



# South Creek

## St Marys Senior High School Magazine



**Term 4, 2019**



The South Creek Magazine is published once a term and celebrates St Marys Senior High School's values of inclusiveness; life-long learning; catering for the needs of all; clear learning outcomes; staff professional learning; independent student learning; school traditions; innovation; linking our classrooms to the wider community; integrity and ongoing evaluation of our practices.

## Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land that makes up our school community, the Wianamatta people from Darug Country.

We also pay our respects to Elders past, present and future and extend our respects to all First Nation Peoples as well as everyone who visits our school.

We must always remember that under the concrete and asphalt, this land is, was and always will be Aboriginal Country.

Shani-Lee Bolt, Year 12 2018

## Did you know ...

Did you know that Ripples Swimming Pool was originally known as St Marys High School War Memorial Swimming Pool?

By delving into our archive collection, we have learnt that in 1958 a committee was formed to plan for the construction of a swimming pool in the grounds of St Marys High School. The school co-ordinated many fundraising events and by 1960 had raised £1, 925. The photo to the left shows the dedication plaque for the pool. With the loan of additional money, the swimming pool was eventually opened in 1961.

The teachers and the committee ran the pool on weekends and students could use the pool during their recess and lunch.

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Mr Eason, the Principal of St Marys High School felt the pool was a very important space for the students, however, the associated costs and the upkeep eventually became too much for the school to manage. The pool was handed over to the council who became responsible for maintaining the facility for the St Marys community.





## Principal's Insights



Welcome to the final edition of South Creek for 2019 which has seen a slight change in publication dates. I would like to start by thanking Kerri-Anne Brown and her student publication team for all their efforts on bringing “South Creek” to our community. South Creek is an important publication that allows us to celebrate our achievements as a school as well as providing a significant piece of history for future generations of students and their families who attend St Marys Senior High School. One of our school values is to honour “our traditions”, South Creek provides a communication platform to allow us to do this today and into the future.

Throughout 2019 it has been an honour to work with all our students, the Student Representative Council, staff, School Council, parents and the broader educational community that contribute to St Marys Senior High School. The school has a well-deserved reputation of successfully supporting young adults through the Higher School Certificate to transition to tertiary education or employment in a nurturing environment. I am looking forward to be a part of this and working with all stakeholders to ensure this success continues and thrives in our ever-changing world.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing School Captains Avisha and Neha, and our Vice Captains Ash and Belle. They have done an absolutely fantastic job throughout the year. On behalf of the whole school I thank them for their efforts and wish them every success for the future. I would also like to thank the departing School Representative Council for their leadership throughout 2019 in representing the student body. I would like to welcome our Student Leadership team for 2020, Souad, Jed, Chloe and Mikael and look forward to working with them this year.

We wish Year 12, 2019 all the best as they embark on the next stage of their lives as adults. We ask that you keep in touch so we can observe your successes in your chosen pathway.

Although we say goodbye to one year, we welcome the St Marys Senior High class of 2021 to Year 11. We hope the transition to our school community is effortless. I look forward to working with you and your families over the next two years to ensure you reach your potential academically with a strong sense of self-worth and self-love through our wellbeing programs and extra-curricular activities.

We hope you enjoy this publication of South Creek as we celebrate the students and school's achievements for 2019. I wish you all a peaceful and positive 2020.

Sally Smithard  
Principal

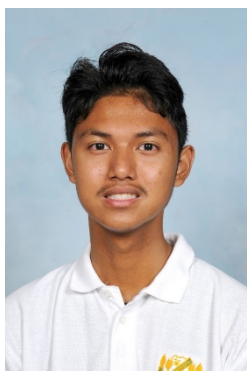
## Student Representative Council Elections

Congratulations to our SRC Leaders for 2020. We hope you enjoy learning some more about our Year 12 Leaders and why they chose to nominate to be a member of the SRC for 2020.



Christelle and Jaden (Cluster 2), Lexi and Emma (Cluster 3), Farah and Youhanna (Cluster 5), Maddison and Shreya (Cluster 6), Jay and Jordan (Cluster 7), Lowrence and Melgene (Cluster 8A), Sajida and Angelo (Cluster 8B), and Thomas (Cluster 9)

### Cluster 2



#### **Jaden Diaz:**

“I don’t run this place, this is not my house ... yet.” When these words came out of my mouth, that was it. Twelve years and it finally paid off. I was elected as the SRC Member for Cluster 2, and I did that. This moment made me believe in change. If you told me six years ago that I would be on the SRC in 2019/2020, I would have laughed. This is not my time, this is our time. Let’s make the beginning of a new decade a phenomenal time for us in this community.

#### **Christelle Salimbangon:**

*Per aspera, ad astra* - a Latin phrase translating to “through hardship, to the stars”. Ever since the start of the year, that has been my advocacy: leading and journeying with the beautiful students of St Marys Senior towards our end goals. However, during my time in the SRC, I have realised that the “stars” are not our end goals, but ourselves. It gives me pure joy to be serving such an empowering cohort who discover more of themselves through every day’s obstacles. My name is Christelle Salimbangon, Cluster 2 SRC, and I am always ready to remind you of the light that you shine upon this world.



*Mente Manuque* – With mind and hand



## **Cluster 3**



### **Lexi Barcelon:**

Hello everyone! Representing Cluster 3 as SRC leader 2020 is a huge privilege and blessing. I am still overwhelmed and thankful for the trust and support my peers have bestowed upon me. I look forward to working with the school community along with an amazing team in making St Marys the best it can be. As the final year together for Year 12 2020 now awaits, let's aspire to make our last year of high school memorable and continue to bring joy in whatever we do!

### **Emma Cutts:**

Hi everyone! My name is Emma Cutts and I am representing Cluster 3 on the SRC team for 2020. I am very thankful to have received this role and cannot wait for next year to come. It is really important to support one another in the senior years of high school as they are the most challenging learning obstacles we will face to date. As a cohort and as a family, I hope to foster love and support with one another to make 2020 a year of school spirit and positivity.



## **Cluster 5**



### **Farah Yowakem:**

To my peers in Year 12 - LADIES AND GENTS, HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES OF 2020... now isn't that a cool number? Yes, I think so too, but there is one thing I find to be a little cooler than our year of graduation, and it is you. Our last year is very likely to be filled with stress, tears, happy times and hard times, but never forget to stay the special, unique, smart and star that you are.

My name is Farah Yowakem and it is my privilege and honour to be represent Cluster 5 in the SRC and I know that together we will all enjoy 2020. As a family and as a cohort that represents St Marys.

Much love - stay smiley :)

### **Youhanna Yowakem:**

This is it, Year 12... Our final year of school. While it may be intense and stressful, I am here to make it as enjoyable and memorable as possible. My name is Youhanna and I have the privilege to be representing Cluster 5 in 2020 with my twin sister. A lot of reasons made me stand to be elected for SRC, but a lot of things were making me doubt myself. But the only thing that convinced me to run was that it was my opportunity to work and represent this school. I hope I inspire each of you to get out there and to take all the opportunities you can find :)



## **Cluster 6**



### **Chloe Appleby (Captain):**

Hey lovelies!

I'm Chloe Appleby, one of your vice-captains for 2020. I am beyond excited for this next year ahead and can't wait to spend it alongside all of you! It is an absolute honour to be able to serve SMSHS for 2020 and I aspire to make this last year for Year 12 a memorable one!

### **Maddison Law:**

Hi everyone!

I'm Maddi Law, and I have the amazing opportunity to represent Cluster 6 for 2020. This experience allows me to be able to not only support everyone in Year 12 through this critical year of our lives but also help shape the next generation of students. I promise to you all I will strive to do anything in my power to be a strong shoulder to lean on, so feel free to come find me for anything.

Lots of love :)



### **Shreya Maharaj:**

St Marys isn't just a place where people are students but a school where we unite as a family. We are a part of such a vast and diverse school; thus, it is vital that all students have the opportunity to voice their opinions, ideas and concerns. I am immensely thrilled to be the student voice for not just my cluster but also for my peers. I have the honour and privilege of being an SRC leader for Cluster Six for 2020 and I will do my very best to cater for you needs.

## **Cluster 7**

### **Jordan Alfar:**

SMSHS is best described as unity through diversity. Our atmosphere is what makes me proud to be the SRC Leader for Cluster 7 for 2020. This opportunity not only allows me to continue and strive for this description but also allows it to be brought to fruition everyday via my actions and personality. 2020 will be a year to remember because of my new-found family and the new members added with the upcoming year 11.







