

The **Aquinian** 2025



75 AQUINAS COLLEGE

1950 - 2025

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Head of College

By Dr Sarah Moller

Report

What a wonderful 75th year it has been! From Gala Ball celebrations and Alumni events, to the much-feted back-to-back HTC win, 2025 has been a year to remember!

Anniversary years provide an important opportunity to reflect on how far we have come as a College. From the first group of 19 male students sharing rooms in Montefiore House in 1950, Aquinas has expanded to become a home for 195 male and female students across ten different houses. Since the first meeting of the Aquinas Society in 1938 to begin fundraising for a Catholic university residential college, the idea has taken root and flourished, growing into a vibrant family with over 4500 alumni.

These alumni and this rich history have provided the focus of our 75th year, as we both celebrated our achievements and sought to connect with our students, past and present. Through events like the Back to Aquinas Weekend and the Gala Ball, we experienced the joy of gathering with members of the Aquinas family and hearing how their time at College

has shaped who they have become. Current students loved having the opportunity to meet with those who have gone before them, to compare experiences, traditions and memories from across the generations.

Through all the celebrations, one message resounded loud and clear: Aquinas is a family, and the connections you make while at College are connections that stay with you for the rest of your life. Our students come to us as tentative young women and men at the beginning of their academic journey, and leave us as confident, connected, accomplished individuals who are ready to take on the world. To work with these young people is both a blessing and a privilege, and we continue to give thanks for all that the last 75 years has brought, and all that the next 75 will provide.



Aquinas Celebrates

by Steph Hamra

75 Years

What a swell party year we celebrated in 2025 to mark our 75th birthday.

Commencing on our Welcome Weekend with our Opening Service, special guests, “original” Dr John Cox from the class of 1950 and his lovely wife Mrs Carola Cox, joined us for our Service in Christ Church followed by lunch on the Gleeson Lawns. All the students loved meeting John and hearing about life at Aquinas in the 1950s.

Dr. Cox then agreed to join us back at Aquinas to participate in the filming of our 75th video. Other old Collegians who kindly gave of their time to be involved in the filming included Ms. Carolyn Mee, Aquinian 1989-1990, Dr. Anthony McInerney, Aquinian, 1965-1969, Dr Susie Chant, Aquinian 1977-1999, Mr Noah Waters, Aquinian, 2020-2023

and current student and Aquinas President, Clare Byrne. The film was shown at the Gala Ball and provided one of the lovely avenues to reminisce for the guests in attendance.

The “Back to Aquinas Weekend” in May coincided with our annual Parents’ Cocktail Party and the first round of the AFL HTC games. The Cocktail Party on the Saturday night attracted many old scholars and current parents, with a number touring the College and commenting on the enormous changes since their resident years at Aquinas, especially that the old Chapel in Roche House where so many had married was now bedrooms. A sunny Sunday proved the perfect setting for a sit-down lunch for parents and old scholars at the University of Adelaide playing grounds, where all enjoyed watching all Aquinas teams winning every game played.

The Friday night of the Gala Weekend saw many old Aquinians heading back to a popular watering hole, The Queen’s Head. The noise from the affection and friendship of alumni in the Front Bar drowned out the AFL football supporters at the Queens Head. Saturday morning saw the College buzzing with tours as alumni toured the College, eager to show their families their old rooms. The highlight of the weekend, the Gala Ball at the Convention Centre, was well attended with many current students dressing up in black tie and glamorous gowns to mark the occasion, especially upon realising that the next major Ball will be in 2050.

The final event of the year was the Alumni Mass at the College in November. We were delighted to have Archbishop Patrick O’Regan join us to say Mass as we remembered Aquinians and friends of Aquinas who have died. Following Mass, a luncheon in the Dining Room was enjoyed by current and past students and friends.

Happy birthday Aquinas. We look back with gratitude and thanks to all those that have formed Aquinas into the amazing College that we are, in this, our 75th year, and look forward with anticipation to the next 25 years as we lead up to 2050.



Academic

Report

By Dr Sarah Moller

While Aquinas College celebrated its 75th year, the Academic Team continued on its mission to keep students at Aquinas on track academically. Under the leadership of Austin Rossi, Cadence Kalling and Braden Windsor, this year's academic program was full of events to ensure our students were well supported in their university studies.

The Lucey was once again a centre for study at the College, with record turnouts at Marathons held in Semester One and Semester Two. Study Hall continued to be a chance for first years to meet with their tutors and get their study weeks off to a good start, while academic panels offered the opportunity to check-in about course progress. Deniz Karakaya, as Student Administration Officer, played a pivotal role in organising all the academic panels while keeping the Lucey snack cupboard well stocked!

Student results across both semesters revealed a high level of achievement, with over 70% of Aquinas student attaining a GPA of 5 or more, and over a third of students achieving a Distinction average or higher. As we work towards the merger of the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia, we look forward to having around 90% of our students studying at the same institution, which will enable us to offer an even more comprehensive level of

academic and tutorial support.

As always, the academic program at Aquinas depends on the generous support and time given by our team of tutors, who are always willing to share their wisdom and help their fellow students get through their next assignment. In the face of a busy year with so many sporting and social commitments, students are to be commended for their outstanding application, ongoing perseverance, and excellent academic results!



The 2025 Academic Year

by the Academic Team:

Cadence Kalling, Austin Rossi, Deniz Karakaya and Braden Windsor

This year, the Academic Team has organised many activities and competitions to make studying fun, interactive, and productive, as well as re-introducing the most attended studying event, the Lucey Marathon.

We held two Lucey Marathons this year, one in each Semester. Both Marathons included fun and interactive games for study breaks, leader board updates for each House, and delicious snacks for everyone, (including chocolate fondue, cheese platters, donuts, and iced coffee and chocolate.

In Semester 1, the Academic Team introduced Dojo points, where points were either awarded or deducted according to each House's behaviour. In Semester 2, the Team decided to change things up and utilise the Chapel as an additional study zone due to such overwhelming numbers in the first marathon. Both Marathons were a huge success, with outstanding participation and a productive studying atmosphere.

Competitions over the year included *Pondshow Preppers*, *Study Spotlight*, *Super Swotter in SWOTVAC*, and *attendance at supervised study sessions*. Prizes included vouchers from Acai, Yo-Chi, Coffee Cart, or Uber Eats.

Supervised Study sessions have continued to run Monday to Friday with three time slots; 9.30-11.30am, 1.30-3.30pm and 7.00-9.00pm. Attendance is marked for each session by the student running that session, and points go towards the **Smartest House Award** at the end of the year. To finish off the year, the Academic Team organised a competition during Focus Week titled "House Hustle". At the end of each day, points were tallied with the top three placements winning extra points towards Lawrie Smart.

Tutor Program

At Aquinas College we value academic pursuit and commitment to study. To help guide our newcomers university life, Aquinas runs a rigorous tutor program. All first-year students are assigned a tutor who is either a current student or an ex-student to help navigate their first year at university, and assist them in their studies. Every Monday night we hold Study Hall at 7:15pm for 1 hour. This is a great opportunity for tutors to check in with their students, and for the students to ask questions. It's also a good chance to catch up with Sarah, our Head of College and Academic Director, and the rest of the Academic Team. The Academic Team marks attendance, and always has cheeky snacks prepared! We'd like to thank all the tutors for their hard work and dedication this year, as the Academic Program we provide would not have the same impact without all of you!



Flinders University

TUTOR	Student(s)
PSYCH Drew Baker	Andie Sharman
BUSINESS Lachlan Beggs, Oliver Ryan	Laurence Primarano, Riley Vivian, Matt Gibbons
HEALTH SCIENCE Ava Copping	Harry Mules
DISABILITY Katie Dyson	Ethan Hopgood
ENGINEERING Harry Hein	Cooper Hein
MARINE BIOLOGY Zoe Pomeroy	Jess Cobbledick
NUTRITION AND DIETETICS Makenzie Pickering, Grace Dunbar	Ruby Dunbar, Kate Wright
PARAMEDICS Lauren Cash	Taylor Warren

UniSA

TUTOR	Student(s)
BUSINESS AND DESIGN Caitlin Letizia, Myles Bittner, Lucy Scott	Amelie Doyle, Charlie Vandenberg, Lucy Scott, Murron Davis, Ashlee Cooper, Meg Kempthorne, Olivia Handbury, Elijah Stratford
EDUCATION Kayla Sanders, Chelsea Wright	Tori Dunstan, Emma Cox, Nicole Head, Ava Norman, Evie Modra, Taylor Baggio, Kai Miller, Summer Smith
ENGINEERING Nick Joy	Charlie Woolford, Rory Fitzgerald, Noa Vidov, Milla Van Lelyveld
HEALTH Lili McHugh	Mimi Curran, Tenah Fordham, Lily Droffelaar
HUMAN MOVEMENT Claira Weiss, Kimjoline Dunham, Austin Rossi	Jessica Inglis, Abbey Falting, Eliza Coutts, Tori Boddington, Simmon Crellin, Jackson Bowden, Alice Tentye
JOURNALISM Molly Jericho, Grace Nardi	Naomi Wright, Katie Leyden, Sergey Alumios
LAW Brad Braithwaite	Oscar Marr-McGuire, Aida Natale, Aden Clarke, Lily Bowyer, Natalie Tabacco
MIDWIFERY Chey Ostendorf	Poppy Young, Anna Gilbertson
NURSING Amelia Ballantyne, Ella Clarke	Emmalee Beggs, Milly Yannakourous, Clara Jubener
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY Millie Kuhne	Ritika Godara
OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP Elise Horstmann and Sharni Blacker	Natasha Lilford
PHYSIO Chloe O'Brien	Imogen Nowak
PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE Zoe Kuhn	Pippa Roberts, Greta Cummins
SPEECH PATHOLOGY Jaida Inglis	Geri Tschirner, Chloe Butcher, Laura Rackham

Tutors and Tutor Groups

University of Adelaide

TUTOR	Student(s)
LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY Tess Matheson, George Wilson	Ruby Clarke, Kate Roskam, Halle Marino, James Kay
AGRICULTURE SCIENCE Sharnee Roberts	Sharni Blacker, Kale Roberts
COMMERCE Luke Donohue	Jade Blacker , Blake Pitman
ENGINEERING Sam Menadue, Mila Klarich, Lilah Lamb	Hamish Turner, Ryan Wegener, Geoffrey Slattery
HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCIENCE Danielle Hill	Charlotte Wishart, Edward Moresi, Lucy Clarke, Matthew Webb
MEDICINE Maeve Bylsma	Albert An
NUTRITION Eliza Monger	Klay Collins
NURSING Chelsea Hawkins	Kalea Siegert
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY Harrison Geater-Johnson	Macey Sanders, Conor Fielding
PHYSIO Abigail O'Sullivan	Jorja Mitchell, Lily Blayney
SCIENCE Lily Lawrence, Micaela Simpson	Mairead Elshaug-Betson, Alexis Hawker



Dean's *Wrap Up*

By Ebony Drake

At the beginning of the year, I sat down and brainstormed what my “Word of the Year” would be, this being a specific word that would set the foundation for the year ahead. This was no simple feat as I kept wondering how to summarise the aspirations for the College and its students in one word. After some pacing, list making, ideating and multiple cups of tea, I landed on my “Word of the Year”: Growth.

I chose Growth because I passionately believe we want students to leave Aquinas better than when they arrived, and that is growth. I wanted students to grow in their success and academic endeavours. I envisioned student growth within themselves and our community. I wanted our students to grow within their faith, understand and seek opportunities for self-development, and use faith as a support in times of need. I wanted our students to continue to seek justice and understand their responsibility in an ever-changing world. I also wanted our students to have fun before stepping into real adulthood post-college.

As our year progressed, it was no surprise to me that without knowing my word of the year, every student excelled in all endeavours and made us incredibly proud. Nothing has brought me more joy this year than seeing our students’ growth and success.

When thinking about the year that was, so many favourite moments came to mind, big and small, along with notable moments of personal growth, happiness, triumph and achievement. From seeing our first years become College Ambassadors and lead tours for prospective families. To smile from ear to ear when students stood for an Academic Distinction for the first time. From being the trusted person that you want to drop by and share



an achievement with or chat through your day. To supporting you and being a sounding board as you navigate situations. I’ve enjoyed joining hallway chats, sharing jokes and cheering on the sidelines of HTC. I’ve smiled as you celebrate other Houses when they triumph with an epic Lawrie Smart comeback. Furthermore, I’ve proudly watched as our first-year students, who arrived uncertain of the time ahead, become members of the 2026 Student Club, Ambassadors and Academic Leaders. I have loved your passion, your empathy and your zest for life.

It’s hard to put into words just how much of a privilege it has been to cheer you on from the sidelines of your

endeavours. A privilege that I will take into 2026 and beyond.

To our students who are now Alumni, thank you for the memories, the laughs and the opportunity to get to know you. I look forward to seeing your continued success and growth.

To our 2026 Returners, the baton has been passed to you. I look forward to welcoming you back to your “home away from home” for another great year.

Once and Aquinian, always an Aquinian.



Student *Club*

by Student Club President, Claire Byrne

Our initial SClub Meeting involved us setting some core values including fun, honesty, communication, commitment, teamwork and friendship. It is fair to say that the 2025 student club has upheld each and every one of these values and more throughout the year. This has been reflected in the success of 2025. The success began in O' week and of course carried through to the HTC sport winnings including the Football Double, Men's Soccer, Men's Basketball, Volleyball and Athletics, enabling us to bring home the High Table Cup back to the top of the hill in 2025 for the third

year in a row. Moreover Executive Dinner, Ball, Fresher Show, Pondshow and Battle of the Bands were events that had a positive vibe and energy, being completely reflective of the student cohort this year. Overall a very positive year for the 2025 Student Club, where friendships and memories that will last forever were formed. All the best to the 2026 Student Club, we have no doubt that they are going to continue to embed the special culture that is Aquinas College.





