



**ST CATHERINE'S**  
COLLEGE

Edition 2 | November 2019

THE

# BANKSIA

MAGAZINE FOR OUR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



—  
**5** Grand opening of  
innovative  
new building

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**12** What's happening  
around College?

—  
**17** Inaugural Nye Polson  
scholarship awarded

# 2019 has been a BIG year!

As a tertiary residential college of 440 students, St Catherine's has had an extraordinary year!

1.

Celebrated 43 students graduating with a wide range of both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees

2.

Completed and opened a \$12.8 million state-of-the-art new development for our *Dandjoo Darbalung* Indigenous Access Program

3.

Won the bid to open a St Catherine's College at Curtin University in 2022 making us the only residential College to have two Colleges on two campuses at two different universities

4.

Won the Overall Intercollege Sports Competition, won the Womens' Cup, the Spirit Cup and the Fitness Challenge Cup

5.

Won the Cultural Cup

## and...

added three new puppies to the College pooch community; Louis, Kaya and Tidda.



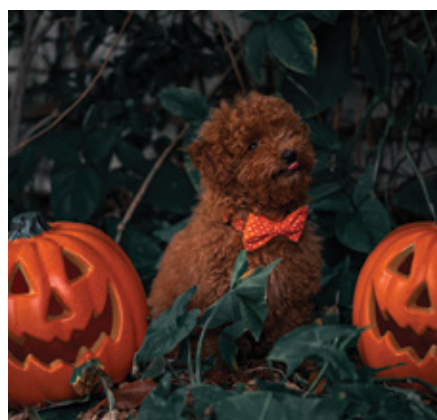
L-R: Ashleigh Benadretti, John Barley and Fiona Crowe

John Barley, the wonderful chef at St Catherine's, has retired after 23 years. He is much-loved by scores of Alumni and we will miss his creativity and sense of humour.

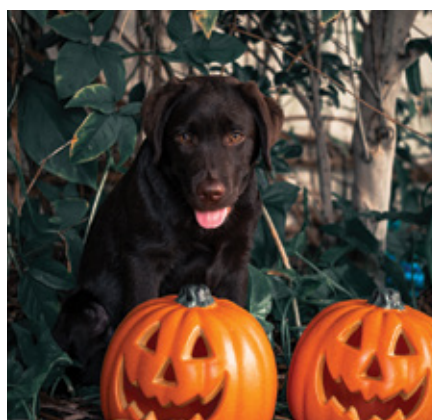
Thank you to all our residents for the joy you bring to St Cat's and to our huge network of friends and supporters!

We hope you have a peaceful Festive Season and, as 2020 beckons, there are yet more exciting ventures ahead.

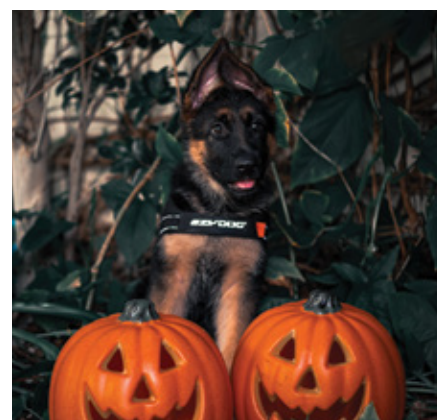
Fiona Crowe  
Head of College



Louis



Kaya



Tidda

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### Definitions

**Alumna:** A female former pupil or student of a particular school, college, or university.

**Alumnus:** A former pupil or student, especially a male one, of a particular school, college, or university.

**How do I use these terms?** When used in the singular, alumnus (which is a male form in Latin) generally refers to a male former student, with alumna being the corresponding female term, but the plural alumni can refer to pupils or students of either sex.

**Editorial team:** Mandy McFarland, Jacqueline Alliss, Sian O’Sullivan

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**Cover image:** Dr Sue Boyd, Alumna from 1966

*Out of 23 recent graduates in that year's intake, only two of the young diplomats were women. They had to battle, break down stereotypes and attempt to push aside obstacles in a time where the government was coming around to the idea of equal employment opportunity.*

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# Dr Sue Boyd

YEARS AT ST CATHERINE'S: 1966 – 1969

BEFORE ST CATHERINE'S: England

After emigrating with her parents to Western Australia, Sue arrived at St Catherine's in 1966. College was a great chance for her to find a new cohort of friends.

"We were all freshers, so I didn't stand out as particularly new even though I was new to Australia." Sue found College to be a very supportive place. The friendships she made during her time as a resident at St Catherine's and other colleges proved to be longstanding connections that were useful to know later in life.

As an all-women's college, St Catherine's was a tight-knit community of young women. Sue remembers seeing residents walking around in their slippers and pyjamas. Residents still do this today, but without the hair rollers that were in fashion at the time. Conversations started in the communal bathrooms would spill out into the corridor outside, with more and more people stopping to join in.

*Sue was raised in a service family with the belief that we are put on this earth to do good things for other people, leaving it a better place than you found it. Opportunities to give back to her community came up during her time at St Catherine's. Sue was elected UWA Student Guild President in 1969, making her the first woman to hold the position. In this same year, she campaigned to provide a safe walkway across Stirling Highway for students.*

A student was killed on Stirling Highway at night, prompting Sue to think about what could be done to ensure this wouldn't happen again. After the proposal for a set of traffic lights with a pedestrian crossing was rejected, a tunnel was suggested. The university approved the idea, but it took a long time for the construction of the tunnel to begin. It was an exercise in learning how bureaucracies work and how decisions were made.

*Sue knew a spectacle was needed to draw attention to their cause. Students from St George's College donned their dinner jackets with spades, crystal glasses and silver trays and made their way to the highway to begin digging the tunnel.*

The act of protest garnered some attention and Sue built on the momentum. A sit-in was organised over a few days. Approximately 1000 students came to sit down on Stirling Highway. Civil disobedience was discouraged, "If the police tell you to get up and move, get up and move. We will have another student come and sit in your place". They left a lane free for emergency traffic and printed out handbills to give to the frustrated drivers to explain why they were being held up.

Their point was made, and the protest made headlines. The tunnel was completed and was dubbed by *Pelican Magazine* as Boyd's Passage.

