The Mad Hatter’s Ball

STEM: Science Technology Engineering Mathematics

Our new summer dress

Creative Connections

Old Girls’ Union

Thoroughly Modern Millie

The men of St Catherine’s
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We love our St Catherine’s men! Our maintenance team keeps us ship shape, our IT team keeps us logged on and our finance team keeps us well budgeted. Our gorgeous chef, of course, keeps us well fed.

This Bulletin gives you an insight into the work of some of our St Catherine’s men, who are represented across every area of the School. From the cheery singing (thank you, Jeremy) to the beautiful gardens to the sounds of summer tennis, they enrich the School in so many ways as well as being wonderful role models for our girls. And, although outnumbered four to one by female staff, they keep smiling!

Although we celebrate our men in this Bulletin, I am grateful for the contribution every staff member makes to our gorgeous school community. And, with a community like ours, it’s no wonder that every day at School is my favourite day.

Dr Julie Townsend
HEADMISTRESS
The men of St Catherine’s

The support that men give and the contributions they make to our School are immense. Our fathers and grandfathers occupy a special place in our hearts and in our education. We are very lucky to have such talented role models in our teaching, facilities, ICT, catering and administration departments.

Andrew Grech
HEAD OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Overseeing finance, facilities, HR, risk and compliance, Andrew ensures these areas are strongly governed and well managed to assure the School’s long-term sustainability. With his strong corporate background, he applies a progressive approach to managing the functions of a non-for-profit organisation such as ours.

“I think the School itself has a noble purpose,” Andrew says. “I’m impressed by the breadth of opportunities available here. Every student can pursue her interests, including drama, service education, as well as academia. It’s also very positive to see such a strong sports program in a girls’ school.”

As far as the role of men at St Catherine’s, Andrew believes, “It’s good in any environment to have a diversity of people. It’s important that our students see a workforce supporting them that is reflective of broader society.”

Graeme Wallace
ICT NETWORK AND INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGER

The complicated network and infrastructure of our information technology (IT) falls under the watchful gaze of Graeme, who describes his role as like the Wizard of Oz – the invisible man behind the curtains pulling the levers to make our technology work.

“Education is becoming more attuned to being out of the classroom,” explains Graeme. “The real push is video and the cloud, we try to extend the classroom to deliver an interactive experience wherever students may be.”

His job gives him a unique insight into how girls interact with technology in comparison with boys.

“I think women are better at IT, generally – they are practical, more pragmatic and logical,” he says. “I’ve always encouraged girls to get into technology. I’ve noticed, though, that girls tend to use technology to enhance their communication skills and boys are more inclined to want to figure out how it works.

“In a study group, a student may use her tablet, smartphone and a desktop computer simultaneously. It is our job to ensure all these devices work well and communicate to each other.”

Usually fulfilling their roles behind the scenes, the men of St Catherine’s are often the people we rely on first in challenges of a practical nature. How to connect to the internet, what to eat in the boarding house, finding a sunny seat in the beautiful grounds, even how to wear the uniform with personal flair – all these issues are easily solved by the work these extraordinary men do for our School.
Phil Parkin
SCIENCE TEACHER
A teacher of Years 11-12 biology as well as Years 7-10 science, Mr Parkin has been at St Catherine’s for 15 years. He has seen much change at the School, especially the huge shift to computing – something that continues to alter the way we study science.

“I think eventually we’ll see more data management software in our classrooms, with a more mathematical approach rather than results focus,” Mr Parkin says. “Machines will do more of the practical aspects of science, but we will employ skilled people to interpret the results. We tend to follow Britain and they are not doing many practical exams now, teaching more skills of interpretation, comprehension, as well as literacy and numeracy.”

Why should girls be science fans? “Science teaches girls how to make decisions based on reason and evidence, a lesson that can be extended to life. It encourages us to use our senses, logic and observations rather than just emotions to make decisions.”

Alex Koch
CHAPLAIN
As well as teaching Biblical studies and mathematics, Alex is St Catherine’s chaplain. While his primary role is to help girls to know Jesus, he also offers Christian care and support to students, staff and St Catherine’s families.

