



CABRA  
DOMINICAN COLLEGE

EDITION 9 SPRING /SUMMER 2022



*The Good,  
the Beautiful & the True*

THE BIENNIAL MAGAZINE OF CABRA DOMINICAN COLLEGE

# The Good, the Beautiful & the True

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# Principal's message



**I have witnessed this year's theme "Change Starts with One..." in so many ways in our community this year: one year level, one House, one person, one thought, act or initiative; that has taken hold and had collective impact.**

Emerging from COVID, we have had a timely and important reminder of the importance of connection; of valuing the simplicity of moments shared together, that in turn, gives us a shared sense of meaning and purpose.

Our Year 12s have led with vitality this year. They have brought creativity and joy to community, house and fundraising events. Over the years, they have made others welcome, allowing many to have the confidence to be themselves here at Cabra and flourish in a way that wasn't possible in other places. They took the time to smile, say hello, to care for others and get involved... all of which made it easier for us to do the same. I thank them for their part in making Cabra such a great place to be every day.

The fundraising and awareness-raising initiatives from students and indeed, staff, have been

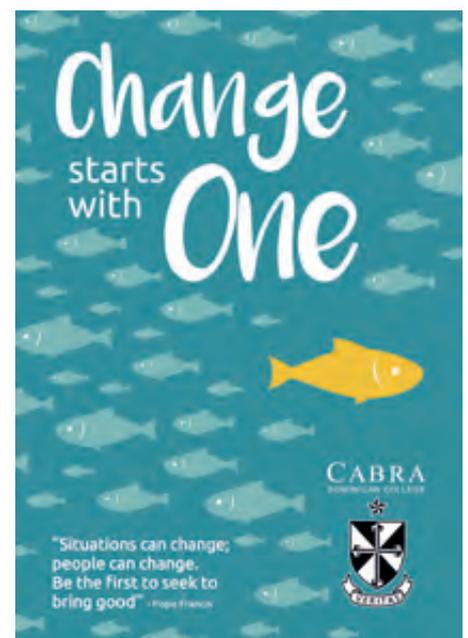
extraordinary this year. As a community we have responded to the needs of others and offered some meaningful, practical support. I couldn't be prouder to be part of such a compassionate, generous and deeply connected community.

I am delighted to present this edition of The Good, the Beautiful and the True, sharing stories and highlighting the students, staff, friends and alumni of our beloved school.

This edition has several stories and reminiscences of the days when Cabra was a boarding school. From 1886 until 1999 the convent was home to Dominican Sisters and to boarders, who lived here during the school year. When we host reunions and events here, we are always struck by the depth of feeling expressed by those who were boarders. They never forget the nervousness of first days, the homesickness, the cold of sleeping on the balcony, (!!) and almost always, the lifelong friendships they made here.

Were you a boarder? We would love to hear your memories too, and especially to see photos.

**Helen Riekie | Principal**



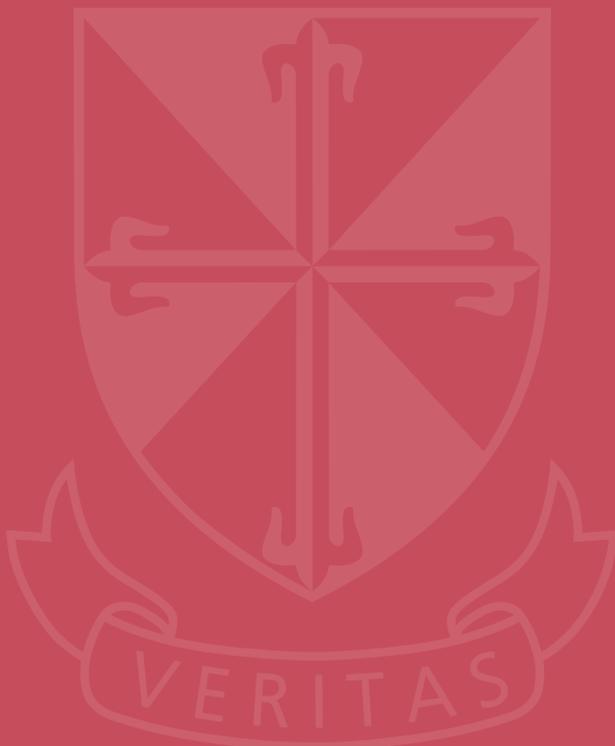
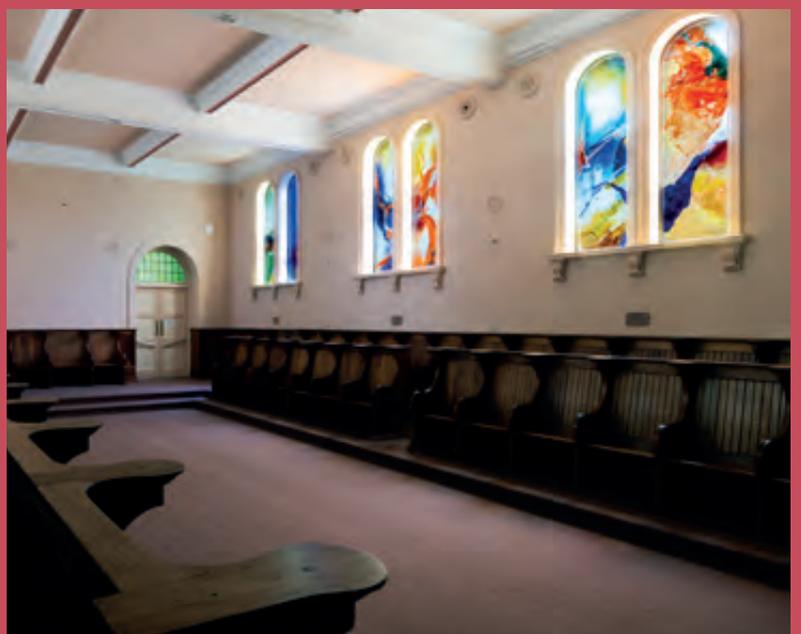
# Windows

**The Chapel Windows Project is now complete, following a successful fundraising campaign and the installation during September and October of the Kim En Joong windows in the Sisters' Choir Chapel.**

The Kim En Joong windows are glorious, and certainly very different in style to the CE Kempe windows of the main Chapel. Just like in 1917, their installation into the Sisters' Choir Chapel has only been possible through donations from a generous community; people who were captivated by the vision and wanted to give. In fact, we were delighted to find through our research, indications that some of the families who donated back then, are the same families who donated now.

