

# LIGHT OF FAITH

## ALUMNAE INSIGHTS

Official Newsletter of the Mary MacKillop College Alumnae

### Principal's Report

Dear Alumnae,

A very warm welcome to the second edition of the Alumnae Magazine for 2024. As this publication is released bi-annually, this marks the second and final edition of the year. But don't worry—we'll be continuing with our editions into 2025, so keep an eye out for the next one at the end of June!

As the year draws to a close, we have much to celebrate. Throughout 2024, we've spent time reflecting on our past while also focusing on the future. This year, I've been particularly moved by the many alumnae who generously shared their stories and memories of their time at Mary MacKillop College. The theme of "journey" emerged repeatedly as I listened to these heartfelt recollections.

As I write this final message for 2024, I find myself reflecting on how our school, Mary MacKillop College, serves as a "place" in our life's journey. People come and go—students, teachers, staff—and though we arrive at MMC, we do not remain here forever. We carry forward the gifts we've been given, and we continue to our next destination. It brings to mind Mary MacKillop's own words: "We are but travelers here." The College is a place of arrival, of engagement, and ultimately, of departure.

In hearing your stories, it's clear that many of you see MMC as a place of hope—hope that was felt during your time here, and hope that continues to resonate as you move forward. As we farewelled our 2024 senior students and welcomed them into the Alumnae Association, I reminded them that MMC is a place that encourages the journey. It is a place where travelers gather the fruits of their experiences and leave with renewed courage and confidence.

As a past student, I encourage you to continue your own journey, guided by the inspiring words of Mary MacKillop: "There where you are, there you will find God." whoever, wherever, however we are, God of love is with us.



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# Principals report continued...

## Celebrating our Diamond Jubilee!

As you are aware, this year, we celebrated the Year of our Diamond Jubilee, where in 2024 we rejoiced in 60 years of educating girls in the Josephite tradition. Our theme for the year was our value of spirit, which invited all in our community to come together, to work, in the spirit of Mary MacKillop, carrying the spirit of those Josephite sisters and staff who began the school 60 years ago to be the face of bold hope for our young people.

From humble beginnings that started in a house on the corner of Bage Street called Maryvale, sixty years ago the Sisters of St Joseph opened an all-girls Catholic College, in the bold hope to educate women for the future. It was the determination of visionary educationalist Sr Vincent who deeply believed in young women achieving their potential. Working with the community, the sisters opened Mt St Joseph's School for girls in 1964. In 2024, we continued to build upon their legacy and are grateful for the trust of the sisters to continue the important work of empowering young women to lead us into the future.

Our beautiful painting by Kylie Farrelly, Spirit of the Jubilee reminded us that grounded in our traditions, we are to continue to find the strength to be this face of hope for our young people, to empower them through quality learning experiences, challenge their way of looking at the world in which they live, and then flourish in their own differences and giftedness contributing to the world.



## Our Alumnae Association – Re-launched!



As part of our 60th Jubilee celebrations, a focus for the year was on community building and this included re-energising and reforming our Alumnae Association. Launching on social media platforms, we continue to reach out to you, our 'Old Girls' and we have enjoyed listening to your stories and journeys travelled in life since leaving campus. The launch of the Alumnae Association: "Mt St Joseph's Corpus Christi Mary MacKillop College" on social media platforms has allowed us to stay connected with women all over the world.

We also launched this bi-annual Alumnae Newsletter which is another way of keeping you aware of the achievements of our remarkable women.

Another initiative was the launch on spotify of our podcasting series "Legacy of Light" where I had the great privilege of interviewing past alumnae of the college to listen to their stories and the impact the college had on setting them up for success.

"You must  
teach more by  
example than  
by word "

SAINT MARY MACKILLOP

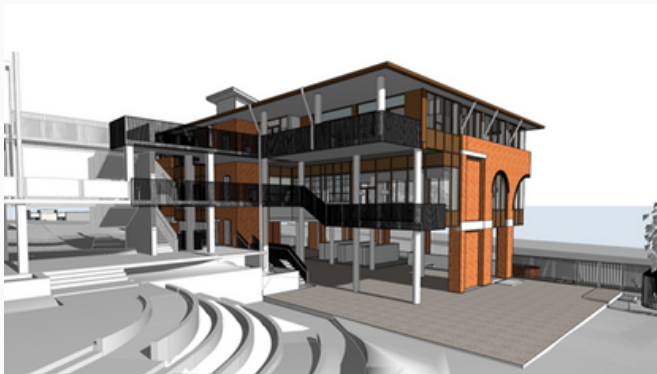




## In Conclusion,

As we bring our celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee to a close, there is much to be thankful for and proud of. We are called to celebrate our accomplishments and embrace the privilege of educating the next generation of young women to become “their own remarkable.” We express our deep gratitude to the Sisters of St Joseph for their enduring legacy. In their name, we remain committed to empowering the young women in our care, honoured to be entrusted with the responsibility of inspiring the next generation of female leaders, grounded in the values of a Josephite education.

