



St Catherine's School
Sydney

ST CATHERINE'S FOUNDATION



philanthropy

future proofing

connecting

enabling



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



With much pleasure, I present this brochure showcasing the work of the St Catherine's Foundation. Since its inception in 1983, the foundation has gone from strength to strength in its philanthropic endeavours. Our aim is to support the school through financial contributions

towards its capital development and scholarship programs in line with the school's ultimate aim to develop young women of character and intellect who make their unique contribution to the world.

Led by a board comprising current and past members of the St Catherine's community, the foundation carries out its work via three committees:

- **Campaign committee** – raises funds for major capital works, most recently the Performing Arts & Aquatic Centre.
- **Endowment committee** – encourages philanthropic support for scholarships and prizes as well as bequests to the school.
- **Connections committee** – builds positive relationships between the school and its communities.

Our events program incorporating professional networking, twilight golf and the foundation cocktail party are all examples of events bringing parents and alumni together to create engagement and connection.

Please enjoy reading about the work of the foundation, and I hope that one or more of our programs will resonate with you. I invite you to be involved with the foundation and to support the school with a philanthropic gift online through www.stcatherines.nsw.edu.au or by calling Marilyn Rickard, Head of Community Relations on 02 8305 6238.

Martin Smethills
Chair
Foundation board

FOUNDATION BOARD

Martin Smethills, *Chair*
Jill Rikard-Bell, *Deputy Chair*
Catherine Ajaka
Ben Bayot
Georgina Byron AM
Danusia Cameron
Chair of School Council
Troy Edyvean
Bryce Lloyd
Lucy Steed
Catherine Hufton
P&F representative
Kim Rossleigh
OGU representative
Dr Julie Townsend
Headmistress
Marilyn Rickard
Head of Community Relations and Secretary

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Ben Bayot, *Chair*
Bryce Lloyd
Marilyn Rickard

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Catherine Ajaka
Jenny Birrell
Evangeline Galetti OAM
Marilyn Rickard
Head of Community Relations
Meagan Sharpe
Alumni & Development Coordinator

CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

Georgina Byron AM, *Chair*
Troy Edyvean
Jill Rikard-Bell
Marilyn Rickard
Head of Community Relations
Meagan Sharpe
Alumni & Development Coordinator
Lucy Steed



DEVELOPING NETWORKS

The foundation recognises the importance of helping alumni and parents, particularly women, build strong professional networks from our school community. Our connections committee focuses on providing regular opportunities to connect and inspire like-minded alumni and parents through our three networking groups.

1. WOMEN IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Mothers and alumni working in finance, consulting, law, accounting, human resources and a range of other professional services meet twice a year in Sydney's CBD to be inspired by guest speakers and network with each other. To date we have hosted eight of these events.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN GUEST SPEAKERS

Some of the inspirational St Catherine's women who have generously shared the challenges and rewards of their career journeys (Emily Amos, MD Health Services – Bupa; Eleanor DeBelle, Chief HR officer – QBE; Tracey Macdonald, Global Head of Macquarie Group's Business Services Division; Sue Rosen, Executive and Leadership Coach.)





2. PROFESSIONALS IN STEM

In 2017 we extended our program to women working and studying in scientific fields, hosting an event at the Lowy Cancer Research Centre. We are excited to have now broadened this event to include parents and alumni forging careers in all areas of STEM – science, technology, engineering and maths.



Senior robotics students meet alumni pursuing careers in STEM.



PROFESSIONALS IN STEM

St Catherine's mother Dr Sharmila Achar, general practitioner specialising in women's health and Professor Carolyn Sue OG1981, first female neurologist to be promoted to Professor in Australia.



3. WOMEN CREATIVES

Our annual women creatives networking event brings together mothers and alumni working in the arts, design, marketing and media.

Our speaker panels cover topics such as education, gender stereotypes, valuing creativity, entrepreneurship and the importance of mentors.

Our 2019 Creatives keynote speaker, Rachael Coopes OG1992, a self confessed 'jack of all trades', having worked in corporate roles, as well as acting, writing, presenting and teaching yoga.



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Our professional networking events are inspiring and personal, and they provide a great opportunity to learn from wonderful women role models within our community. We invite other women to join us, to help each other and to help our girls.

Georgina Byron AM
Foundation Board member,
Chair of the Connections Committee

SUPPORTING THE SCHOOL

THANK YOU

St Catherine's is wonderfully supported by its community and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the many members of our community who have contributed over \$5.5million to the range of initiatives introduced since the repositioning of the foundation in 2011. We thank our staff, our current and past parents and our old girls for their ongoing support and commitment. How fortunate we are at St Catherine's!

There are many rewarding ways to express your own passion for education and contribute to the life journey of thousands of St Catherine's girls now and in the future. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to one of the following programs, please complete the enclosed donation form.

BUILDING FUND

Our aim is to provide a broad, challenging and vibrant education for our girls. Our current students live in a world that is changing faster than ever before and as a school and a community, it is our duty to make sure they are equipped to face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

We cannot achieve this by standing still.

The Performing Arts & Aquatic Centre, our most recent capital works project is testament to just that.

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St Catherine's is extremely fortunate to have always had, throughout its very long history, educational facilities made possible by the philanthropy of generations of parents, friends and supporters. This ongoing tradition of giving is a wonderful reflection of a school community that continues to invest in the future of our girls.

