

# Strategic Plan

Growing together towards 2030



**CABRA**  
Dominican College



Cabra Dominican College is an educational ministry of Dominican Education Australia

# Acknowledging Country

Cabra Dominican College acknowledges the Kaurna People of the Adelaide Plains as the Traditional Custodians of the land our College sits upon today. We respect and recognise the deep feelings of attachment and the spiritual relationship our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have with the sea, land and water.

# Foreword

A strategic plan is more than a document; it is a shared vision for the future. It reflects who we are as a learning community, what we value, and where we aspire to go together. This plan sets the course for the next chapter in our story - guided by our mission, inspired by our Catholic Dominican heritage, and grounded in our commitment to excellence in education.

Developed through reflection, dialogue, and consultation, the strategic plan expresses our collective hopes and priorities. It places students at the heart of every decision, shapes the growth of teaching and learning, and seeks to strengthen our culture of faith, community, and care.

By articulating clear goals across key domains, this plan provides a framework for purposeful action and enduring impact. It invites every member of our school community, to engage with a shared sense of direction and possibility.

We take this opportunity to thank all staff, students, parents/ caregivers who provided important feedback and insights in surveys and workshops, which in turn, helped shape this plan. Furthermore, the generous work of the Executive Leadership Team, Board of Directors, Sr Bernadette Kiley OP; Leader of the Holy Cross Congregation, Dominican Education Australia and Consultant Rosina Hislop, helped refine and finalise this important work.

Together, we look forward with confidence, gratitude, and hope, trusting that through our ongoing partnership, this vision will come to life in the hearts and minds of all we serve.

Board Chair  
Mary-Ann Royle

Principal  
Helen Riekie

# Vision, Mission and Identity

## Vision

Cabra Dominican College, as a Christian community in the Catholic tradition, strives to nurture and develop the unique gifts of individuals, to liberate them in the search for truth, and to empower them to create a better world.

## Mission and Identity

As a Catholic community, we are inspired by the life of Jesus and endeavour to reflect the spirit of the Gospel in our attitudes, policies and practice. Guided by St Dominic, who was always attentive to the Word of God, our College strives to be a vibrant place of welcome for all people, nurturing the dignity of each one as a unique individual. With an inherent love for the good, the beautiful and the true, Cabra supports our young people to become faith-filled, creative and critical learners as well as discerning and engaged community members.





# Our Golden Threads

Dominican theologian Edward Schillebeeckx (1914-2009) writes about a “golden thread” that runs through the Dominican family story from Dominic down to the present day. As a contemporary expression of the Dominican charism, *Cabra’s Golden Threads* are inspired by, and add to, the bigger Dominican story. They are our guiding principles, nourishing and actively shaping our future strategic innovation and growth. Integral to both our purpose and our practice, each *Golden Thread* is alive in everything we do.

- **Our Story**
- **Consciously Catholic, Mindfully Dominican**
- **Pursue Excellence**

# Our Golden Threads

## • Our Story

Founded in 1886 by Dominican Sisters from Cabra, Ireland, our College is grounded in our Dominican heritage. For more than 140 years, the Dominican Sisters from the Holy Cross Congregation have shaped our College with faith, courage, and vision.

Their story is one of resilience and determination - women who met each new era with hope and purpose. As forward-thinking educators, they nurtured both intellect and spirit, forming generations to seek truth, act with compassion, and bring light to others.

Their legacy continues to inspire a community grounded in faith and alive with possibility. Now as a ministry of Dominican Education Australia, we remain inspired by Jesus Christ, the spirit of St Dominic and our Dominican sisters, committed to faithfully renewing in a changing world, guiding our community toward a vibrant and purposeful future.



## • Consciously Catholic, Mindfully Dominican

*Consciously Catholic, Mindfully Dominican* shapes all that we do, offering a rhythm of life and a way of being. Grounded in the Sacramental life of the Church, we attend to the Word of God and engage our lived experience and contemporary challenges in dialogue with Scripture and tradition. As stewards of the Dominican charism, we are seekers of truth who value reason, freedom, and excellence; who delight in beauty, joy, and wonder; and who commit ourselves to justice as a hallmark of our way of being in the world. Our Catholic Dominican story is embodied, alive, and ever becoming.

