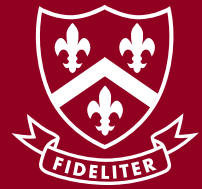


FIDELITER

ST MARY'S ANGLICAN GIRLS' SCHOOL • AUTUMN EDITION 2025



28



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COVER: Pat Ellery ('60) and Diane Porter (Wardle '60) in front of Winthrop Hall UWA, before their French exam



FIDELITER

Fideliter is a publication of St Mary's Anglican Girls' School.

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FROM THE **PRINCIPAL**

CELEBRATING *our Legacy*



2025 is shaping up to be another exciting year for our community. It is a time to reflect on our history and celebrate our current students and their achievements. Our unwavering commitment to delivering an enriching experience for students, parents, and staff continues to drive us forward.

This year, we are particularly excited to celebrate a significant milestone: the centenary of the St Mary's Old Girls' Association (OGA). For 100 years, the OGA has been an integral part of our school, contributing immeasurably to our community's strength, spirit, and shared history. To kick off the centenary celebrations, we hosted a joyful morning tea, bringing together over 80 of our West Perth Old Girls, spanning from the graduating class of 1948 to 1975!

2025 also marks several other significant anniversaries, highlighting our ongoing commitment to fostering creativity, collaboration, and connection. We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Lady Wardle Performing Arts Centre (PAC), the 20th anniversary of the Lady Treatt Centre for Music and Dance, and the first anniversary of the Creative Arts and Design Centre, which opened its doors in April 2024. These facilities have become cornerstones of our vibrant campus, inspiring students to explore their artistic and academic passions.

While we take pride in our rich history, we are equally focused on the future. With the recent demolition of the Senior School Mathematics Block, our original Junior School, we are excited to see the construction of the new Science, Enterprise, Technology, and Innovation (SETI) Centre begin in the second half of this year. This cutting-edge facility will be a catalyst for our ongoing commitment to excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education.

In today's ever-evolving educational landscape, one thing remains constant: the transformative power of girls' schools in shaping the future of young women. We continue to invest in contemporary and collaborative spaces that empower students to succeed. Our outstanding teachers and state-of-the-art facilities ensure that our students consistently excel in Science and Technology. The development of the SETI Centre represents our dedication to preparing young women to pursue careers and leadership roles in STEM fields.



We are equally committed to fostering growth in our staff. In honour of our former principal, Mrs Lynne Thomson, we offer the Excellence in Education Scholarship each year to support academic staff in attending global conferences and bringing their learning back to St Mary's. This year, we are thrilled that Year 7 teacher Emma Grogan and Gifted and Talented Coordinator in Science, Emma Penglis, will travel to Finland and the Netherlands, respectively, for exceptional professional development opportunities.



As a passionate advocate for education at an independent girls' school, I recognise the importance of staying informed about trends and innovations across the sector. This year, I am grateful for the opportunity to spend time during Term 2 visiting our UK-based Exchange Schools, shadowing principals at some of the leading girls' schools in the United Kingdom and engaging with our UK and Europe-based Old Girls. Additionally, I will participate in a residential Strategic Leadership course at Oxford University, where I will connect with global leaders and share insights from our school's journey.

Scan the QR code to view a time-lapse video of the demolition of the Senior School Mathematics Block to make way for the new SETI Centre.



2025 promises to be a year of growth, inspiration, and reflection. Together, we will continue honouring our past, celebrating our achievements, and looking to the future with excitement and ambition. We remain steadfast in our pursuit of excellence, ensuring St Mary's continues to thrive for generations.

Mrs Judith Tudball
Principal

FROM THE **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**



"If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people."

Chinese Proverb.



Congratulations to Ian Curlewis, who was announced as an Honorary Member for Life of the School at the recent Board of Governors' Dinner. Ian Curlewis was a St Mary's parent from 1995 to 2007. His daughter, Sarah ('07), attended the school from Year 1 through to Year 12 - equivalent to a School Original at the time.

Ian has served on the Board of Governors in multiple capacities for over 15 years, including a five-year term as Chair (2012-2017). In addition to his time on the Board of Governors, he served as part of the School's legal counsel from 2003 until his retirement in January of this year.

We thank you, Ian, for providing 21 years of exemplary service to the St Mary's community.

How apt it is that in 2025, we are celebrating 100 years of the Old Girls' Association of St Mary's. Miss Dannatt's vision was extraordinary, to have the confidence to say to the first leavers from the newly established school (1921): "You are now an Old Girl of St Mary's, and we will always honour you!"

A few years ago, we surveyed the membership to determine if they wanted to be known by a more modern name, such as alumni. The overwhelming response from all ages was: "We are Old Girls – and proud of it". St Mary's is a community built on a century of women inspiring women, helping women, and building stronger societies. Thank you to the generations of Old Girls who have steadfastly lived the values of our community and ensured this generation of girls can aspire to do extraordinary things.

St Mary's is in her third wave of evolution: from our humble beginnings in West Perth to the courageous move to Karrinyup (A Place to Grow) and to this era of looking to the stars and preparing our girls for careers that have not yet been imagined. We achieve this not just with inspiring buildings but, more importantly, with outstanding staff and cocurricular activities that harness our uniqueness in Karrinyup and Metricup. It is also achievable because of the trust of each generation of parents, who see that this environment will ensure the best success for their daughters.

I am a proud Old Girl. I look forward to each student at St Mary's continuing our journey of support for women's education. "The steps which other feet have trod, you tread today." On behalf of the Board of Governors, I thank you for choosing to be part of the St Mary's community and providing opportunities for the next generation of young women to make their mark and make us all better and stronger. Here's to a year of continuing to engage hearts and ignite curious minds.

Elizabeth Carr ('81) AM
Chair, Board of Governors

FROM THE **ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN**



'Who is Jesus' Dad?' This was a question posed to me recently by a Year 8 student. I love the theological questioning from young people, but the complicated ones usually come from Junior School students. One of my favourites in recent times was: 'Why is it called Holy Week? Jesus dying isn't very holy.'

Perhaps you have noticed this year that Holy Week, Easter, and the school holidays are happening later in April than usual.

This means we celebrated Ash Wednesday later than expected and split our Easter and ANZAC festivals. This is a gift as Easter and ANZAC Day are important days to commemorate, and it is wonderful to explore both occasions in more depth this year.

On the final day of Term 1, Junior School students participated in a short Easter Chapel Service focusing on Palm Sunday. The Senior School Easter Service saw our Drama, Music and Dance Departments come together to

perform a moving reenactment of the key moments of Holy Week. With classes concluded, the service was the final event of the Term 1 calendar before students embarked on their holidays. It was a wonderful opportunity to share in prayer, readings and music before the students were encouraged to leave campus in silence and reflect on the significance of the Easter Triduum.

Being able to take pause and have moments of reflection at a school as busy as St Mary's is a very important part of educating young people. In a world full of noise, distraction, and nonstop commitments, encouraging students and staff to stop just for

an hour and allow them to ponder the questions of life and faith is an honour and a privilege. It is during this time that we are reminded of what really matters.

'Why is it called Holy Week?' is one of the many things we may ponder during this period. I am reminded of the questions Jesus was asked during his time on Earth. He was asked over 300 questions and answered just three. To me, that speaks volumes about God's ability and willingness to handle life's difficult questions. 'Who do you say that I am?' asks Jesus of his friend, Peter. Perhaps this is one question you may have pondered this Eastertide.

I hope that amidst the chocolate, fun, and downtime of this Easter season, you were able to find a moment to pause and reflect on the vital question, 'Who do you say that I am?'

The Reverend Ruth Chapman

FROM THE **FOUNDATION**



The generosity of the St Mary's community continues to inspire, and last year, your incredible support made a significant impact. In 2024, we came together to raise an outstanding \$412,740 in donor-related income for the School and Foundation, with contributions directed towards Scholarships and the Library and Building Funds, as well as prizes and awards.

These gifts have provided life-changing opportunities for students, enhanced our facilities, enriched the learning experiences of every girl at St Mary's and feed into the Foundation's strategic purpose to 'foster engagement and impact positively on the education of current and future students.' On behalf of the Foundation, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who donated. Your commitment ensures that our School remains a place of excellence, opportunity, and belonging.

As we look ahead to our upcoming 2025 Annual Giving Appeal, we invite you to once again join us in making a difference. Whether it is transforming lives through our Scholarship and Spirit of St Mary's Funds or investing in our vision for the new Science, Enterprise, Technology and Innovation Centre through the Building Fund, every gift makes a difference. This year, donations to our Library Fund will directly support purchasing more books for our Junior School Accelerated Reader Program, which delivers outstanding literacy outcomes for our youngest learners (read more on page 30).

We are also excited to announce a new partnership with Flying Fish Cove Winery, who will take over the production of St Mary's Frankie's Folly wines following Woodlands' decision to consolidate and focus on its core business. We are incredibly grateful for Woodlands' support over the years, and we look forward to this new chapter with Flying Fish Cove. Under this partnership, we will be introducing a highly anticipated rosé, set for release in 2026. We can't wait to share this new wine with our community and continue this much-loved tradition.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge a change within our Foundation Board. We extend our deepest thanks to Jason Stout who will be stepping down from the Foundation Board of Management this year. Jason has been invaluable to the Foundation since joining the Foundation Board of Management in 2018. Jason's expertise, advice, and financial acumen have been instrumental, particularly in his role as Treasurer since 2021. With his youngest daughter graduating last year, Jason has decided to pass on the reins and focus on spending more time with his family. We are incredibly grateful for his dedication and contributions over the years, and we wish Jason, Melinda, and their girls all the very best. We look forward to seeing their friendly faces at future St Mary's events.

