

ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

BULLETIN



Sydney

ISSUE 2 2024



Welcome

Throughout every page of this issue, the heart of our school shines through. St Catherine's is a school defined by the vibrancy and warmth of our community. It is a place we strive to make our students feel at home, so they feel comfortable enough to challenge themselves and achieve things they never thought possible.

It is nearly impossible to capture an entire semester within a single publication. If you asked each individual student, parent and staff member, they would have their own triumphs and hardships, their own story of how each day panned out. The best we can do is try to collect as many experiences as possible and weave them together into a showcase of our incredible school. Reading the many stories detailing the experiences of our community provides a wonderful insight into life at St Catherine's.

This semester began with celebration as NAIDOC Week, 100 Days of Kindy, and a brand new event, 100 Days of Year 12, were all held within a few days of each other. It was a time for us to come together as a community in honour of our First Peoples, as well as celebrating key milestones for our youngest and oldest students. From there, the festivities continued, with student events such as the Celebration of Learning, Prefect Induction Service and Spirit Day thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our Year 12 students particularly enjoyed their Graduation Week, with plenty of smiles and tears shed at our Time Capsules, Revue and Farewell Assembly events. Our parents also had plenty of chances to celebrate together with the P&F Trivia Night, P&F Father's Day Breakfast and annual P&F Thank You Breakfast all held with great success.

On stage, our performing arts students dazzled audiences with a range of musical, theatrical and dance performances. Our juniors brought the South Pacific to life with their rendition of Moana JR, while our senior students presented a gritty modern retelling of the classic novel, *Lord of the Flies*. Our musicians presented their talents at a range of showcases throughout Terms 3 and 4. Our BTC Dance program closed out the year with a confetti-filled annual showcase featuring performers from Kindergarten to Year 12. With an ongoing strategic focus on performing arts, we look forward to seeing how our creative programs grow and flourish in the future.

The achievements of our athletes this semester must also be mentioned. We saw students represent Australia in international competitions, work together to break 27-year-old records and make history as the first independent girls' school to join the NSW Water Polo Metro Competition.

Our Athletics and Cross Country girls were a particular stand out this semester, not only because of their victories, but also in the way they worked together as a team to ensure that everyone felt supported and celebrated. We are so proud of what each of our athletes achieved on and off the field this semester.

At the end of Term 4, we farewelled Headmistress Mrs Judith Poole with a special assembly and guard of honour. Mrs Poole was also surprised with a Rowing boat named for her, in recognition of her dedication to our crew. The entire day was a joyful celebration of the passion and sense of fun that Mrs Poole brought to our school.

We now look forward to officially welcoming Ms Deb Magill as the next Headmistress of St Catherine's. Raised in country New South Wales on the land, Ms Magill has spent half her career in the field of girls' education. Ms Magill spent the past eight years as Principal of Roseville College, but has also worked in London, across Sydney and also in regional NSW. She is passionate about sustaining a culture of strong community and an environment to nurture and grow students and staff. We are so lucky to have such an educator of Ms Magill's calibre join us as the leader of our school. We know our students, alumni, parents and staff are all eager to meet Ms Magill and welcome her to our school. Throughout Term 1, there will be several events, both formal and informal, to give members of our community the chance to introduce themselves and make her feel welcome. We know that St Catherine's will continue to thrive under her exceptional leadership.

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READ OUR 2024 ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

It has been a busy year for the Class of 2024 as they completed their Higher School Certificate (HSC). Scan the QR code above to read about their fantastic results and the lessons they learned along the way.



DIARY EVENTS TERM 1 AND 2

Life is always busy at St Cath's, so make sure you don't miss out on any of the fantastic events we have coming up in 2025.

Term One

CLASS PARENT BREAKFAST FRI 21 FEB

Our class parents are vital in providing our many community engagement events, initiatives and opportunities. At the start of each year, we welcome our new and existing class parents, giving them the chance to get to know one another and plan for what is sure to be an action-packed year.

FOUNDATION DAY TUES 4 MAR

With a 169-year history of educating young women, we have plenty to celebrate! We're excited to welcome back alumni from the Class of 1975 for a special assembly for Foundation Day 2025. Following this, we will be hosting our annual

Jane Barker Luncheon, which honours alumni who graduated 50 years ago or more. The day will conclude with an afternoon tea for our generational families. Join us to celebrate St Cath's!

COMMUNITY PRAYER THURS 13 MAR

Each term, parents, students and staff come together in prayer over breakfast in the Chapel. It's a fantastic opportunity to share fellowship together as we pray for a more united world.

END OF SEASON DINNER SAT 15 MAR

To celebrate another outstanding season for our rowers, we invite family and friends to join us for a special dinner in the MPH. The evening will feature awards and speeches, providing the perfect opportunity to recognise the dedication and hard work of our rowers and their coaches.

Term Two

SENIOR SCHOOL MUSICAL THURS 8 TO SAT 10 MAY

St Cath's Drama will bring audiences their creepiest and kookiest production ever, with their rendition of *The Addams Family Musical*. Get ready to be entertained by this delightfully eerie performance.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST FRI 9 MAY

Hosted by the P&F, our annual Mother's Day Breakfast is the perfect opportunity to celebrate together. Honouring mothers, grandmothers and special friends in the St Cath's community, this is one event not to be missed!

RECONCILIATION WEEK MON 26 TO FRI 30 MAY

At St Cath's, we are deeply committed to helping advance reconciliation in Australia. Each year, we host a series of workshops and events to reaffirm our dedication to bold action in

support of the rights, recognition and justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

FOUNDATION SPORTS LUNCH FRI 30 MAY

We are thrilled to invite our community to the inaugural Sports Lunch in 2025, hosted by the St Catherine's Foundation. Featuring a fantastic panel of well-known professional athletes, live comedy and the opportunity to support our Scholarship Fund, this event promises to be unforgettable. We can't wait to see you there!

CLUBS AND CHOIRS WED 14 MAY

Now in its 62nd year, this cherished St Cath's tradition brings each house together to compete in a spirited showcase of song and speech. With Hulme-Moir claiming bragging rights in 2024, we can't wait to see what 2025 will bring.

RAW DANCE SHOWCASE THURS 26 JUNE

Join us for our mid-year BTC Dance Showcase, where our talented dancers will take to the stage to share their routines.



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LUNCHEON

In 2025, we are honoured to welcome back Old Girl Natasha Oakley (STC2008) as our guest speaker. As a CEO, influencer and author, Natasha will be sharing her thoughts on being a woman in business as well as her work as an international advocate for body positivity, health and wellbeing.







Farewell Judith

The past two years have proved to be an adventure of learning. Arriving with little knowledge of St Catherine's, I was able to look with fresh eyes at this fine school. What did I discover?

I discovered a well-run school with clear educational and pastoral support for the students. I discovered teachers who are dedicated to the art of teaching and learning and strive to build relationships with the students they guide. I found a tight-knit parent community who loves the school. Many parents know each other and live close providing a natural bond of friendship. They are supportive of the school activities and want the very best for their daughters.

I began working with a Council who provides excellent governance and who also loves the school. They set the strategic direction for the school and provide oversight in areas of infrastructure development, financial decisions and mission.

I discovered students with vibrant and active minds. Girls who are willing to try new things and extend their boundaries, girls who support each other and girls who enjoy working together for a common purpose.

Outside our normal classroom activities, I uncovered the many cocurricular programs with excellent coaches, Music tutors and staff sharing their passions. There is something for everyone. Cadets, Robotics, Debating, Public Speaking and showcases in Dance and Music all contribute to a brilliant place of learning.

