



2020
Campion
College
Graduation.



2021
Group 1
Summer Program
participants.



From left:
Mr Joe de Bruyn,
Mr Dan Tehan,
and Dr Paul
Morrissey.



The
Smith family
with graduate
Lucy Smith
(centre).

Campion's BRAG

Vol. 20 | No. 1
Lent Term
Summer | 2021

CATHOLIC LEARNING
IN THE LIBERAL ARTS

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Graduation 2020

The Champion College community was able to reunite with friends and family members for its 13th graduation ceremony at St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta on Wednesday, 16 December.

Most Reverend Geoffrey H Jarrett DD, Bishop Emeritus of Lismore, long time friend of Champion, celebrated the Graduation Mass.

This year's Occasional Address was delivered by Mr Nicholas Moore, former CEO of Macquarie Bank, chairman of the Centre for Independent Studies, the National Catholic Education Commission and Screen Australia, among others. Mr Moore spoke from his long years of experience in a highly distinguished career to the graduating class.

The Valedictory Address was given by graduate Anneliese van Rensburg, who reflected on the difficult year many had experienced, a particular challenge for her as president of the Champion College Student Association, but one which the Champion community faced and overcame together.



Mr Nicholas Moore, Graduation Speaker.

Anneliese graduated along with 16 other students to receive their Bachelor of Arts degree in the Liberal Arts, as well as five students who received the Diploma of the Liberal Arts.

This year's Champion College medal, Champion's highest award for academic excellence, was awarded to Miss Johanna Ryan.

Champion President, Dr Paul Morrissey thanked the families and friends of the graduates for supporting them on



Miss Johanna Ryan, College Medallist with Mr Joe de Bruyn.

such an important occasion.

"Graduation is always a wonderful and moving occasion, and I want to thank all the families and friends for making the time to come and show their support for our graduates, not just at Wednesday's ceremony, but throughout their years of study at Champion."

The day ended with an afternoon tea with family and friends celebrating the students' graduation.

New Chair for Champion

Champion College's first chairman, Mr Joe de Bruyn, is stepping down from his role after 17 years at the helm of the college.

Mr de Bruyn, who has presided over every graduation ceremony since Champion's foundation, said he felt it was time to retire from the position.

"The college is now in a satisfactory financial position and I think it's poised on the verge of significantly increasing student numbers," said Mr de Bruyn.

"In light of the fact that I've also turned 71 it's a good time to step aside for a new, younger chairman, while remaining as a director on the board for the time being." Mr de Bruyn is handing the reins over to fellow Champion Institute Board member, Rev Dr Adam Walk, a financial economist and ordained deacon.

"I am both delighted and honoured to have been chosen to become Chairman of Champion College - an institution of which I am very fond," said Rev Dr Walk.

"I now have the unenviable task of trying to fill the shoes of Joe de Bruyn, someone I admire greatly for his many years of service to Champion and to the Australian community."

Apart from serving on the Champion Board, Mr de Bruyn is a Director of the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation. He is also a senior member of the Australian Labor Party

where he has enjoyed a distinguished career as a senior and executive member of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, the SDA union, and numerous other retail and labour councils and organisations.

Rev Dr Walk, recently ordained a deacon in the Catholic Church, works across a range of governance roles in the financial services and not-for-profit sectors and has served as Adjunct Professor in the School of Business at University of Notre Dame - Australia.

Champion College President Dr Paul Morrissey welcomed Rev Dr Walk's incumbency while thanking Mr de Bruyn for his many years of faithful service to the college as chairman.

"Joe has been an indomitable and crucial figure in the establishment of Australia's first tertiary liberal arts college," Dr Morrissey said.

"We are deeply grateful for his wisdom and his leadership in helping guide Champion from its early years as a fledgling institution to an internationally-recognised and respected champion of the liberal arts and classical education.

"We are now excited to welcome Adam, who has become a valued member of the board for his insight and expertise. I'm confident he will do an outstanding job as Champion's new chairman."

David Ryan is a graduate of Champion College Australia and journalist at The Catholic Weekly.

Graduation Valedictory Address

It has been an extremely unique and challenging year. For the first time Campion went online. Lectures, tutorials, student meetings, social events and all the things that are a part of the Campion community went from in person to on the screen. The immediate hesitation to this new way of learning quickly turned into an exciting and even exhilarating opportunity. However, I think it's safe to say that by the end of July we were eager to return to campus.