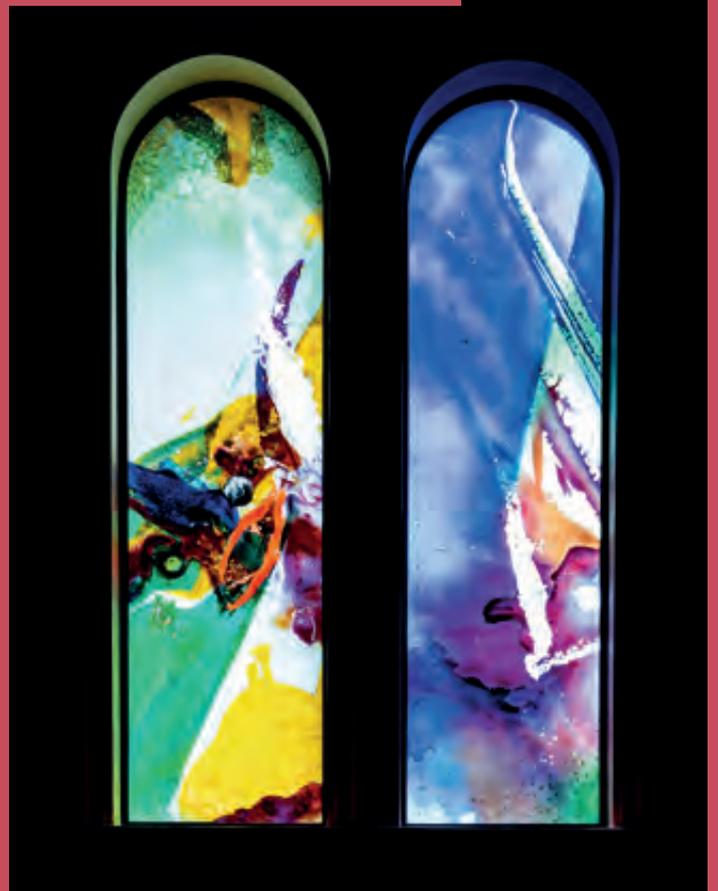
The women of the Holy Cross Congregation, who continue to be ahead of their time, looked to the future when they decided to move forward with this project. They understood that the glorious Kim En Joong windows would nurture spirit and faith across generations - for all the community, in every celebration held in the Chapel.

The windows are a fitting tribute and memorial for the Dominican Sisters who founded our school, and all those Sisters who have dedicated their life's work to Cabra in the years since.





*...nurture spirit and faith across generations*



# Chapel Windows Blessing & Dedication

**All donors to the Chapel Windows Project were invited to the Blessing and Dedication ceremony for the Kim En Joong windows, which took place in the Chapel on Friday 4 November. More than 150 members of the Cabra community attended.**

A singing group of members of staff set the tone at the start of the ceremony with their rendition of "Glorious." Sr Bernadette Kiley OP performed the blessing, along with students Dane Smailes, Year 7, and the 2023 College Captains, Iris Nissen and Lachlan Harvey.

After the ceremony, guests took time to view the windows, now installed in the Sisters' Choir Chapel, and the Honour Board in the foyer featuring the names of donors of more than \$1000. Attendees then gathered for refreshments in the Monica Farrelly Atrium.





# Chapel Windows Donors

## Golden Thread Patrons

The Cawley Family

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Dominican Sisters, Holy Cross Congregation

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60 Year Reunion Group 2022

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## Golden Thread Patrons



A portrait of Emily Taheny, a woman with shoulder-length reddish-brown hair and bangs, smiling warmly. She is wearing a dark blue, long-sleeved top with a sheer, polka-dot overlay. The background is a solid, muted blue color.

# Emily Taheny

“I loved Cabra” are Emily Taheny’s first words. Emily was a student and boarder at Cabra from 1991 to 1993.

**“I loved Cabra” are Emily Taheny’s first words. Emily was a student and boarder at Cabra from 1991 to 1993. After school she completed a three-year Advanced Diploma in acting at the Centre for Performing Arts, and is also a graduate of Tamworth’s College of Country Music. She has crafted a very successful career, highlighted by her most well-known part, in the long-running TV series *Shaun Micallef’s MAD AS HELL*. She starred in the movie *The Flipside* and is the voice of Wendy in the internationally acclaimed *Bluey*.**

**>> What are you the most proud of, in your career so far?**

I think *Mad as Hell* because it ran for so long. We all grew as an ensemble and as individual performers throughout that time, and it’s really rare to have an ensemble that just “gets” each other and works off each other so easily and that can only come with time and getting to know people. And now we’ve finished our last season forever. The outpouring of love for the show was just quite overwhelming. I felt so privileged to be a part of a show that so many people watched and appreciated.

**>> It was work, but was it fun too?**

Yes, really, really fun, always. And you always felt like you were in safe hands because Shaun had his eye on every aspect of the show, every script, even if it wasn’t written by him. If it was written by another writer, he’d overseen it, and so it was such a privilege to be part of something that had a really unique voice and that’s all down to Shaun.

And you know what? When I was at boarding school, Shaun lived across the road from Cabra for some of that time.

**>> You were involved in performances when you were at Cabra. What are your memories of that?**

The memory that stands out the most for me was that it was a really great music department. Carmelita Coen and Marion Statton were just fantastic teachers that gave us a huge scope. We had this band and they would let us practise in the music rooms at lunchtime. Ros Franks, who was a year above me, myself, Steve Griffiths, he was a drummer, Alex Push was a percussionist and Clayton Doley was on the Hammond organ. Both he and his brother Lachlan are fantastic Hammond organ players. They both have their own outfits and Clayton plays with Jimmy Barnes. They are so famous in the music industry and they’re so well respected. They both write and record their own stuff.

We used to play at school assemblies. I was also asked to sing *El Shaddai* at pretty much every mass. I sang that and my friends still tease me about that. But I just loved it because I got to get up on stage and sing.

Drama was really good too. I remember I did *Ophelia* for my Year 12 performance piece and I got 100%. It was just a great group of people who were in the arts subjects, and I just felt like, to be a kid who was into drama and music, you were really supported at Cabra. In fact, it was encouraged.

