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Choice and opportunity

Working in schools, we have the privilege and joy of helping students gain one of the most valuable gifts in life, an education.

As Professor Ian Harper reminded us at our 2012 Speech Night, an education enables both choice and opportunity. The choices our girls make, and the opportunities they embrace, will shape their future and the future of those around them.

And that future is built on what we do today. In this Bulletin you can read about some of the key educational programs our girls are involved in, and learn about our latest building program, with our goal of constructing an integrated complex of aquatics centre, performing arts centre and research centre to ensure that our facilities give the best possible expression to each girl’s talents.

This edition also highlights how much our past informs our present, from the Fielding sisters’ (1900–1918) scholarship bequest that continues to benefit girls today, to our 50th Clubs and Choirs competition that epitomises our vibrant and supportive community.

As a school, we focus on the future. But in doing so, we build on the strengths of those who have come before us, and appreciate the blessings of the present.

Dr Julie Townsend
Headmistress
Looking to our girls’ future

Today our student numbers are strong, our girls are achieving academic, sporting and musical success and we have the generous support of a vibrant school community spanning many generations.

From this solid platform, we have been in an excellent position to develop our strategic plan and set out our priorities for the next five years. Our key objective for the immediate future is the building of an integrated complex comprising aquatics, performing arts and research centres as well as space for other multi-purpose functions. The completion of this project will provide the school with outstanding facilities that will transform the opportunities available to our girls and the wider community.

After engaging four architectural firms at the initial concept stage, we have selected Mayoh Architects to work with us in designing and building the complex. Mayoh’s inspired and functional designs will enable us to realise our vision for a multi-purpose complex that will serve St Catherine’s students well for generations to come. This is a significant and exciting project for the school and we are committed to its successful completion.

Dr Julie Townsend
Headmistress

Student leadership provides opportunities to develop many fine attributes – including integrity, responsibility, vision and purpose – as well as fostering practical skills such as decision-making and working with peers towards a common goal.

Students in Year 6 are elected to leadership positions each semester in the Junior School. Those students wishing to pursue a formal leadership role are required to deliver a short speech to their peers and teachers, outlining their thoughts on leadership and the specific contributions they would endeavour to make to the Junior School.

Four prefects are elected, as well as a captain and vice captain for each house. One of the main responsibilities for the prefects is to run our weekly assemblies. The house and vice house captains carry out specific duties in the running of sports carnivals. All leaders are also required to assist with special events, including welcoming guests to the school.

Young leaders step up

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Junior School leaders

Semester 2 2012
Prefects
George Findlay, Lisa Guo, Eloise Wilson, Madison Wiltshire

House captain vice captain
Hulme-Moir Alexander Frawley Alice McNair
Bronte Katie Johnson Annabel Staines
Casterton Charlotte Robertson Jos Haydon
Barker Gabrielle Polansky Alysha Ke
Sutherland Bridie Schuman Ava Fitzsimons

Semester 1 2013
Prefects
Kahla Copland, Pippa Hanan, Asia Rogers, Jasmin Yip

House captain vice captain
Hulme-Moir Adelaide Darvall Madeleine Fairlie
Bronte Mia Clark April O’Neill
Casterton Indi Powell Claude Mercer
Barker Jessica Edser Ava Carmont
Sutherland Mish Madden Mariel Issa
Robogals get technical

St Catherine’s began its robotics journey in 2009, as the first school in Australia to trial the ‘We Do’ program.

An expert in the field introduced Year 3 to the program, with girls building their robots from Lego and programming them to move using working motors and sensors. The introduction was such a success that a Robotics Club was established with Mrs Audas at the helm.

Since 2009 the Robotics Club has been invited to participate in Robogal workshops run by engineering students at the University of NSW. Robogal is a student-run organisation that aims to engage students in engineering topics, with the long-term goal of increasing female interest in engineering and science and technology courses at university.

Recently, the robotics team was invited again to participate in an advanced robotics workshop.

The girls were introduced to NXT robots (robots with wheels) which they built and programmed. By the end of the session all the girls had programmed their robots to do the hokey-pokey.

They then went on to perform more complicated routines, programming their robot to follow a black line using sensors and also to find and rescue a Lego piece on top of a silver can.

This was an exciting opportunity for our students to showcase their amazing skills. The team was also introduced to Robo Soccer and Search and Rescue, which are events run at RoboCup. The focus of RoboCup is the development of teamwork and technical skills in an environment of participation, fun and excitement.

The Robotics Club is preparing to take part in the Dance and Search and Rescue competitions later this year.

Mrs Maryanne Dwyer
Deputy Head of Junior School

Year 6 students were challenged to construct a working crane from three sheets of A4 paper, a metre of sewing cotton, a paper clip, 20cm of strong thread and some sticky tape.