**Jed Garcia (Captain):**

How's it going, everybody?!

I'm Jed Garcia, one of your captains for 2020, and I'd just like to say what an honour and privilege it is to have this opportunity to serve such an amazing school, alongside such an incredible team! My aim this year is to build irreplaceable bonds with you all, and am hopeful to maintain our school's tradition as a place which provides the foundation for future success.

Stay smiling, lovelies!

**Jay Patel:**

Hey guys!

My name is Jay Patel and it is an absolute honour to represent Cluster 7 for 2020 and be a part of the SRC team. Year 12, let's work together to have the best last year of school of which we all would have ever dreamed. At SMSHS there are endless opportunities and I will be there for each and every one of you to help you to have an amazing year. As Helen Keller once said "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much". Let's make our last year of schooling a memorable one :)



**Cluster 8**



**Angelo Audish:**

Hey y'all,

I'm Angelo Audish and it is my privilege to be representing Cluster 8 on the SRC team for 2020. It was an honour to be elected for the role and I would love to use this platform as a way to spread confidence and positivity to all of the students at St Marys. I do not want to be seen as a leader though, I just want to be seen as a friend to the people. Year 12, let's make these last months at school memorable ones :)))

**Souad Khan (Captain):**

Hey everyone!

I would just like to say it is an absolute honour to be one of your captains for such an amazing family here at SMSHS. I strive to be able to put a smile on every single person's face and leave no problems unsolved. In saying that, hopefully we all can strive to be better people and this year will be the best one anyone of us has ever had.



**Mikael Falculan (Captain):**

Hey everyone!! As your Vice-Captain for 2020 and Cluster 8 representative I will be there to make you smile and laugh and, for Year 12 I will be there when we graduate; holding in our hearts the memories of St Marys Senior High School we will never forget.

**Lowrence Maring:**

Hello to anyone reading this. I am truly grateful for this opportunity that SMSHS has granted me to be a part of Cluster 8 SRC. My goal is to constantly reiterate purpose and self-drive within our school community. Let's use this last few months to gain and have access to all the opportunities for growth before we move on to the next stage of our lives.

Kind Regards

- Lowrence

**Sajida Al-Rashid:**

HEY FAM

My name is Sajida (let's stick with Saj ;) ) and I am one of your Cluster 8 leaders. My aim isn't to be your voice but for you to be your own voice. I hope that you find your way around the labyrinth of life and learn that you are unique. I pray that you know your capabilities and find it simple to spread and find happiness. Year 12, together we are going to pull through these last nine months. We've got this, you guys!!

Stay spicy ;)

-Saj

**Melgene Sugpatan:**

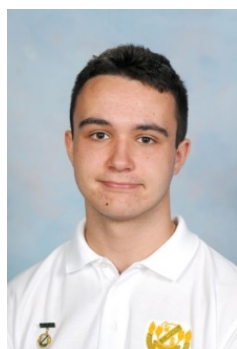
Hello everybody!

My name is Melgene Sugpatan and I am representing the best cluster, Cluster 8 on the 2020 SRC Team. It's an honour to be elected and be a part of the family that makes St Marys the amazing school it is. I hope to increase school spirit and competitiveness in the school by leading my cluster in events like the swimming carnival and athletics carnival. I want to instil in my cluster the pride of not only being a 'Serpent' but a St Marys student.

**Cluster 9****Tom Tyrrell:**

Ahh yes, and finally for the lonesome Cluster 9 leader.

Being re-elected for SRC in 2020 is an absolute honour that I will cherish wholeheartedly. The opportunity to lead and serve again is something that I won't take for granted. I'm looking forward to working with the team and speaking on behalf of the cohort on issues as well as mentor the up and coming Year 11 students. I'm also very excited to ensure that the small yet feisty spirited Cluster 9 lives on!





## **Presentation Day 2019 Academic Awards**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December St Marys Senior High School held their annual presentation day which recognised those students who excelled in either their academic subjects or on the sporting field. Congratulations once again to all the award recipients.

### **Preliminary Course Academic Awards.**

These students achieved first position in a Preliminary course in 2019.

STUDENT	FIRST IN
Clare Adamson	Music I
Tanvi Agrawal	English as an Additional Language or Dialect Spanish Beginners
Areeba Ahmed	English Extension 1
Todd Barton	Industrial Technology Multimedia
Mary Bojo	English Standard
Chelsea Brown	Hospitality Geography
Gabriel Cacapit	Investigating Science Ancient History
Lachlan Chapman	Information Processes and Technology Software Design and Development Industrial Technology Multimedia
Junsung Choe	Biology
Naomi Colburn (pictured)	Drama Dance
Claudia Costarella	Italian Beginners
Bhawanjot Dhillon	Chemistry Physics Studies of Religion 1Unit
Teone Fava	Food Technology



<b>Kyle Foufas</b>	<b>English Advanced Studio Drawing</b>
<b>Joshua Grima</b>	<b>Earth and Environmental Science</b>
<b>Remy Hannan</b>	<b>Studies of Religion 2 Unit Modern History Drama</b>
<b>Victoria Harry</b>	<b>Music II</b>
<b>T.H.</b>	<b>Photography 2Unit</b>
<b>Claire Jones</b>	<b>Agriculture</b>
<b>MuhammadTahir Khawaja (<i>pictured</i>)</b>	<b>Mathematics Advanced Economics</b>
<b>Nathan Luk</b>	<b>Legal Studies Korean Beginners</b>
<b>Claire McCullough</b>	<b>Mathematics Standard</b>
<b>Renelli Molina</b>	<b>Textiles and Design</b>
<b>Tara Neilsen</b>	<b>Drama</b>
<b>Ngoc Nguyen</b>	<b>Mathematics Extension 1 Engineering Studies</b>
<b>Madelaine O'Laco</b>	<b>Society and Culture</b>
<b>Angelique Palummo</b>	<b>Community and Family Studies</b>
<b>Ibrahim Ramadanny</b>	<b>Mathematics Extension 1</b>
<b>Joshua Rodgers</b>	<b>Personal Development, Health and Physical Education Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation</b>
<b>Christelle Salimbangon</b>	<b>Business Studies French Beginners</b>
<b>Dorothy Villanueva</b>	<b>Japanese Beginners</b>





**Dang Khoa Vu**

**Physics**

**Clare Wilkes**

**Design and Technology  
Visual Arts**

### **HSC Course Academic Awards**

These students achieved first position in an HSC course in 2019.

<b>STUDENT</b>	<b>FIRST IN</b>
<b>Bishoy Bakhoun</b>	<b>Studies of Religion 1 Unit</b>
<b>Kwadwo Boamah-Addai</b>	<b>Italian Beginners</b>
<b>Adrian Brinas</b>	<b>Economics</b>
<b>Caitlin Brines</b>	<b>Personal Development, Health and Physical Education</b>
	<b>Business Studies</b>
<b>Lisa Bunt</b>	<b>History Extension</b>
<b>Francisco Castro</b>	<b>Industrial Technology Multimedia</b>
	<b>Software Design and Development</b>
<b>Marie Patrice Clemente</b>	<b>Biology</b>
<b>Theia Debulos</b> (pictured)	<b>Japanese Beginners</b>
<b>Oshani De Costa</b>	<b>Agriculture</b>
<b>Annalise Della Libera</b>	<b>Community and Family Studies</b>
<b>Kathryn Fearnley</b>	<b>English Advanced</b>
	<b>Legal Studies</b>
<b>Abbey Gordon</b>	<b>Hospitality</b>
<b>Kalinda Gorsuch</b>	<b>English Studies</b>