At Saint Columba’s in Yorketown, where I went to primary school, the nuns used to put on shows every year, and we’d rehearse for half the year. We all learned an instrument. And Mum was always a great singer at Mass. I was already a performer, I suppose, and then Cabra was just like a playground. It was fantastic, I was so excited to get there.

**>> What other teachers do you particularly remember?**

Phil Lewis was our year level coordinator and he was very encouraging of the direction I was taking. Mr Moncur, I remember after singing at a school assembly, we were in that gymnasium and I’d been singing and he pulled me aside and he said “you could really do something with that voice of yours.” He said “you could have a career with that, if you choose to.”

It’s such a beautiful memory, right at the end. I wasn’t quite sure what I wanted to do, I didn’t really know the avenues that you could go down if you were into the performing arts.

I was singing in a jazz band called the Cotton Club while I was at Cabra; my first gig was at the Governor Hindmarsh. Clayton Doley was in a band, so I was aware that you could make money through music and being in bands, but I wasn’t sure how I was going to do that so I auditioned for the jazz course at Adelaide Conservatorium.

Then a teacher, Mr Michael Holdcroft, rang Mum and said there was a three year acting course that he thought would suit me. I got into both and I decided to do the acting course, and not the jazz.

**>> What were the best and the worst things about being a boarder?**

Well, I very clearly remember the first day because you begin with a mass and then drinks on the front lawn there after the mass in the Chapel, and I remember mum and dad driving me over and I had a Laura Ashley quilt cover in the back and we went to Hungry Jacks on Main North Road and I had a whopper and I spilled some of the burger all over my top so I was really embarrassed.



1. Emily in her Cabra days 2. Phil Lewis and boarders, Emily at left



The boarding house had just been refurbished. Whenever I smell fresh paint, it takes me straight back to boarding school. I was on the top bunk and I could look out the window and I could see the lights of Glenelg. And then I remember thinking “just over that water is home” and I was a bit homesick thinking about that, but I just loved the friendships so much.

I really enjoyed my time with my indigenous friends and learning about their culture. It just opened my eyes to indigenous culture.

It was so much camaraderie, and it was just fun. Because I was the youngest of seven, most of my siblings were at boarding school soon after I was born. I just grew up knowing I was going to boarding school and I could not wait.

I wanted to go where all my sisters went and where my mum, Deirdre Taheny (Honner) '55, went. I couldn't wait to get there. I mean, yeah, there were moments of homesickness, but not very many. (*Emily's sisters are Genevieve Taheny '77, Fiona O'Loughlin '80, Cate Taylor '81 and Sarah Shanahan '85*)

I remember the very first day of school, I was with Melissa Dunn from Leigh Creek, who became a great mate. We were trying to work out what the trend was with the socks, and I remember spending a good 20 minutes trying to get the scrunch on my socks just right.

I also loved the convent building. I thought it was just so beautiful and I was so proud of living there. Everyone coveted the two rooms just above the front door because you had the best view.

When I did that film with Eddie Izzard, The Flipside, he wanted to see where I went to boarding school. So we hired a car and we did a drive by. He drove down Cross Road and we

went in! There's a photo of Eddie and I in front of the Cabra boarding house.

### >> Is there something that you learned at Cabra that has stayed with you?

Because of the St Mary's Unit, and Cabra was so multicultural, it just taught us to treat everybody with dignity and respect. That was a really big thing when I was at school, and I was really proud of that.

### >> Was there a musical when you were here?

Yes, I remember I didn't get the lead role but I had a solo. It was Sheik, Rattle and Roll, and I sang Shake Your Tail Feather.

### >> What's your advice to our students who are thinking about pursuing a career in the performing arts?

Go for it! I mean, it's difficult. I found it was an unusual thing to study back then. There weren't many examples of people forging a career in the creative arts. In my family there were two people doing it though. My sister Fiona O'Loughlin, and she did it by default. She didn't study it, but comedy was so innate in her that it just came out anyway. She was asked to MC a lot of events in Alice Springs where she lived, which just became stand up in a way. And then my cousin Ronnie Taheny was someone I looked up to because she was a great singer-songwriter about town.

Cabra was great, because they focussed on the individual and all the different components of what makes up a well-rounded person. I think if you have that bent then you should follow it. I think writing and performing your own material is important because if you were going to be an actor, for example, you're not

always automatically going to be cast in the next McLeod's Daughters, if we're talking about local productions, or the next big TV show. It takes a while. So while you're waiting for someone to cast you in something, write and perform your own shows.

Which is what I did. I was bouncing around Adelaide doing serious theatre shows and then auditioning for ads and things like that. Fiona and I wrote this show that had a sketch comedy component, and then took it to Melbourne and it was a successful show and that just opened doors. So rather than waiting around for the phone to ring, you really do have to be quite proactive. (*Fiona, Her Sister and Some Guy* received the Best Newcomer Award at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival in 2001.)

The course I studied taught me discipline and it showed me how a theatre company would work if you were ever employed by one, and all the components of what it is to put a show on. There are plenty of brilliant actors who never trained. You can very much train on the job, but I think at that age, I just needed a focus, and discipline.

Ultimately we have that brilliant festival scene in Adelaide. You can showcase yourself to the world if you're part of that. But I have so many admirable friends in Adelaide who have stayed in Adelaide and have taken advantage of the grants that are on offer in South Australia. There is so much government support for people who want to be involved in community arts.

I might soon be in Adelaide doing the same. And it wouldn't bother me as long as I'm working doing something interesting.

# St Dominic's Day

**Max's Musical Work – Love Thy Neighbour**  
A piece intended to influence and teach others about the Golden Rule...



**St Dominic's Day is always a great celebration for the Cabra community. This year, Mrs Valeska Laity and Ms Georgia Steller read a homily that was based on the theme for 2022; Change Starts with One.**

In the Gospel and First Reading we heard about the importance of Loving Thy Neighbour – or treating others as we want to be treated. This special teaching is often referred to as “The Golden Rule” and is an idea and practice that is universally present across every major religion and spirituality. While the worded expression is different across each of these communities, the core idea remains the same; to simply live in a way that you treat all people with love. It really is a golden rule that anyone can follow, which I think explains why the Golden Rule is so universal, and powerful, along with the fact that it's so simple.

