ISSUE 2 | 2018

SOMERVILLE Spirit

INNOVATIVE LEARNING SPACES

IN OUR NEWLY REFURBISHED SEYMOUR LIBRARY

The Seymour Library, named in honour of The Reverend Sam Seymour, eighth Principal of Somerville House, was originally opened in 2001 as a single level learning space to serve the Middle and Senior Schools. In response to enrolment growth and the demand to create additional flexible learning areas, the vision to create a first-class, innovative library was born.

In April 2017 the existing Library collection was moved out to commence the development of a state-of-the-art tertiary inspired learning space.

Offering versatility, separate functional work spaces and the latest technologies, the Seymour Library master plan was successfully delivered within nine short months.

Architect ThomsonAdsett, transformed the existing Seymour Library to offer the flexibility to support diversity of learning modalities with the addition of two mezzanine levels in place of an existing void.

The space has been increased by 537m^2 and designed to accommodate growth.

“This project is an exemplar of maximising the residual value of an existing asset with a design that is sensitive to the character of the existing building” ThomsonAdsett.

The Seymour Library was developed to offer an Academic Research Centre, and three separate and versatile levels featuring flexible furniture, wall to floor glass windows to benefit the use of natural lighting, and rich timbers to compliment the chic textiles.

The lower level presents the extensive and regularly updated library print collection and the new Technology Infusion Room. The active learning zone offers interactive technologies including 3D printers, a virtual reality tethered system with VR capable goggles, mobile touch screens and superior sound projection facilities.

The space enables students to engage in dynamic discussions and experiment with new technology.

The central level is home to collaborative study spaces where teachers utilise group break-out areas to allow students to develop innovative ideas and promote teamwork.

Dedicated independent study zones are featured on the top level of the Seymour Library. Offering after-hours access, the independent study space provides Years 11 and 12 students access to silent study space before or after school, and is highly sought after during examination periods.

The functional design creates additional spaces to showcase student displays and exhibitions. With an average of 600 students per day, and 800 students during peak exam periods, the Library is continuing to present our students a treasured place to visit in the School.

Official Opening

OF THE REFURBISHED SEYMOUR LIBRARY

The vision to deliver world-class and innovative learning spaces for Somerville House students was celebrated at the official opening of the refurbished Seymour Library.

