

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

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Cover image: Students and Dominican Sisters sing together our school song, The Good, The Beautiful and the True, at the Welcoming Eucharist in February.

Inside back cover image: Cabra Boarders, 1886

From the Principal

Join us in making history

What a privilege it is to be at Cabra during this 140th anniversary year. We have celebrated at the 140 Years Gala Ball, making some wonderful memories! As part of the History Wall committee, along with Sr Bernadette Kiley, Deborah Lubatti and Anna Garcia, I have at times been immersed in the past and Cabra's stories. One step out the convent door and I am looking towards the future, with the stunning Aquinas Precinct taking shape and moving closer to completion every day.

As we plan for more celebrations at the Veritas Community Day in September, I remind you about the *Together we write the story* campaign, raising funds for a Cabra History Wall and a stunning hand-crafted stone statue of St Dominic.

Each of you have a place in this story, and I hope many of you will take the opportunity to have your name on the honour board that will be near the statue of St Dominic, our iconic front gates, and the entry to the new Aquinas. This will be a visible and present reminder of you, or someone you would like remembered, for generations to come.

Some donors have given as a memorial to a parent who has passed, and some have given for a child who will graduate.

Many have given so that their children can see their name as they pass by during the school day. Some groups of past scholars are gathering together so that their year level will be named. Some have told me they have given because the statue will be beautiful, and they want to encourage this beautiful work of art on our campus.

Our community is at a significant moment in our history right now, as the story of the Holy Cross Dominican Sisters comes to a close. We pay tribute to them by working to ensure that our Dominican tradition and the story of Cabra, are carried on. I encourage you to give and to join us in making history.

Dr Helen Riekie | Principal

1: History Wall committee members working on the project.

L-R: Anna Garcia, Marketing and Communications Manager; Helen Riekie, Principal (seated); Deborah Lubatti '87, past scholar and Acting Director of Mission and Identity; Sr Bernadette Kiley OP, '68, past scholar and Leader of the Holy Cross Congregation.



The Beauty of Cabra

"Cabra Dominican College is a very special place where every student is valued and is encouraged to grow into their own individual person. To me, this truly aligns with the design of our Chapel windows by Kim En Joong. The windows, like the students, are unique and different. What I think is particularly beautiful about the windows is that each time the window is admired, something else appeals to me and each time someone else looks at the windows, their perspective is different from my perspective and will be different to the next person's perspective. This is Cabra. We are all part of the community but equally, we are all different, bringing different beliefs and perspectives which strengthen our community. I am so grateful to be part of such a beautiful, inclusive and diverse community and it is incredible that we have artwork in our school to reflect this."

Olivia Abbott, 12N, 2026 Mission Captain

Honouring the Golden Thread that connects our community

At the beginning of the year we celebrated our Welcoming Eucharist, with students, families, staff and our Dominican Sisters.

Oscar Tavella and Tayah Borysiuk, our College Vice Captains, greeted the school community with these opening words:

"This mass might be a ritual some of you are really familiar with; for some others this might be unfamiliar territory, or maybe you are somewhere in between. Wherever you

sit, we encourage and ask you to enter this celebration with an open mind and an open heart.

The fact that some of us here today might not be Catholic does not lessen the opportunity for participation and connection. There is something in mass for everyone, no matter your beliefs.

For you, it might be a better understanding of our 2026 school *Together we continue*

our story. Maybe it is time to take a breath and be still, or simply a chance to gather and be a part of something bigger than ourselves.

Together we welcome the 2026 school year as we, as a community, continue our 140-year old story that is Cabra Dominican College."



This year, our liturgical theme is 'Together we continue our story', celebrating 140 years of Cabra.

The theologian Edward Schillebeeckx, O.P., uses the imagery of a golden thread to describe how the story of the Dominican community runs from its founder St. Dominic de Guzmán through to each one of us today.

We have used a simple, iconic image of the College, a Celtic cross from the top of the Chapel, and transformed it into a working tapestry. The artwork is intentionally shown as a work in progress, symbolising that Cabra's story is ongoing and still being woven.

The Golden Thread is shown weaving itself through the image, showing how it goes through all we do at the College, binding our history, identity, and future together.

Together, we continue to write the story, each of us adding to the shared tapestry.

It expresses the idea of continuity, of each person, each institution, each generation being a "thread" woven into a larger tapestry of mission, charism, identity.

It also emphasises that this thread isn't just static heritage — it is dynamic: it connects the foundational inspiration with contemporary expression, evolving with each generation but holding to core values (truth, community, service) that mark the Dominican tradition.

"...let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." 1 John 3:18

With this extract from John's epistle, we seek to inspire our community, particularly our young people, to act with love in God's name.



Together, we write the story.



