



# Annual Report 2018



*St Ursula's College*  
(ABN 63 054 678 358)

*Queen Street, LMB Bag 600, YEPPOON QLD 4703, AUSTRALIA*  
*College Phone: 07 4939 9600 - College Fax: 07 4939 9610*  
*Email: [ursulas@stursulas.qld.edu.au](mailto:ursulas@stursulas.qld.edu.au) - Website: [www.stursulas.qld.edu.au](http://www.stursulas.qld.edu.au)*

## **STAFF LIST 2018:**

### **Leadership Team**

Principal  
Deputy Principal – Learning & Teaching  
Deputy Principal – Spiritual & Pastoral  
Business Manager

Mrs Catherine Dunbar  
Ms Belinda Connolly  
Ms Deidre Pascoe  
Mrs Peta Tomkins

### **Other Positions of Responsibility**

Head of Middle School  
Head of Senior School  
Head of House - Boarding  
Literacy Co-ordinator  
Sports Coordinator  
RTO Manager/Careers Advisor  
Learning Enhancement Co-ordinator  
Work Place Health and Safety Officer

Mrs Megan Slade  
Mrs Arianna Greinke  
Ms Erin Lee  
Ms Kristin Hannaford  
Mr Damien McLuskie  
Ms Natasha Oldham  
Ms Tracey Quinnell  
Mrs Vicki Lacey

### **Head of Departments**

The Arts (Visual & Performing)  
English & LOTE  
Practical Arts  
Mathematics & Numeracy Co-ordinator  
Science & Technology  
Social Sciences & Business  
Religious Education  
Health & Physical Education & Sport

Mrs Nicole Francis-Leah  
Ms Debbie Owens  
Mrs April Acworth  
Mr Kevin Wallis  
Mrs Samantha Meager  
Mrs Louisa Tyrrell  
Mrs Kathy Strelow  
Mr Damien McLuskie

### **Teaching Staff**

Mrs April Acworth  
Mrs Jenny Balanay  
Ms Marg Barry  
Ms Meegan Chappell  
Ms Belinda Connolly  
Mrs Colleen Cranny  
Mrs Catherine Dunbar  
Mr Ben Flanders  
Mrs Nicole Francis-Leah  
Mrs Arianna Greinke  
Mr Bill Hall  
Ms Suzanne Iskov  
Mrs Laura Kann  
Mrs Kathy King  
Mrs Alison Kruger  
Mrs Vicki Lacey  
Miss Jessica Ladlay

Mr Damien McLuskie  
Mr Mitchell Meager  
Mrs Samantha Meager  
Mrs Cheryl Moss  
Ms Deidre Pascoe  
Ms Tracey Quinnell  
Mrs Karyn Quinton  
Ms Lynsey Shand  
Mrs Megan Slade  
Mrs Kathy Strelow  
Ms Nicole Turnbull  
Mrs Louisa Tyrrell  
Mrs Debbie Walker  
Mr Kevin Wallis  
Mrs Emily Willis  
Mrs Mandy Yore

### **Administration & Finance Staff**

Assistant to Leadership  
Accounts Receivable

Mrs Leisa Reber  
Ms Jenny Pieper

Accounts Payable/Payroll/HR Officer  
College Receptionist/Enrolment Officer  
Student Receptionist  
Vocation Education Assistant  
Boarding Co-ordinator  
Library Assistant  
College Shop Convenor  
Public Relations Officer (Promotions & Events)  
Public Relations Officer (Communications)

**Information Technology Staff**

Information Systems Co-ordinator  
Information Technology Officer  
Trainee

**Catering Staff**

Catering Co-ordinator/Chef  
Catering Staff

**Maintenance and Ground Staff**

Maintenance Supervisor  
Facilities Officer

**Cleaning Staff**

**Support Staff**

Laboratory Assistant  
Nurse  
Teacher Assistant (Creative Arts)  
Teacher Assistant (Learning Enhancement)

Teacher Assistant (Practical Arts)

**Music Teacher**

Piano/Strings  
Theory/Flute  
Choir  
Trumpet  
Saxophone  
Percussion  
Clarinet

**Indigenous Liaison Officer**

**School Counsellor**

Mrs Cheryl Kussrow  
Mrs Gina Loader  
Mrs Pearl Hood  
Ms Kim Morris  
Mrs Wendy Wagner  
Mrs Kym Walter & Mrs Fay Duffy  
Mrs Donna Stafford  
Mrs Catherine Warrick  
Mrs Karyn Redmond

Mrs Carol Shepherd  
Mr David Lawler  
Mr Liam Cleghorn

Ms Lisa Hutchesson  
Ms Melinda Pacey  
Mrs Maria Linklater  
Mrs Mary Norris (Canteen)  
Mrs Tanya Drummond  
Mrs Natalie Lawler  
Ms Susan Thorn (Canteen)