Her career did not turn out as Sue planned. After finishing secondary school, she volunteered as a teacher at a school in what became Zambia to teach in remote areas. She found a natural talent for teaching, and pursued that pathway in university, completing her Diploma of Education. All set to be a teacher, she was approached by a friend on campus who informed her he had been accepted to Foreign Affairs after his exams. It struck Sue that this friend had only been in Australia as long as she had, making him no more Australian than her. National identity was a confusing point, "I didn't feel Australian, I would still think of myself as English. What was I? I was just me." After a last-minute decision to apply, she was accepted into the department.

*When she joined Foreign Affairs after graduation, it was an obstacle being a woman. Women were seen as an unnecessary drain on resources, taking up positions better suited to men. It was believed they would all leave and get married, want maternity leave to start a family. Investing in their training was seen to be a waste. Until 1966, the Marriage Bar prevented married women from working full time in the public service. This meant there were no older female diplomats to act as role models.*



Sue is an active member of the St Cat's community. She attended the 2019 Scholars' Dinner and is seen here with residents and Prof Fiona Pixley from UWA

Out of 23 recent graduates in that year's intake, only two of the young diplomats were women. They had to battle, break down stereotypes and attempt to push aside obstacles in a time where the government was coming around to the idea of equal employment opportunity. They encountered systemic problems in the system. For example, men were sent to hardship posts overseas such as the Middle East and Jakarta, while women were sent to 'safer' positions in places like Paris and London. The hardship posts held by men would be 2 years in length while the women's contracts would be for 3 years. Their male colleagues thought they were looking after the women, as they would do for their wives and daughters. However, this gallantry was preventing their female coworkers from competing for promotions.

*During her time working for the United Nations, Sue also faced differential treatment for being a woman. Sue was a great joke-teller, being known among her colleagues for her sharp humour. It came to her attention that the delegate for Thailand was so shocked by this behaviour from a woman, that it coloured his opinion of her.*

"He thought that only a loose woman would talk like this." His opinions were getting in the way of negotiations, and so Sue learned to be cautious. Jokes often weren't useful in diplomacy. While she is more careful about how she uses humour, she hasn't stopped making jokes. Reflecting on her life and career, there were many hints that diplomacy would be a good career for her. She had never considered the field, and certainly not as an Australian diplomat. Her advice to anyone seeking a career in diplomacy is to ask questions. Understanding why people do things differently is the basis for a successful negotiation.

*Sue's career has been spent working in the service of Australia. After retiring from public service, Sue relied on her network to help further her career in business. She is now a Chair and Business Coach for Foresight Global Coaching. "Everything I have done since retiring has come through old friends and network, people from College included." She has also been on the Board of the Gold Corporation and Volunteering WA and recently retired from the UWA senate, having served since 2004. She has also worked in the Kimberley Region with Aboriginal corporations.*

Sue is currently on the Board of the College. Her advice to students is to take advantage of the opportunity to live at St Catherine's with a mixed network. She is excited about the growth of the *Dandjoo Darbalung* program as there are now so many opportunities for residents to become more culturally competent.

Reflecting on her first impressions of her time at St Catherine's, she remembers how nice it was to know people who were studying different courses, with different ways of thinking. "It's who you know that matters and your network will deliver. Those old friends have been very useful throughout my life."

# Huge boost for St Catherine's College

St Catherine's College officially opened a new \$12.8million building to support its Indigenous Access program, *Dandjoo Darbalung*. Funded by the WA State Government, the building was declared open by the Minister for Housing, Veterans Issues, Youth and Asian Engagement, the Hon Peter Tinley AM on 31 October 2019.

This uniquely designed building will support students from regional and remote communities, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, as they complete their tertiary education in a culturally rich and appropriate environment.

Indigenous students at the College assisted in preparing the design brief with Wilson's Architects. With the ensuing design a contemporary expression of a way of life deeply rooted in family and nature. The new development includes 54 new rooms in varying sizes and clusters, a Cultural Centre and a Learning Centre, all surrounded by tranquil gardens that tell a story of the six Nyooongar seasons. The development of the gardens, which also includes a rooftop garden, was funded by a Lotterywest grant.

Alumna, Sarah Bellottie, a Nhanda Malgana woman from Shark Bay near Geraldton, and now a Geologist at BHP, spoke about her passion to marry traditional Aboriginal knowledge with new-age STEM knowledge to create a better future for young Indigenous people. "The *Dandjoo Darbalung* program gave me a great sense of community and showed me that it didn't matter where you came from or what your gender was, if you worked collaboratively you could achieve anything.

I was so fortunate to have that base being far from home and it set me up to be successful and see the world in such a positive way. This new development is amazing and will do even more to help the students as it truly celebrates Aboriginal culture."

*With the new building complete, the total capacity of the program will grow from 50 to 100 students, making it the biggest tertiary residential program of its type in Australia.*

The event was carefully planned to be culturally appropriate, take 250 guests on a journey of discovery and to be a huge celebration! Current residents, friends and Alumni gathered as Prof Simon Forrest, a renowned Aboriginal Elder, gave his Welcome to Country. He was joined by dancers from Wesley College, Presbyterian Ladies' College and *Dandjoo Darbalung*. Pre-recorded videos sending messages of congratulations and support were also received from the Hon Ken Wyatt, the Minister for Aboriginal Australians and notable Alumni of the College and the program.

The ceremony culminated in Hon Peter Tinley declaring the building open with a backdrop of fireworks and a light show.

