

Spirit

St Andrew's Anglican College

Edition 16
Semester 1 2026

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FROM *Our Principal*

As we reach the midpoint of the year,
I have found myself reflecting on what
makes St Andrew's such a special place to
learn, work and belong.

While every semester brings its own milestones and achievements, it is often the the everyday moments of connection that best capture the heart of our College. A student discovering a new passion, a teacher encouraging perseverance, students celebrating one another's success, or a simple act of kindness between peers. These moments remind us that education is about so much more than academic results alone.

One of the great privileges of being Principal is experiencing the College through so many different lenses each day. I might begin the day by welcoming our students and families at drop off in the morning, spend lunchtime talking with Year 12 students about their aspirations beyond school, and finish the day applauding a music performance or cheering from the sidelines of a sporting event. While every student's journey is unique, what continually stands out is the confidence they gain when they feel known, supported and encouraged to pursue their interests. It is these moments that remind me why our Diamond Strong culture is so important.

At St Andrew's, we are committed to nurturing young people who are not only capable learners, but confident, compassionate and purposeful individuals. Academic excellence remains at the heart of our College, supported by outstanding teaching, evidence-informed practice and a commitment



to developing the whole student. Equally important is the development of character, resilience and a strong sense of belonging. These are not separate priorities. Together, they prepare our students to embrace the opportunities and challenges of a rapidly changing world with curiosity, courage and integrity.

Throughout this magazine, you will see many examples of that philosophy in action. From achievements in the classroom to success in the arts, sport, service, leadership and outdoor education, our students continue to embrace opportunities with enthusiasm and determination. Their willingness to challenge themselves, support one another and contribute to the wider community is something we celebrate every day.



This semester has also marked an exciting chapter in the life of our College. As our new Performing Arts Centre continues to take shape and partnerships such as our collaboration with the Australian Wearable Art Festival create new pathways for creativity and innovation, we continue to invest in opportunities that inspire learning and expand what is possible for our students.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, the encouragement of our families and the generosity of our wider community. Education is, and always will be, a partnership. Together, we create an environment where young people are challenged to achieve their personal best, supported to grow in confidence and character, and inspired to make a positive difference in the world around them.

I hope you enjoy reading the stories in these pages. They offer just a glimpse into the remarkable people, partnerships and opportunities that define our College community. More than a collection of achievements, they reflect what it means to be Diamond Strong, a community where we encourage one another to grow, celebrate each other's successes and know that we are always stronger together.

K. Gorrie

Karen Gorrie
College Principal

STAFF LEARNING TO STUDENT *Discovery*



At St Andrew's, learning doesn't stop when teachers leave the classroom. We are committed to fostering a culture where staff continue to learn from one another, share their expertise and explore new ways to enrich student learning.

Recently, our teaching staff took part in a hands-on professional learning session led by Science teacher and St Andrew's alumni, Ms Jordan Kath. Drawing on her background in Marine Biology, Jordan guided colleagues through a squid dissection, providing practical insights into marine anatomy and sharing ideas for bringing authentic, real-world science experiences into the classroom.

The session has already had an impact on student learning. As part of the new Year 10 Science curriculum, students studying Marine Adaptations completed their own squid dissections, investigating specialised biological structures and exploring how these adaptations help marine organisms survive in their environments.

Professional learning experiences like these ensure our teachers continue to refine their practice while learning from the diverse expertise within our own staff. By sharing knowledge and practical classroom strategies, we strengthen teaching across the College and create engaging learning experiences that connect theory with hands-on discovery.



SHARING OUTDOOR EXPERTISE

St Andrew's was proud to co-host an Outdoor Education Industry Roundtable in partnership with the University of the Sunshine Coast, bringing together 15 leaders from outdoor education organisations, camps, schools and industry providers from across the region.

This was a valuable opportunity to strengthen professional connections, explore current challenges facing the outdoor education sector, and share best-practice approaches across key areas including risk management, staffing, program design, student wellbeing, and industry sustainability.

At St Andrew's, we recognise the importance of strong partnerships and professional networks in driving

innovation and excellence. By creating opportunities for industry leaders to collaborate, the College aims not only to strengthen its own programs and practices but also to contribute positively to the continued growth and development of the wider outdoor education community.

The discussions were insightful and productive, with strong support for ongoing collaboration and future opportunities to share knowledge and expertise.



The event also provided an excellent opportunity to showcase our commitment to outdoor education while further strengthening relationships with the University of the Sunshine Coast and key regional partners.



The St Andrew's Institute of Learning (SAIL) recently welcomed English teachers and teacher librarians from across the Sunshine Coast for a TeachMeet focused on building confidence in teaching Indigenous texts.

Award-winning author, illustrator and educator Gregg Dreise led the afternoon, sharing his insights into storytelling, Indigenous perspectives and practical approaches to bringing First Nations voices into the classroom in authentic and meaningful ways.

As a proud Kamilaroi man, Gregg's work combines culture, humour and storytelling to encourage understanding, empathy and respect. Through an engaging professional learning session and panel discussion,

educators explored ways to confidently incorporate Indigenous literature into their teaching while deepening students' appreciation of Australia's rich cultural heritage.

The event also provided valuable opportunities for educators to connect, exchange ideas and strengthen professional networks across the region, reinforcing the importance of collaboration in continually improving teaching practice.

Through initiatives such as SAIL, St Andrew's is proud to support professional learning beyond our own College, creating opportunities for educators to learn from leading experts and one another, ultimately enriching learning experiences for students across our wider community.

AWARD *Nominees*

We are incredibly proud to share that two of our St Andrew's family were recently shortlisted for the prestigious Anglican Schools Commission (Qld) Ascent Awards, representing the way our staff show up for our students and our broader community every single day.



ROHAN HARDY - Contribution to Learning, Middle and Senior School Teachers

Rohan was recognised for his outstanding leadership in reimagining music education at St Andrew's, designing a consistent, performance-centred curriculum across classroom and studio programs, embedding collaborative teaching and mentoring practices to deepen student engagement and learning outcomes.

ST ANDREW'S SERVES - High Impact Service-Learning Initiative

The St Andrew's Serves Program was recognised for St Andrew's Serves, our flagship service-learning program. The premise is beautifully simple: match what our community needs with students who want to help. Each week, students are cooking at a soup kitchen, building picnic tables for families escaping domestic violence, and spending time with people who would otherwise be alone. It is student-led, community-rooted and quietly transformational.



SETTING THE TONE FOR 2026

By the Student Leaders

At the start of Term 1, the College student leaders gathered for a day dedicated to leadership and setting a vision for the year. Run by Youth Leadership Academy Australia, the day consisted of thoughtful discussion and practical activities designed to help the Student Leaders grow as a team. A key part of the day was crafting a vision statement that we felt articulated what we wanted to achieve together.

2026 Student Leadership Vision Statement

As the St Andrew's Leadership team, we aim to create a connected, fun and supportive school where every student feels safe, valued and encouraged to be themselves. Through courage, respect, and curiosity, we will shape a positive school culture and leave a legacy of inclusion, engagement, and going above and beyond in everything we do.

With our vision in place, we split into groups to brainstorm ways to put it into action.

Some of the standout ideas from the day included:

Senior Social: A time for senior students to run activities that help unify cohorts and create cross-year-level friendships.

School Sport Ads: Videos that promote and pitch different sports at school assemblies, giving Sport Captains the chance to sell their sport.

As College Captains, we have made sure these ideas don't stay as ideas. The leadership team has been meeting regularly to map out timelines and responsibilities, working to turn these initiatives into a reality. We hope that these efforts, built on the foundation of our vision statement, will mean students and the broader college community notice a positive difference in school culture.



CELEBRATING ACADEMIC *Achievement*

Just months after graduating, members of the Class of 2025 returned to St Andrew's with a simple but powerful message for current students: success is built one day at a time.

Studying everything from law, medicine and engineering to pharmacy, commerce, economics, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, the graduates came back to share not only their outstanding academic achievements, but also the habits, perseverance and mindset that helped them reach their goals.

Their return formed the centrepiece of the St Andrew's inaugural Academic Assembly, where the College celebrated the achievements of its highest academic performers while recognising the determination behind their success.

For Maddie White, now studying a Bachelor of Law and Science at The University of Queensland, the journey was shaped by the support of her teachers.

"The teachers are always there to support you with the time you have," she said.

For Chloe Bailey, now studying Commerce and Law, it was the sense of community that stood out most.

"I started in Prep and went all the way through to Year 12. I had the best experience. I loved all my teachers, and there's such a strong College community. There's so much support."

That feeling of belonging was echoed by Ben, who reflected on the many opportunities he embraced during his time at St Andrew's.

"I absolutely loved my journey, from bands and musicals to sport. Being Diamond Strong is something only us St Andrew's people get to feel."

The graduates' stories highlighted that academic success is rarely the result of talent alone. Instead, they spoke about developing consistent habits, seeking feedback, asking questions and continuing to persevere when learning became challenging.



College Principal Karen Gorrie encouraged current students to look beyond the ATARs and awards being celebrated.

"Every student standing before you today once sat where you are now, learning how to manage time, how to respond to feedback and how to keep going when learning became difficult. Success is not reserved for a select few. It is built through habits that anyone can develop."

“Success is not reserved for a select few. It is built through habits that anyone can develop.”

The assembly also recognised the exceptional achievements of the graduating cohort. In 2025, 131 students completed Year 12, with 113 students eligible for an ATAR, 65 graduating with a VET qualification and five completing a school-based traineeship or apprenticeship. The College celebrated students who achieved an ATAR of 95 or above, recognised 13

Premier's QCE Award recipients, and congratulated 2025 ATAR Dux Archie Bell.

Now studying Engineering at The University of Queensland, Archie encouraged students to pursue subjects that genuinely interest them.

"Follow what genuinely interests you. That can turn learning, which can be overwhelming at times, into something that's actually enjoyable."

NATIONAL *Recognition*

St Andrew's Anglican College has once again been recognised on the national stage, being named an Excellence Awardee in two categories at the 2026 Australian Education Awards: Best Use of Technology and Regional School of the Year.

College Principal Ms Karen Gorrie said the recognition affirms what the St Andrew's community works toward every day.

"To be recognised at a national level in two separate categories is an extraordinary honour," Ms Gorrie said.

"I'm incredibly proud, but more than anything I'm grateful to work alongside staff who give so much, and to be part of a community of students and families who make this school what it is. We are proud to be a school where innovation and excellence go hand in hand."

Best Use of Technology: Teaching students to think in an AI world

In a rapidly changing information landscape, St Andrew's made a bold decision: rather than treating artificial intelligence as a problem to restrict, the College embraced it as an opportunity to teach a new kind of literacy.

In 2025, the College transformed its Digital Library into a structured Digital Research Hub, a platform that integrates traditional research practices with AI literacy skills, designed specifically for the way students learn today. Students can learn not just how to find information, but how to question it. That means holding an AI-generated response to the same standard as any other source: checking it, challenging it and verifying it to construct evidence-based arguments.