The crane had to be at least 25cm high and strong enough to haul a 50gm weight off the table and 10cm above the desk. The girls made many modifications to their initial designs but were all able to meet the challenge. In the words of one student, “it was a really fun activity where we were able to challenge our minds, even if we did have a few ‘eyebrow’ moments.”

Mrs Maryanne Dwyer
Deputy Head of Junior School

Gifted education challenges young students

Gifted students are involved in many exciting and challenging experiences at St Catherine’s.

Gifted specialists work intensively with small groups throughout the school – differentiating activities and providing appropriate extension and enrichment opportunities with a particular focus on mathematics and literacy, which allow students to engage in sophisticated investigations and explore literature at complex levels.

Assistance is also provided to staff when programming to ensure gifted students have access to thought-provoking and appropriately levelled activities. Mentoring and subject acceleration enables students to access support when needed and provides access to appropriate content, pace and complexity.

Some highlights of the gifted program in the past year include:

• Year 6 students attended the AIS Maths Challenge camp.
• Stage 3 students attended the da Vinci Decathlon at Knox Grammar School. Year 6 placed third in the Art and Poetry task and Year 5 placed fourth in Games of Strategy.
• A robotics demonstration was prepared for the ICT convenor’s conference.
• Stage 2 and Stage 3 students attended an advanced robotics program run by Robogal at the University of NSW.
• Students K–6 attended workshops outside of school including those in association with GERRIC (Gifted Education Research, Resource and Information Centre), NSWGTC (NSW Association for Gifted and Talented Children) and St George High School Gifted and Talented programs.
• Two students from Year 6 were awarded the Primary School Maths Prize, a new initiative of the Faculty of Engineering at UNSW. The objective of the prize is to encourage a lifelong interest in mathematics.
• Year 6 students competed in a national competition, Murder Under the Microscope, to solve an online environmental crime.

Looking at tensile strength

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Deputy Head of Junior School

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Mrs Maryanne Dwyer
Deputy Head of Junior School
An Anglican day and boarding school for girls

Legacy of extraordinary achievement lives on

The five Fielding sisters, daughters of the Rev Henry Fielding, were all educated at St Catherine’s in the early 20th century. The eldest, Una, entered in 1900 and the youngest, Ruth, left in 1918.

Their lives both at school and after school encompass such a wide range of academic and personal experience. When Una entered the school her father was the Rector of St Matthew’s Church at Windsor and consequently Una and her next sister, Erica, who entered the School in 1902, were boarders. In 1904 the Rev Fielding was appointed as Rector of the Garrison Church (Holy Trinity, Miller’s Point) and thereafter the sisters were day girls. Daisye joined the school in 1907, and thereafter the sisters were day girls. Enid and Ruth in 1913. The girls were good students and won a variety of prizes in science and botany, music and handicraft.

Una Fielding was a qualified medical practitioner and therefore given the title of ‘Dr’; she did not have a PhD but had a very distinguished academic career. She commenced her tertiary studies at the University of Sydney in 1907 and gained her Bachelor of Arts in 1910. For the next six years she taught French and English in a number of schools including Ravenswood.

Determined to study medicine she returned to university in 1916 graduating with a Bachelor of Science in 1919 followed by a Bachelor of Medicine and a Master of Surgery in 1922.

In 1923 Una went to England and joined the Anatomy Department of University College London, quickly gaining a reputation as a superb teacher of practical neurology. She also taught in universities in USA and the middle east. She is credited with groundbreaking work on the brain structure of the marsupial mole (Mnapterin) which led directly to the discovery of the link between the hypothalamus and the pituitary gland.

Erica and Ruth both had careers as secondary school teachers. Erica was a fine sportswoman. She played hockey for New South Wales and became President of the NSW Hockey Association. She also taught sport at St Catherinian’s. Ruth taught domestic science at Leeton and Narranderra and gave cooking courses to the nurses at Narranderra Hospital. Her papers, which she generously donated to our archives, contain examples of her lesson notes, teaching aids and other records.

The third sister, Daisye also undertook an arts degree and went to England. According to her sister Ruth, she became Headmistress of a prestigious girls’ school but we have been unable to trace or verify this. We have a letter from her in The Catherinean describing an air-raid in World War II which gives her address as Dorset – so it may have been the Shelbourne School.

The fourth sister, Enid, had a broken education due to illness. After leaving school she went to London and worked for a while in advertising. In 1926 she married Henry Rogers. Enid was the only sister to marry.

The Fielding bequest in 1992 gave a large sum to the school to establish The Fielding Scholarship, to be awarded according to the wishes of the Headmistress and Council. Miss Ruth Fielding also gave a large collection of books, papers and family memorabilia to our archives including her manuscript Memoirs of my school days at St Catherinian’s. The Fielding family papers are in the NSW State Library.

