

# SOMERVILLE

# Spirit





# Learner-Centred PEDAGOGIES

A productive school culture, and the pastoral, educational, sporting and cultural programs that form a part of that, do not simply occur without the investment of time, energy and commitment.

We must create learning environments that are of the highest quality and in order to do that we must be in a process of continuous improvement and learning.

2017 saw the opening of a purpose-built learning centre for Year 5 and 6 students, called the Robinson Learning Centre. These learning spaces were designed to be adaptive to the learning needs of

the students. Physically, the learning environment can be configured in different ways, through the use of movable glass walls and break-out spaces, to facilitate different modes of learning. In terms of pedagogy, these new learning environments also saw Junior School staff engage in a process of change. They reflected upon their practice and developed programs and learning experiences that best represent effective teaching for learning practices, particularly when working in flexible learning spaces.

Environments that are learner-centred foster both the cognitive and metacognitive development of students, enhancing both learning and social and emotional outcomes for children. Learning experiences are challenging, age-appropriate, and respect individual, group and gender differences. They also believe that engagement and confidence increases, and there are higher levels of motivation for students entering learner-centred classrooms.

Learner-centred environments are supportive environments established on a foundation of positive relationships and frequent, genuine interactions between students and teachers. In these environments, there is careful monitoring of progress and development, with regular opportunities for reflection, self-assessment and feedback. Both the academic and social needs of students are considered.



# The Robinson Centre

*I like the new learning centre because it is very spacious and we can learn in different areas.*

YEAR 6 STUDENT



*I really like how it has a lot of room and the new things we can experience with this space. I really like the new furniture. I think it is perfect for what we do in class and what we learn. Everything has its own place and it all fits. I really enjoy it here.*

YEAR 5 STUDENT

*You get introduced to new ways to learn all the time and you get to try sitting on wobbly chairs, soft cushioned chairs, stools and normal fluoro green chairs. Also it has clear glass so you feel not so disconnected from the other classrooms.*

YEAR 5 STUDENT



*I like the Robinson Centre because we can move around easily and we can move almost everything if we need to. I also like the Centre because we can open the walls if there is not enough room.*

YEAR 5 STUDENT

*I like the Robinson Centre because I like the way all the tables are set up and the way we can go out into the hall and work on the whiteboards.*

YEAR 6 STUDENT



# THE WIZARD OF OZ Musical

By: Ms Annette Box, Head of Drama and Director,  
Producer and Choreographer of the Musical

The Somerville House and Churchie *Wizard of Oz* musical was a first-rate production, with packed audiences who were treated to three evenings of very special performances.

With over 100 students onstage, in the orchestra and working behind the scenes, over 20 staff involved in the direction, creation and production of the show, as well as one real dog, the combined schools' Musical for 2017, *The Wizard of Oz*, was an outstanding achievement in every sense.

*The Wizard of Oz* takes us from Kansas to the Emerald City, where Dorothy meets her three friends and journeys through

eight different settings, all requiring new artistic features, with the chorus featured across seven different contexts and roles, all with new costumes, songs and dance routines.

The cast commenced rehearsals in early Term 4 2016, working on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons to perfect their choreography, learn the melodies and block the scenes to bring the well-loved narrative to life.

At the beginning of the School year, the orchestra formed and commenced working on the incredible score that accompanied our performers. Set painters, props creators, costume assistants and more



worked busily away in the lead up, with the audio visual and backstage crew finessing the technical elements to bring the magic of the theatre to Harker Hall.

*The Wizard of Oz* was the most creatively demanding musical Somerville House has undertaken yet, and the reaction from the School community is that we conquered that challenge with flying 'rainbow' colours. Sincerest thanks must go to all staff, students and parents who contributed to the show in some way, be it onstage or by loaning a prop, and to all those who came to see the show.

PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL MERRETT, ADRENALIN PHOTOGRAPHICS





*SOMERVILLE HOUSE*  
*wins gold*  
*AT THE AUSTRALIAN*  
*ROWING*  
*CHAMPIONSHIPS*

Continuing a rich history of strength and success, Somerville House was represented by a squad of ten students at the 2017 Australian Rowing Championships.

Our rowers stroked and dragged their oars through the water and over the finish lines, collectively achieving an incredible five gold medals, and one silver medal.

