Dear Members of the St Mary’s College Family,

I welcome you to our newest publication ‘Conanti Corona’, a semester based magazine celebrating the triumphs and achievements at St Mary’s College.

Our motto ‘Conanti Corona’ is translated as ‘the one who strives will win the crown.’ To strive means to go after, fully committed, attacking with both hands to achieve something important. Our motto correlates strongly to our vision statement - ‘To strive for excellence, so as to reach one’s full potential, making a difference to our world.’

This publication is a celebration of all that students and staff do to ‘strive for the crown’, the effort put into all areas, from academic achievements, to spiritual events, cultural endeavours, sporting triumphs and social and leadership opportunities.

So many young men throughout St Mary’s College’s rich history, who have walked out the gates of St Mary’s College for the last time, have certainly made a positive difference to the world, and will continue to. They are formed as men of strong ‘faith, integrity, action and excellence’. We at St Mary’s College are proud of this accomplishment for our young men.

I trust you will enjoy reading the first of our exciting new publications.

May our loving God walk with all members of the St Mary’s College family.

Mr Michael Newman
College Principal
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New Auditorium

Due to the outstanding planning and deliberations of the College Finance and College Future Planning Committees (Chair: Sonya Lynch), and with the support of the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office, under the leadership of Dr Pat Coughlan (Executive Director) and Ms Julie Payne (Bursar), St Mary’s College has been successful in its financial application to build a new auditorium at the College.

This new auditorium is an important component of the College Master Plan. It will enable the College to meet the needs of our senior ATAR system, to continue to provide modern and sophisticated facilities for students and enable us to provide scope for the College to grow into the future.

The auditorium will be built to a size required to cater for full College assemblies, include a modern archives display, toilets, tiered seating for the oval, modern change sheds, a state of the art weights room and storage. Stage two of this project would see an Arts precinct adjoining and complementing this building: Art, Drama and Music. At the same time, the T.P. O’Brien hall will become our new library and the present library will be converted into four classrooms.

St Mary’s College thanks the Diocesan Development Fund and the Bishop of Toowoomba, Most Reverend Robert McGuckin DD MCL JCL for their financial support to make this project a reality.
Drought Relief

An incredible $1,900 has been donated to drought-striken farmers across our region, after the St Mary’s College Student Representative Council and senior students promoted and organised an excellent free dress fundraiser in Term 3, and encouraged students to donate generously.

The Backpack Project

Thanks to the generosity of families, staff and students, more than 300 backpacks have been filled with items like pencils, notepads, clothing, towels, toothpaste and soap, and will be sent to less fortunate children in Malawi. As a part of The Backpack Project, through Mary’s Meals, St Mary’s College students are the first in Australia to launch a backpack collection. All the items that were donated throughout Term 3 have now been sorted into backpacks, and will support the everyday lives and education of these less fortunate children.

TCS Excellence Awards

The Toowoomba Catholic Schools office presented the 2018 ‘Excellence Awards’ to staff members in our community. Congratulations to Principal Michael Newman for receiving the award for “Excellence in Leadership”, to Acting Deputy Principal Lisa Hammond who won the Excellence in Leadership - Emerging Leader category and to parent Katrina Thom who won the Volunteer Support category. Congratulations to the following teachers, assistant members of staff and volunteers who were finalists at the inaugural Toowoomba Catholic Schools Excellence Awards as part of the Catholic Education Week Celebrations.

Finalist Early Career Teacher
Peter Chandler

Finalist Secondary Expert Teacher
Rod Logan

Finalist Middle Leadership
Samantha Parle

Finalist Middle Leadership
Leah Dempster

Finalist Administration, Finance and Facilities Support
Frank Strachotta

Finalist Professional Learning Community
St Mary’s College, Maths Department

St Mary’s College’s success at these awards, again highlights the outstanding quality of teachers and support staff that are here for students. St Mary’s College is certainly in a position to continue offering students the opportunity to achieve excellence in all areas of their education.
Science & Engineering Challenge Champions

St Mary’s College has taken out the title of the Darling Downs Secondary Schools Science and Engineering Challenge champions. Held at the University of Southern Queensland, eight schools from across the region gathered to participate in the challenge. The event encouraged students to think outside the box and test theories. It was an event where getting something wrong was encouraged. The students were provided a challenge and a set of materials to complete a specific task. The event aimed at allowing the students to engage in fun, yet competitive activities involving elements of science, engineering and technology, encouraging the students to explore scientific principles, rather than being guided to an answer. St Mary’s College students, Tikiri Lamb and Jimmy Sullivan said the key to success was teamwork. “Any team that wasn’t able to properly function within itself wasn’t going to be able to construct what was required of them in the limited amount of time,” said Tikiri. “We had a leader, and we’d pass ideas through and vote on whether the idea was good. The key was communication,” said Jimmy. The challenge is to encourage young high schoolers to continue their studies in the fields of science, technology, engineering or maths, or even inspire a career option. “It’s certainly opened my mind to a lot of new possibilities,” said Tikiri Lamb. Accumulating a score of 1299, the St Mary’s College team came away with the overall prize.

