

AT Holme





Leisa Clark - Nolans Block

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S PEN:

Living Our Values, Shaping Our Future

As we return from the Easter season and settle into the rhythm of Term 2, our community is reminded of the hope and renewal that sit at the heart of our Christian story. Easter invites us to centre ourselves once again in Christ - His example, His teachings, and His call to live with courage, grace, and compassion. At Fairholme, our value of Christ-centred Faith continues to shape how we learn, how we lead, and how we care for one another. It is also a fitting lens through which to view the many moments of joy, achievement, and connection captured in this edition of our newsletter.

The start of this term has been filled with energy and purpose. For me, it marks a personal milestone as well: having completed my first full year as Principal, I now step into my second with deep gratitude for the trust, honesty, and partnership shown by students, staff, families, and Old Girls. Over recent months, we have been working together to shape Fairholme's next chapter through the development of our new strategic plan. The thoughtful and aspirational insights shared have been grounded in a genuine love for this school and have been invaluable. I am delighted to share that this plan will be launched in Term 3, setting a bold and exciting direction for our future.

This edition of At Holme reflects the vibrancy of our community. On the last night of Term 1, our Year 12 Formal was a highlight, with the girls looking stunning and carrying themselves with confidence, warmth, and genuine joy. The soiree with parents was a beautiful reminder of the strong relationships that underpin the Fairholme experience. These

"It is important that we extend compassion not only outward but inward – recognising when we need rest, connection, or support."

- Dr Leigh Hobart

are the moments where our values become visible - not only in celebration, but in the way we honour one another, show gratitude, and build memories that will stay with us long after the evening ends.

This week we also paused to reflect on ANZAC Day, a solemn and significant moment in our national life. Our cadets, in

partnership with Toowoomba Grammar School, represented Fairholme with dignity and respect, embodying values of service, sacrifice, and humility. Our own commemorations on campus invited us to consider how compassion can be expressed through courage and a commitment to peace. These ceremonies remind us of the importance of remembering well and living with purpose. We were also proudly represented by our boarders, Head Girls and cadets at community commemorations.

In this issue, you will also find a timely wellness article from our fantastic Social Worker, Cassie Walton, offering encouragement for navigating the ups and downs of a busy Term Two. School life is full and dynamic, and it is important that we extend compassion not only outward but inward - recognising when we need rest, connection, or support. I am grateful for the expertise and care our wellbeing team brings to our community, ensuring that every student and family feels held and supported. It is very much a part of the Fairholme spirit and often recognised by visitors and our community alike.

We are also delighted to celebrate our ten-year anniversary of FACETs, our much loved Art Show. This year's specially jewelled theme reflects the creativity and imagination that shine so brightly within our community. Art has a unique way of helping us see the world differently, inviting us to

appreciate beauty, express emotion, and understand one another more deeply. I encourage you, if you have not already done so, to purchase your tickets to our gala Opening Night - not only to gain a sneak peek (and maybe an early purchase!) of the beautiful artworks exhibited, but to join our community in celebration.

And of course, we acknowledge the remarkable achievements of our Year 8 national champion in discus and shot put, Emily Carrigan. Her dedication, humility, and perseverance are an inspiration to us all. Sporting excellence at Fairholme is never just about results; it is about character, discipline, and the joy of striving for personal bests.

As we journey further into Term 2, there is a genuine sense of momentum building across the College. With our new strategic plan set for launch in Term 3, we are stepping into an exciting chapter - one shaped by the voices of our students, staff, families, and Old Girls. The months ahead will bring opportunities to grow, to celebrate, and to continue strengthening the connections that make Fairholme such a vibrant and supportive place to be.

Dr Leigh Hobart | Principal



FACETS *Milestone*

FACETS The Fairholme Open Art Prize celebrates 10 years of beautiful art and connection in our creative Fairholme community

FACETS Fairholme Open Art Prize returns this year to celebrate a significant milestone - its 10th anniversary - marking a decade of bringing exceptional art and community together.

Known for its thoughtful curation and boutique atmosphere, Facets has become a much-anticipated event, offering a diverse and engaging collection of works that appeal to seasoned collectors and first-time art lovers alike.