**Jacob Habib**

**Music I**

**Shahida Haydari**  
*(pictured)*

**Business Services**

**Emma Jackson**

**Society and Culture**

**Mehreen Jamil**

**English as an Additional Language or Dialect**

**Chloe Judson**

**English Standard**

**Sandy Kamel**

**Food Technology**

**Natalie Khalil**

**Mathematics Extension1**  
**Chemistry**

**Pranita Kumar**

**Ancient History**

**Grace Lennon**

**Textiles and Design**  
**Community and Family Studies**

**Evana Mansour**

**Mathematics**  
**Studies of Religion 2Unit**

**Emily Mendoza**  
*(pictured)*

**Mathematics Extension 2**  
**Physics**  
**Chemistry**  
**Engineering Studies**

**Angelique Minas**

**Modern History**  
**Drama**  
**English Extension 1**

**Ebene Montgomery**

**Earth and Environmental Science**  
**Science Extension**

**Flyn Moss**

**English Extension 2**

**Julien Ortiz**

**Korean Beginners**

**Lemah Orya**

**Visual Arts**

**Mackenzie Pelle**  
*(pictured)*

**Geography**





**Jordan Petersen**  
*(pictured)*

**Investigating Science**

**Jodi Shinn**

**Entertainment**

**Holly Stevens**

**Japanese Beginners**

**Rahul Talla**

**Design and Technology**  
**Information Processes and Technology**

**Jazmin Taylor**

**Dance**

**Monique Van Schelven**

**Industrial Technology Multimedia**

**Sophie Villar**

**Spanish Beginners**

**A.W.**

**Retail Services**

**Blake Williams**

**Mathematics Standard**



## **DRAMA**

Term 4 has been a busy one for Drama. Hard on the heels of our OnSTAGE nomination for one of the HSC Group Performances in Term 3, we received notification that Jodi Shinn's Individual Project: Scriptwriting, was nominated for Writers OnSTAGE. We hope to hear soon if Jodi has been selected for this prestigious showcase of outstanding student work in HSCDrama.

In preparation for the HSC 2020, our new Year 12 Drama students attended two excursions in Term 4 to enhance the study of their core HSC texts. Belvoir Street Theatre Company allowed them to watch archival footage of their productions of the plays *Stolen* and *Neighbourhood Watch*. Students were able to take notes and discuss staging techniques and key dramatic moments that will inform their experiential learning in their essays. A visit to the Sydney Theatre Company followed where students saw a production of *THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE*; a perfect introduction for their second topic of Black Comedy.

Nicole Bonfield  
Head Teacher Creative & Performing Arts



## **Celebrating 50 years with Sydney Dance Company!**



On Tuesday the 5th of November the Year 12 dance students attended the Sydney Dance Company located in The Roslyn Packer Theatre in Walsh Bay. Two students attended a workshop where they delved into the minds of a Sydney Dance Company member and learnt the repertoire from Rafael Bonachela's iconic work '6 Breaths.' After the workshop, three students from the school were given earpieces by Stage Managers and were asked to perform in Bonachela's new creation 'Us 50' which included all 16 Sydney Dance Company Members, Sydney Dance Company alumni and members of the community. This added up to 50 people on stage at the one time. The piece was created to celebrate Sydney Dance Company's 50th Anniversary and Rafael Bonachela's 10th year as Artistic Director.

Once the students were fitted for their earpieces, audiences were sat in their seats and it was time for the viewing of the pieces. First up was Bonachela's iconic work '6 Breaths' which is a contemporary piece broken up into 6 parts to highlight the different kinds of 'breaths' people experience from the foetus to death. Audiences described this piece as "an intricate and creative piece that pushes the limits of unique movements." After a small interval it was time for the performance of 'Us 50.' The company and alumni performed first to highlight the concept of the dance. Us 50 was choreographed to highlight the past present and future, learning from each other to create beautiful pieces of work. So, the whole piece was each dancer copying each other. Once the three students were called onstage, they chose a dancer to copy and used them to create a connection between the variety of people on stage. Audiences described this piece as "an innovative and exciting piece that celebrates bringing life together through dance."

Overall, this was an amazing experience that helped us, the students, understand how we can use movement to create a message that audiences and other dancers can connect with.

Thank you to Donna, Fatima and Nicole for this amazing experience. The Year 12 Dance students enjoyed every moment and are excited to start their major works with their expanded minds.

Isabella Newman wrote about her experience performing with the company;

*Mente Manuque* – With mind and hand



*“Using continuous movement and clumps of people, all the dancers formed a work that was very clean and messy. Clean as in the movements were rich and performed amazingly, and messy as in you can’t expect where you will look next for the next piece of movement. After 25 minutes of the piece the dance students joined, along with myself, and began to go up on stage with the performers. Listening to the lady through our earpiece she told us what to do. Eventually I was approached by a young woman who was a performer for Sydney Dance Company and I had to follow what she did. She led me through the middle of the stage until we were at the front. I followed her movements and it felt as if we were the same person doing the same movements. When it finished, it felt so surreal to me that I had danced with the Sydney Dance Company and had even been that close to one of the dancers. It was such an amazing opportunity. It is one day I will never forget and it will always hold a special place in my mind. I saw the most beautiful works in my whole life performed right in front of me, and I would love to have that opportunity again in the near future.”*

Naomi Colburn  
Year 12 student 2020



## South Creek Bush Regeneration

This year, Year 11 Geography students have been getting practical by taking part in bush regeneration along South Creek.

South Creek has become severely degraded since European settlement. Our local stretch of the creek suffers from an accumulation of rubbish, poor water quality and an infestation of weeds.

Penrith Council has been a great supporter of our project, supplying us with expertise, training and equipment to help us restore our section of the creek.

A visit to South Creek early in the year inspired students to get involved in making a difference to our local environment. The first stage involved cleaning up some of the rubbish that has collected along the creek. Unfortunately, illegal rubbish dumpers have been busy dumping their loads along the edge of the creek. We have removed televisions, tyres and shopping trolleys.

The next stage involved removal of the many weeds that infest the riparian bush along the creek. Each weed, from hanging vines to woody shrubs, has its own habit and method of removal. The difference we have made is clearly visible, giving native vegetation the room to grow.

We are currently constructing nest boxes for native wildlife. The trees along the creek are regrowth and are too young to have the nesting hollows that are necessary for native fauna to live in, so, with the assistance of Penrith Council, our artificial nesting hollows will be installed early in 2020.

The next stage will involve the replanting of native vegetation to out-compete the weeds.

It is hoped that this becomes a long-term project of St Marys Senior High School and that we can look forward to a much healthier South Creek in the future.

Dean Newbold  
Geography Teacher





## Korean Cultural Day

The rise of South Korea's culture has spread globally, enabling students like us to explore Korean pop culture, entertainment, music, etc. The Korean cultural centre provided the students of Korean Beginners an experience in the Korean culture, including language, traditional clothing, Korean cuisine and traditional teachings.

My initial expectations for the excursion came from the Korean Cultural Centre website our teacher (선생님) recommended we view. The website provides viewers with an overall view of their programs and features. The staff were very friendly, their bright personalities allowed us to feel comfortable during our visit. Upon entering, our class was fascinated by the exhibition which included a beautiful range of metalcraft and jewellery. Each 'box' held pieces of the delicate handcraft and held a description of the artist and the meaning of the piece.

The first part of our excursion included a tour of a traditional Korean house, Hanok (한옥), along with the teacher explaining the materials used to build the structure and other information attached to the culture.



Our class tried on a variety of traditional Korean clothing, Hanboks (한복). Different Hanboks had different meanings depending on the materials use, style and variation of colours. Our class was also taught how to do a traditional bow, there are different bows for boys and girls. After the tour, the teacher guided us to a classroom which they called Sejong Classroom



(세종 교실) to make Kimbap(김밥), traditional Korean masks(탈) and watch a short-animated film about a child's connection with Jeju Island.



This concluded the end of our time in the Korean Cultural Centre. With empty stomachs and high spirits, we made our way to the Shinara restaurant, a cheap and decent buffet not too far from the venue. We filled our stomachs with the delicious Korean food the restaurant provided and had a great 'bonding-session' with each other as we shared stories and played games. Sadly, this was the end of our excursion, a day filled with learning and laughter coming to an end as we made our separate ways home. In summary, every single one of us had a great time learning about Korean culture, truly it was a great experience worth the travel. I highly recommend the Korean Cultural Centre for anyone who wishes to learn about Korean culture.

Katrinna Maglalang  
Year 12 Student 2020



## **Barrangaroo Fieldwork**



The HSC Geography class attended a fieldwork excursion at Barrangaroo as part of their study of Urban Places.

The tour began at the Southern end of the Barrangaroo site. We could observe the new construction that has occurred at the site and all the elements of their design to ensure environmental sustainability.

The site has undergone major changes over time in its shift from a working port to a residential and commercial zone.

We were lucky enough to hear from a representative of the developer, Lend Lease, who spoke to students about the key elements of the design.

The tour finished at Millers Point, which has also undergone massive change from its origins as a working-class area for the dock workers to an area where only the wealthiest could afford to live.

