

THE

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2025

# Flame



185<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
MASS  
PAGE 4

DRESSING  
THROUGH THE  
DECADES  
PAGE 12

CORA'S  
INTERNATIONAL  
RODEO SUCCESS  
PAGE 30

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We work, learn and play on the sacred land of the Dharawal people, whose ancestors have been custodians of this Country for thousands of years.

We acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in Australia today, where they have performed age old ceremonies of storytelling, music and dance. We acknowledge our Elders past and present who, to this day, guide us with their wisdom.

Here at St Patrick's College, we commit to walking the path of Reconciliation. Together, we move forward into a shared future, built on mutual respect, understanding and unity.

*The Flame* is published annually by St Patrick's College Campbelltown.

Design and layout  
North Branding & Design.

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IBC Connect with us



# From the Principal

In this 185th year of celebrating Catholic education in the Macarthur area, St Pat's continues to shine like a beacon.

In this edition of *The Flame*, you will see and read highlights of our wonderful Mass at St Mary's Cathedral. What a sight it was to witness – a sea of blue hats bobbing along the streets toward Campbelltown Station and then across Hyde Park, filling the majestic Cathedral, and reminding us of the significant role that our school has played in the history of the Australian church.

Elsewhere, you will be delighted with snippets from our College production, *Midnight: The Cinderella Musical*, our annual dynamic collaboration with St Gregory's College.

You will appreciate the stories continuing the tradition of pursuing excellence in learning when you read about our HSC successes alongside a number of remarkable individual stories of success at a national and international level. You will marvel at the talent of our Year 12 Debating champions.

You will glimpse some new events such as our colourful Christmas Festival, an event that reinforced our relationships within, and our commitment to, the wider community.

Finally, this year we will farewell Ms Karen Wright. After 12 years of faithful service to the young women of St Pat's, Karen has decided she would like to spend more time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Another eventful and positive year at this beautiful school, which has continued to be a beacon of hope and opportunity to its community and which faithfully continues the legacy of the first Good Samaritan Sisters.

**Mrs Mary Leask**  
Principal

# Timeline 1840 – 2025



1840-1887

ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL



1888-1919

ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL AND CONVENT



1920-1949



1950-1969





2020-2025



2010-2019



1990-2009

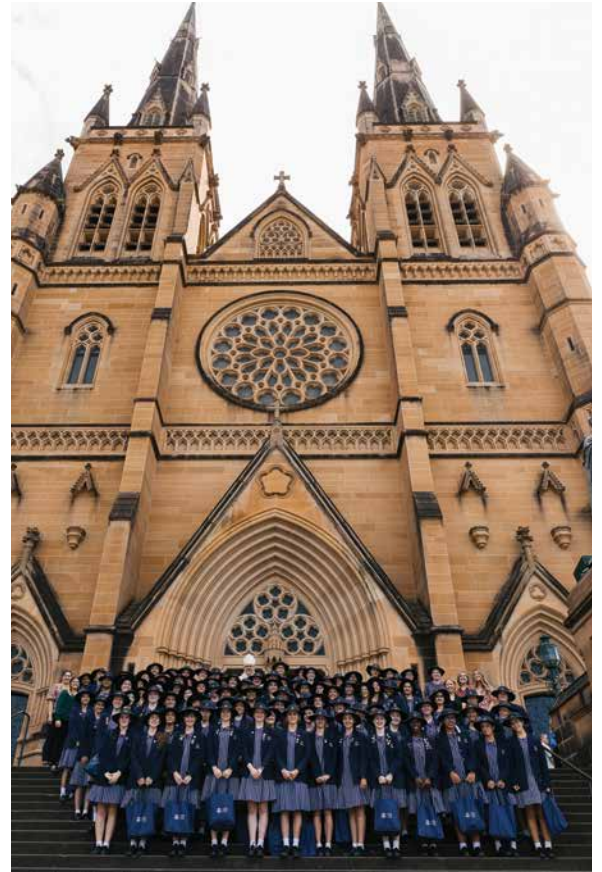


1980-1989



1970-1979





185 YEARS STRONG

# Cathedral rings with voices of hope at 185th Anniversary Mass

There wasn't a spare seat in the house at St Mary's Cathedral on Wednesday 19 March 2025 as 1,200 members of the St Patrick's College community gathered to celebrate the school's 185th anniversary.





The Mass was presided over by the Most Reverend Bishop Brian Mascord DD, Bishop of Wollongong, and uplifted by the singing of St Patrick's College students whose voices rang with joy throughout the Cathedral.

Following an Acknowledgement of Country, delivered by students Charlize Van Deinsen and Kaitlin Kumar, College Principal, Mrs Mary Leask, welcomed attendees to the Mass.

"What a wonderful day to commemorate the past, to celebrate the present and to run with hearts overflowing with joy into the future of St Patrick's College, and what better way to celebrate together than within the heart of our Catholic tradition at Eucharist, which is the source and summit of our call to be communion and community together," she said.

Mrs Leask honoured all those who contributed to the foundation and success of St Patrick's College, including the first Irish Catholic families who, in 1840, established a Catholic school for their children, along with the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, who took responsibility for the College in 1888.

She thanked the many staff who have long delivered the highest standard of Catholic education to students and she acknowledged the contributions of students and their families to the fabric of the school community.

The College was fortunate to have in attendance at the Mass many former students, each with their own memories of their time at school. Alumna Sr Geraldine Kearney sgs delivered a heartfelt and moving address at the conclusion of Mass, reflecting on her time spent at St Patrick's between 1962 and 1964, when the College had just 101 pupils and only five students in her "Leaving" class; a far cry from the 701 girls who now make up the student body.

"In the early days of education, it was commonly known that you went to school to learn the three 'R's: reading, writing, and arithmetic. Today, as I look at you beautiful College girls and have experienced the beautiful singing - including the angel who sang the Responsorial Psalm - I think of those early days of the Sisters; I think of the three 'R's that they instilled in us, values that were underpinned by the Parable of the Good Samaritan, the Rule of Benedict and the writings of Polding, values which I now see evident today, another set of three 'R's: respect, responsiveness and resilience. And these are the values that I pray that you, the girls of St Patrick's, will always cherish," Sr Geraldine said.

Sr Geraldine concluded her reflection by sharing a message, written in her autograph book by Sr Hyacinth, one of the teaching Sisters at the College when she graduated.

*"Be you near or far from St Patrick's school, you are never exempt from the golden rule; be staunch as a star, fling your glory afar; you are a St Patrick's girl, wherever you are."*

It was a sentiment that rang true to all in attendance; the connections within our College community, based on shared values and traditions, have always transcended time and distance, and the unity and pride in the Cathedral was palpable as generations of St Patrick's staff and students stood together in a celebration of shared heritage.



**A recording of the St Patrick's College 185th Anniversary Mass at St Mary's Cathedral is available here.**

[Click the link](#) or scan the QR code.



# Star-studded night a win for girls' education

The Legacy of Light Gala Ball was Campbelltown's night of nights and the twelfth successful ball hosted by the College. Emceed by multi award-winning performer Cameron Daddo, who brought warmth and wit to the stage, the event raised funds to support scholarships for more than 20 girls.

Over 350 of Macarthur's most prominent business owners, philanthropists and community members sat down to enjoy a sumptuous three-course meal at Campbelltown Catholic Club, however, not one of them could be found in their seats when Samantha Jade and her dancers stepped out to deliver an electrifying 20-minute set that included showstopping vocals, dance and an audience singalong. Samantha performed her original songs including "Bounce" and "What You've Done to Me", along with classic crowd pleasers such as Tina Turner's "The Best", Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive" and "We Are Family" by Sister Sledge.