We are delighted to welcome Ryan Shepherd to the Foundation. With 20 years of experience in financial services at JBWere, specialising in financial planning and investment portfolio management, Ryan brings a wealth of expertise that will be invaluable to our work. As a current St Mary's parent with two daughters in the Senior School, Ryan understands firsthand the importance of the Foundation in shaping the educational experience for our girls. We look forward to his contributions and are excited to have him on board as we continue to build a bright future for St Mary's.



Bree Rosagro (Buxton '98)
Chair, St Mary's Foundation

THANKS TO YOU 2024 DONOR ROLL

St Mary's extends its gratitude to everyone who supports our vision to be a leader and innovator in the education of girls. It is our aim to provide the very best learning environment for our students today and in the future.

This Donor Roll records the names of donors who have supported St Mary's between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024.

The donors listed in **maroon** have supported St Mary's for five or more consecutive years and are recognised as members of the *Fideliter Society*.

STUDENT AWARDS AND PRIZES

Helen Adams
V Anderson and C Sambell
Joe Ariyaratnam
Arvidson Family
Atkins Family
Rodney and Lynette Baker (Price '74)
Shannon Baker
Wendy Barnao
Bronwyn Barnes (Cooper '84)
Cora Barnes
Barrett Family ('17, '23)
Baskerville Family
Bates-Bird Family
David Bean and Miriam Borthwick
Adrian Beck
Benson Family
Botica Family
Sandra Botica
Ann Boyer
Brades Family
Paul, Victoria and Lilia Bradley
Kelly and Daniel Brand
Brindal Family ('18, '22)
Lucinda Brogden
Brownley Family
Vanya Burton
Paul and Wendy Butler
Buzynski Family
Carey Family
Elizabeth Carr ('81)
Marlene Carter ('63)
Virginia Christie
Dr Leonie Coxon
Crabb Family
Jane Crisp (Cyprian '81)
Jaslyn Cullen (Gibson '94)
Curlewis Family
Amy Dawson (Fraser '94)
Amy Dickson (Paterson '94)
E. Patricia Dodson
Douglas Family
Nicki Doyle
Shirley Duncan
Jodi Earnshaw
Peter Evans
Feng Family
Marilynn Freitag
Marina Georgiou ('00)
Gibb Family
Rodger and Judith Gibson
Gillmore Family
Jane (Fisher '70) and John Gillon
Elizabeth Gorey ('71)
Gray Family
Mikayla Grigson
Gregory Family
Griffiths Family
Gurgone Family
Tamar Guterman
Cheryl Haak
Fiona Harris
Lisa Harris

Trish Hawkey ('88)
Marjorie Heaney (Long '65)
Olive Henwood ('54)
Terri Herbert (Jasper '98)
Erica Herron
Lybus Hillman (Manning '65)
Dana Hlavacek
Holdaway Family
Michelle Houwen
Elizabeth Howson
Hurley Family
Ireland Family (Breanna '21)
Isaachsen Family
Audrey Jackson AM
Jago Family (Margaret Parker '72)
Deborah Jarman
Graeme Jeffs
Jiang Family
Jiang Family
Johnson Family
Cate Johnson ('20)
Johnston Family ('08 and '12)
Joan Karmelita
Leo Kelly and Marlene Downing
Kenny Family
Kercheval Family
Knight Family
Komaromi Family
Koranis Family
Poonam Kulkarni
Denise Lane (Marshall '79)
Vui Liew
R and J Love
Boey-Leng Loy ('98)
James and Jessica Lynch
Lynch Family
Mary Ellen MacDonald
Scott Maney
Wendy Mann (Barr '63)
Faye Mansfield ('63)
Manuel Family
Judy Martin (Spark '56)
McCarthy Family
McCuaig Family
McLean Family
Jane Milloy
Sandy Minter
Molloy Family
Moncrieff Family
Stuart Moore
Morrell Family
Muir Family
Vicki Neil (Reader '68)
Stephanie Neille
Patricia Nicholls (Hobbs '59)
Astrid Norgard
Palmer Family
Joan Parke
Rebecca Payne
Anne Pesic (Nicolaou '91)
Phan Family
Ruth Phelps (Rowell '62)

Jo Philpott ('78)
Liz Pritchard ('94)
Lesley Prowse ('63)
Ramel Family
Ramm Family
Grace Richardson (Snook '48)
Louise Richardson (Kelly '85)
Bree Rosagro (Buxton '98)
Sam Ryan
Margaret Saunders (Harris '70)
Indiana Scanlon ('16)
Madeleine Scanlon ('18)
Jenny Scott (Lefroy '62)
Peta-Jane Secrett (Hogg '98)
Ella Senior ('28)
Alisa Silarakit
Jeanie Sojan (Smith '72)
Spencer Family
Genevieve Stone ('74)
Stout Family
Su Family
Su Family
Sun Family
Hongqi Sun
Robyn Taylor
Kate and Douglas Thomson
Lynne Thomson
Thomson Family
Debbie and Rik Thornton
Rosemary Torvaldsen (Huggins '79)
Dana Trtica
Judith and Rod Tudball
Liam Twigger
Louise Tyson
Sue Van Dyke (Robertson '80)
Vander Wal Family
Roger and Pam Veary
Jade and Sophie Vella
Anita Verne
Keeva Verschoor
Wallwork Family
Sharon Warburton and Damian Johnston
Kirilee and Brett Warr
Weerakody Family
Mr L Weng and Ms Y Huang
Giles and Elspeth West
Western Australian Journal of Medicine
Karla Williams (Floan '82)
Sarah Woods
Chao Xie Family
Yang Family
Zamudio-Concha Family

ENDOWMENT FUND

The families of all new students in 2024 who contributed to the Foundation's Endowment Fund, which provides for the long-term future of the School.

DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

David and Coral Mack ('64)
Bundu NFP Ltd
Joanna Rouse ('89)

Two donors who wish to remain anonymous

BEQUESTS

The Reverend Joyce Polson OAM, Chaplain Emeritus 2015

Every effort has been made to ensure that this list is accurate. If an error has been made, please accept our sincere apologies and contact us on (08) 9341 9111 or giving@stmarys.wa.edu.au Please note: some minor adjustments have been made to align with our naming conventions. Should you wish to view the list of approved formats, please contact our Philanthropy team.

18 donors who wish to remain anonymous

215 St Mary's staff members who made a donation ahead of attending the staff end of year function.

FIRST CLASS **RESULTS**

Congratulations to the Class of 2024

It is with immense pride and joy that we celebrate the outstanding WACE results of the Class of 2024. This remarkable group of students showed incredible dedication, resilience and an unwavering commitment to excellence, embodying the very spirit of St Mary’s.

We are dedicated to empowering every student to discover and pursue their best path, whether through our ATAR or Elevate pathways. The achievements of this cohort reflect that commitment, with students excelling academically while embracing the many opportunities that St Mary’s offers beyond the classroom. Between Years 10 and 12, they successfully completed an impressive 214 endorsed programs, demonstrating their diverse talents and commitment to personal growth. From Years 7 to 12, they participated in an extraordinary 5,461 competitions, clubs, and activities – highlighting their enthusiasm for learning, connection and contribution to the vibrant life of the School.

The success of the Class of 2024 reflects not only their hard work but also the unwavering support of our exceptional staff, who nurture and guide our students every step of the way. Together, they have demonstrated that with perseverance and the right support, anything is possible.

Mrs Judith Tudball
Principal



Congratulations to our exhibition and award winners

2 General Exhibitions

Sienna Weerakody
Laura Frederic

1 VET Exhibition

Eve de la Rie
(Creative Industries)

9 Certificates of Excellence

Eve del la Rie (Creative Industries)
Lilia Dorfman (English)
Laura Frederic (Human Biology)
Avneet Grewal (Biology)
Olivia Haynes (English)
Isabelle Kirk (Mathematics Applications)
Anne-Marie Lau (Literature)
Fiona McGinn (Mathematics Applications)
Artina Monzavi (English)

48 Certificates of Distinction

49 Certificates of Merit



99ers

Membership is for students who achieved an ATAR of 99.0 or higher. In 2024, we welcomed eight members.

Lilia Dorfman
Laura Frederic
Chantal Garas
Avneet Grewal
Anne-Marie Lau
Lily Nunn
Annaliese Vilé
Sienna Weerakody

400 Club

In years past, students who achieved a TEE of 400 points or higher out of a possible 510 points in their university entrance examinations were inducted into St Mary's '400 Club'. In 2010, the TEE was replaced by the TEA, with a maximum possible score of 430. To continue this proud tradition, each year we convert our Year 12s' TEAs into a score out of 510 and acknowledge those students who have achieved 400 points or higher. In 2024, 29 students joined our 400 Club.

