



Guests  
at Appeal  
Dinner



The Hon.  
John  
Howard



Capital  
Appeal  
Dinner  
Guests



Winter  
Program  
Participants

# Campion's BRAG

Vol. 21 | No. 3  
Trinity Term | Winter | 2022

CATHOLIC LEARNING  
IN THE LIBERAL ARTS

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# Campion a 'pearl in the desert' says Cardinal

**Cardinal George Pell described Campion College as a "pearl" in the educational desert of Australia in a speech at Campion's Capital Appeal fundraiser on 17 August 2022.**

The keynote address, given at Parliament House in Sydney, gave a frank assessment of the political, cultural and educational landscape in the country, concluding that we live in a fraying society.

"The brutal forces driving evolution, the law of the jungle, the economic and intellectual inequalities among humans, the differences between the strong and the weak, the sick and the healthy, all fly in the face of any claims of universal human dignity," Cardinal Pell said.

"Already a significant section explicitly endorses tribalism, revenge, raw power and domination rather than any movement to consensus; in a hostile post-Christian Australia sustaining the liberalism ideal might be as difficult as planting democracy in Iraq or Afghanistan."

The former Archbishop of Sydney said there was still hope, however, and that he did not believe "that the field has been lost".

"We hope and work for peace, but if the worst was to happen ... present high levels of rhetoric would then be of absolutely no use. Deeds are needed, not words."

He described Campion as a "bright example" of positive change against the loss of cultural stability in Australia, which has negatively affected education, in particular:

"Campion studies history through Christian spectacles, evaluating the right and wrong, the good and evil, rejects any notion of a whitewash and works to diminish prejudice. But it inculcates a love and pride in our tradition, just as we love our families while recognising their failures," he said.

"Students are introduced to the wisdom of the ages through our tradition, the Western tradition. They learn of the central virtues, about faith and reason, about the search for meaning.

"Because this education is good for individuals, it follows that it is good for society. Much of what Campion College now strives to do was done 100 or even 50 years ago for the elite and the battlers by family, school, church, university and even much of the media. No longer."

The Cardinal concluded, "Campion has joined the fray and is contributing steadily. It is a pearl in the desert. I congratulate the College's founders, for their vision and perseverance as I commend the work of (President) Dr Paul Morrissey and his staff and students."

Cardinal Pell's remarks were echoed by Campion student Ashleigh Mills, in her third and final year of the undergraduate degree, who said "Campion fosters an environment of deeply thoughtful people. It's a place where lots of questions are encouraged, and students don't feel like they have to 'toe the line' on a certain ideology in order to be heard".

"Campion has encouraged me to see education not simply as a ticket to a job, but as a foundation for growth in my whole person, encompassing both knowledge and virtue as well as practical skills that together form a more mature and well-rounded "habit of mind" which lasts through life, to quote John Henry



Cardinal George Pell

Newman," Ashleigh said.

Guests also heard from Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher, former Prime Minister John Howard and founding Director of Campion, James Power, with the event hosted by journalist Jo Hayes as Master of Ceremonies.

Campion graduates Emelina Phillips and Bethany Marsh entertained guests with a moving performance of Italian art song "Amarilli Mia Bella" and "She Never Told Her Love" by Joseph Haydn.

The night ended with a final vote of thanks from Dr Paul Morrissey.

The fundraiser was held in aid of Campion's Capital Appeal Campaign, to build a new academic wing to cater for more students, including a library, lecture theatre, classrooms, study spaces and an underground carpark, as well as four additional residential houses.

\$13.5 million has already been raised towards the \$18.5 million project, thanks to private donors and grants from the Federal and NSW Governments. To support the Capital Appeal Campaign visit [www.campion.edu.au/foundation/capital-appeal/donate](http://www.campion.edu.au/foundation/capital-appeal/donate)



Jo Hayes MC & The Hon. John Howard

Donate Online



SCAN ME



Applauding Dinner 2022

# Regular Giving Campaign

**Join our Regular Giving campaign and become a Champion Champion!**

**Why our regular giving campaign is worth supporting:**

- **We form future leaders.** Campion College's liberal arts degree provides a solid foundation for future study and workplace readiness. Our graduates have successfully pursued careers in teaching, journalism, business, law, medicine, the Church and politics.
- **We educate the whole person:** intellectually, spiritually, and socially. We do not see any separation between the intellectual life and the virtuous life.
- **We are a private institution:** All our funds are obtained from generous supporters who believe in our mission.

