



**CABRA**  
DOMINICAN COLLEGE

EDITION 6 AUTUMN 2021



*The Good,  
the Beautiful & the True*

THE BIENNIAL MAGAZINE OF CABRA DOMINICAN COLLEGE

Photo: Western end of the Convent. Students pictured with Dominican Sisters, the architect and John Leahy, builder, on the first day of school at Cabra, 1886.

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### 135 years

The Dominican Sisters founded Cabra in 1886, and so in 2021 we celebrate the significant milestone of 135 years as a Catholic and Dominican College. Our theme, “Stories of the past, dreams of the future”, is borne out throughout our learning, praying and playing this year. The theme image invites us to “Stand in the company of the elders” (Ecclesiasticus 6:34). So, you will find here, stories of our Dominican Sisters, stories of our old scholars, and stories of our school. By the next edition, in Spring, we hope to have gathered many more stories, most particularly at our September 4 event for all old scholars. (See page 24 for further information.)



This edition of *The Good, the Beautiful and the True* was prepared with care and attention by Cabra Dominican College. All efforts are made to have the material up to date at the time of printing. Please email [publications@cabra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:publications@cabra.catholic.edu.au) with any feedback.

**“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1**

## **Land transfer to Dominican Education Australia**

When speaking about Cabra and the Dominican Sisters, Sr Bernadette Kiley often reminds us that there is a season for everything.

On 25 February, we gathered in the Teresa Moore Centre to sign the documents that pass the ownership of the land on which Cabra and St Mary’s College sit, from the Holy Cross Congregation to Dominican Education Australia.

Present for this significant moment in our history were four Holy Cross Dominican sisters, Sr Bernadette (Congregational Leader), Sr Angela Moloney, Sr Maureen O’Connell and Sr Anne Dolan, Chair of DEA, Eileen Young, trustees Mary Jacquier and Sr Shirley Macklin, and William Last (who has been the Holy Cross Congregation lawyer for a number of years).

Cabra and St Mary’s College were each represented by their Board Chairs, Michael Dahl and Jane Iwanowitsch, Board directors Mary-Ann Royle and Bernadette Foley, and Principals; myself and Clare Nocka.

This moment had been courageously and steadfastly planned for a number of years. In remarking on the importance of the occasion, Eileen noted that the gathering

of these people, connected in many ways; colleagues, teachers, students and friends, was significant in itself.

Sr Maureen led us in our liturgical service “Seeing the Land”. A poignant, beautiful ceremony that honoured the custodians of the land and the pioneer Dominican sisters who nurtured, cared for and cherished it over many years. In this ritual, Sr Maureen and Sr Bernadette lit candles to honour and remember the original custodians – the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains and the young brave, pioneer Dominican Sisters who founded these schools. Then, representatives of the new custodians, DEA, Cabra and St Mary’s, each lit a candle to show they are now entrusted to care for this sacred land into the future.

*“We are all visitors to this time, this place. We are just passing through. Our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to grow, to love...and then we return home.” Australian Aboriginal proverb*

The signing ceremony followed, formalising the land transfer. Sr Elizabeth Mulroney joined us for celebratory refreshments.

As Sr Bernadette reflected on the founding sisters, she spoke of her hope that perhaps the current schools are beyond what they could have imagined or dreamed. I join her in this hope and recognise this moment in the continuing Dominican story.

Although we looked at this ceremony as a celebration, Sr Angela reminded us that in the Irish/Celtic tradition of the Cabra Dominicans, it is important to recognise and be present to ‘lamentation’; an expression of grief. In many ways, the land transfer will change little in our daily lives at Cabra and St Mary’s. For the Holy Cross Dominican Sisters, however, it marks the era of new custodians and a recognition of their moving away from the everyday life of both schools.

**Dr Helen Riekie  
Principal**

**“I am hopeful that all those responsible for the care and use of College Land in the future, will be guided by the example of Custodians of College Land in the past.” Sr Maureen O’Connell**



1. DEA Chair Eileen Young and trustee Mary Jacquier 2. The Holy Cross Dominican Sisters signing the land transfer documents 3. Helen Riekie during the ceremony 4. Cabra Board Chair Michael Dahl and Board Director Mary-Ann Royle

## LIVED FAITH

### Stories of the past, Dreams of the future

This year marks 135 years of Cabra Dominican College and what more fitting way to celebrate this than to acknowledge the many individual and collective stories that have built this place, and the many dreams that are leading it into the future. *Stories of the past, Dreams of the future.* This is a line taken from Timothy Radcliffe's prayer "To be a Dominican". In 2021, as staff of this beautiful Dominican community, we celebrate our school's past, present and future. We bring to mind especially our Dominican sisters and their many contributions to this place – a rich story in and of itself. And we acknowledge the bigger story that surrounds this; the story of Dominic, which was ultimately one inspired by the story of Jesus. As the late Dominican theologian Edward Schillebeeckx noted, our Dominican family story is like a golden thread that connects us all through history.

To this special milestone we also bring our own stories. As members of this community, we are the sum of our personal life experiences and we cannot help but share something of ourselves when we are in this place. Like the students in our care, we have been nurtured by various

moments and encounters throughout our own history, including the Dominican charism; all which manifests in the sharing of our gifts with the wider world.

As a Catholic Christian community we believe that our stories of the past and our dreams for the future are worth honouring, be they good or otherwise. We are transformed by each other's stories and we believe that the purpose of our own story is to be the face of God to others as we share the Gospel story. As a Dominican community, we know that each person's past, present and future is steeped in the mystery and wonder of God, and so it is our mission is to seek the truth and beauty to be found there.

We are inspired by the stories of those who came before us and excited by that which is yet to unfold...