Aquinas *Outreach*

by Outreach Coordinators,
Chelsea Hawkins and Lucy Waterworth

The Outreach Programme supports Aquinas College's core values of generosity, service, and justice by requiring each student to complete 10 hours of volunteering during their year at College. Connected to the Campus Ministry Programme, Outreach encourages students to support those in need, helping them develop gratitude, purpose, and leadership skills while fostering empathy through meaningful social connections.

In 2025, the program was a significant success and we were so proud of our students for giving their time to organisations and helping people in need. In O'Week, students had the opportunity to volunteer at a variety of organisations in exchange for 1-3 Outreach hours, including Foodbank, Food on the Table, Puddle Jumpers, Australian Lifeblood, and rubbish pick up walks. This included sorting vegetables, cooking and preparing meals for people experiencing homelessness, organising clothes in op shops, collecting rubbish around North Adelaide, and donating blood or plasma.

Each month, we advertised challenges including the March Charch, May 50k, Push-Up Challenge, September, Walk for Epilepsy, and One Foot Forward to encourage students to advocate and donate to importance organisations close to their hearts.

One of our biggest events of the year was the Wings for Life World Run event on May 4, where 100% of entry fees went toward spinal cord research. Together as a College, we contributed an impressive \$4620 for this event with students running an average of 7km each.

On August 29, we had our annual Sleep Out and World's Greatest Shave event. While the weather was not appropriate that evening to sleep outdoors, it was wonderful seeing the whole community

support each other to cut or dye their hair, while raising \$1080 for World's Greatest Shave.

This year, we were excited to work with new organisations including the Starlight Foundation, Red Dove Cafe, Mary Mags Dinners, and Walk a Mile in my Boots event which garnered lots of interest from students. Our continuous relationship with Vinnies allowed us to raise over \$1000 for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (Vinnies) across the year, including for our Homelessness Sleep Out Event and Christmas Appeal donations.

Our Youth Minister, Izabella Chehade, initiated some amazing events including weekly soup cooking in the College kitchen to donate, the Sacred Heart College Soup Kitchen, and Great Aquinas Clothes Shop where students donated old clothes with funds going to Vinnies.

Across the year, the overall number of hours of service was an incredible 2898 Outreach hours at Aquinas College.

We are pleased to announce the Outreach Person of the Year was Aden Clarke, who dedicated a significant





number of hours to the Outreach program and willingly involved themselves in service over the year. Aden had continuous commitment to the Starlight Express Room, donating blood, and Walk a Mile in my Boots challenge, alongside bleaching his hair

and fundraising for the World's Greatest Shave.

Everyone living at Aquinas College is fortunate to live here, and this experience is important for us to give time and resources to people in need. As Outreach Coordinators, we are so

honoured to have had the opportunity to represent the student body for Outreach initiatives, and this has been our most rewarding year giving back to the College. Thank you to everyone who was involved!



Campus Ministry

Report



Father Paul Ghanem OFM (known fondly amongst students as 'Padre'), Jonathan Palmer, Izabella Chehade, Memphis Baker and George Wilson formed the Campus Ministry Team for 2025, continuing Aquinas College's tradition of nurturing faith, friendship, and reflection within the college community.

This year saw the introduction of Thursday evening meditation sessions, led by Jonathan and Izabella. These sessions quickly became a cherished part of the week — offering a peaceful space for students to pause, breathe, and reflect amidst the busyness of college life. Through guided meditation, prayer, and quiet reflection, students were able to deepen their sense of calm and spiritual awareness, fostering both individual and communal growth.

We have also been blessed with an incredible first year for our Youth Minister, Izabella, whose energy, creativity, and compassion have been a true gift to both the Campus Ministry Team (CMT) and the Outreach Team. Her leadership has brought new ideas, meaningful



connections, and a renewed sense of purpose to everything we do, helping to bridge faith and community in a way that resonates deeply with students.

Throughout the year, the CMT has continued to share messages of love, hope, and forgiveness — creating opportunities for everyone, regardless of their background, to encounter God's presence in daily life. Each service and gathering has reminded us of the importance of reflection, kindness,

and gratitude, especially in times of challenge.

As we look ahead, we are incredibly thankful for the way faith continues to grow and flourish at Aquinas. It has been a joy and privilege to serve the community through Campus Ministry in 2025, and we look forward to seeing how God will continue to inspire and guide Aquinas community in the years to come.

PAX (Peace)

Dr Sarah Moller makes history





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The Southern Cross

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HISTORY IN THE MAKING

JENNY BRINKWORTH

Adelaide's only Catholic tertiary residential college has its first female head, Sarah Moller.

Dr Moller's appointment comes as Aquinas College celebrates its 75th anniversary year.

With a background in Catholic education, his held leadership positions as academic director and vice rector. She also led the college in its mission to provide a safe and supportive environment for students.

Aquinas opened in 1950 in Monifre House, formerly the home of chief justice Sir Samuel Way after the property was purchased by the Adelaide Archdiocese.

Fr. Cornelius Finn SJ, the founding rector, welcomed the first 19 students on March 8 1950.

Originally a men's college, Aquinas became co-educational in 1975 and now offers 195 places for students attending the University of Adelaide, Flinders University and the University of South Australia.

A Jesuit community lived at the college and provided the rectors until 2000. In 2009 the Archbishop of Adelaide invited the Marist Brothers to establish a community, and from 2014 to 2022 governance of the college was assumed by Catholic Education SA and the first lay rector was appointed.

"With Sarah's deep understanding of the college's history and purpose, and acknowledging her this milestone year with the College community from and present," said CESA executive director Neil McGowan.

A practising visual artist, Dr Moller completed a Doctor of Philosophy in the field of Visual Arts, undertaking research for this qualification at Johannes Gutenberg University, Germany. She holds a postgraduate qualification in Education from the University of Adelaide, along with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Adelaide and a Bachelor of Visual Arts (First Class Honours) from Charles Darwin University.

Dr Moller said she had a "genuine love" of Aquinas College.

"Aquinas is a family, where all are included and all belong. At the centre of what we do is community - we know our students by name, we have hopes and expectations for them academically, personally and socially, and we hold them accountable," she said.

"As an educator, I have found great fulfilment in being able to accompany students on their tertiary journey, watching them flourish as members of our unique educational community."

"I believe passionately in the mission of our College and the quality of the Aquinas experience, taking on leadership of this special family on a long-term basis is a blessing, an honour and a privilege."

Aquinas head at home in her new role, page 15

As the Southern Cross article exclaimed, Dr Sarah Moller's appointment as Head of College at Aquinas was "history in the making", with Sarah being appointed the first female Head in our 75th year.

With a background in Catholic Education, Sarah joined Aquinas in 2017 and has held leadership positions as Assistant Dean, Academic Director, Vice Rector, and, in late 2024, was made Acting Rector whilst a nationwide recruitment process was undertaken for the newly retitled Head of College position. Luckily for Aquinas, Sarah was the standout applicant, and the clever College Council announced her appointment in early 2025.

Born in South Africa, Sarah moved to Adelaide, via Sydney, when she was six years old. Sarah was educated at Loreto College, Marryatville, and attended the University of Adelaide, where she studied a Bachelor of Arts, followed by a Graduate Diploma in Education and then a Bachelor of Visual Arts (First Class Honours) from Charles Darwin University. Sarah then gained a Doctor of Philosophy in visual arts.

Sarah's first day job was that of a youth minister at St Ignatius' College Athelstone, a spell of teaching back at Loreto College, Marryatville, and then four years at O'Loughlin Catholic College, Darwin.

Sarah is married to Dale, a Lutheran Pastor and they have 3 beautiful children, Charlotte, Lawrence and Lucy, all regular faces at Aquinas, truly living our 'family spirit.'

Sarah selected the Marcellin Medallion Medal to be invested as Head of College, a display of humility and also Sarah's affection towards the special Marist history of the College.

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RAISING
HEARTS
MINDS







Welcome *Weekend*

It was a weekend of celebrations and festivities at Aquinas College, as we welcomed our new students on Saturday 22nd February, and kicked off our 75th celebrations at our Collegiate Opening Service on Sunday 23rd February.

We were delighted to welcome 87 new first years and their families to Aquinas on Saturday, and despite the warm weather, our returning students worked hard to ensure that our new students quickly felt at home. At the opening assembly, our Student Club President for 2025, Claire Byrne, reflected on her own memories of arriving at Aquinas, encouraging the first years that '5 seconds of courage' is all that's needed to strike up a conversation with a stranger who may well be your future best friend.

All students returned to College on Sunday in time for our Collegiate Opening Service to officially launch our 75th year celebrations. We were honoured to have the company of one of the original students at Aquinas, Dr John Cox, and his wife Carola, both of whom were actually present at the opening assembly of Aquinas College, held in Orientation Week of 1950. Dr Cox read the first reading about the importance of wisdom, and students were somewhat awed to be in the

company of an original Aquinian. Dr Sarah Moller, then acting Rector, spoke about the origins of Aquinas College, which was funded by the wider Catholic community who wanted to provide the opportunity for country students to attend university. Over the past 75 years, Aquinas College has been blessed and has flourished into something far greater than the original vision, welcoming 196 students this year to our learning community and Aquinas family.

At the conclusion of the service, the whole College participated in a procession down Palmer Place to the Gleeson Lawns, where everyone enjoyed a family luncheon.

After fare-welling parents, students gathered for an official Welcome to Country with Uncle Johnny, then freshers met their tutors, in preparation for heading to their campuses on Academic Monday. The first Lawrie Smart event for the year was held after dinner, and students put on their House colours and got the year off to a flying start with tunnel ball. The evening ended with a social event organised by the Student Club. All students agreed that they felt excited and positive about the academic year ahead, and enthusiastic to be members of the Aquinas family.



Orientation *Week*

By the Student Club

As the sun blazed down on Aquinas College, O-Week 2025 kicked off with a bang filled with excitement, laughter, and new faces!

Saturday: Welcome Freshers

The hot, sunny day greeted the freshers as they moved into their new homes at Aquinas. With temperatures soaring, the students handled the move-in process with ease, ready to begin their college journey. The Student Leadership team worked tirelessly to ensure that every new student felt welcomed, supported, and ready for an unforgettable week ahead.

Sunday: A Heartfelt Start

The festivities began on Sunday with a faith-driven celebration, as the whole College gathered for Mass to mark the beginning of the academic year. The Welcome to Country ceremony on the front lawns grounded us in the cultural significance of the land, while the emotional farewells from families marked the start of new adventures. And to top off the day, we introduced the freshers to O'Connell Street's nightlife at our first Pub Appreciation Night. It was the perfect introduction to College life and the camaraderie that awaits.

Wednesday: Flight Night – The Trip of a Lifetime

Wednesday night was one for the ages with our themed 'Flight Night.' The Student Club transformed one of the common rooms into a plane, and we took the students on "The trip of a lifetime." Our first stop was Mexico for a delicious dinner, followed by a crowning ceremony in London, before finally landing in Texas for some unforgettable line dancing. The celebration continued at the Black Bull Pub, where freshers had their first chance to experience the iconic Aquinas anthem, The Holy Grail.

Thursday: Outreach Day

O-Week isn't just about fun—it's about making a positive impact on the community we call home. On Thursday, the focus shifted to Outreach, with students taking to the streets to help clean up and give back to the local community. It was a day that reinforced the values of Aquinas College and the importance of caring for our environment and each other.

Friday: Double Blues

Friday night was a time for the returners to reconnect and reminisce about past O-Weeks. Exies gathered on the Gleeson lawns for canapés and heartfelt catch-ups before heading to the Atlantis Pub for more mingling, laughter, and fun. The night was filled with shared memories and a palpable



sense of belonging that made Aquinas feel like home to all.

Saturday: Collegiate Dinner – A Celebration of Academic Achievement

The week ended with the prestigious Collegiate Dinner, where we celebrated the academic successes of returning students from Semester 2, 2024. It was a night that showcased the excellence of our students, and the importance of inter-school relationships, as several of our 'partner school' representatives joined the festivities. The evening reminded us that the connections we build here at Aquinas extend far beyond our own college walls.

Sunday: Rest and Recharge

As the final day of O-Week arrived, the quote "And on the 7th day, God rested" truly resonated. After a whirlwind of fun-filled activities, students were able to take a much-needed break. Whether it was catching up on sleep, laundry, or preparing for the start of lectures.

A Thank You from the Student Club

As we reflect on the week that was, the Student Club couldn't be prouder of how O-Week 2025 unfolded. We were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and participation from everyone—new and returning students alike. Your energy and spirit made all the hard work worth it, and we couldn't have done it without you! Here's to a fantastic year ahead at Aquinas College! GO WOLVES!



Double **Blues**





Collegiate Dinner

Semester 1

The Collegiate Dinner and Awards Ceremony to celebrate the results of high-achieving students from Semester 2, 2024 was held on Saturday, 1 March 2025. Special guests joining students and staff at the Collegiate Dinner included the SA Director of Catholic Education SA, Dr Neil McGoran, Partner School representatives, Principal of Samaritan College and member of the College Council, Mr Damien Judd, Principal of St Joseph's College, Port Lincoln, Ms Catherine Gurr and Business Manager of Tenison Woods College, Mr Neal Turley and Aquinas College Councillors, Chair of Council Ms Joanne Sawyer, Deputy Chair Ms. Kate Critchley and Council member, Mr. Vincent Kain.

