

The biannual magazine of Cabra Dominican College

The Good, the Beautiful and the True

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CABRA
Dominican College

The Good, the Beautiful & the True

CONTENTS

1	From the Principal
2	St Dominic's Day
4	Honouring our Holy Cross Dominican Sisters
5	Talent Show
6	Together, We Write the Story
8	A Celebration of Creativity, Friendship and Joy
10	Snow Much Fun!
11	A Breadth of Opportunities
12	Intercol
13	Our Commitment to Excellence
14	In the Footsteps of St Dominic...
16	Building Connections
18	Remembering Ros Patterson
20	A New Story for the Cabra Chapel
21	Community News
22	Alumni News
27	Reunion Tour for the Class of 2005 and Class of 2015
28	Upcoming Events
29	From the Archives



From the Principal

Cabra is in the midst of a historic and transformative period. We are growing and investing in the future, with students always at the centre of all we do.

I suspect I am not alone in recently fielding a lot of questions along the lines of "What is going on at Cabra? The building on Cross Road is gone!"

I like to answer with a description of what is coming...

Reflecting the values of tradition and progress, the Aquinas Precinct Project will embody Cabra's true possibility. Beyond its functional role as the hub of science, the building will redefine Cabra's presence to the broader community and bring a whole new look to the iconic rust-coloured wall on Cross Road.

The new Aquinas will be a dynamic education facility for all learners and will include five laboratories, two maker spaces, 11 general learning areas and additional "think labs."

By preserving significant sightlines to our cherished historic chapel, we continue to honour the past while embracing the future. The inclusion of an auditorium facing the chapel, increases the school's capacity for community gatherings.

Our Angelico Centre, nestled in the middle of campus and boasting the most modern art, tech and design facilities, has become a key component of our college since 2023. Opened two years prior, the Therese Sweeney Music Centre, linked to the Convent by a stunning bridge, is a hub of performance and rehearsal. We continue to work at providing beautiful and functional learning spaces, to inspire every student to seek excellence and be remarkable in their own way.

Over the years our college has changed considerably, while maintaining strong ties to our history and Dominican charism. We are always changing and renewing; always moving forward like St Dominic.

If you are an old scholar and would like to reconnect with the people and place, please watch this space. We are celebrating 140 years next year and are finalising the plans. We would love to see you back and equally give you an opportunity to see first-hand the new learning spaces.

Lastly, whilst my article provides an overview of our building developments aligned with our master plan, there is so much more I could share with you. The enhancements and redevelopment of our facilities is just one way we continue to invest in our young people, both now and for future generations.

Enjoy this edition and the stories!

Dr Helen Riekie | Principal

1: On site at the Aquinas Precinct Project, L-R: Helen Riekie; Joe Franze, Kennett Site Manager; Matthew Jentsch, Kennett Project Manager; Karl Barber, Cabra Business Director; Rhiana Bell, Russell & Yelland Architects Associate.



St Dominic's Day

This year's St Dominic's Day Mass continued our journey through the college theme "Blessings in the Storm" by exploring what these blessings look and feel like... HOPE. Together we reflected on our understanding of the word hope and what hope looks like at Cabra Dominican College.

The mass was joyfully student led and we are grateful for the students who participated in singing and responding during the mass, writing the mass, reading prayers, running the tech desk,

playing music and singing in the choir. We are grateful for Fr. Michael Trainor for presiding over the mass, our Mission Captains, Niamh and Maggie, for their wonderful commentary during the mass and all the staff and students, our wonderful Dominican community, who helped make the mass and morning tea a beautiful and memorable celebration.

Deborah Lubatti | Director of Mission and Identity

Jesus Stills the Storm

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"

Mark 4:35-41

"God of life, thank you for the faith and vision of Saint Dominic, by which he founded the Dominican Order that has blessed us abundantly. With his example of courageous faith as our guide, grant us the strength to live out our mission with compassion and grace. Like Dominic and our Dominican Sisters, may we be people of Veritas, truth and hope, and may we see and celebrate our blessings in the storm."



Blessings in the Storm

"The world in which we live, turbulent and restless,
is where we encounter God"

- Eric Borgman



Honouring our Holy Cross Dominican Sisters

On St Dominic's Day we take time to thank and honour the Sisters who founded Cabra almost 140 years ago. At our mass we were delighted to welcome several of the Holy Cross Congregation. Staff member and past scholar Tanya Sharkey (James) '76, read the following tribute.

"Today, as we celebrate St Dominic's Day, we welcome Sister Bernadette Kiley, leader of the Holy Cross Congregation and our Dominican Sisters. We acknowledge you, those here today and all Dominican Sisters whose faith and courage has built, shaped, and supported our community. We especially celebrate the sisters of the Holy Cross Congregation, some of whom are here today."

The Sisters of the Holy Cross Congregation are:

- Elizabeth Mulroney
- Pauline Jenner
- Angela Moloney
- Norah O'Hara
- Gabrielle Kelly
- Anne Dolan
- Philomena Cooper
- Patricia Brady
- Johanna Cash
- Margaret Kennedy
- Ann Burr
- Anne Stewart
- Kath Hickey
- Joan O'Grady
- Maureen O'Connell
- Barbara Specht
- Enid Wood
- Colleen O'Callaghan
- Bernadette Kiley

Following mass, the Sisters joined us at a community morning tea. As a group they cut the celebratory cake, and student leaders presented each Sister with a floral gift, as is customary on St Dominic's Day.







Together, *we write the story.*



Together, we are celebrating 140 years

In 2026, we will celebrate 140 years since 1886, when the Holy Cross Dominican Sisters established Cabra Dominican College. In this milestone year, we look forward to the completion of some exciting new projects that will enrich the experience of our community.