Earlier this year, after experiencing an Art exhibition on “The Golden Rule”, one of our Year 11 students, Max Brady, created his own song to reflect the message of “love thy neighbour” and its importance in society. Max understands that music is an accessible way of showing this. Today we are going to hear this piece of music, along with Max's explanation of it. His composition is split into 4 sections; You will notice that it starts off sounding very isolated and dark, getting progressively brighter and more accompanied through each section, to drive home the point of inclusivity and the idea that the Golden Rule is for everyone.

*During this time, the community listened to Max's piece, and Mrs Laity and Ms Steller read his description of the music.*

With this pinnacle of the Golden Rule in mind, we might want to think about how here in this country, countless people from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds, including members of our own community, have fought to eliminate inequalities and divisiveness for the cultivation of the Golden Rule.

On this St Dominic's Day, may we appreciate that the achievements of the past decades encourage us to continue with even greater determination. And may God help us to constantly embrace the fundamental principles of our faith, which includes justice, solidarity, and love for our neighbour.

# St Dominic's Day Talent Show





# Our Students

## 2022 Open Boys Knock Out Netball Gold Medal Success – 2 years in the making



**After a nail biting Grand final loss to Scotch College in the boy's knockout netball grand final in 2021, the team came into the 2022 campaign with one goal in mind, a gold medal.** After months of planning, a team of basketballers, footballers and everything in between were formed to make a very messy and undisciplined team of inspiring young

netballers. Despite some minor experience in netball from sports days and year 9 PE classes, under the guidance of Ms Deanna Riley, the boys quickly realised how much work and understanding went into being a successful netballer and more importantly a successful team and clicked into gear. On the back of a handful of trainings the team entered their first-

round clashes at St Francis de Sales where they would come up against some stiff competition in the form of St Ignatius, St Francis, Blackwood High and Eastern Fleurieu. After a slow start and a spray from coach Riley the boys began playing some smart, skilled, and controlled netball and were rewarded with wins against all four teams, advancing them to the grand final day.

The boys went on to face Modbury High, Faith Lutheran, and Scotch College in the much-anticipated finals day. After playing the minor rounds the boys hadn't yet come up against a team which was able to compete with them physically or technically which is no doubt a tribute to the excellent coaching they had all received. With team morale and culture at an all-time high, the boys went into the grand final against Scotch College riding a wave of momentum which enabled them to get out to a fast start, putting them up 12 at the half. Despite exiting the half time huddle with a comfortable buffer, the boys continued to push on extending their lead and finishing the game with a 17-point win over the defending premiers. A perfect ending to the campaign which many players had dreamt of since their crushing loss 12 months before.

Although coming away with a gold medal was the perfect ending to the campaign, it was not the only thing the boys were lucky enough to take home with them. The memories and fun times will stay with them forever. Team captain Benny Carlson believes there were two large takeaways from the experience. One being that "success on a netball court relies on players working in specific partnerships, and as a collective, seven contributing players will always beat one or two opposition every day of the week". He also uncovered that success comes from focus and hard work, which is a strategy he hopes to take into life beyond school. .

**Written by Assistant coach and all-round nice guy | James Brewer**



## Catholic Schools Music Festival

**The Catholic Schools Music Festival is held annually at the Adelaide Festival Centre and combines Year 5–7 choirs from Catholic Schools around South Australia. Cabra was represented in four areas of the festival.**

Our Year 7 Festival Choir combined with over 350 other students in the massed choir.

Isla-Cate (Year 8) was chosen to compere the festival after participating in auditions earlier in the year. Whilst the script is pre-prepared, she was able to improvise to fill time under pressure in front of a large audience.

Iris (Year 11) along with Year 12 instrumentalists Damen, James and Nicolas performed "She Used To Be Mine" from the musical Waitress as a support act. They gave a very polished performance.

Hamish (Year 12) and Tyler (Year 9) participated in the combined secondary boys choir for all four performances alongside students from four other Catholic schools.

The opportunity to collaborate with other students is always enjoyable, and they were a great support to the massed Festival Choir.

Well done to all students for their fantastic representation of Cabra's Music Department!

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

## Year 10 Debating

On Saturday 24 September, Cabra's Year 10 Debating Team, Mikayla, Lucinda, Luke & William, competed in the Debating SA Grand Final against Immanuel College at Parliament House. Both teams put forth excellent points and rebuttals, making it a very close competition! Cabra, unfortunately, didn't come away with the win, but it was the best debate produced by the team all season. The team are to be congratulated for being the first Cabra team to make it to the Debating SA Grand Final, as well as for all of the time and effort they have put in all year.

**Erin Pittendreigh**

"I very much enjoyed watching our Year 10 debating team in Debating SA's grand final, held in Parliament House over the weekend. Whilst our team didn't win, they were excellent: considered, insightful and sophisticated with the development of their case. These students have taken the lead and pursued their own pathway to excellence in an endeavour that was new to some of them this year. Coached by Erin Pittendreigh with support from Laura Foti, their dedication led them all the way to this esteemed location for a memorable grand final." **Helen Riekie**



# Social Justice House Initiatives



**As part of the Sr Angela Moloney House Cup, this year each House selected a charity to support by raising funds and awareness of their causes.**

Boylan House supported the Hutt St Centre through their Walk a Mile event, and also held a cake stall. The Hutt St Centre has been supporting people experiencing homelessness for over 68 years, and provide life-changing, essential and professional services needed to help rebuild lives of people who find themselves homeless. Originally setting a goal of \$1200, as a community they managed to surpass that goal and raise an incredible total of \$4293!!

Kavanagh House continued its partnership with the South Australian Catholic Deaf Association this year and created a fundraising event to raise awareness and funds. The association helps reduce challenges for its members by offering translation services that assist with the many day-to-day tasks that are made difficult by the barrier of deafness. To help raise money Kavanagh students participated in a "push up/ sit up" challenge. Students found sponsors for

In addition to these House initiatives, the school as a whole raised an amazing total for this year's Vinnie's Winter Appeal – more than \$14,000!

the event and raised over \$2400, an incredible feat that will go a long way to supporting the deaf community.