Faculty Prizes went to:

Nursing: **Chelsea Hawkins** (Minimay VIC)

Engineering: **Joseph McNamara** (Port Pirie SA)

Medicine: **Maeve Bylsma** (Mt Stuart, TAS)

Commerce: **Luke Donohue** (Rapid Creek NT)

Allied Health: **Abigail O'Sullivan** (Flora Hill VIC)

Arts: **Drew Baker** (Millicent SA)

Law: **George Wilson** (Laura SA)

Education: **Toby Casanova** (Port Lincoln)

Special Prizes were presented as follows:

Fr Michael Scott Prize for the top returning junior: Maeve Bylsma

Brother Austin Stephens Prize for the top returning senior: Abigail O'Sullivan

Father C.P. Finn Prize for the top returning fourth-year student: Joseph McNamara

Whilst the Academic Awards were a feature of the evening, the Acting Head of College, Dr Sarah Moller, delivered an entertaining speech, revisiting the first Collegiate Dinner, 75 years ago, wherein Fr Cornelius Finn, the first Rector, was challenged by joints of meat versus oven dimensions! Dr Moller also spoke about the academic journey of the College, highlighting the outstanding results again of Aquinas students in 2024 with one third of students achieving a Distinction or High Distinction average and a further 40% achieving a credit average.







Parents' Weekend *and* Back to Aquinas Weekend

As part of our 75th Year Celebrations this year, it was decided to include old scholars in our traditional "Parents' Weekend" in May. Kicking off the weekend, the Head of College Cocktail Party was a fun and well attended night, with many parents travelling from near and far.

Added to the enjoyment were the number of older alumni who engaged with the current students and delighted in touring the College and finding, in the case of two couples in attendance, that where they had married, the old Chapel in Roche House, was now student accommodation.

Another feature of the Parent's Weekend was a "sit down" lunch at the HTC Round 1 AFL Day at the Adelaide University playing fields. With large round tables, crisp white tablecloths, white chairs, and bunches of red, black and white helium balloons, the setting was perfect for the parents to enjoy a BBQ lunch in the beautiful Autumn sun. As it was Mother's Day, gifts of Aquinas beanies and caps were given to all the beautiful mothers there.



Marcellin Medallion

Service and Dinner



This year, the special Marcellin Medallion Service and Dinner also featured the commissioning of our wonderful new Head of College, Dr Sarah Moller.

The Staff and Students welcomed the Archbishop of Adelaide, Patrick O'Regan, several brothers from the Marist Community at Sacred Heart College, Brother Greg, Br Brian and Br Michael, the Chair of the Catholic Schools Commission, Mr John Neate, the Director of Catholic Education SA, Dr. Neil McGoran, three members of the College Council, the Chairperson Ms Joanne Sawyer, Mr Damian Judd and Mr. Vincent Kain, Dr Moller's mother and father, Ms Jacquie and Mr Richard Moller and Dr Moller's husband, Mr Dale Gosden and their three children Charlotte, Lawrence and Lucy Gosden.

The Service was led by the Archbishop,

joined by the College Chaplain, Fr Paul Ghanem, who spoke of St Marcellin and the challenges in his day at the time of the French Revolution and the challenges faced by us all these days. Dr Moller was then commissioned by the Archbishop as the 17th Head of College.

The Marcellin Medallion Dinner is a festive evening when all the College gathers in their House groups to celebrate the Feast of St Marcellin. During the Dinner, each of the ten House Coordinators introduces the member of their House whom they have chosen to receive the Marcellin Medallion; the person from each House who most closely lives the values of St Marcellin Champagnat. Every House Coordinator spoke of the difficulty in making their choices, given that so many students personify the values of St Marcellin.

The recipients of medals were:

Chloe O'Brien-Beovich House
Macey Sanders-Hannan House
Zoe Kuhn-Roma Mitchell House
Harrison Hein-Catherine House
Naomi Wright-Marian House
Harry Mitchell-MacKillop House
Lucy Waterworth-Gleeson House
Aden Clarke-Finn House
Nick Adams-Roche House
Jessica Cobbledick-Marcellin House

Congratulations to all the winners.





PONDSHOW:

By Grace Smallacombe

A Night to Remember

After over two months of tireless planning, Aquinas College delivered its biggest and boldest event of the year — *Pondshow*. With everything from stage hires to fencing installs, it was clear this wasn't just another college party — it was a fully-fledged festival. Local businesses came onboard in force, with delicious food trucks serving up crowd favourites like yiros, woodfired pizza, and of course, the famous Aquinas BBQ — sorry Bunnings, you've been dethroned. Thanks to major sponsors Coopers Brewery, South Ave, and Red Bull, our bars were stacked with beer barrels and energy, injecting the perfect festival feel we were chasing. Not to forget the amazing efforts of our biggest sponsor of the night; The West Oak Hotel as the official After Party hosts, catering for more than 500 attendees.

The night kicked off with electric acoustic sets, including a high-energy performance from our very own College band. The tennis court transformed into a dreamy lounge spot, where two more acoustic acts set the tone with smooth, chill vibes. But over on Gleeson Lawn, it was a whole other world — think strobes, smoke, and DJs flown in from across the country. It quickly turned into a full-blown rave, and the crowd lapped up every beat.

The bars, nestled fittingly in the Pond, were pumping all night, keeping the good times rolling and the drinks flowing. The result? A treasurer who could finally breathe — not only did we break even, but we pulled a \$5,000 profit. Every volunteer and Pondshow staff member went above and beyond, and their efforts didn't go unnoticed. Pondshow wasn't just a party — it was a celebration of what Aquinas is all about: energy, community, and pulling off something epic. What a way to send us into the mid-sem break!







AQUINAS

by Aden Clarke

Ball

The Aquinas Ball was another successful chapter in the 2025 Aquinas calendar. Aquinians, unaware of the Ball's location, were transported to the picturesque, beachfront venue of the *Semaphore Palais*. It was there, donned in their best suits and dresses, that they shared a night of flowing drinks, energetic dancing, and vigorous singing.

Thanks to the efforts of the Ball committee, led by Vice President Harry Hein, the Aquinas Ball featured balloon arches, a DJ deck, and the much-loved instant photo booth. The layout for the Ball was arranged to ensure there was something to do for everyone; couches to lounge on and

chat with friends, an outdoor balcony to soak in the cool night air, an array of delicious food platters and an open dancefloor, decked with colourful spotlights.

The celebrations continued in the city with Collegians gathering at a regular rendezvous location, the *Lover Boy* nightclub. Spirits remained high with dancing and singing into the early hours of the morning. Though countless photos were taken, both serious and silly, the 2025 Aquinas Ball will live on most vividly in the memories of those who shared the night.





Collegiate Dinner

Semester 2

Monday, 28 July was a special night at Aquinas as we celebrated the achievements of many students in their Semester 1 results. Joining us were Mr. David Mezinic, Principal of Tenison Woods College, Mt Gambier; Ms. Michelle Buick, representing the Kennedy Family, donors of the Kennedy Family Prize; and Aquinas College Council members Mr. John Favretto, Mr. Vincent Kain, and Ms. Megan Devenish.

Head of College, Dr Sarah Moller entertained the students and guests with her engaging message during the Liturgy about salt and the wonders of it, especially the deliciousness of Lemon Crisp biscuits! The Gospel reading we listened to, from Matthew, was about Jesus talking about salt and calling his listeners to be the light-be the salt. Sarah called upon the students to be the "salt" in their lives, to bring out the best, in not just themselves, but also everyone around them.

Following the Liturgy, we enjoyed a special dinner in the David Hogarth Dining Room, where the courage of the young Captain David Hogarth, a prisoner of war in a Camp in Germany in World War 2, who, despite the hardship endured, was the "salt" in the lives of the men with him in the Camp, as he taught them German and amazingly commenced and nearly finished an Arts Degree by correspondence. He then returned to Adelaide, became a Supreme Court Judge, known for his compassion for all, having been a prisoner himself. Justice Hogarth was a long-standing foundation member of the Aquinas College Council.

The successes of the students who excelled in their courses by achieving Distinctions and High Distinctions were marked

with a traditional "standing-up" and congratulatory applause. Outstanding results were achieved in Semester One! It was noted that over one third of students achieved a Distinction or High Distinction Average, with a further 40% a Credit average, equating to over three quarters of the College attaining a Credit average or higher

Special prizes were awarded on the night to the following faculty award winners:

Arts: **Naomi Wright** (Orange NSW)

Education: **Ava Norman** (Mt Gambier SA)

Engineering: **Wil Vaughan** (Mt Gambier SA)

Nursing: **Chelsea Hawkins** (Minimay VIC)

Science: **Lily Lawrence** (Buronga NSW)

Allied Health: **Edward Moresi** (Barraport VIC)

Business and Commerce: **Luke Donohue** (Rapid Creek NT)

Law: **Esther Juebner** (Hawthorn VIC)

Medicine & Veterinarian Science: **Mia Karlovassitis** (Stirling SA) and **Maeve Bylsma** (Mt Stuart, TAS)

The Kennedy Family Prize, for students achieving the best results in Semester One was shared by **Chelsea Hawkins** and **Lily Lawrence**

The Father James McInerney Scholarship for the top First Year student in Semester One 2025 was a three way tie between, **Edward Moresi**, **Ava Norman** and **Naomi Wright**

The final award for the night, the **Aquinas Medal for the Dux of the College in 2024**, was presented to **Lily Lawrence** for the second year in a row.







Fresher *Show*

by Fresher Reps Eddie Moresi
and Andie Sharman

The theme of the 2025 Fresher Show was Fresher Throwback, which was an absolute blinder. After first gathering the whole College, the knighting of our House Captains occurred. Each House had two team captains who were given the responsibility of leading their House to victory. We then moved onto an hour of bonding for the House, allowing the most random mix of freshers, juniors and seniors to get to know each other over a few drinks.

Soon after, the crowd returned to Gleeson Lawn, where the energy ramped up for a series of games and competitions that had everyone cheering for their teams. Despite the poor weather, spirits were high and the teams were loving the use of the infamous inflatable obstacle course which was extra chaotic due to the rain.

The night finished up with a quiz on College lore and a spirited scavenger hunt that sent teams scurrying around Aquinas, which left the final tally too close to call. Continuing the fun, we all enjoyed a long night at crowd-favourite, Loverboy.





The Annual

On Monday, October 6th, we celebrated our much-loved yearly Annual, and what a major success it was!

This year, we decided to split our donations between two charities that hold a special place in many Aquinians' hearts: The Childhood Cancer Association and the Epilepsy Foundation.

We received an incredible number of donations, with standout items including the always-popular choice of room

and car park, a makeup paint-and-sip session for six, and even the college ute! The most sought-after item of the night was a round of golf for four at Glenelg Golf Club, which sold for an impressive \$920.

The afternoon was filled with laughter, love, and plenty of smiles as Aquinians dressed up as what their childhood selves wanted to be and joined in the excitement of the auction. Mini-games like Pin the Tail on Matisse, Get the Mail into Chai, Gold Coin Shuffleboard, and a whole-college game of Musical Chairs kept everyone entertained.

After the auction, we were once again lucky to have Max and Meg return to perform some beautiful songs as the college danced, sang, and celebrated an unforgettable night.

A massive shout-out goes to Kai Miller, who did an outstanding job as auctioneer, getting Aquinians to dig deep into their pockets for such meaningful causes.

We were incredibly proud to announce that through the wheel spin, raffle, mini-games, and auction, we raised a total of \$10,102.70!

Overall, the day was nothing short of amazing, a perfect mix of fun, generosity, and community spirit.





Executive *Dinner*

At the Executive Dinner we enjoyed a night of laughs and dancing with the Executives from the other College Committees. With Op Shop Formal being the theme the Student Club made a grand entrance along the red carpet into the Dining Room. The evening featured many proposals and unmatched dance moves. A highlight was the Ball Room

Dancing Instructors we had organised to come in to run us through some salsa dancing allowing a variety of students to shine. Whether it be the glitter on their dresses or their moves on the floor, overall, it was a such a fun night with plenty of laughs and participation from all students.







Gratitude *Dinner*

This year's Gratitude Dinner provided the opportunity to gather together as a College for our final Monday night Formal Dinner. With the dress-code 'My favourite Aquinian', it was the chance to capture the essence of each other, providing a hilarious insight into the characters and personalities who make up our community. All those who made a contribution to College life were thanked for their service and dedication, including the members of the Student Club, House Coordinators, Academic Team and Scholarship holders. It was a lovely opportunity to come together and express our gratitude for all those whose generosity made the year so special.





75th Year

Gala Ball

To celebrate Aquinas' 75th Anniversary, Collegians from far and wide returned to their alma mater and connected with old friends, reminisced about "the good old days" and shared their wisdom (and a story or two) with current students.

The weekend began with welcome drinks at the Queen's Head in North Adelaide, with the Front Bar quickly filling with old and current Collegians. On Saturday, we opened the doors to share with alumni the College's beautiful grounds, with hourly tours led by current students. Everyone enjoyed

the tours and were impressed with the many physical changes and improvements that have occurred over the years. Alumni also enjoyed searching for their names on the inside of their old wardrobe doors (a tradition that still holds strong today).

The highlight of the weekend was the Gala Ball at the Convention Centre. Notable guests included original student, Dr John Cox from the Class of 1950, and three 1952 students, Mr. Bernard Wadsworth (all the way from Arlington USA), Mr. Peter Symons and Mr. Henry d'Assumpcao. Brother Michael Green, former Rector of Aquinas, gave the toast to the College and shared how our "Family Spirit" has always been, and continues to be central to Aquinas College. Current Head of College, Dr Sarah Moller responded on behalf of the College, thanking all of the generous regional people who historically gave money to set up the College, alumni and current students, and past and current staff, for their contribution to making Aquinas into the successful College that it now is in 2025.

In true Aquinas style, the dance floor was alive from the beginning and wasn't complete until the Holy Grail played to end a wonderful evening.

Rich in history, storytelling, shared experiences and family spirit, Aquinas is proud of our 75-year history and now look forward to our 100th year in 2050.





Valete 2025

On a perfect Spring Day on the 1 November, we celebrated our 75th Valete.

