

RADFORD COLLEGE

Radford Report

Spring 2025



Truth
Compassion
Wisdom



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Spring 2025

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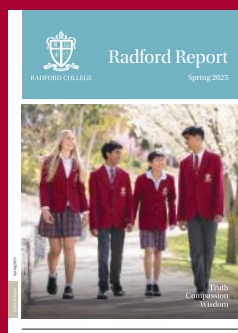
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Term Dates

2025

Term 4 – Monday, 13 October to
Tuesday, 9 December

Term 2 – Monday, 20 April to
Thursday, 25 June

Term 3 – Tuesday, 21 July to
Friday, 25 September

2026

*Monday, 2 February –
Orientation day for new students
and Year 7's first day*

Term 1 – Tuesday, 3 February to
Thursday, 2 April

Term 4 – Monday, 12 October to
Tuesday, 8 December

*Please consult the College
calendar on Nexus for dates
specific to particular year groups;
e.g. Year 12 students.*

Radford College acknowledges the Ngunnawal people, the Traditional Custodians of this Land, whose treasured cultures and customs have nourished and continue to nourish the Land on which we meet, play and learn. We pay our respect to Elders past and present and express gratitude for their ongoing contribution towards education.



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Recitals and
Showcases



25
Oliver Twist



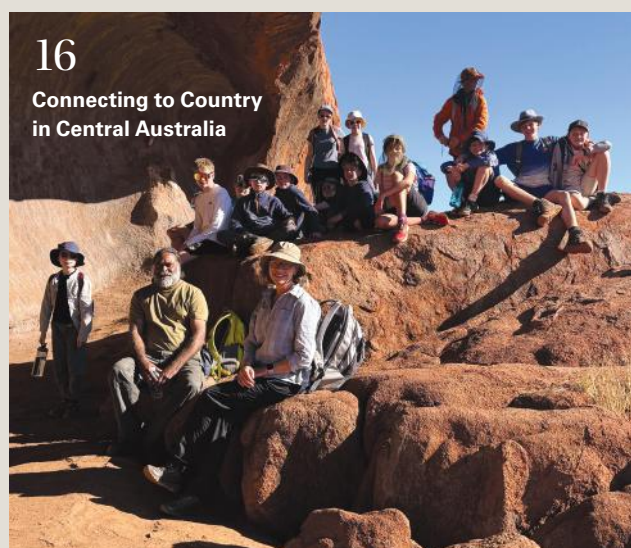
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FROM THE Principal

Christopher Bradbury

Welcome to the spring edition of the *Radford Report*. We hope you enjoy this snapshot of College life and join us in celebrating student achievements from Terms 2 and 3 of 2025.

At Radford College, we often celebrate the visible successes that shape our vibrant community – powerful stage performances, sporting victories, strong academic results and global learning experiences. While these achievements are impressive on their own, they point to a deeper, unifying truth about a Radford education – the development of character. They are not just the result of talent or chance but the outcome of values nurtured over time.

The commitment of a musician mastering a challenging piece, the resilience of a team fighting back from behind, the perseverance needed to complete complex research and the empathy shown while exploring new cultures – these are all examples of character in action. They reflect key virtues such as discipline, courage, compassion and humility. Recognising this profound link, the development of character and leadership has featured prominently in the College's new Strategic Intent.

Our focus is clear – to support the ethical and personal growth of every student so they graduate not only with skills and knowledge but also with the strength of character needed to lead meaningful lives.

When we speak of character at Radford, we mean the inner qualities that shape how a person thinks, feels and acts. These qualities can be positive – like justice, humility, hope and courage – or negative – like greed, impatience and envy. But character is not fixed. One student described it as a person's 'heart print' – consistent across situations yet always growing.

Character is formed through habits, relationships, stories, environments and life experiences. It is always connected to culture – the shared character of a group or community.

Focusing on character in schools is not about fixing young people. It's about helping them grow into their best selves by strengthening their ability to reflect, make good decisions and act with purpose. It's also about shaping schools to support these values, not stand in their way.

'When we speak of character at Radford, we mean the inner qualities that shape how a person thinks, feels and acts.'

Radford's next *Strategic Plan* will reaffirm our commitment to developing young leaders with character traits like solidarity, creativity, courage, humility and hope – qualities that are essential for facing current challenges and building a better future.

While childhood lays the foundation for many habits, it's not the only influence. Character development is a lifelong process – an ongoing journey of learning and becoming. A life of integrity goes beyond following rules. It's about striving to grow, improve and flourish.

Our teaching encourages students to take responsibility for their own development. Just as society expects people to spend a lot of time and energy to achieve high performance in academics, sport and their career, we guide students to also seek personal and ethical growth. We ask:

Who do you need to be to achieve your goals? What does it mean to be the best version of yourself? How can you be a good friend, neighbour, citizen and leader? Who are you becoming?

Good character isn't just a *path* to success – it *is* success. Leading with humility, courage, justice and hope helps individuals flourish and lifts those around them. But turning values into action is never easy – leadership is hard.

At school, we must consistently show that character and performance go hand in hand. Sustained success depends on purpose, courage, perseverance and empathy – the virtues that help us aim high, face setbacks and work well with others. Winning isn't just about short-term results. It's about aligning with purpose, building strong relationships and staying true to our values.

'Sustained success depends on purpose, courage, perseverance and empathy – the virtues that help us aim high, face setbacks and work well with others.'





Sharing Practice in the Junior School: Observing and Growing Together

Emily Begbie, Nick Martin and Jo O'Brien

Assistant Heads of Junior School Learning and Teaching

A significant focus in the Junior School this year has been to foster shared practice. At its core, this initiative is about creating a culture where teachers feel empowered to invite colleagues into their classrooms, share their professional expertise and learn alongside one another. By doing so, we move beyond isolated practice and cultivate a sense of collective responsibility for student learning.

This shift aligns with Michael Fullan's thinking in *What's Worth Fighting for in the Principalship?*, where he highlights the importance of building collaborative cultures and professional capital. Collective teacher efficacy grows stronger when teachers actively share practice as collaboration fosters trust, consistency and a shared belief in their collective capacity to improve student learning. By sharing our practice, we embrace the belief that improvement in learning and teaching is not the result of individual effort alone, but of shared dialogue, reflection and the support of a professional community.

Central to this work have been the focus areas of writing instruction and enabling students to be assessment-capable and self-regulated learners. The Junior School has prioritised opportunities for teachers to reflect on the resources, strategies and pedagogical frameworks that best support student growth in these areas.

These reflections have also instigated discussions about instructional choices and the importance of ensuring practices are not simply adopted, but understood and contextualised. These professional learning conversations have also underscored the importance of consistency across the Junior School, as we support students with clear expectations while deepening teacher confidence in shared practice.

Junior School teachers have engaged in an opt-in, non-judgemental approach to classroom visits. These visits are not about appraisal or evaluation; instead, they are collegial opportunities to observe pedagogy in action and reflect on its impact. Teachers are encouraged

to notice effective strategies, ask questions and consider how different approaches may transfer to their own contexts. In this way, the process respects professional autonomy while strengthening collective expertise.

The impact of this initiative has been significant. Teachers have reported a strengthened sense of trust, professional identity and collegiality. Most importantly, the deliberate act of sharing practice affirms that the best professional resource any teacher has is a colleague. As Fullan reminds us, what is worth fighting for in schools is a culture of collaboration – because when educators learn from one another, our students benefit most of all.

'What is worth fighting for in schools is a culture of collaboration – because when educators learn from one another, our students benefit most of all.'



