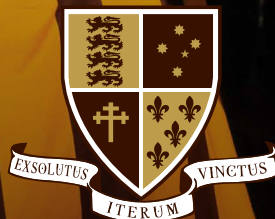


The Johnian

WINTER
2025

The official magazine of St John's College Within The University of Queensland



St John's College
Within The University of Queensland

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Cover image: The St John's College Men's Relay Team celebrate their victory at the 40th UQ Great Court Race in May. Image supplied by UQ Sport. Opposite page: The Lipp family with Vice Warden and Warden on Move in Day.

From the Warden

Ms Rose Alwyn

St John's College has always been more than just a place to live. It's a community where people are challenged, supported, and encouraged to take part in something bigger than themselves.

This year marks 35 years since the college became co-residential; an important milestone in the College's modern history. Today, we welcome students from all walks of life – from rural and remote areas, metropolitan centres, and overseas. This diversity strengthens our community, brings fresh perspectives, and reflects our ongoing commitment to making St John's a place where residents and alumni alike feel welcome, safe and supported.

As part of our celebrations this year, the College hosted a Women in Leadership High Tea at the Lodge, featuring guest

speakers Dr Elizabeth Jameson AM and Dr Robyn Littlewood, CEO of Queensland Health and Wellbeing. Earlier in the semester, the two Warden's Dinners featured women in leadership with guest speakers Kerry Petersen, Chief Impact Officer for Brisbane 2032 and alumna Jane Couchman, Chief Strategy Officer at BDO.

In the second semester, we'll introduce five new photographic portraits into the Dining Hall. These new portraits honour women who are leaders in their field and contributed to the College and include four of our Honorary Fellows, the Hon. Joan Sheldon AM, The Hon. Justice Debra Mullins AO, Kerry Holland, Dr Jane Williamson and Dr Sasaka Bandaranayake, the first woman to serve as president of the SJC Student Club. The portraits will be unveiled at the Old Johnians' Association Annual Dinner on 4 October, which will also bring together alumni from cohorts ending in '5, ahead of the Gala Dinner on 19 September 2026 to mark 115 years of the College.

The semester has been defining in other ways too, which you will read about in this edition of the Johnian, from flagship events such as A&P Dinner to NRW and Family Night. It was a real delight to welcome back alumnus Dr Gayan Benedict, CTO of Salesforce Australia and New Zealand and former Chief Information Officer of the Reserve Bank of Australia and a Fulbright Scholar, to deliver the address at our 42nd Annual Academic and Professional Dinner.



Dr Benedict spoke about four themes that have shaped his career and thinking: formative experience, curiosity, resilience, and the ethical questions raised by artificial intelligence.

The A&P dinner also provided an opportunity to celebrate academic achievements of our residents which included 95 students achieving an average GPA of 6.0, and of those 95, 35 achieved a GPA of 6.5 or higher and ten a remarkable GPA of 7.0.

Work continues with the College Council on the College's Master Plan, which aims to strengthen both our physical environment and the student experience it supports. The goal is simple: to ensure our facilities match the aspirations of our students; spaces that are fit for purpose, supportive of community life, and ready for the decades ahead. I look forward to sharing more with you in the next edition of this magazine.

Earlier this month, I spent

nearly two weeks in the US which included visiting institutions such as NYU, Princeton and Harvard, meeting with staff and colleagues leading residential life. They offered insights into how student wellbeing, academic development and inclusive leadership are being supported within their college communities. There was much to take away and plenty to affirm that we're already doing many things well at St John's, especially when it comes to building a strong sense of community and helping students grow in confidence as they prepare for life beyond university.

I also had the pleasure of spending time with the Rev'd Dick Burnett, General Secretary of the Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion (CUAC) at the Episcopal Church Centre in east side mid town Manhattan, one block from the UN building. I sit on the CUAC Board of Trustees as the Oceania Representative, and it was valuable to connect in person. I also met with several Johnian alumni, including Dr Ian Webb and Dr Denver Dale (1983–86), who, along with his partner Dr Trish, kindly hosted me at their home in Carmel. It was a generous and very enjoyable visit and, I am pleased to report after driving in the US for the first time, both car and warden arrived back without incident!

Back at College, our focus on student safety and respectful culture remains central. We continue to work closely with UQ and sector partners in preparation for the forthcoming National Student Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based

Violence. In my role on the Executive of University Colleges Australia, and as a member of the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sexual Misconduct, I've also been contributing to national efforts in this space. Here at St John's, our staff have been working well together in the implementation of a new reporting tool, RespectX, to support residents in raising concerns and seeking help when needed part of our ongoing work to embed a culture of accountability and care.

The heavy rain and localised flooding caused by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred earlier in the semester brought some disruption (including the cancellation of our International Women's Day breakfast), but it also highlighted the adaptability and community spirit of our students. Their leadership in the community, in sport, in performing arts, or simply day to day College life continues to shape what John's is all about.

Looking ahead, our focus remains on delivering the Master Plan, expanding our alumni engagement, progressing our philanthropic priorities, and continuing to nurture the relationships that make this College strong, from Council and the Diocese to our university partners and alumni community.

Thank you for being part of it.

**Rose Alwyn
Warden**



An Evening of Achievement and Insight with Dr Gayan Benedict

Emma Pigott (23-25)

Bachelor Advanced Business (Residential Advisor, Goodbury)

Alumnus Dr Gayan Benedict (91-96), Chief Technology Officer for Salesforce (ANZ) and a Fulbright Scholar, delivered a keynote address that offered valuable insights. His reflections provide a useful advice for students to consider as they prepare for the transition from college to professional life.

As a third-year student, I am reaching the end of my time at John's. I am finding myself looking a bit more backwards and forwards than normal. Reflecting on my time here makes me realise just how much John's has changed me for the better. Sharing such a unique experience with others has allowed me to make life-long friends and create memories that I believe we will reflect on forever. Looking forwards helps me be excited for the new chapter ahead. The ability to make big decisions about our path, where we're going, what kind of people we want to be, and how we want to contribute, is

This year marked the 42nd Academic & Professional Dinner which is held in celebration of academic achievement and excellence within St John's College. With 95 students achieving a GPA of 6.0 or over and 35 achieving 6.5 or over for Semester 2, 2024, the evening recognised the hard work and dedication that defines our community. Each student may invite a professional to join them during the evening, providing an opportunity to acknowledge and meet our alumni, university academics, tutorial staff and professional community members.



Images clockwise from top left on opposite page: Will Cesta (former UCA Executive Manager) and Warden in front of the Harry Elkins Widener Library, Harvard University; Dr Gayan Benedict; Prof. Kris Ryan and Emma Pigott.



we share our professional journeys over the long run. We are so fortunate for the opportunity to build such meaningful relationships at college, yet a certain amount of effort must be made to nurture and appreciate these after our time at John's. I am already looking forward to progressing through adulthood with my friends from College.

keep going has been one of the most valuable lessons I've learned so far.

Lastly, he asked us to consider how we approach the emerging power of artificial intelligence. The ethical challenge of AI is particularly important to me as a Business Analytics major, especially concerning privacy, transparency, human identity, and dignity. We have seen how transformative the Internet has been for industries and our world. Gayan agrees that AI will do the same and perhaps more profoundly. Yet we must ensure we protect the very things that make us human. Human craftsmanship and artistry should never be let to atrophy - in its imperfect and unpredictably authentic manner. Preserving the process of natural creation through means such as writing, music, and art is our responsibility.

As students, we are part of a community at St John's that actively promotes meaningful conversations and supports personal development. Hearing from someone as accomplished and thoughtful as Dr Benedict offered a valuable opportunity to reflect on how I hope to live, contribute, and lead beyond the walls of College.

