



St Catherine's School
Waverley

Headmistress' Annual Review 2014



Contents

Striving for excellence	4
Message from the Chairman	9
Leadership 2014	11
Achieving Results	17
A rich and vibrant curriculum	23
Senior School	23
Junior School	38
Our Christian foundation	42
Academic Care	43
Boarding	44
Sports Highlights	45
Beyond the Curriculum	47
Outdoor education	49
Service education	50
Global opportunities	51
Our school community	52
The Foundation	53
Community Relations	54
Old Girls' Union	58
Museum and archives	59



Striving for excellence



Calvin Coolidge, the 30th president of the United States of America said “The slogan ‘press on’ has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.”

As I come to the end of my fifth year at St Catherine's, and take stock of the School's achievements, my overwhelming impression is of girls, staff and parents who press on with the job at hand, with a can-do attitude and the aspiration to succeed. And it shows. The HSC results for our 2013 cohort were superb, the school ranking 33rd in the state – with many of the schools above us selective.

Nine girls were awarded the NSW Premier's Award for All-Round Excellence – that's over 10% of the cohort. In Music I, one of our girls came second in the state. Her twin sister came third. Our entire French Continuers class achieved Band 6; for some of them their highest mark. Over 41% of our girls got an ATAR of 90 or above - meaning that 41% of them performed in the top 10% of the state. 17% of girls achieved an ATAR of 95 or above and 92% went straight on to university, with seven girls accepted into law and three into medicine. Several were offered university scholarships around Australia – including the highly competitive inaugural Australian National University Tuckwell Scholarship.

“

We welcome every girl, regardless of her IQ score or her potential to boost our rankings.

Yet we are a non-selective school. We welcome every girl, regardless of her IQ score or her potential to boost our rankings. And interestingly last year, 7% of girls went onto a gap year – an increasingly popular option in our globally oriented world.

In May we had our five-yearly Registration and Accreditation inspection by Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES), which I am delighted to say we passed – so the school will have at least five more years ahead of it! The inspector was most complimentary, saying that “the curriculum is strong from Junior School and Senior School” and that our girls “get an excellent education in a lovely environment with caring staff”. He noted that he will take away the impression that “St Catherine's is a school with strong relationships”.

Our girls' education is not, of course, just the BOSTES curriculum; it embraces so much more. Almost 200 girls were in dance groups and drama classes, performing in stunning Showcases earlier in the year. Over 100 girls play tennis – and we have a regular mothers' tennis group too. The campus is busy all year round with activities that give our girls a broad and diverse education.

Our music program continues to flourish and thirty girls competed in the Australian School Orchestral Festival with our Junior strings receiving a bronze award, Camerata strings silver, and the Senior orchestra gold. At the end of the festival, Brian Buggy OAM, conductor of the Sydney Youth Orchestra Philharmonic, congratulated the girls on the quality of their performance. This followed gold for the Intermediate Concert Band and silver for the Senior Concert Band at the NSW School Band Festival.

Nine of our girls performed in Monty Python's *Spamalot*, Scot's musical. They took three quarters of the female roles on offer, including the lead female role. It was a fabulous musical all round, its material still as politically incorrect as it was 40 years ago.

And the musical highlight of the year was the orchestra and choir's Tour to Europe. The most ambitious tour the school has ever undertaken, it was an overwhelming success. The girls performed for the Australian Ambassador to the Netherlands in The Hague, and at Disneyland Paris. In Paris the girls also performed at the Arc de Triomphe for the lighting of the eternal flame at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. In London, the girls performed at Australia House for parents, friends and Old Girls – and in Hyde Park and Westminster Abbey for ANZAC Day. They were quite simply outstanding, and we were all so proud of their technical expertise, their dedication, beautiful manners and beautiful music. With so many parents joining the tour, we really were a community at its strongest.

And in sport, our girls continue to excel. In 2014, our performance across the seven IGSSA competitive carnivals put us in 4th place out of 27 schools – making us the top-performing school for sport in Sydney's eastern suburbs for another year.

In team sports, we have more teams playing than ever, in the top division for swimming, football, touch football, tennis and water polo. For the third year running, all three of our top division water polo teams reached the grand finals. We were delighted that our intermediate team won their premiership for the third year in a row.

In our fourth season of rowing, we won our very first gold medals – four, in fact – at the Roseville College Regatta. Not only were we delighted at winning our first golds, we were also delighted to be watching the races from UTS Haberfield, our new rowing facility. Rowing has moved to a new level, and we now have our sights on winning an eight before too long.



And our girls did so much to help others this year. Through a range of activities they raised over \$30,000 for charities such as Barnardos, The Cancer Council, Legacy, The Exodus Foundation and Cambodian Children's Trust. In an inspired campaign to raise \$25,000 for World Vision's 40 Hour Famine, two girls cut off their ponytails in assembly and told a shocked audience “You think that's shocking – look what's happening in Rwanda”. They raised \$26,500 and were the third highest school fundraiser in Australia.

In April, 25 girls travelled to Nepal to help others – working with the Mitrataa Foundation to teach young Nepalese girls to read and write, and with Asha Nepal, supporting victims of sex trafficking. The trip was a defining moment for many of our girls, who now truly understand how much they have, and how much they can help others.





That generosity of spirit reflected through our school community led me to reflect on the significant talent, time and treasure that our Boards give to the School: our School Council – led by Rev Roberts; our Foundation Board led by Dr Peter Boxall AO and our Capital Campaign committee led by Mr Vince Muriti, work hard to ensure that St Catherine's is well governed and financially secure. I thank them greatly for the important work they do.

I thank everyone who has – together – helped perform this year's symphony. Our wonderful Old Girls, who continue to ensure our rich history informs our present, and give generously in so many ways. The P&F Association who – among many things organised a brilliant Magnolia Fair, raising over \$100,000 and donated \$200,000 to the Research, Performing Arts and Aquatic Centre (RPAC). In fact, thanks to the generosity of so many donors, the Foundation has raised \$2.1 million towards the RPAC over the past three years.

I thank most sincerely our superb teachers and support staff, who have together worked hard all year to ensure that we do our very best for the girls entrusted to our care. I thank you all for your dedication, persistence and team spirit. I also thank the senior leadership team and executive. You will be hard pressed to find a harder working and more dedicated team, and I know that whatever they do is done well.

I look forward to seeing you in 2015 as we 'press on' together as a resilient and interdependent community persisting when the going gets tough and gaining strength and support from each other so that we can make the most of our talents, enjoy the success hard work brings and use that success to strengthen and support others. And as we do so we look to the ultimate source of strength and support, our God who enfolds us all.

Dr Julie Townsend
Headmistress



Message from the Chairman

School is more than learning. Education is more than knowledge. We learn and grow in the context of our relationships, be it with friends, girls who are older or younger, teachers, coaches, parents, grandparents.

It's why one part of our mission at St Catherine's is to: build a nurturing environment that enables each girl to form a network of rich relationships to support her now and into the future.

Relationships themselves are a vital outcome of schooling, of education. We want to see girls graduate with not just an HSC mark, but a network of relationships.

So the nurture of a rich network of relationships is a central aim of St Catherine's, and it's probably the most important ingredient in making the school days of each girl happy and purposeful.

Relationships are fostered and grown through mentor groups, on school camps, on the sporting field, through music and the various bands, orchestras and choirs, through group assignments in the classroom, lunchtime conversations, by the camaraderie of the Physical Culture competition, through house events, and the list continues. And we hope that as those relationships develop and grow, they form a support network both now and into the future, a stable platform to take into life.

This isn't some narrow 'old school tie' mentality. Rather it's the recognition that life is a shared experience; that we should never stop meeting and getting to know people; that there are always new things we can learn from others; and that our lives are enriched as we share our lives with others and they share their lives with us. It's a great thing to have deep friendships, long-term friendships, because relationships really are the currency of our universe.

We were not made to exist in isolation from each other, nor from the God who made us. We were not made to force our own progress at the expense of others. And so, for this reason, another component of our mission is to: give each girl opportunities to learn about Jesus Christ and consider her response to the Christian message.

It's through the Christian message, through the good news about the Lord Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection, that we can learn how a restored and renewed relationship with the God who made and loves us is possible. And there is no firmer foundation on which to live life than that of a relationship with the God of all the universe and a rich network of relationships with others.

All the other aspects of education, learning and achievement are only worthy as they are directed towards trust in God and service of others.

And so as a School Council, we remain rightfully focused on people, on the girls of this School. Our vision is that a St Catherine's girl is secure in her character, confident in her abilities, respectful in her manner, and equipped to make her unique contribution to the world.



We also recognise that the secure, confident, respectful and equipped girl is formed partly by broad opportunity and challenge. Each girl needs a breadth of challenge, and different girls respond to different opportunities. It's for that reason that we will continue to develop the school's facilities and infrastructure, to provide a breadth of challenge and opportunity.

As you will be aware, in 2014 the school submitted a DA for a Masterplan for the school, the first phase being the delivery of the RPAC Research, Performing Arts and Aquatic Centre. The entire Masterplan is a long-term plan encompassing a myriad of changes to the school campus, some minor and some major to be put into effect over the next 15 to 20 years.

It represents a plan for significant improvement to the facilities available to St Catherine's girls and the smooth operation of the School. But it doesn't mean there will be a substantial or rapid change in the number of girls attending the School, nor the number of people coming onto this site week by week. Over the next 15 years, we are allowing for the possibility of an extra 200 students in total across K-12, that is, for total enrolments to be 1200 – a number that can easily be accommodated on this site and is in keeping with the forecasted population growth of our region.

It also allows St Catherine's to be a school that is still so small that students genuinely know each other, and a rich network of relationships is actually possible. We are nearing the end of the exhibition period and hope to receive formal feedback on our plans with a view to gaining approval for the Masterplan in 2015. More information on the Masterplan and RPAC can be found via the link on the front page of the St Catherine's website.

I would like to thank the many parents, grandparents and supporters of the school who use their time and energy for the good of the girls. As you know, a lot takes place in a school like St Catherine's and it takes a small army to keep everything running. Of course, the wonderful staff are key to this, and we are very thankful for their commitment and professionalism. Without the P&F executive, the Magnolia Fair committee, a dedicated band of class parents, deli volunteers, rowing parents, Foundation board members, campaign and bequest committee members, the Old Girls Union committee, archives volunteers and the casserole crises team not to mention all the other ways in which parents help out through the year without all that support, St Catherine's would not be the place it is.

Thank you to all those who give so generously of themselves in so many ways. Roger Collison, the Deputy Chairman of the Council, is stepping down after five years of service. Roger has played a very significant role on the council, working with Dr Townsend and her team to set the school on a stable financial and operational foundation. He has provided wise advice across a broad range of areas and championed a number of significant programs and improvements. We are very thankful for the way he has given freely and generously of his time and considerable abilities. Thank you, Roger.