We are blessed to have our Dominican Sisters very much a part of our everyday school life. As we look to the future, we seek ways in which our Dominican tradition will be encountered and carried on.

The Sisters often tell us that it is now “our story to tell,” and so we are planning two special projects:

1. the creation and installation of a beautiful, hand-crafted stone statue of St Dominic near our iconic front gate, and
2. a History Wall encompassing the story of Cabra in the foyer of our brand-new Aquinas building.

These projects are not just monuments but living testaments to our shared journey. They are the continuation of our story.

The History Wall will be a place where students, staff, and families can see the tapestry of our past, and understand that they are also threads in the story, and a part of something much bigger than themselves. The statue of St. Dominic will stand as a reminder of the faith, wisdom, and courage that guide us forward. Together, these initiatives will ensure that the story of Cabra, which is inextricably linked with the Holy Cross Congregation, is captured and can be encountered by generations to come.

Our statue of Dominic will be life sized and will not be on a pedestal; he will appear to be on the move, as if he is walking among us. We have engaged talented artist and sculptor Linda Klarfeld to create the statue over the next months.



140
— YEARS OF —
*True Possibility**

"Our community, at this time in history, can leave an important legacy for future generations, which is a really exciting prospect. I am delighted to be able to invite you to contribute to Cabra's next chapter."

Cabra Principal,
Dr Helen Riekie

We invite you - current students, families, staff, and alumni - to be part of this historic moment. To complete the statue of St Dominic and the History Wall, we are seeking the generous support of our alumni and broader college community to raise \$140,000, in honour of our 140 years. This will continue our community's long tradition of giving, which began in 1886 with fundraising for the building of the Convent and continued through the years to the more recent installation of the Kim En Joong windows in our Chapel.

Everyone who makes a donation will be recognised in the next edition of *The Good, the Beautiful and the True* magazine.

Donations of \$1000 or more will be recognised on a donor board, near the statue. This could be your name, or the name of someone you would like remembered, or a year level or group.

Join us in making history. Your generosity will help us honour our past and inspire our future. Thank you for being part of our ever-unfolding story.

To donate to the campaign please visit our website:
www.cabra.catholic.edu.au/news/140-years/





A Celebration of Creativity, Friendship and Joy

Our 2025 College Musical, *Shrek Jr*, was a vibrant and heartwarming romp that captured the hearts of our entire school community. Our eight sold-out shows were a testament to the incredible talent and dedication of our students and staff, and a celebration of what we can achieve when we work together to bring a show to life on College grounds.

The cast, a brilliant ensemble of performers from Year 7 to Year 12, delivered a production that was both hilarious and deeply moving. The talented Eloise Morris perfectly captured the ogre's grumpy exterior and gentle heart, while her counterpart Isla-Cate Wilson as Donkey was a comedic genius, delivering witty lines and physical comedy with impeccable timing. Princess Fiona, played by Amelie Wescombe, was a force of nature, showcasing a beautiful vocal range and a feisty, independent spirit that truly brought the character to life. Matthew Trotta, despite his 'diminutive' stature as Lord Farquaad, commanded the stage with a pompous flair that had the audience in stitches.

As the Hopgood Theatre was out of action, this year's production was made all the more memorable by staging it in our very own St Dominic's Hall. This decision came with its own unique set of challenges; the vibrant costumes and imaginative set design transported us all, but it required tireless effort from our students and staff to manage the logistics of an onsite production in the year of the Aquinas Precinct Project! Overcoming these hurdles—from set design and sound engineering in a multi-purpose room to managing backstage chaos in limited space—was a huge part of the learning experience and made the final result even more rewarding. Another highlight this year was the enthusiastic welcome we gave to the many primary school students who came to watch our matinee performances. Their wide-eyed wonder and joyous reactions were a powerful reminder of the magic of live theatre and the importance of sharing our love for the arts with the next generation of Cabra students.

A huge round of applause must also go to our dedicated Production Crew, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, ensuring every cue was hit and every moment was perfect. Finally, the incredible success of *Shrek Jr* would not have been possible without the extraordinary commitment of our staff, who took on significant roles in the production on top of their full-time teaching and even leadership responsibilities. Their passion and dedication are a true inspiration, demonstrating what can be achieved when we go the extra mile for our students.

As we close the book on this year's musical, we reflect on a show that was not just a performance, but a celebration of creativity, friendship, and the joy of telling a story together. The swamp may have been cleared, but the memories of this fantastic journey will stay with us for a very long time. Congratulations to everyone involved on a truly spectacular - and pizzazzy - 'happily ever after' of a production and see you back at the Hopgood Theatre in 2027!

Ms Sally Scott, Musical Director



Snow Much Fun!

Falls Creek 2025



During the recent school holidays, a group of our Year 10 and 11 students headed off to Falls Creek for an unforgettable snow trip!

Over several days, students took part in daily ski and snowboard lessons, progressing from beginner slopes to more challenging runs as their confidence and skills grew. It was fantastic to see everyone step outside their comfort zones, show persistence, and embrace the challenge of learning something new in a completely different environment.

Beyond the snow sports, the trip was filled with shared meals and lots of fun in the games room. Students consistently

encouraged one another and celebrated each other's successes along the way.

The Falls Creek experience also gave students the opportunity to show independence and responsibility whether organising their gear, navigating the mountain, or supporting their peers. It was a fantastic way for students to build memories beyond the classroom. A big thank you to the staff that took time out of their holidays to attend this trip. We hope for more snow adventures in the years to come!

