

# IMPACT OF GIVING

## 2023



Winifred West Schools  
FOUNDATION



The cover shot features Kindergarten students with the new play equipment at the Frensham Junior School's playground – story starts on page 8.

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**Geoff Marsh**  
Head of Frensham  
Head of Frensham Schools

# FROM THE HEAD



*We understand that philanthropy is not just about financial support, it's about investing in the future of our school and empowering generations to come.*

For some time now, we have been speaking about growing a culture of philanthropy at Frensham Schools. In 2023 that growth happened exponentially, in the most joyous and optimistic of ways.

As I reflect on 2023, it is with gratitude that I share with you this year's *Impact of Giving* magazine, outlining the impact Foundation's support has on our students, staff, and facilities at Frensham Schools.

We understand that philanthropy is not just about financial support, it's about investing in the future of our school and empowering generations to come.

For some, the concept of fundraising can sometimes be misunderstood. Yet it is crucial to recognise that Frensham Schools relies on these efforts for both community-building and long-term sustainability. The richness of our lives is

not simply defined by what we possess, but by how we use our resources to imagine what might be possible and to make a difference in the lives of others.

The joy derived from giving, along with the transformative impact it has, cannot be overstated.

We've made great strides in fostering a culture of giving within our community, but there's still work to be done in communicating our needs. I trust you'll find inspiration in exploring the profound impact of philanthropy showcased in this year's issue of the *Impact of Giving*.

**Geoff Marsh**

*The richness of our lives is not simply defined by what we possess, but by how we use our resources to imagine what might be possible and to make a difference in the lives of others.*

IMPACT OF GIVING 2023



# FROM THE CHAIR

Scott Staniforth

Chair

Winifred West Schools Foundation



*Each of the events held this year symbolised the vibrant and positive culture of philanthropy that is growing at our school, and showed the collective impact we can all have when we unite.*

It is with immense pride that I welcome you to the 2023 edition of the *Impact of Giving* magazine. As Chair of Winifred West Schools Foundation, it gives me great personal satisfaction to lead an organisation that has achieved so much through the power of community and philanthropy.

This year's edition shines a light on the remarkable spirit of our Frensham Schools community when we come together to support a range of initiatives within our schools.

Several Foundation events were staged in 2023, including our annual Winifred West Legacy Lunch, the Friends of Gib Gate Winter Dinner, the black-tie Foundation Dinner, and the Iris Country Fair that drew over 5,000 people from our community and the wider Southern Highlands community.

Each of the events held this year symbolised the vibrant and positive culture of philanthropy that is growing at our school, and showed the collective impact we can all have when we unite.

So, what transpired? Within these pages, you'll delve into the concrete rewards of our collective endeavours. From the installation of new play equipment at Frensham Junior School, to the

## IMPACT OF GIVING 2023

completion of our cutting-edge two-court Sports Hall, and the widespread support of Foundation's Bursary Fund for our students, the effects are tangible, something we can all take pride in.

Furthermore, Foundation's commitment to enhancing our teachers' professional growth enables the delivery of outstanding opportunities for our students, thereby enriching their educational journey.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all the Directors of the Foundation Board for their invaluable volunteer service and wise counsel. Your dedication has been instrumental in expanding and enhancing Foundation's support for Frensham Schools.

To our donors, I offer Foundation's profound thanks for your support. Your generosity fuels our mission to support excellence in education at Frensham Schools.

**Scott Staniforth**

*Each of the events held this year symbolised the vibrant and positive culture of philanthropy that is growing at our school.*



Iris Country Fair  
The Marketplace





SCALING NEW  
HEIGHTS THROUGH  
GIVING

Frensham Junior School's  
Winter Dinner

COVER STORY



*Foundation generously partnered with the guests, matching all funds raised up to \$50,000, to help make a lasting impact on the Junior School.*

**Pictured is the new play equipment at the Junior School's playground.**

Amid the frosty embrace of winter, the Frensham Junior School community gathered with warmth in their hearts, for a night of connection at the Families of Gib Gate (FOGG) Winter Dinner.

This event held special significance as it aimed to bring everyone together for a wonderful celebration of the Junior School community, as well as to raise funds for the new play equipment, which will enrich the playground experience of all students.

The Winter Dinner was a real team effort and the atmosphere buzzed with parents demonstrating their commitment to enhancing the educational journey of their children. Foundation generously partnered with the guests, matching all funds raised up to \$50,000, to help make a lasting impact on the Junior School.



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*As the night unfolded,  
it became evident that  
the FOGG Winter  
Dinner was a true  
celebration of community  
and what can be  
achieved when  
we come together to  
make a difference.*

A highlight of the evening was the auction of children's class artworks, each piece a testament to creativity and imagination. The spirited bidding that ensued showcased the community's desire to provide enriching opportunities for the Junior School's young learners.

Adding to the evening's fun were performances by the acclaimed duo, Jimmy and Mahalia Barnes, whose soulful melodies resonated with attendees, further enhancing the joyful spirit of the evening.

As the night unfolded, it became evident that the FOGG Winter Dinner was a true celebration of community and what can be achieved when we come together to make a difference. Guests at the dinner not only supported the acquisition of the new play equipment, but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and shared purpose.

The impact of this memorable evening laid the foundation for countless moments of joy, growth, and exploration as the Junior School children embark on wonderful adventures, scaling new heights in both play and learning.

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# HOW SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

A community's embrace

## IMPACT OF GIVING 2023

Sophie Hassall's educational journey blossomed, after support from Foundation's Bursary Fund, as well as a wonderful community that embraced her.

Starting at Gib Gate in Year 5 at the tender age of only 10 years old, Sophie has very special memories of that time. It was initially quite difficult for her to settle in because her mother, Penny Hassall (Feilen, 1987), an Old Girl of Frensham, had recently passed away. However, the Frensham community embraced Sophie, becoming a supportive family for her during this difficult time. Sophie remembers, 'They cared for me so well.'

In order to support Sophie in her start at Gib Gate, her father James was travelling back and forward from the family farm

*Sophie Hassall's educational journey blossomed, after support from Foundation's Bursary Fund, as well as a wonderful community that embraced her.*



Sophie (left) with her cousin, Arabella Whitehead (right), on their first day at Gib Gate

in Gilgandra. When he couldn't be in the Highlands, Sophie lived with her cousins who were based in the Southern Highlands.