Next, he demonstrated the necessity of learning from failure. He spoke vulnerably about setbacks he faced through work at the Reserve Bank - moments that could have easily led to discouragement yet instead became turning points for growth. His honesty reminded me that even the most accomplished make mistakes. Framing mistakes positively and as lessons to be learned is how we grow. College has

taught me to not take myself so seriously, to laugh when things go wrong, to own my mistakes, and to see failure not as a reflection of my worth but as part of becoming more resilient, adaptable, and human. That ability to step back, find humour, and



Images clockwise from bottom left: Alexander Grant and Kylie Webb; Prof. Margaret Sheil AO, Jonathon Ward and Rose Alwyn; John Peden KC, Prof. Margaret Sheil AO, Christopher Ktenidis, Rose Alwyn, Dr Gayan Benedict and Prof. Kris Ryan; Georgia Steel, Sophie Williams College Dux, Veronique Anderson and Reva Thaker; Kevin Kim and Lillian Kofod.

Gayan introduced his first theme with a reflection on his childhood - emigrating from Sri Lanka and setting in East Arnhem Land, developing an early appreciation for Aboriginal culture and sharing a deep respect for learned wisdom and the environment. Hearing about the tragic loss of his younger brother felt very impactful, particularly as Gayan was able to turn this grief into a drive to realise his unmet potential. In my relatively short life and experiences to date, being outside of my comfort zone and facing adversity has been the strongest catalyst for my growth. Demonstrating resilience and courage in the aftermath of hardship is something we should all aspire towards.

The second theme of curiosity touched on his years at John's and the importance of community. Gayan and I share the view that the value of college is really not

the room you live in, but the ability to bond over shared experiences. Choosing to live in a community environment has given me such a unique chance to appreciate the differences of others. Learning about where my friends have come from and what they bring to the table has truly helped me become more well-rounded and understanding. Indeed, Gayan shared advice from a senior White House official and a Georgetown alum: the most lasting and impactful relationships often come from the peers with whom



Rose Alwyn
Warden and CEO

Bridging Now to Next:

Reflections from the National Reconciliation Week Lunch

This year's National Reconciliation Week theme, Bridging Now to Next, invited us to reflect not only on the past but on the shared future we're building together. For the St John's College community, the 2025 Reconciliation Week Lunch provided an opportunity to honour this spirit through conversation, learning, and deep listening.

The event welcomed students and staff to engage with two powerful voices working at the cultural interface: Uncle Rod Williams and Dr Sam Cooms.

The conversation opened with an Acknowledgement of Country and a reminder of this year's significant

milestones: 25 years since the Walk for Reconciliation across the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and the second Reconciliation Week since the Voice Referendum. While these events form part of our national memory, the focus of the week was squarely on the future, how we choose to live, lead, listen, and regrow, both individually and collectively.

Uncle Rod Williams has spent decades working where First Nations knowledge systems meet Western structures.

Through his consultancy, Gongan, he introduces a business model rooted in cultural values and spiritual grounding. "All good business and all strong communities begin with a cultural and spiritual base," he shared. "Before we ask people to contribute, we must ask: *What is your culture? What is your spirituality?*"

This starting point is especially powerful in college settings, where students from diverse backgrounds are learning not just to co-exist, but to live in community. For Uncle Rod, these questions open the door to relational leadership, one that prioritises respect, reciprocity, and responsibility.

Dr Sam Cooms, an academic and leader in Indigenous strategy, offered insight into the challenges and opportunities of working across cultures within institutions. She highlighted the importance of moving beyond performative gestures to actions that are embedded and enduring.



Bridging
to Next



James Hattings, Gemma Purcell and Josii Hargreaves

What values are we cultivating in our communities? What kind of seeds are we planting; personally, culturally, institutionally? And what might we need to unlearn in order to walk together differently?

In a time where reconciliation can feel fraught or uncertain, the lunch offered something both grounding and hopeful, the reminder that change is not abstract, it begins with how we show up in the spaces we already inhabit. As we bridge now to next, it's in these everyday acts of respect, reflection, and responsibility that true reconciliation takes root.



Dr Sam Cooms, Eva Anderson and Uncle Rod Williams

A theme that resonated strongly throughout the afternoon was that leadership is not defined by position, but by responsibility. Within college communities, students shape culture every day, through the stories they tell, the behaviours they normalise, and the values they choose to uphold.

When asked what message he would give to students wanting to lead well, Uncle Rod was clear: "Start with relationships. Learn to listen to our stories before you act."

Dr Cooms added that strength in leadership doesn't always look like certainty. Sometimes, it means being brave enough to admit what we don't know, and being open to learning from others, especially when that learning feels uncomfortable.

As the conversation drew to a close, attendees were encouraged to reflect not just on what they had heard, but on what they might carry forward.



Abi Crocker, Lily Collins, Sophie Williams and Tanvi Chand



Aunty Tracey Bunda and Aunty Sandra King OAM



Sporting Spirit Shines in Semester 1 2025: *The ICC Roundup*

Sam Mellick (23-25)
Bachelor Commerce/BScience
2025 Sports Convenor

Semester 1 of 2025 has been a dynamic and competitive start for St John's College in the ICC, with both the Men's and Women's teams showing tenacity, teamwork and exceptional sportsmanship across the board. All athletes have left their mark on every field or pool they have entered.



Women's Sport: Determination and Dominance

The Johnian women this year have kicked off the Semester with a bang, delivering a win in hockey which rounded off the 3-peat. The team did not only display individual skills but also came together as an unstoppable team with the injection of freshers' talent, led by Anais Hamilton alongside of an already well-seasoned team.

After the floods delayed the beginning of the 2025 ICC competition, swimming finally got underway. There was a highly competitive field that the Johnian women fought through, but strong individual performances by Elsie Shrapnel and Grace Pritchard in the 50m freestyle and butterfly events gained us valuable points, while the relays showcased the depth of our squad. The team's consistency and support for one another stood out as a highlight for the carnival as we finished in 3rd place overall.

Volleyball has proven to be another stand out performance, with the Jabba women taking out 2nd place. A combination of the 'defence specialist', Liv Hoger's work at libero and the strategic serving of Liz Setchell saw the team dominate throughout all sets. Despite falling short of the top spot, the nail-biter of a match against the Wooza's was deemed the game of the tournament.

Rounding up the Women's sport was the Tennis and Rowing. The Rowing program was able to race to a close 2nd place overall with an overall positive season, even winning the 1st 8 race in the second regatta. But the stars of the semester were the tennis team led by Eliza herself. They managed week to week to win each Tuesday afternoon to secure the premiership.



Men's Sport: Strong Finishes Across the Board

On the men's side, hockey saw our players finish in 3rd place after a series of strenuous back-to-back matches. The team showed genuine resilience and tactical awareness headed by 'The Hoff' to bounce back strongly from an early set back from St Leo's in a close loss. Key saves from Tom Browning (Patmos RA) in goals, and the skilled midfield plays of James Hattingh ensured that the team remained a touch competition for the rest of the competition.

In the swimming, the men fell just shy of the title by 2 points, however managed to pull off an impressive 2nd place. The team's relay events were particularly electric with loud roars from the Jabba whip-out at the end of the pool. And impressive individual performances from Ed Rogan and George Sayer winning in the freestyle and butterfly.

In the volleyball the men matched their female counterparts achieving another 2nd place result. With powerful serving strategic plays and incredible blocking from the tall timber on the court the team put up an incredible fight will all teams only losing to Emmanuel in the final set of the match. However, it was tightly contested showcasing the grit and drive that characterise the St John's sporting culture.





When the weekend rolled around for table tennis no one, not even the team, expected much to come out of it, as they faced many skilled opponents. However, our players showed great technical prowess and composure under pressure pulling off an outstanding 3rd place for the tournament which proved that even small ball sports can deliver big excitement.

