



Tony and  
Rae  
McLellan



Winter  
Program  
2026



Professor  
Simon  
Haines

# Campion's REFLECTION

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**CATHOLIC LEARNING  
IN THE LIBERAL ARTS**

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# Naming of the McLellan Lecture Hall

Campion College proudly celebrated the official naming of the **McLellan Lecture Hall** on Thursday, 21 May honouring Tony and Rae McLellan for their extraordinary generosity, steadfast leadership, and lifelong commitment to Christian education and philanthropy.

Held in the George Cardinal Pell Grand Hall, the special evening brought together students, staff, supporters, and distinguished guests to celebrate the McLellans' enduring contribution to Campion College and the wider community, culminating in the unveiling of the new lecture hall plaque.

In his opening address, President Dr Paul Morrissey reflected on the significance of the occasion, acknowledging Tony and Rae's remarkable impact on Campion and Australian public life. Throughout the evening, speakers paid tribute to the couple's distinguished record of business leadership, philanthropy, and support for educational and humanitarian initiatives in Australia and abroad.

Scott McLellan spoke movingly about the purpose behind the family's philanthropy, reminding guests that generosity creates a legacy far beyond those who give.

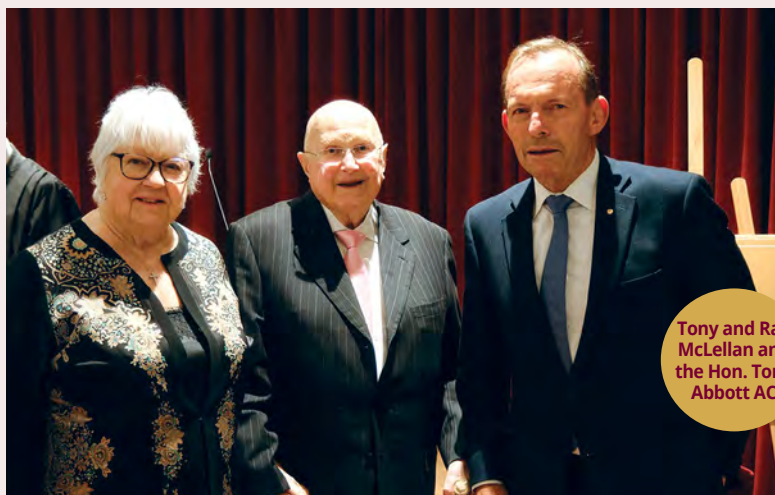
"The men and women whose giving has made this possible may never meet every student who walks through these doors, but their faith lived out through action will shape minds and lives in ways that ripple far beyond what any of us can measure."

He also reflected on the role the new lecture hall will play in forming future generations of Campion students.

Tony McLellan shared the story of the McLellan Foundation and the joy that comes from Christian generosity, highlighting projects in education, healthcare, and community development across Australia, Africa, and Papua New Guinea.

Tony McLellan noted that "It is more blessed to give than to receive" and he concluded with his hope that students who learn in the McLellan Lecture Hall will be inspired to lives of faith, service, and leadership.

The evening concluded with the official unveiling of the McLellan Lecture Hall plaque—a lasting testament to a family whose generosity will help shape generations of Campion students for years to come.



Tony and Rae  
McLellan and  
the Hon. Tony  
Abbott AC



Tony and Rae  
McLellan and  
family



Tony  
McLellan and  
The Hon. John  
Howard OM  
AC



Most  
Reverend  
Tony Percy



## Become a Campion Champion

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Become a Campion Champion

At Campion College, we are frequently asked: *Why support the Regular Giving Campaign?* The answer is simple:

- **We form future leaders.** Our Liberal Arts degree equips students with critical thinking, communication and ethical reasoning skills that provide a strong foundation for further study and meaningful careers. Our alumni are now serving in fields such as teaching, journalism, law, medicine, business, politics, and the Church.
- **We educate the whole person.** Campion fosters the intellectual, spiritual and social development of each student. We believe the life of the mind is enriched by the life of virtue.
- **We are a private institution.** As we receive no government funding for operational expenses, we rely on the generosity of supporters who believe in our mission.