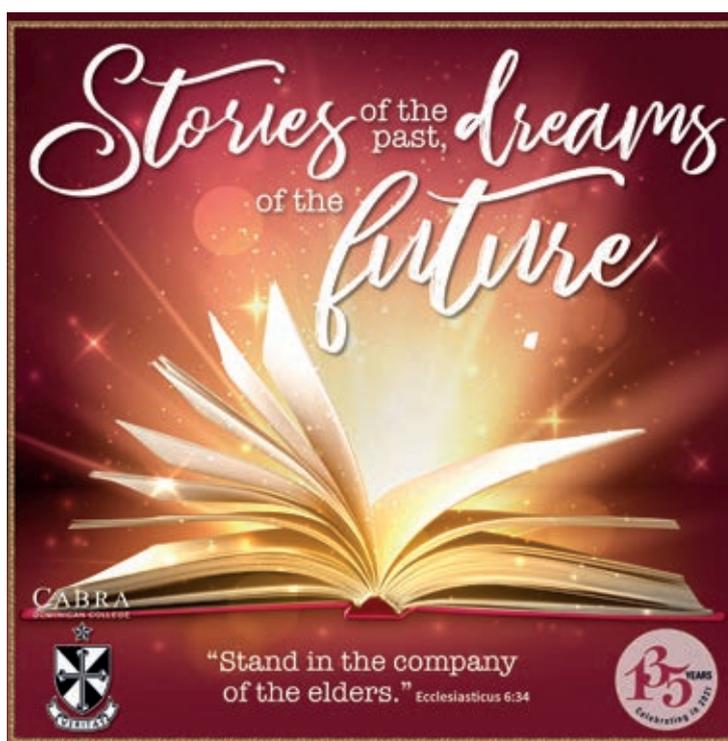
### Welcoming Eucharist

As we gathered to celebrate our Welcoming Eucharist, we took the time to marvel that this is an extraordinary year for three very special milestones have aligned in our community. In 2021, we commemorate the 800 year anniversary of St Dominic's death, Catholic Education Australia celebrates 200 years, as well as our 135<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In keeping with our theme, at this liturgical celebration we consciously celebrated the many stories in our community that have shaped us and so inevitably continue to shape this school. Our sacred space was decorated with 1000+ personal images and reflections that captured a formative moment in the lives of our students and staff. It was a visual acknowledgement that our community has been proudly built on the stories of Jesus, Dominic and our Sisters, on our stories, and on the stories yet to be told.

Father Peter Sheedy celebrated mass for us and our homily was presented by Sister Bernadette. She captivated our community with her sharing of stories about some of our present and past Dominican Sisters. Her sharing reminded us that telling stories has a special way of creating community and of reminding us of what is important. She reminded us that stories help to tell us who we are and that they hold us together in shared experience. It was a joy to celebrate our stories and dreams and to give thanks to God for that.

**Valeska Laity, Director of Mission and Identity**





## LIVED FAITH

*At our Welcoming Eucharist, Sr Bernadette Kiley provided the following reflection.*

This celebration is a very significant one – 135 years since the first students were welcomed to Cabra by Mother Columba Boylan and her Sisters.

In 1886, when Cabra was established, only 50 years had passed since the first Europeans had settled in South Australia, and just 18 years since the seven pioneer Dominican sisters had arrived at St Mary's Franklin St in 1868. To put the era into some perspective, it had been 5 years since women were first admitted to the University of Adelaide (1881), and it would be another 8 years in 1894 before women were granted the vote in South Australia.

As our first reading today reminds us, there is a season for everything – or the right moment for us to work with God to shape the world in God's way. Cabra was established in God's good time – in 1886 it was a time for the Dominican Sisters to plant and a time for them to build up.

The stories of that time, and the stories told between that time and this, have influenced the life of Cabra. And every one of you here will continue to add to these stories and so shape the place that Cabra will become in the future. During the past few weeks I've been talking with some of our Sisters who were either students or teachers at Cabra, and I've learned that these Sisters, too, have contributed in one way or another to the bigger story of Cabra that we hold in common. I'd like to share some of their memories with you.

For many years boys were enrolled at Cabra from Reception to Year 2, but from Year 3 to Year 12 it was a school for girls only. **Sr Elizabeth Mulroney** vividly remembers starting school as a tiny 5 year-old girl, terrified of what lay ahead. On the first two days of the term, her Dad brought her to school but she cried so much even before class began that he took her straight back home. On the third day, her Mum brought her to school and made her stay – and, as Sr Elizabeth says, she's been here ever since. She recalls that she probably cried again on her last day at Cabra, but this time it was because she didn't want to leave.

**Sr Anne Dolan** also began school at Cabra in Reception, but it seems that unlike Sr Elizabeth, she didn't cry on her first two days. She says: "As a 5 year old I was really

happy about coming to school because someone would at last teach me to read properly. I was hoping my classroom would be in the big convent building. It was instead a large temporary classroom where we were taught by Sr Mary Philomena whom we all loved. My friends and I were glad when the boys left at the end of Year 2 so that we could have Cabra to ourselves!" (Sorry, boys!)

**"I loved Cabra and still do. I made good friends here as a student and as a teacher – and all these years later still enjoy the energy and enthusiasm which I rediscover whenever I'm here".**

For many years, there were boarders at Cabra, girls from country areas who lived in at school for the term and returned home for holidays. **Sr Johanna Cash** was a boarder, and says that she loved boarding school and made lots of friends during her time here. While she says that she doesn't remember being homesick she does remember the shock of coming from a country school with a total enrolment of 18 students to her Year 8 class of 48. Sr Johanna also remembers that boarders were always hungry. She said that if she was on washing up duty after dinner at night, she and her friends would grab whatever bread was left over and make a vegemite sandwich each. The trouble was they had to go straight from washing up to the chapel for night prayers so the only way they could disguise their sandwiches was to put them on their heads and then put their school hat on top – and hope that the sandwich would stay put.

**Sr Anne Stewart** is well known to numbers of staff members at Cabra. She was a teacher at Cabra for 26 years and then after she retired she volunteered one day per week as a member of the learning support team for a further 15 years. I taught at Cabra with Sr Anne for a few years – we were both Year 8 teachers in O'Mara. It was always clear to me that she loved her students who would often describe her as firm but fair. She was always available for them, enjoyed their company and, as the Year 8 Coordinator, was always ready to take their requests to staff meetings. When

boys were enrolled at Cabra again in 1978, they weren't allowed to wear sleepers or studs, even though the girls were. Her Year 8 boys were upset about this, so Sr Anne took their complaint to the staff meeting, then to the leadership team – and, as you know, the rest is history.