Strengthening Learning and Character in the Secondary School

Alison Steven

Acting Assistant Principal, Teaching and Learning

Radford's Secondary School has continued to strengthen its commitment to high-quality teaching and learning, underpinned by a holistic approach to student development.

Key focus areas for this semester have included explicit teaching, quality assessment and feedback and a strong emphasis on goal setting, effort and striving for one's personal best. These strategies are supported in the classroom by predictable routines, the use of data to inform practice and a shared belief in high expectations for every student.

Our teachers endeavour to make learning relevant and impactful by linking classroom experiences to students' real-world contexts. A recent highlight in Year 12 business studies was a visit from parent and entrepreneur, Mr Ben Stockbridge, who shared insights from his extensive experience of running a business. He offered personal mantras that have shaped his journey and achievements and encouraged students to construct mantras that were meaningful to them.

Ben also offered essential advice to students: 'work hard, believe in yourself and stay true to your values'. Students connected strongly with these messages and mantras, which aligned closely with the messages our staff emphasise every day.

Across the Secondary School, students have been learning and applying metacognitive strategies as they aim to reach their personal best. In studies of society and the environment (SOSE), this is implemented through structured written reflections, guiding students to formally engage with their

learning cycle at the planning, monitoring and evaluating stages of task completion. In English, students begin lessons by writing power paragraphs to retrieve prior knowledge and prepare for learning. In science, teachers have found success using 'I will' statements to set learning intentions: 'I will ... on/at ... so that ...'.

At Radford, we are committed to educating the whole person, with a focus on character building and personal growth. We recognise the critical importance of healthy relationships as part of holistic character development. Co-founded by Dr Tessa Opie and Ms Kerrin Bradfield, the Respect Collective has developed an innovative, ready-to-use comprehensive relationships and sexuality education (RSE) platform. These resources are being thoughtfully integrated at Radford to complement our existing work on consent and respectful relationships, which are core pillars of our pastoral care program. Radford's implementation strategy is methodical and multi-layered. The Respect Collective program has been integrated into Years 7 and 8 pastoral programs, with plans for a broader rollout across the Secondary School.

The Respect Collective initiative was enhanced through targeted professional learning for Secondary School staff, facilitated by Dr Opie and Mr Cameron Fraser of In Your Skin. The session focused on identifying societal changes, understanding the diverse influences impacting young people today and offering practical strategies for teachers to foster respectful relationships.

Looking ahead, Radford remains committed to fostering student agency and real-world application, ensuring our students achieve academic excellence and are equipped with the character and values to thrive during their schooling and beyond.

'Don't let yesterday use up too much of today' – Mr Ben Stockbridge.



Spirituality

Reverend Dr Katherine Rainger
Senior Chaplain

Reverend Andy Fleming
Associate Chaplain

Spirituality is the interplay between belonging, connection, meaning, purpose and belief systems. At its best, spirituality involves nurturing our inner lives and looking outward as we seek to understand and serve the world around us.

The theme chosen by this year's Year 12 Dirrum Dirrum Festival organising committee was *Tomorrow's Promise*. This thoughtful theme encouraged us to consider the future we inherit, as well as the ways we shape it. The Dirrum Dirrum speakers led us on a journey as they shared how their experiences and convictions inspired them to embrace those around them and work for change in unique and powerful ways.

Ngunnawal Elder Auntie Violet Sheridan delivered a Welcome to Country that reminded us of the deep connections between past, present and future.

Author, journalist and theologian Professor Stan Grant spoke about the gift of saying 'yes' as he reflected on key moments that changed the trajectory of his life and the places – throughout Australia and the world – that these interactions took him.

Mr Shaun Christie-David, founder of the social enterprise Plate It Forward, helped us to see that sharing a meal can be a glimpse of the sacred – especially when we ensure that everyone has enough and when we connect deeply with one another.

Ms Tash Kaiser shared her personal story alongside the story of the Wurrumay Collective – an Aboriginal-owned and operated business proudly showcasing hundreds of First Nations products, authors and artists in Braddon.

Mr Royston Noell, winner of Australian Idol in 2023, painted the future as one of possibility – one built through lifting others up and facing challenges with integrity.

As an Anglican school, we aim to nurture religious literacy and spiritual formation so that students are equipped to encounter *Tomorrow's Promise* with faith, hope and love. Expressions of Anglican spirituality – such as chapel services – support this formation. Chapel themes this semester have included The Golden Rule (Years 3 and 4), You Are Known by What You Do: Character (Years 5 and 6) and The Five Senses in the Secondary School – exploring each sense in creative ways and through the Christian story and world as we experience it. Students in Pre-Kindergarten to Year 2 continued to encounter stories of God's presence through Godly Play – a Montessori approach to biblical storytelling.

It is with a profound sense of gratitude that we undertake the work we do in our vibrant community.

The College Prayer encourages us to be co-workers with God as we journey towards *Tomorrow's Promise*:

Great Creator God,
you sing the world into life and fill it with love,
binding the things of earth with the Kingdom of Heaven.
Breathe your Spirit over this land,
awaken our senses and fill us with light,
that with Christ your Son
we would live in truth,
rise in compassion,
and walk in wisdom.
Amen.



A Strong Service Culture

Kath Notley
Director of Service Learning

Service learning continues to be a cornerstone of life at Radford College, with students across year levels engaging in meaningful and diverse community projects throughout Terms 2 and 3. From the Junior School to recent graduates, Radford students are finding ways to connect, support and make a genuine impact.

In the Junior School, Year 5 students have been busily crocheting blankets for RSPCA. This simple yet powerful act of kindness not only supports animals in need but also fosters compassion and empathy in our learners. These hands-on projects help build a foundation for a lifelong commitment to service.

Among the most inspiring initiatives is the weekly RAID (Recreational Activities for People with Intellectual Disability) Basketball Program, hosted at Radford. Our student volunteers have embraced the opportunity to take on mentoring roles, particularly in the last term as students from Marist College launched their own RAID program in collaboration with YMCA. The expansion of the program now offers participants a second opportunity to play each week, which reflects its ongoing success. For many of our students, RAID Basketball is the highlight of their week, and several Collegians continue to return and volunteer in the program.

During the recent term break, a group of students volunteered at the Embracing Ministries *Little Treasures* holiday program. This three-day initiative provides a safe and welcoming space

for children with disabilities and their siblings to play, connect and create lasting memories. Radford mentors found it to be a rewarding and fulfilling experience. Many commented on how much they personally gained through their involvement. It was also encouraging to see recent graduates reach out, keen to remain part of the program.

Radford students have also been instrumental in supporting College-wide events. From lending a hand at Parents & Friends and Collegians' events to assisting with Junior School initiatives such as the Mother's and Father's Day Breakfasts and camps, students have consistently stepped forward to contribute. While not every student who volunteers can be selected, the large number of willing participants speaks to the strong service culture within the College.

As we move into Term 4, students in Years 9 and 10 will reflect on their service learning across the year. Year 9 students will set goals for the year ahead, while Year 10s will consider how to maintain their involvement alongside their senior studies. It is a privilege to support students on this journey and a busy and meaningful term lies ahead.



Leading from the Front

Amber Smith and Lachlan Lloyd
College Captains

Anvi Gupta and Jeb Jeffery
College Vice Captains

When we stepped into our roles as the 2025 College Captains and Vice Captains, our vision was clear: to strengthen the sense of inclusivity across the College and to nurture a community culture where every student feels seen, valued and celebrated.