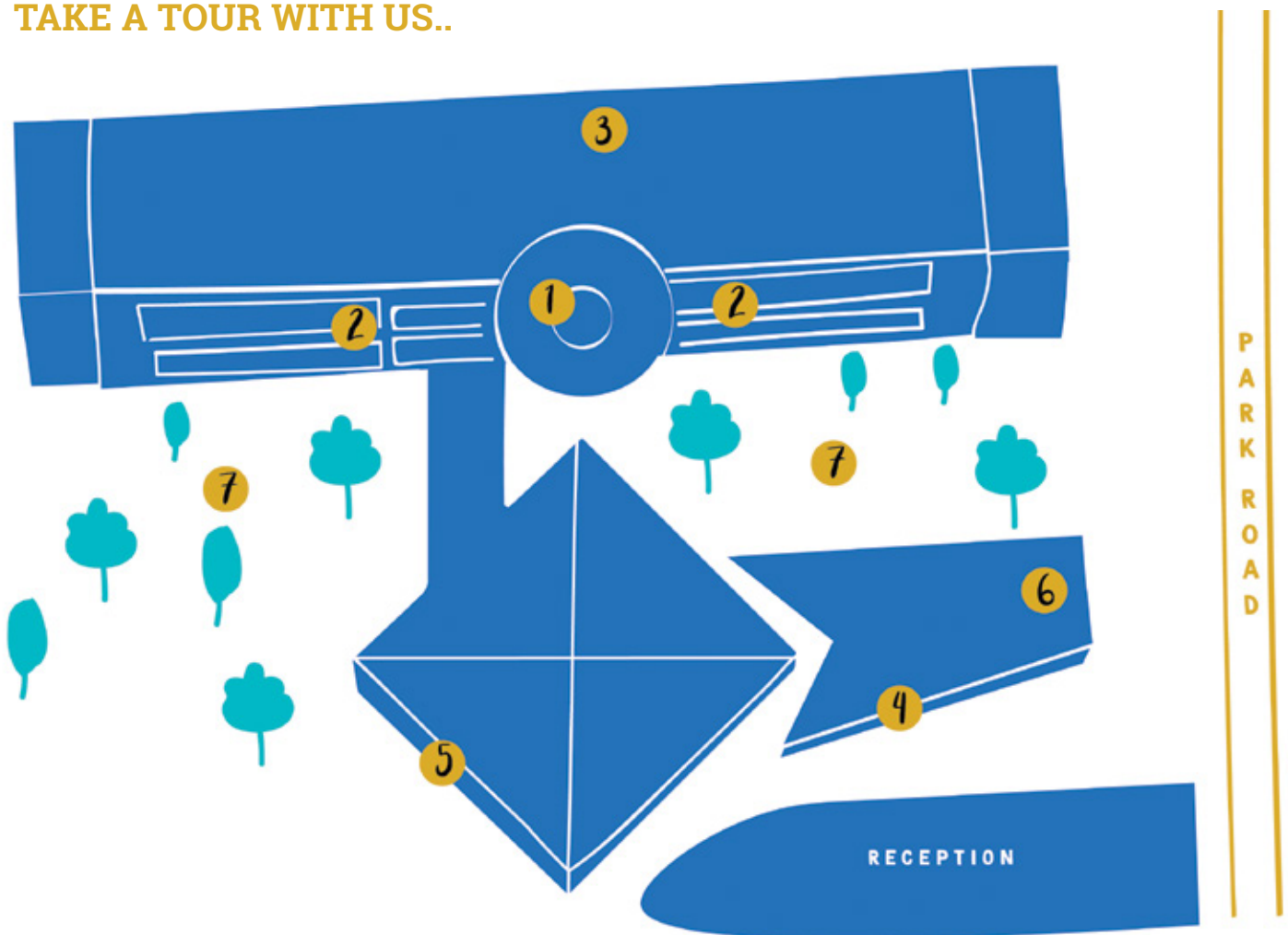


## OUR NEW OFFERING

Residents across several cohorts assisted in preparing the design brief. The new building is a contemporary expression of a way of life focussed on family with mutual responsibility between members of the community for the wellbeing and success of every individual.

“Country is an Aboriginal idea. It is an idea that binds groupings of Aboriginal people to the place of their ancestors, past, current and the future. It understands that every movement of the land, sea and sky, its particples, its prospects and its prompts, enables life. It is revealed over time by camping in it and guides my way into architecture. It is a matter of belonging.” - Kevin O’Brien - Indigenous Architect

## TAKE A TOUR WITH US..



The design of the Tower with the fire pit at the crown, is open to the elements, suffused with natural light and connected to key symbolic features. It emphasises the relationship Aboriginal people have with the land, with nature and the importance of birds and animals to their songs, dances and belief systems. It contains deeply symbolic elements such as the circular seating around a firepit within a garden open to the sky. Indigenous students hold family meetings every fortnight around the fire pit, with appropriate mentors to discuss issues and ideas, fears and hopes. Barry McGuire, Elder and ambassador for *Dandjoo Darbalung* performed a smoking ceremony for the new building as students moved in.





In the brief, the residents wanted spaces where they could come together as a family – eat together, talk together and study together. The communal spaces are generous and functional but provide quiet for study purposes and are centrally located with kitchenette facilities.



Designed in pods of nine or ten, the bedrooms vary in size and design, as you would find in a home. No long corridors of the same size room! This allows older and younger students to live together and peer-to-peer mentoring to naturally occur. The bedrooms have ceiling to floor windows that open up to a private balcony and a protective screen that allows the fresh air into the rooms all day and night. Every room looks out onto trees and native gardens creating a continuous link with the green world.



The Cultural Centre is a dynamic connection point with the wider community and includes mentoring, tutoring and cultural celebration, surrounded by native gardens. It is both the home of the program for Indigenous students and a space to foster knowledge sharing more widely, including hosting school visits and visits from students in partner programs like *Follow the Dream*, *Clontarf*, *Shooting Stars*, *Girls from Oz* and *AISWA*. There are casual seating areas and formal areas with access to resources and tutors, and an open space to display student artwork and various cultural resources.



Academic excellence is integral to St Catherine's College and the Learning Centre has been a welcoming space for individual and group study. A light-filled, quiet yet communal space that allows students to work collaboratively and pursue their academic goals. High achieving academic students live in the new building and work together to ensure that all 54 residents are achieving at the highest level.



Every roof space at St Catherine's is productive in some way, either through generating energy or green space. This further models sustainability and the liveability of high-density urban communities. The roof of the Cultural Centre provides a quiet space for small groups to gather in much the same way as the meeting and ceremonial spaces provided in the native gardens and the Tower.



The beautiful gardens that surround the Dandjoo Darblung building tell a story of the Nyoongar seasons. With each season comes a different focus with changing colours and smells. It is designed to be welcoming and tranquil, inviting students to study outdoors, soak up the sun and take time out in nature. The wider community can be invited to share in cultural learning activities. The gardens were designed and built by Joseph Mann, St Catherine's Curator.



The Hon Minister Peter Tinley AM and Dandjoo Darbalung member Dennis Dann

*The Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt, commented on the development, "If you can see the invisible, then you can see the possibilities and provide opportunities for trust, commitment and ways of empowering others to manage their past, present and future."*



Residents and guests at our opening ceremony



Confetti and fireworks to celebrate the new facilities

# Our new gardens: beautiful, sustainable, meaningful



As part of our new *Dandjoo Darbalung Cultural and Learning Centre*, our Gardens Curator Joe Mann has been hard at work designing and building new garden facilities for our residents to enjoy.