140
— YEARS OF —
*True Possibility**

This year we are celebrating 140 years since 1886, when the Holy Cross Dominican Sisters established Cabra Dominican College. Later in the year, we look forward to the completion of two exciting projects designed for future generations, with our storied past front of mind.

We are delighted to show on the page opposite, some sneak previews of the two projects.

The History Wall will be in the foyer of the new Aquinas, which is currently nearing completion. This one panel of the History Wall (there are seven in total) gives a glimpse into Cabra's past, through images, quotes and milestones, to a time when this was a small all-girls boarding college, surrounded by farmland.

Also pictured is a first look at our St Dominic statue, still in the workshop of sculptor Linda Klarfeld. Rendered in black and white granite, this artwork will make a stunning, transformative addition to the area near our iconic front gates.

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.

Everyone who makes a donation will be recognised in *The Good, the Beautiful and the True*, our community 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.

Donors of \$5000 or more will be recognised as Golden Thread Patrons.

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:
cabra.catholic.edu.au/news/140-years/

Or use the QR code.





Golden Thread patrons

Anne Hatherly
Kennett Builders
Programmed
Tanya Sharkey

Thank you to all those who have donated:

(Listed alphabetically)

David Aldridge
Bernard Family
Scott Burgess
Catherine Burt
Cawley Family
Chris Sale Consulting
Class of 1973
Adrienne Copley (Hancock)
Janne Coughlin (McKinnon)
Geraldine Davis
Helen Degenhardt
Nikki Dyson
Anne Eckert
Bernadette Egan
Fiona Errington
Duncan & Lee-Anne Fosdike
Annette Fyfe
Anna Garcia
Beth Hammond
Rachel Hansford
Anne Hatherly
Mary-Lyn Haymes
Amanda Heyworth
Holdcroft Sisters
Catherine Horgan

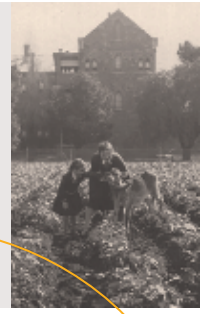


Old Scholars funded a new kitchen for 'Domestic Science'.

"The lovely sunshine enticed many out to make a tour of orchards, farmyards and all the places generally considered out of bounds. Much excitement was caused by the new calf which unfortunately was brown, otherwise it would have been christened on the spot and received a Dominican name."

—
Pat Beaman, Kath Beaman, St Dominic's Day 1938

1938

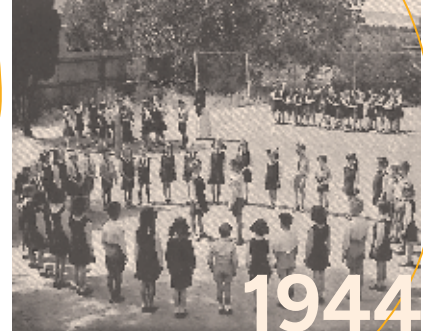


1925
1927



Students participating in a 'wand drill' outside St Brigid's in 1928. This was a popular form of physical education at the time.

St Brigid's Wing of the convent completed, using funds donated by past scholar Bridget Culleney.



1944

Cabra Kindergarten opened. Cabra had a primary school for boys and girls until the late 1970s, and primary boarders until 1958.

1918–1949 Milestones

1918 First Veritas yearbook produced to celebrate fifty years of the Holy Cross Dominican Sisters in South Australia.

1939 New Science Laboratory opened. First Debutante Ball.



"Most of the girls learn some kind of music—piano, violin, singing, and are for ever running for a theory or perception lesson. From early morning until five o'clock at night, girls are to be seen practising!"

—
Mel Green, 1945

Helen Kay
Olivia Kay (Krešević)
Kennett Builders
Denise Kenny
Cate Lightfoot
Lubatti and von der Borch Family
Veronica McCaffrey
Jude Murphy
Susan Myatt
John and Tina Neate
Ben Newbold
Elizabeth Newbold-Carey
Ann Marie O'Callaghan
Maureen O'Connell
Sanjeevani Peiris
Susan Podger
Helen Riekie
Dianne Riley

Mary-Ann Royle
Ursula Rozanska
Chris, Anne, Ben and Elysia Ryan
Tanya Sharkey
Allan and Rebecca Smailes
Gregory Smitheram
Noreen Spencer
Peggy Spurling
Margaret Starrs
Russell and Yelland Architects
Helena Tran
Nathan Tran
OBH Print
Danielle Trewartha
Eleonora Elizabeth Truskewycz
Gerri Viant
Pauline Victory
Programmed

Strategic Plan

Growing together towards 2030



CABRA
Dominican College



Cabra Dominican College is an educational ministry of Dominican Education Australia

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.

Our **Golden Threads** 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.

They are:

Our Story

Consciously Catholic, Mindfully Dominican

Pursue Excellence

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.

