

Celebrating 40 Years of Co-education

THE PATRICIAN

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE | WINTER 2024 ISSUE



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The Patrician is the community magazine of St Patrick's College and its forerunners, Sacred Heart College, St Thomas More's School and Marian College. The magazine features news from the College and the broader community of Old Collegians.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the beautiful Kanamaluka with trees and stunning skies. The birds chirping and singing, the wind rustling through the leaves.

This land is rich with life. Deep with history. We live on strong Country splashed with splendid features. Rolling mountains scatter the land. Crystal blue seas.

For this Country, as small as it may be, no matter where I am, its beauty never fails me.

This is the Country of the Palawa who have cared for the lands and waterways since time began.



“2024 is a special year for St Patrick’s College, as it sees us celebrate our 40th Anniversary as a Catholic co-educational institution.”

From the Principal

Mrs Liz Illingworth

It has been too long since the last edition of The Patrician was published in 2019. As a College, we look forward to an ongoing commitment to maintaining connections with our Community through this publication.

To all our Old Collegians and Friends of the St Patrick’s College community, welcome to the 2024 Winter edition of The Patrician.

The College Strategic Plan 2024-2028 outlines that one of our core strategic priorities is to ‘Embrace our past, the present and the future’. The Patrician is certainly one medium through which we hope to do this.

2024 is a special year for St Patrick’s College, as it sees us celebrate our 40th Anniversary as a Catholic co-educational institution. It is a year to acknowledge our past, celebrate where we are now, and look forward to the future.

Of course, the history of our College extends way beyond 40 years. As a College we celebrate the past, we are thankful to the Presentation Sisters who began teaching at Sacred Heart College in 1873, we are grateful to the Christian Brothers who opened St Patrick’s College York Street in 1919 and to the Sisters of St Joseph who opened St Thomas More’s Catholic School in 1938. Each of these orders ensured that Catholic Education was available to the children of Launceston and the surrounding areas.

We are grateful that a new era of Catholic education in Launceston began in 1984 when this College was established. 1984 saw St Patrick’s College amalgamate

with Marian College – embarking on a new era of enthusiasm, vision and endeavour and creating the St Patrick’s College we know and celebrate today.

We are a College with a rich history based on the charisms of Mary MacKillop, Julian Tenison Woods, Nano Nagle and Edmund Rice.

Today the charisms of these Founding Orders are still front and centre to what our College is about. These are clearly reflected in our College values of Compassion, Respect, Individuality, Catholic Identity, Stewardship, Leadership and Endeavour and Excellence. As a Catholic College we have a responsibility to ensure our young people are able to express and live out these values, whilst being open to the needs of the world.

St Patrick’s College now offers a Catholic education to 1,560 students and employs nearly 250 staff. Our College remains an excellent academic institution, with a strong commitment to the arts, culture, sporting, and outreach endeavours.

In celebrating 40 years of co-education at St Patrick’s College, we look forward to welcoming and engaging with many Old Collegians. All are invited to visit our College on Saturday October 26 to celebrate this significant event alongside us.

We also look forward to continuing and strengthening our relationship with all within our community. We are excited for the next 40 years of Catholic education at St Patrick’s College, and what they might look like.

“With each milestone, from crest redesign to motto revision, the College progressed, positioned to embrace the challenges and opportunities to come.”

The Journey to Co-education

Celebrating 40 Years

This year marks the 40th anniversary of co-education at St Patrick’s College, following the amalgamation between Marian College and St Patrick’s in 1984.

Embedded within this narrative of change is a rich heritage that stems back to the late 19th century when the Presentation Sisters began teaching at Sacred Heart College in 1873.

This was followed by the Christian Brothers, who opened St Patrick’s College York Street in 1919, and the Sisters of St Joseph who opened St Thomas More’s in 1938.

The amalgamation of Sacred Heart College and St Thomas More’s School to form Marian College in 1978 was integral in the evolution of St Patrick’s College, a legacy the Presentation Sisters and Sisters of St Joseph inspired through their work.