“The new gardens were designed to be a showcase of Western Australian and Australian Indigenous plants. They represent the wondrous biodiversity of plants in this part of the world as well as providing habitat and food for local bird and animal species.”

Our residents from across Western Australia can recognise familiar plants from the South, South West and Northern regions of the state. Here, the plants are in the spotlight, creating a soft and organic space between the surrounding buildings.

The garden surrounds our new *Dandjoo Darbalung Cultural and Learning Centre* and heavily features the influence of Indigenous culture and strong ties to the Australian land.

*“Plants were chosen that either flower, provide seed or are useful in other ways during each of the Noongar six seasons. The six Balgas (Grass Trees) represent those seasons and are located in groups of three at either end of the garden (north and south).”*

“The use of the weathered steel edging represents the way our ancient land, rivers and mountains were created by the movement of the Rainbow Serpent (Waugal/Waakal/Woggle). The pathway

itself could be the Swan River as it relates to Perth or any waterway or valley across the continent. The curved, meandering path is designed to encourage the visitor to slow down and enjoy the garden rather than rush. It is a place for reflection.”

The pathway will also be filled with red, compact granite to mimic red dirt in the Australian desert.

Constructing the garden was not without its challenges. The area the garden sits on was previously a carpark, and thus had very hard asphalt and limestone ground that was unable to support plant growth. Joe and his small team of resident garden workers have moved over 100 cubic metres of soil and mulch by hand, often carried in buckets to the rooftop garden or carted across college from the Stirling highway car park.

However, the garden has been designed to not only reduce waste but to create a positive impact on the environment. The reticulation system prevents evaporation and the waste of water, and once fully established the garden should only require watering once per week. The garden is pesticide and herbicide-free. This space will also help to attract pollinators such as birds, butterflies and bees as well as providing habitats for native lizards and insects. Cost-saving and environmentally sustainable propagation through cuttings and seed gathering will also be a part of the renewable process of the garden. Thanks to the hard work of Joe and his team, we will be able to see the garden continue to flourish over time.

# Lesley Cala

Lesley Cala, a former resident of St Catherine's College, is a leader in the field of Neuroradiology. Born in Cottesloe, she graduated from UWA with a Bachelor of Medicine as one of only four women in the class of 1964. Following her graduation, Lesley was a tutor of anatomy and physiology at St Catherine's College.

She continued her medical training in the United Kingdom, obtaining a Diploma and a Fellowship of the Faculty of Radiologists. She returned to Perth in 1970 and became a teaching fellow in Radiology at Royal Perth Hospital. Over the next few years, she worked as a consultant radiologist in several hospitals around Perth.


*In 1975 she provided the five Perth teaching hospitals with access to CT brain scans, having procured the first CT machine in the Southern Hemisphere for Perth.*

In later years, her work turned to the study of 30,000 cases to complete her thesis; Neuroradiological Diagnosis of Intracranial Tumours. Outside of clinical hours, she also completed Forensic radiology for the State Coroner from 1972 to 2000.

Alongside her impressive accomplishments in radiology, Lesley has been an active member of many organisations. She served on the UWA senate from 1994 to 1998, and again from 2000-2010. She has been a high-ranking member of several women's organisations such as the Australian Federation of University Women, National Council of Women and the UWA Centenary Trust for Women. She has been an honorary fellow of St Catherine's College since 2003.

**You have been at the forefront of some incredibly important developments in neuroradiology. What advice would you pass on to current St Catherine's College residents regarding pursuing their career goals?**

First, you must decide what your goal is to be. Often people drift for a couple of years trying to decide what they want to do with their degree. Instead, establish what your goal is and set up a 5-year plan and a 10-year plan to achieve it.



Name:	Lesley Cala
Studied:	Bachelor of Radiology
Years @ St Catherine's:	1960 - 1964
Location before St Catherine's:	Perth, Western Australia

fast facts

In the case of women, this usually includes allowing time out to marry and have children. Childcare facilities only take care of daylight hours. Men need to look at this aspect as well, because the presence of children with attendant paternal duties, can impact on the time that could otherwise be spent attending, for example, Board or Committee Meetings that often advance one professionally.

Next keep up to date in your field with visibility in the local, national and international forum. Keep a keen eye out to identify areas that are not currently in your geographical area and put yourself forward by promoting its acquisition of equipment at work, or as a leader of a team to develop a program within the professional and wider community.

**What were some daunting obstacles you had to face during your career?**

Being a woman in the male-dominated profession of Medicine during the '60s, '70s and '80s. By the '90s, women were being recognised as able to contribute equally, as a result of the perseverance of the early pioneers like myself.

My graduation class consisted of only 47 students and this included 4 women. Today the graduation class of 240 students would have equal numbers of men and women and sometimes there are more women than men.

**What are some of your fond memories from your time at St Catherine's College?**

As there were only 50 students in college at the time I was there, we all knew each other very well. Over the years, some have kept up annually with others.

*The friendly atmosphere was very evident at the coffee break scheduled, by us, at 9.00 pm for 30 minutes. We would sit on the landings and sip our drink and chat about teenage interests.*



*My graduation class consisted of only 47 students and this included four women. Today the graduation class of 240 students would have equal numbers of men and women and sometimes there are more women than men.*

In these coffee breaks, girls often brought out some part of a dress they were sewing to attend a forthcoming Ball and much advice was exchanged to achieve and finish the final product!

During that period, it was understood we could make as much noise as we liked with conversation. Then at 9.30 pm sharp, it was back to our rooms to continue studying; no more noise in the corridors. If we failed our exams, it meant we lost our scholarships. The College did not encourage a failed student to come back again. It was setting the standards for academic excellence that exist so strongly today.

**You were recently nominated for the position of Warden in the Council of Convocation of UWA Graduates. Tell us a little about this role and the election process.**

I am currently Deputy Warden of the Council until March 2020. Nominations for 2020 have recently opened and I have accepted the nomination for the position of Warden. This is the 3rd highest position in UWA, the highest being the Chancellor and the second highest being the Vice-Chancellor.

