



Barker
College

2023
YEAR IN
REVIEW





We acknowledge the Dharug, Darkinjung, Wonnarua and Yolŋu peoples who are the traditional custodians of the land on which Barker College, Darkinjung Barker, Ngarralingayil Barker and Dhupuma Barker stand.

We pay respect to the Elders past, present and emerging of the Dharug, Darkinjung, Wonnarua and Yolŋu nations and extend that respect to other Indigenous people within the Barker College community.

Honor Non Honores

Mission

An Anglican community inspiring every learner every experience every day

Vision

To be a leader in Christian education that is characterised by a global vision that inspires hope

Values

Commitment
Compassion
Courage
Integrity
Respect



As we reflect back on all that has been achieved in 2023, we rejoice in the blessings of our God through this community.

The opening of the Senior School Hub was a landmark project that led the way for sustainable education buildings and importantly is a building where learning is celebrated, staff are supported and wellbeing is allowed to thrive.

The School was thrilled to be recognised as an Employer of Choice in the Australian Business Awards 2023. This ABA Employer of Choice citation, along with already being recognised as Employer of Choice in the Education Industry, continued to strengthen our School, placing Barker College on an equal platform with organisations across all industries, not just the education sector. There were 64 organisations named across all industries in Australia and Barker had the honour of being the only school.

For the first time Barker Robotics teams competed in each of the world championship events - FRC World Championship, VEX VRC World Championship High School Division and VEX IQ World Championship Elementary School Division. Six of our students from Dhupuma Barker in North East Arnhem Land, also competed as the first ever Australian Indigenous team, the first from NT and the first from Remote Australia as they participated in the World VEX IQ Championships.

The Dhupuma Barker Djirikitj Firebirds surpassed all expectations and we have been delighted with the growth and interest in the Robotics program across all three Indigenous campuses in 2023.

In the later part of the year, a small group of students enjoyed an extraordinary experience travelling to Nairobi, Kenya to gain a glimpse of the opportunities membership of Round Square can provide our school. Experiences such as these and the re-commencement of overseas student tours this year, allows us to look beyond the Mint Gates and to realise our vision of "Inspiring Global Hope".

The Year in Review is only a snapshot of the work of our students, staff and community in 2023. Thank you for the deep encouragement and support offered throughout this year.

Peace

B

Phillip Heath AM
Head of Barker College

BA (Hons), MA (Hons), DipEd, FACE, FACEL (ACT), HFTGN



Junior School

2023 commenced strongly in the Junior School with 738 students enrolled across Pre-K to Year 6. The percentage of female students was strong across all year groups, with the overall figure sitting above 43% and in Year 1 and Year 2, the figures are above 50%.

The IB PYP Evaluation process occurs four years after schools have been Authorised, then every five years thereafter. In October an Evaluation team looked in detail at our teaching and learning programs through the lens of the PYP Curriculum Framework, with a strong focus on our areas of strength, as well as areas to consider for further development. This was a successful process and Barker has received a positive report.

Progressive Reporting is now an established communicative tool used in the Junior School. Parents are informed of the importance of regular snapshots of their child's learning throughout the term, not just at the end of each Semester. Classroom teachers and Specialist teachers develop and prepare a calendar of checkpoints, that are completed in class to share with parents, covering children's learning from all Key Learning Areas. The addition of three way conferences at the end of Term 3 allowing students to share their learning growth and next steps was also extremely positive.

Mr Tim Fuller, PDHPE teacher, commenced a mentoring and leadership program this year with the Junior School student leaders. This is a new initiative, and has had positive benefits for the sixteen leaders.

A new position was created in the Junior School to manage the co-curricular program. With a large number of students and activities someone was needed to manage the demands, inquiries, organisation and student movement and Mr Nick Pluss was appointed to the role of Coordinator of Co-Curricular activities.

Throughout the year, the Kindergarten teachers and EAL/D (English as an Additional Language/Dialect) teachers, along with the Learning Support teachers, focussed on oral language as part of literacy lessons, a key outcome in the new English K - 2 Syllabus.

A highlight in Term 4 was the Musical Revue, titled *A Chorus of Doors - Keys to Rhythm* by an auditioned cast of Year 5 and Year 6 students. There were over 130 students in the cast and all Year 5 and Year 6 students formed part of the showcase in their Year Choir. Their enthusiastic involvement and commitment ensured the three performances showcased their talent and adaptability.

B
Martin Lubrano
Head of Junior School



Junior School



Academic and Service Partnerships

- Our inaugural Writer in Residence program began in late Term 1. Tim Harris, the award-winning best-selling children's author, worked with different groups of students throughout the year. The focus of the sessions has been using descriptive language and developing characters effectively in imaginative texts. The sessions provided the opportunity to improve students' writing skills and secondly professional learning for staff to upskill them in writing pedagogy.
- Barker College hosted the 'Do da Vinci Day' for students in Years 5 - 10 in April. There were 108 Year 5 and 6 students who elected to participate. Students competed in teams of four across six disciplines: Engineering, Mathematics, Art and Poetry, English, Ideation and Cartography. The overall winners for the day from each grade represented Barker at this year's da Vinci Decathlon at Knox Grammar.
- Year 4 engaged in a communication exchange with the Kwong Ming School in Yuen Long in Hong Kong. A group of students communicated on a regular basis via Skype.
- A group of Year 6 students were selected to participate in a Latin introduction program with the Junior School Gifted and Talented Coordinator, Miss Susanna Matters.
- The Year 6 PYP Exhibition and Pre-K to Year 5 Mini-Exhibitions were successfully held and parents and families enjoyed the opportunity to view the Exhibitions and discuss with the students their knowledge, understanding, learning and action. The Year 6 PYP Exhibition, held in the Rosewood Centre in September, provided the opportunity for the students to share the process of their learning journey through an inquiry lens and global perspectives. 52 groups and 192 students in Year 6 presented their Exhibition Inquiries. Their presentations and knowledge displayed incredible depth, maturity and understanding.
- Dots for the Art Installation inspired by Yayoi Kusama (Japanese artist) was completed, with just under 8,000 various sized coloured dots placed in an inspiring 'white room' to support Pre-K's unit of inquiry provocation as part of their How We Express Ourselves unit. This was the first time a unit of inquiry had involved the whole Junior School.
- The Junior School continued its professional partnership with URSTRONG. URSTRONG's whole-school friendship strategy has helped improve the social climate in schools around the world, connecting over a million children, parents, and teachers with a common language of friendship. The common language of friendship and the wealth of teaching and learning tools, provide our teachers with a scope and sequence to support the children as they build connections, explore skills, and engage in learning to prepare for their endeavour to make and maintain healthy relationships.

- Key to the experience for the children was the Day of Friendship in March with Tyson Greenwood from URSTRONG. This day comprised student workshop presentations to provoke further connections and provide affirmation and reflection, where students focused on the 4 Friendship Facts, the qualities of a great friend, and how to use the Friend-o-meter to assess healthy versus unhealthy friendships.
- A Footprint (sustainability) group was formed this year and have met one lunchtime per week. The group's first initiative was to hold an action around 'clean up our school' day. The most effective class to take action was given the exciting task of naming the Junior School sustainability pot plant which will travel around the Junior School on various sustainability adventures.
- A gardening club was introduced one lunchtime per week for students in Years 2 - 6. The group have transformed the garden beds in Junior School East, as well as a project to develop compost.
- A quiet playground space at the front of the Copeland building was created. This space provides an opportunity for children to gather and engage with book reading, cultural weaving and painting as well as passive play. It is open to all students in Years 2 - 6 four lunch times per week and on the fifth day Year 6 girls are invited to participate with Miss West (Pre-K aide and Darkinjung woman) in a yarning circle to learn more about Indigenous culture through craft activities and stories.
- Joanna Li in Year 4 won a Bronze Award in WriteOn 2023. This year, there were over 640 entries from over 300 schools in the annual writing competition. Joanna was one of 18 Bronze award winners and her story has been published in the official WriteOn competition booklet.
- Mayon Bandaranayaka in Year 6 was awarded First Place in the Mathematical Association of NSW (MANSW) Investigating with Mathematics Competition. Mayon conducted an investigation into the probability of the fun dice game Zilch, and his level of understanding of probability, and his use of Excel to play thousands of simulated games impressed the judges.
- 126 students from Years 3 - 6 competed in the Australian Mathematics Competition from the Australian Maths Trust. 64 students (51%) were awarded a Credit, 22 students (17%) were awarded Distinction, and three students (2%) were awarded High Distinction - Oliver Yu (Year 3), Curtis Fan and Ronald Liu (Year 5).
- The Junior School entered two teams in the Tournament of the Minds, a problem-solving competition. Students' creativity and collaborative skills were put to the test through both a 'long term' and 'spontaneous' challenge. The Language Literature team were awarded an Honours Prize for their performance.
- Year 6 participated in Write a Book in a Day with the 23 teams raising over \$40000 for Children's Cancer Research.



Junior School



Co-curricular

- Pre-K to Year 2 performed the Christmas Nativity "Hey Ewe" in November.
- A weekly chess club at lunchtime for all students who are keen to develop interest and skills, was established this year, connecting with Duke of Ed students and staff in the High School who volunteer their support within lunchtimes and Friday competitions.
- The two Junior School Debating teams competed in the ISDA competition. In addition to the two School teams, a group of 60+ students continued to meet after school on Thursdays, learning and improving debating techniques and skills. Teams participated in an IPSHA Gala Debating Day in Term 4.
- On any given week, across K - 6, there were over 770 different enrolments in 44 different sessions of Ignite activities.
- The Junior School was well represented at the various sporting carnivals and competitions throughout the year, with some exceptional results and personal bests recorded. Several students went on to represent the School at IPSHA, CIS, NSW State or National Championships in sports including - Swimming and Diving, Snowsports, Athletics, Netball, Hockey, Taekwondo, Cross Country, girls Rugby 7s and Gymnastics.
- 300 Junior School students participated in the Barker Mile at the commencement of the Athletics season and for the first time a Junior School race was held in the Barker Bolt.



- 50 Year 5 and Year 6 students participated in the inaugural two day Art Camp at the picturesque Bundanon (the legacy of the renowned Australian artist, Arthur Boyd). The primary purpose for the Art Camp was to nurture the students' passion for art making and encourage them to explore their creativity through various mediums. Bundanon's scenic setting provided the ideal backdrop for their artistic exploration, stimulating their senses and inspiring their imaginations.

NSW Champions

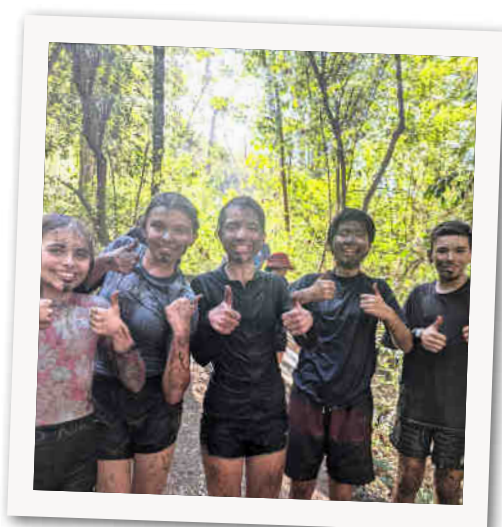
- Max Cook - Snowsports Division 4 Moguls
- Taewoo Oh - Swimming U12 50m Breaststroke
- Curtis Cui Athletics U12 Shot Put
- Darkinjung Barker Athletics Small Schools Relay

National Medallists

- Taewoo Oh - Swimming
 - » 3rd Place 12Yrs 50m Breaststroke
 - » 3rd Place 12Yrs 100m Breaststroke
 - » 1st Place 12 rs 4x100m Medley Relay
 - » 3rd Place 12Yrs 4x50m Freestyle Relay

Outdoor Education

- The outdoor education program continued this year to develop appropriate challenges designed to build competence, resilience, connection, responsibility, and independence. The Year 2 day camp at Galston was a great introduction to the campsite where students spend two nights in Year 3. Year 5 spent one night in tents, providing a great introduction to their Year 6 program where they are away for three nights in tents moving around the Somerset property. Activity difficulty at all camps was age appropriate and provided opportunity for students to challenge themselves and achieve.