Congratulations to all students who represented Team Somerville, results included:

- Under 17 Single – Gold
- Under 17 Double – Gold
- Under 17 Quad – Gold
- Under 17 8+ – Gold
- Schoolgirls Quad sprint – Gold
- Under 17 Single – Silver

Well done to our Director of Rowing, Mr Oleg Shishkin, for his incredible coaching and support.

# SOMERVILLE HOUSE DUX OF 2016 ANNOUNCED AS STATE'S HIGHEST ACHIEVER IN QCS TEST

Somerville House students continue to shine at the annual Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) Awards, with School DUX of 2016, Sophie Watson, announced as the State's Highest Achiever in the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) test.

As one of 28,000 Year 12 students who sat the test in 2016, this is a true testament to Sophie's dedication and academic ability.

In a ceremony held at the State Library in South Bank earlier in the year, Sophie was acknowledged as one of the top 30 students in the State by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority,

congratulated by the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games, The Honourable Kate Jones.

Sophie shared "It was an honour to be able to meet the diverse cohort of award recipients from across the state; in particular, listening to their impressive accolades and varied plans for tertiary study was very humbling."

As the DUX of the Class of 2016, Sophie's well-rounded results are the outcome not only her rigorous academic focus, but her participation in a range of creative and co-curricular activities.

*"Beyond the academic program, I found that participating in strings, volleyball, plenty of debating and being a member of the Student Executive always kept me busy, and allowed me to become a more thoughtful, aware and engaged team player." She said.*

Sophie is currently studying a Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours) at the University of Queensland (UQ). Following her completion of this undergraduate degree, Sophie has accepted an Academic Scholarship to study a Doctor of Medicine (MD) Provisional Entry for School-Leavers (Bonded Medical Places).

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE QCAA



Sophie  
Watson



# SOMERVILLE HOUSE EXCELS IN 2017 NAPLAN TESTING

It is pleasing to report that the 2017 NAPLAN results for Somerville House were again outstanding for all year levels tested.

Across all aspects of both literacy and numeracy, the School's averages and distributions were well above state and national averages, with many students receiving results in the highest achievement bands. Please [click here](#) to view results on our website.

With the expertise of our teachers, Heads of Department, Heads of School, Dean of Teaching, Learning and Innovation and Dean of Academic Planning,



Somerville House students continue to display an enthusiasm for learning and a desire to perform to the best of their academic abilities.

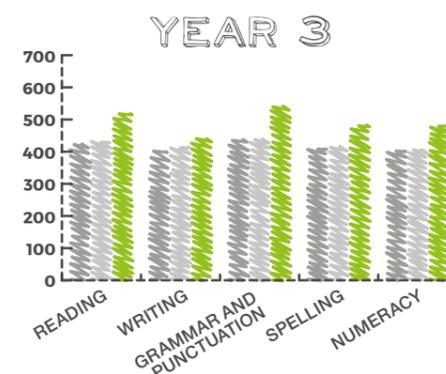
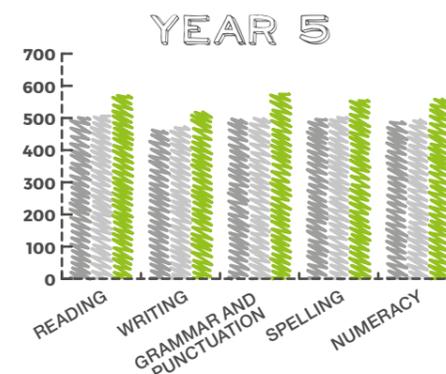
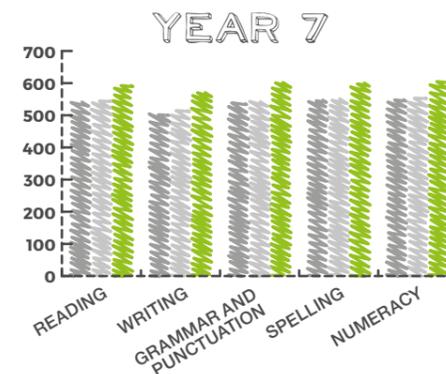
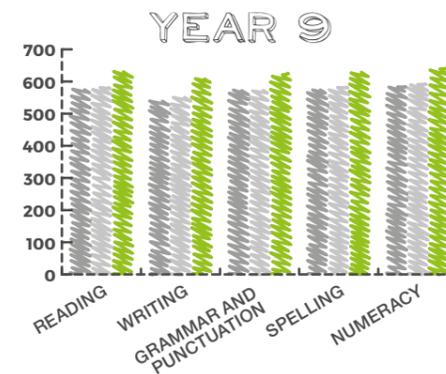
NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is a 'point in time' test that provides parents and schools with a picture of how a child is progressing at that particular stage in their schooling. These tests demonstrate how a student is progressing against national standards for all Australian children.