In 1982 and 1983 extensive groundwork was completed, which laid the foundation for a second transformative union to occur in 1984.

During this period, stakeholders from both Marian College and St Patrick’s College were engaged in a comprehensive process aimed at fostering acceptance, adoption, and implementation of the proposed merger between the two schools.

Parents were actively involved in shaping the future through their participation in planning sessions and reviews. After a series of proposed alternative models for restructuring senior secondary schooling were presented for consideration, the resounding verdict from the Launceston Catholic community was that none of the proposed models met their expectations.

Disagreements among the respective boards representing parents of Marian College and St Patrick’s College further complicated matters at the time of debate.

However, despite initial complications, a breakthrough eventually emerged during this key period. The proposal for co-education across all secondary classes, spanning Years 7 to 12, gained overwhelming support, confirmed by an astounding 98% parent vote. With the path forward illuminated, a formal announcement was made on April 28, 1983 declaring Brother Clem Barrett as Headmaster for an initial term of three years.

Transitioning from the old to the new involved careful coordination of administrative, structural, and cultural shifts. A staff restructure and renegotiation, alongside the creation of a hierarchical faculty structure, was completed to suit the

needs of the proposed expansion.

As the 1983 grant fell short of covering the entire building program, practical solutions were devised, including the establishment of a second campus at St Thomas More’s, Newstead, to accommodate Year 7 students temporarily.

Amidst these logistical complexities, discussions surrounding uniform and naming also emerged, reflecting a collective endeavour to forge a cohesive identity for the College.

On February 14, 1984, the courtyard of the then Marian-St Patrick’s College bore witness to a new way—co-education.

In the first year of co-education, a proposal for a change of name reemerged. Correspondence from the Marian-St Patrick’s College Parents & Friends recommended renaming the institution to St Patrick’s College. This suggestion sparked deliberations among parents, staff, and students, resulting in a survey offering choices including ‘Marian College’, ‘St Patrick’s College’, and ‘A New Name’.

Subsequently, at the Board meeting on April 15, 1984, the Principal presented the survey findings. The consensus led to a motion to rename the College as



Above: Middle Quadrangle – Downball



St Patrick's College, with an additional motion to name the new wing as the Marian Wing, honouring the heritage of Marian College.

Confirmation of the name change was announced by the Archbishop on July 6, 1984. As the new era of St Patrick's College began, the mantle of responsibility shifted from order control to diocesan management, a transition that mirrored the broader institutional evolution at the time.

With each milestone, from crest redesign to motto revision, the College progressed, positioned to embrace the challenges and opportunities to come.



Above: Middle School Library – Marian Wing

“I am an extremely proud Old Collegian who has a deep passion and love for our College.”

Captain to College Principal

Liz Illingworth’s Full Circle Journey

In a touching return to her alma mater, Liz Illingworth, Old Collegian and St Patrick’s College’s most recently appointed Principal, reflected on her remarkable journey from St Patrick’s College student to College leader.

Her connection to St Patrick’s College spans across decades, first attending Marian College in 1983, prior to the amalgamation in 1984. Attending St Patrick’s College in 1984, she embraced all the opportunities the College had to offer at the time.

"I loved class time, but mostly I loved the many opportunities I had to participate in sports with my peers and be guided by passionate and caring staff," she recalls fondly.

Her time as College Captain in 1988 marked a pivotal year, igniting her desire to pursue a career in education. "I wanted to continue to be a part of a school where relationships and connections were fundamental," she shares, reflecting on her journey to leadership.

Beyond this, Liz found purpose in serving others, particularly through her involvement with Edmund Rice Camps during her final years at St Patrick’s.

"It was during these years as a Camp Leader that I began to feel the call towards education," she explains.

After graduating, Liz returned to St Patrick’s as a teacher in 1993, eager to impart knowledge and nurture the next generation. "I loved everything about my job," she said, "from classroom learning to coaching various sports teams across softball, athletics, swimming, cross country, and hockey." Liz embraced every opportunity to make a difference in students’ lives.

