

LORETO KIRRIBILLI

spirit

ISSUE 101 August 2026



Our Award-winning School

LORETO KIRRIBILLI WAS RECENTLY RECOGNISED IN THE 2026 AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION AWARDS

Our Principal, Dr Nicole Archard, has been named an Excellence Awardee as School Principal of the Year.

Junior School teacher, Ms Kate Archer, has been named an Excellence Awardee as Primary School Teacher of the Year, and Loreto Kirribilli Senior School has been named an Excellence Awardee for the most outstanding non-government secondary school in Australia.

These prestigious national awards recognise and celebrate schools that demonstrate exceptional excellence, innovation and leadership in Australian education.



LORETO KIRRIBILLI

Contributions for inclusion in *Spirit* should be sent to:
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SUSTAINABLE SPIRIT

As part of our drive to make our school more sustainable, we are no longer printing and mailing out *Spirit* magazine. However there will be a few copies available to be picked up from School Reception if desired.

Our magazine will always be available to read online at loreto.nsw.edu.au/connect/community/spirit-magazine/

Please remember also that our social media platforms are a great way to keep in touch! We hope you enjoy this edition of *Spirit*.

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Follow us to stay up to date with the latest Loreto Kirribilli news



First Day
Term 2



Year 12
Jerseys



Milson House
Liturgy



Wellbeing
Week



Saturday
Sport



Year 5 'Bailed Up!
Workshop



Year 7
Geography



Head of Junior School
for a Day



Companions
in Learning



Ex-Students' Union
Card Day



loretokirribilli



Loreto Kirribilli



LoretoKirribilliSchool

A Message from the Principal

DR NICOLE ARCHARD | BA DipEd, MA, MEdLead, MTheolSt, PhD

EDUCATING GIRLS: WHY GIRLS' SCHOOLS MATTER MORE THAN EVER

More than 400 years ago, Mary Ward declared, "*Women, in time to come, will do much.*" It was a radical statement for the seventeenth century, but it remains equally powerful today. Despite the extraordinary progress women have made in education, business, science, politics and public life, the reality is that gender equality is still unfinished work.



As Principal of Loreto Kirribilli, and as someone who has spent my career researching girls' education and women's leadership, I often reflect on an important question: Why do girls' schools still matter?

The answer lies not only in history, but also in the evidence.

A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Recently, I had the privilege of presenting at the International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS) Global Forum in Toronto. This conference brought together educators from more than 580 girls' schools across 28 countries, making it the world's largest gathering dedicated solely to girls' education. Bringing together educators from around the world, the conference was an opportunity to explore the latest research on girls' education, hear from leading experts and reflect on the unique responsibility we have in educating the next generation of young women.

I was honoured to present on the work taking place at Loreto Kirribilli through our *Strategic Vision* and *Education Framework* in a presentation titled *From Effort to Empowerment: Educating Girls as Agents of Change*. Sharing our approach with an international audience reinforced something I have long believed, that when schools intentionally nurture confidence, curiosity, leadership and purpose, girls flourish. More importantly, they develop the capacity to shape the world around them.

One keynote speaker particularly resonated with me as she challenged us to think differently about the purpose of girls' schools by suggesting that girls' schools are not simply preparing girls for the world; they are preparing the world through girls. That simple shift in language carries enormous significance. Our role is not merely to equip girls to navigate the world as it currently exists, but to educate young women who will shape a better, more compassionate and more just world for others.



WOMEN, IN TIME TO COME...

Whilst in Toronto, myself and staff from all six of our Australian Loreto schools had the opportunity to spend time visiting Loretto Abbey School, Loretto College, and the Mary Ward Centre (note Loreto is spelt with a double 'tt' in Canada – as it was originally in Australia before we dropped to a single 't' in the early 1900s). It is always a privilege to visit other Loreto schools and organisations. This visit confirmed our united global vision of Mary Ward and our shared commitment to educating girls who will lead lives of purpose, faith and service.

Walking through classrooms, meeting staff, students and Loretto Sisters reinforced for me the enduring strength and global reach of a Loreto education. Whether in Sydney, Toronto or elsewhere in the world, I was struck by the shared commitment to educating girls who will lead with courage, compassion and conviction.

The vision of Mary Ward remains as relevant today as it was over 400 years ago. Her belief that women should receive an education equal to men was courageous and revolutionary for its time. It continues to inspire our work today.

Mother Gonzaga Barry carried this vision to Australia, establishing Loreto schools that would educate girls not simply for personal success, but for lives of service, leadership and purpose. It is a legacy that continues to shape generations of Loreto women.



May Day

HELEN THOMAS | DIRECTOR OF MISSION K-12

Our May Day celebration remains one of the most special and symbolic events in our school calendar, when we honour our Loreto tradition and raise awareness of and funds for the charitable works of the Loreto Sisters through Mary Ward International Australia.



From the opening moment of the students placing flowers at the statue of Mary, to the reverent Liturgy and the crowning of Mary by our youngest student Sophia Hummel (Kindergarten), to the vibrant Year 6 stalls and the ever popular sausage sizzle, the spirit of community was truly alive. Our Junior School was then further energised by the lively entertainment from Sweet Baby Darlings who had the GBC rocking, singing and dancing.

At the May Day Liturgy, we welcomed former School Captain Harper Gracie ('21) as a guest speaker. After completing a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Melbourne in 2024, Harper took a gap year before commencing full-time work at NAB. During this time, she travelled to Kolkata, India, with her sister Coco Gracie ('23), where they spent time at the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre. *Read her story overleaf.*



Watching every girl place the flowers was like seeing a spring garden bloom.