The Regattas showed a valiant effort from the John's fleet, the First IV was able to win the regatta week one but fell short the rest of the racing, however as a shed the boys managed to place 2nd overall to kings. The tennis team worked hard and with great spirit from cared led the team to a solid 4th place finish. To finish off the men's sport the cricket team had a shortened rain delayed season however the case was able to bring home the premiership. The team had been in development for the past 4 years but finally with the curse extinguished the boys were able to do it with many great scores that were put up by Tom Cain in Steve Smith like fashion.

ICC RESULT	2025
HOCKEY WOMEN'S	1st
HOCKEY MEN'S	3rd
SWIMMING WOMEN'S	3rd
SWIMMING MEN'S	2nd
VOLLEYBALL WOMEN'S	2nd
VOLLEYBALL MEN'S	2nd
TABLE TENNIS MEN'S	3rd
CRICKET MEN'S	1st
AFL WOMEN'S	3rd
TENNIS WOMEN'S	1st
TENNIS MEN'S	4th
ROWING WOMEN'S	2nd
ROWING MEN'S	2nd
BANDFEST	1st
CHESS	8th
CHORALFEST	3rd
DEBATING	8th
AS OF THE END OF SEMESTER 1, THE CURRENT RESULTS FOR THE ICC COMPETITION ARE AS FOLLOWS:	
CULTURAL:.....	1st PLACE
MEN'S SPORT:.....	1st PLACE
WOMEN'S SPORT:.....	2nd PLACE

With podium finishes in every sport in Semester 1 so far St John's College should be proud of our performance, because I know for a fact Eliza and I am. We have proven our competitive edge so far and hope to continue this momentum into the back end of the year.



Women in Leadership High Tea

Eleanor (Nell) Hanly (23-25)
Bachelor Psychological Science (hons)
2025 Student Club Vice-President



Our inaugural Women in Leadership High Tea at the Warden's Lodge brought together student residents and inspiring leaders, Dr Robyn Littlewood and Elizabeth Jameson AM for an honest, uplifting conversation about leadership, life, and wellbeing.

It was a wonderful to enjoy all of this outside with a beautiful high tea and chat to our guests' speakers and John's alumni and staff that joined us. It provided an environment that was informal but intimate.

Robyn and Elizabeth's insights reinforced the importance of prioritising your wellbeing, recognising your strengths, and embracing non-linear career paths. St John's culture is built on equality and fosters an environment where leadership can truly flourish, whether it be roles on the Student Club executive, sporting and cultural convenorships, pastoral care positions, or more informal, day-to-day opportunities. This event inspired me to reflect on my journey as a leader and left me feeling energised for what lies ahead.



The high tea celebrated 35 years of co-residency and provided a delightful space to hear from women in leadership positions. We found this to be such a valuable opportunity to hear from such successful women and learn about their journeys and challenges they've faced throughout their careers. It was also refreshing to hear their diverse experiences in finding a work-life balance and how it doesn't always have to be a choice between work and family, but rather an opportunity to network and build strong relationships with both men and women.

Images (this page) from top: Rose Alwyn, Elizabeth Jameson AM, Dr Robyn Littlewood and Catherine Parkinson (04-06); Student leaders chatting with guests at the high tea; Abi Crocker, Elizabeth Jameson AM and Hannah Aston; Dr Robyn Littlewood with student leaders.



Equity & Inclusion at St John's

Sophie Williams (23-25)
Bachelor Speech Pathology
2025 Equity & Inclusion Officer



Images clockwise from above: Nick Carey and Sophie Williams, Equity & Inclusion Officers 2025; Mardi Bar celebrations; IDAHOBIT Day.

Every day of O'Week, the first-year students would come up to us and ask,

"Soph and Nick, what's your role again?"

"We're your Equity & Inclusion officers"

"OK.. but like, what do you actually do?"

It's a great question, and our answer is constantly evolving. As companies have been investing into their Equity and Inclusion profiles in recent years, St John's College has followed suit and offers two students the position of Equity & Inclusion Officer each year. We form part of the Residential Advisor (RA) Team and work closely with our First Nations Officer, Dean of Students and College Chaplain in the aim of making John's the most inclusive and welcoming college at UQ.

We are still exploring the best ways to fit this new practice into our long-standing traditions at John's, but we have established a few ground rules so far:

Equity & Inclusion does not exist to tick a box

We are fiercely passionate about creating spaces and events where every student feels comfortable to express themselves, and a culture where supporting each other is standard practice.

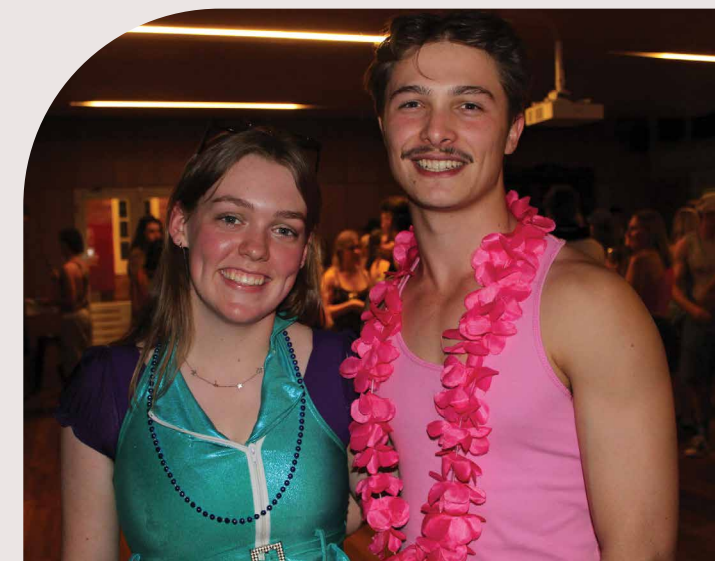
Equity & Inclusion is for everyone at College

Although it seems like a given, we are determined to make Equity and Inclusion a mission that all Jabbas can get around. We believe that having conversations is the best way to learn more about the people around us, their stories, and the way they see the world.

This year, we've had the chance to bring some of these values to life through a few standout events:

In April, we hosted the inaugural SJC Mardi Bar in the Junior Common Room. This highly anticipated event was originally imagined by our predecessors, Juliette and Chris, so we feel very lucky to have been able to pull it off! Mardi Bar (a play on Mardi Gras) is a celebration for everyone but also acts as important reinforcement to our students in the LGBTIQ+ community that they are welcome and safe at John's. This event was a raging success; we saw some super colourful outfits and danced to an incredible set by our band 'Heaven on Earth' late into the night.

We marked IDAHOBIT, the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism, and Transphobia, by teaming up with Cromwell and Duchesne's E&I Officers for an afternoon of live student music, a bake sale, raffle, bouncy castle, and even a dunk tank. It was fun, but more importantly, it helped raise awareness and foster conversations about allyship and inclusion. We're thankful to everyone who donated and helped raise awareness for this important cause.



2025 has already been a big year for Equity & Inclusion at St John's, and we're just getting started. Semester 2 will bring more events, including activities for R U OK? Day and awareness initiatives focused on sexual health education.

Nick and I regard it as a meaningful undertaking to play a part in developing what this role means within the St John's College community, knowing how important it is to keep championing for change and equality in our current global climate.



Light of Resurrection:

A Student Reflection Through Art

The Reverend Samuel Dow
College Chaplain

Towards the end of Lent each year, Christian churches throughout the world prepare for Easter by creating a large candle decorated with symbols of the risen Christ, the light that no darkness can extinguish. This candle, known as the Paschal Candle (Paschal, from the Hebrew for 'Passover'), traditionally bears a cross, the numerals of the year, and the Greek letters Alpha and Omega, a reference to the book of Revelation, where Christ is described as "the beginning and the end, the first and the last."

The Paschal candle is traditionally lit for services throughout Eastertide (the period between Easter Day and Pentecost), and is then lit for baptisms and funerals, symbolising the presence of Christ.