**Sr Patricia Brady** remembers how much she loved teaching at Cabra. Her students knew that she hated any interruption to

any of her classes and especially to her Year 12 English class. She refused to answer the door if someone happened to knock. One day, when she was with her much-loved Year 12 class, there was a knock at the door which she ignored, but when it was repeated she felt she should attend to it – and give the person a piece of her mind. To her great surprise, there was no-one visible when she opened the door but instead along the length of the Aquinas corridor was a line of statues – of Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Dominic, Catherine of Siena – you name it, they were all there – and all stolen from individual classrooms by students whose names she was never able to discover. She remembers that it took some time to restore order in her classroom but it reminds her of how she valued the friendships that developed between teachers and students at Cabra.

**Sr Angela Moloney** grew up in Dublin and went to school at the Dominican Convent, Cabra – the place from which our Cabra takes its name. She came to Australia with Sr Anne Stewart in 1953 to join our Holy Cross Congregation.

Sr Angela was the last Dominican sister to be Principal of Cabra. Sr Angela remembers that in her time as Principal, Cabra became co-ed throughout the secondary school for the first time in its history; the St Mary's Unit was established (and what a gift that is for the whole school), and community living week was introduced. She also remembers that in her time, she made it compulsory for

both boys and girls to do food technology and both boys and girls to do metal work and woodwork. Previously only girls studied food tech and only boys studied metal work and woodwork.

I also want to acknowledge another of our Sisters, Sr Margaret Sheedy, who died much too young and very suddenly in 1984. Our celebrant, Fr Peter Sheedy, was Margaret's much loved brother. And although she never taught at Cabra, she lived in the convent here and taught at St Anthony's, Edwardstown, St Bernadette's at St Mary's and St John the Apostle at Christie's Beach. We remember her with much love.

All of these memories come from a long time ago, yet I think you will recognize in some of them the qualities of Cabra students and staff today. Why is that? I recently asked one of the **newest students**

**at Cabra, a Year 7**, to share three words with me that summed up her first week at Cabra. Her words were: **daunting, a bit exciting** and **welcoming**. I think the notion of welcoming is key here.

In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about the work he was sent by God to do. He compared his work to a mustard seed. Now, mustard seeds are tiny, and the plant that grows from them is very ordinary and not very tall – not much taller than I am – and that's not tall. The important thing

about this plant is that its branches are big enough for birds to nest in its shade, as Jesus says. In other words Jesus' work won't necessarily be obvious in palaces or temples or other exclusive places, but in ordinary places, where there is room for everyone. Now, I hesitate to say that Cabra is an ordinary place – in many ways it is extraordinary – but in a very real sense, it is a place that welcomes and makes room for everyone, just as the mustard shrub provides shade for the birds.

So when you make room for another student or staff member, and that person then begins to feel at home, and knows that they count, you are sharing in the work Jesus began.

It's as simple and as difficult as that.

We Dominican Sisters wish you God's richest blessings as you continue to welcome each other and embark on your 135<sup>th</sup> year."

**Sister Bernadette Kiley OP,  
Congregational Leader of the Holy  
Cross Dominican Sisters**



1. The Dominican Sisters, including Columba Boylan and Catherine Kavanagh, at Cabra in the 1890s. 2. Primary school boys and girls in the 1950s. 3. Sr Bernadette Kiley OP during her homily. 4. Front row L-R: Sr Maureen O'Connell OP, Sr Elizabeth Mulrone OP, Sr Joan O'Grady OP, Sr Anne Stewart OP, Sr Enid Wood OP. 5. Sr Anne Dolan OP. Sr Elizabeth Mulrone OP. 7. Sr Johanna Cash OP. 8. Sr Patricia Brady OP.

**CABRA**  
DOMINICAN COLLEGE



## 2020 SACE RESULTS

With great delight, we share with you our 2020 Year 12 students' SACE results. These results provide insight into the unique gifts and talents of our students and their resilience and hard work this year. We are immensely proud of them and celebrate with them.

**As a community we are delighted to share:**

**100%**  
SACE  
completion

**33**  
A+ Merits

**60**  
A+ grades

**All**  
of our  
students in the  
St Mary's Unit  
achieved their  
SACE

**99.4%**  
of all grades  
were a C grade  
or higher

**41**  
students also  
successfully  
completed VET  
courses

**80.47%**  
of all grades were  
a 'B grade or  
higher' compared  
to the SACE  
state average of  
72.87%

**8**  
students completed  
13 University courses  
and achieved Credit to  
High Distinctions, as  
part of their SACE



**DUX**

**LUCY THISELTON**

ATAR 99.1  
5 A+  
1 Merit



**PROXIME ACCESSIT**

**AARON QUICK**

ATAR 98.8  
4 A+  
2 Merits

### 26 STUDENTS ACHIEVED AN ATAR ABOVE 90

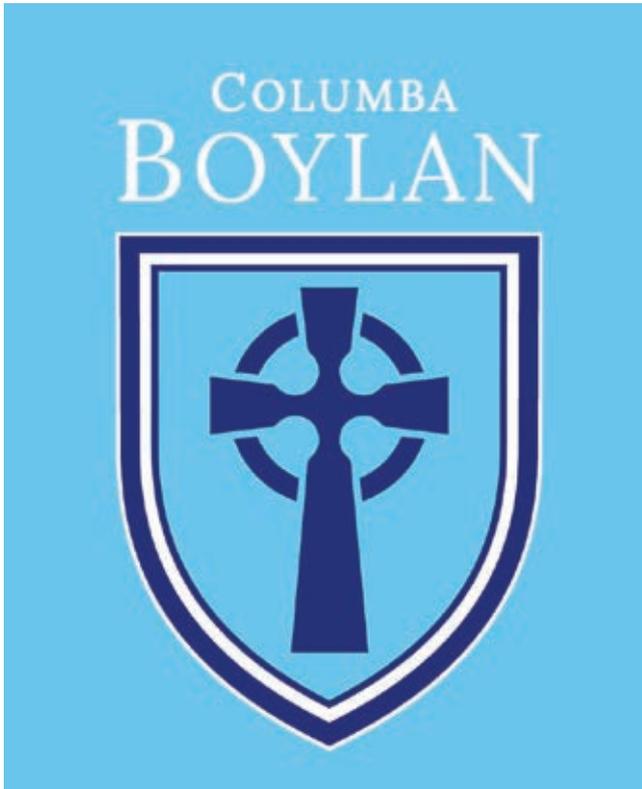
Miia Ascione  
Brittany Ayliffe  
Alexandra Beney  
Dylan Croft  
Michael Croft  
Keely Emms  
Ezequiel Gonzalez  
Pinheiro  
Lachlan Huxtable  
Stefan Juhasz  
Hannah  
Langsford  
Rebecca  
Mangelsen  
Mia Mathew-  
Klose  
Jasmin Miller