Mrs Evangeline Galettis

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Archivist

St Catherine’s School Waverley

FROM THE BOARDING HOUSE

Connecting students past and present

In boarding we have always fostered connections with past students, whether day or boarding girls.

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Archivist

We are very fortunate to have three ex St Catherine’s girls working in boarding in 2013: Ashleigh Purcell (Old Girl 2007, boarder) started working as the Sunday activity coordinator in 2010. Alicia Miers (Old Girl 2009, day student) and Gabriela Tavella (Old Girl 2012, boarder) are tutors who assist boarders with their homework. Ashleigh Purcell’s role is to take Years 7 to 9 on a weekly activity and assist senior boarders with their homework.

“Tutoring and helping with homework has been particularly rewarding and is something I really enjoy. There is never a dull moment and working with teenagers keeps me on my toes!”

Ashleigh is currently in her final year of a combined Bachelor Commerce/Science degree, after which she hopes to travel and work in the branding consultancy field.

Alicia Miers speaks about what she is doing and her work as a tutor:

“I am currently in my third year of studying medicine. I was a student at St Catherine’s from 2004-2009 and was lucky enough to become a boarding house tutor during my gap year in 2010.

“When I am an Old Girl of the school, I had not experienced the boarding house community until I became a regular tutor, visiting once a week to mentor the girls through their senior school studies. From week to week I enjoy the moments of realisation, discovery and joy that come during my time with the girls. I enjoy sharing my experiences with them as well as helping them to realise their own potential.

“It has been rewarding to see the girls progress through their studies and go on to graduate as Year 12 students. I feel very fortunate to have become a part of the boarding house community over the last 3 years.”

Gabriela has commenced studying a Bachelor of Psychology at UNSW, which is a four-year degree with honours attached; she is currently living on campus at The Kensington Colleges. Gabriela hopes to complete her honours course in 2016, and then return to university as a postgraduate student to receive her Masters, which will take two years to complete.

“I am not entirely sure which field of psychology I would like to end up in but hopefully over the next four to six years I will make that decision,” says Gabriela. “It does feel a little odd returning to the boarding house so soon after leaving; it’s like being on the other side! I do enjoy tutoring the girls, getting to know new girls and being able to reconnect with boarders I already know”.

Fond memories

During a visit to Hong Kong recently it was wonderful to catch up with Miss K (Maggie Chan and Pu Ting (Sharon) Yam, 2004 leavers, and to hear about their memories of boarding at St Catherine’s. Sharon remembers being very homesick.

“Do you remember how much I cried when I first arrived? As an only child I missed my parents and my dog very much,” Maggie and Sharon are now young business women working in Hong Kong.

Mrs Trish Wilson

Director of Boarding and Enrolments
Elements have changed over the years but this much loved, vibrant event lives on half a century later. A set choral piece and one other choral piece of the students’ own choosing were sung by the members of each of the houses. This allowed the girls to show judgement as well as the ability for the students of each house to sing in a strong united group.

In addition, each house elected a conductor who was able to teach house members the music and guide them through rehearsals and the performance on the night. For each choir there had to be an accompanist who belonged to the same house. To encourage appreciation of the arts, an original abstract sculpture in bronze was donated by the artist Ken Unsworth. The sculpture represents the patron saint of knowledge reaching upward for the ultimate in achievement.

In principles that remain to this day, the girls always had to arrange their own choice of music and organise their choristers themselves. In 1969 the choral competition was extended to include clubs and public speaking. Due to the size of the school, between 1963 and 1969 the evening was shared with Junior School students’ plays. In 1980 it was named Inter-House Activities and Club Night. By 1984 it became Clubs and Choirs and in 1987 two more houses were introduced, which has continued to this day. During the 1990s, as well as the winning house receiving the Ken Unsworth trophy, the conductor of the winning house received a ‘baton’. The ‘clubs’ appears to have left the competition and we just have choir and public speaking today – but it is still called Clubs and Choirs.

Mrs Evangeline Galettis
Archivist

Felicity Lane
Prefect – Public Relations

In 1963, Clubs and Choirs began as an inclusive inter-house choral competition. It was intended to give girls a wider knowledge of songs by classical composers and to encourage choir singing, phrasing, part singing, enunciation and the art of conducting and interpretation.

Fifty-year tradition is still vibrant and inclusive

Uplifting atmosphere

 Clubs and Choirs is arguably the most popular night of the school year – and for good reason. No event speaks so clearly of the diversity of talents found at St Catherine’s, or of the enthusiasm with which the St Catherine’s community supports and encourages one another.

There is nothing quite so rewarding as the actual night of Clubs and Choirs. After giving up several weeks of lunch times, practicing seemingly impossible harmonies and submitting to the three Year 11s who lead and direct each house, the final result is always better than anyone could have expected.

Though some girls have voices comparable to that of Dame Joan Sutherland herself, and others no musical ability whatsoever, this night brings the whole house together as one. There is a profound unity in the midst of considerable diversity.