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

I encourage you to visit our website to read the full Strategic Plan.
cabra.catholic.edu.au/discover/governance/

Dr Helen Riekie, Principal

Aquinas Rising

Aquinas Precinct Project Update

Over the past year since demolition began, there has been significant progress of the Aquinas Precinct Project, visible not only on campus but also from Cross Road. The auditorium, science and general classrooms are now starting to take shape. The builder is making progress with the internal works, including electrical, mechanical and plumbing installations, along with internal wall and ceiling framing throughout the building. The roof is in place, and the external windows, doors and joinery. After significant research, the college has the furniture to be placed in the classrooms and associated spaces.

The "precinct" aspect of the Aquinas Precinct Project will commence towards the latter part of the construction process, and will include landscaping, the main front driveway and carparks. Once the project is completed, moving into such a large building will be a complex task that will require time and careful planning. We expect to start using Aquinas during the latter part of 2026, moving in during late Term 3 in preparation for Term 4. We appreciate everyone's support and look forward to welcoming our community to this exciting and outstanding new precinct.

Karl Barber, Business Director



Seeking Excellence



The article below is adapted from the speech given at the Academic Excellence Assembly, celebrating the achievements of 2025, by Mrs Sally Ivens, Deputy Principal: Learning and Teaching.

The word 'Dux' originates as a Latin word and is a modern title given to a student with the highest-ranking achievement in each graduating year. The runner-up is often called the Proxime Accessit, translating to, "he or she who came next".

It is my pleasure to present the two highest awards from our Class of 2025; the Proxime Accessit, awarded to Leo French, and the Dr Helen Northey Award for Dux of the College, awarded to Amelie Wescombe.

The Class of 2025 generated the best academic results at Cabra in the last decade. Such success in a cohort of over 180 students is an outstanding achievement that is rare and should be celebrated!

We can draw some clear parallels between our two award recipients this year, and the 2026 Young Australian of the Year Award winner, Nedd Brockmann, who

was recognised for his advocacy for the homeless and disadvantaged in our community. He had moved from rural NSW to Sydney, and was confronted by the number of people sleeping rough on Sydney streets. In 2022 Brockmann ran from Cottesloe Beach, in Perth, to Bondi-over 4000km. It was his goal to complete this distance in 43 days which would be new record. His incentive was, to raise \$1m for homelessness.

In this challenge, Brockmann planned to run 100km each day. He experienced crippling injuries, exhaustion and terrible weather. He made the distance, but it took him 46 days – he fell 3 days short of the record. The week prior to finishing, Brockmann knew that he wasn't going to break the 43-day record, but he didn't quit despite excruciating pain and mental anguish, because he could see the momentum his fundraising campaign was generating. He eclipsed his \$1m target, raising \$2.5m. Brockmann also established 'Nedd's Uncomfortable Challenge' – a throwdown to each of us to commit to a challenge that makes us uncomfortable and say yes to it,

every day, for 10 days straight. No ifs or buts or maybes.

In a similar fashion, our award winners today, have challenged themselves in being uncomfortable. Leo actually moved to Cabra for Year 12, when the opportunity was presented to him. It's a big year for everything to be new; new friends, new teachers, new culture, new community. But he said yes to the challenge and the pursuit of excellence in all he did. And for Amelie, she said yes too. Yes to the lead role in the College production, yes to playing College Sport, yes to Student Leadership and yes to Academic Excellence.

Amelie and Leo model the benefit of saying yes to opportunities and challenges. One small change, but one conscious "Yes", until that change became a habit. Brockmann says, "people want instant success, but what they don't see is the two years before, I was up at 4am every day preparing for it, pushing myself to where I want to be. Its scary, very scary, but I just want everyone to have a crack, to start somewhere".



Like Nedd Brockmann, Amelie and Leo have been intrinsically motivated to do and be their best. They have made sacrifices, and it didn't just happen in 2025. They became comfortable in making themselves uncomfortable. They said yes to challenge, yes to change, yes to something new and yes to, in Brockmann's words, having a crack.

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

**The Class of 2025
generated the best
academic results
at Cabra in the
last decade.**

1: The high achievers from the Class of 2025 gathered on the oval.

2: Mrs Sally Ivens, Deputy Principal: Learning and Teaching

3: Proxime Accessit, Leo, speaks at the assembly

4: Dux Amelie Wescombe and her parents, at the community morning tea.