Lauren Attwill	Olivia Haynes	Danielle Neppe
Ally Bowman	Caitlin Hutchens	Lily Nunn
Lilia Dorfman	Anne-Marie Lau	Jessica Scriva
Sienna Dragovic	Gloria Li	Madison Sear
Elizabete Dzelme	Marylou McBain	Annie Sun
Laura Frederic	Fiona McGinn	Annaliese Vilé
Chantal Garas	Isabelle	Annabelle Wade
Olivia Grayson	McKerracher	Sienna Weerakody
Avneet Grewal	Rose Meharry	Ella Wood
Charlotte Grose	Artina Monzavi	Brightnie Xu

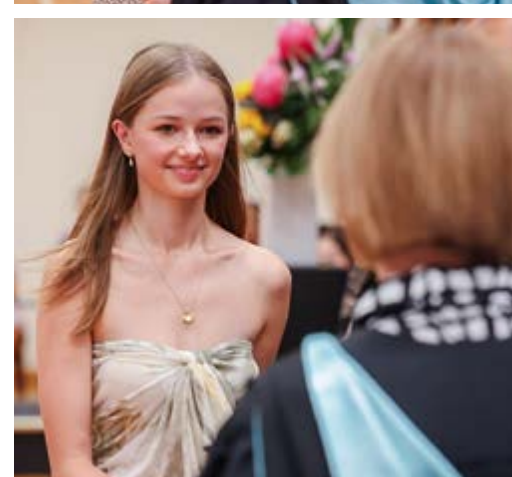


High Flyers Assembly

Our annual High Flyers Assembly is a highlight of the school year, setting an inspirational tone for the months ahead. More than just a celebration, it is a powerful moment for our community to honour the outstanding achievements of our most recent graduates while offering current students the opportunity to learn from those who have set ambitious goals and achieved them. It is a living testament to the poignant words of our School Hymn: *"The steps which other feet have trod, you tread today."*

This year's assembly featured an insightful address from Sienna Weerakody, who achieved an extraordinary ATAR of 99.90, and a compelling reflection from VET Exhibition winner Eve de la Rie, who spoke passionately about the rewards of following one's true calling.

The Class of 2024 reaped exceptional results, achieving a remarkable median ATAR of 92.325, while our Elevate students collectively earned an impressive 87 VET qualifications over Years 11 and 12. These achievements are testament to the dedication, perseverance and ambition that define a St Mary's education.



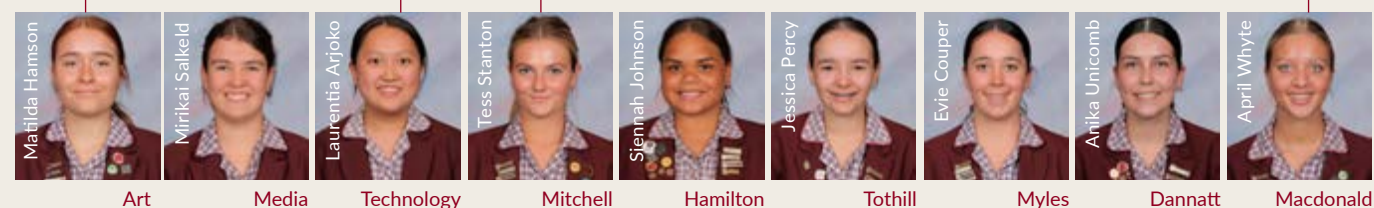
2025 STUDENT LEADERS

PREFECTS



CAPTAINS

WING CAPTAINS



	CRAIG CAPTAINS		HACKETT CAPTAINS		LEFROY CAPTAINS		RILEY CAPTAINS		WARDLE CAPTAINS		WITTENOOM CAPTAINS	
COMMUNITY	Jessica Develerez		Aarushi Kulshreshtha		Maahi Dodhia		Grace Buffham		Eirene Kiratzopoulos		Irini Vitsas	
DANCE	Phoebe Please		Miji Bandyopadhyay		Sophia Larsen		Kateilyn Steele-Gage		Eliza Beattie		Caitlin Shillington	
DRAMA	Shaanya Shah		Kateilyn Huynh		Cate Henton		Eden Simpson		Charli Simmons		Sophie Barugh	
MUSIC	Daniella Landa		Abbey Phan		Elle Ryan		Laura Jarlow		Jenna Hewlett		Daniella Catterson	
SPORT	Meg Fowler		Kate Rigoll		Bianca Rogers		Ella Barmentloo		Felicity Eva		Riley Patterson	

2025 PREFECTS *and* CAPTAINS INVESTITURE



HEAD GIRL'S PERSPECTIVE



Many times during my holidays, I found myself scrolling through social media, hoping something would spark an idea for this year's theme.

My mum must have had the same thought because, most days (and I'm not exaggerating), she sent me inspirational quotes from Facebook or snippets from the newspaper, also hoping I could use them.

As you can imagine, most of these were left behind, but one quote she sent really stuck with me:

"The windshield of a car is bigger than the rear-view mirror for a reason – because what's in front of you is so much more important than what's behind you."

This made me realise how often, at school, I find myself 'looking through life's rear-view mirror', wishing I could go back in time and change things that have already happened—things that, of course, I cannot change.

I'm not saying we shouldn't reflect on the past, but we shouldn't get caught up in things beyond our control. Instead, we should look through the windshield of life, embrace the present and focus on the world of opportunities ahead.

This quote led to the theme we have chosen for 2025: **Enjoy the Journey.**

Consider Term 1 the first stop on our journey together. Take it all in, get involved in as much as possible, and let go of the small road bumps that have already passed. There's no point dwelling on the little things when a whole world of new opportunities awaits. Whether it's trying a new sport or getting involved in the arts, we want everyone to make the most of what St Mary's has to offer.

You're not alone. The windshield is big not just so you can see the road ahead, but so others can see it too. We'll all be there in your passenger seat, supporting you throughout 2025.

Sometimes, you'll need to stop and refuel, and that's okay! In those moments, we'll encourage you to enjoy the little things. We'll remind you to 'hit the brakes' when life feels overwhelming and the road ahead becomes unclear. We'll be there to help you slow down when you encounter speed bumps – and, most importantly, we'll remind you to look around.

Sing along to the music as you journey through the year, and don't take it all too seriously. Enjoy the world around you. Enjoy each day as it comes. And most of all, enjoy the journey we will share together in 2025.

I cannot wait to see the amazing things you all achieve this year.

Sara Kerr
2025 Head Girl

Celebrating inspiring women this International Women's Day

March Forward was the theme chosen by UN Women Australia to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) on 8 March 2025. At our IWD Assembly, we encouraged our Senior School students to reflect on the importance of gender equality in our society. The theme 'march forward' serves as a powerful reminder that progress is not only about recognising how far we've come, but also about stepping boldly into the future. At St Mary's, we embrace this balance, fostering an environment where our students are empowered to lead with confidence and purpose.



The change starts with us – right here, right now – and our School Prefects led by example, creating and distributing beautiful cards with thoughtful messages and inspiring quotes from extraordinary women. The girls shared these meaningful cards with parents and students, encouraging them to spread the love, celebrate the special women in their lives, and acknowledge the incredible contributions they make every day. We hope these personal messages and uplifting quotes from our senior students brought joy to those who received them.

Our International Women's Day celebrations continued with choristers from St Mary's taking to the stage for the sold-out Mirabilis Collective concert *Her Sound Her Story*. The Mirabilis Collective unites generations of female composers and musicians with a blend of classical works and contemporary reimagining. Our students participated in a combined choir with MLC and St Hilda's to sing *Accelerate*, a piece composed especially for the concert by St Mary's Old Girl Julia Nicholls ('13).

The anthem celebrates momentum, progress, and empowerment. It has been released worldwide and is now available to stream on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music and YouTube.

During the concert, Principal Mrs Judith Tudball spoke on the power of women's voices in music, highlighting the work of trailblazing female musicians. It was a truly inspiring event celebrating women's creativity, talent and contributions in the arts.



You can watch the video by scanning this QR code

25 YEARS OF THE PAC

We celebrated a milestone event on Friday **17 March 2000**, when we embarked on a new era of performing arts with the opening of the Lady Wardle Performing Arts Centre (PAC).



ABOVE: L-R Then Principal Lynne Thomson, Lady Wardle and Former Principal Audrey Jackson AM at the PAC's opening night concert.

The occasion was marked with a concert, attended by the then WA Minister for the Arts, Mr Mike Board, The City of Stirling Mayor, Mr Tony Vallelonga and our guest of honour, Lady Wardle herself – not to mention the many students and staff alike itching to tread the boards of the new state-of-the-art centre.

Boasting a 518-seat theatre and with first-class staging, lighting and sound equipment, the Performing Arts Centre's opening symbolised the energy and commitment the school had and continues to have to the performing arts. The new building was also a reminder of the importance of allowing our students to experience the joy and enrichment that dance, drama and music can bring to one's life.

The naming plaque, bearing Lady Wardle's name, is proudly displayed outside the Old Girls' Foyer and is made from a piece of marble from the old St Mary's Church at our original West Perth campus. This is a fitting and tangible example of the many ways our School's history is woven into our present and future.

For 25 years, audiences have been wowed by professional-level productions on the PAC's stage. From the first-ever Senior School production of *The Matchgirls* to the many performances of our exceptional dance and music students – the PAC is a space that not only matches the rich talents of our girls but enhances them and allows them to shine.

Twenty-five years on, and our students are still enjoying the tutelage of dedicated and talented teachers, with over 50 cocurricular activities on offer across Drama, Dance and Music. Thanks to this first-class facility, our girls can hone their craft, and many have gone on to have successful careers across all areas of the performing arts.