Likewise, the public speakers are a demonstration of the uplifting, encouraging atmosphere that is characteristic of St Catherine’s. Without fail, every single house stands up and claps after their speakers have finished, and there is earnest applause for the little Year 7 who bravely steps up in front of an audience of hundreds. It is an incredible reminder of what an enriching community St Catherine’s truly is.
Our academic leaders

Deputy Headmistress
Mrs Victoria Rennie
BA Dip.Ed

Mrs Victoria Rennie grew up on the north shore near Turramurra and attended Abbotsleigh. After studying in Canberra she moved to the UK for three years where she met her Scottish husband, Stephen. Shortly after the arrival of their first daughter, Eliza, she returned to Turramurra with her new family. It wasn’t long until their second child, Molly came along and later their third, Morag. Having experienced life abroad in the UK and travelling in Africa, Mrs Rennie enrolled in a part-time post graduate course in education and discovered her passion for teaching.

After graduating Mrs Rennie taught English at Pymble Ladies’ College for nine years, moving into middle management in pastoral care and becoming acting Head of English. This led to her role as Head of English at Abbotsleigh where she became very interested in the area of curriculum. She joined the Board of Studies (BOS) Curriculum Committee and worked on the BOS HSC English Prescription 2015.

At the beginning of this year Mrs Rennie joined St Catherine’s as Deputy Headmistress and she continues to teach English.

“I love being an educator; the beauty is that you become a constant learner, preparing for your classes you are always learning. To pass on this knowledge and inspire the girls is so wonderful. The use of Positive Psychology at St Catherine’s really enriches the girls’ lives and their education. The use of Positive Psychology at St Catherine’s really enriches the girls’ lives.” said Mrs Rennie.

After university Mrs Rennie lived and taught in numerous schools in Japan, working for the Board of Education and enjoying the experience of living in a new culture. Upon returning to Australia she worked in a wide range of schools in Sydney teaching both English and Japanese language.

Ms Knorr lives in the eastern suburbs and is currently undertaking a Master’s degree in educational leadership. She enjoys reading and, having grown up in Bondi, anything related to the beach. Travelling is a passion of hers with every new destination becoming her favourite. Having Austrian heritage means that Europe is often at the top of the travel list to visit family and to eat home cooked schnitzel and strudel.

Head of Teacher Excellence
Ms Bernadine Knorr
BA Dip.Ed

This year, as Ms Knorr entered her third year of teaching, she has taken on the role of Head of Teacher Excellence at St Catherine’s. She has enjoyed 15 of those years in the school community as a teacher, Stage 6 convenor, Head of English, guest judge of speaking competitions and talent contests and a cast member in the last school musical.

Ms Knorr said “it’s a wonderful school, I am happy every day; the girls are fantastic and so eager to learn and the staff are so dedicated.

“I am excited that this new role will allow me to utilise all of my skills and experience to serve the school and the girls in the best way possible. When I was a student, my mother used to tease me about always striving for excellence, no matter how small the task. I have always taught with the hope of bringing this out in others; this role is perfect for me.”

Ms Knorr studied a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in literature whilst also studying to become a teacher.

“I have always loved learning and I truly enjoy talking with people. Teaching is a natural fit for me. I can’t imagine doing anything else,” said Ms Knorr.

After university Ms Knorr lived and taught in numerous schools in Japan, working for the Board of Education and enjoying the experience of living in a new culture. Upon returning to Australia she worked in a wide range of schools in Sydney teaching both English and Japanese language.

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Chaplain
Reverend Alex Koch
B.Sc (Mathematics) B.Ed B.D

After being challenged by his high school Chaplain to take Jesus seriously, Reverend Alex Koch made a commitment to follow Jesus, having been very impressed with what he discovered about him from the Bible.

He also developed an interest in teaching, and so found himself at the University of New South Wales studying for a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Education.

Reverend Koch taught mathematics at Shore School, before completing a Bachelor of Divinity at Moore College. He is now in his third year as Chaplain at St Catherine’s where he enjoys combining classroom teaching and the chance to talk about Jesus with young people.

“I really enjoy the mix of chaplaincy work and teaching. I love to teach, whether it is mathematics or Biblical studies; there is never a dull moment.

In my role I am able to get to know the whole school community; students, staff and families. I enjoy the challenge of helping to create a genuinely Christian school, whilst also being inclusive of all faiths and backgrounds,” said Reverend Koch.

Aside from his work at St Catherine’s, Reverend Koch is an active sportsman and has recently run the Six Foot Track Marathon in the Blue Mountains for an impressive sixth time. In the past Reverend Koch also enjoyed rowing, athletics and rugby. He is also committed to cheering on his beloved Wests Tigers.