5: The Year 11s who achieved academic excellence in 2025



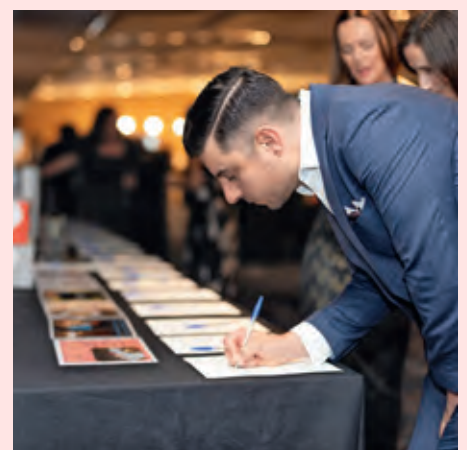
Cabra 140 years Gala Ball

On a beautiful May evening, more than 240 members of the Cabra community gathered at the Wolf Blass Centre at Morphettville for a night of dining, dancing and fun. Guests enjoyed delicious food, views of the city and the 360 degree video booth, but mostly it was a time for connection.

In scenes not seen since the last Gala Ball in 2011, current and past staff, parents and past scholars from across the years gathered on the dance floor and rocked out to the funky sounds of the Uptown Seeds. Principal, Helen Riekie and Board Chair, Mary-Ann Royle reflected on the 140 years milestone and spoke of the privilege of being a part of the Cabra community. Hosts Sally Scott and Sally Ivens brought a lot of laughs in their costumes of Cabra uniforms through the ages.

The silent auction proved a huge success and we thank again all our donors for their support of our *Together we write the story* fundraising campaign.

- Australian Veteran Health Services
- Fugazzi Bar and Dining Room
- Omada Bar and Grill
- Addlon Trading Co
- Timms Tunes
- YLP Legal
- Warwick Fabrics
- Noone Apparel
- Stamps Restaurant
- Workspace Commercial Furniture
- Deed and Divide Conveyancing
- Westbourne Park Auto Repairs
- Brooks
- Toms Australia
- Cibo
- Vino Selvatico
- The Cawley Family





Sports Day





Monday Memories

One of the ways in which we have celebrated 140 years of Cabra is through "Monday Memories," a weekly social media post that looks back through images, giving our community a chance to reminisce and remember!

Sports Day over the years



Formals – various years from 1991 to 2020





Confidence, Character, Connection

A rich and varied co-curricular program

At Cabra, learning extends well beyond the classroom. Our rich and varied co-curricular program offers students opportunities to grow in confidence, character, and connection, ensuring a truly holistic educational experience.

Our Year 7 students recently embarked on their first camp experience - an important milestone in their transition to secondary school. From the simple challenge of packing a bag to navigating shared meals, forming new friendships, and stepping outside their comfort zones, the camp provided countless opportunities for growth. In a safe and supportive environment, students took risks, built resilience, and began to discover more about themselves and one another. It was, by all accounts, a joyful and formative experience.

At the other end of the school journey, our Year 12 students participated in their annual retreat, a long-standing and deeply valued tradition. Each year, graduates reflect on this experience as one of the most meaningful aspects of their time at the school. The retreat offers a rare and important pause - a chance to step back from the demands of daily life, reflect on life's bigger questions, and deepen relationships with peers. It is a time marked by insight, gratitude, and connection.

Our student leaders in Years 11 and 12 also gathered for their annual leadership camp this term, focusing on the development of key leadership skills including communication, teamwork, and service. Through shared experiences and challenges, they strengthened their capacity to lead with authenticity and generosity. This group of young people brings great hope to our community, and we look forward to the positive impact of their leadership throughout 2026.

Beyond these experiences, our co-curricular offerings extend into the arts, with students participating in events such as Generations in Jazz. Each year, a couple of key ensembles travel to perform alongside and learn from some of the finest young musicians in the country. These opportunities not only showcase talent but also immerse students in a vibrant community of creativity and excellence.

Whether through camps, retreats, leadership formation, or musical pursuits, these experiences play a vital role in shaping our students. They nurture resilience, deepen relationships, and foster a strong sense of belonging. Most importantly, they help our young people grow into thoughtful, connected individuals who understand both themselves and their place within the wider community.

Dr Helen Riekie, Principal



Bella's Inspiring Design



We celebrate the creation of this Reconciliation Round uniform with joy and pride. It was inspired by elements of both our 2025 and 2026 Reconciliation Action Plans and by the energy of our Reconciliation Action Plan Team, comprising students, staff, and wonderfully inspiring parents, including Ms Pamela Edwards.

In Term 4 of 2025, the Year 9 Reflection Day took place, with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spirituality and culture. One of the sessions was facilitated by David Booth of Imbala Workshops, who led an interactive workshop in which students learned about Aboriginal culture, art, and the traditional symbols used in painting.