The guarantee of monthly funds will continue to assist with all projects and works that support our Mission, to provide a foundational education in the Liberal Arts that integrates the insights of faith and reason.

Monthly giving is simple, easy, and efficient. You can create a direct transfer to Campion college via your bank or with your permission, we can debit your credit card every month. All donations are 100% tax-deductible and we'll send your annual tax receipt to you in July.



We thank you in advance for considering joining our Regular Giving Campaign.

You can complete a form online; [www.campion.edu.au/regular-giving](http://www.campion.edu.au/regular-giving) or complete below. Return to us using the reply paid envelope. For further information please contact Yvette Nehme, Director of Development on: [y.nehme@campion.edu.au](mailto:y.nehme@campion.edu.au) or 02 98969318.

## I would like to join the Regular Giving Campaign

complete your details below and return in the reply-paid envelope enclosed or email: [foundation@campion.edu.au](mailto:foundation@campion.edu.au)

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My pledge is to commence on the 15th \_\_\_\_\_ for the amount of  
(Nominate Month)

Please select amount:

☐ \$100 ☐ \$300 ☐ \$150 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Charge my Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## Australian Chesterton Conference to be held on *Saturday, October 22.*

The theme will be "G.K. Chesterton – The Great Detective". Papers will explore various topics, including a comparison of Father Brown with other characters in detective fiction and movies, such as Monsieur Poirot and Inspector Clouseau (of *Pink Panther* fame), and a focus on Chesterton and Dorothy Sayers as mystery writers.

Speakers will include Symeon Thompson, Richard Egan, and Karl Schmude. A special feature will be the screening of excerpts from the Australian-made movie of Chesterton's play, *Magic*, together with a paper presented by the movie makers, Elvis and Heather Joseph.

- Cost will be \$65 (including lunch and morning/afternoon tea), with a student rate of \$30.

- Registrations  
chestertonaustralia.com/  
annual-conference/

Further enquiries contact Society's President, Karl Schmude:  
email: kgschmude@gmail.com,  
mobile: 0407 721 458

## Introduction to Western Civilisation short course

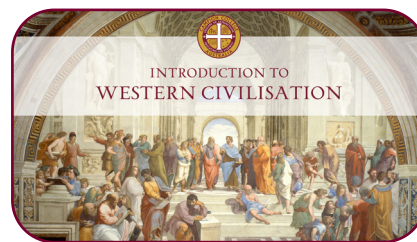
*Campion College Australia has  
launched a short online course on  
Western Civilisation.*

The pre-recorded lecture series covers topics in the history, philosophy, theology and literature of Western Civilisation, derived from Campion's top-rated Liberal Arts degree, and is designed to be taken at the student's pace.

*Introduction to Western Civilisation* will delve into key texts and ideas from the past 3000 years, including Plato's *Republic*, Shakespeare's *Richard III* and Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

Lectures will also cover crucial movements in Western European history, such as the rise of monasticism, the Reformation and the Enlightenment, while introducing subscribers to figures like St Thomas Aquinas, René Descartes and Friedrich Nietzsche.

While intended for personal enrichment, *Introduction to Western Civilisation* can also be used as a bridging program for admission to Campion's undergraduate degree.



All lectures in this short course feature Campion's outstanding academics, delivered through Parousia Media on demand.

The course is available through Campion's website,  
[www.campion.edu.au](http://www.campion.edu.au).

The cost of the short course is \$299, with all course content available to the student for 12 months from the date of payment.

All students will receive a certificate of completion after submitting a short assessment, submitted within the 12-month access period at the student's own pace.

Course enquiries can be directed to Campion's Student Recruitment Manager, Christine Vella, on (02) 9896 9303 or via  
[study@campion.edu.au](mailto:study@campion.edu.au).

## PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION

Please return this section with your donation in the reply-paid envelope enclosed.  
I would like to make a donation to Campion College for the sum of:

☐ \$100    ☐ \$250    ☐ \$300    ☐ \$500    ☐ \$1,000    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Cheque (made payable to Campion College Fund)    ☐ Visa Card    ☐ Master Card

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Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like further information on:

☐ Becoming a Scholarship Donor    ☐ Leaving a Gift in my Will

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you for your donation.**

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## Former Campion Chairman Awarded In Queen's Birthday Honours List

*Campion College board member and former Chairman Joseph de Bruyn was awarded the title AO in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.*

Mr de Bruyn served as Chairman of the Campion Institute Board for 17 years, officiating at every graduation ceremony until 2021, when he stepped down as Chairman but remaining on the Board. Mr de Bruyn, who was National President of the Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Association and Senior Vice-President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, was given the honour for "distinguished

service to industrial relations, particularly the trade union sector, for superannuation reform, and to higher education".

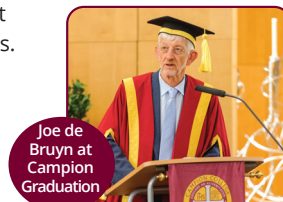
Campion President Dr Paul Morrissey congratulated Mr de Bruyn on his achievement on behalf of the college, saying no-one was more worthy of this honour.

"Joe is a real tour de force and has worked tirelessly for his fellow Australians, especially in education and the labour force," Dr Morrissey said.

"Apart from being an integral supporter of Campion College and the liberal arts in Australia, Joe has also been a great defender of authentic Catholic social teaching, and I'm so pleased to see his hard work and his

achievements recognised by his country and Head of State."

It was a day of accolades for Campion College, as former Board member Anna Krohn received an OAM for services to the Catholic Church, and honorary fellow John Anderson received an AC for eminent service to rural development, leadership in international agricultural research, to social commentary and through contributions to not-for-profit organisations.



Joe de Bruyn at Campion Graduation

## Surviving 'Rat Of Tobruk' Dennis Davis Tells His Story

*One of the last surviving 'Rats of Tobruk', Dennis Davis, visited Campion to give his testimony.*

The World War II veteran is one of an estimated eight remaining Australian-led Allied soldiers that held the Libyan port of Tobruk for eight months in 1941.

Mr Davis is also great-grandfather of one of Campion's students, who invited him to speak about his life, including his harrowing time bunkered down during the siege.

As a member of the 9th division, Mr Davis defended the port alongside 14,000 other Australians and allied troops. He described how his division was initially stationed there for two months, but the



Dennis at Campion College with students

siege ended up extending to eight months.

"It was the longest siege ever in British military history," he said. "Up to this stage, everything [the Germans] attempted, they'd succeeded, and it was here in Tobruk that they were first defeated."

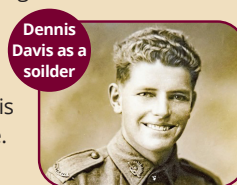
Mr Davis also described the toll the war took on his relationship with his fiancée Margaret, who broke off the engagement as

a result. Emotion took over as he described his reunion with her in Sydney while on leave. Their engagement renewed, they were married just six days later!

Mr Davis also said his Catholic faith was one of the major things that got him through this difficult period of his life and is a daily Mass-goer to this day.

We'd like to thank the Davis family and students Lucy Woodbury and Simeon Casey for organising this memorable event. Dennis

passed away peacefully on the 18 August. May his soul rest in peace.



Dennis Davis as a soldier

## Where are they now?



### ERIN MEESE Class of 2018

*Since graduating from Campion in 2018, I have worked in a variety of roles which require me to think critically, creatively and rationally. These skills were cultivated in me during my time at Campion and I learnt that they were also skills keenly sought by my employers.*

*I am currently working as the Executive Assistant to The Hon. Tony Abbott AC, former prime minister of Australia. It's encouraging to work so closely with someone who understands how crucially important a Liberal Arts education is and what it can offer our country, particularly in the context of our culture wars.*

*Since graduating, I have felt well-equipped and confident to go into any field knowing that I can draw on the teachings and versatile skills that Campion gave me to do good in society.*

*Mum often says that a Campion education will be a gift that keeps on giving, and she's not wrong!*



