

Sir P Cosgrove and Fr F Burns unveiling the plaque for the Ryder-Cheshire Hall.



President of Hungary and Campion students



Students at Campion Ball



Ryder-Cheshire display in the Grand Hall



Campion's RYDER

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**CATHOLIC LEARNING
IN THE LIBERAL ARTS**

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Continuing the legacy of Baroness Susan Ryder and Group Captain Leonard Cheshire VC at Campion College

Siobhán Reeves

The legacy of Baroness Susan (Sue) Ryder of Warsaw (1924-2000) and Group Captain Leonard Cheshire VC (1917-1992) lives on at a student residential hall at Campion College, Sydney.

Leonard Cheshire was the youngest group captain in the Royal Airforce (RAF) in 1944 and the most highly decorated British airman of World War II. He completed over 100 missions, and in 1944 took command of the legendary 617 Squadron, the Dam Busters. He received the Victoria Cross in 1944. In 1948 Cheshire took into his home a terminally ill man, Arthur Dykes. Dykes was a Catholic and his faith had a deep impact upon Cheshire. After Dykes's death, Cheshire converted to Catholicism, and by the following year, Cheshire was caring for 28 patients in his home, thus starting the Cheshire homes for the ill and disabled.

Sue Ryder, at the outset of World War II, joined the first aid nursing yeomanry at the age of 15. She later became part of the Polish section of the Special Operations Executive. Witnessing firsthand the sufferings of refugees and wounded soldiers, Ryder set about establishing homes for these people after the war. She also worked tirelessly for the former inmates of concentration camps, many of whom were then tragically in prison. Like Cheshire, Ryder was a convert to Catholicism.

Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire met in 1954, and were married in India in 1959, spending their honeymoon establishing a home for sufferers of leprosy. After their wedding, Ryder and Cheshire visited Australia in order to gain support for the new home in India, and Ryder-Cheshire Australia (RCA) was formed soon after. RCA supports three Ryder-Cheshire homes in Australia, located at Mount Gambier (South Australia) and Ivanhoe (Victoria), and overseas RCA supports the Ryder-Cheshire homes Raphael, at Dehra Dun in northern India, and Klibur Domin, at Tibar in Timor-Leste, which was founded by Air

Commodore Peter Newton AO RAAF (Retd) in 2000.

The official naming of the Ryder-Cheshire Hall at Campion College took place on 5 October 2023. The keynote address was given by General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK AC (Mil) CV MC (Retd), who spoke with great warmth of his connection with Leonard Cheshire, his relationship with Ryder-Cheshire Australia, and his connection to Klibur Domin in Timor-Leste. General Cosgrove also spoke of the profound compassion demonstrated by "these great humanitarians (Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire) and the ongoing legacy of their work".

Fr Francis (Ted) Burns PE, RFD., B.A., Dip.Ed., M.Ed., MACE also spoke, and it is thanks to his generosity that Ryder-Cheshire Hall is so named. Fr Francis Burns spoke of his memories of Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire and their influence on his long relationship with Klibur Domin in Timor-Leste. Fr Burns also discussed what it means

to genuinely "love your neighbour as yourself" and the ethos of "small is beautiful" as it relates to the work of RCA and Klibur Domin, an ethos that also resonates at Campion College.

Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire were extraordinary individuals, who after seeing firsthand the trauma of war and 'man's inhumanity to man', dedicated their lives to the relief of suffering around the world. It was a great privilege and blessing to be part of the naming ceremony of the Ryder-Cheshire Hall, and I have no doubt that students and alumni of Campion College will continue to be inspired by their legacy. To quote Leonard Cheshire: "We will find that it is in going out to help someone whose need is greater than ours that we solve our own problems and become fulfilled as a person more fully the unique masterpiece that God wills us ultimately to be".

Siobhán Reeves, an alumni of Campion College (Class of 2011), has volunteered at Klibur Domin on several occasions, and is a member of Ryder-Cheshire Australia.



Fr F Burns,
Dr P Morrissey,
Sir P Cosgrove,
& Ms S Reeves



Fr F Burns
with residential
students of
Ryder-Cheshire
Hall

Visit by Hungarian president *Katalin Novák*

Hungarian president Katalin Novák.



“Build it, and they will come.” Mere months after Campion College blessed its new academic centre and great hall, the college has enjoyed its first visit from a head of state: Hungarian president Katalin Novák.

President Novák visited Campion on 25 October to address students about her country's unique pro-family policies, and the importance of faith in public and personal life.

In 2010 her small country of 10 million, with a unique language spoken nowhere else on Earth, had the EU's lowest fertility rate—just 1.2 children per couple.

“That was the moment when we said, ‘We have to do something about that.’ So we introduced a very strong family-oriented policy in Hungary,” President Novák said.

“We try to enable people of your age to have as many children as they want to, in the moment when they want to have these children.”

President Novák said her country wanted to address the reasons why young men and women were not having children, and then consider migration “as a tool to overcome our demographic difficulties.”