Boarding at Frensham from Year 6, Sophie found solace in the close-knit community of the boarding house. As the youngest boarder in the School, she discovered the House's unique charm, as well as the assurance that everyone within its walls were family to her and could be relied upon. 'If I needed help, I was confident that I would always be looked after,' Sophie said.

**Left: Sophie Hassall (2023) with Merrilee Harris, Head of Careers at Frensham**

This sense of unity, particularly vital for rural girls like Sophie, created an environment where shared experiences bridged the gap for Sophie between home and school. She said, 'Frensham caters so well for girls who can't go home at weekends—the other girls are always there for you.'

Our motto 'In Love Serve One Another' took on profound significance for Sophie. 'You learn from the very beginning that as a Frensham girl, you are expected to take the skills that you acquire at school and use them to make a difference in other people's lives.'

It is also serving the internal Frensham community that is important. For Sophie, this meant assisting her fellow students in reaching their goals. She said, 'I enjoyed helping other girls with their study. For example, if they didn't understand something, like Maths, you just stepped in and helped, and you do this without expecting something in return.'

Sophie's Frensham experience extended beyond academics, with co-curricular activities and sports offering a diverse range of opportunities.

'The thing I loved above all else was ceramics, which I did from Year 7 to Year 12. It was the highlight of my time at Frensham, and a real passion for me.'

*Sophie said, 'I enjoyed helping other girls with their study. For example, if they didn't understand something, like Maths, you just stepped in and helped, and you do this without expecting something in return.'*

I'm a creative person and Frensham really catered for that. In sport, I had the opportunity to try new things like water polo, which was something I had always wanted to do.'

Sophie added, 'I also very much appreciated the way Frensham supported my mental health journey. After losing Mum, and then living through COVID, Frensham really helped me to get my work in on time, get back on track, and achieve my goals.'

Teacher and mentor, Merrilee Harris, played a crucial role in Sophie's Year 12 experience in 2023. Sophie said that Mrs Harris provided invaluable guidance and support, which showcases the significance of the teacher-student bond at Frensham during that all-important final year at school.



Sisters Emilie (2021) (left) and Sophie (right)  
with mum Penny Hassall (Feilén, 1987)

## WINIFRED WEST SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

A marvellous final step in Sophie's Frensham journey was being awarded the Cuppaidge Visual Arts Scholarship at Final Prayers in 2023. This award is in recognition of Sophie's passion for the Arts and her artistic talent.

The Cuppaidge Scholarship will allow Sophie to travel to an art museum of her choice, anywhere in the world, and to be immersed in that experience. You can read more about the Cuppaidge Scholarship in this issue of the *Impact of Giving*.

Sophie is now living on campus at Queen's College in Melbourne University, studying a Bachelor of Design, majoring in Architecture. As she embarks on the next chapter in her life, Sophie reflects on the transformative impact of her Frensham experience. Her resilience, nurtured by the love of the Frensham community and Foundation's support, will see Sophie make a lasting difference in the wider community for years to come.

*Sophie's resilience, nurtured by the love of the Frensham community and Foundation's support, will see Sophie make a lasting difference in the wider community for years to come.*



**Right: Sophie with her father, James Hassall, on her first day at Queen's College.**



**THE WINIFRED  
WEST LEGACY**

For the stories yet to be told



THE  
WINIFRED  
WEST  
LEGACY

ANNUAL LUNCH  
Thursday 11 May 2023



*Importantly, The Winifred West Legacy acknowledges the long history of bequest gifts to the School and formalises that by bringing people together as a group.*

Frensham Schools has a strong history, much of which has been enabled by the far-sighted generosity of others. We are now building on this tradition through our bequest group, *The Winifred West Legacy*.

Importantly, *The Winifred West Legacy* acknowledges the long history of bequest gifts to the School and formalises that by bringing people together as a group.

An annual lunch is held in order to thank our Custodians of *The Winifred West Legacy* who have chosen to support the future of the School through a bequest gift in their will. The event was held at the beautiful Bendooley Estate and the atmosphere was warm and inviting, with guests mingling and chatting over glasses of sparkling wine.

The lunch itself was a true feast for the senses. The catering team at Bendooley had pulled out all the stops, and guests were treated to a mouth-watering array of dishes, from delicate canapés to succulent roast meats.

Adding to the day was a spectacular performance from the Frensham Madrigals, as well as speeches from our Chair of Foundation, Scott Staniforth, along with our Interim Head of School and a Custodian herself, Julie Gillick.



Frensham Madrigals performed at the Lunch

There was a real sense of community spirit in the air, and we were extremely grateful to Paul and Katja Berkelouw, who generously contributed to the staging of the event.

One of our Custodians shared, ‘Attending this annual lunch is always a highlight of my year. The act of giving through a bequest gift is so rewarding, because it has shifted my perception from “I need people to help me”, to focus on our motto of In Love Serve One Another - that is, “What can I do for others?”. This outward perspective brings me a great sense of fulfilment.’

As a special thank you to our much-valued Custodians, these guests were presented with a gift, which was a small token of our appreciation for their ongoing support. We are inspired by the vision for the bequest gifts of our Custodians, which provide an enduring means of supporting the School.

Overall, the annual lunch for *The Winifred West Legacy* was a truly memorable event, which will be remembered fondly by all who attended.

Pictured on page 19: from the Frensham’s end of year production of *The Addams Family*

WINIFRED WEST SCHOOLS FOUNDATION



## THE IMPACT OF GIVING 2023



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### THE WINIFRED WEST LEGACY LUNCH – 11 MAY 2023

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Table at the Lunch                      | 9. Robert Frost and Elinor Crossing                | 17. Emma Fox, Jodi Studdy and Peta Melki                                     |
| 2. Address by Scott Staniforth             | 10. Sudi Horsfield and Pook Austin                 | 18. Paul Berkelouw and Scott Staniforth                                      |
| 3. Address by Julie Gillick                | 11. Richard Melki and David Horsfield              | 19. Amanda Paradice, Christopher Hunt, Tina Griffin-Hunt and Katja Berkelouw |
| 4. Richard Griffin and Tony Morrison       | 12. Julie Gillick, Caroline Waugh and Sue Morrison | 20. Annabel and Robert Beith with Jo and Mark Hawker                         |
| 5. Cathy Mathews and Tina Griffin-Hunt     | 13. David Gauchat and Patrick Duck                 |  |
| 6. Peter and Anne White                    | 14. Jackie Dalton and Helen Gauchat                |  |
| 7. Edward Studdy and Kristie Phelan        | 15. Susan Upton and Jay Griffin                    |  |
| 8. Gillian McCracken and Elizabeth Charles | 16. Tony and Sue Morrison with Jackie Dalton       |  |

## WELCOME!

### Introducing two of our newest Custodians



In the heart of Frensham lies a tapestry of stories woven by generations of dedicated individuals.