"We didn't want our students to fear AI or be naive about it. We wanted them to be the kind of thinkers who know how to interrogate any source and hold it to account," Ms Gorrie said.

The early signs are really encouraging. Student prompt quality has improved by around 40% following targeted instruction, and the platform is now part of daily learning across Science, English and Humanities- modelling responsible innovation.

Regional School of the Year: A community that does extraordinary things

The Regional School of the Year award recognises what so many already know about St Andrew's: that it delivers an exceptional education combining outstanding academic results, innovative programs and a truly connected school community.

The Class of 2025 achieved the College's best Year 12 results since the introduction of the ATAR system. A median ATAR of 90.4, 52% of students achieving 90 or above, and every university applicant receiving an offer for their chosen degree. Another 65 students graduated with VET qualifications.

St Andrew's students also claimed State Champion honours at the Queensland Da Vinci Decathlon, a second consecutive International Championship in Tournament of Minds, and a global win in the Apple Swift Student Challenge.

"Our ATAR results are something to celebrate, but what truly defines this community is the breadth of what our students achieve. Behind every result is a student whose story is entirely their own. Strong ATAR results, VET pathways, international competition wins- what moves me is that St Andrew's can celebrate all of it. That full picture is what St Andrew's is all about and what we work toward every day," Ms Karen Gorrie

Additionally, St Andrew's has built a community where 92% of students are involved in co-curricular life, where pastoral care is taken seriously from the very first year, and where staff genuinely know and invest in every student.

"Our regional location is not a barrier, it's a strength. It allows us to offer personalised, relationship-rich education while delivering world-class opportunities. These awards are a proud reflection of everything our community has built together." Ms Gorrie said.

These awards follow St Andrew's being named Secondary School of the Year (non-government) at the 2024 Australian Education Awards, and in 2025 named one of Australia's Most Innovative Schools, and a 5-Star Best School.

St Andrew's Anglican College

Business Directory

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Quality services delivered by people you trust. Whether you're after tradies, professionals, everyday essentials, fun for the family or a luxury treat- our Business Directory connects you with the people helping our community thrive. Owned and operated by our parents and alumni, these businesses are more than just local- they're part of our #diamondstrong community. When you need a service, start with our directory. Explore what's on offer and support the businesses that support our community.



Exclusive Partnership with AWAF to launch first national Wearable Art Student Showcase

In a landmark partnership that will create new opportunities for young creatives across the country, St Andrew's Anglican College has been announced as the education partner of Australia's first national Australian Wearable Art Festival (AWAF) Student Showcase.



The partnership will see St Andrew's work alongside the Australian Wearable Art Festival to develop and launch a dedicated student showcase in 2027, providing secondary students from Years 9 to 12 across Australia with the opportunity to design, create and exhibit original wearable artworks within a nationally recognised festival environment.

The initiative represents a significant milestone for arts education and positions St Andrew's at the forefront of innovative creative learning experiences on the Sunshine Coast and beyond.

The Showcase has been designed as a genuine pathway into the creative industries. Students will have the opportunity to engage with professional artists, designers and industry mentors while showcasing their work as part of one of Australia's most unique creative festivals.

Australian Wearable Art Festival Co-Director Helen Perry said the partnership reflected a shared commitment to nurturing the next generation of creative thinkers.

"Wearable art sits at the intersection of fashion, sculpture, sustainability, performance and



design. It is one of the most accessible and exciting ways for young people to engage with creativity because there are very few rules," Ms Perry said.

For St Andrew's, the partnership reflects a broader commitment to providing authentic learning experiences that extend beyond the classroom and help students discover their passions, build personal capacity and prepare for future pathways.

College Principal Karen Gorrie said the initiative aligned strongly with the College's vision of developing confident, capable and creative young people.

"At St Andrew's, we are committed to providing opportunities that challenge students to think differently, collaborate creatively and apply their learning in meaningful contexts. Partnerships like this allow students to connect with industry professionals, explore emerging creative fields and develop the skills that will support them well beyond school," Ms Gorrie said.

The announcement comes at an exciting time for the College's arts community, with the new



Performance Arts Hub scheduled to open later this year.

Representing one of the most significant investments in arts infrastructure in the College's history, the Centre will provide world-class facilities for performance, creativity and collaboration, further strengthening opportunities for students across music and the creative arts.

Together, the new Performance Arts Hub and the AWAFF partnership demonstrate St Andrew's long-term commitment to fostering creativity, innovation and artistic excellence.

For St Andrew's students, the partnership is already delivering real-world experiences.

Earlier this year, students collaborated with acclaimed wearable artist Kym Cunningham to create a series of sculptural headpieces that will feature in AWAFF 2026's interactive audience activations at the Novotel Sunshine Coast Resort, giving students the opportunity to see their work presented as part of a nationally recognised event.

The inaugural Australian Wearable Art Festival Student Showcase will launch in 2027, opening the door for secondary students from across Australia to participate in a creative experience unlike any other.



Key dates

11 July 2026

AWAFF 2026, Novotel Sunshine Coast Resort

Late 2026

St Andrew's Performing Arts Hub opens

Post-AWAFF 2026

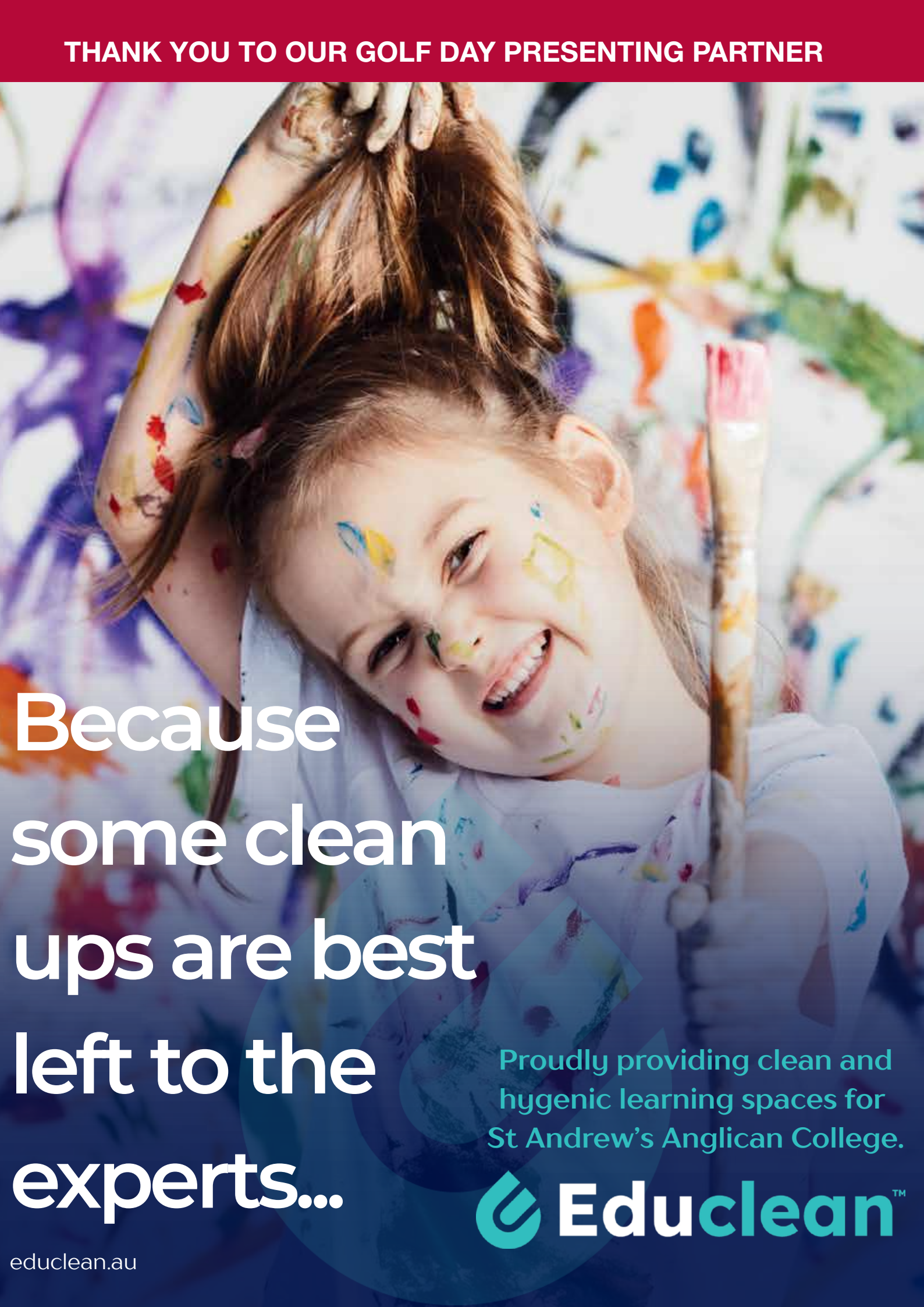
2027 Student Showcase details released

2027

Inaugural AWAFF Student Showcase



THANK YOU TO OUR GOLF DAY PRESENTING PARTNER

A young girl with brown hair, smiling and looking towards the camera. She has colorful paint splatters on her face and arms. She is holding a paintbrush in her right hand. The background is a white surface covered in colorful paint splatters.

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GOLF Day

A thriving school community is shaped by the relationships between families, staff, alumni and supporters who come together to create a genuine sense of belonging. This grows through shared experiences, conversations and opportunities to connect beyond the school day.

Our annual Golf Day has become one of those opportunities.

Held this year at the beautiful Noosa Springs Golf Resort, the event welcomed parents, staff, alumni, business partners and friends of the College for a day of friendly competition, connection and community spirit. From the first tee-off through to the evening's presentations, dinner and charity auction, the day was filled with laughter, generosity and plenty of memorable moments.

While the competition on the course was spirited, the true success of the event was measured by the continued strengthening of our community.

As one of the College's major fundraising events, the Golf Day also raised valuable funds that will support future opportunities for our students, reflecting the generosity of a community committed to helping every young person thrive.

Events of this scale are only possible through the support of our generous sponsors and partners. We extend our sincere thanks to our presenting partners, Educlean and COHO Group, whose ongoing support helped make the day possible. We also thank our supporting partners, Noosa Bluewater Charters, Noosa Watersports, Towbars Australia and The Yard Landscape Supplies, together with our hole sponsors Coastal Orthopaedic Surgery, Laserzone Sunshine Coast, Noosa Toyota and Ocean Insurance Solutions.



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BUILDING Community



A night filled with great company, amazing outfits, delicious food and beverages, live music and plenty of excitement at the auction! Thank you to all the parents, staff and sponsors who made this year's St Andrew's Social a night to remember!