Hungary now spends around six per cent of its GDP on family welfare policies—more than twice as much as defence.

The more children a woman has, the less tax she pays.

“If you have at least four children, you don't pay any personal income tax ever in your life, as a woman,” President Novák said, to excited gasps from the ladies of Campion's student body.

Higher education loans are also reduced after each successive child, and are “totally written off” if a family has at least three children.

Housing subsidies, mortgage reductions, personal loans and other financial benefits tied to childbearing are also widely available.

President Novák, who was elected in 2021 after a career as a diplomat and government minister, said she was proud of her nation's emphasis on “the importance of traditional family values,” including the definition in the Hungarian Constitution of marriage as the union between one man and one woman.

Her address linked the political with the personal, drawing on her own experience as a “well-educated, emancipated woman” to show how women are discouraged from making family a priority.

“When I graduated from university at the age of 24 I was eager to do something, eager to deliver, eager to prove I was capable, that I could be as good as any man around me,” the president said.

“I got this message from all over, even from my mother, but nobody told me to have children, nobody told me to become a mother. Nobody told me I'd be much luckier if I first decided to make a family.”

She warned students against postponing family in favour of career, saying that despite having been elected in 2022 as Hungary's first ever female president, she saw herself first and foremost as a wife, mother, and daughter.

“It's always a little time, it's always just one more project, always just some more money. Little by little, this postponing is happening. At the end of the day you might get there and realise it's too late,” she said.

“I've heard from many people who, just before passing away, regretted not having one more child, or not spending enough time with their family.

“I've never heard about anyone regretting not signing one more contract, or not working one more day at the office.”

President Novák also spoke extensively about her Reformed Christian faith, encouraging the students to persist despite opposition from the mainstream culture.

“Sometimes you might feel lonely, or you might feel that the way you think about your families, or you think about faith, you might feel that is not the mainstream. I don't encourage you to go with the mainstream, if it's against your convictions,” she said.

In response to a question about the importance of Scripture in her life from Campion President Dr Paul Morrissey, President Novák revealed that she blocks out time each fortnight to attend a Bible study with parishioners at her church.

“All my colleagues are aware that this program is fixed,” she said, adding that if the president makes time to read Scripture each day she can set an example for others.

President Novák's visit was attended by members of parliament, friends of the college and the broader community, but the focus was squarely on the students and their questions. Many were able to meet her following official proceedings.

Dr Morrissey concluded the landmark event in the college's history by saying President Novák was “in some very real ways” the successor of the sainted 10th century king, St Stephen I, describing her as a “great witness.”

“You've managed to integrate being Christian in a serious public office, which is a tremendous inspiration to us—for everyone here, but particularly for our students,” Dr Morrissey said.

“We commit ourselves to pray through St Stephen's intercession for your role.”

Article used with permission from Catholic Weekly



Rev Dr A Walk, Fr P Kruk OP & Mr J de Bruyn welcoming President of Hungary

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 Angela Grabski (BLACKRHINO Creative) on behalf of the Campion Foundation.



Support Campion College
www.campion.edu.au/foundation/donate

Campion College *Festival*

On the 28th of October Campion College Australia hosted its inaugural Campion Festival.

Held on the picturesque grounds of the college, the event saw an impressive turnout of nearly 800 attendees, ranging from local neighbours, alumni, prospective students, friends of the College, staff and students.

The festival provided a unique opportunity for all present to gain insight into the history and origins of Campion College. There was a range of activities available; face painting, children's rides, carnival food and local businesses showcasing their goods and services. Guests received an 'open day' experience through the opportunity to attend campus tours and attend sample lectures led by the College President, Dr Paul Morrissey.

The sun was shining, and it allowed for the perfect opportunity to have the water dunk tank in full operation. Many students braved the tank's depths but the highlight of the day was when our very own chaplain, Fr Peter Kruk OP, took his turn in the tank. His dunking drew a large crowd, and it took several attempts before he took the plunge,

sparking playful speculation of a touch of divine intervention!

We extend our gratitude to the local businesses whose generous donations ranged from food items for the Campion Café, to generous gifts for the fundraising raffle.

All proceeds from this day will go towards the Campion College Scholarship Fund. This fund would not be possible without the support of all who attended and supported the festival. To support the Scholarship fund please visit: www.campion.edu.au/foundation/fund-a-scholarship

As we look ahead, we eagerly anticipate next year's festival and invite all interested parties to reach out for participation opportunities, whether through stalls or sponsorships. For further information contact Tony Mattar t.mattar@campion.edu.au



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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.

☐ \$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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I would like further information on:

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A Gift for the Future

While support for the college can take a variety of forms, a 'Gift for the Future' is one of the most powerful ways you can help secure the future of Campion College. By including a gift to the Campion Foundation in your Will, you can help support college activities, projects, residential life and student needs long into the future. You may choose to gift a specific amount, a percentage of your estate or the residue of your estate after providing for family.

