



# Mary MacKillop College

## Kensington

**Mary MacKillop College is a flourishing and enthusiastic community energised by the educational vision of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.**

# Welcome

I trust that our Prospectus opens a window into the rich and vibrant life of Mary MacKillop College. Many people have suggested to me that our College is a 'hidden gem', tucked away behind Portrush Road in a quiet leafy street.

Mary MacKillop College is a vibrant, diverse and inclusive school community, where our girls are nurtured, supported and challenged to be their very best selves. With a focus on pastoral care, academic excellence and leadership opportunities, MacKillop students are inspired to have the 'Courage to lead' with compassion and integrity, so that they can make a positive difference in the world.

Our relatively small community ensures strong and enduring relationships are developed, building a true sense of belonging, solidarity and mutual respect. Our girls feel 'at home' and very much part of the College community.

Our passionate and innovative staff energise young hearts and minds so that our students realise their potential;

developing the confidence, knowledge, skills and dispositions to forge their own pathways to success.

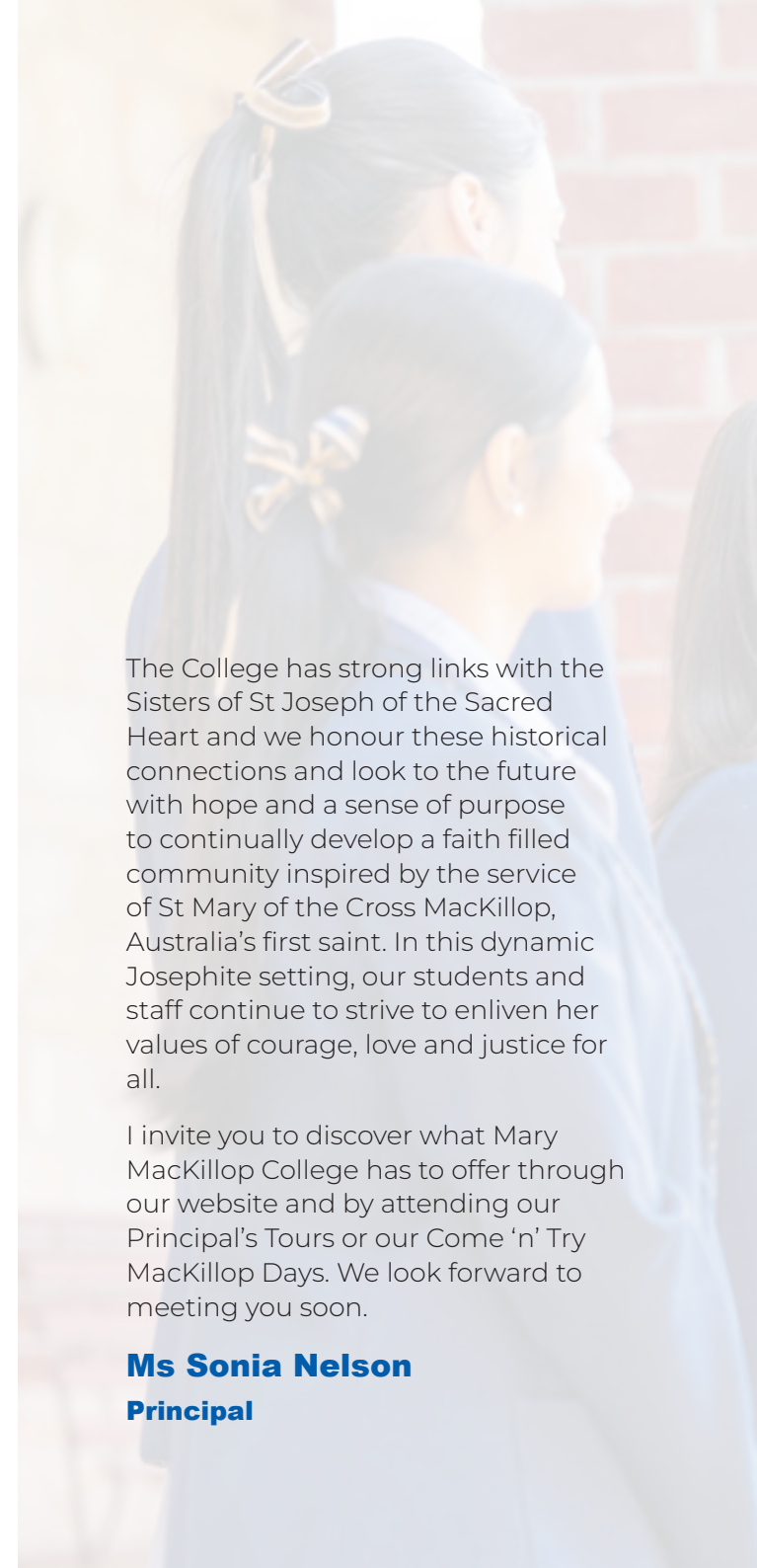
Facilities at Mary MacKillop College support a diversity of teaching and learning experiences, providing a contemporary environment where students are empowered to create, investigate and explore.

