

ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

BULLETIN



Sydney

ISSUE 2 2025



Welcome

Recently, I was welcoming some guests to campus for a weekend conference, while students from St Catherine's and other schools were coming and going for sport. Teachers were arriving from other schools. It was one of those beautiful spring days with the sun shining.

Having welcomed our guests at the gate, I walked with them under the Boarding House, around the Stone House verandas and through the small doorway into the cloistered courtyard. It was the most gorgeous spring day, the grass was sparkling with dew, the magnolias were in bloom; it was as though the whole campus was smiling. The guests paused, looking out over our school, and simply said, "Wow". Of course, our school is not about the buildings (although we value ours). It is about the people. There is so much about that experience of entering our campus that day that reflects who we are. In fact, there is a rather glorious contradiction at play in our school: a thriving combination of both strength and humility.

I see this duality in action every day; in the prefects who help our youngest students walk into school each morning, in the many service opportunities led by our students, and in the dedicated teachers who take the time to know our girls, master the art and science of teaching and go above and beyond in ensuring girls are well and well taught.

At St Catherine's, there is a strong sense of 'us'. We work hard together, encouraging each other to push boundaries and achieve. Importantly, we celebrate each other's successes. This semester alone, we have enjoyed three major productions (including a special Nativity performance from our youngest St Catherine's girls for their grandparents), achieved our best-ever result at Athletics, and received nominations for state, national and international competitions, among many others.

And yet, it is the character of our students that shines through. Our girls are quick to recognise others' efforts, to tell me when a friend has achieved something wonderful and to express gratitude for the support they've received along the way. They are friendly, opinionated (in the most wonderful way) and proud. They should be. They are St Catherine's girls.

I am here for our girls. Our focus this year has been on strengthening the support available to them and to our staff

in their care of them. We know, now more than ever, that to do well, our girls need to be well. And our young people face some headwinds. In recognition of this, we have appointed a Head of Wellbeing in the Junior School and created a new role in the Senior School, Assistant Head of Senior School - Student Care, to walk beside students and families in times of need, enabling others to focus on developing skills from a strengths-based perspective. We also have an additional psychologist employed and a nurse. Our hope is to have our girls well supported and contributing to a strong community.

Next year, we celebrate our 170th birthday. We have so much to celebrate, and it is good to look back with gratitude. It is equally important to look forward with

hope and optimism. The start of next year will see the creation of a dedicated Student Services precinct and the transformation of Jane Barker Hall into a brand-new Senior School Research Centre; a space designed to meet our students' needs for collaboration, reflection and independent study. It will be a place where they can learn deeply, work creatively and connect meaningfully. We also

move into a time of research and implementation of subjects and approaches to learning that will continue to set our St Catherine's graduates apart in knowledge, skills and character. I have learned that St Catherine's does not mark time. Nor do I.

I look forward to continuing this journey with you as we work together, forged by challenge, deeply connected in community and with a quiet confidence and assurance to impact the world with all that is good, true and right, building on our glorious foundations of strength and humility.

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love."

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

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At St Catherine's, there is a strong sense of 'us'. We work hard together, encouraging each other to push boundaries and achieve.

Deb Magill
Headmistress





FEATURES

16 100 DAYS, COUNTLESS ACHIEVEMENTS

In July, we gathered to celebrate 100 Days of Kindergarten, our girls' first big step in their journey with us.

22 A NEW GENERATION OF FEMALE LEADERS

For our girls, being a school leader isn't about the title, but rather, it is about making a positive impact.

24 A YEAR IN BOARDING

What began as nervous anticipation for many new St Cath's boarders this year has become a story of belonging.

28 A LENS TO THE FUTURE

What began as a student-driven passion project is now changing the way our girls view the world.

32 A NEW ERA OF ST CATH'S SPORT

We are excited to strengthen unity and belonging with the launch of a brand new PE and Sports uniform suite.

06 DIARY AND EVENTS

We have gathered together just a few of the many events to come in 2026, to make sure you don't miss out on a single one!

08 GENEROUS GIVING WITH CATHY FREEMAN OAM

The St Catherine's Foundation introduced a brand new fundraising event in the form of the Gala Lunch, where a very special guest inspired our community.

10 FAITH AND SERVICE

Rev Kylie Wilson explores how simple acts of kindness can ripple out to bless others and be an expression of God's love for us.

12 JUNIOR SCHOOL

From celebrating learning, writing books and farewelling our Year 6 girls, our Junior School students have certainly had a busy end to the year.

18 SENIOR SCHOOL

With excursions, camps, competitions and incursions, there have been countless opportunities for our girls to extend learning beyond the classroom in Senior School.

Contents

Welcome to the second issue of the St Catherine's School Bulletin for 2025.

26 THE ARTS AT ST CATH'S

This semester has been filled with opportunities for our students to express themselves and share their creative passions with the world.

30 SPORT AT ST CATH'S

In Semester 2, our students have celebrated many impressive sporting achievements, but a strong sense of unity and teamwork has underpinned it all.

34 ST CATHERINE'S FOUNDATION

As a community, we are dedicated to shaping the future of St Catherine's girls through the gift of education.

36 PARENTS' & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

It's been another busy semester with plenty of opportunities for our parents to connect and spend time together.

38 LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Long before the age of email, letters enclosed in envelopes served as vital channels of communication, preserving the voices of those who came before us.

READ OUR 2025 ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

Congratulations to the Class of 2025 on completing the HSC. Scan to read about their fantastic results and the lessons they learned along the way.



DIARY EVENTS

TERM 1 & 2

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

Term 1 2026

WELCOME SOIRÉE FRI 30 JAN

Start the new year right with our annual Welcome Soirée. Current and new parents from Kindy through to Year 12 are invited to join us for the chance to catch up after the long holiday break, forge new connections and celebrate together.

COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS THROUGHOUT TERM 1

As the school year finds its rhythm, parents are warmly invited to join our Headmistress, Ms Deb Magill, and senior leaders for a series of informal catch-ups with each year group. It's a wonderful opportunity to share updates, insights and plans for the year ahead.

FOUNDATION DAY FESTIVITIES FRI 6 MAR

As we celebrate 170 years of St Catherine's in 2026, our Foundation Day festivities will be extra special. With events that bring together past and current students, it's already shaping up to be a celebration for the history books. Stay tuned for more details to come soon!

IWD LUNCHEON FRI 13 MAR

Our community will be pleased to know that our much-loved St Catherine's Foundation International Women's Day Luncheon will be returning in 2026. The event will bring together parents, alumni and supporters for an afternoon of engaging conversation, an inspiring keynote presentation and the chance to reconnect with one another. We can't wait to see you all there!

Term 2 2026

SENIOR SCHOOL MUSICAL THU 30 APR TO SAT 2 MAY

Save the date for a trip to the Greek Islands as the Senior School musical *Mamma Mia!* takes over the Dr Julie Townsend Theatre in early Term 2. Enjoy the ABBA hits you know and love as our girls bring this iconic story to life with colour, energy and creativity. It's set to be a joyful, feel-good production that you definitely won't want to miss out on.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST TUES 5 MAY

Celebrate St Cath's mothers, grandmothers, aunts and other special friends by enjoying a relaxed morning with pastries, fresh barista-made coffee and plenty of other delicious treats. It's a wonderful opportunity to gather as a community, share conversation and honour the incredible women who support and inspire our girls every day.

BOARDING WEEK MON 11 TO FRI 15 MAY

Our boarders are at the heart of our school, so it's only fitting that we dedicate a full week each year to celebrating them. From special excursions and bake sales to the much-loved Boarding House sleepover, we hope our boarders, as well as the wider school community, enjoy the celebrations and feel proud of the unique and vibrant role they play in our school life.

CAREERS BEYOND ST CATH'S WED 10 JUNE

The event welcomes back Old Girls who share their personal journeys, professional insights and practical advice through a series of industry-specific panels. Our senior families have the opportunity to explore a wide range of industries and discover potential career pathways. It's a fantastic chance for our students to learn from those who have gone before them and begin building strong professional connections before they have even left school.