Enough Beverages
Eaton Services Group
Noosa Watersports
Noosa Blue Water Charters
Fly Airly
Heads of Noosa
Catalina Noosa
Laserzone Sunshine Coast
KX Pilates Noosa
Outfoxed Consultancy
Elysiumnoosa



BUILDING A SAFE AND *Respectful Community*

Supporting Student Behaviour and Wellbeing.
Our Deans of Students Tim Ricketts and
Lauren Norbury explain how St Andrew's works
with students and families to build a culture of
respect, responsibility and care.

At St Andrew's Anglican College, the wellbeing of our students sits at the heart of everything we do. Parents rightly expect that their children will learn in an environment where they feel safe, respected and supported. We also recognise that questions about how schools respond to behavioural concerns or bullying can be important for families, and open communication about our approach is an essential part of building trust within our community.

Our approach is grounded in the College's Christian Anglican values of respect and compassion, which guide how we learn, work and interact with one another each day. These values shape the expectations we hold for our students and the way we support them when challenges arise.

For this reason, the College has clear and consistent approaches to behaviour management and the prevention and response to bullying. These are outlined in the College's Positive Behaviour Management Policy and Bullying Prevention and Management Policy, both of which guide how we support students, address issues and concerns and maintain a safe and respectful learning environment. These policies are available to families on the College website.

Our approach begins with the belief that students learn best when expectations are clear and reinforced through positive relationships. We work with students to understand that their actions affect others and that being part of a community carries both rights and responsibilities. The College's Positive Behaviour Management Policy emphasises respect, fairness and accountability, encouraging students to develop self-discipline and an awareness of the needs of others.

A key element of this work is the use of Restorative Practice. Rather than focusing solely on punishment, restorative approaches encourage students to reflect on their behaviour, consider how others have been affected, and take steps to repair

relationships. In many cases, these conversations, supported by appropriate staff members, help students develop empathy, rebuild trust within the College community and move forward positively.

It is also important to recognise that not every disagreement between students is bullying. Young people will inevitably experience moments of conflict or misunderstanding as they learn to navigate friendships and social situations. The College's Bullying Prevention and Management Policy defines bullying

as repeated behaviour intended to cause harm where there is an imbalance of power. Recognising this distinction allows staff to respond appropriately and ensure that concerns are addressed fairly and thoughtfully.

When concerns are raised by a student, parent or staff member, they are taken seriously. Our pastoral care structure ensures that students are supported by a network of staff who know them well. Mentor teachers, Heads of Year, Deans of Students, the Head of Secondary and members of the broader pastoral team such as the College Psychologists work closely with teachers to investigate concerns, support affected students and guide appropriate responses.

At times, parents understandably want to know exactly what consequences another student has received following an incident involving their child. While we always communicate clearly with families about how concerns are being addressed, schools also have a responsibility to respect the privacy of all students. For this reason, we cannot share specific disciplinary outcomes relating to another child. Parents can be assured, however, that every concern is carefully investigated and that appropriate action is taken in accordance with College policies. In situations involving bullying, the wellbeing and protection of the student affected is always our first priority. At the same time, the College works with the student whose behaviour has caused harm to support meaningful change. Restorative conversations,

“When students learn to take responsibility for their actions and repair relationships, they develop the empathy, resilience and character that will guide them well beyond their years at school.”



NEW *Tradition*

The inaugural Archbishop's Cup burst into life when St Andrew's took on our great friends from Matthew Flinders in what promises to become a fantastic new tradition between the two Colleges.

The opening round featured Tennis, Rugby and Netball, with terrific competition, great spirit and plenty of proud moments from our players. While Matthew Flinders narrowly claimed the day 2-1, the real winner was the outstanding atmosphere and sportsmanship on display. The Archbishop's Cup will now be contested each year across a range of sports, with the competition continuing in Term 3 when St Andrew's hosts Water Polo, Basketball, Football and Touch. We can't wait to welcome Flinders back to campus as the rivalry continues in 2026.

Most importantly, the competition marked the beginning of something truly special — a celebration of sport, connection and community between two schools that share a deep respect for one another. We have no doubt the Archbishop's Cup will become a highlight on the College sporting calendar for many years to come. A huge thank you to the staff at Matthew Flinders for their wonderful hospitality, and to our players, coaches and families whose energy and support made the day such a great success.



reflection processes and meetings with families are often part of this process. In more serious or repeated situations, the College may implement additional measures such as supervised reflection time, structured behaviour support or temporary removal from regular classes while the situation is addressed. These steps are always taken with the goal of helping students understand the impact of their actions and enable them to return to the community ready to make better choices.

Prevention remains an important part of this work. Through wellbeing programs and daily interactions with staff, students are encouraged to build empathy, practise respectful communication and support one another. Students are also reminded that speaking up and being an upstander, whether for themselves or for a peer, is an important part of maintaining a healthy school community. We actively encourage students to look out for one another, offer support when a peer is experiencing difficulty, and work together to resolve misunderstandings in respectful ways. Developing these habits helps students build strong relationships and contributes to a culture where kindness and cooperation are valued across the College.

Families play a vital role in this process. Open communication between school and home helps ensure that students receive consistent messages about respect, responsibility and kindness. When parents, students and staff work together, we create the strongest possible foundation for student wellbeing.

Ultimately, our goal is not simply to manage behaviour but to help young people grow into thoughtful and responsible members of their community.

"When students learn to take responsibility for their actions and repair relationships, they develop the empathy, resilience and character that will guide them well beyond their years at school."



MOTHER'S *Day*

To every mother, grandmother and those who step up to do what mothers do- we are so grateful to have you as part of our St Andrew's community. Your love, kindness, strength and support make such a difference every single day, and today we gathered to celebrate everything you do. We wish you all a wonderful Mother's Day this weekend and a big thank you to everyone who helped organise our Mother's Day breakfast!





Building a Safer Community

A red bench. A powerful reminder. A conversation that must continue.

St Andrew's students and staff were proud to attend the unveiling of The Red Bench in Coolum, standing alongside our community to say: Domestic and Family Violence is not acceptable. Not excused. Not normal. Our students showed up with maturity, compassion and courage and left with a clear message: young people have a vital role to play in changing the story. That means speaking up when others are degraded. Refusing to accept disrespectful language or behaviour. Recognising that small acts of courage build safer communities.

They also learned about the DV Safe Phone / 'Pass the Phone' initiative, collecting unused mobile phones to provide safe communication for people experiencing Domestic Family Violence.



Purple ribbons for Women's Day

To mark International Women's Day, our Year 12 leaders shared purple ribbons with students across the College, a small but powerful symbol of respect, recognition and support for women and girls everywhere. Purple is the global colour of International Women's Day, representing justice, dignity and equality. By distributing the ribbons, our student leaders helped spark conversations about the importance of empowering women and celebrating the contributions they make in our community and around the world.



Harmony Day

What does Harmony Week look like at our school?

It looks like students from Years 7–12 learning salsa moves with the incredible Mayra. It looks like staff joining in (yes, really). It looks like laughter, new friendships and a little Spanish practice along the way. This is our Diamond Strong community.



Digital Safety

Building a safe digital world for our kids isn't just about 'blocking and tackling' - it's about giving them the right tools for the job. Early in Term 1, students across the College teamed up with the ySafe crew to level up their online safety skills. From our youngest to our seniors, every session was age-appropriate, focusing on the specific challenges students face at different stages, ensuring the info was relevant and easy to digest. We firmly believe digital safety shouldn't be a 'one and done' talk. We're encouraging students to keep the communication lines open with teachers and, most importantly, with their families at home.



TIME OF REFLECTION

Year 6 students were honoured to attend the Association of Principals of Christian Secondary Colleges Annual Ecumenical Service at Good Samaritan Catholic College, alongside our Principal Ms Karen Gorrie.

It was a special time of reflection and unity, with a powerful message from Brother Fredrick-James (Brisbane Catholic Education) reminding us of the importance of showing genuine compassion to all those we encounter. We are proud of the way our students represented our College community with respect, thoughtfulness and heart.



HAMPER PACKING

Our Year 6 students have been busy and their hearts are as big as their effort!

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of families, our wonderful Year 6 brought in food donations and got to work packing hampers for children supported by Sunny Kids Sunshine Coast. Watching these young people come together for something bigger than themselves was just beautiful. Every item carefully packed, every box a little reminder that someone cares. A huge thank you to every family who contributed, and to our Year 6 students for showing up with generosity and kindness.



FIRST NOTES

Our Year 3 students played their first notes as part of our signature Music Immersion program, where every child learns an instrument.



RECYCLED CRAFT

Fun Fridays for Year 4, getting sustainably creative, designing and building papier-mâché vases from recycled materials.



RECYCLED CRAFT

It was a spectacular morning for our Year 4s who welcomed parents and friends to their sustainability expo! There were so many creative and sustainable designs, well done!



PREP STUDENTS GET CURIOUS

Our littlest learners got hands-on this semester, touching, smelling, observing, tasting and maybe making a few “ewww” and “ooooo” faces along the way. From digging into soil to discovering how plants drink water, our Prep students showed us curiosity in action, asking big questions, leading to even bigger discoveries.



KIDS IN PHILANTHROPY

Our Year 6 students have been discovering what it really means to give, learning why generosity matters and how even young people can make a real difference, thanks to the help of @kidsinphilanthropy. Late this term they connected with Queensland charity @stationeryaid and got creative, painting canvases that will be made into bags and filled with stationery for children in need.



INSIDE SCOOP

Our Year 5 Ignite students were given the opportunity to walk through the ongoing construction site for our upcoming Performance Arts Hub and Administration Office. This visit was an opportunity for them to put into practice, the journalistic skills they’ve been learning in class. They asked lots of questions and got the insider scoop on the project. Their published articles were printed and displayed at the Ignite showcase during Grandparents Week.



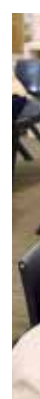
GRANDPARENTS *Week*

Grandparents Week was a wonderful celebration of connection, family and the generations that make our community so special. Across the week, grandparents and families joined students in classrooms, performances and special events, sharing stories, memories and moments of learning together.

Year 1 students and their grandparents kicked off the week by exploring how childhood has changed over time, while our Prep students welcomed grandparents to a special Teddy Bear Picnic, complete with a performance and morning tea. Grandparents also stepped into the classrooms with our Year 2 and Year 4

students, sharing in their learning and seeing school life through their grandchildren's eyes.

For Year 3, grandparents were treated to a performance of *Aladdin the Musical*, while the Year 5 and 6 Ignite Showcase provided another opportunity for students to share their learning. After a semester of exploring passions and developing new skills, students showcased projects ranging from dance to coding, demonstrating creativity, collaboration and a willingness to challenge themselves.







Ignite: What Happens When Students Lead Their Own Learning ?

“It keeps going on and on. But that’s what I love about it. It goes on and on and the excitement never stops.”

Year 6 student Tex is talking about his coding game- a project he built, tested, rebuilt and refined over an entire term as part of St Andrew’s Ignite program.