Curated by Dr Tiffany Shafran, this year's exhibition (from Friday 8 May to Sunday 10 May) promises a refined and inspiring experience, showcasing a carefully

selected range of artists and mediums.

Among the highlights across the weekend program is the Artists Breakfast on Saturday morning which will feature artists Michael Zavros, Lachlan Hogan, Cara Ann Simpson and Michelle Black, who will talk to guests about their practices, their processes and their love of art.

The breakfast is a hot ticket with the four accomplished artists coming together for the insightful panel discussion, offering a rare glimpse into their creative processes and perspectives.

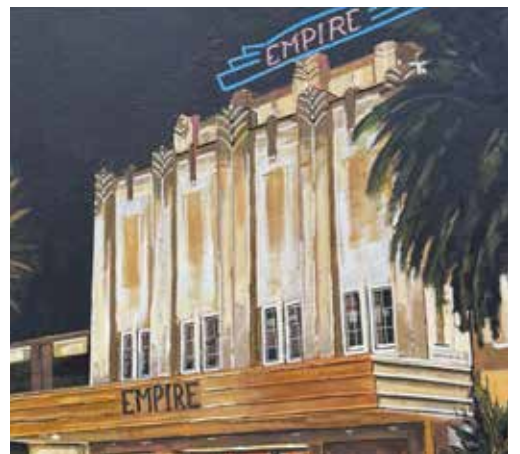
Adding to the excitement, the Live

Portrait Competition (starting at 10am Saturday) will see artists paint esteemed guest sitter Rowena Hogan in real time - an engaging and dynamic experience for visitors.

Opening Night tickets are now available, inviting guests to enjoy an evening of art, connection, and celebration, complemented by food and wine.

As Facets enters its tenth year, it continues to honour creativity, conversation and community, promising another unforgettable chapter in our Fairholme story.





Emily's national success *story*

Year 8 student, Emily Carrigan, first discovered athletics at just seven years old through Little Athletics, but it wasn't long before her natural talent began to stand out.

A throws coach noticed her potential early on and from there she decided to start training for shot put and discus.

'I really enjoyed it from the moment I started,' she says. 'I love the thrill of a good throw and all the friends I've made along the way.'

That sense of community has become one of the most meaningful parts of her journey. Despite competing against one another, Emily describes the girls in her events as a close-knit group, always supporting each other and celebrating each other's successes.

Behind Emily's success is a training schedule that reflects both commitment and passion. She trains at Fairholme three times a week under the guidance of legendary throws coach Grahame Pitt, alongside additional sessions outside of school and regular strength and conditioning work in the gym.

Her dedication has translated into remarkable results. Over the past three years, Emily has claimed an impressive ten national medals across shot put and discus.

Most recently, she competed at the Australian Athletics Championships, where she was crowned National Champion in the U14 Girls Shot Put and secured a silver medal in the Discus. She was also selected to represent Queensland at the Australian Little Athletics Championships, once again taking home gold in Shot Put and silver in Discus. These achievements build on her outstanding performance at the School Sport Australia Track and Field Championships in Canberra last year, where she earned dual gold medals.

While her accomplishments are already significant, Emily's motivation reaches far beyond medals.

She recalls a defining moment from her primary school years, when Olympic cyclist Sara Carrigan visited her school. Emily had the opportunity to hold Sarah's Olympic medal and was given a piece of paper that has stayed with her ever since. The words on the paper describe 'who will help you unleash, who will be your supporters, and what are your mini goals', reflecting on who supports you, what drives you, and the importance of setting small, achievable goals.

'I still have that piece of paper at home,' Emily says. 'I look at

it every day.'

It's a daily reminder of where she's headed.

With her talent, determination, and unwavering focus, Emily has her sights firmly set on the ultimate stage.

'My goal', she says, 'is to compete at the Olympics.'







NQ Campdraft Champions

Travelling during the school holidays to Charters Towers to compete in the NQ High School Cup, our Fairholme Campdraft team rose to the occasion in spectacular fashion, securing the title of Overall Team Champions.

The girls competed against riders from all corners of Queensland and the Northern Territory, demonstrating not only their skill in the saddle, but perhaps more importantly, the strength of connection between the team.