Alana Mills  
William Moore  
Luke O'Hara  
Mia Porter  
Allivia Pratt  
Aaron Quick  
Armando Ramirez  
Torres  
Eliza Saris  
Nicole Scott  
Ashleigh Semba  
Laura Stephens  
Liam Telford-  
Sharp  
Lucy Thiselton

GRADUATION CELEBRATION



## HOUSE PRIDE



### BOYLAN

**Mother Mary Columba Boylan OP** was sent to South Australia in 1875 to help ease the sisters' hardship after the death of Teresa Moore. She soon took charge and eventually oversaw the building of Cabra Dominican College in 1886. She was the first Prioress of Cabra and organised the opening of Kapunda, Semaphore and Glenelg convents. She loved reading and was often found supervising the libraries for communities and students.

The Celtic or Irish cross of the crest salutes Columba Boylan, who travelled across the world from her home in Ireland. The Celtic crosses she added to the convent to remind the Sisters of their Irish home are still adding to the school's beauty today. The distinctive circle around the cross represents God's infinite love for us all.



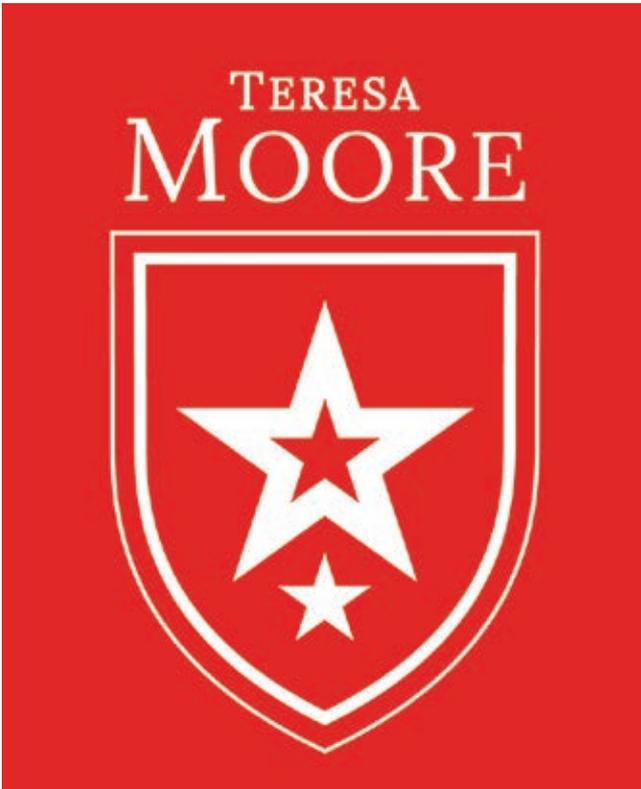
### KAVANAGH

**Mother Mary Catherine Kavanagh OP** came to South Australia with the second band of Dominican Sisters in 1874. She was the second Prioress of Cabra and was known as a capable administrator and a keen business woman with a heart of gold. During her term of office, the Chapel and St Brigid's wing were built. Mother Mary Catherine Kavanagh was a faithful religious and true Dominican.

Kavanagh House is located in St Catherine's wing, which is named after St Catherine of Siena. Set within her Dominican crest, the flames reference St Catherine of Siena's famous quote;

"Be who God calls you to be and you will set the world on fire."





## MOORE

**Mother Mary Teresa Moore OP** led the group of founding Sisters from Ireland in 1868. She was the first Prioress of St Mary's College in Franklin Street, founding what was then a small boarding school for young ladies.

The red star at the heart of the crest is for Teresa Moore, first Prioress of the Holy Cross Dominicans. The largest star references the Veritas crest, and represents all the schools the Sisters founded. As Moore House is located in Aquinas, and a star is a symbol often associated with St Thomas Aquinas, the third star is for this Dominican saint.



## MURPHY

**Mother Mary Catherine Murphy OP** arrived in South Australia at a young age during the very difficult early years. She was the sub-Prioress under Teresa Moore. She, along with the other sisters, overcame great upheaval especially at the time of Mary MacKillop's temporary excommunication in 1871. Sr Bernadette Kiley once noted that Catherine Murphy was sent home to Ireland for "independence of thought", which is something the Sisters have continued to strive for ever since.

The Murphy House crest represents the three House "values" which embody Sr Catherine Murphy's strengths. The lion exemplifies COURAGE, the mountain symbolises GRIT and the heart, COMPASSION.



# HOUSE PRIDE

## SPORTS DAY



## SPORTS DAY



# HOUSE PRIDE

## SR ANGELA MOLONEY CUP



1



2



3



4



5

1. Sr Angela Moloney, Principal, in the 1980 Veritas 2. Sr Angela during a student visit to Sophia in 2018 3. Sr Angela and Sr Maureen O'Connell OP on a recent visit to Cabra to speak with student leaders 4. Academic endeavour and excellence will be rewarded with points 5. Points earned for the Spirit Cup on Sports Day will go towards the Co-Curricular Shield

In 2021, Cabra is proud to launch the Sr Angela Moloney Cup, an inter-house competition amongst our four houses: Boylan, Kavanagh, Moore and Murphy. The purpose of the Cup is to allow students to enhance the sense of connection with each other and the school as well as enhance House Identity. The Cup is named after Sr Angela Moloney OP who was the last Dominican Sister to lead Cabra as Principal from 1978 to 1983. As a frequent visitor to speak with students and for our special celebrations, her legacy continues today.

The Cup is awarded to the House who overall has the highest tally of points across three different Shields: Academic, Co-Curricular and Community. The Cup and Shields will be formally awarded on the Year 12s Last Day which is Thursday Week 2 of Term 4.