His enthusiasm captures exactly what Ignite is designed to create: students who are genuinely engaged in learning because they are exploring something that matters to them.

Ignite is St Andrew’s long-running student-led inquiry program for Year 5 and 6 students.

Each semester, students choose an area of interest, form groups, develop a project plan and drive their own learning toward a completed project. Teachers guide and support the process, but students take ownership of the questions they investigate and the solutions they create.

The program combines strong academic foundations with opportunities for creativity, real-world problem-solving and independent thinking, helping students develop the Personal Capacity to pursue ideas with confidence and purpose.

This semester’s Ignite Showcase brought student projects to life in front of a very special audience: grandparents attending celebrations as part of our annual and much-loved Grandparents Week.

Across the Hub Piazza, students presented projects spanning





technology, science, the arts, social issues and entrepreneurial ideas. Every project reflected months of research, experimentation and decision-making.

Tex's coding game was one of many projects on display.

Built through what he cheerfully describes as "a lot of trials and errors", the game exists because he kept going when things became difficult, listened to feedback from others and tried again when something didn't work the first time.

When asked whether coding might play a role in his future, his answer came quickly.

"Maybe a famous game — you know, maybe Roblox," he said. "But yeah, I'd love to be a coder."

At just eleven years old, Tex already sees himself as someone who can create, build and innovate.

Experiences like Ignite help make that possible.

One of the strengths of Ignite is that students can pursue projects aligned with their own interests and strengths.

Some are drawn to coding and technology. Others explore science, design, storytelling, entrepreneurship or the arts. The result is a learning experience that celebrates individual passions while developing skills that benefit every learner.

Through Ignite, students develop:

- Initiative and self-direction
- Resilience when challenges arise

- problem-solving and critical thinking
- collaboration and communication skills
- the confidence to present their ideas to others.

Alongside explicit teaching and strong academic foundations, students also need opportunities to apply their learning in meaningful ways. Ignite provides that opportunity, challenging students to explore ideas, solve problems and create something uniquely their own.

Presenting to grandparents adds an important element to the program, allowing students to take ownership and pride in their work and the opportunity to explain their thinking, answering questions and celebrating their achievement.

Experiences like this help students develop the confidence that comes from knowing their ideas have value beyond the classroom.

For families exploring primary school options on the Sunshine Coast, the Ignite program provides a glimpse into what makes learning at St Andrew's distinctive.

In addition to developing academic confidence through strong literacy and numeracy foundations, students also have opportunities to investigate real questions, pursue personal interests and create work that reflects their own thinking. It is where future learners, creators, innovators and problem-solvers begin to discover what they are capable of becoming.



From swimming with dolphins to dune boarding, our Year 4s had an amazing time at their Outdoor Education Camp! Being in nature is such an important part of our lifestyle on the coast so we love to see our students having fun and enjoying this time together.





LITTLE *Athletes*

Our Prep to Year 2 students capped off our House Athletics season for 2026 with a morning full of smiles. This carnival is always a fun filled event for our youngest students at the college. It was amazing to see so many of our St Andrew's grandparents attending. A special thank you to the Year 6 Student Leaders and the Senior House Captains who were fabulous coaches, cheerleaders and role models!





EMPOWERING MORNING

In recognition of International Women's Day, Year 12 students Millie and Erin attended the Zonta Club International Women's Day Breakfast with Mrs Blessing, a wonderful event celebrating the achievements, leadership and impact of women in our community. It was fantastic to connect with so many inspiring women championing equality and opportunity. What made it even more special, one of the guest speakers was our very own Year 9 student August, who shared insights into her work supporting women's rights and empowerment through the STEM program at Burnside State High School. Her passion for encouraging young women to pursue opportunities in STEM was both powerful and inspiring.



POWER OF PERSUASION

Congratulations to the students who competed in the 2026 Soothsayers Competition! In an ever-changing world, it's more important than ever that our students are equipped to think critically about issues that impact them, and develop the skills to advocate for what they believe in



SYDNEY FUTURES

Senior Students considering university study interstate travelled to Sydney for an immersive university experience designed to help them make informed decisions about their future. The program provided students with the opportunity to step beyond the Sunshine Coast and experience first-hand what university life and independent living could look like in a major city.

Students toured the University of Sydney, UNSW Sydney and the University of Technology Sydney, as well as residential colleges and private student accommodation. Along the way, they heard from university staff, explored different study environments and connected with St Andrew's alumni, gaining valuable insights into the academic and social opportunities available.

The experience also included a Sydney orientation afternoon, where students used the city's public transport network to navigate between landmarks and destinations. Beyond exploring Sydney, the experience helped students build confidence and independence while considering an important question: could life and study in a major city be the right pathway?



EPIC ADVENTURE

Crocs in sports mode, rain jackets out and head torches on. The Adventurous Journey component of our signature Year 9 Connections Program, really lived up to its name for our two groups that headed out on the Great Coolooloola walk over Terms 1 and 2!



DRAMATIC VOICES

Year 10 Drama demonstrated courage, curiosity and creativity in their live theatre performance scenes. Students exemplified determination, perseverance, energy and enthusiasm showcasing their skills of performance and unique stagecraft choices with polished presentations. Collaborating on script adjustments in their Australian Theatre unit of work, students engaged with passion and vitality to present scenes rich in morals, life lessons and dramatic meaning.



FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

We are truly blessed to have some incredible people in our community. Huge thank you to Dr Trevor Brown-Olympian, neuroscientist, cancer survivor, world traveller and Dad, who took the time out of his busy schedule to talk and chat openly with our Future Ambitions Students. Dr Brown shared insights from his remarkable journey across elite sport, science and life beyond the laboratory, offering students a powerful perspective on resilience, curiosity and the importance of pursuing passions with purpose. His story is a reminder that success rarely follows a straight line, and that perseverance, courage and a willingness to keep learning are often the defining qualities behind great achievement. Opportunities like this are at the heart of our Future Ambitions Program, connecting students with inspiring leaders and thinkers who help broaden their perspectives and encourage them to think boldly about their own futures.



CREATIVE PERFORMANCE

Congratulations to Year 8 Drama for their engaging and entertaining scripted text performances. Students were highly successful in the creation of dramatic meaning through their stagecraft decisions and creative collaboration. The Performing Arts staff are excited and looking forward to more theatrical brilliance from Year 8 Drama students this semester!



SCIENCE IN ACTION

The Wallum Sedge Frog has long been woven into the story of our College and this term, our Year 7 students are getting up close and personal with the science of protecting it. In partnership with Ecollaboration, students have been out at our pond testing local water quality and investigating the environmental and non-environmental factors that keep this delicate ecosystem in balance. Real science. Real impact. Right here on campus. Taking this one step further, learning that the environment isn't just something you study, it's something we're responsible for.



YEAR 12 COMMISIONING

At St Andrew's, being a senior isn't just about the final year of school, a title, a badge or jersey. It's about embodying the Diamond Strong spirit of our community. Our Year 12 commissioning service this week recognised that from the classroom to the playground, these students are now the primary guardians of our culture—modelling what it looks like to be Diamond Strong through daily actions that set the tone for the rest of the school. The Commissioning Service formalised and reaffirmed this commitment to being stronger together. We're looking forward to seeing this cohort define what leadership looks like in action this year.



DATA COLLECTION

Our senior Biologists teamed up with the Sunshine Coast Council and Bushcare Sunshine Coast to collect data on invasive species and the impact of weed management programs in the Stumers Creek bushland conservation reserve by Coolum Beach. Students had to use a range of ecological survey techniques to collect species abundance and diversity data to then analyse for significance as part of their senior assessment (student experiment). We are sharing the data collected as part of a Citizen Science program.



VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day flower deliveries were in full swing in Term 1. Our class of 2026 did a great job playing Cupid. All proceeds will go to a charity of their choice- what's not to love?



CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Connecting with each other, connecting with self, connecting with the land and connecting with the Quandamooka People of Minjerribah. A great start to the Year 9 Connections program for 2026.



NO WASTE FOOD

Our Year 7 Food & Fibre Technologies class was visited by Ozharvest, helping them to create 'Use It Up' recipes. This was the culmination of the 'fighting food waste' work they did last term. They all did an amazing job and had some very tasty dishes for lunch.



PASSPORT OF FLAVOURS

Harmony week celebrations brought our College community together, including a multicultural feast prepared by our Year 10 hospitality students. We're talking Swedish meatballs, hand-rolled sushi, classic pizza, warm donuts, melt-in-your-mouth Scottish shortbread, wobbly jelly cups, and more. A full passport of flavours, celebrating the cultures that make our school community so rich and vibrant. Our senior Music students provided the tunes with live background music, creating a fun and relaxed vibe for all. This is what Harmony Week is all about Coming together, sharing food and culture and making everyone feel like they belong.



YEAR 9 ON STAGE

Huge congratulations to our incredible Year 9 Drama students who wrote and performed a variety of original devised plays exploring teenage choices and decisions. The performances were entertaining, unique, creative and thought-provoking, showcasing a range of developing skills. From bold storytelling to imaginative twists, the students brought complex ideas to life with confidence, courage, and originality, not to mention plenty of characterisation and sheer onstage joy! Hard work, collaboration and willingness to take creative risks resulted in excellent performances.



FUTURE LEADERS

Our Year 11 Students jumped, blasted and ballooned their way through leadership at Camp Somerset. Their teamwork and energy has left us excited to see what they'll bring to their incoming leadership positions! Thank you to Burn Bright for presenting and all the College staff who helped make this camp happen.



SCIENCE IN ACTION

Don't tell Squidward what's been happening in Year 10 biology...

Our students have been getting up close and personal with squid dissections for their Marine Adaptions Unit.

This unit is part of their brand new Year 10 Science Curriculum and while first impressions might be a bit icky, understanding how to properly research the organisms that make up our coastal eco-systems is an important skill for future biologists.



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FUTURE Scientists

What an experience for our Year 11 Psychology students, who swapped the classroom for an immersive experience at the University of Queensland's Integrated Pathology Learning Centre and QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute.

At the learning centre students were able to get hands-on with human models and samples, diving into the complexities of the brain, covering everything from:

- Alzheimer's & Parkinson's disease
- brain stem injuries & the lobes of the brain
- the history of lobotomies and institutionalisation in Queensland
- broader health impacts like addiction and stress.

In the afternoon, they headed to QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute to live a 'day in the life of a neuroscientist' where they sharpened their clinical skills with brain dissections, mastered precise pipetting and learned exactly how to test neural structures. It was an incredible day of discovery, bridging the gap between textbook theory and real-world medical research.