Finally, but certainly not least, I would like to thank Dr Julie Townsend for her outstanding work as Headmistress. Just as it is not possible to list everything that happens at a school like St Catherine's, it's impossible to know how Dr Townsend manages to not only make all that happen but constantly think of new and better ways the school can be educating young women. She is blessed with endless and infectious enthusiasm, and the School Council is incredibly thankful to God for her. Thank you, Julie, for your passion for the school and your absolute dedication to the girls.

Rev Simon Roberts

Chairman, School Council



Leadership 2014

School Council

Rev Simon Roberts
Chairman

Members

Mr Roger Collison
Mrs Jacqueline Guy
Mrs Wendy Jarrat
Rev Richard Lane
Dr Jennifer Matthei
Mrs Kim Millar
Mr Graham Morrison
Rev Joshua Ng
Rev Dani Treweek
Mr Mark Woodley
The Most Reverend
Dr Glenn Davies
President

Executive

Dr Julie Townsend
Headmistress
Mrs Victoria Rennie
Deputy Headmistress
Ms Sarah Guy
Head of Junior School
Mrs Deborah Clancy
Head of Academic Care
Mr Paul Carnemolla
Head of Information
Ms Bernardine Knorr
Head of Teacher Excellence
Mr Andrew Grech
Director of Finance

Senior Leadership Team

Rev Alex Koch
Chaplain
Mr Ryan Cameron
Director of Sport
Mrs Jackie Gilson
Director Extra Curricular
Mr David Gresham
Head of Music – Performance
Mr Chris Hughes
Facilities Manager
Ms Sonya Judd
Director of Staff
Ms Natalie Miller
Director of Learning
Enrichment
Mrs Marilyn Rickard
Director Community
Relations
Ms Bronwyn Ridgway
Director of Media and
Communications
Mrs Jo Robilliard
Secondary and Tertiary
Studies Adviser
Mrs Amelia Schedlich
Executive Assistant to
Headmistress and Director
of Administrative Services
Mr Graeme Wallace
Network and Infrastructure
Manager
Mrs Trish Wilson
Director of Boarding
and Enrolments

Middle Leadership – Academic

Dr Shantha Bose
Head of Mathematics
Mr Adam Carron
Head of Research Centre K-12
Mrs Beatriz Cartledge
Head of History
Dr Nina Cook
Head of English
Mrs Marnie-Ruth Dunstan
Head of Music – Curriculum
Mrs Maryanne Dwyer
Deputy Head of Junior School
Mr David Gresham
Head of Music – Performance
Mrs Glenis Israel
Head of the Arts
Rev Alex Koch
Chaplain and
Acting Head of Biblical Studies
Mrs Margaret Leggat
Head of Languages
Ms Natalie Miller
Director of Learning
Enrichment
Miss Kate Sonter
Head of Technology and
Applied Science
Ms Tracey Walker
Head of Social Science
Mr Mark Webber
Head of Science
Mr Brett Wilson
Head of PDHPE

Year Mentors

Mrs D Clancy
Year Mentor – Year 7
Ms S Hatch
Year Mentor – Year 8
Mrs J Smith
Year Mentor – Year 9
Ms T Mitropoulos
Year Mentor – Year 10
Ms R Herbert
Year Mentor – Year 11
Ms N Schey
Year Mentor – Year 12

House Leaders

Ms J Hill
Barker
Ms J Krauss
Bronte
Mrs S Hurley
Casterton
Ms M Inandan
Hulme-Moir
Ms J Park
Sutherland

Junior School Prefects 2013-2014

Semester 1

Prefects	Claudia Freer
	Sophie Kuijper
	Maya Munro
	Mia Whalley

House	House Captain	Vice Captain
Sutherland	Zuni Mendez	Bo Dymock
Bronte	Mattison Ball and McKenzie Ball	
Casterton	Ruby Burgess-Hoar	Isabella Powell
Hulme-Moir	Abby Spencer	Jade Julian
Barker	Francesca Heyko-Porebski	Saskia Ferster

Semester 2

Prefects	Ella Berckelman
	Ashley Buchanan
	Sophie Lui
	Jade Showniruk

House	House Captain	Vice Captain
Sutherland	Jasmine Betts	Ella Lennon
Bronte	Hannah Farrow	Chloe Faddy
Casterton	Isabella Harvey	Ava Loiterton
Hulme-Moir	Jemima Dunsmore	Scout King
Barker	Ruby Kilbane	Sarah Rice

Student Representative Council (SRC) 2014

Year 7	Mary Sassine	Chelsea Kinnaird	
Year 8	Sophie Breznik	Emma Lesmond	
Year 9	Ashley Muffett	Annika Ledet	
Year 10	Gretel Fleeting	Georjal Verykios	
Year 11	Georgia Akle	Laura Farquhar	
Year 12	Jessica Sargent	Raine Giderson	Sofia Ballesteros



Junior School Student Representative Council 2013-2014

	Semester 1	Semester 2
3D	Jade Bliss Evie Cook	Sophie Burgess Willow Sewell
3L	Ellie Craven Solange Fadel	Victoria Hill Maddy Parshall
4C	Sophia Voigt Rhianna Jones	Emily Buchanan Delphi Hinchcliffe
4M	Gabrielle Betts Olivia Southall	Lucy Booth Deanna Koumi
5B	Olivia Kinnaird Zoe Sullivan	Nicole Chong Bridget Kluck
5D	Sophie Mitchell Laura Kirwan	Lucy Giuffrida Madison Souvlis
5E	Maggie Bolas Lily Foxall	Eliza Morgan Chloe Sassine
6L	Sophie Woodhouse Georgia Pellegrini	Piper Macneall Jessica Shelley
6M	Tiger Lily Christensen Isobel Owens	Chloe Higgs Elizabeth Tabbash
6Y	Jamilla Ledet Isabella Southall	Elaine Koumi Lucy Tate





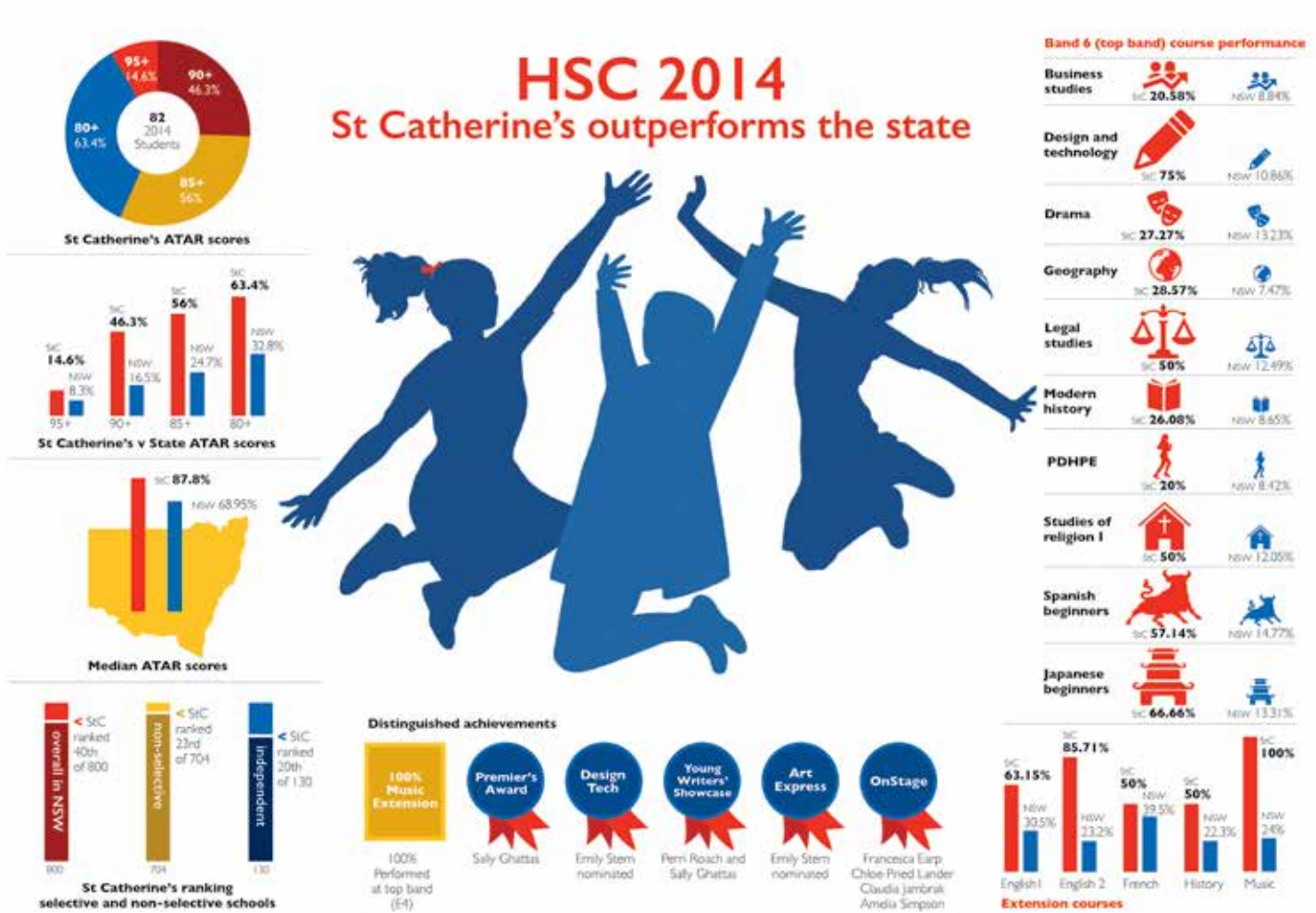
Achieving results

Higher School Certificate

The Year 12 Class of 2014 achieved excellent HSC results. St Catherine's students received 120 acknowledgements on the NSW BOSTES Distinguished Achievers List for students who achieved a mark of 90 or above in HSC Courses. One student was the recipient of a Premier's Award for marks of 90% or above in 10 or more units of HSC study. Of particular note was the Extension Music cohort, where all girls achieved a Band 6 (over 90) result. Students were nominated for HSC showcases in a range of courses including ARTEXPRESS (Visual Arts), Young Writers' Showcase (English Extension 2) and OnStage (Drama). One student was selected for DesignTECH (Design and Technology).

These outstanding HSC results from 2014 reflect the broad excellence of educational opportunities and achievement at St Catherine's School.

The infographic and tables that follow shows the notable HSC course performances.



Subject	Band 6 school (%)	Band 6 state (%)	Bands 5+6 school (%)	Bands 5+6 state (%)
Business studies	20.58	8.84	70.58	36.95
Design and technology	75.00	10.86	100	37.12
Drama	27.27	13.23	81.81	42.11
English advanced	27.27	14.67	80.30	59.30
English as a second language (ESL)	16.66	4.49	66.66	28.28
Geography	28.57	7.47	100	43.63
Legal studies	50.00	12.49	82.14	39.63
Modern history	26.08	8.65	91.29	42.28
PDHPE	20.00	8.42	53.33	30.49
Studies of religion 1	50.00	12.05	75.00	48.72
Studies of religion 2	25.00	8.24	50.00	44.18
Visual arts	17.39	10.63	78.25	48.60
Spanish beginners	57.14	14.77	85.71	36.44
Japanese beginners	66.66	13.31	100	41.09

ATAR results

An ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) is a rank between 0 and 99.95 that indicates a student's position relative to the state cohort.