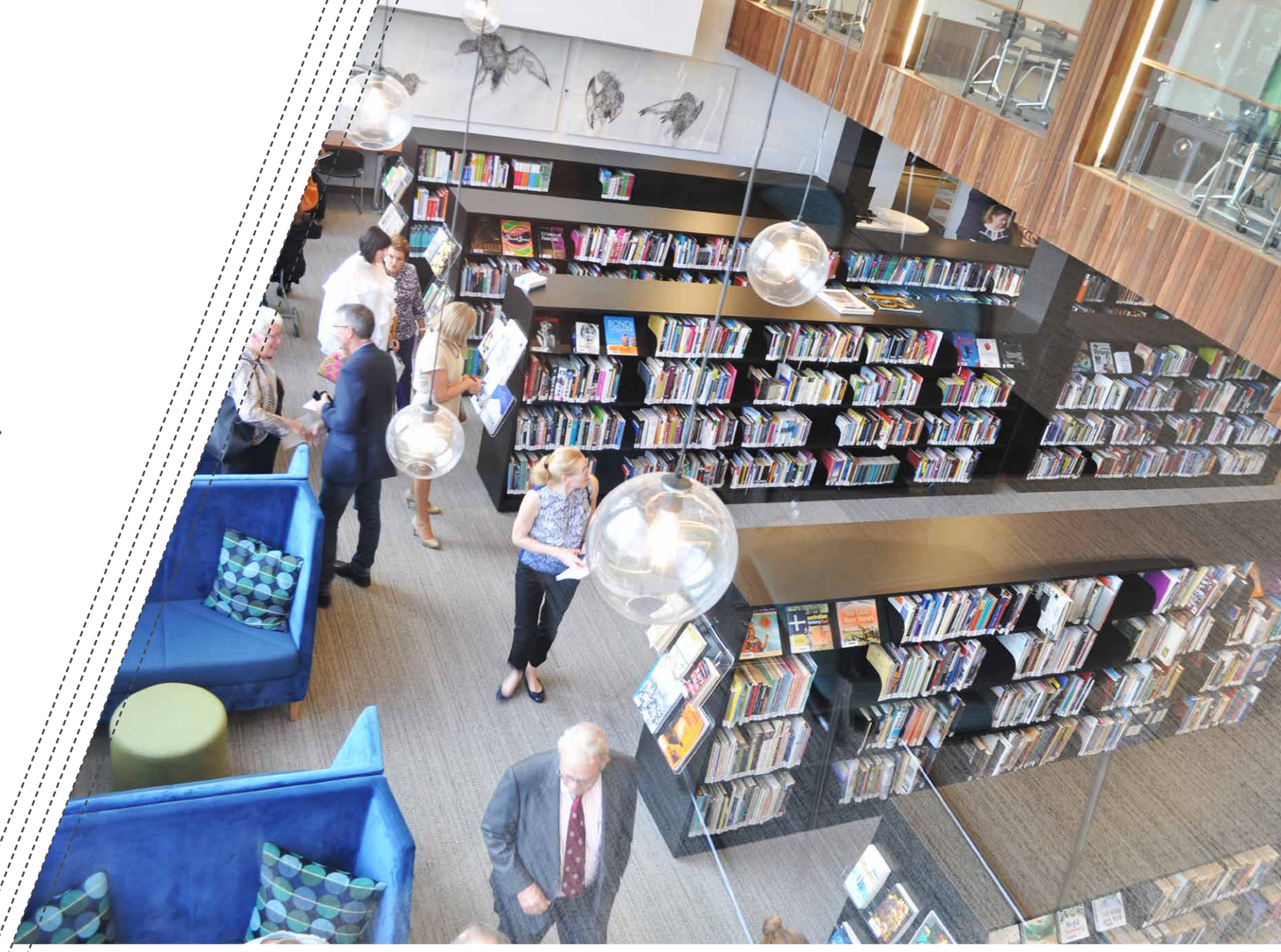
The Somerville House community gathered on Saturday 10 March 2018 to explore the state-of-the-art collaborative hub, with vibrant study zones and fluent layout designed to support the 21st century needs of our students and teachers.

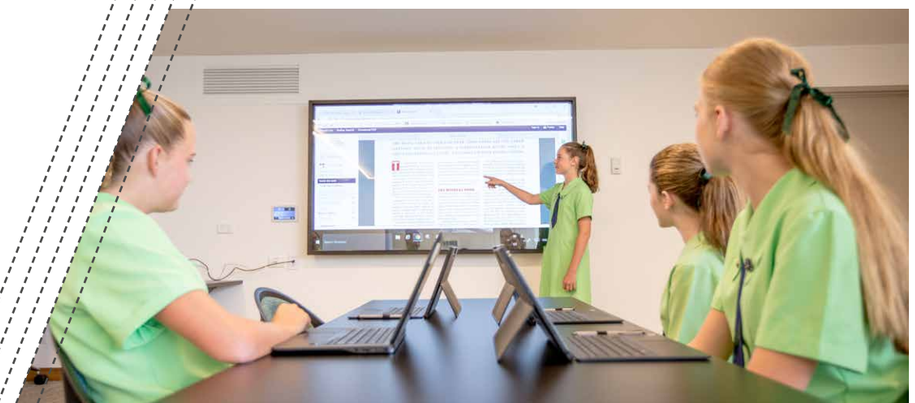
Guests were treated to performances by the Somerville House Senior String Consort who performed a beautiful selection of classical and movie favourites while they explored the beautiful, newly refurbished space.

Student ambassadors greeted guests at feature areas within the Library to showcase the unique amenities and interactive facilities.

The Seymour Library is the heart of our School's learning and teaching environment with many key features of the design comparable with leading tertiary institutions.

The refurbishment will positively impact the learning experiences of current and future generations of Somerville House students.





Scholars` Assembly

On Monday 5 February 2018 the Somerville House community came together to acknowledge the exceptional individual and collective student achievements of the Class of 2017 at the annual Scholars' Assembly.

The Scholars' Assembly acknowledges the outstanding academic excellence of our previous year's graduates, and provides an opportunity for the Somerville House community to recognise our Students' academic results.