NAPLAN Success

St Mary’s College students have achieved highly in the 2018 NAPLAN test, ranked as the most improved High School in Toowoomba. Within Queensland, out of around 400 schools, St Mary’s College Toowoomba was ranked 26th.

St Mary’s College had 100% improvement of students in all areas tested: reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy from Years 5 to 7 and Years 7 to 9. St Mary’s College is above the National and Queensland Average in 13 of 15 categories. St Mary’s College was ranked in 5th place against Toowoomba Schools in both Year 7 and 9 NAPLAN (% above National Minimum Standards).
National Science Week

St Mary’s College students got involved in a plethora of National Science Week activities in August, following the theme ‘Game Changers and Change Makers’. The boys were challenged with quizzes in mentor, fun facts, games, poster competitions and problem solving activities.

Outstanding OP Results

2017 graduates Nathan Hoger and Christopher Godfrey are now off conquering the world, studying at major universities that they were accepted into after achieving an OP 1 result at St Mary’s College. This follows as the Year 12 cohort of 2017 achieved outstanding results, 17% of our boys achieved an OP 1, 2 or 3, 100% of our boys achieved their QCE, 100% of our boys achieved their university preference and two boys received an OP 1.

The Mayor’s Telstra Technology Awards

Congratulations to James Boyce, Dhairy Shah and Dhyey Shah, and teachers, Mr Wayne Williams and Mr Peter Horton who were finalists in the Mayor’s Telstra Technology Awards at the University of Southern Queensland. Our boys presented a unique invention, a ‘Mobile Medical Monitoring System’. This is a wristband, flip watch style product with embedded sensors which collects real-time data on blood-pressure, pulse-rate, temperature and oxygen saturation levels. It connects to a mobile app via Wi-Fi, and contains the patient’s file and medical history. It is aimed at patients about to be discharged for home monitoring and elderly patients in retirement villages and nursing homes. If maximum or minimum data levels are recorded, an alarm will go off in the nursing station and the doctor’s phone. Further sensors would be developed in the future as technology allows. The students were then chosen among the eight finalists in the Queensland Innovative Competition at the University of Queensland.
Edmund Rice Day

On June 8th, St Mary’s College celebrated its origins, on Edmund Rice Day. The students began the day with a mass in St Patrick’s Cathedral, gathering to remember the man who founded the Christian Brothers, and commenced education in our school in 1899.

Edmund Rice started his first schools on the outskirts of Waterford in Ireland for the poor and marginalised children of Irish society supplying these students with a uniform and food. Since then, Edmund Rice schools have opened in over 20 countries throughout the world. Following the mass, the students spent the rest of the day participating in colourful activities, as a part of the celebrations. Students flew kites on the oval, played basketball, and even competed in a staff verse student touch game.

Social Justice

St Mary’s College Year 10 and 11 students have done their part to contribute to our community, through Social Justice Placements. This placement aims to get students to think about those in our society that live on the edge, Christian message calls us to come as a guest on the edge with those individuals and to try to understand the world from their perspective. Upon their return to school, it’s a chance to focus on action and how we can continue to be present to those who need us in our community.
Feast of Assumption Mass

On August 15th, St Mary’s College celebrated the Assumption of Mary, a significant feast in the life of the Church. Mary was important to the Christian Brothers when they set up the school some 119 years ago, and she is an important role model for us today. Mary thought of the needs of others; she was called to serve. A St Mary’s College man is a man called to the service of others not just now, but for the rest of their lives. They are to be men of faith, excellence, action and integrity.

Catholic Education Week Awards

Congratulations to the following boys who were presented with Edmund Rice Awards as part of Catholic Education Week.

Year 5 - Michael Osborne and Charlie Barnes
Year 6 - Liam Dawes
Year 7 - Isaac Lee
Year 8 - Zeith Nash and Jake Freyling
Year 9 - William Thomas
Year 10 - Matthew Neville
Year 11 - Edward Witherspoon
Year 12 - Patrick Inglis
It finally broke a 20-year drought for St Mary’s College, when the team seized the Confraternity Shield after a sensational tournament.