“The Bible is very clear in affirming that God places an immensely high value on every individual. This is the same for everyone regardless of race, gender, age or social standing. Our girls are bombarded with all sorts of messages about where they might find their worth and value. Some are helpful, many are not. In the midst of all this noise, I really am passionate about encouraging our girls to know how valuable and precious they are and how much God loves them.”

Alex feels St Catherine’s students are a special group of people. “I feel very privileged to work with a fantastic student body. In particular, I have had the chance to see some outstanding leaders of our Christian groups – thoughtful, intelligent and motivated girls who have given great service, and I hope and pray they will continue to.”

Jonathan Yeow
JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER YEAR 6
Jonathan is one of our beloved Junior School teachers and runs Junior Cru – a Christian group for Years 3 and 4, with our chaplain, Alex Koch. As one of the few males in primary teaching, Jonathan is a strong role model, responding in a nurturing way and committed to social development.

“Even though I’m easygoing, I want the students to know that I care,” Jonathan says. “As a teacher, I model expected behaviour – how to be treated and how to treat others. I want to help the girls grow academically as well as socially. Girls need to expect respect. Don’t lower your expectations just to be liked – be yourself.

“I encourage chats about real-life concerns like human rights, bullying and racism. Even though our junior girls are young and innocent, they are able to disagree, say what they think and be happy to hear another’s opinion. Even though our junior girls are quite young, they are able to disagree, share what they think and consider different opinions. This teaches the girls the importance of entering into real discussions and is good for their social development.”

David Gresham
HEAD OF MUSIC – PERFORMANCE
David teaches in the classroom as well as overseeing all performances, conducting ensembles and instrumental tuition. School musicals, competitions and tours also fall under his baton. His aim is to instil a life-long love of music in all his students.

“I firmly believe that a musical education is essential for all children,” says David, adding that our music program provides an important avenue for students to connect with boys on a social and cultural level.

“The girls are encouraged to perform in ensembles and musical theatre, and boys from local independent schools are invited to play male roles. It is very common also for St Catherine’s girls to perform in The Scots College shows. Our music students also participate in the combined band and strings workshops at Newington College.

“Our music department aims for each girl with an instrument to be still playing music when they graduate and to never lose their love of making music.”

Vince Muscat
MAINTENANCE MANAGER
Vince is part of the facilities team and coordinates our maintenance team. They are responsible for a multitude of jobs that are often invisible yet essential – from changing lightbulbs to setting up events such as Speech Night. In addition to the challenge of problem-solving, Vince enjoys interacting with students, parents and staff.

“Everyone is nice and friendly and understands our position. We feel respected as part of the School community,” says Vince. “Being part of a fantastic team makes the job easy and enjoyable.”

Now in his twentieth year at the School, Vince has seen many a Kindergarten student with shy glances grow older and more at ease. “The smiles on their faces as they get to know the team are wonderful. Trust builds, and with it, respect.”

He has also seen the St Catherine’s student body evolve into one that is “more conscientious, confident and mature… and ready to take on the outside world authentically.”

Barbara Penman, Vince Muscat, Edgar Martin, Jeremy Brown with Chris Hughes, Facilities Manager.

THE MEn OF ST CATHarine’S

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As educators of young girls we are especially conscious of the importance of providing them with opportunities to study in areas such as Maths, Science, Technology and Engineering where women continue to be under-represented. A report published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) earlier this year, *The ABC of Gender Equality in Education: Aptitude, Behaviour, Confidence* highlighted that as little as 3% of girls consider a career in these areas compared to 17% of boys.
It is, however, encouraging to see that last year 17% of our leavers went on to tertiary studies in both Science and Engineering. The report commented on the importance of equality in education stating that “equality of opportunity for men and women is first and foremost a moral imperative; but it is also key to economic growth and well-being. Investments in education improve economic and social opportunities, helping to reduce poverty and foster technological progress”.

