Tara circle

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The Value of a Tara Anglican School for Girls Education: Academic Excellence and Co-Curricular Engagement in a Christian Learning Community

Mrs Adele Ramsay - Principal



> *"Our Christian foundation informs our approach to education by teaching girls to lead with compassion, serve with humility, and act with integrity."*

It is a privilege to lead Tara. As a Christian learning community characterised by excellence, our mission is to encourage, equip, and empower girls to achieve, serve, and thrive. Each day, I witness the transformation that occurs when young women are nurtured in an environment grounded in our core values of integrity, affirmation, opportunity, and service.

While research on single-sex education presents mixed findings, there are compelling reasons why many families continue to choose girls' schools like Tara, particularly when those schools combine rigorous academics with robust co-curricular programs.

The Girls' School Advantage

Research consistently demonstrates how single-sex environments benefit female students academically. Studies from Switzerland and South Korea show that girls in all-girls' schools perform better in mathematics, particularly in high-stakes examinations. The South Korean research reveals that this advantage stems from behavioural factors: girls experience less pressure to downplay their academic ambitions and abilities, freeing them from social constraints often present in co-educational settings.

At Tara, this translates into classrooms where leaders and top performers emerge naturally across all subjects. Every girl sees herself as a potential mathematician, scientist, engineer, or computer programmer because she is surrounded by peers who are achieving in these fields. Gender stereotypes about subject aptitude simply don't exist here. Thus creating an environment where young women flourish, participate confidently, and reach their full potential.

Strong Academic Foundations

At Tara, we understand that academic rigour is non-negotiable. We maintain high standards, employ exceptional teaching staff, provide quality resources, and create learning environments that nurture intellectual curiosity and achievement.

The key advantage of Tara lies in our intentional focus on developing confident, capable young women who see themselves as leaders and high achievers across all disciplines. We remind our girls that they can do hard things. They don't just participate, they excel, they lead, and they inspire one another. Walking through our learning spaces, I see hands raised eagerly, voices expressing ideas confidently, and young women who own their learning journey completely.





The Co-Curricular Connection

When strong academics combine with rich co-curricular engagement, students enhance their performance. At Tara, students engaged in co-curricular activities develop critical life skills that translate directly to academic success: time management, discipline, and resilience. These are fundamental competencies that create successful students.

Studies have found positive associations between arts involvement and general academic performance. Similarly, sports participation links to improved self-perception and social skills development. Students challenged across multiple dimensions develop the organisational skills, determination, and confidence that support academic achievement.



At Tara, we are immensely proud of our extensive co-curricular program. Our value of opportunity ensures that every girl has access to varied experiences that challenge and inspire her. From competitive sports to debating, drama, musical ensembles, and community service initiatives, we provide countless opportunities to discover passions and build confidence. Whether a Tara girl is scoring goals on the netball court, performing in a musical, competing in debating competitions, or volunteering in service learning programs, she is developing well-rounded capabilities that will serve her throughout life.

Our Christian Faith

As a Christian learning community, we provide a supportive environment where girls can explore their faith, ask important questions, and develop a strong moral compass grounded in Christian values. Through Chapel services, Christian Studies, mentor groups, and daily interactions, we help our girls understand how their faith can shape their identity, decisions, and purpose.

Our Christian foundation informs our approach to education by teaching girls to lead with compassion, serve with humility, and act with integrity. We encourage our girls to see their talents and abilities as gifts to be developed and used in service of others, fostering wholeness and helping girls understand that they are valued, loved, and created with unique purpose.

Busy Girls Are Best

The evidence supports what we at Tara have long observed, busy girls are best. Rather than detracting from study time, purposeful co-curricular activities create students who are focused, better organised, and more motivated in their academic work.

When Tara girls play sport, they learn teamwork and strategic thinking. When they perform in concerts or





plays, they develop creativity and confidence. When they compete in debates or academic competitions, they sharpen their analytical skills. Tara girls who manage full schedules develop a work ethic and organisational capacity that sets them up for success in university and career.

The Holistic Vision: Achieve, Serve, and Thrive

The most effective girls' schools recognise academic excellence and co-curricular engagement as complementary elements that together help girls achieve their potential, serve their communities, and thrive as complete individuals.

When schools commit to rigorous academics and meaningful co-curricular programs, they create environments where girls develop intellectually, physically, emotionally, spiritually, and socially. They graduate not just with strong academic credentials, but with the resilience, creativity, teamwork, leadership skills, and values necessary to navigate an increasingly complex world.

Girls' schools work best when they actively cultivate environments where young women see themselves as capable leaders in every domain, where they're encouraged to take risks and develop confidence, and where they're stretched across multiple dimensions of development. This is precisely what we strive to achieve every day at Tara.

The question for families considering educational options is whether a particular school provides the rigorous academics, supportive environment, and rich co-curricular opportunities that will allow their daughter to achieve, serve, and thrive. At Tara, we are proud to deliver on all dimensions, creating an environment where every girl can flourish and reach her full potential, a place that prepares young women not just for exams, but for life.

Thank you for investing in Tara, sharing in our vision, and being part of our village.

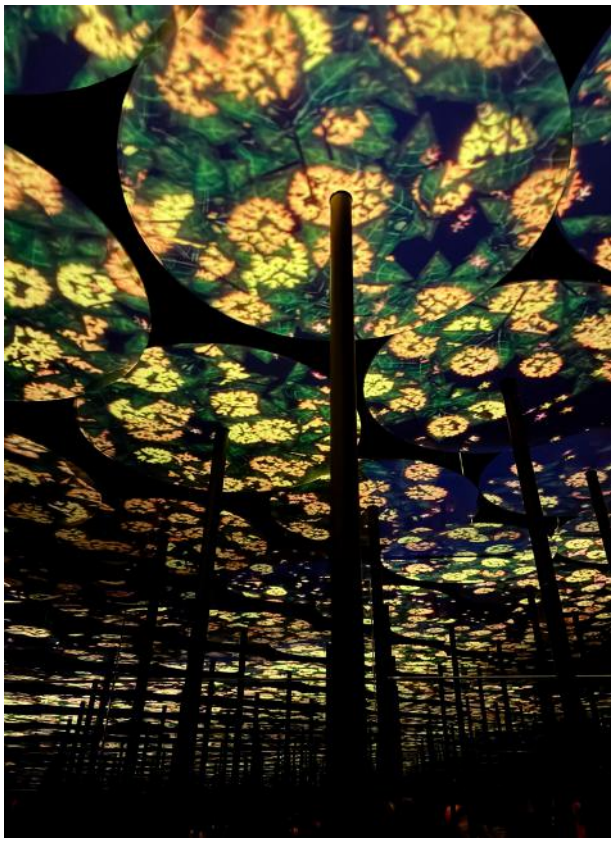
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> *"The key advantage of Tara lies in our intentional focus on developing confident, capable young women who see themselves as leaders and high achievers across all disciplines."*

Exploring Innovation and Tradition: Years 5 & 6 STEM and Cultural Tour to Japan

Ms Ruth Adams - Deputy Principal | Head of Junior School



In late September, a group of excited Year 5 and 6 students, accompanied by parents and staff, embarked on an unforgettable STEM and cultural adventure across Japan. Over two weeks, the tour blended cutting-edge technology with centuries-old traditions, offering a truly immersive learning experience.

