

ISSUE 01

THE EXPAT'S



WINTER EDITION 2026

St Patricks College Townsville - Alumni Update



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE
TOWNSVILLE



A Message from the Principal

Welcome to the first edition of St Patrick's College Townsville's *The Ex Pat's* magazine.

Having now been at the College for a little over a year, I have a more mature understanding of the unique and special character that is an intrinsic part of our 121 year old College. More recently, this has been confirmed as I've had the opportunity to travel to various Alumni functions from Brisbane to Port Moresby, meeting with graduates and hearing their memories of their time at school. While the stories are different, what resonates is the look in past students' eyes as they share their memories. Fondness, for sure. Nostalgia, perhaps. But beyond this, a recognition that St Patrick's represented a definitive time in their lives. Many, described the role of either the Sisters, or a key teacher, in going the extra mile when they needed it. This *The Ex Pat's* magazine aims to keep our alumni in touch with the College in a more meaningful way - building a sisterhood that is enduring across time and place.

Kath Little

COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

"We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us."

-Catherine McAuley



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE
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FROM THE COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

2026 marks the second year of our three year strategic plan and much is happening at the College to fulfill the mission of providing an inclusive, joy-filled education that promotes fullness of life and nurtures excellence in learning. The College now has an enrolment of 696 students and is currently interviewing prospective enrollees for positions in 2028 and 2029. It seems there is growing demand for what we are offering and a growing buzz about St Patrick's in the community, particularly after the College was awarded Employer of the Year at the Townsville Chamber of Commerce Awards in 2025.

A key focus for the College at the moment is boarding. In 2025, the College reviewed the overall leadership structure of boarding, putting in place a Deputy Principal - Students (Ms Kristen Armitage), to oversee both day and boarding on a strategic level. Our Dean of Boarding (Ms Paula Henderson) oversees daily operations, assisted by two Assistant Deans, one whose focus is on formation and wellbeing (Ms Gemma Stevens) and the other whose focus is academic tracking, mentoring and support (Ms Jo Gilmore). In 2026, there are plans afoot to upgrade some of our boarding facilities, including the development of a dedicated Health Centre. This will improve the delivery of health information and services to boarders, whilst also servicing students in our day school. We hope, into the future, to use these facilities to support the delivery of the Certificate III in Health, and AIN course, so that our young people can exit the College ready for work in a rapidly growing health sector.

Boarding remains at the centre of the College's mission - with many of our 100 boarders coming from Cape York, the Torres Strait Islands and PNG. Indeed, we have been advised recently that we are the largest boarding house for Torres Strait girls in Australia. We are also about to undertake our 2026 western and northern enrolment tour, heading to places including Mt Isa, Hughenden, Ingham and Innisfail.

Indeed, while much has changed, the College remains steadfast in its commitment to provide an excellent education for girls - even those in the distant far reaches of our continent and beyond.

We hope you enjoy this first edition of *The Ex Pat's*. Our intention will be to update our Alumni on developments biannually. This semester's edition will be known as *The Ex Pat's: Winter Edition*, and next semester's will be known as *The Ex Pat's: Christmas Edition*.





ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE
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CELEBRATING CONNECTION, COMMUNITY AND ALUMNI SPIRIT

Connection remains one of the defining features of life at St Patrick's College Townsville, and our alumni community continues to play an important role in the life of the College.

In Semester 1, we were delighted to host alumni gatherings in Townsville, Brisbane and Port Moresby, providing opportunities for past students to reconnect, share memories and celebrate the lifelong bond so many women continue to have with St Patrick's.

The visit to Port Moresby saw College staff spending time with both current and prospective families, sharing the St Patrick's experience and strengthening relationships. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to connect with families and highlight the opportunities available to young women at the College.

On the final evening of the trip, Ms Kath Little and Ms Sarah Silinju joined a group of alumni for dinner. The evening was filled with laughter, shared stories and fond memories of boarding life, reflecting the enduring friendships and strong sense of community that continue long after graduation.

Our Brisbane alumni gathering was equally special, bringing together past students from graduating classes spanning more than seven decades - from 1953 through to 2025. The event was a wonderful celebration of the stories, achievements and connections that unite generations of St Patrick's women.

We thank all those who attended our alumni events this semester and look forward to continuing to strengthen these valued connections in the years ahead. For all alumni enquiries, please email alumni@stpatscollege.qld.edu.au.





ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE
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SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day of school was filled with smiles as we welcomed our Year 7 students to the College, and our Year 12 students for their last first day of high school. Together with their families, we commenced 2026 with a meaningful Junior and Senior Investiture Ceremony.

Our 'Big Sisters' spent the day guiding their new 'Little Sisters' around campus, helping them feel at home from the beginning.