FRANKIE MEECH Year 6



May Day Stalls



May Day Concert



A life-changing trip to Kolkata

HARPER GRACIE | SCHOOL CAPTAIN CLASS OF 2021

Visiting Kolkata made me truly realise how incredible it is to be a Loreto student. When we talk about the global Loreto network, I've now seen it in real life, and it is amazing. In a country of over a billion people, it is not uncommon to meet someone on the street in India who knows - or has a connection with - someone whose life has been impacted by Loreto.

HARPER GRACIE ('21)



Coco and Harper were welcomed as guests of honour at Child's Rights Week celebration on Gangasagar Island in West Bengal.

Coco and I had wanted to travel to India for a long time. Our mum and aunty travelled to Kolkata after they graduated Loreto Normanhurst to volunteer at Loreto Sealdah, where they worked alongside Sister Cyril, a woman who had an extraordinary impact on education in India.

As Principal of Loreto Sealdah, Sister Cyril founded the Rainbow School, a program that began by going into the slums around Kolkata railway station and inviting young children, who otherwise had no access to education, to come and live and learn at Loreto.

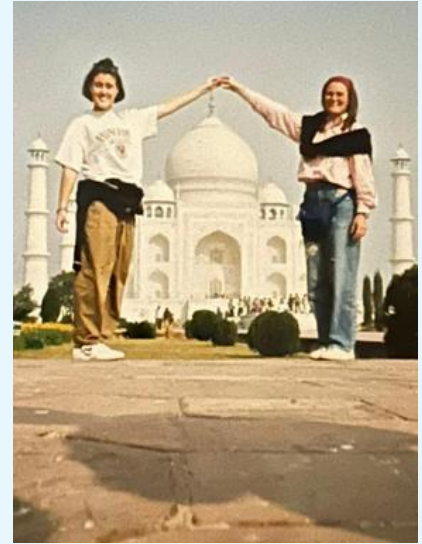
When we arrived at Loreto Sealdah, we felt something instantly familiar - the unmistakable buzz of the Loreto spirit, alive on the other side of the world. We met the most beautiful girls. They were all so happy and filled with so much excitement and pride when they showed us around.

The sisters who remain in Kolkata have continued to build on Sister Cyril's vision, on a scale that would've been impossible 30 years ago. In 2014, the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre (KMWSC) was founded. It was created to expand this mission beyond the foundational Loreto

schools - to reach even more of the most vulnerable communities across the Indian state of West Bengal.

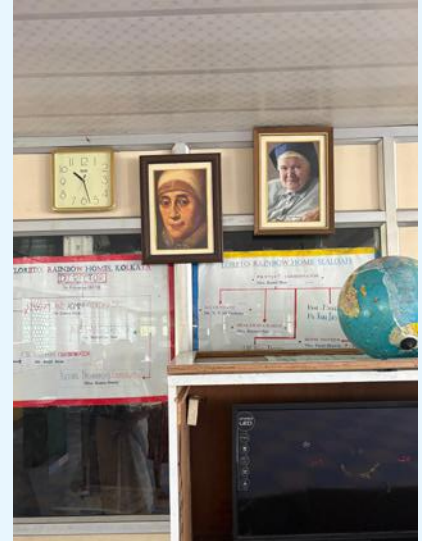
Coco and I spent the majority of our time in India visiting the incredible projects run by the centre.

Truthfully, it was a very confronting experience. We visited communities where women and children were at constant risk of trafficking, where families were living in the most extreme poverty, and if not for the centre's programs, these children would have no access to education, be forced to work, and would never be able to escape the poverty cycle.



These programs bring real, tangible hope into people's lives. And for these communities, simply knowing that someone, somewhere cares enough to support them is powerful - it's a force that is genuinely changing the future for so many families. And we saw that first hand.

One of the highlights was getting to know the sisters living and working in Kolkata. Every one of them has dedicated their life to serving others. And they are a powerful reminder to all of us here today - that we each have the ability to make a real and lasting difference.



Top left and centre

Loreto supports out-of-school and working children in Kolkata's slums and brickfields by providing education, healthcare, and access to legal identity and government support.

Top right

Harper Gracie's mum and aunt, Robi and Jane Stanton, graduates of Loreto Normanhurst, travelled to India in 1992 to volunteer with the Loreto sisters.

Above middle

Students at Loreto Sealdah were filled with excitement when the Gracie sisters visited.

Above right

A portrait of Mary Ward hangs alongside the Rainbow Home's founder, Sister Cyril.

Bottom right

Harper and Coco visited many of the projects run by KMWSC which help vulnerable communities across the Indian state of West Bengal.



Sharing our Faith

VERITY IMMERSION

Year 11 students spent a week on Immersion with the Nyinyikay First Nations community in East Arnhem Land, where they participated in traditional weaving and learnt language and kinship. They also visited Yirrkala art gallery and learnt about the history of the relationship between the Macassans and the Yolgnu.



"Getting to experience a different way of life, getting to view the world through a different lens, and getting to know the environment around us in ways we never would have been able to, made Immersion so incredibly special. We had opportunities to go on knowledge walks, learning about native plants and animals, and to experience the respect First Nations people have for the land and what it provides."

MALAIKA CLANCY Year 11

Sharing our Faith

ANZAC DAY

We were honoured to welcome General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK AC (Mil) CVO MC (Retd) and Lady Lynne Cosgrove as special guests at our Anzac Commemoration Assembly for students from Kindergarten to Year 12. At this assembly, Sir Peter delivered a powerful address, drawing on his extensive leadership experience across his distinguished military career, his role as Australian of the Year in 2001, and as Australia's 26th Governor-General.