Event organisers were quick to recognise what set this group apart. 'The Fairholme girls were a standout all weekend,' they noted. 'Always presenting beautifully, always together and always supporting one another. Whether it was in the stands or by the cutout yard, you could see the way they backed each other and genuinely rode as a team.'

That sense of camaraderie also translated into individual success with Jaylee Smith, Payton Kane, Amelia Frame and

Olivia Hawkins each earning their place among the competition's top 20 riders. Leading the charge was Jaylee Smith, whose consistency and composure saw her awarded Highest Scoring Female (Average), a fitting recognition of her standout performances across the event. We are so proud of the team for representing the College with such pride and team spirit.



From home Boarding Fun!



10 minutes with Junior School Sports Co-ordinator *Liz Irwin*

Tell us a bit about your background in sport and education?

I was lucky enough to have amazing Health and Physical Education teachers, both in primary school and high school, which lead me to a career in teaching. I studied at QUT, then headed out to Wandoan State School P-10 for my first teaching position. I worked as the HPE Teacher and Sports Co-ordinator out there for four years, before making the move to Toowoomba where I have enjoyed teaching at Centenary Heights SHS, Downlands College and now, Fairholme College!

What sports did you enjoy most growing up?

I grew up in the small town of Chinchilla, so as most small-town-kids do, I played them all! I loved having a go at any sport that was on offer, but particularly loved playing Touch Football for the Chinchilla Comets.

What is your vision for Junior Sport at Fairholme?

My vision is to foster a lifelong love of sport, movement and physical activity. I want our girls to leave Junior Sport at Fairholme with positive experiences and memories, confidence in their abilities, and a love of being active that continues well beyond their school years.

Goals for this year?

My main goals this year are to continue building strong participation, provide positive sporting experiences for all students no matter the sport or event, and encourage the girls to challenge themselves in the sporting space. I'd also love to continue building on the already strong house/team culture and school spirit.

How do you hope to develop students' confidence and teamwork through sport?

I aim to create an environment where students and athletes feel safe to try new things and make mistakes. I love to celebrate effort, not just results, and am big on identifying and building on the strengths of each person. When students understand what they bring to a team and feel valued for their contribution, it naturally builds both confidence and teamwork.

Are there any new programs or initiatives you're excited to introduce?

This year is a great chance for me to learn, observe and gain a deeper understanding of the wonderful programs already in place at Fairholme Junior. It's been exciting to see how strong the culture of sport already is here. Over time, I'm looking forward to identifying new opportunities, growing current programs and continuing to create experiences our girls are excited to be part of.

What life skills do you hope our students gain through participating in sport?

My hope is that through sport, students can learn the importance of winning with humility and losing with grace, knowing there is always something to learn from every result. Olympic sprinter, Wilma Rudolph reminds us, 'Winning is great, sure, but if you are really doing something in life, the secret is learning how to lose. Nobody goes undefeated all the time. If you can pick up after a defeat, you are going to be a champion someday.'

What message would you like to share with students and parents about Junior Sport?

I'd encourage every student to get involved and give something a go! You don't have to be the best player/athlete to enjoy sport or benefit from it.

To parents, thank you for the support and encouragement you give your daughters. I'm really looking forward to a fun and positive year of Junior Sport at Fairholme.





Fairholme *Formal*



Fairholme *Formal*



Fairholme *Formal*





Supporting your child's *Wellbeing*

Supporting your young person's wellbeing is one of the most valuable things you can do as a parent, and small, consistent actions can make a big difference.

As the school term progresses, young people can experience a mix of excitement, fatigue, and pressure.

Creating a calm and predictable routine at home helps them feel safe and supported. Prioritising sleep, regular mealtimes, and downtime allows young people to recharge and better manage emotions.

Open communication is key. Taking a few moments each day to check in...whether in the car, at dinner, or before bed, can help young people feel heard and understood.

Asking simple, open-ended questions like 'What was something that went well today?' or 'Was there anything tricky?'

Encouraging balance is also important. While schoolwork matters, so does fun, creativity, and time outdoors. These activities support emotional regulation, confidence, and resilience.