Looking ahead, we are excited to begin the next chapter of our journey. The new McCormack Building will provide us with state-of-the-art learning spaces that reflect our steadfast commitment to girls' education. It will allow us to offer even more opportunities and experiences that cultivate courageous, independent young women, prepared to confidently face the challenges of the world.



As we move forward, we continue to carry with us the bold spirit of Mary MacKillop, whose example fuels our vocation to empower girls through education and bring hope to their lives and their families. I look forward to working more closely with you all in 2025, as we work together to create a world for our girls that is just, compassionate, and filled with peace.

**"Never See a  
Need without  
doing  
something  
about it"**

SAINT MARY MACKILLOP





# Sister Anne Cannon

Sister Anne Cannon, a cherished alumna from the Class of 1963, has continued her journey of faith and service as a Sister of St. Joseph. Her life's work reflects the values of compassion, unity, and service imparted by Mary MacKillop College, inspiring current students to carry forward the legacy of St. Mary MacKillop in their own lives.



Sister Anne Cannon began her journey at Mt St Joseph's in 1963, during a formative year before the school officially opened. Her memories of this unique time highlight the school's transition to compulsory secondary education in response to the changing educational landscape. With two small classrooms, three staff members, and around fifty students in four grades, Mt St Joseph's was then a humble establishment, with a makeshift toilet block under the trees and a lively, spirited move to the local Scout Hall, which fostered a lasting sense of community.

Sister Anne recalls the diverse student body, including girls from across Queensland, some with hopes of becoming Josephites, who joined in daily routines with the sisters. Amid these early days of Mt St Joseph's, Sister Anne found her path to become a Sister of St. Joseph alongside classmates, deepening her connection to the Josephite mission. Her journey reflects the school's foundational values and the enduring legacy of its beginnings.

# Introducing College Captains of 2025



We are thrilled to begin our journey as the College Captains for 2025 and are excited to share this incredible year ahead with you! We are Issey Jones and Ruby Payne, and our story together goes back to primary school, where we were also school captains in Year 6. It's an honour to take on this leadership role, and we look forward to serving the Mary MacKillop College community with integrity, passion, and purpose.

Before we dive into the exciting plans for the coming year, we want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the 2024 leadership team. A special thank you to College Captains Mia Silver-Thomas and Trinity North for their remarkable dedication. Their kindness, hard work, and behind-the-scenes efforts have left a lasting legacy. They have been outstanding role models, and we are grateful for the foundation they have set.

Here's to a year of unity, growth, and creating memories that will leave a mark on this amazing community!

Issey Jones and Ruby Payne

# Staff Spotlight

## Sue Goves

This edition, we celebrate a truly remarkable member of the Mary MacKillop College community: Susan Goves. Sue joined MMC in 2007 as the Head of Humanities, the same year she married her husband. Over the past 17 years, she has been a dedicated member of Fitzroy house and an integral part of the College's success.

During her time at MMC, Sue's journey was as dynamic as it was inspiring. After starting as Head of Humanities, she temporarily stepped back from the role to focus on her family during maternity leave. Balancing motherhood with her passion for education, Sue eventually returned to lead the Humanities department once again, showcasing her unwavering commitment and resilience.

Sue has held social justice close to her heart, championing programs like the Shared Meal Program and Rosies. These initiatives not only enriched the lives of countless students but also instilled in them the values of compassion, service, and community responsibility.

Known for her adventurous spirit, Sue has always been a go-getter—ready to lead school camps, trips, and excursions that created cherished memories and strengthened bonds with her students. Her infectious laugh and warmth have brought a unique vibrancy to the MMC staffroom and classrooms alike.

At the end of this year, Sue will bid farewell to MMC as she embarks on an exciting new role at Nudgee College. While her departure marks the end of an era, the legacy she leaves behind will forever be a part of the MMC community.

Sue, thank you for 17 extraordinary years of service, leadership, and inspiration. Your journey with us has been a shining example of dedication and passion, and we wish you nothing but the best in this next chapter.





# Celebrating the class of 2024

TRULY  
*Remarkable*  
WOMEN

As another chapter of Mary MacKillop College comes to a close, we proudly welcome the Class of 2024 into our alumnae community! Their graduation marked a momentous occasion filled with joy, reflection, and excitement for the future.