The Academic Shield is where students gain points for their academic results at the end of each semester. Points are awarded for their academic achievement, academic endeavour and personal responsibility. Every student is encouraged to strive for excellence with their learning.

The Co-Curricular Shield comprises points from Sports Day – both the overall Cup and House Spirit Cup but also inter-House competitions which are held across the year. Each House is responsible for 'hosting' a competition such as a sport, a debating tournament or the like and points are awarded for the winning House of each competition.

The Community Shield recognises our students' efforts in social justice and College representation. Each House is

responsible for a social justice initiative such as a Catholic charity where they raise awareness of their issue within the College across the year. Students are also awarded points for representing the College in sport, music and other extension activities.

After the first few weeks, the Murphy House is currently leading in the Sister Angela Moloney Cup with Kavanagh second, Moore third and Boylan fourth. The Kavanagh House were set to host Battle of the House Bands in Term 1 with Moore House hosting a 3-point shooting competition, Murphy a UNO Competition and Boylan a Handball Competition with all points going towards the Co-Curricular Cup.

**Liam Carr, Leader of Culture and Operations**

## Student Leadership

During Week 3, the Year 11 and Year 12 leaders retreated to West Beach for a leadership camp, forming relationships and providing a perfect opportunity for us to plan for the upcoming year under the guidance of Mr Thur, Ms Jenner, Ms Caldwell and the house leaders. From the inspiration of Dr Riekie's dance teaching and other team-building initiatives, us leaders formed a bond that allowed us to respect, appreciate and acknowledge the different ways each of us lead and how working together as a team throughout the year will ultimately lead to success. Motivated by our passion to lead and our optimistic mindsets, we utilised this two-day camp to understand the true bearings of leadership and learnt that to lead, we must be ourselves and utilise our strengths when

need be while also leaning on each other for support when it's required.

We decided as a team that one of our goals for the year is to increase student involvement in school activities, to ultimately be a stronger community. Sports Day was a great example of how the student leaders of all year levels can work together to help get everyone involved, and it was a fantastic day.

The senior leaders also cooked pancakes during week 4, celebrating shrove Tuesday. It was a great team bonding activity, providing a lot of laughs, and was a perfect fundraiser to kick start this terms fundraising initiative, Caritas Australia.

At the Junior Leaders Day they discerned what was important to them, and chose resilience as a goal. It has been great to

see that Year 7s and 8s have been very confident in speaking up and sharing during House meetings.

The Sr Angela Moloney Cup starts this year and it has really generated a buzz. The student leaders see this as a great way to help to keep students busy and involved at lunchtimes and throughout the week. The International Women's Day Breakfast was a great opportunity to hear from inspirational women and particularly to mingle with the Dominican Sisters.

We are excited to lead the Cabra community through 2021 and are eager to see what this year holds for us and our future leadership endeavours.

**Charlotte Combes, College Captain**



# OUR STUDENTS

## YEAR 7S SETTLING INTO OUR COMMUNITY

“My favourite thing in the past few weeks at Cabra has been making new friendships and getting to know how the school works.”

Year 7 student

### In the beginning...

As the school year began there was a true sense of excitement and anticipation as well as a few nerves thrown in for good measure ... and that was just the parents!

On the first day of term we welcomed our Year 7 & 12 students to campus, with the other year levels beginning the following day. It proved a successful start with many smiling faces seen at the end of each day. For Year 7s, the first days were a chance to get to know new people, understand timetables, find out where classrooms were, and meet teachers. Of course, meeting people and catching up with friends were top of mind for our Year 7s, and we provided plenty of opportunities for making connections.

In a special group session our Year 7s learned about the values we live by at Cabra and had their very first talk about our college motto, Veritas. Within their respective Houses, our Year 7 and 12 students spent an afternoon getting to know each other, and either went on an ‘Amazing Race’ around the school or made ‘exquisite couture’ out of newspaper and then showed their collection on a makeshift runway!

We are so excited for all our new students starting their Cabra journey.

**Jason Thur, Deputy Principal: Student Wellbeing and Leadership**

### Wellbeing Visit

The counselling team welcomed the Year 7 students to the Well Bee-ing Space. In addition to a general introduction and some fun and games, the year 7’s were challenged to write down something that they strive to bee..... Throughout the year.

Some of the wonderful goals students aimed to be bee included

- Bee – organised
- Bee – confident
- Bee – brave
- And Bee-friendly

**Tania Davison-Bennett, Counsellor**

### Connections Day

Connections Day at Burnside Pool provided Year 7 students and staff a wonderful opportunity to build new connections and strengthen existing friendships in a fun and relaxing environment. Connections Day offers the students a chance to set aside academic work for a day and focus on developing relationships with the students across their houses and the year level. Students and staff enjoyed a day of glorious weather, ice blocks and fun in and out of the water.

**Beth Caldwell, Director of Students**

### Learning

This semester Year 7 students have engaged in a rich, project-based learning opportunity, which connects the curriculum experiences from Science and Geography. The project, which focuses on environmental sustainability and liveability focuses on the driving question of, ‘How can we build more resilient communities?’. The learning is targeted to making real-world connections, by exploring the environment at Cabra, and specifically how disused parts of campus can be re-purposed to be both more attractive and more useful. Students are currently working in small groups to develop ‘real life’ solutions. Working collaboratively in this nature, with their classmates, helps to build connections and forge new relationships with peers, which is an invaluable tool for their future learning, not only while at Cabra. We hope to share more about this learning, including photos, in future editions.

**Sally Ivens, Deputy Principal: Learning and Teaching**

“From Day 1, we spend time making sure students settle in well. We believe that once students feel at home, safe, connected, happy and looking forward to coming to school each day, they have a much stronger foundation for learning.” Helen Riekie, Principal



# OUR STUDENTS

## CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC

Ensemble rehearsals for 22 ensembles are in full swing, as are our instrumental lessons. It has been fantastic to welcome back our continuing students, and to see many new members of our College community joining ensembles and taking on new challenges. Many of these ensembles will perform for family and friends at the Twilight Concert on Wednesday 31 March (Week 10), as well as many other school and community events throughout the year.