Tokyo: A Hub of Innovation

Our journey began in Tokyo, where students explored the forefront of science and technology. At **Science Square Tsukuba,** we discovered how Japanese researchers are using nano-cellulose - thinner than a human hair - to create sustainable materials. Students were fascinated by innovations like sound-producing fabrics and gel films inspired by slug mucus to prevent snow build-up, and the technologies around how to analyse a person's fall risk based on an analysis of step patterns. At **Cyberdyne Studio,** robotics came to life through HAL (Hybrid Assistive Limb) technology, while a visit to **JAXA**, Japan's Aerospace Exploration Agency, gave us a glimpse into space missions and astronaut training.

The digital art wonderland of **teamLab Borderless** was a highlight, with its dazzling light installations and interactive spaces that blurred the line between

> *"A Japanese language lesson in Shinjuku challenged us to master greetings and share hobbies—an experience that taught resilience and laughter in equal measure."*





art and technology. A Japanese language lesson in Shinjuku challenged us to master greetings and share hobbies - an experience that taught resilience and laughter in equal measure.

Kyoto: Tradition and Serenity

From futuristic Tokyo, we journeyed to Kyoto, the cultural heart of Japan. Here, students participated in a traditional tea ceremony, learning the values of respect and mindfulness. Visits to iconic sites such as **Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion)** and **Kiyomizu-dera Temple** and their surrounding gardens offered breathtaking views and deepened our appreciation for Japan's spiritual heritage. Walking through **Fushimi Inari Taisha,** with its thousands of vermillion torii gates was stunning and striking despite not being the serene site of quiet contemplation it is intended to be! And the light: a glow as the red gates and temples echoed the setting sun.

As we travelled, our understanding of sacred architecture also grew. A **temple** refers to the entire site, entered through a **gate**, while the **pagoda** often sits at the centre, housing the main **shrine** - though smaller shrines may dot the grounds. These distinctions helped us appreciate the depth of Japanese cultural vocabulary.

We also learned about popular shrine-going activities such as **ema** and **omikuji**. Visitors write prayers on wooden plaques called ema and tie them to scaffolds, while omikuji - fortune slips - predict health, luck, and love. A bad fortune is folded and tied to a pine tree or wire rack, based on a clever pun: "matsu" means both "pine" and "to wait," so the bad luck waits by the tree instead of following you. Good fortunes can be tied for extra effect or kept for luck. These customs gave us insight into how spirituality and symbolism remain woven into everyday life.





Hiroshima: Lessons in Peace

Making paper cranes on the Shinkansen on the way to Hiroshima, prepared us for a profoundly moving day in Hiroshima' s main bomb site, Peace Park and Museum.

The girls discovered the four reasons Hiroshima was chosen for what in many ways was a 'test' site and the





impact of the atomic bomb immediately and in the months and years that followed. We learned about Hibakusha (survivors) and their children who faced extensive discrimination in the ensuing years, and the story of Sadako and her thousand cranes, including marvelling at displays of the thousands of cranes that are sent to the Peace Park every year from around the world.

The Flame of Peace sculpture represents two wrists joined together, and the two wings on either side represent two palms facing upwards to the sky. It was designed to console the souls of the thousands who died begging for water to alleviate their burns and quench their thirst, leading to many drownings in the river and desperate people drinking the 'black rain'. Burning until nuclear weapons are eradicated, we were overwhelmed by its expression of hope for lasting world peace

While in Hiroshima we visited nearby Miyajima Island (Shrine Island) via ferry, and the famous Ōtorii gate and Itsukushima shrine. The island is a Cultural World Heritage Site and one of the three most scenic spots in Japan (according to Confucian scholar Shunsai Hayashi) along with Miyagi and Kyoto.

Osaka and Beyond

The final leg of the tour included Osaka's vibrant **Dotonbori district**, the **Osaka Castle** with its complicated and turbulent history, and a visit to the **Hanshin Earthquake Memorial**, where students learned through a confronting multi-media
















experience, displays and artworks about resilience and disaster preparedness.

A day at Universal Studios provided a joyful finale before we returned home.

Japan: A Country of Tradition and Change

Throughout the tour, one theme stood out: Japan is a nation balancing deep-rooted traditions with rapid innovation. From serene tea ceremonies and centuries-old temples to superconducting maglev trains and humanoid robotics, the contrasts were striking. We observed cultural tensions too - between traditional gender roles and modern expectations, and the challenge of a declining population (from 125 million today to a projected 80 million by 2050). Even convenience stores like 7-Eleven reflect this duality, offering both sushi and smartphone chargers, and the technological advances in smoothie production!

A Journey of Discovery

This tour was more than sightseeing - it was an opportunity for our students to become global citizens. They engaged with STEM innovations, experienced cultural traditions, and reflected on history's lessons. As we watched them navigate bustling metros, taste new foods, and ask thoughtful questions, it was clear: these young learners are ready to lead with curiosity, empathy, and courage.

We can't wait to do it all again in 2027!







Junior School Performer of the Year 2025

In October, Tara Junior School proudly hosted the 2025 Junior School Performer of the Year - an annual celebration of musical talent, creativity and confidence among students in Years 3 to 6. This much-loved event gives young musicians the opportunity to showcase their skills as instrumentalists or vocalists in front of the Tara community, nurturing a love of performance and encouraging students to share their musical journey with others.

In the lead-up to the concert, students participated in a series of lunchtime recitals, performing pieces they had rehearsed with care and passion. From these performances, a select group of finalists were invited to take the stage at the Finalists Concert. Each performance reflected the growth, discipline and enthusiasm our young musicians bring to their learning.