Now, as I prepare to say goodbye, I thank the entire St Cath's community for supporting me in this two-year adventure.

Thank you for walking with me to ensure this culture is one that we all can be proud of.

And to the girls. I challenge you to try new things, discover your gifts and find your voice. This is a thriving girls' school. Girls are prepared to step up because it is safe, and within this environment there is a sense of belonging which allows us to press our boundaries and take a risk. When we fail, we learn, when we get back up, the resilience muscle grows, and when we stick with something that's difficult, we build grit.

When we think of leadership, we often picture someone standing on a stage or at the head of a group, directing others toward a goal. But real leadership doesn't come from a title or a position of authority—it comes from within. It comes from having the courage to be yourself in a world that often tries to shape you into something else.

As Oscar Wilde once said, "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken." This quote is a powerful reminder that our uniqueness is our greatest strength. The world needs more leaders who dare to show up as themselves—without trying to fit into someone else's definition of what success looks like.

Knowing oneself, your gifts and your passions, will help you thrive. At my first assembly I shared my favourite shirt, with the message "I know I fish like a girl, try to keep up." I encourage each of our students to find their passions, gifts and voice. Don't let anyone stand in your way. We are all on this journey of humanity together and we touch others in all that we do. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching each one of you live out the school values of integrity, courage, relationships and service. I thank you for all you have given me. God bless you all.

Mrs Judith Poole
Headmistress

WELCOME MS MAGILL



It is with great pleasure that the St Catherine's community welcomes Ms Deb Magill as the 14th Headmistress of our School. Raised on the land in country New South Wales, Ms Magill is an exceptional educator who has dedicated over half her career to girls' education. Ms Magill's leadership style is one of joy, purpose and a profound sense of calling. Her career has been defined by a commitment to fostering strong, supportive communities and creating environments that nurture both students and staff. She firmly believes that every student should be known, valued and challenged to reach their full potential.

We are extremely fortunate to have an educator and leader of Ms Magill's calibre join our school. As she steps into this role, we look forward to witnessing how she builds on the strong legacy of our previous Headmistresses and guides us to embrace new opportunities that empower our students to thrive in this ever-changing world. We feel confident that our school will continue to flourish under her leadership.

As Ms Magill settles into St Cath's, her focus will be on getting to know our students, parents, alumni and staff. Planning is already underway for a number of events to both welcome Ms Magill to our school and also give her a chance to begin to build connections across our community. We look forward to the exciting chapter ahead and extend a heartfelt welcome to Ms Magill as she joins our school family.



SHAVE FOR GOOD

At St Catherine's, service is more than just a school value — it's the driving force behind our community's efforts to work together to build a better world.

This was evident at our World's Greatest Shave event in July. After five senior school teachers announced they would be participating in the Shave to raise funds for blood cancer research, the entire school community quickly rallied around them to help support this worthy cause. Firstly, two courageous Year 10 students, Georgia S and Georgia B, volunteered to share their personal experiences with leukemia during an assembly to encourage people to donate. Georgia S said: "It brought back memories I had totally forgotten about, making me relive them in both good and challenging ways. But it also reminded me of the incredible support and love I received throughout my journey."

At the Shave event, inspired by their classmates' powerful stories, the entire Senior School rallied in an outpouring of love and support. In the end, so many students volunteered to participate that a line formed, with some girls even stepping up to help cut hair to ensure everyone had their turn. The atmosphere was electric, with cheers erupting for each student who took part. The loudest applause, however, was for Georgia B, who, after sharing her story, bravely decided to participate in the Shave herself — truly a heroic moment.

Thanks to the generous support of the St Catherine's community, both in person and online, our 2024 World's Greatest Shave event raised over \$8,200 to help fund vital research into blood cancer! Thank you to everyone who donated!

A community that works well together

How would you feel if you were welcomed into a community that embraced your differences, asks Rev Kylie Wilson, our School Chaplain and Head of Biblical Studies.

Welcomed and valued in a community not because of what you can offer, but simply because of who you are. And welcomed into a place where if you make mistakes, you are forgiven and not immediately cut off. These three characteristics describe a grace-filled community. *The Bible* has great wisdom on how to make communities work well and one central concept it outlines is grace. Grace can transform individual and community lives. In a talk at our Term 4 Boarders' Chapel, we looked at what made a grace-filled community and thought through what it might take to emulate some of these characteristics. Guest speaker Amani Kazogolo helpfully allowed us to consider these things more deeply.

Thinking more broadly, St Catherine's is a school and it is also a community made up of so many different people and so many different parts that together strive to provide the very best education for our students. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Christian communities are described as human bodies. Just as a body cannot function properly without diversity — "If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be?" — so communities need different people with their different skills and gifts to ensure they function well.

This is the same for St Catherine's. If all of our teachers were Mathematics teachers, from whom would our students learn Visual Arts? In our community we need the Maintenance staff, the Deli staff, our Enrolments Coordinator, our Media and Communications team and the list goes on and on! All these roles are crucial for making St Catherine's the community that it is. My prayer is that St

Catherine's can be a grace-filled community that only grows in grace in the years to come. That it might be a community that welcomes all who wish to come despite differences (or perhaps even because of those differences); a place where you are valued beyond what you can offer; and that it is a community that forgives when it needs to. This kind of community is one which reflects God and the grace that He extends to all people. This is the grace seen most clearly in the death and resurrection of his son Jesus Christ who died for all that all might live.

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St Catherine's is a school and it is also a community made up of so many different people.

Rev Kylie Wilson





Timeless connections

At the 2024/25 Prefects and Student Leaders Induction Service in October, we introduced a new tradition to honour the role our Year 12 students play as leaders of the entire school.

Years from now, when Maeve K (Kindergarten) looks back at her mementos from her sixth birthday, one will undoubtedly stand out. A simple handwritten card with the words “You made my day” on the front may seem unassuming at first glance but for Maeve, it will hold the

key to a cherished memory.

On Friday 18 October 2024, our Kindergarten students joined us for the first time at the Prefects and Student Leaders Induction Service, a long-standing event in the St Catherine’s calendar. This annual service is a formal occasion that marks the beginning of our student leaders’ roles for the coming school year. From the ceremonial signing of the Prefects Book to the leadership pledge and the presentation of badges, the service has always been steeped in the rich traditions of our school.

This year, however, a beautiful new tradition was introduced to the event, symbolising the vital role our student leaders play as mentors and role models within the wider school community. As each student leader

stepped on stage to receive their badge, they were greeted by a Kindergarten student offering a yellow rose, a symbol of friendship and growth. In return, each student leader handed a handwritten card to their Kindergarten counterpart. This simple exchange represents a much deeper bond between our youngest and oldest students, as we strive to forge lifelong bonds between our girls that go far beyond age.

Although a few of our younger students were understandably nervous about appearing on stage before the

entire senior school student body, they were excited to take part in such an important occasion. Meanwhile, for our student leaders, it was equally meaningful. As they prepare to enter into their final year of schooling with us, writing heartfelt messages to the Kindergarten students prompted them to reflect on their own early school days. On each card, they carefully chose words they wished they had received in Kindergarten, adding a deeply personal and special element to the ceremony.

