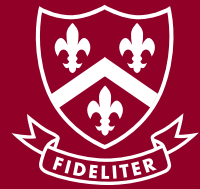


FIDELITER

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





6

contents

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 4 | FROM THE PRINCIPAL | 12 | FEATURE: QUENDA CAM – SCIENCE STUDENTS SHAPE LOCAL CONSERVATION PLAN |
| 6 | FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS | 13 | FEATURE: BOORA KOORT |
| 7 | FROM THE FOUNDATION | 14 | FEATURE: BUILDING EXCELLENCE |
| 8 | FEATURE: CREATING GLOBAL CITIZENS | 18 | FEATURE: 2025 CAPAF DAY! |
| 11 | FEATURE: STUDENTS SHINE IN THE ARENA OF IDEAS | | |



COVER: Year 3 student Heidi Burger taking part in the annual Year 3 White Chapel Service, a day that celebrates the traditions that have shaped our School.



20



20



- 19 FEATURE: WHOLE-SCHOOL CREATIVE ARTS EXHIBITION
- 20 ART EXCELLENCE
- 21 FEATURE: LITTLE HANDS, BIG CONNECTIONS
- 22 FEATURE: MINI MINDS, MIGHTY PROJECTS

- 24 FEATURE: TOGETHER IN SERVICE: 2025 CHARITABLE INITIATIVES
- 26 FEATURE: FAMILY TIES
- 29 FEATURE: FROM STUDENTS TO STAFF
- 32 PARENTS' SOCIETY
- 34 OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

- 36 OLD GIRLS' NEWS
- 38 FEATURE: VALÉ



FIDELITER

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FROM THE **PRINCIPAL**



As the centenary year of our Old Girls' Association (OGA) draws to a close, we've had the privilege of celebrating the remarkable contributions of our alumni. Their legacies - diverse, far-reaching and deeply inspiring - were especially evident at this year's OGA Centenary Dinner, which also served as our Women of Distinction Awards Night. Held every five years, these awards honour Old Girls making a significant impact in their careers or communities. This year's recipients included a trailblazer working at a global technology firm; the leader of a charity for orphans in Kenya; and an advisor to Ghana's Ministry of Finance. The selfless achievements of our Old Girls continue to astound and uplift us.

Alongside individual achievements, this edition profiles six families who have attended St Mary's across multiple generations, as well as highlighting some of the 23 students who have returned to our School as staff members and are giving back to today's girls.



2025 NAIDOC Week

We proudly celebrated NAIDOC Week 2025, and across four vibrant days, students, staff and families came together to honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures through storytelling, art, food and reflection. A highlight is always the creation of the stunning sand mural by our Senior School Indigenous students, which this year depicted symbols of strength, vision and the path forward. The whole school gathered around this mural for a moving NAIDOC Assembly, featuring student-led presentations and performances, including a heartfelt dance by visiting students from the Scotch College Clontarf Academy. These celebrations deepened our collective understanding of reconciliation and the enduring legacy of First Nations peoples.

Honouring

The Lynne Thomson Creative Arts and Design Centre

Our loyal and supportive community stretches well beyond our alumni, and in August, it was a privilege to name the Creative Arts and Design Centre after our longest serving Principal, Mrs Lynne Thomson. Mrs Thomson was Principal for 21 years, from 1997 to 2018, and she has continued to be a generous supporter of the School. Her love for the creative and performing arts is well known, and it was a joy to hear over 170 students perform for her our Centenary Commissioned work *Fideliter*, composed by Paul Jarman, as part of the ceremony.



During her time as Principal, Mrs Thomson worked with the Board of Governors to deliver an impressive number of buildings for our girls. These included The Peter Arney Centre for Early Learning, the Lady Wardle Performing Arts Centre, St Mary's at Metricup and Hearn Hall.



Valé Miss Marlene Carter ('63)

The Marlene Carter Heritage Centre was also dedicated during Mrs Thomson's time as Principal. Our community was saddened by the passing of Miss Marlene Carter ('63) and we deeply feel the loss of such a remarkable Old Girl, who was made a St Mary's Honourary Member for Life in 2021. It was a privilege to celebrate her life and contribution to our School at a memorial service held in the Chapel of St Mary. Marlene's connection to St Mary's spanned nearly seven decades, including serving as the first female Chair of the Foundation Board of Management, and later as Trustee and Vice Chair. In addition to her contributions on the Board of Governors, she was also one of the longest-serving presidents of the Old Girls' Association and a dedicated patron of the Bishop Riley Society. We are a richer school for Marlene's service, and her generosity will have a lasting impact on generations to come.

Building Excellence

In August, we announced development approval for our new Science, Enterprise, Technology and Innovation (SETI) Centre. Following a two-year design phase, construction of this cutting-edge learning facility is set to begin this month (October 2025), with completion expected in mid-2027.

Designed to inspire curiosity and creativity, the SETI Centre will become a dynamic hub where students will explore, experiment and dream big. With a design focus on sustainability, the Centre will house specialist science laboratories, flexible technology rooms, spaces for collaboration and industry engagement and an extensive sustainable garden.

Looking ahead, we will celebrate our School's 105th birthday in 2026. This is a true testament to our ability to adapt and thrive for more than a century, continuing traditions while evolving with modern education.

I look forward to sharing our celebrations with you.

Mrs Judith Tudball
Principal

Legacy



FROM THE **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**



"People will forget
what you said,
people will forget
what you did, but
people will never
forget how you
made them feel."

Maya Angelou.

Just as a waterfall begins with a single drop, each interaction within our St Mary's community builds upon the last, creating a powerful and joyful current of connection. Every day, our girls, staff, parents and Old Girls contribute to this shared spirit. In recent months, we've been especially reminded of its depth as we farewelled three remarkable Old Girls whose lifelong engagement with our School left an indelible mark. Their memorials reminded us that the stress of high school exams fades with time, while resilience is shaped through life's experiences, and friendships nourish the soul across decades. At the heart of our community lies the enduring aspiration to embody the values of *Fideliter*: courage, compassion and respect, in all that we do.

This edition sheds light on how the past can help shape our present to make our future stronger. It focuses on the interconnectedness of generations of women who live by the St Mary's values. This was particularly evident at the naming of our Creative Arts and Design Centre – now the Lynne Thomson Creative Arts and Design Centre. This name honours Mrs Lynne Thomson, our School's longest-serving Principal, and was attended by women celebrating 60+ years since graduation through to current students and members of our extraordinary 2025 Prefect cohort. The event was also a reminder of how far women's education has progressed, through the naming of the large multipurpose room on the ground floor, now known

as The Edith Cowan Room. Edith Cowan was the first woman elected to an Australian parliament and was a passionate advocate for girls' education. She was a founding member of our Board of Governors in 1921, the same year

she was elected to Parliament. The evening was a wonderful tribute to the enduring values of creativity, leadership and service, and a celebration of the women whose legacies continue to inspire and shape our school community.



I would like to take a moment to welcome a new member of the Board of Governors. Kate Vaughan ('06) is an Old Girl whose two daughters, Matilda and Rosie, attend our Junior School. With a background in environmental social governance, Kate brings valuable expertise to the Board, particularly as our innovative Science, Enterprise, Technology and Innovation Centre comes to life. Her appointment also reflects the Board's growing representation of current parents, strengthening the connection between governance and the lived experiences of our families.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I thank you for choosing to be part of the St Mary's community, where you help provide opportunities for the next generation of young women to make their mark and make us all better and stronger. Here's to continuing to engage hearts and ignite curious minds.

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



FROM THE **FOUNDATION**



I would like to begin by extending a heartfelt thank you to all those who contributed to the 2025 Annual Giving Appeal. This year's campaign raised an impressive \$142,380 across our Scholarship, Building and Library Funds. Of this, \$28,060 was directed to our Scholarship Fund, with a further \$12,586 supporting the Spirit of St Mary's Scholarship. Our Library Fund received \$5,420, which has already helped expand resources for the Junior School's Accelerated Reader Program. This fantastic initiative has led to a 200 percent increase in borrowing among our youngest readers.