Maddison Wheatley-Harris,
Leader of Learning: Health and PE



A Breadth of Opportunities

Cabra stands for truth and possibility, so each student has the breadth of opportunities to help shape their own pathway in an everchanging world.

In 2024,

- » fifty-five students achieved Merits
- » twenty-three completed a first-year university topic, and
- » more than one hundred completed VET courses as part of their SACE.
- » 130 students applied for University – and 91% of these young people were offered their first or second choice

Other students have embarked on apprenticeships, paid employment or experiences such as Camp America employment and overseas scholarships, often with the support of our Future Pathways counselling.

We're proud of every graduate and support each student, to reach their full potential.

Ultimately, we aim to prepare students for life beyond Cabra. From Year 9, students are encouraged to plan for life after school, supported by our dedicated Future Pathways team and through tailored and personalised selection from our broad range of subjects, ensuring they are ready to pursue their chosen careers and pathways with confidence.



At our recent Future Pathways Career Expo, attendees were able to talk to a vibrant mix of exhibitors, including TAFE, universities, Defence, industry leaders, and Registered Training Organisations. With a strong turnout from students and families across Years 9 to 12, there was a real “buzz” in the room, with plenty of genuine interest and helpful conversations happening throughout the evening. The positive energy and strong engagement between exhibitors and families truly made the event a success.

Intercol

The 5th annual Cabra v Nazareth Intercollegiate Competition was held early in Term 3, with Cabra proudly hosting the Saturday morning fixtures. It was a wonderful week of intercollegiate competition, strengthening our friendships and carrying this tradition into another year.

After a strong showing from Monday to Friday, Cabra led 8-4 heading into the weekend. Overall, the contest was fiercely competitive, with Cabra finishing with 14 wins, 23 losses and 1 draw.

While Nazareth claimed the overall shield, our students displayed passion, spirit and sportsmanship throughout. A big thank you to all players, coaches, staff, and supporters for making this 5th Intercol a memorable celebration of community and competition.

Joel Morizzi, Sport Coordinator



Our Commitment to Excellence

Our commitment to excellence in learning and teaching is reflected in the increasing number of our teachers who are now nationally certified as Highly Accomplished and Lead teachers.

Certification is voluntary, and its rigorous process is a powerful way for teachers to grow and be recognised.

Through certification, teachers receive valuable feedback from expert assessors outside Cabra Dominican College, helping them reflect on and improve their practice.

It also connects teachers with professional learning communities, encouraging collaboration and ongoing development. Most importantly, certification supports teachers in making a bigger impact on student learning.

Certification of Highly Accomplished and Lead teachers has three purposes:

- Recognise and promote quality teaching
- Provide an opportunity for teachers to reflect on practice
- Provide a reliable indication of quality teaching that can be used to identify, recognise and/or reward Highly Accomplished and Lead teachers

Five teachers have undertaken the National Teacher Certification Process and been certified by the South Australian Teacher Certification Committee: **Mr Alex Jackson** (House Leader – Certified 2025), **Mr Jarrad McCabe** (Deputy Principal: People, Culture and Operations – Certified 2018), **Ms Kate Rowberry** (Academic Challenge and Enrichment Coordinator – Certified 2021), **Mr Henry Whiting** (Early Career Teacher Support and Pre-Service Teacher Site Coordinator – Certified 2025) and **Ms Maria Zuni** (Leader of Innovation: Senior Years – Certified 2024).

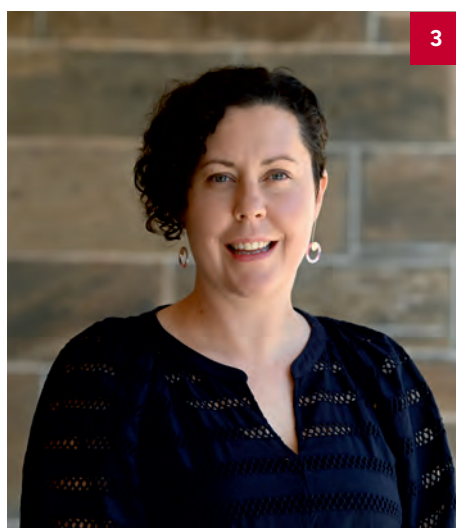
1: Mr Alex Jackson.

2: Mr Jarrad McCabe.

3: Ms Kate Rowberry.

4: Mr Henry Whiting receiving his certificate from Education Minister, Blair Boyer.

5: Ms Maria Zuni receiving her certificate from Erin Thompson MP - Member for Davenport.



In the Footsteps of St Dominic...



Following an application process, four Cabra staff members joined a Dominican Education Australia pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of St Dominic", spending two weeks in April travelling via bus through the north of Spain and the south of France. Here, each pilgrim recollects some highlights of the journey.

"From the beginning, we knew our pilgrimage would be a very special experience. From our first day in Madrid, where we saw Fra Angelico's stunning painting "The Annunciation" through to the last day's visit to the Dominican Chapel in Vence, France, designed totally by Henri Matisse, we were enthralled.

Seeing and feeling the multiple layers of 800 years of the Dominican orders left a deep impression on me. Learning about

Dominic and seeing where he had lived and preached was powerful, but beyond that, discovering how he has been followed and celebrated since then provided further insight into the achievements of his lifetime.

We prayed in magnificent cathedrals, smaller churches, ancient humble rooms, and windy hilltops. I learned particularly, how religious art is an important form of communication, and that it breaks down barriers of time, language and education.

I see following Dominic's footsteps as another way of following Jesus, and growing closer to the lessons of the Gospel. Having the time to pray and think, taught me how to be more prayerful and more thoughtful in my post-pilgrimage life."