THE COUNTDOWN IS ON FOR THE MAGNOLIA FAIR!

We are so excited to welcome our students, parents, alumni, staff and wider community to the biennial P&F Magnolia Fair on Saturday 9 May. Join us for a fantastic day out at St Cath's, with market stalls, delicious treats and performances galore!







Generous Giving with Cathy Freeman OAM

At the start of this semester, the St Catherine's Foundation introduced a brand new fundraising event to the school calendar, in the form of the Gala Lunch held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency.

Since 2019, the Foundation has focused on raising funds for our Indigenous Scholarship Fund, supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls who enrich the cultural fabric of our school and go on to achieve remarkable things for themselves and their communities. Cathy Freeman OAM is a powerful example of this. She is someone who, with the hopes of a nation on her shoulders, overcame every obstacle to deliver a victory that inspired all Australians to strive for their best. We were therefore delighted to welcome Cathy as our guest speaker, in conversation with award-winning journalist Allison Langdon.

With humility and warmth, she shared how she first began running thanks to a "pushy teacher" who wouldn't let five-year-old Cathy hide in the bathroom because she was too shy to race in front of her classmates. Although she never grew to love the spotlight, Cathy explained that she came to accept it as part of achieving her goals, noting that "to achieve something great, you have to accept some degree of uncomfortability".

Several of our current and past Indigenous students also joined us at the event, including Suzannah G (Year 12), who was invited on stage at the last moment to ask Cathy a question. In true St Cath's fashion, Suzannah stepped up without hesitation, asking Cathy about her most meaningful interaction with strangers. The question left Cathy momentarily speechless before she responded, with tears in her eyes, that her highlight had been meeting our girls, as it had been a moment that left her feeling deeply hopeful for the future. "Everyone was watching, but it felt like Cathy and I were having a chat together. It was a mixture of feeling both awestruck and having a chat with an old friend at the same time," Suzannah reflected.

We also shared a video featuring national swimmer and rugby player Cobi RL (Year 10), who spoke about how attending St Cath's has helped her discover her potential. "St Cath's has provided me with so much support, so I want to give back to the school as much as possible and

do my best. I feel really grateful and proud to represent the school. It's a big opportunity and it doesn't come around very often, especially for Indigenous students," she said.

Cathy echoed this sentiment, speaking about the transformative power of education for young Indigenous Australians, a fitting message for an event dedicated to raising funds for our Indigenous Scholarship Fund. She reflected on how attending boarding school as a young girl "changed the trajectory" of her life, giving her access to the resources and opportunities that helped shape her into the athlete she was meant to be. She thanked guests for their generosity in "creating a better future for everyone; a better Australia" by supporting Indigenous students through the Scholarship Fund.

That gratitude was well deserved. Thanks to the generosity of guests and the wider St Cath's community, the event contributed significantly towards our Scholarship Fund, bringing us ever closer to our goal of providing Indigenous scholarships in perpetuity.

This important event, which supports a cause so close to all of our hearts, would not have been possible without the support of our event partners:

- Orthoboutique
- Sylvania BMW
- BRASV Group
- Cater Care
- CTSAV
- Neighbourhood Cellars
- Valour Sport
- ACR Refrigeration Pty Ltd
- Arrow Print
- Ms Dumping
- SupporterHub
- Temp and Agnew
- Boteh
- Eastern Security
- Passeggiata
- Symetrie



SERVING WELL IN OUR COMMUNITY

To act in service of others can take many forms. For our Junior School students this semester, it meant leading a project to support a national charity of their choice.

They chose Project Kindness, an organisation that connects people in need with donated goods and services, and were delighted to discover it was founded by one of our own alumni. The girls organised a collection of non-perishable items to create breakfast and recess packs, carefully ensuring each contained a variety of nutritious foods. As Ella L (Year 6) explained, they wanted the children receiving the packs to “get a healthy breakfast that will give them a good start to the day. It makes me feel happy to know that these children are going to benefit from our work.”

Meanwhile, in the Senior School, students in Years 10 and 11 spent time with residents at a local aged care home. The girls brought along their own artworks to share and were touched to receive handmade cards in return. They made a special effort to connect with residents who don't often have visitors, finding joy in the simple act of conversation. As one student reflected, it was amazing how something so small could become the highlight of someone's day. The visit left a lasting impression, with many students already asking when they can return.

Also in the Senior School, students laced up their running shoes to take part in the City2Surf, raising funds for Running for Premature Babies, a charity that supports neonatal equipment and research to give premature infants a stronger start to life. Together, the girls raised nearly \$10,000. It was especially nice to see so many of our parents join in the effort, with some running alongside their children and others cheering from the sidelines.

Simple Acts of Kindness

Even the littlest thing, like a door being held open for you, or a coffee appearing on your desk, can bring a sense of joy that brightens a day, writes our School Chaplain and Head of Biblical Studies, Reverend Kylie Wilson.

Kindness is known to produce effects like a sense of connection and boosting health and wellbeing. Kindness embodies a humility, a desire to act for the good of others, as well as no expectation of anything in return. Kindness can be powerful and yet it can often be overlooked as an attribute to acquire.

The Bible has a lot of things to say about kindness, such as in Proverbs, where a kind word can turn away anger, or Colossians 3:12, “Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

There is a word in the Hebrew text of the Old Testament: *hesed*. Although it is hard to translate the full richness of this word, it is often translated as loving kindness, or steadfast love, and it is most often used to describe God and the way He feels about His people.

It is deep, rich and unending. God's *hesed*, His kindness, can be clearly seen in this passage from Titus 3:4-5: “But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.”

We see in this passage that God's kindness is not reliant on our goodness. This is an incredibly freeing thing to understand. God can and will be kind to us, whether we deserve it or not. Knowing this kindness from God can shape our lives, helping us to be kind to those around us whether they deserve it or not.

And so, a challenge, let us think of one way we can be kind to the people around

us, and let us see how it ripples out to bless others so that we can embody Ephesians 4:32: “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.”

Rev Kylie Wilson
School Chaplain

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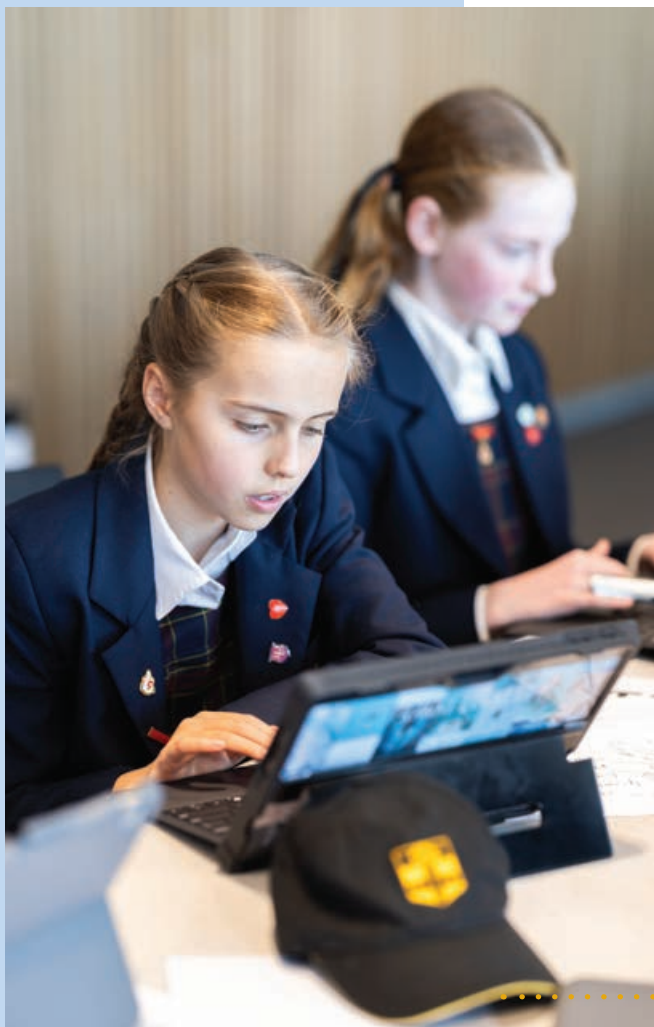
It is not always easy to remain focused on the present moment. Worry and stress can be a big distractor.