We also received \$96,314 for our Building Fund, including \$85,404 in pledge payments towards the construction of our Science, Enterprise, Technology and Innovation (SETI) Centre. A special thank you goes to Old Girl Bronwyn Barnes ('84), whose generous gift is helping bring this visionary project to life. Further details on naming opportunities within the SETI Centre can be found inside this edition.

This year, we also welcomed a new partnership with Flying Fish Cove Winery, which has taken over production of our Frankie's Folly wines. Attendees at recent donor events have enjoyed our newly released and highly anticipated Rosé, and we hope it will be shared and enjoyed widely within our community.

Chair of the Bishop Riley Bequest Society. Her legacy lives on through the Marlene Carter Heritage Centre, a space dedicated to preserving the School's history and traditions.



Lastly, I wish to honour the memory of Miss Marlene Carter ('63), a devoted supporter of our school whose bequest will have a lasting impact on future generations of St Mary's girls. Marlene's contributions to the Foundation spanned three decades, including serving as our first female Chair of the Foundation Board of Management and then as my Vice Chair. Marlene was also the inaugural

Thank you once again to the St Mary's community for your remarkable support. Together, we are building an ever brighter future for our School.

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

Becoming global citizens:

Exchanging thoughts, ideas and experiences

This year, 21 Year 10 students had the opportunity of a lifetime, travelling across the globe as part of our vibrant exchange program. Through partnerships with our nine prestigious partner schools in Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States, the girls immersed themselves in new cultures, built lifelong friendships and experienced education from fresh perspectives.

Below, two students reflect on their exchange journeys, sharing the discoveries, challenges and unforgettable moments that shaped their time abroad.



Wycombe Abbey, England

In June this year, I had the amazing opportunity to go on exchange for a month to Wycombe Abbey in the UK. To begin with, I wasn't sure how I would adapt to boarding life and being so far from Perth, with dozens of new people to meet. However, I was immediately welcomed and felt completely at home in Shelburne House.

My four weeks at Wycombe Abbey were filled with plenty of laughter, movie nights and karaoke sessions in the beautiful heritage-listed boarding house at the top of the campus. I was lucky to be there for their end-of-term festivities. I got to experience their annual music festival 'Glastonabbey', be a kangaroo in the House play and cheer on Shelburne in the Interhouse Boat Race on the school lake.

On the weekends, my wonderful host family took me to explore London. Some highlights were wandering through Portobello Road Market, cycling in Hyde Park and seeing a show in the West End.

As well as all that I got to see and do, I learnt a lot about myself, growing my perseverance and independence while away. Sharing these experiences with Eira, my fellow St Mary's student, and our exchange partners, Ava and Rozzie, was the best part of the exchange, and the four of us became inseparable.

We made memories that will stay with us for life, like replicating the Abbey Road photo, DoorDashing a Wingstop feast, and having mocktails overlooking the city skyline from Primrose Hill.

In my exchange partner, Ava, I have found an incredible friend, and we have already started planning our next reunion. The most difficult part was leaving, but I was promised a cupboard under the stairs at Shelburne House, next time I visit.

Jessica Thompson, Year 10



Woodford House, New Zealand

I am from a small rural town called Newdegate, situated 400 km from Perth. In my family of four, there is my mum, Penny, my dad, Wes and my older brother, Bayley. We are a close little family who all like to help on the farm. We love living in the country and being surrounded by our connected community.

I applied for an exchange for the once-in-a-lifetime experience. I was really curious to see how students at other schools live and learn; how their daily routines are different from mine, and how farming and their way of life compare with what I'm used to. I also wanted to expand my knowledge and understanding of different cultures and countries. What I loved about Woodford Boarding House is how everyone knows each other and how close the girls are. They're super welcoming to anyone new. Plus, the facilities are great, and having separate boarding houses means it's not too crowded or overwhelming.

I love how anyone can get involved with anything, and the boarding staff hold weekly meetings for the girls to connect and ensure everyone is doing well. For me, this added a sense of sisterhood. I have made so many friends and loved every moment with them.

My favourite moments included nights in the common room, where everyone was singing, dancing, having fun and laughing so much we lost our voices. I also loved going to town every Tuesday with the Iona girls, visiting the dairy (which is what New Zealanders call a deli) and creating memories with girls from different schools. What I liked about my typical day-to-day is how we would wake up and walk to the dining hall together for breakfast. At recess time, the first 10 minutes would be in our Home Room with all the people in our House, and then we would go outside and socialise with our year group. I also liked how if you had sport after school, it



didn't start until later in the afternoon, so you had time to chill. Other things I found different were:

- When a teacher came into the classroom, you had to stand up.
- They called recess "sticky".
- You only had 5 periods a day and every Tuesday, school finished at 2.45pm for an 'Early Close Day'.

I took five classes: Geography, Leadership and Action, P.E., Māori Science and Food Tech. I involved myself in every opportunity, playing basketball and soccer for Woodford House and especially learning Māori. I loved picking up bits of their language and it really helped that a few of the girls spoke Māori fluently! I learnt how to say a few words and sentences and loved learning about their culture and what it means to them. They offer Māori to girls at the school, which I think is what helps make their school so special and connected.

Piper Hall, Year 10



As our students embraced new cultures and perspectives through their exchange journeys, Principal Judith Tudball also ventured abroad on a study leave trip to Oxford University in the UK. Judith's time overseas offered rich insights into global education and leadership, further deepening our School's commitment to developing globally minded citizens. Below, she shares her reflections on this inspiring experience.

Oxford and beyond...

In Term 2, I was fortunate to take study leave to participate in a residential Strategic Leadership Programme at Oxford University. During this time, I also had the opportunity to connect with our UK-based exchange schools and meet with St Mary's Old Girls across the United Kingdom and Europe. It was a time for connection, learning and reflection, and discussions on the the latest trends in education with internationally-based fellow Principals.

The Oxford Strategic Leadership Programme drew on the arts, humanities and social sciences to introduce a range of new ideas, experiences and ways of thinking. The Learning Framework involved lectures, interactive workshops, experiential sessions, and small-group tutorials based on the Socratic method of utilising critical thinking to explore complex ideas. Participants were challenged to test assumptions and think creatively about issues and opportunities that presented in their workplaces. With 34 leaders from diverse sectors across the globe undertaking the programme, it was academically stimulating and provided clarity of thought, as we refresh our St Mary's Strategic Plan, ready for re-launch at the start of 2026.

The community engagement component of my study leave provided wonderful opportunities to connect with our exchange schools in Bristol, Cheltenham and High Wycombe. Along with meeting with the Heads of School, Exchange Coordinators and staff to share ideas for further collaboration, I was able to tour facilities and meet with the St Mary's students who were on exchange at Badminton School, Bristol and Wycombe Abbey, High Wycombe. Another exciting exchange opportunity has presented itself following a visit to a school in Edinburgh, Scotland, and I look forward to



exploring this expansion of our outstanding Year 10 Exchange Program.

My time abroad was also filled with multiple opportunities for engagement with our Old Girl community, from hosting a reunion in London to individual meetings with Old Girls who are achieving incredible things in their studies and careers. It was so uplifting and affirming to speak with recent graduates of St Mary's who are thriving in their chosen international studies, and to hear their appreciation for the excellent educational springboard afforded to them by their St Mary's education.

As I reflect on my seven years of leadership at St Mary's, I am grateful for this time away from the busyness of daily school life to engage in study, connections, growth and renewal. I have returned to my position wiser, re-energised and excited for the incredible future of St Mary's as we head towards our 105th Birthday celebrations in 2026.

Mrs Judith Tudball
Principal

Students shine in the arena of ideas

Our students have once again demonstrated remarkable creativity, teamwork and academic excellence, this time across two high-profile competitions that spanned state and national arenas.

Big Ideas Challenge 2025

Eighteen students from Years 7 to 10 represented St Mary's at the 2025 Big Ideas Challenge, an event run by Future Anything, thanks to the generous support of Cancer Network WA and hosted at Bloom: Centre for Youth Innovation, St Catherine's College. Tasked with presenting innovative sun-safety solutions in a 'Shark Tank'-style pitch, St Mary's girls joined over 160 students from across Perth in developing creative responses to the critical health issue of sun safety.