One of the highlights of the evening included an interview Cameron Daddo conducted with Stephanie Allington and Michelle Bunder, both alumni of St Patrick's. When it came to choosing a high school, Stephanie wanted to follow in her sister Michelle's footsteps and attend St Pat's, but the sudden passing of the girls' mother meant that the financial commitment would be prohibitive for the single-income family. This changed when Stephanie was awarded a scholarship that took her from Year 7 to Year 12.

"I'd like people to know that when you award a scholarship to one student, you're also changing the lives of the whole family, who can feel secure that their daughter, or sister, is receiving the best education on offer," Michelle said.

*“It gave us a sense of peace and I know that, seeing the success Steph has had in her career, her St Pat’s education set her up for that success and continues to enrich her life.”*

Stephanie, one of the few Australian artists professionally producing cyanotype photography, generously donated a framed work titled *“Ashes of Creation”* to the silent auction, which was sold to a delighted attendee.

St Patrick’s College would like to acknowledge the support of its major sponsors, without whom the Legacy of Light Gala Ball would not have been possible. The event’s Gold Sponsor was Walker Corporation; Bronze Sponsors were Campbelltown Catholic Club, Wests Group Campbelltown, Macarthur Memorial Park and Macarthur Engineering; Corporate Sponsors were Gavmanak, TRN Group, Mardens Law Group, the Rotary Club of Campbelltown and Wakeling Automotive.

More than 70 businesses donated funds, prizes, goods and services to the event, which made the ball, the raffle and the silent auction a success.

St Patrick’s College students were invaluable to the night’s proceedings and we are so proud of the girls who attended to act as ushers, speakers and visual and performing artists.

The Gala Ball was organised by College staff alongside members of a volunteer organising committee and the school is grateful for the time, energy and expertise each contributor brought to the event.

The Legacy of Light Gala Ball marked 185 years of the College’s deep connection to the Campbelltown community and its ongoing commitment to educating young women and empowering them to make a positive impact on the world. Thanks to every member of the community who was involved in the event, St Patrick’s can continue to nurture students who want to attend our school, regardless of their family’s financial circumstances.



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE CELEBRATES  
185 YEARS WITH THE LAUNCH OF

# *Our Legacy of Light*

On Saturday 25 October, the St Patrick's College community, together with the Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society, proudly celebrated the official launch of *Our Legacy of Light - The History of St Patrick's College*, marking 185 remarkable years of history, education, and community.

Authored by two College staff members, Francesca Musico Rullo and Joanne Cavallin, this significant publication presents a comprehensive historical account of St Patrick's College Campbelltown, tracing the development of Catholic education in the area from its foundation in 1840 through to 2025.

The original school was the first in the colony to be funded by private subscription from local Irish Catholic families and was staffed by lay educators, before coming under the direction of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan in 1888. The book tells the story of the College's progression across three distinct campuses and its evolution into a secondary College dedicated to the education of young women. This history has been meticulously documented using research, images, photographs, and the personal memories of many of the Sisters, staff, and students who taught or studied there.

Although one of the authors, Mrs Francesca Musico Rullo, was unable to attend in person due to illness, she joined the celebration virtually for a special Q&A session with the Mayor of Campbelltown, Cr Darcy Lound. Together with co-author Mrs Joanne Cavallin,



the pair shared insights into their research journey, the stories uncovered, and the enduring values that continue to define St Patrick's College.

When asked by Cr Lound to describe St Patrick's College in one word, Mrs Musico Rullo answered "tenacious." She reflected on the College's resilience through the 1840s depression and the devastating 1870s rust virus that destroyed the livelihoods of many in Campbelltown, yet through it all, the school persevered.



**Our Legacy of Light is available for purchase from:**

The Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society  
[www.cahs.org.au/product/our-legacy-of-light/](http://www.cahs.org.au/product/our-legacy-of-light/)

Glenalvon House, 8 Lithgow Street,  
Campbelltown, during regular Open Days



## A REUNION TO REMEMBER

# Celebrating 185 Years of St Patrick's

On Saturday 15 November, the St Patrick's College Campbelltown community came together to celebrate 185 Years of St Patrick's College.

Alumni, current and past staff gathered in the Westview Design Centre for an afternoon filled with warmth, reflection and reconnection.

The event commenced with the official blessing and unveiling of the Sue Lennox Alumni Walkway, a project honouring the legacy of past students and families who have contributed to the rich history of the College. This special moment acknowledged the significance of the Alumni Walkway as a living tribute to the generations who form part of the St Patrick's story. It was fantastic to be joined by Sue Lennox, the College's former Principal, to witness this momentous occasion.

Following the unveiling, guests joined together for the 185 Years Reunion Event. Attendees enjoyed canapés, refreshments, music, and the joy of reminiscing with former classmates, teachers, and colleagues. The atmosphere throughout the evening reflected the Alumni Association's goals of Tradition, Connection and Community.

The Alumni Association extends its sincere thanks to everyone who attended, supported, or contributed to the success of this milestone event. Special gratitude goes to those who have purchased pavers through the Alumni Walk initiative. Your support continues to fund the Alumni Scholarship, assisting a

St Pat's student to complete Years 11 and 12.

For those who were unable to join us, the Alumni Walk will remain a beautiful fixture of the College grounds. If you wish to purchase a paver, please visit the Alumni page on the College website.

We look forward to welcoming our Alumni community back for future events, and once again thank everyone for helping us celebrate 185 years of faith, education, and community spirit at St Patrick's College Campbelltown.

**St Patrick's College  
Alumni Association**

## CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

# A night of joy & community spirit

On Friday 21 November, the College grounds came alive as close to 1,000 members of our community gathered to celebrate the inaugural Christmas Festival. Blessed with perfect weather, the evening was filled with excitement, music and festive cheer from beginning to end.

The stage was a standout feature, with our talented students delivering wonderful performances that brought the spirit of Christmas to life. We were also delighted to welcome performers from six local primary schools – Cobbitty Public School, Mater Dei School, St Clare's Narellan Vale, St John the Evangelist Campbelltown, St Justin's Oran Park and St Thomas More Ruse, whose enthusiasm and energy captivated the crowd and added beautifully to the celebration.

A special acknowledgement goes to our Design and Technology students and teachers, whose handmade gift stall was a highlight of the night. Their creativity and teamwork helped raise more than \$1,800 for St Vincent de Paul. We also thank the students who volunteered at the face-painting stall. Their artistic flair was a hit with families throughout the evening.

Our sincere appreciation extends to the many staff members who contributed to the event, assisting with stage management, supervising activities and ensuring the festival ran smoothly. A particular thank you to our MC, Mr Duval, who kept the program flowing with energy and good humour.

We are also grateful to our wonderful P&F Association, whose ever-popular sausage sizzle stall drew long lines and even required two restocks during the night.

The Christmas Festival was a true celebration of community spirit, showcasing the joy, generosity and togetherness that define our College. We thank everyone who joined us and warmly welcome you back in 2026.



# From the College Archivist

The importance of preserving and sharing the history of the College cannot be understated. It is a rich and vibrant history, spanning 185 years. Our Archive was formally established in 2012 to provide a historical resource for our College community and a repository for College memorabilia and artefacts.

## Our current holdings include:

- A uniform collection (authentic and replica)
- Documents (original and copies)
- Thousands of photographs
- Original artefacts dating from 1830
- Memorabilia donated by Alumni
- A small museum
- Trophies, historical books and College furniture



We welcome all and any donations of College memorabilia and will happily make copies of documents or photos and return the originals if you wish. Perhaps you have a Mass booklet, an award, a College badge or trophy, maybe a pre 1980 uniform, to name just a few. We also welcome written submissions of your College day memories.

We are a trailblazer among schools in the Macarthur region with our Archives and publications.