In 2005, Liz left St Patrick’s College to teach at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary, and later, St Finn Barr’s

Primary. She highlighted how integral those years were in preparing for her return to St Patrick’s College, especially the time she spent as Principal of St Finn Barr’s.

In 2023, she assumed the role of Principal at St Patrick’s College, a full circle moment that is a reflection of her unwavering commitment to the Institution.

As Principal, Liz remains steadfast in her dedication to fostering a vibrant and inclusive environment. For Liz, the values, student body, and staff collectively shape the essence of St Patrick’s College. "Community encompasses everything," she emphasised, "It is our values, it is our staff, it is our students and our families. Being part of a caring community allows each person the opportunity to thrive. If each person chooses to participate in the community, the strength of the community continues to grow."

It is this sense of belonging and shared purpose that continues to define the College’s legacy. Looking ahead, Liz envisions a future where St Patrick’s College continues to thrive as a holistic, inclusive, and Christ-centred educational institution that provides opportunities for each student to learn the skills, knowledge, and values needed to thrive in a changing world.

"My vision is of course this – I want our College to be a place where students leave with an understanding of the importance and impact they can have through service to others," she states. "I want each of our students to leave St Patrick’s College knowing that they have received excellent teaching and learning from staff who are invested in them and that this occurs at a College that continues to chase innovation and best practice in all areas. Most of all, I want our students to leave our College happy – happy that they have been a member of a Catholic community where they have felt valued, loved and respected and where

they have had the opportunity to be the best version of themselves."

When students enrol at the College, Liz encourages them to embrace the College values and be open to the spirit.

"I would encourage every student to take every opportunity that comes their way," she said. "St Patrick's College has always been a fantastic place, it was during my time and is now. It is a place where you can immerse yourself in whatever it is you love to do."

Liz hopes that those graduating stay connected with the College and with their peers, and that they speak positively of their time at the College.

"Our young people are often given a hard time; however, I have great faith in the young people who attend our College," she said. "They are clever, courteous, courageous, and innovative. They need to hear this more and be given the opportunity to show what they can do. As adults, we need to provide this support to our young people in all aspects of their lives – this way, we will know that our future is in good hands."

Liz's journey from student to Principal embodies the essence of St Patrick's College, a true testament to what the College is all about: connection, faith, and community.

In closing, Liz warmly reflected on how blessed she was that her family chose to send her to St Patrick's.

"I am an extremely proud Old Collegian who has a deep passion and love for our College," she said. "As the first Old Collegian Principal at the College, I feel extremely confident that what I can bring to the role will ensure that everything we do comes from a place of focusing on our past, working in the present, and at the same time having a view to the future."



“Community encompasses everything ... It is our values, it is our staff, it is our students and our families.”





New College Entrance – 2022

Strong Foundations

Transforming Our College Spaces

In 2018, extensive planning and work was undertaken for the Administration and Staffroom Redevelopment Project. This project was part of the larger Brandon Wing Redevelopment Project, which involved refurbishing the front entrance, reception, administration, meeting spaces, wellbeing services, and the staff room.

The Brandon Wing, named after Brother BJ Brandon in 1979, honours his commitment to the Christian Brothers since 1953 and his service as Principal of the College from 1972 to 1977.

The renovations included the successful relocation of the majority of the administration staff and approximately 70 teachers in preparation for the build. The goal was to maintain and expand upon the original two-storey building, opened by the Christian Brothers in 1959, using its original framework to form the new administration offices, board rooms, and Student Wellbeing Centre. In some areas, remnants of the old red and orange brickwork can still be seen.

To facilitate the major project, four additional classrooms were built to replace those taken over by the Reception, Accounts, and Administration team in the IT Building. These new demountable classrooms, positioned next to the tennis courts and adjacent to the main oval, were designed to be sold and relocated if no longer needed. However, as St Patrick's College has grown, the demountables have remained in use.

2019 saw the redevelopment of the Administration Building and staffroom, significantly enhancing

both work and public spaces that had seen no major changes since the 1990s.