Driven by the pursuit of social justice and equality for all, our Josephite heritage inspires our girls to show compassion and embrace opportunities to shine academically, spiritually and socially. Guided by our College motto "In Omnibus Caritas", which means "In All Things Love", we can understand and advance the uniqueness and potential of each young woman.

The College has strong links with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart and we honour these historical connections and look to the future with hope and a sense of purpose to continually develop a faith filled community inspired by the service of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia's first saint. In this dynamic Josephite setting, our students and staff continue to strive to enliven her values of courage, love and justice for all.

I invite you to discover what Mary MacKillop College has to offer through our website and by attending our Principal's Tours or our Come 'n' Try MacKillop Days. We look forward to meeting you soon.

**Ms Sonia Nelson**  
**Principal**











Here at Mary  
MacKillop  
College, we  
are specialists  
in girls'  
education,  
providing  
opportunities  
for girls to  
achieve their  
potential.

## Why a Girls' School?

The following benefits have been identified by the International Coalition of Girls' Schools:

1. Students do **BETTER** academically, socially and emotionally.
2. Participation in STEM is **HIGHER** at girls' schools.
3. Students feel **EMPOWERED** to defy gender stereotypes.
4. Students are more **CONFIDENT**, self-assured and resilient.
5. Students experience less bullying and greater **RESPECT**.
6. Girls' schools better prepare students for **CAREER** and **LIFE SUCCESS**.
7. Students in girls' schools are **HAPPIER** and they **BELONG**.
8. Students from girls' schools have higher **ASPIRATIONS** and **AMBITIONS**.
9. There is **HIGHER PARTICIPATION** in sport and physical activity.
10. At girls' schools student **WELLBEING** comes **FIRST**.

Teaching girls using an approach which recognises these gender differences, enables girls to live up to their full potential and be comfortable being themselves.

We are a member of the 'International Coalition of Girls' Schools' which is an organisation committed to promoting the benefits of single-sex schools for girls.

We encourage you to find out more about the benefits of girls' schools at their website [www.girlsschools.org](http://www.girlsschools.org).



# Our History

Mary MacKillop lived and worked at Kensington for many years and she opened the first school here in 1872. The College began in the shadow of World War II in 1944 when secondary students, who had previously been taught at various Parish schools run by the Sisters of St Joseph, were brought together in Queen Street, Norwood.

In the first year, 100 students were enrolled in classes from First Year to Leaving Honours. The school was then known as St Joseph's Higher Primary.

In 1950, the school moved to Bridge Street, where a small building had served as the Parish school. During the 1950s, a hall was hired in High Street to cater for rapidly increasing student numbers. This led to a building project undertaken by the Sisters of St Joseph and, in 1963, the school, which had been renamed St Joseph's High School, moved into the Phillips Street site with an enrolment of 200 girls.

During the 1960s, student numbers increased, lay people joined the teaching staff and Sister Oliver remained

as Principal, making a unique and inestimable contribution to the growth and spirit of the school. In 1970, Sister Oliver's last year as Principal, the name was changed to Mary MacKillop College.