- In 2025, Fran Musico-Rullo, College History teacher and I wrote "Our Legacy of Light" The History of St. Patrick's College Campbelltown.
- In 2020, I authored "Our Journey", a brochure outlining St Patrick's College and the three sites in Campbelltown we did or now call home.
- I also authored "Footsteps", a self-guided, walking tour of our current historical site.

You are welcome to make an appointment, during school terms to spend some time in Archives and view our living Archive. Please contact [jcavallin@saintpatricks.nsw.edu.au](mailto:jcavallin@saintpatricks.nsw.edu.au)

I look forward to hearing from you, our Alumni.

**Joanne Cavallin**  
College Archivist



# Dressing through the decades

## A CENTURY OF STYLE

St Patrick's College has cultivated a rich visual history through its evolving attire, reflecting changes in both educational culture and societal fashion since the nineteenth century. From the modest calico pinafores and bonnets of the 1840s to the structured navy blazers and contemporary plaid skirts, these garments serve as a living archive of the College journey.

This photo was taken at St Patrick's Convent/School site 1888-1969 George Street Campbelltown.



L to R

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

### 1950s to late 1970s

- ① **Summer Uniform:** Light blue dress worn with Panama style hat. (Original in College Archive Uniform Collection).
- ② **Sport Uniform:** Lemon yellow gym tunic with blue ric rac trim and worn with "PorkPie" style hat. (Original in College Archive Uniform Collection).
- ③ **Winter Uniform:** Blue box pleat tunic, long or short sleeve fawn colour blouse, navy blue tie, navy blazer with college crest on breast pocket and worn with navy flannel beret. (Original in College Archive Uniform Collection).

### 1930s to 1950s

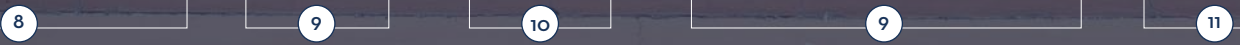
- ④ Navy box pleat tunic: Dark blue long sleeve blouse with detachable white collar and cuffs. Worn with navy flannel wide brimmed hat. (Original box pleat tunic in College Archive Uniform Collection; replica blouse designed by Phyllis Baxter Alumni Class of 1939).

### The following three items are reproductions

#### 1890s

- ⑤ Cream coloured dress embellished with cream coloured lace and black ric rac trim. A matching bonnet and cream colored eyelet gloves complete the outfit.

This photo was taken at the front door of the College CAPA building.



**1890s**

⑥ This dress has been styled from an original photograph of St. Patrick's College boarders taken in 1891. Black dress with detachable white lace collar and white cotton cuffs. Accessorised with a black belt, white hair ribbon and gloves.

**1840s**

⑦ Brown tunic with blue and brown floral short sleeve blouse, calico pinafore with pockets and brown bonnet with toes to match the blouse.

**2000s**

⑧ Current summer uniform, blazer and hat.

**1980s to 2002**

⑨ Blue plaid skirts for Seniors, plain blue skirts for Juniors. All wore a white blouse with a thin blue ribbon tied at the collar. All students wore a blazer, the style of which changed from collarless to collared.

**1980s to 1990s**

⑩ Regulation College tracksuit.

**1967 to 1980s**

⑪ Navy sport tunic with white insets on pleats, white trim and embroidered with SPC.

## A LEGACY OF LEARNING

# Sidgreaves family celebrates three generations at the College

For the Sidgreaves family, St Patrick's College represents more than an education. It serves as a continuous thread spanning three generations, shaping the values, careers, and aspirations of one family across six decades. From the late 1960s to today, the College has provided a foundation of opportunity and community for Cheryl, her daughter Amy, and granddaughters Lani and Kaiyah.

### THE FIRST GENERATION: CHERYL

Cheryl initiated the family tradition when she enrolled at the College in 1967. Living within walking distance, her parents chose the school specifically for its academic and values-based foundation. Cheryl transitioned seamlessly into secondary education, quickly embracing new subjects including science, French, music, and sewing.

During a pivotal era for women in society, the Sisters encouraged independence, resilience, creativity, and mutual respect among students. Cheryl notes that her English teacher, Mrs Writer, left a lasting impact that built her academic confidence.

These foundational lessons guided Cheryl through a diverse career path. After initially working in the legal and financial sectors, she paused her career in 1980 to raise her family. She later returned to the workforce as a teacher's aide at a local Catholic school, which inspired her to pursue further education. As a mature-age student at the Australian Catholic University, Cheryl earned her teaching qualifications, eventually rising to the position of principal and completing a Master's degree in Education Leadership and Theology.

### THE SECOND GENERATION: AMY

Driven by a belief in the school's commitment to lifelong learning, Cheryl enrolled her own daughters at the College during the 1990s.

Her daughter, Amy, recalls a deep sense of pride and belonging in following her mother's footsteps. Though the campus had modernised with updated facilities and expanded programs, Amy found the core values and community spirit remained unchanged. She remembers the annual sporting carnivals as major highlights that celebrated school spirit and community achievement.

Significantly, Amy's interactions with her mathematics teacher, Mr Thomas, directly influenced her career choice. He instilled a passion for knowledge exchange that Amy now brings to her own teaching career. For Amy, the enduring lessons of kindness and integrity continue to guide her roles as an educator, parent, and community member.

## THE THIRD GENERATION: LANI AND KAIYAH

Today, the family legacy continues with Amy's daughters, Lani and Kaiyah, who represent the third generation of Sidgreaves women at the College.

Lani admits that entering a school with such deep family roots felt both exciting and daunting. However, she quickly discovered a supportive environment that mirrored her family's stories. A key moment of connection occurred during the Sue Lennox Alumni Walk where engraved pavers were installed outside Westview featuring the names of past and present students. Seeing her name alongside her mother's and grandmother's solidified her place in the history of the College. Lani credits the school's focus on independent thinking with building her personal confidence and academic goals.

Her sister, Kaiyah, similarly channelled the initial pressure of family tradition into personal motivation. Kaiyah notes that the College excels at empowering girls to become confident, capable, and independent young women. She draws daily inspiration from the words of College Principal, Mary Leask:

*"When we thrive, we strive and when we strive, we achieve".*

For Cheryl, watching her granddaughters walk the same hallways brings immense pride, fulfilling her own parents' original vision of raising independent, educated women.



## STAFF MEMORIES

# Being a St Pat's girl

Generations of St Pat's students carry a special affection for the College long after their school days end. Over the years, many have returned. Not just to visit, but to serve, joining the school as teachers and professional staff. This longstanding tradition is living proof of the lasting, positive impact of a St Pat's education. Today, 16 members of staff are alumni, and in this special piece, they share some of their favourite memories from their time as students of the College.

## ALICIA POLLICINA NÉE CANSIAN

*Class of 2004*

*TAS teacher*

During my time at St Pat's, I enjoyed working in the creative spaces of the Design and Technology rooms with some very inspiring teachers and peers. We completed lots of different design challenges and projects in small groups, which helped me develop my skills quickly in this subject. Mrs Abernethy, Mrs Brislane and Mrs Reader inspired me and fostered a creative and well supported environment to learn. This is ultimately why I decided to pursue a career as a Technology teacher. I also enjoyed Business Studies with our lovely teacher, Mrs Barnes. We wrote business plans and budgets and developed a market day with stalls that included rebranded nail polish to sell.

Letter writing to friends was very popular in my day. There was a stage where it progressed from little slips of paper to small notepads for each friend. We would decorate borders, write lovely headings, paste in pictures of our celebrity crushes from *Dolly* magazines and pass them back and forth each week. It was utterly embarrassing if they got confiscated!

When I was in Year 10, the College launched a new College uniform. There was excitement and apprehension



among the student body. We found it hard to part with the shorter navy box-pleated skirt. The red jumper was a huge change, but it was an item we grew to love and became a statement piece. I remember a big launch and even a catwalk set up in Westview to showcase and promote our new look. My cohort was the first year to wear the senior uniform.