The Murphy House social justice focus this year was on recognising the achievements of Indigenous Australians through NAIDOC Week and supporting the Indigenous Literacy Foundation by raising much-needed funds with a Beanie Day, cake stall and staff vs year 12 student table tennis competition. We raised awareness with Pastoral Care activities across the school, where we learnt, discussed, and celebrated the culture, history, and strength of Australia's First Nations.

Our Cabra community proudly raised approximately \$1,200 for Moore House's Social

Justice Initiative; Puddle Jumpers. A non-profit, non-government organisation committed to responding to the needs of society's most vulnerable children, and founded by old scholar Melanie Tate, gave 52 individuals the opportunity to abseil 70 metres from the top of the Adelaide InterContinental Hotel.

Cabra was lucky enough to have secured one of those spots and Moore House gave students the opportunity to vote for their favourite teacher, with Mr von der Borch voted as the winner to courageously take the leap. On the day of the plunge, it was incredibly heartwarming to see our Moore House students attend the event to show their support for our community and Puddle Jumpers!



2



3

1. Jessica Cruz, Boylan House Captain, during the Walk A Mile event
2. Murphy's Beanie Day and staff vs student table tennis competition
3. House Captain Lachie Richards and House Leader Ms Kate Harrison congratulate Mr Paul von der Borch after he abseiled down the Intercontinental Hotel.
4. Kavanagh's push up/sit up challenge



4



# Language Immersion Camps



**In years past, we hosted our language students on trips to Japan and Italy, where they were able to immerse themselves in the culture and language of the country they were visiting. We have not been able to take these trips for a few years now, so our intrepid Languages staff created new opportunities.**

“Such a wonderful time was had by the Year 10 and Stage 1 Italian students as they participated in the Italian Heritage Immersion

Camp at McLaren Vale and environs recently. Our Italian students thrive and are awarded agency, as they choose to learn in this way. This immersion opportunity has been very relevant to their learning experience and the development of their capabilities, especially Intercultural Understanding. It has taught them belonging, and the ability to transfer their learning to the real world by communicating and understanding the importance of Australia compared to the rest of the world, and the important contributions of our migrants to our current Australian world. The Cross Curriculum Priorities have also featured in that the students have learnt about Sustainability and the understanding of an awareness of food and the culture of food. Sustainability also in the learning about biodynamics and biodiversity, natural substances and self-sufficiency at the forefront of Italian farms and wineries, knowledge shared by Italy to Australia. A wonderful experience of seeing this work in action, of working towards being global citizens. Next time Italy! Hopefully!”

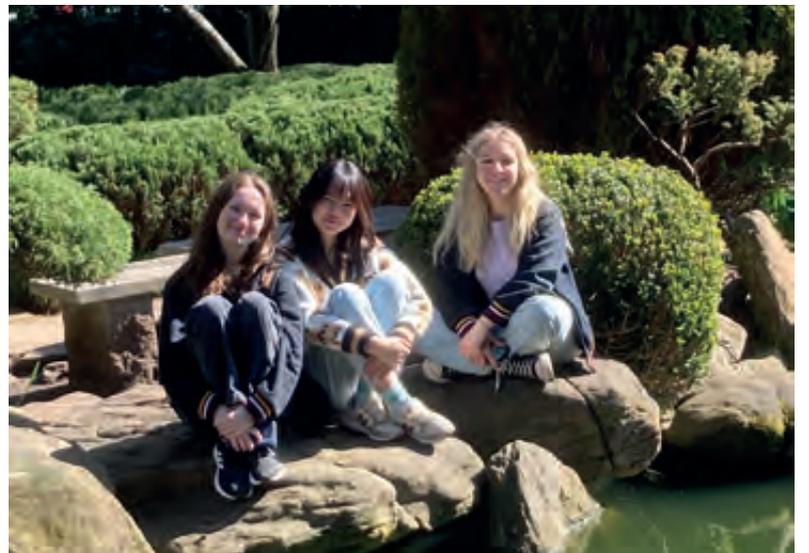
**Elena Guastella |  
Leader of Learning: Languages**

“Murray Sensei and I have been on a Japanese Immersion Camp these last 2 days. We experienced the Yayoi Kusama (pumpkin) & Chiharu Shiota (red string) installations and the Pure Form contemporary ceramics exhibition at the SA Art Gallery. We watched the anime “Belle” at Palace Nova Eastend in Japanese and completed a Japanese language themed Scavenger Hunt in Rundle Mall. All meals showcased a variety of delicious Japanese food....obento, tempura, gyudon and ramen. Yum yum! We then had two hours of Karaoke which the students loved!

We stayed overnight in a hotel in the city and started off the next morning with a visit to the beautiful Himeji Gardens. We then explored the Adelaide Central Markets where the students completed another Scavenger Hunt, purchasing specific Japanese food, drinks and snacks.

We all had a great time and did lots of Japanese language speaking on this fun adventure!”

**Carmen Stasic |  
Teacher of Japanese**



# Stage 2 Drama Production – Cosi

Cabra was transported back to the 70s in Term 3 when the Stage 2 Drama class performed the hilarious 'Cosi' by Louis Nowra. Our Year 12s bedazzled the St Dominic's Hall stage with their quirky characters and outrageous costumes, shining a spotlight on love, politics, and the beauty of being a little bit different.

Doug was such an amazing character to play because he's an absolute nutcase and I was able to completely let go. It was hard for me to go out of my comfort zone, but through Doug I was able to grow in confidence.

– Kate (Doug)

Being a normally laid back and extroverted person, playing Ruth, an uptight and introverted individual with OCD, was an exciting experience for me as it was the one time I got to expose my alter ego.

– Catie (Ruth)

Figuring out Henry's mental illness was a difficult experience; I ended up using a disorder that I already knew quite a bit about that lined up with the in-text evidence. Overall, it was nerve-racking, but I worked through it and gave the best performance of my life.

– Hamish (Henry)

Playing Cherry was an insanely fun challenge! Pretending to be a boisterous, gregarious, and flamboyant young woman was an ambitious task. Sincerest apologies to my teachers and friends whom I traumatised by taking this role. Safe to say I will never be eating another marshmallow again!

– Molly (Cherry)

Being a part of 'Cosi' was a great escape and allowed me to step outside my comfort zone to play a mature young male. I challenged myself to do things I would not have thought I could do and overall had one of the greatest experiences of high school that I got to share with my peers.