"This painting resembles the community seen at Cabra Dominican College. The large meeting place symbolises the school, while the 4 people represent the Houses. In between each of the 'Houses', are white lines to show each one is different. The small circles in each section show the different communities, staff, year levels and people in each House. Because they are all connected into the middle, this shows how Cabra students, staff and Houses may be different, but are all connected to form the Cabra Dominican College community." **Bella Nielson, 9B**





Although it was not her year level, the Identity and Mission Team invited Bella Nielson, a proud Warumungu woman, to participate, knowing how passionate she was about the topic. Bella attended alongside several of her friends, and we are grateful to Dave and his team for supporting these students.

A few days later, we caught up with Bella, who shared her beautiful artwork along with the inspiring words she had written to explain her piece. It was at that moment we knew this artwork was truly special. It embraces our community, reflects our deep connection to Kaurna land, and tells a beautiful story filled with spirit and truth.

We also acknowledge the unconditional support of Bella's parents, Colin and Elizabeth; Yvette Lagozzino from our Marketing and Communications Team; Mr Joel Morizzi, Leader of Co-curricular Sport; and ISC Sportswear, whose support helped bring these uniforms to life.

We are deeply grateful to Bella and incredibly proud of the commitment and creativity she has gifted our community through these Reconciliation Round sporting uniforms.

Deborah Lubatti, Acting Director of Mission and Identity

Generations in Jazz



Each year, the Generations in Jazz weekend transforms Mount Gambier into a vibrant celebration of music, mentorship and youthful talent. For school students, the event is an opportunity to immerse themselves in a nationally recognised jazz festival alongside like-minded peers from across Australia.

This year, 21 Cabra students travelled to Mount Gambier from May 1 – 3 for a weekend filled with collaboration, live music and some changeable weather. Upon arrival in Mount Gambier, students visited the Blue Lake, then undertook a short rehearsal prior to the opening concert. We were treated to an evening of Big Band music by the Australian Youth Jazz Orchestra with internationally renowned trumpet player and composer Bert Joris.

Saturday saw Soul Train perform in Vocal Ensemble Division 3 Small, and Jazz Combo in the Division 4+ Stage Band sections. Both groups gave confident

performances and came away feeling good about their efforts. Throughout the day students witnessed performances by division 1 bands and choirs, providing an opportunity to reflect on the highest standard of jazz performance in high schools around the country. Even the rain couldn't dampen the excitement for Saturday night's concert, headlined by internationally acclaimed soul band Tower of Power. The atmosphere was truly electric, and something students and staff will remember for a long time.

Before embarking on the journey back to Adelaide, band members attended a workshop with Tower of Power, who spoke to the many factors that comprise a strong performance as both a collective and as individuals. The experience is a great source of inspiration, topped off with many displays of teamwork and encouragement throughout the trip.

Jackie Wilde, Music Co-Curricular Coordinator

Alumni Stories



Ben Griscti '20

Ben Griscti '20 plays basketball for the Adelaide 36ers. In December, Ben returned to Cabra and Caleruega Hall to be the keynote speaker at the end of year Sport evening. Here is an excerpt from his speech.

"I want to start by saying this is a massive honour and a full circle moment for me to be here tonight. My mum went to this school, and my aunty, my two sisters and my cousins, so this place means a lot to me. It's one of my proudest achievements to be back here speaking.

I played football, basketball and cricket here at Cabra, with plenty of knockout teams and great memories along the way. When my journey started I was not much of a prospect or talent, and I didn't make a state team until I was 16. I want to talk about what changed, and what gave me the motivation to get where I am today. Funnily enough, in this same room, Hugh Greenwood from the Adelaide Football Club stood up and talked about how he went to the AIS as a basketball player, played four years of Division 1 college basketball, then signed with the Adelaide Football Club. Everyone came up to him afterwards to talk about the Crows, but I asked him, "I've been cut from every single team. What do I need to do to play college basketball?" Because that was my dream. He told me about sacrifice,

and from then I put a lot of hours and determination into my work. I committed myself to the course. I learned a lot about this at Cabra and I thank all those teachers who played a part in my journey, Mr Heath, Ms Riley, Mr Jarrad, Joel Morizzi and others. I worked really hard, and eventually had some offers from US colleges. Then Covid took that all away, and I was back to square one.

My Mum decided to email the head basketball coach of every Division 1 college, and we received one answer. A few months later, I signed a scholarship offer from the University of the Incarnate Word in Texas. Due to restrictions my parents couldn't come with me. I was there for two years but I struggled. I eventually transferred to the University of California, Riverside, which led to me being able to sign with the Adelaide 36ers and achieve another of my dreams.

I pride myself on accountability and that I do what I say I am going to do. Sport, your classes, anything, you've got to keep showing up. You've got to be confident in yourself, and most importantly, have fun. It also helps if you grow to be 7 feet tall.