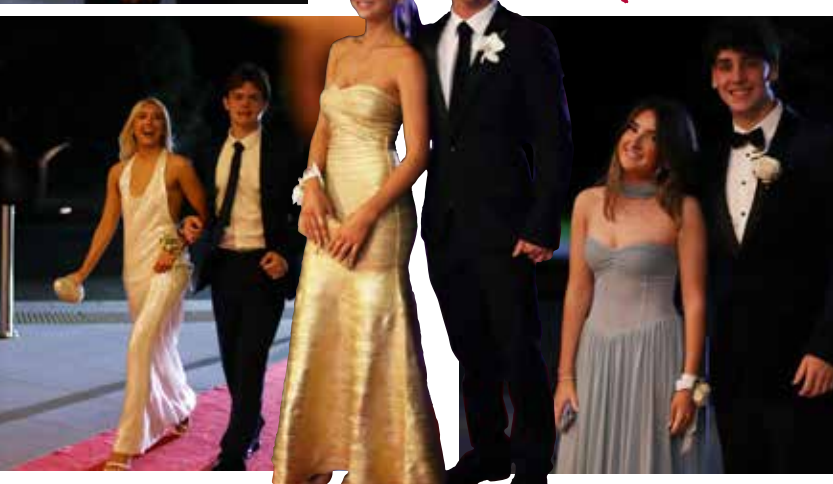
AUTHENTIC LEADERSHIP

We're incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements of two of our outstanding students at the Tewanin Noosa Lions Youth of the Year competition. Congratulations to Alex (Year 10) and Ava (Year 11), who represented our College with confidence, poise and integrity. The Lions Youth of the Year program is designed to develop essential life skills, including interview technique, personal interaction, networking, public speaking and the ability to think on your feet. As part of the event, students completed a formal interview with judges before attending a dinner where they responded to two impromptu questions and delivered a prepared five-minute speech. Both Alex and Ava demonstrated maturity, courage and thoughtful leadership throughout the evening. A special congratulations to Ava, who was awarded the Public Speaking Award for the night. Her prepared speech, "Success: More Than Just a Score," resonated strongly with the Lions community and showcased her insight and authenticity.





YEAR 12 *Formal*





EXPERIENTIAL *Learning*

One of the most valuable things we can do for our students is open the door between the classroom and the real world. This semester that door opened to somewhere remarkable, thanks to local business Helitak Fire Fighting Equipment.

Our students had the privilege of visiting Helitak, a Sunshine Coast-based Australian company founded in 2006 by engineer and pilot Jason Schellaars. Helitak designs and manufactures advanced aerial firefighting systems for helicopters, from expandable belly tanks to aerial strike buckets and hover pumps, with every piece of equipment crafted in-house using locally sourced materials.

The students were able to witness the innovation that happens when deep expertise, genuine purpose and a commitment to quality come together in one place.



Connecting students with local business and industry is something we believe in deeply at St Andrew's Anglican College. These experiences do something that no textbook can, they show students what careers actually look, feel and sound like. They spark curiosity, build aspiration and remind young people that the industries shaping our world exist right here, in their own backyard.

We are fortunate to be part of a Sunshine Coast community where businesses like Helitak are willing to open their doors, share their story and invest their time in the next generation.

Thank you to Jason and the entire Helitak team for having us, and for sharing your passion for quality, innovation and Australian manufacturing with our students.

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My favourite part about the Girl Asleep production was having the opportunity to be a part of the creative production in addition to the cast. There were lots of opportunities for students to lead and direct, which was super fun and exciting!



Emily T, Actor



GIRL *Asleep*

Our Secondary production of Girl Asleep was a huge success, and we would like to extend our congratulations to every cast and crew member who brought this performance to life. The production was a true reflection of the creativity, commitment and teamwork that thrive within our College community.

Set in the 1970s, Girl Asleep follows the story of Greta Driscoll as she navigates the challenges of adolescence, friendship, identity and self-discovery. Through both humour and heartfelt moments, our students captivated audiences with their talent, confidence and emotional depth.

Throughout the rehearsal process and performances, students demonstrated outstanding courage. Many students pushed beyond their comfort zones, discovering new strengths in stagecraft choices, building connection to character and developing valuable life skills along the way.

The production also highlighted the importance of curiosity. Students explored complex themes, experimented with creative ideas and worked collaboratively to take the story from page to stage in meaningful and imaginative ways. Whether learning lines, refining technical elements, or interpreting characters, their willingness to ask questions and think creatively enriched every aspect of the performance.

At the heart of the production was genuine compassion. Cast and crew members supported one another through long rehearsals, shared responsibilities and celebrated each other's achievements. They helped each other with challenges and shared encouragement behind the scenes when nerves were trying to take over. This spirit of kindness and encouragement created a positive and inclusive environment where every student could thrive. Students listened carefully, collaborated thoughtfully and appreciated the contribution of every individual



involved in the production.

The success of the performance was also built upon a strong sense of responsibility. Students committed countless hours to rehearsals, learned their roles with dedication and balanced academic commitments alongside the demands of the production. Their reliability and perseverance were instrumental in delivering such a polished and memorable show.

Finally, the entire production was filled with enthusiasm and sense of wonder. From the energy backstage to the excitement shared with audiences each night, students approached every rehearsal and performance with passion and positivity. Their joy and dedication were evident in every scene and contributed greatly to the warm response from the community.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the many staff and families who supported our students throughout this journey. Special thanks to Ms Heather Swift in her role as Assistant Artistic Director whose creativity, guidance and encouragement helped make this experience so meaningful for our students. Thank you to Mrs Larson and Mrs Powell for their costume pieces and borrowed props, and a big thanks also to Mrs Bentley, the Facilities and Marketing teams.

Productions such as Girl Asleep are far more than performances, they are opportunities for young people to grow in confidence, creativity, collaboration, and character. We are incredibly proud of all our cast and crew members for their hard work and achievements, and we congratulate them on delivering such an outstanding production. Thank you to our parent community for your ongoing support of the Performing Arts program and for celebrating the achievements of our students.

Tara Mackie - Artistic Director and Head of Performing Arts



Girl Asleep was a great opportunity to make friends in other year levels at school and spend time every week doing things that I enjoy.

Zara D, Actor



Girl Asleep has been such a wonderful experience! I've built new friendships and acquired many more performing arts skills.

Lotus, T, Actor





Being involved in Girl Asleep was such an exciting and rewarding experience. It allowed me to grow as a performer, build amazing friendships, and create memories I'll always cherish. The production was such a positive and inspiring opportunity, and I'm so grateful to have been part with such a talented and supportive crew.

Lucy A, Actor



Girl Asleep has been one of the most fun things I have participated in so far this year. It gave me so many opportunities to build great connections with my peers and is something I will certainly remember.

Telahlee H, Actor

This experience has taught me so much about staying focused in scenes and developing my acting skills. It has also helped me build strong friendships and relationships with other actors. I'm so grateful for the amazing cast and crew of Girl Asleep!

Jade A, Actor



I have loved getting to know the play and the cast better, while having an amazing time learning about the work that goes into a live production..

Jameson C, Actor

My role as production technician has allowed me a unique position to see the show really come to life and watch as the actors grew into their roles.

Charlie W, Production Technician



Exploring magical realism in Girl Asleep with such a talented cast was so much fun! The play was an incredible experience I would recommend to anyone, no matter their acting experience or confidence levels.

Eden J, Actor



To participate as an actor in Girl Asleep was an amazing honour. It was so incredible to work with such and talented, dedicated, and caring cast especially for my last performance at the college.

Molly L, Actor





WHY OUTDOOR EDUCATION *Matters*

This Semester Year 7 students experienced three memorable days of Outdoor Education just outside of Kenilworth, marking the first time St Andrew's Anglican College has partnered with outdoor education specialists Adventure Alternatives.

Set against the stunning backdrop of the Sunshine Coast hinterland, students immersed themselves in a wide range of activities including mountain biking, archery tag, hiking, bird box building, billycart and raft construction as well as team-based challenges. Each experience is designed to encourage students to step beyond their comfort zones, collaborate with peers and discover new strengths.

Outdoor Education plays a vital role in the St Andrew's learning journey. Experiences like the Year 7 Camp allow students to grow beyond the classroom, developing independence, responsibility and resilience. Away from their usual routines, students learn to manage their time, care for their belongings and make decisions- important life skills that build confidence and prepare them for the years ahead.

Equally important is the opportunity to strengthen teamwork and communication. Through shared challenges and group problem-solving, students learn to support one another, listen

actively and appreciate the value of collaboration. These moments often become the foundation of lasting friendships and a deeper sense of belonging within the College community.

Our Outdoor Education program is intentionally designed as a sequential journey, with each experience building on the last to develop Courage, Compassion and character in our students. The Year 7 Camp is an important early step in this journey, helping students form strong connections with their peers and teachers while beginning to discover the confidence that comes from embracing challenge and adventure.

A sincere thank you to the dedicated staff who accompanied our students and made this experience possible. Programs like these rely on the generosity of teachers who step away from their own families and commitments to provide meaningful opportunities for our students.

At St Andrew's, experiences like Year 7 Camp are an important reminder that learning doesn't only happen in classrooms. Sometimes the most powerful lessons are learned on a mountain bike trail, around a campfire, or while building something together as a team.



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RIDING SUCCESS

A big congratulations to the team of riders who attended the Wide Bay Inter-school Regional Championships- Grace T, Chloe W, Chloe J and Leo G took out 3rd place overall for the College. A special shout out to Grace T for her significant contribution to the overall team points, and Chloe W for winning the Open Elementary Dressage.



RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

St Andrew's AFL players enjoyed a strong season of competition, with both Primary and Secondary teams taking on some of the best school teams on the Sunshine Coast. Primary teams competed in the Street Smarts AFLQ Schools Cup at Maroochydore, relishing the opportunity to test their skills against quality opposition and representing the College with pride.

The Year 7 and 8 boys also impressed at the AFL Schools Cup Gala Day at Fisherman's Road Multi-sports Complex. Despite challenging wet conditions, the team maintained its enthusiasm and produced some excellent football to progress through to the semi-final. In a closely contested and very wet semi-final, St Andrew's controlled much of the possession before going down by just one goal to the eventual carnival winners.

Across the competitions, St Andrew's students demonstrated determination, teamwork and sportsmanship, making the most of every opportunity to compete and develop their skills. Congratulations to all players, and a special thank you to Nick F, Mitchell B and Mr Hutchinson for their coaching, guidance and support throughout the season.

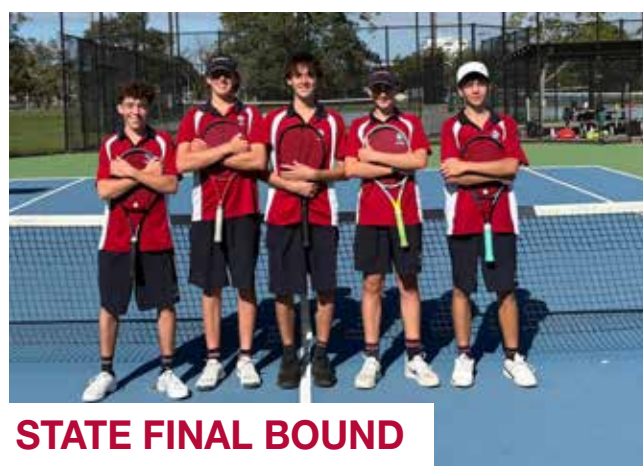


PREMIERSHIP WINNERS

An incredible night of finals rugby to finish out the Sunshine Coast Secondary Schools competition.