Throughout his address, Sir Peter spoke about leadership as something embodied in our actions and behaviour. He reminded the girls that leadership requires confidence and conviction, and that it is not something we can simply 'clock off' from when it does not suit us. Rather, our actions must always reflect the dignity of the role we hold, regardless of whether that role is large or small. These were important messages for our girls as they reflect on how they lead in their daily lives, both with and without a badge.

DR NICOLE ARCHARD

Principal



MOTHERS' DAY MASS

Mothers, grandmothers, students and ex-students gathered in Centenary Hall for our annual Mother Daughter Mass, a truly wonderful community event. Thank you to our celebrant, Fr Brett O'Neill SJ, and to mum, Amy Fisk and daughter Phoebe (Year 12) for their heartfelt address about the special bond between mothers and daughters. Year 11 parents, the Ex-Students' Union and a band of helpers served up a delicious morning tea afterwards, a chance for the many generations of women in our Loreto community to reconnect.



Sharing Our Faith

THE STORY OF A STATUE



On a cold day in June this year, Loreto Kirribilli had a surprise visitor. Georgia Meredith, who now lives in the USA, was 25 years ago working as a life model in Adelaide and quite by chance became the model for the artist and sculptor Meliesa Judge. 'Meliesa saw me and said, you have the same bone structure as Mary Ward! You must be my model!' Georgia posed for Meliesa over several months, holding the exact walking position for hours at a time while the sculptor sculpted her figure and face precisely, with layers of clay building up the now-familiar striding figure of Mary Ward.

In 2001, the Loreto Schools Australia Committee (LSAC) had commissioned Meliesa, from the Liquid Metal studio/foundry in Adelaide, to create an "enduring image" of Mary Ward. The sculpture was to bring her story to life, and unify the Loreto community across generations and across the nation.

The sculpture took Meliesa, assisted by her partner at Liquid Metal, Will

Keuper, five years to complete, beginning with research, making studies and maquettes (small models), through to modelling the life-size sculpture, taking input from the Committee, making the moulds, pouring molten metal, die-grinding the bronzes and overseeing the sculpture's installation.

Between 2007 and 2009, eight sculptures were installed in each of the Australian Loreto schools, John XXIII College and the Loreto Province Office.

In April 2007, a large crane lowered Mary Ward #1 sculpture into place at Loreto Kirribilli on a sandstone plinth in the garden outside the heritage Elamang building; a place which has become, in the 19 years since, the heart and meeting place of the school.

And as for her doppelganger, Georgia? She was happy to drop in to the school to say hello to the Mary Ward statue in her likeness.



Mary is depicted as an active rather than contemplative figure ... as she steps strongly forward, it reflects her 'spirituality in action.'

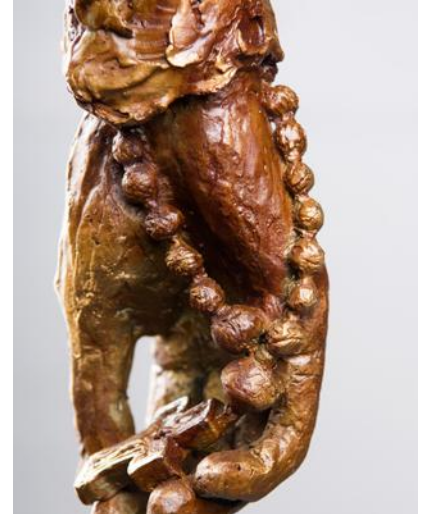
MELIESA JUDGE Sculptor

Sharing Our Faith

THE STORY OF A STATUE

"In so many ways, this sculpture is the work of an entire community. So many people contributed ideas, insights, research and enthusiasm ... they brought me their vision, and I became their inspired hands."

MELIESA JUDGE Sculptor



The sculpture is rich in meaning. Mary's Rosary beads are held in her hand, the decade looped casually around her wrist, expressing the concept of 'a woman's faith held close.'



In April 2007, after years of work, the first Mary Ward sculpture is lowered into position, overseen by the artist and her helpers. Adelaide artist Meliesa Judge attended the school's unveiling of the sculpture, and spoke to the girls about her inspiration and processes in designing and producing this significant piece of art.

Open Day

SHOWCASING OUR BEAUTIFUL SCHOOL



Mary Ward certainly answered our prayers for our inaugural Open Day, providing the most spectacular weather thus allowing us to showcase our beautiful school at its very best. The feedback from families who attended has been overwhelmingly positive. I felt incredibly proud of our school on the day, our dedicated staff, our confident students, and our generous parent volunteers who gave their time to support the event.



"We had the pleasure to attend your Open Day and we realised that, as we expected, Loreto Kirribilli is what we are looking for in our little girl, not just in terms of education. You have a wonderful community and girls with an excellent education." **OPEN DAY VISITOR**

Open Day was a magnificent celebration of all that makes Loreto Kirribilli such a special place. It provided an opportunity for visitors to experience firsthand the warmth, spirit, values, sense of community, and exceptional learning that we see and cherish every day.

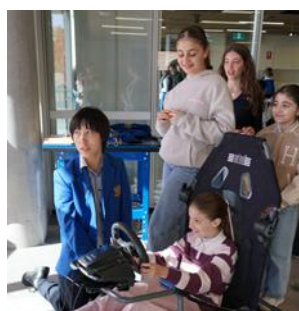
DR NICOLE ARCHARD
Principal



Open Day

SHOWCASING OUR BEAUTIFUL SCHOOL

"We thoroughly enjoyed our visit and were extremely impressed with Loreto Kirribilli. The students were warm, polite, and engaging, reflecting the strong sense of community and values that the school fosters. The teachers and staff were also incredibly helpful, approachable, and generous with their time, making us feel very welcome throughout the day." **OPEN DAY VISITOR**



Social Justice

HELEN THOMAS | DIRECTOR OF MISSION K-12



AURORA FOUNDATION

At our National Reconciliation Week Assembly, we were fortunate to have Isabella from Aurora House with us to share her story. Isabella is a Kamillaroi and Wiradjuri woman, who joined Aurora's High School Program in Year 8. She graduated Year 12 at the end of 2025 and has since returned as a mentor, supporting the educational journeys of other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.