This year we had nine students graduating: Amelia Ballantyne, Caitlin Letizia, Joel Griffith, Kasey White, Makenzie Pickering, Noah Gazzard, Rylee Snook, Tess Matheson and Joseph McNamara. To each of these students we wished success and enjoyment in their future endeavours, and cannot wait to see them thrive and grow in their chosen fields.

The evening commenced with a Service in Christ Church led by the College Chaplain, Fr Paul Ghanem and attended by all the students, the Valetants, their parents, Staff and members of the Aquinas College Council. Valedictorian, Joseph McNamara delivered a humble speech about his time at Aquinas and how special it had been.

Upon entering the Gleeson Lawn after the Service guests were greeted by a stunning string quartet playing an array

of beautiful songs.

Drinks and hors d'oeuvres were offered on the lawns against this musical backdrop whilst the students posed for the Whole College photo as well as individual House photos.

A delicious meal followed with each Valetant being toasted by one of their friends whilst parents looked on proudly. After dinner, special guests retreated to the Montefiore House for coffee and chocolates. During this time the Dining Room was transformed into a dance space and students and staff then danced the night away.





Valedictorian

Speech

Joseph McNamara

Good afternoon everyone, my name is Joseph McNamara and I'm honoured to be selected as this year's Valedictorian.

I'm going to be honest, when I say that when Sarah first asked me to be this year's Valedictorian, I was a bit surprised.

I've never been a HC or been on S-club during my years at College, and while I have always attended events, because I have never had a role, I feel like I've left a bit on the table in terms of contributions to the college.

Sarah told me that there was much more to being an Aquinian than having a position however, and that College is as much about pursuing your academic goals and contributing to the family spirit, so here I am today.

Wind the clock back nearly four years ago to February 2022 and I was a tall, lanky ranga 18-year-old coming from God's country (Port Pirie).

I moved into Aquinas during O-week into Cathy 3, a room so small and narrow you couldn't twist the bed horizontally without taking off the mattress and flipping the bed sideways first.

I remember I was really nervous about starting this new chapter of my life by myself with hardly anyone I knew from back home joining me.

This fear went away nearly instantly when I was fortunate enough to make some mates with a fair few people early on and started to enjoy College right away. My first year of College was everything I could have asked for and more. Every pub night, every HTC event and every day was something to be experienced with the people I'm still good friends with today. Although my grades at uni were closer to Ps than Ds, I had the absolute time of my life.

As the years went on, I had to remember

why I went to College in the first place, which was getting my degree. This meant living up in the Lucey for the next three years and working hard to gain my degree in Chemical Engineering. My tip for the Leaver's video was 'the harder you work, the luckier you get' and I really believe that this resonated with me in completing my degree and getting my career on track. In second year, I put my hand up to be the Student Rep on the Chemical Engineering Society, and at the end of the year, I spent the summer working at the Nyrstar smelters back home in Pt Pirie. At the end of my third year, based on my previous experience and grades, I was offered a summer internship working for BHP in Roxby Downs, which also led to being offered a graduate position as a metallurgist for next year.

Four years later and how things have changed. I'm now a tall, lanky, ranga 22-year-old and looking back on it now, my years of College honestly feels like a blur of HTC victories, being in the Lucey all hours of the day, getting Sendy on pub nights and the most unforgettable experiences with some of the greatest people I've come to know.

Being commonly referred to as unc, it goes without saying that I've witnessed a lot of changes over my time here at



college. Three Rectors, two Deans, three HTC's, forty different HC's, four different presidents and despite all this change, the home I call Aquinas always has always felt the same to me for all these years.

This was due to the fact that the culture of Aquinas has always remained constant as within every individual making up this place resides a friendly face, who is always up for a good chat and who will always go out of their way to help each other out.

For this reason, there is no doubt in my mind that Aquinas will always remain as much more than a residence for



university students 40 weeks of the year but a home away from home with the people who will change your life for the better and who you'll eventually call family.

It also goes without saying that this College wouldn't run and be the place that it is without the constant hard work and dedication of Sarah, Ebony, Todd, Steph, Mary and Chris. I reckon I speak for everybody in this room when I say that all the incredible work you guys put in do doesn't go unnoticed or unappreciated.

To my fellow Valetents, our journey at College has come to an end and the

next chapter of our lives are about to begin so whether it's joining the workforce or continuing your studies I have no doubt that you will succeed at your future endeavours. To my fellow Aquinians, whether you're continuing your time here at College or leaving next year thank you for making Aquinas the home that it is.

Now, I would probably be on the receiving end of some looks at the dinner table tonight if I didn't at least say a big thankyou to Mum and Dad for always backing me through my years of study, even when things looked bad, your support never wavered, and I will

forever be grateful for it.

Lastly, they also say with age comes wisdom and if I've learnt anything it's that your college/university days will pass you by in the blink of an eye so don't waste a second. Whatever you want in life, never half-ass it and amazing things will come your way. Now I would be regretting it if I didn't get to say this one more time as it might be my last so, GO WOLVES!

Valetants 2025



Aquinas honoured the following students as Valetants:

Amelia Ballantyne

Bachelor of Nursing

Caitlin Letizia

Bachelor of Business
(Design and Marketing)

Joel Griffith

Bachelor of Human Movement

Joseph McNamara

Bachelor of Chemical Engineering

Kasey White

Bachelor of Nursing

Makenzie Pickering

Bachelor of Medical Science

Noah Gazzard

Bachelor of Business

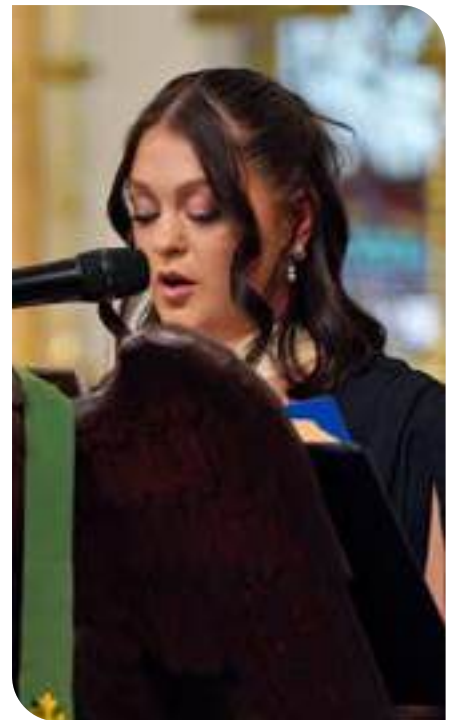
Rylee Snook

Bachelor of Arts &
Master of Teaching

Tess Matheson

Bachelor of Criminology







Whole of College *Photo*

First Row: Lucy Waterworth, Chelsea Hawkins, Deniz Karakaya, Braden Windsor, Cadence Kalling (Senior Academic Tutor), Austin Rossi (Senior Academic Tutor), Grace Smallacombe, Thomas Bignell, Harry Hein, Claire Byrne (President), Mary Dunton (Finance & Admin Officer), Steph Hamra (Registrar), Todd Sparrow (Business Manager), Dr Sarah Moller (Head of College), Ebony Drake (Dean of Student Life), Fr Paul Ghanem (Chaplain), James Gourley (Senior House Coordinator), Esther Juebner (Senior House Coordinator), Joel Griffith, Tess Kenseley, Edward Grover, Eliza Monger, Lachlan Beggs, Elise Horstmann, Toby Casanova, Abigail O'Sullivan

Second Row: Kimjoline Dunham, Abbey Falting, Lilah Hill, Alyssa Duncan, Taylor Baggio, Jorja Mitchell, Millie Kuhne, Alice Tentye, Natalie Tabacco, Aida Natale, Isabella Byun, Zoe Kuhn, Paige Lucas, Ashlee Cooper, Jessica Cobbledick, Grace Nardi, Jaida Inglis, Amity Lane, Katie Leyden, Caitlin Letizia, Sharni Blacker, Laura Rackham, Charlotte Wishart, Taylor Warren, Jade Blacker

Third Row: Matisse Wilke, Andie Sharman, Pippa Roberts, Lilly Bowyer, Kirsten Rolt, Mia Karlovassitis, Jessica Inglis, Ruby Smart, Kasey White, Amelia Ballantyne, Tess Matheson, Macey Osman, Tenah Fordham, Ruby Clarke, Anna Gilbertson, Olivia Handbury, Emma Cox, Katie Dyson, Mimi Curran, Sienna Smith, Phoenix Lawrence, Lucy Gazzard, Lauren Cash, Lily Blayney, Ava Copping



Fourth Row: Kate Roskam, Alexis Hawker, Kate Dempsey, Ruby Dunbar, Meg Kempthorne, Bree Farrugia, Lili McHugh, Maeve Bylsma, Imogen Nowak, Lucy Scott, Klay Collins, Clara Juebner, Evie Modra, Greta Cummins, Drew Baker, Kyla Yates, Macey Sanders, Tori Boddington, Milla Van Lelyveld, Emmalee Beggs, Halle Marino, Kate Wright, Grace Kelly, Abbee Cash

Fifth Row: Sergey Alumios, Naomi Wright, Micaela Simpson, Hamish Turner, Samuel Menadue, Conor Fielding, Lucy Clarke, Halle Phelps, Luke Donohue, Ethan Sims, Cooper Hein, Chloe Butcher, Summer Smith, Zara Cox, Ella Clarke, Chloe O'Brien, Mila Klarich, Lily Lawrence, Ella Dunbar, Kalea Siegert, Eliza Coutts, Clairra Weiss, Ava Norman, Rylee Snook, Nick Adams, Mitchell Bailey

Sixth Row: Jonathan Palmer, Jeremy Corfield, Wil Vaughan, Myles Bittner, Bailey Badcock, Memphis Baker, Lachlan Smart, Jordan Stephens, Aden Clarke, Oscar Marr-McGuire, Nick Joy, Liam Fisher, Tyson Darley, Harrison Mitchell, Charlie McGrath, Ethan Hopgood, Matthew Webb, Oliver Ryan, Noah Gazzard, Noah Sims, Laurence Primarano, Chai Thompson, Matthew Gibson, Isaac McGrath

Seventh Row: Rory Fitzgerald, Noa Vidov, Sam Sims, Albert An, Olivia Mould, Lily Droffelaar, Amelie Doyle, Michael Palmer, Lilah Lamb, Mairead Elshaug-Betson, Jemima Puust, Milly Yannakouros, Natasha Lilford, Geri Tschirner, Murrin Davis, Nicole Head, Annabel Arnold, Archie Aldridge, Nash Reidy, Brodie Allen, Eli Giddings, Edward Moresi, Kale Roberts

Eighth Row: George Wilson, Elijah Stratford, Geoff Slattery, Ryan Wegener, Joseph McNamara, Charlie Vandenberg, Bradley Braithwaite, Makenzie Pickering, Bailey Fraser, Samuel Hayes, Tom Cassidy, James Kay, Blake Pitman, Harry Mules, Jackson Bowden, Cody Duncan, Simmon Crellin, Liam Turley, Max Sturman, Riley Vivian, Charlie Woolford, Tom Booth

Absent: Victoria Dunstan, Xavier Floramo, Harrison Geater-Johnson, Ritika Godara, Kai Miller, Poppy Young



Aquinian *of the Year*

A very special award, *Aquinian of the Year* is awarded at the Valete. The recipient of this award is a person shortlisted in a whole of College vote prior to the night with the Valetents

then selecting from a shortlist. This award is to be awarded to someone who wholeheartedly embodies the values of our College and what it means to be an Aquinian. We are beyond proud that this year's recipient was Austin Rossi. Austin is one of the first people that comes to mind when thinking of Aquinas, and as stated by our Student Club President, "he is Aquinas". Across his 4 years, Austin has been a House Coordinator, a member of Student Club, and a Senior Academic Tutor. He has been the voice of our cheer squad at all HTC events and also a member of so many of the squads. Austin's love of all things Aquinas is truly admirable and we congratulate him once again.



Aquinians Showing **Entrepreneurial** Skills



All The Glam Dress Hire



What do glamour dresses and a Bachelor of Criminology have in common? Tess Matheson is the answer. What began as a single designer dress in Tess Matheson's bedroom has grown into a much-loved hire destination. Founded a year before Tess moved to College in 2023, All The Glam Dress Hire has evolved into a thriving business with over 350 designer pieces.

Starting as a small side-hustle in her country hometown, Mildura, All The Glam now reaches customers across

Australia. Today, the business proudly dresses women for AFL Club Best & Fairest events, collaborates with influencers, and sends stunning pieces to girls from every state across the country.

Now celebrating four years of Glam, Tess continues to hope to grow her brand day by day, promoting affordable and sustainable fashion. Aquinian women will miss the easy access to Tess' brilliant business as she leaves Aquinas as a Valetant, having successfully combined business and a Degree.

Shockta – an emerging fashion brand created by Jackson Bowden and Tyson Darley.



In the early months of the College year, a fresh idea began to spark between two friends, Jackson and Tyson. The pair first crossed paths during the 2024 New Year holidays at the Beachport jetty. A casual meeting that unknowingly set the foundation for something bigger. What started as a friendship soon transformed into a shared vision.

One late night, in the midst of conversation, the question arose, *"Have you ever wanted to start a clothing brand?"* From that moment, Shockta was born. But for Jackson and Tyson, this wasn't about chasing trends; it was about creating them. Countless late nights and early mornings were spent sketching, planning, and refining what would soon become a bold new label.

Jackson, studying Human Movement and Tyson, studying Physiotherapy credit the brand's early success to the unwavering support of their

families, early believers, and especially Aquinians. The encouragement shown to these two throughout the College has helped dramatically for their first release.

While the shirts themselves are thriving, they hope to release additional products in the near future, so stay tuned.



