



TERM 4 | 2023

GRAMMAR  
QUARTERLY



GRAMMAR

# TERM DATES

## TERM 1

Monday 22 January – Thursday 28 March

### January

Thursday 18	Primary & Secondary New Families Welcome
Friday 19	Year 5 Laptop Onboarding
Monday 22	First Day Term 1 2025 Academic & Music Scholarships Open
Tuesday 23	Year 9 Parent Information Evening
Wednesday 24	Prep, Year 1 & 2, Year 7 & 8 Parent Information Evening P&F Welcome Evening
Thursday 25	Year 11 Parent Information Evening
Friday 26	Australia Day
Tuesday 30	Year 10 Parent Information Evening
Wednesday 31	Grammar Life Expo Year 3 – 6 Parent Information Evening

### March

Friday 1 – 2	School Musical Performance
Monday 4	P&F AGM
Tuesday 5	Prep's First Chapel
Thursday 7	Anxiety – Parent Session (P-6)
Friday 8	International Women's Day Swimming Club Night – Medley Championships
Monday 11	2025 Music Scholarship Auditions
Friday 15	Year 1 – 2 Swimming Showcase
Saturday 16	2025 Academic Scholarship Exam
Wednesday 20– 22	Year 4 Camp
Thursday 21	Father & Son Breakfast
Friday 22	Primary Music Camp Secondary Easter Assembly
Saturday 23 – 12 April	France Tour
Saturday 23	RoboRAVE Workshop
Thursday 26	Primary & Secondary Cross Country Carnival
Wednesday 27	Primary Easter Assembly
Thursday 28	Primary Gala Day Last Day of Term 1
Friday 29	Good Friday
Sunday 31	Easter Sunday

### February

Thursday 1	Open Day Year 12 Parent Information Evening
Friday 2	Year 12, 2023 Scholar's Assembly Twilight Swimming Carnival Year 4 – 12
Wednesday 7	Secondary Swimming Carnival
Thursday 8	Grammar Connect Breakfast
Friday 9 – 11	Secondary Music Camp
Tuesday 13	Regional Chess Championships Duke of Edinburgh Parent Information Evening Roar Performance Parent Information Evening
Wednesday 14	Ash Wednesday Chapel Service P&F Committee Meeting
Thursday 15	Learning in the Early Years Parent Information Session Future Tech Series
Friday 16 – 17	Grammar Swimming Long Course Prep Meet
Saturday 17	GHH Beach Clean-Up
Sunday 18	GHH Disabled Surfing Association
Tuesday 20	Justin Coulson – External Speaker Event
Thursday 22	Navigating Online – Parent Session (P-6)
Friday 23	2025 Academic & Music Scholarships Close
Tuesday 27	Reading in the Early Years Parent Information Session

### April

Monday 1	Easter Monday
Friday 5	Swimming Club Night – Sprint Championships
Monday 15	First Day of Term 2



## Community

### *Principal, Mrs Anna Owen*

When we celebrate a milestone, including Sunshine Coast Grammar School's annual Foundation Day, we often stop and reflect on where we have come from, thank those who helped us to get to where we are today, and share dreams of our ambitious future. Sunshine Coast Grammar – a school and an institution that will always be a community greater than its buildings, larger than its history, and greater than any one person who passes through its doors.

We often use the metaphor of a woven fabric to represent a community. All of the different 'threads' that are necessary to produce the tapestry and are the foundation of communities. A community contains many 'threads' that come together to create a strong and colourful fabric. Conversations reflecting on our community promote respect and acceptance by celebrating diversity and promoting a positive social environment that is uniquely ours and greater than the sum of the individual parts.

Our School is characterised by the coastal, organic, authentic and the environmentally responsible elements of our region, and shapes the personalities and the characters who live and learn here at Grammar. We provide an education that is unique and a wonderland of endless opportunities for children to learn and explore. Nature and learning, particularly together, are superfoods for student development.

We have learned that family, community and shared experiences unite us. I am often asked what is the secret sauce that goes into creating the culture at Grammar. The magic in the magical black box of Sunshine Coast Grammar School. Why does this school evoke such strong loyalty and commitment? Loyalty that was demonstrated on Foundation Day this year with a remarkable 60% of our Foundation Prep cohort as Lifelong Learners – 30 of the original 50. A special thank you to the proud parents of the lifelong learners.

Retaining a sense of community and continuing to build community requires constant vigilance. Community

building in action was demonstrated at our inaugural Grammar Long Lunch. The Long Lunch had two very simple aspirations – to build community and to help provide funds to build the physical environment to house our community.

To build community does not mean the sense of belonging is missing at Grammar. We are known for our strong community and how the school 'makes people feel'. From the moment a person arrives on the beautiful campus they experiences the green heart, the curtain of rainforest around the fringes and the warm and welcoming staff and students. Families spend an average of 17 years here. The ties run deep. We must do everything in our power to make our contribution to the school meaningful – being present and enjoying the company of others. The Grammar Long Lunch helped those who are newer to our school feel welcomed, and additionally continued to nurture the next stewards of our community.

On the eve of Sunshine Coast Grammar School's 30th Anniversary, the school community; past and present students, parents and teachers, reflected on the great achievements and milestones of the last three decades of this young school, and look forward with hope and ambition to a future of distinction. Our future facilities will be a culmination of the school's character and our cultural souvenirs, a nod to our first 30 years, places to gather, learn, teach, worship and celebrate into the future.

In closing, a school's culture is often referred to as the school's community. We know at Grammar that community is not an abstract, random quality, but a fully understood and valued asset. An asset and gift that improves student outcomes, school performance and efficiency, employee satisfaction, team dynamics, parent engagement and cultural permanence. At Grammar, relationships are our currency and our community is our priority.

# Grammar Long Lunch

Our inaugural Grammar Long Lunch was a first-of-its-kind event, and it's safe to say that it was a resounding success.

The infectious Grammar spirit brought to life a remarkable event that our community was inspired to support. The feedback received has left us brimming with immense pride.

This event marked a significant milestone for us, setting the stage for our journey to raise essential funds for our school and in particular this year's bus project.

Additionally, we'd like to express our deepest appreciation to those who generously volunteered their time and expertise, ensuring the event's success. Your dedication did not go unnoticed and was truly appreciated.

A very big thank you to our event partners and sponsors, without their generous support, this event would not be possible.

It's the power of teamwork that enabled us to transform our Main Oval into an extraordinary celebration. As we bask in the afterglow, we eagerly anticipate the next one with even more excitement.

To relive the experience, visit our photo gallery on GECO Galleries.



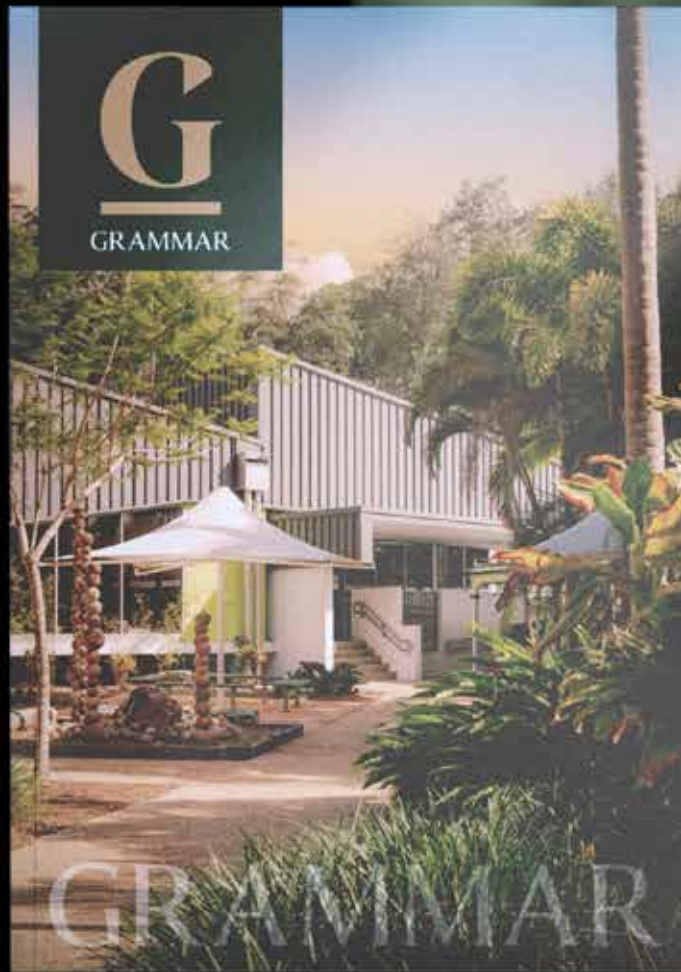
## THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT PARTNERS





Following the resounding success of our inaugural Grammar Long Lunch, we are excited to share that we will be acquiring two buses in 2024 to support our students and co-curricular activities.