This is recognised in all ceremonial occasions, like graduation ceremonies. Anyone who holds a UWA undergraduate or postgraduate degree is entitled to vote. For those who wish to cast their vote, ballot papers will be mailed out in mid-January of 2020 and must be returned by 10 March.

If you need to update your address with the Convocation office, please do so by 4 December to receive a ballot paper.

# What's happening **around College?**

What an amazing semester! Since our residents came back from winter break, they have been kept busy with plenty of networking opportunities, sports, and other fun events. No matter where your interests lie, there is always something happening around College to get involved with. Our College community thrives on a culture of support, which you can see at through our high participation in charity and volunteering work, career development opportunities and even cheering the college on at intercollege competitions. Here are only a few of the highlights from our busy calendar. If you want to hear more about our events, be sure to get in touch with the college to stay up to date on what we have coming up.



1

## **FACULTY** DINNERS

This semester we once again held our Faculty dinners. The college invites academics and leaders from various industries to a formal meal at College. Here, our residents have the chance to network, ask questions and learn from inspirational people in their chosen field.



2

## **INTERCOLLEGE** SPORT

St Catherine's has been dominating the Intercollege sport this semester, with excellent results in dodgeball, table tennis, badminton, volleyball, netball, touch rugby and AFL. Our efforts were celebrated with a special Sports Dinner. We won the Womens' Cup, the Fitness Challenge Cup and the overall Intercollege Sports' Cup and our supporters were so wonderful, we also won the Spirit Cup.



3

## **OPEN** DAY

Open Day was a great success. Prospective residents and visitors got the chance to go on a tour of the College lead by one of our residents, ask questions about College life, pat the College dogs and help themselves to lunch.



## SCHOLARS' DINNER

To celebrate the academic achievement of our residents, the College held a special invitation-only formal dinner for 250 guests where we were joined by journalist and advocate, Peter Greste. It was an excellent opportunity to hear him speak about the challenges to media freedom in the current political climate.



## VISIT FROM THE UN AMBASSADOR SALLY MANSFIELD

The College was fortunate enough to host Australia's ambassador to the UN, her Excellency Sally Mansfield. She spoke to residents and guests about her role, career journey in foreign affairs and issues facing Australia today. Residents had the opportunity to ask questions, and network with other guests during this special event.



## BLOOM SHOWCASES THE NEXT GENERATION OF PERTH CHANGE-MAKING ENTREPRENEURS

Last month marked one of the biggest events in the start-up calendar for one of St Catherine's flagship offerings, Bloom. A WA pre-seed incubator, Bloom hosted the LaunchPad Founder's Showcase on 25 October to mark the end of an extraordinary 12-week journey for 30 young founders, eight of whom presented their solutions to some of the world's prickliest problems.

The Bloom LaunchPad was run by Program Manager Jasmin Ward, Ex-KMPG Partner Consultant, Graeme Sheard and Jeroen van Dalen for 2 consecutive semesters and saw the participant numbers tripling from 10 to 30 students since the program started 3 years ago.

Thanks to the New Industries X-Tend Grant by the WA Government, Bloom was able to expand LaunchPad and this semester's focus has been on purpose-driven entrepreneurship with Founders being required to deep dive into problems, build resilience and go through many rounds of customer validation before settling on their final solutions.

The diversity in the cohort has seen a wide range of start-ups come out of the program including:

- The Hello Initiative - Justice System Inequality
- Cross-cultural Issues among 2nd generation migrants
- Sustainable Investments
- ATAR Lab - ATAR preparation platform
- Extinction of pollinators
- Man Up – Addressing toxic masculinity
- Perth Clothing Swap - Unsustainable Fashion solution
- Buyer Up - Real Estate Transaction Inefficiencies

Other initiatives tackled problems in the mental health space, climate change and inequality and access to education. Watch this space to see where these students go next!

If you are interested in registering for the 2020 LaunchPad program, applications are currently open, so visit [Launchpad.run](http://Launchpad.run) for more information.



# Anne-Marie Southall

## How did you end up at St Catherine's College?

I was here in 1978 and 1979 as I spent my first two years at Tommy More. I was quite glad because St Cat's was a much better environment for me. It was certainly my first choice, but my parents wanted me to go to Tommy More, a Catholic College. I made some really good friends here and kept in touch with some of them for a long time. I had some great support because I was repeating some subjects at the time.

## What are some of your fond memories of your time at College?

The food was great, 2000% better than I was used to. Then in my second year, because I was a senior student, I got a room in Prescott which was quite flash for that time. I had friends in all the other colleges, and you had to be a tutor to have a room of that quality anywhere else. It was pretty cool.

As far as jokes and general mischief, St George's certainly got a fair hit from St Catherine's, although St Cat's was fairly tame in that respect. We still had things like flour bomb fights! Start and end of term wind-ups were always a lot of fun.

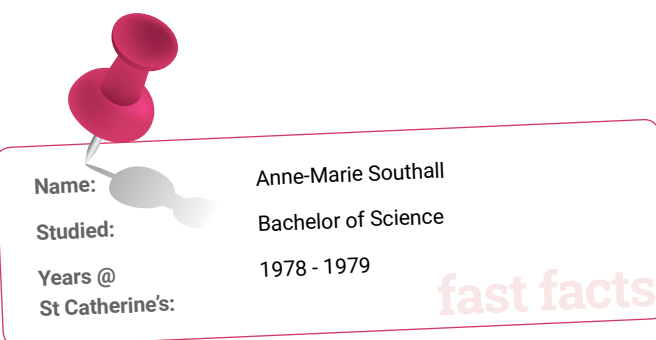
## How did your company, EMU Services, begin?

I moved to Geraldton with my husband where he was setting up a practice as a clinical psychologist. While we were there, he decided to do a bit of training on the side. The training ended up becoming a company that was the first outsourced non-government employment services, one of only thirteen nationally that started it.

Then we got a second contract which was a bit bigger, around 60 companies nationally. So, he said, "why don't you come and work with me?" We ran that for quite some years in regional WA in the northern part of the state from Geraldton right up to Kununurra and right through all the remote areas. Ultimately through our operations in Carnarvon, we were asked to take on a community development employment program, which we did, and that's where EMU services came from. We had a whole bunch of Inggarda people that were working with us and we employed them to support people in Carnarvon to get into work.