We are delighted to congratulate Hannah (Year 6), who was named Junior School Performer of the Year for 2025 for her outstanding piano performance. Hannah's skill and poise at the piano captivated the audience and demonstrated the depth of musical talent developing within our School.

We also recognise the achievements of our other finalists. Harper (Year 5) received Highly Commended for her dynamic drum performance, while



Hannah (Year 6), Junior Performer of the Year

Chloe (Year 6) and Priscilla (Year 4) were celebrated with Encouragement Awards for their wonderful contributions on stage.

A sincere thank you goes to Five Senses Education for their generous donation of prizes in support of the event. Their contribution helps us recognise the efforts of our young performers and encourages a lifelong appreciation of music.

The Junior School Performer of the Year continues to be a highlight of our musical calendar—an event that honours achievement, inspires younger students, and celebrates the joy of making music together.



Explore. Extend. Excel.
The Tara Enrichment Centre

At Tara Anglican School for Girls, learning goes beyond the classroom through the dynamic programs offered by the Tara Enrichment Centre (TEC). From Kindergarten to Year 12, students have the opportunity to explore their interests, pursue passions, and develop new skills through a wide-ranging cocurricular program designed to enrich their School experience.

Whether it's experimenting in robotics, creating digital media, performing on a stage, training in competitive gymnastics, or refining their technique in photography, debating or public speaking - TEC programs inspire creativity, curiosity and confidence at every stage of learning.

Across both Junior and Senior School, courses are offered in:

🎨 Visual Arts and Ceramics

🤖 STEM and Robotics

🎭 Musical Theatre and Speech Communication

⚽ Sport Skills and Specialist Coaching

💃 Dance, Ballet and Gymnastics

🧘 Taekwondo, Languages, Photography and more

The Tara Enrichment Centre is a vibrant part of School life, providing students with meaningful opportunities to connect, grow and flourish - both inside and outside the classroom.

🔗 Learn more or enrol: www.tara.nsw.edu.au

Tara Enrichment Centre

Empowering students to thrive - in school and in life.



International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)

Mrs Natalie Fairfax - IB Programme Coordinator/Head of Academic Administration

Tara Becomes an IB Continuum School: Celebrating Our Authorisation to Deliver the IB Diploma Programme

Tara Anglican School for Girls is proud to announce a significant milestone in our learning journey: we have now been authorised to deliver the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP). With this approval, Tara becomes an IB Continuum School, offering a seamless IB pathway from Early Learning right through to Year 12.

This achievement marks the culmination of years of vision, preparation, and collaboration across our teaching staff. Having already delivered the Primary Years Programme (PYP) in the Junior School and the Middle Years Programme (MYP) in Years 7–10, Tara can now offer students in Years 11 and 12 the choice between the IB Diploma Programme and the NSW Higher School Certificate (HSC).

What Makes the IB Diploma Programme Unique?

The DP is recognised worldwide for its holistic, academically rigorous, and internationally minded approach. Like the PYP and MYP, it continues to develop the attributes of the IB Learner Profile - think of curiosity, critical thinking, global awareness, and compassion - but its structure and purpose are distinct.





Where the MYP encourages broad inquiry across disciplines, the DP offers students a set curriculum designed for university-bound learners who want more agency in shaping their senior studies. It focuses on academic breadth, personal growth, and preparing students for success in local and international tertiary pathways.

Developing Deep Thinkers and Effective Communicators

Research from the University of Oxford has shown that Australian students who study the IB DP develop significantly stronger critical thinking skills compared to peers undertaking state-based examinations such as the HSC - and these gains grow over the two-year programme.

Communication and global-mindedness also sit at the heart of the DP. All Tara DP students will study English, plus a second language - either continuing in a language they already study or discovering a new one. Beyond enhancing intercultural understanding, learning an additional language has measurable cognitive benefits. Research by Woll and Wei (2019) highlights that multilingual learners demonstrate improved concentration and perform better across a range of academic areas. Put simply: language learning strengthens the brain, no matter your age.



Pathways in Australia and Around the World

While the DP is renowned globally - recognised by more than 1,800 universities - its benefits extend far beyond students hoping to study overseas.

All Australian universities accept the IB Diploma, and students' final DP score is converted into an ATAR equivalent for admissions. DP students are eligible for early entry, and some universities, including the University of Adelaide, offer course credit in recognition of the programme's depth.

Universities value DP graduates for their independence, academic maturity, and motivation - qualities cultivated through the programme's rigorous structure and core components.

A Teaching Team Prepared to a Global Standard

A programme of this calibre requires expert preparation - and Tara's teachers have embraced the challenge.

To achieve authorisation, every DP teacher ompleted official IB training delivered by the International Baccalaureate. This ensures deep curriculum knowledge and alignment with the global IB philosophy.

"The authorisation journey has been rigorous," says Natalie Fairfax, IB DP Coordinator. "The IB ensures that all DP teachers have official curriculum training so they can teach confidently and to a global standard. It has been a joy to walk beside Tara teachers as they planned their courses."

With the DP joining the PYP and MYP, Tara now stands proudly among schools offering a fully integrated IB education across all stages of learning.

Looking Ahead to 2027

Tara will welcome its first DP cohort in 2027, giving students the full opportunity to experience an IB education from Early Learning to graduation - right here within the Tara community.

Students are already enthusiastic about the possibilities:

I love having the option of taking the IB Diploma Programme because it is internationally recognised and focuses on shaping young minds into becoming global citizens. Its two-year course allows us to explore the wonders of language, arts and academic areas.

Mikayla, Year 9

I want to pursue the DP because it's an amazing opportunity that opens up so many pathways. I'm really excited about subject options the HSC doesn't offer, like Global Politics and Psychology.

Dunja, Year 9

What stands out is the student focused nature of the IB Literature course. There is a genuine sense of student advocacy and agency embedded throughout, with girls even able to choose which texts will inform their final examination submission. Rather than simply moving from one assessment task to the next they are instead encouraged to read widely and embrace a range of fantastic texts tailored to suit their interests; the result is an authentic engagement with literature from around the globe and a deep appreciation of the power of writing to influence the world we inhabit.

Mr Steven Gibson, Head of English

Balancing Books and Big Dreams: Chelsea's Journey from Tara to Division I Volleyball



> *"Tara helped me build confidence and independence, and those things will guide me into whatever comes next."*

When Class of 2025 graduate Chelsea first stepped onto a volleyball court, she didn't imagine it would carry her across the world. After nine years of gymnastics, it was her dad who suggested she try volleyball - and from the very first training session, she was hooked. What followed was a journey defined by discipline, leadership, resilience, and the unwavering support of the Tara community.