In the first weeks of Term, we have had performances from our combined Drum Corps at the 2020 Year 12 Graduation, and our Show Choir and Liturgy Band at our Welcoming Eucharist. Thank you to the students and ensemble directors for working so hard to present incredible performances after just two weeks of rehearsals! Our combined Junior and Senior Drum Corps had the pleasure of marching our reigning Sports Day champions onto

the oval, marking the beginning of the day's events. We also enjoy hosting boutique performances for our visiting Principal's Tour guests. With four tours this Term, we have had performances from Year 8 pianists, Phoebe and Charlie and Year 10 duo Jarrod and Iris.

**Jackie Wilde, Music Co-Curricular Coordinator**



## CO-CURRICULAR SPORT

It has been a fantastic start to the 2021 sporting season for our students. We have been fortunate enough to see excellent competitions with some real growth in the sports of volleyball and cricket.

During Term 1 our boys compete in tennis, volleyball, cricket and Year 7 basketball while girls compete in tennis, volleyball and basketball. Plans are afoot for a girls' cricket team later in the year.

We sent a team to the Co-Educational Swimming Carnivals, winning the Pool D Boys competition, and also to the Co-Educational Athletics Carnival.

Sport captains Hamish McLeod and Keeley Kustermann have been leading by example extremely well this year.

A number of our girls teams have been competing very well and we are now hoping that some of them have been doing well

enough to be competing in pennant games at the end of the term.

It has been fabulous to again see so many old scholars and current students taking up coaching and umpiring for this season.

We have been most impressed with the heart and spirit that our players have shown to the program!

**Joel Morizzi, Sport Co-Curricular Coordinator**

1. Mr Joel Morizzi presenting leaders' ties and badges to Sport Captains, Hamish McLeod and Keeley Kustermann. 2. Members of the Senior Cricket team celebrate a win against St Peter's College.



# OUR STUDENTS

## ACADEMIC CHALLENGE & ENRICHMENT

The opportunities we offer at Cabra for students to extend and challenge themselves are diverse. This year students have had the chance to sign up for debating, chess club, Minecraft club, Mock Trial and soon – Tournament of Minds.

Cabra will be hosting debating competitions through DebatingSA across term 2 and 3 and it's looking to be back in full swing after a shorter season last year. Good luck to all teams!

### Ethics Olympiad

The Ethics Olympiad provides schools with a unique opportunity to develop skills in critical thinking, collaboration and communication. Five students from Year 10 took part in an Ethics Olympiad in February which is something they have been working towards since last year. The team were up against several different SA schools, building conversations and

drawing on ethical framework to respond to different case studies such as 'The ethics of mass quarantine'. International judged offered feedback for the team via an online platform. It was a good learning experience, being the first time we have entered a team and look forward to further ethical conversations and competitions.

**Laura Foti, Academic Challenge and Enrichment Coordinator**



## YEAR 8 REFLECTION DAY



YEAR 12 FORMAL



# ALUMNI

## The Golden Thread continues...

*During the summer holidays, a group of our alumnae from the 1940s and 1950s visited to view The Golden Thread films, charting the history and stories of Cabra, produced by Tess O'Callaghan.*

“On 19 January 2021 several Sisters and old scholars enjoyed a delightful few hours in the former Nuns’ Refectory viewing a film of interviews with the Sisters enhanced with photos of past events; some depicting Sisters, others, students attending various activities at Cabra. We mourned that many are now deceased. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet our former teachers

and renew friendships extending over many years. The film was followed by some of the Sisters and old scholars sharing their memories which brought laughter to the room and also some tears, however, there may be more fun and laughter when the film of individual interviews with those old scholars is aired.

The film starred Sisters Joan O’Grady, Barbara Specht, Philomena Cooper, Enid Wood, Angela Moloney, Maureen O’Connell, Pauline Jenner, Pat Brady and Father Bob Wilkinson all aged between the early 80s and 90s. Most of the old scholars were aged in the eighties with a few much younger.

Hospitality included a welcoming morning tea and lunch and a parting gift from the College of a Biannual Magazine, a 135 History of the Dominican Order in South Australia (1868 – 2021), a coffee mug and a postcard of the magnificent original convent building. Many took the opportunity to visit the beautiful Chapel and various sections of the school.

Thanks are extended to Helen Riekie, Principal, and Tess O’Callaghan, teacher and producer of the film, for initiating this function, and to her helpers.”

**Barbara Bond**



## My Journey at Cabra Dominican College

Hello, my name is Cameron Bradshaw and I was very blessed to be a student at Cabra from 2010 to 2014. Each year brought both its challenges and its rewards.

I was diagnosed with Autism when I was younger. Around this time, someone gave my mother a book on Autism and Cabra Dominican College was mentioned. During my time at Cabra, I was a mainstream student. I used to love going to the Learning Centre and the Library and reading the Veritas yearbooks from previous years. I also had a number of friends in The St. Mary's Unit and I loved spending time with them as well as the wider St. Mary's Unit community.

My very first day at Cabra was on Wednesday January 27, 2010. Socially, I found coming to Cabra a challenge as all my friends from primary school went to different schools. However, in time I did make new friends and the students were a joy to be around. I was very lucky to have Ms Celeste Becker as my homeclass teacher; I could not have asked for a better start! Ms Becker helped me settle in and helped me with knowing the school

activities and knowing where to go. Ms Becker and my Year Level Coordinator, Mr Michael O'Dea, helped my classmates understand Autism as well. I met Mr Brian Schumacher and it was very clear to me that he was very kind, caring and an amazing principal. Mr Schumacher had an amazing memory for the names of each student. Mrs Charewicz was the Learning Centre Coordinator and she was very caring and supportive of me. In August 2010, I began attending the Homework Club on Wednesday after school. I also joined Cabra Chorus conducted by Mrs Saz Burton-Claridge. Another very big highlight of Year 8 was it was studying Italian. I loved Italian and I had an amazing teacher in Prof Antonella Masia. Prof Masia made learning another language both educational and enjoyable. In addition to the amazing theory, we played tombola and Prof Masia organized some Italian cooking classes.