Five of our students - Rose and Veya (Year 9), along with Chelsea, Charice and Elena (Year 10) - were part of teams that were selected as finalists. Taking innovation to the next level, Chelsea, Charice and Elena formed the overall winning team with their concept of 'Sun Smart Cards', a government-backed initiative designed to distribute sun-safety supplies across Western Australia. Judges lauded their presentation for its clarity, creativity and professionalism. The idea even captured the interest of Cancer Council WA and the Melanoma Institute Australia.

This victory was a proud reflection of the design thinking and collaboration skills cultivated through our Year 9 EDI (Engineering, Design and Innovation) Program and the Year 10 i3 (Interdisciplinary, Intelligence and Innovation) Program, with the competition judges praising all of our girls for their confidence, creativity and collaborative spirit.



da Vinci Decathlon

Our students delivered an extraordinary performance at the 2025 da Vinci Decathlon, a prestigious academic competition that challenges teams of eight across ten disciplines, including engineering, mathematics, code-breaking, poetry and ideation.

Our Years 6, 7 and 10 teams were crowned WA State Champions, while our Year 9 team secured runners-up. Following this success, our Year 7 and Year 10 champions earned the right to compete on the national stage in Sydney. Students committed to intensive preparation, attending training sessions up to three times a week in the lead-up.

The Nationals competition was held at Knox Grammar School in Sydney, where the State winners competed in a full day of rigorous challenges across the ten disciplines and our students once again impressed. Our Year 7 team placed second in *English* and *Art and Poetry*, while our Year 10s secured second place in *English* and *Creative Producers*, and third in *Ideation*. These results put us firmly among the top-performing schools in the country. In addition, our outstanding and continued success in this prestigious competition over the past eight years, means we have now received an invitation to attend the international competition, held at Oxford, in future years. This is testament to the girls' creativity, collaboration and critical thinking and an exciting opportunity to showcase our talent on the world stage.

QUENDA CAM:

Science students join Murdoch University researchers



Our Year 10 Science students recently swapped the classroom for the bush, venturing into the scrubland behind our school to take part in a hands-on conservation project. Working alongside researchers from Murdoch University, the students explored how motion-sensor wildlife cameras can be used to monitor wildlife in urban areas.

While setting up the cameras near the maintenance shed, the students noticed signs of quenda diggings, evidence that sparked excitement and hope of spotting the shy, threatened marsupial on school grounds.

Quendas (also called southwestern brown bandicoots) are native to Perth's bushland and play a huge role in keeping ecosystems healthy. They help spread seeds and fungi, improve soil and even reduce fire risk. Although no quendas were captured on camera, the students were able to observe other wildlife activity and gain valuable insight into local ecosystems.

The project took on a new dimension when Environmental Officers from the City of Stirling caught wind of the girls' project and wanted to team up. Together, students and officers installed the cameras in Trigg Bushland Reserve, where the council was investigating the presence of quendas following a recent study that failed to find evidence of them in the area. The cameras also aimed to detect potential predators, such as foxes and cats, that threaten the native species.

The results were significant: a confirmed quenda sighting in the reserve, along with footage of both foxes and cats. These findings will help inform future conservation and management strategies within Trigg Bushland Reserve.

For our students, this was more than just a science project; it was real-world research with real impact. It sparked curiosity, deepened their understanding of conservation and highlighted the importance of protecting urban bushland and managing invasive species.

We extend our thanks to Curtin University and the City of Stirling for their support and collaboration.



Each year, our Year 10s embark on a unique and deeply meaningful experience at our Metricup campus - **Boora Koort**. The name translates to *'meeting place of the heart'* and it is a week-long Outdoor Learning Program designed to nurture wellbeing, build resilience and strengthen the bonds within the Year 10 cohort.

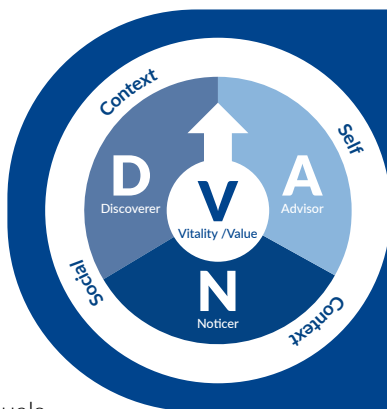
THE BOORA KOORT EXPERIENCE

The Boora Koort experience is deliberately designed to support both individual and collective wellbeing. Through a blend of outdoor challenges, creative workshops and community service activities, students are encouraged to explore who they are, how they relate to others and what truly matters to them, both as individuals and as a year group.

A key focus throughout the week is the DNA-V model, a psychological evidence-based model that promotes resilience, mindfulness, wellbeing and psychological strength. It is designed to help our students cope with challenges and stress and equip them with the tools to do what matters, even in the presence of painful feelings.

Associate Dean of Wellbeing and Senior School Psychologist Felicity Monck says, "the DNA-V model supports wellbeing by leading us to valued activities that build vitality and help us to navigate challenges in such a way as to stay true to ourselves."

The week is rich with activities that encourage the girls to step into the unknown and embrace challenges that not only build their resilience but also contribute to a shared sense of growth. From mountain biking, fire-making, yoga, theatre sports, cake decorating and self-



The model is comprised of four core elements:

D – Discoverer:

Their drive for exploration and vitality

N – Noticer:

Their ability to be present and aware

A – Advisor:

Their internal voice, including self-talk and judgements

V – Values:

The things that matter most to them



preservation, they gain a deeper understanding of themselves and their place in the world. Students also engaged in meaningful service activities throughout the week, reinforcing the value of giving back to the community. Every student participated in one of several initiatives, including environmental efforts such as rubbish collection and "beach sweeping" along the Cape to Cape hiking trail and coastline with local guides. They also cleared bike paths, managed invasive weeds, and assisted with drainage systems under the guidance of

volunteers from the Margaret River Off-Road Cycling Association. Others spent time connecting with aged care residents at Baptist Care William Carey Court in Broadwater and Baptist Care Mirrambeena in Margaret River, offering companionship and support.

Boora Koort goes beyond traditional outdoor programs; it is a celebration of heart, courage and community. It is a space where the girls learn to listen to themselves and each other, to embrace challenge and to grow in ways that will stay with them long after returning home.



BUILDING EXCELLENCE

Science has always been an important part of learning at St Mary's, inspiring generations of students to explore and innovate. Our new Science, Enterprise, Technology and Innovation (SETI) Centre is a crucial step in continuing to provide our students with the resources and learning environment they need to excel in an increasingly STEM-focused world.

We are excited to update you on the progress of this incredible new facility. Thanks to the support of our community, we are well on our way.

Groundwork preparations have been underway over the last few months following the demolition in late 2024 of the Senior School Maths

block, before that it was the Junior School, and originally a classroom block. We received development approval in August and construction will begin in October 2025.

We expect classes to start in the SETI Centre in late 2027.



We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Old Girl Bronwyn Barnes ('84), whose incredible seed gift is helping the next generation of St Mary's girls pursue their passions. Scan the QR code to watch a video with more information on this future-focused initiative and why Bronwyn felt strongly about being involved.



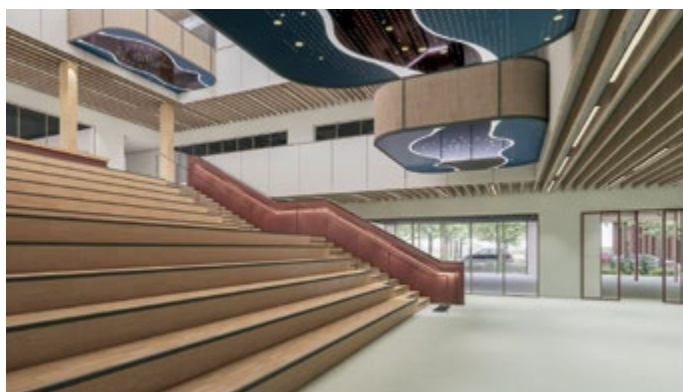
With a design focus on sustainability, the Centre will feature four technology laboratories and 17 specialist laboratories, including chemistry, biology, marine science, environmental science, engineering, a purpose-built marine science tank room, dedicated sustainability labs, and a sustainable edible-garden space. At the heart of the building will be a multi-level amphitheatre, providing a versatile environment for learning and collaboration.