LAUREN WIDDICOMBE

Drama Prefect ('05)
Current occupation:
Head of Wardrobe at the
West Australian Ballet



I have many wonderful memories of performing in the PAC, but it was the Offstage class in Year 9 that really shaped my future career choices. Through this course, we were given opportunities to design the lighting for Interhouse plays, work as tech support for the Senior School production and learn how the off-stage craft contributes to the magic you see on stage. The support and guidance of my teachers, coupled with the opportunity to work at the PAC as an usher while studying at WAAPA, opened my eyes to a raft of career opportunities within the performing arts – both on and off the stage.

EMMA LUCKLEY

Music Captain ('24) and
represented St Mary's at the
2025 Performing Arts Perspectives
Current Occupation: Student –
Bachelor of Music at UWA



Particularly in my final year of school, the PAC became my home, and being there never failed to brighten my day. The PAC gave me a place to develop my love for music and express myself in an art form that I love. Alongside this, I was given countless performance opportunities, which were crucial to my growth as a musician and helped me develop confidence and stage presence and gain valuable feedback from the teachers at PAC.

ALEX KAY

Dance Captain ('15)
Current Occupation:
Dancer and Teaching Artist



I was so fortunate to practise my craft in the facilities that the PAC gave which allowed for dance and theatre to flourish. During my time at St Mary's, I was always given the space and opportunity to extend my dance technique and performance experience, setting me up for my future studies.

It was always a safe, encouraging and collaborative place that I looked forward to being in every day. This inspired me not only to seek out these spaces in my career but also to create them.



"Mum was so very honoured to have the Performing Arts Centre bear her name. She loved all forms of music and ballet and had learnt the piano and violin from her mother who was a music teacher. She loved engaging with children and young people and was thrilled to think of the opportunities the girls would have to perform. The PAC's opening night was a very special event for her, albeit she was quite nervous about making a speech. I said she didn't have to do it, but she was determined to do her best. I still have the wonderful memory of her being up in the theatre box, looking as glamorous as always, reading out her short speech and declaring the PAC open. She was 84 years old."

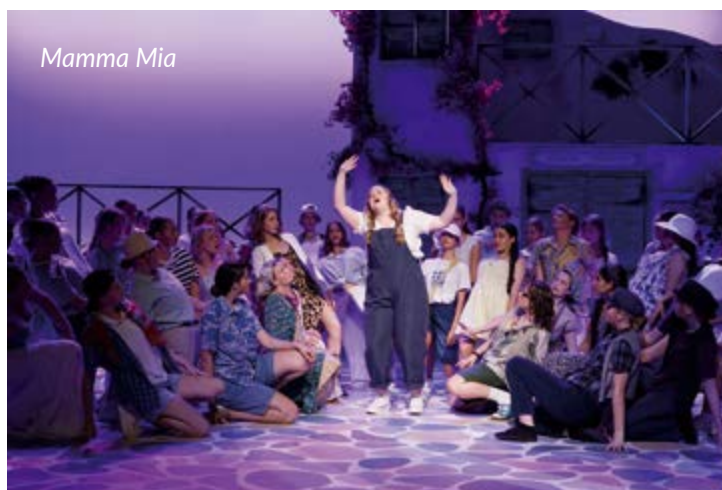
Diane Porter (Wardle '60)
Sir Thomas and Lady Wardle's daughter

ABOVE: Lady Wardle's daughter and former Old Girls' Association President, Diane Porter (Wardle '60), recreates the image of her mother on stage with students to mark the 25th anniversary.



St Mary's Senior School Drama productions since the opening of The Lady Wardle Performing Arts Centre, 17 March 2000

- 2000 Opening concert of the Lady Wardle Performing Arts Centre
The Matchgirls
- 2001 *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- 2002 *Whistle Down the Wind*
- 2003 *Fame*
- 2004 *No Worries*
- 2005 *42nd Street*
- 2006 *Peter Pan*
- 2007 *Grease*
- 2008 *Jane Eyre*
- 2009 *The Boy Friend*
- 2010 *Dinkum Assorted*
- 2011 • *Annie*
• *Beauty and the Beast* (Inaugural Lower School Production)
- 2012 • *The Wizard of Oz*
• *Alice in Wonderland*
- 2013 • *High School Musical*
• *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*
- 2014 • *Little Women: The Musical*
• *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*
- 2015 • *Jesus Christ Superstar*
• *A Little Princess*
- 2016 • *Legally Blonde: The Musical*
• *The Witches*
- 2017 • *Oliver, The Musical*
• *Peter Pan*
- 2018 • *Mary Poppins*
• *The Wizard of Oz*
- 2019 • *Funny Girl*
• *The Snow Queen*
- 2020 • *A Musical*
• *Savages*
- 2021 • *The Little Mermaid*
• *Aladdin*
- 2022 • *Matilda*
• *Alice*
- 2023 • *Anastasia: The Musical*
• *A Brave Heart*
- 2024 • *Mamma Mia*
• *The Pirate Queen*
- 2025 • *The Addams Family*
• *Cinderella* (Term 4)



CAROLINE BRAND
St Mary's Drama Teacher

Caroline Brand is one of our long-serving and beloved drama teachers. She has been a teacher at the school for 25 years and was among the first to set foot in the Lady Wardle Performing Arts Centre in 2000.

Since then, she has not only inspired many to pursue a career in the field, but she has also provided many girls with invaluable life skills gained through the teaching of dramatic arts.

How has the PAC evolved in the last 25 years?

From the moment it opened, it was a very special place. We all felt very privileged. The students adored being on stage as it made them feel as though they were 'actors'. Today, all the major dance and drama performances are held in the PAC. However, it has become more than a performing space. It is now used for Year meetings, speakers, visiting performing groups, parent evenings and parent presentations. The demand for the space is exceptionally high, and it is always a hive of activity. But most importantly the PAC has become a home for many girls.

What have been some of your favourite moments over the last 25 years?

As you can imagine, there are too many to mention; however, two stand out.

1. In 2020, the global pandemic meant we all had to reimagine our approach to teaching. But from this challenging time, the 2020 performance of the Year 7-9 production *Savages* was born. It was an all-girls version of 'Lord of the Flies' devised by me and the girls. It was a truly collaborative experience. Initially cancelled, it rose like a phoenix with the cast involved in creating the entire play. We also created a desert island on stage with sand. It might have been a small production compared to some of the others seen on the PAC stage, but as the saying goes, good things come in small packages.
2. The final night of any school production, particularly the moment the cast takes their bows, is always memorable. The emotions are high, and the energy is electric. It is especially emotional for the Year 12 students taking their final bows on the PAC stage.

What are you most proud of?

I am immensely proud of the wonderfully professional productions that the Drama and Dance Department consistently present to the school and the wider community. The opportunities we provide for girls not only to participate in drama on a class level, but also to experience the joy of performing for an audience. I am proud to be able to 'bring the page to the stage' – a phrase I always say to the girls. I am also proud of the many Old Girls who return to the Drama Department just to visit, or work as front of house ushers. Once a drama student always a drama student. The connection students develop to the PAC lasts a lifetime.