Reverend Koch lives in the eastern suburbs, where he loves to spend time with his wife Alana and their two boys, Oliver and Angus.

Director of Boarding and Enrolments
Mrs Trish Wilson

Mrs Trish Wilson always knew that she wanted to be a teacher. With her talent for art, she attended teachers’ college concentrating on the arts. After three years of teaching and having met her husband, social science teacher Mr Andy Wilson, they immigrated to Australia from Zimbabwe with their two children, Carolyn and Graham.

Mrs Wilson and her family spent five years living on campus at Knox Grammar School on the north shore. While there, she started to teach at Covenant Christian School, where she became Head of Creative Arts and taught for 20 years.

Drowned to St Catherine’s Christian community, Mrs Wilson came to the school as Head of Boarding, running the boarding house and caring for the girls. During this time she studied a degree in sociology, and completed a diploma in counselling. After eight years in this role Mrs Wilson moved into her current role, Director of Boarding and Enrolments.

“I love my job, there is a huge variety of work and I utilise all of my experience in pastoral care, teaching, counselling and administration. I use my artistic flair to transform the boarding house into a bright and homely place to live.

What I love about the boarding house is the connection with the girls. They keep you young; it’s a fun environment and they are so creative and full of life. I really enjoy going home at night to the girls. There is a real sense of belonging, not just for the girls but for all of our fantastic boarding staff too,” she said.

Director Extra-Curricular
Mrs Jackie Gilson
Bachelor (Phys. Ed) MA Ed Admin

After growing up in Sydney’s eastern suburbs and gaining a Bachelor of Physical Education, Mrs Gilson moved to the UK where she studied at the University of London to become a UK registered teacher. Mrs Gilson spent five years teaching in England before moving back to Sydney, having met her British husband John.

She continued to teach and, with a passion for pastoral care, she also led boarding at various private schools in Sydney. Alongside this, Mrs Gilson completed a Masters of Educational Administration from the University of New England, graduating in 2009.

Now, as Director Extra-Curricular at St Catherine’s, her role draws upon her experience in teaching, boarding and administration and provides the opportunity to work across the school, from Kindergarten through to Year 12.

Mrs Gilson said “I love the role as it is so diverse and as a new position for the school it is still growing and evolving. Beyond the Curriculum has gone from strength to strength with the new Holiday Program, registered After Hours Care and the highly successful extra-curricular school-to-school exchange programs. Extra-curricular activities really help the girls to connect and engage with the school. It’s exciting to be a part of that.”

Mrs Gilson lives in the eastern suburbs close to where she grew up. Her husband John and their three children, Lara, Madison and Harry all enjoy sporting activities and keeping fit. “As a family we love to spend time at the beach and being active, the children are part of nippers, dance squads and little athletics, we are always doing something,” said Mrs Gilson.

Extra-Curricular
Quality education in the arts encourages creative thinking and problem solving and extends a student’s capacity to communicate in many different forms.

Visual arts students have not only used their slates for research of information and images, but have taken advantage of digital programs as art making tools.

Year 9 have explored their own spirituality using Flash and Photoshop to animate and manipulate images in a short time-based artwork.

Year 11 have worked from detailed investigations; using traditional drawing media for their work on nature through to digital, to aptly comment on humanities intervention of nature.

Year 10 students have stretched their creative powers by working only in shades of white. This has led to a group mural as well as quirky individual sculptural pieces using paper folding and cutting. Other students have breathed new life into discarded objects and recycled materials, reiterating the old saying ‘one person’s trash is another person’s treasure.’

The students’ works will be on display in the art show in August this year.

Year 11 drama students have been studying Stanislavsky’s theory of realism, which relies on the actor preparing their role by studying and interpreting their character’s motivations. The students performed in the drama The House of Bernarda Alba, bringing the characters to life with the passion that is vital for the Spanish drama of Lorca’s play.

Mrs Glen Israel
Head of the Arts

The students’ works will be on display in the art show in August this year.

Year 11 students bring their study of realist acting to life in their production of The House of Bernarda Alba by Frederico Garcia Lorca

Emily Stern Year 11

Sophie Manzie Year 11

Vinta Punnakrit Year 11

Emily Stern Year 11

Year 10 student Rosie Johns’ White Lamp Sculpture is a delicate response to the ‘white on white’ assignment
Junior School highlights

Girls in the Junior School enjoy many exciting experiences and opportunities along their individual learning journeys from the first day in Kindergarten to the last day of Year 6.

The Student Representative Council organised a vast array of activities, including ‘dress up as a teacher’ day and a mini-fete in support of Ronald McDonald House, Oxfam, Make a Wish Foundation and the Royal Hospital for Women’s oncology department.

As part of Book Week celebrations, we had a ‘come as your favourite champion’ fancy dress event which was a highlight for us all. St Caths Great Indigenous Book Swap raised $480 for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

The children’s opera, Kiravanu, was performed by Years 3–6, delighting audiences and demonstrating our girls’ talents in all elements of the performing arts.