– Lauren (Lewis)





Taking on the role of Roy was quite the challenge since he is flamboyant and a theatre giant, of which I am neither. So, when it came to building the character, it took a lot of guts and commitment to get it right. Being large on stage whilst being extravagant and interrupting people with my brilliant vision, proved to be an interesting experience.

– Sebastian (Roy)

Having to handle both Lucy and Justin was an exciting struggle; I was able to learn historical events and attitudes of the period through Lucy, which tickled my brain as a history student, along with working with the logistics of being a male asylum worker in the 1970s.

– Paris (Lucy/ Justin)

To completely let go of reality and slowly develop my character was a good and interesting challenge. It was really fun being able to harness my inner arrogance!

– Eddie (Zac/ Nick)

Being the technician, I ran all the behind-the-scenes aspects of the show, including lighting and sound. It was an awesome experience, being able to watch everyone develop their characters, while making the show run without hiccups.

– Lachie (Technical Design)

Playing Julie was a challenge that ultimately taught me so much about collaboration, resilience and theatre. Becoming someone whose life was so different to mine required learning and commitment, challenging me to fully throw myself into the role. Getting to work with this amazing group of people was a highlight of this year.

– Elsa (Julie)



# Boarding at Cabra

For other stories of boarding please re-visit some previous editions of *The Good, the Beautiful and the True*, available on our website under Publications <https://www.cabra.catholic.edu.au/news/publications/>.

- Winter 2019: p24 Deirdre Taylor (Roberts) '63, including her poem "The Boarder's Day"
- Spring 2020: p 20, Alison Appleby (Slatter) '88
- Spring 2021 p22 Tess McGrath "A day in the life of a boarder"
- Autumn 2022: p18, Monique Necic (Sidler) '95

## ▼ Marg Carter (née Blackmore)

I was at boarding school at Cabra from 1964 until 1968 and I have attended a few reunions but not recently. My best friends from boarding school days are still my closest friends and even though we live in different states we catch up regularly. It is a very special bond you form with girls when you are 12 and a long way from home. I grew up on a gold mine out of Tennant Creek and I was very homesick for the first few months at Cabra but my lovely friends—Sharon Kerin, Lizzie Lyons, Trish and Petra Kelly, took me under their wings and I will be forever grateful that I had the opportunity to attend an excellent school like Cabra.

I live in Darwin and my Cabra friends came up for my 60th birthday; Lizzie from Sydney, Margaret from Canberra and Sharon from Adelaide.



Pictured from the left: Margaret Kiley, Myself, Sharon Mraz (nee Kerin), Lizzie Szpitalak (née Lyons).

Margaret and her sister, Anne Kiley, were day scholars at Cabra. Sharon, Lizzie and I were boarders from 1964–1968.

## ▼ Genevieve Taheny '77

Boarding at Cabra were two of the best years of my life and it's incredible to think of the impact that just two years can have on your life. One sip of weak cordial and I'm immediately transported to the very first night being served supper by Sr Paul (Patricia Henschke) in our summer pyjamas and dressing gowns asking the same girl (Cathy Higgins) about a hundred times if she was new!

We settled in pretty quickly, were exposed to so many opportunities at school and just had

the best fun. Raiding the sisters' cold room at midnight was particularly daring. We'd take Sara Lee desserts and then have to eat them frozen in the dorm because we had nothing to heat them up with – and we had to hide the evidence. One time Wendy McEvoy put one of the two watermelons in her Puma bag. The next day we took it down to the back oval and smashed it open to eat it.

The dorms and cubicles were very basic, but we didn't have much – I think I left in Year 12 with a suitcase, a pillow and my music books. I was

devastated leaving because I loved the security of the boarding house and thought I'd never see my friends again.

After school we all splintered off far and wide, some heading back to their country towns, some back to Adelaide for further study and then went on to work in other places around the country. We drifted away for a while but certainly since the weekend of the closing of the boarding school in 1999 our group of '76, '77 and a couple of years either side of us reconnected strongly.

A call goes out when friends are in town and whoever can make it meets up for brunch, lunch or dinner and we laugh and reminisce and laugh some more. We also come together to support each other in times of sadness – and there have been plenty of those for some of our friends. I am in awe of their courage and their ability to laugh again. Cabra was the making of me and I am forever grateful for the opportunity.



1. Genevieve and friends at the Garden Party Reunion in 2021 2. on a Sarah Shanahan ('85) shopping trip - Cathy Higgins, Genevieve Taheny, Marianne Kerin, in front Angela Meaney & Jayne Northcott



## Memories of the Cabra Boarding House

A Cabra teacher for almost 40 years, Tanya Sharkey (James) '77 began her association with Cabra as a boarder in 1972 at Mt St Catherine's in Stirling, which was then the junior boarding house. As a Year 7, Tanya says it was a difficult transition from living with her family on the Northwest Aboriginal Reserve, Amata, in the far northwest corner of South Australia. (This area is now called the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara or APY Lands)

"There were about 17 boarders in 1972. Sr Bertrand was in charge; I still keep in contact with her. Most of the boarders went home on the weekends, but I lived too far away for that, so it could be very lonely. Sr Mary Moling (Sr Mary Gaffney) would look after those of us who were left. She taught us a number of card games and fed us well. I have since taught those card games to my children"

The next year Tanya moved to Cabra in Cumberland Park, where all First Year boarders slept on the balcony of the St Catherine's wing top floor.

"There were windows and yes it was cold! My bed was on the corner of the balcony. Each of us had a cubicle with a curtain and cupboard for our clothes. We moved to different sections of the Boarding House depending on what year we were in."

Boarding school in those days meant strict adherence to rules and routines, and a set menu with little variation.

"The bell would ring for breakfast, and if you were not there by 7.30 Sr Mary Amata would lock the door, no entry. In my early years for breakfast there were huge saucepans of thick porridge, baked beans, trays of eggs like eyes looking at you and cold toast. I still don't like cold toast! Leftover cold toast was put out for recess.

For lunch sandwiches were often a mix of cheese, vegemite, peanut butter, jam and baked beans. These were put out on the seat outside the refectory for us to collect, in the hope that we would mix with day students, but it didn't always work.