Although volleyball isn't offered as a school sport at Tara, Chelsea says she always felt backed by her teachers and coaches. "The staff were willing to work with me around training and competitions. Even though my main sport wasn't offered, they still supported me. That made it easier to keep chasing bigger goals."

And chase them she did. Across her senior years, Chelsea rose to the role of Sport Prefect, leading Tara's sporting culture with energy and purpose. From organising lunchtime handball competitions to shaping whole-school events like the Club Expo and FIFA Tara's Cup, she found ways to strengthen community and champion student engagement - even while training outside of school at an elite level.

"Sport has always been where I feel grounded," she reflects. "Being able to bring that passion into leadership at Tara gave me a strong sense of connection and purpose."

A Balancing Act: Elite Sport Meets the HSC

Managing the demands of the HSC while competing internationally is no small feat. For Chelsea, success came down to structure - and a willingness to switch gears quickly.

"It took discipline and good time management. I learned to use every block of time well and to change from study mode to training mode really fast." She planned her weeks carefully, stayed ahead on notes, and made the most of travel time so she could keep her routine steady.

But she's the first to say she didn't do it alone. Her teachers offered flexibility when major competitions collided with assessments, and her friends kept her grounded. "Their support made the tough weeks feel more manageable," she says.

Through this intense period, Chelsea discovered something important about herself: that she could carry







a lot - academics, leadership, training - if she stayed organised and asked for help when needed. Leadership taught her to communicate clearly and lead by example, while elite sport taught her perseverance. "It showed me how important it is to keep going when things get challenging, and to help others do the same."

A Future Built on Passion and Possibility

This year, while representing Australia in Vietnam, Chelsea's future shifted dramatically. A teammate already playing at San Diego State University introduced her to the coaching staff - who happened to be watching their games. Within days, Chelsea received a full Division I scholarship offer.

"I was shocked and incredibly grateful," she says. "It felt like everything I'd worked for had come together." For her family - especially her dad, who first placed a volleyball in her hands - the moment was profound. "This scholarship feels like a reward for all the sacrifices we've made."

Chelsea has already met members of her new team and coaching staff, and their warmth has made the prospect of moving to the U.S. less daunting. She's looking forward to the world-class facilities, studying a degree she loves, and the experience of life on a vibrant American campus.

Lessons Learned and Advice for the Next Generation

Volleyball has taught Chelsea far more than athletic skill. It has given her resilience, patience, discipline, and a deep understanding of teamwork. These qualities, she says, will shape her long after she leaves the court.

To younger Tara girls striving for sporting excellence, her message is simple and powerful:

"Back yourself. Stay consistent, even when progress feels slow. Keep your love for the sport at the centre of everything, and don't be afraid to set big goals."

Looking Ahead

As Chelsea prepares to begin her next chapter at San Diego State University, she carries with her everything she learned at Tara - academically, personally, and spiritually. She hopes to develop as an athlete, contribute strongly to her new team, and study a degree that supports her dream of competing at the 2032 Olympics and playing professionally in Europe.

"I've learned to stay grounded and grateful," she says. "Tara helped me build confidence and independence, and those things will guide me into whatever comes next."

Her journey is a testament to what is possible when talent meets determination - and when a school community stands behind a student chasing a dream. Chelsea leaves Tara not just as a scholarship athlete, but as a leader, a role model, and an inspiration to future generations of Tara girls.





Scholarships at Tara for 2027

NOW OPEN!!

Tara Scholarships recognise exceptional girls who excel academically and contribute widely to school life. Recipients receive financial support and access to unique learning and enrichment opportunities designed to help them thrive.

Tara Scholarships recognise exceptional girls who excel academically and contribute widely to school life. Recipients receive financial support and access to unique learning and enrichment opportunities designed to help them thrive.

Available Scholarships:

- **Academic All-Rounder** – Years 7 or 9 (2027 entry)
- **Music** – Year 7 (2027 entry)
- **Senior Years Scholarship – IBDP/HSC** – Years 10 (2026 entry) or Year 11 (2027 entry)
- **Boarding** – Years 7–11 (2027 entry, external students only)

Candidates for the Academic All-Rounder and Music scholarships sit the Scholarship Examination at Tara. Applications include a $180 fee and are open to Australian citizens and permanent residents. Awards are based on exam results and application strength.

Key Dates:

Applications close: **Friday 6 February 2026**

Academic Exam: **Saturday 14 February 2026**

Music Audition: **Tuesday 17 February 2026**

Apply now and take the next step in your Tara journey.

Contact Tara Enrolment Team 02 9630 6655 | scholarships@tara.nsw.edu.au









TARA
Anglican School for Girls

Year 7 & 8 proudly present

BRIGHT.YOUNG.THINGS.

By Georgia Christou









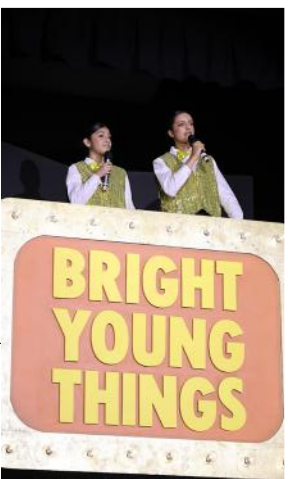
























Global Learning in Action: Senior School Japanese Language Tour

During the Term 3 holidays, a group of Senior School students embarked on an unforgettable Japanese Language Tour - an immersive experience designed to deepen their understanding of language, culture, and global connection. Over two incredible weeks, students explored the cities of Tokyo, Hakone, Osaka and Kyoto, each offering a rich tapestry of history, innovation and everyday life in Japan.

The journey was filled with memorable moments. Students experienced the extraordinary speed of the Shinkansen, discovered the energy of Tokyo's bustling streets, and enjoyed the excitement of Universal Studios Japan. In Kyoto, visits to Kinkakuji (the Golden Pavilion) and Arashiyama Monkey Park offered a window into Japan's natural beauty and cultural heritage, from peaceful temple gardens to the lively charm of the mountain-top park.

A defining highlight of the tour was the homestay in Kochi, where our students spent time with families from **Tosajuku High School**. This experience offered far more than sightseeing - it created space for meaningful cultural exchange, language immersion and the kind of connection that continues long after the trip ends. Through shared meals, school visits, and daily life in Japanese homes, students built confidence in their language skills and formed friendships that transcend distance.