Among these threads of commitment and loyalty, the names Richard and Jay Griffin stand out as pillars of unwavering support for Frensham. Their recent decision to make a bequest gift and join *The Winifred West Legacy* as Custodians marks not only a gesture of generosity—it is also a testament to the profound impact that Frensham has had on their lives.

Richard and Jay's connection with Frensham runs deep. Richard's service as a past Governor and Director of Foundation

speaks volumes about his commitment to nurturing the School's growth and prosperity. Jay's roots delve even further, harking proudly back to her days as an Old Girl from the Class of 1947.

Their belief in our school is exemplified by three generations of the Griffin family now having attended Frensham. Jay was followed by their daughter Tina (1989), as well as granddaughters Lily (2021) and Laura (2023).

The decision by Richard and Jay to make a bequest gift and become Custodians of *The Winifred West Legacy* is not just a financial contribution—it is a commitment to safeguarding Frensham's future and ensuring that its values endure for generations to come.

In speaking with Richard and Jay regarding why they decided to make a bequest gift, Richard shared his thoughts with us:

*'In the current environment of social disruption towards many of our institutions, their values, and in some cases their very existence, it is timely to reflect on the values of Frensham and the future of Winifred West Schools.'*

*Having now witnessed three generations of Frensham students spanning the years from 1943 to 2023, being mother (my wife Jay, née Robinson), daughter (Tina) and*

## THE IMPACT OF GIVING 2023



Jay Griffin (Robinson, 1947) with daughter Tina Griffin-Hunt (Griffin, 1989)



Jay with granddaughters Lily Hunt (2021) and Laura Hunt (2023)

*granddaughters (Laura and Lily) one can observe the fruits of a rounded education, where the values, which should guide how we live our lives, are instilled into our young children.*

*It is imperative that such values, of which Frensham holds dear, should be carried forward into the future and the institution itself be made secure for years to come.*

*Jay, as an Old Girl, a parent and grandparent, has always had a belief that Frensham has been and will continue to be a power for good well into the future.*

*The best way that we, as the older generation, can help is to support The Winifred West Legacy is with a bequest.'*

Richard Griffin AM

***Richard and Jay's story is not just one of philanthropy, but of a shared journey, where past, present and future converge in a timeless dedication to excellence and service. Foundation is profoundly grateful for their enduring support.***

*It is imperative that such values, of which Frensham holds dear, should be carried forward into the future and the institution itself be made secure for years to come.*

## NURSING A PASSION

Chris Whitehouse OAM (Circuitt, 1956), 3 March 1939 – 16 July 2023

*In Love Serve One Another:  
Frensham's values and educational  
ethos are based on the philosophical  
position that our moral purpose in life  
is to develop our talents and use them  
for the common good—to make a  
meaningful contribution to the world.*

Chris Whitehouse, a member of Frensham's class of 1956, is the embodiment of the Frensham philosophy, 'In Love Serve One Another'.

To hear the story of Chris' upbringing, her life as a student at Frensham where she developed a deep admiration for Winifred West, and then going on to a distinguished career in nursing, is to understand the story of a woman who quietly went about making a difference in the lives of many people.

Chris grew up on a huge cattle and sheep station north of Hay, in NSW. She said, 'Over the years we grew to love the plains and the wonderful sunsets.'

Like many rural children, the challenges of life on the land developed a resilience and fortitude in Chris that stood her in good stead later in life. She remembers arriving home one day at a young age, to find the family property flooded. The children were taken down a muddy track to find horses waiting. Chris said 'we had to splash our way home', often having to swim the horses through washouts.



*To hear the story of Chris' life ...  
is to understand the story of  
a woman who quietly went about  
making a difference in the lives  
of many people.*

*Like many rural children, the challenges of life on the land developed a resilience and fortitude in Chris that stood her in good stead later in life.*



Life on the land was filled with all sorts of creatures—snakes, a wide variety of wetland birdlife and many much-loved pets, including Edwine the emu. And, of course, there were the ravages of droughts and bushfires to be confronted.

Chris said of the droughts, ‘We would see a huge, dark, red cloud forming and there would be a race to close all the windows. The whole sky would darken, and you had to turn on all the lights to see inside the house, but what excitement when the first drops of rain hit the dusty claypans and transformed the country with bountiful feed for the stock.’

In terms of her schooling, at the age of only eight years old, Chris followed in the steps of her mother, Jean Circuit (1926) and went to board at Frensham.

After the fire of 1939, she was one of the very first young boarders in Hartfield. Chris also had a brother at Tudor House, so Winifred West would get Chris and her brother together during the school year, generally to play cricket. Chris had high praise for both Winifred West and Phyllis Clubbe—‘they were wonderful,’ she said.

Chris said that she wasn’t particularly academic at school, but loved painting and drawing, so Miss West and Miss Clubbe encouraged her in these endeavours, which left an indelible mark on her life.

Upon finishing at Frensham, Chris undertook nursing at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. During this time, she also learned to fly at Moorabin. Chris, her brother and their next-door neighbour purchased a Tiger Moth and flew it home on Chris’ days off. They used the plane for cattle spotting, and for bringing in supplies during the floods.

After completing her registered nurse training, Chris worked on a cattle station in the Northern Territory, ‘I had an affinity with the land, and I liked working with Aboriginal people,’ Chris said.

Chris subsequently worked at Hay Hospital before she was married, spent three years in Tasmania as a clinic sister, and had a stint in England. She was Director of Nursing for the Association for the Blind (Elanora Home), and then went on to be Director of Nursing at the Kingston Centre for six years.

## WINIFRED WEST SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Her passion in nursing has been gerontology, 'I became vitally interested when I started to work in that area. It was not seen to be glamorous, or a form of nursing people liked doing,' stated Chris.

After many years in senior roles, she went back and undertook hands-on clinical care looking after people with dementia. She spoke of reducing her patients' agitation and giving them 'as good a quality of life as possible.'

'My major philosophy is caring about people and helping them to be as independent as possible, empowering, rather than taking over their lives.'

In 2000, Chris was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) as part of the Australia Day Honours, for her 42 years in nursing, particularly in the field of gerontology. Chris was a proud mother to Andrew, Timothy and Fiona, and was also a proud grandmother to eight beautiful grandchildren.