It's a symbol rich in tradition, but this year we wanted to offer a fresh layer of meaning and an opportunity, one grounded in our own context at St John's College. I invited Teddy Magdics, a second-year student at the College, to design and paint the 2025 candle (pictured top right), not

with detailed instructions or theological prescriptions, but with a single question: What does resurrection mean to you?

Teddy, a humanities student and gifted artist, embraced the challenge with enthusiasm. He spent time in creative and spiritual reflection before turning to his sketch pad. The result, both beautiful and theologically rich, was unveiled at Formal Dinner on 1 May, where Teddy described the meaning behind the design to the College community.

Below is his artist's reflection and speech to the College:

I would like to thank Samuel for offering me the fantastic opportunity to paint the Paschal Candle for our St John's College Chapel this year. As an Anglican, our chapel here at John's is an important place to me, and I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity to contribute to it in this way.

After gladly accepting the invitation, I began to consider what I might paint. In the end, I created a design full of symbolism drawn from my own experience of faith and inspired by my interpretation of the theme of 'renewal,' in keeping with the purpose of the Paschal Candle tradition.

At the focal point of the candle, the cross is painted as a tree formed from three differently coloured timbers, a symbol of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three timbers intertwine to form the cross, a reminder of the Trinity's foundational place within Christianity.

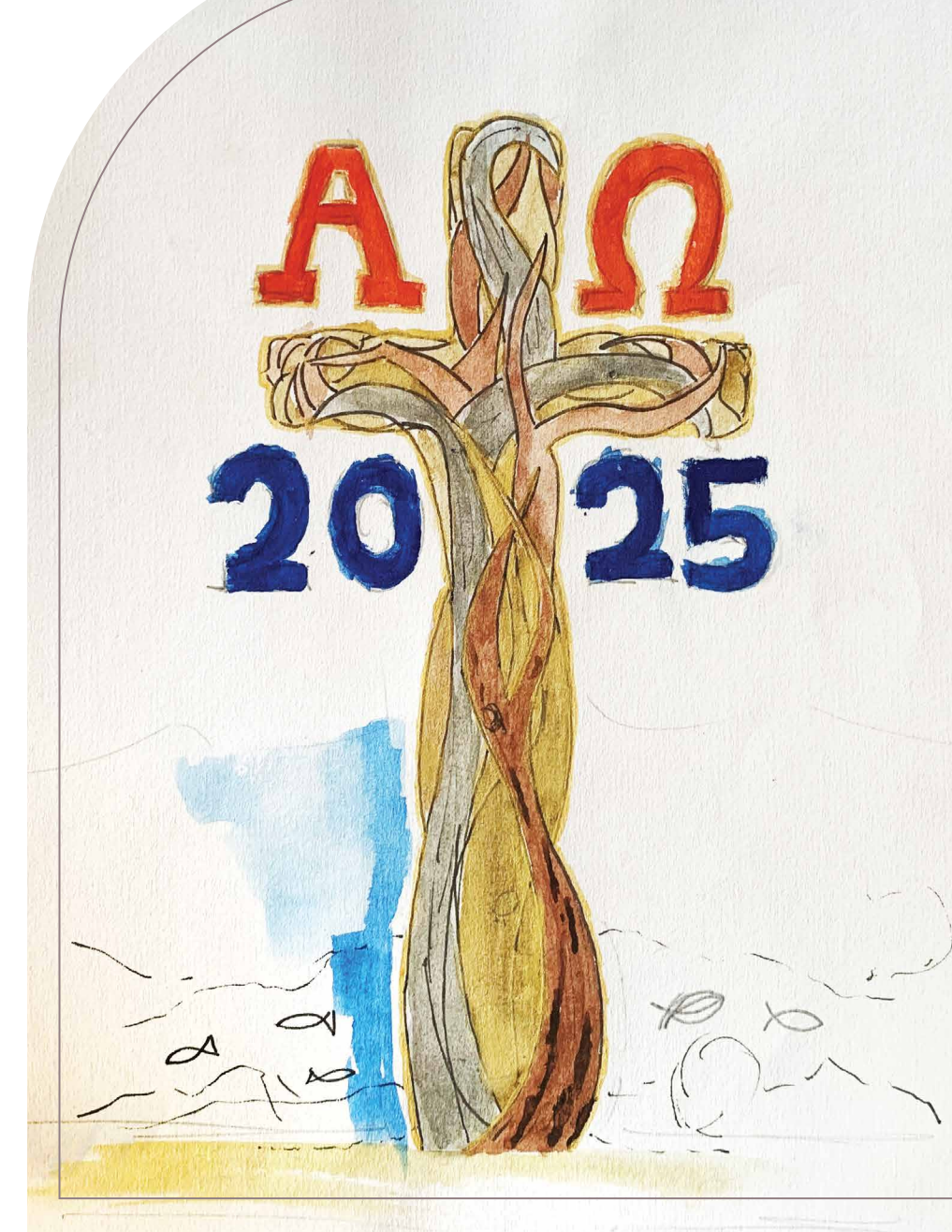
Around the base of the cross, a band of ocean blue is

dotted with small golden fish. These simple designs, made from two intersecting arcs, are an ancient Christian symbol. In times of persecution, early Christians used the fish symbol, the "Ichtyus", to identify one another discreetly. One might draw an arc in the dust, and if the other completed the shape, both would know they were in the presence of a fellow believer.

As well as being a sign of unity, the fish also represents St John himself, the namesake of our college. John was a fisherman before he became one of Jesus' disciples. As Matthew 4:19 recounts, Jesus met John and others by the Sea of Galilee, saying, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." I find this verse especially meaningful. It reflects how, under Jesus' direction, John and the other disciples became messengers of God's word, fishers of people, drawing others into the life of faith.

The ocean on the candle is split in two by the tri-timbered cross, evoking the parting of the Red Sea when Moses led his people to safety. This image is a reminder of God's constant presence and care, always looking out for us, always ready to help when we ask. In this same space, the fish also serve to recall one of Jesus' most familiar miracles, the feeding of the 5000, in which simple gifts were multiplied to meet the needs of many.

Once again, I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the life of our chapel in this way. I invite all who are interested to visit the chapel, whether during a service or in quiet reflection, and spend a moment with the candle, to



see what it might stir in you about faith, renewal, and the light of Christ.

This invitation, to reflect, to engage, to see, is what makes this work so much more than decoration. Teddy's candle offers more than remembrance of the resurrection; it helps us encounter it anew. In the parted waters and the woven timber, in the quiet symbols passed from hand to hand, we are reminded that resurrection is not just an event of the past but an ongoing truth of renewal, grace, and hope. It is moments like these, of

deep and profound spiritual reflection, that inspire me in my role as Chaplain of St John's. Even more so when that reflection is shared within the life of our community.

Whether you join us in chapel for worship or step inside during the week, may the light of the Paschal Candle stir something in you, a sense of wonder, of gratitude, and of the new life still unfolding in our midst.

Performing and Cultural Arts

Report Card – Semester 1

Freddie Klein (20-22)
Performing Arts Coordinator



This year's College Idol representative Mia Lipp gave a delicate and moving performance of *Make You Feel My Love*. Mia crafted a beautiful performance, balancing the poetic weight of Bob Dylan's text with a more delicate and lyrical Adele-like vocal approach. We are so looking forward to Mia's appearance on the College Idol stage in Semester 2.



Images (this page) clockwise from below: Mia Lipp; Heaven on Earth at Family Night; Who Is John; Lachlan Wilson performing at the Academic & Professional Dinner; Heaven on Earth at Jazz Night.



Finally, guests at the Peter Carnley Scholarship Dinner were treated to the honeyed sounds of the freshly formed Who Is Jazz ensemble. The trio of Victor Kyzintas (Vocals), Leo Kelly Correa (Keys) and Khai Van Heerden (Drums), warmed the brisk evening with everything from Sinatra to Sade.

I'd call that a first act well performed.