More details will be available in the new year. A heartfelt thank you to our amazing community for your unwavering support.



## A Fresh Chapter: A new look for our 2024 Magazines

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We are thrilled to introduce our new revamped biannual Grammar magazine!

From 2024, we will be moving from four Quarterly publications to two – Autumn & Spring Editions. The Glenecho Yearbook will also still be published.

By streamlining our publications, we aim to deliver a more immersive and impactful reading experience, packed with compelling stories, achievements and highlights of our remarkable school community.

We can't wait to unveil our revamped publications next year and continue to create a captivating reading experience.

# Hot List double for Grammar as Principal shines for a second year, joined by incoming tech trailblazer

Sunshine Coast Grammar School is proud to announce that its Principal, Mrs Anna Owen, has been recognised for the second time in The Educator's Hot List for 2023. This prestigious accolade comes as a testament to Mrs Owen's unwavering commitment to educational excellence and her outstanding leadership within the school community.

In addition to Mrs Owen's recognition, the Hotlist also highlights the exceptional achievements of Mr Justin Pembroke, currently serving as the STEM and Digital Pedagogy Coach at Baringa State Primary School (Qld). Mr Pembroke has been acknowledged for his innovative contributions to education and is set to bring his expertise to Sunshine Coast Grammar School in 2024 as the Head of E-Learning.

The Educator's Hot List recognises the movers and shakers in Australia's education sector, acknowledging leaders who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, innovation, and impact in the field of education. Their achievements span creating new curricular, mentoring colleagues, integrating ingenious teaching techniques and developing digital tools.

Mrs. Anna Owen's inclusion in this list for the second year solidifies her position as a trailblazer in the educational landscape. She has been instrumental in fostering a positive and enriching learning environment at Sunshine Coast Grammar School, driving initiatives that prioritise academic achievement, student well-being, and community engagement. Under her leadership, the school has flourished as a centre of academic excellence and has made a meaningful commitment to the development of sustainable practices.

This recognition sets apart members in the education industry as ones to watch and Mrs Owen is honoured to be selected among so many inspiring educators. Leading from the top, Mrs Anna Owen is a member of the Sunshine Coast Council's Biosphere Community Advisory Group and is a Director on the Buderim Foundation and Independent Schools Queensland Boards.

"As a School, we are committed to the sustainability of our region and protecting the biosphere in which we live, work and play. The school takes its social and environmental responsibilities seriously and provides enriched student experiences while delivering on the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," said Mrs Owen.

"The School is proud of the journey thus far from concept to the first steps of what they believe is working towards empowering a generation of solutions-focused students, with a passion for People, Planet and Progress."

Sunshine Coast Grammar School is thrilled to welcome Mr Justin Pembroke in the new year. His wealth of experience and dedication to advancing educational technology align seamlessly with the School's commitment to preparing students for the challenges of the future.

"As an educator, I am deeply committed to the integration of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) as a fundamental aspect of the modern classroom. It promotes a holistic approach to learning,



blending technical and scientific knowledge with creativity and critical thinking. This approach cultivates well-rounded individuals who are better prepared for the challenges of the modern world," said Mr Pembroke.

Mr Pembroke is also a Sunshine Coast Grammar Alumnus, graduating from the school in 2003. He is thrilled about his new role and looks forward to giving back to a community that played a significant role in his own education.

The School extends their congratulations to Mrs Anna Owen and Mr Justin Pembroke for their well-deserved recognition in The Educator's Hot List. These achievements underscore the school's ongoing commitment to providing a world-class education and fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation.



## Appointment of Head of E-Learning – Justin Pembroke

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Sunshine Coast Grammar School is thrilled to welcome Mr Justin Pembroke in the new year as Head of E-Learning. His wealth of experience and dedication to advancing educational technology align seamlessly with the school's commitment to preparing students for the challenges of the future.

As Head of E-Learning Justin will support the implementation of the Digital Technology and Design Learning Area, work with teachers and students in developing Digital Literacy and play an integral role in the Emerging Technologies Co-Curricular space.

Justin is a 2023 recipient of the Qld Education Peter Doherty – Outstanding Teacher of STEM Award, a LEGO Certified Academy Teacher Trainer, an Apple Learning Coach and also has GROW Coach Certification. Most recently, Justin was recognised in The Educator's Ho Llist for 2023, alongside Anna Owen, for his innovative contributions to education.

Justin is also a previous Grammar student, graduating in 2003, and is excited about his new role. We sat down with Justin to talk about his extensive STEAM experience and what he will bring to the Grammar community.

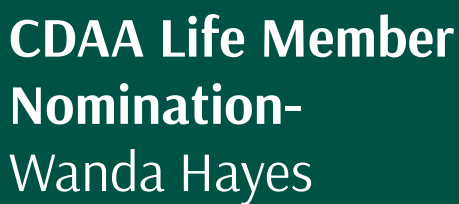
As an educator, my journey has been diverse. I am deeply committed to supporting and mentoring students with diverse needs and began my career working with students with complex disabilities. My passion lies in ensuring every student's success and helping them shine, often leveraging technology to foster inclusion in their educational journey.

I'm thrilled about my role at Grammar and look forward to giving back to a community that played a significant role in my own education. Teaching at the school where I once was a student will be a unique experience.

The integration of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) stands out for me as a fundamental aspect of the modern classroom. It promotes a holistic approach to learning, blending technical and scientific knowledge with creativity and critical thinking. This approach cultivates well-rounded individuals who are better prepared for the challenges of the modern world.

I am particularly interested in using STEAM education to address environmental issues and solutions. I aim to engage students in projects and programs that promote the sustainability of our beautiful local area.

Outside of teaching, I am an avid camper, and my young family enjoys disconnecting from the world and relishing the simple things. Additionally, I am an active volunteer in the local robotics community and support organisations like FIRST as a member of their advisory board for Australia.





## EDWARD SIMON

For the very last time

Good morning staff, students and special guests.

This morning we acknowledge the beginning of life's great new quest.

As we come to a close of our schooling careers, we believe it is only fitting to look back upon the years.

It was confusing, utterly brain-abusing. There were late-night crams before tomorrow's exams. We played Tetris, despite the continual feeling we may regret this.

But there were also so many good times in between those bell chimes. There was absolute jubilation after solving our first trigonometric equation. We learnt what to say in our analytical essay, we tried our best and studied hard.

These memories we will cherish in our hearts and heads; they will never perish.

But I hope we still have your attention because there are only a few more things we feel compelled to mention.

Amy will soon express our immense gratitude towards the people who had to put up with our attitude. Oscar will impart a little bit of wisdom we feel we have learnt while ruling this kingdom.

And finally, to finish off our legacy, Scye will tell us about some of our first and lasts that both beautifully summarise our future, present and pasts.

With that, it's been a pleasure. This last year I will truly treasure.

Thank you

## AMY WALKER

Firstly, I just want to say it is totally wild that we are standing up here today preparing to say goodbye to Grammar after 13 years of school, I still cannot believe it. Of course, there is no better way for us to say goodbye than with an amazing amount of gratitude.