Since its humble beginnings, the College has continued to embrace students and educate them in the true spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. A very real and precious connection has been maintained with the Sisters and our girls enjoy classes in a modern, well-resourced, comfortable environment, while having access to the Chapel and Convent grounds where Mary herself lived and worked to promote educational opportunities for girls.







foundling Sister who struggled with life



grow the Australian for us all

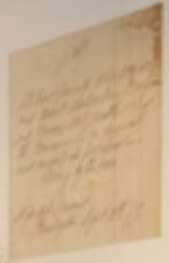


"Never see an evil"  
... the Sisters work



"... the Sisters must do all the good  
and never see an evil  
without trying how they may remedy it"

*Angela ...*



Sisters of St. Joseph  
graciously remember the  
people who, since  
have supported us  
emotionally, spiritually  
in many practical

Documentation







MARY

HOLY PENOLA

SAIN OF OUR TIME

Southern Cross

Flying the flag for Mary

How a colonial rebel became our saint

Pilgrims cry: 'Mary, Mary, Mary'

Our humble gift to the world

HAIL MARY

The Advertiser

Sunday Mail

Our Saint

A home-

Oh what a joy!

The p

1962

1969

1973

1981

1991

2008

2009



Mary MacKillop  
College enjoys  
a singular  
privilege  
in both its  
location and  
its connection  
to the life and  
legacy of Mary  
herself.

## Our Faith

The College embodies Mary MacKillop's principles and spirit in every aspect of its life – as we are situated in the very shadows of her Chapel and the original Mother-house here in Adelaide.

Our connection with Mary informs and guides both our practice as a community, as well as our College curriculum. Often quoted as saying "In all things love", it is this thought that remains at the forefront of our students awareness – both of themselves, and as members of the Josephite community. It is our hope that this carries them throughout life, as they embrace the spirit of Mary MacKillop and engaging the world.

The religious dimension of the College draws life from the living heart of Australia's pioneering founder of the Josephite order and it's tradition of service to others. This is reflected through our Mass services and liturgies, classroom pastoral care and social justice projects.

You will find this spirit in the faces of our young women as they grow in their understanding of the rich promise that is their living faith, their ever-expanding awareness of the potential of their own

contribution to the world and to bringing God's love to the place and time in which they live.

At Mary MacKillop College, the invitation to take part in this faith experience is offered on a daily basis and our reputation as a faith-filled community rests on the willing and generous response our girls give to this invitation.









**Our broad curriculum and high expectations of students encourages each MacKillop girl to do her best, on the personal journey she takes.**

## **Our Teaching and Learning**

As part of our College's Strategic Plan, we have developed a curriculum that is current, evidence-based and relevant to student needs as well as responsive to changes and developments in society.

Our broad curriculum and our high expectations of students encourages them to become self-directed and lifelong learners. The teaching and learning program aims to improve the student's ability to learn and to give them an opportunity to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do in a range of contexts. Our programs are designed to develop student confidence, knowledge, skills and capabilities relevant for an increasingly globalised and electronic society.

Teachers at Mary MacKillop College are provided contemporary professional and personal development opportunities to deepen and broaden their classroom practices and subject expertise.

This enables engaging and differentiated learning activities that support all students, including those with special interests, talents or capabilities.

We are committed to promoting the inclusion of students with disabilities and learning difficulties in mainstream education settings. Specialised education curriculum programs are provided for students with diagnosed intellectual disabilities and learning needs. Our inclusive ethos means all students with special needs are educated within the mainstream class and are provided with additional support and accommodations within the classroom and, when necessary, in the Learning Centre. All teaching and non-teaching staff are advocates for equality and inclusion for those students who experience difficulties in the educational and social sphere.

Mary MacKillop College provides excellence in a contemporary curriculum that equips our girls with the necessary skills to meet the challenges of their future.

# Our Pastoral Care

At Mary MacKillop College, our touchstone, in pastorally caring for our students, is the charism and ethos of Mary MacKillop, who strived to consistently present the face of Christ to all.

Through the Pastoral Care Program, students learn how to care for themselves and others, how to exercise personal responsibility and empower themselves to take control of their own learning; planning for a productive future.