Junior School



NSW Indigenous Campuses

- We welcomed several new staff to the NSW Indigenous campuses in 2023. Mr Mitchell O'Brien joined the Darkinjung Barker staff teaching the Years 3 - 6 class and allowing Miss Mannall to teach Kindergarten to Year 2. These additions allowed Mrs Andrews to be an additional teacher working across both classrooms supporting Literacy and Numeracy, as well as teaching some of the specialist subject areas to both classes. Miss Mannall left Darkinjung at the end of Term 1, allowing Mrs Andrews to move back into the K - 2 classroom.
- Mrs Keely McLaren was welcomed as a new teacher at Ngarralingayil Barker as the third teacher at the campus. Mrs McLaren worked across both campuses in the second half of the year.
- Mrs Mandy Shaw introduced a very special 'Deadly' award at both campuses in 2023. This unique award is only for special contributions by students. It can be for anything "Deadly" - schoolwork, demonstration of values, kindness to others, effort and participation.
- In a move to improve connection between the NSW Indigenous campuses and Hornsby, a program to release teachers from Hornsby to travel with Rev. Andrew Brown on a Tuesday to visit both Darkinjung Barker and Ngarralingayil Barker was implemented. The program nicknamed "On the road with Rev. Andrew" has proven very popular. The staff have enjoyed the opportunity to connect with the children and staff at the Indigenous campuses and it also has provided great connection for the Indigenous campuses when they visit Hornsby.
- The implementation of the Good to Great Schools Numeracy and Literacy programs continued this year. These programs are fully funded and provide an impact in learning key literacy and numeracy skills. Tracking progress provides us with data on the efficacy of the programs and the teaching models we institute. They are direct instruction models of teaching and learning.
- Barker's Kindergarten students visited Darkinjung Barker this year and joined with the children from both Indigenous campuses. The visit allowed them to connect with new knowledge and understanding of First Nations people and their land.
- The students at both campuses continued to enjoy Robotics and develop their skills and talent in this activity. The children at Darkinjung have a lesson every week, with their alternate week session at the Robotics Centre in Carden Ave. The Ngarralingayil children have fortnightly lessons at Wollombi.
- Darkinjung Barker hosted the inaugural Robotics Regional event in Week 1 of Term 4. There were six teams from Darkinjung, four teams from Ngarralingayil, three teams from Trinity Grammar School and three teams from PLC. Five teams from the event gained qualification for the State competition. None of our teams qualified unfortunately, but two of our students, Jade and Blake, received the Judges' award.
- URSTRONG social and emotional literacy lessons continued to be enjoyed with the classes sharing discussions and ideas about the '4 Rules of Friendships'.
- Students from both campuses represented the School at various Indigenous community events throughout the year, sharing Acknowledgment of Country and cultural dance.
- Students in Years 3 - 6 from both campuses attended an Outdoor Education Camp at Crusaders, Lake Macquarie. Activities included rock climbing, sailing and fishing.
- Oliver (Darkinjung) and Charlotte (Ngarralingayil) represented their School at the IPSHA Cross Country, performing exceptionally well in strong fields.



- Mrs Shaw introduced Darkinyung language with the children and they enjoyed learning some songs in language. At Ngarralingayil, Mrs Tammy Hunter did the same with Wonnaruah language. The children learnt an Acknowledgement of Country in language that was shared with the School at the NAIDOC Week Assembly.
- Ruby Wilkin (Year 6) became the first individual representative for Darkinjung at the IPSHA Athletics in Term 3. She finished in the top 10 overall in both races, 8th in 100m and 10th in 200m.

Dhupuma Barker

- There were 40 children enrolled at Dhupuma Barker in 2023, which are incredible numbers. The classes are now split across the two classrooms, with Ms Lori Cross focussing on the younger children (Midawarr class) and Mr Tom Spencer looking after the older group (Djambatj class). Ms Sarah joined the team after Term 1 part time as an additional teacher. She will be the inaugural teacher for the Middle Years program (Years 7 - 10) in 2024.
- Erica has been an addition to the team this year as the Community Support Officer. She prepares breakfast, snacks, lunches, cleans, shops and manages the social media page. She also assists in the classroom.
- The School continued to do the Literacy and Numeracy programs with Good to Great Schools this year. The fully funded program is ideally suited to remote indigenous bilingual schools.
- Throughout the year, Flinders University students in their final year of study, visited the School every two weeks to work with our students. The focus is on health-related topics. This continues the connection begun in 2022.

- The children in the younger classroom continued to develop their letter/sound/handwriting skills and there has been excellent progress during the year, especially the children who are attending school every day.
- In the older class, the students have worked on spelling and reading mastery programs with Good to Great Schools. Progress has been extremely positive, especially with strong attendance. In Maths, students gained mastery on the levels that they worked through.
- The School held a successful Rugby Union day in early March with support of NTRU. In the second half of the year, the children enjoyed a six week AusKick AFL program at school.
- The first ever Dhupuma swimming carnival was held at the town pool in late March. There were 27 students competing against each other in two teams, Fire Fire & Stormy Rain.
- Another successful Hip Hop intensive program was held this year. The students love dance and a video was created to finish off the week.
- The Djirikitj Firebirds enjoyed a fantastic trip to Dallas Texas for the World VexIQ Elementary Schools Robotics Championships in May. The team performed extremely well, placing 40th in their division of 76 teams. There were 760 teams in the competition. In the Opening Ceremony, Justin, one of our students, was invited to carry the Australian flag representing the eight teams present from Australia.
- The School began an extremely positive connection with the new aged care centre in town. Our students visit each Friday playing some sports, reading books with the residents and enjoying morning tea together. The students are able to share some work they have been doing including artworks.
- Dhupuma Barker hosted the first VEX inter-school robotics competition in the Northern Territory in Term 4 and the Barker Djirikitj Firebirds qualified to the National competition in Adelaide.
- At the Garma Festival in August, Dhupuma Barker were awarded a Yolŋu Heroes Award by the Yothu Yindi Foundation. This was an honour to be recognised for our work in education with the community. The award was accepted by our Community Co-Teachers, Cedric, Janet, Valerie and Mikey.
- The Djirikitj Firebirds won the Northern Territory Science Week - Best Remote School Project for Remote Schools in August for their achievements in Robotics over the last 12 months. Cyrus, Sean and Justin travelled to Darwin with Co-Teacher Cedric, to collect the Award.
- Approval granted to expand the School and accommodate students from early learning to Year 10 from 2024.



Middle School

ReAL Time (a Responsible Approach to Learning) was a new initiative introduced in 2023, where students in Years 7 and 8 have allocated time (12:00 - 12:30pm) on a Monday or Tuesday to focus on the process of learning.

Connect group leaders implemented a series of guided sessions where students can learn new skills, reflect on their own routines as learners and explore new skills with interaction with the Study Skills online handbook. These sessions have been well received and well utilised by students and represent another essential support for learning.

Middle School students enjoyed participating in the range of seminars offered during Wellbeing week in Week 2, Term 2. Several themes were explored, including Nutrition for the Brain, Raising Respect, Digital Wellbeing and Managing Stress. There were also music performances during lunchtimes and the Lift@Barker theme of Food Fuels your Mood was a strong theme during Connect Group sessions.

Deans' Day was a new initiative introduced by the three Middle School Deans this year. For one school day in September, they each shadowed a student in Year 7, 8 and 9. They were eager to do what the students do in all aspects of school life, from packing lunchboxes, to completing class work, to playing handball at lunchtime, to adhering to teacher expectations. It provided a rare opportunity to get to know students by sitting alongside them rather than operating in a position as the authority figure.

A considerable amount of work has taken place this year to embrace and further integrate the Round Square principles and opportunities into the Barker experience. Under the guidance of Peter Gibson, Round Square opportunities are now becoming a reality. A reference group of students from both Year 8 and 10 was formed and they were able to connect with students from MLC school. Year 8 students have embraced more local opportunities such as those provided in regional NSW and in New Zealand.

A change to the timetable this year has enabled students and staff across all Middle School year groups to have their chapel time in the Chapel. This was not possible in previous years.

The myriad of rich experiences in relation to sport, music, cadets, dance, robotics and other co-curricular activities, continued to provide a full and enjoyable Barker experience for all Middle School students.

B

James Denton
Head of Middle School



Academic and Co-curricular Experiences

An excellent presentation to Year 7 parents and students in Term 1 covered a range of essential study skills areas including:

- developing healthy habits
- effective locations to study
- scheduling a study program
- the effective use of a diary
- ways to study - even when there is no homework!!
- memory techniques
- the importance of sleep

A Year 8 parent forum was hosted by Greg Longney - Director Teaching and Learning and Andy Mifsud - Director Digital Learning Innovation, to explore the parent perceptions of the progressive reporting system which has been operating in the Middle School.

A new program designed to provide extension opportunities for gifted and talented students in Year 7 commenced in Term 3. Susanna Matters - Co-ordinator of Gifted and Talented Education, has created the **Quest** program for 30 students who were identified as those who would benefit from a more intensive academic extension program. The **Quest** program sees the students withdrawn from classes once a week to participate in inter-disciplinary project-based learning activities.

Barker entered three teams into the Da Vinci Decathlon event hosted by Knox Grammar. This event provided an excellent opportunity for students to demonstrate their capacity in several intellectual challenges and grow in team building and problem-solving abilities.

In July, two teams of Year 7 students participated in the nation-wide Write a Book in a Day competition. This competition challenges students to plan, write, edit and illustrate a 5000 word book in one day to fundraise for the Kids Cancer Project. This was the first time, Secondary students have participated in the competition as a joint Gifted and Talented Library initiative.

Middle School



Year 8 Horizon Program

In the first week of Term 3, Year 8 students participated in the *Horizons* program. *Horizons* connected students with vital areas of the Barker curriculum, placing a focus on students lifting their eyes up to see what lies ahead of them.

Horizons encouraged students through a series of diverse experiences, to reflect on their progress in the Middle School and to consider the challenges which lie ahead. The program also provided Year 8 students with some guidance to support decisions around their elective choices and prompted them to think about solutions to the problems that they see around them.

Year 9 Commerce Market Day

A record number of students participated in the Market Day this year. Students were required to plan, produce, market and sell a product with proceeds going to support Hornsby Connect. The day was a great success where students demonstrated their emerging entrepreneurial skills.

Drama After Hours Program

The Drama After Hours program was expanded this year with formal performance evenings scheduled in both Semester 1 and 2. These programs targeted Year 7 and 8 students, with the Year 9 play remaining as a much-celebrated item in the performing arts calendar.