I remember the challenges of learning a new language - I was in a German class. The most fun we had was making a cuckoo clock from balsa wood. I also remember recording ourselves speaking in an old-school cassette recorder for our assessment tasks.

Most importantly, I remember the support and encouragement from teachers, and building life long friendships that remain with me today.

**ALLISON MCINTYRE NÉE SAVAGE***Class of 2002**Accounts Assistant*

I was part of the Ministry Outreach group which involved Community Service. We had a roster for the Claymore Public School Breakfast Program. We would make the students breakfast in the mornings and keep them company before school.



In Year 11, I was fortunate to be one of five students selected to the Good Samaritan Ministry Outreach Program. We spent the week boarding at St Scholastica's College in Glebe during the July holidays. We volunteered at soup kitchens, churches and charity organisations.

In Year 12, I was selected to the Student Leadership Team as Lyons House Captain. I loved having meetings with my house group, working together to come up with chants for carnivals. Each year, the Year 12 cohort would choose the dress-up themes for each grade at sport carnivals. It was always fun seeing the costumes the girls came up with.

I always chose Visual Arts as one of my electives. I thoroughly enjoyed the courses and always had great teachers. In my senior years, I loved photography and being able to use the darkroom to develop photos and create works of art. Senior students loved the Visual Arts shed.

One of my favourite teachers was Miss Vanessa Borg, who taught Visual Arts and Photography. She always had time for her students and would give ideas and feedback to guide us, rather than tell us what we should create. She was also part of the Ministry Outreach program so I got to work with her quite a lot.

One of my favourite memories was the Year 11 SLR Snow Trip. The PDHPE teachers were amazing. Mrs Brown and Miss Miller came on the trip. There were many laughs, especially from the students who had never been to the snow before and didn't listen to the instructors. All of my friends chose SLR as an elective so it was a fun trip with my best friends. We still laugh about the trip now.

**CHANLINA LAM***Class of 2014**Languages Coordinator*

I have many fond memories of attending St Pat's as a student including the friends that I made, the teachers that supported us and my Japanese studies.



The friendships I made during my time at school are still as strong as ever. We had many great times together, especially at camps and retreats. I have travelled overseas with my two best friends from school and they were my bridesmaids when I got married.

My schooling experience would not have been the same without the teachers who genuinely cared for us. The support they provided went beyond the classroom. From helping us with our studies during break times to checking in with us when they could tell we weren't feeling our best - every little thing they did went a long way towards making us feel that we were accepted and belonged. It is very comforting that many of my teachers are still working at the College and continue to mentor me as a staff member now.

My love for Japanese was sparked by Mr Nash. I chose Japanese as an elective out of curiosity and I had no idea that it would change my life. In addition to teaching us a new language and developing our intercultural understanding, Mr Nash gave us many learning opportunities, including allowing us to make new friends when Japanese exchange students visited us. Of course, the best experience was travelling to Japan on a study tour. We each did a brief homestay with a host family. I still keep in touch with my host family and I recently visited my host sister in Japan.



## ELIZABETH HAYES

*Class of 1995*

*Year 10 Coordinator*

*English teacher*

My favourite memories of my time at St Pat's revolve around the sporting life of the College. Our school has a rich sporting history, and this was definitely evident in the 1990s. I would put my hand up for every single sporting opportunity (this may sometimes have been to get out of classwork!).

In the 90s, St Pat's had a Gymnastics Club and I was fortunate to be employed as a gymnastics coach while also attending the school. Our Gymnastics Club was in the Mary Sheil Centre and it had a great set-up, bars, beam, vault and a sprung floor. The club was open to the wider community and it ran under the leadership of Mr Lantz who, incidentally, was the reason I became a teacher.

I also loved representing the College in athletics, particularly high jump. These competitions were always fun and our teams were incredibly competitive.



## KRISTY DENNIS NÉE AHEARN

*Class of 1998*

*Business Manager*

There are so many staff members who inspired my journey both at school and after graduation. Sr Catherine Slatery, Principal; she was amazing.

Everyone would listen carefully when she spoke and she communicated the College values in a way that we found relatable and relevant to our lives. Mr Jordan, Librarian; he was one of the most intelligent, quirky and interesting people I have ever met. Another was Ms McCann, Canteen Manager. In Year 9, we were required to complete a number of work experience hours in the canteen; she was calm and taught us skills outside the classroom. Mrs Ibbett, Year Coordinator; she genuinely cared for and knew her students. Ms Kite, Pastoral teacher; we could all see how much she enjoyed teaching and supporting her students and that made us more engaged in our learning.

I will always treasure memories of retreats; time spent in self-reflection and building friendships.

When I was at school, our roll call classes were made up of students from different year groups, as were our elective classes. I enjoyed this opportunity to get out of our comfort zone and form friendships with girls from other grades.



## NATALIE GUELFO NÉE CEBULSKI

*Class of 1989*

*English teacher*



teacher, was so passionate about her subject. She would read us novels and take on the most beautiful character voices and, during one lesson, as she was reading us poetry by Keats, the sound of her voice lulled me to sleep. I woke myself up, startled and horrified that I had

I remember so many wonderful teachers who transformed my high school experience. Ms Milne, my Years 11 and 12 English

fallen asleep! She inspired me to become a teacher. It was also wonderful to have my Year 9 English teacher, Mrs Norris, become a colleague when I returned to St Pat's to teach.

Another teacher I was extremely fond of was Sister Dorothea. She was my Biology teacher, and she moved me to every seat in the Science lab to try to stop me from talking during class. In the end, she sat me at the teacher's table with her, saying, "If I can't stop you from talking, then at least you can talk to me about

Biology." I actually ended up doing really well in Biology.

I have fond memories of the time I spent with my friends at school. I have so many wonderful memories of our Retreats at the Polding Centre at Mater Dei, our visits to Brother Dan at St Mary's Towers, MISA sport and our Masses (which were held in the Chapel), learning Spanish and French and sitting on the Top Oval sharing stories and laughter. At St Pat's, I formed life-long friendships that I still have today.

**STEPHANIE DUNN***Class of 1999**Religious Education teacher*

A quirky memory I have from my time at school is of our College Librarian. In the days before access to computers and Google, we had to do old-school research using books! One day, I had a research assessment and asked the librarian if he knew of any books I could use. He not only knew the best books but also recited the exact pages I needed! He had an amazing photographic memory.



I used to love the Principal's Address at assemblies. Sr Catherine Slatery was the best storyteller! I listened delightedly to every word and loved how she brought our values to life through personal and relatable stories.

One day, we had a Student Leadership Team meeting with Sr Catherine, in her office. Towards the end, we noticed our Vice Captain had fallen asleep; she was exhausted from trying to keep up with HSC assessments, out-of-school commitments and the demands of her Leadership role. Sr Catherine found a blanket for her and left her asleep in her office to catch up on rest. The poor thing slept for hours and was shocked when she woke up alone in the Principal's office!

My favourite memory of St Pat's is the way teachers genuinely cared for the students. I was experiencing a challenging HSC year but the staff went above and beyond to support me, helping me catch up on lessons in their own time when I fell behind due to illness and even donating formal dresses so I felt included. They inspired me to not just be a teacher but look for ways to give back to the community. I feel very honoured to be able to come back and teach here in a community I love.

**EMILY TAWAGI NÉE PEDDER***Class of 2013**History teacher*

One of the many highlights from my time at St Pat's was my involvement in the Ministry Outreach program when I was in Year 11. I was lucky enough to be chosen to embark on the outreach program with 5 other girls from my grade and Ms Jones. We spent the week at St Scolastica's in Glebe, with a number of other Good Samaritan schools, and each day participated in a program that allowed us to visit and help some of society's most vulnerable and in need communities such as soup kitchens, rehab centres and centres for disabled children.