Rev Kylie Wilson









Junior School

CELEBRATING TOGETHER

From learning to excursions, there's always something happening in Junior School, writes Head of Junior School, Mrs Elizabeth Worsley.

A feature of Term 3 is the Celebration of Learning, a wonderful morning where parents join their daughters to witness their learning firsthand. Term 4 is a hectic time, featuring excursions, camps and end-of-year activities. Years 3, 4 and 6 attended their camps at Galston and Lake Macquarie and returned after having had a fantastic time. The end-of-year events feature many activities to celebrate Year 6. We like Year 6 to celebrate their time in the Junior School and have space to reflect on all the wonderful things that have taken place. The Year 6 Assembly and the Year 6 Dance Party are fantastic opportunities for the students and parents to celebrate together.

WRITING AND GIVING HOPE

Every year, Year 6 students collaborate with Sydney Grammar School. In groups, the students work together to create and publish a book in one school day, to raise funds and bring joy to children with cancer. "The process was both exciting and challenging," Willow B (Year 6) said, "as every student became an author, responsible for writing a chapter of the story." While it was certainly a challenge to complete a book in just six hours working in a team, as Luna K (Year 6) added, "Year 6 loves a challenge and it made the final product even more rewarding." By the end of the day, not only had the students raised \$28,000 for The Kids' Cancer Project, but they were also able to hold in their hands a completed book they had created together with their group.

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The process was both exciting and challenging.

Willow B (Year 6)



A BRAND NEW ADVENTURE

Our Year 3 girls were so excited to embark on their first school camp in Term 4. Over two action-packed days, the girls tried everything from high ropes courses to damper making, embracing every challenge with enthusiasm and energy. It was wonderful to see the resilience on display as the girls tackled new experiences and stepped outside of their

comfort zones. As Zara O (Year 3) said, "On the bushwalk, everything was so steep, but I kept on going," and her classmate, Niamh W (Year 3) added, "Rock climbing was fun because even if we fell, we could try again." Another camp highlight was the way the girls supported each other when things got difficult, such as Coco K (Year 3), who "loved cheering on my friends when they jumped a long jump."

LEARNING WITH WILDLIFE

This semester, our Kindergarten girls went on their first school excursion to Taronga Zoo. There was plenty of excitement as they boarded the bus, eager to see the animals and learn about their habitats. During the day, the girls visited different areas including the African Savannah, Australian wildlife exhibits and the reptile house. A highlight of the trip was the Backyard to Bush workshop, where the girls learned how we can care for wildlife in our own backyards. "Zookeeper Ryan taught us to be careful with the animals because they might get scared," Lisi Z (Kindergarten) explained.



CELEBRATING BOOK WEEK

Although Dress Up Day may be the most visible part of Book Week, we had many other literary activities for our girls to enjoy. Our Storytelling Stars program welcomed K-2 parents into the library to share their favourite family stories, while our pop-up bookshop with Gleebooks returned for another year. This year, we also welcomed *Worst Week Ever* author duo Matt Cosgrove and Eva Amores, and author of *The Illustrated Encyclopedia* series, Sami Bayly, to St Cath's, to run a series of interactive workshops, giving the girls a behind-the-scenes look at the world of publishing as well as sparking their creativity. The girls then put their ideas into action in our annual bookmark competition. Congratulations to our winners, whose designs will feature as the official library bookmarks. The week culminated in our Dress Up Day, where gold coin donations went to support Room to Read.

A SPOTLIGHT ON STORIES

Alongside students from across the state, girls in Years 5 and 6 took part in the 2025 NESA WriteOn competition this semester. The girls created a selection of written work in response to the stimulus quote, "Could they be changing?" We were delighted to learn that Ines R (Year 6) would be receiving a Silver Award for her piece about the lasting power of friendship. Ines was presented with her award at the State Library of NSW, and her story now features in *The Best of WriteOn 2025 Anthology*, an honour that places her work among the very best in the state. Congratulations Ines!

CHALLENGING POTENTIAL

Our junior girls are always keen to extend and challenge themselves, which is why taking part in the annual GATEway 8 Competition is so popular. This year, 16 students from Years 5 and 6 travelled to Macarthur Anglican School to participate in a range of tasks that are designed to challenge and enthuse high-potential learners in creative academic pursuits. Our Year 6 team placed first in the Creative Arts and Design Team Task, with the girls impressing judges with their imagination, collaboration and problem-solving skills. This is an achievement they can be very proud of!

TAKING A VISIT TO THE PAST

Bringing their classroom learning about Australian history to life, Year 2 visited Vaucluse House in July. It was a hands-on excursion with students trying out tasks such as washing clothes by hand, polishing silverware and gardening. "It was really fun because we got to do fun kitchen activities. I now understand what it was like to be a worker in the olden days," Olive H (Year 2) said. They also enjoyed playing traditional games such as marbles and ring toss. Beyond the house, Year 2 explored the grounds by birdwatching through binoculars, strolling through the vegetable garden and relaxing on the grass while eating lunch. Overall, Year 2 loved bringing history to life while creating memories with their classmates.

A LEARNING ADVENTURE

Although we celebrate learning every day in Junior School, it's important to acknowledge this as a community. That's why, at the end of Term 3, we host a Celebration of Learning with our parents. From Kindergarten demonstrating how they investigate new words to Year 4 sharing their problem-solving skills in STEM, it was fantastic to see each year group proudly sharing their learning with confidence and joy for our parents.

1999



Blue Stockings was a newsletter published by students in the Junior School between 1999 and 2005.

A team of students put the magazine together at lunchtime and invited their peers to submit "poems, stories, reports, interviews, puzzles, drawing or anything else that is interesting." Initially two editions were issued each year before it became a single annual bumper publication!

100 Days, Countless Achievements

Each year at the end of July, we reach a special milestone in the Junior School as we gather to celebrate 100 Days of Kindergarten. It is a joyful day that marks our Kindergarten students' first big step in their school journey.

This year's celebration, held on Wednesday 30 July, was full of warmth and excitement. Despite the rainy weather outside, the smiles and high spirits could certainly be felt inside the classroom. The day began with our parents joining their daughters in the especially-decorated classroom to create art projects and enjoy a beautiful choral performance, including a special *100 Days* song the girls had learned for the occasion. The festivities continued throughout the day with a range of 100-themed activities, including a library session where students created their own "100-eyed monsters" with our teacher librarian, Ms Martin. It was a wonderful celebration of all the girls have achieved in their first 100 days of school.

Of course, with more than 2,000 school days still ahead of them, it might seem a little early to be reflecting on the achievements of our Kindergarten students. But that's exactly why this event is so meaningful. In an incredibly short time, our Kindergarten students have

already accomplished so many things and it's important that we pause to acknowledge and celebrate these early milestones together.

For Poppy H, she's proud of learning to count to 100 in groups of 10, a skill she says has made her problem-solving "feel so much quicker." Her classmate Zoe L felt proud of her ability to draw her own version of *Bogtrotter* by Margaret Wild, as well as completing all her activities in Maths with confidence. Meanwhile, for Olympia D, the highlight has been all the friendships she has been able

to form with the other girls in her class. "I was a bit scared to start school because I didn't know anyone, but now they are all my friends and we get to play all day," she shared.

It can also be said that every student in Kindy has overcome challenges and grown in remarkable ways. Matilda G's mum Hannah reflected on just how much her daughter has changed since starting school. "At pre-school, she wouldn't speak up. At the end of the year performance, she was the only one who didn't say her lines," she recalled, "but within the first week of starting school, she was telling me how she was standing up in front of the class for news. A few weeks in, they had International Women's Day, and she got up and spoke on stage in front of the whole school. She's completely come out of her shell and just become a new human."

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I was a bit scared to start school because I didn't know anyone, but now they are all my friends and we get to play all day.