The Aurora Education Foundation is an Indigenous organisation that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from high school through to university and the workplace, redefining Indigenous educational and employment success. Our Milson House leaders have chosen Aurora for their house charity this year, putting on a treat for the school community with a Bake Sale to raise funds. Well done to all the Milson bakers who creatively featured their House colour red in cakes and biscuits, and our Milson House leaders for their excellent organisational skills.



Social Justice

HELEN THOMAS | DIRECTOR OF MISSION K-12

YEAR 9 CHARISM DAY

To mark Reconciliation Week, our Year 9 students experienced a Charism Day, beginning with Mass in the Chapel, celebrated by Fr Choong from St Aloysius' College. The Mass focused on the importance of reconciliation both within our Catholic tradition and in broader Australian society. This was followed by a mini-Immersion experience where First Nations people shared some of their knowledge and cultural practices. Students had a weaving session with Malima, from the La Perouse Aboriginal community, and Bundjalung woman, Kirra Randall from Bomborra, shared her knowledge of traditional bush tucker, native wildlife and bush medicine.

The day concluded with a screening of the 2019 documentary, *The Final Quarter*. Students reflected afterwards on the importance of respect and considered actions they can take to show their support for reconciliation with the First Peoples of Australia.



SUPPORTING ST VINCENT DE PAUL

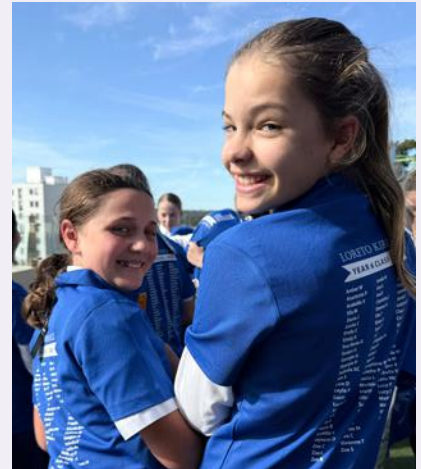
Loreto Kirribilli is a long-time supporter of the St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies), who do so much to help disadvantaged Australians. Student leaders across the school organised an end-of-term gold coin Hoodie and Pyjama Day to raise funds for the Vinnies Winter Appeal, helping families who are facing severe financial hardship and homelessness. Meanwhile, in the Junior School, support for the Vinnies Van continues, with families on a roster to provide nutritious meals for Vinnies' mobile outreach service.



Wellbeing

CELEBRATING THE 'CLASSES OF 2026'

There was a buzz of excitement as our HSC cohort unwrapped their blue and gold Class of 2026 jerseys, celebrating another milestone in their Year 12 journey. These jerseys become an indispensable companion for the students in their long winter hours of study. Meanwhile, our Year 6 students were excited to receive their polo shirts, symbolising their journey through the Junior School as they enter their final semester of their primary years.



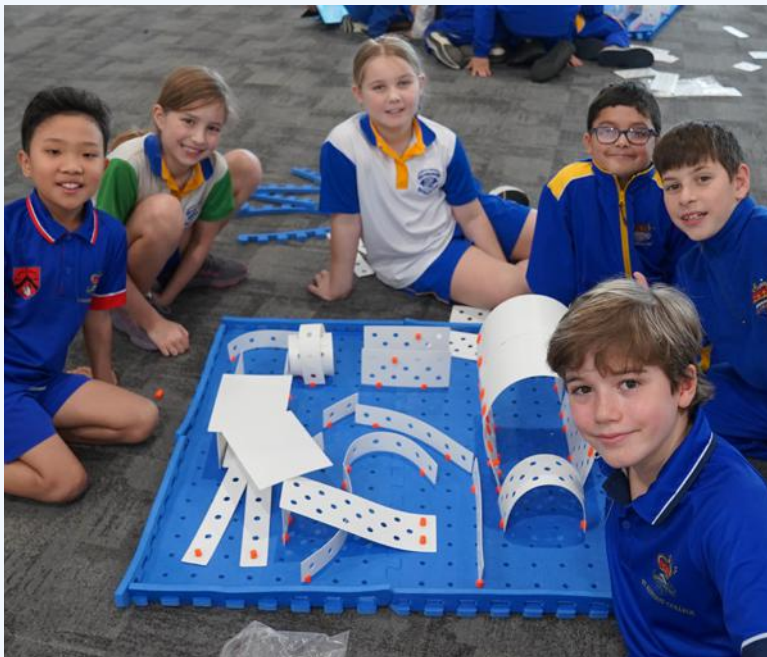
WELLBEING WEEK

Coinciding with May Day, we celebrated Wellbeing Week, with lunchtime games, activities and mindfulness sessions. Our Junior School Wellbeing Warriors led the charge to ensure we enjoyed a fun week. Year 11 girls made Friendship bracelets with our youngest students. Early risers among our staff gathered for a sunrise walk across the Harbour Bridge. A lunchtime concert in the Quad featured entertainment by some of our talented musicians and vocalists.