## PREPARING FOR NAPLAN – OUR APPROACH

We strive to prepare students for NAPLAN testing through excellent teaching and learning programs that continually strive to enhance the literacy and numeracy skills of our students. Students are provided with opportunities to familiarise themselves with the style of questions that may be asked and the test format they may be presented with. We encourage our students to do the very best they can on the day in order to demonstrate what they know and can do.

We are very proud of our students who consistently achieve outstanding results in NAPLAN testing.



 SOMERVILLE HOUSE MEAN  
 NATIONAL MEAN  
 STATE MEAN



## FOSTERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF MEDICAL RESEARCHERS

The Mater Medical Research Institute (MMRI) has worked with Somerville House Senior Biology students for over 15 years, undertaking short research projects as part of their Year 12 Extended Experimental Investigation.

This year, four of our high performing Year 12 Biology students participated in a six-week program with scientists based at the Translational Research Institute. These students researched the topics of 'Identifying Novel Genes Expressed by Dendritic Cell Subsets', and 'Why Heterotrophic Ossifications (HO) occur in patient with spinal cord injuries', presenting their findings to the MMRI.

We congratulate the students who were involved in the program this year, and thank Mater Queensland for this incredible real-world experience.



## SOMERVILLE HOUSE CANTRICE CHOIR DAWN SERVICE PERFORMANCE



The School's Premier Choir, Cantrice, were honoured to provide music for the Greenslopes Private Hospital Anzac Day Dawn Service this year.

Before the sun had even risen, our 2017 Music Captain, Isabella McDonald, began the performance with a haunting cello introduction. Cantrice's beautiful performance of Mary Elizabeth Frye's poem 'Do Not Stand At My Grave And Weep' was a very moving and poignant moment in the service.

Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO, Former Governor-General of Australia, gave the Anzac Dedication and complimented Cantrice on their exquisite contribution to the service.

The students sang beautifully and their efforts were applauded by the organisers and the thousands of others who participated in this important event.



CANTRICE RECEIVE COMMENDATION FROM DAME QUENTIN BRYCE AD CVO

# Lest We Forget

PHOTO CREDIT: GREGORY LOXTON PHOTOGRAPHY



# SOMERVILLE HOUSE

## STATE CHAMPIONS OF BRAIN BEE TEAM CHALLENGE

PHOTO CREDIT: NICK VALMAS

The 2017 Australian Brainbee Challenge saw the Somerville House team of Year 10 students competing against some of the “brainiest” teens in the state to test their knowledge of the brain and its functions.

With a proud history of achievement in the Brain Bee Challenge, this year was no exception. Congratulations to our team of students who took home first place in the Team Challenge and second place in the Individual Competition.

Held at the Queensland Brain Institute at the University of Queensland – UQ, the Australian Brain Bee Challenge (ABBC) is a competition for high school students in Year 10 to learn about the brain and its functions, learn about neuroscience research, find out about careers in neuroscience and to dispel misconceptions about neurological and mental illnesses.

# SOMERVILLE HOUSE PAVING THE WAY FOR OUR Brightest Sparks



A Somerville House academic scholarship provided Eva Wang with the opportunity to discover her passion for neuroscience.

Now a Year 12 graduate, Eva has set her sights on becoming a surgeon or medical researcher and is studying a degree in Biomedicine at the University of Melbourne.

Strongly involved in the School’s academic and science programs, Eva participated in the Brain Bee Challenge, competing against aspiring neuroscientists from around the world.

As a Year 11 student, Eva was named Australia’s Brain Bee Champion, and crowned runner up in the international Brain Bee Challenge in Washington DC.