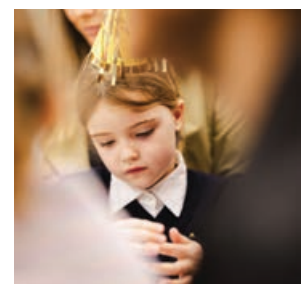
Olympia D (Kindergarten)

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She's completely come out of her shell and just become a new human.

Hannah (Parent)









Senior School

LEARNING TOGETHER

Our Senior School students have definitely learned well together throughout Semester 2, writes our Head of Senior School, Ms Rebecca Herbert.

With excursions, camps, competitions and incursions, there have been countless opportunities for our girls to extend their learning beyond the classroom. These experiences allow students to grow in their self-confidence, challenge themselves and also build bonds with each other that we hope will last a lifetime. With that in mind, this semester we also celebrated the Class of 2025 as they prepared to journey beyond St Cath's. As leaders of our school, these students have inspired and supported our younger girls, embodying the spirit of our Senior School at its very best.



HELPING THEM START WELL

We know that starting a new school, or even moving from Junior to Senior School, can feel incredibly daunting. To help ease that transition, we host an annual Orientation Day for our incoming Year 7 students, both from the Junior School and beyond. Through a series of activities led by our 2026 Student Leadership Team, the girls were able to explore the Senior School, ask questions, connect with older students, and begin forming the friendships that will support them next year.

They also attended a Senior School assembly and a series of simulation classes to familiarise themselves with the structure and rhythm of Senior School learning. "Now I know some new girls and what the classes will be like. I think I'll be more confident on my first day," Elena W (Year 6) said. Her future classmate, Ella H (Year 7 2026), agreed, adding that she was no longer nervous to be starting as a new student next year. "Today has been really fun because we've done so many things together," she said. "We went to an assembly, had classes and I've made lots of new friends as well."

NOMINATION SUCCESSES

We are always proud when our talented students are recognised beyond our school gates. This semester, Isabella L (Year 12) was shortlisted for the prestigious John Locke Institute Essay Competition, selected from more than 65,000 entrants worldwide. In her essay, Isabella explored whether introducing a tax on private school fees in the United Kingdom would enhance social mobility. She argued that while the policy is well-intentioned, it may risk undermining social mobility unless supported by broader structural reforms. Being shortlisted places Isabella's essay among the top 10,000 entries, which is outstanding!

A little closer to home, Tracy T (Year 11) was named one of just three finalists for the 2025 NSW International Student of the Year Award. Tracy, who is one of our boarders, was nominated for her volunteer work in the community and was quick to credit her teachers for their support, explaining, "Their continuous encouragement motivated me to strive for greatness and step out of my comfort zone. Representing the school in this way fills me with gratitude. It inspires me to keep aiming high and making our community proud."





UNITED AS A YEAR GROUP

The spirit of the Class of 2025 can be captured in a single image: a circle. The circle in question happened quite spontaneously on Tuesday afternoon during Year 12's final week with us. The girls had been asked to gather on the Lawn to open their Year 12 Time Capsules. This simple instruction quickly transformed into a truly beautiful and real moment, as, without planning or direction, the entire year group instinctively arranged themselves into a large circle on the lawn. They effortlessly moved over for any late arrivals, making sure that everyone was included in the circle. It was the first time this had happened in the 23 years of this tradition, and it perfectly reflected the

deep unity of the Class of 2025. This unity shone through every moment of Graduation Week. From walking hand in hand into the Valedictory Dinner to giving an impromptu standing ovation when Ella E (Year 12) was announced as Dux, the closeness of the entire year group was undeniable. "We are united as a year group. We are all friends and have built such strong relationships that are so interconnected throughout the year," Samantha D (Year 12) said.



REAL LIFE LEARNING

To truly understand a concept, we know our students often need to see it come to life in the real world. This semester, Year 9 Geography students deepened their

understanding of wetland biodiversity during a visit to The Royal National Park. "Actually being in a wetland taught us so much about water purification, flood control and carbon sequestration. It was very educational," Zali E and Gabi G (Year 9) shared. Meanwhile, Year 11 Business Studies students visited Taronga Zoo to analyse how signage, interactive displays and educational content appealed to various target markets and enhanced visitor engagement, and our Year 10 students attended the Macquarie Empowering Women in Finance and Technology event. As Sophia K (Year 10) explained, "I enjoyed learning more about how the trading market operates behind the scenes and left energised and thrilled about the opportunities in this field."

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS

In July, five Year 11 students quietly made an incredible achievement, placing fifth in the world at the International Ethics Olympiad competition, with an honourable mention from the judges. As Caitlin C (Year 11) said, "The competition was an amazing experience that developed our improvisation when speaking, our critical thinking and our ability to view situations from multiple perspectives."

1995



The final day of Year 12 has traditionally provided an opportunity for light-hearted activities to entertain the school.

Sixty years ago, the Class of 1965 celebrated their final day by not allowing staff into classrooms without a baby photo, while the Class of 1975 held a mock Prizegiving where awards were given to staff based on their abilities and character. In 1995, students spiced up their uniforms for the final day.

A New Generation of Female Leaders

Four years ago, when Chiara R (Year 11) first started at St Cath's, she set herself a goal that felt slightly out of reach at the time.

"I remember when I started here in Year 7, I looked up to the Head Girl straight away, and I decided that it was something I wanted to try to be when I was older," she said.

For Chiara, the opportunity to lead wasn't about her own journey; she wanted to be a role model for her two younger sisters, who are also students at St Cath's. "I wanted to be someone that everyone could look up to and be a leader who can be there for everyone," she added. Chiara wasn't alone in being inspired by the student leaders at St Cath's. Her classmate, Ava G, who has been at the school since Kindergarten, remembers setting her own goal of becoming Deputy Head Girl.

In Term 3, the two girls were thrilled when their dreams became reality, with the announcement of the 2026 student leadership team naming Chiara as Head Girl and Ava as Deputy. "We're so excited to be doing this together," Ava said. "We even share a birthday, which makes it even more special." As an all-girls school, developing strong female leaders is at the heart of what we do. We are proud of the many opportunities our students have to build the skills, confidence and character needed to lead. Both Chiara and Ava recognise the importance of these opportunities.

"Being a female leader is really important because we empower younger girls to voice their opinions, share their emotions and support one another," Chiara said. Ava agreed: "In a world where so many leaders are male, it's vital that younger girls have female role models to look up to."

For both girls, being appointed as a leader of the school isn't about the title; instead it is about having the chance to shape a community of strong and empowered young women. "I'm really looking forward to bringing girls together and leading by example," Chiara explained. Ava added that she is eager to work with "the other prefects, Headmistress Ms Magill and the younger girls to bring out the best in the St Cath's community". Congratulations to our entire 2026 leadership team!

“

Each year, the prefects choose a theme to guide their leadership of the School. For 2025-26, we have chosen a theme of 'Strength Through Connection'. As young women, true strength is built upon the relationships we build with peers, teachers, staff and beyond.

Chiara R (Year 11)









A YEAR IN BOARDING

“

Now I feel like I have a home here and another home with my family. Both boarders and staff here appreciate the real me and support me whenever I need it.

Ruby J (Year 7)

What began as nervous anticipation for many new St Cath's boarders this year has become a story of belonging.

Ruby J (Year 7) arrived at our Boarders' Taster Weekend late last year "completely petrified" at the thought of starting boarding. She knew she would be one of the youngest in the House and worried that her age, combined with not knowing anyone, would make it hard to fit in. "But as soon as I came in, these two girls came up to me and sat with me. We just started talking and I thought, 'Wow, everyone is so nice... maybe I'm actually kind of excited to board here,'" she remembered. That spark of welcome and friendship is what Ruby credits with helping her through those first challenging months of boarding.

Even after her nerves eased, Ruby still missed her family deeply and went home most weekends during her first term. But once she was encouraged to join our Saturday morning sport programs, she

gradually began to enjoy spending her weekends here at St Cath's too. "Now I feel like I have a home here and another home with my family," she said, adding that both boarders and staff "appreciate the real me and support me whenever I need it."