It was a perfect day to be in the city to walk around the exciting new Barrangaroo development.

The insights gained on our fieldwork will be crucial to performing well in the Urban Places section of the Higher School Certificate.

Dean Newbold  
Geography Teacher



## **St Marys Students Test Their Linguistic Skills in Foreign Languages.**

In late November and early December of 2019, 38 students from St Marys Senior High School studying a language other than English completed the Assessment of Language Competence (ALC) test for 2019 administered by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). These tests are an independent online assessment that measures student performance in a language other than English. Students participated in these tests in addition to their HSC studies and appreciated that it gave them a great opportunity to gain a better understanding of their abilities in the language courses they are studying for the Higher School Certificate.

There were two tests administered, one assessing student listening comprehension and the other assessing reading comprehension skills. Students from the Spanish Beginners, Italian Beginners, French Beginners and Japanese Beginners classes completed both of these exams. Below are some of the very capable students who achieved either a Distinction or High Distinction result in their tests. A fantastic effort!

Bravo! / Ben fatto! / よくやったね (Yoku yattane!) / ¡Bien hecho! to all students!

### **12 French Beginners**

Shifa Dhannani

Christine Salimbangon

### **12 Italian Beginners**

Claudia Costarella

Selina Urbina-Quiroz

### **12 Spanish Beginners**

Tanvi Agrawal

Tony Mikhail

Raquel Kalcina

Melgene Sugpatan

### **12 Japanese Beginners**

Jason De La Torre

Kyle Foufas

Kris Jin

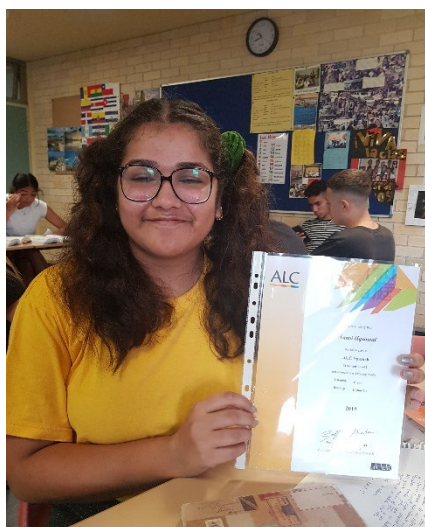
Donna Mariano

Caitlin Pembroke

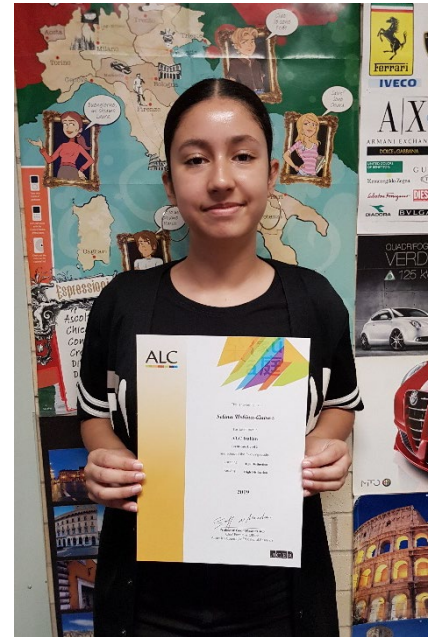
Jason Shi

Dorothy Villanueva

Below are photos of some of the language students with their certificates,







## **Presentation Day 2019 Sports Awards**

### **Dave Robilliard Awards for Excellence in Sport.**

Dave was a former PDHPE teacher at St Marys Senior High in the 1980's. He believed students should be involved in as many activities as possible for a well-rounded education. The following students have been extremely active in the sporting area, representing the school as individuals or as part of a team in multiple sports.

<b>Kevin</b>	<b>Andrews</b>	<b>Volleyball, Touch, Oz Tag, Athletics</b>
<b>Chloe</b>	<b>Appleby</b>	<b>Netball, Cross Country, Touch, Athletics</b>
<b>Ante</b>	<b>Barisic</b>	<b>Lawn Bowls, Mixed Netball, Soccer</b>
<b>Cooper</b>	<b>Bell</b>	<b>Volleyball, Soccer, Futsal, Oz Tag, Lawn Bowls, Mixed Netball</b>
<b>Blake</b>	<b>Bennett</b>	<b>Cross Country, Touch, Oz Tag</b>
<b>Mikayla</b>	<b>Bull</b>	<b>Netball, Oz Tag, Mixed Netball</b>
<b>Oliver</b>	<b>Clancy</b>	<b>Volleyball, Soccer, Futsal, Oz Tag, Mixed Netball</b>
<b>Sophie</b>	<b>Duhig</b>	<b>Basketball, Netball, Lawn Bowls, Mixed Netball</b>
<b>Jemma</b>	<b>Francis</b>	<b>Water Polo, Netball, Lawn Bowls</b>
<b>Alison</b>	<b>Gallen</b>	<b>Netball, Touch, Oz Tag, Lawn Bowls</b>
<b>Mina</b>	<b>Gendy</b>	<b>Soccer, Futsal, Athletics</b>
<b>Kirollos</b>	<b>Georgi</b>	<b>Volleyball, Futsal, Soccer</b>
<b>Kirrilee</b>	<b>Holliday</b>	<b>Basketball, Water Polo, Soccer, Netball, Mixed Netball</b>
<b>Jayson</b>	<b>Ibrahim</b>	<b>Volleyball, Soccer, Futsal, Athletics</b>
<b>Sophie</b>	<b>Robson</b>	<b>Netball, Touch, Oz Tag, Mixed Netball</b>
<b>Joshua</b>	<b>Rodgers</b>	<b>Soccer, Athletics, Cross Country</b>
<b>Georgia</b>	<b>Waters</b>	<b>Basketball, Oz Tag, Mixed Netball</b>

### **Sydney West Representatives**

These students qualify at zone carnivals or go through a selection process where they are chosen at gala days, or at an afternoon selection for the zone team. They go on to the Sydney West Carnival to compete for the Werrington Zone and are then chosen as a member of the Regional team to compete at the CHS carnival.

<b>Angus</b>	<b>Bolton</b>	<b>Water Polo</b>
<b>Ethan</b>	<b>Elliott</b>	<b>Tennis</b>
<b>Michael</b>	<b>Harvey</b>	<b>Athletics</b>
<b>Olivia</b>	<b>Hoffman</b>	<b>Athletics</b>
<b>Yul</b>	<b>Kwon</b>	<b>Athletics</b>



<b>Jordan</b>	<b>Petersen</b>	<b>Athletics</b>
<b>Niran</b>	<b>Ravikumar</b>	<b>Cross Country, Athletics</b>
<b>Linae</b>	<b>Williams</b>	<b>Rugby Union</b>

#### **Dave Robilliard Award and the Sydney West Representative Award**

<b>Kwadwo</b>	<b>Boamah-Addai</b>	<b>Soccer, Futsal, Athletics SW Athletics</b>
<b>Jacob</b>	<b>Botros</b>	<b>Soccer, Futsal, Oz Tag, Athletics, Mixed Netball SW Soccer</b>
<b>Caitlin</b>	<b>Brines</b>	<b>Basketball, Netball, Cross Country, Athletics SW Basketball</b>

#### **Sydney West Representative Award and NSW Representatives**

The next group of students were selected into Sydney West teams to play at the Combined High Schools Carnivals and during the carnival were chosen to represent NSW.

<b>Brianna</b>	<b>Archer-Fisher</b>	<b>Swimming</b>
<b>Megan</b>	<b>Cooper</b>	<b>Swimming</b>
<b>Teone</b>	<b>Fava</b>	<b>Swimming</b>
<b>Trinity</b>	<b>Fuller</b>	<b>Swimming</b>
<b>Aniket</b> <i>pictured</i>	<b>Kapila</b>	<b>Cricket</b>
<b>Flyn</b>	<b>Moss</b>	<b>Water Polo</b>



#### **Dave Robilliard Award, Sydney West and NSW Representative Award**

The following students have represented the school as an individual or as part of a team in a number of sports and have therefore qualified for the Dave Robilliard award, whilst also representing Sydney West and NSW.