The well-rounded, supportive and challenging learning program of Somerville House has equipped Eva with the skills and the love of learning to pursue her passion for this complex field of medicine.

“The academic environment at Somerville House prepared me well to transition into my degree. The study habits, tools, routine and guidance which I gained as a Senior

student, allowed me to easily cope with the self-directed and self-motivated learning pathways in university.” she said.

Recognised for her extraordinary academic talents, Somerville House gave Eva the opportunity to excel with an academic scholarship from Year 8 through to Year 12.

“The opportunities provided to me at Somerville House allowed me to pursue a variety of academic options, competitions and fields so I could gauge my interests for my future career.” she said.

*At Somerville House we recognise excellence and potential. Applications are now open for 2018 Academic, Music and Sports scholarships. Please visit [www.somerville.qld.edu.au](http://www.somerville.qld.edu.au) to learn more.*

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE QCAA



# Keeping it natural

## AT THE EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

The Somerville House co-educational Early Learning Centre is set in a purpose built, state-of-the-art facility, providing separate indoor and outdoor learning areas specifically for our Pre-Prep students.

Our view is wonderful and the children enjoy watching the comings and goings of the 'big girls', trains rushing by, helicopters coming into land, buildings growing and skylines changing.

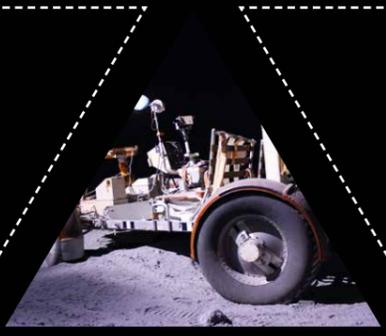
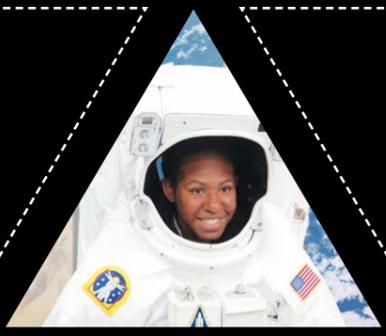
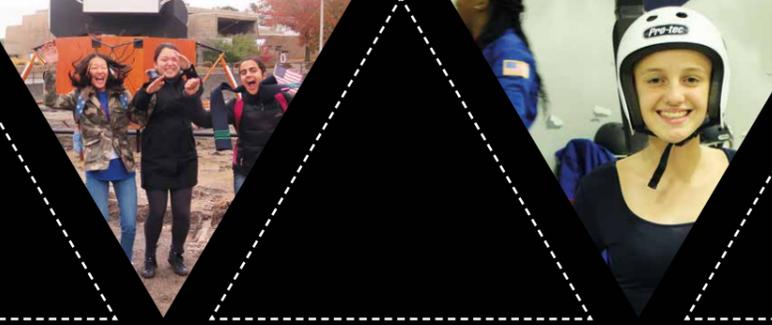
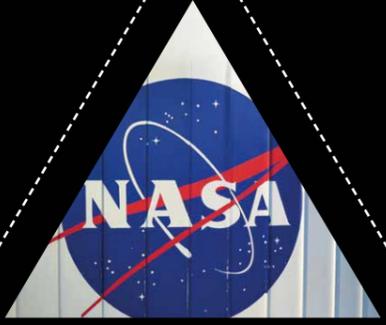
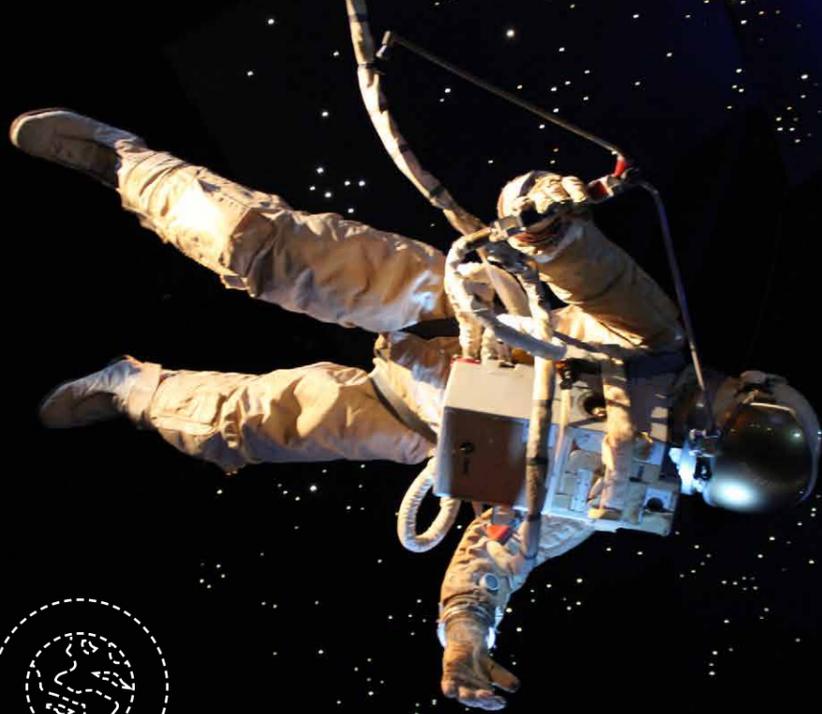
Our Pre-Prep students also enjoy playing in an outside space that brings nature

