



Cardinal George Pell Tribute on Page 3



Graduating Students



Apb. Peter Comensoli Celebrating Graduation Mass



Summer Program participants 2023

CAMPION'S BRAVE

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CATHOLIC LEARNING
IN THE LIBERAL ARTS

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2022 Campion College *Graduation*



Graduate
Oliver Van
Rensburg

Occasional
Speaker
Mr Chris
Uhlmann

On Thursday 15 December 2022, 42 Graduates and Diplomates gathered with their families and friends at St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta for the College's 15th Graduation Mass and Ceremony. In addition to those graduating with the Bachelor of Arts in the Liberal Arts, the Diploma of Liberal Arts and the Diploma of Classical Languages, 25 students graduated with the Certificate in Religious Education (Primary).

The Colle Medal for 2022, awarded to the student with the highest weighted average mark, was awarded to Gareth Cassidy.

The Valedictory Speech was given by Campion College Student Association president Genevieve Colman, who reflected on the three years of the degree and spoke about the

community life on Campus and long life friendships that were formed.

The Graduation Mass was celebrated by Melbourne Archbishop the Most Rev Peter Comensoli.

Former television presenter and journalist Chris Uhlmann gave the Occasional Address, giving a unique insight into his own experience at Campion's Toongabbie campus, formerly a Marist seminary, where he trained for several years as a seminarian.

After sharing some funny anecdotes, Mr Uhlmann impressed upon the graduates their responsibility in defending the Western tradition, "to learn from our mistakes and redeem our heritage".

"Do not lie in shadows," he said. "You need to give place to your ideas – you are the hope of the future."



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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 Maria Teresa Gambino (Arancia Design) on behalf of the Campion Foundation.



Left to right:
Ruby Brown,
Abigail Pereira &
Kate Harrison



Chairman
Rev Dr
Adam Walk
with graduate
Kate Harrison

Campion Skylight Artbook

The Campion Skylight Artbook is an artbook featuring black-and-white versions of each skylight panel, accompanied by a short paragraph on the inspiration for each image by Sr Josephine.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the Campion Skylight Artbook, visit:

<https://www.campion.edu.au/artbook>

or contact Yvette Nehme
Director of Development
foundation@campion.edu.au or
(02) 9896 9318.



Tribute to Our Cardinal

It was with great sadness that we heard of Cardinal Pell's sudden passing on the 11th January in Rome. Archbishop Anthony Fisher has quite rightly described Cardinal Pell as "by far the most prominent churchman Australia's ever had," both in terms of his achievements in Australia and throughout the universal Church. His episcopal motto, "Be not afraid" was fully lived in his stalwart defence of the faith, often in the face of stern opposition and injustice. He loved Australia and contributed greatly to society as a whole.

Cardinal Pell was a great friend and supporter of Campion College from its very beginnings, seeing its mission as essential, not only for the Church but for society in general. His association with Campion predated the college's opening in 2006 and his endorsement in early editions of the college newsletter played a vital role in spreading the word about Campion.

We were very proud that Cardinal Pell was guest of honour at our 2022 fundraising dinner held at NSW parliament, his last major public event in Australia. He described Campion as a "bright example" of positive change against the loss of cultural stability in Australia, which has negatively affected education; "it is a pearl in the desert." The Cardinal received a standing ovation at the completion of his address. He kept a keen interest in the College over the years and was delighted to connect more formally with students delivering guest lectures to our second and third year students. **Vale Cardinal Pell.**



Cardinal George Pell with Dr Paul Morrissey



Cardinal George Pell

PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION

BRAG Vol. 22 No. 1

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:

All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your donation.

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Scholarships and *Bursaries*

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, we ask you to consider contributing to our Scholarship and Bursary Campaign. This is a very important way you can support our students.

Many students' lives and careers have been positively affected by receiving the opportunity to study at Campion thanks to a scholarship or bursary donated by our generous supporters.

Mr Tony (RIP) and Mrs Antoinette Draybi



Young people and their families – especially those from rural areas – make great sacrifices to ensure that they receive the most rewarding undergraduate education in the country, and your support will help enormously. Scholarships based on merit are also offered to help attract high-achieving students to Campion College.