With this research in mind and with the knowledge that there is growing need to educate both girls and boys in this area, we are excited by the introduction of Engineering Studies to our suite of subjects on offer to our 2016 Year 11 students. This subject will be led by Ms Kate Sonter, Head of TAS, who has both expertise and a particular passion in this field. The subject is “directed towards the development and application of mathematical, scientific and technological skills and their integration with business and management. It provides students with skills, knowledge and understanding associated with a study of engineering, its practices and associated methodologies” (BOSTES). This is an excellent way for us to expand the opportunities available to the girls and we are thrilled that there has already been a huge amount of interest from them. Having subjects like this on offer is crucial if we are to provide a rich learning experience that fosters creative, innovative thinking that is so crucial in complex problem solving.

Interestingly, the report further revealed that despite outperforming boys at school, the key factor holding girls back from pursuing further study or careers in STEM subjects was lack of confidence. This highlights the significance of well-being as a key to academic achievement and the importance of our positive psychology program. As we continue to focus on building strong relationships and building mental toughness, much of our work with the girls happens in the classroom aided by passionate teachers with high expectations. Our teachers work hard to create safe learning environments where the girls are encouraged to take intellectual risks, working collaboratively to develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

... girls are encouraged to take intellectual risks, working collaboratively to develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Completions held during Mathematics and Science Week are safe learning environments for girls to work collaboratively and develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.

OLoVIA RICHARDSON OF YEAR 12, WITH HER HSC MAJOR WORK FOR DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY.
Leaping into STEM in the Junior School

Excitement for learning in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics reached new heights during STEM week. Employing their creativity and curiosity, the girls embarked on a journey of interdisciplinary inquiry powered by their imagination and determination.

Ms Sarah Guy  HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

In Kindergarten, the girls worked collaboratively to design a seat for Humpty Dumpty to help keep him safe. In Year 2, the challenge was to construct a tower with a pulley system for lowering Rapunzel to the ground. Year 4 girls embraced their challenge to catch a monster, designing and making their own Rube Goldberg machine. In every task, thinking routines were integral to the design process as the girls tinkered, created, reviewed and refined their inventions.

This year has seen the rise of computational thinking with the advent of the Tech Girls club, which has membership from all grades. Year 2 teacher, Miss Dodson, is leading one club for K-2 girls and one for Year 3-6 girls. Her aim is for the girls to embrace STEM-related learning and develop computational understanding.

Miss Dodson has introduced the students to the basics of web coding and is facilitating the investigation of new technologies. K-2 Tech Girls learned how to program Bee Bots and are using Scratch Jr to code on their iPads. Year 3-6 girls worked through a 20-hour online coding course and learnt how to use a Makey Makey circuit board. Recently, they eagerly welcomed the opportunity to use the Tinkercad app, to design and print 3D models. Some girls have also enjoyed making and using Google cardboard 3D glasses to explore virtual worlds. With their newfound knowledge and experience, the Year 3-6 Tech Girls are now assisting with technology in the classroom and sharing their learning with their peers.

These exciting developments have laid firm foundations for exploration into how we can nurture the girls’ curiosity, wonder, grit and determination in STEM.

Our delightful St Catherine’s man Mr Jeremy Brown, or Mr Jeremy to the girls, is the friendly face of car line each and every day; rain, hail or shine. The Junior School community is most grateful for his endless enthusiasm and delightful way of welcoming the girls to school each morning and seeing them safely into their cars each afternoon. Even the Council rangers have praised Mr Jeremy’s management of car line!

A longtime man of St Catherine’s, Jeremy is a past parent (Meghan Brown, Class of 2006, herself a past teacher) and a valued member of our School’s maintenance team.

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Our dear Old Boys

Men and boys have made a significant contribution to the history and life of St Catherine’s in the capacity of young students, council members, visiting chaplains, fathers and teachers.

Mrs Evangeline Galettis OAM ARCHivist

In the first half of the 20th century it was not uncommon for an independent girl’s school to have boys enrolled in the early years because boys’ preparatory schools would not enrol children under the age of seven. The alternatives were for a boy to attend school with his elder sisters, attend a public school or to be educated at home. Gradually, demand led to the opening of infants sections at the major independent boys’ schools and the practice lapsed.

We have no idea when boys were first enrolled at St Catherine’s, although we have anecdotal evidence from Peggy Goswell (OG 1942) that Ken Dobb, John Donovan, Stanley Lever, Jimmy Greville and David Greville were all enrolled during the early 1930s.