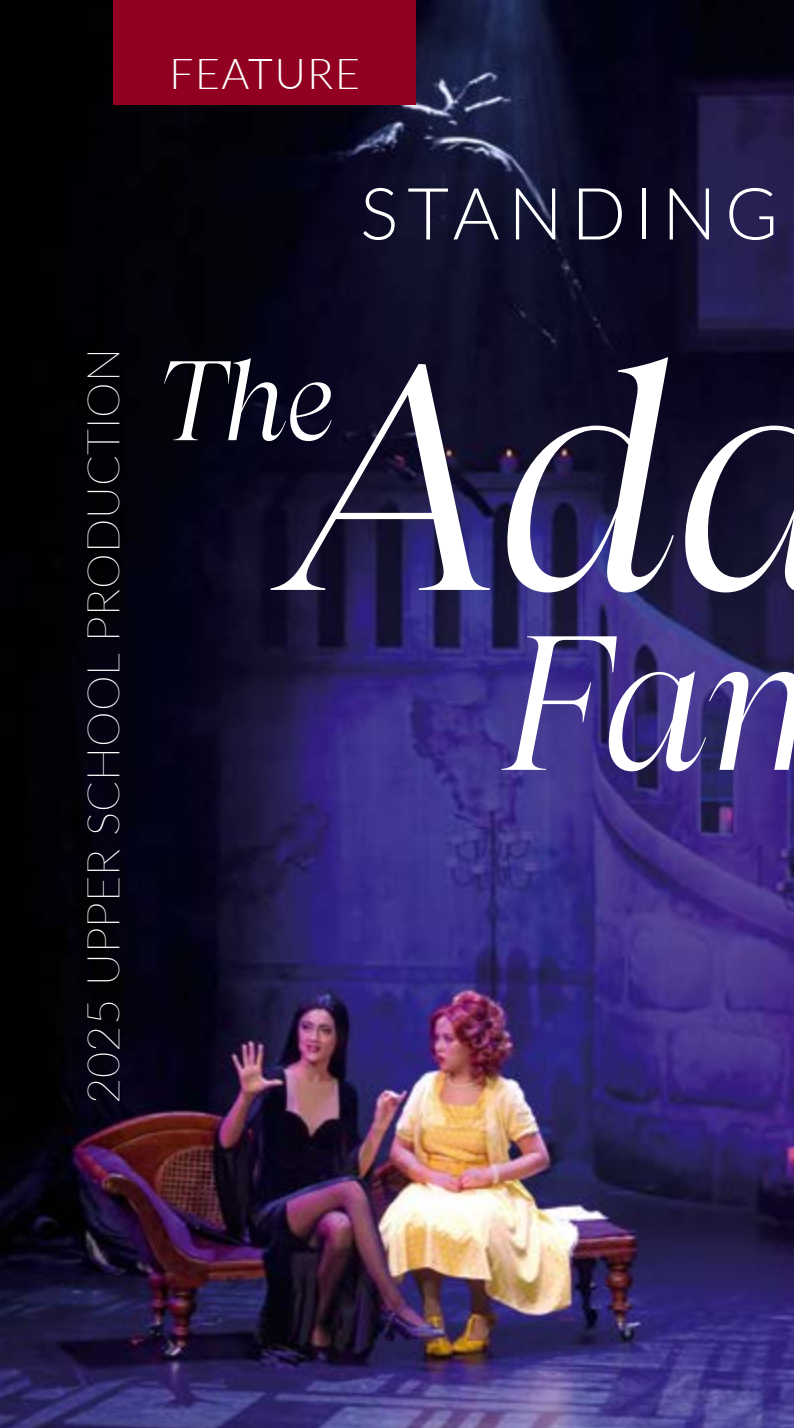


THE LADY WARDLE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

STANDING OVATIONS

The Addams Family

2025 UPPER SCHOOL PRODUCTION



St Mary's *by the Sea*

We are fortunate that our beautiful school is located next to a stunning part of the WA coastline. Trigg Beach and Trigg Bushland Reserve not only provide a beautiful environment but also support a range of activities for our students and community.



Bush School

Outdoor learning is an important and fun part of our Kindergarten to Year 2 classes. The students participate in a regular Nature Play Program, and in Terms 2 and 3, they have a weekly visit to Trigg Bushland Reserve for Bush School. Bush School allows the girls to hone their problem-solving skills, think creatively, and develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of our precious environment. It also offers them a chance to build their resilience beyond the classroom.



Beach School

Beach School is a highlight of Year 3. With support from Trigg Island Surf Lifesaving Club, we run the program in Terms 1 and 3, with a focus on promoting social and emotional wellbeing, resilience, creative and critical thinking, and fostering community connections. They also learn vital skills that help them respond to unsafe situations by keeping calm, using appropriate non-verbal communication and seeking help when needed. Beach-based activities, such as dune restoration at Trigg Bushland Reserve and coastal conservation programs, provide the girls with hands-on experiences that connect them with the environment.

Country girls love the beach

Generations of boarders have relished the opportunity to relax at Trigg Beach. Whether it has been an early morning dip before school, a bike ride, or a walk and swim on the weekend, proximity to the beach is a real bonus of boarding life at St Mary's.

Surf's up!

Surfing is a significant part of our Sports program for our Junior School and Senior School students. The **Learn to Surf** program, in conjunction with Surfing WA, allows our girls to participate in before-school surfing lessons at Trigg Beach during Terms 1 and 4. The lessons are conducted by qualified and experienced instructors and cater to varying abilities, allowing the girls to progress from beginner to advanced levels as their confidence grows.

The program is extremely popular among our Junior School girls, with a third of the Year 6 cohort actively involved.

We also have our own St Mary's Surf Club, which provides opportunities for students to represent the School in various surfing competitions throughout the year. Members of our Surf Club have represented St Mary's at both state and national competitions.



Spirit of St Mary's community award

We are a proud sponsor of Trigg Island Surf Lifesaving Club, and as part of this, we were thrilled to introduce the Spirit of St Mary's Award at the end-of-season awards dinner.

Principal Judith Tudball was delighted to present the inaugural award to Morgan Buck. Morgan was a very worthy recipient, having completed her silver level Youth Leadership Award, volunteering many hours at the Club, and assisting with the Nippers program. She consistently exhibits the surf lifesaving values of respect, teamwork, excellence, inclusion, and unity and is a credit not only to herself but also to her family and peers.



SPORT is one of our strengths

Sport is an important part of school life for all our students, and with almost 20 sports on offer across the Junior and Senior Schools, there are opportunities for everyone.



You might be surprised to learn that over 60 per cent of our Senior School students participate in competitive sports, supported by our exceptional staff and facilities. We are proud of this participation rate given the direct links physical activity has with improving mental health in young people. Our students are also living proof of the research that shows students in an all-girls environment are more likely to participate and thrive in all sports, including those that are traditionally male-dominated.

Outside of the competitive arena, we offer fitness and relaxation sessions for the senior students. For our Junior School students, initiatives such as Kidz'n Sport, ACRO, and Active for Life all aim to build strength, fitness, and self-confidence in a non-competitive environment.

INTERHOUSE COMPETITIONS

Team spirit is a hallmark of our interhouse sporting events, and we take pride in the fun and enthusiastic sporting culture we foster. All girls participate in our Interhouse Swimming and Athletics Carnivals. They are also encouraged to compete in our Interhouse Diving and Cross Country events.

For Years 7 to 10 girls, interhouse activities also include netball, hockey, soccer, basketball, volleyball, softball, and tennis.



TERM 1 HIGHLIGHTS:

Riley House was victorious in the Senior School Interhouse Swimming Carnival

Wardle House won the Senior School Cross Country event

Wardle House took out the top spot in the Junior School Swimming Carnival (Years 4 to 6)

IGSSA/INTERSCHOOL SPORT

The majority of our competitions take place as part of the Independent Girls' Schools Sports Association (IGSSA), and we are consistently strong across the board. Highlights include:

- **Victorious Volleyballers:** Overall Champion School for 14 consecutive years, from 2010 to 2023. In 2024, IGSSA discontinued the Champion School Award; however, we still performed strongly, with more than half of our teams finishing in the top three for their division.
- **Notable Netballers:** Overall Champion School for 23 of the last 24 years, noting IGSSA's decision to discontinue the Champion School Award in 2024.
- **Dazzling Divers:** Overall Champion School for the last five years
- **Stellar Swimmers:** Top three place for the last three years
- **Brilliant Badminton:** A 1st place finish for our Division A team for the last two years
- **Superb Surfers:** Champion Metropolitan Girls' School for the last two years
- **Tremendous Tennis:** Seven of our eight teams placed either 1st or 2nd in 2024

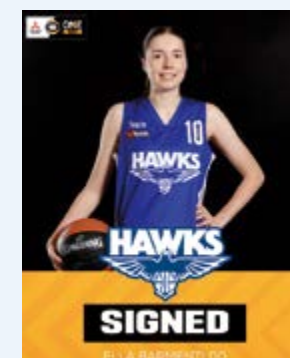


BEYOND THE GATES

Not only can the girls showcase their exceptional sporting talent while representing St Mary's, but many of our students are also achieving incredible feats of athleticism beyond the school gates.

ELLA BARMENTLOO (Year 12)

Ella has recently been signed by the NBL1 West team, the Perry Lake Hawks, for the 2025 season, meaning she is now a semi-professional basketball player. Her teammates include the likes of Opals player Sami Whitcomb, who also plays in the WNBA League in the USA. "This has been a really exciting opportunity to train against her and learn from her leadership," says Ella.



PANYA YANG (Year 9)

Panya will travel to China in April to compete in the Fencing World Championships.



HOLLY AND BRYDIE DOUGLAS

(Year 10 and 12), and MOLLY BAKER (Year 10)

Brydie, Holly and Molly have been representing Australia at the World Junior B Curling Championships in Kisakallio, Finland.

A vibrant beginning

for our youngest boarders

Taking the step into boarding school is a significant moment for any girl and her family. We are proud of the warm, supportive, and vibrant community we cultivate, which has empowered our 26 new Year 6 and 7 girls to adjust quickly and thrive after a full term in their second home.

Boarding school is an opportunity for girls to grow into capable and independent individuals. We have many programs and activities to help our students navigate the transition from home to boarding life.

We are immensely proud of our *Big Sister Little Sister* initiative, which sees every Year 7 boarder paired with a Year 10 student to help them settle into life in the boarding house. Among the many layers of support offered at this time, it is an excellent resource for girls

to receive guidance from those who have walked the path before them. While Big Sisters regularly check in on their Little Sisters for a chat, there are also organised activities like our recent pizza lunch with the School's Psychology team and a Krispy Kreme doughnut and games session. These

activities strengthen connections, creating an anchor and strong sense of community for our new students.

"It's so nice to have someone to talk to who's been in my exact position. My Big Sister is so supportive, and I love that I can talk to her about lots of random stuff. If I'm feeling homesick, she is also someone I can go to, as well as the House Mums." – Ashlynn, Narrogin.

Our Beyond Boarding program gives girls the opportunity to connect with our on-site nurse, Jo, for education sessions on women's health and wellbeing. The aim is to develop life skills in our students so they are prepared for life beyond the boarding house. The program offers sessions such as 'Girls' Stuff', which covers the many and varied aspects of communal living. These sessions also help to ease the girls' minds as they prepare for their outdoor learning programs.