Somerville House celebrated the success of over forty top achieving students attaining an Overall Position (OP) of 1 to 4 at the conclusion of their Senior studies. These achievements are a testament to their commitment to their studies and positive partnerships developed between parents, students and the School's outstanding teaching staff.

Notably, every Year 12 student who applied to tertiary admission centres including QTAC, received a tertiary offer, with most students receiving their first choice preference.

Each Scholar was congratulated and recognised with a presentation of their co-curricular pursuits from their time at Somerville House, and farewelled with best wishes for the future.

GOLD MEDAL WINNING ENGLISH SWIM TEAM

choose Somerville House

The Murray Evans Sports and Aquatic Centre was selected as the home base training facility for the English Swim team in their preparation for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Offering first-class facilities featuring an Olympic sized swimming pool, strength and conditioning gymnasium and a well-equipped kitchen, Team England hit the pool deck to lock down their final phases of training leading up to the Games.

Somerville House students and teachers were fortunate to meet with some of Team England's swimming greats including Ben Proud, 50m Freestyle Commonwealth Gold medal winner, Adam Peaty, 100m Breaststroke Gold medal winner, and Ellie Faulkner, Commonwealth triple Bronze medal winner. They engaged in discussion about their upcoming meets and what it takes to be a swimming champion.

The students were enthusiastic in revealing their own swimming dreams and aspirations. The celebrated swimmers offered positive and very encouraging support for the students to follow their passion.

Team England left a lasting impression on the Somerville House community. The community feedback was positive. Team England showcased outstanding team spirit and support for each other throughout their training preparation, and were very encouraging of our next generation of swimmers.

There is incalculable value to the Somerville House students in meeting their swimming idols.

The Murray Evans Sports and Aquatic Centre Manager, Ms Fran McCabe said, "Team England were impressed with the superior quality training and competition facilities offered at our Centre, and were an absolute pleasure to host."

The Murray Evans Sports and Aquatic Centre is enjoyed by students and members of the public seven days a week, offering superior quality training and competition facilities.

Valentine's Day

HEART FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

Somerville House students celebrated an early Valentine's Day in support of the National Heart Foundation of Australia on Friday 9 February 2018.

With sparkly face painted hearts and red ribbons in their hair, students kicked off their morning tea with a heart themed cupcake fundraiser, whilst listening to love songs and dancing on the oval in true Valentine's Day spirit.

The afternoon saw the Year 12 students enjoy a friendly game of touch football against Anglican Church Grammar School (Churchie).

Somerville House began the game with a flying start. However Churchie came back more strongly, eventually taking out first place for a second-year title.

Through the organisation and effort of the Somerville House Community Engagement group, and the contribution of the Year 12s terrific baking skills, the group raised over $1300 which will help the Heart Foundation save lives and improve health through funding world-class cardiovascular research. It was a wonderful day that was enjoyed by all.

WORLD-CLASS BOARDING ACCOMMODATION

Offering a new era in boarding accommodation and the caring and harmonious spirit of our Boarding community, Somerville House provides access to world-class opportunities.

Somerville House embraces a warm, supportive environment where each Boarder is encouraged to balance structure and routine with the freedom to explore and develop individually.

Our Boarding community is composed of girls from diverse nationalities; travelling from around Australia and the world to take advantage of the renowned academic, cultural and sporting facilities at Somerville House.

Opened in 2017, the new Bauer Building presents high quality twin share bedrooms for Year 11 students, and single bedrooms with shared ensuites for Year 12 students. Our Boarders enjoy contemporary air-conditioned facilities, purpose-built to cater for the study and lifestyle needs of the girls and considerate of the required balance between personal privacy and cohesive communal living.

A past Year 12 Boarder described her experience being one of the first group to experience the Bauer Building as “It’s an amazing honour to be living in such a lovely building, and I am very excited to spend my last year of schooling here”.

In Somerville House tradition, all Boarders from Years 6 to 12 gather each night to say Grace in the elegant and expansive dining hall, known as the ‘Bentley Room’, featuring an impressive commercial kitchen, timber floors and floor to ceiling glass walls.