For little Maeve, the experience was made even more special as it coincided with her birthday. “It’s my favourite day at school so far,” she said with a big smile. “It was great to be able to give the bigger girls a flower and then get a special card from them.” Her joy was echoed by Prefect Abigail S, who reflected on the significance of the moment. “Having the Kindergarten girls there was incredibly special as it allowed us to view our roles from a new perspective. The small interactions we have with the Kindy students truly matter. They look up to us, and we have the opportunity to inspire them as they represent the future of St Catherine’s community,” she added.

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It’s my favourite day
at school so far.

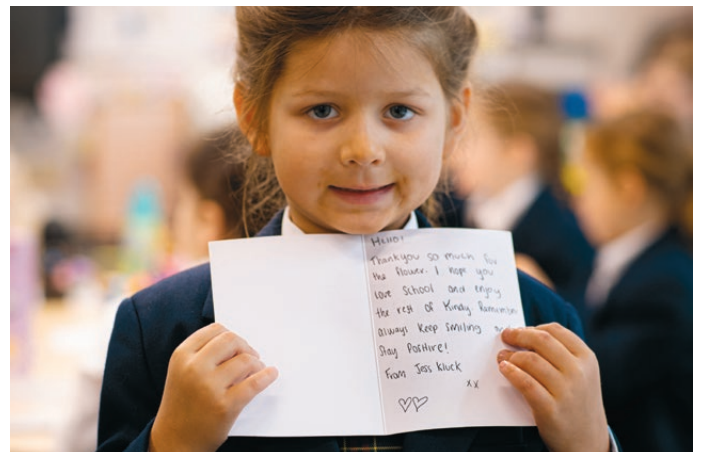
Maeve K (Kindergarten)

“

The small interactions we have with
the Kindy students truly matter.

Abigail S (Year 11)









Junior School

CELEBRATING TOGETHER

Semester 2 is our time for performance and celebration, writes Mrs Elizabeth Worsley, Head of Junior School.

In August, Year 6 entertained us with their impressive performance of *Moana JR* with every student in the year group singing, dancing and acting together. At the end of Term 3, the entire Junior School joined together for the Celebration of Learning, where parents are invited to share in the learning journey of each student. Term 4 was a whirlwind of camps, orientations, farewells and performances. The K-2 Nativity is an incredible event held in November, coupled with Grandparents Day. Term 4 was also a busy time for Year 6 as it is their last term in the Junior School. They enjoyed the Year 6 Farewell Assembly and High Tea, Dance Party and Mini-fete. Finally, Speech Day concluded our celebrations for 2024. It was a beautiful time to celebrate as a school together.

EXPLORING LEARNING

Our students are always engaged in exciting projects in the classroom. To give parents a glimpse of this magic, we host a Celebration of Learning in the Junior School each year. The event begins with presentations from each year group, showcasing a brief glimpse of students' learning journeys throughout the year.

Parents were amazed by everything from an interactive solar system to student-built robots and Chinese conversations. There were also performances by various Music and Dance ensembles, along with speeches from the winners of our Yabba Yabba Public Speaking Competition.

After the presentations, families joined their daughters for a tour of their favourite locations in the school, including the STEM Labs, Music Studios and Junior School Library. Our Junior School Pop-Up Art Gallery also returned, featuring a framed artwork from every student in the Junior School. The event concluded with a lovely alfresco morning tea in the Junior School playground, providing a perfect ending to a wonderful morning!



A MILESTONE TO REMEMBER

In Term 3, our youngest St Cath's girls reached a huge milestone, celebrating their 100th day of school on Monday 29 August. As is tradition, the classroom was lovingly decorated by Ms Clapson, including a personalised card and party hat for each student. In honour of this special occasion, our girls were thrilled to have their parents join them in the classroom for a morning of puzzles and games. The girls spent the rest of the day engaging in activities based around

the number 100, including making portraits of their 100-year-old selves, gathering collections of 100 objects and presenting posters with 100 items on them. It was a day filled with pure joy and we are so proud of our Kindys for reaching this milestone!

FIXING OUR FUTURE

In Term 4, twelve students from the Years 5 and 6 Fielding Classes represented our school at the 2024 National Future Problem Solving Program Finals in Melbourne. The girls worked together over several rounds of competition to solve problems before presenting their solutions in a dramatic performance. "Our team's action plan presentation scored a spot in the finals," Anouk W and Celeste J (Year 6) shared. "At the closing ceremony, we received a bronze medal for coming third in the Action Plan Presentation category! Although we successfully executed our action plan, performing in front of a big crowd while using all our materials effectively was a challenge. Overall, the experience was amazing." Well done to all the students who took part!



MAKING MEMORIES

We strive to be more than simply a place of learning. Instead, we want our school to be a gathering place for our community to make memories they will cherish for years to come. Guided by this vision, a few years ago, one of our staff members suggested that we combine our K-2 Nativity with Grandparents Day. This idea quickly blossomed into a beloved tradition that the girls look forward to each year. The event serves to strengthen connections between the many generations in our community by creating lifelong memories for our girls and their grandparents. The morning began in the Dr Julie Townsend Theatre, where our K-2 students proudly presented their nativity musical. The many months of rehearsals during K-2 Choir practices certainly paid off, as girls lit up the stage with their beautiful retelling of the Christmas story. Following their final bows, the girls joined their grandparents for a delicious morning tea. We know the day will be a treasured memory for all!



CO-ED COLLABORATION

This year, we've been collaborating with students from The Scots College in the Junior School. In Year 3, the two schools worked together on a project about the Olympics. In groups, students presented a speech on a sport of their choice. Year 3 also partnered with Scots as part of our Indigenous Education Program, with St Cath's hosting a fun session of Yulunga Games. "It's been fun getting to know the Scots boys and it is good to step out of my comfort zone," Luella M (Year 3) said. Meanwhile, in Year 1, students from St Cath's and Scots spent time designing sustainable playgrounds together for their Science lessons. In pairs, students came up with their very own designs before working to build models of their creations.

ROBOTICS TRAILBLAZERS

Last year, our junior students were frustrated that there were only a few VEX IQ Robotics Competitions in Sydney. So they decided that it was time for St Cath's to host their own event. On Friday 20 September, St Cath's welcomed 19 teams from across the Sydney area. The top five alliances competed in the finals with four St Cath's teams making it through. We are especially proud of the Glitch Pythons team who won the Energy Award and the Gorilla Wheels team who won the Innovate Award. Gorilla Wheels was then invited to compete at the NSW Elementary School State Championships in November, where they won the Judges Award.

WRITING FOR A CURE

Combining service and literacy, Write a Book in a Day raises funds for The Kids' Cancer Project. This year, our Year 6 students invited the boys from Sydney Grammar School to join them for this challenge. On the day, each team was responsible for writing and illustrating their book. After many hours of hard work, our teams presented their finalised books, with each creation to be donated to sick children in hospitals. Additionally, the teams raised an incredible \$25,500 to support vital cancer research.

2010



In 2010, Stage 1 students from various Sydney schools were welcomed to St Catherine's Junior School for a series of Robotics workshops.

Working in pairs with a student from another school, our girls learned to build a robot animal using basic programming and problem-solving skills. The students were very keen to continue programming the robots after the workshops finished.

**PART
OF
HER
STORY**



Senior School

A SHARED PURPOSE

Semester 2 has been a particularly rewarding and dynamic time, writes Mrs Karen Merrick, Deputy Headmistress and Head of Senior School.

