



LIGHT OF FAITH

ALUMNAE INSIGHTS

Official Newsletter of the Mary MacKillop College Alumnae

Principal's Welcome

Welcome Mary MacKillop College Alumnae community.

Dear Members of the Mt St Joseph's, Corpus Christi, Mary MacKillop Alumnae,

It's with great excitement I write to you to launch our official newsletter of the College's Alumnae! We are so proud of your achievements and as we celebrate our 60th birthday this year, I can't think of a better way than to congratulate and highlight the achievements of our Alumnae.

As I reflect upon the past semester, I am filled with pride and gratitude for our community of MMC. We have enjoyed a semester of celebration giving thanks for the educating truly remarkable women for 60 years. We enjoyed our Opening Jubilee Mass at the Cathedral at the beginning of the year, which included birthday cake! We have conducted Podcasts with our esteemed Alumnae and launched "Legacy of Light" podcast on Spotify; and then for our Feast Day celebrations in August we certified our Reconciliation Action Plan and celebrated with gifts of a scrunchie and badge for each of the girls; our parents also celebrated at the Jubilee Hotel our 'Jubilee Year'; we will also host our inaugural Year 12 Alumnae Mentoring breakfast in Term 3; and then finally in November, we will host our Alumnae staff and student event on campus. A lot of events and celebrations for us to gather and give thanks for the Josephite education and the rich tapestry of our girls out in the world!

We are so blessed to continue the rich traditions of the College and employ committed staff who are dedicated 'girl whisperers', who are devoted to the Josephite charism. To carry on the faith of Mother Mary MacKillop is an honor and grounds us in our daily work. The College motto, "My Faith is my Light" continues to be central to College life, and is where our values are steeped in Josephite traditions.

It has also been so rewarding to interview past Alumnae and their daughters upon their enrolment to the College. I am most grateful to those who have entrusted us with the daughter's learning journey. Seeing the next generation of students being guided by their mothers who walked the grounds is truly inspiring.

I am looking forward to chartering the next chapter of the Alumnae, as you all play a crucial role as custodians of our Josephite history on campus. One of my goals as Principal is to increase alumnae engagement, allowing for more opportunities for alumnae to gather as well as interact with current students and recent graduates. I would encourage all Alumnae to be in contact with Tilly Bourke and register your details on our email list and sign up to follow us on Facebook.

I look forward to continuing this journey together and am truly thankful for your continued support, guided by the wisdom of those who have gone before us and continue to provide an education that is hope filled and is a bright promise for our students in our care.



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Patron's Report

We are honored to feature Sister Angela as our esteemed patron. A dedicated educator and a Sister of St. Joseph, Sister Angela served as a beloved teacher at our college from 1968 to 1975. Following in the footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop, her commitment to education and her profound impact on our community embody the spirit of compassion and excellence that continues to inspire us today.

Her legacy of service and dedication remains a guiding light for our school's values and mission.

"I fondly remember the vibrant atmosphere and the enriching challenge of working with students. The well-being of each student was always our foremost priority. Their enthusiasm and cooperation made every effort truly rewarding and worthwhile."



"Never See a Need without doing something about it"

SAINT MARY MACKILLOP



SISTER ANGELA - 1974



Patron's Report

Keeping Vigil

Recently I was walking up Garfield Street from Toombul Station, and I was struck by a wave of excitement emanating from the Tappeiner centre. Though I didn't know the occasion, I couldn't help but think how vibrant and joyful the school must be —even on a weekday!

I crossed the road to visit some longtime friends who have witnessed the growth and life of Mary MacKillop College. I reminisced about planting six lilly pilly trees there in December 1973 to enhance the view from the science room. Now, those trees are adorned with a flush of red and cream leaves, and their berries are ripening with the season. While trees might seem solitary, they actually thrive in communities, sharing nutrients through their roots. This mirrors the way students at the college support one another, finding strength and grace through simple gestures and kind words. This mutual support is a reflection of a deeper grace at work, a divine presence that resonates in nature and in human connection.

We can take a moment to appreciate these trees, greet them, and cherish their presence. As the poet Rainer Maria Rilke beautifully expressed:

“I seek you ...
Whom should I turn to,
if not the one whose darkness
is darker than night, the only one
who keeps vigil with no candle,
and is not afraid –
the deep one, whose being I trust,
for it breaks through the earth into the trees,
and rises,
when I bow my head,
faint as a fragrance
from the soil.”