As an **IB World School**, Tara is committed to nurturing globally minded young women who are curious about the world and equipped to engage with different perspectives. Experiences like the Japanese Language Tour embody this vision - empowering students to explore new cultures firsthand, practise language in authentic settings, and return home with a deeper understanding of themselves and the world they live in.

The Japanese Language Tour stands as a powerful example of global learning in action - where every new conversation, every shared moment, and every step through a new city brings learning to life.














THE KING'S SCHOOL

TARA
Anglican School for Girls

Cosi

Louis Nowra







Wed 29 Oct - Sat 1 Nov

7.30pm The King's Theatre











Growing the Sound of Tara: A Thriving Music Program for Every Young Musician

Music has long held a special place in the life of Tara Anglican School for Girls. From joyful lunchtime rehearsals to polished concert performances and major examination success, the school's Music program continues to expand - creating more opportunities than ever before for students to learn, perform, and discover their unique musical voice. This year, Tara's ensemble program reached an exciting new milestone as students participated for the first time in the Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival. Performing among schools from across the state, Tara's young musicians impressed adjudicators and inspired audiences.

The Stage Band received a Silver Award in the Don Burrows Secondary School Big Band event, while the Senior Concert Band earned a Bronze Award in the Graham Lloyd Secondary School Concert Band event - an exceptional achievement for their festival debut.

"It was an incredible opportunity for our students to perform at such a high level," says the Music team. "Their results reflect the hard work they put into rehearsal and the growing strength of music at Tara."

This cultural growth is nurtured every day. Throughout the year, Tara hosts regular music showcase evenings for students in Stages 4, 5 and 6. These events allow students to perform in front of an audience, share their progress, and build authentic stage experience in a supportive environment. They also prepare students who go on to study HSC Music, where Tara has a long history of student nominations for prestigious HSC showcase events.

> *"Music teaches Tara girls far more than technique. It builds resilience, teamwork, creativity, discipline, and courage - qualities that stay with them beyond the Tara gates."*

Inside the classroom, performance and composition sit at the heart of learning. Senior students have the opportunity to work with industry professionals, including composer Holly Harrison, who visits Tara to run workshops and share her insights into the world of professional music. Masterclasses, seminars, and collaborative rehearsals allow students to explore new genres, refine their musicianship, and learn directly from artists shaping Australia's musical landscape.



More Students, More Music, More Opportunity

As Tara's student population has grown, so too has the appetite for music. More and more students are choosing to participate in multiple ensembles, and the school has refined its structure for 2026 to ensure every musician can take part meaningfully - whether they are picking up an instrument for the first time or preparing for advanced performance.

Today, Tara's ensemble program is rich in variety and progression. Younger students often begin in large, open-entry ensembles such as Concert Band (Years 7–8) or String Orchestra, where they can build ensemble skills in a welcoming environment. As their experience grows, they may move into Wind Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, or audition-based ensembles designed for more advanced musicians.

For those seeking a higher level of challenge and performance, auditioned groups such as the Stage Band, Axis Wind & Brass Ensemble, and Tara's flagship Symphony Orchestra provide opportunities to rehearse intensively, perform complex repertoire, and represent the school at major events.

Alongside the instrumental ensembles, choral music is thriving. Tara offers both open-entry and auditioned choirs across different year levels, ensuring every voice has a place to belong. And for students wanting a unique musical experience, handbell ensembles offer a distinctive pathway that strengthens rhythmic sensitivity, teamwork, and music reading skills.

Private Tuition: Honing a Personal Sound

Ensemble life builds community - but many students also wish to develop their skills through one-on-one learning. Tara offers private music tuition with highly qualified professional tutors across a broad and expanding range of instruments. This includes woodwind, brass, strings, percussion, guitar, piano, and voice, giving each student the chance to pursue their passion with expert guidance.

Whether a girl is beginning an instrument she has always wanted to try or preparing for exams, auditions, or performances, private tuition supports individual growth at every stage of their musical journey. Bookings for 2026 are now open, reflecting strong demand across the school.

Built on Passion, Shaped by Purpose

As the Music program continues to evolve, one idea remains constant: every student deserves a place to learn, perform, and thrive. Music teaches Tara girls far more than technique. It builds resilience, teamwork, creativity, discipline, and courage - qualities that stay with them beyond the Tara gates.

From medals at state festivals to joyful lunchtime rehearsals, from professional masterclasses to the quiet concentration of private lessons, the sound of Tara is growing louder, richer, and more confident every year.














GENTLEMEN






TARA
Junior School Proudly Presents
PLAYFUL TALES
2025
August 6-8
Tara Theatre
YEAR 3
YEAR 4
YEAR 5
YEAR 6































PURPOSE










Celebrating 128 Years

Our entire School community - from ELC to Year 12 - came together this July to celebrate a remarkable milestone: 128 years of learning, growth and connection at Tara Anglican School for Girls. It was a joyful tribute to our history and the generations of students, staff and families who have shaped our story since 1897.

The celebrations began with a whole-school assembly filled with music, gratitude and reflection. We gave thanks for the legacy of our founders and received thoughtful gifts for the School. A special moment was the recognition of staff who have dedicated 10, 20 and even 40 years of service to Tara. Their commitment, passion and belief in every girl is at the heart of our community, and their milestones stand as a powerful testament to the strength and continuity of our School.

Following the assembly, the campus came alive with colour and excitement. Cupcakes were shared, students enjoyed a picnic lunch with friends across different year groups, and the playgrounds were filled with games, laughter and connection. Seeing our youngest learners celebrating alongside our senior students was a joyful reminder of the vibrant community that defines Tara.

As we mark 128 years, we honour our past while looking with confidence to the future. Tara's story continues to be written by the girls who learn here, the families who support them, and the staff who nurture their growth every day.

Here's to 128 years - and all the years still to come.



Celebrating 40 Years of Dedicated Service: Mrs Judy Cropper



This year, we proudly celebrate an extraordinary milestone in the life of our School community: forty years of dedicated service from an exceptional educator, mentor and colleague, **Mrs Judy Cropper.**

It is rare to encounter a teacher whose impact can be felt across generations. Since joining Tara Anglican School for Girls in 1985, Mrs Cropper has shaped the education of hundreds of students—many of whom now return to Tara as parents, entrusting their own daughters to the same classroom where they once learned.