Her fellow new boarder, Evie M (Year 11), had a similar experience after joining us at the start of the year. Unlike Ruby, Evie wasn't nervous about boarding itself. Having boarded since Year 7 at her previous school in regional NSW, she already knew the rhythms of boarding life. "But even though I knew how boarding works, I didn't know if it would be the same or if things would be different here," she said. Over time, Evie has come to appreciate both the familiar routines and the new ways of doing things she has experienced at St Cath's. One major difference she has come to appreciate is the level of freedom our boarders are given. "Even though the staff are always here to support us, we have a lot of time and space to go out and do our own things after school and on weekends," she said.

This independence is something another

new boarder, Tamika C (Year 11), was seeking when she decided to give boarding a try. Although her family is Sydney-based, Tamika was inspired to board after enjoying an exchange program. Although she does feel more independent since becoming a boarder, the sense of community has become what she values most about boarding. "I absolutely love the atmosphere of boarding, just being around everyone," she said, "especially forming connections with girls in different year groups. At my old school, we didn't mix much between years, whereas at St Cath's we all blend together. In boarding, we all sit together at dinner, we do weekend activities together. We're like one big family."



SINCE DAY ONE, WE HAVE BEEN A SCHOOL FOR BOARDERS.

Scan to learn more about boarding with us at St Catherine's.



The Arts at St Cath's

A PASSION FOR CREATIVITY

From the stage to the studio, Semester 2 has been filled with opportunities for our students to express themselves and share their creative passions with the world. We are continually inspired by our students' talent and also by the dedication they bring. Creativity runs deep at St Cath's, and our girls value the chance to engage in Music, Art, Drama and Dance as part of their daily school experience. Many of our programs, including our Rock Bands and Photography Club, are student-initiated, and we are proud to provide the resources and facilities that allow our girls to explore their passions in a supportive environment. We hope to foster confidence, collaboration and a lifelong love of the arts.

STATEWIDE NOMINATIONS

The hard work of our creative students was recognised with 27 nominations for the state-wide HSC Showcases. In Drama, eight students were nominated for their individual performances, while all three of our group performances received nominations. These collaborative works, which the girls worked together to write, stage and perform, dealt with a wide range of themes including, a family of Ancient Greek gods trying to save humanity from the chaos of modern society, a group of high school boys confronting the pressures of toxic masculinity and a striking, movement-based piece that explores the body and the cycles of life. In Music, we received three nominations for compositions and another three for performances in Trumpet, Flute and Voice. Meanwhile, in Technologies, five students were nominated for their major works in Design and Technology and Textiles and Design. Their works included jewellery pieces for those with mental health conditions and a contemporary reimagining of a traditional Japanese Shibori patchwork coat. In Visual Arts, we also had a nomination and later selection for a painted work exploring the tension between the primal and the constructed, using teeth as a motif.

RISING ROCK STARS

In recent years, our Rock Band program has gone from strength to strength, with over 40 students now taking part across seven different ensembles. In a nod to the program's incredible growth, this semester we held the inaugural Rock Band Showcase. We took over the Bondi Pavilion Theatre for a packed show that sounded so good that members of the public tried to

enter the venue, thinking that a professional concert was going on. And with the level of talent on display, it's not hard to see why.

The entire event was a fantastic opportunity for our rockers to showcase their talents and gain stage experience. "Being up on stage is such an incredible feeling," Zinnia S (Year 10) explained, "it has helped me improve musically and work a lot harder. Getting to perform has taught me what it is like to get something out of the effort that you put in."



ELECTRONIC LEARNINGS

In Term 3, the Dame Joan Sutherland OAM Centre was alive with a new kind of music, as our Years 8-10 students took part in Electronic Music Day. The girls worked with guest presenters from Musical Futures, as well as our own talented music staff, to explore modern music technology, electronic composition, beat making and sound design. It was a hands-on experience, with students working across a range of electronic musical instruments to learn essential skills such as layering tracks, mixing effects and structuring a full-length electronic piece. As Head of Music Curriculum, Mrs Joyce Kitching described, "From building loops using digital audio workstations to experimenting with synthesisers and MIDI controllers, the day was packed with innovation and fun."



A DRAMATIC SHOWCASE

With simply too much talent to fit into one night, our Years 8-10 Drama Showcase took over our Dr Julie Townsend Theatre for two incredible nights of performance. Our Drama students took to the stage to share what they have been working on in their classes this term in their units on Narrative Playbuilding, Frantic Assembly and Political Theatre. Performances explored the lives of feminist icons, including Sally Ride, Marie Curie, Helen Keller, Vivienne Westwood and

Emmeline Pankhurst, the environmental impact of major companies and the reality of sports locker rooms. There was truly something for everyone, and each student should be so proud of themselves for taking part.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN DANCE

Our fantastic Dance program has had an incredible couple of months as the competition season came to a close. The girls showcased their routines at the Dance Life Unite, The Hills Dance Spectacular and The Sydney Eisteddfod at the Opera House. At Dance Life Unite, our Junior School Dance team placed third at both Dance Life Unite and The Hills Dance Spectacular, competing against 15 other schools! They were also awarded the Most Entertaining award in their age division for their *Shrek* routine. Meanwhile, our Senior School Company took home first place for their *Footloose* Jazz routine and placed fourth with their Theatre Jazz performance. To top it off, they were also chosen for the Most Entertaining award in their age division, which was a huge achievement for the team. Congratulations to all our dancers!

FRESH AUSSIE VOICES

Each year, the Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP) hosts a festival for students to work with entertainment professionals to present new Australian stories. This year, our students were able to take part in the Intersection Festival, working with playwright Laura Goodlet to bring the world premiere of her work *Orange Slices* to the stage. The girls worked with the creative team at ATYP at their Wharf Studios to bring the story of friendship, identity and first crushes to life. The girls especially loved meeting the playwright herself and speaking with her about how she felt the story should be represented. "From our very first rehearsal, we knew this was going to be something special," Evelyn D (Year

8), Bailey V (Year 10) and Edie M (Year 10) recounted. "We shared laughs, encouraged each other through the nerves, and soaked in the atmosphere of performing in a professional theatre space. Stepping out in front of a live audience in the Rebel Theatre was exhilarating!"



THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

Our K-2 Nativity and Grandparents Day is always the moment the Christmas season really begins at St Cath's. Of course, reimagining the Nativity story and performing it as a musical for a packed theatre of grandparents is no small feat. But our K-2 students rose to the challenge with remarkable ease; singing, dancing and delivering all their lines with such confidence and maturity. A special mention goes to the girls who played the donkeys and sheep, whose impeccable comic timing could rival that of a seasoned performer. Well done to our K-2 students for bringing the magic of the Christmas story to life so beautifully for us all!

LITTLE WOMEN

In Term 4, our 2025 Senior School Drama Production of *Little Women* took place. Over several months, our student cast and crew worked incredibly hard after school and on weekends to bring the March family to life. As always, the standard was high, with the students seamlessly delivering a professional-level production. Well done!



This page: Photo by Hay Yuet Hayley (Hayley) C (Year 9)
Opposite page: Photo by Keira C (Year 10)

A Lens to the Future

At the start of the year, Lara W (Year 10) came to our Head of Senior School with an idea: she wanted to start a club to explore her passion for photography.

"What I love most about photography is seeing how everyone sees the world differently through a lens, so I wanted to give others a space to explore their creativity through photography," Lara explained.

In true St Cath's fashion, we immediately sprang into action to bring Lara's request to life and within just a few weeks, the St Cath's Photography Club had its inaugural meeting. The students began working through a curriculum covering the foundational principles of photography developed by our Photographer and Videographer, Ms Grace Kyo. The girls especially enjoyed exploring the qualities of light and understanding how different lighting affects their finished photographs, as well as learning about composition and what makes a good image from both a technical and artistic point of view.

The club has also explored editing, where they worked to understand how professional photography programs can enhance their creative work.