Our Year 7s have an abundance of engaging activities to choose from through our recreation program. Starting with our Closed Weekend, the schedule boasts an array of outings and activities, including a trip to Adventure World, pyjama karaoke and an Amazing Race challenge. This is followed by beach trips, ice skating, Yo-Chi outings, sporting events like the Perth Wildcats and Perth Glory



matches, and the first Western Derby of the 2025 AFL season. The program also seeks to introduce connections with Hale and other boarding schools. Our recent quiz night was a huge success, with over 160 students from boarding schools across Perth travelling to St Mary's to be a part of the action.

"The quiz night was so good! My team won, and we got these massive chocolate bunnies!" – Elsie, Karratha.

"I'm from a farm so going ice skating was really cool, but I think my favourite rec activity has been the Hijinx Hotel. It was so much fun to work our way through all the rooms and take part in all the challenges. We all got very competitive!" – Ashlynn, Narrogin.

Despite the girls' abundance of recreational activities to keep them busy, we also place significant importance on the academic support we offer our boarders. There is a dedicated time set aside for homework each day in which tutors are on hand across a range of subjects. Girls also have access to 1:1 support should they need it. Not only do we aim to support our girls with specific subject-related



support, but we also look to arm them with strong organisational and time-management skills.

"The tutors at the library are really good. They're so nice and always find a way to help me understand my homework. I get a lot more homework compared to my old school, and it's great how the tutors also help me manage what I need to get done." – Elsie, Karratha.

"Lilia is one of the tutors, and everyone loves her! She is so good at maths that she could be twins with Albert Einstein. She gives us more than one strategy to help us understand our homework and explains things really simply. It's so helpful." – Lauren, Kojonup.

Lastly, a special mention to one of our 2025 newcomers, Greta, who is already having a significant impact on our boarding community. After confidently auditioning for the Hale/St Mary's play *Kicker Thompson*, she has been deservedly selected for one of the lead roles in the production. The play is for Year 7 and 8 boarders, and Greta has already learnt all her lines ahead of multiple performances in May at both Hale School and in the South-West.

"I'd never auditioned for anything before, so I was really surprised when I got the part. I also felt really proud of myself because there were heaps of people who tried out for the role of Gemmy, and I can't believe I got it," said Greta, Hines Hill.

A boarding experience at St Mary's truly shapes confident, well-rounded women ready to take on the future. I am excited to see what that future holds for the newest members of our boarding community.

Kellie Douglas
Head of Boarding

YEARS 6 & 7

Accelerated Reader Program

We love reading!



FELICITY LETCH
JUNIOR SCHOOL
LIBRARIAN

"This is not so much a learn-to-read program; instead, the goal is to encourage girls to learn to love reading."

Thanks to our Accelerated Reader Program, our Junior School Librarians are rushed off their feet with a dramatic increase in Years 3 to 6 students who love reading.

The program helps teachers understand each student's reading needs and capabilities and devise a personalised program. Each girl has a reading range that meets her at her current reading level and pace. Throughout the year, she can work independently to set goals, earn points, and ultimately improve her reading ability. The difficulty and complexity of the books she reads increase as she works towards her short-, mid- and long-range goals.

The program has been a great success, as evidenced by the long lines in the Junior School Library each morning as girls seek to change their books, earn more points, and move to the next reading level.

The success is also evident in the increase in loan frequencies across all year groups. In 2020, students in Years 3 to 6 borrowed around 12 library items per class per week. This rose to 36 items in 2024—a 200 per cent increase.

Similarly, in 2020, 61 per cent of students had never borrowed a book from the library. We've seen a dramatic reduction in this number, and by the end of 2024, only 2.4 per cent of girls across Years 3 to 6 had never loaned a book.

Keeper of the Lost Cities by Shannon Messenger was hugely popular among the girls and was the most borrowed book in 2024, followed closely by *The World's Worst Children 2* and *The World's Worst Children 3* by David Walliams.

Regular reading offers numerous benefits for our youngest bookworms, including enhanced language, vocabulary, comprehension and critical thinking skills and further development of creativity and empathy. A love for reading is also monumental in preparing girls for future academic success. We are thrilled about the strong reading culture we've seen develop over a short time in our Junior School, and we look forward to seeing it continue for years to come.



ISABELLE CASELLA
YEAR 3

"I used to not like reading, but now I do. Accelerated Reader is fun, and I'm learning more words and reading more. AR reading is something I can do by myself."



ARIELA GAO
YEAR 4

"I love books, especially the adventure stories! I think reading is really fun. I also really like doing the Accelerated Reader quizzes and seeing what I get."



ABI ARMSTRONG
YEAR 6

"I was not a huge reader before, but now I read about three books a week. I think the Accelerated Reader program is great because I can track how many words I read, and I love the challenge of improving on the goals I have set."



HADLEIGH MCKAY
YEAR 6

*"I've always liked reading, and now I read four books a week! The books I am loving right now are **The School of Good and Evil**, **Friday Barnes** and **Nanny Piggins**. I love reading so much that I even do it on weekends!"*

PARENTS' SOCIETY UPDATE

2025 Parents' Society Welcome Sundowner



The Parents' Society Welcome Sundowner is always a fantastic event to kick off the school year. It is an opportunity to come together for an evening of delicious bites, lively conversation, and for our new parents, a chance to meet and connect with others within the broader school community.

An exciting part of the evening is always the moment we draw the winner for the annual tuition fee raffle. A huge congratulations to this year's recipients, the Francisco family, who have two daughters in the boarding house.

This year's event was held on the grass outside the new Creative Arts and Design Centre (CADC), providing an excellent opportunity for parents to get their first up-close glimpse of the School's latest state-of-the-art space.



2025 Parents' Society Welcome Sundowner



The Sundowner was also an opportunity to formally acknowledge Lisa Manuel, who was announced as an Honorary Life Member of the Parents' Society. All three of Lisa's daughters have been boarders, and Lisa has spent countless hours volunteering her time to support boarding and the Parents' Society. We thank you, Lisa, for your years of exemplary service to the St Mary's community.

The Parents' Society was honoured to contribute the canvas and materials for the stunning indigenous artwork that now hangs proudly in the CADC. The mural represents the School's six Houses and incorporates traditional symbols and colours tied to our community. Five students—Siennah, Anika, Bianca, Summer, and Jalayah—led the design, with contributions from Senior School students and staff. The canvas is a beautiful addition to the space, and we are proud of all our Indigenous students who dedicated so much time to completing the artwork.

2025 Parents' Society Welcome Sundowner



Indigenous student artwork



2025 Parents' Society Welcome Sundowner

Additionally, I am pleased to share our contribution to students enrolled in the Game, Art, and Design course through the purchase of virtual reality headsets. The cutting-edge equipment is a hit amongst the girls and provides them with resources rivaling those available to professional game designers.

The Parents' Society is honoured to have funded these projects, and we now look forward to directing our support to the School's construction of the new Science, Enterprise, Technology, and Innovation Centre.

Please be reminded that all parents and guardians are welcome to attend our quarterly Parents' Society meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity for you to receive updates and provide input on school matters. The meeting details are published via the St Mary's App and Parent Portal.

We look forward to hosting you at the various Parents' Society events, with the next one being the Biggest Morning Tea in May, benefitting the Cancer Council. We hope to see you there for another opportunity to connect.

Martyn Clancy-Lowe
President, Parents' Society



2025 Parents' Society Welcome Sundowner



2025 Parents' Society Welcome Sundowner



2025 Parents' Society Welcome Sundowner



2025 Parents' Society Welcome Sundowner

2025 Parents' Society Welcome Sundowner

2025 Parents' Society Welcome Sundowner



1925 100 2025



2025 marks a significant milestone as we celebrate the centenary of the Old Girls' Association. I'm incredibly proud of this achievement as it highlights the Association's respected legacy and significant contributions to the school community over the past 100 years.

I'm thrilled to announce that we have just opened nominations for our Women of Distinction Awards, to take place at the upcoming Centenary Dinner to be held on Saturday 26 July 2025. The event will be an opportunity to celebrate our incredible 100th anniversary milestone and to recognise the exceptional achievements and contributions of former students to their profession and community.

The Old Girls' Association established the awards in 2010 to motivate and inspire future generations of women to strive for excellence, become role models and make positive contributions to their community.

We encourage you to nominate an Old Girl, or self-nominate across three categories: Career, Community and Young Women.

To mark our centenary, a new release of the *St Mary's Girl Rose* was grown by Old Girl Di Durston (Wallace '67), from a variety of tea rose which is over 75 years old. Boasting a pearl-pink colour and a spicy, yet fruity fragrance, it was a delight to see the rose's popularity amongst our community. I look forward to seeing photos of these roses flourishing in many local gardens.

I am also excited to announce that we will be releasing a limited range of centenary merchandise. On a personal note, I would

like to thank Old Girl graphic designer Lauren Brewer ('15) who took my design for a centenary silk scarf and brought it to life. It is available in a variety of colours and sizes.

Finally, I would like to formally welcome Lucy Wiseman ('17) as the newest member elected to the Old Girls' Association Committee. Lucy has an extensive background in events and community engagement and is currently our Alumni Relations Coordinator. Her thoughts, insight, and advice over the past year have been invaluable and we are privileged to acknowledge her as an official member of the Association.



In closing, it is an immense honour to be serving as President during the Association's centenary year and I look forward to the many ways we can continue to foster connections within our extraordinary community of Old Girls.