The first mention of boys as students occurs in The Catherinean 1935 where Kindergarten Notes record that “we all turned into Red Indians” and “the boys made beautiful suits for themselves out of bags”. Playing Red Indians seems to have been a regular occurrence in Kindergarten as were visits to Waverley Fire Station, where in 1939 the boys were allowed to try on helmets and gas masks.

The usual number of boys enrolled in the 1930s and 1940s seems to be around five or six, but the Catherinean records Kindergarten numbers as variable. We have no record of the names of these early boys except for: P. Dillon, who is recorded as having won the Boy’s egg and spoon race, as well as the Boy’s flat race in the Kindergarten sports for 1940, and Stanley Leaver, who attended from 1934 to 1936 and sits in splendour in the middle of the front row of the whole school photo for 1936.

Our last boy was Stephen Man, who left in 1988 as a result of a change in policy by Headmistress Mrs Jo Karaolis, but throughout the 1970s and 80s we regularly had boys enrolled in infants, leaving no later than Year 2. The only exception was Peter Elmaloglou who remained until 1980, leaving from Year 4.

As well as boys, a significant number of men have contributed to the life of the School. Two exceptional men are Canon Cakebread and Dean Shilton. Both served on the St Catherine’s School Council as Secretary and Chairman at very different times in the School’s history.

The Canon Cakebread Memorial Prize is known to all St Catherine’s girls as the coveted prize for Dux of the School. It commemorates The Very Reverend William Cakebread, Rector of St Jude’s 1902-1939, Honorary Chaplain to the School, Secretary to School Council 1934-1939, and loving friend and supporter of St Catherine’s for many years. His name is commemorated by the bell on the corner of the Stone House and the clock on the cloister wall.

Canon Cakebread died in 1939, and throughout the 1920s and 30s The Catherinean reports his interaction with the School community: taking Sunday evening services for boarders, conducting annual confirmation, moderating debates and presenting awards. A poem In The Catherinean 1939 reads in part: “The influence of a life of love, of service, perfect faith, abiding grace, upon this school for evermore will rest”. An account of the memorial service ends with an exhortation not to mourn a life lived in perfect love, but to celebrate the abundant goodness of it.

The Very Reverend Lance Shilton, Dean of Sydney, member of School Council 1974-1988, was Miss Patterson’s Chairman, and many will remember her response to any controversial suggestions: “The dear Dean will not hear of it!” Nevertheless it was during his tenure that we danced in the Cathedral in 1978 as part of the evening service, causing a stir.

On his retirement, Dean Shilton made a donation to fund the Dean Shilton Prize for Christian Activity within the School. He died in 1998.
Uniformly chic and tailored

Robert Burton is an extremely important and influential man of St Catherine’s - he designed the School uniform in 1993. His contribution to our School is highly visible and significant to the whole community, even though he himself is behind the scenes. He says, “Designing the St Catherine’s uniform was one of the most rewarding things I have done in my career.”

A stellar career it’s been. An outstanding contributor to Australian fashion for more than four decades, Robert is known for his chic, perfectly tailored classics and memorable ensembles. Winner of the 1991 David Jones Award for Fashion Excellence, his clients have included Marie Bashir, the former Governor of NSW, actresses Wendy Hughes and Carmen Duncan, as well as TV presenters, theatre and ballet performers.

The Robert Burton label was purchased by Sportscraft in 1996, and Robert opened his successful Queen Street retail space in 2001 with a carefully selected collection of clothing, accessories and homewares. It is a delightful place to shop.

Believing that “girls should have a choice”, Robert designed a suite of clothes from which students could choose pieces to wear as their school uniform. The original suite did not include a dress for summer, but rather tartan shorts and a white polo shirt with collar stand, designed to be worn with the tie.

A summer dress was introduced a few years later by the then Headmistress, and as Robert was no longer working with the school, a generic design from the uniform supplier of the time was chosen. Twenty years later, Robert was commissioned to design a summer dress in line with his original vision.