—Rainer Maria Rilke, *The Book of Hours II*, 3



College Captains 2024



Meet Our 2024 College Captains

We are proud to introduce our College Captains for 2024, Trinity North and Mia Silver-Thomas who are following in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St. Joseph by leading our school community with enthusiasm, dedication, and a strong sense of responsibility. This year's captains embody the values of Mary MacKillop College, and they are committed to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for all students.

Through their leadership, they aim to inspire their peers, uphold the school's traditions, and contribute to the legacy of empowering young women at MMC. We have no doubt that they will make a lasting impact on our community, both within the school and beyond.

Join us in celebrating these outstanding young leaders as they guide our College throughout this milestone year.

Staff Spotlight

In this edition we shine a well-deserved spotlight on Carly Richardson, our dedicated and hard-working Deputy Principal.

Carly's commitment to Mary MacKillop College goes beyond her role, as she embodies the spirit and values of the College in everything she does. Her tireless efforts to foster a nurturing and inspiring environment are felt by both students and staff alike.

Carly is a true leader who follows in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop, "never seeing a need without doing something about it". She consistently inspires those around her to strive for excellence, demonstrating the values of integrity, compassion, and leadership that form the core of our College ethos.

Recently recognized by Brisbane Catholic Education, Carly was a proud nominee for the BCE Excellence Award – the Archbishop Award for Leadership. Her legacy at the College is one of resilience, passion, and a deep commitment to the growth and success of every member of our community.

We are fortunate to have Carly as part of our leadership team, and we thank her for the profound impact she continues to make at Mary MacKillop College.





Celebrating the class of 2023

TRULY
Remarkable
WOMEN

At Mary MacKillop College, we pride ourselves on providing a holistic education for students, one that allows our women to become well-rounded. We recognise that a single score never fully defines our success. We believe that every MacKillop woman has the potential to make her mark on the world; and we empower our students to become change makers, to choose their own futures and to transform the world by taking action and advocating for social change. Women who inspire, women who create change and women who lead.

2023 ATAR SUCCESS

 **97.4%**

students gained a QCE

3

students with Diplomas

5

students with Certificate IV

44%

students with Certificate II

47%

students with Certificate III

67%

students with a VET Certificate

84.3

Median ATAR

10%

awarded an ATAR over 95

23%

awarded an ATAR over 90

43%

awarded an ATAR over 85

70%

awarded an ATAR over 80

Celebrating the class of 2023



Chelsea James

ATAR:
98.25

FURTHER STUDY:

Bachelor of Science / Law at
The University of Queensland

“MMC is a community of equity, service
and love
that pushed me to
challenge myself
and strive to be more”



Aoife Hickey

ATAR:
98.75

FURTHER STUDY:

Bachelor of Advanced Finance & Economics (Honours) at
The University of Queensland

“I was able to achieve
success at MMC because of the dedication & passion of my
teachers, which inspired
& motivated me”



Faye Barreto

ATAR:
98.55

FURTHER STUDY:

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
/ Master of Engineering
at UQ

“The invaluable support & motivation I received from my
teachers & peers at MMC were crucial in helping me
achieve my goals.”

Celebrating the class of 2023



Phoebe Traves

ATAR:
95.65

FURTHER STUDY:
Bachelor of Laws (Honours)
/ Bachelor of Arts
at UQ

“MMC was a great foundation for helping me to extend myself as a learner. The school was always a welcoming environment.”



Olive James

ATAR:
96.85

FURTHER STUDY:
Bachelor of Advanced
Science at UQ

“MMC greatly contributed to my success through the extensive leadership opportunities that students were encouraged & supported to be involved in.”



Neeve Sutton

ATAR:
95.8

FURTHER STUDY:
Bachelor of Biomedical
Science at UQ

“MMC provided me with a community that supported and nurtured not only my academic growth but also my formation as an individual.”

Alumnae Garden Party

The College was delighted to welcome back over 60 past students to our inaugural Alumnae event, for a Mass at Corpus Christi Church and Garden Party celebration in our College Plaza.

We reminisced and shared stories from the last 60 years and across generations of women who were educated in the Josephite tradition.

We are grateful to Lindell Johnston (CCC 1977) for sharing with us her insights and reflections of the history of the school, and Dublin Rose (MMC 2021) for entertaining us with her signature singing voice.