We recently asked the Draybi family why they chose to support Campion College Scholarship program. The response was as follows:

“Our late father Mr Tony Draybi always believed in giving young people a chance. Dad was especially a strong believer and advocate in education and loved and valued lifelong learning. He often used to say to us ‘study never finishes’ and encouraged us all to develop and embrace the power of education. We are honoured and blessed to be raised by such an amazing man who prepared us for life and showed us the way to Jesus. Dad taught us the lessons for life through his wisdom and unending service to others. He taught us the privilege and honour of living a life of service to God. We will always be guided by his examples and are determined to continue his incredible legacy to love and live a humble life of hard work and dedication to our family and community.

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 and Bursary Campaign.

Your tax-deductible gift today will provide much-needed financial support for students, building a foundation of learning to keep them tethered to and deeply rooted in the truths celebrated through history.

For further information on how you can support our Scholarship and Bursary Campaign, visit:

www.campion.edu.au/fund-a-scholarship

or contact Director of Development,
Yvette Nehme on phone: 02 9896 9318 or y.nehme@campion.edu.au

Scholarships

- **\$8,000 Academic Excellence** for students who have excelled in their studies.
- **\$6,000 Sporting** for students who demonstrate sporting excellence.
- **\$4,000 Leadership** for students who demonstrate innovative and enterprise driven leadership.

Bursaries

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

As a family we decided what better way to ensure that his legacy lives on than to support the things he valued the most; education and giving opportunities to others. We are proud to support the Campion College scholarship program in honour of our beautiful father and know he will be proud that this program will give young adults a chance to access education and have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills as they continue on their journey in life. We hope dad's legacy lives on in this program and makes a difference to the lives of others in the way he helped shape ours.

In loving memory of our wonderful father who we are immensely proud of and miss so dearly everyday”

Draybi Family

Support our Scholarship Campaign www.campion.edu.au/foundation/fund-a-scholarship/

Noreen Mavis Daley Poetry Prize

The Noreen Mavis Daley Poetry Prize was endowed by the late Royston Porthouse in memory of his mother. The prize is open to all students currently enrolled in a Champion program of study.

The 2022 Prize was awarded to 2nd Year student Dougal Sinclair

If you would like to learn more about how to set up a prize for the students contact: **Yvette Nehme, Director of Development:**
02 9896 9318 or y.nehme@champion.edu.au

Pastoral Drama by Dougal Sinclair

Above me a silent crisis hangs:

The first breaths of winter

Released from Frost's bow

Strike the ashen spear through

The meadow heart; blanketing

Glad greenery in white waste.

Woods wailing in hollow whispers,

Bereft of their branch mail.

And tare with ice-cut claws.

The shepherd's flock cling close

To grey-frost ground, vainly hoping

To suck subatomic warmth from

Deep within the lifeless earth,

Though they know, they know

They shall not find it.

You, you were the spring;

You, you were the promise of summer.

But seasons change,

Eternal only in their reoccurrence.

Winter has come in her grey shades

To dance with cold shadows

And play parts in waste pastoral dramas.

Though seeds of the meadow sentinel

Lie dormant buried in deep sod dreaming,

Their heads of bold sensation

Are as the dead to me. Thank Him that made,

That winter too is but a season

And it too shall pass,

It too shall pass with spring promised.

Sit in the still, withdraw and recall:

See the splash of springly meadows

Adorned in the colours of a first covenant;

To see wren and robin fed and fat

Without care or concern;

To see a world in splendour before

It is wed to the furnace.

But all lies as a distant memory

In the wastes of winter.

Summer's green is turned to dust;

Birds bunch like beggars in war-grey wool;

Waters bite with cool crystalline tooth,

Awards & Prizes Program

At the end of 2022 we awarded the following prizes:

20th Century History Prize

Funded by the Bisits family in memory of Mr Adam Bisits.

Awarded to Ashleigh Mills.

Literature Prize

Funded by Ryckmans family in Memory of Fr Paul Stenhouse.

Awarded to Warwick Stacey.

Noreen Mavis Daley Poetry Prize

Endowed by the late Royston Porthouse in memory of his mother.

Awarded 'Pastoral Drama' Dougal Sinclair.

Ted O'Halloran Latin Prize

Funded by Mr O'Halloran and Mr Gray in memory of Ted O'Halloran.

Awarded to Harold Bonnington.

Fr Julián Carrón Prize for Theology

Funded by Dr Matthew Tan.

Awarded to Gareth Cassidy.

Frank Sheed Public Speaking

Funded by a Champion friends.