### CHARITY POWER Class of 2021

*Upon graduating Campion last year I jumped right into a recruitment coordinator role for a large international tech company, DocuSign. In this role I see to all candidates' questions and queries over the course of their interviewing process, from initial application to their first day in the office. This 360 degree process is a fast paced environment which involves coordinating many time zones, people and roles both efficiently and effectively.*

*With the company's success and boom during covid this role has only grown in volume. My Campion education has undoubtedly filled me with the foundational communication and problem solving skills needed for my daily connections with candidates and hiring managers alike.*

*Unlike many other careers-destined degrees, Campion's philosophy is to create well-rounded individuals who possess the skills and knowledge to meaningfully partake in civil life. I want to take my appreciation for this philosophy and further it as I hope to essentially study Kinesiology, an alternative medicine which holistically improves the emotional, physical and mental health of its clients.*

# Campion to offer Honours course in 2023

## *Campion College has added a major boost to its academic program with the establishment of an Honours course.*

We are happy to announce we have received accreditation to teach the course *Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts (Honours)*, allowing current students to extend their degree by a fourth year, while opening the door for external undergraduates to complete their studies at Campion.

President Dr Paul Morrissey said he was delighted to see the much-anticipated program come to fruition.

"This is a momentous occasion in Campion's history, and now that the accreditation process is complete, we hope this will give students the opportunity to dig deeper into the liberal arts offered at Campion," he said.

The Honours program will offer undergraduates the chance to specialise in one of Campion's four core

disciplines: history, theology, philosophy or literature.

"This course is designed to be taken by students who have majored in one of Campion's main disciplines, whether they have completed their bachelor degree at Campion or elsewhere," Dr Morrissey said.

"While we are thrilled to offer this opportunity to our liberal arts students, we are also excited to welcome new students who may wish to take advantage of Campion's dedicated and exceptional academics, its specialised focus on the liberal arts or even our close-knit community of learning."

Campion's liberal arts bachelor degree has been consistently rated the number one degree in Australia according to the national Student Experience Survey, topping every BA provider in the country.

The Honours program, now the highest level of study attainable in the undergraduate degree at Campion, will be divided equally into coursework and a research thesis of 15,000-18,000 words.

It will also open pathways to more advanced, postgraduate study at other higher education providers in the humanities, as well as vocational postgraduate courses, such as teaching and law.

Undergraduates who will complete their bachelor degree by the end of this year, and fulfil all application requirements, will be eligible to undertake the Honours program from Semester 1, 2023. To learn more:

<https://www.campion.edu.au/courses/bachelor-of-arts-in-the-liberal-arts-honours/>

## *Winter Program 2022*

More than 50 high school students and undergraduates attended Campion's much-anticipated Winter Program from 5-8 July.

Participants arrived on Tuesday afternoon and were welcomed with a tour of campus and icebreaker activities. After dinner, everyone engaged in a game of trivia, with the winners getting to pick the film for

Wednesday's movie night. In between sample lectures and an off-campus excursion to the city, participants were treated to a mock Formal Hall dinner where Campion alumna Brianna McKee spoke about her student experience and career since graduating.

If you know someone who would be interested in joining us at a future Summer or Winter Program, please

encourage them to register their interest at [www.campion.edu.au/events](http://www.campion.edu.au/events) as places will fill up quickly!



Winter Program participants

### EARLY OFFER SCHEME

Fast track your Letter of Offer and secure your place at Campion in 2023. Applications close 7 October 2022. Find out more at [www.campion.edu.au/early-offer](http://www.campion.edu.au/early-offer)



Vol. 21 No. 3

Winter 2022

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 Rebecca Abboud (Assistant Development Officer) on behalf of the Campion Foundation.

## *Campion first Winter Sleepover*

Campion held its first 'sleepover' on campus on Thursday 14-Friday 15 July.

The female-only event provided the opportunity for participants to spend 24 hours as a Campion student, with all attendees staying in student accommodation and attending sample lectures from our liberal arts degree. Participants were also treated to an informal afternoon tea and a mock Formal Hall, where they had the opportunity to network with current Campion undergrads.

We look forward to hosting more Campion Sleepovers in the future. Please visit [www.campion.edu.au/events](http://www.campion.edu.au/events) to learn more and express your interest in attending.