Anna Garcia, Marketing and Communication Manager

"We celebrated Palm Sunday Mass with the nuns at Prouilhe in their unfinished Cathedral with the parishioners, co-celebrated by our two priests. This was followed by lunch served by the nuns; what a humbling experience.

We were blessed to have such a wonderful group, 22 people with a common calling, open to opportunity, sharing experiences and looking for ways to bring this knowledge and sense of hope back to the others in our lives and communities.

This is an experience that will have long lasting impact on me, it has reinvigorated me and my passion to continue to work in this school community, to do better in everything I do."

Karen Wilmot, Daily Organiser



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"After travelling to Denmark, Dominic and his Bishop Diego were asked by Pope Innocent III to work in the Fanjeaux, Prouilhe, and Carcassonne area, preaching against the heresies of the Cathars.

There, Dominic moved and worked amongst the people; he would have engaged with them as he tried to convert them back to the church, and I believe he saw the good in them; perhaps they were just misguided people.

Dominic did have some success with some Cathar women who chose to convert; however, he then became responsible for their health and safety, as they were no longer welcome in their family homes. For a man who once expected to live a contemplative life, he now led a very different life.

He established a convent for these women and, over time, secured a grant, tithes, and bequests so they had financial security. Whilst spending time trying to convert the Cathars, Dominic acquired a few followers, and eventually asked if he could establish an Order of Preachers.

Dominic recognised the importance of education, humility, and being able to engage with the people his order would serve. His Order of Preachers were instructed to go out and preach to the world. Dominic seems to have taken on his new life with gusto and flourished. If he had never been asked to join Diego on his initial journey, would he have ever reached his potential?

The difficult decisions Dominic and subsequent Dominicans have had or chosen to make have been the moments I reflected on during the Pilgrimage and once back in Australia."

Chris DeSilva, Teacher

"The University of Salamanca evoked in me a recognition of the importance of "deep learning" and mastery. This was a place where respectful intellectual dialogue and debate took place, and as a Catholic educator, it led me to reflect on how I model and facilitate respectful dialogue with staff, parents and students at Cabra.

When we stayed in Caleruega, a land of farming and shepherding, we learned that

Dominicans recognise Caleruega as a place of shifting horizons – mountains are visible in the distance, but the horizon appears limitless. This speaks to Dominic's capacity to be forward thinking whilst astutely reading the signs of the times. Our stay here was a highlight for me, as it was here where our relationships with fellow pilgrims began to flourish as we walked and entered into dialogue with one another."

Jarrad McCabe, Deputy Principal: People, Culture and Operations

1. Pilgrims and Dominican Sisters at the Basilica in Prouilhe, France, known as the birthplace of the Dominican orders.
2. Our priests depart the Prouilhe Basilica after Palm Sunday Mass.
3. The pilgrim group at the Seignadou (Sign of God) in Fanjeaux, France, where Dominic saw a ball of fire above the location that would eventually be the first Dominican convent.
4. Jarrad McCabe in the Dominican Monastery in Salamanca, Spain.
5. Pilgrims enjoying the sights of Madrid.
6. Cabra pilgrims at Carcassonne, France.
7. Walking from Fanjeaux to Prouilhe.
8. Caleruega, Spain, Dominic's birthplace.

Building Connections

We have had some wonderful opportunities this year to engage with Catholic primary schools, in our local area and beyond.

Our Music department enjoys performing and providing workshops at other schools, especially when they are as enthusiastically welcomed as they were on a recent visit to St Joseph's Kingswood. Highlights included our Senior Drum Corps working with St Joseph's drumming band "The Rocktopuses" to play a short piece together and having members of the St Joseph's band join Jazz Combo for a performance of Uptown Funk.

Our Languages and Child Studies classes gain important insight into working with younger students through curriculum-based visits. Recently our two Child Studies classes visited St Joseph's and also St Raphael's Parkside to show the Year 1s the children's books they have been working on, and to spend time together in play.

Last year our Sport Studies classes coached classes at St Therese, St Martin de Porres and St Joseph's for several weeks, preparing them for the Catholic Schools Touch Carnival.

Our students also often support our primary school friends through umpiring at the Catholic Schools Netball Carnival.

Full circle moments

Earlier in the year, Sally Ryan, 2025 College Captain, returned to her roots at Our Lady of Grace School to connect with a fellow Dominican school and inspire the next generation of leaders.

Sally visited a Year 5/6 class where she spoke about leadership and her time at OLOG and how it helped prepare her for leadership at secondary school. She answered many questions posed by the Year 5 and 6 students – some who will be joining Cabra as Year 7s in 2026 and 2027.

Amelie Wescombe (2025 College Vice Captain) visited her former primary school, St John the Baptist Catholic School, as a special guest presenter at Mass on the Feast Day of St John the Baptist. The visit was also an opportunity for Amelie to reflect on her journey at Cabra Dominican College and speak with former teachers and current students, and future Cabra students.

And this year we were absolutely delighted to welcome primary schools including St Anthony's to Cabra to see our college musical, Shrek Jr.

"Wow Cabra Dominican College, Shrek The Musical was out of this world. Thanks for allowing us to share in the talent and joy."

We were so proud to see a number of our past students on stage - shining bright. Congratulations Nathan, Jess, Emma, Jasmine and Emily."