1st \$300 - Gareth Cassidy

2nd \$150 - Jonothan Lethbridge

3rd \$50 - Rebekah Flynn

Tom Cooper Book Grant

Funded by Mrs Pat Cooper.

Awarded to Francis Zaar.

The Lord is our Shepherd Book Grant

Funded by Mr John and Mrs Meg Fennel.

Awarded to Deon Testore & Gareth Cassidy.

The Paul Frederick McNamara Grant

Awarded to Ashleigh Mills.

The College encourages students to participate in the Awards and Prizes Program. For many this is a chance to showcase their learning and share their thoughts.

The Awards and Prizes Program isn't possible without the generous supporters who believe in the College's mission, "to provide a foundational education in the liberal arts that integrates the insights of faith and reason".

If you would like to learn more on how you can support our Awards and Prizes Program please contact:

Yvette Nehme, Director of Development 02 9896 9318 or y.nehme@champion.edu.au

Where are they now?



BERNADETTE HUNTER Class of 2019

"After completing my degree at Champion College I was hired by The University of Notre Dame Australia in the role of Administrative Assistant at the School of Medicine. My experience at Champion provided me with the critical thinking skills needed to strategise, overcome complex challenges and improve administrative processes. I felt confident to manage the multifaceted problems that myself and my administrative team would encounter in our daily operations.

As part of my role I liaised with many people from diverse cultures and creeds. Champion provided a framework from which I could understand the complexity and beauty of diverse cultures.

After holding my role as Admin Assistant for almost three years, I recently made the decision to move to the UK this coming April. I have no doubt that the skills I learnt at Champion will continue to serve me in this next chapter of my life."

Campion Summer Program

Campion College welcomed 90 teens to campus over the past two weeks for our back-to-back Summer Programs.

The four-day retreats, which have grown in popularity in recent years, gave participants a taste of what it is like to live and study at Campion. Following icebreaker activities and a trivia night on Day 1, participants launched into a series of academic sessions covering the key disciplines of study at Campion – history, literature, philosophy, theology and classical languages. These sessions were broken up with fun social activities designed to mirror community life at Campion and



included a mini Campion Olympics, bush walking, swing dancing, a campus scavenger hunt and an outdoor movie night.

One of the highlights of each program was our mock Formal Hall, a special dinner on the last night of each program where participants had the opportunity to interact with Campion students and hear from one of our former students, Erin Meese (Class of 2018). Erin shared fond memories of her Campion experience and encouraged participants to think deeply about the experiences and skills developed through the study of the liberal arts and how these contribute to both personal growth and professional success.

Participants this year travelled from throughout New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania, and in a Summer Program first, we also welcomed two participants from New Zealand. A special thanks is extended to the academic and professional staff who made the past fortnight possible, as well as our student leaders – Ambrose, Abbey, Lucy, Liz, Jono, Bede, Imogen and Sumika – for their energy and enthusiasm during the programs.

We look forward to welcoming our program participants back on campus soon, either as students



in the coming semesters or at future programs and events.

If you know any young adult that would like to attend the Winter Program, please do encourage them to register www.campion.edu.au/event/winter-program

Entertainment Guide

Looking to support Campion College? Consider purchasing 2023 Entertainment Membership!

Campion College receives 20% of every purchase made.

SCAN ME



Welcome Student Life and Alumni Relations Officer



Campion College Australia welcomes our new colleague Tony Mattar, Student Life and Alumni Relations Officer. He is very excited to take on this new role.

Tony has worked in the university sector for over 11 years. In his time working at various tertiary institutions such as Sydney University, Macquarie University and the University of New South Wales, Tony helped to establish programs for students that fostered a culture of intellectual, social, spiritual, and professional development for students. He also established different Alumni organisations which keep like minded people connected through various gatherings. Tony is married to Stephanie, and they have 4 kids with another expected in July.

Tony is committed to ensuring that the College establishes and maintains effective communication with its valued graduates, who are growing in number each year. We encourage all Alumni to contact Tony for a chat. He is also looking forward to getting to know the students, staff and friends of Campion College. His contact details are [02 98969314](tel:0298969314) / t.mattar@campion.edu.au / alumniofficer@campion.edu.au

good2give

Campion Foundation Limited (Campion College) is now listed on the good2give website. It is a not-for-profit that makes it easy for businesses, their employees and customers to support the communities and causes they care about. We encourage you to support Campion College. Every gift, your organisation matches.

<https://good2give.ngo/resources/charity-directory/campion-foundation-limited-campion-college/>