



**ST MARY'S**  
COLLEGE

**20**  
**24**

# LIBERATIONS MAGAZINE

SPRING EDITION

[www.stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au](http://www.stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au)



# REFLECTION

## DARREN ATKINSON

College Principal

As I pause to reflect on the first half of this year, my introduction to St Mary's College, it is with the sound of heavy machinery in the background. But rather than consider this noise pollution, it is "music to our ears" for those who have been long awaiting the redevelopment of one of our most valuable learning spaces on the Edmund Rice Campus. It marks the next important step in realising our vision for an exciting future at St Mary's College and, more generally, for Catholic co-education in inner Melbourne. When the redevelopment of the McCartney Wing and the McCarthy (Yumba) Building is completed in a couple of months, our whole school community will unite on one campus at 11 Westbury St, East St Kilda and there is a genuine air of excitement about this future. There is belief in our motto – Better Together – and that while the physical environment needs to support learning, it is in building upon caring and respectful relationships that true transformation occurs. The warm welcome one receives when they join the College community is real. Others had told me about it, and most schools profess to offer it on their website, but experiencing it is special.

In articulating our vision for Catholic co-education at St Mary's College we started the year by focusing on our School Improvement Plan. After consultation with our students, parents, and teachers, we were able to define four key priority areas:

- Pride in our Identity – we want to celebrate that we are proudly one of many schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition.
- High Expectations – we should have high expectations of each other.
- Inclusivity – we want St Mary's College to be a place known for inclusion and equity.
- Excellence in Learning – we strive for excellent outcomes for all our learners.

Within these four priority areas we have identified intended outcomes and the targets that we seek to achieve over the next four years. Our future as a mid-sized co-educational learning centre where students are known, understood, and empowered is exciting. To be able to perform at their best, young people need to feel that they belong, and our young people, especially those who have already experienced secondary schooling elsewhere, tell us that this is a feature of the student experience at St Mary's College. There has been much good work already done in our brief history thank you to the efforts of Mr Terry Blizzard and Mr Michael Lee, my predecessors, our passionate staff, and great support from the School Advisory Council and parent community and we look to build upon these strong foundations.

Please enjoy this edition of Liberations magazine as we showcase some of the highlights on the year thus far.



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# OPENING MASS

Our Opening School Mass marked a momentous occasion for St Mary's College. We were blessed with the spirit of togetherness, a hallmark of our community, as we embarked on another academic year with new hope.

The Mass was particularly special as we officially commissioned our new Principal, Mr. Darren Atkinson. His commitment to leading with integrity and dedication was evident, and we are excited about the positive impact he will have on our college. In addition to welcoming Mr. Atkinson, we proudly invested our College Prefects in a heartfelt ceremony. These student leaders have been empowered to guide and inspire their peers, embodying the values and principles of St Mary's College. We congratulate and welcome all of our new leaders.



COMMISSIONING  
CEREMONY



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# PREFECT FAMILY EVENING

**A WONDERFUL  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
EXTEND A WARM  
WELCOME.**

The St Mary's College Prefect Family Evening unfolded as a tremendous success, creating a heartwarming atmosphere of connection and inspiration. The event provided us with a wonderful opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our esteemed College Prefects and their families.

Amidst the joyous occasion, we were privileged to hear insightful words from our dynamic College Captains MacKenzie Prentice Evans and Geremy Baxas along with our Principal, Mr. Darren Atkinson. Their visions for the future of St Mary's College resonated deeply, setting the tone for an exciting academic year.

A special highlight of the evening was the presence of our valued current parent, Mr. Steven Baxas, who shared invaluable perspectives and experiences. His contributions enriched the event, emphasizing the importance of community collaboration and support. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of this special evening





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# INTERNATIONAL WOMAN'S DAY

On Friday, 8th March the St Mary's community recognised and celebrated International Women's Day.

On arrival to school, the College community were greeted by student representatives handing out purple ribbons. Historically, purple was a colour that denoted justice and dignity, and now it is used to represent women. Our student representatives created a positive and engaging start to the day and our community wore ribbons with pride.

Member of Parliament, Katherine Copsey (Southern Metro for the Greens), visited the College for International Women's Day. Meeting with students from Y7-12, Katherine spoke about her journey into politics and emphasised the importance of gender equality. She shed light on her endeavours in combating the climate crisis, promoting sustainable energy, and mitigating gambling harm. Katherine offered valuable insights and fielded questions from our attentive students. Her presence ignited a spark of inspiration among them, with many keen to learn more about a career in politics.



# TRADE AND TECH FIT EXPO

Recently, five Year 9 and 10 students visited the Trade and Tech Fit Expo at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre.