The creative and culturally minded contingent of St John's College is to be commended on an outstanding effort in Semester 1, with strong results across all ICC Cultural disciplines and a variety of local performances.

Images (this page) clockwise from below: Heaven on Earth drummer Nia Saleh; Victor Kyzintas; ChoralFest; Who Is John? at Jazz Night.



Naturally, it would be wise to acknowledge the 'in competition' success of our many creative thinkers and performers. A strong 5th in Debating from Max Bates, Max Durkin, Rory Fenelon and Sam McConaghy opened St John's Cultural account for 2025. The steady hands of Nia Saleh and Amelia Coorey then conducted our choral singers

to resonant 3rd place in the ChoralFest, performing *City Called Heaven* (Josephine Poelinitz), *Shenandoah* (James Erb) and *Man in the Mirror* (Michael Jackson).

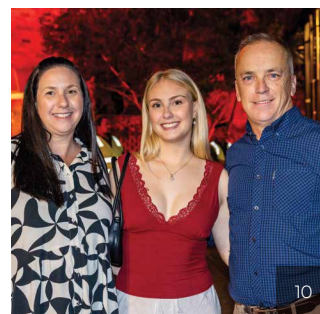
The crowning glory of this semester, however, was the affirmation of Who Is John? (St John's leading rock band) as the distinct and all-powerful dominator of the BandFest ICC competition. This marks the seventh time in a row St John's has won the ICC BandFest! To put that in perspective, when St John's established dominance over the top spot in this competition Malcolm Turnbull was PM and Meghan Markle was a newly minted member of the Royal Family. We can only dream of the competence and stability found in Mellick Room, the physical and spiritual home of St John's College Music, being replicated in elsewhere in our chaotic and volatile world.

Beyond the competitive stage, Who Is John? and Heaven On Earth (Jazz Band) had full schedules. There is no higher acclaim in the musical world than a fully booked calendar, such is the case for St John's veritable band-opoly. Had you been on the guest list, you would have seen St John's musicians at Jazz Night, Family Night, John's Fest, Mardi-Bar, Women's @ Home, Emmanuel Ball, UQ Law Ball and UQ Mess Ball to name a few.

At home, St John's were treated to more than one show stopping performance. We began with Lachlan Wilson's dazzling piano rendition of Aram Khachaturian's Toccata in E-flat minor. Lachlan is a quiet super star, who exhibited genuine flair and technical prowess as he journeyed through Khachaturian's swirling work.



Family Night



Images: 1. John, Steph and Chris Ktenidis; 2. Jammie Dinner; 3. Jasmine Lena, Penelope Lena, Fiona Hoger and Sasha Dye; 4. Isabelle and Alex Russell; 5. Leanne Viljoen, Kirsty Viljoen, Rose Alwyn, Kerry Petersen, Neil Petersen and Meg Viljoen; 6. Robyn, Elsie and Will Shrapnel; 7. Khai Van Heerden; 8. Abi and Steven Crocker with their parents Ashleigh and Andrew; 9. Mary Grant with her parents Donna and Justin and brothers Harry and Patrick; 10. Kirsten, Lily and Kyle Merritt; 11. Heaven on Earth; 12. Georgia, Bridget and Kyle McDonald; 13. View from Goodbury Tower; 14. Heaven on Earth; 15. Michael O'Donnell, Flynn O'Donnell and Lisa Brice; 16. Estie and Anais Hamilton with their parents Karla and Andrew; 17. Ed Rogan and Leah Shadwell; 18. Jane Edwards and Layla Allen; 19. Leanne Viljoen, Kirsty Viljoen, Rose Alwyn, Kerry Petersen, Neil Petersen and Meg Viljoen.

Triona Maddick
Director of Advancement

Strings Attached



It's a bright Brisbane morning when I meet violinist Glenn Christensen (08-11), who has recently returned from Germany, after several years performing with some of Europe's most revered orchestras. We settle into a corner café in leafy Fairfield, just a stone's throw from Glenn's Alma Mater.

Over coffee we begin talking about Glenn's years at St John's, there's a burning question I've been holding onto. With the demands of violin practice, rehearsal schedules, and performances, how did he manage to keep up with it all while living at College?

'It wasn't always easy,' he admits. 'But I found solace in the chapel. It became a bit of a sanctuary for me, a quiet place where I could reconnect with the music. Of course,

college life was busy and full of distractions in the best possible way, but I think I learned then how important it was to balance focused discipline with social connection. That balance has stayed with me ever since.' He reflects that some of the friendships forged during those years remain among his closest to this day.

Glenn's professional life reads like a classical musician's dream. With major roles in ensembles like the Australian Chamber Orchestra followed by international touring with Die Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and guest appearances with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, there is none of the ego one might expect. These roles have taken him from the concert halls of Australia to stages across Europe, Asia, and South America. Yet throughout our conversation, he's more interested in what I do at the College, and in the Warden's vision for the future of St John's. He's the kind of person who deflects praise with quiet modesty

and instead steers the conversation toward the people and communities who've shaped him.

Raised in the Central North Queensland town of Mackay, Glenn's musical journey began with a cardboard violin and a four-year-old's determination. 'I went up to my future teacher at a concert and asked her to teach me,' he recalls. 'I hadn't even asked Mum and Dad first!' That early sense of self-direction led him into the Suzuki method and eventually to study under Michele Walsh at the

Glenn featured in The Johnian 2011.

JOHNIAN VIOLINIST WINS TOP PRIZES

Glenn Christensen, who was a 2010 Valedictorian, took first place in the 2009 Kendall Young Violinist of the Year awards. The competition, which is the leading competition for emerging violinists in Australia, also led to Glenn winning a major scholarship for a period of overseas study. He has won all of the major prizes available for young violinists in Australia.

Glenn was the leader of the St John's College Quartet during 2008-10 and a College Music Scholar who always made himself available for College musical occasions. He is currently the co-leader of the Australian Youth Orchestra, a member of the AYO Quartet and performs on a casual basis with the Melbourne and Brisbane Symphony Orchestras, as well as being part of the Brisbane Philharmonic Orchestra Emerging Artist Programme. He recently was the soloist in two performances of the highly exacting Mendelssohn Violin Concerto.



Queensland Conservatorium. He graduated in 2011 with First Class Honours and made history as the first student ever to receive the Conservatorium Medal, the Music Medal, and the University Medal. 'That was a turning point,' he reflects. 'It helped me realise that maybe I really could have a career in music, even coming from a regional town like Mackay. Our industry can be competitive and full of knockbacks, so it gave me a real sense of validation and motivation.'

His years at St John's College added a different kind of richness. 'I loved my time at John's. It was so important for me to meet people from all sorts of backgrounds, all

studying different things. Classical musicians can be insular and spend so much time practising alone. So, to always have people around to chat to, learn from and party with, made the time at John's special.'

He laughs remembering the full John's experience. 'Too many memories to list! Fun nights at the bar, whip-outs to sporting and cultural events, the dining hall traditions (especially the water game). It was chaotic and beautiful. And while I had to be disciplined, John's taught me the benefits of having a healthy balance between working hard and playing hard, maintaining close friendships and being part of a very unique community.'

Professionally, Glenn's career has been marked by versatility and reach. After early roles with the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Queensland Symphony Orchestra, he joined Die Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and toured widely. 'That orchestra is a dream, full of incredible musicians, and because it's a touring group, I got to experience cultures across Europe, South America, and Asia. Performing in places like Japan, Korea, Brazil and



Uruguay was such a privilege. Living in Germany really deepened my understanding of the traditions behind the music I was playing. Being surrounded by that history gave me a new perspective. But I also realised how lucky we are in Australia. What we have here is also world-class.'