We wanted to honour the traditions that make Radford special while also creating fresh initiatives that reflect the diverse passions and voices of our students. At the heart of our goals was the desire to ensure that school leadership was not about individuals but about empowering the whole student body.

One of our greatest joys has been seeing initiatives like Friday Funday thrive. What began as a simple way to bring people together at the end of a busy week has grown into an opportunity to highlight important causes and events, whether raising awareness on Wear It Purple Day, supporting SAGE (Radford's LGBTQIA+ support group) or simply offering a space for laughter and connection. Beyond that, we are deeply proud of the renewed academic focus within the Secondary School. Watching Years 11 and 12 lift their efforts and support each other in their learning has been inspiring, and we have aimed to make our assembly speeches not only about encouragement but also about recognising that hard work.

Looking ahead, the Class of 2025 is eager to celebrate the many milestones of Term 4 – final exams, Graduation, our last day together and the Formal. These moments will offer a chance to reflect with joy and gratitude on the journey we've shared.

As our leadership year comes to a close, we hope the legacy we leave behind is one of inclusivity, courage and community above self. We want to be remembered not only for the initiatives we started but for the way we encouraged others to step forward, take part and know the vitality of contribution. To the 2026 Captains – Ben, Isobel, Jack and Lucy – we extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes. We are confident you will build on this foundation and bring your own energy, vision and strengths to the role. It has been a privilege to serve at Radford College and we are excited to watch the next generation of leaders continue to shape its story.

House Spirit Shines

Hayley Oldfield
Head of Houses

Terms 2 and 3 at Radford College have been a vibrant celebration of House spirit, pride and unity. Across a series of much-loved competitions and events, students brought their energy, creativity and camaraderie to the forefront – proving once again that our House system is a powerful force for connection and community.

Earlier in Term 2, the long-awaited results of the Bishop's Cup and Spirit Cup were announced following Foundation Day celebrations. After fierce competition – featuring sports, art, dance, chess and more – Banksia claimed the Bishop's Cup for overall performance, while Karri secured the Spirit Cup for enthusiasm and House pride.

Meanwhile, the Best of the Rest competitions in netball and volleyball brought intense rivalries and thrilling athleticism to lunchtime sport. Kurrajong took home both championship titles after tense finals against Boronia (volleyball) and Karri (netball), while the Spirit Cup recognised not just athletic performance, but the unwavering support and contributions from all corners of the Radford community – including spectators, umpires and officials.

In a different kind of competition and after a hard-fought grand final, Year 8 student Madeleine Luu from Acacia was crowned champion of the House Spelling Bee. Her impressive composure and spelling prowess earned well-deserved applause and reinforced the diversity of student strengths celebrated across Houses.

To end Term 3, the annual Radford Performing Arts Carnival (RadPAC) dazzled with its *TV and Movies* theme, transforming the Collegians Centre into a showcase of colour, sound and storytelling. Each House brought their own sub-theme to life – from Boronia's country and western to Jarrah's heartwarming children's classics. Weeks of hard work went into costumes, choreography and musical numbers, culminating in an unforgettable display of talent and teamwork. A new karaoke feature proved a crowd favourite.

From creative expression and sporting excellence to academic prowess and wholehearted participation, Radford students have shown what House life is all about – supporting each other, striving together and celebrating every win – on the stage, court and in the community. Every House has had its moment to shine, and together, we continue to build a culture of belonging, effort and joy. Congratulations to Kurrajong, winners of the House Cup, and to Boronia, winners of the Spirit Cup.

Looking ahead, the overall House Cup and Spirit Cup winners for 2025 will be announced in Term 4, summarising the entire year of House events and celebrating the contributions of all students across Radford College.



Secondary School Leadership Investiture

In the first week of Term 4, Radford College gathered for the induction of the 2026 Secondary School Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects. Held in the presence of their families, staff and peers, the ceremony was a significant occasion, marking the formal commitment of the incoming leaders to serve the College community.

The roles of Captain, Vice Captain and Prefect are both an honour and a responsibility. Their pledge was made before the assembly, following the reading of the College Vocation – an expression of Radford's commitment to forming graduates who act with compassion, integrity and courage for the common good.

In 2025, the College has been exceptionally led by Captains Amber Smith and Lachlan Lloyd, alongside Vice Captains Anvi Gupta

and Jeb Jeffery. Supported by a dedicated Prefect team, their leadership – grounded in humility and service – inspired growth and positive change across the College.

A record number of applications for 2026 leadership roles reflected the strength, character and unity of the current Year 11 cohort. All students who applied were commended for their willingness to contribute to the life of the College.

Looking ahead, every Year 12 student in 2026 will take on a leadership role –

whether as Captains, Vice Captains, Prefects, Activity Captains, Revue leaders, Year 7 Mentors or through involvement in the Dirrum Dirrum Festival. Leadership at Radford is not limited to titles, but is found in everyday actions and relationships.

Please join us in congratulating our incoming leaders.

The 2026 House Vice Captains will be announced later in Term 4.





PREFECTS

College Captains

Isobel Egan
Ben Dugard

College Vice Captains

Jack Dunn
Lucy Mihaljevic

Academic Prefects

Ben Wang
Olivia Zhang

Community Prefects

Caela Gladwin
Simon Wu

Performing Arts Prefects

Toby Gosling-Dunlop
Olivia Rehfishch

Service Prefects

Isabel Erickson
Ankith Atluri

Sports Prefects

Chloe Mailler
Vihaan Vikramadithyan

Acacia House Prefects

Gigi Hickey
Nicholas Wen

Banksia House Prefects

Astrid Evans
Kyra Vasanth

Boronia House Prefects

Alice Berger
Kevin Wong

Huon House Prefects

Mischa Pauza
Hugo Ryan

Jarrah House Prefects

Hanna Koch
Hamish Strachan

Karri House Prefects

Jude Barlin
Lottie Hume

Kurrajong House Prefects

James Dalton
Lara Southwell

Wandoo House Prefects

Kaiya Barsby
Michael Lo Pilato

ACTIVITY CAPTAINS

Bands Captains

Kevin Wong
Nandhitha Gopalakrishnan

Basketball Captains

Ambrose Musgrove
Madi Scholfield

Chapel Captains

Benjamin Astley
Joshua Alex

Chess Captain

Eshaan Extross

Choir Captains

Kayley Nygh
Charlie Lee

Tech Crew Captains

Charlie Lee
Ella Pak Poy

Collegian Captains

Annika Hayashi
Will Harrison

Cricket Captains

Aminda Weerasooriya
Poppy Steven

Dance Fest Captain

Ashley Cook

High School Production Years 7-8 Captain

Ashley Cook

Debating Captain

Kavin Panagoda

Duke of Edinburgh Captain

Olivia Elliott

Ensembles Captains

Sienna Ailati
Julia Zhu

Football Captains

Xavier Neves
Devyani Singh

Keyboards Captain

Natalie Tam

Media Crew Captains

Tilly Firth
Nicholas Brogan

Netball Captain

Joanna Beswick

Radford Dance Academy Captains

Sophie Purvis
Abby Lenson

RAID Captain

William Wood

RAS Captains

Jennifer Ky
Asmaa Sheikh

Round Square Captains

Zayna Syed
Olivia Grellman

High School Production Years 9-10 Captain

Olivia Grellman

Rowing Captains

Olivia Seidl
Connor Kruger

Snowsports Captain

Zali Napthali

Strings Captains

Kamae Rajen
Dorinda Wang
Nadia Yao

Sustainability Captains

Natacha Neves
Annabelle Moloney

YEAR 7 MENTORS

Nicholas Wen
Calad Woodburn
Lulu Schofield
Ellie Chapman

Ali McLachlan
Eva Tsiros
Evie Buttsworth
Hannah Coslett

Rachael Baldwin
Grace Dixon
Emma Henry
Keira Larkham

Jude Barlin
Vihaan Vikramadithyan
Michael Lo Pilato
Toby Gosling-Dunlop

Finn Develin
Peta Macintosh
Jasmine Maung
Odele Dickson

Student Citizenship Awards

Radford College is proud of the students who were recognised at the 2025 Order of Australia Association ACT Branch Student Citizenship Awards. The ceremony was attended by the Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable, Ms Sam Mostyn AC, and our Principal, Mr Christopher Bradbury.