Mr Tim Patterson  
Mr Ted Hill

Mrs Vera Fyldes  
Ms Tricia Wass  
Ms Nicole Abbott

Ms Merrilyn Head  
Ms Suzanne Iskov  
Rachel Watson  
Mrs Gail Castles  
Ms Michelle Ivey  
Ms Kerry Morris  
Ms Bridget Daykin

Miss Lucy Boyd  
Mrs Ursula Boyd  
Mrs Ursula Boyd  
Mr Rex English  
Ms Kate Ellis  
Mrs Jane Bacon  
Ms Kate Ellis

Ms Krista Vatubua  
Ms Glenda Channells

**Boarding Supervisors**

Mrs Marguerite Rohde  
Ms Stephanie Matthews  
Ms Gregoria Madueno

Ms Carley Saunders  
Ms Emma Querro

**Co-curricular in Boarding**

Ms Tiffany Flint  
Mrs Donna Stafford

**Laundry Assistant**

Ms Susan Thorn



*St Ursula's College Centenary Year - 2018*

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

We declare that the mission of St Ursula's College is to continue the mission of Jesus, living and proclaiming the Gospel values to all people, especially in our school community, with fidelity, joy and enthusiasm.

Our mission demands that we create an environment where the Gospel values - both in daily living and in the learning situation - can be critically examined, clearly understood and responsibly acted upon.

This demands serious and courageous involvement in the field of education and in the practice of justice in our efforts to transform the world.

## **COLLEGE VALUES**

In living out the College motto, 'PERFICE GRESSUS MEOS' (Perfect My Steps), St Ursula's College promotes the following values:

### **FAITH**

We seek to make students aware of our rich Catholic heritage, nurturing this as the source of Catholic identity and living. We strive to build upon the faith and commitment of the Presentation Sisters who founded the College by providing Religious Education and experiences of prayer, liturgy and social action that make the faith dimension of this College life-giving and relevant.

### **RESPECT**

We believe in the dignity of each person and encourage all to treat others with consideration and courtesy, acknowledging the value of other viewpoints and life experiences. We strive to ensure that all members of the College community are treated with fairness and equity.

### **EXCELLENCE**

We believe that each human being is endowed with individual gifts that deserve recognition and development. We strive to promote an environment where all are encouraged and enabled to develop their potential and experience success according to personal capabilities and circumstances.

### **COMPASSION**

We believe we have a responsibility for the well-being of others in and beyond our community, particularly those who are suffering or vulnerable. We strive to develop a sense of concern for others and a spirit of service so that this concern is expressed and enacted.

### **HOSPITALITY**

We believe that a Christian community is inclusive. We strive to develop a sense of welcome and an acceptance of others such that all in the community are inspired to demonstrate a willingness to share their talents and cultures to enhance life for all. We promote and model reconciliation and strive to restore relationships when conflict or division occur.

### **SIMPLICITY**

We value all of creation and the interconnectedness of life. We strive to develop a sense of appreciation for our physical environment and personal resources. We promote good stewardship and social responsibility rather than a focus on material possessions.

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2017– 2020

### 1—Faith and Formation

#### Vision:

Our young women are inspired to live lives of faith and action informed by Catholic Teachings and the Mission and Values of St. Ursula's College.

#### Strategic Priorities:

- a To affirm our Catholic Identity through enriching our focus on prayer and liturgy and embedding Catholic teaching and values in our curriculum.
- b To nurture the spirituality of students and staff by providing opportunities for formation and personal growth to enhance meaning and purpose in life.
- c To connect our College community with a variety of opportunities to provide authentic participation in service and social justice programs which are based on Catholic Social Teaching.

### 2– Learning and Teaching

#### Vision:

Our students acquire a love of learning which will continue throughout life and enable and encourage them to be responsible, resilient and reflective learners.

#### Strategic Priorities:

- a To establish a dynamic learning framework which supports a seamless and developmental curriculum.
- b To deliver the Australian Curriculum effectively in the Middle School and thus provide a strong foundation for the successful implementation of the Queensland Senior Curriculum introduced in 2019.
- c To establish a culture of high expectations in teaching and learning through excellent pedagogical practice and learning partnerships that promote resilience and responsibility.

### 3– Community and Care

#### Vision:

Our learning environment nurtures growth and wellbeing, promotes positive relationships and develops the whole individual.

#### Strategic Priorities

- a To enhance student and staff wellbeing, resilience and leadership qualities by cultivating reflective decision-making, positive interactions and supportive relationships.
- b To foster partnerships with the wider community that will contribute to the growth of our students and a mutual responsibility for the care and development of our human and natural environments.
- c To continue to build an inclusive community based on the dignity of each person as well as the acceptance of cultural and individual differences.

### 4– Resourcing the Future

#### Vision:

Relevant, affordable, future focused learning opportunities are provided for young women.