Ms Sarah Stewart (pictured right), paralympian and Old Girl, was our guest of honour at the Junior School Speech Day.

She spoke about persevering in the face of challenges, the importance of team work and striving for your personal best. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of a very successful year.
Our great sporting success

Sport at St Catherine’s is constantly evolving, with new sports on offer and many more girls competing at a national and international level. The last few months have been outstanding, with huge achievements across a range of sports and abilities.

The 2013 Tidesley Tennis Tournament proved to be a milestone event for St Catherine’s. The Tidesley team made the huge leap from 16th place in 2012 to fourth place – winning the Spender Cup in 2013 for the most improved school.

In water sports, St Catherine’s had great success contesting as one of 28 independent schools in the IGSSA carnivals. St Catherine’s diving team has come on leaps and bounds over the last two years, moving from last place, to an impressive sixth place this year.

The swimming team retained its division position, placing eighth, with both teams competing in 17 final heats on the day.

Director of Sport, Mr Ryan Cameron and coaches Mr Barry Rodgers and Ms Anita Whittingham reported exceptional swims from India White, who achieved gold; Emily Miers, bronze and Sienna White, silver and bronze.

Junior School students Jessica Edser and Madeleine Fairlie competed at the NSW PSSA Swimming Championships. Both girls put in exceptional performances, bringing home gold medals in their respective races. They have now qualified to compete at the School Sport Australia Year 12 and Under National Championships in Adelaide.

Six St Catherine’s students represented NSWCIS in the NSW All Schools water polo tournament, with Mr Yanitsas coaching the NSWCSI 1st team. After a great performance, Amy Ridge, Samantha Mitchell, Emma Whaling, Katie Laycock and Tori Morrissey now make up nearly half of the NSW water polo team, set to compete in the upcoming Australian All Schools Championships in Perth.

St Catherine’s was well represented at the highly prestigious Head of the River 2013 regatta with 45 students rowing. Just the second year participating, the improvement was vast; every crew achieved a personal best; one crew by an amazing 40 seconds.

Back on land the school is doing equally well. Both Elsie and Tilly Measday returned from the Australian Junior Athletics Championships 2013 in Perth with medals for NSW in pole vault.

Despite the very wet conditions at The IPSHA cross country carnival, the girls performed extremely well in a field of over 200 girls per race. Six students placed in the top 15 and have qualified for the CIS carnival in June.

St Catherine’s finished 15th out of 122 schools at the annual Equestrian NSW Interschool Championships; an outstanding achievement from dedicated riders and their horses.

Mr Ryan Cameron said “We are so proud of all of our sports representatives who work so hard to compete at this high level. These are just some of the fantastic sporting achievements; there are many more. The girls are the future of St Catherine’s sport and the future is looking very bright.”
P&F upholding our school community spirit

The P&F executive is an entirely new group in 2013 and I thank each member of the executive for their willingness to stand. We also thank the out-going P&F volunteers for their wonderful help as we find our feet.

On the social side, the annual welcome cocktail party, sponsored by the P&F, was once again an outstanding success. This long-standing P&F tradition has become much looked forward to and integral to the school year! Also the threat of inclement weather meant we had to hold this event in the Jo Karolis Sports Centre, however there was no sign of dampened spirits as is illustrated by the photographs.

At the P&F’s first meeting of the year in February 2013, we were entertained by our wonderful Kindergarten girls. This is another memorable St Catherine’s tradition.

Current initiatives for 2013 are the annual Mother’s and Father’s Day breakfasts and the St Catherine’s Art Show. These social and community occasions are particularly important in our school calendar as they bring together parents and girls from all year groups.

It would be remiss not to mention here that the P&F is kindly supported by the class parents who organise social events and work closely with the executive. Also, Lyn West is our volunteer representative on the Foundation.

We encourage you all to be active participants in our events and work closely with the executive. Also, Lyn West is our volunteer representative on the Foundation.

As you will have read earlier in this publication, the school has embarked on an exciting capital works project.

The St Catherine’s Foundation looks forward to supporting the school with the funding of this initiative through the implementation of a capital campaign. Since its very beginning in 1856 St Catherine’s students have benefited from the tradition of giving, with each building on site having received some funding from members of the school community. This investment by generations of parents, both past and current, benefits each St Catherine’s girl every day.

For some of our families, making a bequest to St Catherine’s is the preferred option to show financial support for the school. To that end, plans are in place to launch the Fielding Fellowship in September. This initiative incorporates the establishment of a bequest society named the Fielding Fellowship acknowledging the five Fielding sisters who attended St Catherine’s in the early 1900s.