Finally, model self-care. Young people learn by observing the adults around them, so demonstrating healthy ways to manage stress - such as taking breaks, talking things through, or practising gratitude - can have a lasting impact.

If you have any concerns about your young person's wellbeing, please reach out to the school - we are here to support you!

Cassie Walton | Social Worker

AROUND THE GROUNDS



QRSS Swimming Championships

We are incredibly proud of our 13 Fairholme swimmers who represented the Darling Downs at the Qld Representative School Sport Swimming State Championships.

Reeva Coutts was acknowledged as DD Captain for the 10-12 Years team and Mackenzie Grimes the 13-18 Years Captain.

Standout performances came from Mia Geise and Mackenzie Grimes, both earning selection for the Queensland team and bringing home a swag of medals each. Elouise Fraser also had a sensational meet, swimming in 7 events, 2 relays and making 3 State Finals.

Mackenzie Grimes (Year 12):

- > Gold - 100m and 200m Backstroke
- > Silver - 50m Backstroke
- > Bronze - Medley Relay

Mia Geise (Year 9):

- > Gold - 13-15 Years Multi-Class 50m Breaststroke, 100m Breaststroke and 50m Backstroke
- > Bronze - 13-15 Years Multi-Class 50m Butterfly
- > Australian S16 and SB16 Classification Records in the Open 50m Breaststroke and 14 Years 50m Breaststroke, 100m Breaststroke and 50m Backstroke
- > Queensland S16 and SB16 Classification Records in the Open 50m Breaststroke and 14 Years 50m Breaststroke, 100m Breaststroke, 50m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke and 50m

Butterfly

Elouise Fraser (Year 9):

- > 4th - 14 Years 50m Backstroke
- > 10th - 14 Years 100m Backstroke
- > 9th - 14 Years 100m Freestyle

10-12 Years: Madison Conwell, Reeva Coutts, Adeline Martin and Ava Nicholls

13-19 Years: Elouise Fraser, Mia Geise, Mackenzie Grimes, Charley Murray, Skye Parker, Elizabeth Riddle, Elizabeth Wormwell and Mackenzie Zimmerle

Swimming Australian Age Championships

Congratulations to our three Fairholme students who qualified and swam at the Australian Age Championships held at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre over the holidays. Taking on the top level of competition across the country, all girls swam incredibly well.

- > Mia Geise - achieved an outstanding 4th in Australia in both the 14-15 Years Multi-Class 50m Breaststroke and 100m Breaststroke, 6th in the 50m Backstroke, and 12th in the 50m Butterfly.
- > Elouise Fraser - qualified for the 13 Years 100m Backstroke, 50m Freestyle and 50m Backstroke, swimming a PB in the 50m Freestyle.
- > Elizabeth Riddle - qualified for the 13 Years 100m Freestyle, finishing in the top 30.



QLD Softball Champions

Congratulations to Year 9 Boarder, Ella Phillips, along with Fairholme's own Coach Ms Lindy Masters and Manager Ms Katrina Gierke, who were part of the talented Darling Downs team that claimed gold at the Queensland Representative School Sport 13-19 Years Softball State Championships.

Despite the challenging hot conditions in Rockhampton, the team delivered an exceptional campaign, winning 8 of their 9 round games to secure a place in the semi-final, before carrying their momentum through to a well-deserved Grand Final victory. Ella had an outstanding tournament, demonstrating consistently high-level batting and fielding throughout the competition. Well done Ella, Lindy and Katrina.

Netball Queensland Championships

Over the holidays, Year 12 student Simoné Botha, represented Netball Queensland in the Under 19 State team at the National Netball Championships. Following her incredible performance, Simoné has now been selected in the National Australian 19U Squad. One of only five Queenslanders selected for this elite development squad.

Simoné, and Fairholme Old Girl Amy Williams (2024), have also been selected in the Queensland Firebirds Futures squad for the 2026 Super Netball Reserves season. The squad features an exciting blend of emerging talent and elite experience from the Queensland pathways.

Australian Athletics Championships

A big end to the athletics season for our track and field athletes representing QLD at the Australian Athletics Junior Championships and the Australian Little Athletics Championships.