Thomas Liu (Year 12) – Certificate and Medallion

Thomas was recognised for their outstanding leadership, fostering inclusion and belonging at Radford. As Captain of the Media Crew, they have given countless hours to support College events, mentoring younger students and extending their service to senior citizens at Calvary Haydon Aged Care through music and companionship.

Lachlan Lloyd (Year 12) – Highly Commended Certificate

Lachlan received the Highly Commended Certificate for his dedication to leadership and service, completing over 120 hours this year alone. From volunteering at camps and school events to fundraising for cancer research and donating blood/plasma, he consistently demonstrates compassion and commitment to community. Lachlan, College Captain in 2025, plans to pursue a career in statistics or software engineering, focusing on hospital management systems.

Amber Smith (Year 12) – Commended Certificate

Amber was commended for combining academic excellence with leadership and service. As College Captain, she has modelled integrity, empathy and inclusivity, while also excelling in co-curricular activities including music, cricket, Oztag, rowing and snowsports.

Emily Passlow & Emma Osborne-Laverty (Year 12) – Commended Certificates

Emily and Emma received this award for leading initiatives promoting sustainability, hygiene and community service. From the free period product scheme to environmental stewardship, volunteer programs and cultural projects, they have made a meaningful impact on both the College and wider Canberra community.

Junior School Radford Student Council – Group Certificate

Lucas Sabei Zhang (Year 5) and Charlotte Twigg (Year 6) collected the award on behalf of the Junior School Radford Student Council (RSC). The RSC amplifies student voices and leads projects fostering kindness, inclusion and service, including appeals, collections and school events. This honour reflects the dedication, creativity and compassion of our RSC student leaders, as well as the many hours of support and guidance provided by their mentors.

Radford College also received a plaque, recognising excellence in citizenship, leadership and achievement. Congratulations to all recipients for inspiring our community through generosity, compassion and dedication.





Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Sue Hassall
Award Leader

Years of dedication to service, personal development and physical endeavour were celebrated at the Duke of Edinburgh International Award Gold Ceremony at Government House.

Jeffrey Pei (Year 12), along with Pranav Vallurupalli and Xavier Sassu (both Class of 2024), were presented with their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards – a prestigious and internationally recognised achievement.

The Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, warmly congratulated the recipients, praising their perseverance, commitment and meaningful contributions to their communities.

The journey towards the Gold Award typically begins in Year 9, when students first undertake the Bronze Award, committing to 6 months of development with a weekly hour of service, skill and physical recreation. After successfully completing the Silver Award, students move onto the challenging Gold Award, which involves a minimum of 12 months of weekly commitment across the 3 core areas. Additionally, they must complete a training and qualifying Adventurous Journey, as well as a multi-day Residential Service project, often involving work in unfamiliar environments and with new people.

Achieving a Gold Award is a mark of resilience, commitment and grit. It demands long-term dedication, strong organisational skills and the courage to step outside one's comfort zone. We commend Jeffrey, Pranav and Xavier not only for their achievements but also for the example they set to younger students.

We also extend our encouragement to all students currently working toward their Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards. The journey is long, but the rewards – personal growth, leadership skills and a lasting sense of accomplishment – are invaluable.

Congratulations once again to our 3 recipients on this outstanding achievement!



As Xavier was away on Army training, his proud parents, Bianca and Angelo, accepted the award on his behalf. They are pictured here with Mrs Hassall and the Governor-General.

Empowering Students to Thrive in a Connected World

During the Term 2 and 3 breaks, students engaged in transformative experiences that extended well beyond the traditional classroom.

From trekking in the jungles of Borneo to cultural exchanges in Timor-Leste, walking on Country in Central Australia and debating the future of our planet in Dubai, Radford students returned with experiences and lessons that will last a lifetime and prepare them for the future. They have returned with deeper empathy, stronger leadership skills and a better understanding of themselves – and their role in shaping a more connected, compassionate world.

With a focus on intellectual mastery, personal growth and global awareness, Radford's learning ethos extends far beyond the classroom. Offering more than 100 co-curricular programs across sport, performing arts, service, entrepreneurship and global citizenship, the College provides purposeful opportunities that ignite passion, foster independence and shape future-ready graduates.



Enduring Partnerships in Timor-Leste

Radford's annual trip to Timor-Leste continued this year, with 20 students and 4 staff members travelling in August as part of a longstanding relationship built over more than a decade.

Students spent months preparing through cultural learning, personal reflection and studying Timor's history and language. Once there, they visited schools, played soccer with local communities and learnt about the country's difficult history through churches, museums and community conversations.

One of the most powerful and lasting memories for our students was hearing the story of Mario, a local man whose experience of education was vastly different from their own.

Mario was born in Adara – a village on the other side of the island. He would walk 3.5 hours each day to get to school, followed by a 3.5 hour walk home. This journey was not an easy one, with Mario navigating a steep and rocky path up and down the mountain.

Although Timor-Leste is geographically one of Australia's nearest neighbours, it remains in many ways a world apart. This contrast offers students a powerful opportunity to grow in understanding, compassion and global awareness.

'Never to. Not for. But with' has always been the underlying focus of the trip. We do not go to Timor to 'do' anything but rather to be 'with' the people of Timor. We go to learn from the Timorese' — Ms Tracey Markovic.



Connecting to Country in Central Australia

While many journeys took students overseas, others found equally profound experiences within our borders.

During the winter break, 18 Year 7 and 8 students travelled through Central Australia, visiting Uluru, Kata Tjuta, Watarrka (Kings Canyon) and Tjoritja (West MacDonnell Ranges), guided by Radford staff Ms Dimity Kidston and Mrs Sally Atkinson.

Sleeping in swags under the stars, learning from Traditional Owners and exploring sacred sites brought

students into close contact with First Nations culture and the enduring stories of land and sky.

'A particularly meaningful part of the journey was our time at Lilla, where students were welcomed onto Country and taught about sacred sites and the stories embedded in land and sky. This respectful, immersive experience reminded us all of the privilege of being guests on Aboriginal land, and of the responsibility to listen, learn and walk gently,' said Ms Kidston.



**Student-Led Adventure
in Borneo**

In July, a group of Year 9 and 10 students undertook a unique leadership expedition to Malaysian Borneo, led by Radford staff, Ms Sam Lonsdale and Mrs Jane Smith, and supported by World Challenge.

Far from a typical tour, this was a student-led experience, with participants rotating between roles in managing the group budget, organising transport, booking accommodation and planning recreation. Students slept in hammocks in the jungle, crossed rivers on bamboo bridges and embraced the challenge of living simply and working as a team. It was a true test of resilience.

trekked through dense forest with the help of local guides, learning about native plants and traditional village life.