#### Strategic Priorities:

- a To provide, through the development of a Masterplan (2018-2028), facilities that are respectful of the aesthetic and spiritual heritage of the College and the surrounding environment yet support the educational and residential requirements of 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners.
- b To ensure the ongoing growth of the College by resourcing opportunities that position St Ursula's College as the "School of Choice" for Young Women in Central Queensland.
- c To respond to and support the emerging needs of our learning community by identifying and implementing innovative and more effective ways to conduct the business of the College.

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2020

### GOALS

#### 1- Faith and Formation

**Goals:**

- a To continue to network with Mercy Partners, Presentation and other Catholic ministries to enhance and develop our Catholic Identity.
- b To source current and quality resources and personnel to provide more opportunities for formation and spiritual growth for staff and students.
- c To continue to provide a diverse range of meaningful experiences and appropriate places at the College and in the Parish for community prayer, liturgy and reflection.
- d To access and expand opportunities for students to engage in outreach programs and develop their awareness of social justice issues.

#### 2– Learning and Teaching

**Goals:**

- a To develop a whole school Learning and Teaching Framework which encompasses a Numeracy and Literacy Plan.
- b (1) To complete the writing of units for Years 7-10 in a common format that reflects the priorities of the ACARA curriculum  
(2) To enable the upskilling of teachers in the 2019 Senior syllabuses.
- c To support staff and students in the use of data to provide feedback, support and extension to enhance teaching and learning.

#### 3– Community and Care

**Goals:**

- a To identify and implement programs and initiatives that build resilience and nourish the well-being of staff and students.
- b To provide opportunities to promote positive relationships and reflective decision-making through avenues such as student forums and student coaching.
- c To continue to source and provide programs and activities that endorse greater understanding of cultural diversity.
- d To investigate opportunities to connect with the wider community to address and support local and environmental issues and sustainability.

#### 4– Resourcing the Future

**Goals:**

- a To develop, through consultation and research, a Masterplan for 2018-2028 which identifies needs for, and the appeal and utility of, learning and residential spaces for our current and future learners.
- b To maximize promotional opportunities through the implementation of a College Marketing Plan.
- c (1) To embrace new technologies to achieve improved organizational outcomes  
(2) To explore opportunities for future partnerships/business opportunities  
(3) To seek and embed sustainability practices which support effective College operations  
(4) To identify and implement strategies that support continuous improvement of College processes.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

2018 was an extraordinary year at **St Ursula's College, Yeppoon**. It was the year the College celebrated **100 years of providing quality Catholic Secondary education for the girls of Central Queensland**. In 2017, this College and Sacred Heart Primary School had jointly celebrated the centenary of Catholic Education and Presentation presence on the Capricorn Coast – but 2018 belonged to St Ursula's.

### **Celebrations:**

On **Foundation Day**, March 12<sup>th</sup>, the College assembled for an aerial photograph in the shape of the number 100 and then enjoyed a large Birthday Cake. Most of the celebrations occurred, however, on the long weekend of 4 – 7<sup>th</sup> May. On the evening of Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May, over 200 people, (students, parents, and community members) gathered at the Yeppoon Town Hall for a **Civic Reception and Book Launch** of the College's history.

In his address, *Livingstone Shire Mayor, Mr Bill Ludwig*, paid tribute to the College and acknowledged its longevity and loyalty to the Capricorn Coast community.

*“St Ursula's College has demonstrated impressive commitment to the community; it will remain a beacon for a century to come,” Cr Ludwig Said.*

Speakers such as the *Federal Member for Capricornia, Ms Michelle Landry*, and *College Board of Directors Chair, Mrs Kerry Attwill*, paid tribute to the impressive reputation for excellence that St Ursula's has maintained over the past 100 years.

Guest Speaker, past student and a well-known journalist, *Ms Kathleen Noonan*, officially launched the College's Centenary Book, *100 Stories*, written by *Mrs Barb Tamassy*, a retired staff member who volunteered to write the book. The opening performance of the Centenary musical, *One Step Beyond*, also written by Mrs Barb Tamassy was also held that night.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May was **Open Day** at the College, the highlight of which was *Doors to the Decades*. Special spaces throughout the College featured photographs, attendance records and memorabilia from each decade of the College's history. Over a 1000 people visited that day and there were many joyful reunions of old school friends and their teachers. Twenty-two Presentation Sisters joined us and their presence was greatly appreciated by past and present students.

That night, over 200 guests from the College's extended community attended *Centenary Under the Stars*, a gala evening event that saw the Campus transformed into a starry wonderland. Past student and talented DJ, *Atalein* (Laura Semple), kept the tunes flowing for those keen on dancing.

At the same time at the Town Hall, another 250 past pupils celebrated the Centenary of St Ursula's at **Memories Dinner**, a sit down dinner with music by *MotherLove*. There were laughter and tears aplenty as a roving microphone ensured many tales were shared throughout the evening.

On Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> May, the celebrations continued with a **Mass of Thanksgiving**, concelebrated by *Bishop McCarthy, Fr Matthew Moloney, Fr Mattias Ogwo* and *Fr Simeon Uchendu* at Sacred Heart Church. Past students processed into the Church in their respective decades at the commencement of Mass, before Bishop McCarthy paid tribute to the College in his Homily. Bishop McCarthy thanked

College Principal, Mrs Catherine Dunbar, for her vision and leadership and the Presentation Sisters who founded the College for their courage, sacrifice and dedication.

Mass was followed by Morning Tea at St Ursula's and College Captains, **Maggie Hillman** and **Chelsea Tucker**, were honoured to cut the official 'Centenary Cake' alongside Mrs Dunbar, Miss Leesa Jeffcoat (DCEO), Bishop McCarthy and **State Member for Keppel, Mrs Brittany Lauga**.

The weekend of Centenary events finished with the final performance of Centenary musical, *One Step Beyond*, a poetry reading by past Principal, **Ms Marg Clifford (Ramsay)**, and the debut of the new **College song, Sisters**, on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May. *One Step Beyond*, an original musical written by Mrs Barb Tamassy and directed by Mrs Nicole Francis-Leah, brought to life the story of Nano Nagle, the Presentation Sisters, and St Ursula's College.

The performance of *Sisters* by the *100 Voice Choir* was conducted by its Composer, **Miss Alice Chance**, who was commissioned by the College and funded by a Regional Arts Development Grant from the Livingstone Shire Council. The Choir comprised past and present students, parents, and staff, and a twenty-piece Orchestra that launched the new school song to thunderous applause.

Another highlight of the Centenary was the establishment of **Mercy Centenary Way**, thanks to a generous donation by **Mercy Partners**. Constructing this walkway involved paving an area alongside the Lemana Building, rendering and painting ten brick pillars and installing ten plaques, one on each pillar, recording the highlights of each decade of the College's one hundred years.

The Centenary Celebrations formally ended at **Presentation Evening** in November with a wonderful reflection on the year's activities and moving acknowledgement of the **100 Acts of Service** completed by students and staff in our Centenary year.

The College is **deeply indebted** to the **Presentation Sisters**, the **P&F Association**, **Mercy Partners** and a number of individual donors for their contributions to the refurbishment of Gabriel Hogan House in readiness for the Centenary. St Ursula's is also very appreciative of the sponsors of the Centenary celebrations/events.

The **theme for 2018 was Discovering New Horizons** as it was considered important that the Centenary was not only a time for the College to look back and celebrate but also to look forward and anticipate opportunities ahead. The Centenary celebrations were extremely successful, fostering pride and confidence in the College community itself and greater awareness of St Ursula's and its achievements throughout Central Queensland. This augurs well for our next century – and was evident in a stronger enrolment trend at the end of 2018.

**Enrolment figures for 2018 were as follows:**

Year Level	Number
Year 7	84
Year 8	82
Year 9	62
Year 10	77
Year 11	36
Year 12	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>395</b>

Other important enrolment data is included below:

Student attendance profile (This is calculated on a 181 day school year (Yrs 7 – 11) and 172 (Yr 12)

Senior Years (Years 10, 11 and 12) attendance was as follows:

	<b>2018 (average per student)</b>
Year 10	<b>93.21%</b>
Year 11	<b>93.47%</b>
Year 12	<b>93.02%</b>

Middle Years (Years 7, 8 and 9) attendance was as follows:

	<b>2018 (average per student)</b>
Year 7	<b>94.33%</b>
Year 8	<b>93.40%</b>
Year 9	<b>93.37%</b>

**Apparent Retention rates Full Time Students Years 10-12**

<u>Year 10</u>		<u>Year 12</u>		<u>Year 10-12</u>
<u>Year</u>	<u>Enrolment</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Enrolment</u>	<u>Apparent Retention Rate</u>
2014	72	<b>2016</b>	66	<b>91.6%</b>
2015	88	<b>2017</b>	77	<b>88%</b>
2016	56	<b>2018</b>	54	<b>96.42%</b>

**Indigenous Students as at August 2018**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Enrolment</u>
7	10
8	9
9	6
10	6
11	4
12	5

THE WORKFORCE IS COMPOSED AS FOLLOWS:

2018				
Day School			Boarding School	
Non Indigenous	Teaching	36	Non Indigenous	16
	Non-Teaching	21		
Indigenous	Non-Teaching	5		

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS:

Bachelor Degrees	47
Masters Degrees	4
Certificates of Teaching	3
Diplomas	12
Graduate Diplomas	14

EXPENDITURE ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - 2018:

Teaching	\$21,752.56
Non-Teaching	\$7224.81
TOTAL	\$28,977.37

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

St Ursula's has a long-standing commitment to professional learning and review of staff performance and devotes considerable time and resources to these activities and processes. The College provides comprehensive professional learning for staff as well as supporting access to external learning activities. An important source of professional learning is through peers and we are fortunate to have great expertise within our staff and a strong commitment to sharing this with colleagues. This sharing occurs across both cross and within Departments, Year Levels and subjects.