A highlight of their final contribution to the College was the presentation of a handmade mosaic artwork. This thoughtful gift showcases the rich history of Nundah, the land of the black duck, upon which we live, work, and learn. The mosaic pays homage to those who have walked this land before us and stands as a lasting symbol of the Class of 2024's appreciation for our community's heritage.

Thank you, Year 12, for this beautiful legacy. Our MMC community truly values your contribution and the meaningful connection it represents.

We are delighted to share some snapshots from their special day, capturing the essence of this vibrant cohort as they embraced the next chapter of their journey.

To the Class of 2024: Welcome to the alumnae network! We can't wait to see the incredible contributions you'll make to your communities and beyond.



# Celebrating the Class of 2024



# Alumnae Evening Soiree

It was an absolute joy to celebrate 60 years of educating truly remarkable women and to reminisce with past students and staff at our Alumnae Soirée! On Friday, November 8th, Mary MacKillop College came alive with laughter, memories, and the unmistakable spirit of our alumnae community.

The evening provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends, share treasured stories, and celebrate the incredible legacy of MMC. The highlight of the night was hearing from our inspiring alumnae speakers, who shared their personal journeys, reflections, and the lasting impact of their time at MMC. Their stories captivated the audience and were a true testament to the strength, resilience, and achievements of our alumnae community.

Thank you to everyone who supported this special event. Your presence and enthusiasm are what make the Mary MacKillop College community so strong. Here's to the next chapter of our alumnae journey and the many celebrations still to come!



# Alumnae Evening Soiree



# Alumnae Achievements

## Hilisha Samoa: From Mary MacKillop College to the World Stage

Mary MacKillop College proudly welcomed back alumna Hilisha Monica Mary Samoa, who shared her remarkable journey from her school days to the global sporting stage. A student at MMC from Grades 8 to 12, Hilisha was the College Captain in 2003, a role in which she began to embody the leadership and determination that have since defined her career.

Hilisha's rugby journey started with her club, Norths, before she went on to represent Queensland Women's Rugby Union in 2005, earning Cap #58. Her dream of playing on the world stage came true in 2017 when she debuted for the Wallaroos with Cap #152 and competed in the Women's Rugby Union World Cup in Ireland. That same year, her talent and dedication was recognised when she was named Australia's Wallaroo Player of the Year.

Beyond rugby, Hilisha is now a mother of five and continues to excel in the sporting world. She has transitioned into American Football, representing Queensland at the Nationals in Western Australia. With sights set on representing Australia in Flag Football at the Olympics and competing in an American Football World Cup in Europe, her journey exemplifies resilience and ambition.

Hilisha returned to MMC to present an Australian jersey to the College and express her gratitude for the foundations built during her school years. Reflecting on her time at MMC, she said, "It was a high school dream to play—stemming from my school sporting journey at Mary MacKillop College." Her story, filled with determination and triumph, stands as an inspiring testament to the power of dreaming big and working tirelessly to achieve those dreams.

Hilisha's visit reinforced the impact of sport, perseverance, and the values instilled at Mary MacKillop College, offering the next generation of MacKillop women a shining example of what is possible with hard work and self-belief.

# Hilisha Samoa



Reflecting on her time at MMC, she said, "It was a high school dream to play for Australia—stemming from my school sporting journey at Mary MacKillop College." Her story, filled with determination and triumph, stands as an inspiring testament to the power of dreaming big and working tirelessly to achieve those dreams.



# A Legacy of Learning and Leadership

Vicki Ward holds a unique place in the Mary MacKillop College story as both a past student and a teacher in the 1970s. Her journey through MMC has given her a special perspective on the school's growth and its enduring values. Vicki's reflections provide a heartfelt glimpse into the challenges and triumphs of the early days, underscoring the lessons that have shaped her life and continue to inspire.



## Reflecting on the Early Days of MMC

**By Vicki Ward**

The foundation years of Mary MacKillop College taught me invaluable life lessons—teamwork, leadership, self-reliance, and making the best of limited resources, all approached with a generous dose of humor.

In 1964, we spent much of our first year navigating construction sites, with mud planks leading to classrooms and the occasional bulldozer serenading us during exams. The challenges of those early days fostered resilience and community spirit among both students and teachers.

Student leadership was different then—less formal, but no less significant. With just a handful of Seniors, we all shared the responsibility of setting an example and building the fledgling school community. Opportunities to shine came in unexpected forms, from organising the school's first YCS (Young Christian Students) group to competing in unique events like an interschool table-setting competition.

The lessons I learned at MMC—about hard work, creativity, and building something that lasts—have stayed with me throughout my life. As Mary MacKillop might say, “Do what you can with the gifts you have and leave the rest to God.”

Those early days remind us that true community is built not just for the present but for the future. I am grateful for the role MMC played in shaping my journey and hope these values continue to guide today's MacKillop women.