The name for EMU services was created by the indigenous people in Carnarvon, as it was based in Carnarvon and we mostly employ locals there. So, we asked them to come up with a name and that's what they came up with and then we built an acronym around it.

We continued developing that program for about 8 years. When the program changed, unfortunately, we weren't successful in continuing. However, at that time we set up a community patrol



Name:	Anne-Marie Southall
Studied:	Bachelor of Science
Years @ St Catherine's:	1978 - 1979

fast facts

which is still running today. We've just recently won another contract to help people with disabilities in Carnarvon.

## What motivates you to work in community and employment services?

It is so rewarding to see the impact of your work and that's why we keep doing it. We're quite passionate about delivering a service in Carnarvon because it's one of those towns that gets a bit lost. It's not big enough to get a breadth of services and it's not small enough to get some of the specialty services that smaller and more remote communities get. It's great to see good outcomes for people. Through our time in employment services, we worked very closely with Rio Tinto and ultimately got over 40 people from Carnarvon over to work at the Marandoo mine out near Tom Price. They set up a fly-in-fly-out from Carnarvon direct to Tom Price because at the time they needed more staff. We also worked with their Indigenous employment program. We were able to keep a lot of Inggarda people in long-term employment through some very intensive mentoring that we did. That was a great outcome for the community.

## What advice would you give to residents looking to give back to their communities?

I've done a lot of different work over the last few years. I'm working in Government at the moment, but before I did that, I was doing some consultancy work for the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Through that, I have seen a lot of the great programs that are around. There are a couple of volunteer programs run for university students, and programs for recent graduates at firms such as Price Waterhouse Cooper that specifically target remote and regional communities. Communities benefit from having highly trained enthusiastic people in the community for a few months to work on a project. I encourage residents to look at those opportunities. Most communities, particularly in more remote places, are desperate for skills. If someone has something to offer it's brilliant. If someone is willing to volunteer, I recommend getting in touch with the Community Volunteers program, there are also Indigenous Volunteers programs that focus on remote community work specifically. CVP works right throughout cities as well. It's a great way to get practical experience.

## Looking back on your career, did things go according to plan? Had you always intended to work in this industry?

Things didn't go according to plan. I studied Science, starting in Medicine. I failed my first year and went into a science degree. I came out with a Bachelor of Science specialising in Microbiology.





At that time Malcolm Fraser was in office and he cut all NHMRC funding for three years, and unfortunately, I graduated in the first year. I had a wonderful research project all lined up with my professor and I couldn't do it. So I worked as a lab tech in a school for years until we moved to Geraldton. There we decided that because my husband at the time had a great job as a clinical psychologist I wouldn't bother with working. That lasted about six weeks, it was driving me nuts. He told about these people he met in the community services sector that were establishing a volunteer program and so I applied, and that was the start of my career in employment services and I've been there ever since.

I would say to residents to be open to opportunities and continue to learn. I've spent the majority of my life studying in some way or another. Whether it's internal study, I've done graduate certificates and graduate diplomas. I did the majority of a second degree, even though it was in viticulture and wine science, a bit more fun than anything else. I think that some ongoing study is very positive because it opens your eyes but also be willing to grab opportunities when they arise.

I also think that the balance of study and play is really important. It's a lesson I had to learn the hard way. As I mentioned I failed my first year, as I was too much of a country girl, hitting the city with no restrictions and not getting the balance right. Once I got the balance right it worked out much better. Certainly, I found that going back to study as an adult student so much easier because you haven't got those distractions and you know who you are. Straight out of school students have to do a lot of growing up while you're trying to study. I think you shouldn't be too hard on yourself. Be willing to accept that things will go wrong, but you can set them right.

### **How have the skills you developed in your study helped you in your career?**

My dad was really upset at my change of career path, he never really thought I used my study. I think there's something that people often get; they often get parental disapproval when things change. I don't know that I ever convinced him that it was really important. But he certainly came to accept it when he had a second family that also didn't traditionally use their study. What

I don't think he ever fully realised was how much my study did for me. It was those research skills. It's also the confidence that you can write really good stuff, that you can argue a point well. Those sorts of things you don't get in other ways.

### **What sort of challenges have you faced in your career?**

I had graduated from university, had this degree in Microbiology and I was applying for jobs. A job came up at the CSIRO, for an agricultural microbiologist which wasn't my specialty, but we covered it, so I thought I'd apply. By this time I was married, the wedding ring was noted, and the question was asked "Well when are you planning on having children?" So I said "Well I'm not." I guess I was too young to do the 'what the hell are you asking that for?' We're talking 1980 at the time, so it's not a question that's asked. Even though I was a rampant feminist, I was so blown away that something like that was asked of me. It was quite depressing.

While my mother wasn't educated, she was very strong about women's ability. I think that was instilled in me from a very young age that women can do anything. I grew up in a household of four brothers that expected me to be able to do everything they could do, and better. So that was encouraging, and I think I was very lucky with my upbringing in many ways. Certainly being in College and the people that you met also influenced me.

*Communities can be tricky and particularly in consultancy work, I was landed in a community for maybe three or four days and that was it. Not a long time at all. But we always did prior teleconferences with community managers and people like that, so we had a feel for how the community worked before we landed there.*

## Queen's Birthday honours for **Elizabeth Constable**

Congratulations to the Hon Dr Elizabeth Constable for recognition in the Queen's birthday honours, 2019. Outgoing St Catherine's Chair of the Board, Liz has been recognised for significant service to the people and Parliament of Western Australia, and to education in the 2019 list.

Liz was born in Sydney in 1943, later moving to Western Australia in 1975. She has an impressive educational background, with degrees from the University of Sydney, University of New England, Harvard University and the University of Western Australia. She is a registered psychologist and has worked in the field of education in Australia since 1967. She has also had an extensive career in public service and politics, serving as an Independent Liberal MLA in Floreat and Churchlands from 1991 to 2013. She is the second longest-serving woman MP in Western Australia. The St Catherine's College community congratulates her for this prestigious recognition of all her achievements.



## **Annie Fogarty AM**, named 2020 West Australian of the Year

One of St Catherine's College Fellows, Annie Fogarty AM, has been named the 2020 West Australian of the Year. Annie, together with her husband, Brett created the Fogarty Foundation in 2000. This philanthropic foundation is focused on supporting young people in education and building communities. It funds education programs such as EDvance and has created a very transformational scholarship program for tertiary students to help develop future leaders. Many of the Fogarty scholars live at St Catherine's and contribute to College life.