Service Learning

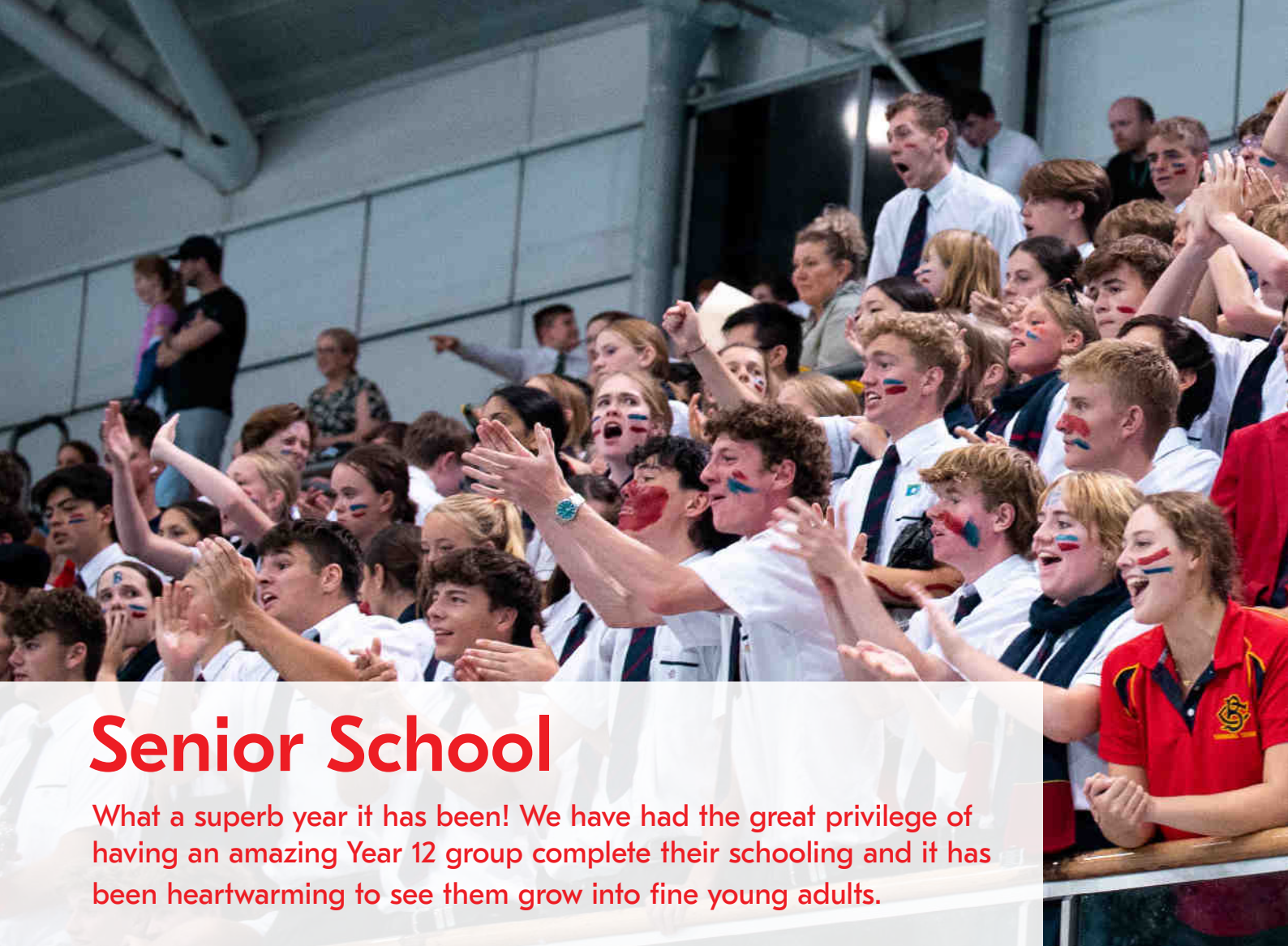
There were plenty of opportunities throughout the year, for Middle School students to serve our community, with each year group working within a particular theme.

Year 7 continued with the theme of the Environment. There was a committed group of students that undertook paper recycling across the School. Students also connected with Hornsby Council and the local bush care team to care for the local bush reserve at Netherby St, Wahroonga, where they learnt about the noxious weeds and did some gardening and cleaning to sustain the bush reserve.

Year 8 focused on the theme of Care. In July, Year 8 participated in a Service Learning Day: "A Heart for Service". This saw all of our Year 8's participating in Service Learning activities throughout the day ranging from writing their own stories specifically tailored to students at Ngarralingayil Barker; creating sanitary kits for the charity Days for Girls and cooking for Dignity Dishes. Year 8 students also had the opportunity to engage with residents at Wahroonga House, enjoying a hot chocolate and a few competitive games of scrabble!

Year 9 students focused on the theme of Community and continued to work with local charity Hornsby Connect. Students volunteered in House Groups at the Centre, organising stock and handing out groceries to members of our community in need. Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh students also cooked meals for the charity Dignity Dishes, who distribute home cooked meals to people in need.





Senior School

What a superb year it has been! We have had the great privilege of having an amazing Year 12 group complete their schooling and it has been heartwarming to see them grow into fine young adults.

They have dealt with everything Senior School has thrown at them with good humour, good grace and resilience. They have shown outstanding leadership of the School and working with them has been a great pleasure.

This year in the Senior School, we welcomed Mel Dooley as a Dean of the Senior School, to work alongside Simon Walker and John Doran.

Official Opening of the Senior School Hub - 27 July

This was another superb and enjoyable occasion, proceeding flawlessly. We were able to have Year 12 and Year 11 students as an audience, as well as our invited guests, who sat in the aptly named Breezeway. The Mathematics staff are overjoyed to be in such a magnificent venue and they have reported that Maths classes are already more productive. A student's surroundings contribute so much to a positive and productive learning experience and as I walk past these classrooms, I certainly see excellent classroom management by our staff and learning by our students.

Our Year 12 students have especially taken to the Incubator and the Quiet Carriage (our study areas), as well as the Cafeteria. Our Senior School Heads of House, Deans and I are very lucky to have such wonderful new digs (as everyone seems to call them). I am certainly very lucky to enjoy some magnificent sunsets of late, from my office on the second floor.

The opening ceremony was officiated beautifully by our four School Captains: Jeremy Davie, Lucy Johnston, Zoe Paterson and Caleb Stace. All speeches were excellent, but Caleb's speech was one of the very best speeches by a student or an adult, that I have heard. If you are able to see or hear the speech, you will certainly be impressed.

Our Year 12 Jazz Ensemble's performance also added some vibrance and joy to the occasion.



Throughout the year, there were many leadership and service opportunities on offer, helping students from Years 10 - 12 to learn how they could be involved in Christian Service, Social Justice and Environmental Projects. Year 11 and Year 12 students volunteered to help at Clarke Road School's swimming carnival in May and the athletics carnival in August. It has been wonderful to continue Barker and Clarke Road's special relationship. We were also able to welcome Year 12 students from St Edmund's School, to perform in a Year 12 Assembly in September. Proceeds from our Coffee House Music concerts were donated to the St Edmund's Music Program.

A highlight for eight Senior School students was the opportunity to attend the Youth Forum at the Garma Festival. They were provided with the unique opportunity to learn more about culture, attend ceremonies and connect with Yolŋu Elders.

There were many co-curricular highlights and outstanding team and individual performances throughout the year. Year 10 students attended the wonderful camp at Jindabyne in Term 4.

Memorable events and activities for the Class of 2023 were planned in their final weeks of formal schooling, including their Testamur Presentation and the Valedictory Chapel Service and Dinner. These occasions were very well received and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Not only for our Year 12 students, but also for our Year 10 and 11 students, it is always worth remembering the words of Glen Gerreyn, one of our regular visitors to Barker, "Don't be afraid to fail. If you do... pick yourselves up, dust yourselves off and try again. Let nothing steal your dreams."

B

David Giltrap
Head of Senior School

Senior School

Academic Highlights

O Day for Year 11 students, run prior to the commencement of Term 1, provided an excellent program with 120 students attending to listen and learn from a range of workshops and presentations.

This year's Academic Assembly in February was a great success, with Deputy Head Academic Care, Julie Wilson Reynolds interviewing two of our top students, Joanna Kong and Austin Lin, who were both able to provide excellent advice to the Year 12 students.

The student leaders introduced a new innovation called Workshop Wednesdays, which were student nominated and led workshops on topics of interest leading up to the HSC Trials.

During the last week of the Term 3 holidays and the first week of Term 4, a delegation of Barker Senior School students joined 1,200 student delegates from

160 schools from across the world, at our first Round Square International Conference hosted by Brookhouse School, Nairobi Kenya. The conference was an enriching experience for our students and provided a wealth of opportunities including a Service Day where the delegates worked at Brookhouse's community partner schools in the Nairobi area, refurbishing classrooms, gardening and playing sports with the children.

Term 3 was a time to celebrate the efforts and success of our Year 12 students in subjects requiring a major project. We particularly enjoyed the combined DT & IT Exhibition and the Visual Arts Exhibition, along with the Drama Showcase, the Extension 2 English Evening and the HSC Music performers concert and the Senior Ensembles Concert. The Textiles and Design Showcase evening in the Rhodes Theatre, showcased many beautifully crafted garments.



The following students' works were nominated for inclusion in the Shape Exhibition:

Design & Technology

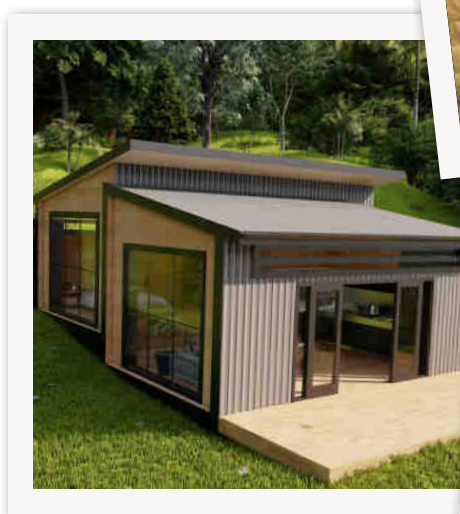
- Zachariah Durden
- Sebastian Leim
- Samuel Thomas
- Rowan McKenna

Industrial Technology

- William Hayward *
- Sophia Tweed *
- Rowan McKenna
- Connor Murphy
- Harrison Phillips
- Liam Phizackle
- Duncan Smith
- Charles Sullivan
- Luke Swanepoel
- Benjamin Walker
- Samuel Walter

* shortlisted

Shape is an annual exhibition of exemplary Major Projects developed by HSC Design & Technology and Industrial Technology students and will be held at Walsh Bay Arts Precinct in March 2024.





Service Learning

Year 10 focused on the theme of Education. The students continued to build the relationship between our neighbouring school for additional needs: Clarke Road and Barker College. Students attended Clarke Road weekly and assisted in their classes with a range of activities from arts and crafts, to cooking and science. Students were also privileged to be involved with the annual events at Clarke Road, such as the swimming carnival, athletics carnival and the Bush dance.

In keeping with the theme, the student mentoring program with both Darkinjung and Ngarralingayil Barker students continued. Students have had the opportunity to mentor Darkinjung students on their fortnightly visits to Hornsby campus, in the areas of Music, Tennis and in class. Similarly, small groups of Year 10 students have enjoyed the opportunity to head North and to work with Ngarralingayil students, mentoring in Maths, Reading and more recently Robotics. The Hornsby vs Ngarralingayil cricket match was a highlight, with Ngarralingayil the winners, by a narrow margin! It has been wonderful to see all of the students thrive as we continue to build an ongoing relationship through the mentoring programs.

Years 11 and 12 focused on the theme of Leadership. Students led drills and games fortnightly at TimeOut Basketball, a session where members of the community with disabilities join us in a friendly game of basketball. They have enjoyed many successes throughout the year with this committed group of participants and volunteers!

Senior School students also worked with Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter, volunteering at a fundraising evening and running the BBQ at our annual Sports Gala Day in June. It was pleasing to see the whole Barker community support this event, to raise much needed funds for the charity.

Year 11 and 12 also participated in the Red Shield Appeal for the Salvation Army at Hornsby Westfield. The students willingly gave up their weekend to collect money for a worthwhile cause. This year we were honoured to receive the 'Hornsby Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal Schools Challenge' Award, with Barker College students raising the most funds in comparison to other local schools. Finally, the Seniors also volunteered at the Lifeline Bobbin Head Cycle Classic,



where students facilitated the event which raised money for suicide prevention. The Lifeline Book Fair was a huge success last year, and we look forward to hosting and volunteering in the Rosewood Centre in early December.

Students also engaged in Service Learning by joining the following lunch time clubs: Footprint & Create for a Cause. The whole school also celebrated and donated to the House Fair, which raised funds for the 16 House Charities. The Anglicare Toys 'n' Tucker giving campaign once again brought the Middle School and Senior School together to donate toys and food. The hampers, packed by Year 10 and Footprint, were distributed to families in need and shared the joy of the Christmas season.



Drama

Year 10 Play "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Ed Lembke-Hogan returned to the Bard again this year with a beautiful Year 10 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. 42 committed students brought to life this Shakespearean classic, with a modern twist. Set in an oppressively patriarchal world where escaping to the forest meant freedom from tyranny for the young lovers and the mechanicals alike, this production felt fresh and relevant. With a troupe of fairies, two mischievous Pucks and of course an hilarious rendition of *Pyramus and Thisbee* at the end, the Year 10 play was a huge success leaving people talking about it for weeks afterwards.

Winter Playhouse

This year's packed-out Rhodes' Theatre was a true testament to the popularity of this annual event. Our fantastic Drama Captains, Eli Reilly and Kitty Anderson, presented an evening showcasing the Performing Arts at Barker. From Theatresports and curriculum Dance, to Year 12 Monologues, the audience was treated to a broad range of performances from Year 7 - 12, putting the Drama classroom on the stage. The evening was such a fantastic celebration of student achievement, and it wouldn't be *Winter Playhouse* without banana bread, hot chocolate, and of course the odd lolly bag too!