The whole teaching staff was involved in the following activities:

- *Student Protection*
- *First Aid & Fire Evacuation Training*
- *Workplace Health & Safety*
- *Bishop's Inservice Day – Religious Education*
- *Mighty Minds – thinking skills, QCS & NAPLAN Test Preparation*
- *Supporting the Learning needs of Diverse Learners*
- *Literacy Skills Workshops*
- *Adolescent Wellbeing and Mental Health*

Leadership Personnel and Teaching staff also attended Professional Development sessions relevant to particular areas of responsibility. Some examples are listed below:

- QCAA Panel Training
- QHTA Conference
- ANZELA Conference
- QTAC Seminars/Workshops pertaining to the introduction of a new Senior Syllabus in 2019

- *Positive Schools Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference*
- *National Religious Education Leaders Symposium*
- *Google Training*

### NAPLAN

In May 2018, our College was one of many trial pilot schools to undertake NAPLAN Testing Online. This involved a preparation and training process to ensure our systems, staff, and students were ready for implementation. From an administrative perspective, the organization process was generally effective, with most student feedback signifying they were able to engage with the testing in the online environment. Feedback from supervising teachers indicated that some students may have been less focused, particularly with their writing task, in this online testing process. Of note, is the effect of the branching of questions for students. This impacted upon their ability to meet the higher level questions if initial responses were incorrect. There were technical implementations issues, predominantly with Internet connection and, although most of these were managed within a suitable timeframe (less than 3 minutes), the disruption to some students was not ideal. Our students were not alone in reflecting in their results the impact of this technological transition.

### Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test

Students undertook two timetabled lessons, a two-day workshop, and four practice tests as preparation for this test. It was previously identified that the 2018 results would not match earlier years (based on data tracking); however, the results were unsettling. An evaluation of the preparation process has been undertaken with measures put in place in 2019 to address some factors, in particular in the area of Mathematics.

A	B	C	D	E
12.5%	17.5%	27.5%	42.5%	0%

	Senior Education Profiles	VET Qualifications	SAT	QCIA	QCE	OP	% with a QCE, SAT or VET
2018	54	29	4	0	54	38	100%
OP 1-5	OP 6-10	OP 11-15	OP 16-20	OP 21-25			
5	9	7	16	1			

### Learning and Teaching

A **comprehensive Middle Leader review** was undertaken and the recommendation to reduce the number of Middle Leaders in the curriculum area approved and implemented. Reducing the number strengthened the group and enhanced its capacity to meet and collaborate more effectively.

The organization of **teaching and learning** was enhanced by publishing Term Planners and Assessment Schedules by Week Two for parents and students. This process ensured accountability for teaching and assessment, as well as being an effective supporting mechanism for students to take

responsibility in the learning process. The assessment schedule enabled some Support Staff to conduct exam supervisions, thus reducing the load for teachers at peak times.

**Google Classroom** was embraced as a **Learning Management System**; all teachers created an interactive learning environment and resource repository for each class. Staff undertook some “in-house” training in this area at the commencement of 2018 and enthusiastically supported this challenge. Students and teachers engaged in interactive activities in the classroom as well as flipped learning; this is an emerging opportunity for the College. Accordingly, the College created a new Middle Leadership position, E-Learning Coordinator, for 2019. This role presents an opportunity to maximise the Library as a dynamic resource going forward.

The **Educator Impact peer feedback** process continued for the second year of a three-year contract. This has been a considerable investment, and evaluation for continual involvement beyond 2019 is required. Middle Leaders undertook this feedback and appraisal process, which enabled some professional conversations about pedagogy, classroom routines and learning behaviours. Driving deep and surface learning was again the area identified for improvement; this was reflected in the QCS Test result and will be a focus for teaching in 2019. The implementation of the *21C* program seeks to address some of these concerns.

There were **eleven teachers involved in Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) panel meetings; ten on District panel and one on State panel**. All teaching staff undertook at least one external Professional Development learning activity in 2018.

There continued to be strong support from parents, with excellent attendance at the **Senior School Parent Evening, Year 7 Evening, and Year 10 into Senior Information Evening**. Similarly, the Parent-Student-Teacher interviews, Academic Award assemblies, and Presentation Evening were all very well attended.