The excellent results achieved by our students reflect a shared commitment to academic excellence and a growth mindset across the school community. Beyond academics, the outstanding achievements in the creative and performing arts this semester have been truly inspiring. From captivating Music, Dance and Drama performances to Visual Art displays, our students have showcased their talent and creativity. Equally, the strength of St Cath's culture shone through this semester. Whether through the vibrant PC and Spirit Day competitions, service initiatives or the everyday acts of kindness I've observed, our values of relationships and service remain at the heart of what we do. Speech Day was a wonderful celebration and a fitting conclusion to a year marked by excellence, creativity and a shared sense of purpose.



A CLASSICAL TOUR

During the winter holidays, a group of senior school students and teachers left the cold behind and travelled to sunny Italy for a week-long historical adventure. With a packed itinerary, our girls were lucky enough to gain special access to iconic historical sites such as the excavations under St Peter's Basilica, the Catacombs of St Callixtus, Hadrian's Villa in Tivoli, and the summit of Mt Vesuvius, to name a few.

Amelie B (Year 8) was one of the students who headed over to Italy for the Classic Tour. Amelie first fell in love with Ancient History after reading the *Percy Jackson* series in Junior School. Three years later, her passion for the past continues. Her favourite subjects are now Latin and History, so the opportunity to visit these historical sites for herself was a dream come true. "The highlight for me was visiting the archaeological site of Pompeii," she shared. "We saw actual archaeologists working on a section of the site because so much of it is still being uncovered. We had been learning about it at school, so it was amazing to see it in person."

As one of the youngest students on the

Classic Tour, Amelie was initially nervous about travelling overseas. However, she quickly felt at ease as the group formed a close bond. "Everyone was so welcoming, and we had so much fun together. One of my favourite parts of the tour was getting ready for dinner each night together. I feel like I learned so much independence on the tour."

LEARNING FROM A LEGEND

In Term 4, our senior Textiles classes were thrilled to welcome renowned Australian fashion designer Alice McCall into their classroom. She shared her fascinating journey in the fashion industry and brought along some of her iconic designs to show.

Drawing inspiration from everyday life, recycled fabrics and nature, she revealed how her creative process often involved translating her sketches into intricate hand embroidery and innovative fabric techniques. She left the class feeling inspired to embrace their individuality and creative expression. We look forward to catching up with her next year when the classes' Textiles major projects are completed for the HSC.







TEACHING SKILLS FOR LIFE

Providing a well-rounded education goes far beyond simple classroom learning. At St Cath's, we focus on equipping students with life skills to help them thrive in the wider world. This commitment was highlighted in Term 4 with two important events for our Years 7, 8 and 10 students.

For Year 10 students, we held our annual Beyond STC Day, a day dedicated to preparing them for life beyond school. Through a variety of hands-on workshops, students learned essential skills such as changing a tyre, managing finances, writing resumes and even running a business—thanks to the expertise of the UTS Startups team. We hope these experiences provide a strong foundation for their future success.

Meanwhile, Years 7 and 8 participated in their annual Wellbeing Day, which teaches students to create the positive habits needed to help them thrive. This year, the workshops focused on building positive relationships, practising mindfulness, journaling and exploring the benefits of gratitude. Saskia Vinnell and Izzy Woollcott (Year 7) had a wonderful day learning new skills and especially enjoyed preparing Christmas packages and cards for those in need at The Wayside Chapel. "It was a meaningful experience, allowing us to give back to the community by serving those less fortunate," the girls said.



CREATIVE SPARKS FLY

Our biannual Years 7-11 Art Show took place in Term 4. Students presented everything from watercolour pieces to clay creations, demonstrating the incredible talent that we are lucky to nurture within our school. One such student was Mariska D (Year 8), who shared a painted study of objects she loved as a child, including a piano, craft supplies and her plushies. "I loved sharing my work with everyone and looking back on the work I created earlier in the year," she said. "That's what I love about art at St Cath's. We have the freedom to grow. If our project is making birds, we can choose whatever meaning we want behind that and all sorts of mediums to explore our ideas."

GLOBAL SISTERHOOD

From the Royal High School Bath to Colegio San Felipe Apóstol Buenos Aires, it's safe to say that our exchange program was back in full swing this year. We are proud to offer reciprocal language and cultural exchanges with five different schools across the globe for our senior school students. The program is a great opportunity for our girls to grow as global citizens as they challenge themselves in a new environment. Edie M (Year 9), who spent a month attending the Royal High School Bath, explained that "exchange is so important because it gives us the chance to discover a brand new part of the world and meet many new people. I had the chance to live with my exchange sister for a month in England, which was so fun. I'm definitely going to remember it forever."



1990s



The Reconciliation Quilt was an art project created in 1998. Each child traced her hand, a symbol of reaching out and joining together, onto material and then decorated it with lots of colour.

Each hand symbolised a 'hand up' and a vote for reconciliation. It was unveiled by Her Excellency Lady Deane on 3 February 1999 at the opening of the refurbished Junior School. The quilt is now on display in the Jane Barker Hall.

**PART
OF
HER
STORY**



A journey through time

A cherished St Catherine's tradition, our Year 12 time capsules offer girls the chance to pause and reflect on their time at school during their busy final week with us.

"When you open this, I hope we are still best friends," Madeleine S read aloud as she sat

cross-legged on the Cloisters Lawn. This message, written over five years earlier by Elodie J, had been carefully folded and placed into Madeleine's time capsule. As each other's first friends at Catherine's in Year 7, the pair had decided to include letters to one another in their capsules. "It was incredible to read the letters. We both expressed our hope that we would still be best friends and here we are five years later, still going strong. We've been through everything together," Madeleine said.

The time capsules are put together by our Year 7 students in their first few weeks of school. Each girl is given a thick white envelope and instructed to fill it with items for their future selves. They can include anything they like—from letters to trinkets—before the capsules are sealed and stored away until the final week of Year 12.

On Tuesday 24 September, the Class of 2024 gathered on the Lawn to open their time capsules. This significant event during their final week of school offers a valuable opportunity to reflect on their journey at St Cath's and to marvel at how much they had grown since their early days with us.

After five years, many students have long forgotten

the items they chose to include. As the capsules were finally opened, the air filled with excited shrieks of surprise as everything from Barbie dolls to lucky hair ties and letters from loved ones were revealed.

Sometimes, the time capsules contained quite unusual surprises. Annabel C was startled to find a small tooth in her capsule. "I'm not really sure why I put it in there, but it's the funniest thing. I lost my teeth really late, so I must have added one as a surprise," she said.

Other items were more sentimental. Taya C found a USB filled with photos and videos of her friends that she had completely forgotten about, while Claudia C unearthed a homemade scrapbook filled with memories from her childhood. Meanwhile, Zoe T was delighted to discover a life-size headshot folded into her capsule. "It was a photo of my favourite teacher in Junior School, Mrs Jenny Birrell. She was my Music teacher and was so dear to me," she shared. Anastasia N uncovered a necklace she had been given by her favourite Gymnastics teacher as a child. "I remember when she gave it to me, she said that I may be little but I have a big heart," she recalled.

There were also a few students who were surprised by items their parents had secretly added to their time capsules. Abby J's mum had written her a letter, in which she shared her immense pride in her daughter and everything she had achieved. "It was so sweet and definitely made me cry – it just made me so grateful for my parents. I appreciate them so much," Abby said.

Meanwhile, Scarlett E was amazed to discover a drawing in her capsule that she hadn't known was there. "It was a drawing of me, created by my dad. He wrote on it, 'My happy, smiling, beautiful girl, lots of love,'" Scarlett shared. "It was so special because I didn't know he had included it. It was perfect."









A TASTE OF BOARDING



“

Once I settled into boarding, at St Cath's, it was a bunch of fun—it's like one big sleepover every night.