In a world driven by rapid technological change and a future workforce that values innovation and flexibility, this new building will ensure that our students are equipped to embrace their chosen careers with confidence, and it reflects our commitment to education for a changing world.

Science has long held a special place at St Mary's, and this new facility will honour that proud legacy while boldly propelling us into the future. From its earliest roots in the 1920s to today, our dedication to STEM learning continues to evolve and flourish. We are proud of the Old Girls who have forged remarkable careers in science and technology-related fields, making a positive impact on society through their contributions.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Board of Governors, who, along with the generous support of the St Mary's Foundation and members of our wider school community, have made this transformative project possible.

The SETI Centre is more than a building; it's a vision for tomorrow. We can't wait to watch it come to life, and we look forward to sharing the journey with you.



SAVE THE DATE

An Evening with Bronwyn Barnes
Wednesday 29 October 2025
Lady Wardle Performing Arts Centre

Join us for an inspiring evening with Bronwyn Barnes ('84), who forged a non-traditional path from arts graduate to mining powerhouse. Bronwyn will share her story of how she found her voice in a male-dominated industry and the lessons she has learned along the way. The evening will involve a dynamic Q&A and also highlight how St Mary's is preparing the next generation to thrive through our new SETI Centre. Please visit the our website for more information: stmarys.wa.edu.au

As part of this campaign, we are offering a limited number of naming opportunities within the building. If you would like to learn more about these opportunities or have an individual conversation to offer your support, please get in touch with our Director of Philanthropy, Sarah Woods, on 9341 9120 or giving@stmarys.wa.edu.au



A Lasting Tribute to Leadership: Honouring Lynne Thomson



Recently, our School community gathered for a special occasion: the official naming of our Creative Arts and Design Centre. After twelve months of inspiring student creativity and collaboration, the building now proudly bears the name of Lynne Thomson, our longest-serving Principal.





Mrs Lynne Thomson led St Mary's from 1997 to 2018. Her legacy is etched across our campus - from the Lady Wardle Performing Arts Centre, the Lady Treatt Centre for Music and Dance, and St Mary's at Metricup, to the Elizabeth Myles Library, the Marlene Carter Heritage Centre, The Polson Room and the Peter Arney Centre for Early Learning. These transformative projects were the result of a close and productive partnership between Lynne and Peter Mead, then Director of Finance and Administration, whose strategic oversight and shared vision helped bring these developments to life. Yet, as Lynne herself reminded us, her impact extended far beyond bricks and mortar:

"My teaching life took me on a journey of wonder. As part of a school community, together we strove together, laughed together and on occasion, cried together. It was in this atmosphere that learning and personal growth in its truest sense flourished for us all."

Lynne's commitment to professional development also lives on through the Lynne Thomson Excellence in Education Scholarship, which enables staff to pursue world-class learning opportunities abroad. Her continued service on the Foundation Board of Management reflects her enduring dedication to the future of St Mary's.

In her speech, Lynne shared a touching reflection on the significance of the naming:

"As an historian and a hopelessly sentimental person, having my name said long after my days at St Mary's, perhaps long after I have left this earth, means a great deal."

The event also marked the naming of the Edith Cowan Room, a large multipurpose space on the ground floor of the Lynne Thomson Creative Arts and Design Centre. Edith Cowan, the first woman elected to an Australian parliament, was a founding member of our School's Board of Governors in 1921. Her legacy continues to inspire our students to lead with courage and conviction.

These names are more than commemorations; they are celebrations of the values we hold dear. They honour women who have shaped our School and continue to inspire generations of students and staff.



2025 CAPAF Day!



Our annual **Creative and Performing Arts Festival** was a vibrant showcase of student talent, featuring captivating exhibitions and the ever-popular Wearable Art Parade. From dramatic performances to musical flair and imaginative designs, our students brought the arts to life with confidence and creativity. For many in our community, this is a favourite day on the calendar, a joyful celebration of expression, collaboration and artistic spirit.



A whole-school Canvas of Creativity

This year's **Creative Arts Exhibition** marked an exciting first, showcasing work from both our Junior and Senior School students in a vibrant whole-school celebration of artistic expression. Visitors to the exhibition were delighted by the imagination, skill and diversity on display, with many commenting on the inspiring talent of our youngest artists. The exhibition was a true reflection of the creative spirit that thrives across every corner of our School.



ART EXCELLENCE



We are proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of several talented Visual Arts students whose creativity and skill have been recognised in prominent youth art competitions across Perth.

City of Swan Hypervision Exhibition

This event celebrates young and emerging artists, and Year 12 student, Sammi Keddie, took out first place in the *Fashion & Jewellery* category, with Caitlin Forbes (also a Year 12 student) close behind as runner-up. Both students submitted their impressive wearable art pieces created last year, demonstrating their creativity, craftsmanship and flair for innovative design.

City of Nedlands Emerge Youth Art Awards

This competition is open to young artists aged 12 to 25, and Year 11 student, Erin Niu, won the Under 18s category with one of her striking current works from her ATAR Visual Arts class. Even more impressively, Eva Pious (also in Year 11) was named the overall winner of the entire exhibition, an incredible accomplishment, especially as this was her very first painting.



Shaun Tan Award for Young Artists

Meanwhile, Year 12 student, Jessica Percy, was selected from hundreds of entries as a top 10 finalist in the Shaun Tan Awards for Young Artists. Jess's detailed and thoughtful work stood out to judges and was displayed in an exhibition alongside the other finalists.

Spring Harvest and Fashion Arts Festival Awards

This event provides a space for creative young people of all walks of life to gather and be celebrated for their work. It is an annual state-wide competition for high school students enrolled in textiles, who compete across several categories, and this year was held at our campus. The Lynne Thomson Creative Arts and Design Centre came alive with creativity, with the Edith Cowan Room being transformed into a set straight out of Paris Fashion Week. Schools from all over Perth were represented, and St Mary's students achieved outstanding results, taking out wins and runner-up placements across several categories:

Society & Environment (Wearable Art):

Winner: Matilda Hamson (Year 12)
Runner up: Isla Atkinson (Year 11)

Wearable Art

Winner: Jemima Daniels (Year 9)
Runner up: Jessica Davies (Year 11)

Textiles - Single Garment: (Years 10 to 12)

Winner: Jessica Percy (Year 12)
Runner up: Lily de la Rie (Year 12)

Textiles - Small project (Years 10 to 12)

Runner up: Jessica Davies (Year 11)



STAFF SPOTLIGHT – MISS SOPHIE VELLA

Sophie Vella ('15) is one of the 23 Old Girls we have on staff. Joining us at the beginning of the year, Sophie is loving being back in the place where her passion for education began.

"The early years of a child's life are so important to develop a really strong sense of wellbeing, confidence and a passion for learning. I have loved returning to the place where I had such a fantastic education and an environment that really believes in the importance of early childhood education."

Little Hands, Big Connections

One of our most cherished relationships continues to blossom between our Kindergarteners and the residents of Amana Living Aged Care home, just across the road.

Throughout the year, our littlest learners and their senior neighbours have shared a series of joyful visits filled with arts and crafts, morning tea, music and laughter.

Whether welcoming residents into the classroom or visiting the aged care home to sing songs and share handmade gifts, these intergenerational moments have created lasting memories for all involved.

The students have also created beautiful artwork to be displayed in the aged care home, adding a touch of their colour and joy to the space for their new friends. In November, the residents will return once more as honoured guests at the Kindergarten Christmas Concert.

These visits are more than just delightful outings; they are meaningful opportunities for connection, empathy and shared joy, reminding us all of the power of community, regardless of age.





mini minds, MIGHTY PROJECTS



This year, our Year 4 students have embraced learning beyond the classroom through exciting hands-on projects, such as Smagstown and Garden School. Both initiatives encourage creativity, collaboration and problem-solving while helping the girls see the real-world impact of their ideas.