I recently had a tragic event where a backboard fell on my head during training. I was in hospital and the only thing I could think about was my love for sport. For a

brief moment I thought I was not going to play again. Sport is unique; it brings us all together. Whether it's playing for the Adelaide 36ers or playing on Sports Day, it's all about chasing the euphoria of a win, and the people you meet along the way. That feeling of maybe not playing again was a horrible one, and I am very thankful that the tide has turned in my favour and I'm able to play again. I think we need to never forget that the reason we compete is to enjoy each other and have fun.

I want to return the favour tonight, for what Hugh Greenwood did for me, and anyone who is aspiring to go further in sports, please come up and ask me some questions, and tell me about your goals. And even if you don't have a goal, I encourage you to keep playing sport, for the love of the game and for the love of the people around you.

The last thing I want to talk about is, all the kids here, I want you to thank your parents. Without my parents' support I would not be standing up here. Whether it's them supporting me at every game, in Australia or abroad, or your parents taking you wherever your sport may be, they are the ones that love you and support you. So I thank my parents, and thank you all for having me here tonight."



1



2



3

Cate Wrigley (Whelan) '65

When Cate Wrigley (Cathy Whelan) '65 was a student at Cabra, she used to delight in seeing the Old Scholars' Scholarship Honour Board featuring her mother's name, on rare occasions when she was allowed in the convent building.

The board was recently found and re-installed on the top floor of the convent.

At this year's Alumni Community Morning Cate had with the opportunity to see the Honour Board featuring the name of her mother, Imelda Smith.

Here, Cate writes about her mother's remarkable life.

Imelda Smith: A Brilliant Dominican Pupil

My only clear memory of my mother is seeing her in hospital before her death. She died on 15 March 1952, two days after my third birthday.

Imelda Smith was the second of three generations of Dominican students in the family. Her mother, Annie Daly, lived at Thebarton, and in the early 1890s walked across the West Parklands, then cow paddocks, to the Dominican Convent on Franklin Street. Her two daughters, Margaret and Imelda Smith, also attended Franklin Street, and I became the third generation Dominican, attending St. Anthony's and Cabra from 1955 to 1966.

An article in The Southern Cross newspaper of December 1921 describes Imelda as a 'Brilliant Dominican Pupil'.

"In 1920, at the age of 14 years, she passed the Junior University examination in 9 subjects... In the same year she was awarded the Russell Scholarship, which is competed for annually by pupils of the Dominican Convent Schools, and also carried off the Russell prize for Christian doctrine. In November of this year... she won the Old Scholars Association scholarship for 1921."

When I was a student at Cabra I would see her name on the Honour Board for the Old Scholars' Scholarship and I loved this small connection. I am delighted that the board has been retrieved and rehung at Cabra.

Back in the 1920s Franklin Street only went to Year 10, so it was expected that a scholarship winner would go on to Cabra. However, records show that Imelda was never enrolled there. She was a brilliant violinist, and I can only surmise that instead, she went straight to the Conservatorium of Music.

Imelda was well known in both Catholic and in musical circles, and was an accredited violin teacher. When the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1936 she was one of the inaugural violinists. My cousin remembers her as very glamorous, even wearing nail polish!

During the World War II Imelda joined the Red Cross, and in 1943 was appointed Superintendent attached to the Australian Military Forces, serving in Darwin, Colombo and Singapore. She was awarded the military honour MiD (Mentioned in Despatches) for gallant and distinguished service in action. One of her final duties was

to escort home POWs from the Japanese Prison Camps, and it was on this boat that she met my father, John Whelan.

John and Imelda married in 1946, when she was almost 40, and moved to a small soldier settlement farm in Clare, where my brother was born. But the farm didn't pay, so they moved back to Adelaide, where I was born. Early in 1952, Imelda was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, which had metastasized to her lungs. She died 6 weeks later, only 45 years old.

My father did remarry, to a widow with two children; her maiden name was Peggy Baker, and she too was a Dominican, attending Cabra in the 1920s. My step-sister, Mary McEwen, and I were Cabra pupils in the 1960s. Dominican blood is strong in our veins!

Cate Wrigley (Cathy Whelan) '65

1. The Southern Cross story from December 1921
2. Imelda around the time she won the scholarship, with her violin
3. Cate Wrigley (Whelan) '65 with the Honour Board



▼ Phoebe Edwards '25

Phoebe Edwards '25 was recently invited to attend the AMEB SA & NT Awards Ceremony for 2025 Candidates, held on 11 April 2026 in Bonython Hall, at Adelaide University.

As a community we are very proud to announce that Phoebe was presented with the Keyboard Grade 8 Prize; an outstanding accomplishment.

The presentation was made by Dr Emily Dollman (Head, Music Education and Pedagogy, Adelaide University).

▼ Class of 73

On April 15, the Class of 1973 celebrated our combined 70th Birthdays, at a Veritas themed luncheon.