Our team headed up north to Charters Towers in July, to compete in one of the most formidable schoolboys’ Rugby League competitions in Australia. Since the Confraternity Shield was first contested in 1980, the Carnival has featured 150 future NRL players including 30 State of Origin representatives and 20 Kangaroos players.

The St Mary’s team got off to a cracking start, defeating St Patrick’s College, then taking down St Peter Claver College, St Teresa’s College and Aquinas College, securing a place in the semi-finals. Up against powerhouse Ignatius Park College, our boys pounced early, taking the lead within the 7th minute thanks to some handy penalties. Pushing through, St Mary’s had an impressive 16-0 lead at half time, which proved too much for Ignatius Park, as the final score board showed 22-6 for our St Mary’s boys.

All eyes were on the Grand Final with St Mary’s College as the only unbeaten Division 1 team once again coming face to face with St Peter Claver College. Our boys pushed through as a team, grasping onto victory with an astounding final score of 42-6. Jake Simpkin, Tate McCormick and Jordan Lipp were then named as part of the QISSRL Merit Team, as well as Simpkin being named player of the carnival and final. All boys played a sensational game, and should be very proud of their efforts.
The weather was perfect, and the atmosphere was electric, as each St Mary’s College student donned their house colours and showed their house spirit for the 2018 Athletics Carnival. The day was a huge success, thanks to staff, students and families contributing and supporting the participants. But at the end of the day, it was Bowdler House that took out the title of champions, with House Captains Angus Donaldson and Zack Horrex graciously accepting the St Mary’s College Athletics Carnival Trophy. Well done to all the Age Champions:

- **Alastair MacLachlan** (U10)
- **Charlie Dettori** (U11)
- **Patrick Sanderson** (U12)
- **Demetrius Christodoulou** (U13)
- **Riley Madden** (U14)
- **Riley Williams** (U15)
- **Edward Witherspoon** (U16)
- **Thomas Tierney** (Open).

**Walters Cup**

Well done to the St Mary’s College U15 Rugby League team, who won the South-East Queensland Schoolboys Major Rugby League Competition (Walters Cup) defeating Keebra Park State High School 22 to 12. In essence, this competition is the elite Schoolboys Rugby League Tournament in Queensland. The students demonstrated sportsmanship and humbly accepted the trophy at the Grand Final.

**SMC 22**

**Keebra Park SHS 12**

**Athletics Carnival**

They went in with their eyes on the prize. The St Mary’s College Basketball team won all three pool games at the AAG Cup 2018 Basketball Positive Choices Challenge in August. They defeated Pittsworth State High School 48-28, Toowoomba Anglican College and Preparatory School 32-28 and Harristown State High School 48-26. But it was when they came face to face with Toowoomba Grammar in the Semi Finals that they fell short by two points in the final seconds of the game. Although it was a devastating way to end their run, the students showed huge amounts of sportsmanship throughout the entire weekend on and off the court.

**AAG Cup Basketball**
Carnival Marching Band

In front of around 100,000 people, the St Mary’s College newly formed Marching Band excelled, bringing fun tunes and unity throughout the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers Parade in September.

The Marching Band consisted of Drumatic along with a selection of students from Years 5-12 performing on brass and woodwind instruments, and eight of our junior musicians committing to their first ever ensemble with a Colourguard routine.

The boys memorised five pieces to perform whilst marching in the parade.

Student Art Show

Record crowds attended the 2018 St Mary’s College Student Art Show. Students and their families enjoyed viewing the stunning artwork from students from Years 5-12 within the historic architecture of the Brothers’ House. Our Feature Artists for 2018 were our Multicultural students. Fabric featuring designs and prints from these students was on display in Mr Newman’s office. Nancy Brown was our Guest Artist and Judge for 2018. She awarded these prizes for the best artwork for 2018.

Year 5 – Jack Bidgood (Highly commended – Lachlan Hanna)
Year 6 – Mitchell Willett (Highly commended – David Rainger)
Year 7 – Angus Goddard (Highly commended – Nicholas Clarke)
Year 8 – Matthew Morgan (Highly commended – Toby Prosser, Rhys Pascoe)
Year 9 – Ryan Regan (Highly commended – Noah Cochran, Andrew Betros)
Year 10 – Wesley Lassere (Highly commended – Chris Trost, Angus Wright, Josh Quinlan, Finn McKinlay, Dylan Andrews)
Year 11 – Karne Young (Highly commended – Ethan Kratzmann, Coby Rose, Connor Welke, Harry Rub)
Year 12 – Ryan Bailey (Highly commended – Joshua Smith, Ethan Logan, Peter Holman, Mitchell Washington, Jackson Smith, Dominic Quade, Jackson D’Arcy)

Special encouragement awards of gifts from School Art Supplies were awarded to Peter Holman and Jackson Smith.