Placements *and* Internships

Adelaide Oval

By Caitlin Letizia

Throughout semester 2, I have had the opportunity to undertake a part time Marketing Internship at Adelaide Oval. Working closely alongside the Marketing and Corporate Affairs team as well as completing two subjects, this practical experience has given me a chance to apply what I have learned at university into real-world industry situations.

I completed a total of 225 hours and got to perform everyday marketing tasks like social content planning & scheduling, preparing email campaigns, briefing photography shoots, updating websites, and creating Canva designs. As well as this, I got to experience how great it is to be a part of such an incredible team, having the opportunity to do the Adelaide Oval roof climb to shoot content and attend staff events really made me feel welcome. I highly recommend doing an internship while at university to anyone if they have the chance, it was such an amazing experience!





Mount Gambier and Districts Health Service

by Chelsea Hawkins and Lucy Gazzard

Over the mid-year break in July, we were allocated our second year rural nursing placement at Mount Gambier and Districts Health Service. During our four-week hospital period in the Private Ward, we cared for a variety of patients from general medicine, surgical, and post-operative areas.

We were exposed to patients in hospital with viral infections, recovering from surgery, dementia, heart conditions, untreated diabetes, rehabilitation, and end of life care. We enjoyed our time learning about the larger roles of rural nurses in comparison to metro hospitals, and even got to practice taking blood tests on our nurses! Towards the end of the placement, we were fortunate enough to spend three days in the Emergency Department. This area interests us both, and we saw patients following a motor vehicle accident, experiencing heart failure, and dislocated bones. On the weekends we enjoyed spending time around the town and going for walks.

This experience was so worthwhile and rewarding, certainly making us consider working rural in the future. We highly recommend this hospital to anyone completing a rural placement for their health degrees!

Golden Grove High School

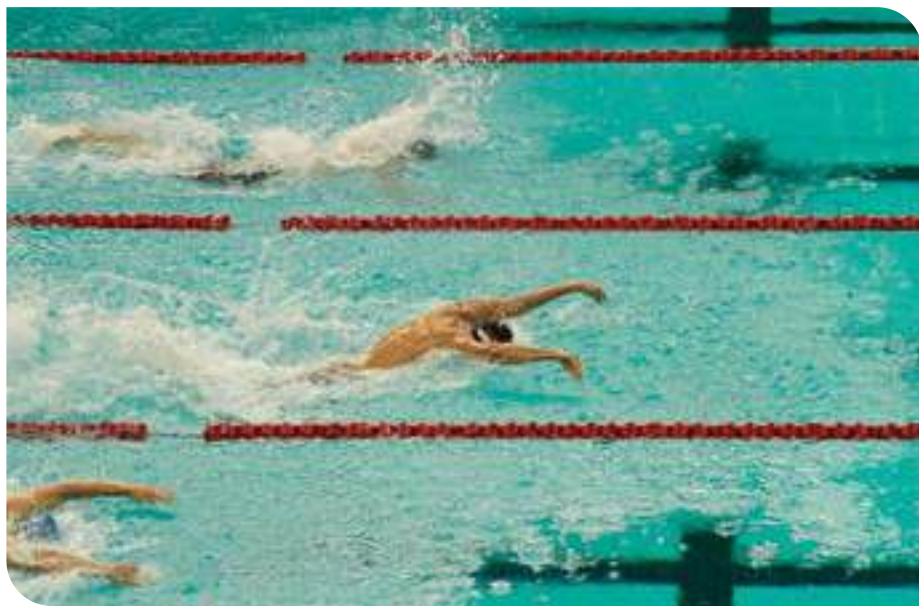
By Isaac McGrath

During the last 5 weeks of term 3, Brodie Allen and I ventured to the North-Eastern suburbs of Golden Grove to put our teaching knowledge and experience to the test. There was no better place to garner experience than Golden Grove High School.

This school is home to around 1500 student's and it was our job to nurture them into the future of our society. Safe to say it is harder than it looks. Brodie and I were placed in charge of 3 classes each, we were required to research content, explicitly instruct and practically deliver a learning experience that catered to the needs of each student. This was a sensational experience as it provided us with exposure to the inside workings of schools as well as the importance of organisation and positive relationships with students.

The highlight for me was working with a vast range of students and expanding my knowledge on how to motivate and engage students. I was fortunate to have a great mentor teacher who provided me with various tips and tricks along the way. I am optimistic to life after university and can't wait to change the world for the better!





Swimming

by Coaches Tess Matheson and Tom Bignell

HTC swimming was held on the 20th March and was the first HTC sport of the year. The event was held at the SA Aquatic Centre creating an unmatched atmosphere for the swimmers and the supporters. Aquinas' performance was extremely strong with personal bests by swimmers being made and creating a very competitive stance against the other colleges in all events.

Our team consisted of: Tess Matheson & Tom Bignell (Coaches), Sharni Blacker, Charlotte Wishart, Alexis Hawker, Jessica Inglis, Toby Casanova, Albert An, Bailey Fraser, Harry Hein, Isacc Mcgrath, Jade Blacker, Luke Donohue and Natasha Lilford.

For the second time ever, the Fresher dance was again performed by the whole College, and it was fantastic to see all the Colleges participating and having fun!

Our students were grateful to see our College staff coming to the event to support the students in their first HTC sport of the year and helping showcase our strong family College environment.

In a night of fierce competition, three longstanding records were broken by the Aquinas Team, with Fresher, Albert An (Medicine) from Cairns, leading the charge. The records broken were:

- Men's 50 M Freestyle-Albert swam in a time of 24.53s, breaking the previous record by 0.45 seconds
- Men's 50 M Breaststroke-Albert swam in a time of 30.14s, breaking the previous record by a whopping 1.28 seconds
- Men's 4 X 50M Freestyle Relay-Tom Bignell, Harry Hein, Albert An and Isaac McGrath swam in a time of 1:43:49, breaking the previous record of 1:44:05

Overall, Aquinas placed 2nd, an outstanding result for our College! Our College best-in pool awards went to Albert An and Jessica Inglis for their outstanding performances in the events of the night.





Tennis

by Coaches Abigail O'Sullivan and Mitch Bailey

The HTC Tennis Competition for Aquinas college was a brilliant day, thanks to our supportive fans, some entertaining matches, and great weather. Thanks, SAUCC for putting on the inter-college breakfast - there couldn't be a better way to start the day off than with a bacon and egg roll.

Our tennis players had put in the hard yards, training tirelessly in the lead-up to HTC Tennis. It was rare to see the Aquinas tennis court empty or to not

hear the sound of tennis balls from 8am-10pm. Our player's dedication and sportsmanship was evident in every single match, and we couldn't be prouder of each and every one of them.

There were a few nail-biting tie-breakers but our Aquinians kept their cool and fought hard. A special mention should be given to our best on ground players for the day - Jorja Mitchell who represented Aquinas in the girls singles, whose consistency and accuracy was

unmatched throughout the day, and Toby Casonova who played in the mixed doubles, bringing some great forehands and strategic play.

Placing third overall for the day, HTC tennis has kept Aquinas in a competitive position against the other Colleges, and we were very grateful for each and every one of our supporters.

We can't wait for next year to bring home the HTC tennis cup!! Go Wolves!







Debating

by Coach Maeve Bylsma

After many trials and training the final two teams of four were selected. The nerves were high as the first round came around week one back at college after the mid semester break. As the affirmative team walked to Lincoln College for their first debate they played a song steeped in tradition to hype them up for the showdown that was to come. The negative team would follow this tradition only an hour later.

The teams used their quick thinking and creativity to come up with strong arguments on the topics of 'that schools should be allowed to prevent unvaccinated students from attending' and 'the government should give individuals under the age of 30 two

votes in every election', affirmative and negative respectively. The affirmative team presented an excellent case but unfortunately lost by a slim margin of one point. The negative team secured the win against Flinders' with a comfortable margin of six points. After round one three Colleges had one won debate and lost one so round two would be the decider.

Round two came around, the teams had reviewed their feedback and came in prepared. This time the negative team was first up with a debate against St Ann's on the topic of 'School uniforms should be banned'. It was a close debate and the spectators watched on the edge of their seats. The paint boys

provided vocal support throughout. Aquinas narrowly took the win. The second debate for the affirmative team was against St Mark's College on the topic that 'Australia should limit migration intake'. Yet again Aquinas took the win.

At this point of the night it came down to how St Ann's performed in their last debate against Lincoln... they won. This put St Ann's and Aquinas on equal wins so a count back of points was called for. By a slim margin, St Ann's College took the win but it was a performance the debating team could be proud of. Off to the pub they headed.



Women's Netball

by Coaches Alyssa Duncan and Claire Byrne

Aquinas started off our first game against Flinders, after Co-Coach and player Claire flew in from Melbourne with 20 minutes to spare! With Abbee dominating the goal circle and

Millie making turnovers look like light work, we ended up winning by 16 goals

Moving into the next game we were feeling confident against Lincoln having had such a great game against Flinders. The initial line up stayed the same and it was closer than we thought. After making a few tactical changes based on player match ups, we ended up coming away with a 5-goal win.

After lunch we played St Ann's College, a tall and strong side. They came out with an aggressive game and we had to play catch up. The crowd really got behind us, we stuck to our game plan and managed to have another 5 goal win.

Finally we faced St Mark's. This was our last game, it had been a very hot day, not even the bottomless Powerades and Redbulls could revitalize us to the state we needed against St Mark's. We ended up going down by 8 goals. Despite losing, we held our heads high and celebrated the wins we enjoyed. Overall it was an amazing day of good quality netball.



Men's Netball

by Coaches Eli Giddings and Toby Casanova

The HTC netball day for the Men's and Women's teams was exceptional both on and off the court,. The team was very competitive to start, with over 60 males trying out. A squad of 16 was then picked with 10 playing on the day with 2 reserves. To start the day we played St Mark's. After a shaky first half adjusting to playing against unfamiliar opponents, we were down by 2 at halftime. In the second half we regained focus and played our style of netball. After a few big plays in defence by Jackson Bowden and James Gourley alongside accurate shooting we came out with a win by one goal.

Moving onto our next game, we played Lincoln College . The team struggled to adjust to umpires who were stricter on the rules! With many stepping calls and other mistakes, we found ourselves down by 5 goals and trailed the rest of the game. To Lincoln College's credit, they shot very accurately, and we lost by 2 goals. However, the team was still hopeful we could win if we played well for the rest of the day.

After the lunch break, we played our third match against St. Ann's. The team bounced back significantly in the first half and held a strong 10 goal lead. The second half would remain a similar story with the team's chemistry at a high and everyone was having a lot of fun. We won our third match by 16 goals and in our fourth match we beat Flinders by 20 goals. Unfortunately, St Mark's beat Lincoln and went on to finish top with a higher percentage by only 3 goals overall for the day. Despite not winning the Cup, it was a great day. Coaches Toby and Eli and were super happy with the team's effort and were thrilled to have the opportunity to coach the Men's Netball Team. With several freshers in the team, the future is bright for the Men's netball with our best players as follows:

Best – **Jackson Bowden**

Second best – **Harry Mules**

Third best – **James Gourley**



Women's Football

by Coaches Matisse Wilkie and Lilah Hill

After many trials and trainings the teams were finally ready to kick start the first round of HTC footy dedicated to the Childhood Cancer Foundation. With players laced up in gold shoelaces the Women's Team faced Lincoln College and Flinders University for their first round. Though it was a warm day, with the support of Aquinians and their parents, the Women were able to defeat both Lincoln and Flinders by margins of over 100 points.

Round 2, Indigenous Round, followed on the next Sunday. Both Men's and Women's Teams heading into it undefeated. The Women taking on St Ann's first up came out triumphant, riled up and ready to go against St Mark's. Our last game against St Mark's resulted in many bumps and falls, the Aquinas Women fighting hard to stay ahead of the game. A great game to watch and an even better one to play in as every girl stepped up, tackling and chasing down the ball. After a tough first 3 quarters the Women were finally able to run away with it kicking 4 goals in the last quarter and giving us the win. We then celebrated the doublé along with the

Men, with cheers and smiles trailing back up to the top of the hill.

A huge congratulations to Alice Tentye for being awarded player of the series with the awarding of the "St Ann's Chelsea Masclet Medal for Best Player".

Chelsea Masclet was a student at St Ann's College 2018 – 2020. She was studying Bachelor of Exercise Science. Chelsea was an amazing sportsperson, representing SA at basketball and also playing Women's AFL at a high level. Chelsea not only had a high level of skill – she was also a fierce competitor and really supported her teammates enthusiastically.

Unfortunately, Chelsea contracted cancer in her final year of study. She was undergoing treatment during the SAAUCC AFL games, but still managed to get on the field and play. Chelsea completed her final exams while in hospital and, unfortunately, passed away before graduating. She was awarded her degree posthumously.



Men's Football

by Coaches Jordan Stephens and Noah Sims

The 2025 HTC footy campaign was certainly one to remember, with the Men bringing the Cup up the Hill for the 5th year in a row! Also memorable was the fact that Aquinas and all the other Colleges got around the Golden Laces for Childhood Cancer once again, as we remembered our special alumnus Levi Chandler and welcomed his family to the day.

In round 1 we started off against Lincoln, who we knew would be a challenging opposition. Thankfully, the team came ready to play and we ran away with a strong win. We then carried this momentum against Flinders, who showed great spirit in what was another strong victory for the Aquinas Men's Team. These two strong victories put us in good stead for what would be a tough second week.

Our second week started off against St Ann's who also showed great effort and intensity, but our Men stood tall and ran away with yet another convincing win to make us 3-0. Finally, we came up against St Mark's who got a jump on us and had a small lead at the halftime break. 2 quick goals



early in the second half proved to be the difference and we snuck away with a 7-point victory in what was a very hard-fought game.