Welcome to Smagstown

Our Year 4s learnt all about the role of local governments through a project centred around building their own miniature town - Smagstown!

Smagstown is complete with hospitals, fire departments, cafés, grocery stores and six airports! Of course, no town built by nine and ten-year-olds would be complete without a lolly shop, an essential town landmark that added a sweet splash of colour and excitement.

Each building was thoughtfully constructed based on data collected through community surveys, providing students with a hands-on experience in data collection, graphing and civic planning.

To attract residents to the town, the girls wrote and recorded a podcast promoting their buildings. Visitors could listen in by scanning QR codes placed around the town, adding a modern and interactive twist to the experience.

The grand opening of Smagstown was a special event attended by students, teachers and the Head of Junior School, Mrs Helen Adams, who had the honour of cutting the ribbon to officially declare the town open.

Families were also invited to tour the town and were delighted by the creativity, effort and learning on display. Our Year 4s also proudly guided younger students through their town, sharing what they had built and learned. It was a beautiful moment of leadership, curiosity and collaboration.

The project gave the girls a taste of what it means to contribute to a community and balance responsibilities, all while sparking plenty of laughter and creativity along the way.



Growing and Cooking in the Edible Garden

The Year 4 edible garden provides a wonderful space for students to take part in weekly Garden School sessions, where they learn how to grow and cook seasonal produce. The girls rotate crops, care for the soil, and experiment with companion planting to help their vegetables thrive.

So far this year, they have harvested fresh cucumbers, lettuce, tomatoes and snow peas, and cooked delicious meals such as Greek spinach pies for Harmony Day and ratatouille made with their own zucchini, eggplant, herbs and tomatoes. In addition, they have learned about native plants and bush tucker as part of NAIDOC Week.

The project is also helping the girls understand the importance of sustainability. Thanks to generous funding from our Parents' Society, Year 4 now has an Eco Composter, which turns Junior School food scraps into nutrient-rich compost to feed the garden. The girls took part in a *Waste Wise WA* incursion, deepening their knowledge about reducing waste and caring for the environment.

Both Smagstown and the edible garden show how learning comes alive when students are given the chance to *do*. Through building, planting, harvesting and creating, our Year 4s not only develop practical skills but also grow in confidence, resilience and community spirit.

2025 Charitable Initiatives

Service is woven into our culture, and again this year, our students have come together in many ways to support those in need, locally, nationally and globally. Each initiative, big or small, reflects our commitment to encouraging girls to be compassionate, respectful and generous.



Shaving for Change: World's Greatest Shave

In March, our Senior School students once again embraced the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave, raising a record \$95,000 in the fight against blood cancer. We are immensely proud to say that we have raised over \$348,000 for this cause in the last six years. Students and staff shaved and cut their hair in an act of solidarity with those undergoing treatment. Their efforts have made a real and tangible difference, helping to fund life-changing research and support services for patients and their families.

Winter Warmth: Junior School's Winter Woollies Day

Our Junior School students swapped their uniforms for beanies, scarves and jumpers to mark this year's Winter Woollies Day. This fun tradition had a serious purpose – raising funds and donating goods to 'Little Things for Tiny Tots', a charity which supplies vital baby items to WA families in need.



Supporting Women in Need: Stirling Women's Refuge

Students and families rallied together to donate clothing, toiletries and essential items to the Stirling Women's Refuge, which provides shelter and support for women and children escaping domestic violence. This quiet but meaningful act of giving reflected our community's care for those facing difficult circumstances close to home.

Mattress Donations for Warburton Indigenous Community

Each year, one wing of our Boarding House receives new mattresses to ensure we are meeting standard protocols for our boarders. These mattresses are still in good condition, and through an initiative led by our former Head Groundsman, Ian Clarke, they are donated to the people of Warburton, an Indigenous community 1,300 kilometres northeast of Perth, and just south of the Gibson Desert. In a place where many sleep without adequate bedding, these donations provide both comfort and dignity. This simple yet meaningful act shows how practical, sustainable solutions can make a genuine difference in the lives of others.



Pyjamas with Purpose: Lap-a-thon for Cambodian Children's Fund

In another Junior School initiative, students donned their pyjamas and ran laps of our top oval to raise funds for the Cambodian Children's Fund (CCF). The choice of pyjamas was a thoughtful nod to Cambodian cultural dress, helping students connect more deeply with the cause. Funds raised will directly support education and healthcare for vulnerable children in Phnom Penh, and in December, several St Mary's staff and Year 11 students will travel to Cambodia to work alongside CCF.

AN OGA **CENTENARY FEATURE**

We are more than a school; we are a community shaped by generations of families. Here, we share the stories of those who have passed on their love of St Mary's from one generation to the next and continue to celebrate the connections that span mothers, daughters, granddaughters and even great-granddaughters.

Moreen, Maxine, Charm, Georgia, Alissa and Jess



L-R: Alissa Crabb (Year 10), Jess Crabb (Year 8), Maxine Candy (King '69), Georgia Crabb (Year 12) and Charm Crabb (Candy '96)

LEFT: Moreen Candy (Spargo '46) in her white church dress, posing with children whose identities are unknown.

"I was a boarder, and before the Anne Symington Boarding House opened, we'd catch the daily bus from West Perth to Karrinyup. It felt like such a long trip; most of the housing around Elliott Road appeared to be beach shacks, and Karrinyup really did feel like the last suburb of Perth. Life as a boarder could be tough at times, being away from our families, but I did get to love it once I settled in. I remember we would have to wear our full school uniform, including gloves, on trips into the city, even if it was a weekend! The friendships I made have lasted a lifetime, and that's why it was so important to me that my daughter, and now granddaughters, including my son's daughter Sienna Candy (Year 11), had the chance to go to St Mary's too, to experience that same sense of belonging and opportunity."

Maxine Candy (King '69)

"What I value most from my time at St Mary's is the lifelong friends I made; they're still my closest friends today. I also loved all the opportunities to play sport, from local competitions to travelling overseas. In fact, I was honoured to be the very first Sport Prefect when the role was introduced. Looking back, those years were some of the best of my life." **Charm Crabb (Candy '96)**

Jenny, Sarah and Emily



"We used to catch a taxi to school. It was like a school bus, but it was an actual Swan Taxi just for St Mary's students. It would pick up several girls and take us to school each morning, and the teachers would wait on the verandah to greet us. My year group were the first students to be moved to the Karrinyup campus. Back then, it was just a few classrooms and an assembly area surrounded by sand - it felt like a desert! We had to travel back to West Perth for classes like Home Economics. It's incredible to see how much the school has grown." **Jenny Cross (Mack '70)**

"I loved the sport and the opportunities at St Mary's, but what's stayed with me most are the friendships. Some of my closest friends today are girls I went to school with; it's a bond that lasts a lifetime." **Sarah Rose (Cross '98)**



L-R: Jenny Cross (Mack '70), Emily Leech (Year 7), Sarah Rose (Cross '98)

FAMILY



L-R: Rosie Saul (Pre-primary), Kate Vaughan ('05) and Matilda Saul (Year 2)

Kate, Matilda and Rosie

"I loved my time at St Mary's, so I always wanted my girls to have that experience too. We did things you just don't get to do at other schools, like scuba diving and the Abrolhos trip. The independence you gain is so special. For me, it was a no-brainer to send my daughters here. I love this school and what it stands for, so it was an honour to recently be inducted onto the School's Board of Governors. I'm particularly thrilled to be part of bringing the new Science, Enterprise, Technology and Innovation Centre to life. With my own background in science, and my two girls who love the subject, it's so special knowing they'll get to learn in a truly world-class space."

Kate Vaughan ('06)



Joyce, Penelope, Grace and Lily



"My sisters, Mary-Louise ('88) and Tanya ('91), and I were boarders and have fond memories of the boarding house – receiving letters from our parents during recess, lining up by year group to enter the dining room in silence, spending time with the late Deaconess Joyce, who was a regular visitor, and forming lifelong friendships. You never truly leave the boarding house. In fact, I returned to tutor boarders after graduating, just as my niece Grace does now. St Mary's has always nurtured confident, grounded girls, which is exactly what I wanted for Lily. My Nan Nan, Joyce, graduated in 1925. She cherished her time at the School, and it's very special to know her great-grandchild is part of the same school community, 100 years on."