Our archivist Mrs Evangeline Galettis has written about these inspiring sisters on page 8 of this issue of The Bulletin. This is indeed an exciting period for St Catherine’s and the Foundation is looking forward to the long-term benefits this initiative will bring.

The Bulletin has written about these inspiring sisters on page 8 of this issue of The Bulletin.

Building on solid foundations

Join us for the launch of the Fielding Fellowship

Friday 6 September 2013, 6.30–8.30pm

Past parent Mrs Cathy Mathews will share her reasons for making a special gift to St Catherine’s.

Hear reflections from Fielding Scholarship recipients about how this scholarship, made as a result of a bequest, impacted on their education and their lives.

Enjoy an evening of outstanding musical performance by St Catherine’s students.

This is an opportunity to reminisce and reflect with St Catherine’s friends. Please contact Mrs Barbara Pootman on 02 8305 6234 or email bpootman@stcaths.nsw.edu.au for further information.
Towards the end of last year, the school commissioned an alumni survey by MMG Education to look at how Old Girls felt about their school life, their views on the school now and how connected they feel to the school and the Old Girls Union.

I would like to personally thank all those Old Girls who replied – we had a great response rate including a mixture of day girls and boarders, those living in Australia and overseas and a very wide variety of age groups. The survey was online, however we also gave all Old Girls who we had contact details for, the opportunity to reply via phone if they did not have access to the online version.

Below is a summary of the results and the Old Girls Union and the school will now be working together to look at the results in detail and how we can improve the services we offer to our Old Girls.

Key observations
- Of the total 1,328 invitations sent, 456 responses were received: an excellent response rate of 34%.
- 82% noted ‘very high’ overall satisfaction scores for their experience at St Catherine’s.
- 64% were financial OGU members.
- 46% noted their awareness of the Old Girls Online facility.
- 26% had accessed this facility.
- High attendance rates were noted for the 5th (43%), 10th (52%) and 20th (40%) reunions.
- 75% noted that they were planning to attend their next reunions.
- 47% noted that they met regularly on an informal basis.
- 55% would be interested in reunions interstate or overseas.
- Philanthropic support for the school was ‘very low’ but respondents did not have a full understanding of this area of the school.
- Alumni with daughters at St Catherine’s noted ‘very high’ overall satisfaction (84%) with key elements of the school’s program.

OGU Executive
Mrs Cathy Ridge  President
Ms Patricia Wong  Vice President
Mrs Kim Rossleigh  Vice President
Mrs Evangeline Galettis  Treasurer
Mrs Janet Smith  Secretary
Ms Harriet Williams  Assistant Secretary
Mrs Wendy Jarratt  OGU Representative on the School Council
Ms Bronwyn Cooper  OGU Representative on the School Foundation

For any Old Girls’ Union queries, please contact the Secretary Janet Smith on jsmith@aitkenlawyers.com.au

To new beginnings...

Anne Johnstone (Comino 1991)
The outgoing Deputy Headmistress of St Catherine’s was inducted as Principal of Seymour College in South Australia on 15 February 2013. Several of her St Catherine’s year group travelled to South Australia for the induction: Mrs Selina Sork (Swan 1991), Mrs Pepita Berdoukas-Collins (Berdoukas 1991) and Ms Christina Jonson.

Former Head Mrs Jo Karaolis, former Deputy Heads Mrs Anne Nudge and Mrs Catherine Misson, former chaplain Rev Kimberly Sawyer and former staff member Mrs Anne Robinson, as well as Mrs Evangeline Galettis and Dr Julie Townsend were also there help celebrate this wonderful occasion with Mrs Johnstone.

A year of wonders

On 21 February, members of the Class of 2011 held a reunion at the school. OGU year representative Rebecca Nezval reports...

For many, it was the first time they had entered the school gates after Speech Night in 2011, and it felt very different walking in and not worrying if you would be issued with a detention for being late or wearing your uniform incorrectly!

Although it has been just over a year since graduation, it’s clear to see that the horizons of our class have broadened dramatically. Some girls had taken a gap year, and explored the globe, while others had been working and learnt to stand on their own two feet, or begun their challenging tertiary courses and had to learn the language of uni.

One thing is for sure, we all appreciated how nurtured we were at St Catherine’s. Once you head out into the big wide world, you realise how helpful and supportive all the staff were at school.

At uni, you can’t just ask the library staff to help you pick a related text, and travelling is a bit different without the languages department to do all the translating for you overseas. Plus you have to learn to budget and invest without your maths teacher’s help!

We’ve certainly had to grow up a lot over the last few months, but I’m sure at the next reunion, there will be even more changes in our lives, and maybe even some marriages and kids!
Valuable lessons for life

Vale Estelle Neilson

We were very shocked and saddened earlier this year to hear of the death of one of our committee members.

Estelle Neilson (Berriman) was 81 and had been a member of the Old Girls for many years. Despite living on the south coast, she was also a very active member of our committee. In fact Estelle was in the middle of organising a reunion in Canberra when she died.