The aim of the Expo was to expose young women to a range of career options they might not have otherwise considered.

Alongside the many women, both young and old, working in the traditional trades of electrical, building, plumbing and automotive, there were also many females present employed in highly technical industries such as engineering, ICT, cloud computing, automotive design, plus emergency services, land conservation and environment, to name just a few. The girls were able to chat with them to gain a new perspective on their possible pathways.

The girls also tried their hands at all the skills on offer from bricklaying and carpentry to electrical circuits, materials testing and even resuscitation with the Fire Rescue service. There were trucks, Australia Post carts and machinery to climb aboard, cycles to test performance and games to play.

It was quite a voyage of discovery, with the girls enthusiastic to enter numerous competitions and have a go at all the activities.





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# YEAR 7 FORMATION DAY

To our newest students: Welcome to the St Mary's College family! We hope your journey is filled with exciting opportunities, new friendships, and endless possibilities. Year 7 Formation Day at St Mary's College marks the beginning of an exciting journey. Our Year 7 students immersed themselves in a day filled with camaraderie, learning, and forming connections that will last a lifetime. Parents, guardians, and families, thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of shaping your child's educational adventure. Together, let's make this year one of growth, discovery, and success.



# ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE



The dawn service at the Caulfield RSL is more than another opportunity for our very capable musicians to perform. It requires our students to play styles of music that are not necessarily their normal area of interest, such as our drummers leaving the rock band behind to march down St Georges Rd. Or our choir to sing with strength and volume to an outdoor audience of around 1000 people.

The most impressive part of what took place at the RSL on Thursday morning was the deep sense of service, reverence and purpose behind our presence and the music we brought to the community.



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# FEAST DAY OF BLESSED EDMUND RICE

St Mary's College acknowledged the Feast Day of Blessed Edmund Rice on Monday, 6th May and it was a day of great celebration. As my first experience of our feast day, I was impressed by the generosity of spirit on demonstration during the day. I especially appreciated the way the audience supported our "masked singers" who took a risk and performed in front of their peers. The audience response showed that we want others to feel safe in our community and this is admirable. There was a great energy with the whole school community on the Edmund Rice Campus for the day that further reinforces my sense of optimism about our future on a single campus.





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# MELBOURNE GRAND PRIX WITH ST MARY'S COLLEGE APPLIED COMPUTING CLASS

Our students had an adrenaline-packed day at the Melbourne Grand Prix, courtesy of the Applied Computing class at St Mary's College! From thrilling e-races to cutting-edge technology, it was an experience to remember for our future tech enthusiasts.

They immersed themselves in the world of motorsport, exploring the latest innovations in computing and data analysis behind the scenes. From analysing race telemetry to learning about real-time simulations, our students got a first-hand look at how computing powers the world of Formula 1.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to apply their classroom knowledge to a real-world setting and gain valuable insights into the intersection of technology and sports.



## AFLW SUCCESS

St Mary's College was thrilled with the outstanding success of our AFLW teams, who claimed victory in both the Junior and Senior CGSAV Division 4 Grand Finals!

- Seniors Grand Final: St Mary's College emerged victorious with a score of 3-3-21, defeating St Aloysius, who scored 2-0-12.
- Juniors Grand Final: Our Junior team also triumphed, scoring 6-4-34 against Mercy College's 1-2-8.

Congratulations to all our players for their incredible hard work and dedication.







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# ST MARY'S COLLEGE WALKATHON: A DAY OF FAITH, COMMUNITY, AND SOLIDARITY

The St Mary's College community came together for a significant fundraising effort, culminating in the annual walkathon. The day began with a beautiful and reverent liturgy, grounding students in the purpose behind their participation. They were reminded of the symbolic significance of the walkathon through prayers and reflections shared by staff and students. Mr. Lima even recounted the walkathon's rich history, spanning over 50 years. The Parents & Friends Association once again played a vital role, generously providing food and energy to the community at the end of the long walk. Their presence was invaluable and greatly appreciated by all. The dedication of our staff also deserves recognition, as they not only modeled justice and solidarity by walking alongside the students but also ensured their safety along the challenging 12 km route.

A special thanks goes to our students, whose enthusiasm and commitment made the walkathon a resounding success. While the walk was designed to be somewhat uncomfortable, it served as a powerful reminder of the importance of standing in solidarity with those on the margins of society.



# LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

## 2024

### SENIOR COLLEGE PRODUCTION

St Mary's College recently dazzled audiences with its spectacular production of Little Shop of Horrors. The Senior Musical, held over several nights, showcased the incredible talent and hard work of our students, staff, and community.