The School’s Big Sister Program, with Senior Boarders responsible for a ‘little sister’, ensures that new Boarders experience a warm and welcoming transition into their new environment. Embracing life-long friendships, a sense of belonging and a shared commitment to the fullness of life is celebrated in the Somerville House Boarding House.

71ST ANNUAL Choral Festival

Inaugurated in 1946, the first Choral Festival was embraced as a Senior School Interhouse Eisteddfod, where each House performed a succession of compositions. Macarthur was the first House to be victorious and embed their name in Somerville House Choral Festival history.

Somerville House Interhouse teams have passionately contested the honour of victoriously securing the title every year since, with the exception of 1948 to 1949; Macarthur celebrating triumph the greatest number of years.

In 1950, Mr D J Drysale donated the Honour Plaque for Choir singing, which was honorarily named the Drysdale Shield. The Drysale Shield was presented for the first time to Franklin House on the evening of Tuesday 20 June 1950 at City Hall at the Third Annual Choral Festival.

On Friday 23 February 2018 Somerville House commemorated the 71st Annual Senior School Choral Festival. The evening was a culmination of many months of preparation from conductors and their accompanists, performers, House Captains and House Co-ordinators.

The Valmai Pigeon Performing Arts Centre (VPAC) was filled to capacity with members of the Somerville House community enjoying a wonderful night of celebrations, presented with beautiful music, House spirit and outstanding entertainment by our students.

Chisholm House took out first place for the evening and were awarded the Drysdale Shield, with Osburn House placing second and Gilmore House receiving third place.

The Best Conductor for the night was awarded to Year 12 student, Yejee, and Best Accompanist presented to Year 12 student, Julia, who both executed outstanding performances.

A special acknowledgement to Mr Trevor Jones, Lecturer in Musical Theatre at the Queensland Conservatorium, and Ms Julie Christiansen, Founder and Artistic Director of Voices of Birralee, who adjudicated the evening.

The Choral Festival fosters a close connection between students within each House and contributes to a positive start to the year in the Senior School.

Japanese Exchange

It was an experience of a lifetime for Year 12 students, Imogen and Brooke, who spent two months on an exchange at Mejiro High School in Tokyo, Japan.

By Imogen and Brooke

During the Christmas holidays, we were fortunate enough to have the experience of going on a two-month exchange to Mejiro High School in Tokyo, Japan. We spent four weeks at school where we participated in Art, Calligraphy, Physical Education (PE), English, Music and Japanese classes.

Every Wednesday we went on a school excursion which included trips to Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku, NHK Studio Park, Studio Ghibli, Tokyo Tower and the National Museum of Tokyo.

We experienced both traditional Japanese meals and new popular favourites such as light bulb soda.

We were able to experience Christmas and the traditional celebrations of New Year with our host family, as well as gain great insight into Japanese culture and lifestyle.

Year 12 students, Alison and Joanna, spent three weeks visiting Koyo High School in Omura, Nagasaki.

By Alison and Joanna

In December 2017 we were honoured to have the opportunity to go on a three-week exchange to Japan. We attended Koyo High School in Omura, Nagasaki. Koyo is a vocational school that offers very unique, practical courses such as cooking, beauty, child care, patisserie, nursing, aesthetics and more.

We enjoyed going to places such as the Tokyo Sky Tree, Ueno Zoo, Asakusa and Disneyland. We also travelled to Kyoto with our host sisters for a weekend, and experienced the more traditional side of Japanese culture.

Overall, the exchange was an incredibly valuable experience.

LITERACY IN THE Early Years

With the focus being on students, the learning that occurs in the Junior School has quality learning and teaching at its centre. The Junior School curriculum is focussed on building a strong foundation of literacy and numeracy across a wide range of learning areas.

The Early Years classrooms are literacy-rich environments. Somerville House students are exposed to a variety of texts for reading, writing, listening and creating. This environment not only supports the curriculum standards, but also provides a setting that encourages and supports speaking, listening, reading and writing in a variety of ways.

ORAL LANGUAGE

The development of oral language skills underpins our literacy programs in the Early Years. These skills are the foundation for literacy success and support students to become successful readers, writers and spellers. In our Early Years classrooms, oral language is embedded in each and every learning experience.