After the trek, the group joined a homestay in Guas Nabal where they cooked traditional meals and explored the pineapple and coffee industries. Their journey ended with 5 days at the Kopel forest restoration project, where students spotted 4 of the 'Borneo Big 5' animals on a sunset river safari.

'The students have returned home with a deeper appreciation for the world's rich biodiversity and the dire need for sustainable practices, an enhanced understanding of how communities can work together to create positive change and a strong sense of their own power and influence in shaping the world around them,' said Ms Lonsdale and Mrs Smith.



Beginning in the urban capital of Kota Kinabalu, students explored local food markets and heritage murals before heading to the jungle foothills of Mount Kinabalu. Equipped with hammocks, mosquito nets and walking sticks, they

'Our trip to Borneo was genuinely just an awesome experience. It was amazing to enjoy the hospitality of the local people, who welcomed us into their homes and communities. I would highly recommend a trip like this' — Year 10 student, Alia Livermore.



Global Citizenship at the Dubai Round Square Conference

In September, Radford students travelled to Dubai to take part in the 2025 Round Square International Conference, joining 155 schools from 28 countries.

This year's theme, *Beyond the Dunes*, challenged delegates to examine tourism, sustainability and service leadership through collaborative workshops, cultural excursions and keynote addresses.

Set in one of the world's most dynamic and diverse cities, the conference fostered global conversations and real-world connections, directly aligning with Radford's goal to create empowered, compassionate and globally aware graduates.

Transformational Opportunities

These journeys reflect Radford College's belief that education should not only inform – but transform. Each trip has been intentionally designed to nurture leadership, compassion, independence and global curiosity.

The benefits of learning beyond the classroom:

- Cultural awareness: Experiencing different customs, languages and lifestyles builds tolerance, empathy and global citizenship.
- Real-world learning: History, science and language come alive through immersive experiences.
- Independence and resilience: Living outside comfort zones challenges students to adapt and grow.
- Teamwork and social bonds: Shared experiences create lasting friendships and stronger communities.
- Career and academic inspiration: Exposure to global challenges can ignite future pathways.
- Motivation and enrichment: These journeys deepen engagement and make learning meaningful.

Dirrum Dirrum Festival 2025

Reverend Dr Katherine Rainger
Senior Chaplain

After 10 months of dedicated preparation by over 30 Year 12 students, Dirrum Dirrum Festival 2025 was a spectacular success! Held at Radford, this festival is a vibrant, youth-centred celebration that blends inspiring speakers, live music, food and stalls to amplify voices committed to positive change. Themed *Tomorrow's Promise*, this year's festival showcased inspiring artistic collaborations led by student Nancy Hang and featured a remarkable lineup of speakers, artists and musicians. Highlights included speeches by journalist Professor Stan Grant, Wurrumay Collective founder Ms Tash Kaiser, Plate It Forward's Mr Shaun Christie-David and Australian Idol winner Mr Royston Noell. Their powerful messages centred on hope, cultural heritage and social responsibility. Congratulations to everyone who made this unforgettable festival possible! We look forward to Dirrum Dirrum 2026.





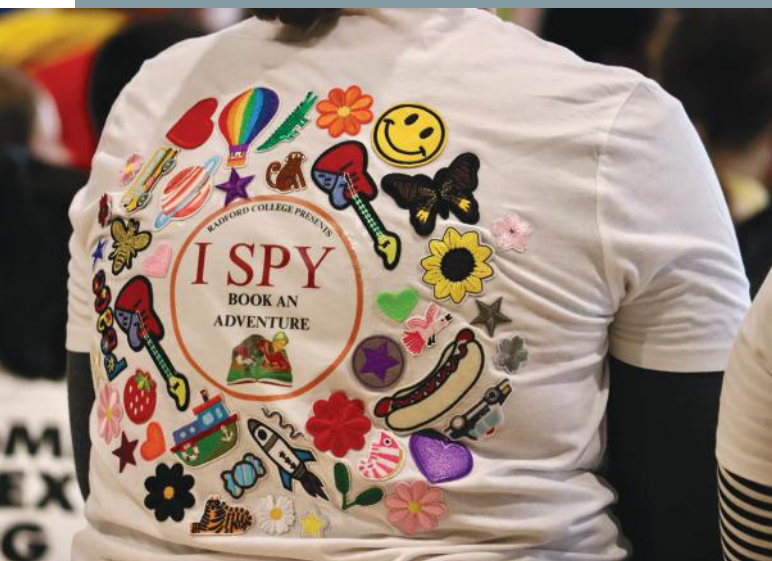
Primary Years Programme Exhibition

In Term 3, Year 6 students presented their Primary Years Programme Exhibition (PYPX), the culmination of 8 weeks of inquiry and action. Guided by the theme $X + Y =$, students explored how combining ideas leads to meaningful change. They investigated issues such as sustainability, equity, media influence, technology and wellbeing, engaging with experts and creating innovative ways to raise awareness. The PYPX spans all subjects, showcasing creativity, collaboration and resilience through research, art, performance and digital media. More than a showcase, it reflects Radford's commitment to developing compassionate, courageous learners ready to make a difference.



Book Week

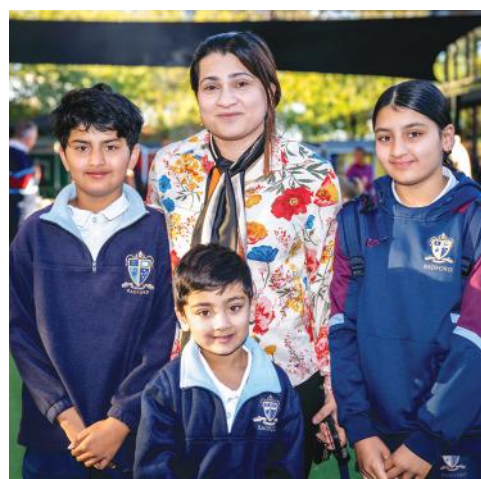
A highlight of Term 3 at the College is the annual Book Week parade. The theme of Book Week 2025 was *Book an Adventure*. From our youngest to our oldest students, the joy of reading was on full display as favourite characters leapt off the page and into our parade. *Where's Wally*, *Minecraft* and *Frozen* were well represented, as were classic fairy tales such as *Cinderella* and *Snow White*. Radford College staff also didn't pass up the opportunity to dress up, and several old and new works of fiction were creatively modelled. Events like these remind us of the importance of fostering a love of reading from an early age.





A Community of Belonging

The Junior School was alive with warmth, laughter and connection as families gathered for our beloved Mother's Day and Father's Day Breakfasts in Terms 2 and 3. Mothers, fathers, grandparents, carers and special friends joined children and staff to celebrate the extraordinary people who nurture, guide and inspire our students. Guests enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by College staff and students while sharing stories and meeting other families. These occasions highlight the heart of Radford – more than a school, it is a community of belonging where love, gratitude and support are celebrated together.





The Show That Shone Bright – *Legally Blonde, The Musical*

Radford College's 2025 sell-out musical, *Legally Blonde*, lit up T.B. Millar Hall across 5 inspiring nights, enchanting audiences. The biennial musical is always a highlight of the school calendar and this year's production set a dazzling new standard.

The show burst with colour, energy and professionalism. From Olivia Rehfish's sparkling portrayal of Elle Woods to the smallest backstage detail, every student involved played a vital role in the production's success. The music, choreography, acting, set design, costumes, sound and lighting were of exceptional quality – proof of countless hours of rehearsal and a shared passion for the theatre.