Amy Dawson (Fraser '94)
President,
St Mary's Old Girls' Association



WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

The St Mary's Old Girls' Association Women of Distinction Awards recognise and celebrate the exceptional achievements and contributions of former students to their profession and community. There are three categories recognised as part of the awards. They are as follows:

Young Woman of Distinction

This award acknowledges an Old Girl, aged 30 or under, who has demonstrated outstanding initiative and drive in her chosen field. Nominees should demonstrate a focus on leadership, professional commitment and personal achievements such as community service and other personal contributions.

Woman of Distinction - Community

This award acknowledges an Old Girl who has substantially improved the quality of life for members of her community beyond that expected in her usual occupation.

Woman of Distinction - Career

This award acknowledges an Old Girl who has achieved significant and sustained success in her chosen career.

OGA Centenary Merchandise



In celebration of the OGA's 100th anniversary, we are selling a limited run of merchandise. These will be available for purchase at upcoming events and will be available for online purchase soon. Stay tuned!

SAVE THE DATE

Old Girls' Mother-Daughter Morning Tea

10am Sunday 4 May, St Mary's
Old Girl mothers and daughters are invited to attend a fabulous morning tea to celebrate the incredible women in our St Mary's community.

London Reunion

Sunday 8 June, The Wallace Collection
We invite any Old Girls living in London to join us for a special high tea and self-guided tour of the incredible works at The Wallace Collection.

Old Girls' Centenary Dinner and Women of Distinction Awards

6pm Saturday 26 July, St Mary's
All Old Girls are invited to join us for this special dinner to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our Old Girls' Association. The evening will also include the highly anticipated Women of Distinction Awards.

Fleur de Lis Club Morning Tea

10am Wednesday 3 September, St Mary's
This event, for Old Girls who left St Mary's 50 or more years ago, is an excellent opportunity to catch up with friends, share stories from school and see performances from current students.

Paint and Sip

5pm Thursday 11 December, St Mary's
Gather your friends and unleash your creativity at an unforgettable evening of painting and prosecco in our stunning new Creative Arts and Design Centre.

Year 13 Catch-up

5pm Monday 15 December, St Mary's
The Class of 2024 are invited to join us for a catch-up to celebrate one year since graduation.

REUNIONS

Congratulations to the Classes of 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005 and 2015 who are celebrating their milestone anniversaries this year. Please check the website for reunion information.

You can find all the information on upcoming events, merchandise and awards in the community section of our website: stmarys.wa.edu.au



WEST PERTH MORNING TEA

The Old Girls' Association was delighted to host over 80 Old Girls at a special morning tea for those who attended our West Perth campus at the St Mary's West Perth Parish Hall and Church. The former campus was operational for 45 years before we began a new chapter in 1966 when classes commenced at our current Karrinyup campus. Principal Mrs Judith Tudball attended the West Perth morning tea and cut the cake alongside 1948 Head Girl Beth Buchanan (Mickle '48), who is now 94 years old. The event was a wonderful opportunity to tour the old grounds and reconnect with former students who helped shape a pivotal part of our School's history.



SAMMY LOUREY ('22)

Sammy eyes Olympics

Keep your eye on this rising star in Australian kayaking. **Sammy Lourey ('22)** is pursuing her passion at the Western Australia Institute of Sport after coming to the sport late. With a swimming and surf lifesaving background, she tried kayaking to improve her surf ski skills and discovered her passion for the sport. Sammy's talent was evident early on, which she demonstrated by winning a national title on her first attempt.

She now has her sights on representing Australia at the next Olympic Games. She told ABC Perth that while competing for her country would be an incredible honour, she is focusing on the present.

"Obviously, the Olympic Games is the dream, like LA maybe or Brisbane, but honestly, for me, it's just about enjoying it and reaching my full potential."



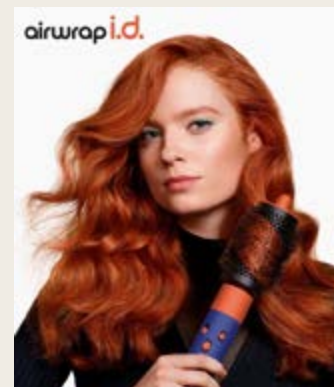
Passionate pursuit for Indigenous performing artist

Congratulations to **Marlanie Haerewa ('16)**, a proud Aboriginal and Maori woman from the Nyikina nation and Ngāti Porou iwi, who has founded a wonderful initiative called *Young Yarnz*. The program brings First Nations interactive workshops to school children across Western Australia. Marlanie and her facilitators are theatrically trained, and through acting, storytelling, and creative activities, they help children understand and respect indigenous cultures. Marlanie is incredibly passionate about sharing the knowledge and stories of her people.

"I am passionate about educating young Australians about First Nations culture in a fun and fresh way to help the next generation have a greater understanding and appreciation of our nation's first people."

Graduating from WAAPA with a Certificate IV in Aboriginal Performance and a Bachelor of Performing Arts, Marlanie also received the First Nations Filmmaker Prize at the 2024 Best Australian Short Film Competition for her documentary *The Tale of Mr Kimberley*.

We are excited to welcome Marlanie back to St Mary's later this year when she brings her *Young Yarnz* program to our students.



Daisy wrapped about landing the cover

Congratulations to **Daisy Casey-Trinder ('21)** on her global modelling campaign for Dyson Airwrap. The campaign has seen her featured on the cover of *Hairdressers Journal International*, and her previous work has also been featured in *Cosmopolitan Hong Kong* and *Harper's Bazaar*.

Daisy is now taking her passion even further by enrolling in the prestigious Acting for Camera short course at London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

DAISY CASEY-TRINDER ('21)

MARLANIE HAEREWAWA ('16)

Old Girls' Association Milestones

1925

The Old Girls' League was formed in July of 1925. The first elected President of the OGA was Miss Ethel Dannatt, Principal 1923 – 1937. The League's first contribution funded two cots at the Children's Hospital and resurfaced the School's tennis court through needlepoint sales



1933

First OGA representative on the Board of Governors, Violet McLennan (Bethell '28), a tradition which continues today



COMING EVENTS (1950, March 10). *The West Australian* (Perth, WA: 1879 - 1954), p. 25. Retrieved February 5, 2025, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47834414>



1950

The OGA raised money for former Principal Miss Dannatt, allowing her to return to the UK to live with her sisters, after she fell into poverty due to her charity work

1965

After significant fundraising, the OGA donated to the Building Fund Appeal, aiding the School's move from West Perth to Karrinyup

1971

For the School's Jubilee, the OGA donated a plaque honouring past Principals, updated in 2021 for the centenary



1974

The OGA funded the installation of the wrought iron gates at the School's main entrance



1920s

1930s

1940s

1950s

1960s

1970s

1980s

1926

The League's official colours of soft mauve and pink were adopted after the first Old Girls' Dance

1929

The Old Girls' League, now the Old Girls' Association (OGA), raised significant funds through a Dramatic Club, a Naturalist Club, and events like Tea and Tennis games and high teas at the Pleiades Club



1935

Life membership of the OGA was introduced instead of an annual subscription

1939

Old Girls' Day was first held and remains an annual tradition today



1939 - 1945

During wartime, the OGA redirected their fundraising towards the building of bomb shelters, support of refugee children, helping returned service personnel and the Red Cross

Many Old Girls joined the Voluntary Aid Detachment, the Red Cross, or military branches such as the Australian Army Nursing Service



1957

Due to their significant contributions to the School, the OGA was given naming rights to the original boarding houses in West Perth

1958

The OGA commissioned a portrait of the School's founder, Bishop Riley, which now hangs in the main reception



1967

Honorary Life Membership of the OGA established

1968

The OGA funded the landscaping for the Karrinyup campus, designed by Ray Oldham OAM (McClintock '29, Head Girl), who was a landscape architect



1982

The Chapel's stained-glass window of St Mark was commissioned by the OGA and dedicated to the School's founder, Bishop Riley.

1987

The OGA became a financial donor to the establishment of the Foundation

1991

The OGA funded the building of the front wall on Elliott Road and the wrought iron south gates

1992

The OGA was given naming rights for the Senior School's Elizabeth Myles Library and the Junior School's Macdonald Library

2000

Financial contribution to the construction of the Lady Wardle Performing Arts Centre resulted in the upper foyer being named The Old Girls' Association Foyer

2010

The Women of Distinction Awards were created to recognise the significant achievements of Old Girls

2015

Opening of the Marlene Carter Heritage Centre, which houses the St Mary's Anglican Girls' School Archives and the Old Girls' Association Collection

2016

Ebony grand piano gifted by the OGA to the School, in honour of Reverend Joyce Polson OAM

1990s

2000s

2010s

2020s

1996

The Foundation covers the membership fees for all graduating students to be members of the OGA. The OGA funded the redevelopment of the Chapel Gardens and sourced the original Eagle Lectern from the St Mary's Church in West Perth

1999

The Audrey Jackson Learning Technologies Centre was officially named. Its construction and fit-out were thanks to a fundraising appeal led by then-OGA President Marlene Carter ('63)

2006

Faith the statue, commissioned by the OGA for its 80th anniversary and the School's 85th birthday

2008

Donation to the building of St Mary's at Metricup: The Lady Treatt Centre for Learning and Leadership

2021

The OGA gifted The Fideliter Garden to the School to mark its centenary, featuring a sculpture by Old Girl Paula Kuka ('99)

2025

The centenary of the Old Girls' Association

The OGA commissioned the 'Jesus Blesses the Children' icon by artist and staff member Giada Dalli Cani



A League of Legacy

The Old Girls' League, now known as the Old Girls' Association (OGA), was formed in 1925. The objectives, set out by the School's first appointed Principal and founding President of the League, Miss Ethel Dannatt, were to keep friendships alive, to retain the interest of past students in the school, and to promote good fellowship between the past and present inhabitants of the classroom. These objectives remain unchanged today.