*My major philosophy is caring about people and helping them to be as independent as possible, empowering, rather than taking over their lives.*





# UNDERSTANDING THE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

Laying the foundation for the future

## WINIFRED WEST SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

**A**t Frensham Schools, philanthropy has long been a cornerstone of our community's strength and longevity. Recent conversations with parents and Old Girls highlighted the need for clarity regarding the Voluntary Contribution on the School Fee Statement.

Here, we aim to explain why this \$250 optional payment appears, where the funds go, and how they benefit our Schools and our students.

### **What is the Voluntary Contribution?**

The Voluntary Contribution is a fully tax-deductible donation, directed exclusively to the Frensham Schools Building Fund. This fund is important in maintaining and enhancing our facilities at Frensham Schools, ensuring that we can provide a high-quality educational environment for our students.

### **Why does the School need these funds?**

Frensham Schools relies on fundraising to bridge the gap between operational costs and the additional expenditure needed for infrastructure improvements.

School fees and government grants cover the day-to-day expenses, such as salaries and maintenance.

*Frensham Schools relies on fundraising to bridge the gap between operational costs and the additional expenditure needed for infrastructure improvements.*



**Frensham School's latest project is the Frensham Sports Hall**



## IMPACT OF GIVING 2023

The Voluntary Contribution supports larger capital projects, which are essential for the long-term development of our school.

### Philanthropy versus Fees

It is useful to understand the difference between the assistance provided by school fees, voluntary contributions, and philanthropy:

- **School fees:** Mandatory payments for operational costs.
- **Voluntary Contribution:** An optional, fully tax-deductible donation to the Frensham Schools Building Fund, for infrastructure projects.
- **Philanthropy:** Encompasses all forms of giving, including major gifts, bequests, the Annual Appeal and donations raised through Foundation's events.

*The Voluntary Contribution is a fully tax-deductible donation, directed exclusively to the Frensham Schools Building Fund.*

### The Role of Foundation

Our Foundation, established in 1980, raises funds through events like the Foundation Dinner, Iris Country Fair and Giving Day. These funds are directed to two key areas:

- Foundation's Bursary Fund: Supports students to attend Frensham.
- Foundation's Building Fund: Supports capital projects at the School.

### Impact of parent Voluntary Contributions

In 2023, about 40% of our parents contributed through the Voluntary Contribution on the Fee Statement, raising over \$90,000. These funds were allocated to significant projects such as:

- Major classroom upgrades at Frensham Junior School (*see p.29 and below*).
- Construction of the new two-court Sports Hall at Frensham.





The Centenary Pool

Previous contributions have helped to fund the state-of-the-art Centenary Pool, benefiting students from Preschool to Year 12, as well as a number of other major building projects at both Frensham and Frensham Junior School.

### **Building a Culture of Philanthropy**

A thriving culture of philanthropy is not just about financial contributions, but about fostering a sense of community and shared purpose. Support provided by our current parents through the Voluntary Contribution ensures that we can continue to provide exceptional facilities and opportunities for our students.

If you have further questions or need more information about how your donations are used, please contact our Director of Philanthropy, Jackie Dalton. Your generosity makes a significant impact, and we are grateful for your support.



*A thriving culture of philanthropy is not just about financial contributions, but about fostering a sense of community and shared purpose.*



# A NIGHT OF IMPACT

Foundation's Fundraising Dinner



*The evening was filled with not just lively conversations and laughter, but a shared sense of belonging that epitomised the spirit of the Frensham Schools community that we hold so dear.*

Four years have passed since Foundation was last able to host its regular fundraising dinner. COVID had certainly taken its toll and our community was relishing the opportunity to come back together in person for the first time since 2019, for a night of fun and fundraising.

It was with immense gratitude that Foundation reflects upon the incredible turnout of nearly 200 individuals, who graced the event with their presence at this black-tie event. The evening was filled with not just lively conversations and laughter, but a shared sense of belonging that epitomised the spirit of the Frensham Schools community that we hold so dear.

Live Auctions infused the atmosphere with energy, Silent Auctions beckoned bidders to explore hidden treasures, and the grand raffle item of a Noosa tropical holiday drew massive support. These activities were only made possible through the unwavering support of our wonderful donors—thank you!

All funds raised on the evening went towards Foundation's support of the Olympic Standard flooring of the new two-court Sports Hall. This new facility will have a transformative impact on our school community. With its construction, all students—both in our Junior School, as well as Frensham—will benefit immensely.

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*Importantly, the support given to Foundation at this event has not only created a lasting impact within our school—it will also benefit the broader Southern Highlands community.*

When anyone involved with Foundation’s dinner visits this new facility and sees the beautiful new flooring, they will be able to say with pride, “I helped make that happen!”

Importantly, the support given to Foundation at this event has not only created a lasting impact within our school—it will also benefit the wider Southern Highlands community. It can be utilised for hosting local sporting events and sports clinics for aspiring athletes, helping to forge stronger ties with our local community.

Indeed, the impact of this remarkable event extends beyond mere fundraising. This dinner stands as a testament to the transformative power of collective action, reaffirming Foundation’s shared commitment to building a brighter future for everyone.



Pictured:

1. Foundation Directors (L-R): Stuart Fox, Tina Griffin-Hunt, Sam Paradise, Kris Arnott and Scott Staniforth
2. Noosa raffle donors: Peter and Kate Chauncy with daughter, Annabelle Chauncy OAM (centre)
3. Edward Simpson, MC for the evening

*Photos from the evening next page*

WINIFRED WEST SCHOOLS FOUNDATION





# IMMERSION AND TRANSFORMATION

The Cuppaidge Visual Arts  
Scholarship

*It is my mission in life to get people into art museums—it can be a transformative experience.*

**Virginia Cuppaidge –**

**I**n 2018, an extraordinary gift to Frensham was envisaged by Virginia Cuppaidge (1960). Virginia has had a long career in the art world, both in the USA and Australia. Her Scholarship enables students to immerse themselves in art by visiting an art museum somewhere in the world.