Congratulations to our Open Boys and Under 15s team who each took home their respective premierships

It was great to see a crowd of Diamond Strong supporters on the sidelines!



STATE FINAL BOUND

Well done to our Year 7 to 12 students who played in the Tennis QLD Sunshine Coast Schools Team event at the Regional Tennis Centre. Lots of hard work goes on throughout the week during private lessons and squad training sessions. It is amazing to see this work pay off in match play.

A massive congratulations to the Opens Boys team who won the event and now progress to the State Finals in Brisbane. Well done students and coaching team!



ART MASTERCLASS

What an inspiring Term 1 Masterclass with acclaimed Australian artist Carolyn Watson. Students immersed themselves in a hands-on session exploring contemporary art through material experimentation, creative thinking and intuitive making. A highlight of the workshop was learning how to build organic structures using softened cane, carefully shaping and constructing forms before creating a skin-like outer layer that brought their works to life. Carolyn also guided our Year 11 students through working with wire and creating structures. Working between the natural and the unknown, Carolyn guided students through her unique process of reusing and reimagining materials. From playful studio exploration to embracing chance and evolving ideas, this was a powerful opportunity to learn from a multi-award-winning artist whose work is recognised both in Australia and internationally.



ROCKING THE STAGE

Open mic brought the goods for the crowds- talent, courage and our Diamond Strong spirit on display across two lunch times in terms 1 and 2.



BATTLE BOTS

During Term 2, students from Year 4 to Year 8 competed at the Robocup Junior Regionals in the Sumo and Rescue Line challenges. Our teams received honourable mentions and only narrowly missed out on placing. It was very cool to see their creations battle it out.



STRING SUCCESS

Our Secondary String Orchestra travelled to St Peters in Indooroopilly to perform at the QLD Youth Music Awards. The students performed beautifully and represented the school with pride. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and are excited to share that they were awarded a Silver Award. A big thank you to all of the students for their dedication, and to their conductor Ms Sarah King for her guidance and support.



CHESS CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to our students who competed at the Sunshine Coast Independent Schools Chess Competition last week. They represented the College with pride and enthusiasm, taking each win with humility and each loss with grace. Well done to Robert who took out his individual division, as well as second in the team division alongside teammates Annabelle, Anson and Lillian.



PREMIERSHIP

History



History was made on the netball court as our Senior A Girls claimed the Sunshine Coast Secondary Schools Open A Premiership, the first time in the College's 24-year history that a St Andrew's team has won the prestigious Senior A Division title.

The premiership victory capped off an outstanding season for the College's netball program, with the Senior A Girls delivering a composed and determined performance under pressure to secure their place in the history books.

The celebrations continued with the Junior A Girls and Intermediate B Girls also winning their respective grand finals, highlighting the depth of talent across the College.

Across the season, an incredible 140 students represented St Andrew's in 14 teams, with eight teams progressing to the semi-finals and four teams earning a place in the grand finals, a remarkable achievement that reflects the strength of the

College's netball program.

While the premierships are a wonderful reward, they are also the result of months of hard work, commitment and teamwork shown by every player throughout the season.

A sincere thank you to Netball Coordinator Laura Scherian for her exceptional leadership of the program, as well as the dedicated coaches whose passion and commitment have helped every player and team develop throughout the season. We also thank our wonderful families, whose enthusiastic support from the sidelines creates such a positive and encouraging environment for our students.

Congratulations to all our netballers on an incredible season and a special congratulations to our Senior A Girls on a premiership that will be remembered as a milestone moment in St Andrew's history.



STATE Champions

What a way to start 2026! Our incredible St Andrew's Anglican College Girls Red Ball Tennis Team were crowned State Champions at the Brisbane International Primary Schools Cup State Finals in January! Undefeated throughout the entire tournament, this outstanding group of girls displayed exceptional skill and sportsmanship as they took on and defeated top schools from across Queensland: Congratulations Anson, Eva, Madelyn, Anya, Agnes, Bella, Jasmine, Olive and Charlotte on a super performance, coached by Flynn Sinclair. This success reflects the many hours of training put in during 2025.



ACADEMIC *Extension*

St Andrew's students have once again demonstrated their exceptional academic talent, progressing from regional success to competing against Australia's best at the 2026 da Vinci Decathlon National Finals.

The da Vinci Decathlon is one of Australia's most rigorous academic competitions, challenging teams of eight students across ten disciplines including Mathematics, Science, Engineering, English, Ideation, Cartography, Code Breaking and Creative Producers. Success requires far more than academic knowledge; students must collaborate, think creatively, solve complex problems and perform under pressure.

The journey began at the Sunshine Coast Regional Finals, where St Andrew's students achieved outstanding results across every year level.

Three teams were crowned Sunshine Coast Regional Champions, with our Year 7, Year 8 and Year 10 teams taking first place overall. Our Year 5 team also delivered an exceptional performance, finishing second overall, while students collected an impressive number of discipline awards across Science, Mathematics, Engineering, English, Ideation, Cartography, Creative Producers and Code Breaking.

These outstanding performances earned three teams the opportunity to represent at the Queensland State Finals, where they continued their remarkable run of success.

The Year 5 team were crowned overall State Champions, while the Year 7 team successfully defended its title to become State Champions for the second consecutive year. Our Year 10 team

also achieved first place in the Creative Producers discipline.

The success of the Year 7 team secured an invitation to the National Finals at Knox Grammar School in Sydney, where the nation's highest-performing teams, alongside leading schools from New Zealand, came together to compete. This year's competition centred on the theme of Artificial Intelligence, challenging students to apply their knowledge and problem-solving skills in new and innovative ways.

Competing on the national stage, the St Andrew's team of Eloise B, Chloe H, Sophia H, Kate E, Eva B, Luca E, Banjo W and Jenson V, continued to impress, claiming first place in Ideation and second place in Legacy.

Beyond the competition itself, students also had the opportunity to explore the future of artificial intelligence through presentations from Neuranext AI, gaining insight into cutting-edge AI technologies and robotics.

These achievements reflect the curiosity, creativity and collaborative spirit that underpin learning at St Andrew's. More importantly, they demonstrate the confidence our students have to tackle unfamiliar challenges, work together under pressure and compete alongside the very best.

Congratulations to every student who represented the College throughout this year's da Vinci Decathlon. From regional competition through to the national stage, their achievements are a testament to their dedication, perseverance and love of learning.



THE POWER OF *Light*

From Prep to Year 12, students across the College embraced this year's Photography Competition theme, 'Light', producing a remarkable collection of images that reflected creativity, technical skill and unique perspectives of the world around them.

Students explored the many ways light can transform a scene, evoke emotion and tell a story. The result was a diverse exhibition showcasing everything from striking landscapes and nature photography to thoughtful portraits and imaginative compositions.

The College community came together to celebrate these outstanding works at the annual Photography Competition Awards Night and Exhibition, recognising not only the winning entries but the creativity and dedication of all participants.

Congratulations to our 2026 winners:

- Prep to Year 3: Lila A
- Years 4 to 6: Olivia O
- Years 7 to 9: Sofia T
- Years 10 to 12: Erin R

Congratulations also to our Highly Commended recipients:

- Prep to Year 3: Penelope L
- Years 4 to 6: Georgia K
- Years 7 to 9: Minnie T
- Years 10 to 12: James G

A special congratulations to our People's Choice Award winners, Georgia E and Hannah C, whose photographs captured the imagination of visitors to the exhibition.

The College extends its sincere thanks to Peregrine Beach Hotel for generously supporting this year's competition. Their partnership helps us continue to celebrate and encourage creativity, recognising the important role the arts play in helping students develop confidence, curiosity and their own unique creative voice.





LIVE @ THE *Hub*

Live @ The Hub 2026 was everything we hoped it would be and more.

Our College library was transformed into an intimate music venue, alive with the sound of student performances that were bold, refined and genuinely captivating. Watching our students share the stage with Brisbane's own *The View From Madeleine's Couch* was a highlight; a beautiful collision of emerging talent and seasoned artistry. And their exclusive closing set was a perfect end to complete the evening. Thank you to everyone who came, listened, and made the room feel like exactly what it was- a community celebrating music together.

Thank you to our sponsors:

- Doonan Valle Garden Centre
- Peregrine Beach Hotel
- ENOUGH
- Laserzone Sunshine Coast





Walking out with the Australian Team in front of a home crowd at the 2032 Olympics, is a dream St Andrew's Anglican College Year 10 student Chase Staskiewicz constantly imagines.

That dream is now one step closer, after his selection in the Australian U16 Water Polo squad competing at the upcoming World Championships in Zagreb, Croatia.

The talented Sunshine Coast athlete earned his place in the national squad following an intensely competitive selection process involving 40 of Australia's top junior water polo players. Only 14 athletes were ultimately selected for the Australian team, with Chase one of just four Queenslanders chosen.

Chase received the life-changing news in fitting fashion, poolside at St Andrew's during training.

"I was actually about to jump into the pool when Mum saw the email first," he said.

"She started jumping up and down celebrating, then suddenly stopped and said, 'I hope I've read this right, I don't have my glasses on!' It was total excitement, a good laugh, and just a massive sense of relief that all the hard work had paid off."

This will mark Chase's first time officially representing Australia.

"It means everything to wear the green and gold," he said.

"To know I'm representing my family, my school, the Sunshine Coast and my country on the world stage is the ultimate honour."

Starting his water polo journey at just eight years old, inspired by his older brother Aaden, his selection represents the culmination of immense physical and mental commitment.

Balancing elite sport with his academic studies at, Chase's weekly routine includes early morning sessions, gym work, recovery, travel to Brisbane for high performance training, and monthly Australian squad camps at the AIS in Canberra.

"4:30am alarms and living out of a suitcase are just a regular part of the journey now," he said.

Chase credits St Andrew's Anglican College and its coaching staff for playing a significant role in both his sporting and personal development.

"St Andrew's has been incredible," he said. "The school doesn't just support you as an athlete; they support your character. It has taught me time management, accountability and pride in representing my community."

"She has played such a massive role in my development, constantly pushing me to refine my skills, improve my game IQ and stay focused on what it takes to reach the next level."

Behind the achievement has been an enormous commitment from Chase's family, who juggle the demands of supporting four boys involved in competitive water polo.

"The logistics are a military operation," his parents Tanya and Michael said, "...balancing schedules and packing endless food. But when your child is willing to work that hard for their dream, you do whatever it takes to back them."