Year 11 Play "School for Wives" & "The Importance of Being Earnest"

Thirty-one Year 11 students worked on and off the stage to bring an evening of comedy to the Rhodes' Theatre at the end of Term 2. Pia Midgley directed not one but two plays; the first half was a 1920's reimagining of *The Importance of Being Earnest* and after tea and biscuits, audiences returned for Justin Fleming's modern rewrite of Moliere's *School for Wives*. The roaring 20's was beautifully brought to life by a talented cast, including a very Texan Oil-Magnate Lady Bracknell and three over-worked Butlers, while the ensemble driven cast of *School for Wives* brought madness and mayhem to the stage with modern music, more overworked servants, and some hilarious comedic performances all professionally supported by a committed backstage crew.

Barker goes Broadway

Barker goes Broadway is a student-led event. It was born from past musical-loving Drama Captains to offer an opportunity for any student group that want to perform a staged, choreographed number from anywhere - it doesn't have to be Broadway and they don't need to be a Performing Arts student to be involved. It truly is a celebration of the joy of performing



and the student voice. This year we had a fantastic range of items, and it was brilliant to include more of the Middle School performers too. The Barker Drama staff always marvel at what the students come up with when given some creative, "Broadway" license!

Year 9 Play "The Witches"

The Year 9 play was Roald Dahl's *The Witches* set in the vibrant and revolutionary era of 1970s England. A period of cultural upheaval, marked by its flamboyant fashion and audacious spirit. Jennie Bradbury was the visionary director of this production and used bright costumes, fantastic multi-media, and physical theatre with 25 students on stage, along with a technical crew of 12 students to transport the audience back to this time. These students revelled in their first opportunity to create a Barker production and we are excited to see how they continue to grow in the years ahead.

Theatresports

In 2023, students from across the School participated in the wonderful world of Theatresports. They learned about making and accepting offers in improvisation, they developed their characterisation skills, and they told a whole year's worth of whacky stories. In the Inter-School Competition, our Intermediate and Senior teams both did exceptionally well in the heats and sailed through to the semi-finals.

Yr 7/8 Drama After Hours

The Drama After Hours program in 2023 was full of colour, life and laughter. Students developed their performance skills in genres as diverse as improvisation, scripted drama, Shakespeare and Musical Theatre. There was no shortage of performance opportunities, with a Shakespeare evening in Term 1, Murder Mystery night in Term 2, and special Drama After Hours items in whole school events including Winter Playhouse and Barker Goes Broadway. We look forward to seeing many of our talented young performers return to the program next year.





OnSTAGE Nominations

Group Performance

- Sienna Addario, Kitty Anderson, Holly Harmon, Hamish Parsons, Tom Streeter - *Doctor? Doctor?*
- Michael Ashworth, Zali Elliot, Rose Haveron, Sarah Smith - *The Fall Caesar*
- Anika Banerjee, Maximillian Bowles, Thomas Horlin, Issy Onsley, Lex Whitbourn - *No Greater Treasure*
- Jamison Cameron, Caspar Bosscher, Lucy Johnston, Eli Reilly, Phoebe Riley - *The Bandits of Bruges*
- Sam Castillo, Will Lenehan, Izzy McCaughey, Nick Strachov - *The Left-Handed Hammer*
- Andoni Dagias, Charlotte Goddard, Jonah Mills, Angel West - *Saving the King's Land*

Individual Performance/Project:

- Ashleigh Anson-Smith - *Smiling Depression*
- Michael Ashworth - *Copenhagen*
- Georgia Bacon - *Confessions*
- Anika Banerjee - *Vodka, No Tonic*

- Caspar Bosscher - *Amadeus*
- Jamison Cameron - *One of the Lads*
- Andoni Dagias - *The Hero*
- Oliver Edis - *So Ready*
- Ethan Haesloop - *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole*
- Rose Haveron - *Rhinoceros*
- Thomas Horlin - *Samuel Byck*
- Lucy Johnston - *The Harp in the South*
- Jonah Mills - *The Pillowman*
- Eli Reilly - *Cyrano*
- Phoebe Riley - *The Boys*
- Angel West - *A Simple Thank You*
- Lex Whitbourn - *The Nicest Kid in Town*
- Riley Clare: *Script - Going Up?*
- Charlotte Goodard: *Research - How can Sydney Theatre Practitioners Continue to Create Provocative Theatre Sydney?*
- Nick Strachov: *Director's Folio - Black Diggers*

Music

Barker Music continued to provide the traditionally wide range of activities for our students to participate in excellent music-making whilst also exploring some new directions this year.

Music Camp

Everybody sing! The year began, as it has for over 25 years, with the annual Music Camp for our large Secondary School choral, orchestral and band ensembles. As well as the usual ensemble rehearsals and student concerts at camp, there was also a selection of other musical activities and workshops offered, including composition and improvisation sessions, chamber music, gospel singing and beatboxing, so that the students could experience some musical diversity outside of their usual choral or instrumental ensembles.

For the first time, the entire camp took part in combined singing activities where everyone came together to sing excerpts from Vivaldi's Gloria and Mozart's Requiem, under the direction of our inspiring guest conductor, Alex Pringle.

Choirs

This culminated in a massed choir performance with orchestra as the grand finale to the Symphony Under the Roof (of Rosewood Centre) concert towards the end of Term 1, which featured the Percussion Ensemble as well as all the large Secondary School ensembles.

The post-COVID recovery of the joy of community singing has been a big focus of the year, with the Music staff leading the singing at weekly Chapel services to encourage every student in the School to sing hymns with reverence and gusto. At the final Chapel Service for Year 12, the roof of the Chapel was clearly raised by a few metres! This year we were fortunate to have for the first time in recent memory, a Year 7 student, Isabel Li, playing the organ in Chapel to accompany Year 7 services. Other Chapel services have been enhanced by musical contributions from several performers during the year.

The unforgettable 2023 Musical production *Les Misérables* directed by the Head of Barker College, Phillip Heath and conducted by Peter Ellis, vividly brought to life Victor Hugo's profound story of redemption and hope, with wonderful singing from the leads and chorus, accompanied by an incredibly accomplished pit orchestra made up of staff and students from Years 7 - 12.

The Barker choirs continued to build on their recovery from the restrictions of the COVID years, taking advantage of increasing performance opportunities in the community and exploring new and diverse repertoire. Our selective Junior School Copeland Choir took part in the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and Choir's performance of the 20th century classic *Carmina Burana* in The Concourse at Chatswood and also performed for the Wahroonga Anglican's "Prime Time" Christmas function for senior parishioners. They achieved first place in the Sydney Eisteddfod Primary School Choir section and were commended for their challenging and mature repertoire, featuring Australian composers.

Our Middle School Choir saw increased numbers and achieved an excellent result at the Sydney Eisteddfod, placing second in the Under 19 Youth Choir section. This was an impressive achievement as many fine Senior school choirs were entered in the event - our Middle School students were among the youngest choirs to sing. The Senior and Chamber choirs were involved in many events such as the Ash Wednesday Service, Chamber in the Chapel combined with the Chamber Orchestra, and the Senior Ensembles concert in Term 3.

Orchestras and Bands

The orchestras and bands were busy too, with the many ensembles across Junior, Middle and Senior Schools performing at Sydney Eisteddfod and the Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival, where they achieved many commendations. The groups achieved Gold and Silver awards and the ensemble directors were commended for their interesting and ambitious repertoire choices. Barker Wind Symphony hosted students from Moriah College in a combined concert in the Leslie Hall, each band performing challenging and innovative repertoire. This is the third collaboration with Moriah and the first to be hosted at Barker and it is a joy to be able to collaborate with students from other schools in a mutually respectful and appreciative way.

Masterpiece Concert

At the end of Term 2, we presented our 'Masterpiece' concert at the Chatswood Concourse. This has become an annual event for the senior ensembles, with some involvement from the Middle and Junior schools, and features a performance by the winner of our Concerto competition, this year Ben Weatherall (Year 11), who performed the beautiful Concerto for Marimba and Strings by Emmanuel Sejourne with the Chamber Orchestra.

The Tour Band, made up of students from Years 8 - 12, will travel to Japan in December and will be the first International Band Tour since the Gallipoli Centenary Tour in 2015.

Junior School

In the vibrant Junior School program, the second annual Music Camp saw large numbers attend at Collaroy Conference Centre. Whole camp singing was again a feature, and it was a strong collaboration with Junior School and Music staff. The new Casals Cello Ensemble was established, providing a varied ensemble experience for the many young cello players in the program. Junior School music ensembles performed at community events such as Mother's, Father's and Grandparents' Day throughout the year. The theme of whole school singing continued with the second annual Sing! Concert, celebrating singing across the Junior School from Pre-K to Year 6. More recently the inaugural Junior School Revue was presented in fine style, involving 150+ students across the Junior School, singing and dancing to a range of over 30 songs. All songs were arranged by the Music Staff and the brilliant staff band was led by Elaine Slawski.

Jazz

In the first week of Term 3, eminent Sydney jazz trumpeter Simon Sweeney, spent three days with our stage bands and Year 12 jazz ensemble, bringing to them a professional viewpoint of the life of a musician and coaching the bands in the lead up to the popular annual Barker Swings event, which included Stage Bands and Jazz Ensembles from the Junior School through to Year 12. The Jazz Café concert provided an opportunity for the smaller jazz ensembles to perform in a more intimate setting. Led by the enthusiastic Year 12 students, two of whom - saxophonists Felix Neville and Nicholas Strachov, have been offered early entry to the NSW Conservatorium's prestigious Bachelor of Jazz Performance course, the jazz program has gone from strength to strength this year.

Small Ensembles

The small ensembles program is also flourishing, with several enthusiastic group of students meeting at lunchtimes and after school to take part in chamber and rock ensembles. They have been in high demand for events such as the New Parent Welcome Dinner, the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic and the Indigenous Fundraising Dinner and provided morning welcome music at the Mint Gates during Wellbeing Week. The lunchtime Rock Jams have been developed to give the contemporary music students more opportunities to perform and five bands played to a very appreciative audience at Year 9 Market Day in October. Music Week in Term 3 was a student-led initiative carried over from last year, an idea of the Middle School Music Captains. Music ensembles and individual performers were featured in assemblies, chapel services and 'pop-up' performances at lunchtimes.



Outstanding Individual Music Results

AMEB Diplomas

- Mirabelle Chen Year 9 - oboe L.Mus.A with Distinction
- Jeffrey Lu Year 11 - cello L.Mus.A with Distinction
- Liam Nicholls Year 11 - violin A.Mus.A with Distinction
- Isabel Li Year 7 - ATCL Diploma in Piano with Distinction
- Alicia Kim Year 9 - cello L.Mus.A with Distinction
- Leo Peng Year 9 - L.Mus.A Piano

Sydney Eisteddford

- Alicia Kim Year 9 - Winner cello (Open Age)

National Youth Concerto Competition

- Leonard Tang Year 10 - Finalist violin

NSW Band Association Championships Solos

- Isabel Li Year 7 - U19 Percussion Champion, 1st places in Open Mallet Keyboard, Open Timpani, U19 Mallet Keyboard, U19 Snare Drum, U19 Timpani
- Mirabelle Chen Year 9 - 1st places in U19 Double Reed, U15 Double Reed
- Christian Martinez Year 12 - Open Percussion Drum Kit
- Carlos Zhu Year 7 - 1st place in U15 Clarinet

Encore Nominations for HSC Music Performance

- Kyle Li Year 12 - Piano and Voice
- Christian Martinez Year 12 - Percussion
- Felix Neville Year 12 - Saxophone
- Louis Russell Year 12 - Guitar