Companions in Learning

CAREERS EXPO

St Aloysius' College hosted the annual Companions in Learning Careers Expo, where students from Years 11 and 12 were able to talk to representatives from local and interstate universities, TAFE, NSW Police, the Australian Defence Force and private colleges. Students also heard from guest speakers from three of our major universities, each outlining their faculties, key campus features, similarities and differences. This expo is invaluable for students as they decide on their next career steps, allowing them to explore institutions, course offerings, and talk first-hand to experts.



YEAR 4 STEM TECH DAY

We welcomed Year 4 students from St Aloysius' College for a Companions in Learning STEM Tech Day, where students collaborated in small groups, applying their design, engineering and technology skills to a series of engaging and thought-provoking challenges.



DEBATING THE ENVIRONMENT

As part of 2026 Laudato Si' Week, senior students participated in the annual Companions in Learning Loreto Kirribilli vs St Aloysius' Debate, arguing the negative case for the topic: 'That protecting the environment should take priority over preserving cultural traditions.' Speaker Ruby Dickerson, Year 12, summarised their case: *"We argued that the motion presents a false choice, as many of the world's most effective environmental practices are rooted in cultural traditions. We lost - narrowly!"*

Music Festival

JESSICA FARRELL | HEAD OF PERFORMING ARTS K-12 (EXTRA-CURRICULAR)

At the end of Term 2, our School community came together for our annual Music Festival, a cherished tradition that showcased the extraordinary talent, dedication and spirit of our students.

The Music Festival represents the culmination of many months of preparation and hard work. Throughout the year, students have enthusiastically participated in House Dance, Dance Adjudications, Music Festival Adjudications, the Ensembles Concert and countless rehearsals, all leading to this beautiful evening of performance. A highlight of the evening was the annual House Choir Competition, with each House delivering a vibrant and spirited performance. The success of these performances was due in no small part to the leadership of our Music Captains and Vice Captains, who selected, taught and directed their House Choir pieces while fostering enthusiasm and House pride throughout the preparation process.

Congratulations to the recipients of this year's Music Festival awards.

- House Dance Champions: Ward
- Best Performance of the Prayer: Barry
- Accompanist Prize: Miriam Seah, Year 10
- Music Festival Shield: Barry
- Music Festival Spirit Cup: Heaton
- Best House Choir Performance: Heaton

As it was my first year coordinating this event, I wasn't sure what to expect in the end, but it proved wholeheartedly that Loreto Kirribilli is a school where the arts thrive and that is matched with the most wonderful spirit and comradery. Congratulations to all students for your hard work and passionate performances - I am very proud of all our students and thank them for trusting me with what is such a special event.

Fill us with the light of day!





Whilst I am continuously blown away by the incredible display of musical talent and hard work within our very school, tonight is about the way that our community comes together in spirit and in joy. That's what makes Music Festival so special. Whether you can sight read perfectly, have never played an instrument before or if the extent of your musical journey is singing in the shower, the love that fills this room is created by every single one of us.

CAITLIN WONG

Excerpt from School Captain's address



Junior School Concert

DANIELLE ABBOTT | MUSIC TEACHER

The 'Just Dance' Concert was a wonderful showcase of the talent, enthusiasm and show-stopping rhythm of our Junior School performers! From Kindergarten to Year 6, each student's confidence and creativity shone brightly on stage, in front of an appreciative audience of families, staff and students.



Future of Learning

SHARON PORTLOCK | HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

UNPACKING SCHOOLWIDE DATA

In early May, Loreto Kirribilli hosted an education conference entitled, *Unpacking Schoolwide Data*, bringing together educators from across Sydney to explore how schools can use data-informed practices to strengthen teacher and student agency.

Kate Archer and I presented how our Junior School's purposeful use of data can empower both teachers and students. We spoke about the school's commitment to developing a strong, unified approach to teaching and learning. This journey has centred on three key pillars: a shared vision, a shared language and understanding, and shared practice. By aligning these elements, Loreto Kirribilli has created clarity and consistency across classrooms, ensuring that all members of the community are working towards common goals.

We highlighted the importance of placing the student at the centre of all decision-making. The school's Education Framework reflects a holistic approach, integrating learning, wellbeing, mission, and professional practice to support both personal and academic growth. A carefully developed shared language ensures consistency in how progress, learning, and growth are understood and discussed across the school.

The audience was keen to hear about the school's innovative approach to data. At Loreto



Kirribilli, data is not simply used to measure outcomes, but to 'tell a story' about each learner, guiding reflection, identifying progress, and informing next steps. Importantly, data is viewed as a catalyst for action, fostering meaningful professional dialogue and continuous improvement.

Director of Teaching and Learning, Mat Clausen, also gave a presentation about Loreto Kirribilli's innovative whole-school Effort Tracking initiative. By shifting attention from grades to learning behaviours - such as

focus, diligence, and behaviour - students are encouraged to reflect, set goals, and take ownership of their learning. Through structured reflection, SMART goal setting, and coaching conversations with teachers, students are developing a deeper understanding of themselves as learners.

Both presentations received exceptionally positive feedback from attendees, with many educators commenting on the innovative, future-focused and research-informed practices being implemented at Loreto Kirribilli.

Partnerships

ENSEMBLE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Ensemble Theatre and Loreto Kirribilli have announced a new reciprocal education partnership. The Ensemble Theatre is an institution familiar to many; since 1958, the theatre has presented the best of international plays, well-loved classics and new Australian works. Ensemble also has a well-established education program, giving students and teachers insights into the world of theatre, from the performance, to backstage, to the creative process. The partnership has already kicked off with several workshops and masterclasses, including an HSC workshop and a school holiday program. We look forward to a wonderful, enriching collaboration between two local Kirribilli institutions: Loreto Kirribilli and Ensemble Theatre!