The club is designed as a hands-on experience for the students, with a different photography style each week. So far, the girls have covered nature, portrait, fashion, food styling, stage performance and sport photography, to name just a few. The styles are chosen by the students themselves, with the girls working together to choose areas of photography that they are interested in exploring. "Being part of the club has inspired me to try new styles of photography, like macro and portrait shots, which I've really enjoyed," Sarah A (Year 11) shared. "I love how photography encourages me to be more observant and to appreciate everyday beauty that might otherwise go unnoticed."

This semester, the girls' technical skills have progressed to such a high level that they have even been able to assist Ms Kyo in her coverage of school events, giving them real-world experience in the life of a professional photographer. "I am so proud of



this student-initiated club and I'm very excited to see it progressing forward in the years to come," Ms Kyo said.

We're also excited to see how this club continues to grow and how it will shape the futures of the students who have taken part. "I joined the club to explore a new interest, but it's become much more than that," Kimberley J (Year 10) said. "It's taught me to observe the world more closely and to find meaning in everyday details. Photography now feels like a way to express ideas visually, and it's now something I see myself continuing beyond school."

1990



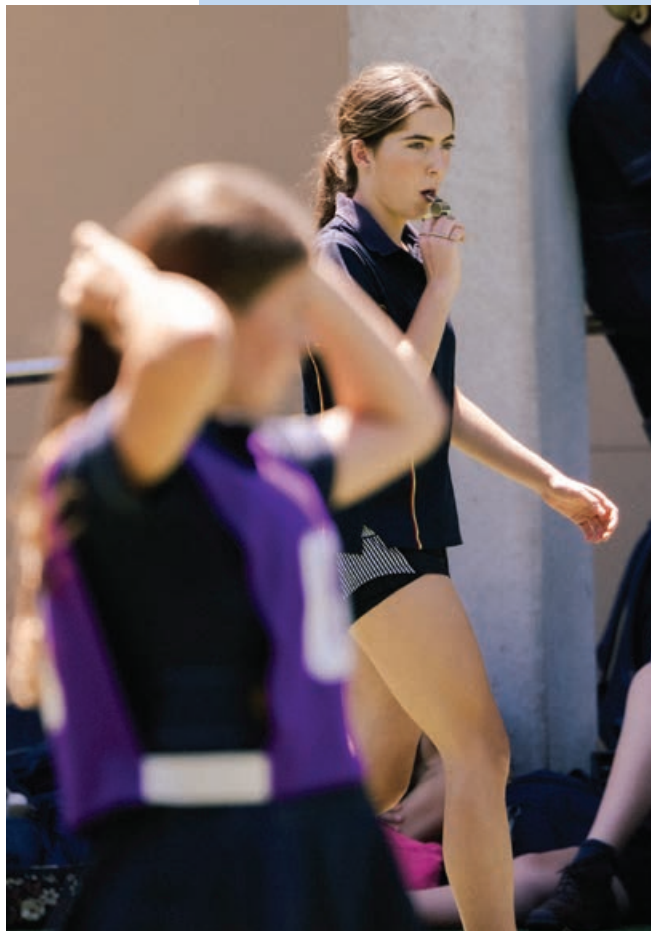
Over the years, the School has worked with many renowned Australian photographers, including Max Dupain, Allan Hedges, Sam Hood and Ian Lever.

In 1945, Sam Hood was invited by Headmistress Miss James (later Mrs Hall) to photograph students performing a Physical Culture display. Past parent Ian Lever and his photos from the 1990s are also a core part of our archives, and we remain grateful for his generous donation of his St Catherine's photos.

Sport at St Cath's

A CARING AND UNITED TEAM

In Semester 2, our students have celebrated many impressive sporting achievements. But what has underpinned it all is the strong sense of unity and teamwork demonstrated by our girls. Spend a Saturday morning by our courts or fields, and you will see firsthand the energy and enthusiasm with which our girls cheer each other on, lift each other up and push through challenges. Win or lose, they are steadfast in their support for one another. As our sports program is designed to promote positive physical and mental wellbeing working alongside our wider school curriculum, it is inspiring to see these goals already coming to life through sport this semester.



ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Our Athletics and Cross Country teams have worked hard together to achieve some wonderful results this season. In Junior School, Evie K (Year 6) broke a Long Jump record which had been held for 11 years at the IPSHA Athletics Carnival, while Abigail W (Year 6) won gold in the 100m and silver in the 200m at the NSW CIS Primary Athletics Championships. Meanwhile, our seniors had a second-place finish at the IGSA Athletics Carnival, which is our best-ever result at this event. The team made 48 finals events, with 21 individual medalists and two relay medals.

Notably, our Junior Relay team were crowned Overall Junior Champions and based on our wonderful results at IGSA, 11 students then qualified for the NSW CIS Carnival, where their hard work continued to pay off. The team won seven medals at CIS, with eight students going on to represent our school at the 2025 NSW All Schools Athletics Championships. Taking place at the end of Term 3, NSW All Schools was another fantastic event for our girls, with Audrey KP (Year 11) winning silver in the 16 Years Triple Jump, Emily H (Year 7) winning bronze in the 13 Years 800m,

and Lilian OM (Year 7) winning bronze in the 12 Years High Jump. Congratulations girls! We can't wait to see you continue to share your athletic talents at the Australian All Schools Championships in Melbourne.

A special congratulations also must go to Sophie H (Year 10) and Emily H (Year 7) for their fantastic work representing our school at the National All Schools Cross Country Carnival on the Gold Coast. Emily finished 7th in the Under 13s, and Sophie finished 10th in the Under 16s. Well done, girls!

WORLD CHAMP ROWERS

After claiming their sixth national title earlier this year, we were so proud to see Florence H (Year 11) and Chelsea B (Year 12) selected to represent Australia at the World Rowing Championships in August. The girls were joined on the team by recent Old Girl, Madeleine S (STC2024), meaning that one third of the Women's Coxed Eight crew was made up by current or former St Cath's students! "It was such an amazing experience and I was lucky enough to be able to experience the competition together with two friends from school," Chelsea B said.

STEPPING UP IN NETBALL

As well as being involved in playing and coaching, we give our Netball players the opportunity to extend their game by training to become an umpire. We have over 70 girls participating in the umpiring program, with our up-and-coming umpires gaining confidence every time they take to the court. We now have many girls confidently umpiring in our competitions, which is fantastic to see. As our Captain of Netball, Pip W (Year 12), said, "It's been especially great to see our older, experienced umpires mentoring and supporting our beginner umpires, who are working hard to learn both the theory and practical side of umpiring during lunchtimes." Well done to all of our Netball umpires for their hard work!

“

It's been especially great to see our older, experienced umpires stepping up to mentor and support our beginner umpires.

Pip W (Year 11)



FROM THE SEA TO THE SLOPES

Our St Cath's athletes have covered a lot of ground this semester, especially in our sports beyond our regular cocurricular offerings. Our competitive swim team, the STC Aquatics Swimming Club, recently raced at the NSW Youth Short Course Championships. The girls had an incredible day in the pool, with Lilli B (Year 8) winning gold in the 50m Freestyle, Breaststroke and Butterfly events and bronze in the 100m Butterfly, and a fifth-place finish for our 4x50m Medley Relay team. Congratulations Lilli and our Medley Relay team!

In Snowsports, our team had a fantastic season on the slopes, resulting in seven qualifications for the State Interschools Snowsports Championships. We were very proud to see Lucia P (Year 12) make it all the way to the Australian Interschools Snowsports Championships where she placed 20th in the country in the Division 1 Alpine event and 34th in the country in the Division 1 Ski Cross event.

Lucia also achieved wonderful results at the Ski Cross Australia and New Zealand Cup, heading there straight after completing her HSC Trial exams. She ended up placing fourth each day! Another standout skier has been Isla P (Year 4), who won gold in the Grand Slalom U10s Girls and Slalom U10s Girls at the Thredbo Ski Racing Club and a bronze medal in the Grand Slalom U10s Girls at the Blue Cow Cup. She also placed fifth in both the Panel Slalom U10s Girls and the Skier X U10s Girls at the same competition. Well done Lucia and Isla!