Toowoomba Eisteddfod

It has been a busy time for the St Mary’s College Drama students with several performances at the Toowoomba Eisteddfod in August taking place. Isaac Lee participated in the Year 7 monologue competition. Isaac delivered an excellent presentation of ‘The Things You Hate at School’ and achieved 2nd place for his performance. Year 12 students Thomas Tierney, Aaron Jones and Joshua Poole competed in the senior monologue section. Thomas Tierney was awarded 1st place for his monologue which was an outstanding effort considering the tough competition that he was up against from several schools in the region. Tom was also awarded 1st place in the improvised speech section earlier that evening. The following day, Thomas Tierney entered the Speech and Drama Championship. This is only the second time a student from St Mary’s College has competed in this section. This section required Tom to perform a modern poem and a contemporary monologue for which he was placed 2nd.
Drumatic Awards

St Mary’s College drumming line ‘Drumatic’ have certainly proven they are not only an extremely talented group, but can provide fierce competition.

Drumatic were announced as the winners of the Secondary School Percussion at the Toowoomba Eisteddfod during Term 3, and just two days later, they dominated at the Australian Percussion Eisteddfod.

Drumatic will go down in history as the winners of the first ever Round 1 of an Australian Drum Battle at the Australian Percussion Eisteddfod, as well as placing 2nd in their Open Drumline B Division Test piece section.

And when everyone thought they’d dominated enough, Drumatic were awarded the Gold medal in the Queensland Catholic School and Colleges Music Festival in August.

Small Town Culture Series

St Mary’s College students have been featured in the Small Town Culture series ‘My Story’, with each production telling its own unique story from the perspective of the students from each School through interviews and music. At the heart of ‘My Story’ is the message that we are all different, yet possess a common thread and shared humanity. St Mary’s College’s story was called ‘The Passion’, with the boys explaining what their passions are and how they share their passions with friends to come together. The video can be viewed on the Small Town Culture website.
**Mother & Son Luncheon**

St Mary’s College’s annual Year 12 Mother and Son Luncheon was a chance to not only have mothers and sons spend quality time together, but for students to acknowledge what an impact their mums have had on their education and lives so far.

The beautiful luncheon, hosted at Picnic Point, was filled with music, speeches and thanks; a chance to reflect on the importance of a mother. Guests were treated to a talk by Dr Lee-Anne Perry AM, who is the Executive Director of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission.

Dr Perry spoke of what she’s learnt as a mother to a son, and encouraged the students to take grasp of all opportunities that will present themselves as they reach graduation.

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**Father’s Day Breakfast**

The father’s of St Mary’s College students were acknowledged and thanked at the annual Father’s Day Breakfast, featuring a very delicious and hearty barbeque breakfast.

It was moving to hear the reflections from the boys, speaking about how their fathers have inspired, comforted, challenged, and supported them through many moments of their lives.

Father’s then spoke of the impact of having sons in their lives, to guide and to love. Thank you to all who attended.
Several students and staff proved they certainly are very brave, losing their locks for a good cause. The World’s Greatest Shave was held in June with students packing the T.P.O’Brien Hall to see their teachers and mates squirm as the electric shavers were turned on and their hair ended up in a pile on the floor.

After months of campaigning for the event, it was announced that more than $4000 was raised for The Leukemia Foundation. This money goes towards supporting those with this devastating blood cancer, and at the same time, continues to raise awareness.

For those students not shaving their heads, they became involved by spraying their hair bright and bold colours, and waxing the hair off senior students’ legs, which caused plenty of amusement.
STUDENT Q&A

Student Profile

Q. How have you found your time at St Mary’s College?

A. My time at St Mary’s College has been the most eye opening, supportive and opportunity filled years of my life. I have been consistently and abundantly provided with the chance to get involved in a diverse range of activities, from leadership to volunteer work, that have all together crafted the well-rounded man I am today.

Q. What was your favourite memory at St Mary’s College?

A. Being new to the College in Year 11 was a very daunting change. In my first class of the day, I saw our principal Mr Newman walking the halls simply to check up on how the classes were running. That afternoon, Mr Newman called me to his office, ‘Oh no, how could I be in trouble already?’ is what I thought to myself. I was greeted with a handshake and the following words; ‘Hey mate, you’re not in trouble, just checking up, seeing how your first day was.’ Mr Newman’s interaction with the school and his support for all the boys is something that continues to amaze me, and something I’ll never forget.