The top ATAR at St Catherine's School in 2014 was 98.65.

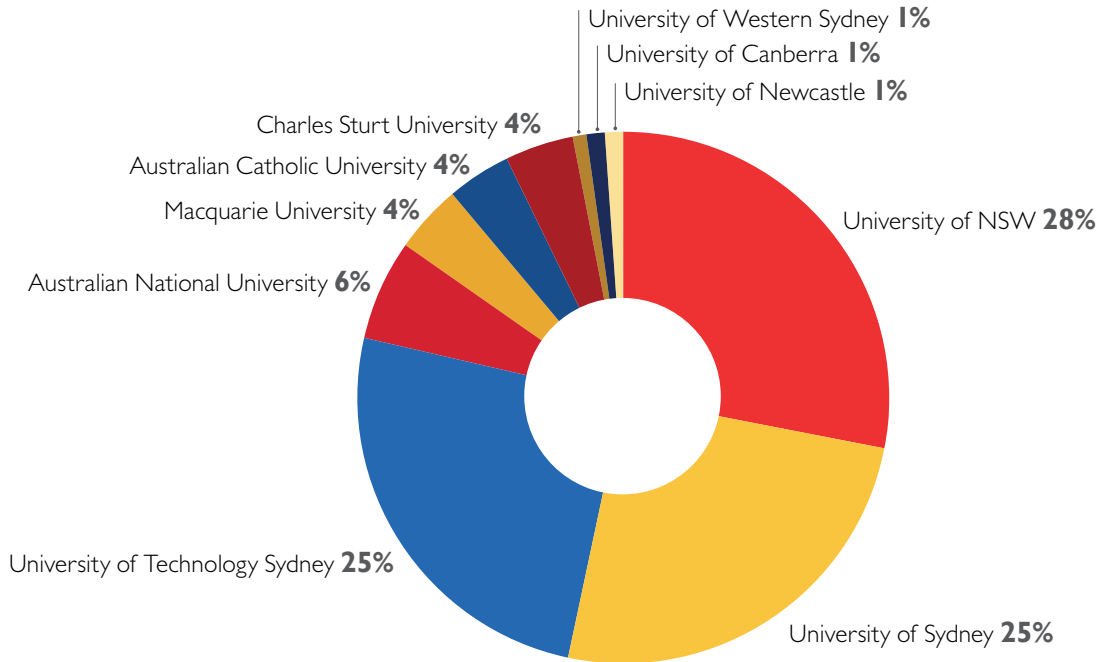
The following table of estimated ATARs for Year 12 students in 2014 indicates that the majority of students achieved an ATAR higher than 85. The percentage of St Catherine's students who achieved high ATARs was significant when compared with the rest of the state.

The median ATAR at St Catherine's in 2014 was 87.8 compared with a state median of 68.95.

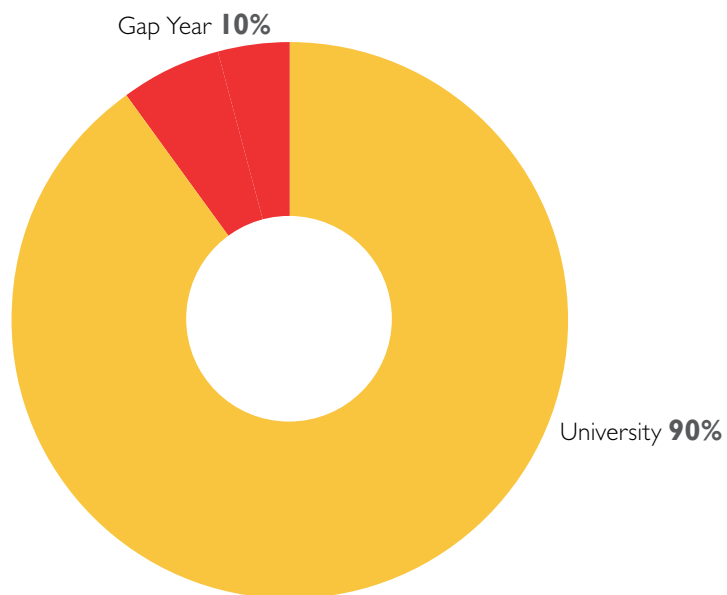
ATAR	% of St Catherine's HSC students	% of NSW HSC students
95+	14.6	8.3
90+	46.3	16.5
85+	56	24.7
80+	63.4	32.8

Entry to University

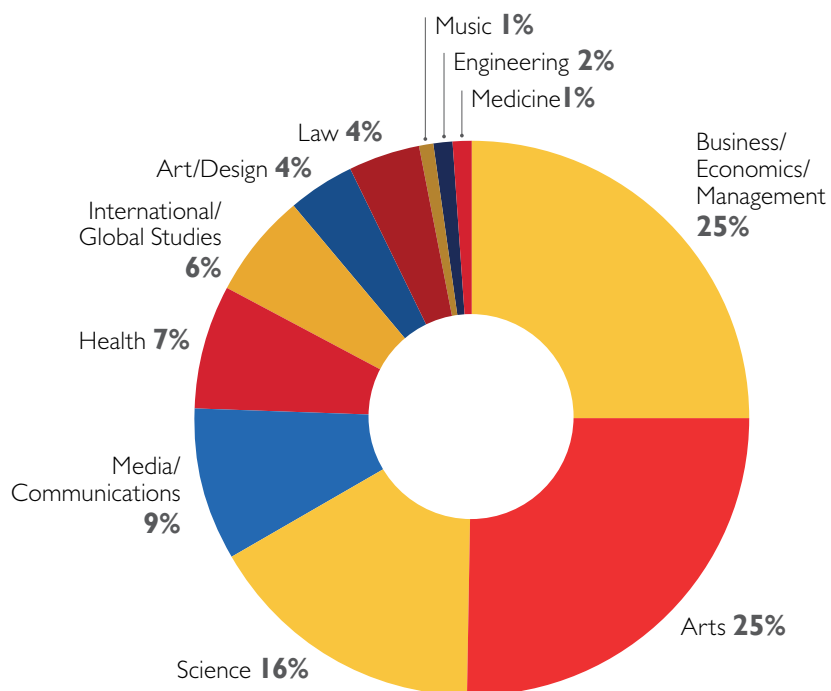
Year 12 university destination by offer 2014



Year 12 post-school destinations 2014



Year 12 University faculty and area study destinations 2014



NAPLAN summary 2014

All students tested in reading, writing, spelling, grammar, punctuation and numeracy in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 were at or above the national minimum standard.

In every group, and in every testing area, the school was above the state average.

The comparative measures are noted below for the top band for each year group.

Year level	Reading %	Writing %	Spelling %	Grammar and Punctuation %	Numeracy %
Year 3	41.7	29.8	42.6	51.1	27.1
State	29.7	11.5	26.3	32.5	17.7
Year 5	52.6	23.1	29.5	57.7	28.2
State	16.9	5.6	14.7	22.7	13.8
Year 7	25.0	16.4	25.9	34.5	28.4
State	12.9	4.9	14.7	14.9	14.8
Year 9	29.0	20.6	29.4	27.5	34.7
State	7.9	6.5	12.2	7.5	14.1



A rich and vibrant curriculum

Senior School

English

Year 10 students completed a fascinating year of individual investigation that culminated in a wonderful showcase called Right Here, Write Now. This independent project encouraged students to practise 21st century skills such as collaboration, communication and critical thinking, and create original writing and presentations on a topic of their choice. Parents, staff and other students were able to view a range of imaginative presentations in a variety of forms and listen to students discuss the impact of their research.

Poetry in Action had Year 7 and 8 students enthralled as they were taken on an inspired journey into the world of verse and image. Year 9 students were in the privileged position of having a private audience with John Bell, while Year 10 and 11 students put Shakespeare on Trial with a workshop and performance of *Macbeth*. Year 12 students also had a workshop on *Hamlet* with Bell Shakespeare that helped students to see the play as a performance piece.

It was a year of collaboration as we developed new units on travel texts for Year 8 and a thought-provoking study of Australian identity for Year 10. We had visiting lecturers for Year 12 and, as preparation for the HSC, designed two weeks of workshops that helped students focus on areas that they wished to consolidate. It enabled students to hear staff lecture on their areas of academic interest and provided a deeper level of textual insight for students.

Dr Cook and Mrs Rennie presented at the AIS conference and Dr Cook and Mr Caputo are presenting at the ETA conference on the Flipped Classroom. This exciting innovation focuses on liberating the classroom for creativity by enabling students' to pause, rewind, and replay lecture videos and absorb new content at a pace that works for them. It has been a year of stimulating and exciting interactions on a range of texts.

Dr Nina Cook
Head of English



History

The history faculty implemented two new syllabi in 2014, a Year 7 and a Year 9 NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum. We have focused our energy on developing new units of work and resources for these syllabi and have developed an interesting program of study for both year groups.

The department engaged the students in a number of creative ways and our exciting Medieval Day was one of the highlights of the year. Mr Pfeiffer and Mr McMurdo's plague doctor costumes, designed and made by Miss Read, were truly marvellous and Miss Read complemented them in her witch costume.

Mathematics

In 2014 the percentage of girls studying higher levels of mathematics in Stage 6 remains significantly higher than at the state level. Our students were enthused and motivated by Natasha Nankivell, a St Catherine's parent, who is extremely successful in the field of finance following a double degree of Pure and Applied Mathematics. Natasha addressed the school assembly on the importance of mathematical thinking in everyday work and how it builds an analytical and creative mind.

Achievements in mathematic enrichment programs remains high, with 130 out of 140 participants in the Australian Mathematics Competition receiving certificates of proficiency, credit, distinction or high distinction. In the Mathematics Challenge Program for highly gifted mathematicians, the high distinctions and distinctions of Sophie Wentworth, Zoe Dunn, Ashley Muffett, Rebecca Thong, Katerina Theocharous and Victoria are noteworthy.

Members of our faculty continue to gain and share professional experience; Shantha Bose is a member of the AIS mathematics

Another highlight was Ms Hatch's baking for her Year II Ancient History class. She presented her students with a stratigraphy cake to help them understand the concept of stratigraphy, the dating of different layers in an archaeological site.

We continued to see the department's contribution to professional publications with Mr Pfeiffer and Mrs Cartlidge contributing articles to the *Teaching History* journal, published in Term 3.

Mrs Beatriz Cartlidge

Head of History

professional development committee, Samantha Clare presented at the AIS annual conference and Jacqueline Weiss was an HSC marker for the mathematics course. Aleksandra Ola Smith, a new scheme teacher, completed her accreditation following a thorough appraisal process. Flora Yeoum, another new scheme teacher, is in the process of doing the same. Other staff members attended professional development events relating to the implementation of the new National Curriculum and the integration of technology.