Penelope Hickman (Macmillan '94)



L-R: Lily Hickman (Year 6), Grace Morcombe ('22, Penelope's niece and Lily's cousin), Penelope Hickman (Macmillan '94)

RIGHT: Marjorie Joyce Macmillan (Parson '1925) with her husband.



LYTIES

Lynette, Rynelle, Lyla and Willow



L-R: Rynelle Smoker (Baker '99), Lynette Baker (Price '74), Lyla and Willow Smoker (Year 9)

"I started boarding at St Mary's the year Anne Symington House opened. Mrs Symington was famously strict, though I always got on well with her, even after she hauled me out of dinner one evening for wearing a short dress which she declared she never wanted to see again. Every morning, we lined up before breakfast while the Prefects checked our shoes, hems and hair, and when we went shopping on the weekends, we had to wear our uniforms with our hats perfectly parallel to the ground. In those early days, there weren't even proper walls in the dorms, just wardrobes marking the boundaries. What has stayed with me, though, is the sense of community. Six of us crammed into a 'room' together, forging friendships that have lasted a lifetime. Even now, more than fifty years later, a group of us still gather in Busselton every February. What makes it even more special is knowing that my five daughters, and now my granddaughters, have walked the same halls and slept in the same dorms as I once did." **Lynette Baker (Price '74)**

"My girls always knew they'd be coming to St Mary's. We talked about it as they were growing up, and my close girlfriends from school – the same friends who became my bridesmaids – are still very much a part of our lives today. I loved sport at St Mary's and it's been wonderful to see my daughters embrace the same opportunities. They play hockey, basketball and tennis, and have also taken up new sports like volleyball, diving and surfing. Those friendships and shared experiences have shown my daughters that the girls they meet here aren't just classmates, they're friends for life."

Rynelle Smoker (Baker '99)

Robin, Jacqueline, Kari, Danielle, Abby and Emilia



"When I drive through the gates now, I feel like I'm coming home. When you get to my age, you look back on your life and realise your most formative years are those you spent at school. I have seen how much the school has changed over almost 50 years, and it's incredibly special to know that my three daughters, and now my granddaughters, have attended the same school as my sister and I. That doesn't happen to many families, and it's lovely to be able to enjoy that."

Robin Moran (Cunningham '68)

"The teachers have left a lasting impact on me, and it's one of the reasons I wanted to send my daughter to St Mary's. My calculus teacher always wore her hair in a large French bun and made one of the most challenging subjects feel fun and engaging. There were only about eight of us in the class, and she created an environment where we felt supported and challenged. She was one of those rare teachers who made a real difference, and I've never forgotten her. My Year 7 teacher, Mr Belotti, was the same. He was so full of passion and creativity, and I'm still in touch with him all these years later."

Kari Moran ('96)

"Next year, both my daughter and niece will be in Year 7 together. There's something special about knowing my daughter is experiencing the same traditions that shaped my mum, my sisters Kari ('96) and Danielle ('00), and me – and may even cross paths with some of the same teachers. That sense of familiarity makes the school feel really welcoming." **Jacqui Moran ('98)**



L-R: Jacqueline Moran ('98), Emilia Barnard (future student), Robin Moran (Cunningham '68, OGA Honorary Life Member), Abby Moran (Year 6), Kari Moran ('96). Absent: Danielle Moran ('00. Currently residing in London)

AN OGA **CENTENARY FEATURE***From Students
to Staff*

Our School has always been more than just a place of learning; it is also a community that nurtures lifelong connections. This is reflected in the remarkable number of Old Girls who have returned to the School as staff. Today, 23 former students are part of our teaching and support teams, each bringing with them not only professional expertise but also a deep understanding of what makes us special. Their stories highlight the enduring bonds formed here and the pride they feel in giving back to the school that once shaped them.

FIONA WILKINS (ARBUCKLE '80)

Fiona's connection to our School spans a lifetime. She first joined the School as a Year 3 student and remained through to Year 12, spending part of her schooling as a boarder, while her father worked for the United Nations as a peacekeeper in Pakistan. As the youngest boarder at the time, she even celebrated her 10th birthday in the boarding house. After graduating, Fiona returned to St Mary's as a Design Technologies teacher, where she will mark an incredible 40 years of service next year. Since 1998, she has also led Riley House with dedication and passion. Her bond with the School has continued through the next generation, with both of her daughters also having attended St Mary's.

"Some of my earliest memories of St Mary's are the carnivals –

sitting in the stands at Beatty Park, cheering our hearts out, or winning athletics at Perry Lakes in the pouring rain. After teaching regionally at the beginning of my career, I returned to Perth and, with my brother's encouragement, applied for a teaching job here in 1986. Nearly 40 years later, and I haven't looked back. I still feel proud to be part of a community where lifelong friendships are formed and where I've had the privilege of helping students achieve their dreams. My best friend Annie, who I first sat next to in Year 8 Science, is still my best friend today, and my friendship group from school are still some of the most important people in my life. That's what makes St Mary's so special – the lifelong connections and shared values that tie us all together. Oh, and go Riley!"

Fiona Wilkins (Arbuckle '80)



Opposite:

Fiona Wilkins, Design Technology Teacher

Above:

Fiona on her first day of school at St Mary's



ANNABELLE HUNTER ('20)

Annabelle's St Mary's journey has come full circle. A student here from 2014 to 2020, her favourite subject was always Design Technologies and now she's back in the very same classrooms teaching it. As the most recent graduate on staff, her unique perspective is shaped by her own experiences as a St Mary's girl not so long ago.

"At first, it felt a little strange to be back so soon after graduating, but I quickly came to appreciate how special it was to return to such a supportive and welcoming community. It's funny to think that the current Year 12s were in Year 7 when I was in Year 12. Being on the other side of the desk has also given me a new appreciation for the time and effort my teachers put into helping us succeed, and I've loved experiencing the support and collaboration within the Design Technologies department. Becoming colleagues with my former teachers was a little surreal at first - especially learning to call them by their first names!"

Annabelle Hunter ('20)



Above: Annabelle in Year 10



LAUREN SMITH ('06)



Lauren's years at St Mary's, from 2002 to 2006, left her with lifelong memories, abundant opportunity and a never-dulled Riley House spirit. Serving as Senior Day Girl in her final year, she experienced firsthand the energy and opportunities that make our school special. She drove back through the gates five years ago as a science teacher, bringing the same passion, enthusiasm and love of learning to her students, continuing the legacy of her father, Lex Smith, who taught at the School for 21 years.

"Some of my fondest memories as a student at St Mary's are from music and drama – everything from individual violin, viola and voice lessons to choirs, interhouse drama and school productions. I am a proud Riley girl!"

Above: Lauren and her dad Lex in the Chemistry Lab

Insert: Lauren in Year 9

From Stu



Some of my favourite days were interhouse swimming and sport carnivals, and that big blue House spirit is still with me as a Riley Link teacher today. Year 12 was a busy year as Senior Day Girl, balancing six ATAR subjects with music and drama commitments, but it taught me so many life lessons that I now get to share with my own students. Coming back to teach alongside my former teachers has been incredibly special; for example, Ann D'Agostino is a current teacher and Head of Year 11. Her daughter was in my Year 11 Chemistry class, 16 years after Ann was my Year 11 Chemistry teacher. It's moments like these that make me feel the full circle of this amazing community."

Lauren Smith ('06)

dents to Staff



ANNA BURCH ('11)



Above: Anna being announced as 2011 Head Girl'

Anna's journey began in Year 8 and culminated with her serving as Head Girl in 2011. Now returning as a Maths teacher, she brings to her classroom the same leadership, dedication and passion she showed as a student. Anna's deep connection to the School and understanding of student life make her a valued mentor and teacher to the next generation of our girls.