In 1972 Virginia underwent a life-changing experience, attending the exhibition of Piet Mondrian's paintings at the Guggenheim Museum in New York. Virginia said of her experience:



*When I was at Frensham in boarding school, the Art History class was held in the living room of Miss Ainsworth's house, a few blocks from the School. Looking at images of ancient artefacts and faded frescos in the leather-bound art history books of art through the ages, it was the paintings of Piet Mondrian that weighed most heavily on my mind.*

*I questioned whether Mondrian was a true artist. In reproduction, his paintings seemed unemotional and cryptic, more like a colour chart for architects to decorate their buildings. It would be eleven years later, at the Guggenheim Museum in New York, that I would contend with Mondrian.*

*As I descended the Guggenheim Museum ramp viewing Mondrian's early images of chrysanthemums and amaryllis rendered in realistic detail, with every petal showing a natural growth quality, I saw how Mondrian began to break these images down into simple geometric forms.*

*Gradually, through a succession of paintings using his rigid belief system, he reduced his colour palette to just primaries. It became apparent these were more than pristine surfaces, and as I looked closer could see each brush stroke distinctive as a fingerprint, rendered succinctly and delicately felt. In each consecutive painting, gradually I saw how his passion was revealed in these tiny paintbrush strokes.*

*When I exited the Guggenheim Museum I walked across the street to Central Park, sat on a wooden bench under the shade of the trees and cried. They were tears of joy.*

*What if I had never seen this show and experienced such deep feeling? A truly felt emotion, in the hands of a great artist, no matter in what form, can last through the millenniums.*

The Cuppaidge Scholarship has to date been awarded to **Alice Battcock (2018)** and **Elvira Berzins (2019)**. Both of these young Old Girls have generously shared the story of their experiences and the profound impact this had upon them.

The Cuppaidge Scholarship was most recently awarded to **Sophie Hassall (2023)**, and we look forward to bringing the story of Sophie's experience to a future edition of the *Impact of Giving*.



**Sophie Hassall (middle) with her sister Emilie (2021) and father in front of her HSC Major Work, *Memento non mori*, at the Frensham HSC Visual Arts Exhibition in August 2023.**

## Alice Battcock (2018)

One of the recipients of the Cuppaidge Scholarship is Alice Battcock (2018). Alice gave us the following extraordinary account of her visit to the National Gallery London:

*The time is 5pm. The location is the National Gallery, London. It's a Saturday in July. The gallery is as busy as you'd expect for a Saturday in July, in London, at 5pm (it's very busy).*

*In impending danger of being very overwhelmed, I wandered quickly through rooms filled with as many 18th century etchings as people looking at them. I flew by ancient marble busts and bronze statues. I walked past tempera paintings of religious figures, complete with gold leaf halos, ignoring the 17th century oil paintings, not even glancing at the Vermeer's (an old favourite).*

*I knew what I was searching for. I only stopped when I had found it.*

*Soothing greens distorted into muddy oranges, and were enlivened by bright, and then lazy blues, which twisted and danced across the canvas. Flecks of light were caught by swathes of luminous purples, almost pink—a kiss of a waterlily the only punctuation in an otherwise disordered union of colour. All sense of perspective was gone; I had plunged into a pool of colour and life.*

## WINIFRED WEST SCHOOLS FOUNDATION



*I drank in Monet's Waterlilies with an insatiable thirst.*

*His anarchism, his innovation, his brilliance—these works revolutionised the art world, in fact, revolutionised modern thought, modern feeling.*

*Around me people milled but I was still. You could smell the work, taste the work, feel the work. Everything led back to calm.*

*I had left Australia—home—a few days before, presumably for two years, although there was no return flight booked. I was off to study a Master of Art History in the Netherlands, in Utrecht.*

*I was alone.*

*Falling into the painting, my heart sat heavy in my chest, my throat thick.*

*Art has always had a hold over me, and I have always let it. The Virginia Cuppaidge Scholarship gave me the opportunity to dare to take it seriously.*

*Studying Art at Frensham, I loved the knowledge I collected; I loved the ideas I was surrounded by. I wanted more. I enrolled to study Art History at the University of Sydney. I loved it; I wouldn't let it be the end. I applied to study Art History at Utrecht University, in the Netherlands (no more skipping of Vermeer).*

*And so to the Netherlands, I came.*

*To Virginia—thank you for giving me the opportunity to follow my heart, and to follow art.*



*Vermeer's Woman Reading a Letter in the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam*



Elvira Berzins (2019)

**A**nother recipient of the Cuppaidge Scholarship is Elvira Berzins (2019). Elvira wrote the following inspiring story of her experience at teamLab Planets in Tokyo:

*At Frensham my interest in Visual Arts was supported by a dedicated and passionate Art faculty, and I was incredibly lucky to be awarded the Virginia Cuppaidge Scholarship, inspired by Virginia Cuppaidge's experience of the exhilarating and active art scene in New York.*

*Following COVID-19 lockdowns and further into my media degree, the Scholarship was extremely valuable in allowing me to reconnect with the wider world. I was*

*especially interested in travelling to Japan, which has a fascinating and rich art history that sits side by side with technological innovation.*

*This resonates with my current interest in how digital media is shaped by traditional artworks and practices, and its impact on viewers.*

*A highlight of my trip was teamLab Planets in Tokyo, a digital art museum with immense spaces where you can interact with artworks, including walking barefoot in rushing water, wandering through a mirrored hall of dazzling lights, and relaxing under a garden of suspended flowers.*

Above: Elvira at teamLab Planets



The scale of the museum was astonishing—even more so, the museum’s ability to maintain a sense of human connection through collective wonder. Each space felt intimate and encouraged a sense of play, reflecting the careful consideration of the artists who created them, and their ability to cooperatively situate their works into a larger whole.

Japan also has innumerable temples, which house some of the oldest artworks in the country, carefully preserved. This extends to the spaces you walk through, the gardens and architecture. Kennin-ji in Kyoto is a Zen Buddhist temple where visitors have the privilege of taking photographs inside, featuring a stunning recreation of the famous golden screen: Tawaraya Sōtatsu’s Fujin and Raijin, each paintbrush painstakingly reproduced from an extensive digital scan of the original.

Another beautiful artwork was the dynamic Twin Dragons by Junsaku Koizumi, commemorating the founding of the temple

800 years ago. My major work at Frensham was largely composed of ink paintings, and it was exciting to see a masterwork that dwarfed me in size, yet retained intricate detail, celebrating a long history of brush painting.