Glenn recently returned to Queensland to take up the role of Acting Associate Concertmaster with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra. 'It's a bit of a homecoming,' he says. 'I had a role with QSO straight out of Uni, so coming back 12 years later feels special. Hopefully after my 6-month trial I'll be there in a full-time capacity! The orchestra is sounding fantastic, and Brisbane itself has become such an exciting place to be right now. I also really admire the QSO's commitment to performing right across Queensland—not just the southeast corner. It's important that regional audiences feel included.'

But Glenn's most personal project may be the Mackay Chamber Music Festival, which he founded in 2018. 'I had the privilege of growing up

“...find what you love and try to take or make as many opportunities as possible...”

with incredible teachers and performance opportunities, and I wanted to make sure young people growing up there now also have that opportunity too'. This year's festival runs from 18–20 July 2025, and Glenn promises something special. 'It just keeps growing. We've introduced scholarships, expanded our educational outreach, and even partnered with schools like Longreach School of Distance Education through our "Adopt-a-Muso" program. It's all about access.'

When I ask what defines a truly great performance, Glenn pauses for a moment. 'There will almost always be a feeling of electricity and connection between the performers and audience. I think in some ways our job as performers is to move, not necessarily be moved, but of course it's hard not to be

moved by some of the most beautiful music ever written!'

For Glenn, certain works have become deeply personal. 'After a very intense time involving family illness, I can't hear Bach's Goldberg Variations the same way. It will always hold a place in my heart, and while it was once associated with grief and sadness, it has now evolved to become a piece representing hope and courage, and I feel so lucky to have that music accompanies me throughout my life.' And some pieces have marked milestones. 'Brahms' Third Symphony will always be special. It's the work I was playing in orchestra when I first met my wife.'

Before heading off to a performance in Toowoomba, I ask what advice he'd offer to young musicians, especially those in regional areas hoping to follow in his footsteps. 'Just give it your all, try your hardest and keep loving music! I think it's also important to note that being a professional musician may not be exclusively performing – it can be a really rewarding career to have a mixture of teaching, performing, administration (like running a festival) or academia. I think find what you love and try to take or make as many opportunities as possible – one of the best things about making music is making it with other people. Collaboration is so enjoyable.'

The Mackay Chamber Music Festival returns 18–20 July 2025. Tickets are on sale now at www.mackaycmf.com.au. Donations can be made via the Australian Cultural Fund.



Honorary Fellowships Awarded to

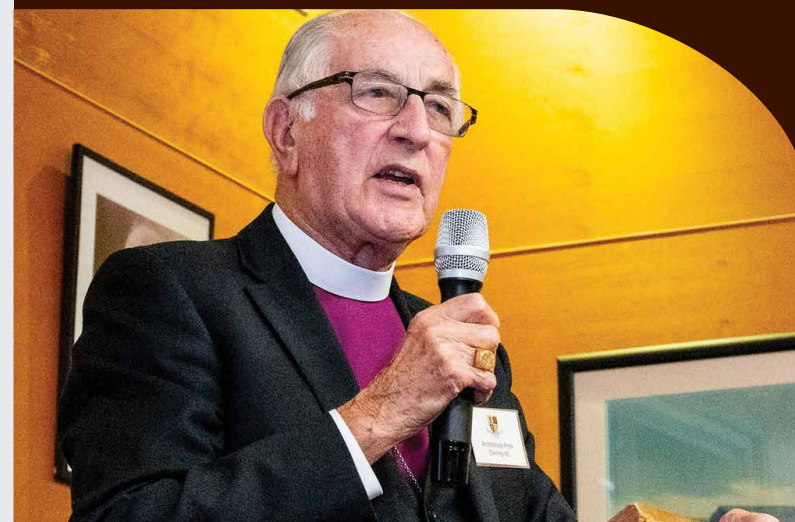
The Most Reverend Dr Peter Carnley AC and Dr Jane Williamson

St John's College congratulates Archbishop Carnley AC and Dr Jane Williamson on their recent election as Honorary Fellows of the College. This honour is reserved for individuals distinguished for learning, public or ecclesiastical service, or for those who have made a significant contribution to the life of the College.

Archbishop Carnley, who served as Warden from 1973 to 1981, is a theologian and Church leader of national and international standing. Known for his inclusive leadership and lifelong commitment to education, following his time at St John's, he served as Archbishop of Perth for 24 years and as Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia from 2000 to 2005, providing steady and progressive leadership during a period of theological and social change.

Dr Jane Williamson is a respected academic and higher education leader whose longstanding association with the College includes service on the College Council and as acting Warden in 2019. In addition to her academic achievements, she played a pivotal role in co-leading the Foundation's scholarship and bursary program in 2017, laying the groundwork for the College's ongoing commitment to access and equity, and positively shaping the experience of generations of students to come.

We are proud to recognise two individuals whose lives reflect the values of scholarship, service, and community. A more detailed feature on their contributions will appear in the Summer 2025 edition of The Johnian.



Images from top to bottom: Archbishop Peter Carnley AC & Dr Jane Williamson

Paul Summers
(86–88)

From Bamaga to Tokyo:

A Johnian's Journey in Global Tourism



Paul Summers is the Director for Japan and Korea at Tourism and Events Queensland. With a career spanning over two decades in tourism and an earlier chapter in global wine and spirits, Paul has built a remarkable life and career abroad. Based in Tokyo for more than 20 years, he continues to champion Queensland's presence on the international stage.

Can you describe your first memories of St John's?

I had never visited a big city like Brisbane before. I spent my childhood in Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory where I was schooled by correspondence and then had six years of boarding school at Rockhampton Grammar School (a town I considered large enough). In 1986, my family was living in Bamaga so when I arrived at St John's for O'Week, it was after a two-day journey from the very northern tip of Queensland to the Big Smoke at the state's southern extremity. I didn't know a soul

when I arrived. I learnt later that the senior who escorted to my room had called me "timid" (I was!) and I was completely ignorant of what to expect out of O'Week and St John's.

Are you still connected to your Old Johnian network?

I made some enduring friendships with many Johnians, when I resided in Patmos and Goodbury, some that I still carry with me to this day. Despite living in Tokyo for the past 21 years, I am in touch with some of my Johnian network. I was fortunate enough to meet people at

College who were blind to my meagre circumstances and my tendency to be a wallflower. These men were present at my wedding to Seiko in Cairns in 1994, have stayed at our house in Tokyo with their families and who, over the years, have continued to extend to me their friendship and have a good laugh when we catch up.

Reflecting on your academic journey, how did the John's environment support your intellectual curiosity and academic pursuits?

Back then, being a male only college, John's could be rowdy at times but, underneath the swagger, there was always the understanding that the academic side of it, the study, and the passing of the semester exams, was the crux of College life. Those who thought otherwise soon disappeared. A few Johnians were doing the same subjects

as me (I double majored in Japanese and Journalism), and we often got together in informal study groups to support each other. After graduating, I naively thought I was going to be a foreign correspondent based in Japan; the head of the Journalism faculty, John Birmingham, was my role model as he had worked at the Japanese news agency, Kyodo, and I set my heart on something similar. The reality was a lot grimmer after I graduated – there were very few jobs for journalism graduates. There was also a mature age student from Japan at John's named Kikawada-san and he was over the moon someone at College could string a sentence together in Japanese, so I conversed with him often (in fact, we met in Tokyo last year for the first time in over 30 years at a UQ Japan Alumni network function).

You've had an amazing career in tourism, how did you end up in Japan? Was there a defining moment or decision that led you there?

I have been working in the Japanese tourism industry, either in Australia or here in Japan, for a total of 25 years. I also took an eight-year detour into the global wine and spirits industry where I worked for Pernod Ricard, the French company which owns multiple brands like Jacobs' Creek (now sold to Treasury Wines), Ballantine's, Kahlua, Malibu and Mumm (among others). I worked as a brand manager for several of these brands and served as the company's intermediary with Beam Suntory. The defining moment which led me here was the one-year working holiday I did in 1991, which improved my Japanese spoken and written language

skills immensely. I returned to Cairns a year later where I worked for several inbound tour companies catering for the Japanese for over 10 years. That led to a two-year stint at the local tourism bureau which proved to be my springboard to Tourism and Events Queensland in Tokyo in 2004 and I have been here ever since.