So, first off, I do believe a massive thank you is due to all our teachers, from the day we stepped through the Grammar Gates we knew we were in safe hands. The calibre of teaching here is obviously extraordinary, but greater than this is every teacher's genuine desire to see their students succeed. Also, their ability to, after all of these years, have many of us call them our friends.

I would also like to specifically thank Mrs Owen; your constant support, prioritisation of the student voice, and belief in us as School Captains has helped us more than you know.

To our parents, from dropping us off at school to now helping us get ready for the formal, you have been there every step of the way

and we couldn't have achieved any of this without you. So, we thank you for everything.

Finally, I would like to thank the Year 12 cohort, you made the journey what it is and the memories we have shared growing up are definitely the best souvenir we can take with us.

Of course, there is no shortage of people I can thank, but all in all the Grammar family is one in a million and we have loved being a part of it. So, to show this appreciation, on behalf of the Class of 2023, we would like to present a gift of a Lion Fountain to be displayed in the new cafeteria as a symbol that no matter where life takes any of us, we never truly leave the Grammar spirit behind. It's been a true honour being your Captain this year.

Best of luck for 2024, God bless, we will miss you so much.



## OSCAR PUNTER

And so, it is now our duty, as very wise and old individuals, to bestow some wisdom upon the rest of the students today, so please listen carefully.

1. Make every moment count. Whether that's lunchtime basketball, listening to Pastor Jon Taylor in Christian Education or watching students in the library play games in the silent study area. These moments pass by all too quickly, and you'll eventually find yourself missing these little interactions with the school once you're gone.
2. Get involved in everything. I can pretty much guarantee that whatever you participate in at school you will always have fun, and you'll find yourself making really good friends along the way.
3. When it comes time to drive yourself to school and park at the top carpark, don't cut the corner, no matter how tempting it looks. Mr Mayall has proved time and time again that he can and will find you. It's just not worth it.
4. Be nice to your teachers. Not only does this just make sense because teachers are the ones marking your assessments, but you'll eventually find that you aren't just saying goodbye to your teachers, but your friends too.
5. And my final piece of advice is to the Year 12 cohort, to please never forget where you came from, and to hold Grammar in your hearts even after you walk through those gates for the last time.

## SCYE COLLEN

Standing up here today is a very surreal feeling. I think we all feel too young to be graduating.

Today is filled with many lasts, as I may never speak in front of this many people ever again, wear a uniform, analyse motifs or think about the jewellery that I am wearing. But with many lasts comes many firsts. For many, it may be going to get groceries, going to the doctor alone or having to ask yourself what is for dinner rather than asking your parents midway through eating breakfast, and for others maybe making your own bed for the first time or learning how to turn on the oven.

For many parents, no more lunchboxes to pack or afterschool traffic to sit through.

Despite the scariness of choosing our careers when we are only 17 and 18 years old, our lives are only just beginning and I wish you all the best of luck on your journeys.

And finally, it is a shame today is a Thursday, as the Captains and I would not feel satisfied walking out the Grammar Gates without our weekly reminder to have a great Friday everyone!

## Introducing our 2024 School Captains



**Liam Evans – School Captain**

My name is Liam Evans, but I go by many names, Choppo, Levans, Swiss Cheese or the in-between of Swiss or Cheese. You may have seen me out on the rugby field with the Second XV or First XV. I am one of five children and have four sisters including my twin, Hannah. I have literally been surrounded by women my whole life, even in the womb, and I wouldn't have it any other way. Some say it will make me a good husband one day, for now, I am hoping it has helped shape me into a good School Captain.

The question on all of your minds. Why vote for me? Well, to paraphrase John F Kennedy "It's not what the school can do for me, but what I can do for the school." Luckily for me, I have had the opportunity to meet most of the people in this room, and I plan to meet the rest. I can promise you this: whether it is on the rugby field, cooking snags at the BBQ and Beats, in the classroom, or standing right here at this lectern, I will represent the school with passion and purpose in all that I do. As we say in Rugby, "When you put on the badge, you represent all those who wore it before you", Fynn van den Brenk, Edward Simon and Taleah Smith to list a few previous school leaders who have been an incredible inspiration to me. All those mentors and leaders are reflected in the badge and the values that pass on through it.

If you are stuck in the forest, I won't cut down the trees. I'll show you the path through them. Whether you need a leader, a mentor, or just someone to talk to, I will be there. I've been here since Prep. Yes, I'm getting old, almost ready to be cast out into the world on my own. But as a die hard Grammar supporter, and Green Bradman Bulldog I would be honoured to be your 2024 School Captain before it's all over.

I stand here not as an individual seeking a title, but as someone who genuinely cares about the growth and well-being of our school and its members. With your support, we can elevate our community to new heights. Together, we can continue to shape an environment where each of us thrives academically, socially and personally. That's the power you have today, sitting on those bleachers.

A final quote from My Lighthouse, "Through my wrestling and in my doubts. In my failures, I won't walk out." Also, the game isn't over just yet. Simon says, Vote 1. Liam Evans. Or how we say it in Japanese, Watashi ni touhyou shite kudasai. Arigatogosiemasu.



**Alex Pennay – School Captain**

As many of you may know, my father's an Aussie and my mother's Korean, so at home, my name is "unnie". In Korean, "unnie" means older sister; and with this title comes great responsibility. I expect an older sister to be positive, compassionate, a good listener, and most of all, to lead by example.

Whilst I understand that swearing is forbidden at Grammar, I hereby solemnly swear to the younger students here today, that I will be your "unnie", your very own older sister. As School Captain, I will bring together all the lovely "unnies" in Year 11, and all the "oppas", which means "brothers", so that we may be a Year 12 cohort that makes you feel encouraged and safe.

My journey at Sunshine Coast Grammar School began in Year 4. I distinctly remember feeling nervous about my first day. Yet in 4SP, I was greeted by smiley classmates, the heavenly scent of the toastie machine (also known as Mr Pennisi's student torture device), and a passionate teacher with a contagious love of learning. At that time, Secondary School seemed so far away, and the senior leaders' adult-like, though little me aspired to be like them one day.

I wish to be a role model that inspires you to think beyond the Sunshine Coast. I spent the last year on exchange in France. A lifelong aspiration that sprouted from a childhood dream, became my reality. There were obstacles, changing homes seven times in a year, surviving three weeks in a French hospital, or when I couldn't physically digest any more cheese. Yet these challenges taught me how to dig deep, and the importance of not only adapting to change but thriving in it, fostering new friendships, and seizing every opportunity.

I am now back at Grammar facing yet another fresh start, and while I will miss my original Year 12 cohort who graduate this summer, I am extremely grateful to have been welcomed so warmly into Year 11. I have a strong desire to give back to our school which empowered me to create my own path. My purpose as School Captain will be to create a bridge that connects us all, from the tiniest Prep students to our Senior students in Secondary. I will represent you to the best of my ability, to the teachers and to Mrs Owen.

With me, you will have a voice, and I will listen.



**Grady Murray – School Vice Captain**

Earlier this term was one of the most exciting days in my life. The school basketball team made states, and I was informed that I got to not only be one of the school's prefects, but I also have the privilege of being in the running for School Captain. All week since the news my friends and family have congratulated me on this wonderful opportunity, but in the words of the late great Kobe Bryant, the job's not finished. For those who don't know me I'm the guy on all the school's advertisements. My name is Grady Murray and I am honoured to be standing in front of you all today in the running to be your School Captain.

I stand here on this podium today not solely due to my efforts, but also thanks to the exceptional individuals that comprise Grammar's dedicated staff. In commencing my speech, it is only fitting to express my gratitude towards them. Upon my entry into this school, I was far from the embodiment of the perfect student, and I recognise that perfection is a distant goal. My journey at this school however has undoubtedly transformed me into a better human being. The staff's mentorship granted me a renewed opportunity to shape myself as the student and aspiring leader I envisioned. As I stand before you, addressing this assembly with aspirations for the School Captain role, I am profoundly aware that I owe this elevation to all of the teachers at this school. Hence, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the school.