"What I loved most as a student was being part of the community and all the amazing opportunities we had at our fingertips. Everything from taking part in IGSSA competitions and singing in the school choir in beautiful cathedrals all around Europe, to surviving storms on Year 9 camp and singing everyone's favourite hymn, 'Shine Jesus Shine' at Chapel. Being Head Girl in 2011 was such a special experience; it was busy, but it gave me the chance to give back to the school that had shaped me and to support younger girls. I'm especially grateful to teachers like Mrs Alderman and Mr Divich, who showed me that great teaching isn't just about lessons; it's about believing in students and encouraging them to reach their potential. Returning now as a Maths teacher, I hope to have that same impact, and it's been wonderful working alongside my former teachers, discovering their personalities and their hilarious (and sometimes surprising!) senses of humour."

Anna Burch ('11)



PARENTS' SOCIETY

This year, our Parents' Society continued its wonderful tradition of bringing our community together through much-loved events. The Biggest Afternoon Tea, in support of Cancer Council WA, once again raised vital funds for the Cancer Council, while the annual Career Expo, proudly funded by the Parents' Society, gave students valuable insights into future pathways.



PARENTS' SOCIETY



OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

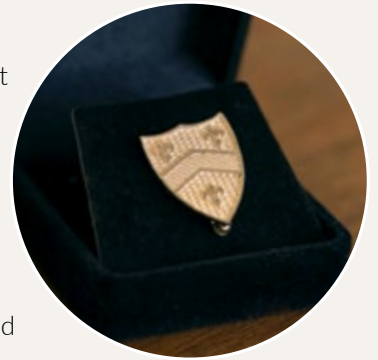


What an extraordinary year it has been for the St Mary's Old Girls' Association (OGA) as we celebrated our Centenary - 100 years of connection, tradition and community. It has been a privilege to serve as President during this milestone year, and even more special as it marks my 10th year in the role.

The highlight of our centenary celebrations has undoubtedly been the Centenary Dinner and Women of Distinction Awards, fittingly held in The Polson Room, named after Reverend Joyce Polson, a true Woman of Distinction. It was a night filled with warmth, laughter and reflection, as generations of Old Girls came together to honour our shared history and the remarkable women who continue to shape our future. We were proud to present custom-made trophies crafted from marble salvaged from the altar surrounds of St Mary's Church in West Perth, an elegant nod to our origins.

The Women of Distinction Awards showcased the incredible achievements of our alumni across three categories: Career, Community and Young. With 37 nominations, the calibre of finalists was truly inspiring. These women are making a difference locally and globally, and it was an honour to celebrate their contributions.

Another deeply meaningful moment for me was being inducted as an Honorary Life Member of the OGA. To be recognised in this way, especially in our centenary year, is something I will always treasure. I also had the great honour of inducting our Principal, Mrs Judith Tudball, as an OGA Honorary Member for Life. Judith's unwavering support of our members has strengthened the bond between the School and our Association, and I am so proud of the relationship we continue to build together.



We also recently welcomed back Old Girls who graduated 50 or more years ago at our Fleur de Lis Club Morning Tea. Held in The Polson Room, this special event was a beautiful celebration of lifelong connection,



featuring performances by our talented students and joyful reunions among friends.

As I reflect on the past decade as President, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible committee members I've had the joy of working alongside. Their dedication, humour and friendship have made this role a true privilege.

To all our Old Girls, thank you for being part of this vibrant and enduring community.

Here's to the next 100 years of connection, celebration and sisterhood.

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



Don't miss your chance to own a piece of St Mary's history!

Our limited-edition centenary silk scarves are now available for purchase and have already proven to be incredibly popular. Designed by Old Girl Lauren Brewer ('15), in collaboration with OGA President Amy Dawson, these beautiful scarves come in a variety of colours and sizes, making them a perfect keepsake or gift. Scan the QR code to explore the full range of centenary merchandise.



OLD GIRLS' NEWS

Old Girl Scholars and Award Recipients

Congratulations to the 2025 recipients of our Old Girl Scholarships and Awards. Thanks to the generosity of the Old Girls' Association and the Foundation, these scholarships provide invaluable support to our Old Girls as they embark on a wide range of study and career journeys. We warmly congratulate this year's winners:

Esmee Byatt Scholarship for Medicine
Alice Ward ('21)

Fay Bailey Scholarship for Engineering, Science and Law
Mia Dragicevich ('21)

Helen Judge Arts Award
Lauren Widdicombe ('05)

Lynne Thomson Overseas Study Scholarship
Elana Mulvay ('15) and Iseult de Mallet Burgess ('19)

Bonny Milne Scholarship for Medicine
Nalani Gleeson ('19) and Gabrielle Pang ('22)

Molly Riley RISE Award
Annabel Smith ('91) and Marlanie Haerewa ('16)

SAVE THE DATE

Paint and Sip

Thursday 11 December 2025

Gather your friends and unleash your creativity at an evening of painting and prosecco in our stunning Lynne Thomson Creative Arts and Design Centre, to be led by one of our Old Girls.

Year 13 Reunion

Thursday 18 December 2025

The Class of 2024 is warmly invited back to St Mary's to join Mrs Tudball and former teachers for wine and cheese and to share stories of the exciting adventures that have unfolded since graduation.

OLD GIRLS' NEWS



Fleur de Lis Club Morning Tea

It was a fantastic turnout at this year's Fleur de Lis Club Morning Tea, made extra special as we celebrate 100 years of the Old Girls' Association. Guests enjoyed a morning of friendship, sweet treats and entertainment as they shared memories, reconnected with lifelong friends and raised a glass in memory of Marlene Carter ('63), who sadly passed away this year.



OLD GIRLS' NEWS

Women of Distinction

The Polson Room came alive with celebration and connection as we celebrated our Old Girls' Association Centenary Dinner and Women of Distinction Awards in July. Held every five years, the awards celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of our Old Girls across three categories: Career, Community and Young.

Please meet our 2025 winners.



BROOKE ELLINGWORTH ('95) *Career Award*

Brooke is a senior executive in the global IT industry, with over 20 years of experience leading business units in companies such as Ingram Micro and Logitech. Currently serving as Vice President at Kramer, she also mentors women in IT and recently completed further studies at Cambridge University, focusing on advancing sustainability in the tech sector.



LINDA GOULDSMITH (TROUGHTON '79) *Community Award*

Linda's passion for service led her to establish Access Hope Inc., an Australian charity supporting vulnerable and orphaned children in Kenya. As CEO, Linda oversees care, schooling and housing for children in need. Her previous experience includes mission trips and grassroots aid projects, and her commitment continues to have a global impact.



CHRISTINE SEET ('14) *Young Award*

At just 28 years of age, Christine is making remarkable contributions in her chosen fields of politics and law. Initially deciding to study physics, she shifted her focus and completed a degree in Politics and Economics at UWA, graduating with First Class Honours. She joined the Australian Treasury at age 21 and contributed to Australia's COVID-19 economic support package. She also worked in Parliament House before studying Political Economy at the London School of Economics, where she was part of a climate change think tank. In 2024, she relocated to Accra, Ghana, as a fellow of the Overseas Development Institute with the Ghanaian Ministry of Finance. Christine is making the trip back to Perth for this year's Speech Night where she will be an honoured guest and deliver the Occasional Address.

Valé



BETH BUCHANAN (MICKLE '48, HEAD GIRL)

Born in 1931 to a family of five, Beth worked hard to make a living in her remote town of Meekatharra. Elizabeth Ann Mickle, always known as Beth, grew up with two older brothers who boarded at Scotch College.

After moving to Armadale, Beth travelled to St Mary's each day, commencing from the middle of Year 9, a difficult time to start at a school that was run down due to post-World War Two austerity. Beth's first lesson was French with Mrs Strong, a subject she had never learnt before. A very clever and sporty girl in Riley House, Beth took to St Mary's, studying accelerated Junior and Leaving Certificates. So popular and successful was she that she was elected Head Girl, a position she didn't wish to take as she thought the financial burden would be too great for her mother. Mrs Myles, a very understanding and kind Principal, convinced her of its merits, and Beth went on to enjoy her position, winning the Citizenship Prize and becoming Champion Sportswoman in 1948. Beth would always be grateful to her parents for making the financial sacrifice to send her to St Mary's. As she would later say, "St Mary's was my life."