and a sense of calm. We have an array of plants, logs, rocks, sand, tree-rounds and natural materials for the children to play with.

The Pre-Prep's also have their vegetable and edible flower gardens, a worm farm and our well-loved silkie bantam chickens.

Our Pre-Prep philosophy is built on play-based inquiry learning. It aims to stimulate their thinking, actively engage them in hands-on learning and develop the skills required to be a successful learner as they move into formal schooling.

*For more information about our co-educational Pre-Prep program, please visit:*  
[www.somerville.qld.edu.au/pre-prep](http://www.somerville.qld.edu.au/pre-prep)



# SOMERVILLE HOUSE STUDENTS SET FOR NASA

Launching into the world of science and space exploration, a group of 19 Somerville House students embarked on a once-in a-lifetime expedition to the HASSE Space School in the USA.

For our aspiring young scientists, engineers and astronauts, the Space Camp provided the opportunity to get ahead, to learn and apply critical transportable skills needed for the fast-changing workforce shaped

by automation, globalisation and collaboration.

Split into two camps for Junior and Senior School students, the immersive international study program is designed to inspire a new generation of STEM-skilled leaders.

The Junior Space School is described as astronaut training for youth, and provides an engaging hands-on adventure. Touring the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas,

NASA's leading facility, our Junior Space School students learnt about the history of space travel and the development of space-related technology in the most motivational surroundings.

Our Senior Space School participants gained an even greater depth of experience into the world of STEM, visited areas of the Johnson Space Centre not accessible by the public; and engaged directly with NASA experts to design and plan their own space mission,

within a given budget. This immersive program honed each student's individual leadership, project management and communication skills.

Somerville House is pleased to announce that through the Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia (AGSA), students will once again have the opportunity to join the HASSE Space School International Study Program in 2017, inspiring them to return with big dreams and lasting confidence.



*SOMERVILLE  
HOUSE*

*welcomes*  
*COMMUNITY FOR  
2017 OPEN DAY*

Over 3,000 people walked through the gates of Somerville House on Sunday 21 May, eager to learn more about our educational programs, take a tour of our facilities and experience the warmth of our School community.

As they walked around the School exploring the wonderful range of interactive displays, demonstrations, activities, and performances, our new families were given a sense of the wonderful opportunities and learning programs enjoyed by students at Somerville House.

Lead by our Student Ambassadors, guided tours of the School departed every 15 minutes, where families were invited to ask questions, learn more about life as a student at Somerville House, and take a look inside our world-class educational facilities.

Music and cultural performances took place throughout the day, demonstrating the wonderful talent of our students, and strength of our creative programs. Somerville House Principal, Mrs Florence Kearney,

spoke about her top ten tips to consider when finding the right school for your family, while School Captain, Isabelle Coulson, shared her insights on student life, learning and culture at Somerville House.

We thank everyone for their involvement in our open day, and enormous efforts in showcasing our School and undeniable Somerville House spirit.

Instagram

Somerville\_House  
17 Graham Street, South Brisbane



2,144 likes

Somerville\_House Sr  
Day 2017 #Somer  
#OpenDay2017