At the Australian Athletics Junior Championships:

- > Emily Carrigan was crowned Australian Champion in the U14 Shot Put and also claimed the silver medal in the U14 Discus
- > Lucy Barnes finished 7th in Australia in the U15 3000m
- > Abi Barnes claimed 9th in the U18 2000m Steeplechase
- > Ruby Richardson finished 14th in the U17 400m Hurdles
- > Fairholme Old Girl, Mackenzi Scheffe (2025), also placed 12th in Australia in the U20 3000m Steeplechase.

Emily Carrigan and Violet Richardson were also selected to compete at the Australian Little Athletics Championships held for U12s and 13s:

- > Emily Carrigan was crowned Australian Champion in the U13 Shot Put and won silver in the U13 Discus.
- > Violet Richardson finished just outside the medals in the U12 1500m, placing 4th, along with 6th in the 800m and 12th in the 400m.

Andrews Cup Tennis & Touch Football

Our Junior girls made the most of a glorious autumn day at the Andrews Cup Tennis and Touch Football carnivals, both held in Toowoomba. We loved seeing plenty of smiles, teamwork and Fairholme spirit on display from all the girls.

Well done to our Junior A Touch Football team who played so well together as a team throughout the day to place runners-up in the Junior A Division. A fabulous effort by the girls and super coach Mrs Harrison.

In the tennis, our B Grade team had a great day in a very competitive competition, finishing in 4th place and our Junior A team claiming 5th.

Cross Country

Our Cross Country squad have kicked off the season with runs at the Brisbane State High School Invitational Meet, the Fairholme Queens Park Handicap Race, and Range Zone Trials for our 9-12 years girls.

Well done to our girls who placed in the top 6 in their age group and have now been selected in the Range Zone team to compete at the Darling Downs trials in May:

- > 12 Years: Violet Richardson (1st place), Eden Broksch, (2nd place), Isobel Logan (4th place) and Paige McNamara (6th place)
- > 11 Years: Jaimee Sessarago (1st place) and Adeline Martin (3rd place)
- > 10 Years: Ava Ryals (2nd place)
- > 9 Years: Milana Cavanagh (2nd place)

Representative School Sport Selections

> Darling Downs Touch Football:

13-15 Years – Lucy Dewar, Greta Goddard, Lola Marjoribanks, Sophie McMaster, Phoebe Tulilo-Seremaia

16-18 Years – Tayla Kauter, Rose Ramia, Ruby Richardson, Scarlett Sippel, Maggie Walker and Romy Wilson

> Darling Downs AFL:

15-17 Years – Emmy Cussons and Bianca Gillespie

> Darling Downs Basketball:

13-16 Years – Lizzie Kluck

> Range Zone Netball:

10-12 Years – Mary Campbell, Sophia Hayes, Amelia Kingsford, Paige McNamara, Amelia Rawle Ellie Spence and Marley Wilkinson

> Range Zone Cross Country:

10-12 Years – Eden Broksch, Isobel Logan, Paige McNamara, Adeline Martin, Violet Richardson, Ava Ryals and Jaimee Sessarago

> Range Zone Tennis:

10-12 Years – Madison Conwell and Hadley Millers







IN THE ARTS AND CULTURE

Creative Generation Excellence Awards in Visual Art

Fairholme 2025 Senior, Bron Francis was one of just 40 outstanding artists whose works were awarded the Queensland Government's Creative Generation Excellence Awards in Visual Art.

The awards recognise and celebrate the next generation of artists in senior Visual Art education in Queensland schools, with winning pieces taking centre stage at the Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art.

Bron was accompanied by her parents, Justine and Bill Francis who are extremely proud of Bron's outstanding achievement. Bron is currently studying a double degree at QUT, gaining a Bachelor in Education and a Bachelor in Creative Arts.

More than 470 submissions were received for the 2025 awards. A further 116 students received a Commendation Award, including Fairholme's Indianna Hitchcock and eight students – one from each education region – received a Regional Encouragement Award, with Millie Bryant-Peterson receiving the award for the Darling Downs/South-West region.

Lions Youth of the Year

Over the holidays, Mariam Nabizada competed at the District Final for Lions Youth of the Year, where there were six finalists competing from throughout the district.