One of the most memorable days for me was helping out at Allowah children's care centre, who specialise in the care of children with complex special needs and disability. Being put completely outside my comfort zone I was able to learn a lot about how other people live and the challenges that others face every single day, and how I knew one day I wanted to work in an area where I felt like I was contributing to my community. Overall this experience gave me the opportunity to reflect on my own values and deepened my interest in social justice work. It is an experience that even now I share with others as something that shaped my adult life in how I see people, and treat those around me.

One of the highlights of my school year was attending the POLYNITE performances. I thoroughly enjoyed attending the show and supporting all of the girls who performed. Celebrating the multicultural nature of the college was always one of my favourite things to do.

My Year 11 & 12 Ancient history teacher Mrs Fetterplace was one of the most influential people during my senior years at the college. I had a deep interest in all things history, and her passion and knowledge for the subject always inspired me. Mrs Fetterplace always made us feel comfortable and welcome in our class, and made our learning experience so enjoyable. She was genuinely a great person and teacher, and my time in her class definitely contributed to me becoming a History Teacher myself.



SCHOOL NEWS

# Class of 2025 marks significant rise in HSC rankings

The Class of 2025 has much to be proud of, achieving outstanding results in the Higher School Certificate and continuing St Patrick's College's strong tradition of academic excellence.

Of the 110 students who completed the HSC in 2025, 33 were recognised as Distinguished Achievers, attaining one or more of the College's 57 Band 6 and/or E4 results. These top-tier results, reflecting achievement between 90 and 100 per cent in individual subjects, are a testament to the dedication, perseverance and commitment of our students. Particularly noteworthy were five accelerated Year 11 Studies of Religion students who achieved Band 6 results, an exceptional accomplishment at such an early stage of their senior studies.

The College also celebrates eight students who achieved an ATAR above 90. Leading the cohort was Holly Burfitt, who earned the College's highest ATAR of 98.8. Holly's achievements included being ranked 20th in the state for PDHPE and being named a Premier's All Rounder, having achieved a Band 6 or E4 in at least 10 units.

These results reflect the strength of academic outcomes across the cohort, with one in three girls achieving an ATAR above 80, an extraordinary outcome for a non-selective college. As a result of the Class of 2025's collective success, St Patrick's College improved its overall HSC ranking by more than 30 places, rising from 215 in 2024 to 177 in 2025.

The College is proud to acknowledge several students who received prestigious HSC Showcase nominations for their exemplary major works. This year, four students received a total of eight CALLBACK nominations for excellence in Dance. Our musical talent was also on display with an ENCORE nomination for performance. In the field of Drama, four students received OnSTAGE nominations for their individual performances. Furthermore, the creative writing talents of the cohort earned two Young Writers nominations, with one student receiving both nomination and selection.

*The College congratulates the Class of 2025 on their outstanding achievements and extends sincere thanks to the dedicated teachers, staff and families who supported and guided students throughout their HSC journey. These results are a proud reflection of hard work, collaboration and the shared commitment to excellence within the St Patrick's community.*

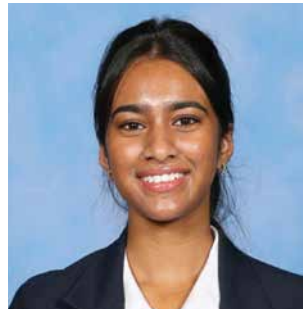
## STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED AN ATAR OF 90 AND ABOVE



**Holly Burfitt**  
98.8



**Angelea Vella**  
96.35



**Navya Sawal**  
94



**Mackenzie Quick**  
93.85



**Michaela Fleming**  
92.65



**Orlaith Browne**  
92



**Ava Moraghan**  
91.95



**Lexi Vardy**  
91.4

# From personal experience to scientific inquiry

In primary school, Madeline Miller watched her younger sister undergo treatment for cancer. “Chemotherapy is very intense, and my sister lost all of her hair,” Maddie said. “I’ve always wondered if there was another treatment that could work.”

That question led Maddie, now a Year 12 student, to pursue a Science Extension project investigating stem cell transplants as a treatment for blood cancers and disorders. Motivated by first-hand experience of the life-saving nature of medicine and the study of biology, she’s now exploring a future in medical science and research.

“I’ve always been interested in the field,” she said. “And I’ve made connections with cancer specialists and researchers through my sister’s care and our fundraising efforts, and I find their work so interesting.”

Madeline’s research project asks whether hematopoietic stem cell transplants are more effective than other treatments in curing certain illnesses.

“When they’re inserted in the blood, they replicate healthy blood cells and replace all the damaged cells,” she explained. “I found that really interesting as a less invasive treatment than radiation therapy, which can also have negative impacts. In comparison, stem cell transplants have mostly positive impacts.”

Madeline’s research is a secondary investigation, using journal articles and publicly available data to identify trends.

The project taught her the nature of scientific inquiry.

“The data I had didn’t show any significant relationship, so that means that more research needs to be done,” Maddie said. “There are so many different variables, like pre-existing health issues, or the severity of the disease. More experiments that have different variables controlled and changed will help lead to a conclusion.”

One discovery stood out to Madeline. “When you’re born, your umbilical cord has stem cells that are a perfect match for your body,” she said. “So, in the future, it could be possible to keep these umbilical stem cells in a biobank and they could be used for a person’s cancer treatment, rather than to wait for a match from someone else.”

Maddie’s project was supported by her school Science teacher, as well as a research mentor at UTS, who offered expert feedback and opened up new possibilities for investigation.

“She gave me a lot of insight into the topic and helped me understand the terminology,” she said. “She also invited me to UTS for a day where I got to be with her and see what life is like as a university student studying science research.”

*“I’ve used scientific journal articles to bring all the information together,” she said. “Then I’ve used raw data, to determine trends and answer my research question.”*



## CHAMPIONS CROWNED

# A landmark year in sport

St Patrick's College celebrated a year of exceptional athletic achievement in the 2025 Macarthur Independent Schools Association (M.I.S.A) competition. Across the year, students demonstrated technical skill and collaborative spirit, securing multiple championship titles

The success began in Term 2, with the Years 7 to 9 basketball team and the Years 10 to 12 soccer team both coming away as Division 1 M.I.S.A Champions.

The momentum continued into Term 3 with the College securing three Championship Division titles across AFL, softball, and netball.

In Term 4, the Years 7 to 9 AFL and Oz Tag teams were both crowned Division 1 M.I.S.A Champions.

To finish off the year, the College claimed the title of M.I.S.A Champion School - Senior Girls, a wonderful achievement, reflecting the commitment of the students and dedicated guidance of the coaching staff.

Congratulations to all teams on a year of outstanding results.



# A legacy of dedication and care

MRS KAREN WRIGHT



As Assistant Principal - Students, Mrs Karen Wright prepares to retire after more than 40 years in education, including 12 years in her current chapter at the College. Her contribution is reflected in the many students and families she has supported.

Karen's journey into teaching began with a genuine love of learning. Inspired by a senior Geography teacher during her own schooling, she pursued a career in education, becoming the only one of nine siblings to do so. From her early days in the classroom to leadership roles in curriculum and pastoral care, she has brought a steady and thoughtful approach to her work.

Her connection to St Patrick's College spans two periods. She first joined the College in the early 1990s as a classroom teacher, later returning to take on leadership as Assistant Principal - Students. Drawn by the strong sense of community, she describes the College as a place where people feel supported and connected.

Throughout her career, Karen has remained focused on the importance of relationships. She approaches each interaction with

care, ensuring that students and families feel heard, supported and reassured.

*"It's about giving people confidence that their child will be looked after," she says.*

Her commitment to follow-through, checking in, offering guidance and maintaining connection has helped build trust across the College community. She encourages students to recognise their growth over time, often reminding them how far they have come.