Throughout my years here, I've witnessed the incredible potential that resides within our school. It's a potential that goes beyond textbooks and exams, encompassing the unity and spirit that thrive within our grounds. We have future sporting professionals, famous artists, prime ministers, CEOs and much more within our classes. If entrusted with the privilege of being your School Captain, I promise to not just embrace our school's individual talents, but to nurture them. If I know anything about the students at this school, I know one thing: they put their heart and soul into all their endeavours. Some call this playing for the badge.

Leadership is not merely a title; it's a responsibility that calls for empathy and active listening. As School Captain, I promise to be an approachable and compassionate voice for every student. Your concerns and ideas will be treated with the utmost seriousness, as we work together to elevate our school's standards and provide an inclusive platform for all voices to be heard.

My love for this school runs deep, and my enrolment here fills me with immense pride. The prospect of serving as your School Captain only intensifies this sense of pride. I humbly ask for your consideration and support in this position. I understand that choices may vary however, and if I am not your chosen candidate, I hold no resentment. The presence of other capable leaders here today reassures me that our school's future is in capable hands, regardless of the election's outcome. If you entrust me with your vote, I commit to Grammar that we will achieve feats that set us apart from all other schools. Together, we will surpass boundaries that others might only dream of.



**Zara Kerin-Bird – School Vice Captain**

Standing up here today reminds me of the first time I tried my hand at public speaking. In Year 6, Mrs Franklin put me on a debate team, and as I presented our case, despite all my nerves and sudden sneezing fit, I managed to pull through with the support of my team. So, when I look back now and think of debating, I think of the incredible teammates I've had, the moments of stress that have bonded us, and Mrs Dunstan's reaction when I dared to put on lip-gloss during a third speaker's speech. As you know, I love Barbie. It's not just the pink, it's the personal empowerment, and all those amazing shoes, that really speak to me. I love advocating for strong positions, through speaking and writing; and while I don't mind the arguing, it's my passion for social justice and thinking of ways to improve our world which motivates me. What all of this shows is how passionately I pursue everything that I commit to. My friends will tell you that I have something to say about most topics; but this has made me a better leader, mentor and student. My ability to speak my mind and balance empathy for others has given me the capacity to deal with difficult situations and lead with a bigger goal in mind. My resilience has given me the capacity to accept fault and collaborate. From leadership programs to musicals and social netball, I don't think I have ever had a quiet week during the term.

But, as cliché as it is, being part of the Grammar Lions has been a huge contributing factor to who I am today. Rather ironically, as most of you will know, a group of lions is called a pride. In our pride, we have those who work better in the background, those who prefer to work in groups and those who roar loudly on their own. In our pride, we value the talents of those around us and we know when to support each other's weak spots. I know I've had some wobbles and falls during my time in school, but with the help of my friends and mentors, I've picked myself up and kept my head high.

For me, Grammar is a place where I feel genuinely welcomed, safe and at home. With the help of so many influential role models and extracurricular commitments, Grammar has celebrated the things I love and given me the freedom to develop my passions and grow as a leader. As School Captain, my goal will be to create that same environment for everyone in this hall, because no matter what type of student you are, which instrument you play or which position you fill, everyone is equally deserving of the opportunity to feel secure at Grammar.

Alexander the Great once said, "I am not afraid of an army of lions led by a sheep, I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion." But what he failed to consider while conquering all that land was that sometimes it's not a case of lion or sheep, it's a case of a lion's pride, our Grammar pride, working as a team.

Ultimately, my priority is to raise the voices of those who want to be heard and speak up for those who cannot. Voting for me is a vote for a year of inclusivity, celebration and of course, riveting addresses each Friday. Thank you all for your time this morning, I'm so excited to spend a brilliant 2024 with all of you.

# Farewell to our Graduating Class of 2023

Embracing tradition, our youngest Grammar learners presented gifts of appreciation to the graduates, setting the stage for the Walk of Honour through the school and signifying the end of their high school journey and the beginning of a new chapter.

We are so proud of our graduating class and we wish them all the best as they walk confidently into their next chapter. We look forward to welcoming them back through the Grammar Gates as our admired Sunshine Coast Grammar School Alumni.

"The Walk of Honour is a tradition that encapsulates the essence of our school spirit. It is a moment of pride for both our students and the entire Grammar community. We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our Year 12 graduates," said Principal, Mrs Anna Owen.









## PMSA Christian Mission & Service Assistance Program

Sunshine Coast Grammar School is excited to announce that students Maggie and Sam Princehorn are the recipients of the 2023 Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association's Christian Mission & Service Assistance Program!

The Program aims to foster Christian faith and values in our school, and provides an opportunity for our students to serve God and grow in their Christian faith through engagement in a Christian Mission and Service initiatives.

Sunshine Coast Grammar School's Pastor, Jon Taylor, is excited at the development, adding, "They are two very worthy recipients. Maggie and Sam have shown a servant heart, humility and selflessness both at Grammar and beyond."

Maggie will be supporting the Days for Girls Program implementation in Balibo, Timor Leste. Through this project, local girls will be provided education, training and hygiene packs that aim to reduce period poverty – a huge issue in Timor that keeps girls away from school and as a result, creates inequity. Maggie will be funding local training and hopes to visit the Balibo House Community Centre in the near future.

Sam will be funding an English centre in Maliana and providing English resources and setting up some unique projects such as an outdoor English movie program. During 2024, Sam is keen to travel to Timor and see the implementation of the project and work with the staff and students to establish the program.

Through their immersive experiences within their family, Maggie and Sam have developed an appreciation for education and health services in Timor Leste and are actively involved in the local community through Surf Lifesaving.

Maggie and Sam have also established their own social enterprises over the years, which has enabled them to fund disability and homeless initiatives locally.

"We are sure that this will be the beginning of many experiences in that country and, develop great friendships and experiences for them both," says parents Ben and Emma Princehorn.



Having graduated this year, Maggie is excited to pursue university studies in the new year in law and business, and Sam will enter Year 12.

"We are excited to share our experiences in Timor Leste with the Grammar community, and hope it encourages others to consider supporting these worthwhile projects," says Maggie.

We are excited to hear more about their adventures in Timor Leste as they serve and assist the local community.



## Day for Daniel

In recognition of Day for Daniel, our school community participated in the 19th annual Walk for Daniel. It was heartwarming to see the Grammar spirit in action as students, staff and families gathered to raise awareness and promote child safety.

To continue supporting the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, our Grammar Helping Hands team organised a bake sale in conjunction with Kenilworth Country Baker and White's IGA Forest Glen, with proceeds going to the Foundation.

Thank you to our community for being a part of this incredible initiative. Your support helps to protect children and empower our community.

To learn more about the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and to access valuable resources, visit their website.





## Buderim Volunteer Awards

Congratulations to Secondary Teacher, Rowena Bolton, and Year 10 student, Molly E for being recognised at this year's Buderim Volunteer Awards.

Ms Bolton was a nominee for Buderim School Volunteer of the Year and was recognised for her ongoing commitment to supporting Grammar Helping Hands.

Molly was a nominee for Buderim Young Volunteer of the Year for strong and active involvement in the Grammar Green Team and Grammar Helping Hands. Molly continues to make a difference in the lives of so many with her commitment to people and planet.

Ms Bolton and Molly were presented their awards by Brent Mickelberg MP – Member for Buderim. Congratulations and thank you for representing our school and community with passion and pride.



## Hats off to teachers this World Teachers' Day!

In celebration of World Teachers' Day, we came together for a special Assembly to celebrate our incredible educators.

It was heartwarming to hear from our students as they shared their appreciation and stories about their teachers. Their words truly highlighted the positive impact teachers have on our students' lives. It was a wonderful reminder of the important role our educators play in shaping the future.

In a world where the education industry often faces scrutiny, have you ever wondered what motivates exceptional teachers to stay in the profession? Why do they choose to remain in the classroom, navigating the complexities of teaching across all age groups? Just like a pilot's dedication to ensuring passenger safety during a turbulent flight, teachers are entrusted with a profound responsibility: guiding young minds to their destination, come what may.