The Australian team will travel to Zagreb in August, where Chase hopes to gain valuable international experience and help Australia achieve its highest possible ranking against the world's strongest nations.

Long term, he has his sights firmly set on the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games.

"I'll be 21 then, which is the peak age for water polo," he said.

"I constantly imagine walking out with the Australian team in front of a home crowd in Brisbane. That would be an incredible moment for me, my family and everyone who has backed me from the start."





What a remarkable campaign from our St Andrew's U14 Boys and Girls in their very first Australian Water Polo Championships, held in Brisbane. The boys endured a tough start in the group stage but showed incredible resilience, belief and growth to turn their tournament around when it mattered most.

Opening against strong national opposition, they continued to compete, learn and stay connected as a team. Their persistence paid off, finding form late with a crucial win over UTS Balmain, before going on to defeat UWA Bears (3–2) and finishing on a thrilling high with a superb 10–9 win over Cronulla Sharks. To come from early adversity and finish so strongly is an extraordinary achievement and a true reflection of this group's character, toughness and Diamond Strong spirit.

The girls also delivered a determined and resilient campaign, finishing with three wins

and invaluable experience. They started strongly with impressive victories over Mermaids White (12–5) and UTS Balmain (4–2), showcasing composure, teamwork and growing confidence. A challenging mid-tournament stretch tested the group, but their response was outstanding. A major highlight came with a superb 9–5 win over AHS White, demonstrating their ability to rise on the big stage. In their final match, they faced a strong UQWPC Tugun outfit, finishing as proud competitors against quality opposition.

Across the week, the girls showed terrific resilience, learning to navigate both momentum and adversity, and consistently finding a way to reset and respond. Congratulations to both our boys and girls on a fantastic Nationals debut. A huge thank you to Georgina, Aaden and Lucy for their outstanding leadership, along with the wonderful support from our team managers and families.



Queensland Water Polo Representatives

19 Water Polo athletes and 3 coaches have been selected to represent Water Polo Queensland through the various Performance Pathways programs.

Congratulations to all of our students on these outstanding selections. We also extend our sincere congratulations to our coaches and staff Georgina, Aaden, Fynn and Lucy, whose expertise, commitment and passion have played a significant role in the continued success of our Water Polo program.

National Development Carnival

13U QLD Girls: Stella C, Hannah C, Georgia S.

13U QLD Boys: Macintyre B, Archer L| Huxley P, Tommy P, Jack Ro, Jack Ra, Flynn S.

East Coast Challenge

14U QLD Girls: Grace M

14U QLD Boys: Zac S, Samuel T, Ziggy G, Ethan S

New Zealand Nationals

15U QLD Girls: Lucy S

15U QLD Boys: Lachlan J

16U QLD Girls Reserve: Cara M

16U QLD Boys: Oliver L

The Queensland 15U National State Championships team will be announced in August.

Coaches

14U QLD Girls, East Coast Challenge:

Assistant Coach – Lucy Wolfenden

14U QLD Boys, East Coast Challenge:

Head Coach (one of three QLD teams) – Aaden Staskiewicz

15U QLD Boys, National State Championships:

Assistant Coach – Aaden Staskiewicz

17U QLD Girls, National State Championships: Head Coach –

Georgina Kovacs-Muller

FROM HOUSE CARNIVAL TO *State Championships*

The 2026 swimming season has been another successful chapter in St Andrew's aquatic history, beginning with a memorable Secondary House Swimming and Water Polo Carnival before continuing through the Sunshine Coast Independent Schools Championships and culminating at the Queensland Schools Swimming Championships.

Our Secondary House Swimming and Water Polo Carnival was a wonderful celebration of House pride, participation and community spirit. Students embraced every opportunity to compete and support one another, creating an outstanding atmosphere around the pool with 72 water polo matches, 60 relay races and 184 individual swimming events contested. Five new College records were established, highlighting the quality of competition.

Hocknull dominated the competition, claiming the Swimming Championship, Water Polo Championship and Diamond Splash title to complete an exceptional carnival.

That momentum carried into the Sunshine Coast Independent Schools Carnivals, where St Andrew's swimmers continued their outstanding form across Primary and Secondary.

The Secondary team claimed the Championship trophy for the sixth consecutive year, while the Primary team finished third overall. Across both carnivals, St Andrew's swimmers collected five Age Champion pennants, with 15 of the College's 20 age groups finishing first, second or third. Seven students were crowned Independent District Age Champions, while seven new Independent District records were established by individual swimmers and relay teams.

Relay performances were a particular highlight, with the Secondary team winning 11 of the 24 relays contested and 30 of the College's 36 relay teams finishing on the podium. Across the championships, St Andrew's swimmers recorded 182 top-three placings, with 37 students selected to represent the Sunshine Coast Region at the Regional Championships.

The season concluded with another outstanding performance at the Queensland Schools Swimming Championships, where St Andrew's athletes proudly represented the Sunshine Coast Schools Region and showcased the depth of the College's swimming program.

- Archie S delivered a remarkable championship, completing a clean sweep of the 50m, 100m and 200m Backstroke events, while also claiming gold in the 50m Freestyle and the 4x50m Medley Relay.
- Tallow C was equally impressive, winning the 50m Freestyle and the 4x50m Freestyle Relay, along with a silver medal in the 50m Backstroke.
- Seb S produced one of the performances of the meet, setting four new Multi Class Queensland records and adding relay gold to an exceptional championship.
- Additional medal-winning performances came from Blake T, Ava R and Grace M, while Chelsea Cr, Ruby S, Alice S, Darby S, Darcy, Sienna P, Lucy Smith, Stella S, Sadie M and Grace M all secured Top 10 finishes. Ned P and Henry M added strong Top 20 performances, with Arlo MB also competing with distinction.





RAFTER WIN

Cross Country

Rafter's strong performance saw them crowned overall Cross Country champions across both Primary and Secondary carnivals, in what was a fiercely contested competition. There were also some exceptional individual performances, including the fastest 3km times of the day from Sam N and Sophia I.



Boys Age Champions

8 Years Boys – Champion: Lewis R, Runner Up: Mack J, Third: Xavier C
9 Years Boys – Champion: Saxon H, Runner Up: Rafi M, Third: Alfie H
10 Years Boys – Champion: Tokay G, Runner Up: Theo E, Third: Huey W
11 Years Boys – Champion: Flynn W, Runner Up: Noah M, Third: Fletcher J
12 Years Boys (Prim) – Champion: Arlo S, Runner Up: Flynn H, Third: Tucker H
12 Years Boys (Sec) – Champion: Josh v, Runner Up: Jake T, Third: Oscar M
13 Years Boys – Champion: Billy Q, Runner Up: Benji P Third: Frederick C
14 Years Boys – Champion: Dylan S, Runner Up: Ziggy G, Third: Hamish B
15 Years Boys – Champion: Harrison G, Runner Up: Kye L, Third: Ryder A
16 Years Boys – Champion: Sam N, Runner Up: —, Third: Emmett S
Open Boys – Champion: Thomas J, Runner Up: Hayden S, Third: Will S

Girls Age Champions

8 Years Girls – Champion: Sophia J, Runner Up: Tempe T, Third: Sienna R
9 Years Girls – Champion: Charlie H, Runner Up: Scarlett M, Third: Emma H
10 Years Girls – Champion: Aisha S, Runner Up: Isabel L, Third: Lyla K
11 Years Girls – Champion: Pia W, Runner Up: Nebraska A, Third: N
12 Years Girls (Prim) – Champion: Ivy H, Runner Up: Izzy O, Third: Ava E
12 Years Girls (Sec) – Champion: Ella R, Runner Up: Sofia T, Third: Gigi G
13 Years Girls – Champion: Mackenzie D, Runner Up: Ondine Q, Third: Alexa W
14 Years Girls – Champion: Morgan v, Runner Up: Stella A, Third: Chloe M
15 Years Girls – Champion: Sosie Q, Runner Up: Lilou G, Third: Evie W
16 Years Girls – Champion: Harper J, Runner Up: Maya W, Third: Francesca G
Open Girls – Champion: Sophia I, Runner Up: Sally M, Third: Charlie G

Primary Result

1st Rafter – 578 points
2nd Hocknull - 558 points
3rd Burkett – 491 points
4th Williamson – 480 points

Secondary Result

1st Rafter - 2341 points
2nd Hocknull - 2258 points
3rd Burkett - 1917 points
4th Williamson - 1681 points

PRIMARY

Age Champions:

8 Years Boys- Gold: Lewis R, Silver: Xavier C, Bronze: Tyson P

9 Years Boys - Gold: Saxon H, Silver: Rafi M, Bronze: Fred B

10 Years Boys – Gold: Lucas H, Silver: Toby G, Bronze: Max P

11 Years Boys - Gold: Benjamin S, Silver: Sebastian T, Bronze: Arlo M

12 Years Boys – Gold: Flynn H, Silver: Harper M, Bronze: Oliver R

8 Years Girls – Gold: Sophia J, Silver: Natalie M, Bronze: Chloe C

9 Years Girls – Gold: Wren M AND Scarlett M, Silver: Charlie H, Bronze: Mackenzie M AND Willow S

10 Years Girls – Gold: Alisha S, Silver: Camille Q, Bronze: Sophia C

11 Years Girls – Gold: Sadie M, Silver: Grace L, Bronze: Harley D

12 Year Girls – Ivy H, Silver: Lily R, Rose C

Fastest Boy 100m: Benjamin S – 15.68

Fastest Girl 100m: Grace L – 15.98

Records

8 Years Girls 800m

New Record: Sophia J – 3:23.11, Old

Record: Mikaela P (2016) – 3:28.40

10 Years Girls High Jump

New Record: Camille Q– 1.23m, Old

Record: Ava C (2017) – 1.22m

11 Years Boys High Jump

New Record: Sebastian T – 1.35m, Old

Record: Charlie T (2023) – 1.33m

Primary - HOUSE POINTS:

Burkett	1001
Rafter	989
Hocknull	966
Williamson	905

Secondary - HOUSE POINTS

Hocknull	1398
Williamson	1308
Rafter	1287
Burkett	1069



ENERGY AND Spirit

The College oval came alive with colour, determination and plenty of House spirit as students from Primary and Secondary competed in this year's House Athletics Carnivals.

Across both carnivals, students embraced every event with enthusiasm, challenging themselves in high jump, long jump, shot put, discus and a range of track events.

While there were many outstanding individual performances, it was the encouragement from teammates, the cheers from the sidelines and the camaraderie between Houses that truly captured the spirit of the day.

In Primary, students from Years 3 to 6 gave their all in a fantastic display of participation and perseverance, with

Burkett House crowned the 2026 House Athletics Champions.