## • Pursue Excellence

*Pursue Excellence* is a bold and purposeful commitment to continuous growth and improvement across all areas of the College. Through quality teaching, strong governance, and a culture of high expectations, we strive to embed best practice that enables every individual and group to thrive. The pursuit of excellence defines our future - always driving us to move beyond good towards great.



# Strategic Priorities

Our five Strategic Priorities guide us to nurture each student to grow and challenge them to seek excellence. Through the deliberate pursuit of these Priorities, we ultimately shape confident, capable, and compassionate graduates who embody the highest aspirations of our College community.

- 1. Cultivate community and sense of belonging**
- 2. Deliver a holistic and enriching education**
- 3. Attract, retain and develop outstanding staff**
- 4. Enhance our learning environment**
- 5. Promote sustainability and stewardship**

# 1. Cultivate community and sense of belonging

We envision a community where every person feels known and respected, where connections are created that can last a lifetime, and where we act with hope, purpose and generosity in service to others. A welcoming and relational community, we seek to create an ecosystem of human connection.

## What we will do:

- 1.1 *Actively* contribute to the Dominican story through deepening our knowledge, understanding and lived expression of our Catholic identity, Dominican tradition and 140+ years of history.
- 1.2 *Uphold* high standards for learning, conduct and service to enable students and staff to be their best.
- 1.3 *Refine* structures, programs, systems, workflows and approaches to optimise quality connections and outcomes for all stakeholders within community.
- 1.4 *Sustain* a culture of child safety that is lived, seen and embedded.
- 1.5 *Develop* an engagement strategy for students and families across their years at Cabra and beyond.
- 1.6 *Develop* our alumni program for greater continued connection after graduation.



## 2. Deliver a holistic and enriching education

We strive to nurture minds, hearts and spirits through an enriching education - empowering each student to think deeply, embrace change, and flourish intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, and physically, prepared for life's challenges in an ever-changing world. We seek to empower students to act as compassionate global citizens who take responsibility for the planet and lead positive change.

### What we will do:

- 2.1 *Strengthen* our positive, respectful school culture with restorative practices and a strong sense of justice.
- 2.2 *Nurture* critical and creative thinkers.
- 2.3 *Equip* our community to thrive in a technology-rich and AI world.
- 2.4 *Develop* student extension pathways and foster strong and collaborative future pathways partnerships between the College and community.
- 2.5 *Enrich* learning with a strong co-curricular program that develops advocacy, leadership, collaboration and independence.
- 2.6 *Encourage* community awareness of our responsibility to care for our planet home.



### 3. Attract, retain and develop **outstanding staff**

We aspire to be a 'school of choice' where our community of high-performing staff feel connected and supported, and who embrace a philosophy of lifelong learning and commitment to personal excellence within and for the College community.

#### **What we will do:**

- 3.1 *Nurture* a high-performing staff culture who share best practice through structured collaboration and learning and co-develop strategies that address challenges and optimise outcomes.
- 3.2 *Equip* staff with the tools, training, and support (including technology and AI) to optimise their impact.
- 3.3 *Develop* middle leadership mentorship structure to build capacity.
- 3.4 *Deliver* explicit staff training so teaching and classroom management is consistent, and standards are high across all year levels.
- 3.5 *Continue* to support staff to achieve and share expertise of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher (HALT) certification.



Attract, retain and develop outstanding staff



## 4. Enhance our learning environment

We cultivate a contemporary, resource-rich and well-equipped learning environment that supports strong connections, inspires wonder and awe, fosters collaboration and reflection, and empowers students to imagine, create, and engage in high-quality learning grounded in care and innovation.

### What we will do:

- 4.1 *Review* the College Master Plan to ensure it provides an inspiring and future-focused learning environment.
- 4.2 *Optimise* our facilities to enhance learner engagement and experience.
- 4.3 *Provide and enhance* contemporary buildings, infrastructure and grounds to foster welcoming and nourishing gathering places.