St Anthony's School Edwardstown







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Remembering Ros Patterson

With deep sadness we learned of the passing of staff member, Mrs Roslyn (Ros) Patterson (née Sidler) on Friday 23 May 2025, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Ros was a cherished and long-standing staff member of the Cabra community. Since 2012, she served as a dedicated teacher of Food Technology, Child Studies, English, Religious Education, and HASS. She was also a valued Home Class Teacher and an enthusiastic supporter of camps and community initiatives. As an old scholar and boarder, Ros and her family's enduring connection to Cabra have greatly enriched our school community family over many years. Ros's warmth, energy, sense of humour, and genuine care touched the lives of countless students and colleagues. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

In accordance with Ros's wishes and her strong connection to our community, her funeral was held in the Cabra Chapel. The several hundred people who attended were testament to her broad reach across communities.

We pray that Ros now rests in God's eternal peace.

A warrior

Following a breast cancer diagnosis and full round of treatment in 2019, Ros became a warrior, not only in her own health and for her family, in particular her three children Morgan, Reid and Tate, but also in her work supporting charities that could help others affected by the disease.

In a speech for a fundraising event, Tate shared some thoughts about what she admired about her Mum.

"(Her) positive attitude, and the tremendous courage she has demonstrated since being diagnosed with cancer.

Mum's outlook changed (after diagnosis) as she no longer sweat the small stuff, finding brightness in everyday and never in fear of the 'what if.'

Not once has Mum let her diagnosis define her, Mum has always been her bright and vibrant self, turning these mountains into molehills trying anything and everything to help her fight, constantly giving her all."

Ros gathered stories of people she knew and created a 2022 calendar called Celebrating Survival, which she sold with

her trademark gusto (who could say no to Ros?) to raise money and spread awareness. She hosted major events and utilised the power of her huge network of friends to raise significant amounts on more than one occasion. She even sold daffodils outside the local Coles, for the Cancer Council's Daffodil Day.

Through her advocacy, tens of thousands of dollars were raised, and many lives were changed.

Along with the big picture, Ros was also there for the smaller moments. When she found out someone she knew also had to go through cancer treatment, she was there with her list of recommended beauty products, her advice on how to keep nails nice, providing meals and with a strong

word of encouragement when it was needed. Ros was thoughtful, tough and funny, showing support and making people smile.

At a birthday celebration, daughter Tate described her as "the strongest and brightest bloom in the room bringing joy to the lives of those who are lucky enough to be around her."

Ros's reputation as someone who could always get a laugh was well-deserved, and her friends could fill pages with all her cheeky one-liners and stories that should not be printed. She often regaled her co-workers with anecdotes about her time as a Cabra boarder, where you could say she "pushed the boundaries" just a little!

Ros was a diligent worker and a wonderful colleague. But she really shone in the classroom, where her particular combination of understanding, presence and sense of humour made her a favourite of her students.

Most memorably, Ros was a kind and caring person, much beloved by the Cabra community.

1: Ros with her fundraising calendar.

2: Ros with family at a fundraising event.

3: Celebrating with her children, Reid, Morgan and Tate.

4: The Boarders of 1988 - Ros is standing, 6th from the right. Cabra Board Director and past scholar Kate Mathew described Ros as "A much loved member of our boarders family of 1987-88."



Vale Joan Sharp 2 August 1920 – 6 February 2025

A former Cabra staff member, Joan Sharp (also known as Joan Virtucio) was the first non-Dominican Sister to be in charge of the Cabra Boarding House, beginning in the late 1970s and through to the mid 1980s.

She passed away recently at the age of 94 and was remembered at a funeral mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Payneham.

Eternal rest grant to her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.



A New Story for the Cabra Chapel

There are many stories within the walls of the historic Cabra Chapel. The first mass was celebrated there in 1917, after its building during the time that Mother Catherine Kavanagh, for whom one of our Houses is named, was Prioress. The stained glass windows featuring images of well known Saints in the main body of the Chapel are unique in that they are a full set created by CE Kempe, and shipped out from England during the height of World War I.

The Sisters' Choir Chapel is lit by 12 stunning modern windows, designed by Kim En Joong, a Dominican Friar and famed artist. These were created in Germany, shipped here during the pandemic, and installed in 2022.

And now, there are some new windows, whose story is told here...

"Some years ago, a mini tornado ripped through the Peace Gardens and then seemed to do a U-turn to attack the stained-glass windows behind the choir loft in the Cabra Chapel. One side of the windows was destroyed.

In thinking about how best to replace the missing window, the Sisters, in conversation

with Dr Riekie, decided on a completely new design. This one would capture something of the history of the Holy Cross Congregation, from its Irish beginnings to its establishment in Adelaide and its subsequent history in South Australia.

Local stained-glass artist, Frans Kat of Adelaide Artistic Glass, was invited to submit some designs and the image that you see is the result of his thoughtful and skilful work. At the top, the circular window has an image of the Celtic cross, which holds together both the dying and rising of Christ. The circle within the cross signifies the sun, the symbol of the new life of the resurrection.

Beneath the cross, on the lefthand side, is the Dominican crest, surrounded by one of the Dominican mottoes, "Laudare, Benedicere, Praedicare", which translates as "To praise, to bless, to preach". Opposite is an image of the "Orient", the ship which brought the pioneer Sisters to Adelaide. You'll notice the "Southern Cross" in the sky above it.

Beneath the crest is an image of a young plant emerging from a seed, and opposite is a representation of harvest produce. Underneath each image is the theme that

our Sisters have used often in these final years of our life as a congregation: "Christ's is the seed; Christ's is the harvest".