We were delighted to welcome old class mates from the USA, South Africa and New Zealand, as well as those from interstate and all parts of SA. Apologies were received from 15 others. Over a fun few hours, some of the collective 2520 years of life experience was recalled, stories shared, with tears and laughter and all with a sense of gratitude, for the gift of our connection, built all those years ago at Cabra.

Mary-Lyn Haymes



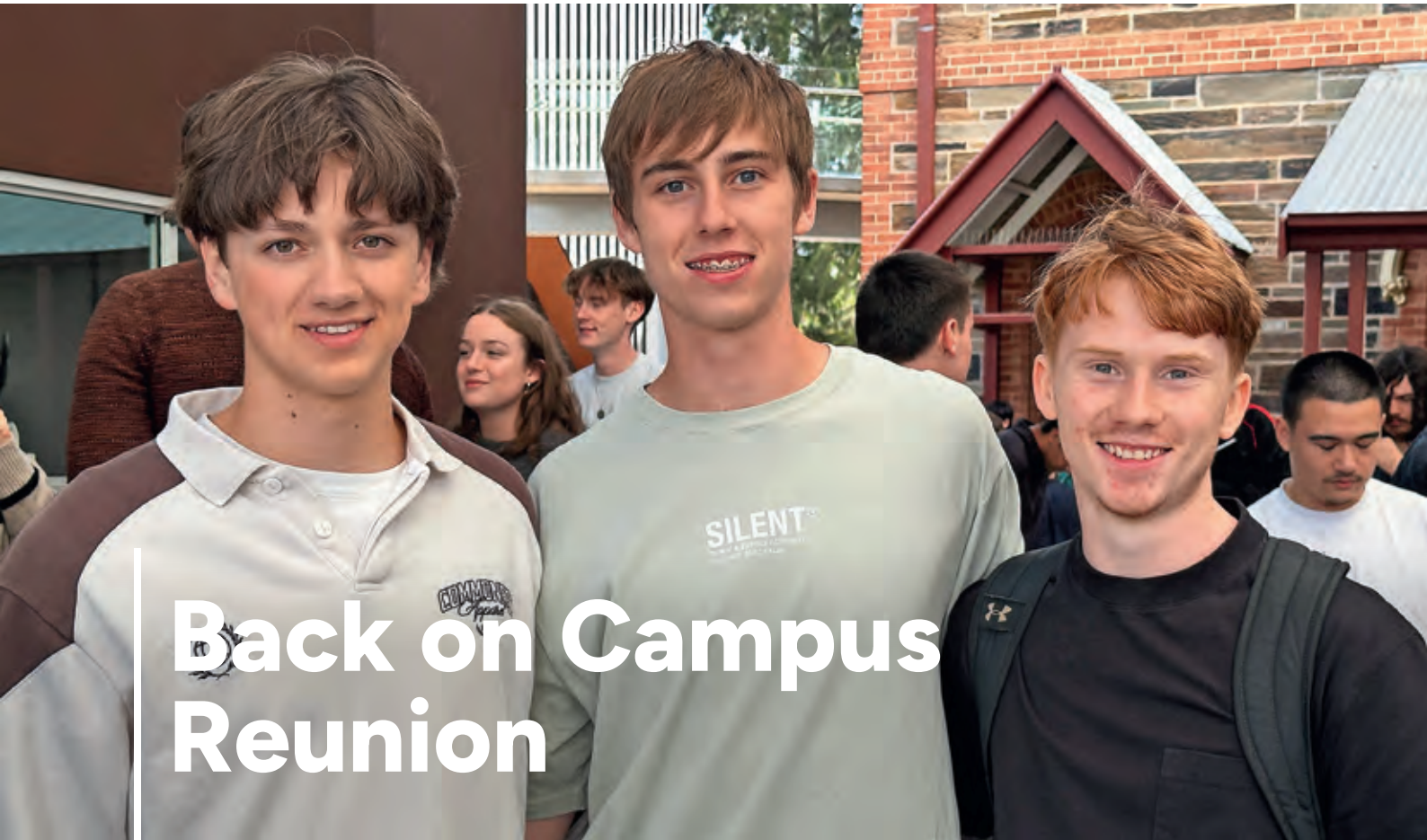
▼ Brody Burkitt '23

Congratulations to Brody Burkitt '23 on making his mark as a professional soccer player in the A-League. After signing his first professional contract with Adelaide United FC last November, Brody made his debut for the Reds in January. In only his second appearance, against Brisbane Roar at SunCorp Stadium, Brody came on in the second half and scored 3 goals, a coveted soccer hat-trick, and a stunning achievement for a new player.



Class of 75, 85 and 95 Reunion





Alumni Community Morning



From the Archives

Kathilda Clark (McAuley) '13

Claire Moritz (Canny) '74, is a third generation Cabra alumni. Claire's mother Mary Patricia (Pat) Clark (later Canny) was born in 1928 and attended Cabra in the early 1940s. Claire's grandmother, Kathilda McAuley (later Clark) born 1896, was a boarder from SA's north.