Dr Townsend has announced that the design has been approved, and the new dress will be phased in over a three-year period from 2016. As part of our 160-year anniversary celebrations, we are delighted that Robert Burton will organise a fashion parade and officially launch the summer dress on 1 March 2016.

Dorothy Faith Patterson AM was the first born to a family that loved the outdoors. She grew up on the North Shore, finishing her education at Hornsby Girls’ High. She graduated with Honours from Sydney University and taught Science and Geography at Newcastle Girls’ High for four years from 1948.

During her 33 years at St Catherine’s, Miss Patterson valued the Christian base of the School and aimed to continue and consolidate its non-elite environment. Her involvement with the Inter-School Christian Fellowship in Newcastle, the Scripture Union, drop-in centres and other social work, reinforced her socially focused, caring perspective on education. The Centenary Year (1996), was an ideal opportunity to showcase her perspective.

During Miss Patterson’s time at the School, enrolments grew from 200-900 students. With more students, up-to-date science labs, classrooms and facilities were required, and Miss Patterson commenced a major building program that continued for many years.

The Jane Barker Hall, The Lenthall Science block, the acquisition and development of St John’s, the Isabel Hall Wing, the swimming pool, the central school development and the expansion of the Junior School all date to Miss Patterson’s time. Her legacy includes Clubs and Choirs and the introduction of a uniform dress as opposed to a tunic for summer wear.

Miss Patterson saw that education was under threat in the “swinging sixties”. She saw challenges to all kinds of established values. She insisted on adherence to tradition. Girls wore uniform, attended Chapel, participated in School activities and functions and behaved in an acceptable fashion while in uniform. Parents often agreed that the enforced discipline was one of their reasons they chose St Catherine’s for their daughters.

As the world became more complex during the 70s and 80s her response was to play to her strengths, organisation and attention to detail. Very little escaped her.

A visionary leader, she launched the St Catherine’s Foundation in 1983 to secure the School’s financial future “in order to retain our freedom to continue the kind of Christian education that has been St Catherine’s tradition”. Overseas students from Fiji, New Guinea and Solomon Islands, sponsored by the Colomba Plan, were enrolled during her headship. Miss Patterson was ahead of her time in offering scholarships to Indigenous students.

In 1980 Miss Patterson was awarded an AM for services to education and became a Fellow of the Australian College of Education and a Fellow of the Association of Heads of Independent Girls Schools in Australia (AHIGSA). She served as President in 1960, 1971 and 1981 and as Treasurer (1960-62). She represented AHIGSA on UNESCO from 1964-73 and served on various NSW Schools Commission committees and the Diocesan Education Board. She also held a seat on Sydney Synod for many years, well into her retirement.

On her retirement, in recognition of her achievements, Waverley Council landscaped an area and named it Faith Patterson Place. In 2015, the School named a new house Patterson.

What more can I say about this rather small but indomitable woman? Her staff always valued her for the fact that she supported them in public even if she scolded them in private. Her students valued her as “a friend to whom they could always go for counsel that would not only be wise but friendly, frank and understanding.”

I had the utmost respect and admiration for Miss Patterson. She changed the lives of many generations of women, opening opportunities to them that they would never have known. Miss Patterson believed in them and helped them to become strong, clear-thinking, independent women.

The School honoured and gave thanks for the wonderful life of Miss Faith Patterson AM on Friday 4 September 2005 at St Catherine’s School Chapel.
Upholding the School community spirit

It is with pleasure that I write this column in my third and last year as P&F President.

The P&F Executive is a volunteer body of parents at the School. There are six of us who commit volunteer time and effort to keeping the P&F as alive and supportive as we can, linking parents to the School through a variety of fundraising and social activities. Thank you to the many parents and friends of the School for your great work and commitment in support of the P&F.

The P&F continues to have shared responsibility on many levels for upholding the School community spirit through a variety of events and initiatives that we run or get involved in, including the annual Father’s Day Breakfast held in September each year. At last year’s event, the P&F generously donated $200,000 to the Foundation to use on a specific item in the build for the Research, Performing Arts and Aquatic Centre (RPAC). This was one of the P&F’s proudest achievements and certainly the largest donation in my time as President.