*Fujin and Raijin and Twin Dragons in the Kennin-ji temple*



*I am deeply grateful to Virginia Cuppaidge for the opportunity to travel and immerse myself in the art of a unique culture. Her recognition of the importance of giving free rein to curiosity has led to an unforgettable experience that will continue to inspire me.*

The image features three dolls standing on a white, cylindrical pedestal. The doll on the left has a gold glittery headpiece and a purple tulle dress with colorful beads. The middle doll has a gold glittery headpiece and a purple tulle dress. The doll on the right has a pink glittery headpiece and a multi-colored tulle dress with a rainbow pattern and a red sash. The background is blurred, showing colorful streamers hanging from above.

# THE IRIS COUNTRY FAIR

A community triumph

## WINIFRED WEST SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

The Iris Country Fair at Frensham is a highlight of the School calendar, held once every five years. The 2023 event was truly extraordinary, thanks to the dedication and hard work of the entire Frensham Schools community. Held on a sunny Saturday in November, the Fair was a resounding success, showcasing the spirit of our community.

A highlight of the event was undoubtedly its fundraising success, with a staggering \$100,000 raised towards the construction of our new two-court Sports Hall. This achievement speaks volumes about the generosity and dedication of our community, showcasing their commitment to providing a first-class facility for sport and recreation.

*A highlight of the event was undoubtedly its fundraising success, with a staggering \$100,000 raised towards the construction of our new two-court Sports Hall.*



## IMPACT OF GIVING 2023

*Months of meticulous planning and preparation by students, parents, staff and volunteers culminated in a day filled with celebration, joy and a strong sense of camaraderie.*



Beyond its philanthropic endeavours, the event itself was a vibrant and dynamic affair, brimming with stalls offering artisanal crafts, delectable treats, and entertainment for all ages. From live music performances to captivating displays of talent from our students, there was never a dull moment.

Months of meticulous planning and preparation by students, parents, staff and volunteers culminated in a day filled with celebration, joy and a strong sense of camaraderie. The diverse range of stalls and activities on offer was a testament to the creativity of everyone involved.

Our talented students and their families poured countless hours into crafting beautiful items for sale. From handmade pyjamas to jars of delicious homemade jams, every product was a labour of love. The food stalls, brimming with an array of treats, highlighted the culinary skills within our community, with many weekends and evenings spent perfecting recipes and preparing dishes to ensure the highest quality offerings for fairgoers.

Running these stalls required not just time but also organisational prowess. With the guidance of our Events Coordinator, Keeley Devery, volunteers managed everything from setting up and decorating, to engaging with visitors and handling transactions. Their tireless efforts ensured that the day ran smoothly, providing a delightful experience for all guests to Frensham.



Keeley with her husband, Andrew Cox, on The Lawn.

## WINIFRED WEST SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

The Silent Auction was another significant highlight, featuring an impressive array of items generously donated by members of our Frensham Schools community. From unique experiences to valuable collectibles, the auction items attracted enthusiastic bidding, significantly contributing to the Iris Country Fair's success.

Beyond the tangible contributions, the Iris Country Fair was a manifestation of the intangible bonds that bind the Frensham Schools community. Whether it was

students enthusiastically promoting their projects, parents coordinating logistics, or teachers guiding and supporting their students, every effort played a crucial role.

The Iris Country Fair was more than just a fundraising event. It was a celebration of what we can achieve when we come together with a common purpose. There was a great sense of achievement felt by everyone involved, and it was clear that the day was a reflection of our collective pride and commitment.



A photograph of two young women in cowboy hats riding horses in a field. They are surrounded by a herd of cattle. The background features a large tree and a hillside with more trees under a blue sky with light clouds. The text 'THE LIVESTOCK ENTERPRISE' is overlaid in white serif font.

# THE LIVESTOCK ENTERPRISE

Empowering rural students

## WINIFRED WEST SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

The Livestock Enterprise is a cornerstone of Foundation's fundraising efforts, reflecting our community's values of resilience, integrity, and compassion. Since its inception in 2014, the initiative has generated funds for the Foundation's Bursary Fund, supporting the enrolment of rural girls who might otherwise lack access to a Frensham education.

Frensham families become part of the Livestock Enterprise by hosting livestock on behalf of Frensham. Andrew and Kimba Thomas, a long-term Host family, exemplify the program's success. Their journey began in March 2020 amidst the onset of COVID-19, when they answered the call to become Hosts for cattle.

*We wanted to do everything we could to see this go very well.*

'We wanted to do everything we could to see this go very well,' Andrew said. The Thomas' commitment paid off handsomely, with a significant profit margin realised over 18 months.

Andrew and Kimba then took on another ten more head of cattle in late 2022, and despite market challenges in 2023, they remain optimistic about future returns. Andrew has also joined the Livestock Enterprise Committee, which he has found extremely fulfilling.



## IMPACT OF GIVING 2023

'We're very willing to host cattle because we know it is having such an impact,' Andrew explained, highlighting the rewarding nature of the family's involvement.

Kimba echoed this sentiment, emphasising the ease of hosting. 'Being a Host is very easy. Once the cattle are bought, they are transported to the farm, usually with the purchase of other cattle. From there, we have an on-farm induction process and install the Frensham ear tags, after which the Frensham cattle are turned out in the paddock with all the other cattle,' Kimba explained.

Coming from a farming family, their daughters, Tia and Amber, actively participate in Frensham's Agriculture Team, further solidifying the family's connection to Frensham through this program.

Looking ahead, Andrew and Kimba urge more farming families to join as Hosts, recognising the transformative impact of reinvesting proceeds into Foundation and assisting rural girls to attend Frensham.

Yet it is not simply about providing financial support. For a rural child without the financial means to receive a Frensham Schools education, it's the message behind the financial support.

*Looking ahead, Andrew and Kimba urge more farming families to join as Hosts, recognising the transformative impact of reinvesting proceeds into Foundation.*

It says: 'We believe in you.' And for so many of our rural recipients, that means so much more.

Yes, support from Foundation's Bursary Fund relieves the financial pressure. However, more than that, it allows the recipients to dare to dream. Their aspirations can suddenly take flight and, with the opportunities that they will have access to through a Frensham Schools education, they soar.

For those interested in learning more about Hosting opportunities, please contact Hamish Firth, our Chair of the Livestock Enterprise Committee. Hamish can be contacted at Ray White Rural, Scone.

Pictured left: Amber Thomas  
Page 47: Tia (left) and Amber (right)

# WINIFRED WEST SCHOOLS FOUNDATION BOARD



## **Scott Staniforth (Chair)**

Scott has served as a Director of Foundation since 2020 and as Chair since 2021. Scott is the Managing Partner at Stadia Capital, a boutique property advisory and property funds management business. Previous to this, Scott played 13 years of professional rugby union representing the Wallabies and held Board positions at the Western Force and the Force 15 Foundation. Scott is also a current Frensham parent, as well as the parent of an Old Girl.