I was very blessed to have Mrs Guastella as my Year 9 homeclass teacher. I was in the chorus for the Aladdin Jr. Musical and I worked a lot with David De Haas. I found the rehearsals a bit tedious towards the end but I loved the performance and realized the rehearsals were all worth it on the night! I enjoyed English with Mr. John Simpson and Science with Mr. Robert Nussio. At Cabra Celebrates 2011, I gave a speech on my journey at Cabra.

I was very lucky to have Mr Greg Way as my Year 10, 11 and 12 homeclass teacher and he was very kind and caring. One big highlight of Year 10 was Debating with Mrs Val Woodbridge, who worked very hard with our team and made sure we did well. I also enjoyed English with Mrs. Cross.

In Year 11 I completed work experience at St. Ann's Special School and I loved it. My friend Jessica Miller and I were both in the chorus for the Alice in Wonderland Jr.

Musical. On a personal note, I began ten pin bowling with my friend Mark Stewart, who I met in the Cabra Learning Centre.

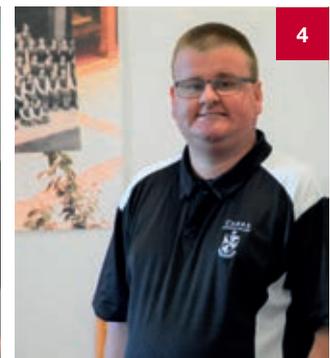
Year 12 was my best year. During Semester 1, I went to Barkuma on Mondays to do a Transitions Course, with my friend Jed Gully. In Term 3, I attended TAFE and did a Cert I in Education Support. All this work added towards my SACE. I was in Concert Choir, and it was the fifth time I participated in the Catholic Schools Music Festival. On February 28, I had my Year 12 formal and I loved it. In Term 1, Week 11 my friend Micah Hahn and I went to Adelaide Shores for the Year 12 Retreat and it was an amazing time. One highlight was the staff and teachers writing affirmations to one another. At Cabra Celebrates 2014, I got an award for Outstanding Contribution to Music and I got The Pearl Award from The Learning Centre. A week before Christmas 2014, I also received my SACE Certificate!

After leaving Cabra, I visited many times, including visits to the Heritage Museum to see Mrs. Sandra Hill. To this day, I still keep in touch with a number of my friends and teachers from Cabra.

Mrs Hill's retirement from the Museum in 2019 provided myself and Alison Appleby '88 with an opportunity to become volunteers in the Heritage Museum. During my work there I have digitalized Veritas yearbooks and photos, added donations that people have given and met requests that other people have given to us. I also gave a USB to a few staff members on their memories at Cabra. It was so good to give back to a school community that has done so much for me.

Once a Cabra student, ALWAYS a Cabra student!

**Cameron Bradshaw '14, Cabra Heritage Museum and Archives Volunteer**



1. With Micah Hahn, celebrating the end of Year 12. 2. Receiving the Pearl Award at Cabra Celebrates 2014. 3. Cameron at the Year 12 formal. 4. Cameron recently volunteering in the Heritage Museum.

# ALUMNI

## Graduation Ceremony speech by 2010 College Captain, Jason McKenzie

I have a lot of respect and admiration for what Mr Simpson, Mrs. Heath, Miss Hensing and all of the other teaching staff did for myself and my year level during our time at school. Some of you might know that during Year 11, a student from our year level passed away as a result of bowel cancer. Lachlan was one of my closest friends, and it all happened very quickly. The Cabra community was extremely supportive, and I'll never forget how important school was to me at the time as my peers and teachers came together. While this was one of the most significant periods of my life, when I look back on my time at Cabra, I think of how great it was to be a part of such a wonderful and positive culture.

I remember thinking to myself at the end of the Year 12 that it would be hard for life to get any better after such a fulfilling experience. I was totally overwhelmed at the thought of leaving school. I didn't want to study any further...I didn't even open the University entry pack that I was given. I hoped that I would get to university one day, but I knew that I wasn't ready for it at the time. So, I left Cabra with absolutely no idea of what to do next.

I knew I loved interacting with people ... so I decided to get a job at a hotel. It was here that I learned a very important lesson that I'd like to share with you.

I found it very difficult not to compare myself with others at this time, and I discovered how painful it was when I did so. I remember working in the restaurant one night when my friends were celebrating finishing their first year of university, thinking to myself that I didn't have much to show for the last twelve months. Then an elderly gentleman approached me after his dinner and said that I looked a bit down, and he then told me a remarkably relevant piece of advice...

**“...wherever you are and whatever you do, always paddle your own canoe”.**

I'll never forget it because it was a game changer for me. I stopped comparing myself to others as it would only bring unhappiness. I was really happy to be on

the path that I had chosen, because it was mine.

Over the next year, my best friend Baden and I decided to create a fundraising organisation dedicated to the memory of our friend Lachlan. We thought it would be a brilliant idea to ride bikes from Adelaide to Melbourne...though neither of us were cyclists. Before we knew it, our very own organisation Biking for Bowel Cancer was born.

That trip was one of the most physically, mentally, and emotionally challenging experiences of my life. While we were naïve and didn't train properly, somehow over 14 days we rode over 1000km.

**“Pulling into the MCG was the greatest sense of achievement that I had ever had, and we had raised \$13,000 along the way.”**

In the following two years Biking for Bowel Cancer gained momentum and hosted events such as a 72-hour continuous bike-a-thon at the Morphet Arms Hotel, and another interstate ride from Sydney to Adelaide. In total, we have raised over \$50,000 for Bowel Cancer research and awareness.

It was after this that I found myself wanting something new. I decided that it was time to paddle my canoe in a new direction and enrol at Flinders University in a bachelor of Middle and Secondary Teaching. I was so happy because I knew it was what I wanted, and I knew I was ready.

The next four years were incredible as I completed my degree as quickly as I could. I learned and experienced so much because I was so ready for it. I have now been teaching for 3 years at a high school, and I have no regrets about the last 10 years as I couldn't be happier with how life has turned out.

And for the 2020 graduates, I think this is the best piece of advice I can give you. If you are ready for university or TAFE, power to you! A lot of my close friends were very

successful at university straight from school, and if you're one of those people, I am confident that you will be just as successful. For those of you that are feeling a little more like I was when I left, that is completely okay, and you will find your way when the time comes, even if it isn't conventional. I mean, we just got through 2020, so nothing is really conventional anymore!