Teachers are critical to humanity, and their roles cannot be easily replaced. This World Teachers' Day we celebrated the invaluable contributions of educators who inspire and empower future generations. We will continue to make a difference, one student at a time.



## Community

### Ben Princehorn

The Latin word communis, from where the word community was derived, simply means 'what belongs to everyone'. It is so special that our school recognises that opportunities to connect, give, share and support really do belong to everyone. We all have a role to play in supporting our people and planet here on the Sunshine Coast – a UN recognised biosphere. In playing our part, Grammar continues to progressively take steps in supporting the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and this term our school came together with the broader Coast community in support of so many valuable causes.

The valuable contribution to the community that Bloomhill Cancer Care makes each and every day is something not lost on Grammar. Our support in Term 4 continued with our annual Spring Clean Donation Drive – a chance to donate unwanted household items to the op shop network supporting Bloomhill, and the annual Carwash for a Cause – an event whereby over 40 staff and students spent the last Saturday in October washing cars and raising funds for this amazing local charity.

The Day for Daniel, in support of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, was a key date on our school calendar this term, and saw staff and students not only raise funds to support child safety resourcing across Australia, but also share the footpath with our community on the 4km Walk for Daniel. A beautiful way to reflect on how very special our community really is.

As Christmas approaches, we come together as we have done for many years to support those in need through The Shack Community Centre. Our Backpacks for the Shack appeal is now joined by Hampers for the Shack, with both providing meaningful and purposeful ways to support those in need this festive season.

The way in which Grammar staff and students continue to reach out to those in need, to network, support and contribute in real and meaningful ways reflects the culture that has been cultivated at Grammar – the culture of knowing that our community truly belongs to us all and it's up to each of us to ensure we look after it.



## SURFING WITH THE DISABLED

Grammar students, staff and families teamed up to support our friends at Disabled Surfers Sunshine Coast to help provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities to experience the thrill of surfing.

We hit the beach at the start of the year and have been counting down the days to support our friends again. It was an unforgettable day filled with fun, smiles and the joy of giving back to our amazing community.

Here's to many more years of riding the waves of generosity, creating lasting memories, and helping our community shine brighter.

A huge thank you to Mr Ben Dutton, who once again gathered Team Grammar and organised another fantastic day out at Currimundi Beach.





## GENEROSITY IN ACTION SUNSHINE COAST GRAMMAR STUDENTS LEND A HELPING HAND THIS FESTIVE SEASON

In the spirit of giving and community service, students at Sunshine Coast Grammar School are once again stepping up to make a meaningful impact this festive season.

Through our Grammar Helping Hands service program, students are spreading Christmas cheer and actively contributing to the welfare of our local community by partnering with The Shack Community Centre in Nambour.

Sunshine Coast Grammar School has been affiliated with The Shack for over 13 years and regularly holds Donation Drives throughout the year, and contributes to their Christmas donations through a Backpack and Hamper Appeal.

Since the first backpacks were purchased in 2019, the school community has purchased nearly 300 backpacks filled with essential school supplies. This year, with 125 already secured, we

are set to surpass this record.

The generosity of our students continues with the Year 5 cohort actively participating in the Appeal, with all funds raised at their Term 4 Market Day Stall going towards backpacks and hampers.

The backpacks are full of essential school supplies and go a long way to supporting families in the local community facing financial hardship, and are a wonderful way to ensure children get the best start at school in 2024.

This year, the school's Donation Drive netted 738kg of food which contributes significantly to helping vulnerable, homeless and less fortunate individuals and families on the Sunshine Coast. As a community service, The Shack relies heavily on donations and these contributions play a crucial role in supporting our local community.

The Grammar Helping Hands servant leadership program has been active in the community for over 14 years and provides hands-on experiences for students, as well as reinforcing a strong sense of community engagement. By giving their time and energy, students develop empathy for those less fortunate and embody the school's commitment to serving the community with passion and purpose.

At the helm of the Program is the Coordinator of Community and Service, Mr Ben Princehorn, who is instrumental in providing opportunities for students to get involved in community service at the ground level.

"It's all about showing just how fun and rewarding community action can be. We pride ourselves on this message here at Grammar," said Mr Princehorn.

Sunshine Coast Grammar School is honoured to be affiliated with The Shack Community Centre and continues to work towards empowering a generation of solutions-focused students, with a passion for People, Planet and Progress.



## RAINBOW HOUSE DANCE FUNDRAISER

Year 10 students recently organised a vibrant Rainbow Dance Fundraiser for our Year 6 cohort, with all proceeds going towards Our Rainbow House. Our Rainbow House is a charity dedicated to providing education and nutrition to orphans and vulnerable children in Lusaka, Zambia and Sunshine Coast Grammar has been honoured to support this initiative over the past five years.

The dance was a resounding success, showcasing leadership and community spirit.

Special thanks to the Year 10 students, Mr Robotham, Mr Princehorn, Mrs Gahan and Ms Wilkinson for setting up, hosting and supervising the event.



## COMMUNITY WEEKEND

Our ninth annual Carwash for a Cause and Donation Truck Drive for our friends at Bloomhill Cancer Care were a resounding success!

From books, toys and clothing to furniture and bikes, we were overcome by your generosity and grateful to have such a thoughtful and caring community.

Despite the inclement weather, our Grammar Helping Hands students and staff scrubbed and polished countless vehicles, raising funds for this wonderful, local charity.

With each car washed and every donation received, we were able to make a positive change for a local charity that means so much to us. Your generosity will go a long way in helping those affected with cancer.

Thank you to all staff, students and families for their involvement in our community campaign.

Our enduring 16-year partnership with Bloomhill Cancer Care fills us with pride, and we look forward to many more prosperous years.





## EMBRACING THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

There have been many opportunities in the Christian ministry space to gather as community during Term 4. From JOLT groups to Red Frogs breakfasts, the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox charity and more, students have gathered and shared and lived out the Biblical message to love God and love others. As we finish the year may we be encouraged by what appears to be Grammar's unofficial anthem, the song 'My Lighthouse' which features these lyrics, 'You are the peace in my troubled sea.' May Jesus indeed be your truth, peace and joy through both the troubles and challenges of this world, and also be with and strengthen your family over the Christmas break.

As the festive season begins, we are thrilled to have donated over 130 boxes to Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child project.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to provide God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. The shoeboxes are more than just gifts, they represent hope, kindness and a brighter future.

The dedicated team at Samaritan's Purse has collected the boxes and will soon distribute them to children living in vulnerable situations.

Thank you to our community for filling their shoeboxes with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and fun gifts. Your generosity is changing lives and spreading smiles worldwide.



## Students showcase entrepreneurial spirit at Sunshine Coast Grammar School Market Day

A wave of enthusiasm and creativity is swept through Sunshine Coast Grammar School's Year 5 cohort as students prepared to unveil their entrepreneurial ventures at the highly anticipated annual Market Day on Wednesday, 22 November.

With just a ten-dollar note and an abundance of passion, the young entrepreneurs are eager to showcase a diverse range of products.

From beeswax lip balm to handmade keyrings and engaging game stalls, students spared no effort in bringing their innovative ideas to life.

The Market Day is a culmination of their Entrepreneurship Program, where students have honed their business skills, creativity and teamwork.

Working in pairs, students developed business plans, product development, logo designs, and marketing and promotional strategies. The results of their hard work captivated their peers, staff and parents.

Sunshine Coast Grammar School Head of Primary, Mr Craig Angel, expressed his excitement about the Entrepreneurship Unit, emphasising its role in providing students with hands-on experience in the world of business.

"There is a lot for the students to consider when setting up their small businesses, but they have been carefully guided through the process to ensure life-long skills are developed and special memories are created," said Mr Angel.

The Market Day serves as a platform for students to



experience the independence of being business owners and develop their leadership and interpersonal skills.