**The SET Plan process** changed to include an interview for each Year 10 student and their parents with a school leader. This process also involved several opportunities for students to engage in learning pathway discussions and experiences through the University network and *Communication to Careers* session organized by Peter Lynch on behalf of the Ring Initiative – Rockhampton Innovative Networking Group

### **Curriculum Review outcomes**

With the implementation of a new Senior curriculum in 2019, it was considered timely to review the Yr 7 – 10 curriculum in 2018 to ensure there were strong foundation for the incoming Senior curriculum areas requiring attention included:

- Year 10 – Careers Education (QCAA subject) to support the SET Plan process was considered to be more appropriate than the existing Futures Education program. Health and Physical Education to become an elective to reduce the total numbers of subjects for students in Year 10 as they begin to specialise their learning pathways.
- Shared Campus arrangements – The curriculum connection with St Brendan's College will be “on a break” in 2019 as new Senior Syllabus Subjects are implemented. In total, less than 20 St Ursula's students accessed SBC subjects and, in 2019, no student will be disadvantaged as we continue these subject offerings for them. Further evaluation of the feasibility of Shared Campus arrangements will be undertaken in 2019.

- Timetable – There will be a reduction to six lessons each day in 2019 extending the lesson learning length. This will provide opportunity for deeper learning to occur; it will also accommodate assessment being undertaken within lesson times.

The strength of our learning community was again evident in 2018 as was the expertise of teachers and their commitment to quality teaching.

### **SPIRITUAL AND PASTORAL:**

Throughout the Centenary, the College continued our journey of embracing diversity, nurturing spirituality and valuing the relationships that have the potential to transform our students, from girls, into young women who are inspired to make a difference in their world. The opportunities for leadership, outreach, nurturing the College spirit, and the constant presence of Catholic and Presentation values, allowed students to grow and develop beyond expectation, sometimes despite adversity.

### **Spiritual**

New Parish Priest, Fr Matthew Moloney was welcomed to the Capricorn Coast and, with his leadership and encouragement, we collaborated with the three other Catholic Schools in the Yeppoon area to celebrate a number of Youth Masses on Saturday evenings. Students were particularly involved in Saturday Vigil Masses and actively participated by welcoming parishioners, reading, altar serving, singing and operating the power point. Our Chapel was well utilised this year for class prayer and liturgies, a Lenten Program for staff, for 8am Mass on rostered Thursdays for Catholic schools and parishioners and for personal prayer and reflection for staff and students.

The College's JAG (Justice Action Group) members worked with House Captains and coordinated many outreach and fundraising activities to support **Caritas** (\$1200); **Cancer Council Queensland** and **National Breast Cancer Foundation**; **drought-affected farmers**; and the **Red Shield Appeal**. These activities demonstrate the Presentation value of compassion and spirit of generosity is alive in our community. Representatives from the College attended the Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage in May, and the Year 10 **A Chance To Share** (ACTS) Camp in August. Students in Years 10 to 12 provided much needed assistance at the **Eddie Rice Van each Thursday** led by Ms Strelow, Mrs Kann, Mrs Yore, Mrs Tyrrell, Ms Pascoe and Mrs Dunbar. A Religious Institute Grant of \$12,800 funded a new Social Justice program, **Headstart** which provides Toiletry, School and Home Starter Kits to people in need in our community.

The **Presentation Associates** continued their work within the College, with over **50 students** from Years 7–12 volunteering to assist them **bake and deliver Christmas muffins and Shortbread during Term 4**. Students in Year 8 organised a *Walk for PNG* which was well supported by the student body and created awareness of the hardships faced by students attending Presentation Schools in Papua New Guinea, who walk for hours each day to attend school.

**Years 10 and 11 Retreat Days** with Fr Ray Sanchez and the Passionist Team, and Years 7, 8 and 9 Retreat Days with the National Evangelisation Team (NET), were well received and proved very successful. **Year 11 Leadership Days** were extended this year to include a **day of service** activities. The girls assisted with Christmas cooking, packed 200 Birthing Kits for Zonta, and provided a barbeque lunch for the PNG walkers. **Year 12 Retreat Day** was held at the Yeppoon Surf Life-Saving Club and the girls enjoyed the relaxation benefits of being by the sea, while they reminisced on their

five years of St Ursula's education, their personal and spiritual growth, and the valuable and lasting friendships they formed.

### **Pastoral**

In 2018, Mrs Megan Slade (Head of Middle School) and Ms Krista Vatubua (Indigenous Liaison Officer) joined the College Wellbeing Team which ably supports the learning, social, emotional, behavioural, and personal needs of our students. By working with our students and parents, the team, which included Mrs Arianna Greinke (Head of Senior School), Ms Suzanne Iskov (Nurse), and Mrs Glenda Channells (Counsellor), provided support and extensive opportunities for our students to optimize their holistic experience here at the College.

In Term 3, guest speaker, past pupil and founder of 'Fuel – Girl Shaped Flames', Tanya Meessmann, funded by the College's Parents and Friends Association, inspired students, staff and parents with her workshops on *Finding Your Passion and Feeding It*. Year level and school assemblies were utilised to promote and educate students about Anti-Bullying, Cyber Safety, Harmony Day, NAIDOC Week, Personal Safety, and Drug and Alcohol Education. Mental Health Week featured 'R U OK?' activities, relaxation exercises and meditative practices.

