2537F

[scgs.qld.edu.au](http://scgs.qld.edu.au)