The tourism industry has experienced significant change in recent years. How has the landscape of tourism changed for you?

Like Australia, the travel landscape in Japan has undergone a profound change. When I first arrived here, Japanese occupied close to 90% of airline seats to and from Queensland. These days, thanks to the post-



pandemic fixation Australians have with Japan, the split is more 70% Australian and 30% Japanese. In 2024, 920,000 Australians visited Japan; a statistic unthinkable twenty years ago. The Australian love affair with Japan represents a challenge for me in my role to promote Queensland as a leisure destination to the Japanese. We require available seats, seats that are taken by Australians with increasingly little seasonal fluctuation. Moreover, Japanese can be cautious travellers, sensitive to even the smallest of fluctuations in FX rates and a whiff of geo-political turbulence frightens them. Thankfully, to date, Queensland has escaped a lot of the impact seen elsewhere due to the weak Yen and the parts of the state like Cairns are seeing Japanese visitation back to pre-pandemic levels.

Looking back at the start of your journey, what advice would you give to current and future students at St John's College? What insights or lessons would you share with them to help them make the most of their time at College/University?

Two words - be bold! Don't worry too much about the future - chances are you might end up doing something completely different to your degree; that's totally acceptable and part of life's journey. Overcoming shyness or introverted behaviour is extremely difficult and, looking back, I can think of multiple times when I wish I had been bolder. There is no denying shyness does hold you back socially and, in the classroom, but you will make friends with people at St John's, and at the University, who will guide you through, who will give you strength, and they're the ones that matter.



ALUMNI OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Nominations Now Open for the 2025 Alumni of the Year Awards

With more than 5,000 alumni, the St John's community is filled with individuals making a remarkable impact in their professions, their communities, and in service to others.

If you know an Old Johnian whose story deserves to be recognised, we warmly invite your nomination for one of this year's Alumni Awards.

Award Categories

- 1 Young Alum of the Year:** Celebrates young alumni (35 years or younger at the nomination deadline) whose early accomplishments inspire and demonstrate leadership to both students and fellow alumni.
- 2 Community Service Award:** Honours alumni who have sustained volunteer efforts and made a meaningful difference in their communities. Nominees should show a deep commitment to service and civic contribution.
- 3 Johnian of the Year:** This award recognises an Old Johnian whose distinguished professional achievements, leadership, and service reflect the values of St John's and who continues to serve as an inspiration to others.

Nominations close: **Friday 30 August 2025**
Recipients will be notified in September.

Awards presented at the OJA Reunion Dinner | Saturday 4 October 2025

Submit your nomination at
stjohns.uq.edu.au/alumniawards

Genevieve Broadley (95-97)
President, Old Johnnians' Association

Celebrating

Our Past, Present and Future (OJA)

Whether it's been five years or fifty since your time at St John's, 2025 is shaping up to be a special year for our OJ community, there's never been a better time to reconnect.

OJA AGM, Reunion Dinner & Alumni Awards – New Date!

This year's celebration marks 35 years of co-residency at the College, a milestone that speaks to the evolution of our community and the lifelong friendships that began within these walls. We'll also honour the outstanding achievements of Old Johnnians across generations through the Alumni Awards, shining a light on those who continue to inspire in their fields and communities.

Saturday 4 October 2025, 5pm
AGM | Founders' Room,
St John's College

Dinner, Reunion & Alumni
Awards | Dining Hall,
St John's College

London Reunion

For Johnnians living overseas, we're also excited to announce the return of our St John's London Reunion. If you're based in the UK or planning to be in London, we'd love to see you there.

Sunday 30th November
London | Venue TBC

For enquiries or to express interest, please contact
alumni@stjohns.uq.edu.au.

St John's Gala 2026

And looking ahead we invite you to save the date for the return of the **St John's Gala** on 19th of September 2026, as we celebrate 115 years since the College's founding. It was one huge whip out last time, and we can't wait to do it all over again!

Formal invitations and booking details will be shared soon. Stay tuned – and save the dates!

50-Year Club Lunch

Thursday 6 November 2025, 12 - 2pm
Founders' Room, St John's College

Join us for a special lunch recognising those who entered College 50 or more years ago. This intimate gathering is a chance to reconnect with fellow Johnnians across the decades and celebrate the enduring ties that bind our community. We've already received expressions of interest from alumni living abroad and we warmly encourage you to spread the word.

For enquiries, please contact Triona Maddick Director of Advancement advancement@stjohns.uq.edu.au

Save the Date



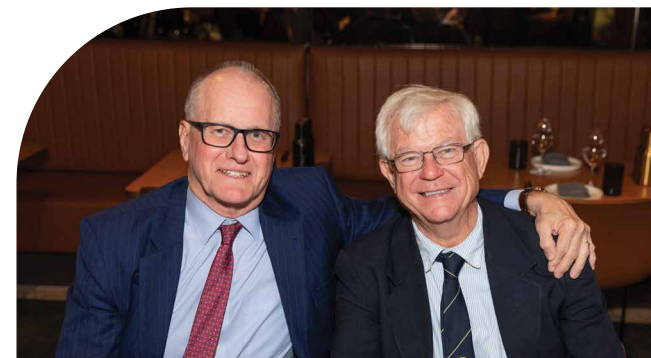
The Peter Carnley Scholarship Dinner

In May, St John's College hosted The Peter Carnley Scholarship Dinner, bringing together Old Johnians, friends and supporters to celebrate a growing community of donors committed to widening access to the St John's experience. Held at Patina at Alumni Court, UQ, the evening brought together Old Johnians, friends, and supporters united by a shared belief in widening access to the St John's experience.

Warden, Rose Alwyn addressed the gathering with a moving reflection on the College's mission: to foster a culture of excellence, wellbeing, service and friendship. She spoke of trust, not as something assumed, but as something earned. 'At a time when trust in public institutions is being tested,' she said, 'a scholarship like this says something important: not just what St John's is good at, but what it is good for.'

The evening was also marked by thoughtful remarks from David Muir AM, Greg O'Meara (Chair, St John's College Foundation), and Sam Crook (Student Club President), who each offered personal reflections on the importance of access, opportunity and giving back. We are deeply grateful for their words and their enduring commitment to the College and its mission.