Peta V (Year 7)

We aim to make the transition to boarding school a little easier with our annual Boarders Taster Weekend.

When Peta V (Year 7) moved from Dubbo to board at St Cath's, she was understandably nervous about leaving her family behind. However, her worries quickly faded once she arrived. She made friends with the other girls and soon felt at home in her new boarding family. “Once I settled into boarding at St Cath's, it was a bunch of fun—it's like one big sleepover every night,” she shared.

Peta's experience is a common one, as we know that many students may feel apprehensive about starting boarding school. To help ease their worries, we host a Boarders Taster Weekend in Term 4. It's the perfect

opportunity for our new boarders to meet the other girls, get familiar with our Boarding House and settle in at St Cath's.

This year, the weekend started on Saturday 16 November when our new boarders arrived to meet their buddies for lunch in the Dining Room. Each new boarder is assigned a buddy to help them with the transition to boarding. The girls often spend the holidays before school starts chatting with and meeting up with their buddies so that by the time Term 1 rolls around, they are already best friends.

At this year's Taster Weekend, our new and current boarders headed out after lunch to enjoy a series of bonding activities across Sydney. The first stop was the Hijinx Hotel where the girls worked in teams to solve puzzles. Then they headed off for a game of putt-putt golf at Holey Moley. Finally, they returned to St Cath's for a scavenger hunt around the campus, to help

them learn their way around the school. The day ended with everyone's favourite event, the Boarding Family Barbecue. Although they are spread far and wide around the world, our families are an integral part of our boarding community, so we always make it a priority to include them in our celebrations. It was wonderful to see our parents, students and friends gathered for delicious dinner on the Cloisters Lawn. “I love gathering together for dinner, it feels like home sitting with the girls who are like sisters and talking about everything,” Simone H (Year 10) said.

The night ended with movies on the big screen in the Blue Room before everyone settled in for a good night's sleep. The next morning, our new boarders joined in for a big Sunday breakfast in the dining room. “It was such a fun weekend, I got to meet a lot of new girls. I can't wait to see them again next year,” Lilli B (Year 7) said.



Performing Arts at St Cath's

INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE

In Semester 2, our new Strategic Plan highlighted the performing arts as a key area of focus for our school, recognising the invaluable experiences they provide for our students. We have seen firsthand how participating in performing arts enhances classroom learning, supports emotional wellbeing and equips our students to navigate the complexities of the modern world. Through showcases, productions and concerts, this semester has provided our students with numerous opportunities to hone their crafts. These experiences have helped them develop critical thinking, problem-solving and leadership skills—qualities we hope will serve them throughout their lives.

EMPOWERING GIRLS ON THE STAGE

On Friday 26 July, Year 11 Drama staged their own production of *Little Girls Alone in the Woods* by Morgan Rose. A contemporary adaptation of Euripides' *The Bacchae*, the play focuses on a group of teenagers living in a town where girls keep going missing. "The young girls have actually run away because no one is listening to them," Maisy N (Year 11) explained. "The play is ultimately a story about finding freedom and the power of the female voice to oppose oppression."

The Year 11 play is unique, as the students take on all aspects of the production, from directing to costuming, lighting and marketing. This allows our girls to gain hands-on experience in teamwork, dedication and problem-solving, which are all essential skills in staging a professional performance. "As part of the media and marketing team, I enjoyed helping run the Instagram account and using various marketing strategies, such as advertising and vouchers to see how they led to a sold-out show. We had so much fun working together to put the play on and having a brilliant audience come and see the show," Maisy said.

VOICES IN HARMONY

Our school Chapel was filled with music for the annual Choral Showcase in July. There were many standout performances on the night, but a particular highlight was the wonderful performance by the entire Year 7 cohort. Hearing the entire year group sing together was a powerful experience for many

in the audience. Their fantastic renditions of *Barangaroo* and *Bennelong*, *Whenever the Wind is High*, *For the Beauty of the Earth* and *Hakuna Matata* definitely set the tone for the evening. Another standout was a series of exceptional performances by our soloists, Maisy N, Anita J and Sophia M. Well done girls! The entire night certainly showcased the remarkable choral talent that we are lucky to have in our school community.



A BRASS STAR SHINES

In Term 3, Ruby M (Year 11) was selected to participate in the prestigious Young Symphonists program in Canberra, hosted by the Australian Youth Orchestra. The residency is a week-long program that serves as a gateway for musicians to play professionally. It is a huge honour for Ruby to be selected for the program, especially as she was the only female student chosen for the brass section. Ruby spent a week of her holidays at the residency meeting musicians from around the country. "It was fun to meet other people with the same interests as me and share the experience of playing in an orchestra together," she said. "Every day we would rehearse for seven hours, having full orchestra rehearsals as well as brass ensemble rehearsals and tutorials, allowing for opportunities for me to improve my technique and playing. It was definitely a highlight of the year."



PLAYING WITH PASSION

Our music scholars are among the most talented students in our performing arts program. Each year, they unite to impress audiences by performing individual pieces they have been working on at our Music Scholars Concert. As always, the talent on display was truly breathtaking, with students effortlessly performing works by Chopin, Haydn and Telemann. After intermission, the Junior and Senior Orchestras took to the stage, performing selections from the *Peer Gynt Suite*, *Fanfare for the Common Man* and *Farandole* from *L'Arlésienne Suite No. 2*. Congratulations to our talented musicians!



MOANA JR MAGIC

Year 6 performed their annual production in Term 3, bringing *Moana JR: The Musical* to our stage. What makes this production special is that every student participates, with multiple girls sharing roles so that everyone has a moment in the spotlight. For months, the girls worked tirelessly to prepare for the big show. They took to the Dr. Julie Townsend Theatre stage and performed the musical three times, with their confidence and skills growing with each show.

REIMAGINING A CLASSIC

In Term 4, St Cath's brought William Golding's iconic story, *Lord of the Flies*, to life in a gritty modern reinterpretation of the classic novel. Although contemporary vernacular and reimagined characters were a new addition, the primitive, hunter-like essence of the original text was still at the heart of the production. Highlights included the depiction of Simon's descent into madness,

amplified by the use of technology, eerie natural sounds and filters and the use of fake blood to depict the act of killing. For Anita J (Year 11), the most powerful moment of the production was Simon's tragic death, in which the entire cast performed a ritualistic dance. "This powerful moment underscored the influence of leaders and the extreme lengths individuals will go to under mob mentality," she explained.



SPOTLIGHT ON DRAMA

Over three nights in Term 3, our talented Drama students took to the stage for our annual showcases. Firstly, our Year 12 students presented a selection of their group and individual performances. Audiences enjoyed everything from performances about the unsung heroes of World War II, reimagined Bond Girls, a twist on an 18th Century Italian farce and even Alabama sororities.

Our Years 8-10 students then stepped into the spotlight to perform a variety of group-devised pieces. Their performances explored powerful themes, such as the role of women in history and the impact of political theatre, highlighting both the students' talent and the innovative approaches driving their learning.



United through song

The Year 7 Stage Choir offers students the chance to come together in song, fostering a strong sense of connection within the year group.

This year, Yoland S (Year 7) has noticed something special taking shape. Though many of the students are still relatively new to St Catherine's, a genuine sense of camaraderie has quickly developed amongst her year group. Yoland attributes this to their time spent together in the Year 7 Stage Choir, where singing and learning in unison have fostered real connections. "I feel closer to my year group now," she shared. "Singing and learning with them in the choir has really helped us bond."