The Secondary Carnival was equally memorable, with students bringing energy, colour and friendly competition to every event. A special thank you goes to our Year 12 students, whose enthusiasm and leadership helped create an unforgettable final Athletics Carnival, embodying the Diamond Strong spirit throughout the day. Congratulations to Hocknull House, who claimed the 2026 Secondary House Athletics title.

A sincere thank you to our staff and volunteers whose support ensured both carnivals ran smoothly. These events continue to be a highlight of the College calendar, celebrating not only athletic achievement but also participation, resilience and the strong sense of community that defines St Andrew's.





SECONDARY

AGE CHAMPIONS

12 Years Girls – Gold: Ava R, Silver: Gigi G, Bronze: Sienna D

13 Years Girls – Gold: Maria Sykes, Silver: Lucy M, Bronze: Mackenzie D

14 Years Girls – Gold: Grace M, Silver: Chloe M, Bronze: Holly T

15 Years Girls – Gold: Tallow C, Silver: Milla M, Bronze: Chelsea C

16 Years Girls – Gold: Cara M, Silver: Ruby J, Bronze: Ashlee C

17 -19 Year Girls – Gold: Kaitlyn S, Silver: Sally M, Bronze: Greta G

12 Years Boys – Gold: Finn C, Silver: Josh V, Bronze: Oscar M

13 Years Boys – Gold: Angus M, Silver: Sebastian P, Bronze: Jack W

14 Years Boys – Gold: Evan W, Silver: Thomas C, Bronze: Tristian Po

15 Years Boys – Gold: Rhys D, Silver: Benji S, Bronze: Ryder A

16 Years Boys – Gold: Sam N, Silver: Louis B, Bronze: Henry M

17 - 19 Years Boys – Gold: Kehann N, Silver: Callum S, Bronze: Lachlan C

Multi Class – Gold: Darby S AND Sebastian S

FASTEST BOY: Kehann N – 12.26

FASTEST GIRL: Chloe M – 14.30

RECORDS

12 Boys High Jump

Finn C 1.41m, Old record: Ben M (2025) – 1.30m

15 Boys High Jump

Benji S – 1.65m, Old record: Louis B (2025) – 1.58m

16 Boys High Jump

Louis B – 1.61m, Old record: Ben F (2025) – 1.60m

17-19 Boys High Jump

Darcy T – 1.69m, Old record: Joshua L (2025) – 1.62m

12 Girls High Jump

Ava R – 1.23m, Old record: Maya P (2025) – 1.15m

12 Girls Discus

Sienna D – 23.12m, Old record: Lily B (2012) – 21.90m

14 Girls High Jump

Grace M – 1.45m, Old record: Lelani P (2025) – 1.30m

15 Girls High Jump

Tallow C – 1.34m, Old record: Ivy C (2025) – 1.31m

17-19 Girls 800m

Mia C – 2:28.13, Old record: Cecilia L (2014) – 2:35.34

17-19 Girls Shot Put

Sally M – 10.68m, Old record: Emily N (2016) – 10.43



Resonate A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC

The College came alive for the two evenings of our Resonate St Andrew's Music Concert Series, showcasing the remarkable depth and diversity of our music program.

The series opened with *The Inner Voice* – Small Ensemble Evening, featuring intimate performances from our youngest musicians through to senior ensembles. Youth Strings, Chamber Strings, Primary and Secondary Percussion, Saxophone, Clarinet, Vocal, Guitar and Brass Ensembles, along with our Junior Singers and Primary Choir, each brought their own energy and musicality to the stage.

The following evening, *The Shared Sound* brought together our larger ensembles, with the String Ensemble, String Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, Jazz Orchestra and College Choir performing to a packed audience.

Across both evenings, the performances reflected the



dedication, discipline and collaboration that underpin our music program. From emerging musicians finding their confidence to senior students performing at an exceptional level, Resonate was a wonderful celebration of the talent and commitment within our College community.

We are incredibly proud of every student who took to the stage and grateful to our dedicated music staff and families whose support makes opportunities like these possible.

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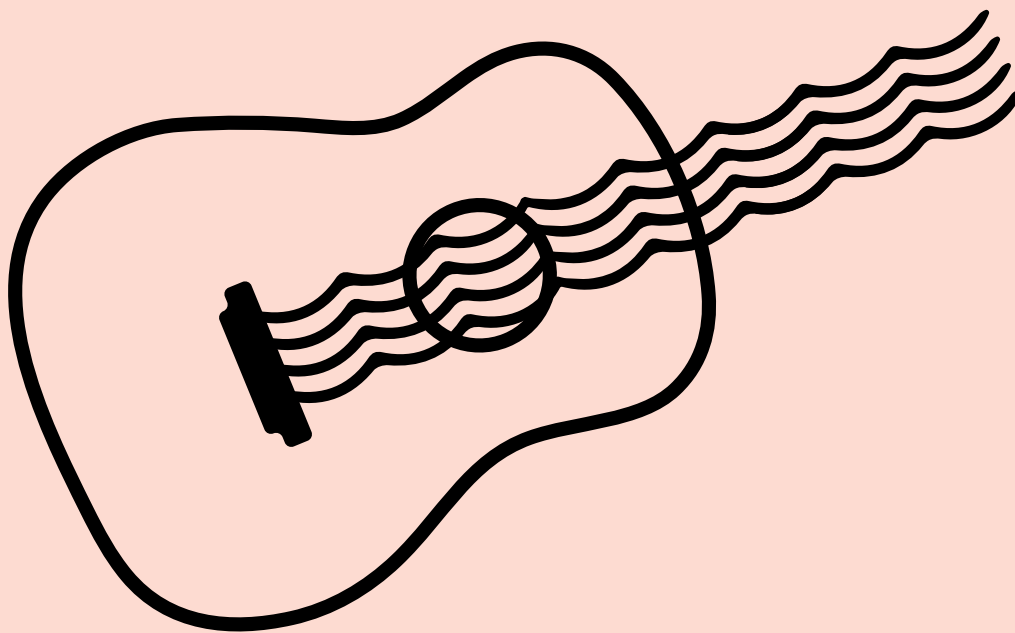
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ALUMNI News

Congratulations to five of our amazing alumni, who have been recognised for their commitment to academic excellence with the below prizes and scholarships at the Womens College UQ 2026 Academic Dinner & Alumnae Awards.

- **Lucy Bowen** | The Women's College Standing Committee Prize
- **Adara Curry** | Brisbane Women's Club Young Achiever Prize and The Women's College Scholarship
- **Jessica Gavin** | IMB Science Excellence Award Prize
- **Katelyn McManus** | Anna Bligh Prize and The Women's College Scholarship
- **Kayla Robinson** | QUT Academic Prize and the Robinson Family Scholarship

These awards serve as a testament to the ongoing commitment to academic excellence, leadership and meaningful community engagement that these young women exemplified during their time at St Andrew's and continue to apply to their now broader community and university studies.



STILL Diamond Strong

Ten years since graduation. Thousands of kilometres from home. And yet same people, same loyalty, same energy. Some of our alumni are now calling London home, but distance hasn't changed a thing, still Diamond Strong together.

So we sent a little piece of home their way - Drew the Roo socks and a bar tab to celebrate. This is what it means to be part of something bigger than a school. Diamond Strong, always



Gideon McGowan Class of 2015

For 2015 Alumni Gideon McGowan, life after St Andrew's has been anything but ordinary. His journey, spanning continents, causes and careers, reflects a deep commitment to purpose, community and compassion. Today, he's making waves in the fields of social justice and youth advocacy while building a life grounded in family, creativity and connection.

After graduating from St Andrew's, Gideon began studying Biomedicine at the University of Queensland, driven by a desire to help people. But it was his experiences travelling solo across Europe and Asia that reshaped his perspective. "I met people whose communities were thriving or struggling not because of individual choices, but because of education access and opportunity," he said. That realisation inspired a shift in focus, redirecting his studies to Economics, Psychology and Peace & Conflict Studies, exploring how social systems shape people's lives. This move went on to define his ongoing work in advocacy and development.

Today, Gideon is the Director of Partnerships at Future Forward Australia, a youth-led organisation empowering young people to tackle inequality and climate justice. He also remains passionate about football, a lifelong interest that began at St Andrew's, preparing to launch an Australian-based football organisation that uses the game to connect communities, promote sustainability and foster opportunity for at-risk youth.

Outside of his professional life, Gideon's proudest achievement is the life he's built with his wife, Gabby. Their story spans countries, lockdowns and countless challenges from navigating border closures to reuniting as a family after years apart. They've built a digital community through their social channel, launched 'Sunshine Hut', a café in the Philippines and now on the Gold Coast to begin their next chapter.



Since leaving the College, Gideon has navigated his share of challenges, from pandemic-era uncertainty to major life transitions across continents. But through every obstacle, one principle has guided him: clarity of purpose.

"Once you're clear on what matters, you can start to assess whether your environment supports or hinders that vision and then take action accordingly," he says.

Those lessons echo the values he first encountered at St Andrew's. "Being surrounded by kind, supportive peers who led by example made a huge difference," he recalls. "That sense of teamwork, resilience, and community spirit has stayed with me." Reflecting on his time at the College, Gideon credits the sense of community and encouragement he found at St Andrew's as formative to his outlook. "Those years taught me the value of teamwork, resilience and kindness."

Today, his focus remains on driving real, lasting change, both through his work in social impact and the life he's building with his family. Long-term he hopes to influence policy and economic systems that empower marginalised communities and create meaningful, structural change.



Abigail Mawby Class of 2009

From St Andrew's to the halls of the United Nations, 2009 St Andrew's graduate Abigail Mawby has built a career defined by curiosity, courage and service.

After completing her schooling, Abbey moved to to study a Bachelor of Law at the University of Queensland, later earning her Master of Law from Columbia Law School in New York. While she dove straight into her studies after school, it was later travels that truly shaped her professional path, broadening her worldview, sparking her interest in cross-cultural work, and ultimately guiding her toward a career in international law.

Following her UQ graduation, she volunteered with the United Nations in Iran, a transformative decision that set her on the path she still walks today as a UN staff member. Her work has taken her to extraordinary places and moments- visiting Bhutan's first law school, advocating alongside Nobel Peace Prize laureate Nadia Murad for justice for the Yazidi people and currently serving in East Jerusalem.

Despite the scale and significance of her work, Abbey's proudest moments include the quieter impact of volunteering during university with a homework club for high school students from refugee backgrounds. Supporting those students through challenges most people never face in a lifetime, she says, put everything into perspective.

Her years at St Andrew's nurtured interests that continue to bring balance and depth to her life and work. Music remains a valued creative outlet alongside her analytical legal career, while her passion for history and philosophy, is something she draws on daily in international law. She admits mastering additional languages has been one of her ongoing challenges, wishing she had begun earlier.

Grateful for the sense of possibility fostered by being part of a young, ambitious graduating class, she's committed to staying curious, grounded and attuned to the big issues shaping our world, showing up where she can make a difference.

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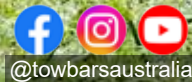
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