YEAR 12 GROUP DEVISING WORKSHOPS

Actor/director Anna Houston held a series of workshops with Year 12 Drama students in preparation for their upcoming HSC Drama Group Devised Performance. Anna is directing *The Dapto Chaser* at Ensemble this year and has been a long-standing teaching artist and director at NIDA. Through a series of practical exercises, students learnt how to develop the spine of a piece, explore theatrical movement in space and create powerful moments using their bodies.

PLAYWRIGHT WORKSHOP

Award-winning playwright and lyricist, Hilary Bell, held a playwright workshop with House Drama Captains, to support the creation of their plays for the House Drama Competition. The workshop covered what makes a good play; how to create interesting characters; how to get started when writing a play script; and how to restructure a story to create new meaning. The session concluded with a Q&A with Hilary, where she gave high-quality industry advice on the playwriting process.

"How I enjoyed working with your lively, bright and eager students. I have no doubt that they'll all knock it out of the park when it comes to writing their plays!"

HILARY BELL Playwright



ENSEMBLE YOUTH STUDIO

Over the winter break, Ensemble launched its Ensemble Youth Studio (EYS) program at Loreto Kirribilli with a series of dynamic week-long workshops for Kindergarten to Year 9 students. Students from Loreto Kirribilli and other schools in the area made use of the spaces in the Auditorium and Foyer, working towards a special end-of-week performance on the Ensemble stage. Ensemble Theatre's Education and Community Engagement Lead, Sophie Kelly, who developed the initiative, explained, *"These workshops give young people the opportunity to learn from professional artists, build confidence, and experience the unique thrill of performing on the Ensemble stage in front of family and friends. It's about creating a meaningful first connection to theatre that can stay with them for years to come."*

TARONGA STUDENT AMBASSADORS

To launch our learning partnership with Taronga Conservation Society, students, parents, staff, and board members joined members of the Education unit at Taronga Zoo for the commissioning of our inaugural Loreto Kirribilli Taronga Student Ambassadors.



We heard from Paul Maguire, Director of Education at Taronga, who has dedicated more than 30 years to conservation, education and youth engagement. Our Principal, Dr Nicole Archard, spoke of the significance of the Taronga-Loreto Kirribilli partnership within our school community. Guest speaker, Belinda Fairbrother, Manager of Guest Learning and Community Impact at Taronga, inspired the audience with her tales of Antarctica, the Taronga theory of change, success stories like the sustainable palm oil campaign, and the need for more women in STEM.

Thirty two students from Years 4 to 10 received their Ambassador certificates and gave a pledge *"to care for our planet and all living things. Our mission is conservation: to speak up for wildlife, protect our environment and inspire others to make a difference."*

RACHEL NOONAN

Coordinator of Transdisciplinary Learning & Partnerships K-12

Innovation & Creativity

FLIGHT FUTURES PROGRAM

Loreto Kirribilli is the first school in Australia to offer a flying elective, Flight Futures, where students can work towards obtaining their Recreational Pilot Licence. To kick off the program, eight students took part in a trial flight at Curtis Aviation in Camden. There were some understandable nerves on arrival, but these quickly eased as students explored the aircraft. They took to the skies in a Cirrus and two Citabria light planes - each designed for two passengers and ideal for learning the fundamentals of flight. The standout outcome was that every student completed 30 minutes towards their Recreational Pilot Licence.

DR JONATHON MASORELLA

Director of Technology & Innovation



GOLD RUSH DAY

We welcomed parents to the Year 5 classrooms for a showcase of this term's learning in a transdisciplinary unit about the Gold Rush. The girls created 3D dioramas to represent a street scene from Bakery Hill, created a virtual world using Delightex to display what life on the goldfields was like, and put together their research in an interactive book. They also became an historical figure for the day, demonstrating their extensive knowledge of a person in history. The girls enjoyed being completely immersed in their characters, and the afternoon was topped off with delicious home-made damper.

SALLY HARRISON, NIKKI KINGSLEY-JONES & SOPHIE SCROOPE

Year 5 Teachers



DAY OF AI

In a collaborative, fun Day of AI, students in Years 5 and 7 explored the world of AI: what it is, how it works, and its ethics and responsible use. The students developed their understanding of machine learning, setting to work in teams to train the computer to recognise facial and hand gestures. Students also learned about prompt iteration and the 'prompt sausage'. At the end of the day, the teams presented their ideas on how AI could be put to use to solve an environmental, social or medical need.

The Day of AI is an Australia-wide initiative designed to equip students from Kindergarten to Year 12 with foundational understanding of artificial intelligence. Its aim is to transform students from passive users of technology into active, ethical innovators and creators of the future.

MARIA EMMI

Leader of Technology K 12



EV Racing Comes to Life

DR JONATHON MASCORELLA | DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION



Our EV Racing teams have been buzzing with excitement this term as students continue to bring their cars, teams and race-day plans to life. Each main team is made up of several smaller groups, with every student playing an important role in the final development of the program.

The **Pit Crew** and **Performance teams** have been learning how to build the cars, developing their understanding of tools, parts and the construction process required to prepare the vehicles for the track. Attaching the braking systems has proven to be one of the biggest challenges so far, with a complex arrangement of switches and cable-driven components on both sides of the front wheels making for some excellent problem-solving opportunities. The next steps will be to add the electrical and drive systems, bringing the cars one step closer to race day.

Our **Goblin** and **F24 Design teams** are finalising logos, paint layouts and team presentation, ensuring the cars, race suits and helmets reflect a strong and professional team identity. The F24+ team is also preparing for an exciting stage of the build, with students set to begin fibreglassing their aerodynamic cowlings in the first weeks of Term 3.