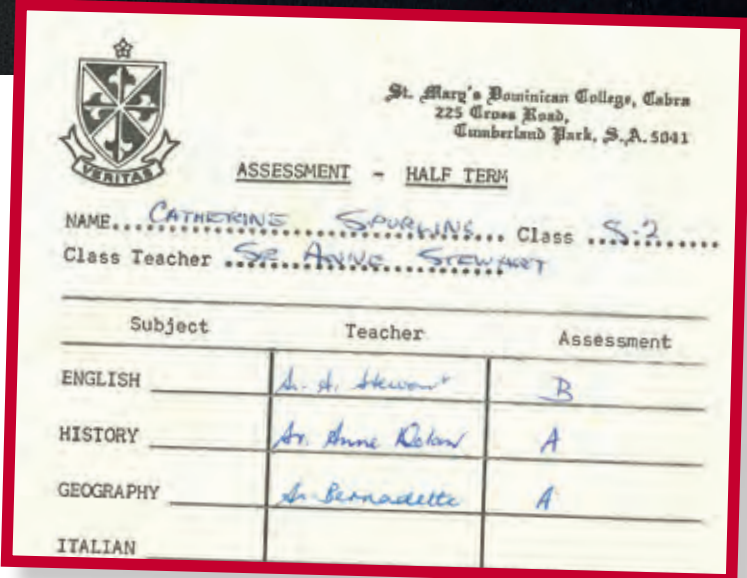
Surviving from Kathilda's student days is a report card, dated December 1913. Showing a broad range of subjects including Algebra, Geography, History and Writing, as well Elocution, Scripture History and more, the report notes that Kathilda's conduct and diligence during term were "very good," and placed her 1st in class.

Significantly, the card is signed by the "Superioress" of the Dominican Sisters, who we know at that time was Sr Mary Catherine Kavanagh, for whom our Kavanagh House is named. The report provides one of only a very few handwriting samples of our Founding Sisters.

We thank Claire and her family for donating the report, which is now a very special addition to the Cabra Historical Archives.



In 1875, Catherine Kavanagh travelled across the ocean from Cabra, Dublin in Ireland, to live and work in Adelaide establishing and running schools. She never returned to Ireland. Along with Columba Boylan, she was prioress for many years, leading the Sisters through the building of Cabra's convent and eventually to the opening and blessing of the Chapel in 1917.



Cate Lightfoot (Spurling) attended Cabra for two years in 1977 and 1978, and recently generously donated her Year 8 and Year 9 report cards to Cabra's Historical Archives. This Year 8 report below shows that she was lucky enough to be taught by three legendary Dominican Sisters, Sr Anne Stewart, Sr Anne Dolan, and Sr Bernadette Kiley.

Cate really enjoyed her two years at Cabra and does not think of herself as old enough to be featured in "From the Archives."

All members of the
Cabra Dominican College
community are invited
to our

VERITAS

Community Day

Celebrating 140 years

Sunday 20 Sept 2026

11am: Mass in Cabra Chapel
12 - 4pm: Community Event



140
YEARS OF
True Possibility

- Food trucks and bar
- Entertainment by our talented student musicians
- Opportunity to tour parts of the college
- Historical displays and memorabilia

With great excitement, we invite all members of our community to the **VERITAS Community Day on Sunday 20 September.**

The day will begin with a mass in the Cabra Chapel, celebrated by Father James McEvoy.

After mass, choose a delicious lunch from one of our food trucks:

- Taco Cartel
- Daisy Burger
- Adelaide Woodfired Pizza

There'll be tours of different areas of the school, and performances by our talented student musicians, and historical displays and memorabilia.

Also available:

- Sweet treats from OMG! Decadent Donuts and St Louis Gelato
- The Metropolitan Hotel wine bar, including beer and soft drinks
- Complimentary tea and coffee

Tickets are now available through Humanitix.

\$15 per ticket. Price includes a \$5 voucher to use for lunch at one of the food trucks, and a keepsake Cabra beverage tumbler.

Attending mass is free of charge, however as Chapel seating is limited, bookings are essential and we encourage you to book early.



REUNIONS

Class of 1976, 1986, 1996, 2006, 2016 and 2021 - this is your reunion opportunity!

We welcome you to gather and join us at the VERITAS Community Day.

We will have special areas assigned for each group, and will be taking group photos of each year level. There'll be plenty of memorabilia from your era to peruse.

We encourage you to keep the connection going and make plans with your group for a dinner afterwards, or even the night before.

Visit the alumni page of our website for further details.

Contact the Alumni Office with any queries: publications@cabra.catholic.edu.au





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