Maths Week was an across-the-school event and each year group from 7 to 10 were involved in a House relay competition to answer mathematics questions to score points. It was such a success that it was extended to a lunchtime teacher relay event where teachers competed across faculties and were cheered on by students. Girls also had an opportunity to hand in solutions to quizzes and puzzles during the week.

Dr Shantha Bose

Head of Mathematics



Languages

St Catherine's students who are learning Chinese participated in the inaugural Chinese language spectacular at Sydney Town Hall in October. Our students in Year 8 joined the mass choir from many schools around NSW and our Year 5 students performed a dance called 'Little girls picking up mushrooms'. The show was outstanding and our girls did a magnificent job.

Year 8 Latin students attended the annual Year 8 Classics Camp at Elanora Conference Centre. An action-packed weekend with activities including learning how to rap in Latin and participate in gladiatorial combat, it culminated with two of our girls winning the best T-shirt and badge design competition.

Some Year 8 French students participated in the study tour to Noumea in the September school holidays. The girls attended immersion classes every morning for four hours and then enjoyed using their new language skills in the restaurants and shops.

Students from our sister school in Japan, Ohtani Junior High School arrived on our shores in August and 20 girls stayed with St Catherine's families for five nights and attended school with their host sisters. We were treated to a presentation in Japanese during our languages assembly where the girls sang *Let it Go* from the movie *Frozen*.

Years 9-II Spanish students participated in a cultural dance workshop where they experienced the music of different Latin American dance styles. This class was totally conducted in Spanish.

Senior students in Years 11 and 12 French, German and Japanese enjoyed workshop days organised by the language associations to provide immersion in the language to help towards their HSC exams.

Years 10 and 11 French classes visited the Australian National Maritime Museum to see the French exhibits and listened to the explanations in French. Then they enjoyed a typical French meal, many trying snails for the first time.

Our girls have a strong wish to travel and enhance their knowledge of the language and the culture that they are studying. There are two girls visiting Japan on exchange, three girls going to France and two girls off to Germany. The French and German girls were in Australia for five weeks in June/July. They benefited from their visit and are excited to host our girls in their country.

We were proud to host 30 teachers of French from across NSW who attended a Stage 6 assessment workshop organised by our senior French teacher, Madame Rosen.

Madame Rosen was once again elected president of NAFT, the NSW French language teachers association, with our very own Mademoiselle Robertson elected Vice President for 2015.

Congratulations to Alexandra Petsoglou, who won first place in the Year 9 category of the Alliance Francaise NSW French Challenge.

Mrs Margaret Leggat

Head of Languages



Music - Curriculum

Staff achievements

Marnie-Ruth Dunstan and Lorraine Silk completed level I Orff Schulwerk music education course in the October holidays.

David Gresham completed level 4 Orff Schulwerk music education course.

Marnie-Ruth Dunstan marked HSC music performances.

Marnie-Ruth Dunstan completed a course on conducting and rehearsal techniques.

Jenny Birrell attended a three-day workshop on the National Curriculum, a choral and musical theatre workshop run by Hal Leonard, and a two-day classroom music conference run by the Orff Schulwerk Association of NSW.

Student achievements

Paris Francis of Year 8 was one of eight winners of a fanfare competition run by the Sydney Opera House. The winners had a workshop session with composer Nicholas Vines, and then had their fanfares performed for one month as the call for people to take their seat.

Three of our talented musicians participated in a nationwide video conference masterclass with instrumental teachers from the Canberra School of Music in conjunction with the Australian National University. Kayleigh Yap, Zoe Rosenthal and Elektra Kay received expert tuition with an audience of our girls and students from around the nation.



Technology advancements

Revision for the yearly exams was made much more palatable this year with the introduction of short, catchy videos designed to help students revise and prepare for the theory components of their music exams. The aim was for students to watch the videos, complete the relevant work and exercises and hand it to their teacher for marking. It is a useful form of flipped classroom learning and the videos are available to all music students on the portal.

Curriculum related excursions

- Encore our girls were very excited to see the names of Stephanie and Laura Ng from the Class of 2013 appear in the program for having presented exemplary viva voces.
- Meet the Music at the Opera House for the first time, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra presented four Meet the Music concerts for Music 1 and Music 2 candidates. Two concerts were devoted to film music.
- Year 10 and 11 music students visited Fox Studios for a lecture on the film music of John Williams.
- The stage 4 symphony concert for Year 7 is often the first orchestral concert girls attend and the girls always derive much pleasure from it.
- Salaka drumming – for Year 7 each girl is given a drum and a chance to play African rhythms.

- Year 12 Music 2 girls joined Cranbrook School for an HSC composition day with composer Damien Barbeler.
- Strategies for Musical Success a lecture by Michael Griffin with tips for successful practice and how the brain works when studying music.
- Thanks to the generosity of a parent, some students had the wonderful opportunity to attend a concert featuring the Australian Chamber Orchestra with The Presets in a timeline concert at the Sydney Opera House.

Junior School

For the first time this year junior music has expanded to include junior drama and dance and is now known as The Performing Arts. A visit to the vibrant classroom may see you banging on a drum, blowing a recorder, singing your heart out, acting out stories and scenes to music, dancing up a storm and interacting with a smartboard. All this falls under the umbrella of the Orff Schulwerk music education method.

Opera Australia visited to present *The Barber of Seville*.

Year 6 are becoming master composers using the Mixcraft software program. This gives them a great boost into the music classroom of the Senior School.

Mrs Marnie-Ruth Dunstan

Head of Music – Curriculum





Building the school community

Our Senior School musicians represented the School at the highest level during their tour to Europe. Performances at the Arc de Triomphe for the lighting of the eternal flame at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Hyde Park Dawn Service and Westminster Abbey ANZAC Service were highlights in a tour that took the musicians through Amsterdam, Brugge, Paris and London.

St Catherine's continued to build its musical relationship with The Scots College. Scots produced the show *Spamalot*, with our girls Annabelle Dryden of Year 11, Honey Christensen of Year 8, Tia Haes of Year 10, Harriet Hedger of Year 9, Edan McGovern of Year 10, Savannah Schonberger of Year 10 and Emelia Smyth of Year 8 playing seven of the 12 female roles.

Our ensembles continued to work with Newington College, with the senior and intermediate strings, and senior and intermediate concert bands taking part in the annual band and strings workshop, and concert.

Years 5 and 6 produced a wonderful version of the Disney classic *The Little Mermaid* under the direction of Ms Jenny Birrell. Many parents assisted in creating sets and costumes for the Junior School singers.

Mr David Gresham

Head of Music – Performance

Music - performance

The instrumental program began the year with 296 girls learning from one of St Catherine's instrumental tutors.

The bassoon was introduced into the Year 4 instrumental program. This followed the successful introduction of double bass in 2013, with four girls learning bass by the end of 2014.

St Catherine's girls continued their involvement in the Sydney Youth Orchestra program. Lisa Guo (violin), Elena Menacho-Conn (violin) and Savannah Schonberger (violin) performed in the Sinfonietta; Paris Francis (violin) and Eloise Reddy (violin) were part of Chamber Strings; Martina Fazzari (violin) was a member of the Speer Orchestra; and Isabelle Rafferty (bass clarinet) performed in the Symphonic Wind Orchestra. St Catherine's was also represented in the Sydney Chamber Choir with the involvement of Honey Christensen.

A number of our ensembles competed during the year. The senior concert band received silver, and the intermediate concert band gold, at the NSW Band Festival while the junior concert band received gold at the Engadine Band Festival. Junior strings were awarded bronze at the Australian Schools Orchestral Festival held at Abbotsleigh, while Camerata Strings received silver and the senior orchestra, gold.



Science

Blood analysis, electrophoresis, measuring the acceleration of falling objects, building electric circuits, DNA fingerprinting, examining geological samples, inventing do-it-yourself telescopes, studying anatomy with a human torso, constructing electromagnetic motors, reacting acids with volatile metals, making microscope slides of cells, growing microbes on agar and filling soap bubbles with inflammable methane gas. These are some of the demonstrations and practicals St Catherine's science students experienced during 2014.

The Australian National Curriculum was implemented in Years 7 and 9 with completion in 2015 in Years 8 and 10. Girls can access the new Oxford digital textbooks online through their personal accounts. This resource provides a range of learning artefacts, resources, questions and answers as well as examination problems. It has been of great assistance to many of our science students. The Science by Doing website at <https://www.sciencebydoing.edu.au/> also provides fascinating learning experiences for outside the classroom.

The girls from Years 7 to 12 are encouraged to adopt a growth mindset in learning science; to embrace challenges, persist in the face of setbacks, see effort as the path to mastery, learn from feedback and find lessons and inspiration in the success of others as well as themselves. The current Year 10 students are embracing this challenge, having created three biology classes, two physics classes and two chemistry classes. One of our most significant department goals is to encourage our girls to continue to study science beyond school. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workers drive our nation's innovation and competitiveness by generating new ideas, companies and industries.

St Catherine's science teachers enjoy a range of professional experiences, including HSC marking, working with science specialists from CSIRO, universities and professional associations. Our goals are to improve our own content knowledge and teaching skills to provide the best experience for our girls in science.

Mr Mark Webber
Head of Science



Social Science

Christine Lagarde, head of the International Monetary Fund inspired the girls while in Sydney for the G20 summit. Mme Lagarde's vast knowledge was shared when the girls were invited to be audience members of the ABC's TV program Q&A. Her passion for education was evident in her parting words to the girls: "I truly believe that girls' education is an absolute must. I don't know of any situation where the requirements are no hard work, no study and things are just easy-peasy and you don't have to make any effort."

Year 10 girls experienced the life and business wisdom of world famous Seth Godin at the Business Chicks seminar. A humorous, highly entertaining lecture asked them to tap into their creative and entrepreneurial energies to create opportunities and be business leaders of the future. Working with the St Catherine's Foundation, a private tour of the trading floor at Citigroup, business lunch and an update on the Chinese economy from chief economists rounded up our business experiences out of the classroom.

Peering through the fences at Barangaroo, geography students had a sneak peak of the controversial development. They witnessed

the impacts of urban growth and decline, and not-so-silent protest of local residents. Our HSC geographers undertake rigorous investigations in the fields, and their examination of the global wine industry involved a trip to the Hunter Valley – the cheese and crackers making a satisfying tasting experience.

An urban dynamics investigation of Sydney and delving into Mt Keira's rainforests, covered the spectrum of human and physical geography.

Technology allows virtual field trips and our girls used Google Earth to examine the community of Cabramatta. Running a business is a highlight each year for our Year 9 class. The activity combines social justice and business acumen, and this year raised \$1200 for charity.

We are reworking learning programs for Year 10, to introduce a single seamless Stage 5 course for 2015 based on Board of Studies NSW developments with geography and the national curriculum.

Mr Fellow, Mr McMurdo and Mrs Walker are new staff introduced to the department this year.

Ms Tracey Walker
Head of Social Science

Biblical Studies

St Catherine's students enjoyed a number of exciting developments in the Biblical Studies program in 2014. Year 9 students experienced a 'flipped classroom' as they discussed key practical issues and themes arising from Christianity with author John Dickson. Years 7 and 8 were given a greater choice of creative assessment options to demonstrate their learning in a variety of forms.