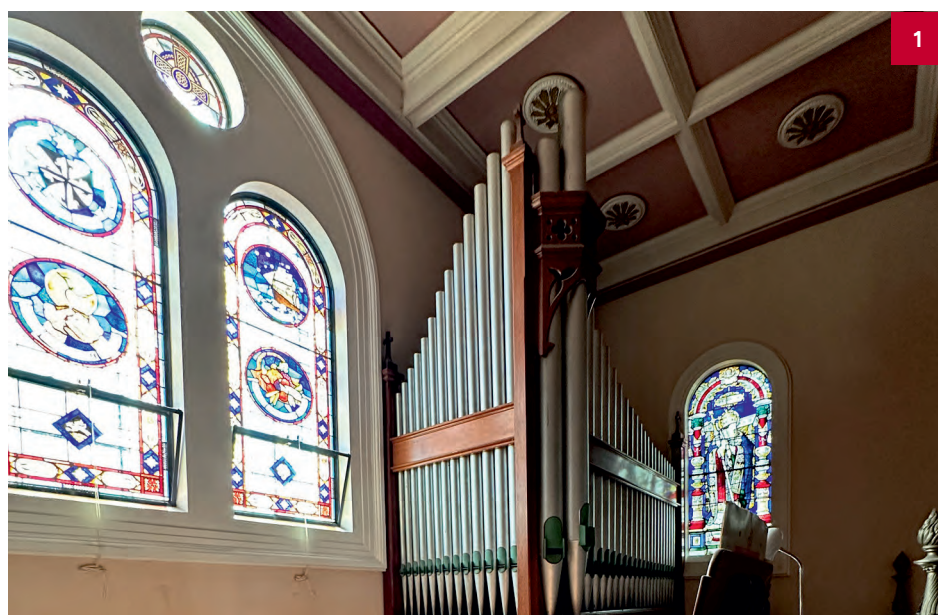
On the lowest righthand window there is a tiny image of a dog with a torch in its mouth. St Dominic's mother dreamed that her soon-to-be-born son would set the world on fire! Opposite is an image of a lily, symbolising Dominic's holiness and sainthood.

Surrounding both windows are illustrations of Australian eucalypts and of Sturt's Desert Pea.

In a real sense, the windows are designed to tell the story of the Holy Cross Congregation's origins in Ireland and its evolution within an Australian context. Dominican staff and students in South Australian Dominican schools, both now and in the future, will write the next chapters of this story."

Sr Bernadette Kiley, Congregational Leader of the Holy Cross Congregation of Dominican Sisters

1: The windows in their location in the choir loft of the Cabra Chapel, behind the historic organ and in view of one of the historic CE Kempe windows.
2: The window design.



Community News

▼ Jennifer Cross

Farewell and Thank You — After 29 Wonderful Years

As I write this farewell, I reflect on my extraordinary journey at Cabra over the past 29 years. It is with a full heart and deep gratitude that I say goodbye to a place that has been so much more than just a workplace — it has been a second home.

From the moment I first walked through the gates, I knew I had stepped into a special place. Over nearly three decades, I have had the immense honour of working alongside dedicated and inspiring colleagues — true professionals who have not only been passionate about their craft but have also become dear friends. The camaraderie, laughter, challenges, and triumphs we've shared have been a source of strength and joy. I thank them all for the support, encouragement, and friendship they have shown me over the years, especially the members of the English faculty. I am proud to have been part of such a remarkable team. The teachers at Cabra are outstanding professionals and human beings, and the students are blessed to have them to guide and support them every step of the way.

To the students — past and present — thank you for allowing me to be part of your lives. You have meant the world to me. Teaching you has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. You have inspired me, challenged me, made me laugh, and reminded me constantly why I chose this path all those years ago. The

classroom was never just a room — it was a space of connection, growth, discovery, and shared humanity. Each of you has left a mark on me, and I carry those memories forward with great affection.

To the wider Cabra community — parents, families, and all who support the life of the school — thank you for entrusting your young people to us and for partnering with us in shaping their future. Your support has made a profound difference and has helped create the vibrant, compassionate, and dynamic community for which Cabra is known.

People often ask what kept me in teaching for almost 50 years. The answer has always been simple:

It has been a privilege to influence and impact the lives of young people. To witness their growth, to be a small part of their journey, to celebrate their successes, and to support them through their challenges — there is no greater honour.

As I close this chapter, and head into retirement, I do so with a heart full of gratitude. I leave with countless cherished memories, deep friendships, and the quiet joy of having given the best of myself to a community that gave so much back in return.

Thank you, Cabra — for everything.

With heartfelt thanks and warmest wishes,

Jennifer Cross



▼ Parent and Community Committee (PCC)

The Parent and Community Committee were on campus on the Saturday morning of our "Intercol" competition with Nazareth College, cooking up a sausage sizzle and selling cold drinks, which were both very well-received, and added to the festive atmosphere.

PCC members and past scholars Kirsty Shum (Smith) '87 and Rosanna Carnevale Cantone '02 (not pictured) were among the group of helpers.



Alumni News

▼ Massimo Caruso '18

Cabra's police presence

At our recent Careers Expo, we were delighted to welcome Massimo Caruso '18 and Brooklyn Cotton '19 to represent South Australia Police. (Pictured below right)

Here, Massimo provides some further information about his career journey.

"It's been a little while since I graduated in 2018 but I hold fond memories of my schooling at Cabra and have maintained many relationships formed there. As a kid I loved school, being with my mates in the classroom and sports fields was something I definitely took for granted. I was college vice captain and had always been drawn to

being a leader, coaching the senior football and cricket teams in the years after my own grad.

My pathway to policing was slightly unique, I didn't know anyone in the job as such and didn't know it was for me straight after school. I worked part time as a labourer and studied law and psychology at university. After deciding I wanted a career faster than what my university degrees could offer I applied for SAPOL and have been a cop for close to two years now.