Dinner on Sunday was Chicken, "Mystery Balls" on Tuesday, and fish on Friday, throughout the year. Bed linen washing was on Tuesdays and we would throw our sheets over the outside stairwell to put in the big trolley when we got to the bottom of the stairs. We would pick up the laundry at the end of the day. Clothes were washed on Fridays. Breakfast and dinner were served in the refectory, and each table was allocated a duty to complete through the week or on the weekend, including sweeping St Brigid's Square, serving dinner, washing up and sweeping the different dormitories. You couldn't leave the table until you'd eaten everything. Dessert was often apple crumble, custard or icecream, sago pudding, jelly and icecream."

As her home was so far away, Tanya could only get home to see family in term holidays. There was one phone on the verandah next to the Case Room, "but you weren't allowed to use it very often."

"I had a brother boarding at Sacred Heart. My Dad wrote a carbon copy letter every week and sent us each a copy. This continued long after we left Boarding School. Every Sunday from 1 to 2pm we would have letter-writing in a room on the first floor, western end, and write a letter home."

Tanya says that although boarding was difficult at times and she was homesick, she learned many life-lessons, particularly "kindness, care for others, to share, to take time to listen to others and to take time to reflect." She remembers with great fondness the care provided by the Sisters which provided constancy and stability, whilst teaching the boarders independence.

"There were 34 boarders who did Matriculation in 1977 – which was a lot – and the Sisters had to use rooms where the Sisters normally lived. The Sisters were responsible for our care before and after school as well as some of the Sisters teaching us during the day. Sr Patricia Kennedy and Sr Marguerite Noonan were in charge when I was in First Year, Sr Mary Paul (Sr Patricia Henschke) was in charge for Second Year, Leaving and Matric. For Third Year, a different model was trialled, where a number of the Sisters were responsible for the Boarders, and they were allocated a group. Sr Bernadette Kiley and Sr Kathleen Hickey were a part of this year. Sr Anne Dolan was my Third Year Home Class Teacher. Sr Elizabeth Mulrone would give out our mail to us at the end of the school day." Students were generally not allowed in the ground floor passage of the convent during Term time.

"Before going to the Cabra Ball, held in Latvian Hall in Wayville, we walked down the passage and through the Infirmary in our dresses to show the Sisters."

"I feel very lucky my Dad chose Cabra and I am very grateful for the care, support and strength offered by the Sisters in my time at both Mt St Catherine's and Cabra. In 1983 I was offered a teaching position at Cabra by Sr Angela Moloney and to still be here at Cabra, I feel very blessed. I have also been a part of the farewell of a number of my Teachers- James Moncur, Alan Teoh and Cheryl Webber"

Tanya says that she gets together with others who boarded with her, and day scholars, to catch up and reminisce. She says she has a lot of good memories of boarding. "The friends I made then, I still have, as well as the connections with the Sisters that continue today."

### Tanya Sharkey

1. Tanya, photographed in the renovated Food Tech area, where the food was served during her time boarding.
2. James Moncur, Alan Teoh, Cheryl Webber and Tanya Sharkey

# Alumni News

## Vale

Basia Rendall,  
(Bonkowski) '69  
September 5, 2022

**Basia Rendall (nee Bonkowski), known for presenting Rock Around the World and producing RBT, has died.**

According to a statement released by her family, Rendall was in the company of loved ones when she passed away peacefully in Sydney, following a battle with lymphoma.

Born and raised in Adelaide, the presenter and producer was one of four children born to Polish immigrants Maria and Jerzy Bonkowski. She attended Cabra Dominican College and was attracted to writing and performing from an early age.

After initially studying law at the University of Adelaide, a diagnosis of Hodgkin's Lymphoma at the age of 17 prompted a switch to Flinders University where she majored in English literature and drama.

Rendall then taught drama before moving to Sydney to pursue a career in television.

Following work on SBS music television shows Rock Around the World and Continental Drift, she enjoyed a successful career both on-air and behind the scenes as a television writer and producer, working for all the commercial stations.

Rendall released her first book Jesse's World in 2005, inspired by her experiences as an adoptive parent. She completed a Master of Letters degree at the University of Sydney in 2006, before publishing her sophomore novel, Shimmer — based on her mother's life — in 2009.

In the past decade, Rendall worked as executive producer for Screentime and Endemol Shine, where she produced observational documentary series RBT for Channel 9.

Rendall was diagnosed with lymphoma in 2021 and battled her health on two fronts. She had plans for another book and continued working until days before her death.

In its statement, Basia's family said she would be remembered as "formidable, loyal, luminously intelligent, and funny."

She is survived by her husband Kimble, and children William and Camille. The family would like to thank the nurses and doctors at St Vincent's Hospital and Intensive Care Unit.

**Excerpted from an article by Sean Slatter on if.com.au 5 September, 2022**



## Welcome Oliver!

**Congratulation to past scholar and current staff member Sarah Samson (Giles) '09 and husband Markus on the safe arrival of their baby boy Oliver Michael on Saturday 24 September.**





### ▼ Jaddan Bruhn '94

Queer Visual Artist and Cabra graduate Jaddan Bruhn '94 has designed a series of anaglyph 3D nude portraits depicting Greek mythological gods at a recent exhibition in Adelaide for the Feast Festival. Titled *Army of Me* the exhibit of works uses diverse Australian landscapes as a backdrop for the juxtaposed images depicting male beauty, masculinity and identity.

Based in Sydney, Jaddan's work doesn't stop there. He has also been busy designing and creating unique greeting cards in 20 different languages for Christmas, birthdays and thank yous.



### ▼ Francesca Gerner '65

Francesca Gerner (Loughhead) '65 recently came to Cabra while visiting Adelaide from her home in Melbourne. Francesca is the niece of Sr Therese Sweeney, the beloved Dominican Sister for whom our Therese Sweeney Music Centre was named. Francesca toured the Music Centre, and was also delighted to see in our Convent hallway, a portrait of her "Aunt Monnie" – Sr Therese, painted by Francesca's cousin, Michael Sweeney. Another of Michael's paintings of Sr Therese is in our Front Reception area, formerly the parlour.

We take this opportunity to thank Michael Sweeney for the gift of these two beautiful paintings.

### ▼ Wade Kingsley (Pridham) '93

#### What years did you attend Cabra?

I started in Year 6 in 1987. Back then my name was Wade Pridham. I was in Sr. Joan Murphy's class and from Years 7-12 I had Mr. Zandona, Ms. McEvoy and Mr. Tamassy as home room teachers. I graduated in 1993 so I'm looking forward to our 30 year reunion next year!