"There's always something there," she says. "Sometimes it just takes time."

Karen also speaks with deep appreciation for her colleagues, particularly within the pastoral

care team. She values the strong sense of support and shared purpose that underpins their work together.

During her time at the College, she has contributed to strengthening pastoral structures that foster connection between staff and students, helping to ensure that every student is known and supported.

As she moves into retirement, Karen looks forward to spending more time with her family, especially her grandchildren, and embracing new opportunities at her own pace.

Mrs Wright leaves the College with a legacy of care, dedication and lasting impact. The community thanks her for her years of service and wishes her every happiness in the years ahead.

## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

# Rebecca's academic journey to Oxford

Earlier this year, Year 11 student Rebecca Murphy earned a remarkable opportunity to expand her academic horizons on the global stage. After entering the Immerse Education essay competition, Rebecca was selected for a prestigious scholarship, granting her the choice of a university or career preparation course at an institution of her choosing.

During the winter break, Rebecca travelled to England to undertake a two-week Academic Insights program at the University of Oxford. Specialising in International Relations, she immersed herself in a rigorous academic environment that challenged her perspective.

*"My favourite part of the course was exploring the different theories of International Relations," Rebecca shared. "It was completely new information and opened my eyes to different perspectives of the world".*

While the academic schedule was demanding, the experience extended far beyond the lecture theatre. Rebecca connected with peers from across the globe, building a sense of community through activities such as karaoke boating on the River Thames. "Meeting such lovely people from all different walks of life was really eye-opening," she noted, reflecting on the long-lasting friendships formed during the trip.

The academic focus of the program proved to be the true highlight, with much of her research conducted in the inspiring setting of the St Edmund's Hall library, a 12th-century church converted into a haven of knowledge. The course provided deep insights into the power players who have shaped the modern era and solidified Rebecca's passion for the field.

Towards the conclusion of the program, Rebecca was tasked with investigating a current global issue, including exploring the key actors, historical background and providing a solution. She chose to research how the Taliban's interpretation of Islam has affected Afghan women and the global Muslim community.

Rebecca expressed her sincere gratitude to those who supported her journey, particularly Mrs Musico Rullo. For Rebecca, the experience was "insightful, rewarding and memorable".



CENTRE STAGE

# Amelia represents the College with Opera Australia

Amelia Noble-Murray, Year 7, balances her academic commitments with a professional career in theatre, film, and television. Most recently, she joined the cast of the Opera Australia production, *La Bohème*, at the Sydney Opera House.

The selection process for the production involved a rigorous series of auditions and callbacks. Amelia performed as part of the Children's Ensemble. She was one of 6 girls cast in the show for the Winter season. "We play street urchins in the marketplace scenes as well as bustling into the cabaret night spot. We sing in Italian as it is a Puccini Opera and have a real performance acting element as well as our vocals" Amelia said.

This role adds to a significant portfolio of professional work. Amelia previously appeared in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at the Capitol Theatre and performed as Little Cosette in *Les Misérables*. Her TV screen credits include work for brands such as Amazon, Steggle's and ANZ. Her dedication to the performing arts earned her the Rotary Youth Excellence in Performing Arts Award and the Campbelltown Council Young Excellence Award.

Maintaining a professional performance schedule alongside school requires meticulous organisation. Amelia utilises both a family planner and her school planner to manage rehearsals and performance runs, focusing on one week at a time to remain prepared for her studies.

"Performing is both exciting and demanding," she said. "I prioritise my schedule to ensure I meet the requirements for both Opera Australia and school."

Amelia continues her technical development through private tuition in music, dance, and vocal technique. This preparation supports her upcoming transition into the Summer Season of Opera Australia, to perform in *Hansel and Gretel*.

*"I'm excited as in this show I will sing, act and dance ballet in the upcoming production".*

As Amelia progresses through her secondary education, she remains committed to her craft. Her ability to navigate the complexities of the entertainment industry while maintaining her focus on her school community reflects a disciplined approach to her personal and professional growth.

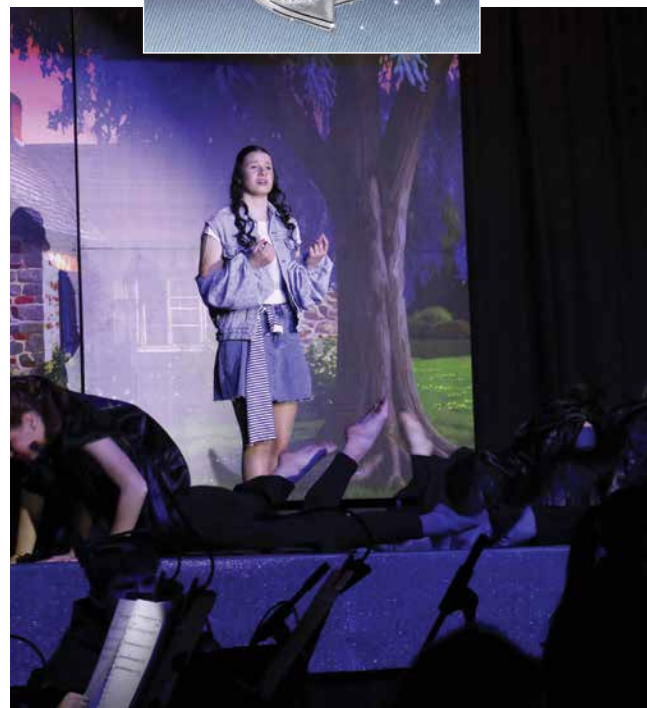


# A fairytale finish

Three spellbinding performances. Over 1,500 attendees. The St Patrick's College and St Gregory's College 2025 musical was a success six months in the making.

*Midnight: The Cinderella Musical* is a bold, empowering retelling of the classic fairytale, and our production was among the first by schools in Australia, and the world.

Over 100 students made up the cast and crew; each put enormous effort into staging the musical. They were expertly guided by staff from the two Colleges, under the leadership of Mrs Catherine McLaren, CAPA Coordinator.



“IT CHANGES HOW YOU SEE THE WORLD”

# Harshpreet's Simpson Prize journey

Standing in the shadow of the A-Bomb Dome in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, 2025 Simpson Prize winner Harshpreet Sidhu realised that some of history's most powerful lessons are best understood in the places where they unfolded.

*“Hearing survivor testimonies gave me firsthand insight into the unimaginable human cost of war,” Harshpreet said. “It made me realise that peace is not just a historical lesson, but rather, a responsibility.”*

That powerful moment was part of a 10-day study tour through Japan and Singapore, an experience Harshpreet, who is in Year 10 at St Patrick's College, earned as the NSW winner of the prestigious 2025 Simpson Prize. The prize is a national history essay competition for Years 9 and 10 students which focuses on the service of Australians in World War I and World War II. The competition is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and conducted by the History Teachers' Association of Australia.

One winner is selected from each state and territory. Harshpreet's win marks the first time a student from St Patrick's College has earned this prestigious award.

The 2025 essay question asked students to discuss the following statement: "Australia's relationship with Great Britain explains why Australia and individual Australians went to war."

Harshpreet's essay explored how Australia's motivations shifted during World War II; from initial loyalty to Britain to the urgent need to defend its own shores after the bombing of Darwin. Her thoroughly researched argument, supported by a wide range of primary sources, stood out among submissions nationwide.

Harshpreet's achievement earned her a visit from the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for Social Services, and Dr Mike Freelander MP, Member for Macarthur, who personally congratulated her on the achievement.

But it was the overseas tour itself that left a lasting impression on Harshpreet.

“In Singapore, visiting the Changi Museum and learning about the resilience and suffering of Australian prisoners of war offered a powerful reminder of the hardships endured on the battlefield and behind barbed wire, and the strength of the human spirit in the face of adversity,” Harshpreet said.