On behalf of the graduating class, I would like to say a massive thank you to all the staff who have contributed to the phenomenal three years we have had together. It is hard to put into words our gratitude - but thank you for the constant support you have shown to us over the years. It is something we will never forget or take for granted. I hope you all know how wonderful you are because

While visiting our campus in Old Toongabbie on 17 December 2020, the outgoing Minister for Education, Dan Tehan, announced that the Federal Government had made a commitment of \$5 million towards Campion College's \$20 million Capital Appeal Campaign to fund the new academic centre on campus, including a new library, lecture theatres, tutorial rooms and dining hall, which will double as an event space.

Mr Dan Tehan (left) with Campion President Dr Paul Morrissey.



there is a reason as to why Campion has a great reputation, and there is a reason Campion produces good people with a strong faith and drive for life.

Now, to my graduating classmates. To think that in first year we were all strangers and didn't know how to talk to one another! Now we are like family, who are comfortable sitting in silence because we know each other so well. It's been a blessing to be a part of this year level. I'm so proud of everyone for pushing through this year. You are all unique and have your own special talent or trait to offer this world. Never again will some of us experience living at a place like Campion, so here is to forming friendships that will last a lifetime.

The edited Valedictory Address on behalf of the Diplomates and Graduates by Miss Anneliese van Rensburg, outgoing President of the Students' Association.



Miss Anneliese van Rensburg, delivering Valedictory Address.

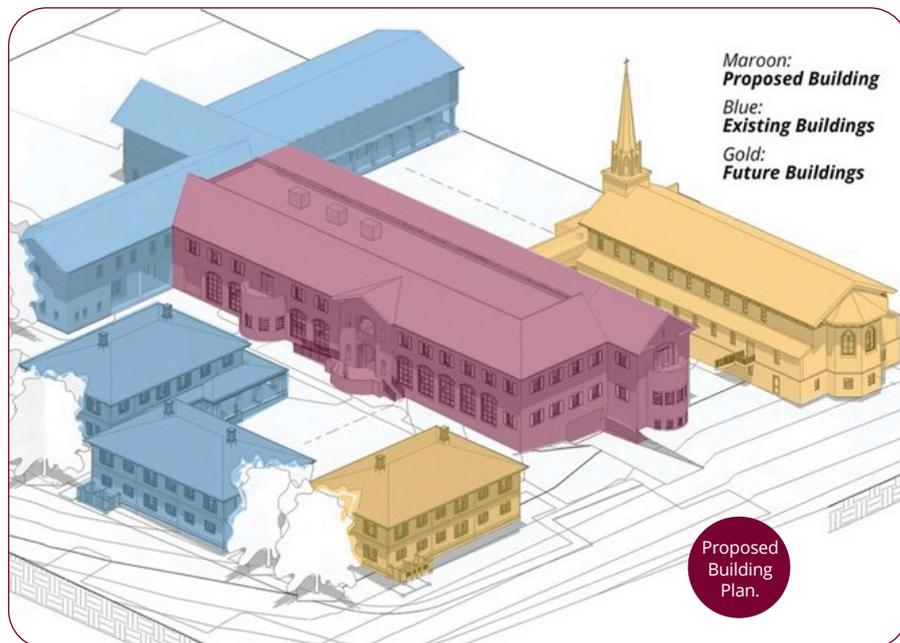
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Support From Federal Government

Dr Paul Morrissey said the government's contribution is a crucial step in securing sufficient funding for the expansion of the growing college. "Campion has grown from a fledgling project into a leading liberal arts institution in Australia, and we're extremely grateful to Mr Tehan and the Coalition Government for supporting the next stage in Campion's expansion," Dr Morrissey said.

"Interest in the liberal arts has blossomed since we opened with just 15 students in 2006, and we're excited to upgrade our library and dining hall, as well as increase classrooms to support our growing number of students.

For information on how to support the Capital Appeal Campaign, please contact Yvette Nehme (Director of Development) on (02) 9896 9318 or y.nehme@campion.edu.au



Support Campion's *Scholarship/Bursary Campaign*

Campion College scholarships and bursaries reflect our commitment to making our Liberal Arts degree as accessible as possible.