Formed at the beginning of 2024, the Year 7 Stage Choir was created as the brainchild of our Head of Music Curriculum, Mrs Joyce Kitching. She decided that every fortnight, the entire year group would gather together to sing a wide range of music, covering everything from *Hakuna Matata* to

Barangaroo and Bennelong and *Adiemus*.

The Choir brings content from the Music curriculum to life, allowing students to experience music in a hands-on way. For Yoland, it offered a deeper understanding of harmony. "I sing in the Choir as an alto, so I'm learning how to harmonise with the melody," she said. "It's challenging at first, especially because it's easy to get distracted by the melody, but I've enjoyed learning how to stay with the harmony."

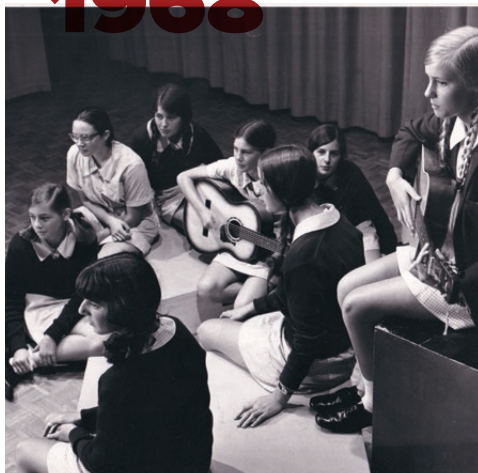
The Choir has already made appearances at events such as the Choral Showcase and Speech Night. For many students, these events were the first time they had performed music in front of a large audience. Although it was certainly daunting, the girls rose to the occasion and delivered incredible performances. We want to give our girls the opportunity to grow by pushing themselves out of their comfort zones, which these performances certainly did.

The experience of participating in the Choir has taught the girls skills that they will carry with them throughout their lives. Consistent research has shown that singing helps build skills in concentration, recall and



reasoning. Beyond that, as the Head of Music Curriculum, Mrs Joyce Kitching, explained, choral activities are powerful tools for fostering teamwork and social skills. "When students sing together, it's about far more than just the music in front of them; it's about cooperation, communication and mutual respect. They learn to listen, adapt and work together towards a shared goal, building a strong sense of community. Singing also introduces them to cultural exploration, broadening their perspectives," she said.

1968



In 1968, the Madrigal group, made up of students in fifth and sixth forms, created a recording of five traditional songs including *O Waly, Waly* and *The Salley Gardens*.

The girls made the recording in the Jane Barker Hall with the guidance of Music teacher, Mrs Sutcliffe. The record was then sold in the school bookshop for \$1.50. The record now forms part of the Archives collection and is on display in the School Museum.

Sport at St Cath's

STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

At the end of this semester, we said farewell to Mrs Poole. On any given Saturday morning over the last two years, you would find Mrs Poole at a sports field, court or pool across Sydney supporting our teams in her trademark St Cath's cowboy hat. We are so honoured by her commitment to St Cath's sport. She taught our girls the importance of lifting each other up, celebrating your peers' achievements and being proud of your own. She was a fierce advocate for active bodies and healthy minds – it's no wonder our sportswomen have gone from strength to strength under her leadership. She has shown all of us how to pursue our sporting passions with pride.



NATIONAL CHAMPION

We were so proud of Chloe A (Year 6) who competed at the AFL National Championships after she was selected for the NSWPSA team. Chloe was one of the youngest players in the entire competition as NSW is the only state that allows primary-aged students to compete. But she certainly didn't let that stop her, equalling the record for the most goals kicked in a game by a NSW player. Her team went on to finish fourth overall. Later in the year, Chloe returned to nationals, this time for Athletics. She competed in the 100m, 200m and the 4x100m relay, where she helped her team win a bronze medal. Well done Chloe!

CLIMBING FOR AUS

It's been an incredible year of climbing for Mackenzie H (Year 11). After representing Australia at the World Youth Climbing Championships in China earlier in the year, Mackenzie competed at the NSW Open State Boulder Titles in September, where she placed third! This was especially impressive as it was the first time that Mackenzie had qualified for an open state boulder final. For her to walk away with a bronze medal is an incredible achievement. Based on this

result, Mackenzie was selected for the NSW Open team, which will be competing at the Australian Nationals Boulder Championships in Perth later in the year. We are so proud of everything Mackenzie has achieved!

GOLD STAR SEASON

It's been a fantastic season for our small but mighty Gymnastics program. Four of our artistic gymnasts, Luna K (Year 5), Olivia R (Year 4), Liberty V (Year 5) and Harper T (Year 7), qualified for the Inner City Region team at the Junior State Championships. Their fantastic results helped the team place third in Level 3 and be crowned Overall Champions in Level 4. Congratulations girls!

At the IGSA Gymnastics Championships, our strong results continued, with the team placing seventh overall; achieving a fifth place in artistic and a 10th place in rhythmic. We also had some wonderful individual results at this event. Shoshana R (Year 11) received a Gold in Ball for Level 9, Isabelle Morris (Year 6) was awarded a Silver in Beam for Level 6 and Marlee Graham (Year 7) got a Silver on Bars in Level 3.

Congratulations also to Yvelle T (Year 4) who competed in the Rhythmic Gymnastics Junior State Championships and came away with two bronze medals. Well done Yvelle!



STC MAKES A SPLASH

St Cath's made history by becoming the first independent girls' school to join the NSW Water Polo Metro Competition for the Summer 24/25 season. The competition, made up of university and community clubs, serves as a development pathway for players aspiring to national and international representation. We are proud to be able to provide our students with this outstanding opportunity to grow and develop their skills in this competitive environment. So far, our three teams — U12, U14 and U16 — have risen to the occasion, winning three out of four games played so far. This is a fantastic achievement in our first year in the competition.

SURFING INTO CONFIDENCE

The much-loved Year 7 surf excursion took place at the end of Term 4 as the conclusion to their PDHPE unit on water and beach safety. It was very much a hands-on experience, with the girls spending nearly three hours in the water, learning how to identify dangerous currents and what to do in the event they get caught in a rip. They also got the chance to learn some basic surfing and board paddling techniques, with many experiencing the thrill of standing up on a wave for the first time. We are so proud of them.

NATIONAL TENNIS TRIUMPH

Our top tennis players, Ruby M (Year 12), Audrey A (Year 11), Elizabeth I (Year 11), Rachel A (Year 10), Chloe R (Year 10) and Stella B (Year 10), competed on the national stage at the Gallipoli Youth Cup. After fantastic singles and doubles results, our girls were named the fourth-best high school team in the country.

TAKE IT TO THE STATES

We know that a large number of our student athletes aim to study in America after graduation. In order to help support their aspirations, St Cath's works to build connections with colleges and universities early on. One of the ways that we do this is through our annual US Sports Tour. In the spring holidays, 28 athletes from our Water Polo, Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics teams headed off to California.

As part of the tour, our students were able to train with teams at several top schools including UCLA, Loyola Marymount University and William Jessup University, as well as work with top clubs including SET and SOCAL. They were also lucky enough to take part in several competitions while in the US. In Water Polo, our girls competed in the Evan Cousineau Water Polo Tournament, where

we placed fourth overall. Students also took part in the Huntington Park Invitational Cross Country race, which saw participation from every high school in Orange County. We also attended a swim club night at SET, where our athletes showcased their skills and gained valuable experience.