TENNIS TRIUMPH

In September, St Cath's attended the inaugural NSW High Schools Tennis Championships in Albury. This brand new event brings together the best schoolgirl Tennis teams in the state to qualify for the Gallipoli Youth Cup and the title of National High School Champions. The team faced some tough competition in the singles and doubles matches, but banded together to walk away with an excellent result of fourth in New South Wales. Congratulations to Rachel A (Year 11), Emma E (Year 7), Grace C (Year 7), Chloe R (Year 11), Stella B (Year 11) and Captain Audrey A (Year 12). Although they didn't automatically qualify for nationals, the team now has the chance to enter the Gallipoli Youth Cup as a wildcard. We can't wait to see how they go!



SURF'S UP FOR YEAR 7

In Term 4, our Year 7 students headed to the beach to put their PDHPE water safety studies into practice. They learned how to identify dangerous rips and currents, respond safely if caught in one and recognise other potential hazards at the beach. The girls also received instruction in basic surfing and board paddling techniques before spending nearly three hours in and out of the water, developing practical skills in swimming, surfing and bodyboarding. These skills will serve them well both in the water and beyond.

TOUCH FOOTBALL CHAMPS

Over the spring holidays, 15 of our Touch Football players were lucky enough to represent St Cath's at the biggest Touch tournament in the world. With 583 teams and over 6,000 players, the CAS Touch Football Tournament on the Gold Coast was a fantastic opportunity for our girls to gain some experience playing on the world stage. Over two jam-packed days, our team competed against seven different schools in the Under 18s Division. Congratulations to Cobi RL (Year 10), Leila C (Year 10), Lolita S (Year 10) Mia K (Year 9), Georgia B (Year 10), Emily CS (Year 10), Matilda S (Year 10) Sashi M (Year 10), Elsie R (Year 9), Katherine A (Year 10), Maeve J (Year 10), Grace N (Year 8), Evie S (Year 10), Roxie S (Year 11) and Frankie Q (Year 8). Well done to the entire team!

LEARNING WITH LIZZIE WELBORN

As part of our Student Athlete Program, students enjoy mentoring workshops with professional athletes. The entire Student Athlete Program is designed in recognition of the challenges of combining high-level sport with a full academic workload; the program offers support, mentoring and guidance for our elite athletes to help them achieve sporting and academic success.

In July, our student athletes had the amazing opportunity to meet Australian Iron Woman and co-founder of KaMana Community, Lizzie Welborn. Lizzie spoke to the girls about how hormonal changes can affect physical performance, energy levels, recovery and mental wellbeing. "It was so valuable to hear from someone with elite-level experience, as Lizzie's insights were both relatable and practical," Ava G (Year 11) and Stella D (Year 12) said. "Lizzie also shared strategies for managing these hormonal fluctuations, including ways in which we could adapt our training schedules to get the most out of each session, nutrition tips and the importance of open conversations with our coaches about menstrual health in high-performance environments."



A New Era of St Cath's Sport

The red duffle coat, the panama hat, the red ribbon.
The St Catherine's School uniform has long featured iconic pieces that are instantly recognisable to the wider community.

These items not only bring our girls together as one student body, but also show the wider world that they belong to the St Catherine's community. We are excited to build on this unity and sense of belonging with the launch of a brand new PE and Sports uniform suite. Designed in collaboration with leading high-performance manufacturer Valour Sport, this collection has been the result of a long and considered process with students, staff and parents. We are now proud to share the new look of St Catherine's sports uniforms.

The development of the new sports uniform began in 2024, when a dedicated student committee, representing both the Junior and Senior Schools, was brought together. The girls began sharing their honest and detailed feedback about fit, function and comfort in sportswear.

Suggestions made by the girls, including adding zippers to the trackpants and incorporating reversible colours in sports jerseys, were incorporated into the final uniform designs. As committee member Stella D (Year 10) explained, "During the design process, our feedback was genuinely considered, resulting in clothing that is more comfortable and also more functional, shaped by our own experiences. It really reflects student preferences."

Ultimately, the girls asked for a uniform that felt comfortable to wear, suited all body types and reflected the way they play and compete. We listened, working with parents, staff and the students themselves to bring to life a suite of sports uniforms that we can all be proud of.

But we also wanted our new uniform to reflect our strong history as a school.

“

We want our girls to proudly represent their school and to be easily identifiable as St Cath's students, both within the school and outside.

Mrs Elizabeth Worsley
Deputy Head

For the past 169 years, our school has provided opportunities for girls to thrive on the sporting field, and this heritage is woven into the new collection. From the original school crest on hem tags, to a custom pattern incorporating the current crest and the STC monogram, which has sat on our school gates for generations, and the traditional STC tri-colour on shirt banding, there are many details that connect our current athletes directly to our strong history as a school. We can't wait for our community to discover them in the months and years to come.

Although there will be a two-year transition period with the current uniform, the girls are already looking forward to representing the school in our new look.

"I'm very excited about the new uniform and especially I'm really looking forward to showcasing our new style to other schools," Stella said, "The updated uniform will not only boost our confidence but also strengthen our sense of unity, both on and off the sporting field."

1930s



Our first sports uniform was a yellow playsuit, introduced in 1935.

In the 1950s, girls wore a maroon tunic with a coloured belt according to their house. Many former students of the 1980s will remember with fondness, or maybe not, the distinct maroon and fawn sports uniform of that era, while in the early 1990s, the sports uniform changed again and returned to the traditional colours of navy, red and yellow.



St Cath's Foundation

WITH SINCERE THANKS

Since 1983, the St Catherine's Foundation has proudly supported our girls through fundraising for key initiatives that enrich their educational experience.

It has been a truly rewarding year for the St Catherine's Foundation, made possible in large part by the kindness and generosity of our donors, sponsors and wider community. This ongoing support has enabled us to continue our important work and to make meaningful progress towards our shared goal of continuing to raise funds for our Indigenous Scholarship Program, an initiative

that lies at the heart of our mission. St Cath's has a long history of educating young women from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities across Australia. Since 2023, our primary focus has been building a sustainable fund that will allow Indigenous Scholarships to be offered in perpetuity.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity shown at the International Women's Day

Luncheon, Twilight Golf and our inaugural St Cath's Gala Lunch, nearly \$300,000 has been contributed this year towards supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at St Catherine's.

Whether your contribution has been financial or in-kind, please know how profoundly it has strengthened our community, enriched the experiences of our girls and empowered the next generation of Indigenous Scholarship recipients, young women who will go on to contribute not only to St Catherine's but to their own communities with pride and purpose.



SCAN TO DONATE
Please scan the code to donate to the St Catherine's Indigenous Scholarship Fund or fill out the form below.



CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE & RETURN TO: 26 ALBION STREET WAVERLEY NSW 2024
OR SCAN AND EMAIL TO: FOUNDATION@STCATHERINES.NSW.EDU.AU

St Catherine's School has a long history of educating young women from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities. Currently, 18 Indigenous students from across Australia are provided with some form of financial assistance.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island girls on our scholarships greatly enrich the cultural fabric of St Cath's, and they have gone on to achieve great things for themselves, their school and their communities. The Foundation, with the assistance of our school community, seeks to raise funds to ensure the continued financial support of our girls well into the future. We are asking for your assistance as we grow the Indigenous Scholarship Fund in perpetuity. With your financial help, we aim to provide the foundations and education for these exceptional girls.

I WISH TO MAKE A ONE-OFF DONATION OF:

- \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$5000
- I prefer to choose my own amount: \$ _____

YOUR INFORMATION

First name: _____
Last name: _____
Email address: _____
Mobile/Phone number: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Postcode:** _____ **Country:** _____

PLEASE CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD

Visa Mastercard American Express

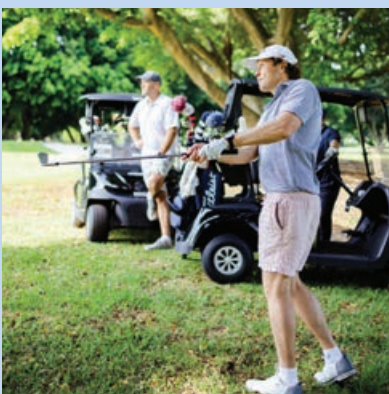
Card holder name: _____
Card number: _____ **Expiry:** _____ / _____ **CVV:** _____

- I wish for my donation to remain anonymous
 - I would like to help further, by adding the 1.5% transaction fee to my donation.
- Donations over \$2 are tax-deductible in Australia.