Mariam's prepared speech was very impressive, and she went on to be announced as the Winner of the District Final. She will now compete at the Queensland State Final to be held in Bundaberg in May. We wish Mariam all the best for the State Final.

Choralations Pre-Eisteddfod Concerts

Our Junior, Middle and Senior choral students presented an uplifting evening of music and harmony at the Choralations Pre-Eisteddfod Concerts. Featuring repertoire for the upcoming Toowoomba Eisteddfod, the concerts were a wonderful opportunity for the girls to practice performing to an audience. Thank you to all those who came along to support the girls. We wish the girls the best of luck for their eisteddfod performances.

National Youth Parliament

Congratulations to our Year 12 students who have successfully been selected for the 2026 National Youth Parliament. Boarder, Hayley Brock has been selected as the Youth Member for Kennedy and Mariam Nabizada has been selected as the Youth Member for Groom. These students will travel to Canberra in August, along with students representing every federal electorate in Australia. National Youth Parliament empowers young Australians from all walks of life with the knowledge, confidence and skills to actively participate in Australia's democratic and parliamentary system. Participants learn how Parliament works by taking part in real debates, meeting leaders, and working on policy ideas.





ANZAC Day 2026



Around The Grounds



EXHIBITION PROGRAM



COVET - Aurora Elwell

8 MAY OPENING NIGHT + PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENT

An elegant evening of art, connection, and celebration.

\$90pp

TICKETS: fairholme.qld.edu.au/facets

9 MAY ARTISTS IN CONVERSATION BREAKFAST

Start your morning with creativity and insight at the Artists in Conversation Breakfast.

\$30pp

TICKETS: fairholme.qld.edu.au/facets



BARNYARD CHIC - Barbara Lawrence



EXPECTATIONS #2 - Jayne Fudge

9 MAY LIVE PORTRAIT COMPETITION

Watch our talented line-up of artists bring a portrait to life right before your eyes, each bringing their unique style and expertise.

Included in Exhibition entry fee
((\$5pp, school students free)



9 - 10 MAY
**FAIRHOLME OPEN ART PRIZE
EXHIBITION**

Exhibition open to the public:
Saturday 9 May - 10am to 4pm
Sunday 10 May - 10am to 2pm

**TICKETS: At the door - \$5pp, school
students free**

9 - 10 MAY
JUNIOR FACETS EXHIBITION

Exhibition open to the public:
Saturday 9 May - 10am to 4pm
Sunday 10 May - 10am to 2pm

Included in Exhibition entry



9 - 10 MAY
FACETS CAFE

Our FACETS Cafe will be operating during the exhibition. Enjoy barista made coffee, baked goods and sweet treats while you peruse the amazing art.

**Mother's Day Special:
Coffee and a Treat for Mum only \$10**

Upcoming *Key Dates*

Monday 4 May

Labour Day Public Holiday

Friday 8 May

Fairholme Open Art Prize Opening Night

Sat 9 May-Sun 10 May

Artists Breakfast and Facets Exhibition Open

Monday 11 May

National Boarding Week starts

Friday 15 May

Year 7 Day Girl Boarding Sleepover

Wednesday 20 May

Under 8's Day

Thursday 21 May

Fairholme Girl For A Day

Thursday 21 May

Kindy-Year 2 Cross Country

Wednesday 27 May

College Photo Day

Friday 29 May

Shave For A Cure

Sunday 07 June

Junior School Ladies and Lassies

Wednesday 10 June

Kindy and Prep Kid For A Morning

Friday 12 June

Junior School Interhouse Athletics Carnival

Monday 15 June

Centrestage Concert

Wednesday 17 June

Interhouse Choral Competition

Thursday 18 June

Term 2 Concludes

GET ONBOARD
ISSUE 1
BOOK YOUR PAGE
TERM 2 2026



**FAIRHOLME
COLLEGE**

Business Directory 2026/27



LET'S CREATE A BUSINESS NETWORK WITHIN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Promote the business that you own or work for in the Fairholme College Business Directory 2026/27.

Every family will receive a printed glossy magazine, and a digital version will be shared on the School website, app and in newsletters.

NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

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