Always wanting to help others and with a deep Christian faith, Beth went on to study Nursing, attended Deaconess School with the Anglican Church, studied Kindergarten teaching, and was at one stage a Senior Advisor in Childcare for Community Services. Beth married Reverend Frederick (Fred) Buchanan, who was originally from Wollongong in NSW. Living and helping in very poor parishes in Sydney, Beth and Fred had four children: Andrew, Peter, Angus and Ann. Moving back to Perth, they and their extended families would attend Christ Church Grammar School and St Mary's. Always loyal and supportive of her old school, Beth would attend reunions and events whenever possible, and always made time for charitable causes, her favourite being 'Wheelchairs for Kids', founded by Brother Olly Pickett AM. Hers was a life lived for others and devoted to her family, friends, church and beliefs. Beth was farewelled at the Chapel of St Mary, a place so close to her heart, at the wonderful age of 94.

ABOVE L-R: President of the Old Girls' Association Amy Dawson (Fraser '94), Beth Buchanan (Mickle '48, Head Girl), and Principal Mrs Judith Tudball cutting the cake at the West Perth Morning Tea event in March 2025. It was an event also attended by Valma Cearns (Davies '51) and Miss Marlene Carter ('63).

VALMA CEARNS (DAVIES '51)

Valma Sylvia Davies was born in 1933 in Collie, south of Perth. She was a resident of the then boarding house at 22 Kingsway, Nedlands, which was personally maintained by the then-Principal Mrs Elizabeth Myles (1944 to 1956). Valma was happy and progressing academically when she was struck by polio at age 15. Doctors did not predict that she would live, and without an available iron lung, she survived by pure determination. She always remembered the nurse's advice at the time, "you've got to make the best of the present". Returning to school with permanent disabilities, using crutches and callipers, Valma completed her Leaving Certificate with flying results. Mrs Myles employed guidance counsellors at the School, and although wanting to become a teacher, Valma was encouraged to study law. The Law School at UWA, initially reluctant to accept a student with disabilities, was convinced by Mrs Myles to give Valma the opportunity. Carried up and down stairs by fellow law students, Valma was one of only two women in her year at UWA to graduate with a law degree.

Despite the physical challenges that would beset her, Valma married Ian at St Mary's West Perth Church and had three children: Howard, Michael and Rebecca. Supporting her husband, who was himself a prominent lawyer, she would rise to become a Senior Partner in a law firm, an exceptional achievement for a woman at that time, and went on to serve the legal profession with distinction. Working at the Citizens' Advice Bureau and specialising in family law, Valma was also appointed as the Inaugural Chair of the Case Review Board and continued as Chair of the Case Review Panel at the Department of Community Services for many years. She was also the Chair of the Kalparrin Centre, which supports children with developmental needs, and was a member of the Access and Inclusion Committee for the Brightwater Care Group.

Valma was farewelled at the age of 92. Extended family, friends, colleagues, represented organisations, and members of the St Mary's community gathered at the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club, watching the glistening Swan River in the afternoon sun, as excerpts from Valma's school oral history were recalled to those present, with many tears and much laughter being heard.



St Mary's Anglican Girls' School offers its condolences to the families of the following members of our community.

Elizabeth Barrett ('98)

Andrea Bok ('91)

Boyd Craig

Angela Don ('64)

Tracey Emery ('07)

Glenys Hubery (Kemshall '57)

Bettyanne Huntington

(Hopkins '61)

Melissa Langton (Duggan '93)

Pamela Leiper (Biggs '55,

Head Girl)

Jillian Loveday (Sheedy '70)

Valma McLean (Fallon '49)

Elizabeth Stubbs (Hunt '51)

Dr Marjorie Wallace-Le

(Wallace '54)

MARLENE CARTER ('63)

Marlene Rae Carter was born in Meckering, a regional WA town, on 27 September 1945. She was the only child of Raymond and Albina Carter, who owned a farm that raised sheep and grew wheat. Raymond had served in the Royal Australian Air Force during the war, which was hard for the farm, but he thought service to his country was too important. Service would play a large part in Marlene's life, and she learned self-reliance and connection to the land and animals on the farm. First attending Meckering Primary School, Marlene then boarded at St Mary's from 1958 – 1962, spending her final year as a day girl in 1963. A devoted Riley House member, but not always the most diligent student, Marlene excelled in subjects that she loved and where she liked the teachers, so Economics and Geography were her strongest areas. As a boarder, she would have midnight feasts and enjoy going into the city for Saturday shopping trips and matinee movies. There were Saturday dancing lessons and Sunday church services with the Hale School boys, as well as choir singing at weddings at St Mary's West Perth Church.

Sport was Marlene's great enjoyment. She was a tennis champion, received Basketball (now known as netball) Honours, and threw javelin at the first IGSSA Athletics at Perry Lakes Stadium in 1963. She was awarded the 'Best Sportswoman' in that same year. Marlene learned and enjoyed piano and finished her school life with the Citizenship Award, an award that would be emblematic of her adult life. She would also finish school with friends for life, and an unparalleled devotion and loyalty to all things St Mary's. Caught up in Principal Theresa Macdonald's enthusiasm and fundraising efforts, Marlene spent her time during the summer holidays after completing her Leaving exams, door-knocking and canvassing donations for the School to move from West Perth to Karrinyup in the 'A Place to Grow' campaign. Hugely successful and community-driven, this campaign inspired Marlene to believe that building programs and projects could be achieved if everyone could pull together and contribute. Even if people didn't have money to spare, they could donate in kind or time, as farmers donated hay bales and sheep or produce to be auctioned. As Marlene explained, "it was a wonder to watch."

After graduating, Marlene attended Edwards Business College and subsequently worked in an administrative role in London. After returning to Perth, she worked for different departments at the University of WA and held positions at business development organisations and also for various politicians.

Always a member of the Old Girls' Association (OGA), Marlene attended her first OGA Committee Meeting with a friend in 1984, and was a Committee Member by 1985. By 1989, her business acumen and experience were recognised and put to good use when she became the OGA Representative on the Board of Management of the Foundation until 1996.



Marlene was also:

- 1987: Vice President of the OGA
- 1988 to 1998: President of the OGA
- 1992 to 1995: Treasurer of the OGA
- 1992: Member of the Junior School Building Appeal Committee
- 1996: Awarded Honorary Life Membership of the OGA
- 1996: Chair of the 75th Birthday Fundraising Campaign for the Audrey Jackson Learning Technologies Centre
- 1996: Made a Trustee of the Foundation
- 1996 to 1998: OGA Representative on the Board of Governors
- 1997: Trusted member of the Selection Committee for the new Principal
- 1999 to 2012: Junior Vice Chair of the Foundation
- 2005: An annual Old Girls' Association scholarship was named in Marlene's honour
- 2008: Marlene's donation to the Metricup campaign, Carter Cottage, was named at St Mary's at Metricup: The Lady Treatt Centre for Learning and Leadership
- 2013 to 2018: Senior Vice Chair of the Foundation
- 2019 to 2020: Chair of the Foundation
- 2013 to 2025: Patron of the Bishop Riley Bequest Society, with outstanding stewardship and guidance for bequests and legacies to the School and the scholarship program
- 2015: The Marlene Carter Heritage Centre opens
- 2021: Made an Honorary Member for Life of St Mary's for outstanding and prolonged service to the School and the OGA
- Member of the Fideliter Society, for consistent, yearly donations to the annual giving campaigns and appeals

Of all Marlene's accolades and contributions to St Mary's, the one that was so meaningful for her was the naming of the Marlene Carter Heritage Centre in 2015. With its establishment, the heritage, traditions and history of the School would be carried out in perpetuity, with accuracy at museum standard and incorporating curriculum involvement. Marlene dearly wanted the current students to know and understand where their school had come from and just how lucky they were to be here. As Marlene said, and would wish all St Mary's girls to say, "I am proud to say I went to St Mary's".



St Mary's
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