It was a great effort from all our boys, with Brodie Allen, Eli Giddings, Cody Duncan, Charlie McGrath and Makenzie Pickering being named as the best players.



Men's Hockey

by Coaches Harry Hein and Luke Donohue

After intense training, spirits were high on the 1 June, as the Men's team rolled out onto the hockey pitch.

The day started with a bang against Flinders as Cooper scored 2 phenomenal goals. Game 2 was intense with St Ann's scoring an early goal. We fought back hard with Luke getting a goal in the second half leading to a 1-1 draw. The men were tested in Game 3 of the day, coming up against a well-coached and highly skilled Lincoln.

It was a nailbiter of a game with Lincoln scoring an early goal leaving us on the chase. Lincoln achieved a penalty stroke in the second half however we did not need to worry as our saviour Jono kept us in it with an unheard of and truly remarkable diving head but save. Our BOG for the day Cooper then flicked a 30m overhead into the circle and in spectacular fashion Tom put the ball into the back of the net with 2 minutes to go, landing us with a 1-1 draw.

The last game of the day was against St Mark's. It was a tough game, we had the majority of possession and were running rings around them. The men were tired after a long day and we just couldn't slip one past the keeper, resulting in a 0-0 draw.

Well done to both the Women's and Men's Teams for playing so well and leaving everything out there!



Women's Hockey

by Coaches Amity Lane and Maeve Bylsma

Hockey is a favourite sport among Aquinians. This year was no exception.

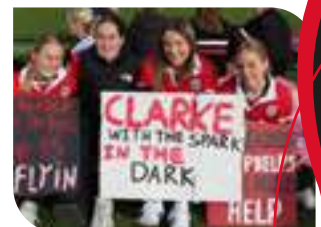
The process began with trials, where people of all levels and experience came out and got accustomed to this somewhat unique game. There were numerous hurdles for the newcomers, such as learning how to hold a stick, put on shin pads, hit, push, and drag, to name a few. The final squad was selected with a handful of girls who had played before and a whole heap more with bountiful potential ready to be unleashed.

Little did the Women's squad anticipate that their abilities would be conditioned through torrential rain, burning sun and hard-fought practice matches against the Men's squad. This process was supplemented by some whiteboard sessions establishing the rules.

The big day came around, and it was a cool but sunny day... ideal conditions. Energy was high amongst both. The first game was against Flinders, which was a comfortable 5-0 win. The next two games against Lincoln and St Ann's were also wins, but hard fought. At this point, the team played three back-to-back games with no rest and welcomed a lunch break before the game of the day against St Mark's College.

The opening whistle blew, and the Aquinas came out hard, having most of the attacking play. Unfortunately, fatigue got the better of them, and St. Mark's had a few strategic turnovers resulting in goals. It was a hard-fought game that Aquinas was unfortunate to concede.

Given that most of the team had never played before, the Coaches could not have been prouder of the second-place finish. A night of beer and dancing lay ahead for the well-deserving squad.



Women's Soccer

By Coaches Kirsten Rolt and Amity Lane

The Intercollegiate soccer tournament was a huge day for Aquinas, with both our Men's and Women's teams hitting the field ready to give it their all.

The Women's team had an awesome run and came away with second place overall. They knocked off St Mark's 1-0, got up 2-0 over Lincoln, and held their own in two tight draws with Flinders and St Ann's.

The women played with so much effort and backed each other the whole way through, it was great to see how much heart they put into every game.

Despite the threat of rain early on, the weather turned in our favour, and the sunshine set the stage for a great day of soccer. Both teams represented Aquinas with pride, sportsmanship, and plenty of spirit, leaving no doubt about the strength of our College community both on and off the pitch.



Men's Soccer

by Coaches Austin Rossi and Noah Gazzard

On the 31 August, 2025, Aquinas faced the challenge of defending our HTC Men's soccer crown for the fourth consecutive year, this time as underdogs. With several key players gone from last year and two starters ruled out just 16 hours before kick-off, we knew the road ahead would be tough.

The morning of, our morale was high. This slightly changed, however, when we arrived at the venue to discover a pitch full of divots, deemed unsafe for play. This meant our opener against Lincoln was pushed back to the day's final game, raising the stakes in our title defence. Instead, we kicked off against St Mark's, the so-called favourites. After a scoreless first half, goalkeeper Bailey Fraser launched a pinpoint ball over the top to Simmon Crellin, who coolly finished into the bottom corner. That goal set the tone for the rest of the day.

Our second match against Flinders tested us on a sand-filled surface. Despite hitting the crossbar and forcing a fine save

from a free kick, the breakthrough came from a clever corner routine finished by Austin Rossi.

After lunch, we took on St Ann's in another tight contest. With the game locked at 0-0, Charlie McGrawth produced a spark of brilliance, drilling a sharp shot at the near post to secure yet another win.

That left everything riding on our final clash with Lincoln, both sides unbeaten. Backed by a sea of black, white and red on the sidelines, we dug deep. With no goals in the first term, the deadlock was finally broken when Macca Pickering's deft touch set up McGrath, who once again delivered the decisive strike.

Relentlessness and heart defined our campaign. Against all odds, we lifted our fourth straight title, a true display of Aquinas spirit!



Women's Basketball

by Coaches Lilah Hill and Alyssa Duncan

The women's basketball team, led by Alyssa Duncan and Lilah Hill, had been training extremely hard for many weeks leading up to the first round on Thursday the 14th of August. Playing St Mark's College first at the Springbank Centre, the girls went out knowing they had a tough game ahead. Still learning how to gel together on the court and playing a very highly skilled team, the team ended up losing by a tough 11 points.

Playing Lincoln College next, the girls were hungry for a win and went out hot to go winning by over 20 points, leaving in very good spirits for the week to come. On Thursday the 21st, the second round of HTC Basketball took place at The Lights. Another great win against St Ann's and Flinders saw

the team displaying great team effort, major improvements from every player and a whole lot of positive energy and fun being had.

Having secured 2nd place on the ladder with only one loss on the board, they were off to face St Mark's once again in the grand final. It was a toughly fought first half with some amazing basketball played but the scoreboard not in our favour. Putting in 110% for the last 15 minutes just wasn't enough to get over the line taking home 2nd place overall. A fantastic two weeks of basketball and a very proud College supporting our Women's team for 2025 with best players Summer Smith, Claire Byrne and Lauren Cash.



Men's Basketball

By Coaches Joel Griffith and Mitch Bailey

The Basketball HTC held over 2 weeks was a highlight for the Aquinas Men's Team. Spoilt for choice when it came to team selection, the coaches had tough decisions to make as so many men tried out and the standards were so high.

In week 1 we played St Ann's and St Mark's. The team, eager to play, came out very strongly, resulting in 20-point blowouts in both games! Our defensive efforts and team chemistry ticked all the boxes. Week 2 saw us playing Lincoln and Flinders. Both games were 20-plus point blowouts due to our unmatched defence, firepower, and chemistry.

The Grand Final had us playing St Mark's. Starting the game off slowly, St Mark's proved more difficult than they had been in the round robin. St Mark's were competitive. The Aquinas

Men picked up in the second half, managing to find the net and securing a 10-point win and the High Table Cup.

Most Valuable Players were: Jackson Bowden, Harry Mules and Oscar Marr-Maguire.





Volleyball

by Coaches Jaida Inglis and Noah Sims

In the lead up to HTC volleyball the squad trained multiple times a week including the 12am sessions, working on skill and building team relationships.

Game day started early, with Aquinas playing our first game against Flinders winning both sets, bringing positive energy to the team. We then went on to win all sets against St Ann's, Lincoln and St Mark's.

Aquinas ended first overall taking the HTC Volleyball Cup home. A massive thanks goes out to Lilah and Mitch for organizing the event, including making the time sheet, booking the venue and setting up the nets. Coaches, Jaida Inglis and Noah Sims both shared they couldn't have been happier with everyone's effort, and had the best time with the squad and the sea of supporters cheering for Aquinas.





Table Tennis

by Coaches Abigail O'Sullivan and Tyson Darley

There was a lot riding on HTC Table Tennis this year. Aquinians all over College were attempting to calculate just how well we needed to do in order to remain in the lead for the High Table Cup.

With nervous jitters and sweaty bats, our Wolves fronted up to our first match of the night. Abigail and Tyson in the mixed doubles, Alice and Maeve in the Women's singles, and Eli and Simmon in the Men's singles. We are very grateful for every one of our supporters for bringing the energy and Aquinas spirit. Needless to say, the endless hours of training and dedication from our players was clear as we won our first match.

Our table tennis players had put in the hard yards, training tirelessly in the lead-up to HTC table tennis. It was rare to

see the Furlong Room empty or to not hear the sound of ping pong balls as you passed by.

There were a few nail-biting matches but our Aquinians kept their cool and came out on top. A special mention should be given to Alice Tentye and Eli Giddings who were our best on ground players for the day.

Placing third overall, HTC table tennis put Aquinas in a very good position against the other Colleges, setting us up to bring the HTC back to the top of the hill for the third year in a row.

Go Wolves



Athletics

By Coaches: Millie Kuhne, Nick Joy, Lachlan Beggs, Maeve Bylsma

HTC Athletics was always bound to be a great day and this year was one like no other. It is the final sport of the HTC calendar and an opportunity to give it out all, one last time. By this point no College could take the HTC away from Aquinas yet it was still a day to cement to the other Colleges what being a wolf means.

After many trials and training the day rolled around. It was very hot with intermittent rain and ominous clouds, but fortunately it went ahead.

It started off with the 800m races where both the men and women placed highly against some fierce competition - showing everyone that Aquinas was the team to watch. Simultaneously the Men's triple jump, javelin and women's shot put were taking place.

Moving on to the sprints the Aquinas squad put in an incredible effort winning both the A and B divisions of the Men and Women's 100m and 200m races, and 3 out of 4 of the 400m races. This put us in very good contention for the Athletics Cup. Deserving special mention are the three records broken on the day. One record was by Isaac McGrath in the 200m with a time of 22.95 seconds and two records by Jackson Bowden in the 100m with 10.86 seconds and the 400m with 59.99 seconds.

The men's high jump was one to watch with incredible heights reached from all Colleges' athletes. Nick Joy and Sam Hayes put in a phenomenal effort both reaching the last few rounds.

Following the excitement of the 100m sprints, attention turned to the women's triple jump, where anticipation ran high for another strong showing. Both athletes representing the A and B divisions delivered outstanding performances, each securing first place in their respective categories. This performance set the tone for what was to come in the long jump event later that afternoon - where first place was secured in the A and B division.

The relays were another one of the great successes throughout the day, with Maeve, Millie, Aida, and Alice with an amazing effort with taking home the victory for the girls, and Jackson, Isaac, Nash, and Archie bringing home second place.

We finished in first place, securing the Douglas Irving HTC for a 3-peat.

Overall the coaches could not have been prouder of the incredible squad and sportsmanship displayed both on and off the track.





2025 **Three-peat**

Love Lilah and Mitchell, your 2025 Sports Secretaries.

2025 was an extremely successful year for the students of Aquinas College. A recap of the year- 6 trophies were bought home including Men's and Women's Football, Men's Soccer, Men's Basketball, Volleyball and Athletics. Aquinas consistently placed 2nd or 3rd in all other sports if we were not champions on the day, showcasing the variety of ability we have here at College.

HTC Football in Term 2 was one of the biggest highlights we had as a College for the year securing the double in the Men's and Women's Teams. To top it all off both Teams were undefeated throughout the whole tournament and this was the third year in a row that the Men's Team had won.

At the conclusion of HTC Athletics, the last sport of the year, we had the honour of receiving the Douglas Irving High Table Cup, crowning Aquinas as High Table Cup winners for

2025. We have had undoubtably one of the best years and are thankful for the opportunity to lead the College through HTC as we know it's one of the most loved aspects of the year for students.

Congratulations to Alice Tentye for winning Female Sportsperson of the Year and Jackson Bowden for winning male Sportsperson of the Year.

A massive thankyou and congratulations to everyone who played, coached or supported at all 11 HTC sports. We cannot wait for next year and to watch Aquinas shine in yet again another successful year of HTC, and fingers crossed bring home the 4peat.

GO WOLVES







Music at Aquinas

by College Music Coordinator, Memphis Baker

This year I had the pleasure of being the College Band Coordinator for 2025. The band this year has been an absolute wonder to be apart of, with the introduction of 5 fresher musicians to our band, it has been amazing to watch us all develop our skills, learn from one another and become an absolute powerhouse on stage together at the College Music Nights and Battle of the Bands.

The first music night this year had a dress up theme of 80's Hard Rock. Winding back the clock to one of the biggest decades in music, it was amazing to see all the costumes that each student came up with, I've never seen so many leather jackets and so much teased hair in the same room. Sarah and Ebony's duet of "The Final Countdown" by Europe was an extravaganza and a true sight to behold. This night featured acts from not just the College Band but also several solo acts from the likes of Cooper Hein, Braden Windsor and Pippa Roberts. We also witnessed the very first performance from The Hein Brothers!

Exie Music Night was another amazing event this year. It was great opportunity to reconnect with ex-members of our College community. It was honestly one of my favourite events on the College calendar this year. The quality of musicians that performed were some of the best I have had the pleasure to work with, and watch perform. The theme for this Music Night was Australian Music. As an avid supporter of Australian Music, it made me proud to see so many people representing their favourite Aussie Artists. Along with the College Band performing we had The Exie Band/2024 Band, Smökin' Jönnies, Pippa Roberts and Braden Windsor.

On the 18th September we had Battle of the Bands 2025. Teamwork enabled us to carefully select the four best songs from both music nights earlier in the year to create the most upbeat and powerful setlist imaginable. The selected songs were Valarie, Livin' La Vida Loca, Forget You and I'm a Believer. Battle of the Bands was the pinnacle of our musicianship, the energy the entire band brought to the stage was majestic to be apart of. Additionally the members of our College in the crowd on that evening were sensational. Without the amazing Aquinians cheering us on we wouldn't have been able to perform at the level that we did. Alas, despite the Band's fantastic set we were just short of the win, coming second to St Ann's. Despite this, I still feel that our band were an unstoppable force, and I could not be prouder as a Music Coordinator.