The project created an open, modern staff area with increased natural light, more staff study bays, greater energy efficiency, and spaces for collaborative working. This has fostered a healthier, more positive, and supportive environment for staff, leading to an improved student experience.

The front entrance to the College was also enhanced, improving first impressions for visitors and prospective parents and students, and allowing for a more efficient Reception/Administration office layout.

Connectivity between the Chapel and Reception was also improved, providing better access to facilities after Sunday Mass, thus strengthening the bond between the Parish and the College. The renovations also allowed for the creation of a Heritage Centre, which houses the Archives Office, History Room, and Archives storage area, now available for visits by appointment.

The exceptional work is attributed to Curtis Mackirdy, and the builders at Beardwood Pty Ltd who excelled in completing this difficult renovation, delivering the project to a high standard, on time and within budget. Their efficiency enabled the College to move staff back into the main building before the start of Term 1, 2020, allowing the school year to commence with a new Reception area.

The next stage of the building program, the refurbishment of the Brady Wing, followed directly



Brady Wing Courtyard Development Draft



Front Office Reception



Chapel and College Entrance – Pre Renovations

after the completion of the Administration Building, as the two areas are directly linked. The Brady Wing was completed in time for the start of Term 3 2020, and has been warmly welcomed by staff and students.

The second stage of this development, the refurbishment of the Wilding Wing in the Middle School, was completed in 2021.

With the completion and official opening of the redeveloped classrooms, general learning areas, the Middle School courtyard, and administration and staff facilities, St Patrick's College achieved a significant milestone.

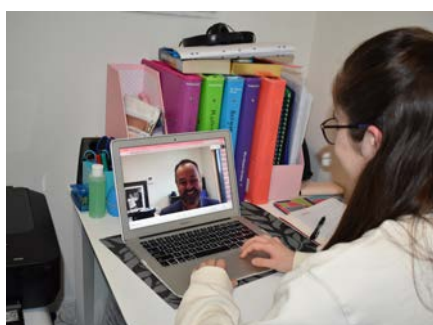
Looking to the future, the College is currently developing a purpose-built STEM facility, designed to meet learning needs and accommodate the growth in student numbers. The proposed building will include 12 classrooms, two open-plan general learning areas, and three STEM and science classrooms for both the Middle and Senior Schools.

Affectionately referred to as the 'Heart Project', the redevelopment aims to connect the Mary MacKillop Library, the Senior School, and the Barrett and Nano Nagle Gymnasiums. At the centre of the redevelopment will be the cafeteria, food hall and amphitheatre. This is an anticipated 18-24 month build that commenced in December 2022, and is scheduled for completion in early 2025.



Years in Review

Catching Up on Years Missed



2019

Celebrating 100 Years

In 2019, the College celebrated its 100 Year Anniversary of the opening of St Patrick's Christian Brothers' College, York Street. This milestone was honoured with an Anniversary Dinner event held at Albert Hall, Launceston, on Saturday 17 August 2019. The evening was a celebration for all Old Collegians, current and past parents, current and past staff, and friends of St Patrick's College at the time.

The gala included guest appearances by past principals and Old Collegian Sam Clear, along with 2019 College principal, Mr Tony Daley and College Captains, Sasha Massey and Liam Hollingsworth. The St Patrick's College String Quartet and the Drumline Group made cameo performances, with live music performed by cover band 1-4-U.

It was a special evening, spent reminiscing and looking forward to what's to come.

2020

Learning in the Face of a Pandemic

In 2020, the learning landscape faced unprecedented challenges with closures, social distancing, and mask mandates. The College swiftly adapted with our Learning @ Home program, tackling the hurdles of remote education head-on. Despite physical doors closing, digital avenues opened. Learning at home still allowed music ensembles to connect and perform, students to create hand-sewn projects with College supplies, and scientific experiments to take place.