The girls had a fantastic time on the tour, with Olivia R (Year 8) sharing that her highlight was "getting closer to girls from other years and learning more skills from the other coaches we met that will benefit my game when I return to Australia". Zali E (Year 8), enjoyed competing against the US teams, which she said helped teach her "how to adapt to new playing environments and the importance of teamwork and resilience." Overall, Zali said, "I am very grateful that the school offers these opportunities because they provide valuable experiences for us."



Track star champions

St Cath's boasts a proud tradition in track and field, but our 2024 Athletics and Cross Country teams weren't content to simply rest on past successes.

Kristina B's (Year 6) parents often joked that she learned to run before she could walk, while Abigail W's (Year 5) mum and dad spent her childhood chasing after their energetic daughter. So, when the two girls joined St Catherine's, signing up for Athletics felt like the natural choice. Over time, the team has become a second family for the two of them. "I love having the opportunity to travel and compete at different levels with my friends, experiencing things together that we wouldn't have had the chance to do otherwise," Kristina shared.

This season, Kristina and Abigail, alongside teammates Chloe A (Year 6) and Eloise O (Year 6), were fortunate enough to experience something most people could only dream of when they broke a state record which had been held for 27 years.

"We trained a lot and worked together as a team, so when we won, I felt very proud of us for doing such a great job," Abigail said. Competing in the Senior Girls Relay at the NSWPSA Primary Athletics Championships, the team won gold for the third year in a row, beating the state record by an impressive 0.04 seconds. St Cath's now holds the state records at this event for both Junior and Senior Relays. Chloe A was also selected for the NSW relay team to race at nationals later in the year.

But the track and field achievements didn't stop there. At the IGSA Athletics Carnival, our girls made 35 finals, placing third overall — our best-ever result. Special mentions must go to Amelia E (Year 11), who competed back-to-back in multiple events and Cobi R (Year 9) who clocked the fastest 100m of the season

at 12.89 seconds. From this event, several of our girls were selected for the IGSA team to compete at the CIS Athletics Championships. Congratulations to Audrey K (Year 10), who won gold in the High Jump and Silver in the Hurdles, as well as Alyssa McDrury (Year 7), who won gold in the 200m, Caydence Lim (Year 7), who won gold in Shot Put and Sophie H (Year 9), who won gold in the 3000m.

Sophie also joined Piper S (Year 11) in representing Australia at a series of competitions this year. At the Australian Athletics Championships in Adelaide, Sophie came 10th in the U16 3000m and Piper placed fourth in the U17 800m and 3000m respectively. The pair also dominated the NSW CIS Cross Country Championships, both winning gold in their events despite some very muddy conditions. Sophie and Piper then qualified for nationals, where they placed 7th and 26th respectively.

Although we are so proud of everything our athletes have achieved this year, what truly matters is how they work together as a team. As Sophie H put it: "Being part of the St Cath's team means you are part of something bigger than yourself, as every person tries their hardest to achieve the same goal. The team environment helps everyone stay motivated to try their best. For example, at the IGSA Athletics Carnival, I was running several age groups above, which was quite intimidating. But the whole team was so supportive and helped me race to the best of my ability to help the team."

1970s



Athletic Carnivals were traditionally held on the school grounds until the early 1990s when construction commenced on the Dame Joan Sutherland Centre.

They were held on the lower field which now forms part of the quadrangle and area outside the Jo Karaolis Sports Centre. As the school grew, Athletics Carnivals were then held at Hensley Athletics Field in Maroubra and then later at ES Marks Field in Moore Park.



St Cath's Foundation

SUPPORTING OUR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

Girls from Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander communities have been an integral part of the St Catherine's story for generations.

OUR GOAL

It costs \$850,000 to fund just one Indigenous Scholarship in perpetuity, and we aim to offer many Indigenous girls a St Catherine's education. The Foundation is dedicated to securing the funds necessary to ensure that our Indigenous Scholarship recipients not only thrive but also continue to enrich our school community for generations to come.

It is with immense pride that the St Catherine's Foundation has continued to support our Indigenous girls with donations to our Scholarship Fund throughout 2024. Currently, St Catherine's provides financial support for up to 20 Indigenous students, and thanks to the generosity of our community, our fundraising efforts in 2023 and 2024 have raised \$271,111 toward our long-term goal of funding scholarships in perpetuity. Education has the power to transform lives, especially for young women. The financial support provided by the Foundation is made possible by the generosity of donors and benefactors who share our vision of ensuring a St Catherine's education is accessible to our Indigenous students. These donors have made the school, and our Indigenous students, their philanthropic priority. Through events such as Twilight Golf, International Women's Day, the Gala Ball, and individual donations, our school community has demonstrated unwavering support for our fundraising initiatives. But there is still more we can and need to achieve together.

31%
Funds raised thus far towards a single Indigenous Scholarship



Donate Today

You can help us reach this goal by making a tax-deductible donation to our Indigenous Scholarship Fund. Simply scan the QR code or contact our Head of Community Relations, Mr Ben McCloghry, at foundation@stcatherines.nsw.edu.au to discuss how you can support our Indigenous students.



Scan to support
our St Catherine's
Indigenous
Scholarships.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support throughout 2025. Together, we can make a lasting difference.

Martin Smethills

Chair, St Catherine's Foundation

OUR EVENTS

Throughout the year there are several opportunities for our community to come together.

Whether it's enjoying a fundraising luncheon in the MPH, catching up with old friends at a reunion or teeing off at Twilight Golf, there are plenty of opportunities for our community to come together. We would love to see you there in 2025. For more information, email us at events@stcatherines.nsw.edu.au.

2025 FOUNDATION EVENTS

**International
Women's Day Luncheon**
Friday 7 March
Lunch and talk in the MPH

Major Fundraiser
Friday 30 May

Twilight Golf
Friday 31 October

2025 OLD GIRLS EVENTS

OGU AGM & Chapel
Saturday 1 March

Jane Barker Luncheon
Tuesday 4 March
50 year+ celebration

**St Cath's Generations
Afternoon Tea**
Tuesday 4 March

Dubbo Reunion
Friday 16 May

Wagga Reunion
Friday 20 June

Old Girls Careers Lunch
Friday 1 August
Lunch and talk in the MPH

Back to St Cath's Day
Saturday 6 September
Afternoon on the lawn

A bright future for Amelia

At just 20 years old, Amelia Cooper is flying the St Cath's flag at Harvard University – and she couldn't have done it without the generosity of our Rowing donors.

Amelia remembers carefully stepping into a Rowing boat as a young Year 7 student and sighing with relief when she didn't immediately end up in the water. Since joining St. Catherine's in Year 3, she had tried every sport from Hockey to Water Polo, and the newly-formed Rowing program felt like a natural next step. However, her journey wasn't easy. "I started as the worst rower in Year 7 — I was the last pick of any crew, but I ended up as Captain of Boats in Year 12. Anything is possible if you are dedicated to your goal," she said.

Amelia began Rowing when our program was in its early stages, supported by the St Cath's community, who came together to raise funds for much-needed equipment for our girls. By the time Amelia graduated in 2021, these generous donations had helped St Cath's crew make their mark on the national stage. "We are all incredibly grateful for the hard work everyone put into raising funds to build the Rowing program," she explained, adding that it has been "wonderful to see St Cath's improve year after year. The girls now have a reputation for being a determined and unstoppable crew and are regulars in the national and international Rowing community. The Olympic Games is a realistic goal for many of them."

Having watched St Cath's Rowing blossom, Amelia is confident the heart of the program remains the same. "St Cath's Rowing is special on so many levels — it combines deep and authentic friendships shared by the girls with great coaching,

creating a unique community," she said, revealing that she now feels incredibly proud to represent them at Harvard.