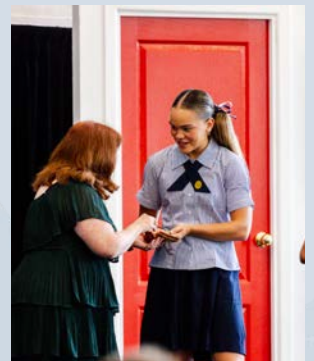




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SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS: YEAR 12 INVESTITURE

We proudly celebrated the Investiture of our Year 12 students, officially welcoming them as the student leaders of 2026. This joy-filled cohort have stepped into their roles with courage, kindness, and a dedication to serving our College community with heart and purpose.





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SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS: 10 YEARS OF #STEMLIKEAPATSGIRL

This year marked a major milestone as we celebrated ten years of our #STEMLikeAPatsGirl Conference.

What began as a local initiative created by Mr Chris Pacey and Ms Annie Van Homrigh has grown into one of North Queensland's leading STEM events for young women. This year's conference welcomed 200 students from across the region and continues to inspire girls to explore opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The College partners with leading organisations including James Cook University, the Australian Defence Force, Queensland Ambulance Service, Central Queensland University, Mater Hospital and many more to deliver this outstanding event.

Across the day, students had the opportunity to participate in a morning and afternoon workshop, covering a range of topics. This year, workshops included: Forensic Anatomy, ADF: Mission VR - Step Into The Action, Swallowing Solutions, S'Mater Care, It's Rocket Science, STEM PUNKS, Secrets of the Sea: The Turtle Count, Avian Bird Flu, Stayin' Alive and Sensory Superpowers. We are grateful to the workshop providers for sharing these engaging workshops, allowing the students to participate in hands-on STEM experiences.

We're also incredibly grateful to our major sponsor, Rummage Technical, for championing girls in STEM and helping us mark this incredible 10-year milestone.

As we celebrate ten years of success, we're also looking ahead to new opportunities, with future initiatives including Create Like a Pats Girl for the Arts and Play Like a Pats Girl for Sport, building on the same spirit of creativity, confidence and participation.





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SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS: FUTURES & LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

Our inaugural Futures & Leadership Symposium challenged Year 10 and Year 12 students to think boldly about the pathways ahead. Students were inspired by renowned futurist and global data visualisation expert Simon Kuestenmacher, who shared insights into the trends shaping tomorrow's world. JBWere's Head of Alternative Investments, Gillian Gordon, also captivated students with her journey from regional Queensland to managing global financial portfolios.

A panel of Townsville leaders provided valuable real-world perspectives before students took part in hands-on workshops covering financial literacy with Carey Group, nutrition with the North Queensland Toyota Cowboys, practical car maintenance with Tyrepower, renting rights with Whaites + Co, and resume writing and scholarship information led by our expert staff.

Across two inspiring days, students developed the knowledge and confidence to navigate an ever-changing world and embrace the opportunities ahead. Thank you to our speakers and partners who helped bring this event to life. We look forward to growing this initiative in the years to come!



2026 PANELISTS

L-R Back Row: Brigadier Fern Thompson CSC, Simon Kuestenmacher, Shannon Seeborn, Gillian Gordon

L-R Front Row: Jess Keir, Kath Little (College Principal), Emma Peters



Scan here to learn more



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MERCY IN ACTION

One of the most inspiring examples of Mercy in action in Semester 1 came through our support of the Mater Foundation.

What began as a Principalities House initiative quickly grew into a College-wide effort, with students, staff and families raising more than \$12,000 for breast cancer research. It was a wonderful reflection of the generosity and compassion that continue to define our community.





ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE
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OUR RED DOOR



One of the most meaningful additions to the College this year has been our Red Door.

At the end of 2025, the Boarding House door was painted red. While simple in appearance, it carries deep significance. It is inspired by Catherine McAuley's original House of Mercy on Baggot Street, where the open door became a symbol of radical welcome and compassion; a place where everyone was received with dignity and care.

Today, our Red Door is a reminder of that same spirit of Mercy. It represents welcome, hospitality and belonging, and reflects our commitment that every person who enters our College should feel known, valued and at home.



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE
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VINNIES WINTER APPEAL



Our Mercy Girls in Action recently led a Vinnies Market Stall as part of the College's support for their Winter Appeal, offering affordable items to the College community and raising funds for St Vincent de Paul.

This initiative reflects the heart of our Mercy values - supporting those in need through compassion, dignity and action. The funds raised will help provide essential items and support to individuals and families doing it tough this winter.

We are proud of our students for putting their faith into action and making a meaningful difference in our wider community.





ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE
TOWNSVILLE

A NOTE FROM THE COLLEGE CAPTAINS



As any St Patrick's student would know, whether past or present, this school is like no other. The warmth, community, and sisterhood that emanates from the College is truly irreplaceable. Though St Pat's has changed over time, our Mercy Values remain steadfast. Each day we are encouraged to take opportunity with both hands, whilst keeping compassion, respect, integrity, justice, hope and joy at the forefronts of our minds. We are able to learn, grow, and succeed in an environment that has been carefully and lovingly created by generations of women before us. For that, we say thank you.

Bridget Baxter & Mary Lansley
COLLEGE CAPTAINS



Taiko Drumming at Twilight Open Evening



Year 9 Camp



Big Sister Little Sister - Cupcakes & Conversations



Senior students at the Year 12 Formal



Year 12 cohort at the Athletics Carnival



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CURRENT STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



SIENNA MONTEITH

From her early days racing on the velodrome at just 4 years old, Sienna Monteith has always shown a passion for cycling that sets her apart. Fast forward to today, and that dedication has propelled her onto the global stage.

Sienna recently demonstrated exactly why she belongs among the world's best, competing in Belgium with Team ARA Skip Capital at the UCI "In Flanders Fields" race.

Known as one of the toughest circuits in international cycling, the event lived up to its reputation. Battling through wind and rain, a field of 150 Under-19 women faced the challenges of European racing - cobbles, climbs, and classic kermesse conditions.

Kermesse racing quickly became the order of the day. Sienna wasted no time adapting to the Belgian peloton, riding confidently and asserting herself amongst experienced competitors. Her efforts paid off with an outstanding 6th place finish in Krombeke.

Backing up from her previous ride, she delivered something even more remarkable the following day - claiming the top step of the podium with a superb victory.

For Sienna, her results tell a powerful story: finishing 41st overall in such a competitive field may seem modest on paper, but context is everything. As a first-year rider in the Under-19 ranks, she is already proving she belongs at this level.

Her rapid rise has not gone unnoticed. As highlighted by Australian Cycling Academy, Sienna quickly found her feet in the Belgian bunch, racing with confidence and maturity to secure a podium before going one better the very next day - a testament to both her talent and her relentless drive to improve.

Looking ahead, all eyes will be on Sienna as she prepares to represent Australia at the Junior World Championships this August. With her strong foundation, growing experience in Europe, and proven ability to perform under pressure, she is undoubtedly a rider to watch!





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ST PATRICK'S STUDENTS MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD IN CANBERRA

ALANI BURTON & RACHEL KRISTENSEN

Earlier this year, two senior students represented Queensland at the National Schools Constitutional Convention in Canberra after being selected from among the state's highest-performing students.

Joining just 113 students from across Australia, they participated in seminars, debates and discussions at Parliament House, representing both North Queensland and St Patrick's with distinction.





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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



ANGELINA MASTRIPPOLITO

From boarder to trailblazing actuary, CEO and published author, Angelina Matrippolito's journey is one of perseverance, courage and breaking new ground.

Angelina attended St Patrick's College Townsville as a boarder in 1976 and 1977 for Years 11 and 12 after her previous school, Gilroy Santa Maria College in Ingham, did not offer senior secondary education. Looking back, she describes her time at the College in three words: "challenged, supported, inspired."

During her two years at the College, several teachers played a pivotal role in shaping her future. Physics teacher Mrs Sanderson welcomed Angelina into her class despite her limited science background, a decision that proved life changing. With only three students in the class, Angelina received encouragement that helped spark a lifelong interest in science, ultimately leading to a university science degree. She also fondly remembers maths teacher Mrs Lyons, whose enthusiasm

and support helped lay the foundation for a remarkable career in financial mathematics.

As a student, Angelina imagined she would become a maths teacher. While she initially pursued teacher training, she soon realised her path lay elsewhere. She went on to qualify as an actuary in 1988, entering what was then one of Australia's most male-dominated professions. At the time, there were only 30 female actuaries in the country, and Angelina became the first actuary from Far North Queensland. Her career opened doors she could never have imagined, leading her to consult with many of Australia's largest companies and multinational organisations before becoming CEO of a superannuation fund in 2012.

Throughout her career, Angelina drew on lessons learned during her school years. Having English as a second language and feeling as though she was "playing catch-up" academically taught her resilience and determination. As a boarder, she was exposed to classmates from diverse backgrounds, fostering a genuine curiosity about people that later became one of her greatest strengths as a leader.

More recently, Angelina has added "author" to her impressive list of achievements. Her book, *Le Seconde*, explores family history, identity and the experiences of second-generation immigrants. Inspired by her own experience growing up in an Italian-Australian family, she wanted to authentically tell the stories of her parents, grandparents and a generation of women whose voices were often unheard. The book highlights the challenges faced by second-generation daughters navigating multiple cultures and expectations, while celebrating the transformative power of education.