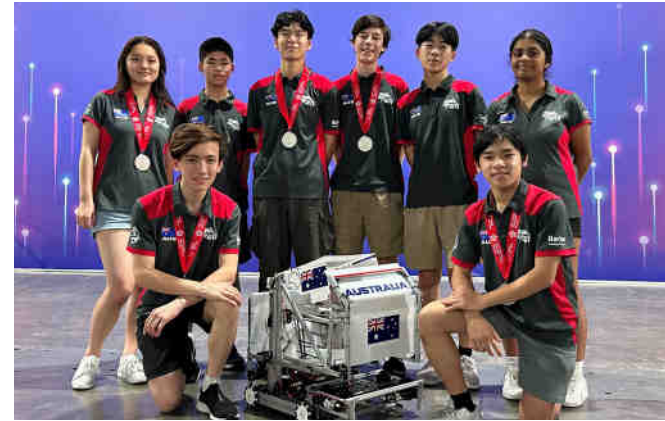




Robotics

FRC Program in Senior School

- **FTC National Champion:** Competed in the Australia National Championship. Received the Innovate award, Design award and overall winner of the competition. Justin Qin won the Dean's list award at the Australia National Championship.
- **FRC Canadian Pacific Champion:** Competed in the Canadian Pacific Regional. The team ranked 1st, undefeated and became alliance captains of the 1st seeded alliance; overall winner of the competition and received the Industrial Design Award.
- **FRC National Champion:** Competed in the Southern Cross Regional. The team ranked 1st, undefeated and became alliance captains of the 1st seeded alliance; overall winner of the competition and received the Industrial Design Award.
- **FRC Hawaii Finalist:** Competed in the Hawaii Regional. The team ranked 2nd, joined the 1st alliance, finalist at the competition and received the Excellence in Engineering Award.
- Competed at the Green Country Regional, the team ranked 5th, and received the Quality Award. Corinne Zhou won the Dean's list award at the Green Country Regional.
- **FRC World Championship Division Finalist:** Competed at the Houston Championships, and achieved Finalist status, with the support of Mr Heath.
- Competed in the **VEX high-school World Championships** in Dallas for the first time and achieved semi-finalist ranking.
- Competed in the Australian off-season championships and won the finals as alliance captains.
- Barker robotics selected to represent Australia in the **FIRST Global Challenge**, competing alongside 190 other countries. An incredible experience for our students to attend the competition in Singapore, where the team had a wonderful performance.
- **FIRST Global Challenge results:** 2nd place worldwide for the robot skills challenge, 6th place in a semi-final's alliance with Peru and Indonesia. Mrs Rodrigues Becker won the Outstanding Mentor Award and the team were honoured with the silver medal of the prestigious Albert Einstein award for FIRST Global International Excellence.
- **Finalist on the New Technology Experience:** Energy Solution at the FIRST Global Challenge.



VEX Robotics in Middle School

- Hosted VEX VRC State Qualifiers at Barker.
- Teams competed at the Emerald City event: 4613F won the tournament, 4613G won the Design award and 4613P the Judges' award.
- Teams competed at the James Ruse event: 4613F received the Build award, 4613B the Energy award and 4613P the Create award.
- Teams competed at the Barker League: 4613B won the Excellence award, 4613P and 4613M won the tournament and 4613F won the Robot Skills Challenge.
- 13 Barker teams qualified to VEX VRC State Championship. This was the biggest number of teams advancing to competitions since the program started.

Ignite Robotics in Junior School

- Hosted VEX IQ Robotics State Qualifiers at Barker.
- Teams competed at the Harbour City event: 4613C won the tournament as well as the Design award.
- Teams competed at the James Ruse event: 4613A and 4613D won the tournament, 4613A received the Amaze award, 4613D the Think award and 4613B the Create award.
- Teams competed at the FMAHS Tamworth event: 4613R received the Sportsmanship award.
- Teams competed at the Barker League: 4613B and 4613E won the Excellence award, 4613B and 4613U won the tournament.

- 12 Barker teams qualified to VEX IQ State Championship - the largest number of teams advancing to competitions since the program started.
- Nine Junior School Vex IQ Robotics teams qualified for the NSW VEX Robotics Championships in November.
- VEX IQ robotics program commenced with refugee students.
- Two Junior School Robotics teams qualified for the National VEX IQ Robotics Championships in Adelaide in December.

Indigenous Campuses

Darkinjung/Ngarralingayil Barker

- Hosted a VEX IQ State inter-school qualifier at Darkinjung for the first time.
- Students continued to thrive in robotics every week.

Dhupuma Barker

- Barker Djirikitj Firebirds competed at the VEX World Championship in Dallas USA, April 2023.
- Dhupuma hosted the first VEX IQ competition in the Northern Territory, with two schools qualifying to compete at the National Tournament in Adelaide in December.
- Barker Djirikitj Firebirds won the Excellence award, robot skills champions and seeded 1st qualifying to the VEX IQ National Tournament.



Cadets

The Annual Field Exercise (AFX) held in the April holidays at the Singleton Military Range is the camp all cadets look forward to. It is an opportunity for the cadets to apply all of their training in a field environment and have experiences that would be hard to find elsewhere.

Some of the skills include first aid, navigation, camouflage and concealment and so much more. Cadets tackled the 25 metre abseil tower on the main base and also had a great time in the VERE location, where there is a mock Forward Operating Base (FOB) which the students used in a number of their activities.

Leading all the activities are the junior and senior ranks, who plan extensively to make sure that the activities are fun, challenging and safe and the cadets can learn and grow as not only individuals, but also as a cadet unit. Whenever the question is asked "what was your highlight from cadets?", the answer is more often than not, AFX.

Ceremonial Parade

The last event of the 2022/23 cadet year was the Ceremonial Parade. It was a wonderful event that involved the entire unit all together in ceremonial dress, marching in unison, and celebrating the hard work and dedication of the graduating Senior Leadership group. This was followed later in the day by the Dining in Night, where the graduating cadets were joined by their parents for an evening of great food, reflection, and celebration. This was the last opportunity for all the senior ranks to connect as leaders of the BCCU.

Promotions Camp

The Promotions Camp occurred during the mid-year holidays, and included the Junior Leaders Course (JLC) and the Senior Leaders Course (SLC). Pymble Ladies College Cadet Unit (PLCCU) joined the BCCU on the Singleton Military Barracks where senior cadets were assessed on their leadership skills. At the same time, recruits engaged in the Barker College Adventure Training (BCAT) course which provided the recruits a great opportunity to put into practise some of the field skills they had learnt throughout their year in Cadets.

Promotions Camp was immediately followed by the first ever BCCU Europe tour. 19 Cadets had the experience of a lifetime, visiting numerous important historical sights and learning about the history of the First and Second World Wars. Hannah Angus stated, "It was great to learn about key events in the places in which they occurred. It definitely helped ground my understanding of the Wars". The students also visited the graves of many of the Barker Old Boys who lost their lives in service to their country.

Vale Lt Max Nugent

The Unit was deeply affected by the news of Lt. Max Nugent's passing. Serving the unit in 2016 as an accomplished CUO of Echo Platoon 3, the memory of his impact on cadets is still alive within the Unit. A memorial service was held for the whole school with five CUOs forming a catafalque party and touching words given by the SUO, RSM and current Echo Platoon 3 Commander. Additionally, the School and Unit provided an honour guard at his funeral.



Leadership and Camps

The second half of the year saw the appointment of Hannah Angus as Senior Under Officer (SUO), Oliver Walsh as Second in Command of the Unit (2IC) and Thomas Fearnside as Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) for the 2023/24 cadet year.

One of the first activities for the new leadership was working with the Legacy Foundation to raise over \$3000 for the families of veterans, with cadets in uniform collecting donations at Hornsby and Waitara stations.

At the conclusion of Term 3, Year 8 recruits and senior rank attended Kariong Scout camp for a four-day Bivouac. As the first overnight experience for the new recruits, cadets took part in rock climbing, abseiling, hiking, bushcraft and swimming in the waterhole. There was still ample opportunity for fun activities like interacting with the Unit's robotic dog, a water balloon obstacle course and a visit from the Australian Reptile Park that saw adult crocodiles, reticulated pythons, and cadets all in the same room.

In mid-October, fourteen cadets were selected to represent the BCCU at CAS Mill Skills, one of the two CAS competitions that sees cadets test their skills in Fieldcraft, Navigation, Radio Telecommunications, and Teamwork. In addition to our competing team, Barker had the opportunity to host the event, meaning a further eight cadets assisted with setting up and running the event. The Barker team performed exceptionally well coming first in Fieldcraft, Navigation and First Aid.

With a final three-day bivouac at the beginning of December to cap of the calendar year, it was another fantastic and highly successful year for the BCCU.





Outdoor Education

Year Group Camps

Year 7, 8 and 9 continued their strong association with the Grange. Programs this year saw students embracing additional challenges including mountain biking, abseiling, rock climbing, hiking, navigation and camp cooking, low ropes and other group challenges. Students also explored the environmental and Indigenous heritage of the region as well.

The Year 9 Grange program was more physically challenging than in previous years with students having to complete a 25km hike, carrying their own gear. The program was an overwhelming success.

Three groups of 24 Year 9 students enjoyed an 18-day Extended Stay Program to Central Australia. The Extended Stay Program allows students to learn camp skills at Hamilton Downs - a working cattle station northwest of Alice Springs, experiencing Indigenous culture at Black Tank camp and mountain biking and hiking the Larapinta Trail. This program continues to be the peak outdoor education opportunity in the Middle School where students develop character, learn new skills, enjoy a stunning environment, and make lasting memories.

In Term 4, Year 10 students headed south to Mount Kosciusko to spend a week with their House group and Head of House, immersing themselves in a range of outdoor activities and community service. This camp continues to be a highlight for students at Barker.

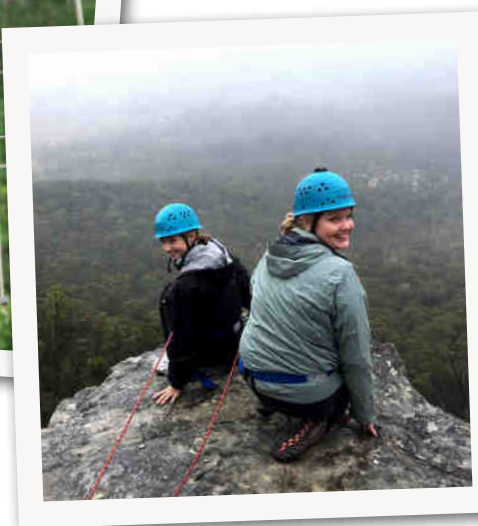
Duke of Edinburgh International Awards

This year our Duke of Edinburgh program reached an important milestone of 200 Gold Awards achieved since the 2013 introduction of online records. Behind this achievement - our dedicated Award Leaders who every year conquer their own virtual mountain of paperwork. We celebrate the dedication of Sally Filtress, Lisa Jellis, Mark Fitzgerald, Kylie McKnight, Graeme Dawes and Sophie Wall - together they really are the key to this success.

A remarkable 11 Gold Awards were achieved by Year 12 participants in 2023. In many ways these Awards will be even more cherished by a cohort who had their pathway continually interrupted. The Grange staff hosted a very demanding Gold level Adventurous Project. Participants excelled in these Bushwalking, Canyoning, Rock Climbing and Mountain Biking adventures.

Our reshaped Year 10 program has over 50 participants registering to pursue the Silver Award. This year many completed the new Twin Craters hike, including a tough off-track section designed to really test their abilities. The Grange staff continue to design and deliver the Silver and Gold Journey components of the Award.

The Bronze program continues to shine, with 160 Awards achieved by our very committed Middle School participants. They showed initiative and were involved in service opportunities like Dignity Dishes, Scouts, Surf Life Saving, Footprint, Barker Tech ICT help, Create for a Cause (knitting blankets for those in need). Others served by coaching for Under 6's Football, helping at St Ives Preschool and a beach cleanup at Warriewood. The 2024 cohort commenced in Term 4 and the program looks forward to over 180 students achieving their Bronze Award next year.



Debating, Public Speaking, Mock Trial & Model United Nations



This year has been an extremely pleasing year in Debating, Public Speaking, Mock Trial and now Model United Nations, with a very full round of face-to-face debating and travelling across Sydney for Friday night debates, as well as introducing the new online SSD debating competition.