"We are always excited to see what the students have come up with and how they have transferred their knowledge into creating a successful small business," said Mr Angel.

Beyond the entrepreneurial endeavours, the Market Day also fosters a sense of community engagement with all funds raised going towards the school's community service program Grammar Helping Hands and their Backpacks for The Shack Christmas Appeal. This reinforces the students' understanding of the impact their business endeavours can have on the broader community.



## DOMINATING THE COURTS

Our 2023 Queensland Champions shone at the recent Gallipoli Youth Cup National High School Championships.

Despite fierce competition, our team claimed an impressive sixth place, battling it out against 10 of the nation's best teams.

Competing against some of Australia's top players, our team stood strong, displaying strength of character and Grammar grit. With one of the youngest teams in the national finals, the future of Sunshine Coast Grammar Tennis is undeniably bright!

Huge congratulations to our phenomenal players. Special thanks to Head Coach, Mr Clint Fyfe, and Teacher in Charge of Tennis Mrs Sandra Ferrier, for steering our team to this incredible achievement. What a remarkable way to close out the school year. Well done, team Grammar.

## SUNSHINE COAST GRAMMAR TENNIS ACES ITS WAY TO SUCCESS FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Sunshine Coast Grammar School's Tennis Program has once again been recognised as a powerhouse in Australian tennis. For the second consecutive year, the Program has been awarded Tennis Queensland's Most Outstanding School - Excellence and the Coaching Excellence - Development Award. The Program has also triumphed with Year 11 student, Juliet Santitto, being awarded the Anthony Richardson Regional Female of the Year Award.

Tennis Queensland annually acknowledges and honours individuals, clubs and schools that have made remarkable contributions to the tennis community in Queensland and recognised the award winners at the recent awards ceremony.

Established five years ago, Grammar's Tennis Program has shown an outstanding commitment to tennis which has seen their program excel and continue to grow year on year.

The Program has consistently displayed exceptional commitment, dedication and innovation in nurturing young tennis talent and promoting the sport within the school, establishing itself as one of the leading tennis programs in the country.

Tennis is entrenched throughout Sunshine Coast Grammar School with over 250 players currently enrolled in weekly tennis lessons and all Primary School students participating in a comprehensive HPE and School Sport tennis program. With the support of the Principal and staff, the School has an extensive tennis program, running lessons before, after School, and during lunchtimes, with players supported as much as they need.

Sunshine Coast Grammar's Tennis Director and Head Coach, Mr Clint Fyfe, expressed great pride and gratitude for the recognition.

"We are honoured to receive this prestigious award from Tennis Queensland for the second consecutive year. It reflects our unwavering commitment to fostering a love of tennis and personal growth among our students," said Mr Fyfe.

The Coaching Excellence - Development Award highlights the outstanding efforts of the Program's coaching staff in providing comprehensive and effective tennis instruction, and helping students reach their full potential on and off the court.

This accolade acknowledges the tireless work of Mr Clint Fyfe and his dedication to developing young tennis players and instilling values of sportsmanship and perseverance.

"This Award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire coaching team. We are passionate about helping young athletes develop their skills and this recognition motivates us to continue supporting and encouraging our students," said Mr Fyfe.

Mr Fyfe continuously develops his skills and knowledge through engaging in professional development opportunities such as recent trips to Europe and the USA to visit the world's leading tennis academies. Numerous players from the Grammar Tennis program have won State and National titles in the last year including this year's Anthony Richardson Regional Female of the Year Award winner, Juliet Santitto.

This year, Juliet led the Sunshine Coast Grammar School team to victory at the 2023 Queensland Schools Championships and captained the 2023 Queensland Pizzey Cup Secondary Schools Team.

"Juliet is a great role model in our coaching program, and I can see her success inspiring our other players to follow the same path," said, Mr Clint Fyfe.

Grammar Tennis is also thrilled to recognise Mrs Sandra Ferrier as a finalist in the Most Outstanding Teacher Category for the second consecutive year. Sunshine Coast Grammar School is grateful and fortunate for the wealth of knowledge, experience, and support Mr Fyfe and all tennis coaching staff provide our tennis players.



## Sunshine Coast Grammar Swimming excels in Open Water Championships

Sunshine Coast Grammar Swimming is proud to announce that its Head Coach, Luke Stafford, has been appointed Head Coach for the 2023 Hancock Prospecting Queensland Open Water Team.

This esteemed position follows a series of remarkable achievements by the Club under the Coach's guidance, with medal-winning performances in regional, state and national championships, and most recently winning the Queensland Open Water Championships in October.

The Queensland Open Water Team is preparing to embark on their journey to the highly anticipated Open Water Championships in Western Australia, with two Grammar Club swimmers among those representing the State.

A rising star in open water swimming is Year 10 Grammar student, Daisy Quinn, who is a strong contender for the 10km event, having claimed Gold in the 16 Year 5km and 7.5km Australian Open Water Champions in Busselton earlier this year, and Gold in the 10km Open Water Queensland Championships in October.

Luke and Daisy's exceptional performances have not gone unnoticed, earning them an invitation to the prestigious 2023 Open Water Swimming Development Camp hosted earlier this year by Swimming Australia.

Coach Luke has been instrumental in the Club's rise to prominence since its inaugural season in 2017/2018 and expressed enthusiasm for the growing discipline of open-water swimming.

"Since the inclusion of the 10km event at the Olympics, it has become an event that appeals to more and more swimmers," said Luke.

Sunshine Coast Grammar Swimming Club's journey to success is marked by dedication, early morning training sessions and an unshakeable belief in their abilities.

"All athletes display great amounts of discipline, passion and pride with many training up to 25 hours per week in the pool and the gym. It is a huge responsibility made easier with the support and guidance of the Club's dedicated coaching staff," said Luke.

"Our athletes have worked incredibly hard to get to this point. Each member brings unique strengths to the team and it's their collective effort that led us to victory."

Sunshine Coast Grammar Swimming Club takes immense pride in the accomplishments of Head Coach Luke Stafford and its athletes, and is confident they will continue to shine on the national stage.

# Sunshine Grammar Swimming triumphs at Wide Bay Championships

Sunshine Coast Grammar Swimming Club claimed victory at the recent Wide Bay Short Course Championships, taking home 146 medals and breaking almost 50 Club and Wide Bay Meet Records.

The strong club of 83 athletes placed first in the women's overall scores, third in the men's overall scores and claimed two Age Championships in the 13 and 14 Year Girls divisions.

From humble beginnings to swimming stardom, Sunshine Coast Grammar Swimming Club's rise to prominence is inspiring. The Club's journey to the top has been filled with dedication, early morning training sessions and an unshakeable belief in their abilities.

At the helm has been Head Coach, Luke Stafford, and together with coaching and support staff, the Club has transformed into a powerhouse of aquatic prowess.

"Our athletes have worked incredibly hard to get to this point. Each member brings unique strengths to the team and it's their collective effort that led us to victory," said Luke.



## INTERNATIONAL WIN FOR GRAMMAR'S GRACE BRIMELOW

Congratulations to Grace Brimelow who has secured her first International medal over in Vancouver at the 2023 Ken Demchuk Invitational. Grace won a medal in the S9 Women's 400m Freestyle and had an awesome race that came down to the wire with a swimmer from Team Ireland!

Grace was selected by Swimming Australia to go to Vancouver with Team Australia to get her international classification which is needed to be eligible to compete at next year's Paralympics, and congratulations to her Coach Charles Barry who was selected to be a Team Coach on the trip!

Well done Grace and best of luck making your dreams come true next year!

## MUSIC SUPPORT GROUP

### Community

Being part of the Music Support Group (MSG) is not just about giving back to school, it plays a significant part of belonging to a wonderful community. When we get together we have so much fun, however, what makes it even more special is that we are fulfilling a purpose that benefits our children.

The MSG provides the opportunity to connect with others, meet new friends and other parents, to build meaningful relationships. Members are able to contribute skills, collaborate and make a positive impact to the school environment. When MSG parents see the impact of their efforts and that of each other, the group is empowered.