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## **Kris Arnott**

Kris has been a Director of Foundation since 2020. Kris is a practising lawyer with over 25 years experience. She is currently Regional Counsel at a multinational company. Kris is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) and was previously Chair and Non-Executive Director of a public company. Kris is the parent of an Old Girl and has a long history with the School.

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## **Stuart Fox**

Stuart has been a Director of Foundation since 2022, is a member of Foundation's Investment Committee, and a Governor of Frensham Schools. Stuart is a managing partner at Artesian, one of Australia's largest venture capital firms since 2010. Previously he was a managing director at UBS AG based in Hong Kong, London, Tokyo and Sydney. Stuart is senior fellow of the Financial Services Institute of Australasia, a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD), and is a current Frensham parent.

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## IMPACT OF GIVING 2023



### **Tina Griffin-Hunt**

Tina has been a Director of Foundation since 2020 and has a strong connection with Frensham as her family has had three generations at the School. She is a current Frensham parent and the parent of an Old Girl. Tina is a Graduate of The Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD). She has worked with various companies including The Australian Ballet, Opera Australia, Global Television and Cancer Council NSW, and has co-founded two successful businesses.

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### **Paul Hunter**

Paul is an experienced Executive Director, Chartered Engineer, and Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD). He has worked in several countries including UK, Hong Kong, and Australia. He is currently a Senior Director with a global real estate organisation, and both a member of the Frensham Board of Governors and the Risk, Audit and Property Committee. Paul is also the parent of two Old Girls.

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### **Sam Paradise**

Sam is a part owner and branch manager of Morgans Scone a stockbroking and investment business based in Scone NSW. He has worked in the finance industry for 27 years training as a banking credit analyst at BNP Paribas and then as an investment adviser with Macquarie Bank. Sam's mother, sister and wife attended Frensham. He is also a parent of a current student, as well as two Old Girls, and thus has had a lifelong association with the School.

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### **Charlotte Warner**

Charlotte became a Director of Foundation this year and has a strong connection with Frensham, being a third generation Old Girl. She was Secretary on the Frensham Advisory Committee. Charlotte has a Bachelor of Teaching and has been a teacher for over 20 years, teaching in Sydney at Ascham School, then rurally in Scone. Currently, Charlotte is a Company Director and involved on various Boards. She is also the parent of an Old Girl.

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## BEQUEST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**The Winifred West Legacy** acknowledges the long history of bequest gifts to our school, and formalises this legacy by bringing our bequestors together as a group. Bequests play an important role in the future sustainability of Frensham Schools, which helps to provide exceptional education and opportunities for generations to come.

Foundation is immensely grateful for the voluntary service of our Bequest Committee Members in supporting *The Winifred West Legacy*. We are pleased to announce that Ms Gabrielle Curtin has generously agreed to join our Bequest Committee this year. Gabrielle's dedicated service to the School at the highest levels and her extensive institutional knowledge will be invaluable assets to Foundation. Her valued contributions to Frensham Schools over the years are detailed on the next page.

The Bequest Committee's important work is supported by our Director of Philanthropy, Ms. Jackie Dalton. Together, we strive to honour the legacy of past bequestors and inspire future gifts, allowing our Custodians to leave a lasting legacy, and ensure that their support for Frensham Schools can continue beyond their lifetime.



Jackie Dalton (far left) and the Bequest Committee Members (centre L-R): Jo Hawker, Anne White and Sudi Horsfield, with Head of Frensham Schools, Geoff Marsh (far right), and Foundation Director, Kris Arnott (back).

## IMPACT OF GIVING 2023

### Our 2023 Bequest Committee Members are:



#### **Gabrielle Curtin**

Gabrielle is a parent of an Old Girl and has a long history of volunteer service with Frensham Schools. She is a Company Member, as well as being a Foundation Member and a past Chair of the Board Governors.

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#### **Jo Hawker**

Jo is an Old Girl from the Class of 1980 and her three daughters attended the School. Jo attended both Frensham Junior School (Gib Gate) and Frensham and was a Prefect whilst at Frensham. Jo's roles include Past President of Fellowship and Past Director of Foundation. She is a current Company Member as well as a Foundation Member.

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#### **Sudi Horsfield**

Sudi is an Old Girl from the Class of 1969 and her two daughters attended the School. Sudi was a Prefect whilst at Frensham, and is a Past Fellowship Committee Member and Past Director of Foundation. She is currently a Company Member and a Foundation Member.

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#### **Anne White**

Anne is an Old Girl from the Class of 1964. Her daughter attended the School and Anne currently has a granddaughter at Frensham. Anne is a Past Convenor of Company, a Past Director of Foundation and a Past Fellowship Committee Member. She is currently a Company Member and a Foundation Member.

---

# 2023 GIVING IN ACTION

CAPITAL DONATIONS  
AND FUNDRAISING



\$1,639,971



492

FOUNDATION  
MEMBERS



53

CUSTODIANS  
OF THE WINIFRED  
WEST LEGACY

8



SCHOLARSHIP AND  
BURSARY RECIPIENTS



STEWARDSHIP

Delivering personalised  
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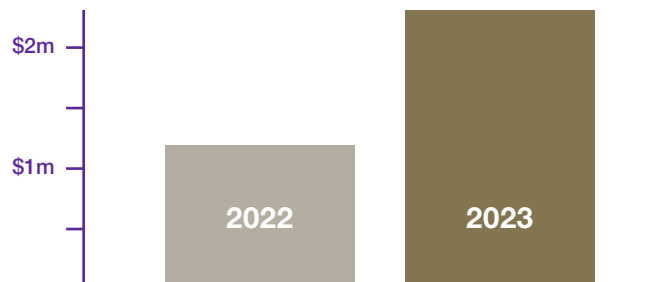


LARGEST  
BEQUEST GIFT  
IN 2023

\$1,250,000

TOTAL FOUNDATION INCOME

\$2,319,584 (UP 96%)





SUPPORTING  
WINIFRED WEST  
SCHOOLS  
FOUNDATION  
IN 2023

# CUSTODIANS OF THE WINIFRED WEST LEGACY

We are grateful to all our Custodians of *The Winifred West Legacy* for their bequest gifts in support of Frensham Schools. Your legacy will endure, transforming lives for generations to come.