The school is continuously updating facilities. Here is our new technologies workshop in action.



Students
celebrating
NAIDOC
day 2019.



SCHOLARSHIP FUND

FAITH PATTERSON SCHOLARSHIP

During 2015 the foundation launched an appeal to raise funds for the Faith Patterson Scholarship in memory of our former headmistress. This means-tested scholarship was introduced in 2019 for a student in Years 11 and 12. It covers 50% of tuition fees. Our funds need to grow so that we can continue to expand this scholarship offering.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

St Catherine's has a long history of educating young women from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities. We currently have 10 Indigenous students in the senior school. Students are financially supported by their families, the school and our partnership with organisations such as the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation.

Our Indigenous students have enriched the cultural fabric of our school, and gone on to achieve great things for themselves and their communities. You can help us to continue and expand our Indigenous Education Program by donating to our scholarship fund.

SPORTS FUND

Your donation will support increased participation and opportunities for St Catherine's girls to complement their academic achievements and help them reach their full potential in sports such as tennis and rowing.

THE FIELDING FELLOWSHIP

A bequest is another way to provide financial support for St Catherine's. Remembering the school in your will is the ultimate gift; a way of expressing the affection you have for St Catherine's, making a valuable contribution to the future of the school.

GET INVOLVED

There are also many ways that our community can support the foundation;

- volunteer for one of the committees
- help with a specific program or event
- donate to one of our tax deductible funds
- donate your boardroom
- pick up a sponsorship

We would love to hear from you!

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The St Catherine's Foundation has taken an innovative approach to our fundraising strategies and developed a number of partnerships with the corporate sector, in particular businesses associated with our parents. We extend our appreciation to the following businesses with whom we have enjoyed collaborative partnerships:



We also thank and acknowledge the many businesses who have supported the school with prize donations to the many fundraising events held each year.

VALUING RELATIONSHIPS



ALUMNI RELATIONS

The foundation works closely with the alumni relations office towards the strengthening and cultivation of relationships with past students of St Catherine's. Key to this role is building on the existing professional alumni networks and their connection with our senior students.

SPEAKER PROGRAM

We continue to invite alumni to engage in guest speaker opportunities as part of Careers Conversations with Year 12, assemblies celebrating St Catherine's Day, NAIDOC Day and other special events, Young Alumni Panel and mentor roles. These provide wonderful opportunities for our students to hear from alumni who share their career journeys and offer advice for life after school. We are grateful for the support of our strong alumni network and the personal reflections and professional guidance they share.

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We greatly value the rich and diverse culture of our alumni community. Bringing our old girls back to the school to share their stories is invaluable and inspirational for our girls and their parents. We love celebrating our alumni.

Meagan Sharpe (McLachlan) OG2003,
Alumni & Development Coordinator



CREATING CONNECTIONS

FOUNDATION COCKTAIL PARTY

The St Catherine's Foundation's annual cocktail party acknowledges members and parents for their philanthropic support and celebrates our unique school community.

The 2018 and 2019 cocktail parties saw guests enjoy drinks and canapés before watching a 'Gruen' style panel comprising our very own talented media parents. In 2019 we were delighted to have renowned writer and comedian Craig Reucassel as guest speaker. This event was the launch of our 2019 Giving Day set to raise funds for our Scholarship programs. In 2021 we laughed out loud to comedian Peter Berner.

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We often talk about student belonging, but parent belonging is also important. Our community is so much stronger when parents are an active part of it. We have some fabulous events in the school calendar, designed by parents, for parents and featuring parents.

Dr Julie Townsend,
Headmistress



Giving Day operations room.



Even our students jumped in to help in the Giving Day call centre.



Our thanks to 2018 'Gruen' panellists Matt Campbell, Kate Grant, Fiona Nilsson, Liz Farquharson and Tony Kendall.



Comedian Peter Berner hosted the 2021 Foundation cocktail party.



TWILIGHT GOLF

Introduced in 2018, Twilight Golf held in March has become a firm favourite in our events calendar. Funds raised at the 2021 event were directed to RPAC and we thank the many sponsors who ensured the event was a great success.

FATHER DAUGHTER BREAKFAST

The connections committee also hosts an annual breakfast for Years 9 and 10 students and their fathers and father figures, giving dads another opportunity to engage with their daughters and the school.



Dads shared their career journeys with the girls at their table, generating animated and engaged discussions.

FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the foundation is our way of acknowledging our community member's generosity towards St Catherine's. Individuals or families who have donated \$1500 or more to the school either cumulatively (eg. through the voluntary building fund) or as a single donation are eligible to become members.

Membership is for life and is a lovely way to keep in touch with the school. Members are sent an invitation to the foundation's AGM and have voting entitlements, and are also invited to special events, such as the annual foundation cocktail party. Membership does not involve any active obligation on the part of the member. From time to time we publish lists of our foundation members to publicly acknowledge their philanthropic support.

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Our philosophy is that anyone who has been part of the school community, as a student, parent, a member of staff or foundation member is always valued as a member of the St Catherine's family.

Marilyn Rickard,
Head of Community Relations
and Secretary to the
Foundation Board

For further information please contact Marilyn Rickard,
Head of Community Relations on **02 8305 6238**
or email **foundation@stcaths.nsw.edu.au**