Enhance our learning environment





Promote sustainability and stewardship

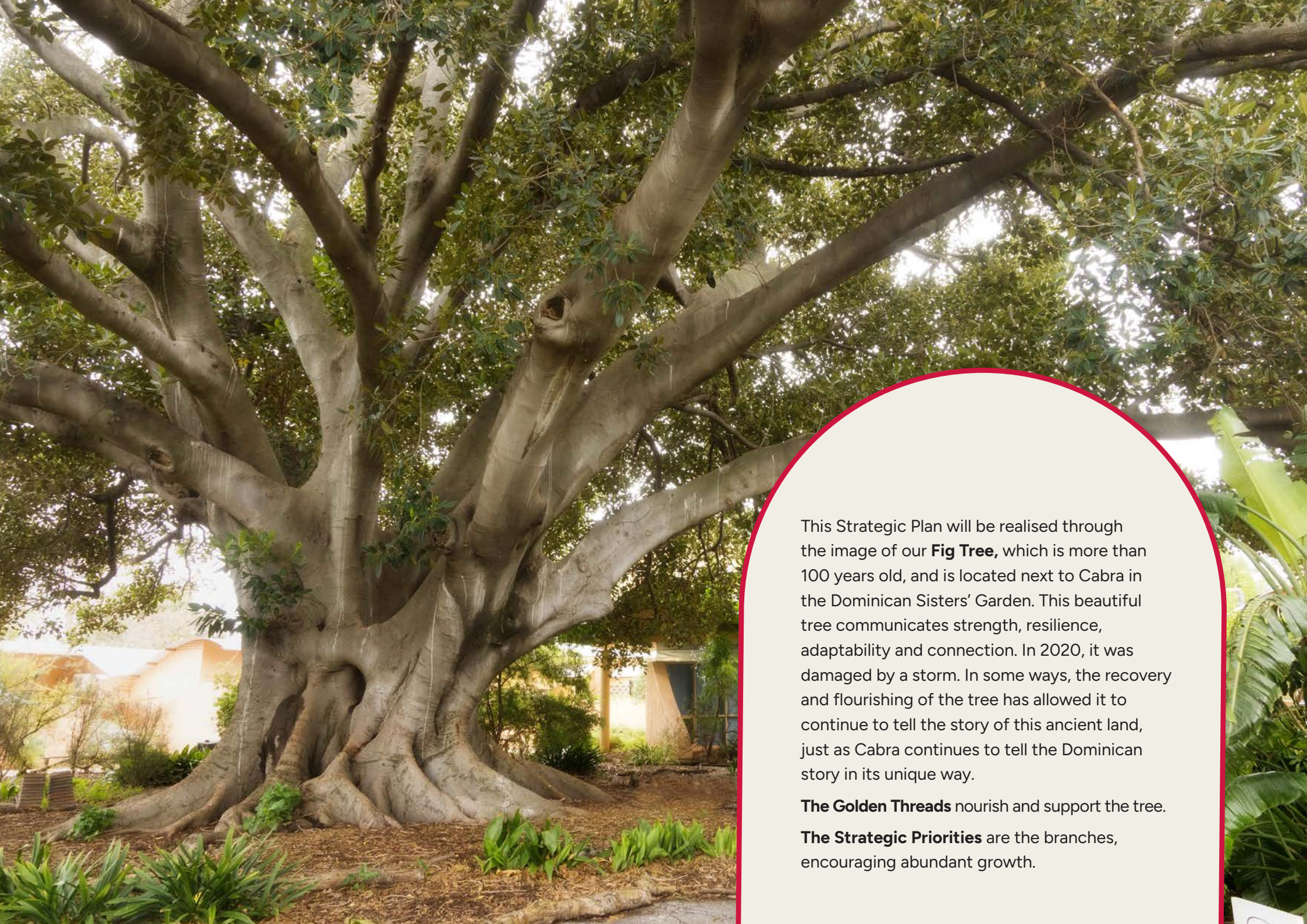
## 5. Promote sustainability and stewardship

We will strengthen our College's long-term vitality through sound governance, principled leadership, and sustainable stewardship.

### What we will do:

- 5.1 *Optimise and sustain* enrolment.
- 5.2 *Embed* our sustainability work-plan for energy, water, and waste.
- 5.3 *Develop* a roadmap for the care of additional land from the Dominican Sisters.
- 5.4 *Maintain* disciplined, long-term financial stewardship aligned to the College's vision and operational capacity.





This Strategic Plan will be realised through the image of our **Fig Tree**, which is more than 100 years old, and is located next to Cabra in the Dominican Sisters' Garden. This beautiful tree communicates strength, resilience, adaptability and connection. In 2020, it was damaged by a storm. In some ways, the recovery and flourishing of the tree has allowed it to continue to tell the story of this ancient land, just as Cabra continues to tell the Dominican story in its unique way.

**The Golden Threads** nourish and support the tree.

**The Strategic Priorities** are the branches, encouraging abundant growth.

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# CABRA

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