### **Middle School:**

The Middle School Wellbeing program incorporated different aspects of their five areas, mental, emotional, spiritual, physical and social wellbeing and provided students with a wide range of strategies and skills needed to successfully navigate their teenage years and beyond.

In Year 7, students focused on their orientation to Secondary School. This included looking at the expectations of St Ursula's College, learning styles, friendships, making good choices, Cyber-Bullying and Cyber-Etiquette, Positive Thinking and strategies to deal with peer pressure, and sexual health. This was enhanced by a two-day camp designed for students to get to know each other better and learn to encourage and support their peers.

Year 8 students revisited College expectations and helpful study habits, and then focused on a variety of topics, including *Growth Mindset*, *Positive Thinking/Self-Talk*, *Resilience Role Models* and *Cyber Safety*. An excursion to the Capricorn Caves helped the students to know each other better and be physically challenged. The highlight of this excursion was the involvement of students' fathers or father-figures, as they were invited to share the day of challenges with the girls. It was a wonderful opportunity for the 'Dads' to meet other fathers in the year group, and the girls thoroughly enjoyed spending time with their fathers/father-figures.

Students in **Year 9** looked at Lifestyle Balance, Character Strengths and Weaknesses, Managing Workloads, Resilience Skills and Optimistic/Pessimistic Thoughts. They worked through a unit of Sexual Health education and participated in a three-day **Outdoor Education Camp at Great Keppel Island**. This challenged them to move out of their comfort zones, and also highlighted the importance of encouraging others.

To foster a sense of fun and togetherness in Middle School, all Years 7-9 students were encouraged to participate in Friday lunchtime 'Dance-Offs' and Wednesday lunchtime 'Board Game' days. **A Touch Football/Pizza/Movie Night was held for Middle School students, in conjunction with St**

**Brendan's College**, to encourage social relationships between the students of the two schools. We would like to see this social interaction between the two schools continue in 2019.

### **Senior School:**

The **Wellbeing program** in the Senior School built upon the foundations set up in Middle School under the subject heading, *Futures Education (FED)*. In essence, the three-year course includes Personal Development and Wellbeing focus, and sits alongside Queensland Core Skills Test preparation (QCSP) in Years 11 and 12.

**Year 10 FED topics** addressed Personal Strengths, Relationships, Safe Decision Making, Resume Writing and Career Education, including focus on QTAC's My Path and familiarisation with the QCE system. A highlight for the year was the **Career Expo Day**, which saw the Year 10 students participate in a **Communication to Careers** session with a range of local employers. Students also visited James Cook and Central Queensland universities, and experienced study options. Course lecturers helped students make important and relevant subject choices for Years 11 and 12.

**Year 11s** focused on Study Skills, Time Management, Stress Management and preparing for examinations. A **Leadership program** in Term 3 helped the girls with development of self-confidence, public speaking, and understanding the characteristics of servant leadership. This culminated in a Leadership experience facilitated by Belinda Yorston, Chief Executive Officer of *yLead*.

The **Year 12 FED** course is designed to equip students with transferable skills. A range of guest speakers presented to the students on **topics** including; Renting, Budgeting and Acknowledging the Pitfalls of Credit, Driver Safety. Healthy Relationships and 'Schoolies' safety. Year 12 Non-QCS students undertook a two-day **self-defence intensive course** on July 17 and 18, and a Work Ready course on September 4 and 5. A **Financial Literacy course** was also instigated as a joint school and workplace initiative.

### **Boarding Support**

The Wellbeing Team also supported the Boarding House; Miss Erin Lee, Head of Boarding worked in collaboration with the Wellbeing Team to ensure Boarding life and Day school life were complementary. This required regular communication and shared information to provide optimal conditions for student wellbeing and welfare.

### **Indigenous Support**

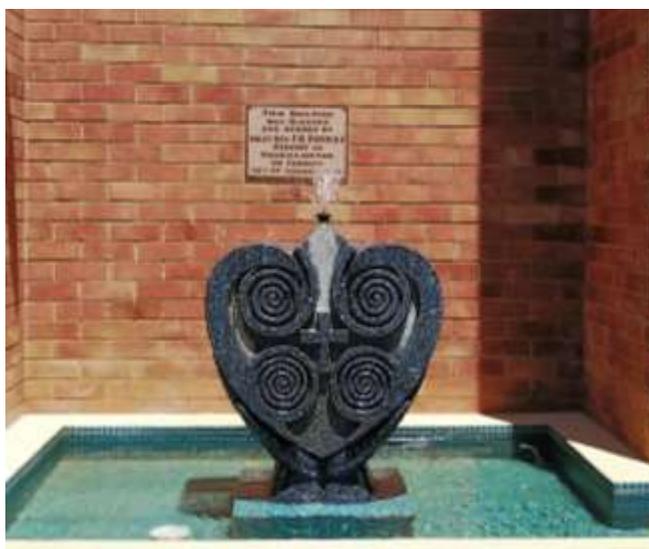
With the assistance of the Indigenous Education Committee, Mrs Krista Vatubua completed the College's first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). We welcomed Darumbul Elder, Aunty Sally Vea Vea, to our Committee and will collaborate with her to develop greater understandings of our local Indigenous culture and protocols. Krista educated staff and students about Indigenous culture; promoted Indigenous cultural activities within the College; and organised tutoring at school and through the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) program.