We deeply appreciate your unwavering belief in Frensham Schools and promise to honour your gift by continuing to provide exceptional educational opportunities for years to come.

## Custodians

Mrs Susie Brown  
Mrs Anne Cahill OAM (OG 1972)  
Ms Jackie Dalton  
Mr Robert Dulhunty  
Ms Lucinda Fairrie (OG 1986)  
Mrs Helen Gauchat (OG 1965)  
Ms Julie Gillick OAM  
Mr Richard Griffin AM  
Mrs Jay Griffin (OG 1947)  
Mrs Sudi Horsfield (OG 1969)  
Mrs Cathy Mathews (OG 1969)  
Mrs Gillian McAlister (OG 1948)  
Mrs Sue Morrison (OG 1960)  
Mr Tony Morrison  
Ms Michele Scamps (OG 1972)  
Mrs Gillian Storey AM  
Mr John Storey  
Mrs Susan Upton (OG 1955)  
Mr David Uther OAM  
Mrs Pamela Uther (OG 1961)  
Mrs Caroline Walters (OG 1989)  
Mr Peter Walters  
Mrs Caroline Waugh (OG 1956)  
Mrs Anne White (OG 1964)  
Mrs Sally White OAM (OG 1957)  
**Anonymous** (4 Custodians)

## We honour the memory of the following deceased Custodians

Mrs Anne Arnold (OG 1960)  
Miss Iris Lillian de Cairos-Rego  
Mrs Mary Douglas (OG 1952)  
Dr Ruth Fitzhardinge (OG 1964)  
Miss Barbara Giblin (OG 1956)  
Mrs Ellen (Jane) Gray (OG 1962)  
Mrs June Grieve (OG 1941)  
Miss Hilda Jamieson  
Miss Diana Jenkins (OG 1934)  
Miss Geraldine Kenway (OG 1958)  
Mrs Nancy Keesing AM (OG 1940)  
Miss Jill Kerr  
Miss Pat Lance MBE (OG 1940)  
Mrs Selma Lawson  
Miss Anne Livingstone  
Mrs Jenny MacLennan OAM (OG 1957)  
Mrs Robin Mathews (OG 1953)  
Mrs Adrienne Moran (OG 1964)  
Ms Jean Oxley (OG 1919)  
Miss Cynthia Parker OAM  
Ms Elizabeth Pilcher (OG 1937)  
Miss Gwynneth (Lauraine) Raymond (OG 1946)  
Miss Kathleen Robinson (OG 1919)  
Mrs Chris Whitehouse OAM (OG 1956)

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All care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of our Donor and Custodian lists. If an unfortunate error has occurred, please accept our apologies and notify the Philanthropy Office so that we can amend our records.

## Dr Ruth Fitzhardinge's Bequest Gift

Foundation was profoundly grateful for the bequest gift received from Dr Ruth Fitzhardinge of \$1,250,000.

Ruth was a member of the Class of 1964, and after school went on to a fulfilling life-long career as a doctor, eventually specialising as a child psychiatrist.

This bequest gift came from a passionate Old Girl who had a deep love for Frensham, and who was extremely grateful for the opportunity to have attended the School. Ruth had a great desire for that opportunity to be passed on to future students.

## DONORS

At Frensham Schools, we embrace the spirit of philanthropy, recognising the significant impact of the contributions of our donors. Through our collective efforts, we are enriching young lives, enhancing our campus, and helping to build a brighter future. Your kindness and support have profoundly influenced our mission to support educational excellence.

### Donors to the Annual Appeal, Livestock Enterprise and other gifts

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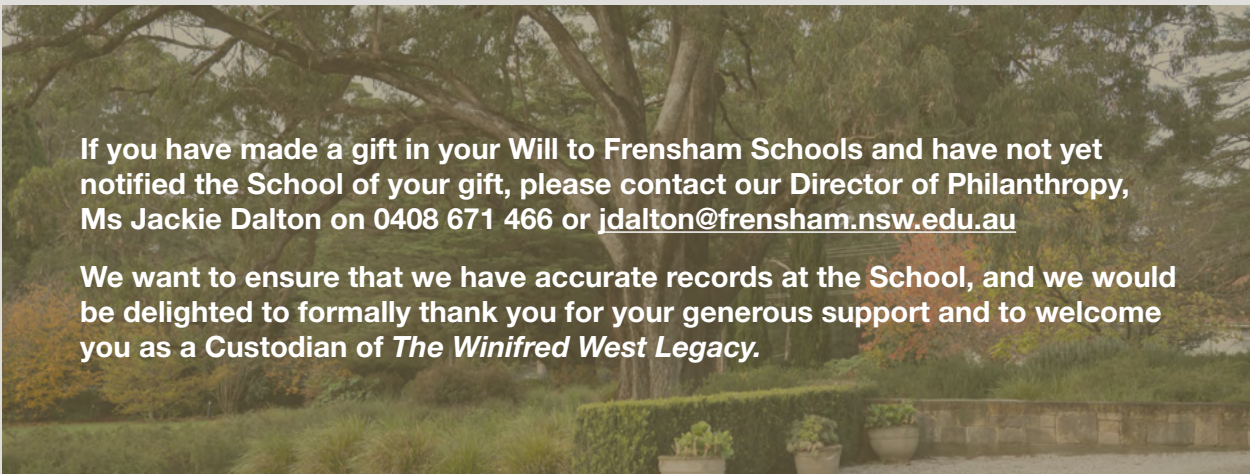
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Mr Andrew White CSC & Dr Robyn White  
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Mr Mark Wilson & Ms Lisa Anderson

*Foundation sincerely apologises for not including Mrs Margaret Cunningham AM in the donor list in the Impact of Giving magazine for 2022.*



**If you have made a gift in your Will to Frensham Schools and have not yet notified the School of your gift, please contact our Director of Philanthropy, Ms Jackie Dalton on 0408 671 466 or [jdalton@frensham.nsw.edu.au](mailto:jdalton@frensham.nsw.edu.au)**

**We want to ensure that we have accurate records at the School, and we would be delighted to formally thank you for your generous support and to welcome you as a Custodian of *The Winifred West Legacy*.**





THANK YOU



What does  
'In Love Serve One Another'  
mean to you?

*'You learn from the very beginning that as a Frensham girl, you are expected to take the skills that you acquire at school and use them to make a difference in other people's lives ... and you do this without expecting something in return.'*

Sophie Hassall (2023)

*Story inside*



Winifred West Schools  
**FOUNDATION**