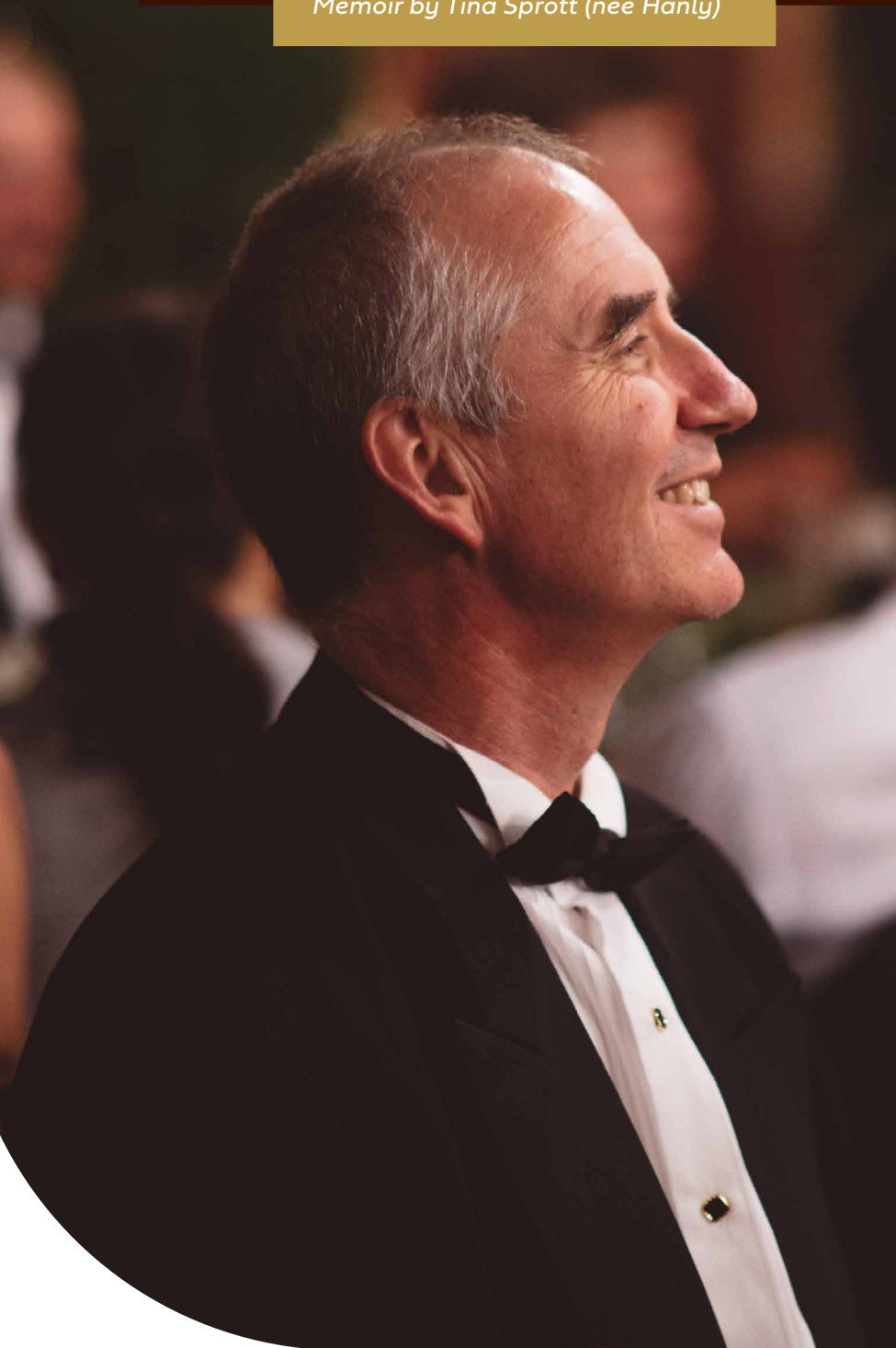
Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our donors and the power of matched giving the Peter Carnley Scholarship is now close to being fully endowed. Once established, it will support a student from rural or regional Australia facing financial hardship every year, in perpetuity. It stands as a lasting tribute to The Most Reverend Dr Peter Carnley AC, whose legacy of compassion, intellectual leadership, and belief in the transformative power of education continues to shape St John's today.



For more information, visit
www.stjohns.uq.edu.au/alumni-friends/giving/annual-giving

Vale Old Johnian Peter Sprott (83-85)

Memoir by Tina Sprott (née Hanly)



My husband, Peter Sprott – an Old Johnian (1983-1985) – was just 58 years old when he was tragically struck by a motor vehicle and killed while riding his road bike on 17 February 2024.

Peter was a deeply loved and devoted husband and father to our five children.

That day remains etched in our memories like no other. It unfolded with an indescribable sense of despair and devastation for me and our children. The grief and sadness remain but intertwined with this is a profound sense of gratitude for the unwavering love and support that has surrounded us from family and friends – many of whom have connections to St John's, Women's and other Colleges at UQ. Some of Peter's, and my dearest and oldest friendships were forged during our college years. Those days left an indelible sense of belonging and connection for Peter, even if not always directly in touch, one that lasted his entire lifetime and now beyond for us.

In fact, it was an Old Johnian friend of Peter's, Denver Dale, now living in California in the USA who encouraged me to write this. In an email, Denver stated, "my first memories of Sprotty were as fellow freshers, entering the crucible that was O'Week in early 1983. What a crazy, fun, scary and whirlwind adventure O'Week and St John's College were to be. I am incredibly grateful that I got to share some of that magic carpet ride with my friend Sprotty". These and other recollections from his friends are filled with much hilarity – full of antics, a very tolerant and wise warden :) and an enduring camaraderie.

Beneath the banter and laughter, though, was something more profound: the deep friendships that were always there for Peter and us as a family. Friendship of this nature is not demanding and does not require constant contact, it is real and reassuringly always there, often unspoken, and when times of great celebration or conversely deep sadness and pain are upon us, there is an outpouring of love and support that surrounds.

An event like this restores your faith in humanity and the power of love. There has been similar outpourings of love and support from the many communities that have been a big part of the fabric of our family journey over the years – our old school friends, our work places, the Bardonia Community where we live, St Margarets and Brisbane Grammar Schools, universities including Wake Forest University in North Carolina, running coaches and groups and of course those at St Paul's Anglican Church, Ashgrove who helped us in our grief and to farewell and put Peter to rest.

So many have helped me and our children to survive this, and we will be forever grateful.

Peter grew up on his family's farm near Jondaryan, Queensland, surrounded by a large and loving family. The youngest of five children, he is survived by his 92-year-old father and his siblings, and they along with their partners and children, have been left heartbroken by his passing.

Peter's early education took place in a small country primary school with fewer than ten students. For secondary school, he attended boarding school at Scots College in Warwick, where he excelled academically and in sports and music. After school he commenced a medical degree at the University of Queensland, before transferring to double bachelor's degrees in economics and science and later in Law. In 2002, Peter was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland. At the time of his death, he was a highly respected property lawyer at a Brisbane CBD law firm.

Peter and I shared a strong and loving marriage of 25 years, built on the foundation of a friendship that began during our university and college days. Together, we were blessed with five wonderful children: Tessa (23), Charles (21), Alfred (20), Lucinda (16), and Abigail (14). All are full-time students at school or university.

Peter epitomised the devoted family man, always putting us first. When he wasn't at work, he poured his energy into supporting the many interests and activities of our children. He was a frugal and authentic man, unimpressed by material things, finding joy in family time at home, avidly watching sport or on yearly holidays at the

beach. He was an expert cyclist and loved it, riding up Mt Coot-tha twice daily for exercise as part of his commute to work.

Peter was my soul mate and the love of my life and I miss him with every fibre of my being. Our children, too, have been robbed of their father far too soon. While the sadness will always be with us, we are learning to find meaning beyond ourselves. There is beauty and spirituality to behold in this world, even in the depths of grief. As John O'Donohue, the Irish poet and philosopher, stated: "The beauty in people and the landscape that surrounds, can recall us into a mindful mode of stillness and solitude, where we can truly receive time and a sense of the Divine." Loss, while devastating, can also be a binding agent that allows deep connection with others and brings a deeper dimension to life. The paradox is that I just wish Peter was here to pause and reflect with me, so that together we could have continued our life pausing more and with a deeper understanding — so much sadness and regret that this will not be.

As I navigate my grief alongside our children, I try to keep the observations of the musician and songwriter, Nick Cave, in mind: "We need to not let grief crush us, but rather allow it to exalt", elevate, and bring about a deeper understanding.

In time, I owe this to Peter, our children and those we love.

Achieving Excellence Together.

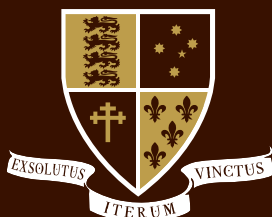
St John's is a leading collegiate community with an academic edge; nurturing the values of respect, excellence in all endeavours, resilience, integrity and inclusion.

Stay in touch:

We are always delighted to hear from you.
If you would like to provide a contribution to a future Johnian edition, share some news, or simply update your address - please contact Director of Advancement, Triona Maddick

advancement@stjohns.uq.edu.au

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St John's College

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