### **Counselling and Health Support**

College Counsellor, Mrs Glenda Channells, met with students who were in need of counselling throughout the year. Glenda continued her proactive work with Year Level Programs to assist the Heads of School. College Nurse, Ms Suzanne Iskov, embraced Professional Development opportunities during the year, and provided health care and emotional support for both Day and Boarding students.

**Student Activities included:**

- Rockhampton District Sporting Competitions: (Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics, Volleyball, Netball, Basketball, Touch Football, Soccer, Water Polo, Equestrian).
- State Sporting Competition: QISSNetball, All School Touch
- Instrumental Music, Choir, Orchestra and Ensembles
- Drama Club, combined Colleges' Musical with St Brendan's College
- Public Speaking and Debating
- Student Representative Council and Student Committees
- Social Justice, Outreach and Community Fundraising
- Student Retreats and Reflection Days
- Student Leadership Training, Conferences and exchanges with other schools
- Maths Team Challenge, ICAS Competitions (English, Maths and Science)
- Readers Cup Challenge



**PARENT ENGAGEMENT**

**The positive partnerships built with parents in both the Day and Boarding Schools were again evident in 2018. The Parents and Friends Association (P&F)** continued to provide the College with valuable support and useful feedback to assist with planning and projects. Most members of the **Executive** of the **P &F** accepted re-election for the 2018 College year, ensuring stability and the fulfilment of the Committee's Centenary commitment. The focus on parent **engagement and education** continued and a very successful and well-attended parent night featured past student, Tanya Meessmann, whose session was entitled *Finding Your Passion and Feeding It*. The success of the P&F endeavours generally was evident in the increased attendance at P&F Meetings throughout the year and sincere thanks are extended to Mrs Alison Craggs, President, Mrs Megan Weinert, Vice President, Mrs Juanita Weston-Wright, Treasurer, Ms Deborah Smith, Secretary, Mrs Natalie Salisbury, Diocesan Liaison, and Mrs Natalie Salisbury and Mrs Bettina Mann, Parent Engagement.

The staff of St Ursula's College place great value on parental involvement in the education of their daughters. Parents have a number of such opportunities including:

- Commissioning, Catholic Education Week and Valedictory Masses

- Annual Presentation Evening
- Academic Assemblies
- Welcome and Orientation Events for incoming Year 7 students and their parents
- Year 8 Father/Daughter Caving Expedition
- Parent Information Evenings on relevant topics
- Subject Selection evenings
- End of Semester Reports
- Parent/Teacher Interview sessions each semester

### **FUNDING**

School income data can be accessed via the [My School Website](#)

### **MAINTAINING THE SPIRIT**

Sincere thanks are extended to **Mercy Partners** for their support of the St Ursula's spirit and charism during the 2018 academic year. The opportunities for formation and fellowship, as well as networking with others in leadership in similar ministries, proved to be invaluable and the blessings involved in this new partnership continue to grow.

The careful governance by the **Board of Directors** especially **Chair, Mrs Kerry Attwill**, Deputy Chair, Mr David Sutton and Company Secretary, Mrs Lisa Wain, ensured that the College maintained a sound financial base and a positive direction. Their generous service and valuable contribution of time, talent and wisdom are gratefully acknowledged.

The **Deputy Principals**, Ms Belinda Connolly and Ms Deidre Pascoe, are sincerely thanked for their dedication and service as is Mrs Peta Tomkins, **Business Manager**, who ensured that the finances and facilities were wisely managed. **Heads of Department** and Work Supervisors ensured that teaching, learning and College operations continued along with the celebrations. The **Office and Finance Staff**, especially **Mrs Leisa Reber**, provided huge support to Centenary events as well as the day to day demands of running the College.

**Teaching and Boarding staff** provided exemplary care for students, by word and example. The positive visual impact and the attractive streetscape of the College, noted often in our Centenary year, were due to the fine work of the **Maintenance and Cleaning Teams** – and the **Catering Team** again embodied the value of Hospitality in the College.

Feedback from staff, students, parents, past students and members of the local community indicated very high levels of satisfaction with the College's academic performance; care for students, contribution to the local Arts community. This level of satisfaction was reflected in the upwards trend in enrolments for 2019 and high retention rates of students and staff.

2018 was a year of celebration but there were challenges. These were met with courage, determination, wisdom and faith. The qualities that made 2018 a wonderful year at St Ursula's are also qualities that contributed to this College's endurance and achievement of a very significant milestone.

**Mrs Catherine Dunbar**  
**PRINCIPAL**