This year we welcomed 5 new musicians to the College Band, a massive welcome to:

- Ethan Hopgood
- Naomi Wright
- Pippa Roberts
- Cooper Hein
- Katie Leyden

Unfortunately however, the end of this year means we will be losing the lead singer of the College Band, Drew Baker. Drew has been a member of this band since 2023, her influence and guidance has been a blessing for all us musicians, she will be truly missed by us all next year and we wish her all the best in the future. Thanks Drew!



Lawrie Smart *Shield*

Tunnel Ball

Lawrie Smart 2025 started off strong with the new Houses coming together for a fan favourite - tunnel ball.

Featuring some questionable interpretations of the rules and some questionable commentating skills, the Aquinas spirit was definitely out in full force.

The elite displays of athleticism, commitment and heart were bolstered by face paint and fierce chants. Most Houses managed to finish the event with only a few slip ups however Finn definitely dropped the ball, setting the tone for their Lawrie Smart campaign coming in last at 10th place. After much deliberation and unverified accusations, the winning team was awarded to Marcellin House.

Minute to Win It

For this Lawrie Smart competition, each House assigned their members to 4 stations. The team members at Station 1 had to all successfully complete the challenge before moving the House members on to the next station. Station 1 was the “cookie challenge”- this involved placing a cookie on your forehead and maneuvering it into

your mouth without using your hands. The second challenge was the M&M Station. Students had to transfer a plate of M&Ms from one plate to another via a straw. The third challenge was “Water Pong” where students had to successfully throw a ping pong ball into a cup of water.

Lastly there was the “Whipped Cream” Challenge, where students had to find a lolly in a plate of whipped cream without using their hands. Sergey Ashman was caught cheating on this Challenge, causing a time penalty for the Black Cats. The Falcons came through with speed and efficiency in each challenge, managing to score victory overall.

Tug of War

Each year, Tug of War is one of Lawrie Smart’s most anticipated events, a test of teamwork, camaraderie, strategy and, of course, strength. After Marcellin House’s victory last year, the infamous Palmer brothers entered the competition as the pair to beat, determined to secure a two-peat and bring glory to the Roma Roos.

The night began in true Lawrie Smart fashion filled with face paint, loud

chants, and a carefully curated pump-up playlist echoing through Palmer Place. One by one, the Houses gathered on the lawns, warming up, sizing up the competition, and rehearsing their chants in hopes of intimidating the other Houses.

For freshers and first-timers, Tug of War may look like brute force but seasoned competitors like the Palmer brothers will tell you it’s as tactical as it is physical. While some Houses- Gleeson, Beovich, MacKillop and Marcellin- called a synchronised ‘pull!’ to keep rhythm, others, including Roma, Roche and Cathy, took their shoes off and went barefoot. Finn, Marian and Hannan stacked their strongest members at the rear as anchors, while other Houses experimented with a boy-girl-boy-girl formation to create better balance over the rope.

As the night progressed, narrow victories and dramatic upsets left Roma and Gleeson battling it out in the final round, both houses determined to claim the title. After a fierce contest of strength, strategy and absolute grit, Gleeson emerged victorious.





Beovich *House*

by House Coordinator Eliza Monger

I feel very grateful to have been the HC of Beovich House this year. Running it back in the famous “Beo Bulls” for a second year was the best decision I have ever made and from the very beginning I knew it was going to be an amazing House. Expecting a junior and fresher house, as it had been previous years, I was ecstatic when I found out I’d be joined by two beautiful fellow seniors and a super-duper senior in the Monte basement. Our small family had a few changes over the year, with Nick moving out halfway through to pursue basketball in America, leaving an empty room which we were all excited to see filled by our lovely fresher Matt. I am so proud of how welcoming the returners were to the freshers at the start of the year, and how the whole House did such an amazing job of including Matt.

Fuelled by the motivation of Sam’s “Small but Mighty” speech and Jackson’s excellent hype up games, we began our Lawrie Smart journey with a very impressive bronze medal. This quiet confidence carried us throughout the year where we placed reasonably on the ladder for each sport (apart from dodgeball but we’ll blame that on our small size). Where our true strength lay, however, was our efforts outside of sport. Frequently on top of the Smartest House and Outreach ladders, we showed our hard work and dedication by turning up to regular supervised study sessions and putting in countless volunteer hours. Stars amongst these efforts were Drew, who volunteered an incredible number of hours at the Lifeline Call Centre and sang beautifully at music events, and the Beo Bobs, who raised several thousand dollars for charity by cutting their hair.

House Hangs have been some of the highlights of my year. Regular coffee walks formed part of our weekly routine often guided by Charlie’s coffee

expertise, we tried many coffee shops in the area, though our favourite always ended up being the classic Perryman’s. Scattergories, hosted by the hilarious Mimi, also became a fan favourite, often competitively enjoyed after some birthday cake and questionable singing. Every random House Hang idea I proposed, whether it be DIY yochi night, Kahoot, old and new quiz night or a dumpling cook up, everyone always turned up with a good attitude, ready to make the most of it.

This year we were lucky to have the lovely Marian as our Buddy House. Right from the beginning our two Houses bonded and became close, even with the famous “Mantabulls” Snapchat group, which was frequently filled with funny content. In collaboration with Marian, we have been able to have some amazing bigger House Hangs, including the Great Mantabull Bake-Off, bowling, laser tag and Murder in the Dark. Each one was so much fun and having Marian with us just made them even better.

Throughout the year there have been so many times where I have felt like a proud mum, watching the amazing things the group has achieved this year. Everyone brought something special to our little Beo Bulls family, whether it was through sport, study or how they made our house feel like a home.

When it came to sport the Beo Bulls proved that “small but mighty” really does describe us. Chloe Butcher was



a standout in just about every sport she played in (especially football), while Bailey and Matt were exceptional players at Soccer, with Bailey stopping every shot that came his way. Aida showed her incredible skill in the midcourt of Netball, Jaida led with confidence at Volleyball, Charlie was a star on the football field and Jackson excelled on the basketball court.

Ella Clarke constantly surprised us with her delicious thoughtfully made baking, her RUOK? Day yellow cupcakes were definitely a highlight. Chloe O'Brien's constantly stocked snack drawer and open-door conversations made her room a go-to hangout spot and Ella Dunbar filled the house with laughter through her constant hilarious group chat content (even winning funniest photo), keeping everyone connected and smiling. And of course, George, who not only kept us entertained with his random side quests, but also educated us all on the joys of honey Golden North ice-cream. These small but thoughtful things are what truly made Beovich feel like a family.

Catherine House

by House Coordinator Joel Griffith

It has been an absolute pleasure to be the House Coordinator of Catherine house in 2025, which welcomed 4 new Aquinans along with 16 returners who quickly came together to form the Cathy Cubs.

O'Week was action packed, which included flight night and Lawrie Smart Tunnel Ball where the Cubs managed to secure second place (robbed of first from a Cooper Hein penalty). Lawrie Smart was a great opportunity to get all the cubs together and this hot form continued throughout the year winning Dodgeball and putting up a strong performance in almost all events.

Over the course of the year the Cubs proudly showcased their sporting talents, with many students taking part in one or more HTC events. Academics were also at the forefront of the Cubs achievements with many students being recognised at Collegiate Dinner for their hard work and dedication. Lily Lawrance was able to take home the Dux award for the second year in a row and Tom Cassidy showed he's not just good looks by receiving a distinction.

With many cubs having busy schedules, House Hangs varied in numbers but were always fun. These included plenty of coffee walks, a trip to the Fringe, Paint' n' Sip, bowling and a clear favourite Wii night, where Kai Miller was able to show off his moves in Just Dance.

It has been wonderful to watch each member of the House grow and thrive in their own way throughout the year. I would like to sincerely thank every member of Catherine House for their contributions making it one to remember and wish them all the very best in the years ahead.



Finn *House*

by House Coordinator Abigail O'Sullivan

2025 was a big year for Finn, with the exciting addition of the Finn Villa - previously the Dean's accommodation, now transformed into student rooms. With 6 returners and 18 freshers, Finn became the largest house at Aquinas. O-Week was a whirlwind of energy, laughter, and late nights as everyone got to know each other. Between chaotic team challenges, a few unforgettable first impressions and a lot of name-learning, it was clear early on that Finn 2025 was going to be something special.

One of the highlights of the year was making the most of the Villa's kitchen, and I can't remember a day when the kitchen wasn't being used. We had a Finn Wine and Pasta Night where the House came together to cook up a massive spaghetti bolognese feast with tiramisu for dessert, complete with surprising cooking skills, great music, and plenty of laughs.

Of course, it wouldn't be Finn without a few technical difficulties — namely, the hot water mysteriously deciding to stop working every couple of weeks. Nevertheless, cold showers were survived, spirits remained high, and the running joke only brought everyone closer together (and maybe a bit smellier).

When it came to Lawrie Smart, Finn's story was the ultimate comeback. We didn't start the year with many wins (in fact, we were pretty much dead last), but that only made the



turnaround sweeter. In the final two Lawrie Smart events, Finn came first, and the celebrations that followed were pure joy, proof that persistence and teamwork go a long way.

Looking back, I couldn't have asked for a better group to share this year with. Every person brought something unique to the House, and together we created a House full of laughter, support and a place where everyone could be themselves. Thank you, Finn, for truly becoming a family away from home.



Gleeson House

by House Coordinator James Gourley

Gleeson House in 2025 truly has been the place to be. We were fortunate to have had a great mix of eight freshers, seven juniors and six seniors. The spread across year levels allowed the freshers to be absorbed into Gleeson's family-like spirit right from the first weekend in O-week. In the first few weeks, our senior and junior students took the freshers under their wings and before long there was no divide between year levels at all. Officially, we have six members in College leadership positions however the rest of the House have also stepped up as leaders in their own rights. This is a testament to the character of individuals in Gleeson and how coming together has brought out the best in each other. Everyone brings a unique personality that has shaped Gleeson into what it is today.

Right from the start of the year, our Gleeson family has spent many hours a week together, both arranged and not. Most weeks Gleeson will go for a morning walk to a local cafe, often joined by another House. The other common 'house hang' will be a Tuesday evening Tea. This is where the House shared a cake to recognise any birthdays, unveiled the infamous pyramid and either played a game or had a show and tell type presentation about a Gleeson member's life before College. With many other 'house hangs' dotted throughout the busy College schedule, the ones I love the most are actually the impromptu gatherings, often started by a few freshers chatting on the floor in a hallway before others heard the commotion and came out to join.

Other big events in Gleeson this year have included a portrait paint and sip night, pancake breakfast, bottomless brunch and country boot-scooting, dessert outings, late night/early morning chats after Aquinas Ball, DIY cold rock, share room crawl, sunrises, baking nights, movies, card games and the infamous mafia game crash outs.

Gleeson was more than just the sum of our people and events. This year we have been a tightknit family where comradery, laughs and connection have run wild. We are fortunate to all look out for each other and it is nice to look around at college events and see groups of Gleeson members tearing up the dance floor together, taking a breather, or having a chat and a laugh.

It has been a privilege to be part of such a remarkable group of people, and I cannot wait to witness the amazing achievements both in College and beyond that my fellow ghosts will undeniably go onto accomplish. Every year at College is special, however I hope that we will all remember the late-night chats, the surprising pyramid decisions, the raucous mafia disputes, Lucy's rocky road, and the year that was, Gleeson 2025.



Hannan *House*

by House Coordinator Eddie Grover

2025 saw Hannan House welcome a full crew of 17 first year College students fresh out of home, pumped to tackle the Adelaide life. From O-week with all gathering in my room as a bunch of strangers, it didn't take long for us all to form strong friendships, with laughter now constantly echoing down the hallways from chats going into the early hours of the morning. Hannan quickly grew from this group of strangers into the family we now all love.

The year has been packed with some memorable moments and plenty of wholesome chaos. Our paint and sip night brought out some real artistic talent, with evenings watching the footy turning into competitive games of sardines, and coffee walks which would reveal those who tackle the morning and those who just love to sleep in. Some of the best experiences and memories however cannot be planned and were found in the everyday moments, spontaneous group outings, late night chats, or a stew session on the couch.

I hope that all the Hannan hogs will remember this year as one full of friendship, laughter, and unforgettable memories with connections to last a lifetime. I feel extremely lucky to have had the 17 amazing people in my House this year, watching them all grow and find their way through College while giving them the occasional nudge in the right direction. I wish you all the very best in years to come and while I won't be at College to see it, hope that you all stay the same amazing people I had the privilege of getting to know. Thank you all for making this year such an incredible one.



MacKillop House

by House Coordinator Elise Horstmann

February 2025 saw 6 fresh Aquinians, along with 7 juniors and 5 seniors, make MacKillop their home. The meerkat spirit was strong from the beginning, coming from a jam-packed O-Week full of coffees (amongst other beverages), one-bite cheeseburgers, a proposal, a world-tour, line-dancing and plenty of anticipation from the newbies. Despite our different hometowns, degrees and ages, members of MacKillop easily came together as friends ready for a good year ahead.

As always, the College calendar was very full throughout the year – between HTC sports that saw a meerkat or 2 in almost every team, music nights and other personal events, MacKillop was always busy. This sometimes meant it was hard to track a large group of us down to hang out, but when it counted most the meerkats came together in full for Lawrie Smart. Consistently ranking in the top 4 (discounting Pictionary, “that was not a dragon, Amelia”), other Houses shook at their knees when they heard ‘Enter Sandman’ coming down the new building stairs and locked eyes on our fearless mascot Professor Wigglesniff. Outside of these novelty events, many coffee/icecream walks, movie nights,



Wii marathons – though I don’t think Mulesy played with Pippa again after ‘the incident’ – and birthday cakes were shared over laughs and stories. Our larger house hangs included a visit to the Fringe Festival, pub dinners, beautiful paint ‘n’ sips, a night of bowling/laser tag and a bottomless celebration to end the year.