<b>Molly</b> <i>Pictured left</i>	<b>Godsell</b>	<b>Soccer Futsal, Athletics, SW and NSW Cricket. Molly was recently chosen to be a member of the U19's Women's WBBL Australian Team.</b>
<b>Violet</b> <i>Pictured right</i>	<b>Wetsteyn</b>	<b>Volleyball, Basketball, Netball, Athletics, Mixed Netball SW Athletics, NSW Netball</b>





The following student has achieved the highest honour, making it through each level of the school competition to represent their country.

### **Sydney West, NSW and Australian Representative (Gold)**

**Lianna Davidson**



Achieving 1<sup>st</sup> in U18's javelin and 2<sup>nd</sup> in U20's javelin at the Australian Athletics Championships, Lianna represented Australia at the Oceania Championships in June winning gold in the U18's javelin. Lianna also won gold in javelin at the NSW All Schools Athletics Championships and will be competing at the Australian Championships in Perth in December. Lianna has recently been selected as a member of the Australian Opals Baseball squad.

### **Greg Best Award**

This award is for the most successful team in the calendar year. Greg Best was a former Industrial Arts teacher at St Marys High in the 1980's. He coached a wide variety of team sports and ran major carnivals. He was a very committed and dedicated teacher.

There are two recipients of this award this year – The Women's Netball Team and the Girls 17-19 Years 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay Team.

### **Girls Netball Team – 9<sup>th</sup> at CHS State Knockout**

<b>Hayley</b>	<b>Barsby</b>
<b>Caitlin</b>	<b>Brines</b>
<b>Mikayla</b>	<b>Bull</b>
<b>Sophie</b>	<b>Duhig</b>
<b>Tegan</b>	<b>Dunn</b>
<b>Alison</b>	<b>Gallen</b>
<b>Abbey</b>	<b>Gordon</b>
<b>Kirrilee</b>	<b>Holliday</b>
<b>Ellersae</b>	<b>Martin-Chase</b>
<b>Sophie</b>	<b>Robson</b>
<b>Violet</b>	<b>Wetsteyn</b>

The netball team competed strongly in the Sydney West Knockout Competition making it through to the final 8 gala day. The girls were outstanding, displaying exceptional levels of teamwork, consistency and superb attacking and defence work throughout each game. They won all their games at the gala day and were crowned Sydney West Champions. This qualified them for the NSWCHS Knockout Championships held in Wollongong. Over the 2 days, the girls competed very strongly at the championship playing some of the best sporting schools in the State and narrowly losing. We finished 9<sup>th</sup> in the State and are extremely proud of how the girls represented St Marys Senior High School with such distinction.

### **Girls 17-19 years 4 X 50m Freestyle Relay Team**

<b>Brianna</b>	<b>Archer-Fisher</b>
<b>Megan</b>	<b>Cooper</b>
<b>Teone</b>	<b>Fava</b>
<b>Trinity</b>	<b>Fuller</b>

Our second recipient, the girls 4x50m freestyle relay team competed very strongly at each level making it through to the NSW All Schools Championships. The girls broke both the Werrington Zone record which had stood for 9 years and the Sydney West record. At the CHS championships the girls came 2<sup>nd</sup> and qualified for the NSW All Schools Championships where they finished 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Nathan Seymour Memorial Award for Service in Sport**

This award is given to students who contribute to sport in more than just a playing capacity. Nathan was a student of SMSHS in the late 1990's. He was an excellent sportsman representing CHS at swimming and athletics. Nathan dedicated a lot of his time towards coaching students to help them achieve their best. Unfortunately, Nathan passed away in 1997. The recipients have played, umpired or refereed games, and helped to organise and run the Year 11 vs. Year 12 games. Congratulations to:

**Jacinta Bell**

**Kwadwo Boamah-Addai**

**Sophie Duhig**

The **Year 11 Sportsperson of the Year Award** was presented to an outstanding athlete, **Lianna Davidson**.



Lianna has represented Australia in athletics. She competed at the Sydney West athletics carnival coming 1<sup>st</sup> in javelin with a record-breaking throw of 48.41m, qualifying for the CHS carnival. Once again, at this carnival, Lianna won gold and went on to represent CHS at the NSW All Schools Championships where she broke another javelin record, throwing 57.15m. Lianna will compete at the Australian All Schools in Perth later in the year. She also won gold while representing Australia at the Oceania Games. Lianna's talents do not stop with athletics. Recently she was selected to be part of the Australian Opals Baseball squad. Lianna devotes

many hours to training and her hard work has paid off. She is a fine athlete who demonstrates great sportsmanship at all times.

The **Year 12 Sportsperson of the Year Award** was presented to **Violet Wetsteyn**.

Violet was a member of a number of school sporting teams including volleyball, basketball, netball, mixed netball and athletics. She played a large role in the success of these teams helping the netball team take out the Werrington Cup. Violet impressed selectors at the netball gala day and was chosen to be a member of the Zone team to compete at the Sydney West Carnival. At this carnival Violet's skills stood out and she was selected as a member of the Sydney West team. Violet was a valued member of this team and was voted Player's Player by her teammates. Once again, Violet's talents were recognised and she was named a member of the NSWCHS team. Violet also competed very well at the school, zone and Regional athletics carnivals to qualify to represent Sydney West at the CHS Carnival in discus. She is a dedicated athlete who demonstrates great leadership qualities and displays admirable sportsmanship at all times.



## The First Significant Event of Our HSC Year: Talent Quest 2019



Sometimes, beautiful moments pass by us so rapidly that we fail to appreciate their significance in our lives. As we all stressed about the English speech, what day our next assessment was due or even how many days until the holidays, we all failed to realise we passed a fairly big milestone of our Year Twelve experience; the first school event as the seniors of SMSHS. Talent Quest 2019 may have seemed important as the first performance of KDC 2020, SRC 2020 and soon-to-be TikTok famous teachers but as we all joined together in celebrating the many talented students (and teachers) of SMSHS, we showed how supportive the Class of 2020 can be.

In my personal experience, the talent quest was something I could never picture myself doing. Never would I think of stepping right in front of almost 500 people and singing and honestly, the thought terrified me. Yet when a good friend, Seandan Arias came to me asking if I would be in his band for talent quest, I knew I couldn't say no. Practising whenever we had the chance amid our busy schedules was certainly difficult and the performance was in no way, shape or form perfect, yet as Seandan says himself, 'it was fun and memorable and I would gladly do it again'.

For all the performers, this event was surely an experience which they'd never forget. Whether you had dreamed of performing in front of our Year like Seandan, or wanted to push yourself out of your comfort zone into something that scared you, you managed to learn, practice and perfect an amazing piece. Amongst the mayhem of assessment season, the talented individuals of our year managed to pull off a performance which resonated with them later.

Take our 3rd place winner *Lia Matsoukas* who when I asked her to sum up her experience of being in the talent quest, said,

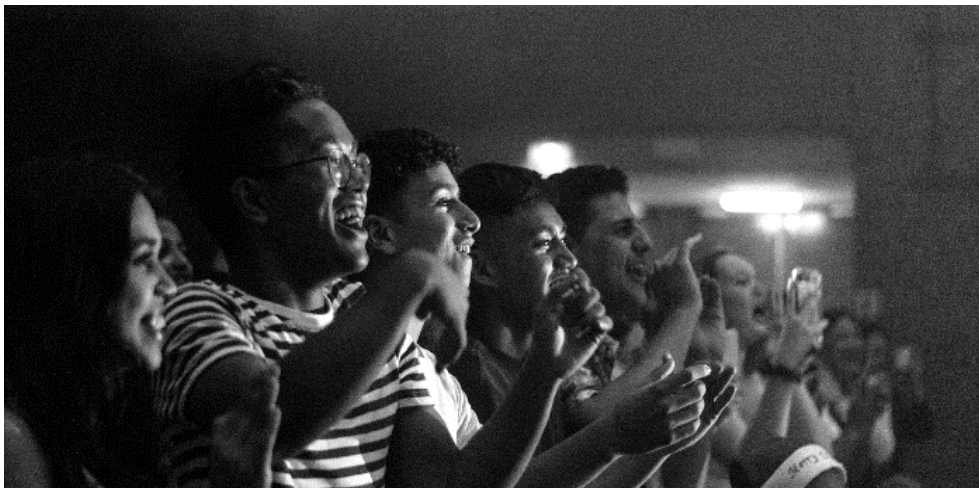
*"Even though performing in front of our year made me horrified and anxious as most people had never heard me speak, let alone heard me sing, it was great. It gave me the opportunity to show others my own music, present my talents and gave me more confidence to be even*



*a little less anxious than before. Coming third was a massive achievement for me and I recommend this to anyone who wishes to display their talent at school!"*



Finally, for the audience, you really showed how amazing our school environment is. I know in my experience walking out in front of all of you with a very sore throat, few people having ever heard me sing and minimal practise as a band, the thoughts which ran through my head made me want to get off stage immediately. Yet, your love and support made me stay there, even with a few pitchy harmonies. Everyone so willingly supported each performance from start to finish, which for me was the best part of the event. Seeing people cheer on peers who they had probably never even seen perform before, never mind meet was a great reminder of the school spirit St Marys is so well-known for.