I'm currently stationed in Whyalla, choosing the country lifestyle as a change of pace and scenery. Although early in my career I have already been blessed with some amazing opportunities and definitely seen my fair share of action in a wonderful regional community.

For anyone coming to the end of their schooling and wondering what their next steps will be, I would strongly recommend giving a career in SAPOL some thought. From the very beginning it is like having a second family, and then responsibility to serve and protect your community is an amazing privilege. Some things recruiters look for is a can do attitude, willingness to both lead and listen, and the ability to be a good communicator.

For any students currently working part time or wondering what to do in the next months as you leave school, jobs where you communicate with different people and can work on conversation skills would be my tip for a green tick on your SAPOL application."

1: Massimo at his graduation ceremony, with the SA Police Commissioner.



▼ Cooking for a Cause with Sister Duo

Year 9 students Mikaela, India, and Aiden from the Green team, along with two staff members, had the incredible opportunity to participate in Cooking for a Cause Kids—a unique team-building initiative hosted at the OzHarvest warehouse in Hindmarsh.

This hands-on experience saw our Cabra representatives join forces with four other schools to transform rescued ingredients into gourmet meals for vulnerable communities. Together, they peeled, chopped, baked, boiled, and cooked an impressive 80 chicken curries, 73 creamy pasta bakes, and 36 muffins. These meals

will be distributed for free through the OzHarvest Market, which opens three times a week to support those in need.

A special highlight of the day was discovering that the workshop was led by Cabra alumni and sisters Genevieve Harris, '77 and Marianne Harris, '69. Their passion for zero-waste cooking and community service was truly inspiring. We also learned that their mother and two other sisters, Margie and Rachael, are also Cabra past scholars!

If you're looking for a meaningful team-building activity or a way to volunteer your time, we encourage you to visit the OzHarvest website and explore how you can get involved
<https://www.ozharvest.org/>



Genevieve pictured second from the left and Marianne third from the right..

David Green '20

"I graduated in 2020 with an incredible cohort, teachers and support. I studied Chemistry, Maths, English and WPP in high school but didn't achieve the SACE result I was aiming for, despite putting in a lot of effort. I went on to study Atmospheric Science at university, but after six months I realised it wasn't the right fit for me. I deferred after a year and decided to start my own business, where I built a client base and gained valuable hands-on experience.

That experience led me into a full-time role in e-commerce, where I spent four years refining my skills in graphic design, email marketing, strategy, and video production - while also continuing to grow my personal brand (outside fulltime hours), Green Creative Aero on social media. Although I had been building my brand for six years, I decided to take it more seriously over the past 12 months, doing a combined 70-80hour weeks with my fulltime job and my business.

In October last year, I made the decision to resign from my full-time e-commerce role and give my business a proper shot, fully aware that I could burn through my capital within six months or establish a profitable, sustainable service-based business. Fortunately, I exceeded my own expectations, securing clients such as Canon Australia, Virgin Australia, Malaysia Airlines, and Qatar Airways. My strategy was to leverage these partnerships with major brands to build my reputation, with the long-term goal of either growing Green Creative Aero full time or working directly with an airline - Qantas being at the top of my list along with Emirates and Qatar Airways.

Six months after leaving e-commerce and going all-in on my business, I was approached by Qantas in March with an opportunity to join their team. I was thrilled to land my dream role as Social Media &

Content Manager at Qantas. Now I'm lucky enough to travel the world, film and produce content for a living. I've since packed up my life and relocated to Sydney to work at Qantas HQ in Mascot. With only three roles like this across the three major airlines in Australia I felt honoured to be asked by such a reputable Aussie brand to work for them.

It's been an incredible journey, filled with lessons and experiences that continue to shape me. If there's one thing I've learned, it's that if you have a passion and you truly know it's what you want, you should go after it. Everything else will fall into place. As long as you wake up every day fulfilled and happy, that's what really matters. There's never one way of doing something, there's multiple avenues, go to events, conferences, shows, connect on LinkedIn. Networking is so powerful and if you meet the right person or people it can change your life."



Paul Bourke

Sr Patricia Brady recently met with Paul Bourke, who attended Cabra as a Grade 1 student in 1973. Paul's mother Helen Bourke taught at Cabra, alongside Sr Pat, from around 1972 until the early 1980s.

Paul's father, also Paul Bourke, was instrumental in establishing the first School Council at Cabra in the late 1970s, alongside Des McKinnon, and others.

"They wanted to help the nuns" explains Sr Pat.

The council members brought expertise in various fields such as finance and management and created the council in order to assist the Dominican Sisters in running the school.



Alumni News

▼ Octogenarians

"Many Cabra Old Scholars are turning 80 in 2025. In May, a group of Octogenarian friends came together in Melbourne to celebrate our significant milestone.

Our friendships all began at Cabra, some at early primary school in the 1950's, others later in secondary school.

We have always remained friends whilst following different careers, raising families, experiencing life, achieving goals, and enjoying celebrations.

Our Cabra bond and Dominican Ethos has always remained strong. Gatherings may have years between them, however, time and distance disappear the instant

we meet as unforgettable stories and memories are shared

Cabra continues to play a part in our lives, our life long friendships are very special, treasured, and testament to Veritas."

Kerin Barker (Sheehy)



1: The "Octogenarians" group in Melbourne - Helen McEntee (Merrigan), Monica Walsh, Margaret Foley (Browne), Robin Rivett (Hogan), Kerin Barker (Sheehy), Carol Whelan (Glen), Maureen Farrell (Hunter), Carmel Murphy, Marilyn McGregor Davis (Dunn).

2: Meet-ups began soon after school days ended.

3-5: School Days in the early 1960s.