Another Great Year on the Greens

For the seventh year running, St Catherine's School hosted its much-loved Twilight Golf event at Moore Park Golf Course. Once again, the weather held out just long enough for a fantastic afternoon of fun, connection and friendly competition.



On Friday 31 October, the course came alive as the St Cath's community arrived in force, ready to tee off. With registration beginning at 2pm, our St Cath's golfers caught up with familiar faces and also warmly welcomed families new to the school.

It is wonderful to see how this event has become a highlight on the school calendar for so many of our parents, supporters and friends,

who eagerly come together to enjoy an afternoon on the greens and support a meaningful cause. While only a handful of teams arrived in Halloween costumes, the Moore Park fairways were still a sea of colour and laughter as golf buggies rolled out across the course.

Congratulations to our winning team for 2025: Kasim Ali-Khan, Gavin Bertram, Craig Williamson and Fraser MacLennan-Pike. Congratulations also to our runners up: Ben Smit, Peter Molesworth, Peter

Price and Gareth Wotherspoon, as well as our best dressed team: Breda Adkins, Dimity Thrasylvoulos, Sandi Small and Scott Lawrence.

Beyond the fun and festivities, the event supported a purpose very close to our community's heart. All proceeds went towards the St Catherine's Foundation Indigenous Scholarship Fund, helping us continue to provide financial support for young Indigenous women well into the future.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who made this event possible. On behalf of the St Catherine's Foundation, we thank our generous sponsors and prize donors:

- CNS Global
- BRASV Group
- MV Systems
- TCW
- Integrated Asset Solutions
- Noppen Group
- Colin Heighes Plumbing
- Robot Electrical

St Cath's P&F

LEARNING AND CELEBRATING

2025 has been a pivotal year for the P&F as we focused on creating meaningful new ways for our school community to connect with the school and one another.

In October, the P&F proudly launched our *EduTalks*, a brand new seminar series for our parent community. Featuring futurist and social researcher Mark McCrindle, the evening offered parents timely research and insights to support their daughters' futures. The seminar was shaped directly by parent feedback, following a community survey that identified topics of greatest interest. The result was a wonderful evening, with more than 200 parents and staff gathering in the DJTT to hear Mark explore the future of Generation Alpha, the role of artificial intelligence and the future of work. His insights into how jobs are likely to evolve and adapt alongside AI, rather than be replaced by it, were particularly thought-provoking. Parents also valued the opportunity to engage with Mark in discussion about the enduring role of education and how we can best support our children to build resilience in a rapidly changing world. It was a highly engaging and successful event, and one we look forward to continuing in the years ahead.

This year also marked a new chapter for the P&F Association, as several long-standing committee members concluded their service. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Jane, Bob, Teena, Lucy, Natalie, and Travis for their significant contributions. Each has led with grace, warmth and unwavering dedication, generously giving countless hours to ensure the St Cath's community continues to be a place where lifelong friendships are nurtured and celebrated. During this time, they have guided the P&F through many much-loved initiatives that

parents and daughters have come to know and value. These include Magnolia Fairs, Trivia Nights and Welcome Soirées, as well as Mother's and Father's Day celebrations, and, of course, our most recent addition to the P&F calendar, *EduTalks*.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

As we look to the year ahead, 2026 promises to be an exciting and memorable time for the St Cath's community. With the much-anticipated return of the Magnolia Fair in May, we look forward to coming together to celebrate not only our community spirit, but also St Cath's 170th birthday. We are excited to share more information about the P&F Association and our community initiatives early in 2026.

2026 P&F COMMITTEE

President: Ciara Waters

Vice President: Jacqui Eggert

Treasurer: Matthew Lewinsohn

Secretary: Emily Williams

Secretary: Ben Waters

Foundation Board

Representative: Catherine Hufton

Uniform Committee –

Senior School: Joanna Hill

Senior School Class

Representative: Polly Ross

Junior School Class

Representative: Emma Brown-Garrett

Boarding Parent

Representative: Rob Lonergan



OUR COMMUNITY EVENTS

We have a little something for everyone at St Cath's.

WELCOME SOIRÉE – FRI 30 JAN

The annual Welcome Soirée is a perfect start to the year, allowing parents from Kindy to Year 12 to reconnect after the long holiday break, forge new connections and celebrate together.

MAGNOLIA FAIR – SAT 9 MAY

Our biennial fair is a much-loved community event that is a key fundraiser for the P&F. With year group stalls, an external marketplace and plenty of activities for kids of all ages, the Magnolia Fair is always a highlight in the St Cath's calendar.

P&F TRIVIA NIGHT – SAT 1 AUG

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!

P&F MEETINGS

Meeting each term, our P&F Meetings are a great opportunity to hear from the Headmistress and engage with your daughters' learning experience at St Cath's.



Letters from the Past, Stories for our Future

Archives preserve the voices of those who came before us, revealing the stories that shape our past. Long before the age of email, letters enclosed in envelopes served as vital channels of communication.

The insights captured in these handwritten messages, now housed in the St Catherine's Archives collection, offer valuable

clues to our history and illuminate the narratives that define our heritage.

Our earliest letter is from our school's founder, Mrs Jane Barker, to Mrs Rouse, dated March 19 1856. Mrs Barker wrote to thank Mrs Rouse for her generous donation to the establishment of St Catherine's. We gain from this the understanding that prominent local members of the early community supported Mrs Barker's endeavours and endorsed her wish to establish our school. This also illustrates the school's historic importance in our nation, while also illustrating Mrs Barker's gratitude to her friends and benefactors.

The Catherineian, established in 1915 by the Old Girls' Union, was initially a method of keeping past students updated on school news and a method of sharing personal news. The editorial of the Midwinter edition in that year talks of the "delightful letters" received from former students telling of their "successes and good work in many paths of life". Among the earliest letters printed are those from alumni studying at university. The 'University Letter' printed in the Easter

Catherineian in 1915 reports that Lurline Dillon was studying Medicine, making her the first graduate of St Catherine's to pursue a medical degree. By noting this information in the letter, this fact has been preserved in our archival records and in our history.

As a boarding school, letter writing has also been core in the lives of our boarders. We know from early sources that time was set aside every Saturday morning to write letters home. And as all students had to travel home during holidays, students often wrote 'journey letters' to each other. These were letters which were written especially to be opened on the trip home to keep friends entertained. In the 1950s, boarders would sit on rugs on the lawns to write their letters and receiving mail was an event looked forward to.

While email might have taken over letter writing, during the COVID pandemic, Years 5 and 6 students took on the task of writing to Old Girls as part of a pen-pal project. These letters, from both the students and the Old Girls who replied, contain many stories and treasures of information that provide not only the exchange of information but also the formation of connections across generations, upholding and reinforcing our school value of relationships.

Today, the tradition of letter writing continues. Students who receive special prizes at Speech Day send handwritten thank you notes to the prize donors. These letters of thanks, just like Mrs Baker's note to Mrs Rouse in 1856, serve as an expression of gratitude and continue to build the stories that shape our legacy.

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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? If you are in possession of a special item that needs to be shared with future generations, please email us at archives@stcatherines.nsw.edu.au



reports of Mr. Rouse &
 Mrs. Terry and all your
 party, and I am
 My dear Mr. Rouse
 Very truly yours
 Lucie S. Barker.

Sydney
 Mar. 19.

My dear Mr. Rouse
 The Bishop and
 I are truly obliged by
 Mr. Rouse's and your
 kindness in sending
 us so liberal admission
 and subscription to our
 Clergy Daughter's School,
 and for your kind
 interest about it.
 I am happy to say





Sydney



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