The P&F also generously funds a range of Wish List items over the course of the year. We spread our donations across both the Junior and Senior Schools in as equal measure as we can and as needs require.

We also have a terrific group of volunteer Class Parents to whom I extend sincere appreciation. Over the course of many years we have seen wonderful support from our class parents.

As a reminder, under the P&F Constitution, I must step down from my role after three years, at the end of 2015. We are looking for a volunteer to step into the role of President. It would be tremendous if you could contact me to discuss the role should you be interested.

Louise Campbell
P&F PRESIDENT
pandf@stcaths.nsw.edu.au

Fathers and daughters at the Father’s Day Breakfast in September 2015.

Fathers and daughters at the Father’s Day Breakfast in September 2015.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 7 May 2016

St Catherine’s School Waverley

The Bulletin
If you wish to discuss any aspect of giving, including making provision for St Catherine’s in your will, please contact Mrs Marilyn Rickard, Director Community Relations mrickard@stcaths.nsw.edu.au.

Should you wish to make an online gift to support the school please visit www.stcatherines.nsw.edu.au and select online payments.

Mad Hatter’s Ball

Fantastic support

The Mad Hatter’s Ball was the big event for the Foundation in 2015. It was a huge success and raised in excess of $300,000 to support the RPAC (Research, Performing Arts and Aquatic Centre) appeal. The Foundation has now raised $2.77 million to support the RPAC project.

I would like to thank the organising committee of Chair Amy Sones, Dimity D’Angelo, Holly Findlay, Shiman Muriti, Jacqui Parshall, Sally Taylor and Mark and Kate White. Their level of commitment and dedication to this event was truly extraordinary.

Thanks also to Mark and Kate White of KATERING who provided a sumptuous feast, in keeping with the décor. Thanks to Warwick Hunt for yet another MC gig, this time with make-up! Finally thanks to the Year 11 drama students who ushered around 530 members of the St Catherine’s community into the magical wonderland, which had transformed the Jo Karaolis Sports Centre for the evening. Our music and dance students also added to the entertainment with their outstanding performances. Our sponsors and prize donors contributed significantly to the financial success of the night and we extend sincere thanks to each of them.

As we move to the next stage of our fundraising efforts for the RPAC, I would like to thank, on behalf of the Foundation, several members of the Campaign Committee who have worked so hard and who have now come to the end of their time: Vince Muriti (Chair), Nick Beckhurst, Richard Carmont, John Dawson, Warwick Hunt and Amy Sones. These people and many more have contributed greatly to achieving the Foundation’s goal of maintaining and nurturing a sustainable philanthropic culture within the broader school community.

Dr Peter Boxall AO
FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN

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Dr Peter Boxall AO
FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN
Thank you, thank you, thank you!

TO THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THE MAD HATTER’S BALL POSSIBLE

A special thank you from St Catherine’s to the many parents who have assisted the committee with planning and incredible creativity! Thanks also to all Class Parents for their enthusiastic support in ralying their year groups. Over 30 members of staff volunteered to assist on the night and we thank them most sincerely. Special thanks to the Community Relations, ICT and Maintenance teams.

SINCERE THANKS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP OF THE MAD HATTER’S BALL:

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The community gathered to celebrate the creative talents of our girls as our Year 12 drama, design and technology, visual arts and music students showcased their major works in July. Teaching and learning in creative subjects is important as it encourages students to think and problem solve in new and creative ways.

Mrs Victoria Rennie, Deputy Headmistress

Creative Connections is the culmination of hard work and commitment by students and their teachers and we saw first-hand, not just a joy of learning, but also the girls’ amazing creative capabilities.

Bella Campbell-Moore (Class of 2009) and Brooke Goldfinch (Class of 2000) opened the events and reflected on the importance of determination, hard work and relationships in achieving the best and most rewarding outcomes. Both Old Girls had fond memories of their time at St Catherine’s and their own Creative Connections journey.

Parents, staff and students were impressed by the calibre of dramatic performances, the diversity of Design and Technology works; the originality of artworks and the professional standard of our music students. Some students performed or presented on both evenings and all of the girls breathed a sigh of relief on seeing their final pieces come together.