READING

Reading is a thinking task. Effective readers do more than simply decode the words in a text. Effective readers think about what they have read and they know how to use their prior knowledge to access, understand, use and evaluate a text. Our aim is to develop students who read for understanding, for information and for enjoyment.

WRITING

Daily writing experiences, either planned or spontaneous, promote positive attitudes to writing and assist children to develop concepts about writing and an understanding of themselves as writers. Students explore different writing genres and experiment with sentence structure, vocabulary choice, and other language choices. Students develop writing skills, including spelling, punctuation and proofreading. More importantly, they develop an understanding of why people write and how writing can be used to inform, persuade, describe or even entertain.

Open MORNING 2018

The welcome flags were raised, and green and blue balloons lined the path to greet prospective families at the Somerville House inaugural Open Morning on Friday 25 May 2018.

An initiative to showcase the outstanding educational opportunities and first-class facilities offered at Somerville House, Open Morning presented a concentrated morning session to families as an intermediate experience to our bi-annual Open Day.

Principal, Dr Ness Goodwin, and the Heads of School addressed families in the Davenport Theatre, before groups departed with their very eager, and proudly appointed Years 6 and 11 Student Leaders for a personalised guided tour of the campus. Groups were presented the opportunity to observe a learning day in action, explore elements of our academic, pastoral, spiritual and co-curricular programs, and ask all their questions of the student ambassadors.

The tours concluded with a delightful morning tea held in the Honour Room where families enjoyed intermingling with Somerville House Leadership and Admissions teams and engaging with other families, whilst enjoying sweeping views of the city.

If you were unable to attend our Open Morning, yet wish to find out more about the educational opportunities at Somerville House, please contact our Enrolments Office on 3248 9267 or enrolments@somerville.qld.edu.au.

ASPIRE TO BE BOLD

Somerville House plays an important role in educating young women with values for life. The School holds strong Christian beliefs, which is exemplified through the motto, *Honour Before Honours.*

School Captain, Penelope, and Vice-Captains, Joanna and Chloe, were elected this year to represent Somerville House and lead the student body through 2018.

The theme for the year is 'Aspire to be Bold', to shift the notion of conformity to societal norms and expectations. School Captain, Penelope reflects on what this means to her.

"Being bold means to be confident, courageous and committed to stepping out of our comfort zones. We chose this theme to encourage the student body to try new things and express their individuality."

Vice-Captain Chloe considers, "As a united school, if we are bold, then a ripple effect will be seen throughout the wider school community. In our actions, we hope to inspire others to be their bold selves and feel unequivocally supported in doing so."

When asked what inspired them to nominate for the leadership role, Vice-Captain Joanna revealed, "I want to listen to every girl and let her know that she is valued and respected, and being Vice-Captain gives me the chance to extend that even more."

When asked about her future aspirations, School Captain, Penelope would like to continue studying Chinese and has an interest in Economics and International Relations.

"As School Captain I wish to make each girl's journey though the School as amazing as mine. I wish to lead the Year 12s to achieve their best in their final year, uniting us and showing the younger girls how powerful teams can be," said Penelope.

BOARDING AT *BEEF*

Beef Australia, a week-long expo held every three years, is a main event for Rockhampton and the broader community to come together to experience the advancements in agriculture and rural living, and to explore the possibilities in education and boarding.

The Somerville House On Tour team visited Beef Australia 2018 to showcase what Somerville House Boarding has to offer to rural and remote families. Head of Boarding, Ms Madonna Hennessy expressed, “a lot of our Boarders come from country Queensland, so the expo offers an ideal time to meet current families, past students, as well as new families who are considering Boarding at Somerville House.”

Principal, Dr Ness Goodwin, visited Beef Australia for a special community event for friends of the School on Wednesday 9 May 2018, hosted in conjunction with Brisbane Boys College and Clayfield College. The community lunch was filled with Old Girls, current families, enrolled and new families who valued the occasion as a chance to connect with the Somerville House spirit.

The Somerville House On Tour team are visiting remote and regional areas throughout 2018 and value connecting with our communities. Somerville House extends an invitation to local families and friends to join them On Tour. Find out where they are visiting next www.somerville.qld.edu.au/boarding/somerville-house-on-tour