As the Year 12 girls' time at St Catherine's drew to a close, a number of guest presenters visited to run seminars. Mr Rhys Duggan from St Matthias Anglican Church, Centennial Park, discussed various objections to Christianity. Ms Gillian Davis shared her experiences with Christian Surfers International and explained how trust in Jesus can provide a strong foundation for life.

Studies of Religion students visited a variety of people and places to gain firsthand knowledge of differing religions. Year 11 students visited The Great Synagogue in the CBD and the Auburn Gallipoli Mosque, asking their hosts countless questions to add significant depth and rigour to their understanding gleaned in class. Rabbi David Freedman spoke to Year 12 students about Jewish marriage and Ms Tamana Daqiq discussed the influential 20th century Muslim scholar Syed Maududi.

The Bible has been a profoundly influential text across the globe for thousands of years. While many in society have a diminishing interest in understanding it, a deep knowledge of this significant book remains an essential component of a well-rounded education.

Rev Alex Koch
Acting Head of Biblical Studies

Drama

Our first Year 7 and 8 production was the highly entertaining and whimsical rendition of *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll. Years 9 and 10 were involved as directors and set designers. Some of our ballet dancers had a chance to perform, as well as five budding actors who shared the role of Alice. Congratulations to the parents for the splendid costumes. The audience was packed with younger siblings who joined in the fun.

The Year 11 play, *Daisy Pulls It Off* is a comedy by Denise Deegan, a parody of wholesome adventure stories about life in a 1920s girls' boarding school in England. The packed audience enjoyed the humorous situations, not only relating to the context of the play but also being enthralled by the actors' accents. Thank you, Dr Townsend, for your voice tutoring.

Our first ever Artist in Residence for the year was renowned playwright Lachlan Philpott. A huge thank you to St Catherine's P&F for funding this wonderful opportunity.

The aim of the program was to establish The Drama Club, a writers' group for students who are interested in writing for theatre. Lachlan Philpott has a strong track record of working in collaboration with young people to create new theatre work. A group of 18 Year 9 and 10 girls, with Mrs Williams, met one afternoon a week. The girls became engaged in some unique and interesting writing tasks and some of the work was presented at the mid-year drama showcase Contempo.

Mr Philpott also conducted writing workshops with the Year 12 drama class, providing the girls with a different angle and exploring the task from the perspective of the playwright.

In recognition of their HSC group item, Chloe Friedlander, Claudia Jambak, Amelia Simpson and Francesca Earp were selected as a possible inclusion in OnSTAGE. Quite an honour for the students and a reflection of the high standard of drama at St Catherine's, even though they weren't on the final program.



Visual Arts

We had an exciting opportunity, funded by the P&F, with photographer Charles McKean as Artist in Residence. He worked with staff and students raising our technical skills and giving us an insight into his profession. Mr McKean is an AIPP Master of Photography and an Associate of the Australian Photographic Society. He has won multiple gold and silver awards, including Kodak's (worldwide) Photographer of the Day. The afternoon sessions began with Year 10 and the new Year 12s and continue into 2015.

This year we have strengthened our literacy focus from Year 7 on, encouraging students to build on their visual imagery and insight so that they can engage with, and question, the world they live in.

It is important that they gain expertise in critical discourse about art, to understand why artists choose their issues or subject matter, why they use certain art processes and media, why imagery and ideas change, and what connections to world history are apparent.

Year 12 have written their own artist's statements to accompany their body of work to clarify their ideas and processes.

This year's successes include the shortlisting for an APA Award for Excellence in Educational Publishing of the Visual Arts textbook written for the Australian Curriculum by our Head of Department. And the nomination of Emily Stern's meticulous drawings of birds in the ArtExpress showcase is a tribute to her dedication and talent.

Mrs Glen Israel

Head of the Arts





PDHPE

There were a number of staff changes within the PDHPE faculty this year. Mrs Renee Rogers, Mrs Karen Walton and Mrs Elaine Cairns took maternity leave at various stages and we welcomed back Mrs Tanya Carter from maternity leave. We also welcomed two vibrant young teachers, Ms Jamie-Lee Brown and Ms Rachael Whitting, to the faculty as relieving casual teachers.

Our Junior School PE program places significant emphasis on the development of fundamental movement skills such as throwing, catching, striking, running and jumping. Other key aspects are our swimming and gymnastics programs, with specialist instructors occasionally joining us for enrichment activities.

The Years 7-10 program emphasises the promotion of life-long physical activity and the capacity to enhance personal health.

There were a number of professional development activities undertaken by staff this year. Mrs Carter and Ms Strong attended workshops on Physical Activity, Sport and Healthy Eating; Positive Psychology, and innovative ways to teach physical and health education. Mr Wilson attended a course on using ICT to promote group work and collaboration using the DyKnow program. He also attended a PDHPE conference in Canberra, which involved workshops on using ICT to promote better workflows, strategies

for 'flipping the classroom' and a new approach to teaching nutrition and cooking skills. Mr Wilson was able to share some of his knowledge with the rest of the teaching staff at a professional learning afternoon.

Thirty-one Year 11 students achieved their certificates to Provide First Aid as part of the 2-unit PDHPE preliminary course. Year 7 attended a surf safety education excursion to Long Reef beach, where they learnt how to identify rips and dangerous surf conditions, what to do if they get in trouble in the surf, and the role of the lifeguards and volunteer lifesavers. They also got to experience the thrill of riding surfboards and boogie boards under the supervision of qualified surf instructors. Many students described it as "the best excursion EVER!"

The PDHPE faculty proudly achieved 100% endorsement of our programs and documentation at this year's registration inspection. The popularity of the Stage 6 2-unit PDHPE course continues to grow, with another two classes in Year 11 2015 adding to the two Year 12 classes.

Mr Brett Wilson

Head of PDHPE

Research Centre

The focus of the Research Centre in 2014 was to develop the culture of reading as well as build engagement and create new and exciting learning experiences for the girls. As a result, we have had record numbers of students borrowing and reading! The excitement continues to build with the planning for the new Research and Performing Arts Centre (RPAC).

Some of our great success stories this year include the 'Between the lines' reading and writing initiative in Years 7-9 and the 'Right Here Write Now' research-based project in Year 10. 'Between the lines' is a structured reading program that involves students reading a related text that aligns to the units they are studying in English. Students have gone on to publish book reviews in class and on our student voice blog website. The 'Right Here Write Now' research project challenged our Year 10 English students to develop

a deeper appreciation of the world around us. They also researched an ethical issue that they felt strongly about and presented their findings with an exhibition in the Jane Barker Hall. We are looking forward to building on this innovative inquiry-based project next year.

Book Week is a fabulous opportunity to enthuse our students about literature and reading. The Research Centre team worked tirelessly to create an action-packed week of activities. We were most fortunate to have the world-famous author Jaclyn Moriarty visit us and share a multitude of beautiful stories about her journey as a writer and lover of literature. We are looking forward to making Book Week 2015 even bigger!

Mr Adam Carron

Head of Research Centre K-12

Learning Enrichment

The bar of academic excellence was raised for students and staff by Learning Enrichment (LE) in 2014. Our girls experienced the thrill of new and rich learning experiences and the teaching staff undertook numerous post-graduate studies. This focus on self-improvement across both areas highlights the imperative of quality education in LE.

The introduction of Philosophy for Children (P4C) asked Stage I students to consider concepts such as "Why the glass is half empty" and "What is love". They were encouraged to question assumptions, analyse different responses and develop their opinions.

Future Problem Solving in the Junior School saw Year 5 and Year 6 students design positive futures using critical and creative thinking.

In the Senior School, Year II girls competed for the first time in the da Vinci Decathlon at Knox Grammar. To their delight, they placed first in Engineering, Art and Poetry. And more triumph for our senior girls

in the Tournament of the Minds competition where they achieved an Honour's Award for their superb efforts.

To support best practice across gifted and talented, and special education fields, many of our teachers embarked on study programs. Post-graduate and TAFE studies were undertaken by five of our LE staff. Mrs Robyn Blomfield completed a Master of Inclusive Education at Charles Sturt University, with coursework covering areas of special and gifted education. Mrs Aleca Bradshaw completed a postgraduate Certificate in Learning Support and has elected to complete a Master of Special Education at Macquarie University. Mrs Tassia August and Mrs Marian Romeo completed a Certificate III in Education Support this year. Ms Natalie Miller is undertaking a Graduate Certificate in Gifted Education at UNSW. This was also the first year that Ms Miller was appointed to the management committee of the Learning Difficulties Coalition.

Ms Natalie Miller

Director of Learning Enrichment





Junior School

Notable achievements

ICAS testing

English	Year 4	Maddison Farrow
		Delphi Hinchcliffe
	Year 5	Zoe Sullivan
Science	Year 2	Gemma Allen
Writing	Year 3	Olivia Cook
		Luna Coyle-Beeche
		Sophia Kelley
	Year 5	Fiona Yu

Writing

Georgia York of Year 6 and Nicole Chong of Year 5 were shortlisted for the Lionel Bowen Young Writers' Awards and were highly commended for their poems.

Future Problem Solving

Junior School students competed in Future Problem Solving for the first time in 2014. Selected students from Years 5 and 6 met weekly to work through problems that enhanced their critical, creative and futuristic thinking, while enabling them to promote positive futures for our society. Team members included Maggie Bolas, Michaela Dyson, Flora Feng, Laura Kirwan, Jessica Marshall, Ava O'Brien, Madison Souvlis and Elizabeth Tabbash.

Staff Achievements

Mrs Aleca Bradshaw and Mrs Emma Henderson were awarded their Experienced Teacher accreditation.

Mrs Vanessa Browning and Miss Susanna Matters delivered a presentation at the AIS Primary Conference, focussing on creative inquiry and Professor Cathy Fosnot's critical approach to number.

Mrs Vanessa Browning, Miss Katharyn Reid and Miss Susanna Matters completed the Harvard Graduate School of Education online certificate course Making Thinking Visible: Building Understanding through Critical and Creative Thinking.

Initiatives in Teaching and Learning

2014 saw the implementation of THRASS (Teaching Handwriting, Reading and Spelling Skills) in all Kindergarten to Year 3 classes. THRASS is a phonics teaching tool with a phonographic, multisensory approach. All children now receive explicit teaching in THRASS for the first 20 minutes of the literacy session every morning. Regular support is provided by the Learning Enrichment

team to enhance literacy development for identified students in each K-3 class. In 2015, THRASS will be introduced in Year 4.

One of our goals for 2014 was to make the learning intentions of each lesson more clear for our students. To help achieve this, teachers used WALT (We Are Learning To) and WILF (What I'm Looking For) statements. These statements were also included on all work samples in the students' portfolios.