Q. What is your plan for 2019?

A. In 2019, I hope to commence tertiary studies in the field of aviation, hopefully at the Australian Defence Force Academy. If all goes to plan, I’m hoping to put to use the money I’ve been saving as a deposit on an investment property (crazy I know) and see more of Australia during holidays.

Q. How do you think St Mary’s College has helped you reach these goals?

A. St Mary’s College has done more for me than just provide me with opportunities that make my resume look stellar, it has exposed me to situations, people and their predicaments that have helped build my character, fast track my level of maturity and engender the transition from childhood to manhood. The well-rounded man I have become, thanks to the support and opportunities at St Mary’s, is what I believe will lead me to success.

Q. What piece of advice do you give to other St Mary’s College students?

A. Remember that you will only get out what you put in, so if you want to be the best man you can be, always put in your best effort. Trust me, there’s no better school to support you with that than St Mary’s College.

Tom Tierney

Tom

TIERNEY
Q. How have you found your time at St Mary’s College?

A. I have found my time at St Mary’s College life changing. I will always remember my first day at this College as a boy who would walk to class by himself and sit by himself during breaks because I was shy. After time, I developed friendships like no other, and grew into the person I am proud to say I am today. I believe this school has done so much for me and it is through my time at St Mary’s College that I found my true self.

Q. What was your favourite memory at St Mary’s College?

A. My favourite memory at St Mary’s College was being elected College Captain. When I started at the College, I never thought I’d be able to be College Captain, I was terrified of talking in public and lacked in confidence. However, I worked hard to overcome my fears, and thanks to the support of staff and students at St Mary’s College, I was proud and ready to take on the position.

Q. Where do you see yourself in 5 years’ time?

A. In 5 years, I see myself having obtained a Bachelor in Architecture and playing basketball in the USA, in the hope of becoming a professional basketball player.

Q. How do you think St Mary’s College has helped you reach these goals?

A. St Mary’s College is focused on supporting all students to achieve the absolute best within themselves. Every staff contributes in their own way and provides guidance and knowledge that is beneficial for our futures. The school provides a lot of opportunities for every student. It is thanks to the staff that I’ve gained the skills and knowledge that will support me with my next adventure in my life.

Benit Kitapindu
At our July meeting our Brisbane Branch President, Bryan McSweeney, welcomed Bronte Latham, the St Mary’s College Public Relations and Foundation Officer, who advised the gathering that the school Principal, Mr Michael Newman, had announced that the planning and development stage for the proposed College Auditorium had been reached, after securing funding for the multi-million dollar project. It is intended to site the building on the Helen & Hill Street corner.

During the meeting, Life Membership Certificates were presented to Tom Hutchinson (1942-1947), and Peter Upton (1955-1963), and this was followed by an address by Barry Gordon (1954-1956) and a report by Carl Betros on the Confraternity Shield Carnival at Charters Towers where Carl was a spectator at the event to witness his grandson Daniel Betros, son of Peter Betros, play in the Shield winning St Mary’s side.

Our next Brisbane meeting will be the Pre-Christmas event, so please don’t miss it, reserve the date, 23rd November 2018, on your calendar as a Claimer Date.

You are welcome to attend the St Mary’s College Old Boys Mass in the T. P. O’Brien Hall at the College, to remember former classmates and friends who have passed away. The event will be held at 11am.

Dan McErlean – St Mary’s College Old Boys Secretary

For more information, refer to the Old Boys Newsletter on the school website, www.stmaryscollege.com
Upcoming Events

OCTOBER:
31st – Presentation Night at Empire Theatre

NOVEMBER:
1st – Old Boys Mass in the T.P.O’Brien Hall at 11.00am
5th – Year 8 Retreat
6th – Christmas Concert 6.30pm
7th – Year 12 Exam Block Starts
11th – Remembrance Day
13th – Year 12 Memories Day
14th – Year 12 Final Assembly, Valedictory Mass and Dinner
16th – Year 12 Students Conclude School and Sign Out
16th – Edmund Rice Camp
22nd – Year 7-11 Exam Block Starts
29th – Year 7-11 Christmas Mass
30th – Year 7-11 Rewards Day and Last Day of School

DECEMBER:
5th – Year 6 Graduation and End of Year Mass
6th – Year 5 & 6 Rewards Day
7th – Year 5 & 6 Last Day of School
25th – Christmas Day

JANUARY:
29th – Term 1 commences for Year 5, 6, 7 students, Year 12 leaders and new students
30th – All students commence Term 1