Two years before Sophie graduated.

Suzanne finished her leaving certificate in 1952, exactly 60 years before Sophie graduated. Diana Brajuba (Banjanin 1993) was married on Saturday 17 November 2012. The wedding was a very St Catherine’s affair, with Reverend Sawyer conducting the service and Johanna O’Shea (1993) providing a reading. Masters of Ceremony at the reception was Ian Sinclair, son of Old Girl Jan Sinclair (MacCallum 1965) and also in attendance was Larissa Ozog (1990).

FROM LEFT Rev Sawyer, Paul and Diana Brajuba, Johanna O’Shea, Ian Sinclair and Larissa Ozog.

Sophie Kaldor (2012) has generational links to the school. Her step-grandmother Naomi attended St Catherine’s with her sisters Suzanne and Leah Gurchik. Suzanne finished her leaving certificate in 1952, exactly 60 years before Sophie graduated.

FROM LEFT Sophie Kaldor with Suzanne Klein (Gurvich).
Life’s milestones

To the bride and groom...

Congratulations to English teacher Camilla Myers and David Jones-Prichard who married on 4 January at the King’s School Chapel.

Welcome to the world....

It’s heart-warming to share news of the recent additions to the St Catherine’s community:

Zali Fay Margaret Carter, born 22 March, daughter of Mrs Tanya Carter, PDHPE teacher

Dean Douglas Repp, born 10 April, son of Mrs Tessa Repp, Head of Biblical Studies

Jasper Alfred and Heidi Kathleen, born 11 April, son and daughter of Mr Tim Ulrick, teacher of visual arts.

Fine accomplishments...

It has been another great season at St Catherine’s; particular congratulations go to:

Mr Graeme Wallace, network manager, was awarded a Master of Business and Technology (MBT) at the Australian Graduate School of Management.

Rev Kylie Wilson, pastoral chaplain, was ordained on 2 February 2013.

Mrs Glen Israel, Head of the Arts and Gifted & Talented Coordinator, completed writing a new textbook for the Australian curriculum in visual arts.

Mr Phil Parkin, Mrs Brenda Gahan, Mrs May Leith, Mrs Tanya Carter, Mrs Brearana O’Donnell and Ms Monalene Inandan all gained the accreditation level Experienced Teacher, as recognised by the Independent Schools Teacher Accreditation Authority.

Sporting achievements...

Ms Amber Bidwell, Year 4 teacher, has competed in a range of ocean swims this season, together with the Canberra Ironman (personal best 6hrs 1 min) and Huskisson Long Course Triathlon (3rd), was a family affair at the Great Sydney Swim Sydney Harbour, where her daughter Andi came 3rd and son Ethan came 6th in the 12 and under race. Ms Bidwell won an all expenses paid trip to compete in the Hamilton Island Triathlon and Whitsunday Beach Ocean Swim in November. Watch this space...

Mrs Nicole Lee, Year 6 teacher, together with family and friends took part in the first Color Run held in Australia at Homebush Olympic Park in February to raise money for the Children’s Heart Foundation.

“This event was a one of a kind experience that was not about speed but about enjoying a colour crazy day with friends and family. Over 35,000 joined in the fun. Along the 5km walk you come across colour stations where you are dowsed in coloured powder dye. Being sure to wear white makes your colours stand out.”

Ms Nicola Logan, Year 6 teacher, has competed in a range of surf lifesaving and swimming events which included:

Ocean swimming: 2nd (35–39 age group) Bondi Classic; 4th (35–39 age group) Coogee Island Challenge; and 1st (35–39 age group) Great Sydney Swim

Surf lifesaving: 1st (35–39 age group) surf race at Sydney Branch; 1st (35–39 age group) beach sprints at Sydney Branch; 2nd (35–39 age group) rescue tube at State Championships; and 3rd (35–39 age group) surf race at State Championships

Swimming: 1st 50m fly at Australian RSL Championships; 1st 50m breaststroke at Australian RSL Championships; 1st 50m breaststroke at Australian RSL Championships; 2nd (35–39 age group) 50m backstroke at Australian RSL Championships; and 1st in open 4 x 50m relay at Australian RSL Championships.

Ms Nicola Logan

Ms Amber Bidwell in Canberra

Ms Nicola Logan with husband David

Camilla Myers and David Jones-Prichard...

“Jasper and Heidi Ulrick”
Beyond the Curriculum

St Catherine’s students are encouraged to participate in extra activities to develop initiative, confidence, teamwork and skills.

Through extra-curricular and out-of-school-hours care programs, St Catherine’s aims to holistically develop each girl by nurturing her creative, physical and social abilities. This encourages students to reach their true potential and to prepare for post-school experiences.

Mrs Jackie Gilson
Director Extra-Curricular