Action-packed and full of memorable songs and dynamic dance numbers, *Legally Blonde* was so much fun it felt almost *illegal*. Congratulations to all who brought

this award-winning musical to life, including Producer and Technical Director Mr Nick Akhurst, Director Dr Tracy Bourne, Music Director Mr Caleb Campbell, Choreographers Mrs Maddie Grieger and Miss Melissa Markos and the dedicated technical, front-of-house and co-curricular music teams.

The Radford Theatre Company once again showed that with hard work, creativity and teamwork, anything is possible. This was a production our community will remember for years to come.



Years 9 and 10 Production: *Stories in the Dark*

Pip Buining
Director

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Stories in the Dark* for a moving and engaging production. Debra Oswald's contemporary script was brought to life by a strong ensemble of Year 9 and 10 students, exploring how stories comfort, inspire, haunt, guide and unite us. The narrative reflected real-world events, highlighting the plight of millions forced to flee due to war and persecution. Supported by cohesive set, costume, prop, sound and lighting design, the performers skilfully balanced humour and sorrow, delivering a powerful conclusion. Special thanks to Assistant Director and Stage Manager Miss Jemima Mordike (Class of 2016) – it's wonderful to have a Collegian working alongside current students – Producer Mr Nick Akhurst and Theatre Technician Mr Stephen Rose for their invaluable contributions.



Years 5 and 6 Production: *Oliver Twist*

Belinda Treloar
Junior School Teacher

After months of dedication and rehearsal, our talented Year 5 and 6 students brought the 2025 production of *Oliver Twist* to life. Auditions began in 2024, giving students the chance to embark on a creative journey that nurtured their growth as performers and collaborators.

This beloved classic shone thanks to their hard work, enthusiasm and stagecraft development. The final performances not only highlighted their dramatic talents but also fostered confidence, resilience and a lasting appreciation for the magic of live theatre.



Years 7 and 8 Production: *Grimm Tales*

Sally Stenning

Head of Performing Arts

T.B. Millar Hall buzzed with magic as Years 7 and 8 students reimagined Philip Pullman's *Grimm Tales*. Guided by Year 11 student directors, *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Snow White*, *The Frog Prince* and *Hansel and Gretel* were brought to life through theatre, dance, music and puppetry.

Year 7 and 8 students were lucky to work with professional artist Helen Stephens to master puppetry and create puppets for the live performances. The show was also underscored by original music written by former Radford student Reuben Gillman-Wells.

This vibrant project showcased creativity, collaboration and risk-taking while strengthening connections between younger and senior students. Thank you to all who supported the show.



Recitals and Showcases



Years 7 to 12 Recital

Our first music recital for the year was held in the Performing Arts Centre for students in Years 7 to 12. It was a lovely evening with a variety of musical styles presented, from Mozart's *Rondo Alla Turca* to *Pirates of the Caribbean*. We witnessed stellar piano, voice, viola and violin performances from our students. The Recitals create a platform for our young musicians to perform their music in a supportive environment and grow in confidence as performers.



Year 3 Strings Concert

Year 3 students proudly gave their first strings concert in June – an incredible achievement after only picking up their instruments in February. Performing a full program, they impressed with their dedication and progress. Congratulations to all students on a memorable and successful debut performance! We can't wait for your next concert in Week 5, Term 4.



Kindergarten to Year 4 Instrumental Recital

Our youngest musicians delighted audiences at the Kindergarten to Year 4 Instrumental and Piano Recital with confident performances on the piano, violin, viola, recorder – and even guzheng. Music recitals help build confidence, discipline and creativity. Congratulations to all students and thank you to families who came to support these budding performers!



Arts Showcase Evenings

Our inaugural Arts Showcase Evenings in May highlighted the talents of Years 7 to 12 students in music, dance, drama, visual art and photography. Music students performed everything from classical to rap, while senior drama and dance students captivated audiences. It was a true celebration of creativity and collaboration across the arts!



Australian National Bands and Orchestras Eisteddfod

Radford students impressed at the Australian National Eisteddfod's event for Bands and Orchestras, earning top awards across ensembles. Highlights included Gold for the Big Band, Wind Orchestra and Chamber Strings. Congratulations to all students for their outstanding achievements and performances on this national stage!

Celebrating Music Through the Seasons

What better way to welcome new seasons than with uplifting evenings of classical music, performed by our talented students? The Winter Concert and Spring Showcase are true highlights of the school's music calendar and this year's performances were nothing short of spectacular.

These events offer our students exciting opportunities to perform for large audiences, including proud families and friends. Musicians from both the Junior and Secondary Schools took to the stage and for several of our younger ensembles, it marked their very first major public performance. It was wonderful to see them rise to the occasion and share their music with such a warm and enthusiastic audience.

A heartfelt congratulations to all involved for starting and ending the seasons on such a high note!





An Evening of Jazz

Each year, the Radford College Performing Arts Centre transforms into a lively jazz club, inviting audiences to sit back, relax and savour the soulful sounds of our talented ensembles in an intimate setting. This year brought added excitement as Junior School students joined the stage for the first time with the Little Big Band, experiencing the thrill of live jazz music. The evening also showcased special appearances from members of the co-curricular music faculty, a highlight that celebrated our world-class teaching staff.



Radford Rocks

Radford Rocks gave students the chance to perform live and share their passion with an enthusiastic audience. The evening celebrated the breadth of musical talent and genres at Radford, from the Zappa Guitar Ensemble's rendition of *Clocks* to standout sets by The Coworkers, The Currents, The Greeks Freaks, Ouch! and Year 12 jazz fusion group Is the Ocean a Soup? Montgomery Guitar Ensemble added acoustic flair with *Everybody Wants to Rule the World* and *Chasing Cars*. Thanks to Mr David Burcher, the Media Crew and Mr Stephen Rose for their technical support on the night.





Evening of Fine Music

Emily Leong

Director of Keyboards

Radford's Evening of Fine Music celebrated the outstanding talent of our Year 12 musicians with a program spanning French art songs, musical theatre, jazz fusion and classical works. Performers included:

- Danny Tran – Piano
- Thomas Liu – Clarinet and Bassoon
- Lucas Lin – Drums
- Cyrus French – Piano
- Paige Le Lievre – Voice
- Jeffrey Pei – Piano
- Amber Smith – Flute and Voice
- Tim Kopras – Bass guitar

Highlights included Danny's virtuosic performance of Mendelssohn's *Rondo Capriccioso*, Thomas' impressive mastery of 2 instruments and Lucas' dynamic drum solo with the Wet Fish Jazz Ensemble. Cyrus delivered a lyrical Russian classic, Paige charmed with Norah Jones' *Carry On*, and Jeffrey captivated with music from *Howl's Moving Castle*. Amber performed a beautiful flute duet with her mother, while Tim closed the night with a high-energy jazz fusion alongside Is the Ocean a Soup?.

Thank you to the Radford music staff, Prefects, accompanists and Media Crew for their behind-the-scenes support. Congratulations to all the musicians for an unforgettable evening of exceptional music.

Community Events



Celebrating the Classes of 1995, 2005 and 2015

Three decades of memories came flooding back as the Classes of 1995, 2005 and 2015 reunited on campus. Guests enjoyed reconnecting with old friends and teachers, sharing memories and touring the College grounds. Reunions like this remind us that while times change, Radford remains a place of belonging, growth and lifelong connection. The next Radford Collegians Welcome Back Function, celebrating the Class of 2024, will be held on Saturday, 22 November.