When parents come together for the betterment of the Music Department and our school, it strengthens bonds within and to the school community. This shared purpose creates a deeper connection, where parents feel they belong to community.

Together we can continue to make a positive impact for the Music community at Grammar as it continues its extraordinary growth and community standing.



## MUSIC GALA

The 2023 Music Gala Concert was a resounding success and was enjoyed by an audience of over 350, with 233 students performing on the night. The performances, from every ensemble were truly inspiring, and we congratulate all students and staff for their commitment, musicianship and enthusiasm at this very special event.

The Music events at Grammar encompass the true meaning of community, with so many people coming together to help our students shine. From the volunteers to the many departments and people in the school who help with set up and pack down and all aspects of our events, to the Music staff who share their passion and expertise every day and to the students who are at the centre of everything that we do. What a brilliant community we have.



## OUT AND ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Bel Fine Choir travelled to the 92.7 MIX FM studio to surprise Todd with songs about his favourite subject, horses. Students shared their love of music with Sami and Todd, and took over the airwaves singing along to the popular hits. Thank you to the fabulous hosts for joining in on the fun. Bravo Bel Fine!

It was a wonderful afternoon of community, fashion and fun at the Buderim Foundation's Spring Splendour Fashion Show and the Grammar String Quartet was fortunate to be invited to perform at this major fundraising event in October. Thank you to the students and staff for always giving their time and support to so many wonderful community events.

## ROCK BAND CONCERT

Congratulations to the incredible talent showcased at the Rock Band Concert! From ABBA to Radiohead, students in 'The Mondays,' 'The Wednesdays', and Year 10 Music Class delivered polished and impressive performances. Well done for your outstanding work and commitment throughout 2023.

A special shoutout to Mr Peter Corkill, whose exceptional talent and dedication have elevated our Rock Band Program this year. The future looks even brighter as we plan to expand and nurture the incredible pool of talent we have at Grammar.

Well done to all of our musicians. We look forward to the rock concert next year!

## MINI MUSIC FESTIVAL

The final concert for the year was a buzz of music and excitement at the 2023 Mini Music Festival. Students from Years 3 and 5 excelled on their String and Band instruments, Da Capo Choir sang oh-so-sweetly, Junior Guitars debuted triumphantly, Beginner Strings and Beginner Band wowed us with their skills and musicality.

What a fantastic way to celebrate all things Primary Music Performance. Thank you to all of the parents, volunteers, students and staff for all of your work behind the scenes.

We can't wait to show you more in 2024!



## VISUAL ART SHOWCASE

The Visual Art Showcase was an astounding success . and a true celebration of our student's creativity and talent.

The gallery was adorned with an impressive array of paintings, sculptures and mixed media pieces, each telling a unique story and reflecting the diverse perspectives of our young artists.

The depth and breadth of artistic expression on display captivated parents, teachers and fellow students. It was a moment of pride for students where their creativity flourished.

Grammar's Visual Art Program offers students an eclectic range of material and conceptual experiences, and a diversity of colourful, dynamic learning environments. Students are encouraged to produce artworks of developing depth and maturity and are given opportunities to create, reflect, challenge and celebrate.

Congratulations to all students and our dedicated Art Department for their tireless efforts and continued support of our students.



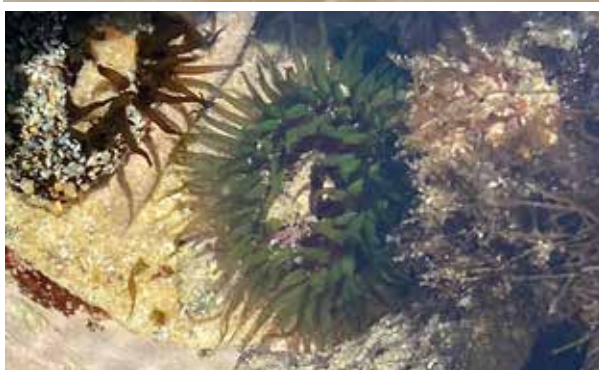


## Year 12 Biology Field Excursion

In Week 4, 62 Senior Biology students took the opportunity to attend a field excursion to Wurtulla Beach and Point Cartwright, and what a wonderful day it was! The sun was certainly shining despite the forecast for rain. Lead by Mrs Haywood, Mr Bessell, Mr Boyd and Mrs Wheeler, students set out with the intention to apply their understanding of biodiversity and the structure of ecosystems and investigate interactions between abiotic and biotic components, in order to make spatial and temporal comparisons between these two stunning locations.

The first stop was Wurtulla Beach. Observations and measurements were performed to determine species diversity through a sand dune ecological community, using quadrats along a line transect. This beautiful environment allowed students to study the gradual change in species present and their abundance, whilst relating this to changes in the abiotic environment (such as temperature, wind speed, humidity and sub-soil texture). From the hardy Spinifex grass, Pigface and Goat's Foot species of the windswept incipient dunes, through the fluttering Horsetail She-Oak dominated foredunes, an increased richness of plant and animal life became apparent, including a variety of birds, and Native Cherry, Cabbage Tree Palm, Cottonwood and Snake Vines.

The second stop was Point Cartwright. Using the same sampling methods, students explored the marvellous rocky shore, observing a wide variety of marine species in the rockpools and across the rocky platforms. These fascinating organisms simply leave you in awe, gently reminding us of the incredible place in the world that we are so fortunate to call home; the spectacular Sunshine Coast. The excitement and curiosity of the students were clear as they shared their findings of an array of life. The mesmerising movements of the Black-ringed Sea Hare as it fed on the red and green algae in the rockpools, along with the kaleidoscope of colour afforded by sea cucumbers, anemones, coral, Green Zoanthid, a range of molluscs, and more, allowed students to connect their learning with this remarkable marine ecosystem. It was most certainly a day to remember.



## Year 8 Geographers –

### AUTHENTIC LEARNING EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD

During Term 4, the Year 8 Geography classes spent a day at Buddina and Maroochydore. They conducted fieldwork on the beach to investigate coastal features such as sand dunes and processes such as longshore drift. Students were able to observe, sketch and critique the various sand management techniques at the mouth of the Maroochy River. Back at school, they used their findings to write field reports which showcased their graphing and mapping skills, and allowed them to propose and justify alternative coastal management methods.

The students enjoyed being out in the field to see Geography in action and to engage in some authentic learning, offering real-world solutions for our community.



## Year 10 Modern History

### FROM BYSTANDERS TO UPSTANDERS VIA HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

In Term 4, the Year 10 Modern History students had the amazing opportunity to work with Courage to Care, an organisation that informs and educates Australian students about the dangers of prejudice, racism and discrimination, by looking at the experiences of those who lived through the Holocaust. As part of this, students were able to listen to Peter Baruch, a Holocaust survivor, speak about his escape from war-torn Poland as a young boy. The students heard about the many people who showed courage and integrity in order to save his life and then, in smaller groups, considered how they could apply such 'upstander' values to their own lives today. The students were exceptional in terms of their maturity, engagement and contributions, and the organisers were highly impressed by the open and honest attitude of the students, with their thoughtful and insightful responses during the workshop facilitation.



## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

### QUEENSLAND HISTORY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION HISTORICAL WRITING COMPETITION

Each year, the Queensland History Teachers' Association invites students across the state to enter a piece of their History work from the school year. In 2023, they received over 350 entries in 17 categories, from Years 7 to 12. Two of our students achieved exceptional results. Lila Collins (Year 9) was presented with a Highly Commended award for her feature article about a World War I battle and soldier. Zara Kerin-Bird (Year 11) had entries in three categories this year and deservedly won awards in all of these. In the Year 11 Ancient History category, she was awarded a Highly Commended certificate, in the Year 11 Ancient History Independent Source Investigation category, she placed second in the state, and for her Modern History piece on the significance of Faith Bandler in the Aboriginal Civil Rights movement, she won the award for the best First Nations essay in the state of Queensland which in itself is an amazing achievement. Congratulations to both of these outstanding History students.