Despite the full social calendars, members of MacKillop excelled academically in their chosen Uni courses, with the majority of the House earning distinctions/high distinctions in both Semesters.

I could not be happier with the group of individuals I got to reside closely to this year. Each has made a lasting impression on myself and their peers, and I hope dearly to cross paths with them in their certainly successful futures – whether that is at College or in the real working world. Thank you for having me and making my last year the best; GO MEERKATS!



Marcellin *House*

by House Coordinator Toby Casanova

This year Marci has been full of great times and plenty of laughter. Our House had a perfect mix with 8 Freshers, 8 Juniors, 3 Seniors and 1 Super Senior with Uncle Rossi. Throughout the year the Ducks gave it everything at Lawrie Smart. With a tunnel ball win to kick off the year and a few podium finishes, the Ducks were quacking. The year has been filled with House Hangs from little ones to eventful ones. With Coffee walks, nighttime ice cream trips, pre-drinks, movie nights and games nights which were all regular events.

The House has also enjoyed some breakfast cook-ups to start the day and dinners together at the pub. Some great House hang memories include a visit to the Fringe Festival, paint and sip, Holey Moley, Oz Asia festival and my personal favourite the Share room crawl with Gleeson and Roche at College. The House morale was also heightened through birthday celebrations with cake and personalised candles created by Jess. Another highlight of the year was Sam Hayes creation of the duck dance which came out by all members on a pub night. It has been an absolute pleasure to be the HC of Marci this year, and I couldn't have asked for a better crew. It has been very fulfilling to see the freshers thrive in their first year of College and all returning members still having plenty of fun.

It has also been great to see many members nominating for leadership positions next year. Chai has also been awarded a House Coordinator role next year which I know he will thrive in. I look forward to hearing about the positive impact the Ducks will have at College over the next few years. Without a doubt I can personally say Marci has by far been my favourite House in my three years at Aquinas. I would like to personally thank all members of the den for such a fun memorable and enjoyable year. Papa Duck signing off.



Marian House

By House Coordinator, Lachy Beggs

2025 has been a fantastic year for the Marian House, filled with unforgettable moments and plenty of good times and laughs, and it's been an absolute pleasure to be the House Coordinator of such a fantastic group. With a mix of all 4 different year levels, the culture up in Marian was one of the strongest, thanks to everyone's warm and welcoming nature which created a family-like vibe around the House.

The common room (penthouse) was by far the best in College, and an integral part of uniting the House, being the core space of creating endless memories. Not only was it popular within the House, but was a place for people across College to come along and enjoy movie and games nights. The Wii was a huge part of bringing everyone to the common room in the first semester, with Sauce trying to impress everyone with his tennis and bowling skills.

It was through many House hangs that we were able to get closer, such as our little ones like our coffee walks, movie nights, and Wii sessions, or our bigger ones like our quiz night or my personal favourite, Holey Moley. It was great to have such a good connection with our buddy house, Beovich, as the 'Mantabulls' had plenty of great times together including the chicken game, bowling, and the famous cookoff.

Although we didn't win a Lawrie Smart this year, our enthusiasm throughout the year was fantastic which resulted in us coming in the top 4 multiple times throughout the year. The academics throughout Marian thrived this year, with most House members being rewarded with certificates at Collegiate Dinner thanks to the countless hours spent in the



Lucey. Along with that, our sporting skills were on display as almost all our House members were also rewarded with a spot on a HTC squad/team, and if not, we always showed up to support the team.

Life up in the penthouse has been phenomenal this year and the great mix of friendly and bubbly personalities has created memories and everlasting friendships. The Marian House has turned into a family to remember, and I am beyond proud and thankful of everyone for embracing the culture up here and really making it 'the good old days'. Congratulations to everyone on a great year, and I wish you all the best for future years.



Roche *House*

by House Coordinator Tess Kenseley

I feel incredibly fortunate to have been the HC of 20 inspiring, hard working and hilarious Roche Aquinians this year. The Roche family welcomed seven freshers alongside 13 returners, who were absolutely invaluable in establishing an incredible culture from day one.

From our very first House meeting on day two of the College year, it was clear we were going to be a lively, passionate and tight knit house- one filled with a family spirit and bond like no other. We were also lucky to welcome two more freshers, Blake and Milla, into our community after O' Week, and it's been so rewarding watching them seamlessly integrate into College life.

Our unity only grew stronger as O' Week and term one went on as we navigated the infamous annual Roche Heatwave together. Our Lawrie Smart performance was consistently strong, and while our academics and outreach may not have been our strong suits, if points were given for energy, passion and pub night attendance we would be winning by a country mile !

The Roche House was always full of laughter, music, chatter and other College members which is a testament to every House member. Despite this, we managed to fit in many fun activities together as a House- especially once I learnt that we are night owls and morning coffee walks are not our thing. Some highlights included our share room crawl, just dance nights, paint and sip, blind karaoke, Wii tournaments, homemade yochi nights and plenty of chaotic games nights. But what I loved most about Roche weren't the organised events, but the little moments; the hour-long chats on the stairways, spontaneous share room catchups and the way that every single person in the House celebrated one another like family. Roche and its members truly are so special !

Every time I walk up the Roche stairs and see our gigantic photo wall of some of this year's best moments, it brings me so much joy. Each photo captures just a glimpse of the amazingly unforgettable memories that we've made together this year.

I have shared so many proud moments- from watching our house continuously represent in HTC and external sports (particularly Miss Alice Tentye who has achieved some seriously special things this year), seeing Nick climb the Coles food chain, Tyson starting his own business, Ruby having the night of her life as a paint girl, Liv gaining her



internship, and of course so many other individual wins on the daily. As amazing as all these achievements have been, it's the small, everyday things that have meant the most. What's brought me the most joy has been watching the freshers find their place in College life, the juniors embrace and celebrate every moment, and seniors Ethan and Eli be incredible role models for Roche and the wider College community.

Everyone says this, but I truly mean it—this has been the most exceptional group of people I could have ever hoped to lead. Thank you all for making this my favourite year of College yet. I can't wait to see the incredible things you'll go on to achieve—and to stay in touch with every single one of the pussy cats.

Roma Mitchell *House*

by House Coordinator, Esther Juebner

In 2025, Roma Mitchell House was lucky enough to welcome three Seniors, ten Juniors and a group of seven eager Freshers. As I look back now it is hard to imagine the early nervousness when we first gathered as a group and played endless rounds of 'two truths and one lie,' or the first moments learning about each other's hometowns. It was only a matter of weeks after O'week that my room was renamed by Oscar to be the 'Common Room' and there was barely a day in term one or two in which you would not hear the Mario Kart soundtrack blaring or the laughter of a Just Dance 2014 dance off. The Roos quickly became a tight knit family, filled with plenty of laughs and friendship, and now, the Roma hallways are forever a place that holds many special memories for all those who were a part of it.

One of the many ways I would describe the sense of family within the House was our ability to celebrate each other's individual achievements. Whether it was Max's send off to the International Laser Class World Championships, a win at Mario Kart, making a HTC team, being crowned top of the Roma Pyramid or Oscar quitting his job at The Lion, each win whether big or small was something worth celebrating in Roma. One of our most memorable celebrations was Lucy's eighteenth birthday, a much anticipated event for all of the House. We had secretly planned a room crawl in which within each room there was a game and a cocktail planned. In Max's room we played spoons, a slightly amended version in which the spoons were hidden in the corridor. In the Palmers' room we played a Kahoot, quickly followed by pin the tail on the Roo in Alyssa's where Taylor enthusiastically spun each Roo until they were seeing stars. We finished with blind karaoke in Charlotte's and the boys singing a rendition of Chappell Roan's Pink Pony Club and finally a last attempt at Jenga in the Roma Common Room (formerly known as my room).

While these large memories certainly turned to bonding experiences within the House, it was also the smaller things that built the sense of family spirit. The board game nights, coffee walks and pancakes in Marci. It was two successful trivia nights, Taco Thursday, paint and sip, and a very memorable group chat unboxing at 4am the night of Ball. It was the way that the House rallied together for Lawrie Smart, painted each other's faces, 'Roo Hopped' out to Down Under and were gracious in winning and defeat in each Lawrie Smart event. Though Dodgeball may not have been our forte, our tremendous efforts at Semester One's Lucey Marathon saw the Roos crowned champions.

But then there is the final reason that I would call us a family and this has little to do with all the events and competitions.



Little to do with House hangs or coffee walks or group chats. Little to do with photo walls and the Wii. The final reason I call Roma a family is credited to the wonderful individuals, who I was so privileged to have with me in Roma this year. People who each brought their unique charm and enthusiasm and were far more influential on the culture of our House than any coffee walk or House Hang we had this year. I feel so privileged to have watched them all form such deeply personal relationships with other members of the House that I am sure will exceed this year and their following years at College. And to that, I would like to thank my Roma Roos of 2025 for making it the year it was. I could never have imagined a better group of individuals to spend this year with!



Autographs

Class of 2025

BEOVICH

Eliza Monger - HC

Drew Baker
Jackson Bowden
Chloe Butcher
Ella Clarke
Mimi Curran
Ella Dunbar
Bailey Fraser
Matthew Gibbons
Nick Herbert
Jaida Inglis
Charlie McGrath
Sam Menadue
Eliza Monger
Aida Natale
George Wilson
Rylee Snook

CATHERINE

Joel Griffith - HC

Bailey Badcock
Mitchell Bailey
Lilly Bowyer
Isabella Byun
Tom Cassidy
Bree Farrugia
Noah Gazzard
Harry Hein
Cooper Hein
Deniz Karakaya
Mila Klarich
Lily Lawrence
Caitlin Letizia
Kai Miller
Jorja Mitchell
Halle Phelps
Liam Turley
Wil Vaughan
Matisse Wilkie

FINN

Abigail O'Sullivan - HC

Albert An
Abbee Cash
Aden Clarke
Eliza Coutts
Murrin Davis
Ruby Dunbar
Mairead Elshaug-Betson
Liam Fisher
Alexis Hawker
Clara Juebner
Meg Kempthorne
Lilah Lamb
Halle Marino
Grace Nardi
Laurence Primarano
Laura Rackham
Kate Roskam
Charlie Vandenburg
Matthew Webb
Ryan Wegener
Braden Windsor
Millie Yannakouros
Poppy Young

HANNAN

Eddie Grover - HC

Emmalee Beggs
Ashlee Cooper
Emma Cox
Simmon Crellin
Amelie Doyle
Lily Droffelaar
Abbey Falting
Anna Gilbertson
Ethan Hopgood
James Kay
Ava Norman
Macey Sanders
Lucy Scott
Andie Sharman
Kalea Siegert
Riley Vivian
Charlie Woolford

GLEESON

James Gourley - HC

Brodie Allen
Brad Braithwaite
Claire Byrne
Luke Donohue
Kimjoline Dunham
Victoria Dunstan
Conor Fielding
Tenah Fordham
Harrison Geater-Johnson
Ashlee Green
Olivia Handbury
Lilah Hill
Amity Lane
Natasha Lilford
Lili McHugh
Edward Moresi
Makenzie Pickering
Noah Sims
Natalie Tabacco
Geri Tschirner
Lucy Waterworth
Ruby Wauchope

MACKILLOP

Elise Horstmann - HC

Amelia Ballantyne
Thomas Bignell
Tom Booth
Myah Coote
Jeremy Corfield
Zara Cox
Greta Cummins
Lucy Gazzard
Nicole Head
Tess Matheson
Harry Mitchell
Harry Mules
Pippa Roberts
Kale Roberts
Lachlan Smart
Sienna Smith
Summer Smith
Claire Weiss

MARCELLIN

Toby Casanova - HC

Sharni Blacker
Jade Blacker
Lauren Cash
Jess Cobbledick
Ritika Godara
Sam Hayes
Nicholas Joy
Phoenix Lawrence
Katie Leyden
Isaac McGrath
Evie Modra
Imogen Nowak
Nash Reidy
Austin Rossi
Oliver Ryan
Samuel Sims
Grace Smallacombe
Chai Thomson
Taylor Warren

MARIAN

Lachlan Beggs - HC

Archie Aldridge
Annabel Arnold
Myles Bittner
Victoria Boddington
Klay Collins
Kate Dempsey
Rory Fitzgerald
Cadence Kalling
Mia Karlovassitis
Joseph McNamara
Jemima Puust
Kirsten Rolt
Geoffrey Slattery
Jordan Stephens
Naomi Wright
Kate Wright
Kyla Yates

ROCHE

Tess Kenseley - HC

Nick Adams
Sergey Alumios
Amber Cameron
Ruby Clarke
Ava Copping
Tyson Darley
Katie Dyson
Xavier Floramo
Eli Giddings
Grace Kelly
Millie Kuhne
Paige Lucas
Olivia Mould
Blake Pitman
Micaela Simpson
Ethan Sims
Elijah Stratford
Alice Tentye
Milla van Lelyveld
Noa Vidov

ROMA MITCHELL

Esther Juebner - HC

Taylor Baggio
Memphis Baker
Lily Blayney
Maeve Bylsma
Lucy Clarke
Alyssa Duncan
Cody Duncan
Chelsea Hawkins
Jessica Inglis
Zoe Kuhn
Oscar Marr-McGuire
Macey Osman
Michael Palmer
Jonathan Palmer
Ruby Smart
Max Sturman
Hamish Turner
Kasey White
Charlotte Wishart