Joining the **Campion Champion Regular Giving Program** is one of the most effective ways you can help us continue this important work. Monthly giving supports scholarships, educational resources, and campus improvements now and for future generations.

Regular giving is simple to set up, fully tax-deductible, and can be managed via direct bank transfer or credit card. Whether it's \$100, \$25, or another amount each month, your gift helps us plan and sustain the life of the College.

If you would like to learn more, please visit [campion.edu.au/regular-giving](http://campion.edu.au/regular-giving), or reach out to our Assistant Development Officer at [foundations@campion.edu.au](mailto:foundations@campion.edu.au) or **02 9896 9312**.

If you feel inspired to become a Campion Champion today, simply scan the QR code or complete the form below and return it to us using the reply-paid envelope.

Your support truly makes a difference and assists us in continuing our Mission *To provide a foundational education in the Liberal Arts that integrates the insight of faith and reason.*



### I would like to become a Campion Champion and join the REGULAR GIVING CAMPAIGN

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# Annual St Edmund Campion Lecture: *Professor Simon Haines on the Enduring Power of Books*

Campion College welcomed students, staff, trustees and friends to its Annual St Edmund Campion Mass, Dinner and Lecture on the 18 of June 2026, with Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts, Simon Haines delivering a thoughtful address on the formative power of books, reading and attention in an age of distraction.

In a thought provoking address, Professor Haines explored the enduring importance of books, reading and attentive thought in an increasingly distracted world. Opening with John Donne's reflection that "No man is an island," he suggested that each person's life forms part of a larger "book of humanity" and that reading the great works of the past remains one of the richest ways to encounter the human story.

Drawing on personal memories of learning to read and his early experiences reading Scripture aloud as a schoolboy, Professor Haines reflected on how careful, patient reading shapes both intellectual and personal development. He argued that great texts reveal their meaning over time, rewarding sustained attention and thoughtful engagement.

Referencing contemporary research in neuroscience and cognitive science, Professor Haines highlighted the cognitive benefits of reading, including stronger attention, empathy and vocabulary. In an age where digital technologies often fragment concentration, he emphasised that deep reading is an increasingly valuable intellectual discipline.

Professor Haines also spoke about the formation that comes through a liberal arts education. Engaging seriously with great books, he said, cultivates patience, humility, sound judgement and wisdom, enabling readers to better understand themselves and the wider human community.

Addressing the rise of artificial intelligence, he acknowledged its potential while cautioning against overreliance on technologies that may diminish independent thinking. By contrast, he argued, the disciplined reading of substantial texts remains a practice of intellectual freedom and active engagement.

Concluding with the thought of philosopher Simone Weil, Professor Haines described attention as an act of generosity directed towards truth. He praised Campion College for fostering a culture of serious reading and intellectual conversation, reminding guests that the great books of the Western tradition remain an inexhaustible treasure, inviting every generation into a deeper understanding of truth, humanity and the common good.



## Maurice O'Shannassy Explores Economics, Science and the Search for Truth



On Thursday 4 June, students, staff and guests gathered at Campion College for a lecture by economist and former fund manager, Maurice O'Shannassy, who explored two subjects that have long informed his professional and intellectual pursuits: the foundations of modern economics and the relationship between science and belief in God.

Drawing on a distinguished career in global finance and investment, Mr O'Shannassy reflected on how his interest in economic theory developed during his early years at the Australian Treasury. Revisiting major historical events, including the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Asian financial crisis and the Global Financial Crisis, he explained how these experiences led him to question many of the assumptions underpinning contemporary economic thought.

Mr O'Shannassy also spoke about his ongoing work on a multi-volume study of economics, finance and banking, which examines the evolution of monetary systems, the operation of modern financial institutions and the development of economic theory over time.