Year 12s vs Collegians Soccer Series

Year 12s secured a commanding 4–1 win over the Radford Collegians in the 2nd match of their 3-game soccer series. Students from across the Junior and Secondary Schools packed the sidelines of J.A. Mackinnon Oval, creating a vibrant lunchtime atmosphere filled with cheers and school spirit. The match showcased sharp ball movement, well-timed tackles and great sportsmanship from both sides, but the Year 12 team's energy proved too strong. A big thank you to the Collegians for stepping up once again. All eyes now turn to the 3rd and final showdown at the Twilight Fete on 1 November.



The Power of Giving

For more than 40 years, Radford College has built a brighter future for generations of students through the generosity of its community. The launch of Radford Foundation's new 500 Club continues that legacy – a group of donors pledging \$500 per year for five years to fund life-changing scholarships and bursaries, enhance essential facilities and equip students for the years ahead. To find out more, visit www.radfordcollegefoundation.com

Life After Radford

Radford College Year 11 students gained valuable insights into life beyond school during a special Life After Radford session organised by Radford Collegians.

Yersheena O'Donoghue (Class of 1998), Tristan Maddigan (Class of 1999), Bri Williams (Class of 2012) and Annie Ioannou (Class of 2012) spoke eloquently on a range of topics, from study paths and career choices to unexpected opportunities and lessons learned along the way.

A huge thank you to our Collegians for their encouragement and practical advice that left our students feeling motivated and reassured about the road ahead.



Artshow@Radford

The 2025 Artshow@Radford exceeded all expectations, setting new records in attendance, sales and artist participation. This year's exhibition was a vibrant celebration of creativity and community spirit. Congratulations to our award winners: Gail Neuss (1st – Jonquil Mackey Award), Neil Lade (2nd – ISC Sport Art Critic Award), Clare Lawrence (3rd – Radford Foundation Emerging Artist Award) and student artists Archie Holt, Eva Guo, Ivy Jin and Layla Huang. Heartfelt thanks to guest judge Ms Kacy Grainger, curator Mrs Annette Carter, along with volunteers, sponsors and the Parents & Friends Association, whose efforts made this record-breaking event possible.



Career and Networking Expo

The 2025 Radford Collegians Career and Networking Expo gave students in Years 10 and 12 an inspiring glimpse of life beyond school. A total of 26 universities, colleges, employers and trade and apprenticeship providers – including many Radford alumni – shared insights into further study and career opportunities. The lively event encouraged students to ask questions, make connections and start mapping their own unique pathways for the years ahead.

Disco-Inspired Trivia Night

Radford Parents & Friends Association's 2025 disco-inspired Trivia Night was nothing short of spectacular! Over 200 groovy participants filled T.B. Millar Hall with sparkle, laughter and disco fever. Six rounds of trivia, a lively ring toss and an unforgettable dance-off made for a night to remember.



Radford Twilight Fete: Fun for the Whole Family

The countdown is on for the 2025 Radford Twilight Fete, happening Saturday, 1 November, 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Enjoy an afternoon packed with excitement – fair rides, student and market stalls, reptile encounters, live music and dance performances, vintage cars, a silent auction, balloon modelling – and the ever-popular Year 12 vs teachers Mascot Run. Ride and food wristbands are on sale online or at Morison and Junior School receptions – don't miss out!

Semester in Focus



The Da Vinci Decathlon

Year 8 students were crowned overall champions of the prestigious Da Vinci Decathlon, an academic competition celebrating creativity, critical thinking and collaboration. They went on to place 3rd in the NSW finals.



Year 7 Orientation and Market Day

Prospective Secondary School students made friends, explored the campus and met teachers. A highlight of the day was Market Day, where our current Year 7s transformed the Turning Circle into a bustling marketplace.

Celebrating our Accomplished Teachers

Congratulations to Taryn Fisher, Emily Ridge and Bella Dalton who received their Accomplished Teacher accreditation with the Association of Independent Schools of NSW (AISNSW) and Independent Schools Teacher Accreditation Authority (ISTAA).



National Simultaneous Storytime

The 25th anniversary of National Simultaneous Storytime was celebrated with this year's book *The Truck Cat* by Deborah Frenkel, a heartwarming tale about travel, companionship and finding family in unexpected places.

World Hip Hop Dance Championship

Tiasha Perera, a Year 11 student, competed in 2 groups at the World Hip Hop Dance Championship in the United States.



Rostrum Competition

Year 5 student, Jacob Koznjak, made it all the way to the grand finals of the Rostrum Primary Schools Speaking competition with his thoughtful speech on the topic *Imagine That*.



ACT Youth Assembly

Nine students from Years 10 to 12 represented the College at the ACT Youth Legislative Assembly, which provided a platform to discuss issues that are important to young people.

Raising funds for Anglicare

Students wore their winter warmers as part of this year's Anglicare Winter Pantry Appeal. All donated cash and food went to St John's Care in Reid.





Art Prize

Kate Kristiansen (Year 10) and Sofia Koznjak (Year 8) won first prize in their respective year groups in the Modern Language Teachers' Association of the ACT's new photography competition with the theme *French is Everywhere*.

Serving the Community

The College was honoured with a plaque for supporting Radford grounds staff member, Mr Matthew Hemmings, in his volunteer work during the floods in Queensland earlier this year.



Crystal Growing

Several students took out first prize in the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) Crystal Growing Competition.

Changemakers Unite

Radford College hosted the second Inter-School Sustainability Council meeting, uniting young changemakers across Canberra with a shared vision: to make their schools more sustainable.



Excellence at the Ethics Olympiad

One Year 6 team took out gold at the Ethics Olympiad, an international competition that challenges students to explore complex ethical dilemmas and present their reasoning with clarity, respect and collaboration.

Equestrian

Zoe Nelson (Year 10), Arery Lawrence (Year 10) and Caitlin Nockels (Year 11) competed in the Equestrian NSW State Interschool Championships. Zoe won State Champion and went on to compete at the nationals.



Maths Challenge

Year 10 students participated in the Burgmann Maths Day, an event featuring challenges like story problems, cross-number puzzles and relays. One of the Radford teams secured first place and came away with the Fibonacci Shield.



1000 Voices

Years 5 and 6 and the Vivace choir joined the 1000 Voices for Reconciliation event and gathered to raise their voices with singers from around Australia in the Great Hall of Parliament House.

Debating

Radford entered 14 teams in the ACT Debating Union competition for Years 7 to 12. One Junior team and one intermediate team progressed to the semi-finals but both were narrowly defeated in that tough round.



Cross Country

The Cross Country Carnival is a highlight of our school year, bringing together the entire community from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12. Set against the natural beauty of Gossan Hill, the event challenges students with age-appropriate courses – from Frog Gully for the youngest to the demanding ‘Heartbreak Hill’ for older students. More than just a race, it fosters resilience, House spirit and encouragement, as students strive for personal bests while supporting one another. This celebration of determination, teamwork and wellbeing reflects Radford’s commitment to nurturing the whole person, making it a truly special and important tradition in our College life.



Snowsports

Radford College athletes proudly represented the school in a series of major snowsports competitions this season. A total of 19 students qualified for the Australian Interschools Championships at Mount Buller, where more than 3,500 entries from 380 schools across the country showcased Australia’s best young skiers and snowboarders. Earlier in the year, Radford competed strongly at the ACT & Southern NSW Interschools at Perisher, continuing their tradition as one of the top ACT teams.