Alumnae Achievements

We are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of two remarkable alumnae who continue to make a significant impact in the education community.

Maree Trimms, a proud Old Girl of Corpus Christi, where she served as Sports Captain in 1989, is now the Principal of St Rita's College. Maree's journey in education reflects her dedication to fostering the values she learned during her time at Corpus Christi, and she remains deeply connected to her roots.

Catherine O'Kane, another distinguished alumna, was College Captain of Corpus Christi in 1981. She now serves as Principal of All Hallow's School, leading with the same passion and commitment that marked her leadership during her school years. Catherine's pride in her Corpus Christi heritage continues to inspire those around her.

We celebrate these leaders and their contributions to shaping the future of education.



Sarah Bradbury

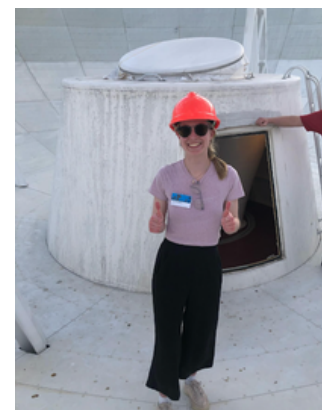
Class of 2018

We are thrilled to highlight the remarkable journey of Sarah Bradbury, an inspiring alumna from the Class of 2018.

After graduating from Mary MacKillop College, Sarah pursued a Bachelor of Science with a major in Physics at the Queensland University of Technology, graduating in 2021. Her academic excellence earned her a scholarship to The Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra, where she completed her Honours in Astronomy & Astrophysics with First Class Honours in 2022.

Currently, Sarah is a few years into her PhD in Astronomy & Astrophysics at ANU, contributing to groundbreaking research in her field. Reflecting on her time at MMC, Sarah fondly recalls the empowering environment created by the teachers, whose encouragement and belief in their students have a lasting impact beyond graduation.

Join us in celebrating Sarah's achievements and the incredible path our alumna is forging!



Piper Sutton Class of 2018

Piper Sutton, a 2018 graduate of Mary MacKillop College, pursued a Bachelor of Speech Pathology at the Australian Catholic University. Now in her second year as a certified practicing speech pathologist, Piper specialises in working with adults who have acquired brain injuries, such as strokes, traumatic brain injuries, and progressive neurological diseases.

When reflecting on her time at MMC, Piper fondly recalls the sporting carnivals especially the cultural competition cheering on Penola.



Zoe Pearson Class of 2023



After graduating from Mary MacKillop College in 2023, Zoe explored her passion for the performing arts by auditioning for the Queensland Conservatorium's Bachelor of Musical Theatre. After being unsuccessful Zoe instead used her certificate III in health from grade 12 to gain admission into Griffith University's Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Drama and Journalism. Discovering a new passion for leadership, Zoe deferred her studies to join yLead, a youth-led organization empowering future leaders. Zoe is now yLead's full-time National Bookings Coordinator and Travel Coordinator. Zoe focuses on supporting others in their leadership journeys, guiding them as they grow and evolve into strong, authentic individuals. One thing Zoe loves about MMC is the staff and community. She was incredibly fortunate to have educators who were genuinely invested in her development. Zoe is forever grateful for the constant support and guidance she received throughout her six years.

Adele Storch **Class of 2009**



After graduating from Mary MacKillop (then Corpus Christi) College in 2009, Adele travelled to Melbourne to study medicine. She has since specialised in psychiatry and is back in Brisbane working in Child and Youth Psychiatry and enjoying the sunny state with her own two young children. Adele has fond memories of the beautiful school culture of inclusivity and celebration of women.

Following in Her Mother's Footsteps

We were delighted to welcome back alumna Jessica Harper (nee Meares), who graduated from Mary MacKillop College in 2000. Jess recently visited the College for a special interview, accompanied by her daughter, Lilly, who will be joining us as a new student in 2027.

Jess shared fond memories of her time at MMC and expressed her excitement about Lilly continuing the family tradition.

Lilly, eager to start her journey at MMC, looks forward to experiencing the same nurturing environment that her mother cherished. We are excited to see another generation of the Meares family become part of our community and continue our legacy of inspiring and empowering young women.





Dates for your Diary

Celebration of Excellence

Wednesday 16 October

11:30am - 2pm

Nudgee College

Alumnae Soiree

Friday 8 November

6 - 9pm

Mary MacKillop College Nundah