From the vibrant performances to the impressive set design, every aspect of the show reflected the dedication and passion of everyone involved. The cast brought the quirky characters of this cult classic to life with energy and enthusiasm, while the live orchestra delivered a flawless score, adding depth and excitement to each scene.

The production was a true community effort, with students from all year levels contributing to various aspects, including the backstage crew, set construction, and costume design. The professionalism and commitment displayed by the students were evident in every detail, making this year's Senior Musical a resounding success.







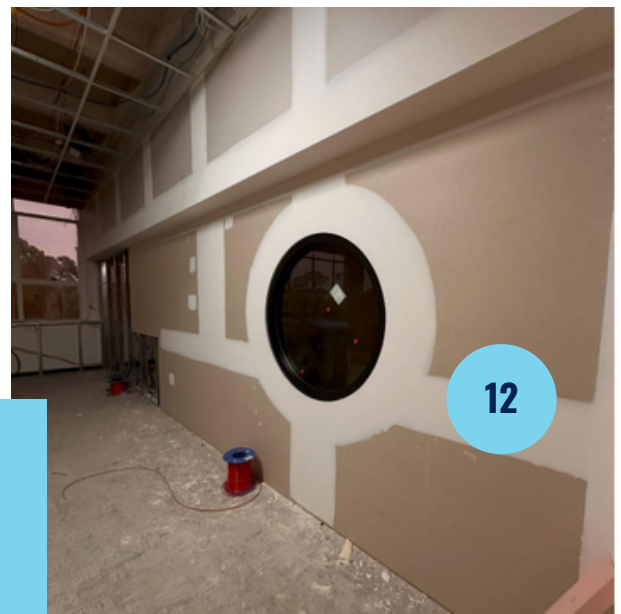
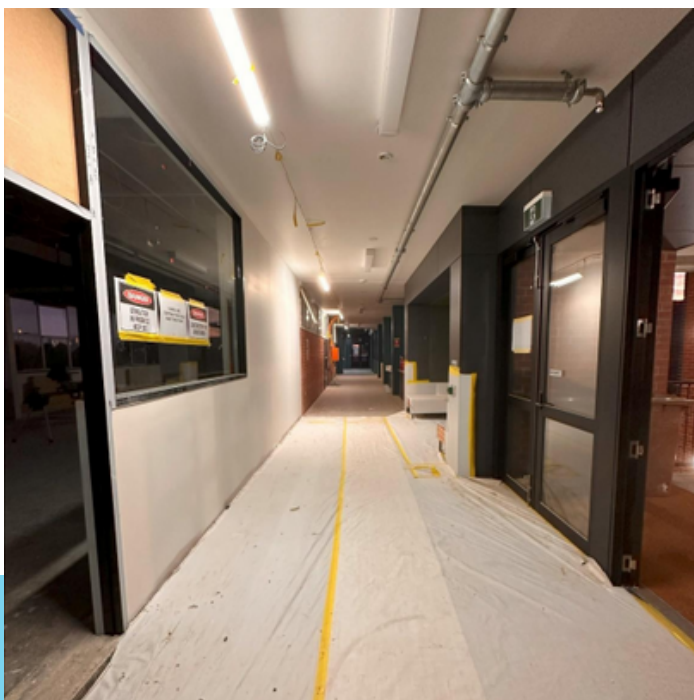
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# CAPITAL WORKS

St Mary's College is currently undergoing a significant transformation through its capital works program. These developments are part of the College's ongoing commitment to enhancing the learning environment and providing improved facilities for its students and staff.

One of the major projects in progress is the refurbishment of the McCartney Wing. This renovation is set to modernise classrooms and common areas, providing flexible and dynamic learning spaces that cater to the diverse needs of our students. The updated facilities will incorporate a Food Technology area and a STEM facility, ensuring that our students are equipped with the tools they need to succeed in an ever-evolving educational landscape.

In addition to the McCartney Wing, there are also minor refurbishments taking place in the Yumba area, which is a vital space for our College community. These improvements aim to create a more inviting and functional environment, fostering collaboration and interaction among students. The entire school community is eagerly anticipating the completion of these projects, which will undoubtedly enhance the overall experience at St Mary's College. We are grateful for the support and patience of our students, staff, and parents during this period of growth and change. The future at St Mary's College is bright, and these developments are just the beginning of many exciting things to come.





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# GRADUATE TUTORING PROGRAM

St Mary's College is proud to offer a Graduate Tutoring Program, a vital initiative designed to support our students in achieving their academic goals. This program reflects our commitment to providing personalised educational experiences that cater to the diverse learning needs of our students.