## Remembering **Barbara York Main**

Dr Barbara York Main is remembered by many as the Lady of the Spiders, an avid zoologist and writer. However, before she became famous for discovering the world longest living spider, Barbara was known as the young woman who kept spiders in her room at the University Women's College, later to become St Catherine's College. In 1947 she began studying a bachelor's degree in Science at UWA, commencing her time at the University Women's College. After spending time in New Zealand as an assistant lecturer, she returned to Perth to undertake a PhD in 1952. She became the first female graduate of a PhD of Zoology in 1956. Barbara received many accolades and honours for her ground-breaking work. She is survived not only by her loving family but by many species of spiders and invertebrates named after her.

## Peter Ebert awarded inaugural scholarship

In 2019, we were fortunate enough to be able to award the Inaugural Nye Polson scholarship to Peter Ebert from Albany Senior High School.

This Scholarship recognises the College staff and the fighting spirit of Nye Polson who in July 2018, as a three-year-old boy, was rushed to the Perth Children's Hospital from Broome with a life-threatening virus. He was critically ill and his family, including his grandparents, Louise and George, spent a month in St Catherine's on Park to be near the hospital.

*During their stay, the family saw first-hand how living in a residential College community helps a young person living far from home. Louise, a lawyer in Melbourne, wanted to express her gratitude in a tangible way that would help many young people and established this incredible scholarship to fund living at College during a student's tertiary education.*

"I am studying a Bachelor of Philosophy, with a degree-specific major in Microbiology and Immunology and a second major in Mathematics and Statistics. So far, it's going quite well, I'm looking forward to second-year units and getting to specialise in different areas. Having a residential scholarship has been so helpful. While Albany does have a UWA campus, it doesn't offer every unit I need so I would have needed to move to Perth anyway. It's been very helpful to be surrounded by the community. Having academic and community support in helping me engage and keep on track with my studies. I've got four years of my degree, and then I plan on becoming an academic. I'll continue with post-graduate studies whether that is here at UWA or at another university over East or even internationally. We'll see where the future takes me," said scholarship recipient Peter.

A few months ago, a young man that I knew from high school ended his life and the College was able to help support me through that. They had been wanting to get involved with the Blue Tree Project which is about helping promote the awareness of mental health and suicide. I went to my Resident Advisor to ask if there was anything I could do to help because I wasn't feeling great in myself. They ended up putting me in charge of the project. Promoting this message throughout the College was something



*"I'll continue with post-graduate studies whether that is here at UWA or at another university over East or even internationally. We'll see where the future takes me."*

I was really honoured to be able to do. It was a wonderful experience that I wouldn't have had the chance to do if I wasn't staying at College.

A core value of St Catherine's College is integrity, and our residents genuinely care about those around them. College provides a space to learn how to deal with difficult and daunting experiences with courage, empathy and kindness. This generous scholarship from the Polson family is an excellent opportunity for our College to support residents not only in their studies but in the difficult transition of moving away from home and other challenges they might face.

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# Graduate Women WA scholarship

Graduate Women WA is the West Australian branch of the Australian Federation of Graduate Women. The organisation advocates for graduate women and female university students and researchers in WA, and provides workshops, events and other activities. They provide approximately \$30,000 of assistance to support WA women and girls including a scholarship for St Catherine's residents.

Pictured are two of the recipients of the 2019 Graduate Women WA scholarship; Bonnie Hyatt and Zoe Butler. These young women earned their scholarship through display of academic potential, community engagement and the overall pursuit of excellence.

"I live in Esperance, so staying at College has definitely been a benefit because I'd be so far away. Before College, I boarded at Methodist Ladies College and so now I am here at UWA studying a Biomedical Science degree, majoring in Microbiology and Immunology and Japanese.

*Coming to Uni I was worried I wouldn't get the chance to branch out and make new friends. It can be quite hard to meet people. At College, everyone is ready to make friends and get to know you and I have made some of my best friends here.*

I also love the sport. The Intercollege games every week is such great fun. Who doesn't love a bit of competition? You can easily tell we're the most community orientated College out there. We always have the biggest crowd of supporters and participants in every event.

I'm planning on staying at St Catherine's for my undergraduate which is three years. During this time, I would love to be a Residential Advisor at College and give back even more. After I complete my Bachelor's, I am aiming for a Masters in Pharmacology."

- Bonnie Hyatt



2019 Recipients Bonnie Hyatt (Left) and Zoe Butler (Right)

"I'm from Yallingup, around the Dunsborough region and I went to Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School, but I didn't board. I drove an hour every day, both ways. Being at College is so beneficial because I don't have any family in Perth. I honestly don't know what I would have done without College.

*Having the scholarship has also really helped my family because they still have two other kids at home, and it can be expensive putting them through school. It's been an honour to receive the scholarship, and it has so helped me and my family.*

I'm currently studying a Bachelor of Physiotherapy at Notre Dame, which is definitely what I wanted to do. My degree is four years so after that I'm not exactly sure what field of Physiotherapy I'll be in when I graduate but we'll find out when we get there."

"I'm looking forward to a second year at college. The College culture is amazing. There is so much diversity, different people from so many different places. It's just the best, and you can't experience that living by yourself or in a share house. Here, you always have someone to talk to if you need to. It can seem quite intense with all our events but it's so much fun. The semester is nearly over, and I miss the Intercollege sport already. The vibe here is just unmatched anywhere else."

- Zoe Butler

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# Thank you

To all the donors, sponsors and friends who supported St Catherine's in 2019, a BIG thank you!

Your assistance makes the world of difference and without the time, expertise and financial contributions you have made, the College would not be doing as well as it is.



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# YOU can make a **positive impact!**

How can YOU, as a part of the St Catherine's community, make a difference?

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## BECOME A **MENTOR**

Provide opportunities for residents to build their personal brand through exposure to professional and thought leadership.

<https://stcatherines.uwa.edu.au/current-residents/plan-my-future>

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## SHARE YOUR **FEEDBACK**

Let us know what we can do to make your alumni experience more beneficial.