So, here's to a memory of one of the first (and definitely not last) memorable moments of our last year of high school.

Catherine Gill  
Year 12 Student 2020  
Photos taken by Marys Media



## School Leadership Camp 2019





## Collaroy Leadership Camp 2019



*Mente Manuque* – With mind and hand



School camps, in essence, create friendships and strengthen bonds between like-minded individuals. However, for those who went, know Collaroy presented so much more. From supporting others to overcoming fears, Collaroy Camp strengthened us within and extended that to our peers, making the best (and unfortunately last) school camp so incredibly significant in our final year of high school.

Whether it was the giant swing, the drop pole, high ropes or even surfing, we all came across challenges which tested us in ways which we probably wouldn't have experienced otherwise. From being flung backwards in the air, to falling and dangling 10 metres above ground, to fearing getting caught in a rip, there was an activity which had an aspect that maybe didn't sit right with you, made you feel slightly (or majorly) unsettled and even scared you to the point where you didn't want to get up and try.

But hopefully, through the support of your day group, you passed your obstacle which stopped you. It could have been as simple as encouraging words to remind you that you really could do it! Or maybe it was the knowledge of doing something with your friends right by your side. Either way, you conquered your challenges and showed yourself that "even if you're scared, open your eyes for the beautiful view" (credits to Ruchelle Dawe for that line).

I asked around those who went to Collaroy to recount 3 things of their experience to see their replies.

1. What activity tested you the most? Why/ how come?
2. What did you gain from it?
3. Is there a particular experience which taught you a lesson? If so, what was it and what did you learn?

Now, even though I couldn't possibly share all the answers, hearing what others had to say made me realise everyone's experiences, though unique and special in every way, showed them something of themselves, or the people around them which defined their experience in such a beautiful way. One person of mention would be Angelene Conception whose experience, for me, defined what Collaroy did for those who went:

*The activity that tested me the most was high ropes! It's safe to say I had conducted an accidental performance act when I failed to jump on one of the wooden spheres and ended up dangling 10m above the ground attempting to tear myself back into the islands. I'd like to blame my poor performance in high ropes to sheer bad luck, although it is probably due to my lack of upper body strength. From this, I learnt that any situation that is on the brink of embarrassing can be turned into a light memory when surrounded by the right, supportive people as once I was dangling, my day group mates were all shouting encouraging words my way which eventually helped me get myself back up.*

So, despite the cheesiness of the meaning behind school camp, Collaroy was such a significant experience in the lives of all who went. I know in my personal experience, camp encouraged me to venture out and build friendships with other people, come out of my shell and to experience some of the most exciting and new things with people who were virtually strangers before that week.

So, with so many great memories to look back on, what may have only been 3 days and 2 nights of our year, became something so special and memorable for our lives.

Catherine Gill  
Year 12 Student 2020

## **Presentation Day 2019 Special Awards.**

### **Academic Commitment Award**

This award recognises students who have shown outstanding commitment to their studies across a range of subject areas. They have worked consistently and diligently and have achieved success in their studies overall.

### **Year 11**

Joshua	Cox
Parnia (pictured)	Dehghani Firouzabadi
Emily	Nelson
Hannah	Parsons
Shaariq	Sami



### **Year 12**

Maria	Boshra
Daniel	Brown
Jemma (pictured)	Francis
Rhiannon	Freemantle
Jasmeet	Kaur
S.M.	
Maddison	Northam
Annabelle	Petrovski
Sarah	Wonson
Yuting	Zhang



### **Achievements in Creative and Performing Arts.**

#### **Creative and Performing Arts Award**

Grant is a diligent student who has demonstrated strong commitment to his work in Visual Arts and Music 1. Grant's love of the creative and performing arts is apparent in his

outstanding work throughout his time at St Marys Senior High School. For Music 1, this was demonstrated in his convincing and challenging portfolio in performance, as well as taking opportunities to extend his skills in public performances and masterclasses. His continuous application and talent in Visual Arts led to his nomination for the prestigious Art Express. Grant's performance across both subjects and his leadership made him a strong role model for his peers.



### Outstanding Achievement in Performance



Deakin has demonstrated exemplary achievement in performance in Music 1 which reflects his thorough preparation for his HSC Performance Program. He has outstanding ensemble skills and is able to present each piece in an individual way, thoroughly 'owning' the performance. Deakin is a willing and capable accompanist and supported his peers in numerous HSC Examination performances. In his extra-curricular activities both within school and at state level, Deakin was a lead in the school musical, *In the Heights*, as well as dancing in 'Bring it On' and leading the 'Korean Dance Crew'. Deakin is a versatile performer who is well-deserving of this award.

### Londonderry Leadership Award.

This award is presented to Ashutosh Sharma for his community spirit in working across various committees and programs.

Ashutosh was elected to the Student Representative Council in 2019 as well as assuming the role of our School Vice-Captain and has taken this role very seriously. He has involved himself in the life of the school at all levels playing an integral role in inspiring and fostering events at St Marys Senior High School. Ashutosh was a dedicated SRC member who reported at School Council as the voice of the student body and helped coordinate events such as our 2019 Heritage Day, a logistical feat in itself. His enthusiasm created an infectious buzz through his team and the broader school community, inspiring the student body to participate and value the event. Ashutosh's representation of the school at official functions and his role with school clubs has been positive and encouraging and he is a worthy recipient of this award.





### ***FIRST Robotics Competition National Winners***

This was awarded to the St Marys Senior High Robotics Team of 2019: **Melinda Sultana, Francisco Castro, J. M., Chris Martin, Preston Wilson**



There were thirty-four teams competing from all over Australia. The competition is run by FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). The St Marys Team (4614) Purple Monkeys, was led to a victorious finish under the strategic guidance of (captain) Melinda Sultana. Well done to all the team members for all their contribution in what has been a most exciting year for us all, finishing First at Nationals.

### **Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Schools Science Medal**

ANSTO is one of Australia's largest research organisations and owner of some of the country's most important scientific infrastructure. It is deeply committed to fostering an enthusiasm and interest for science amongst young Australians and this medal helps teachers to honour those students who are pursuing an interest in science. This year there are two recipients of this award. Both our recipients visited the ANSTO site for the Year 11 Chemistry excursion and met with the Head of the ANSTO Discovery Centre.

**Junsung Choe**

**Bhawanjot Dhillon**

### ***Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute School Science Award***

**Bhawanjot Dhillon**

This award was developed to foster and encourage an interest in science amongst secondary school students. Recipients of this award have demonstrated the highest level of educational achievement, innovation, creativity, and hard work in their science classes in Year 11. Bhawanjot studies two strands of science and has achieved first place in the Year 11 Chemistry course. Bhawanjot attended the civic presentation on the 14<sup>th</sup> November.



## Student Leadership Award

There were two recipients of this award. The first was presented to: **Neha Bhatt**

Neha was elected to the Student Representative Council in 2019 and was elected into the position of school captain, a role she took very seriously. The Student Representative Council is held in high regard by both staff and students at St Marys Senior High School. This is due in no small part, to the commitment and talent demonstrated by students of Neha's calibre. She displayed a friendly nature and a team approach to her role and was a very popular and hardworking member of the Student Representative Council striving towards expressing the views of the student body, and doing so with enthusiasm and care. Neha displayed a high level of commitment to the SRC as demonstrated by her active involvement in whole school activities such as presentations at cluster as well as other official functions. Neha was a pleasure to work with as she fulfilled all of her roles with commitment, and dedication.



The second award was presented to **Avisha Khan**.

Avisha was elected to the student Representative Council in 2019 and was elected into the position of School Captain, a role she took very seriously. In this capacity, Avisha was an outstanding representative of the school, involved in many whole school and community functions. She approached her responsibilities with a sense of composure demonstrating her maturity in leadership and strong sense of school spirit. Avisha contributed greatly to the ethos and culture of St Marys Senior High School, ensuring that the student voice was heard and proved herself to be an excellent ambassador for the school in all aspects of her school career. At all levels Avisha demonstrated a strong commitment to the life of the school.