Pastoral Care teachers are integral to the life of the College community and care for the wellbeing of students in their Pastoral Care class. This is done by respecting each student as an individual, by encouraging them and showing interest in their progress and the achievement of their potential. Nurturing wellbeing includes spiritual and emotional wellbeing, as well as academic success.

As teachers, for student wellbeing we:

- Foster concern for each other, and an understanding of justice and the importance of relationships.
- Foster leadership and faith formation opportunities.
- Are accessible to students and approachable.
- Identify problems and seek support from providers in the school community.
- Respond to student concerns.
- Familiarise students with school policies and processes to empower

them to make effective, responsible choices and to better understand the meaning of being part of a community.

- Maintain ongoing contact with parents and caregivers, consistent with our family-school partnerships policy; to share information and concerns, to praise and acknowledge achievements, and to foster our school as a place of welcome.

The College Counsellor also works closely with the students and will access outside support agencies when required.







# Our Co-Curricular Opportunities

At Mary MacKillop College, we strive to give our girls every opportunity to develop academically, spiritually and socially.

A comprehensive range of activities is provided to allow girls to participate and achieve success in Sport, Athletics, Music, national subject competitions, Drama, Dance and College Clubs including Book Club, Science Club, Swimming Club, Cooking Club and Fitness Club.

Formal leadership opportunities are provided through:

- College Captains
- Prefects
- Social Justice Captains
- Music Captains
- Sports Captains
- Arts Captains
- Wellbeing Ambassadors
- Student Representative Council
- Peer Support Leaders.

The Student Leaders bring much life to the College as visible role models for other students. They promote harmony within the College community and maintain the charisma of Mary MacKillop.







MARY MACKILLOP

MARY MACKILLOP  
KENNEDY

MACKILLOP COLLEGE



# Our Facilities

We foster your daughter's academic, spiritual, social, emotional and physical development in a safe, caring and contemporary learning environment.

Mary MacKillop College has a proud history of educational excellence for girls. Forward-thinking teachers and learning experiences that inspire have kept us at the forefront of girls' education for 70 years. Modern, well-equipped facilities underpin our fine educational offerings, with buildings around planted courtyards creating a strong sense of community.

**TENISON CENTRE** (completed Dec 2023)  
Our first building works in over 20 years, the Tenison Centre is MacKillop's brand new Science and Art innovation hub. The various bright, contemporary and flexible learning spaces encourage creativity and collaboration, and provide our girls with the skills and dispositions needed to meet the growing demand for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) career pathways.

Other specialist facilities also activate the success of our students, with the Design and Technology Hub, Performing Arts Auditorium, Music Centre, Food and Fabric Technology Centres. all supporting engaged learning opportunities. Pastoral Care classrooms have been designed to create a sense of 'home', with colour, warmth and displays, enhancing the College spirit of being "A MacKillop Girl". Our multipurpose gymnasium, sports courts and playing field are well utilised for diverse curricula and extra-curricular physical education and community activities.







# Our Community

Mary MacKillop College is a thriving and enthusiastic community of staff, families and students energised by the educational vision of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

Family members are welcome to attend College events, assist in our canteen, and we have developed strong partnerships with the wider community.

Many of our graduates remain connected through coaching sport teams and assisting at College events. We are fortunate to also have a number of graduates return to share their life and career journeys with our current students.





“Just as the life of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop inspires us, I too will endeavour to inspire our students to be local and global citizens and to develop their understanding that actions reflect the Gospel.”

**Ms Jasmin Eckert, Deputy Principal**



“Mary MacKillop College has given us many opportunities that have helped us to grow and extend ourselves in leadership and learning. We are continuously inspired by the life of our patron saint, Mary MacKillop, and enriched by her spirit.”