Another of our goals was to enhance the teaching of critical and innovative thinking skills. Following the success of the 2013 teachers' book club discussions based on *Making Thinking Visible* by Ron Ritchhart et al, a number of teachers began incorporating 'thinking routines' in their classroom practice. These routines are allowing children's thinking and learning to become more visible, thus enabling teachers to create cultures of thinking within the Junior School.

The Junior School's inaugural 'Celebration of Learning' allowed teachers to engage parents in the learning process; another of our goals for 2014. Parents were invited to visit their daughter's classroom, where teachers demonstrated the exciting ways they are enhancing learning and providing feedback, while students demonstrated two of the general capabilities of the Australian Curriculum: 'reflecting on learning' and 'critical and creative thinking'.

Stage I

Students in Stage I took part in a myriad of adventures and learning experiences. They accepted each challenge with excitement, enthusiasm and a thirst for more. Be it through the gymnastics display, athletics or swimming carnivals, the Christmas musical, infants' choir or classroom fun, all K-2 students demonstrated skill, passion and a love of learning.

The introduction of iPads in K-2 was a significant development and has provided students with new opportunities to investigate and learn. Devices were integrated into the classroom to support the curriculum by incorporating the three Cs: collecting information, creating pieces of work and collaboration.

THRASS was also introduced into Stage I. This highly successful initiative was embraced by students and teachers, with much interest and support from our parent community. All students became expert THRASS rappers and thoroughly enjoyed learning the components of the THRASS chart. They applied their new knowledge to all facets of their learning and appreciated being able to teach their parents their newfound knowledge and skills. All students' learning was enhanced through creativity, critical thinking and reflection. They should all be proud of their achievements in what has been an exciting and eventful year.

Stage 2

Stage 2 girls have been exceptionally busy this year as they explored and demonstrated their many talents across all facets of school life. Whether it be in the classroom, on the sporting field or through performing arts, the girls have represented their school proudly and with integrity. The year commenced with Year 3 excitedly visiting the Sydney Tower Eye to investigate the landmarks of Sydney from a new perspective, while Year 4 girls travelled to the beautiful Blue Mountains for some bush cooking, hiking and orienteering as part of their camp. As the term progressed, girls from both years were eager to participate in 'jumping off inquiry lessons' in the mathematics classroom and learned a lot from visiting mathematician-in-residence Charles Lovitt.

Term 2 saw the Year 4 students travel to Westfield Bondi Junction as part of their 'Who Will Buy?' unit before creating and marketing their own product or service to eager Year 3 clientele. Term 3 brought with it NAPLAN and 'Simultaneous Storytime' whereby all girls in the Junior School read together a short story about too many elephants! The second half of the year was also a time for critical and creative thinking, with a particular focus on feedback. Girls became very well practised in providing constructive feedback to their peers in the form of 'Two Stars and a Wish'. This routine proved very useful as a means of assisting girls to proofread, edit and improve their work. A highlight for the Year 3 girls in 2014 was the annual library sleepover in preparation for Year 4 camp, while a highlight for Year 4 was travelling to the Sydney Observatory to look through the giant telescope! The end of the year brought with it the opportunity to host the annual Christmas chapel service. This was a wonderful way to bring the whole Junior School community together and to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

Stage 3

Stage 3 students began the year with their annual three-day camp to Port Hacking in the Royal National Park, where they took part in a multitude of activities and challenges. Our Easter chapel service was hosted by Stage 3, where they presented 'Judge Pilate – The Mistrial of Jesus'. Year 5 students were delighted to receive an individual Microsoft Surface Pro 2 tablet at the start of the year, which transformed their learning both in and out of the classroom. The study of earthquakes and SPECTRA in science took Year 5 on excursions to IMAX and Powerhouse Museum. The gold show incursion captivated Year 5 students in Term 4.

As part of the Service Learning program, Year 6 students visited the elderly residents in Summit Care; assisted with the activities at 'Clomama', a group for mothers and toddlers at St Luke's Church; and were involved with National Tree Day. Year 6 students hosted the Evening of Eminence, where each student recited an

entertaining bio riddle dressed as their eminent person and then made their way to an informative stand where they presented information and answered questions about their eminent person. As part of the Year 6 study on Australian government, the students went on a three-day excursion to Canberra, which included a visit to the War Memorial, the Electoral Education Centre and Parliament House. All Stage 3 students prepared speeches, delivered in class, and the finalists were then showcased in a Public Speaking afternoon. Thirty-six Stage 3 students went on a memorable Central Australia excursion during the September holidays to Uluru, Kings Canyon, Alice Springs and Wallace Rockhole. Term 4 culminated for Year 6 with the highly anticipated Cranbrook Dance and Graduation Dinner.



I like how we always got to make things and we could work in pairs or small groups."

Savannah Moar, Year 1

K-2 Collaborative Investigations

K-2 investigations were enhanced through the introduction of iPads across the curriculum. These devices allowed students in Year 1 to become cinematographers and create their own documentary about a chosen sea creature. This task elicited an excitement and engagement that all teachers dream of. The classrooms were buzzing with students keen to direct, produce and act in their very own film.

Investigations also allowed students to consider mathematics in real-world contexts. Year 2 students became farm life experts, experimenting with egg carton designs using their multiplication and division knowledge as well as designing chicken coops and animal paddocks to demonstrate their understanding of area. Kindergarten students also investigated a variety of mathematical concepts, and they had fun designing and building a new toy as part of their science and Human Society and It's Environment topics. Whilst exploring 'weather', they created a wind catcher and enjoyed testing it in the playground. All students continued on their life-long journey of learning and developed their skills of questioning, explaining and providing constructive feedback to their peers.

Year 3 and Year 4 Investigations

Investigations and inquiry learning have been a significant focus of the mathematics curriculum this year. In Stage 2, girls undertook a range of investigations to help direct their learning. Just one of the investigations explored by girls in Year 3 was 'What three-dimensional shapes can you construct using straws and Blu-Tack?' While girls in Year 4 were asked to investigate how to calculate 'How many hundreds-and-thousands would cover a piece of bread?' According to Rhianna in Year 4, "This can be really interesting as there's more than one answer, but it can also make it more challenging." In Semester 2, Year 3 girls were introduced to the world of robotics. The robotics program is both engaging and challenging for the students. As they construct and program robots, the students gain first-hand experience of the connection between science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Gifted Education

Gifted students were involved in many exciting experiences throughout 2014. The Learning Enrichment team worked with small groups throughout the school, differentiating activities and providing appropriate extension and enrichment opportunities.

Some of this year's highlights include:

Extension groups across Kindergarten to Year 6 received enrichment in English, HSIE, mathematics and science.

Talented Year 6 mathematicians attended the AIS mathematics camp, where they spent three days exploring what it means to be a problem-solver. They learned that problem-solvers look for patterns, explore different strategies, ask questions and persist.

A group of talented writers from both the Junior and Senior School spent an afternoon with acclaimed author Jaclyn Moriarty to work on their creative writing skills.

A Junior School trivia quiz was organised by Octavia Carey, the Senior School enrichment prefect. With 31 selected students from Years 4, 5 and 6, students were divided into four energetic teams.

All participants worked collaboratively, competing to be the winning team.

P4C 'Philosophy for Children' gave our Stage I students the opportunity to devise questions of interest. In P4C student diversity was welcomed as students were encouraged to question assumptions, develop opinions with supporting reasons, analyse significant concepts plus apply reasoning and judgement to questions.

Gifted and talented student interviews were established to ensure our Junior School girls were provided with time to discuss their strengths and reflect on areas to develop.

Selected Year 5 and 6 students attended the da Vinci Decathlon at Knox Grammar School. Students competed in 10 different disciplines, including poetry, code breaking and engineering.

'Hectic, fascinating, cantankerous, furry and curious' – these were the compulsory words set as one of the parameters for girls from Year 5 to Year 10 who participated in the Write a Book in a Day competition. The aim of the day is to encourage those students



who enjoy creative writing to work collaboratively to produce a cohesive, illustrated story based around parameters set on the day. Money raised by this event goes to the Children's Hospital at Westmead to support the Kids' Cancer Project. Copies of the books are also given to the hospital for the children to enjoy.

Seven students from Years 5 and 6 participated in the Tournament of Minds competition. They performed exceptionally well as they presented their response to the 'Language Literature' challenge: 'The Epic Homer'. They were required to tell a story of importance to a live audience. Basing their story on the importance of telling the truth, they selected the characters Helen of Troy, the Boy Who Cried Wolf, Gretel (from Hansel and Gretel), and Daedalus (from Greek mythology), to weave an engaging, clever tale with a powerful message.

Library

The Junior School Library had a very busy year. February was a celebration of books during Library Lovers' Week, and the first week of March was spent exploring all things Dr Seuss to mark what would have been his 110th birthday.

A number of new library collections were created to cater for our avid readers, including a 'Junior Quick Reads' and 'Young Adult' collection. A number of new resources were purchased to support the introduction of the English Australian Curriculum.

We had a record number of author and illustrator visits, welcoming Jacqueline Harvey and Ben Wood for Book Week. Deborah Abela and Jen Storer also visited the Junior School during the year to share their latest books and run workshops with classes. Year 4 had a 'virtual' visit from Wendy Orr, author of the *Nim's Island* series, and were the first to hear extracts from the final book in the series.

Term 3 was all about Book Week and the theme 'Connect to Reading'. Year 2 connected to Bexley Public School and shared their thoughts about some of the shortlisted books. The annual Book Character Dress-Up Day highlighted the strong reading culture at St Catherine's. The gold coin donations from this day raised an impressive \$509 for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. The Book Week bookmark competition saw over 90 entries and Trixi Symonds visited to run a parent-daughter sewing workshop.

A number of dedicated Year 5 students were invaluable members of the library team, fulfilling their role as library cadets throughout 2014. The Adopt-a-Shelf scheme proved popular, with a number of

students choosing to take care of a shelf in the library. The library shelves have never looked better with books in order and beautiful decorations adorning the shelves.

Visual arts

Staff worked hard to ensure that all students came to know and believe that they are uniquely creative, have imaginative minds and that they all are 'awesome artists'. This belief in themselves and in their own ability to be an artistic person led to much joy and enthusiasm in the art room. The idea that there are no mistakes, no-one is ever wrong and everything is possible if you give it a go, fostered a sense of freedom and fun in how they approached and created their art. Through 'appreciation circles', where students sat in a community circle and shared positive, thoughtful ideas

about one another's work, to viewing famous artists' works, students looked deeper and reflected on the how and why of art. In this visual, digital world they really examined the art around them to understand the messages they are given and the messages they, as artists, can convey in their own artworks. It was incredibly exciting to see how these budding artists encouraged and supported each other in their creative ventures each

day, and how they were not afraid to let themselves create, make and get involved with a positive 'I can, I will, I am' mindset.