The second half of the lecture shifted to the relationship between science and faith. Drawing on decades of reading across mathematics, biology, physics and philosophy, Mr O'Shannassy argued that scientific inquiry not only deepens our understanding of the natural world but also raises profound questions about the nature of reality, the origins of life and the existence of God.

The evening concluded with a lively question and answer session, during which students engaged Mr O'Shannassy on a range of contemporary issues, including free markets, government debt, cryptocurrency and the future of the global financial system.

## Where are they now? Mary d'Assumpaco



It's been nine months since I graduated with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts in December 2025, and it's certainly been busy! When you're taught not what to think, but how to think, you begin to see opportunities where others see uncertainty. Since graduating, I've contributed a chapter to the Robert Menzies Institute's *Menzies Rediscovered*, been featured in the London-based *FEMEST* Magazine, and continued growing my six-figure marketing agency. My work also gave me the opportunity to spend seven weeks travelling across Europe, finishing in Rome at the EWTN Summer Academy, where I met 45 young Catholics from around the world. I owe much of where I am today to my Liberal Arts degree, which didn't end at graduation. I still revisit the texts and ideas we studied because they continue to shape how I understand the world.



### PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION - All donations are tax deductible

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Please return this section with your donation in the reply-paid envelope enclosed.

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## Campus Tour



A private campus tour is the perfect opportunity to see our facilities and get a taste for college life. It's your chance to check out Campion College and ask as many questions as you like!

Campion College is located on a campus in Sydney's west, at 8-14 Austin Woodbury Place, Toongabbie. The property was originally a Marist Fathers' Seminary and was bought some years ago by the Diocese of Parramatta. It was later purchased by the **Campion Foundation**.

The campus comprises 10 acres of wooded land, surrounded by a residential estate but sufficiently detached and tranquil for the purpose of nurturing spiritual and intellectual life. The property is adjacent to public transport routes and major freeways with the historic city of Parramatta just 10 minutes away, offering an array of services as well as cultural and entertainment opportunities. Sydney CBD is approximately 30km from the college and the Blue Mountains are easily accessible via car or train.

Our free tours generally take 30-60 minutes and are conducted by our Future Students Advisor. During your tour, you will explore the main building, the Gina Rinehart Library, the George Cardinal Pell Grand Hall, lecture theatres, classrooms, chapel and accommodation areas.

To arrange a campus tour, please call or email our Future Students Advisor:

Ph: **02 9896 9303**

Email: [study@campion.edu.au](mailto:study@campion.edu.au)

## Winter Program 2026



More than 50 Year 11 and 12 students from across Australia recently gathered at Campion College for our four-day residential Winter Program. Participants were offered an authentic experience of university life, while helping them discern their future study options.

Throughout the week, students attended lectures by Professor Simon Haines, Dr Jeremy Bell, Dr Amitavo Islam and Mr Mark Matic, experienced life in residence, and took part in discussions and activities that introduced them to the liberal arts and the unique tertiary experience at Campion College.

A highlight of the program was Formal Dinner, where students experienced one of Campion College's most cherished traditions. The evening featured a moving testimonial from alumna Joanna Shannon (Class of 2025), who reflected on her time at the College and the impact it has had on her life.

A sincere thank you to our exceptional student leaders; Resh, MK, Joey, Dom, Leopold, Ed, Marigold, Clara, Holly, Gabriella, Joanna and Emma. Their enthusiasm, generosity and hospitality made the week such a memorable experience for every participant.

We are grateful to everyone who joined us and look forward to welcoming many of these students back to Campion College in the years ahead.

## 2027 Start Dates & Application Deadlines

### Bachelor of Arts in the Liberal Arts

Orientation Week begins 15 February 2027

All applicants are encouraged to apply by 30 September to be considered for relocation bursaries and Year 12 early offers, with later applications accepted in November and early January 2027.

### Graduate Certificate in Religious Education (Primary & Secondary)

Classes commence 15 February 2027

Applications close 5 February 2027

Learn more at

[www.campion.edu.au/admission/](http://www.campion.edu.au/admission/)