While support for the College comes in a variety of forms, you may consider contributing to our Scholarship/Bursary Campaign. This is a very important way you can support our students, especially those who come from interstate, rural and regional Australia.

Mr Lenehan, one of our supporters, tells us why he supports our Scholarship/Bursary Campaign;

"I support Campion College with a great enthusiasm! Its establishment in Sydney offers a course of studies which deals with our Western Christian Culture and the Wisdom of the Ages. To all young students who value our Christian Heritage, please consider the merits of this offer which maps our origins and the steps our society has to take to keep vibrant that which our faith requires us to do."

Scholarships and bursaries range from amounts starting from \$2,000 - \$10,000 a year. There are various scholarships and bursaries that students receive, just to name a few:

SCHOLARSHIPS:

- **Academic Excellence** \$4,000 to \$10,000 - for students who have excelled in their studies.
- **Sporting** \$2,000 to \$6,000 - for students who demonstrate sporting excellence.
- **Leadership** \$2,000 to \$6,000 - for students who demonstrate innovative and enterprise driven leadership.

BURSARIES:

- \$2,000 supports a city of Sydney-based student requiring help for daily transport and meals and the purchase of course books.
- \$5,000 could assist one or more students from across the country with accommodation expenses in Sydney and travel costs to and from their family home.

To assure our continuance and growth in producing high calibre young men and women, we are extending an opportunity for you to support our Scholarship/Bursary Campaign.

If you would like further information on how you can support our



Scholarship/Bursary Campaign, please complete the form below or contact Yvette Nehme, Director of Development phone: 02 9896 9318 / y.nehme@campion.edu.au

Vol 20 No 1 Summer 2021
Campion's Brag is a quarterly newsletter named in honour of the manifesto of St. Edmund Campion's mission of faith. It is edited by Yvette Nehme (Director of Development) and compiled by Teresa Gambino on behalf of the Campion Foundation.



Interested in supporting the Campion College Scholarship/Bursary Campaign?

To find out more about how you can support our Scholarship/Bursary Campaign complete your details below and return in the reply paid envelope enclosed or email: foundation@campion.edu.au

Title: _____ Name: _____ Surname: _____

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For further information contact Yvette Nehme, Director of Development 02 9896 9318 or email: foundation@campion.edu.au

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Campion Wish List

Campion College opened its doors in 2006, which means our equipment has aged and requires renewing and replacing. We have created a wish list of new items that we are seeking, just to name a few:

- New Campion Bus
- Recording studio equipment
- Classroom resources:
 - Whiteboard upgrade
 - Overhead Projector
 - Digital Projector
 - Screen

We thank Dr John Casey, a Campion College supporter, previously from Bondi, now retired to Brisbane, for his recent donation for new carpet in the library computer lab.

We ask that you please consider donating one of the above mentioned items or contributing funds towards them. For further information on how you can support or a detailed Wish List, please contact Yvette Nehme, Director of Development y.nehme@campion.edu.au / 02 9896 9318

Where are they now?



DAVID RYAN

I am a Campion College graduate with a Diploma in Classical Languages (Greek and Latin) and a Bachelor of Liberal Arts. I currently work full time as a journalist for The Catholic Weekly in Sydney. After an internship at The Catholic Weekly while a student at Campion College in 2017, I returned to my hometown of Brisbane where I became acquainted with DJs and musicians in my spare time. I subsequently now produce dance music and DJ outside of my professional capacity as a journalist. In both capacities I draw from an inspiration of art and festivity inspired by the Classical education I learned at Campion, especially pertaining to the notions of the Transcendentals: Truth, Beauty and Goodness. *Class of 2017*



PATRICK LONG

I was in Campion's second year intake and, after graduating in 2009, I decided to study teaching as it allowed me to work within the fields I'd studied, and employment around the world seemed very likely. I finished the MTeach course early, with a Bachelor's, before travelling with my wife to teach in the UK for about a year. We returned to Australia and, after teaching English and RE in Western Sydney for a year, we returned to the UK, to a town near Nottingham. Five years and three children later, I left my position as Second-in-Department in RE in 2019, and we beat Brexit and moved to France. Last year I taught English, RE and History at Chavagnes International College in France, where other Campion Alumni have taught, as well as tutoring in Old Testament studies in their Liberal Arts program. I am now the Deputy Headmaster, with a focus on curriculum, teaching and learning, and I'm midway through an MEd in Educational Leadership and Management. *Class of 2009*



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BRAG Vol 20 No 1

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Summer Program 2021

Following the success of Campion's first ever back-to-back Summer Programs in 2020, the decision was made to proceed with two programs in 2021.