**Year 8 Students**



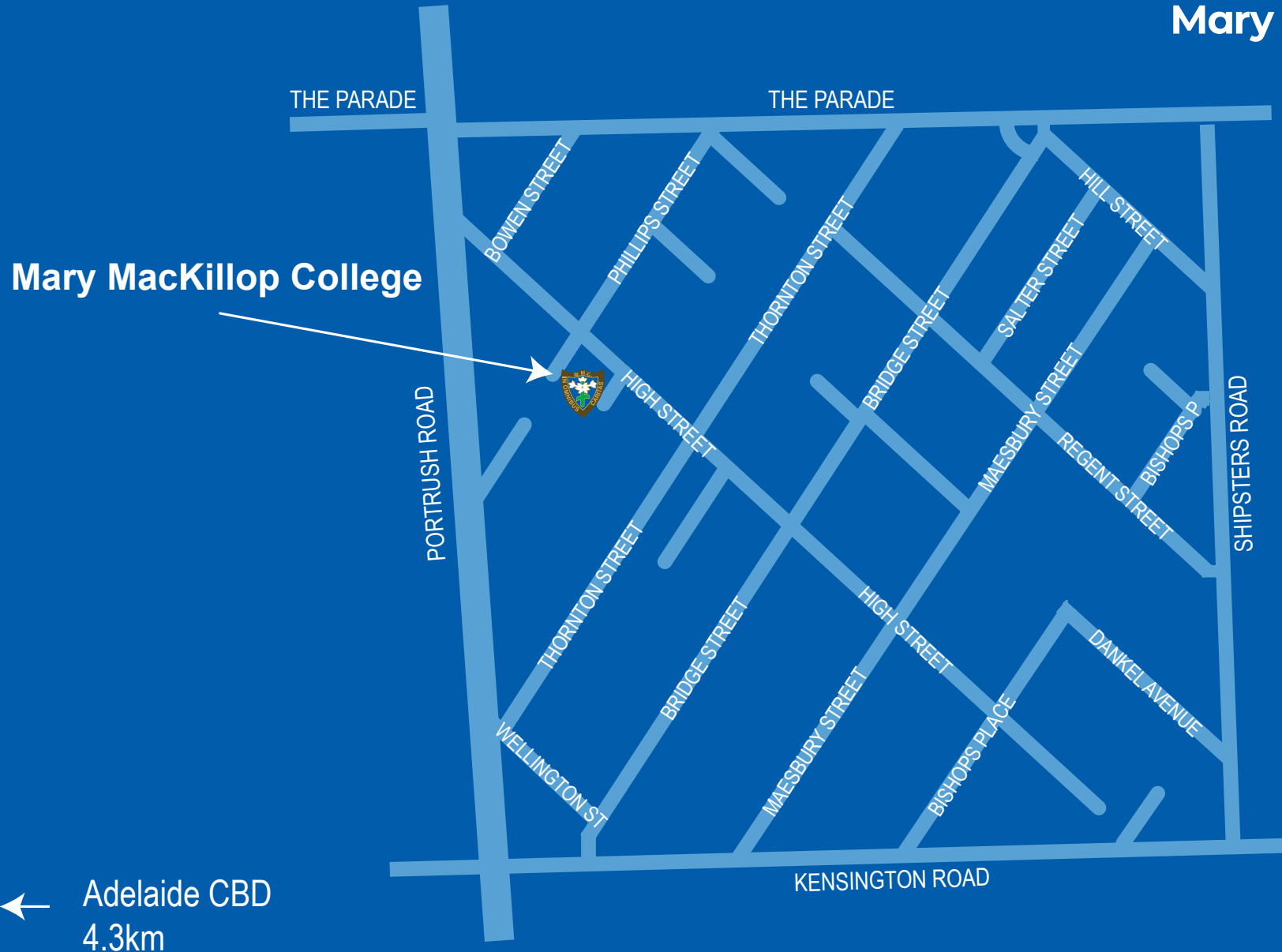
“I am passionate about developing resilience in our girls so that they can continue to grow in confidence and self-belief, to speak the truth, have courage to lead and contribute to the greater good of the community.”

**Ms Liz Stewart, Director of Students**





# Mary MacKillop College Kensington



# How to find us



# Mary MacKillop College

## Kensington

A Catholic Secondary College for girls, educating  
in the spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

# Courage to lead

a: 10-14 High Street, Kensington SA 5068  
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e: [admin@marymackillop.sa.edu.au](mailto:admin@marymackillop.sa.edu.au)  
w: [marymackillop.sa.edu.au](http://marymackillop.sa.edu.au)