We also competed in, or hosted, some key Model United Nations events at Barker and further afield. There were some outstanding performances across the year, with a special mention to an outstanding Debating Firsts team winning 13 of their 15 debates

Public Speaking, Debating and Model United Nations Highlights

- NSW and Australian Schools Debating Team - Iris Lee
- Lawrence Campbell Oratory representative - Iris Lee
- Edgeworth David Reading Aloud Competition Winners - Malachi Perry, Heidi Bartlett, Eric Jiang
- Public Speaking competition winners - Izzy Wood, Leo Peng, Iris Lee
- ISDA Senior A Semi Finalists (final 4 of 32 schools)
- ISDA Year 8 Semi Finalists (final 4 of 32 schools)
- ISDA Senior B Octo Finalists (final 16 of 32 schools)
- ISDA Year 7 Octo Finalists (final 16 of 32 schools)
- ISDA Primary A & B Octo Finalists (final 16 of 32 schools)
- FED Year 10 Semi Finalists (final 4 of 14 schools)
- FED Senior A & B Quarter Finalists (final 8 of 14 schools)
- FED Year 9, 8 & 7 Quarter Finalists (final 8 of 14 schools)
- CAS Firsts undefeated premiers
- CAS Seconds undefeated unofficial premiers
- CAS 10Bs unofficial runners up
- CAS 9Bs unofficial premiers
- CAS 7Bs unofficial runners up
- CAS Representative Debating - CAS Firsts - Iris Lee (captain), Anna Steele, Jeremy Davie
- CAS Representative Debating - CAS Thirds - Justin Qin (captain)
- Evatt Foundation Model United Nations - ranked first in NSW - Corinne Zhou, Justin Qin

Mock Trial Competition

Barker successfully participated in the prestigious Law Society of NSW Mock Trial Competition this year. The team progressed through the group stage and made a deep run into the knockout phase of the competition to make it just one round short of the top eight, after 100 schools from across NSW started the competition.

The Barker team was drawn from students in Years 10 and 11 - Christian Alvarez, Corinne Zhou, Jack Woodall, Mia Saponja, Justin Qin, Finn Reynolds, Claudia McDougall and Shirley Ji. Our legal team, consisting of two barristers, a solicitor, two witnesses and a court officer displayed a fine effort. They collaborated on each case to establish their brief and presentation.

The witnesses memorised their scripts with accuracy and responded stoically with answers that assisted our case when interrogated by the other school's student barristers. Likewise, the Barker student barristers were incisive with their questioning of the opposition witnesses and presented lucid, convincing opening and closing arguments.

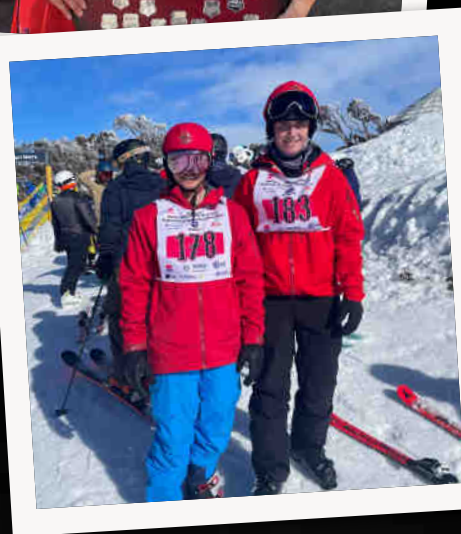
Cases this year were in both civil and criminal jurisdictions, covering subject matter such as assault, theft, property damage and personal injury. Cases were conducted online with a small window of opportunity to prepare, amongst students' other commitments. Through a series of lunch time meetings and individual at-home preparation, the team had to comprehend each legal issue whilst setting to work on witness statements and questions for cross examination. As a result, all students have developed their public speaking advocacy and critical thinking skills over the year.



Sport

Our students have participated in a huge variety of sporting programs this year, where they have developed skills, values and character, whilst representing Barker with pride.

Sport has provided us with the full spectrum of emotions this year, with some outstanding victories and some heartbreaking defeats. We witnessed some individual brilliance as well as teams working together to achieve an outcome few thought was possible. These highs and lows mixed with the supportive culture of the 'Reds' is what will bring us all back to do it all again next year.



2023 Awards

AFL

1st Girls Division 1 Runners Up
Inter A Girls Division 2 Champions
Years 7 & 8 Girls Division 2 Gala Day Champions
Years 7 - 9 Boys Sydney Schools Cup Runners Up

Athletics

ISA Division 1 Overall Champions
ISA Division 1 Junior Champions
ISA Division 1 Intermediate Champions
ISA Division 1 Senior Champions
CAS Overall - 4th Place
CIS Junior Relay - 4th Place

Basketball

NSW All Schools Girls School Playoff Runner Ups
NSWCIS Secondary Girls School Playoff Champions
ISA Open Division A Champions
ISA Junior Division A Champions
ISA Junior Division C Champions

Cross Country

ISA Junior Girls - 2nd Place
ISA Intermediate Girls - 6th Place
ISA Senior Girls - 3rd Place
ISA Overall - 2nd Place

Diving

CAS Junior Division - 3rd Place
CAS Intermediate Division - 2nd Place
CAS Open Division - 1st Place
CAS Overall - 3rd Place

Fencing

Australian Fencing Federation Senior School
Championship Team Epee - 1st Place
Australian Fencing Federation Senior School
Championship Team Foil - 5th Place
NSW School League Epee Premiership U14s - 3rd
NSW School League Epee Premiership U16s - 1st
NSW School League Foil Premiership U14s - 3rd
NSW School League Foil Premiership U19s - 1st

Football

ISA Senior 1st - Champions
ISA Junior A - Champions
ISA Senior 3rd - Runners Up
CAS Senior 2nd - Runners Up
CAS 10B - Runners Up

Hockey

ISA Overall Champions
ISA Senior 1st - Division 1 Champions
ISA Junior A - Runners Up
ISA Junior B - Runners Up
Mollie Dive Cup Division A Champions

Netball

ISA Senior 1st - Champions
ISA Inter A - Champions
ISA Junior A - Runners Up
ISA Senior 4th - Premiers
ISA Inter A White - Premiers
ISA Inter B White - Premiers
ISA Inter C White - Premiers
ISA Inter E White - Premiers
ISA Junior D White - Premiers
ISA Junior E White - Premiers

Rowing Head of the River

Schoolgirl Year 9 Single Scull 1st Place
Schoolboy Year 8 Single Scull 3rd Place

Rugby 7s

1st NSW Schools Chloe Dalton Competition
Term 4 2022 Division 1 Premiers
1st NSW Schools Chloe Dalton Competition
Term 1 2023 Division 1 Premiers
Inter NSW Schools Chloe Dalton Competition
Term 1 2023 Division 1 Premiers
Junior NSW Schools Chloe Dalton Competition
Term 1 2023 Division 1 Premiers

Softball

1st Grand Final Runners Up

Swimming

Oakhill College Invitational Carnival -
Overall Champions
ISA Overall Division 1 Champions
ISA Junior Division - 1st Place
ISA Junior Girls Medley Relay Record
ISA Intermediate Division - 2nd Place
ISA Senior Division - 2nd Place

Surf Life Saving

Bungan-Whale Challenge Girls Champions
Bungan-Whale Challenge Boys Runners Up
Long Reef Carnival Girls Champions
Long Reef Carnival Boys Runners Up

Tennis

CAS 2nd Team Champions - Winter

Triathlon

Intermediate Boys - 1st CIS Team & 4th Place Overall

Volleyball

Barker 6 Girls Santa Sabina Competition -
Silver Medal

Water Polo

CAS 15A Champions



AFL

- National Development Championships - Kiera Yerbury, Lily Sullivan
- NSW All Schools U15 Team - Ollie Griffiths
- CIS U15 Boys Team & Most Valuable Player Award - Ollie Griffiths
- CIS U15 Girls Team - Friyana Mistry

Athletics

- Australian Open and Under 20 Track & Field Championships - Timothy Forster, Lily Axford, Naomi Gibson, Harrison Phillips, Viktorija Calusic, Anais Biasi, Cooper Robb-Jackson, Jessica Bradford, Ivy Kim, Sophie Farrell
- NSW All Schools Team (December 2023) - Xavier Perry, Viktorija Calusic, Naomi Gibson, Harrison Phillips, Coby Neal, Tyson Neal, Cooper Robb-Jackson
- CIS Merit Team - Viktorija Calusic, Isabel Harris, Anais Biasi, Sophie Farrell, Tayla Moore

Basketball

- Australian U16 Team - Gold Medal - Jessie-May Hall
- SSA All Australian U16 Schools Team - Lucy Mead, Jessie-May Hall
- NSW U16 All Schools Team - Brian Ansuh-Yeboah
- NSW U16 All Schools Team - Lucy Mead, Jessie-May Hall

- CIS Team - Kiera Hudson, Maya Wilks
- CIS Team - Kingsley Gyesei-Bisah
- CIS U16 Team - Brian Ansuh-Yeboah
- CIS U16 Team - Lucy Mead
- NSW U18 Girl's Metro State - Lucy Mead, Jessie-May Hall
- NSW U18 Boy's Metro State - Lachlan Clague, Steven Hall

Cricket

- NSW U16 Male Metropolitan Squad - William Byrom, Campbell Smith
- NSW U16 Female Metropolitan Squad - Arabella Handley
- NSW U15 Male Metropolitan Squad - Rehaan Shyamsundar
- NSW All Schools Team - Arabella Handley
- CIS Team - Arabella Handley

Cross Country

- NSW All Schools Team - Cooper Robb-Jackson
- CIS Team - Lily Axford, Anais Biasi, Ivy Kim, Sienna Phillips, Cooper Robb-Jackson

Dance

- Outstanding Performer - Open Contemporary Troupe - Chloe Conoulty
- Outstanding Performer - Hip Hop Troupe - Valentina Polistina



- Outstanding Performer - Open Lyrical Troupe - Janelle Chai
- Outstanding Performer - Middle School Jazz Troupe - Jasmine Saxena
- Outstanding Performer - Open Navy Jazz Troupe - Lucia Stimoli

Diving

- NSW Team - Anya Rudenko, Ben Speed
- NSW All Schools Team - Lachlan Abbott
- CIS Team - Lachlan Abbott

Equestrian

- NSW State Titles - Juniors - Tia Kennett
- Australian Jumping Championships - Tia Kennett

Fencing

- Australian Fencing Federation Senior School aChampionships - Individual Foil - Deron Yip, Kai Myrmell, Tom Sturrock
- Australian Fencing Federation Senior School Championships - Individual Epee - Henry Liu, Bianca Boldeman
- NSW Fencing Association School Championships - Senior Boys Epee - Matthew Adler, Henry Liu, Justin Qin, Matthew Young
- NSW Fencing Association School Championships - Senior Boys Foil - Kai Myrmell, Tom Sturrock, Julian Wu, Deron Yip

- NSW Fencing Association School Championships - Senior Girls Epee - Bianca Boldeman
- NSW Schools' Fencing League - U16 Epee - Oskar Biggart, Joona Erasmus, Alex Rowe
- NSW Schools' Fencing League - U16 Foil - Brianna Chen, Leo Cachia, Navanj Giria, Matthew Tims
- NSW Schools' Fencing League - U19 Epee - Henry Liu, Justin Qin, Matthew Young, Matthew Adler, Bianca Boldeman
- NSW Schools' Fencing League - U19 Foil - Tom Sturrock, Julian Wu, Deron Yip, Kai Myrmell
- NSW Schools' Fencing League - U14 Epee - Curtis Kennedy, Nicholas Lance, Flynn Larkin, Thomas Han
- NSW Schools' Fencing League - U14 Foil - Noah Choi, Andrew Lam, Kevin Li, Donnie Zhao
- NSW Fencing Association School Championship - Saber - Kingsley Zhao

Football

- Australian Schools Football Under 18 Team - Bodie Denton
- New Zealand U20 Women's Training Camp - Phoebe Riley
- NSW All Schools I Team - Bodie Denton
- NSW All Schools II Team - Riku Chan, Lachlan Bishop
- CIS Team - Bodie Denton, Riku Chan, Lachlan Bishop



Hockey

- Australian U18 Indoor Squad - Ziggy Leong
- Hockey Australian Indoor U18 Championships - NSW State - Jenna Coghill
- Hockey Australian Indoor U18 Championships - NSW Blues - Ziggy Leong
- CIS 16 & Under Team - Rosie Fairbairn

Netball

- NSW All Schools Merit Team - Mia Mackenzie
- CIS Team - Mia Mackenzie

Rugby

- NSW U18 Waratahs Academy - 2nd Team - Charlie Poynton, Hamish MacDonald, Adam Van Wyk, Nick Hill
- NSW U16 Waratahs Academy - Keegan Daly, Harrison Dene, TJ Talaileva
- NSW U18 Schools 1st Team - Nathaniel Thomas
- NSW U18 Schools 2nd Team - William Potent, Harrison Dene
- NSW U14 Waratahs Academy - IJ Holmes
- NSW U15 Waratahs Academy - Hugo Wilson, Jeremy Rath