“Attending the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Kranji War Cemetery was one of the most profound moments of the trip.”

Beyond the historical tour, Harshpreet and her fellow winners from across the country immersed themselves in local culture, exploring Kyoto's temples, riding Japan's bullet trains, tasting the street food of Little India and experiencing the vibrant neighbourhoods of Singapore.

She credits her success in part to the support of her History teacher, Mrs Francesca Musico-Rullo, who inspired her to apply and assisted with her research and writing. Harshpreet encourages other students to consider entering the competition.

“Winning this prize allows you to go to Canberra and to travel internationally,” she said. “But most importantly, you meet incredible people and experience history in a way that changes how you see the world.”



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM:

# Discovering Japan



In December, 25 students from Years 10, 11 and 12 undertook a 14-day study tour of Japan to engage directly with the nation's language and traditions. Accompanied by Ms Lam, Mrs Jesuadian, and Mrs Cousins, the group travelled through Tokyo, Kyoto, and Hiroshima, experiencing the intersection of Japan's ancient history and modern innovation.

The tour commenced in Tokyo, where the itinerary included historical site visits along with contemporary cultural experiences. The students visited the Senso-Ji and Meiji-Jingu shrines, explored the digital art museum called TeamLab Planets, and spent a day at Tokyo Disneyland. A significant highlight was the visit to the College's sister school, Shonan Shirayuri Gakuen. The students participated in joint classroom activities, toured the campus, and shared Australian culture by performing the Nutbush and the Heel and Toe for their Japanese hosts.

The journey continued to Kyoto. The group visited Fushimi Inari Shrine, known for their ten thousand Torii gates, and the Kinkaku-Ji Golden Pavilion.

The students visited Todai-Ji in Nara, home to one of the world's largest Buddha statues, and interacted with the local deer at Nara Deer Park. At Kiyomizu-Dera, a temple situated on a cliffside, many students wore traditional kimonos while exploring the historic shopping district.

The final leg of the tour in Hiroshima provided a space for somber reflection. At the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Peace Park, the group studied the history of the atomic bombing and the city's subsequent message of peace. In a symbolic gesture of solidarity, the students hung a collection of one thousand paper cranes at the Children's Memorial.

The tour concluded with a visit to Miyajima, an island off the coast of Hiroshima, where students attended a momiji manjū (Japanese sweet) making class and visited the Itsukushima Shrine.

The immersive nature of the trip significantly improved the students' linguistic confidence. Reflecting on the academic impact of the journey, one student noted, "We learnt many new words, phrases, and cultural differences, and greatly improved our Japanese speaking skills. This trip helped me feel more confident in my abilities." By navigating daily life in Japan, the group acquired a practical foundation for their ongoing language studies and a deeper understanding of global citizenship.

LEADING THE WAY

# Cora's international rodeo success

College Sport Captain, Cora Wilson, Year 12, balanced her leadership responsibilities with a landmark year in the sport of rodeo. A third-generation competitor, Cora progressed from junior ranks to open events this year, representing both the College and Australia on the international stage.



The highlight of Cora’s season was her selection for the Australian High School Rodeo Team to compete at the National High School Finals Rodeo from Sunday, 13 July to Saturday, 19 July, 2025 in Wyoming, USA. Competing on a borrowed horse, Cora used preliminary “jackpot” events to build a partnership with the horse, achieving several successful practice runs. While her competitive runs were hampered by the horse’s fitness and a narrow miss in the breakaway roping, Cora’s persistence remained a focal point of her competition. Her efforts contributed to a strong showing for the Australian team, which secured top ten finishes in the Saddle Bronc and Girls Cutting events, alongside a top 20 finish in the Cowhorse division.

During the world finals, Cora’s leadership qualities earned her a nomination as a Student Delegate for the Australian team. In this role, she acted as a liaison between athletes and judges, escalating issues and providing support to her teammates.

“This showed me the importance of being there for people when they need support,” Cora reflected. “It made me feel good that I could help my team on their journey.”

Cora’s success is built on a disciplined training schedule in her sand arena at home, where she spends roughly two hours a day. To manage her Year 12 studies alongside her commitments, she utilised a structured routine, dedicating her afternoons to training after completing her schoolwork.

Reflecting on her journey, Cora noted that the sport has taught her how to handle both success and disappointment.

*“Even when your confidence gets deflated, you need to keep pushing and motivating yourself by setting smaller goals along the way,” she said.*

As she concludes her time at St Patrick’s College, Cora intends to pursue a career as an Exercise Physiologist. She will continue to compete in open rodeo events across Australia, carrying forward the values of dedication and community that have defined her time as a student leader.



Help support the future of girls’ education



St Patrick’s College

See how you can make a difference  
Scholarships 2026 - 2029



## COURAGE AND CONVICTION

# Students excel in state public speaking finals

Finding one's voice and having the courage to use it - with conviction, passion and confidence - is surely one of life's greatest achievements. Our debating and public speaking community nurtures and nourishes the young women brave enough to give it a go, with outstanding results.

These young women see a problem and solve it, find a team and work collaboratively, tackle a concept imaginatively, craft an idea originally and communicate a view convincingly.

Three teams (Years 8, 9 and 12) proudly represented the College in the CSDA Grand Final, with the Year 9 and Year 12 teams taking the championship title and the Year 8 team earning second place in their division.

Year 8 students took on the reigning champions from Santa Sabina, drawing the affirmative for the topic that "Truth is not the same as fact" and losing narrowly in a tough debate. We could not be prouder of our runners up, Sienna Caruana, Devina Nunu, Mikayla Faro and Olivia Puckrin.

Year 9 students, Clara Byrnes, Abbygael Thomas and Ruby Isbister dispatched the team from Saint Patrick's College Sutherland and

are now the reigning Year 9 champions. They brilliantly fought the negative case for the topic that "Truth is created rather than discovered".

Year 12 girls entered their third consecutive Grand Final this year and Mackenzie Quick, Orlaith Browne and Holly Burfitt argued with clarity and precision for the affirmative side of the topic that "In our modern world, perception holds greater power than objective truth". They dispatched their opponents, St Mary's Cathedral College, with great prowess, justifiably retaining their trophy.

Our College was also awarded both the Junior Aggregate and Senior Aggregate Shields for the highest number of wins in the rounds, under the leadership of Ms Marguerite Pulham. This phenomenal success is a testament to the hard work, talent and grit of all six of our CSDA teams.



### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025:

- Fantastic MISA event participation and success in both the Debating and Public Speaking competitions.
- College representation and success in a diverse range of public speaking opportunities - CSDA, Rostrum Voice of Youth, Lions Youth of the Year and South Coast Public Speaking Competition.
- We had 12 entrants in the CSDA Public Speaking event, with six progressions to the Zone Final, and three places in the Grand Final. Congratulations to Sofia Cocco, Year 7, third place; Mikayla Faro, Year 8; and Holly Garbutt, Year 10, second place, on your outstanding success in this space.
- South Coast Public Speaking results included Capri Cronin, Year 7, third place; Harshpreet Sidhu, Year 10, third place; and Ireoluwa Ajani, Year 9, first place, in their respective divisions.
- Rostrum Voice of Youth saw Sienna Caruana, Year 8; Victoria Shridhar, Year 10; Zali Blackman, Year 11; and Ria Kumar, Year 12, successfully win the first heat and progress to the Regional Final.

The College is fortunate to have a community that provides the encouragement and time necessary for these young women to thrive, including a number of Alumni who act as adjudicators.

LEADING WITH PURPOSE

# Mission in action with Mr Duval

At St Patrick's College, Mission is a lived experience shaped by relationships and a shared sense of purpose.