## School Service Award

The award was in recognition of outstanding service and is awarded to **Kwadwo Boamah-Addai**.



He approached his Student Representative Council responsibilities with enthusiasm, maturity and a strong sense of school spirit. Kwado has contributed greatly to the ethos and culture of St Marys Senior High School and has proven himself an excellent ambassador for the school. He was elected to the Student Representative Council in 2019 and has used this platform to lead and inspire his peers, involve himself in the life of St Marys through a range of clubs and teams to ensure that he has the best understanding of the school and its ethos when undertaking leadership roles. Kwadwo has always endeavoured to challenge and motivate his fellow

SRC team to ensure they strive for the best. When met with challenges he would take time to consider and refocus in order to effectively move forward towards the goal. At all levels, **Kwadwo** has demonstrated the ability to work in a caring and committed manner.

### **Hitchen VET Business Award.**

The recipient of the Hitchen VET Business Award displays excellence in the skills that are most important in today's business world – decision-making, negotiation and leadership. The recipient of this award was **Sarah David**.



Sarah demonstrated herself to be a conscientious and motivated student of Business Services. Her commitment to learning and willingness to take on challenges and leadership responsibilities have ensured that her assessment items were always to a very high standard. Sarah demonstrated that she had exceptional ability to work in teams and valued constructive feedback from others. During the course Sarah developed the skills necessary to thrive in an office environment and received some outstanding

feedback from her host employers upon completion of her work experience. Sarah was a very deserving student of this award.

### **Academy Access Award**

This award was sponsored by Western Sydney University. In presenting this award, the school recognised the outstanding academic achievements of this student across all their courses.

This years' recipient was **Lachlan Chapman**

Lachlan was ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in his course for Software Design and Development, Industrial Technology





Multimedia and Information Processes and Technology. He is a dedicated student who showed great enthusiasm towards his studies and was a most worthy recipient of this award.

### **Mulgoa Leadership Award**

This award was given to a student who demonstrated leadership within the school.

The recipient of this award **Gian De Leon** was nominated for her work within the school leadership programs in 2018 and 2019.

Gian was elected to the Student Representative Council in 2019 and endeavoured to do the best for her peers. She was an effective and supportive member of the team, always encouraging them to be at their personal best. Gian represented the school at School Council and SRC clusters with students from our region. She developed strong leadership skills and undertook large coordination roles within some of St Marys' largest celebrations and events. Gian inspired her peers and was a pleasure to work with as she always fulfilled her roles with positivity.



### **ADF Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award**

This recognises students who demonstrate leadership and teamwork within both the school and the broader community and who display strong values, such as doing one's best, respect for others and "mateship", values that are integral to the framework of Australian society.

The award recipient for 2019 was **Annalise Della Libera** of Year 12.

Annalise is a Cadet Corporal in the Australian Air Force Cadets, a Junior Instructor/2<sup>nd</sup> Dan Black Belt in Taekwondo and a recipient of the 2018 Kokoda Youth Leadership Challenge.

Through her various involvement in the wider community, Annalise demonstrated great leadership qualities, including being appointed Section and Flight Commander in the AAFC and as a team coach in the PK Wolves Taekwondo Team. Her teamwork and active participation in the broader community was also evident in her role as the 2018/2019 Youth Leadership Ambassador for St Marys Leagues Club, which was appointed to only two individuals, recognised for their high levels of mateship and contributions to the wider community. Annalise's further involvement in the Red Shield Doorknock Appeal, Legacy Day Badge selling, Graffiti Removal Day and Dragons Abreast Festival are evidence that she was a most worthy recipient of this award.



## Macquarie University Leadership Award

This award recognises two students who have shown initiative and have made an active and significant contribution to their community.

This years' award recipients were **Emily Bouchet and Lowrence Maring**.



Both Emily and Lowrence demonstrated exemplary leadership, initiative and commitment to their studies and school. They performed well academically, participating in extracurricular activities and making an active contribution to their community.

Lowrence is a young man with a clear commitment to both his academic studies and his community. He demonstrated a number of strengths across all of his Year 11 subjects, being keen to build on his results thus far to ensure that he achieved the best possible HSC results in 2020. Lowrence balanced his academic pursuits with a number of school and community activities. For example, as a member of our Student Representative Council in 2019, Lowrence was involved in a range of whole school areas, including running fundraising BBQs and Heritage Day activities. His thoughtful, positive and consistent contributions to such activities saw him recently re-elected to the SRC for 2020. Lowrence was also a leader of our school's Fatfish Group, a student-led, non-denominational Christian group that meets regularly and engaged in service activities such as organising our annual ValYOU Day, a fundraising activity for Beyondblue. A talented musician, Lowrence regularly performed in and assisted in the running of school performance showcases. A respectful, positive and talented young man, Lowrence hopes to pursue missionary work when he leaves school at the end of 2020, after continuing to work to enhance the school community here at St Marys Senior High School.

**Emily** is a remarkable young woman who has demonstrated initiative both in the classroom and within the school community. She has shown persistence and determination in her academic studies, particularly enjoying Studies of Religion and Society and Culture. This fits perfectly with her commitment to social justice and inclusivity, two fundamental rights that Emily has championed during her time at St Marys Senior High School. Having been elected to the Student Representative Council by her peers, Emily worked tirelessly on a number of important projects across the school, including our annual Heritage Day which sees us celebrate the unique cultural backgrounds that make up the community of our school. She was a proactive and engaging cluster leader throughout the year, and volunteered to help students new to our school at Enrolment Evenings. Emily has

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also been part of the leadership teams of a number of student-led clubs, including PRISM, Amnesty and the Gentlemen's Society. Her involvement in school events also saw her leading the team that successfully organised and ran the first "Wear it Purple Day" at our school, proudly held in 2019. Emily was a thoroughly deserving recipient of this award.

### **Macquarie University Leaders and Achievers Award**

This award recognises a student who demonstrates outstanding leadership skills, a commitment to study, participates in extracurricular activities and has made an active contribution to their community.

This years' award recipient was **Caitlin Brines**.

In both 2018 and 2019, Caitlin has been recognised for her commitment to her studies by her teachers, receiving many commitment awards. She was ranked in the top 10 for all of her Higher School Certificate subjects, achieving 1<sup>st</sup> place in PDHPE, 1<sup>st</sup> place in Business Studies, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Legal Studies in 2019, whilst successfully completing her Higher School Certificate for Mathematics Advanced, Mathematics Extension 1 and English Advanced in 2018.



Most notable were Caitlin's outstanding achievements on the sporting field.

Caitlin has had great success in basketball during her two years at St Marys Senior High School, progressing from school to the Werrington Zone, Sydney West Area and onto the Combined High Schools State carnival. At Sydney West level, she competed in high jump, whilst excelling in netball, triathlon and cross country. She was a valued team member of the school netball team that were Werrington Zone and Sydney West Champions in 2018 and 2019 and competed at the NSW Netball State Knockout Competition, finishing 9<sup>th</sup> in the State. She was also selected to represent the Werrington Zone in cross country and won the Dave Robilliard Sporting Achievement Award in both years.

### **Lindsay Award**

The Lindsay Award is given to a student who has shown determination to succeed. This year's recipient was **Shoaib Alam**.

Shoaib has shown outstanding determination, self-discipline and perseverance throughout his time at St Marys Senior HS. He is a young man keen to work hard to successfully achieve his goals across both his academic and personal pursuits. Shoaib's teachers in each of his courses of study have regularly commented on his conscientious work ethic, recognising him as a student who is determined to diligently pursue and realise his goals



both at school and beyond. This determination ensured that Shoaib achieved excellent results in a rigorous combination of HSC subjects while also engaging in a wide range of excursions and extracurricular activities to enrich and deepen his learning. Shoaib was a member of the school debating team and a leader of the Book Society, as well as organising and running a stall at our school's annual Heritage Day. A respectful, dedicated and focused young man, Shoaib was a very deserved recipient of the Lindsay Award.



### **Jack Jewry Award for Service to the School Community**

This award is sponsored by the Jack Jewry St Marys Ex-Students Association

Jack Jewry was an ex-student of St Marys High. He was one of the 17 Australians killed in the Battle of Long Tan in the Vietnam War. This award is given in his memory to a student who has dedicated a substantial amount of time to serving the school community. This year the recipient of this award is **Ashutosh Sharma**.