A gift in support of Campion College is not an alternative to looking after your family; it is an integral part of safeguarding their future. By joining hands with the college, you contribute to the development of virtuous and compassionate Campion graduates. These graduates will become educators, healthcare workers, lawyers, politicians, evangelists and business professionals... the very people who will ensure the wellbeing of those you love for years to come.

We asked Father John Walter why he chose to support the Gift for the Future Campaign and his response was at follows:

My name is Father John Walter. I was ordained in 1962 by Cardinal Gilroy for pastoral work in parishes of the Archdiocese of Sydney. Over the past seven years I have been living in retirement at Batemans Bay where I have been able to supply religious services when needed locally and along the far south coast from Moruya and Bodalla to Merimbula and Eden. My early support number for Campion is 0000429.

Now sixty years ordained and into my eighty-fifth year, I had recently been reviewing my last will and testament when it occurred to me to make some donations in advance of my subsequent, if for all of us unavoidable, departure from this world. Such action would relieve my executor of some responsibilities usually reserved for him by releasing useful funding for use here and now.

May I take this occasion to commend the same possibility to other supporters of Campion College, in particular to those who like myself are providentially outliving our forebears and have few to no outstanding claims from dependants. Rest assured that you will not miss out by acting to give now whatever you may choose. Advancing your generosity will certainly benefit others in real need.

A gift in your will really is a 'Gift for the Future'. You can truly make a difference to the lives of young people and through them, in the lives of those you love.

Please visit: www.campion.edu.au/bequests for further information. To indicate your intention to leave a gift to Campion College, please fill out the form at: www.campion.edu.au/giftforthefuture. If you would like to discuss in confidence how you can support Campion College, contact: Director of Development, Yvette Nehme, (02) 9896 9318, foundation@campion.edu.au

We are grateful

In 2023 we lost Campion friends. We would like to thank the following benefactors for their financial gifts over the years:

- Mr B Pollard
- Ms B Kearney
- Mr G Leahy
- Mr R Felling
- Dr R Connolly
- Mr H van de Berg
- Mrs P Power
- Mr J Rowan
- Mr J North
- Mrs P Andrews
- Mr F Finn
- Rev Fr C Seton

Their gifts assisted us to continue to provide a foundational education in the liberal arts that integrates the insights of faith and reason. We pray for the repose of their souls and all our supporters and benefactors.



We would be delighted to hear whether you are considering leaving

a Gift for the Future



Gift for the Future

Key admission dates for 2024

Thinking about enrolling in one of our undergraduate or postgraduate courses in 2024? Please keep in mind the following dates and deadlines:

- For students enrolling in the Bachelor of Arts in the Liberal Arts or Diploma of Liberal Arts, Orientation Week begins on **Monday 19 February**. Final applications will be processed throughout February, but we encourage you to apply earlier if possible. Visit www.campion.edu.au/course/undergrad for more information.
- For students enrolling in the Graduate Certificate in Religious Education (Primary), classes begin on **Monday 13 February**. **Applications close Friday 3 February 2023**. Visit www.campion.edu.au/course/postgrad/ for more information.

For personalised admission advice, please contact our Student Recruitment, Christine Vella, on (02) 9896 9303 or via study@campion.edu.au



Where are they now

JONOTHAN LETHBRIDGE

Class of 2022

After finishing my diploma at Campion, I received a scholarship in a teaching program called 'The St Philip's Teaching School', paired with Alphacrucis University College. I was also invited to be on the Student Representative Council and Academic Board at Alphacrucis. Since then, I have been offered a number of jobs in education and ministry and have accepted a position at an independent Christian school on the Central Coast. As a Campion graduate I have been offered opportunities I otherwise would not have had, from people who value the unique education Campion provides.

9-12 & 16-19 Jan 2024

SUMMER PROGRAM

Experience college life and a taste of our liberal arts degree! Our immersive four-day program provides the opportunity to reside on campus and meet other young Australians who share your passion for history, literature, philosophy and theology. You'll enjoy sample lectures, movies, trivia, sports and more!

Open to ages 16-20. Limited spaces! Register at www.campion.edu.au/summer-program



Campion Student Ball

The annual Campion College student Ball was held on Saturday, September 16. Over 300 attendees from Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth.

Under the resplendent theme of "A Regal Affair," guests graced the event adorned in elegant regency attire, complete with gloves and other refined accessories. The meticulously planned entertainment and overall atmosphere were perfectly set against the stunning backdrop of Campion College's new Academic Centre and Grand Hall.

One of the highlights of the evening was ballroom dancing, where guests waltzed and twirled to the

rhythms of a string trio, adding a touch of timeless elegance to the affair. Following this, the mood transitioned seamlessly with a lively jazz band and a skilled DJ, ensuring a diverse range of musical tastes were catered to.

Julian Vieira, President of the Campion College Student Association, marvelled at the enthusiastic participation, stating, "It was unreal to see so many people get involved in all the different types of dancing, in particular the ballroom dancing."



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 you make your organisation matches. Visit: good2give.ngo/giving/donors

Looking to support Campion College?

Consider purchasing the Entertainment Membership!



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