The Senior Executive theme of 'Embrace' took on new meaning amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, urging the community to seize opportunities, embrace learning, and nurture spirituality. Despite the obstacles, the College fostered a culture of resilience and innovation, illustrated by students engaging in creative projects whilst developing essential skills. As students gradually returned to campus, the spirit of adaptability and unity continued to guide the community forward, ensuring safety whilst fostering a dynamic learning environment.

2021

Seeing Gold

In 2021, St Patrick's College was fortunate to have Ariarne Titmus, Old Collegian and multi Olympic Gold Medallist, visit the College. She spoke to students about the fond memories of her teachers and friends, toured the College and had lunch with the Swim Team. Staff and students were thrilled to watch Ariarne compete at the Olympic Games, and her visit to the College was memorable and uplifting for all.

Taking Centre Stage

The College's bi-annual production hit centre stage after more than 12 months of restrictions. Despite the necessity of masks, the *High School Musical on Stage!* production became one of the first significant College events since COVID-19. With the pandemic still a concern, there were moments of uncertainty about whether the performance would proceed. Fortunately, it opened as planned, albeit with restrictions and limited seating. However, on the final day, students had the opportunity to perform before a full-capacity audience, marking a significant step towards normalcy.



2022

Special Moments

In a first for both St Patrick's College and the state, our College Concert Band, Big Band and Drumline were given the opportunity to perform with world-renowned Australian performer, Mr James Morrison. The ensembles performed an exciting program of American-style marching band pieces, staple wind band repertoire and jazz classics. The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity was a highlight for many students.

Simpson Prize

Henry Carls was selected by an esteemed panel and was the 2022 Simpson Prize winner for Tasmania. The Simpson Prize is a national competition for Year 9 and 10 students that focuses on the service of Australians in World War I. Henry travelled to Canberra and Norfolk Island as part of his winning entry. This was the first trip and in-person awards presentation in two years, with COVID-19 restricting the awards ceremony to an online environment in 2020 and 2021.

2023

SATIS Success

NSATIS and SATIS sports were in full swing during 2023.

In netball, St Patrick's College emerged victorious in the SATIS 1sts Grand Final, sealing the win with a final score of 41:36 against Guilford Young College.

In football, the SATIS 1st XVIII Boys Grand Final saw St Patrick's prevail by seven points. James Leake, now GWS football player, delivered a stellar performance during the final moments of the fourth quarter, helping to warrant the game into extra time.

In another closely contested match against Guilford Young College, our Senior 1sts Boys put on a great performance during the SATIS Soccer final, defeating Guilford Young 4-2. Year 12 student, Tito Brown, delivered an unlikely corner strike, exciting the crowd and helping to secure the win.

In SATIS Athletics, Students in Year 7-12 from 20 schools competed for the nine shields on offer, with points allocated from the 126 events. Of these, St Patrick's won eight of the nine shields.

Valete and End of Year Mass

The College hosted its End of Year Mass and Graduation Ceremony in December, the first one since 2019. It was a wonderful evening commemorating the achievements and highlights of the 2023 school year as a whole community. The presence of our greater community contributed immensely to the warmth and spirit of the occasion.

Giving Back

The College participated in many outreach activities throughout 2023. A highlight was the annual Lap It Up XV event where Year 12 students completed laps for 24 hours straight. Thanks to the greater community's generosity and the extensive fundraising efforts from our Year 12 students, St Patrick's College was able to raise more than \$23,000 for international aid and local charities.

The College was also honoured to receive the Champions for Hope Shield for their participation in Relay for Life. The shield was presented as recognition for being the highest fundraising school team for Relay for Life in Launceston that year. With 101 dedicated students participating, St Patrick's College contributed over \$10,248.