As Director of Mission, Mr Duval creates opportunities for students to encounter faith in ways that are meaningful, accessible, and grounded in everyday life. Now in his third year at the College, he draws on a background in youth ministry and education to foster a practical, relational approach focused entirely on young people.

Mr Duval prioritises creating spaces where students can encounter faith through invitation rather than instruction. He oversees liturgies, retreats, and reflection days, with a particular focus on shaping environments that feel welcoming

for students at any stage of their faith journey.

School liturgies are a primary example of this mission in action. Through the thoughtful use of music, student involvement, and visual design, Mr Duval aims to create an atmosphere that encourages active participation. Within these spaces, students are not only present, they lead; from reading and music to planning and organisation through initiatives like the Mission Council, their involvement is central. Mr Duval believes this peer-led approach is essential for building ownership and confidence, noting that the most powerful witness for a young person is seeing their own peers leading.

In a College with a strong multicultural identity, Mr Duval ensures different cultural

backgrounds are reflected in the spiritual life of the school. He encourages open discussion and critical thinking, recognising that understanding the "why" behind traditions is key to engagement. "If students don't understand the reason behind something, they disengage," he says.

Ultimately, his goal is to equip students with the values and confidence to navigate life beyond school. By focusing on presence and connection, he ensures students leave knowing they were given every opportunity to explore their faith in a supportive environment.



## Principal Tours

Come and see for yourself what makes our College a place where students thrive.

# From the President of the Alumni Association

This year has been one of connection, celebration, and growth for our alumni community.

We were proud to host several special events, including the International Women's Day Breakfast, Year 12 Graduation Breakfast, 185 Years Reunion, and the official opening and blessing of the Sue Lennox Alumni Walkway. Each occasion was a wonderful reminder of the lasting bonds that unite our past and present students, and of the shared pride in our College's story.

Our alumni also joined us throughout the year at events such as the Mother's Day High Tea, Careers Expo, 185 Years Celebration Mass, Year 12 Graduation Dinner and Farewell Mass, College Open Day, College Book Launch, and the 2025 College Gala Ball. Their presence and support added warmth and a sense of continuity to each celebration, enriching the life of our school community.

This year also marked the success of the Alumni Paver initiative, which adds to the support we can offer via the alumni scholarship, a meaningful reflection of our past students' generosity and commitment to giving back.

Being part of our alumni community is about more than staying connected, it's about continuing a story of friendship, pride, and shared values. Alumni involvement keeps the spirit of our College alive through mentorship, celebration, and support for the generations to come. It's a beautiful way to honour our traditions and ensure our legacy continues to grow.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to the Alumni Committee for their time, creativity, and dedication throughout the year. Their passion and teamwork have strengthened our alumni network and helped bring our community together in so many memorable ways.

**Erin de Rooy**  
President  
*Class of 1999*



## INTRODUCING

# Tanya Lawrence, Community Engagement Coordinator

Returning to St Patrick's College truly feels like coming home. As a member of the Class of 2005, I am delighted to be back at St Pat's in the role of Community Engagement Coordinator.

Walking through the College today, I'm struck by the many changes. New buildings, revitalised spaces, and a campus that continues to reflect the spirit of the St Patrick's community. Yet alongside these are so many familiar sights and feelings that instantly transport me back to my years here as a St Pat's girl. Reconnecting with former teachers has been incredibly special, although adjusting to calling them by their first names has taken some practice.

One of my earliest and most unforgettable experiences was in Year 7, when I was selected to perform in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games Closing Ceremony. Our role involved chasing lawn mowers around the stadium, but the lead-up was extraordinary. We rehearsed alongside Kylie Minogue and, during the dress rehearsal, had front row seats to unforgettable performances by John Farnham and Olivia Newton-John, a memory I will always treasure.

Roll call from Years 9 to 12 with Mr Quigley is another fond memory, and now working alongside him feels surreal at times. He remains the one teacher I still struggle to call by his first name, and yes, he still has those cheeseburgers. I also fondly remember Mrs Barnes, my senior Business Studies teacher, and her much-loved catchphrase, "oh schweps," which still makes me smile.

Modern History quickly became my favourite subject under the guidance of Marianne and Kathie Fetterplace. From the Russian Revolution through to World War II, studying history sparked a fascination with the stories that shape our world, a passion that now fuels my love of storytelling in my current role.



It has been especially meaningful to now work alongside Marianne as a colleague, while also reconnecting with Kathie at the recent College Reunion. That passion came full circle in 2019 when I visited St Petersburg, a true pinch-me moment. Walking the streets and sites we once studied, I felt like a kid in a candy store, knowing my 17-year-old self would have loved it.

Many hours of my student life were spent in the dance room, and it is wonderful to see that space still buzzing with creativity and energy, so well utilised by students today.

A highlight of 2025 was working with the Alumni Association to deliver the 185 Years Alumni Reunion on Saturday 15 November. Welcoming back members of my own cohort and giving them a tour of the grounds was incredibly special. An added highlight was having our Year 12 Coordinator, Mrs Eileen Norris, join us to reconnect and reminisce.

I have also loved introducing new initiatives for the College, including the inaugural Christmas Festival, which welcomed close to 1,000 people to campus. Seeing our students shine through stage performances and entrepreneurial pursuits was truly inspiring.

Perhaps the most personal connection of all is having my eldest niece now attending St Patrick's College. Sharing in this chapter of her life, and gaining insight into her experience of the College, is incredibly special.

I am grateful to be part of a community that shaped me so profoundly, and I look forward to continuing to build connections, celebrate stories, and contribute to the ongoing legacy of St Patrick's College.

**Tanya Lawrence (née Palmer)**  
Community Engagement Coordinator

# Cement your place in College history



The Sue Lennox Alumni Walk runs along the front of Westview Design Centre and features the names of current and past students who wish to leave a lasting legacy at the College.

Established by members of the College Alumni Association - Erin de Rooy, Hayleigh Campbell, Stefanie Alchin and Monique Keogh - the initiative donates profits to the school after pavers are purchased.

We invite alumni and current families to be a part of this tradition by purchasing a paver engraved with your name or a special message. It's a meaningful way to commemorate your connection to the College, while supporting future generations of students.



**Interested in ordering a paver for you or your family members?**

**Please visit the Alumni page on our website.**

# Connect with us

We value our bond with all members of our College community. We invite you to stay connected with the life of the College, ensuring you never miss the news, achievements, and exciting events that shape our students' journey.

Members of the general community are invited to follow St Patrick's College on social media – simply scan the QR codes for your preferred platforms.

Our alumni database is currently in need of an update, and we would like to ensure we have our ex-students' most up-to-date contact details. Alumni can update their details via our College website. They can also stay connected by joining our St Patrick's College Alumni Facebook group and following us on our official College social media platforms.

For those who do not use social media, stay in touch with us via post. Send your updated contact information to us at:

**St Patrick's College**  
4 St Johns Road, Campbelltown  
NSW 2560

Or email the College at:  
[community@saintpatricks.nsw.edu.au](mailto:community@saintpatricks.nsw.edu.au)

Your continued connection with St Patrick's College is deeply appreciated, and we look forward to sharing in the exciting moments ahead as we celebrate our College's legacy and future.



Update your details  
via the **College website**

[Click the link](#)  
or scan the QR code.



Join the Alumni  
**Facebook group**

[Click the link](#)  
or scan the QR code.



To follow the College  
**Instagram page**

[Click the link](#)  
or scan the QR code.



To follow the College  
**Facebook page**

[Click the link](#)  
or scan the QR code.



## St Patrick's College

St Patrick's College  
4 St Johns Road,  
Campbelltown NSW

02 4629 2999  
[enrolments@saintpatricks.nsw.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@saintpatricks.nsw.edu.au)

[saintpatricks.nsw.edu.au](http://saintpatricks.nsw.edu.au)

St Patrick's is a College of Good Samaritan education.