After graduating from teacher's college and completing a year on exchange in the United States, Mrs Cropper began her teaching career in 1967, working at Katoomba, Nepean, Holroyd, Parramatta and Pennant Hills High Schools. After a decade in advertising alongside her husband David, she returned to the classroom and joined Tara, teaching Textiles and Home Science and serving as a Year Coordinator.

In the 40 years that followed, much has changed - within education, within our world and here at Tara. Mrs Cropper worked under four principals: Dr Shatford, Mrs Bowern, Mrs Middlebrook and now Mrs Ramsay. Yet one thing remained constant: her unwavering belief in the potential of every student and her wholehearted commitment to teaching as a calling, not just a profession.

As Head of Food Technology and Hospitality for more than 30 years, Mrs Cropper has taught far more than curriculum. She has taught resilience, curiosity, kindness and respect. Students remember her not only for what she taught, but for the way she made them feel - seen, valued and capable.

Behind each lesson are countless early mornings and late nights, reports and assessments, planning and preparation - all given with humility and devotion.

Mrs Cropper leaves a remarkable legacy of innovation and leadership. Among her many achievements, she:

- introduced Hospitality as a subject at Tara in 2001
- oversaw the installation of the new Hospitality kitchen in 2023
- led the development of **Dignity Dishes**, a service activity launched in 2022 that prepares meals for those in need within our community

Under her guidance, Hospitality and Food Technology have flourished, inspiring a generation of students and contributing to outstanding HSC results year after year.

It is difficult to measure the impact of 40 years on a school community. Perhaps the truest reflection lies in the admiration and deep gratitude expressed by students and staff alike. The respect shown for Mrs Cropper speaks to decades of lives shaped, confidence built and aspirations encouraged. On behalf of the countless students you have inspired, the colleagues you have supported and the School you have helped shape: **thank you,** Mrs Cropper.

Thank you for your wisdom and dedication, your laughter and leadership, your love of teaching and the legacy you leave behind.

Congratulations on 40 wonderful years at Tara.









Farewell and Congratulations Class of 2025


















TARA




Anglican School for Girls














TARA
Final Year








TARA


TARA



Year 10 Formal






















Year 6 Graduation




















Community Events

Mrs Jodie Doyle – Community Engagement Manager

Carols in the Colonnade

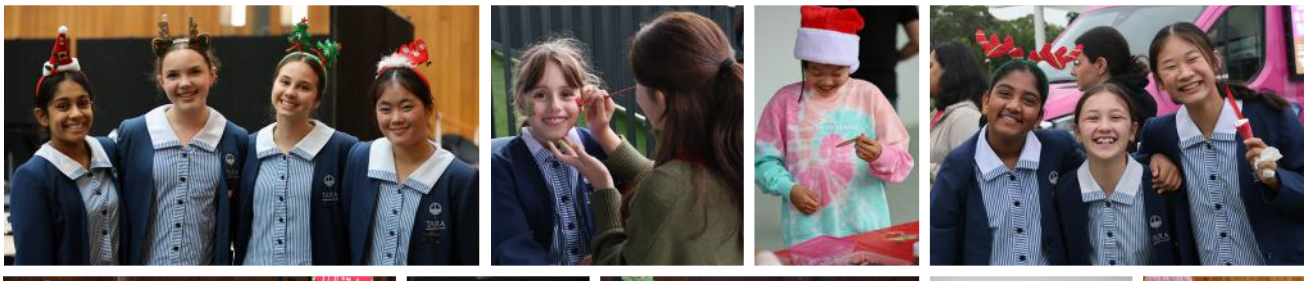
This year's Carols in the Colonnade was a joyful reminder of the strength, warmth and spirit of our Tara community. Despite a sudden change to our wet weather plan and a move into the Gymnasium, the atmosphere was nothing short of magical. Families, students, staff and friends filled the space with Christmas cheer, laughter and song - proving that the heart of the event lies not in its location, but in the people who gather for it.

The performances were a particular highlight. From our youngest band students and spirited Stage 1 singers, to our accomplished Senior School musicians and vocalists, every ensemble reflected the dedication, confidence and enthusiasm of our performers. Their music brought the message of Christmas to life and created a fitting finale to a year of growth, learning and achievement. We extend our sincere thanks to the Tara Hub for their exceptional work in planning and coordinating the event. Their organisation, creativity and care ensured the evening was engaging and seamless from beginning to end. Our gratitude also goes to the Tara Dads Club for preparing a delicious BBQ enjoyed by hundreds of families. Their efficiency, good humour and community spirit were appreciated by all. A special thank you must also be extended to Rocky Nematalla for the generous donation of all meat for the BBQ - your support made a wonderful difference.

The market stalls added another layer of festive delight. Handmade jams, craft pieces, candles, lucky-dip bags and slushies offered something for everyone and helped make the evening feel like a true community Christmas celebration - complete with opportunities for last-minute gift shopping.

As we reflect on a year filled with shared experiences, achievements and moments of joy, we thank every member of our community for their ongoing support. Carols in the Colonnade was a beautiful way to finish the year together. We wish all families a safe and restful holiday season and look forward to welcoming you back to campus in the new year.

Thank you to the following companies for being part of our Carols in the Colonnade.






Tara Anglican School for Girls

























Tara HUB

Your Community Connection



Jane Furniss

Chair of Tara Hub

As we reflect on our second year as the Tara Hub, we have much to celebrate. This year brought renewed energy, fresh ideas and a deeper sense of purpose. I would like to thank every committee member for the time, creativity and heart they have poured into strengthening our community. We are also deeply grateful to Mrs Ramsay, and to Jodie Doyle and Jordyn Elliott for their ongoing support and collaboration.

Building Community in 2025

Over many years, I've experienced the Tara community to be one defined by care, compassion and lasting friendships that extend beyond the school gates. One of Tara Hub's central goals is to nurture these connections - bringing families together in support of the school and of one another.

This year we took a "back to basics" approach, recognising that not everyone feels this strong sense of connection. We strengthened our foundations by hosting year-group dinners and providing opportunities for families to come together.

> *"We strengthened our foundations by hosting year-group dinners and providing opportunities for families to come together."*

Key Events and Highlights

We launched the year with a new "O Week" style Twilight Drinks, a relaxed and joyful evening that set a warm tone for the year ahead.

A major highlight was Winterfest, our largest community event in many years. With year-group market stalls, an international food fair and spectacular fireworks, Winterfest showcased Tara at its very best - sporting groups, families and volunteers working side by side to create something unique. Over 900 people attended and more than 100 volunteers contributed their time and energy. Together, we raised $35,000 for two joint projects with the school: the Tara Theatre refurbishment and a shade structure for Mouleric Oval.