Good causes

The Student Representative Council worked hard to raise much-needed funds for those in need. In Semester 1 students took part in a Dress Up as a Parent day and played games at lunch that tested their parenting skills. We raised money and awareness for the Melanoma Institute Australia as we all recognise this as a worthy cause in our beachside community. Semester 2 saw the students involved in the beautiful Rainbow Day and cupcake sale, 'St Cath's Idol' and the annual Christmas Mini-fete. All funds from these activities are going to Goods for Girls. We hope that we are able to build another toilet block in Africa this year! Junior School families generously supported Operation Christmas Child, donating hundreds of gift-filled boxes that will bring much joy to children in developing countries. Thank you to the wonderful representatives from each class who demonstrated care, leadership and maturity when planning and preparing the fundraising days.

Ms Sarah Guy

Head of Junior School



Investigations was so much fun! I loved making and building lots of things."

Mimi Sewell, Year 1

Our Christian foundation

The voluntary Christian groups within the School continue to thrive, with many girls actively involved throughout the year. In the Junior School, the lunchtime groups became known in 2014 as 'Cru' groups. Many excited girls from K-2 eagerly awaited MiniCru each Monday, captivated by stories from the life of Jesus and from Exodus. While Years 3-5 had many involved in JuniorCru, a newly established group for Year 6 students, SeniorCru, encouraged a growing number of girls to continue to follow Jesus as they approached high school.

Apart from weekly large and small group meetings, girls in Adelphe (the group for students in Years 7-12) were able to spend time together in Katoomba at Adelphe Escape, hearing from guest speaker Lilly Strachan about persevering as a follower of Jesus. Adelphe also hosted its first InterCru event, where students from Christian groups in independent schools in the region join together for an afternoon of food, fun activities and fellowship.

This year's theme for Faith Week was YOLO (You Only Live Once), where students were challenged to consider what things in life are worthwhile, what things are illusory and the difference Jesus makes to how we might live today. Guest speaker Carmelina Read gave a very clear explanation of the concept of grace, creatively incorporating the use of a talking novelty fish she had once received as a gift. She showed how we might find comfort and hope in God's unconditional love for us.

Rev Alex Koch

Chaplain



Academic Care

Student Representative Council

Change was the game for the Student Representative Council (SRC) in 2014. They made a valuable input to the new and invigorated St Catherine's School student diary, which has more space, increased functionality and a fresh design.

Identity cards were planned too, thanks to our SRC. The cards will be used to access concession rates, pay for printing and deli orders and give younger students a photo ID. It's a great outcome for the Senior School. The Research Centre is happy that the students will be able to use them when borrowing books.

With a new Year 7 precinct underway, the SRC gave valuable advice about what the younger students might require to make a smooth transition to the Senior School. Ideas included master access locker keys and placing lockers outside mentor rooms. These ideas were actioned and the feedback from the girls has been outstanding.

The SRC was instrumental in purchasing new lockers funded by the P&F for the Year II area.

Some significant positive changes have occurred at the School due to the forward thinking of the SRC and their ability to speak for the students.

Mrs Deborah Clancy
Head of Academic Care



Boarding

The joy of St Catherine's boarding house is the mix of cultures, and this year we were home to Australian girls from Dubbo, Wellington, Lord Howe Island, Nyngan, Hillston, Tamworth, Harden, Kelso, Mudgee, Cootamundra, Griffith, Wagga Wagga, Quirindi and the Northern Territory; and overseas girls from Thailand, China (Shanghai and Guangzhou), Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

Sadly, Anne-Marie Spencer, who joined the boarding house in 2005, died on 17 February 2014, after a long struggle with cancer. Ms Catherine Wood subsequently joined the boarding staff in the Senior Supervisor role in Term 2, and has

enthusiastically completed the first step of the 'Duty of Care' boarding qualification.

Two new junior live-in supervisors, Pele Burke and Henriette du Toit, also joined boarding, along with Emily Miers (OG 2013), who took over from her sister Alicia Miers (OG 2009), as the boarders' tutor. Having recently graduated from St Catherine's, Emily's expertise is in high demand.

Year 12 boarders (Terms 1-3) and Year 11 (Term 4), continued to play a valuable role as assistants to senior staff. By working afternoon shifts in a paid capacity, senior students learn what is required to commit to a role and to meet others' needs, while they receive valuable mentoring from senior staff.

Reverend Alex Koch provided much-appreciated spiritual and emotional support to staff and boarders following the deaths of Grace Lindsay (OG 2013) and Anne-Marie Spencer. Throughout the year, Reverend Koch has ensured boarders participate in Sunday evening chapel services through reading Bible passages, prayers and playing music.

The Boarders' Student Council, with representatives from Years 7 to 12, worked very well together to enhance the lives of boarders. The food committee met weekly with Chef Joseph Favorito, they organised dances, the Year 12 boarders' valedictory and Christmas dinners, as well as theatre outings to *The Lion King* and *Wicked*.

Boarding prizes for 2014 were awarded to two country boarders – Jessica Sargent (Boarders' Prize) and Jessica Berryman (Joan Hall Prize). Both girls displayed strong leadership skills and played a significant role in helping to uphold the School's virtues and the values of our boarding community.

Mrs Trish Wilson

Director of Boarding



Sports highlights

On the sporting field, 2014 saw many outstanding achievements across the 20-plus sports programs offered at St Catherine's. Some of the key achievements: Our Senior School sports teams won 26 premierships in 2014 and our participation rates were at their highest for both the Primary and Senior Schools. In the Junior School, a highlight for 2014 was the gymnastic team's success at the Independent Primary Sport Heads Association (IPSHA) carnival – with our rhythmic girls placing 1st overall in every category and artistic placing 4th overall in level I, and 2nd in division I. At Independent Girls' Schools Sporting Association (IGSSA), after averaging all our results across the seven carnivals, we finished an outstanding 4th out of 27 schools.

Place	School	Average Score
1	Pymble	1.71
2	Abbotsleigh	5
3	PLC Sydney	6.71
4	St Catherine's	7.14
5	Ravenswood	8
6	Ascham	8.14
7	MLC Burwood	8.42
8	Roseville	9.57
9	Queenwood	9.85
10	Kincoppal Rose Bay	12
11	Wenona	12.28
12	Loreto Normanhurst	12.57
13	SCEGGS	13.14
14	Meriden	13.85
15	Monte Sant' Angelo	14.57
16	Tara	15
17	Loreto Kirribilli	16.85
17	Kambala	16.85
19	Frensham	17.85
20	Brigidine	19.07
21	NEGS	20
21	Danebank	20
23	St Vincent's	20.85
24	Calrossy	21.85
25	CGGS	22.07
26	Tangara	22
27	PLC Armidale	23



Our IGSSA netball won six premierships – the most of any school. This success is largely due to the introduction of RNA Netball. Head of netball, Mr Nick Athas, has awakened a sleeping giant by offering a club pathway that allows girls to play netball for three terms. This sharpens their skills and provides better development opportunities.

Throughout the year another big milestone was achieved by the move of our rowing from Drummoyne to UTS at Haberfield. With our rowing program only four years old, the St Catherine's rowing squad now rows out of one of the finest training facilities in Australia. We are only one bay from the UTS elite world-renowned coaches Ellen Randell and Tim McLaren. Many schools tendered for the new UTS sheds and we were fortunate to be the preferred school. We are now working hard to build a relationship with the club, and this will see many of our rowers graduate into the UTS elite program. A similar relationship with UNSW in water polo has led to great success for both St Catherine's and UNSW women's water polo.

2014 was not only a successful year for our girls, it was also a year for sport staff achievements. Mr Andrew Yanitsas (Head of Senior School team sport) and Mr Richie Campbell (Head water polo coach) won a national league title for UNSW Wests in water polo, with Mr Yanitsas as coach and Mr Campbell as a strike player. Mr Campbell was also named 2014 male water polo player of the year. Nathan Powers and Leah Yanitsas also represented Australia in water polo. Water polo coaches Amy Ridge and Tori Morrissey both represented Australia: Amy at the Youth World Championships and Tori in the Australian Junior Team.

Mr Ryan Cameron
Director of Sport

Beyond the Curriculum

Beyond the Curriculum programs and activities have continued to grow in 2014. Our out-of-school-hours programs provide students with a range of activities that may not be accessible during the school day. There are rich opportunities to develop new friendships across age groups, learn new skills, increase motivation and self-esteem or even to uncover a hidden talent.

In 2014 there were many memorable highlights. At the Trinity Guildhall Speech and Drama examinations, 56 girls participated, with 19 candidates achieving a merit and 37 a distinction.

2014 was also a very successful year for the dancers at our STC Studios. The year commenced with a bang as our students performed at the Magnolia Fair, at RAW Dance and in the prestigious Sydney Opera House Concert Hall. This was followed by a string of successes by our performance teams and company, in competitions around Sydney. At least one troupe placed in every competition and there were many multi-section placings.

Our Royal Academy of Dance examination candidates all received outstanding results and our Wakakirri team won a total of eight awards, including National Champion for their dance film *Is it Scary?*

The year concluded with an incredible showcase of our students' talents at Ignite.

Many students have enjoyed learning new skills in artistic and rhythmic gymnastics, yoga, pilates, cardio fitness, tennis, swimming, Chinese, French, acting for screen, art and cooking.

We are looking forward to continuing to offer a wide range of programs and activities both during and outside school terms in 2015.

Mrs Jackie Gilson

Director Extra-Curricular



Outdoor Education

Outdoor Education at St Catherine's provides broad, challenging and vibrant experiences in an outdoor setting.

In 2014 all students in Years 7-9 and Year 11 participated in a camp program either in a rural or urban environment.

Year 7 visited the Southern Highlands for three nights camping at Attunga, where they embraced physical adventures, including abseiling, flying fox, hiking and horse riding.

Our Year 8 students also headed down to the Highlands to Wombaroo. They participated in mountain bike riding, hiking, canoeing, raft building and high ropes.

The Year 9 program allowed students to choose between four programs and to select their challenge of choice. The most adventurous chose to attend camp at Bungonia, where their journey took them through canyons and rock scrambling, while others chose to spend the five days in canoes or sea kayaks on the Hawkesbury. The final group experienced a number of challenges in and around central Sydney, which proved to be not the easy option some of them expected.

Our Year 11 program focussed on leadership skills and preparation for the girls' final year at School. The program also allowed the girls to try a range of activities they may wish to pursue post-school – including surfing, stand-up paddleboarding, yoga and sailing. A number of workshops were held, the highlight being the presentation led by Mrs Victoria Rennie and Mrs Deborah Clancy to focus the girls on academic tenacity and the importance of developing a growth mindset.

Camp is one of the most fondly recalled times at school, with students talking about many of the experiences long after they have returned.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award program gives students an opportunity to learn new skills, broaden their horizons, and build self-esteem, confidence and independence through programs designed by themselves and based on their own interests and passions.

It was my first year as Duke of Edinburgh coordinator and I am pleased to announce that the School had an encouraging increase in the number of participants. More pleasing was celebrating the wonderful achievement of the 10 Gold Awardees. This growth in popularity is testament to the courage of all the girls involved, as participation in the award is entirely voluntary.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award went totally digital in 2014, with all participants now recording their award progress online rather than in a record book.