The **Finance and Logistics teams** have been hard at work budgeting for race suits and helmets, organising trailer hire for race day, and preparing the resources

needed for upcoming track sessions. The **Media team** has begun creating Instagram content and will continue this work in Term 3 through Newsletter articles and a school assembly presentation for students. Meanwhile, the **Marketing team** has started exploring partnerships, with some already secured, and is preparing car displays for Federation and Spring Fair later in the year.

The importance of this experience cannot be understated. Each sub-team has a critical role to play, and while some weeks are quieter than others, most of the time it is full steam ahead. The structure of the program gives every student a defined role and a genuine way to contribute, whether they are building, designing, budgeting, communicating, promoting or preparing for race day.

Most importantly, the EV Racing program gives students the opportunity to apply their talents while learning new skills, building relationships and working towards shared deadlines. It is a practical, exciting and deeply collaborative experience that brings together engineering, creativity, teamwork and real-world problem-solving.

As the cars continue to take shape, so too does the sense of pride and momentum across the teams. We look forward to seeing our students' hard work come together on the track and sharing more of their progress in Term 3.

Cultural Tour of England

CLARE THOMAS | ENGLISH COORDINATOR

English and Drama students from Years 9, 10 and 11 embarked on a cultural tour of England, immersing themselves in the rich literary, theatrical, and cultural traditions that have shaped Britain.

The tour began in the north, with a visit to Lake Windermere and Wordsworth's grave, the Lake District and Bronte Parsonage, the medieval streets of York, and the town of Stratford-upon-Avon, where they attended a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and enjoyed a two-hour drama workshop at the Royal Shakespeare Company. Students also visited St Thomas's Church in Osbaldwick to see the grave of Mary Ward, deepening students' understanding of her legacy and historical significance. The journey continued to Bath, the backdrop for Jane Austen's novels, and then to London, where students visited Shakespeare's Globe Theatre for a vibrant performance of *Much Ado About Nothing* and an engaging drama workshop, bringing Shakespeare's works to life in the very setting that celebrates his enduring legacy.

Exploring London's renowned West End and Buckingham Palace to view the spectacular exhibition of the Queen's clothing, students gained fascinating insights into British history, culture, and craftsmanship. Literature students were particularly inspired by visits to the British Library and the British Museum, where they encountered some of the world's most treasured literary manuscripts, historical artefacts, and cultural collections.

Throughout the trip, students enthusiastically embraced every opportunity to deepen their understanding of British drama and literature. It was an unforgettable journey of learning, discovery, and cultural enrichment, leaving students with lasting memories and a deeper appreciation of the texts, stories, and traditions they study in the classroom.



Lady Elliot Island

A SCIENCE AND GEOGRAPHY ADVENTURE

In the May holidays, the Principal, Dr Archard, along with three other staff members, (Ms O'Keefe, Ms Inches, and Ms Giffney), accompanied 30 Year 10 girls on a Science and Geography adventure to Lady Elliot Island, located approximately 130km northeast of Hervey Bay, at the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef.



The educational focus was on understanding our precious Barrier Reef, and the need to prioritise environmental and conservation practices to protect this sacred space and its extraordinary wildlife. The trip also helped build resilience and confidence, with the tourists contending with bumpy plane rides in light aircraft, navigating deep water and ocean swells, and swimming with turtles and manta rays the size of small cars!



Learning

CHANGEMAKERS@LK LAUNCH

Now in its third year, ChangeMakers@LK marks an exciting milestone for our Year 6 students as they embark on an entrepreneurial, transdisciplinary journey. Our students were inspired by two of our alumnae, Tania Mastroianni ('12) and Georgie Drury ('94), who introduced the concept of entrepreneurship and shared their personal experiences.

Georgie Drury, an experienced entrepreneur and CEO with a passion for health and technology, and Tania Mastroianni, founder of Business with a Heart, a charity dedicated to inspiring and making a meaningful difference in the lives of others, spoke about what motivates them and the diverse roles that support entrepreneurial ventures. Both emphasised the importance of curiosity, perseverance, strong communication skills, and a genuine passion for making an impact.

Students also engaged in a deep exploration of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, examining how these global priorities are being addressed both internationally and within local communities.

Designing an app to address one of the UN goals will form the basis of the project. Students will meet with female professionals from the fields of business, IT, product development and marketing to gain invaluable real-world insights and enhance their understanding of entrepreneurship and the steps involved in bringing their ideas to life.

MARIA EMMI

Leader of Technology K-12 (Innovative Programs and Integration)



Learning



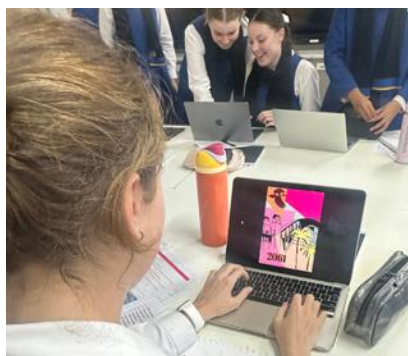
OFF TO THE ZOO

It was a day of discovery and adventure when Kindy set off for Taronga Zoo, to see many animals they had only read about or seen in pictures, from lions to giraffes to all kinds of native species. Our students learnt more about the animals' habitats and diets, and had plenty of questions for the Taronga Zoo staff. Being an official Education Partner of Taronga Conservation Society Australia, allows our students to be immersed in authentic, real-world learning and access a wide range of curriculum-aligned opportunities.