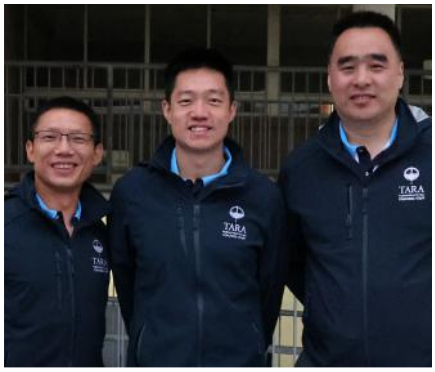
Sports Café and Fundraising

The **Saturday Sports Café** continues to be a valued meeting point for families and visiting schools. Thanks to a blend of paid staff and dedicated volunteers, it has made a modest profit while creating a welcoming weekend atmosphere.

A new venture this year has been the development of **Tara Supporter merchandise.** Our caps made their debut at the Father's Day Breakfast, and at Tara Carols we launched our new polos and hoodies.

Fundraising took a significant step forward this year, with Winterfest as our cornerstone. In 2026 we plan to expand this area further with the establishment of a dedicated Tara Hub fundraising committee.









Acknowledgements

My sincere thanks to our executive committee:

- **Deputy Chair:** Kesara Jayasuriya
- **Finance Officer:** Cindy Jabbour
- **Communications Officer:** Maya Abboud Hamdan
- **Events Officers:** Jenny Po and Donna Karam
- **Parent Liaison:** Holly Yorke

I would particularly like to acknowledge outgoing committee member Donna Karam for her valued contribution.

I would also like to acknowledge the excellent working relationships we have with the community groups which come together as Tara Hub and their leaders who foster close collaboration: the Tara Dads Club (Nick Ross), the Tara Old Girls' Association (Lucinda Beck) and Friends of Tara Rowing (Matthew Eaton).

Broadening Representation

This year we formally welcomed Friends of Tara Rowing into the Hub, enriching our collaboration. At our recent AGM we voted to welcome Tara Badminton (represented by Bo Liu) and to appoint a representative of the Tara boarding community. We also hope to bring in representation from Tara's performing arts community in the future.

I am excited for all that 2026 will bring and look forward to connecting with fellow parents as we continue to support and strengthen our school community.

Celebrating Connection, Legacy, and the Future:

A Message from the President of the Tara Old Girls' Association - Ms Lucinda Beck



Since 1957, the Tara Old Girls' Association has stood as a vibrant thread woven through the story of Tara; linking past, present, and future generations of women who carry the spirit of our school into the world. Our community continues to flourish through shared memories, evolving traditions, and a collective commitment to supporting the next generation of Tara girls.

As we look to the future, I am thrilled to announce our first official Reunion Weekend launching in 2026. This new tradition will offer every alumni year group a designated moment in the school calendar to gather, reconnect, and celebrate their shared Tara journey.

The inaugural Reunion Weekend will take place from 16–18 October 2026, with the highlight event being Back to Tara Day which will be held on Saturday, 17 October 2026, featuring a joyful garden party on the school grounds. We warmly invite all past students, staff, families, and our cherished past parents to join us as we reopen the gates to the place where so many of our stories began.

These weekends will provide a "home base" for reunion year groups, complete with campus tours, opportunities to meet staff and students, and time to reconnect not only with your own cohort but with Tara women across many graduating years. Our hope is to build a tradition that strengthens intergenerational ties and celebrates every chapter of Tara's legacy.

While we embrace new traditions, our mission remains deeply rooted in supporting the students of today. The Old Girls' Association continues its dedication to bursaries, scholarships, and gifts that enhance the educational experience of current Tara girls. We take great pride in acknowledging both current students and alumnae who demonstrate extraordinary commitment to their fields.

This year, we are delighted to award the Joan Waugh Scholarship for Alumni to Brittany Fossey (Class of 2013). Brittany is entering her final year of a Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Her recent work as Script Supervisor on an independent film that premiered at the South by Southwest (SXSW) Film Festival is a testament to her talent and determination. The scholarship funds will support her final semester of study, and we look forward to watching her career continue to flourish.

As always, we encourage our community to stay connected, whether through reunions, events, volunteering time and expertise sharing their industry knowledge and experience, or sharing treasured memorabilia that helps us preserve Tara's rich history.

Together, let us continue to celebrate our past, strengthen our present, and inspire the future.

Class of 1995 Reunion

In November, Tara warmly welcomed back the Class of 1995 as they gathered on campus to celebrate their 30-year reunion. The atmosphere was filled with joy from the moment alumnae arrived, with smiles, laughter, and the unmistakable ease of old friends reconnecting. The chatter was non-stop as classmates eagerly caught up on three decades of life, memories, and milestones.

The evening began with a tour of the School, giving alumnae the chance to see how Tara has grown and evolved. Highlights included visiting the Chapel and exploring the impressive new Aquatic Centre. Many fondly recalled swimming in the old outdoor pool and enjoyed seeing how the facilities have changed over the years. The Class of 1995 was also delighted to be joined by Mrs Judy Cropper, who taught many of the girls. She shared memories of her time with the cohort and showed them through the School's new kitchen facilities.

Following the tour, guests gathered in the Bowern Room, now home to the Senior School cafeteria, for drinks and canapés. The space was filled with reminiscing, storytelling, and laughter as classmates rekindled connections formed during their school days.

It was a truly special evening, celebrating friendship, shared history, and the enduring Tara spirit. The Class of 1995 left with full hearts, grateful for the chance to come together once again.









Join Us

To join the Tara Old Girls' Association send an email to taraoldgirls@tara.nsw.edu.au with your contact details.

Stay Connected: Tara Old Girls can update their details by visiting the Tara School website Community page or via this link

www.tara.nsw.edu.au/community/tara-old-girl-update-your-details/

Tara Alumnae

Brittany Fossey Awarded the Joan Waugh Scholarship



> *"An emerging screenwriter and filmmaker, she has already contributed extensively to the film and television industry..."*

Tara Anglican School for Girls is proud to announce that alumna Brittany Fossey (2013) has been awarded the prestigious Joan Waugh Scholarship, valued at $10,000, in recognition of her outstanding academic achievements and her commitment to further study in the creative industries.