The Graduate Tutoring Program is staffed by some of our recent Year 12 graduates who bring fresh perspectives and expertise to the classroom. These tutors work closely with students, offering targeted support in a range of subjects, from mathematics and science to humanities and languages. Their role is to supplement the work of our teachers, providing additional guidance and reinforcing key concepts to help students excel.



## EXPLORING BINARY CODE IN YEAR 7 DIGITECH CLASSES!

In our Year 7 Digitech classes, students have been diving into the fascinating world of binary code. This foundational concept in computer science forms the backbone of digital communication and computing systems.

As part of their exploration, students recently engaged in a hands-on activity that brought binary code to life in a creative and meaningful way. In preparation for Mother's Day, students had the opportunity to translate heartfelt messages, such as "Love you, Mum" and "Thank you for everything," into binary code.

Using their newfound knowledge, students meticulously reproduced these binary sequences onto bracelets, transforming them into unique and personalised gifts for their mothers. Each bracelet became a wearable symbol of appreciation and affection, encoded in the language of computers. As our Year 7 students continue their journey in Digitech classes, we look forward to further exploration and discovery in the realm of digital technology.



# CAMPS AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Outdoor education at St Mary's College offers students unique and adventurous learning experiences that go beyond the classroom. Throughout the year, students have the opportunity to engage in various outdoor activities, including surfing, mountain bike riding, hiking, snorkeling, and skiing.

These camps are designed to challenge students physically and mentally while fostering teamwork, resilience, and a deep appreciation for nature. Whether navigating waves during a surfing lesson, exploring rugged trails on mountain bikes, or skiing down snowy slopes, each experience builds confidence and encourages personal growth. These activities are more than just recreational; they are integral to the development of essential life skills and form an unforgettable part of the St Mary's College educational journey.







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# PCW OPEN DAY

Presentation College Windsor (PCW) campus was filled with laughter, nostalgia, and warm reunions as over 500 former students and staff gathered for the highly anticipated PCW Open Day. The event was a beautiful opportunity for alumnae to wander through the familiar halls of their old school, reconnect with lifelong friends, and reminisce about the cherished memories they created during their time at PCW.

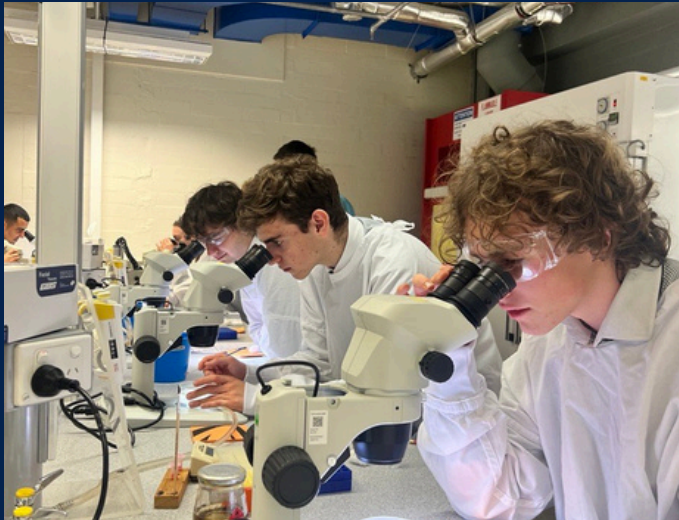
As visitors strolled through the campus, they were transported back in time, revisiting classrooms, the library, and the school grounds that once played such a significant role in their education and personal development. The atmosphere was filled with joy and reflection, as old friends shared stories, compared notes on how much (or how little) had changed, and celebrated the lasting impact of their education at PCW. Thank you to everyone who made this day so special. Your presence and participation were integral to the event's success.





# YEAR 12 BIOLOGY

Year 12 Biology students attended a specialised workshop at Melbourne University to engage in advanced laboratory activities directly related to Unit 4, Outcomes 1 and 2 of their Biology curriculum. This workshop provided an invaluable hands-on experience, allowing students to apply theoretical knowledge in a real-world setting, further deepening their understanding of complex biological processes. During the workshop, students conducted a series of experiments that explored critical concepts such as gene expression, biotechnology, and the regulation of biochemical pathways. By working in a university lab environment, they had access to state-of-the-art equipment and the opportunity to collaborate with university faculty, gaining insights that will be crucial for their upcoming assessments and future studies.



# BIG BAND @ VSMF

## VICTORIAN SCHOOL MUSIC FESTIVAL

We were very happy to receive a Silver Award at the Victorian Schools Music Festival held in August. This was the first time our musicians have been entered to perform at the festival. Despite the nerves going into the festival as rookies, our musicians performed like seasoned campaigners. Well done to everyone involved.



# ASSOCIATION SPORT







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