<https://stcatherines.uwa.edu.au/community/alumni/feedback>

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## **MAKE INTRODUCTIONS** YOU THINK COULD HELP THE COLLEGE

As an alumnus, it's time to realise the true value and potential of your time here. Worldwide, St Catherine's has over 5,000 alumni – people who will be your mentors, collaborators, and friends. If you would like to help, please contact [advancement@stcatherines.uwa.edu.au](mailto:advancement@stcatherines.uwa.edu.au)

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## **EMPLOY GRADUATES** FROM ST CATHERINE'S

Work with intelligent, creative and high-achieving graduates around the world on causes that you're passionate about:

<https://stcatherines.uwa.edu.au/current-residents/plan-my-future>

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## BECOME AN **AMBASSADOR** AND PROMOTE THE COLLEGE

Become an ambassador and act as a bridge between alumni and current residents. You will help connect graduates in your city and those returning home.

[alumni@stcatherines.uwa.edu.au](mailto:alumni@stcatherines.uwa.edu.au)

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## SUPPORT US **FINANCIALLY**

By donating to resident scholarships, access and learning support programs, St Catherine's graduates and friends have opened doors that were once closed and made a difference in the lives of our residents and in the broader community. We are planning now for 2020-2023. Please assist us in supporting scholarships or programs such as Dandjoo Darbalung. We could really use your help!

If you would like to help, please contact [advancement@stcatherines.uwa.edu.au](mailto:advancement@stcatherines.uwa.edu.au) or visit <https://stcatherines.uwa.edu.au/community/giving-and-philanthropy> to make a gift!



## Second semester Valedictory dinner

St Catherine's College celebrated their second semester Valedictory dinner in style. It was an incredible night honoring our residents who have completed their studies and will be leaving college at the end of the year.

Fiona Crowe, our Head of College, made a promise to our residents that if we won enough Intercollege Competitions, she would bring fireworks back to Valedictory. Of course, St Catherine's won the Womens' Sport Cup, the Overall Cup, Cultural Cup, and came second in the Community Cup. Fiona did not disappoint, and we spent the night entertained by fireworks, confetti, dancers, music and incredible food.

However, not just academic achievement was celebrated. We said farewell to John Barley, our wonderful Catering Manager who has been providing our residents with delicious breakfast, lunch and dinner for 23 years. College residents Bonnie Hyatt, Bethan Rainey and Ella Forkin also received awards on the night to recognise their efforts in building our incredible College community.

The **Fresher of the Year** award went to Bonnie Hyatt, a first-year student in Microbiology and Immunology and Japanese studies. The award recognises the achievements of a first-year resident at College that makes the most of every opportunity.

The **Citizen of the Year** award is the oldest award in our College history and acknowledges a resident that embodies our College values and is always there for others. Bethan Rainey, a second-year

Bachelor of Philosophy student is a Residential Advisor at College.

Our **Collegian of the Year** award recognises a resident who works tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure our residents get to experience the best of what College has to offer. Ella Forkin, one of our Co-Presidents for 2019, received this award for her amazing achievements this year.

"After an amazing three years at St Cat's, I was so honored to be recognised as the Collegian of the Year for 2019. Chosen by my peers to receive this award, I feel so appreciated and loved by my St Cat's family where my dedication, commitment and support to the College and my peers were recognised.

Through being a leader at College this year I am so glad that I have been able to collaborate on many fun and exciting opportunities within my Cat's community, where although I am sad to leave, a part of my heart will always belong to St Catherine's."- Ella Forkin

While Valedictory is always bittersweet and we are sad to see our residents go, we take pride in their wonderful achievements in sports, academics and community and look forward to seeing what they do next.



Our deputy head of college Ashleigh Benadretti was delighted to present awards to Ella Forkin, Bethan Rainey and Bonnie Hyatt

# The start of something new

We take a look back at the origins of St Catherine's College.



Today, St Catherine's College is home to over 440 students, female and male. We are constantly growing and developing to create new spaces for our residents to flourish and enjoy the best of College life. We cater to the needs of metropolitan, regional, international and exchange students. However, in the beginning, the college was significantly smaller.

In 1928 a small group of women formed the Women's College Fund Committee. Amongst these women were Dr Roberta Jull, H.E Whitfeld and M.E Wood, whose names you will still see on our walls today. This committee aimed to establish a residence for women from Western Australia and beyond to live and study together, at a time where women faced barriers in achieving an education.

*Dr Roberta Jull, a driving force behind the WCFC, was one of the first women to graduate with a degree in Medicine from the University of Glasgow. She became a prolific activist, writer and lecturer. She began writing about the accommodation needs of female students in Western Australia as early as 1914.*

The task ahead of these women required massive amounts of fundraising. The WCFC's fundraiser of choice were very popular bridge parties.

"We feel that we are working for our grand children, if not their children. Our efforts so far have produced very small amounts, but at least they advertise our movement." M.E Wood, 1929

Fundraising efforts were suspended in 1931 due to the Great Depression, but the push to establish the College did not cease. In 1933, the College received £9000 from the estate of Sir John Winthrop Hackett. Despite this generous bequest, the cost

of establishing the College envisioned by the committee, and required by the community, continued to rise.

WWII again halted the progress of the WCFC. However, the war created significant social change for women in Australia. This change helped to bolster the women's academics movement. After 18 long years, spanning war and economic disaster, the University Women's College was opened on March 6th, 1946 with 32 residents. The University Women's College was in the old Crawley Army barracks.

The College continued to face difficulties, such as inadequate facilities and lack of funding. M.E Wood, warden at the time, created several initiatives and programs to help establish the University Women's College as a respectable and safe environment to help young women succeed in academics.

The temporary home of the women's college came to an end in 1959. Through continued fundraising efforts, the University Women's College was able to build a better facility that still stands today.

*The college was renamed after St Catherine of Alexandria, the patron saint of female scholars but remained non-denominational as per the intention of Dr Roberta Jull.*

Over 32 years, the dedication of a group of people who believed in supporting women's education resulted in the establishment of a College that continues to allow students to thrive. St Catherine's is more diverse than ever, and the College remains an advocate of promoting education to the disadvantaged by providing the most scholarships out of all the residential colleges in Perth. We are about to become the first independent college to open a second campus, as we are set to expand with St Catherine's at Curtin University opening in 2022.



**ST CATHERINE'S**  
COLLEGE

2 Park Road  
Crawley WA 6009

+61 8 9442 0400  
enquiries@stcatherines.uwa.edu.au  
stcatherines.uwa.edu.au



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