Mrs Jackie Gilson

Director Extra-Curricular

Service education

Again in 2014, service education was a key feature of the girls' experience at St Catherine's. The girls have an opportunity to get involved in volunteering and fundraising, as they develop and apply their signature strengths in individual and group situations for the benefit of others. Service education also helps girls develop gratitude and enhance other skills in teamwork, problem solving and more.

St Catherine's girls helped at Bread of Life, St Michael's Church, providing breakfast for the homeless once a month, and there have been other opportunities for voluntary work, such as the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal. Year 10 students also sold badges for Legacy.

Year 11 students developed an awareness campaign for the 40-Hour Famine. Gemma Scheinberg and Eleanor Boxall led this campaign, cutting off their hair at an assembly to demonstrate what it was like to "give up" something that means a lot to them. This inspired the whole school and many students and teachers got on board, collecting \$26,500 for World Vision.

The prefects ran a *St Cath's Got Talent* show, with the theme 'Take a Stand'. Girls participated to raise funds for education in Cambodia through the charity Samaritan's Purse. They aimed to promote awareness for this organisation as well as financial support. The fundraiser was very popular, raising more than \$2000.

Fundraising activities continued, with over \$45,000 distributed to charities such as Barnardos Australia, the Cancer Council (Daffodil Day and Pink Ribbon Day), the East Bali Poverty Project, Jeans for Genes Day and The Cambodian Children's Trust. Our relationship with the Mitrataa Foundation has continued and strengthened in 2014, with 24 girls travelling to Nepal to teach disadvantaged girls in the 'Dream Centres' there. This international focus of the service education program empowers girls to have interdependence and make a meaningful contribution to their world. This year, we also connected with a new organisation called Asha Nepal, where we worked with girls rescued from child trafficking. It was amazing to be able to support others and provide care and compassion to those who are not as fortunate as we are.

Ms Sarah Hatch

Coordinator of Service Education



Global opportunities

As part of our ongoing commitment to bringing a global dimension to a St Catherine's education, we continued our exciting student cultural exchange program for Year 9 students in 2014.

This program assists girls to develop positive relationships with others, to understand a broader range of perspectives and develop the knowledge and skills needed to live as global citizens. A student exchange can be a truly life-changing experience, as the best way to learn about another country and culture is to be immersed in it, appreciating first-hand its customs, lifestyle and nuances. The cultural exchange program allows the girls to develop networks and forge friendships with other students across the world that can last a lifetime.

The programs are reciprocal: each student will spend approximately five weeks during July and August hosting an exchange 'sister', who attends St Catherine's with her during term time. Our own exchange participants will then travel to either Argentina or England in late September to spend five weeks as a guest in their host sister's home, also attending her school.

In 2014 we extended our program to include two schools in England and six students travelling to Argentina. Royal High School in Bath hosted five of our girls and we were thrilled to exchange another five students with Hereford Cathedral School for the first time.

With this expansion we were able to give more of our girls the opportunity to participate in this exciting program. We also extended the program to girls in our boarding community for the first time, with one St Catherine's girl boarding at Royal High School in Bath.

Mrs Victoria Rennie

Deputy Headmistress



Our school community

Parents and Friends' Association

The St Catherine's Parents and Friends' Association enjoyed a busy and productive year, and were involved in a wide range of activities. We kicked off 2014 by co-hosting the annual Welcome Cocktail Party. As the year progressed, we also hosted the Mother's and Father's Day breakfasts.

The P&F has been delighted to fund a number of items on the Headmistress' annual wish list, supporting both the Junior and Senior Schools, including:

- a goalie kit for the hockey team
- choir risers for the Jo Karolis Sports Centre (JKSC)
- Year 11 lockers
- a ping pong table for the boarding house
- THRASS resources for the Junior School, and
- a range of Artist in Residence programs supporting the Junior School (scientist and mathematician) and visual arts (photographer and playwright).

We also provided funding for P&F end-of-year Speech Night prizes.

A significant contribution of \$200,000 was made by the P&F to the St Catherine's Foundation to support the Research, Performing Arts and Aquatic Complex (RPAC). This amount will be spent on a distinctive item in the RPAC complex.

Our fundraising efforts achieved a resounding success in 2014 with the biennial Magnolia Fair. Under the leadership of Sally Taylor, this event brought in over \$100,000 for the School.

The P&F have given support to our senior students this year by sending individual best wishes cards to Year 12 students before the commencement of the HSC exams. We also presented Year 10 girls with hair ribbons to be worn in Years 11 and 12.

The P&F are responsible for managing our School's class-parent communication system – supporting both social and P&F activities. We hold two meetings each term, one in the morning and one in the evening, and all parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The P&F Executive is a voluntary committee, comprising:

- Lisa Hammond – Vice President
- Darren Collins – Treasurer
- Sarah Barrett-Jones – Secretary
- Melissa Fisher – P&F Foundation representative
- Suzie Urquhart – P&F Boarder representative
- Leanne Chessell – Newsletter representative

Sincere thanks go to the Executive for their hard work and to our wonderful class parents who are integral to the St Catherine's community.

Ms Louise Campbell

President



The Foundation

It has been an exciting year for the Foundation, with several initiatives introduced and milestones reached:

\$2.1 million was raised by the Campaign Committee to support the fundraising for the RPAC (Research, Performing Arts and Aquatic Centre) project being undertaken by the School.

A corporate visits program was introduced, with a visit to Citibank Australia's corporate office in Sydney's CBD by Year 11 Economics students.

The professional women's networking breakfast program was launched in March, with ABC journalist Emma Alberici as guest speaker. November saw our second in the series held in the UBS boardroom, with HR Director for Coca-Cola Amatil, Chair of the NSW Advisory Board for the Starlight Children's Foundation and VP of the Australian chapter of the International Women's Forum, Kate Mason-Dryden, as guest speaker.

The Fielding Fellowship commenced an annual invitation program inviting a number of past parents and past staff to pre-show drinks with Dr Julie Townsend before the 2014 Music Showcase.

The Fizz stall at the Magnolia Fair proved popular and provided the Foundation with an opportunity to share details of the RPAC plans with the School community.

The annual Foundation members' cocktail party held in May was once again a great success with Year 7 parent, producer and filmmaker Michael Cordell, taking us on a roller-coaster journey through his career.

My thanks go to my fellow board and subcommittee members for their commitment to the work of the Foundation. This year is a fine example of the collaboration between the OGU and the P&F as we all strive to support the School.

Dr Peter J Boxall AO

Chairman



St Catherine's Foundation Board members 2014

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Mr Vince Muriti, Deputy Chairman
Dr Jackie Canessa
Dr Nuncio D'Angelo
Mrs Helen Deegan
Mrs Evangeline Galettis OAM
Mr Peter Shorthouse
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Community Relations
Mrs Barbara Beasley – Alumni Relations Coordinator

Community relations

St Catherine's is most fortunate to be generously supported by many families, staff and friends – future, current and past. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for each gift, whether to our Building Fund (RPAC Appeal), Scholarship Fund, Library Fund, Rowing program, prize endowments or through a bequest.

Please contact Mrs Marilyn Rickard, Director Community Relations, for further information about giving to St Catherine's. mrickard@stcaths.nsw.edu.au 02 8305 6238

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13 x anonymous





Old Girls' Union

The Old Girls' Union Annual chapel service and Annual General Meeting was held on 15 March 2014 with Reverend Alex Koch conducting the service for the first time.

In May, the Old Girls once again ran the Devonshire teas in the Dining Room at the Magnolia Fair. It was a popular place to be, with several older ladies and one gentleman enjoying cups of tea while waiting for their friends and commenting on how it was a beautiful respite from the busyness of the Fair.

Dr Julie Townsend welcomed Old Girls to the Annual Jane Barker Luncheon in May, where she spoke of the importance of the Old Girls in providing warmth, depth and values to our School, which is grounded by the events and the girls who have gone before. Memories were born, others came alive and generations came together when 40 Old Girls met Year 4 girls at the event, which is held every year to celebrate Old Girls who left the school 50 or more years ago.

The Old Girls' Union annual function was a brunch held at Vaucluse House. It was a beautiful morning and 45 Old Girls attended along with Dr Julie Townsend and past Headmistress Mrs Lynne Stone.

Regular reunions were held for the five-year, 10-year, 20-year and 30-year groups. Several Old Girls who attended the 30 year reunion had not seen each other since they left school and there was not a break in conversation all night!

Having finished the digitisation in the museum, our fundraising focus moved to the update of the House Captain boards in the Sports Centre. The existing boards will run out of space in 2016 and we are designing boards for Patterson and Phillips, the two new houses, to be installed in 2015.

The Old Girls' Union has been working with the Foundation Board to offer Networking Breakfasts for their members and current parents of the School. This is a wonderful opportunity for professional women in the St Catherine's community to form valuable connections with each other and build their professional network.



We thank the School for its support of the Old Girls' Union this year, especially Barbara, Marilyn and, of course, Julie who is one of our greatest supporters. Thank you to the OGU committee for your hard work, in particular Evangeline, without whom the Old Girls' Union would not operate as efficiently or effectively as it does.

Cathy Ridge
President

Museum and archives

This year we are fortunate to have had the services of Sarah Ind, a professional records manager, whose efforts have resulted in a considerable reorganisation and streamlining of our holdings, with many series now listed on Archive Manager.

Our core records, the student files, have been sorted, reboxed and listed, which has enabled us to compile a list of missing files and anomalies. HSC and School Certificate records have also been reordered by year, reboxed and listed. Our collection of audio tapes has been organised by type and listed to facilitate retrieval. Junior School records, previously held as one series, have been sorted and listed as a discrete series.

We have reorganised the storage space, with bays and shelves all labelled, and these locations have been recorded in Archive Manager.

We have also received considerable help from our volunteer Old Girls. Anne Robinson has assisted with the reorganisation of records relating to Mrs Lynne Stone's tenure as Headmistress, and Beryl Cato has done very valuable work with the photographic collection. Averil Condren has continued to provide support in all aspects of the Archives operation.

The year 2015 marks the centenary of *The Catherineian* and we have been planning ways to mark this milestone. We are also working on a heritage register, listing past pupils using formal records, memorabilia and photographs.

I attended professional development days organised by the Australian Society of Archivists School Archives group. The 'digital records' session was especially helpful with the preparation of our own digital records policy, which is under review. The meeting on 'privacy and access to school records' also led us to do considerable research into our obligations under the Privacy Act. We have continued to receive and process donations from the School community and we have assisted with research into family histories, including helping a researcher from ANU who is studying the life of former student, artist Eirene Mort (1879-1977). We also assisted the School architect with historical background on existing buildings.

Year 7 attended the museum for five School history lessons in 2014, and we had fun assisting them with the compilation of their time capsules to be opened in 2019.

We have undertaken considerable research into the history of the School houses in conjunction with the two new houses, Patterson and Phillips, being established in 2015.

I have been in regular communication with former Headmistress Miss Faith Patterson. She recently celebrated her 89th birthday and continues to be vitally interested in all aspects of the School.

Mrs Evangeline Galettis

Archivist





St Catherine's School

Waverley



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CRICOS 02322K ISSN 2205-0388