Brittany is currently completing a Master of Fine Arts in Writing for the Screen at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) in Los Angeles, where she is supported by an LMU Merit Scholarship. An emerging screenwriter and filmmaker, she has already contributed extensively to the film and television industry, working as a script supervisor, writer, producer, and director across a wide range of feature films, television projects, and short films. Her feature credits include She's The He, selected for SXSW Film Festival 2025, and Salt Along the Tongue, showcased at SXSW Sydney 2024.

Before moving to Los Angeles, Brittany completed a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) at the University of Sydney, where her research on illness perceptions and health behaviour in women with PCOS was published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. She also earned a Diploma of Screen and Media from the Sydney Film School, producing and directing several acclaimed short films.

Alongside her creative practice, Brittany has contributed to the industry through academic roles, including serving as a Graduate Teaching Assistant and Writing Tutor at LMU. Her professional experience also spans roles with Nine Entertainment, Wooden Horse, and multiple production companies, reflecting her versatility and dedication to storytelling in all its forms.

While at Tara, Brittany was an active and engaged student, participating in the Japanese Exchange Program and serving as CEO of the Space Odyssey Team - experiences that helped spark her creative ambition.

The Joan Waugh Scholarship will support Brittany as she continues her postgraduate studies and advances her career in screenwriting and film production. Tara congratulates Brittany on this achievement and looks forward to following her continued success on the international stage.

Staff News

Tara Values Awards

This award honours staff who exemplify the values of Service, Integrity, Opportunity, and Affirmation - not only in the work they do, but in the way they foster connection, collaboration and community.



Aimee Sutton – Student & Staff Services Officer

Aimee is a quiet force of positivity who embodies Tara's values every day. She leads withintegrity, serves with genuine care, and uplifts others through her warmth and dedication. Colleagues describe her as someone who goes above and beyond in every task - from supporting the wellbeing of students to ensuring staff feel equipped and encouraged. Her commitment to excellence shines through in her attention to detail, cheerful approach, and willingness to help anyone in need. Aimee's work stretches far beyond her role, and her steady presence makes a meaningful difference across the Senior School.



Taryn Guy – TAS Teacher

Taryn lives our Christian values with grace, humility, and wholehearted service. She is a mentorwho inspires her girls, a colleague who supports others with compassion, and a teacher whosets a powerful example of integrity in action.Those who work alongside her describe Taryn as generous with her time, deeply thoughtful, andsomeone who consistently goes above and beyond for both staff and students. She createsopportunities for others to grow and thrive, modelling the Tara Values in every interaction andencouraging our community to do the same.



Staff News

Farewell Mr Scott Baker - Deputy Principal | Head of Senior School



> *"Over the years, Scott's leadership became a steady force in the life of the School... he showcased integrity, commitment, determination, belief, and an unshakable work ethic."*

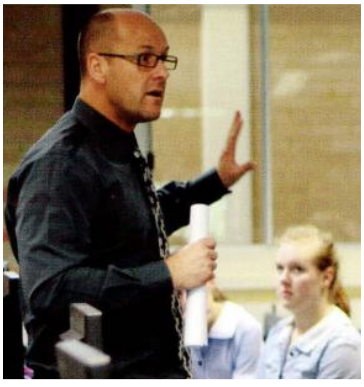
A Message from Mrs Adele Ramsay - Principal

It has been a pleasure getting to know Scott Baker over the past two years. During his 20 years of dedicated service at Tara, Scott has made a profound impact through his leadership and commitment. He has served in several key roles, including Head of History, Director of Teaching and Learning, Head of Senior School, and most recently, Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School.

Scott has played a vital role in Tara's growth and reputation as one of Sydney's leading schools. He has fostered a culture of academic excellence, holistic development, and strong community values, working in partnership with our talented educators and supportive families.

As Principal, I am personally grateful for Scott's strategic insight, unwavering commitment, and tireless work ethic. His leadership, particularly during the past few years, has provided stability and continuity through the transition of Principal. His contributions have strengthened our academic programs, enhanced international partnerships, and upheld high standards across the Senior School.

In this edition of the *Tara Circle*, we celebrate Scott's remarkable service. On behalf of the Tara community, we wish him every success as he steps into an exciting new chapter in educational leadership as a Principal. We also extend our warm congratulations on this significant appointment.









A Message from Mrs Susan Middlebrook - Former Principal

As Scott Baker prepares to leave Tara after an extraordinary 20 years of service, it is impossible not to reflect on the imprint he has left on the School community. Scott's next step, taking on the role of Principal at the Central West Leadership Academy in Dubbo, is an exciting and richly deserved opportunity. It is a natural progression for someone who has poured so much of himself into the growth and care of young people, the strengthening of a school community, and the pursuit of educational excellence.

Scott's time at Tara has been defined not just by the positions he has held, but by the heart, discipline, and vision he has brought to each of them. He arrived as a passionate History teacher whose love for his subject was contagious. His classroom was a place where curiosity thrived, and he quickly earned the deep respect of his students, not simply for what he taught, but for how he helped them see the world. His ability to spark joy, fascination, and intellectual courage in the girls is one of his greatest and most enduring gifts to Tara.

Over the years, Scott's leadership became a steady force in the life of the School. In his roles as Head of History, Director of Teaching and Learning, Head of Senior School and ultimately, Deputy Head of Tara, he showcased integrity, commitment, determination, belief, and an unshakable work ethic. True to his high personal standards, he led by example, never asking of others what he was not willing to do himself. His influence helped shape a Senior School culture where academic learning is core to the school, expectations were clear, support was genuine, and every student was encouraged to strive for her best.

Working with Scott has been one of the great privileges of my own leadership journey. I am grateful not only for his wisdom and steadiness, but for the chance to learn alongside him and witness the way he nurtures both students and potential. He has a wonderful sense of humour and there has been much laughter in our days working together. Scott has been a tower of strength in times when the school experienced great sadness and his quiet support in those times is something for which I will be forever grateful. I am incredibly proud to see him step into this next chapter. The Central West Leadership Academy is gaining a leader of integrity, intellect, humour, and immense heart.

Scott is well known for beginning and ending every day with the words, "Every day is a great day at Tara." What he may not fully realise is that he played a key role in making so many of those days great. His presence has shaped this school in ways that will long outlast his tenure.

Scott, thank you for everything you have given to Tara. You leave the School stronger, steadier, and better for your time here, and we will always be grateful. I wish you every success and every joy in Dubbo, and I look forward to hearing all about the wonderful things ahead.

Best wishes on this exciting new adventure.















































Did you know...

You can view and catch up on all the latest Tara news and past events on our social media channels.

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