Reunions

Connecting as Old Collegians



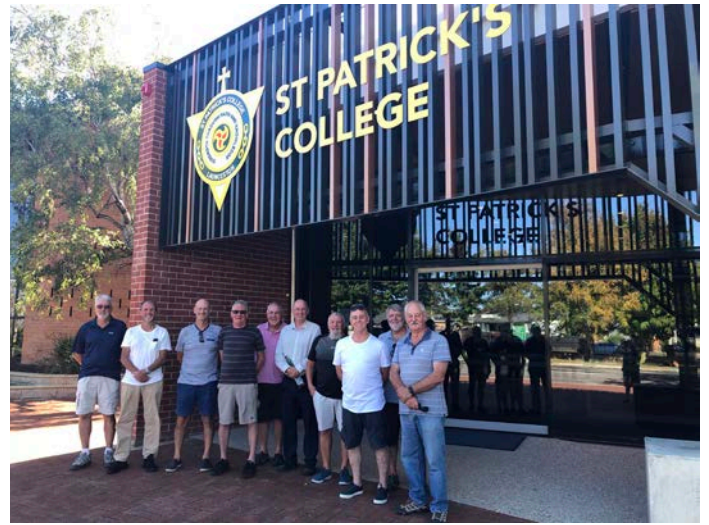
1958-62 SPC Prospect 55 Years Reunion – 25 May 2019



1958 SPC Prospect Foundation Classes Reunion – 17 March 2021



Above: 1970 Year 10 Green & Gold Reunion – 11 March 2023



Above: 1973 Peer Group - 50 Year Reunion – 4 November 2023

Top and above: 1970 Year 10 Reunion College Tour – 26 March 2022



1979 Year 10 Marian College 40 Year Reunion – 26 Oct 2019



2012 Peer Group 10 Year Reunion, Kingsway Bar – 5 Nov 2022



Vale

We extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends of our Old Collegians and extended community members who have passed away since our last publication.

We apologise for any omissions. Please communicate any omissions to the College, and we will endeavour to print them in the next edition.

2020

Emma Hayes
Sr Julianne Tapping PBVM
Jasmine Burleigh
William, father of
Leigh Hart
Emily Tys, mother of
Samuel, Isabella and
Oliver Tys
Marcus Bower
Geoffrey Byers, father of
Maria Bassett
Denise, mother of Gaynor
Spriggs

2021

Patrick Sheils
Br Brian Brandon
Jessica Borton
James Griffin, father of
Georgina and Joseph
Barry Nas
Thomas Courto, nephew of
Elizabeth Thomas

2022

Kieran Fisher
Jane, mother of
Deb Cottle
Richard (Dick) Thomas
Craig McLean
Wayne Harris
Betty, mother of
Rod Towns
Caleb Bowman

2023

Darryl Tuppen
Gunter Breier, father of
Jacqui Nicolson
Tony Long
Christine Cochrane
Anna Tieman
Kacee, sister of
Bianca Johnstone
Anita Cashion, sister of
Rachael Holloway
Cherril, mother of
Chris Denton
Anthony Tys, father of
Samuel, Isabella and
Oliver Tys
Natalia, mother of
Elena and Felix Darby
Rodriguez
Gianni (Johnny) Gaetani
Phillip, father of
Fiona Mowat
Mother of
Archbishop Julian
Kenneth Marsh, father of
Yvette Marsh
Jim Handley
Marjorie Handley, mother of
Julienne Colman

2024

Rosie Wildman, sister of
Julienne Colman
Travis Semmens
Carey McIver
Fr Terry Yard
Kerri Best
Barry Smith
Kerry Carosi, grandmother
of Caitlin Siejka
Kate Minchin



St Patrick's College
LAUNCESTON



Open Day to celebrate the
40TH ANNIVERSARY
OF CO-EDUCATION
AT ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE

SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER 2024

stpatricks.tas.edu.au/our-college/40th-anniversary

ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:

Anniversary Mass of Celebration at: 9:00am

Guided Walking Tours at: 10:00am - 12:00pm or 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Sausage Sizzle and Celebratory Cake Cutting at: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Please **RSVP** via the College Website.



UPCOMING REUNIONS

Class of 74 - 50 Year Reunion

Graduating Class of 84 - 40 Year Reunion

Class of 94 - 30 Year Reunion

Have a question about reunions? Please email contact@stpatricks.tas.edu.au for assistance or promotion.



St Patrick's College Launceston
Strength Through Faith and Knowledge

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