Within three weeks of opening up registration, all places were filled and a waitlist was established. We were eagerly preparing for our largest programs to date, but unfortunately as new border restrictions were introduced, our interstate participants were forced to cancel their registration. It was a heartfelt blow to everyone involved with organising the program, but we were still determined to offer two amazing programs to our remaining NSW participants and were excited to kick off the year on a high.

Participants engaged with sample lectures and tutorials from our Liberal Arts degree, as well as sports, social activities and

If you know someone aged 16-20 who might be interested in joining us at a future program, please encourage them to express their interest via our website so we can give them first priority to register before we start advertising to the general public.

Winter Program 6-9 July 2021: www.campion.edu.au/winter-program
Summer Program January 2022: www.campion.edu.au/summer-program

Noreen Mavis Daley Poetry Prize

3rd year student Lucy Smith won the 2020 Campion Poetry Prize with her poem "Atlantis".

Atlantis by Lucy Smith

What do the clouds look like from
underwater?
The ripples spread out above
Crystal clear water shivering
Distorting palaces
White as snow.
The rains came,
And the water rose
And rose, and rose;
And soon the flood transformed all
To an underwater world.
We learned to breathe water
Like air
Some wearing masks,
Some drowning at first
Some simply allowing
The currents to caress bare faces.
The rains fall as they did before,
The winds rage as strong;
But we watch the ripples form
The waves thrash
From a still and silent blue
That colours all the trees and grasses,
Still living, unaffected by the flood.
Sometimes swimming up, one can see
And hear, breaking from the quiet,
The dripping of rain droplets

From leaves and eaves and drainpipes
Of houses built on higher ground.
One can still watch the sun and clouds
From high mountain tops;
Just that they are all islands now.
We live with giant, gentle fish our
near neighbours now,
And move from place to place,
Half swim, half walk;
We send messages,
To other underwater places,
To the surface,
By submarine,
By bell and clock,
By tying letters to seabirds' legs,
By throwing scraps of paper
out in bottles
To bob away.
The rain drips from gumtree leaves,
And the drowned world is quiet.
I no longer hear rain blown against
my window,
But instead I see the sun,
Shining bright enough to scorch
Glowing down in the myriad of
diamond refracted echoes,
Puppet shadowing how life used to be
On earth.

a day trip to Bronte Beach. At this year's programs, additional health and safety protocols were put in place and we held a mock Formal Hall in place of swing dancing. Following the Campion tradition, students were encouraged to dress up for the meal and hear from Campion board member Mrs Erica Schuman, who spoke about her own experience studying a Liberal Arts degree.

It was truly wonderful to welcome so many new faces to campus, especially after pandemic restrictions prevented us from hosting our usual Winter Program last July. We look forward to seeing our program participants again at future events and as Campion students in the coming years.

Réveillon Dinner

Students at
2020 Réveillon
Dinner.



On Thursday 19th November, Campion celebrated the end of its academic year with the annual Réveillon Dinner.

The celebrations began with Mass, which was held on the back lawn under a clear sky and accompanied by the Schola. Fr Peter encouraged the students to "go out" and be willing to share what they have learned over the year with others. Following Mass, students and staff gathered for dinner on the front lawn.

Awards were given to Lucy Smith for the Noreen Mavis Daley Poetry Prize with Simeon Casey and Naomi McClarty as runners up; Johanna Ryan was the recipient of the Ted O'Halloran Latin Prize and Gareth Cassidy (in absentia) was awarded the Fr Paul Stenhouse Prize for Literature from Frances Ryckmans and family.

Andrew Murphy and Mary English gave the third-year student speech accompanied by much laughter as they summarised three years at Campion and recalled the highlights, lowlights and memorable moments that defined and shaped the Campion experience for their graduating year group.

The Campion College Student Association was farewelled with much gratitude for their hard work and creativity they put into student events during the year, both online and in person where possible. The outgoing CCSA members handed over their roles to the new student executive made up of Campbell Evans as President, Sophia Shogren as Secretary and Cate Meese as Treasurer.