Rugby 7s

- NSW All Schools U18 7s B Team - Mia Mackenzie, Zara Verman
- NSW All Schools U16 7s Team - Sydney Davis

- SJRU U16 Girls' Sydney Blue Team - Sydney Davis
- SJRU U18 Girls' Sydney Team - Mikaela Bowen
- CIS 1 Girls' Team - Mikaela Bowen, Alyssa Hodge, Mia Mackenzie, Zara Verman
- CIS 2 Girls' Team - Sydney Davis

Rugby League

- CIS U18 Girls' Team - Mikaela Bowen
- Tonga U14 Pasifika Youth Team - Elijah Wulf

Snowsports

- NSW Interschools Championships - Zachary Cuss, Dylan Dobson, Owynn Engelbrecht, Holly Girvin, Hugo Leim, Olivia Lin, Millie Richter, Lucas Schreiber, Skye Turner, Bianca Hoare, Rose Hocking, Samuel Vos, Julian Wu, Luke Bentley, Isabel McCaughey, Cooper Cook, Ellen Gray, Carson Harvey, Kurt Sanbrook, Henry Woon, Ivy Wu, Femke Engelbrecht, Roman Herbert, Shawn Li, Sophia Read, Robbie Allan, Callum Cook, Richard Fan, Tom Kent, Sophia Klau, Micaela Tobing, Derek Ye, Haonan Zhao, Tong Zhu

Softball

- Australian U19 Team - Matilda Newman
- SSA All Australian Team - Matilda Newman
- National Talent Development Squad - Matilda Newman
- NSW U23 Team - Matilda Newman
- NSW Open Squad - Matilda Newman



- NSW U18 Team - Matilda Newman
- NSW All Schools Team - Matilda Newman
- CIS Team - Matilda Newman, Tayla Moore
- NSW U16 Team - Tayla Moore
- NSW U14 Team - Eva Kunce

Surf Life Saving

- Australian Youth Surf Life Saving Championships Gold Coast - Harrison Woodrow

Swimming

- Australian Age Swimming Championships - David Kang, Milla Lawrence, Kyle Li, Jeffrey Lu, Dijana Muzumdar, Rowan McKenna, Hamish McNaught, Robert Nam, Jordan Takounlao, Matt Walter, Harrison Woodrow, Noah Workman, Matilda Anderson, Mia Ryan, Jack Mercer, Charlie Phillips
- NSW All Schools Team - Milla Lawrence, Dijana Muzumdar
- NSW Senior State Age Championships - Jordan Feurtado, Milla Lawrence, Dijana Muzumdar, Matt Walter, Harrison Woodrow, Noah Workman, Hamish McNaught, Mia Ryan, Harry Conomos, Will Dibben, Emma Li, Ivy Kim, Jack Mercer
- NSW Junior State Age Championships - Neve Lawrence, Jack Woodrow
- CIS Team - Milla Lawrence, Hamish McNaught, Genevieve Smith, Matt Walter, Harrison Woodrow, Jeffrey Lu, David Kang, Dijana Mazumdar, Ivy Kim, Neve Lawrence, Emma Li, Mia Ryan

Taekwondo

- Australian National Championships Perth - Taj Pereira, Jade MacGowan, Alec MacGowan
- Australian Team Cadet Selections - Bronze - Jade MacGowan
- Oceania President Cup Brisbane - Bronze - Jade MacGowan
- NSW State Championships - Silver - Taj Periera
- NSW State Championships - Gold - Jade MacGowan
- NSW State Championships - Bronze - Alec MacGowan

Touch Football

- CIS Team - Sienna Geros

Water Polo

- Australian Youth Water Polo Championships - Oliver Dalziell Bruty, Declan Moore, Mason Morrisey, Reef Potter
- NSW U15 Water Polo Australian East Coast Challenge Team - Oliver Dalziell Bruty, Declan Moore
- NSW U13 Water Polo Australia East Coast Challenge Team - Reef Potter

Dance



Competition Results

Dance Ryde Eisteddfod

- Open Jazz Troupe - 1st Place
- Open Contemporary Troupe - 1st Place

Dance Spec Eisteddfod

- Year 1 - 2 Troupe - Highly Commended
- Year 3 - 6 Boys Crew - Highly Commended
- Year 3 - 6 Troupe - 3rd Place
- Year 5 - 6 Troupe - 2nd Place
- Open Hip Hop Troupe - 1st Place
- Open Contemporary Troupe - 2nd Place
- Middle School Jazz Troupe - 3rd Place
- Open Red Jazz Troupe - Highly Commended

Extreme Eisteddfod

- Year 1 - 2 Troupe - 3rd Place
- Year 3 - 6 Boys Crew - 3rd Place
- Year 5 - 6 Troupe Elite Troupe - Highly Commended

Sydney Eisteddfod

- Year 3-6 Troupe - Highly Commended

Dance Life Unite Eisteddfod

- Middle School Jazz Troupe - 3rd Place
- Open Contemporary Troupe - 3rd Place
- Open Lyrical Troupe - Highly Commended
- Open Red Jazz Troupe - Highly Commended
- Open Navy Jazz Troupe - Highly Commended
- Open Hip Hop Troupe - 4th Place





Dance is flourishing at Barker, as evident in the introduction of two new styles in the Senior recreational stream: ballet and tap. Our students have honed their technique by learning movements inspired by the RAD syllabus, including combinations at the barre, in the centre, and from the corner. Moreover, 2023 marked the beginning of our first Barker Tap class, with students mastering syncopated beats and complex rhythms, striving for a unified sound.

This year, 600 Barker students explored 16 diverse dance classes in the Senior and Junior Schools, ranging from Hip Hop to Contemporary. These classes prepared them for their dance journey beyond school. Barker Dance, the competitive performance dance program in the Junior School, started in 2020 with just one vibrant class. In 2023, Barker Dance has expanded to include four large troupes, three coeducational and the exciting addition of the Boys' Crew, a space where boys can experience and share their love for dance.

Our Eisteddfod season kicked off with the 'Barker Troupe Dress Rehearsal,' where Year 1 to Year 12 Show Troupes unveiled new routines. This preparation boosted confidence for a successful Troupe season, with all groups achieving remarkable results. Additionally, Barker dancers engaged in special events, including a visit from the Sydney Dance Company, enhancing their skills and inspiring new dancers.

The Open Jazz Red Troupe and the Year 10 Curriculum Dance students also performed and participated in workshops at the Independent Dance Festival (IDF) hosted by Inaburra School. This new AIS initiative was created to build networks and enhance the performance arts culture in schools. Our dancers spent the day participating in workshops alongside students from other independent schools, inspiring one another with their skills and artistry. At the end of the day, they performed works choreographed by their class teachers, Miss Rachael Tait-Owens and Miss Caitlin O'Connor, not for competition or adjudication, but for the sheer love of dance.

This year has been marked by the growth of our curriculum Dance stream, with thirteen exceptional dancers choosing Dance as their elective. They began the year with an excursion to see the HSC Callback performances, which ignited their enthusiasm for taking Senior Dance in 2024, which will be offered for students in Years 9, 10, and 11. These students have delved into Dance as an art form, developing their personal movement styles through original performances and compositions. At the Curriculum Dance showcase, they presented breathtaking performances.

To wrap up the year, the Year 6 dancers joined the Senior Troupes for transition classes, inspiring one another in their shared love for dance and helping each other prepare for the Term 4 auditions. The Dance teams in the Junior and Senior School collaborate closely to provide a comprehensive school-wide dance experience, and these classes serve as a bridge for those who wish to continue their dance journey.

The year came to an exciting close with the 'Barker Dance Showcase,' a remarkable event that was celebrated and supported by the entire Barker Community. At this event, we were treated to the artistry of our exceptional choreographers. With their creative vision, they took us 'Around the World' through Hip Hop, transported us to the 1970s with 'Rock Lobster,' and ventured into the '90s in the Open Contemporary routine, complete with costumes reminiscent of the old Windows software logo. We even delved into the sci-fi world of 'Ghostbusters' with an electrifying routine by the Year 1 and 2 Troupe. This event truly shone a spotlight on the talents of over 300 Barker Dancers, spanning from Kindergarten to Year 12, who danced with unwavering passion in front of their friends and family.



Footprint: Social Justice & Environment

- 50 students from Years 7 - 12 and three staff attended weekly Footprint meetings.
- Weekly Footprint meetings launched in the Junior School with regular visits from High School Footprinters.
- Reuseable drink bottles made from sugar cane material supplied to Year 7 at the start of the year as part of the Refill not Landfill campaign.
- A lunchtime gathering of 100 students and staff from the Junior School and High School celebrated International Women's Day with an address by Marwa Moeen, a recently arrived asylum seeker from Afghanistan.
- Presentation in early March by Social Justice Captains to Year 12 students on how to enrol to vote prior to the NSW State Election.
- A pop-up stationery stall on the first day of the school year and at the end of Term 3, gave students and staff the opportunity to reuse preloved stationery and minimise their purchase of new items.
- Social Justice Captains were guests at the launch of the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal.
- Staff and students participated in Power Down Hour as part of Earth Hour Schools Day.
- \$10,000 was raised from World Environment Day Muffin Day for Addi Road Community Organisation to fund their emergency food relief program.
- 21 students and staff attended Addi Road Community Centre to learn about their programs and to pack hampers for their Emergency Food Relief program.
- Four Year 12 students participated in the Addi Road Youth Parliament Launch.
- Weekly Return and Earn collection plus Return and Earn bins at special events including the Athletics Carnival, House Fair and Market Day.
- NAIDOC week and whole school assembly with an address by proud Gamilaraay man, and singer, Mitch Tambo.
- Participation in lunch time Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week activities including a presentation by Kinchela Boys Home survivors.
- Promotion and attendance at the Barker Institute address "Understanding the Voice" by the Hon. Julian Leeser.
- BYO 'War on Waste' themed days for staff encouraging reusable coffee cups and drink bottles, pre-loved stationery and second-hand clothing.
- Human Rights Toolkit Workshops with Dulce Munoz, Outreach Coordinator for Addi Road Community Organisation.
- Packing Christmas hampers for Anglicare's annual Toys and Tucker program.
- Promotion of a 'Conscious Consumer' theme by Year 9 Market Day.
- Eight bags of second-hand school uniforms forwarded to Worn Up who transform textiles into furniture.
- Five bags of second-hand school uniforms donated to the Uniform Exchange at Pymble for resale.
- 1200 mini toiletries collected from the Barker Community and supplied to Addi Road Community Centre for distribution with grocery hampers.
- White paper and cardboard diverted from landfill via classroom and office paper recycling.
- Disposable coffee cup recycling via the 7 Eleven Simply Cups program.
- Batteries, bottle tops, bread tags, mobile phones, E-waste and soft plastics collected and recycled via Hornsby Shire's community recycling program.
- Contents of high school student lockers sorted and repurposed, reused or recycled via the Great Locker Challenge.
- \$1000 raised for Christmas pantry items for disadvantaged families via the Barker Butter Chicken Stall at the Very Barker Christmas event.

Barker Institute

The Barker Institute continued to celebrate learning with academic and wellbeing events for students, parents, teachers and the wider community with approximately 2400 people attending through 2023.

- Liff@Barker was launched publicly in early Term 1. Dr Darren Morton of Avondale University, creator of The Liff Project, shared an introduction to the program. Another key wellbeing program was on "Raising Respect" with nationally recognised expert in child and teen online sexualized behaviour, Dr Marshall Ballantine-Jones.
- Two exceptional past students returned to Barker College in Term 3 at highly popular events. Both former School Captains and World Debating Award winners, Bo Seo ("Making Good Arguments") and Dr Nat Ware ("Social Impact Economics and Entrepreneurship") shared their stories.
- Three academic events were held in 2023. First was the annual "Year 7 Study Habits Workshop" where Leslie Hall was filled with students and parents workshoping how to develop effective study patterns for Secondary School with Dr Matthew Hill. Barker's Gifted and Talented coordinator, Susanna Matters, presented on "The Diverse Faces of Giftedness at Barker" inviting ten Barker staff members to share how their programs supported an area of giftedness. Finally, a "Science Week Celebration" was held in Term 3 with tinkering workshops, demonstrations, and an exciting keynote from Laureate Professor, Veena Sahajwalla.
- Building on previous years, the annual "Science Extension Public Lectures and Showcase" was held in Term 4. Teachers and parents from Barker and NSW schools (from Bowral to Nelson Bay) joined for a mini-conference where Barker Year 12 projects were on display.