It was an inspiring and exciting evening for the girls, parents and families, younger students and staff. It served as a poignant reminder of just how rich a school experience our students and staff enjoy.
The Old Girls’ Union

OGU enquiries please contact the Secretary at jsmith@aitkenlawyers.com.au

Creative Old Girls return to inspire

We were delighted to welcome back two special Old Girls to officially open Creative Connections, the annual HSC Major Works Showcase.

Held over two nights, Creative Connections is the culmination of hours of hard work by our Year 12 students and their teachers. It brings together our School Community to celebrate their creative achievements in Design & Technology, Drama, Music and Visual Arts.

Bella Campbell-Moore (Class of 2009) and Brooke Godflesh (Class of 2000) opened the events and reflected on the importance of determination, hard work and relationships in achieving the best and most rewarding outcomes. Both have fond memories of their time at St Catherine’s and their own Creative Connections journey.

FAITH PATTERSON SCHOLARSHIP

St Catherine’s School is honouring Miss Faith Patterson by creating an endowment to support a means tested scholarship awarded to a student for the duration of Years 11 and 12.

Gifts to support the scholarship are tax deductible.

For more information, please email oldgirls@stcaths.nsw.edu.au

A day steeped in memories - Jane Barker Luncheon

Acting Headmistress Mrs Victoria Rennie had the pleasure of welcoming 46 Old Girls back to the school for the annual Jane Barker Luncheon on Wednesday 20 May 2015. Excited Year 4 students acted as welcoming hostesses for these women, some of whom left St Catherine’s over 50 years ago.

Year groups from 1940 – 1965 were represented and many memories shared, including one from an Old Girl who commenced as a boarder at the age of 5! One of our youngest boarders ever.

In helping with setting the luncheon tables and mingling with these special Old Girls, the current students saw the connection the Old Girls have with the School, and the strong bonds of friendship that are formed here. They could barely contain themselves as the Class of 1965 explained to them about the daily bloomer inspection they had to endure as students back in their day.

With 50-plus years to catch up on, the luncheon made for a lively event and we were glad to see our Old Girls back in the place where they lived, learned and grew into strong, independent women of the world.

Some of our lovely Year 4 girls with representatives from 1940 – 1965 graduating classes.

Isabella (Bella) Campbell-Moore (Class of 2009) was a music scholar who played cello, guitar and sang in the choir. She was nominated for ENCORE for her core composition.

After leaving school, Isabella worked in St Catherine’s Music Department sharing her skills. She has studied Global International Studies and Speech Pathology.

Writer/director Brooke Godflesh (Class of 2000) attended NYU’s prestigious graduate film program at Tisch School of the Arts, where she was a scholarship student.

Brooke’s short narrative films have screened in festivals around the world. At the 2015 Sydney Film Festival her short film, Red Rover, won the Rouben Mamoulian Award for Best Director.

In 2012, she was selected by actor/professor James Franco to write and direct a segment of the feature film The Color of Time, starring James Franco, Jessica Chastain, Mila Kunis and Henry Hopper.

Brooke is currently writing her debut feature, Pretty Lucy.

Some of our lovely Year 4 girls with representatives from 1940 – 1965 graduating classes.
Wedding belle

Our very own Alumni Relations Coordinator and Old Girl from the Class of 2003, Meagan McLachlan, married Stephen Sharpe on Friday 8 May 2015. The wedding ceremony was held at OLSH Convent Chapel, Kensington, conducted by Meagan’s family friend Ken Cafe OFM. Guests were surprised with a red vintage double decker bus as transport to the reception at Veni Diner, Alexandria where they enjoyed delicious food, live music and a surprise performance from the bride and groom!

Included in the bridal party was long-time friend and fellow Old Girl, Vivian Gray also from the Class of 2003.
The St Catherine’s School musical Thoroughly Modern Millie at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) was a resounding success! It is a high-spirited show set in the 1920s, full of jazz, tap and ‘20s fashion. The dedication of over 50 students from St Catherine’s, The Scots College, Cranbrook, Sydney Grammar and Waverley College made the three shows shine over a weekend in May 2015.