The writing process gave Angelina a deeper appreciation of her family's courage and resilience. It also helped her better understand her own story and reinforced her passion for ensuring girls have access to education and opportunities.



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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Growing up on a sugar cane farm in North Queensland also shaped her outlook on life. Watching her parents take risks to build a future for their family taught her that stepping into the unknown can create opportunities beyond imagination. Living in a close-knit community further instilled values of kindness, connection and service to others.

A highlight of the College's 120-Year Celebration in 2025 was Angelina's opportunity to reconnect with Sister Helen Mary Peters, who had been her principal and English teacher at Gilroy Santa Maria College in 1974 and later served as Chair of the St Patrick's College Townsville Board. Angelina credits Sister Helen Mary's courage and vision with helping change the trajectory of her life by supporting opportunities for girls to study advanced mathematics at a time when such pathways were rare. Returning to St Patrick's, she was delighted to see the outstanding facilities and continued commitment to girls' education, particularly the impressive science labs.

Of all her achievements, Angelina is most proud of encouraging other women to believe they belong in spaces and professions where opportunities for women were once limited. Her advice to today's students is simple but powerful:

"Have the courage to change direction in your career and try something new. Believe in yourself as a leader and you will rise to the challenge."

As for what's next, Angelina is already researching her next book, inspired by the stories of proxy brides who arrived in Australia to marry Italian immigrants they had never met. It's another chapter that promises to bring overlooked stories to light.



Learn More:

Angelina's book, *Le Seconde: Inheriting the Unspoken - A Second Generation Immigrant Story*, is available to purchase on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com.au/Seconde-Inheriting-unspoken-second-generation-immigrant/dp/1764005716>





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EX PAT'S CHOIR

Our recent alumni events have been a wonderful celebration of the strong and enduring connections within the St Patrick's College Townsville community. We were delighted to welcome students, families and alumni to a special Music Soirée, where the evening came alive with outstanding student performances alongside a small but enthusiastic alumni choir - the Ex Pat's Choir. Together, they created a memorable showcase of the College's rich musical talent and vibrant community spirit.

Later in the year, the Ex Pat's Choir will perform at Mercy Mass, Tuesday 15 September, and the Valedictory Assembly, Wednesday 18 November.

If you are interested in joining the Ex Pat's Choir, please email: music@stpatscollege.qld.edu.au





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PAST STAFF SPOTLIGHT

SUE RHEINBERGER

Sue Rheinberger has been a familiar and much-loved presence at St Patrick's College Townsville for more than 30 years. A dedicated teacher of English, Geography, History and Legal Studies, she taught and supported thousands of young women during her time at the College.

Sue has always encouraged students to look beyond the classroom. She regularly organised local, North Queensland and international excursions, giving students the chance to experience learning in the real world and grow as active, engaged citizens.

She has long held the belief that students should strive to be "unashamedly excellent" in all that they do, a mindset that has shaped her involvement in a wide range of College activities including Rock Eisteddfod, Optiminds, Lions Youth of the Year, Rostrum and the Reef Guardian Program.

Sue retired at the end of 2023, marking an extraordinary 42-year teaching career, including 31 years at St Patrick's College Townsville. She continues to return to the College for supply teaching from time to time, and is always welcomed back with open arms.

She has been a mentor, a role model and a steady source of support for generations of students and staff, and her contribution to the College is warmly remembered and deeply appreciated.





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THE COLLEGE: THEN & NOW





ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE
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UPCOMING ENROLMENT TOURS

Charters Towers Show

26 - 28 July

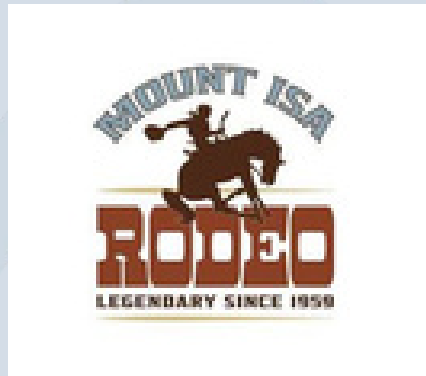
Ms Joanna Pacey & Ms Sue Cafferky



Mount Isa Rodeo

06 - 09 August

Ms Joanna Pacey & Ms Paula Henderson



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We give thanks and respectfully acknowledge the Wulgurukaba people, the Traditional Custodians of this beautiful country whose land our College shares. We recognise their ongoing deep spiritual connection to this Country, and the care they gave to it for thousands of years. We also acknowledge the Bindal people as the neighbouring Custodians of their Country. We pay our respects to all of the Elders, past and present.