Over the past century, the Association's commitment to preserving traditions, mentoring current students, and organising events that bring together multiple generations of St Mary's graduates, underscores its invaluable role in enriching our community.

Leading this initiative over the years have been many excellent Presidents. Without them, the Association's ability to remain steadfast in its commitment to fostering a strong sense of community and continuity among St Mary's alumni and contribute to the School's ongoing success wouldn't have been possible.

As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we would like to honour some of our former Association Presidents—the women who helped build and shape our ongoing legacy. Without these amazing women, the Association would not be what it is today. A President's work is never done, and neither is the unwavering support from the OGA to each other and the School.

Amy Dawson (Fraser '94)
Current OGA President

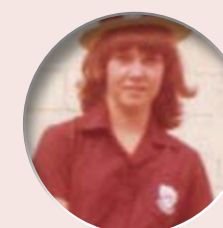
I loved my time at St Mary's and have always enjoyed contributing to community spirit. I was drawn back after returning to Perth following the birth of my daughter, Madeline. We have a lovely committee and membership base. It is always fun sharing memories and funny stories with all the Old Girls across all generations. It is also a pleasure to get to know the staff and the current students – they are truly inspiring, although I still struggle to bring myself to call some of the teachers (especially Mrs Jackson) by their first names.

Jane Crisp (Cyprian '81)
OGA President: 2012 – 2014

When my eldest daughter, Sarah, started at St Mary's in 2005, I noticed a request for OGA Committee membership and leaped at the opportunity. Without knowing too much about what the Association did, I quickly realised the OGA was about helping Old Girls keep their connection with the school community and supporting the School in several ways. It has been a privilege to serve on the Committee for 20 years.

Bronwyn Barnes (Cooper '84)
OGA President: 2010 – 2011

Being involved with the OGA was a clear way I could give back to a school that has given so much to me and my daughters. The value of a first-class education is priceless. But the value of a broad school community that nurtures, encourages and is endlessly supportive is immeasurable. St Mary's has a long tradition of support from not only the School, but also the OGA, Ladies Auxiliary, the Foundation, and former staff, students, and friends. This is the true value of St Mary's, and I have been delighted over the years to have been involved in the OGA, the Foundation and the Board of Governors. Contributing through these avenues has been one way I have been able to give back to the School, ensuring that we continue our strong traditions of supporting those who come after us by making the way a little smoother and a little more enjoyable. As the hymn goes: the steps which other feet have trod, you tread today.



Jane Milloy ('72)
OGA President: 2007 – 2008

My overall experience as a student led me to want to give something back to the institution that had given me so much. Thus, I decided to become involved with the OGA. Being involved with the OGA, under the guidance of both Presidents, Marlene Carter and Jane Gillon, for many years, I continued to learn about the School, the OGA, and other important committees that assisted in various school operations. It was the dedication of others, particularly Marlene and Jane, who inspired me to continue that association until I left Western Australia and moved East.



Jane Gillon (Fisher '70)
OGA President: 1999 – 2006 and 2009

Being involved in the OGA has given me insight into how St Mary's has grown over the years. The school I knew nearly 60 years ago is not the St Mary's of today, but her traditions and culture still form the foundations of today's school. I am grateful that the Principals of her modern era, Audrey Jackson, Lynne Thomson, and Judith Tudball, have welcomed the OGA as integral members of the St Mary's community.

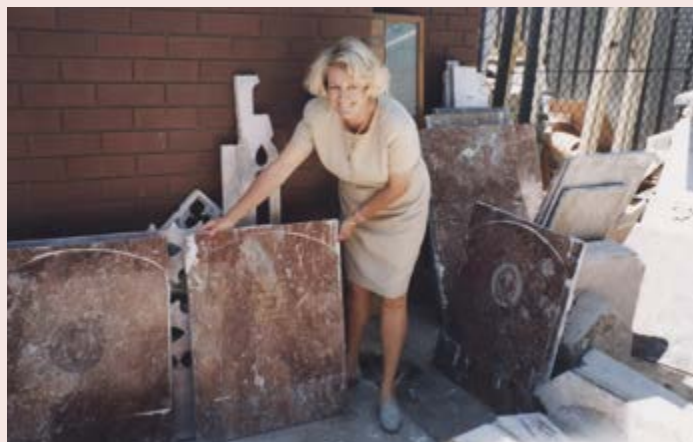


I highly value the life lessons and knowledge that the senior members of the Association have imparted to me over the years, and I have enjoyed listening to stories from previous generations. Through such stories, the days of Miss Dannatt and West Perth came alive. I particularly enjoyed chatting with Molly Riley and hearing the stories of her father, our School's founder, Archbishop Riley. Old Girls of my era have regaled one another with memories of Mrs Anne Symington and our very special "Deac", later Reverend Joyce. It was through these stories that my purpose as President was shaped. I believe the role of the OGA is to gently remind St Mary's of where she has come from, why she holds the values she does, and to ensure those core values are maintained into the future. For 100 years, the OGA has been a link between our alumni and the School, ensuring the rich history of St Mary's is not lost to future students.

The OGA is also a window into the lives of so many amazing women and a means for us to celebrate and share in their achievements. It is a bridge between our past and the present, sharing with us glimpses of the future directions of St Mary's.

Marlene Carter ('63)
OGA President: 1988-1998

Preserving the history of St Mary's has always been close to my heart. One of my fondest memories whilst President of the Old Girls' Association was tracking down the beautiful brass eagle that once stood in St Mary's Church, West Perth. It had found its way to a second-hand dealer, but after a few conversations—and a little gentle persuasion—we were able to return it to St Mary's. Seeing it now in its new place in the School's Chapel, standing tall once again, reminds me how important it is to honour our past while inspiring the next generation. I am honoured and proud to be a St Mary's Old Girl and to continue to play a role in celebrating our history and traditions that shaped us.



ABOVE: Former OGA President Marlene Carter ('63) with the original marble from the altar of St Mary's West Perth Church.

Diane Porter (Wardle '60)
OGA President: 1985 – 1988

Being involved with the OGA was very important to me as a way of maintaining a connection with my school. There were just 12 girls (nine boarders and three day girls) in our final year. It was a real loss to lose daily contact with this small extended family of school friends and teachers.

I joined the Association with my friend, Carolyn Seale, and we would always attend meetings together. It was an exciting time as the school planned the move to the Karrinyup campus, and we were involved in the fundraising efforts. We both remained on the Committee for many years.

I came to know St Mary's girls from different eras, all of us sharing a common interest in giving something back to our school. We attended meetings regularly, usually at the home of the current President, and many events and functions were organised to allow the Association to connect with the St Mary's community and share memories of our school years.



OGA SCHOLARSHIPS

From the very early days of the School, the Old Girls have always been involved in mentoring, collaborating and demonstrating life's possibilities to current students. No fundraising appeal, bazaar, fair, collection or need has ever gone unanswered by the OGA. Their generosity is also evident through the numerous scholarships, awards, and prizes, that together with the Foundation and our generous benefactors, are offered to current and past students. For more information, please visit stmarys.wa.edu.au



L-R: The recipients of this year's Marlene Carter and Ethel Beaton Scholarships, and the Jane Gillon Arts Award with OGA President Amy Dawson.

Old Girl Scholarships

Deborah Cook Scholarship for Nursing

Awarded to an Old Girl commencing her second year of a nursing or midwifery degree.

Esmee Byatt Scholarship for Medicine

Awarded to an Old Girl commencing her second year of a postgraduate medical degree at UWA.

Fay Bailey Scholarship for Engineering, Science and Law

Awarded to Old Girls who are commencing their third year of an engineering, science-related or law degree or the first year of a postgraduate law degree.

Helen Judge Arts Award

Awarded to an Old Girl studying or practising in the Fine Arts, Arts or Performing Arts industry.

Lynne Thomson Overseas Study Scholarship

Awarded to an Old Girl who is pursuing a degree at an exceptional overseas university.

Molly Riley RISE Award

Recognises Old Girls who are inspiring role models in their careers, in the community, or in the world of the arts or sport.

Bonny Milne Scholarship for Medicine

Awarded to an Old Girl commencing her first year of a postgraduate medical degree or the second year of an undergraduate medical degree at any university.

Student Scholarships and Awards

Ethel Beaton Scholarship

For the daughters and granddaughters of OGA Life Members in Years 11 and 12.

Marlene Carter Scholarship

For the daughters and granddaughters of OGA Life Members in Year 7.

Jane Gillon Arts Award

For an outstanding student of Dance, Drama, Design, Media, Music or Visual Art entering Year 12.

The Diane Porter Prize for Citizenship in the Junior School

Awarded annually to a Year 6 student.

OGA Citizenship Prize and Shield

A cash prize is awarded annually to a Year 10 student who has demonstrated good citizenship and been actively involved in various school activities. Prize winners also receive the Old Girls' Shield for a period of one year.



St Mary's
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