## Alumnae Community



### Indianna Chapman 2014 Graduate

Indianna, a 2014 graduate of Mary MacKillop College, began her post-school journey by enrolling in a Bachelor of Midwifery. However, she soon discovered that it wasn't the right path for her. Instead, Indianna spent the next four years working and traveling with DanceFever, where she taught Dance and Sports across schools in Australia and Beijing. This invaluable experience ignited her passion for education. Currently, Indianna is a Prep teacher at All Saints Parish School, where she finds great fulfillment in nurturing and shaping the lives of young learners.



### Mary Darben Class of 2018

Mary Darben, a proud 2018 graduate of Mary MacKillop College, has gone on to make her mark in the field of civil engineering. Currently working in the water engineering industry, Mary applies her skills and passion to projects that have a positive impact on communities. Her journey is a testament to the dedication and values instilled during her time at the College.



## Dublin Rose Class of 2021

Dublin Rose, MMC's 2021 College Captain, has always been passionate about music. Her involvement in MMC Rock Band, Guitar Ensemble, and Vocal Attack deepened her love for the arts. After starting as a busker at Redcliffe Markets and performing at local festivals, she now shares her original music across Brisbane, both solo and with her band. Dublin has headlined shows, opened for numerous artists, and her music has aired on ABC, 4ZZZ, and Bridge FM. As a 2023 finalist for Brisbane City Council's QUBE Effect, her video for 'There You Go Again' won the Lord Mayor's 'People's Choice Award.' MMC's supportive community has kept Dublin close with her cohort, who continue to champion her music. As she nears graduation with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Music from QUT, Dublin is eager to pursue her dreams in the industry and release her debut EP.



## Susie Doohan 2014 Graduate

Susie Doohan graduated from MMC in 2014 and has since embraced a diverse range of opportunities over the past decade. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film, Television, and New Media Production from QUT in 2017. Her professional journey included five-years at Apple, where she undertook various roles, followed by a position at the post-production company Cutting Edge. Currently, Susie serves as an Executive Support Officer for the Queensland Government's Department of Environment, Science and Innovation.

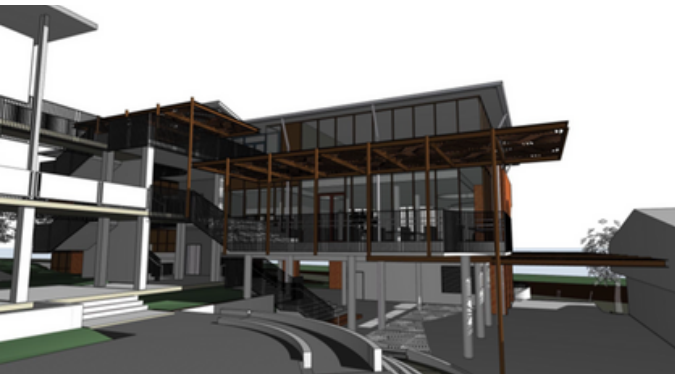
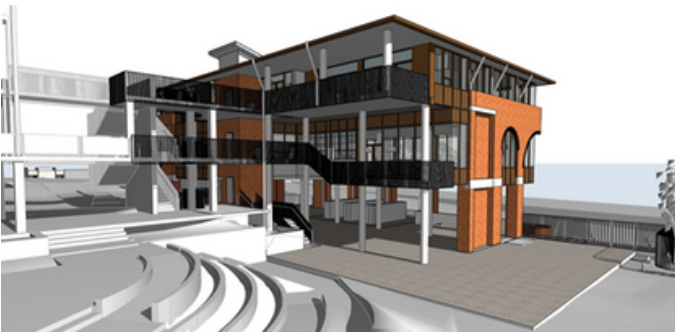
"One of my favourite things about MMC was the strong sense of community, and the self-confidence I developed having spent such formative years surrounded by wonderful teachers and friends."

## Exciting Updates: The McCormack Building

We are thrilled to share a sneak peek of our newest addition to the College, the McCormack Building! Although still in the construction phase, this state-of-the-art facility promises to enhance learning opportunities and provide a modern space for students to thrive.

The designs reveal a blend of innovation and functionality, and we can't wait to see it come to life. This new space will soon become a hub of activity, and we are excited to open its doors to our community in the near future.

Stay tuned for more updates as we near completion!





# Wishing You a Merry Christmas and a Joyful New Year

As we close another wonderful year, the Mary MacKillop College Alumnae community reflects on the achievements, stories, and connections that bring us together.

May your holiday season be filled with peace, love, and the spirit of giving, and may the new year bring hope, happiness, and continued success.

From all of us at Mary MacKillop College, we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year.

Warm regards,  
The Mary MacKillop College Alumnae Team