Pushing Beyond Limits: Isobel Egan's Journey to the World Stage

Year 11 student Isobel (Izzy) Egan has long been known within the College community as one of our most talented rowers.

In 2025, she caught the attention of national and international audiences alike after making her para-rowing debut at the Australian Rowing Championships – where she claimed an incredible 3 gold medals. She went on to represent Australia at the World Rowing U23 Championships in Poznań, Poland, competing in the U23 PR3 Women's Single Scull event. Born with hip dysplasia, Isobel now wears an ankle brace for stability and has limited strength and range of motion in her lower limb. Far from letting that hold her back, she's continued to rise through the ranks of elite sport – balancing a demanding training schedule, academic commitments and her role as Radford College Captain for 2026.

Was there a specific moment or person who inspired you to take up rowing? There was an excursion to Radford's rowing shed in Year 6, where I got to go on the lake and row with some of my friends for the first time. It was really hot and the movement pattern was so foreign to me, but the coaches said that I should sign up, and I thought, why not?

You recently represented Australia at the U23 World Rowing Championships in Poland. What was that experience like? It was such an amazing learning experience. I got exposed to the lifestyle of an elite athlete. The competition itself was so different from any national-level race; it felt a lot more serious, and each crew was extremely internal and focused on their own processes. I was very nervous before my race, but getting to see myself in the Australian uniform reassured me that I had earned my place.

Do you hope to represent Australia again in rowing? Yes, I'm looking to compete in a crew boat next year for Australia again, but it would be amazing to win the U23 Single Scull if I was given the opportunity. Looking further into the future, the Paralympics – or even the Olympics – has always been a goal for me, and that would be the dream.

What does a typical training week look like for you? I have at least 3 morning sessions starting at 5:30 am, and typically 3 to 4 afternoon sessions, including gym and erg work. On Saturday, we train for around 4 hours in the morning, and I get the rest of the weekend off. But I see training as something we do all the time.

What do you wish people knew about para rowing?

Para rowing is just as hard as non-para rowing – it's the same movement and distance only with people of different abilities. It may even be harder as you have to train to your maximum alongside physio and extra strength training on your disabled limb.

Balancing academics, your personal life and an intense training schedule must be challenging. How do you stay focused on your goals while maintaining a healthy balance?

It's definitely not something I was good at straight away and I've tried many different approaches. I've found that writing down all the free time I have (in hours) helps me visualise the days I can do the most work, the days I can do admin and the days I can take breaks from study. I also choose sport and academic goals for the term or semester to have specific focuses on improvement.

What advice would you give other students aiming for elite-level rowing? If you want to pursue any elite sport, you have to want to win. You need to have the motivation to work hard, even on the days you don't feel like it. Talent will only take you so far, so you need the ambition to become elite.

You've been named College Captain for 2026, congratulations! What does this mean to you and what are you hoping to achieve in the role? I have been working towards the role since I was in Pre-Kindergarten at Radford, and so it means a lot to be recognised for the community efforts I have participated in. I am hoping to foster gratitude and respect, so that all students can focus solely on doing their best and not on how they will be perceived for being themselves.

'If you want to pursue any elite sport, you have to want to win. You need to have the motivation to work hard, even on the days you don't feel like it.'

IMAGE CREDIT: Rowing Australia

Sport in Focus



Cross Country Champions

Congratulations to Astrid Evans and Kaiya Barsby (both Year 11) for their stellar performances at the 2025 ASC and ACT School Sport Cross Country Championships. After striking gold at the ASC Cross Country Carnival, Astrid took out first place in the 17 years race and Kaiya placed 2nd in the 16 years race at the ACT Cross Country Carnival. Their endurance and spirit set a high standard for Radford College.

Netball Championships

Radford's top netball team, comprising of players from Years 9 to Year 12, travelled to Melbourne during the July School Holidays for their debut at the Waverley International Schools Netball Championships. Facing older opponents and international teams, the girls showed unwavering team spirit, energy and determination throughout the week to finish in 14th place.



Radford Shines at ACT Mountain Bike Championships

On 29 August, 38 Radford riders competed in the ACT Schools Mountain Bike Championships. Teams secured 3 podium finishes: 2nd place in College Girls and Junior Boys divisions and 3rd place in Senior Boys. Riders showcased skill, resilience and teamwork, proudly representing Radford in a challenging, competitive event. Congratulations to all participants on a memorable day!



Radford Basketball Teams Dominate

Several of our basketball teams had a memorable season. The Year 3 and 4 boys were crowned champions at the Jamie Pearlman and Sue Geh Cup Finals. The Year 5 and 6 boys also became champions after beating Hawker Primary in the Jamie Pearlman Cup grand final. The Year 5 and 6 girls also won the Sue Geh Cup. Both Year 5 and 6 teams will play in the ACT finals this November.



Cooper Earns All-Australian Honours

Cooper French (Year 11), a Greater Western Sydney (GWS) Giants Academy member, shone at the 2025 AFL U16 National Championships. Named Most Valuable Player for GWS, Cooper earned selection in the prestigious all-Australian team, highlighting his exceptional skill and dedication. This achievement marks him as one of Australia's top young football talents.

Sarah Selected for U18 Capital Spirit Netball Team

Congratulations to Sarah Rogic (Year 10) on her selection in the Under 18 Capital Spirit netball team after impressing at trials against Canberra's best. Sarah will travel to New Zealand in October to compete against U18 New Zealand and U19 Pacific region teams. This is a remarkable opportunity recognising her skill and hard work. Best wishes for an exciting international challenge!

Baxter Represents ACT

Baxter Sicily (Year 12) proudly represented the ACT at the Australian Schools and Junior Rugby Union Championships on the Sunshine Coast. His selection reflects his talent, hard work and dedication to rugby. Wearing the ACT jersey is a significant personal milestone and a proud moment for Radford College and its rugby community.



Netball Grand Finals Showcase Radford's Talent

Radford's netball teams gave their all in the 2025 North Canberra grand finals. The Harriers won the Inters Division 9 title with strong shooting and defence. The Falcons fought hard in Division 5 but fell short, while the Hawks battled East Gungahlin Netball Club Maroon to a narrow 28-30 extra-time loss in Division 3. Congratulations to players, coaches, managers and umpires for an outstanding season!



Radford Rugby's Thrilling Grand Final Victory

Radford's U18 rugby team, led by Zachary Lloyd (Year 12), secured a thrilling 40-33 grand final win over St Edmund's after an undefeated season. The match showcased skill and determination, with Radford scoring 6 tries and Zach earning Player of the Match. The victory celebrated the team's hard work and resilience in what will be their last season, bringing immense pride to Radford College and supporters.

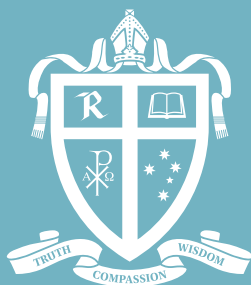
Molly's Water Polo Success

Molly Jones (Year 10) was selected for the elite Barbarians women's water polo team, competing alongside seasoned players and coached by Olympic silver medallist Dani Jackovich. At just 15, Molly's skills as centre forward impressed all. She will travel to Singapore in November to compete against their national team and represent the ACT U17 at Nationals. An inspiring journey ahead!



Australian Athletics Championships

Congratulations to Owen Toyne (Year 12) for winning silver in the U20 10,000 metre race walk at the Australian Athletics Championships in Perth. Owen completed the race in an impressive 40:58:32, showcasing his dedication and endurance on the national stage.



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