## Food Technology and Hospitality

From staff Cook-Ups to fundraising for the Cancer Council through Australia's Biggest Morning Tea or Grammar Helping Hands Christmas Treat packs, the Food Technology and Hospitality Faculty embraces the sense of community through various endeavours, whether it be through curriculum initiatives or involvement in wider community activities.

Thank you to the staff and students for always giving their time in connecting with kindness to support these community initiatives.

Janelle Derrington

Coordinator of Food Technology and Hospitality



## Grammar Chess Tournament

50 talented Grammar chess players recently compete at the annual Grammar Chess Tournament. Congratulations to all students for their dedication and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. You have shown us that chess is not just a game, but a battle of wits, strategy and resilience.

Special shout out to our top contenders who outplayed their opponents and showcased exceptional skill.

Year 1 – 3	
Xavier F	7/8
Armaan U	7/8
Isabella P	5.5/8
Year 4 – 6	
Aaron D	8/8 (Undefeated)
Wesley N	6.5/8
Riyon W	6/8
Year 7 – 12	
Alex D	8/8 (Undefeated)
Sebastian R	7/8
Fraser O	5/8



# 2024 GRAMMAR PRIDE PHOTO COMPETITION



We are thrilled to announce a brand-new initiative aimed at celebrating and promoting our school's values and Grammar spirit – the Grammar Pride Photo Competition!

Starting in 2024, we invite all students, alumni, parents and staff to participate in this exciting contest, which promises to be a showcase of our school's unique character.

Here's how it will work:

## 1. Nomination and Selection

Publish your photo on social media, ensuring to tag the school and use the hashtag #grammarpride. Alternatively, nominations can be submitted via email – [marketing@scgs.qld.edu.au](mailto:marketing@scgs.qld.edu.au)

The School will carefully select the top 5 nominations.

The Competition will run in Term 1 and Term 3, with separate categories for Parent/ Staff, Alumni and Student.

## 2. Community Vote for the Winner

Once the top 5 photos have been selected, our Grammar community will have the opportunity to cast their votes and help us decide the ultimate winner.

## 3. Winner's Spotlight

The winning photo will be featured in our Quarterly Magazine, allowing it to shine as an example of what makes our school special. Prizes for the winners will be determined and announced soon.

We are excited to see the creativity and passion that our Grammar community will bring to this exciting initiative.

Stay tuned for more details and start thinking about the perfect photo that embodies our Grammar Pride.

## Guest Speaker Series

*This term we were privileged to hear from a number of industry leaders on campus as part of our Future Tech Series, ROAR Performance and School Well-being Programs.*



### FUTURE TECH SERIES - EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S INNOVATORS

We heard from two technology industry leaders who shared their insights and discussed emerging opportunities in the future technology space.

The second in the series, our Future Tech seminars are a unique and valuable opportunity for our students to explore the innovations that will shape our world.

Featuring guest speakers Owen Bowling, CEO at Coach Welly and Noah Wasmer, CEO of Roev, the industry leaders provided real-world examples and shared their personal journeys, challenges and triumphs. Thank you for connecting with our students and showing how creativity, perseverance and innovation can transform a passion into a profession and a mere idea into a global phenomenon. We look forward to working with you again soon.





## ROAR PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

We were thrilled to welcome Ryan Scott OAM, four-time Paralympian in wheelchair rugby, dual gold medalist, silver medalist and captain from the London and Rio Games recently as part of our ROAR Performance Program for our aspiring athletes.

A truly inspiring athlete, Ryan reflected on his high-performance journey and discussed the car accident that resulted in his quadriplegia as a 16-year-old. Ryan's key message for all students was to surround themselves with good people and those who bring out the best in them.

Ryan's determination and resilience has left a lasting impact on all of us. Thank you for teaching us that with the right mindset, there are no limits to what we can achieve.

We also heard from Sunshine Coast Lightning Head Coach, Belinda Reynolds, who shared her experience coaching high-performance and elite-level netball programs. Belinda's combination of personal experiences, practical advice and passion for the game left a positive impression on our aspiring athletes, inspiring them to pursue their goals with renewed determination.



## PAUL DILLON

Renowned speaker Paul Dillon from Drug and Alcohol Research and Training Australia (DARTA) returned to Grammar to present to our Senior students, covering various topics, including alcohol, risk-taking and the importance of looking after your mates.

Last year, we were fortunate to have had Paul visit Grammar, and student feedback was overwhelmingly positive on all accounts.

Paul has worked in the drug education sector for more than 25 years and is passionate about ensuring the community has access to accurate and up-to-date alcohol and other drug information.

Paul presented an array of evidence-based strategies tailored for students, offering valuable tools for

educators and schools to continue to foster positive relationships, nurturing environments and the well-being of students.

At Sunshine Coast Grammar School we are proactive about educating our young people and aim to build a community that fosters supportive systems and positive relationships, and promote a strong ethos of mutual care and concern.

The information seminar by Paul Dillon is highly regarded by Sunshine Coast Grammar School and forms part of its well-being program to support health, build resilience, enhance academic care and build relationships.



## 2023 CAREERS DAY

Thank you to our incredible alumni and industry experts who made our Careers Day a resounding success!

Your generosity in sharing your time and expertise has left an impact on our students, igniting inspiration and fostering invaluable connections.

Our Sunshine Coast Grammar School Alumni delved into university life and their diverse career paths, providing students with valuable insights.

We were also honoured to welcome many leading industry experts from the legal, business, finance, health and hospitality sectors. Excitement filled the air as students explored potential paths, asked burning questions, and gained a deeper understanding of the skills needed in today's ever-evolving job market.

A huge shout-out to our Pathways and Partnerships Department for organising these invaluable opportunities for our students.







# Atomu Watanabe

(2004)

Upon graduating from school, Atomu Watanabe embarked on a remarkable journey. In this article, we delve into Atomu's experiences, achievements and his profound passion and resilience.

Atomu found guidance in his formative years at Sunshine Coast Grammar School, with structure and mentorship playing a pivotal role after the passing of his father in Year 8 (2000). Throughout his schooling years, Atomu set his sights high with a dream of becoming the World Number One Golfer.

After graduating in 2004, Atomu temporarily veered off course from his dream of becoming a professional golfer. At the age of 24 and facing a financial crossroads, Atomu had to reimagine his goals and his journey toward becoming a professional golfer recommenced.

Opting for a Golf Traineeship at his home club, Horton Park (now Maroochy River), Atomu mastered every aspect of the golfing world, from club repairs to running a Golf Club.

Graduating as an Australian PGA member in 2013, he set his sights on the global stage and pursued professional golf in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The experience abroad of competing with seasoned players in the E-Golf Tour proved challenging but invaluable. Undeterred by setbacks, Atomu returned home to refocus and found his new passion for coaching at Pelican Waters Golf Club. Under the guidance of Golf Coach, Grant Field, he discovered the joy of helping others enjoy golf and expanded the Junior Program and hosted clinics for beginners and ladies.

Identifying a common frustration among golf enthusiasts and to improve on timely feedback during practice, Atomu enlisted an Executive Coach to help develop a revolutionary model for golf coaches. Atomu's vision was a 24/7 golf facility equipped with cutting-edge technology, ensuring accessibility for enthusiasts regardless of weather.

When the pandemic struck in 2020, Atomu faced a double challenge, losing his coaching contract and securing funds to launch his envisioned Golf Facility. His family made a bold move, selling their family home to finance the Sunshine Coast Golf Centre, which opened its doors on 1 August 2020.

Powered by TrackMan, Sunshine Coast Golf Centre now boasts two simulator bays and offers a unique golfing experience.

Three years in, Atomu's family and business have flourished. With three children and 240 members respectively, Sunshine Coast Golf Centre aims to simplify the complexities of golf and foster the sport's growth.

Atomu's mission is to inspire others through his journey and emphasise the significance of embracing your mistakes and using them as stepping stones towards success.



**SUNSHINE COAST  
GOLF CENTRE**



# GRAMMAR

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