Amelia never expected to end up studying at Harvard and remembers feeling amazed when a scout first approached her after she won her first National Medal for Rowing in Year 10.

But she knew she was ready for the challenge. "After my time at St Cath's, I knew I was prepared to thrive in the unique environment of Harvard University and Harvard Rowing," she shared. As expected, Amelia has flourished at Harvard, and now at the end of her first year there, she feels incredibly fortunate to experience life at such a prestigious institution. "Being immersed in a vibrant atmosphere is mentally stimulating; you really feel like you want to be your best self. The sense of community is also strong, which I really appreciate after experiencing that at St Cath's," she added.

Although Amelia doesn't know where life will take her after Harvard, she is confident about one thing: St Cath's will play a role in her future. "I want to ensure other St Cath's girls have an experience as amazing as mine!" Amelia said. "As alumni, we have the opportunity to build a future legacy. St Cath's is as much a part of my life as my friends and family, and I can't wait to help provide the next eight for our Rowing crew."



“

We are grateful for the hard work everyone put into raising funds to build the Rowing program.

Amelia Cooper (STC2021)





P&F at St Cath's

QUALITY TIME TOGETHER

It's been another busy semester for the St Cath's P&F, with our dedicated committee providing plenty of opportunities for our parents to connect and spend time together.

Our beloved P&F Trivia Night returned for another year in August, with a record number of tables and attendees. This year, we decided to go for an Olympics theme, which parents and staff certainly embraced. With a few Ray Guns, Aussie supporters and many matching tracksuits (that looked suspiciously like last year's 80s costumes), it was great to see everyone get into the trivia spirit. The staff table had the advantage of 'who you know' and came as the Australian Water Polo team, thanks to our very own Mr Yanitsas, who headed to the Paris Olympics with this year's team. A big thank you to Tim Shorter of Fame Trivia for his ongoing support in acting as quizmaster, as well as all who joined us on the night.

Just a few days later, we came together again for the annual P&F Father's

Day Breakfast. Dads, grandfathers and special friends filled the Cloisters Lawn to enjoy a bite with their daughters. The coffee carts, photo wall and rock music playing in the background were particular highlights for our dads.

In Semester 2, the P&F General Meetings again proved on how they can be a place for the community to liaise with the school on matters. In Term 3, we were joined by the Chair of Council on short notice, as she addressed attendees on the appointment of our new Headmistress. We thank her for her time.

I would also like to thank the hard-working

team in Community Relations—Ben, Meagan, Mariam, Maddie, Jess, Grace and Emma—who have all done a huge amount behind the scenes especially in the organisation of the Magnolia Fair and in support of all committee members in arranging social events, managing general logistics and making sure we meet our deadlines. I would also like to thank Mrs Judith Poole on behalf of the entire P&F Executive Committee. We wish her all the best for her next adventure in life and again thank her for the

“

We have continued our goal of improving our communication across the community so they can then be more involved with the school

Jane McCrory (P&F President)

huge contribution she has made to the P&F Committee in her time here at St Catherine's.

Finally, I would like to thank this year's committee members — Bob, Catherine, Joanna, Teena, Mariela, Travis and Ciara. We have continued our goal of improving our communication and getting our message out across the community so they can then be more involved with the school. Next year we hope to change the structure to encompass more of the community and volunteer groups in our activities. With this in mind, the P&F Committee is seeking interested parents and friends to join the P&F Committee or represent the Sport or Performing Arts Sub-Committees for 2025. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, please get in contact.

Jane McCrory
P&F President



OUR COMMUNITY EVENTS

We have something for everyone at St Cath's.

P&F MOTHER'S AND FATHER'S DAY BREAKFASTS

Held in the sunshine on the Cloisters Lawn, these breakfasts are a wonderful opportunity for parents, grandparents and special friends to spend quality time with their daughters and each other.

P&F TRIVIA NIGHT

A beloved annual event that sees 300 parents dress up and enjoy a night of quizzes, puzzles and laughter. Each year the event has a different theme so there are plenty of chances to show off your dress-up skills. Join in the fun and help us raise funds for the P&F!

TERM RAFFLE

Every second term, we host a raffle filled with unmissable prizes including holidays, jewellery and vouchers for our community to win. Tickets go fast so keep an eye on your inboxes for your chance to win big.





Celebrating 75 Years of PC

In 2024, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the interhouse Physical Culture (PC) competition. This annual and eagerly awaited event is held each year during Term 4, writes our School Archivist, Mrs Evangeline Galettis OAM.

Prior to 1949, all students at St Cath's competed in Physical Culture or Drill Competitions against each other, as well as competing against other schools. Alongside marching and circle drills, girls would perform cultural dances in groups. Our Archives holdings include photos of students in 1945 performing Grecian and Russian dances as part of a Physical Culture display.

In 1949, Headmistress Miss Ella Mitchell and Sports Mistress Miss Marcia Lamberth changed the competition and introduced the interhouse event which we celebrate today. They gave the House Captains the task of designing a "keep fit" performance set to music. Each house was judged, and the successful house claimed the Physical Culture Cup. Early photos from 1949 show the girls rehearsing in their school uniforms and then later in the sports tunic.

In the 1950s, the event became part of Display Night when parents and the local community were invited to the school to watch the teams perform. In the 1980s, the winning team performed at Family Night, an end-of-year celebration when parents were encouraged to bring a picnic to share with the school community.

Today the event, which is part of Spirit Day, is held during school hours as close as possible to St Catherine's Day (November 25), the day that we remember the patron saint our school is named after. Over the years Physical Culture has become brighter and louder and remains a much-loved part of our school tradition.

1. AN EXTRACT FROM THE 1940 CATHERINEIAN

The Physical Culture Display was held on Friday evening, 18th October. Owing to the fact that St. Jude's Parish Hall was not available for this date, the display was presented at the school on the spacious brick drive, which was illuminated by floodlights. Programmes were sold to visitors on their arrival, and sweets were on sale during the interval. The money thus raised was in aid of the Parents and Friends' Contributions to the Church of England Huts.

2. AN EXTRACT FROM THE 1980 CATHERINEIAN

Considering the numbers of inter-house activities which are held during the year one would think it almost impossible for a draw to occur. Each term points are awarded for Conduct, Public Speaking, Choirs, Work, Lifesaving, Swimming, Athletics, Softball, Tennis, Hockey, Netball, Gymnastics and Physical Culture. Never before in the history

of the school has a draw occurred but in 1980 the House Cup was shared by Barker and Casterton.

3. AN EXTRACT FROM THE 2020 CATHERINEIAN

This year was exciting for Hulme-Moir, albeit very unique and often challenging. The changes in running both school and house events were at times difficult to navigate. They brought Hulme-Moir closer and helped us all grow. Our new house officials for 2020-2021, rose to the challenge of 'Virtual PC'. They choreographed and filmed short routines for each year group within Hulme-Moir and digitally combined them to create a video of the entire piece. Hulme-Moir, with our theme 'Fantasy', placed third in the competition, which is a great testament to the commitment and endlessly positive attitude of all the Hulme-Moir girls.

LOOKING FOR A HOME FOR YOUR MEMORIES?

Do you have photo albums, badges, uniforms, trophies or treasured items from your time at St Catherine's that you wish to donate to us? If you are in possession of a very special item that needs to be shared with future generations, please email us at archives@stcaths.nsw.edu.au.





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