▼ Olivia De Zilva

"I attended in 2014. During that time, I really enjoyed English and Creative Writing.

In my Year 12 capsule, I said my dream would be to write a book.

Since then, I have been working steadily in my writing career, and acknowledged by many prestigious literary awards in Australia.

I have been published in several publications around Australia and internationally,

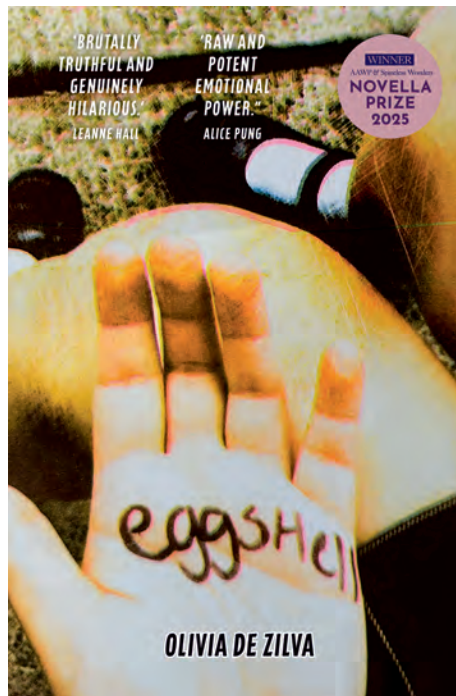
including The Guardian, The Saturday Paper, Kill Your Darlings, SBS and The ABC.

In 2025, I published my debut novel, Plastic Budgie, an autofiction novel which has been called a 'literary force' - it was published by Pink Shorts Press.

In 2025, I also published my debut young-adult novel, Eggshell, a fictionalised version of growing up in Adelaide - it has been acclaimed by several authors including Alice Pung and Erin Gough.

I graduated from the University of Queensland in 2024, with a Master of Philosophy specialising in Creative Writing, and have a First Class Honours Degree in Philosophy from the University of Adelaide.

I am currently promoting both books around Adelaide, and have an international stop in Hong Kong."



▼ Panther Premiers again

Congratulations to Emily Brockhurst '19 and Sam Pratt '17 on winning their third SANFLW premiership with the South

Adelaide Football Club. Both Sam and Emily have been a part of the Grand Final wins in 2019, 2024 and 2025.



Alumni News

Alumni Community Morning

On Thursday 22 May we had the joy of welcoming back nearly 100 past scholars who graduated from Cabra more than 50 years ago.

Their visit began in our beautiful, historic Chapel, where current students led a moving liturgy and joined in singing the beloved Hymn to St Dominic — a nostalgic favourite that echoed through the years.

Morning tea in the Atrium sparked stories, laughter, and long overdue catch ups, with many taking a tour around our ever-evolving campus.

This occasion brought to life what we often say that relationships are the foundation of our community, creating a sense of belonging that lasts a lifetime.



Generations of Alumni

We recently received a donation to our historical archives of a very well-kept blazer from Marie Meaney (nee Fetherstonhaugh), who started as a boarder at Cabra in 1949 as an "Intermediate." Included with the blazer was this beautiful studio photo of Marie in her Cabra uniform. Marie's mother,

Molly Fetherstonhaugh (nee Noonan) was also a Cabra boarder in the early 1920s. Marie and her husband Des Meaney lived at Appila in the mid-north, and all four of their daughters; Jane, Chris, Angela and Michelle, boarded at Cabra in the 1970s and 1980s. Marie and her daughters are pictured below at recent celebrations for her 90th birthday.



Reunion Tour for the Class of 2005 and Class of 2015



"On 23 August, the Cabra Dominican College Classes of 2005 and 2015 reunited out the front of the convent building for the first time in 10-20 years for our respective reunions. It was a fantastic day and an amazing opportunity to reconnect and see all the amazing new developments and just how much has changed since we last were here - the new Caleruega Hall,

Therese Sweeney Music Centre and Fra Angelico Art Centre were among some of the highlights and there were many (admittedly jealous) "imagine if we had this!" conversations. The day ended with some light refreshments in the Atrium, filled with copies of the Veritas from years gone by and pictures that brought back a variety of memories and emotions. Overall, it was

such a beautiful day and everyone was so appreciative of the time and effort put in to making it happen. Thanks so much to Jarrad and Helen for running the school tour, and to Anna and Yvette for all your work in coordinating and organising the day."

Ebony Heitmann '15
Current Cabra teacher



Upcoming Events

8/11/25

2025 Reunion Tour

Saturday 8 November 2025, 4:00 – 6:00pm

Class of 1975, 1985 and 1995

Meet out the front of the Convent building for a tour of our facilities followed by time to catch up over a drink and nibbles. We encourage each group to make plans for dinner at a local pub or restaurant.

26/3/26

Class of 2025 Back on Campus

Thursday 26 March 2026

Veritas yearbook collection and catch-up for our most recent graduates.



In 2026 we will be celebrating 140 years and we want to see you for our celebrations!

Stay tuned for more information about our exciting events.

Saturday 23 May 2026

Gala Ball

The Wolf Blass Centre, Morphetville

Featuring live band, The Uptown Seeds

3 course meal and a 2-hour drinks package

Get ready for an evening of dining, dancing and fun...

Tickets on sale soon; gather your classmates and friends and make a table!



20/9/26

Community Day

Sunday 20 September 2026

We are making plans for a community day that will begin with a liturgy in the historic Cabra Chapel. Mark the date in your diary and please check back for further details.

From the Archives

In March 1885, Archbishop Reynolds laid the foundation stone for the "Dominican Convent Cabra."





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Cabra Dominican College