If there is anything that you take away from my speech tonight, take away the fact that each one of you is the owner of your pathway, you're the one paddling the canoe! There is no right or wrong way to go about things, and the choice is yours... so own it



1. Jason at his wedding to Molly Jervis, December 2020.  
2. Jason in Year 12 in 2010.

## Rosemary Kennedy (Smith) '63

Mine has been a higgledy-piggledy life, incorporating academic and paid work along the way, and 'coping with whatever turns up'. I left Cabra after Leaving Honours in 1963, then had a BA, marriage and a baby daughter by January 1969. I abandoned a Post Grad scholarship to study Social Administration at Flinders Uni, and had a second baby instead. In 1972, I moved to the PNG Islands with my doctor husband for six years, where I was a stay-at-home Mum and started a Grad Dip Soc Sc from UNE to keep sane. I finished it in 1978, when we returned to Australia for the schooling of our now three children and to be closer to our ageing parents. Volunteer tutoring led to a Grad Dip TESOL in Adelaide, and I taught English to adult migrants for some years, until, in 1993, our children had left home and we

moved to north Queensland. I began an Masters thesis at CQU, researching the culture of Australian South Sea Islanders and its connection to their health. The ASSI people (also called Kanakas) are descended from Pacific Islanders who were brought to northern Australia to work in the sugar industry in the 19th Century. The Masters morphed into a PhD from Deakin University in 2002. I worked part-time in the Townsville Multicultural Support Group, and then in Palliative Care research at the Townsville Hospital. Along the way, I have had the opportunity to help out with our seven grandchildren and have filled out my time writing history as a hobby. We are now retirees in Brisbane, with grandchildren in Darwin, Sydney and Adelaide - yet another challenge in these days of Covid.

Read more from Rosemary at [cabra.catholic.edu.au/news/news/](http://cabra.catholic.edu.au/news/news/)



## Calli Broomfield (Golab) '01

When the occasional reunion picture used to pop up in the newsletter, I remember thinking, "woah, 20 years?! They're old!" Yet here we are, and it's passed in the blink of an eye.

Cabra has continued to pop up throughout those years the most random times. Sr Anne (Dolan) used to float through the corridors of ICU and check in on me as a graduate nurse. I'm sure she never knew just how much I needed her tangible link back to the strength of being "true" again. Despite what I aspired to, "truthfully", ICU wasn't a place I could deal with emotionally long term. Volunteering for Riding for the Disabled led me to happier places in my nursing career, and I began working at the WCH and with medically complex children. Then (getting old... at a ripe 27) equestrian aspirations called me on a working holiday in England, where I found love.

It's been 10 years now, and whilst the New Forest is a lovely place to live, homeschooling my 4 and 5 year olds, whilst wrangling sleeplessness and a teething toddler in lockdown hasn't exactly been a hot buttered roll. Yet my Cabra days just seem to keep popping up.

Last week I announced the formula to Magnesium Sulfate (MgSO4) to win a marital point (thank you Mrs Nelson and Mr Allen). I can still quote war poetry and regularly reflect Orwell's musings on

the state of the world today (Mrs Cross, Mrs Young). I've rung the 14th century "Catholic" bell at a Church of England Church in Minstead, and was transported straight back to an Aquinas classroom, learning all about the Reformation (Mrs Samuel). I get handed the tie every time Ben dresses in his tweedy finery for a shoot day, never failing to point out to him that my pristine Windsor knot is a legacy of my school days. And I am STILL puzzling over just HOW Mrs Hayball taught us Italian SO brilliantly, when every class was ostensibly an undiscovered stand up comedy sketch. These are just some of many many fond memories of the wonderful teachers and their lasting lessons.

I often feel such a long way from home and those I love, yet within this country largely devoid of Catholicism, I've ended up living in Sway, a little village sporting a small colony of... Dominican Sisters! And when things return to "normal" we will be back to me pointing out the iconic black and white shield on the gates of the priory every school run and waving to those ever-smiling nuns, exercising in the forest in all their Dominican finery.

20 years may have passed but I'm proud that the Cabra ties have so far, proven lifelong!



Calli, Aggie, Bertie and Archie

# ALUMNI

## CLASS OF 2019 REUNION - MARCH 2021



## Celebrating 135 years – Save the Date!

We are delighted to announce an event for all old scholars, to be held on Cabra grounds on September 4. We have called it a Garden Party Reunion in reference to the old scholar gatherings the Dominican Sisters hosted annually on the convent lawns more than 100 years ago. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for further information closer to the date. To ensure you are on our database please email Anastasia Harvey at [oldscholars@cabra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:oldscholars@cabra.catholic.edu.au)

So, gather your classmates and come back to Cabra!

## Other Upcoming Reunions

Class of 2000 date tbc contact  
[anthony.radogna@aetlimited.com.au](mailto:anthony.radogna@aetlimited.com.au)

Class of 2010, 17 July, contact Diandra Cappello  
[diandracappello@hotmail.com](mailto:diandracappello@hotmail.com)

## 135 words for 135 years

We want to hear your stories! We encourage all our old scholars to write 135 words (or so) about you, what you're doing, and how your time at Cabra has influenced you, for the next edition of this magazine. We would love to also receive a recent photo of you, and as always, any photos from your Cabra days. Send your news and photos to [publications@cabra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:publications@cabra.catholic.edu.au)

**Rosemary Kennedy (Smith) '63** invites her classmates to contact her to contribute to a shared history of Cabra in the early 1960s. Email [publications@cabra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:publications@cabra.catholic.edu.au) for further information.



CABRA  
DOMINICAN COLLEGE

Save  
the date



All past scholars and staff are invited to a

**Garden Party Reunion**  
**Saturday 4 September 2021**

3-6pm on the Aquinas lawns at Cabra Dominican College

Photo: Cabra day students, 1918.





**CABRA**  
DOMINICAN COLLEGE



225 Cross Road

Cumberland Park SA, 5041

Telephone: (08) 8179 2400

Email: [cabra@cabra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cabra@cabra.catholic.edu.au)

Website: [www.cabra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cabra.catholic.edu.au)

 Cabra Dominican College

Cabra Dominican College is an educational ministry of Dominican Education Australia