#### What are your strongest memories of your school years here?

My strongest Cabra memories are about my friends—most of whom I'm still friends with today. We've all gone our different ways but have stayed in touch and our kids are friends too.

I also was strongly supported in my desire to head into a media career. In Year 6 a group of us proposed to Mr. O'Grady (Principal) to have a school radio station. It was broadcast over the speakers at recess and lunch times. I remember us playing music and reading from the morning bulletin. In later years I had great teachers in English (Mr Morrison), Drama (Miss O'Callaghan) and of course Media Studies (Mrs. Webber). I interviewed the Principal Mrs. Swift in Year 12 for a '60 Minutes' style interview. Everyone was really supportive.

#### What did you learn in your time at Cabra that has stayed with you?

What's stayed with me the most since Cabra is the meaning of 'Veritas'. Seeking the truth pushed me initially towards Journalism as a career. I worked at 5AA as a Talkback Producer (aka news junkie!) and then transitioned into a number of other roles in radio—programming and eventually management. The one thing that's stayed with me since school and through to what I do today is creativity. I now help people and teams grow their creative confidence as a coach and workshop facilitator. I'm the Australian Ambassador for World Creativity and Innovation Week, plus I get to work internationally. None of that would have been possible without the support and guidance of Cabra. It's why I'm always happy to talk about the role Cabra has played in my life.



The "Festival FM 104" team (from left) Frank Guerriero, Michael Segui, Patrick Kilbane, Warwick Firth, Anthony Allen (newsreader) and Wade Pridham.

## Cabra students are wired for sound

**CABRA Dominican College is tuning into the airwaves with its own radio show "Festival FM 104".**

The station will operate at 8.20 a.m., 10.40 a.m., and 12.35 p.m., Monday to Friday. Station manager and disc-jockey

Wade Pridham said the show would feature the latest and greatest hits, requests and news from the school bulletin.

"We think it would be a good experience if you wanted to be a journalist or newsreader," he said.

The station crew consists of seven students including an advertising manager, cue-up-man and newsroom director.

Anyone who wants to join the FM Club will be issued an FM card but the show will only be broadcast through the school Public Announcement system so it may not reach outsiders.

# Alumni News



## ▼ Outstanding Woman in Resources

**Kathryn Lewi (Skiparis) '81 was Dux of the College and also College Captain. Kathryn then studied at the University of Adelaide and graduated with Honours in Chemical Engineering.**

There were 1000 people in attendance at the Perth Exhibition centre when Kathryn received the Award for Outstanding Woman in Resources. The Awards strive to recognise the work of the mining and resources sector in implementing diversity and increasing equality in employment. Kathryn currently is one of Australia's leading metallurgical engineers and leads the commissioning of the Tianqui lithium hydroxide refinery at Kwinana, W.A.—a billion dollar plant and the only one of its kind outside of China.

Kathy's career journey has required considerable resilience on her part, dealing with sexism in her early roles in an industry once dominated by men. Kathy is highly regarded for her mentoring activities, which include working with 4<sup>th</sup> year Chemical Engineering students at Curtin University, regularly taking on final year students for vacation work and providing guidance to a wide variety of women in industry.

**Neil Hayford | (Retired Cabra teacher and brother-in-law of Kathryn Lewi)**



## ▼ Jessica Nicholls

**Jessica Nicholls '11 and Darren Nicolson were married at Glen Ewin Estate on April 23, 2022. Cabra alumni who attended include: Niamh Grant, Stephania Gates, Patrick Clements and Katina Gates.**

*"Our special day was everything we could possibly have wanted and more, with so many of our loved ones able to join us and celebrate!"*



# 2022 Reunions



In August the Class of 1982 gathered for a college tour, then headed out for dinner together.

'82



Also in August was the previously delayed first reunion for our newest old scholars, the Class of 2021.

'21



SMU

# Reunion Dates for 2023

## 24/3

**Class of 2022 Back on Campus  
and Yearbook Collection**

**Friday 24 March**

4:30 – 6:00pm

### Reunion Tours

Principal Helen Riekie is hosting Reunion Tours of the college for our alumni. Join your classmates to visit the “old haunts”, our historical area including Heritage Museum, and a look at some of our newest facilities. Share your memories with each other, and us!

**We encourage you to gather your year level and organise a dinner at one of the many local pubs and restaurants following the tour.**

## 1/4

**Reunion Tour for  
Class of 2013 (10 Year),  
Class of 2003 (20 Year)**

**Saturday 1 April**

4:30 – 6:00pm

## 26/5

**St Mary's Unit Reunion  
for all year levels**

**Friday 26 May**

4:30 - 6:00pm

## 24/5

**1960s and prior Alumni  
Community Morning**

**Wednesday 24 May**

10:00 – 11:30am

A short prayer service in the Chapel,  
followed by morning tea.

Tours are free of charge and include  
a complimentary memento bag.

Visit the Alumni page of our website to register  
<https://www.cabra.catholic.edu.au/discover/alumni/>

Please note there will be no other  
reunion college tour dates in 2023.

Communications Office:  
[publications@cabra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:publications@cabra.catholic.edu.au)

## 4/11

**Reunion Tour for  
Class of 1993 (30 Year),  
Class of 1983 (40 Year),  
Class of 1973 (50 Year)**

**Saturday 4 November**

4:30 – 6:00pm

# 2023

ROALD  
DAHL'S

# CHARLIE

AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

The title is rendered in a highly stylized, three-dimensional gold font. The word 'CHARLIE' is the largest and most prominent, with a large, ornate 'C'. Below it, 'AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY' is written in a smaller, blocky font. The background is a deep purple with a subtle, glowing pattern of light rays emanating from behind the text. A small silhouette of a factory with a tall chimney is visible behind the word 'FACTORY'.

JUNE 2023



*We bless these windows that awaken awe in us,  
a pathway to the Divine,  
in our St Dominic's Chapel at Cabra.  
May all who encounter the work of Kim En Joong  
find here "the good, the beautiful and the true".*

**Spoken by Sr Patricia Brady OP at the Blessing and Dedication  
of the Kim En Joong windows, 4 November, 2022**

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DOMINICAN COLLEGE



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**Cabra Dominican College**

**Cabra Dominican College is an educational ministry of Dominican Education Australia**