Ashutosh was elected to the student Representative Council in 2018 and in 2019, and received this award for outstanding participation, leadership and service to the school community. Ashutosh was an active member of the Student Representative Council and has a unique ability to consider the views of others and suggest imaginative alternatives, which have added an invaluable dimension to the discussion and decision making within this group thus benefitting our school community. During both 2018 and 2019, Ashutosh was involved in collaboratively running the Gentlemen's Society, including a stall on Heritage Day where he demonstrated his ability to work with others as well as excellent communication and leadership skills. Ashutosh also participated in the Ration Challenge where he volunteered to survive on the rations provided to refugees for five days. In doing so, he worked to increase awareness of the plight of refugees as well as raising funds for the charity, Act For Peace. Ashutosh has volunteered to provide guidance and assistance to students in his own time through our school's Peer Tutoring Program, specifically in the areas of Mathematics Extension 1, Japanese Beginners, Engineering Studies, and Physics.



Ashutosh was indeed a worthy recipient of this award.

## The Reuben F Scarf Award for Outstanding Commitment

Reuben F Scarf was a businessman, philanthropist and poet, who became very successful in commerce. He believed that with hard work, common sense and a purpose, all goals were achievable. This award is given annually to a Year 12 student who has demonstrated exceptional commitment, consistent effort and the desire to improve across all of their HSC subjects. In presenting this award, the school recognised the outstanding effort of one of our most dedicated students **Emily Mendoza**.



Emily was a mature, conscientious and diligent student, who effectively managed the pressures of her academic programme with outstanding success. This is evidenced by Emily's ranking of 1st place in Chemistry, Engineering Studies, Mathematics Extension II and Physics in her Higher School Certificate studies in 2019. She had a strong desire to succeed and shows admirable resolve in all that she undertook. Emily was also active in the school community, volunteering her services as a peer tutor in English Advanced, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and Engineering Studies and supporting student transition into St Marys Senior High School as a Confirmation Day guide. At all times Emily

displayed an outstanding level of commitment to these responsibilities whilst managing the demands of her challenging academic program. Emily was indeed a worthy recipient of this award.

## NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge Medal.



This was awarded to **Violet Wetsteyn** for her commitment to fair play, achievement in sport and overall contribution to the school's sporting program.

Violet was a member of many school sports teams including volleyball, basketball, netball, athletics and mixed netball. She played a large role in the success of these teams helping the netball team take out the Werrington Cup. Violet impressed selectors at the basketball and netball gala days and was chosen to be a member of the Werrington Zone teams. She later went on to represent Sydney West in

athletics and Sydney West and CHS in netball. During the CHS Netball Championships Violet was voted Player's Player by her teammates and has always represented her school, zone and region admirably. Violet has always demonstrated a commitment to fair play and expected nothing less from her team mates. A great team motivator and role model for other young sportspeople, Violet was a worthy recipient of this award.

## Most Outstanding Student in Year 11.

This award is presented to a student who has performed at an outstanding level across the range of their Preliminary courses.

This years' award recipient was **Remy Hannan**.

Remy achieved an outstanding ranking in all of her courses. She achieved 1<sup>st</sup> place in Studies of Religion 2, Modern History and Drama, 2<sup>nd</sup> in English Advanced, 6<sup>th</sup> in Society and Culture and 6<sup>th</sup> in Visual Arts. She explained that she loved all of the subjects she had chosen for her HSC pattern of study, ensuring that the work she undertook was enjoyable. However, Remy was also a very focussed and driven student who sought perfection in all that she does. On speaking to Remy, she recognised that she had performed strongly in her HSC studies thus far – but felt she needed to “up her game” in a number of areas, striving to perform at her best at all times. While maintaining an excellent academic record, Remy engaged in activities to deepen and enrich her learning, being selected to participate in the Regional Drama Festival, the State Drama Camp and the National Art School Program. Her passion for community service was clear from her involvement in the student-led PRISM Group and her leadership role in organising our school's inaugural Wear It Purple Day in 2019. A strong advocate for inclusivity, Remy was commended on achieving a positive balance between her interests and her academic studies.



## Best All-round student

This award, sponsored by Caltex is awarded to the student who is most outstanding in the academic, sporting and leaderships spheres of the school. This prestigious award went to a most deserving recipient – **Caitlin Brines**

Caitlin was an outstanding young woman who embodied all that the Caltex All Rounder Award entails. She maintained a focused and diligent approach to her studies across all of her HSC courses, with a number of these subjects completed in 2018 due to Caitlin's accelerated pattern of study. While she maintained an excellent academic record, Caitlin has not confined her school involvement to her HSC studies. She was actively involved in a range of sports here at St Marys Senior High School including basketball, high jump, netball, triathlon and cross country, demonstrating that she is able to compete successfully both as an individual and as a member of sporting teams at school, Werrington Zone, Sydney West and Combined High Schools levels. Caitlin also engaged in extracurricular activities across the school, including the school's annual Heritage Day celebrations and school leadership programs. Caitlin was a worthy recipient of this award.



## The Principal's Award.

This award recognises the extraordinary efforts of a student who achieved excellence in a range of areas within the school. In presenting **Isabelle Powell** with this award, the school acknowledged the contribution she made to the St Marys Senior High School community over the past two years. Isabelle is an outstanding student who consistently demonstrated her ability to strike a balance between striving for exemplary academic achievement and the demands of being a successful leader in the school community.

As School Vice-Captain in 2019 Isabelle assisted in the organisation of charity fundraising events including Heritage Day, Wear It Purple Day, Valentine's Day and Harmony Day. In this role Isabelle represented the views of students at School Council meetings, led fortnightly Cluster Meetings, canvassing student views on a range of issues and worked closely with the school's Senior Executive Team regarding school events. Isabelle was also an active member of the broader school community volunteering as a Year 12 Student Mentor to providing assistance to new students, engaging in service on Confirmation Day and Enrolment Evenings and acting as a student representative during the Remembrance Day and ANZAC day commemorations

Isabelle was a member of the Penrith Youth Advisory Council in 2018 designing a youth mental health showcase alongside other young people to promote harmony in the local community. She was also elected to the YMCA Youth Parliament in 2018, being appointed to the role of Minister of Women's Affairs and being awarded the NSW Youth Parliamentarian of the Year. In this role, she led a team of empowered young women to write a Bill that focused on the prevention of domestic violence. The bill was unanimously passed by the Youth Parliament and reviewed by NSW law makers.

As a strong advocate for woman, Isabelle worked closely with The Haven a newly established refuge in its second year of operation for women and children in the Penrith area, raising awareness for vulnerable people escaping domestic violence, providing donations and advocating publicly for support of women and children who find themselves homeless. Isabelle has continued to work closely with the Federal Member for Lindsay to ensure that the eradication of violence against women remains a focus. Isabelle was indeed a worthy recipient of this award.



## Our Staff Teams

Principal:	Sally Smithard
School Leadership Team:	
- Deputy Principal (Year 12)	Danielle Ervine
- Deputy Principal (Year 11)	Leah Havord
- English	Julie Robinson
- Mathematics	Simone Pett
- Science	Lidija Radovancevic
- Commercial Studies	Salochna Reddy
- HSIE (Rel)	Rebecca Langham
- CAPA	Nicole Bonfield
- Computing	Matthew Topp
- LOTE	Luigi Serra
- TAS/PDHPE	Rebecca Powell
- Secondary Studies	Liz Hemmings
- Student Services	Melissa Jacka
- First Australians	Leah Havord
- Sport and Recreation	Joanne Brines
- School Administrative Manager	Rebecca Zinghini
Student Advisers:	
- Year 12, Surnames A-G	Mitchell Baker
- Year 12, Surnames H-O	Lyn Tuckwell
- Year 12, Surnames P-Z	Jesse Vassallo
- Year 11, Surnames A-G	Luigi Serra
- Year 11, Surnames H-O	Andrew Mabey
- Year 11, Surnames P-Z	Nicola Preston
Learning Support:	Carmel Harriden
	Dianne Pyne
	Nicole Leong
	Carly McPherson
	Ashlee Pleffer
Careers Adviser:	Lyn Tuckwell

## Contact us



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St Marys Senior High School - Skoolbag App

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Thank you to all the staff and students who contributed articles for this edition of the South Creek Magazine.