The Barker Institute was proud to support Barker's ongoing commitment to alternative models of education including those serving Indigenous and Refugee communities. A Term 2 event on "Truth Telling" featured two Indigenous survivors of the notorious Kinchella Boys' home. In the lead up to the referendum on "The Voice", Julian Leeser, MP (Federal Member for Berowra, where Barker is situated) came to explain the process and his position on the issue. Finally, Barker's new initiative in Refugee education was on display at a Term 4 event with Patricia Garcia AO on "International Human Rights Under Pressure, What Can Barker Do?"



Promotion of close-to-practice research based on the expertise of Barker staff for the benefit of the Barker students and community.

- Ongoing research and dissemination occurred aligned with school strategic needs and the five-domain *Barker Institute Research Agenda 2022 - 2023*. Particular advancements made in the area of character education, sport and wellbeing, coeducation and mathematics, and intercultural education.
- Dissemination and celebration of the findings of the first four years of *The Barker Journey* project. These included presenting to the Junior School community in Term 1, the National Boys' Education Conference, the European Council of International Schools Conference and the 2023 Research Conversations Conference. The Barker Secondary School Journey has commenced and already produced important results for academic and wellbeing leaders in the School.
- Publication of the 2023 Barker Institute Journal, *Learning in Practice*, authored by Barker staff. A special supplementary volume was produced in addition to the 2023 Journal entitled *Towards a pedagogy for radical hope: Developing a whole school approach to refugee education* designed to support important new projects at Barker College.
- Publication of the 2023 student journal *Scientific Research in Schools*, and for the first time in 2023, showcasing *Noteworthy*, the Barker College Literary Journal.
- Involvement in external research collaborations and conferences including the growing Research Invested Schools movement; close collaborations with Avondale University; Dr Timothy Scott as a visiting research fellow at Leysin American School in Switzerland, and taking a lead role in establishing an international research in schools movement, in part through the European Council of International Schools.

Indigenous Education

Another busy and vibrant year in Indigenous Education, where the focus has been on celebrating the diversity and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures in the classroom, in our school-wide activities and beyond the Mint Gates. We continue to be so proud of the achievements of our Deadly First Nations students who are kicking goals across all areas of the School.

First Nations Students' Initiatives

- First Nations students at Hornsby Campus met weekly for Yarn Up where they provide support for each other, participate in and lead Cultural activities, and provide feedback to help us continue on the path of reconciliation in our School community. Year 5 and 6 Darkinjung students also joined these meeting when they visit the Hornsby campus, to strengthen their connection to Senior School students.
- Many of our students are involved with the GO Foundation, a foundation established by Adam Goodes and Michael O'Loughlin to support First Nations students and provide mentoring and career coaching. Students attended GO Foundation Mentoring and networking days throughout the year, including meeting some incredible role models and sporting heroes!
- A relationship with the Bandu Foundation was established, which provides support for students in establishing their post-school pathways. Bandu partners with organisations and corporates to provide paid internship opportunities and support with university applications etc.
- A First Nations students tertiary pathways information session was hosted, with visitors from the University of Sydney, The University of Technology Sydney, Macquarie University and TAFE, presenting to students from Barker and four other schools in the area. It was exciting for the students to connect with representatives from these institutions and make plans for their future once they graduate from Barker.
- Four Senior students (both First Nations and non-Indigenous students) studied Aboriginal Studies via Sydney Distance Education High School in Year 11 and Year 12. Our incredible Year 12 students created

inspiring Major Projects as a part of their studies. Jaiden Holt created a powerful and informative documentary that examined the perceptions and understanding of young people (17 - 25 year olds) of the Referendum for the Voice to parliament, while Kleo Crawshaw created a beautiful artwork and journal of reflection on the stories of the lives of the women in her family. Both Jaiden and Kleo were awarded full marks for their Major HSC Assessment which is an incredible achievement!

- Deadly mentors from Macquarie University visited the Yarn UP sessions and spoke about contemporary First Nations Cultures and issues impacting young First Nations people.

The Waratah Project

Barker has participated in the Association of Independent Schools' Waratah Project which supports schools to advance their Indigenous Education programs to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Barker's chosen focus areas for 2023 were:

- Students are confidently engaged in their learning and have improved literacy, numeracy and other academic outcomes.
- Relationships between school, family and community are strengthened and culturally informed.
- Staff have the knowledge, skills and confidence to implement culturally responsive pedagogical practices.

In working towards these outcomes, the Wingaru-wa Muru-da learning support program continued, with students able to access specialised and individual support each week.



Indigenous Education



This program was facilitated by our First Nations Student Mentor, Tanisha Holt - a proud Worimi and Biripi woman who is in the final year of an education degree. Additionally, Year 7 completed the Darug Language and Culture unit in Term 1 as a grounding in local Aboriginal Country and Culture. This unit is enhanced by visits from Elders and educators from Dharug organisation, Muru Mittigar.

The transition program for incoming First Nations students was extended, ensuring our Year 5 and 6 Darkinjung Students attend Yarn Up on their visits to Hornsby Campus.

Staff were supported with information and resources via the Indigenous Education Canvas page and participated in Professional Learning throughout the year, including:

- The Stronger Smarter Leadership Program, a program focused on developing strong, culturally responsive relationships with First Nations students, families and Community.
- Connecting to Country - an On-Country learning opportunity at Bobbin Head for staff to learn about the local Aboriginal Culture and history of the area.
- Truth Telling in the Curriculum - a Professional Learning Session facilitated by survivors of the Kinchela Aboriginal Boys Home. Staff heard from survivors of the Stolen Generations and the Kinchela Boys Home.

- Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories, Perspectives and Cultures into the curriculum.
- Trauma Responsive Practice in the classroom.
- Dhupuma Barker staff joined the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Maths Alliance Conference in Yirrkala, to develop a renewed Maths syllabus in Yolŋu Matha that incorporates on-Country learning opportunities.

Reconciliation Week

Barker College recognised national Reconciliation Week during Term 2. This year's Reconciliation Week theme was *Be a Voice for Generations*. This theme encouraged all Australians to consider how we can take an active role in Reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives. We were privileged to host survivors from the Kinchela Aboriginal Boys Home, a notorious institution that housed young boys that were stolen from their families. These men truly are a voice for generations as they travel the state telling their story. Uncle Willy Nixon, a Darkinjung grandparent, generously shared his experience as a survivor of Kinchela.

Students and staff also reflected on how they can be a voice for generations and how we can all work together towards a more reconciled Australia by pledging to use their voice and leaving our message (temporarily) on the School!



NAIDOC 2023

The theme for NAIDOC 2023 was *For Our Elders* and the richness and diversity of Aboriginal Cultures was celebrated at the School's NAIDOC assembly. Three generations of the Nixon family, Kiarrah (Year 4 Darkinjung), her mother Michelle (Darkinjung staff) and grandfather Uncle Willy Nixon, shared a beautiful Acknowledgment of Country, reflecting on the theme and the importance of the Elders in our communities. The Darkinjung and Ngarralingayil students shared fantastic performances, proudly celebrating Cultural practice passed down from Elders.

Finally, staff and students at the NAIDOC assembly thoroughly enjoyed the vibrant performance by proud Gamilaraay man, Mitch Tambo. Mitch blends traditional Aboriginal sounds and language with contemporary beats and production. Mitch and his wife had the entire school up and dancing and singing in Gamilaraay language celebrating the vibrancy of Aboriginal Culture. He spoke to the assembly about the role of Elders in his life, and the importance of Cultural knowledge and practice.

The Garma Festival

The word Garma is a Yolŋu word meaning two-way learning, and it couldn't be more apt for the event. The Garma Festival is an annual festival held in Gulkula, North-East Arnhem Land that is widely recognised as Australia's premier Indigenous Festival. The festival is hosted by the Yothu Yindi Foundation, with whom we have a lasting partnership in the establishment of our Dhupuma School in Gunyangara, NT. In recognition of this connection, the Yothu Yindi Foundation invited Barker students and staff to attend the festival, and to assist with the coordination of the Youth Forum, a key component of the event.

Eight senior students, a combination of Year 10 and 11, had the great privilege of being invited to participate in and help coordinate the Youth Forum. Itself a mini-Garma, packed with activities and workshops for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students from across the Nation. The activities aim to build confidence and capacity in young people, as the leaders of the future.

Barker's Robotics team ran activities for the young people in attendance and of course the legendary Djirikitj Firebirds wowed attendees with their skills.

Alumni, Community & Foundation

It was another full program of Foundation, Alumni and Community events held across the year, engaging not just the student and parent community, but Alumni from around the world.

Alumni and Old Barker Association

- Online OBA Mentoring Platform launched
- In-Person OBA Networking events held in Sydney CBD throughout the year
- OBA Support for Life Program continued and promoted widely
- Barker Community events held in New York, Canberra, Gold Coast, Northern Rivers, Perth
- Baggy Blue Caps and Plume Hats distributed to Year 2 students transitioning to Year 3
- OBA Spirit Awards presented to 67 students across Junior, Middle and Senior Schools
- OBA sports training shirts presented to all Year 7 students
- Alumni mentors supported the Year 11 Career Mentoring Program
- Alumni guest speakers supported curriculum topics with student groups across the School
- OBA Seniors Events: Preview show of Les Miserables School Musical, Lunch at Hornsby RSL in May with guest speaker Chris Russell AM (Class of 1970), AGM/ Lunch with guest speaker Robert Mansfield AO (Class of 1969) and afternoon tea at the final Rugby home game of the season against Trinity
- Celebrated the lives of Anthony 'Tony' Howard Gamson (78/79) and Lieutenant Maxwell Peder Nugent (16)
- 16 Class Reunions held ranging from the Class of 1957 through to the Class of 2017
- Alumni Parent Breakfasts held for alumni from the Class of 1975 through to Class of 2006
- OBA Golf Day at Pennant Hills Golf Course in September
- OBA Welcome Packs distributed to Year 12 students
- OBA Affiliates Cocktail Event held in October
- OBA Agriculture Society events held in February and October
- Australia Day and King's Birthday Honours acknowledged four alumni

- Celebrated Alumni news in The Barker and social media
- Birthday cards continued to be sent throughout the year to celebrate significant occasions including 21st, 70th, 80th and 90th milestones

BCPA and Community Events

- Parent morning teas held at Barker in March
- Class and Year Parent events throughout the year
- Discover Barker followed by New Parent Welcome event in March
- Bike Ride for Brain Cancer in May
- Trivia Night - another sell-out event in May
- The inaugural A Very Barker Christmas in November was a successful and well supported event
- Gingerbread House night in November was well supported by the community

Foundation

- Dragon Boat Festival lunch was a well-attended event raising money for Scholarships and Bursaries.
- Indigenous Education fundraising dinner was a sellout event for 150 guests, including guests and four students from the Dhupuma Barker community in Arnhem Land. A highly successful evening with all money raised on the night contributing towards the expanded building program to extend the School to include a Middle Years program.
- A group of Garma VIPs travelled to N E Arnhem Land in August to attend the Garma Festival and enjoy on-Country experiences with the staff, children and Elders from Dhupuma Barker.
- Donor thankyou event hosted by the Head of Barker College and Chair of the Barker Foundation, was an opportunity to thank donors for their continued support and generosity of the School and its activities across the year.





But because of his great love for us, God's mercy made us alive with Christ even in our transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms, all this by grace, not because of what we have done, so that no one can boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.



An Anglican School Inspiring Global Hope

Barker's vision is to be "a leader in Christian education" preparing students for life beyond the Mint Gates.

A crucial element of this vision is to inspire our community through the Bible, to know God's purpose for us. We consider this, not only in the big questions of life, but also in the details of how we live and learn; play and perform; grow and then eventually go from this School. In a rapidly changing culture, we believe that Anglican schools should be a safe place where students can freely investigate, test and question biblical truth and we encourage all students, families and staff to take the next steps in their faith journey while they are at Barker.

As we look back on 2023 we are deeply thankful to God for his blessings to us and the opportunities we have had to share our resources with others beyond the Mint Gates.





91 Pacific Highway
Hornsby NSW 2077
Australia

f +61 2 8438 7999
w barker.college

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