September—what a month!

September commenced with the Year 12s sitting their mock examinations on the first Thursday, followed by ‘Show Day’ on the Friday. We all felt for the IB students, whose exams continued into a second week, but on Tuesday everyone was rewarded with an exciting yet relaxing Sports Day on Haslam Oval.

The Show Day weekend offered 28 students and staff the opportunity to go on the everpopular Gold Coast Trip. It was an enjoyable and memorable experience for all involved. Over the course of the 3 days, we indulged our thrill-seeking tendencies—being thrown through the air, lurching and spiralling; getting splashed, soaked and dunked; and laughing, shrieking with surprise and/or screaming in self-inflicted terror. We visited Dream World, White Water World, Movie World and Wet’n’Wild, with the highlights including the new Green Lantern Ride, the rarely operating Tower of Terror and the water slides. On Saturday evening we donned our stockman’s hats and were entertained at the Australian Outback Spectacular, where the new show is based on the story of Phar Lap. It was indeed a fabulous show with talented animal actors, a delicious Aussie-inspired three-course meal and mandatory audience participation in the form of hat-waving, foot-stomping and cheering. By the time we reached the departure lounge at Brisbane airport, there were clearly 28 very weary, but contented, thrill seekers and it was agreed that the trip had been a perfect chance for the boarders and staff to form stronger relationships in a different environment.

The following weekend began the round of farewell traditions associated with the Year 12 boarders, who will be leaving at the end of the year. On the Saturday morning, the Leavers and Boarding House Staff shared a delicious buffet breakfast at the Intercontinental Hotel, where Felicity and Scottie made insightful speeches, thanking the Pembroke community for all they have been offered.

On the following day, 39 staff and students (of which 13 were Year 12s) arose bright and early to participate in the City-Bay 12-kilometre race, with the fastest finishers beating ‘The Biggest Loser’ trainer Shannon Ponton. We all enjoyed feasting on the delicious breakfast provided by the Canteen volunteers. The Pembroke group raised almost $2,000 for Canteen, a great effort by all involved.

This year the boarders entered two teams (a mixed and a girls’ team) in the MARS Stadium social netball competition. This provided an avenue for the boarders to have a bit of fun, but also to display their organisational and leadership skills. Kate was instrumental in organising this activity. In the final week of the term, the girls’ team was skillful enough to come away as premiers, even scoring a trophy mug for their efforts! What an exciting end to what was a fun season.
In the final week of term, the girls held their emotionally driven farewell concert for the Year 12s and the selection process for the Head Boy and Head Girl of the Boarding Houses for 2013 was also conducted. Each applicant had to nominate for the position, undertake an interview with the Head and Assistant Head of each Boarding House and deliver a speech to their fellow boarders. Voting then took place and the results will be announced at the Year 12 farewell dinner.

Mrs Crowhurst
Head of Turner House

The Pembroke City-Bay participants

Year 12 Farewell Breakfast at the Intercontinental