VISUAL ARTS INCURSION

Renowned artist, designer, educator and ex-student Sarah Fordham ('92) returned to Loreto Kirribilli to lead several inspiring workshops with Years 7 and 9 Visual Arts students. Sarah's workshop with Year 7, *One Thing Leads to Another*, took students through collage, photography, painting and drawing to create a finished artwork ready for display. With Year 9, Sarah worked with the girls on developing their site study portfolio of drawings, prints and photos into digital artworks using Adobe Illustrator. These vibrant prints will be displayed in the school as part of a public art installation.

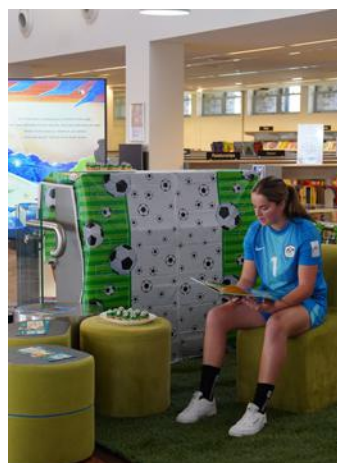


Learning



SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME

In a special National Simultaneous Storytime event in the Senior School Library, our star goalkeeper Annabelle Croll, just returned from the Asia Cup, read the story of *Luna Roo the Kangaroo Baller*. The story is an energetic underdog story about courage and teamwork by Adam Jackson and Adrian Lloyd and illustrated by Jake Minton. The Library was filled to bursting as our librarians took the footballing theme to the max, and Annabelle fielded questions from the audience about her Football career thus far.



CLEVER DOG

Year 2 students are working on a transdisciplinary unit, focusing on *How Technology Has Changed Over Time*. In a session about machine learning, the class had an exciting visit from the school's intelligent four-legged robot, an opportunity to ask questions about its construction, abilities, functions and how it operates.



YOUNG ARCHIES FINALIST

Congratulations to Evelyn Li (Year 10), whose portrait of her grandfather was selected as a finalist in the 2026 AGNSW Young Archies competition. The Gallery said this year they had received more than 4300 entries from young people from every state and territory across Australia. Evelyn's portrait, *Practice Makes Perfect*, depicts her grandfather with his calligraphy brush. Evelyn explains, *"I have dedicated this artwork to my grandfather. One of his many passions is Chinese calligraphy, and he sits at the old desk every day, patiently practising. Although I cannot read the letters and script he writes, I lean over his shoulder, watching in admiration. His work is his own delicate sport, and he never falters to find time to perfect each stroke of a brush. Every Sunday, as I wait for dinner time to come, I see his dedication and love for what he does as he shows me photos and big papers that tell stories."*



PIONEERING HEART SURGEON

Loreto Kirribilli dad and heart surgeon, Professor Tristan Yan, was our guest speaker for a special Junior School Learn@Lunch session. Professor Yan is Head of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital; Head of Thoracic Surgery, Chris O'Brien LifeHouse Cancer Centre; Head of Robotic Cardiothoracic Surgery, Sydney Adventist Hospital; and Clinical Professor of Surgery, University of Sydney. He has pioneered the use of next-generation robots to assist in surgery. He was featured on Channel 9 News last year for performing the first robotic aortic valve replacement. The girls were fascinated to hear about the heart, its functions, even from the earliest heartbeat, and how robotics have helped improve outcomes for heart patients. We are sure Professor Yan has inspired a few girls to become heart surgeons!

KATE ARCHER High Potential & Gifted Education Teacher

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

We welcomed Zali Steggall OAM, MP, to the school today to talk to our Year 6 students about her journey from school to parliament, leadership in action and how young people can find their voice and make a positive difference in their communities. The students had plenty of questions for Zali, asking her about the social media ban, gender equality in politics, taxes, and even her favourite moment as an Olympic skier. It was an amazing opportunity for our students to hear first-hand from an independent member of the House of Representatives. We thank Zali for sparing the time from her busy schedule to inspire our girls in their studies of democracy.



High Potential Gifted Education



YEARS 7 AND 8 DA VINCI THINKERS

Our Years 7 and 8 teams proudly represented the school at the da Vinci Decathlon, held at Knox Grammar School.

The day began bright and early, with students arriving at school at 6.30am. While many of us were still waking up, the girls were already hard at work revising notes, sharing past papers, and enthusiastically brainstorming strategies for the challenges ahead. For nearly half of the participants, this was their first da Vinci Decathlon, bringing with it a mix of excitement and nervous anticipation.

Selection for this event is a thoughtful process that considers a wide range of strengths. Students are chosen not only for their academic excellence in areas such as ethical enquiry, public speaking, and creative arts, but also for their ability to collaborate, think critically and creatively, take risks, and contribute to team success.

Competing against 84 schools, our students achieved outstanding results. Our Year 7 team placed an impressive 2nd in Creative Producers. The team was led by Captain Mia O'Callaghan, alongside Isabella Carroll, Sasha Griffiths, Harriet O'Connor, Claudia Harrison, Zoya Mareath, Ellen Sutton and Erica Natawardaja.

In addition, our Year 8 team secured 3rd place in Science. Led by Team Captain Siena Jarosch, the team included Alessandra Busa, Sara Inwood, Sophie Ward, Alexandra O'Gorman, Maddie Manchee, Althea Chan and Josephine Foo.

Congratulations to all students involved on their dedication, teamwork, and excellent achievements.



LUMIERE SCHOLARS

Congratulations to six of our talented writers who have received scholarship awards in the prestigious 2026 Lumiere Scholars Essay Award. From over 2,100 entries, submitted by students across more than 100 countries, the following students were recognised:

- Juliet Khoury (Year 9) - High Honors Award
- Claudia Antaw (Year 11) - Excellence
- Georgiana Holford (Year 10) - Excellence
- Audrey Ibrahim (Year 9) - Excellence
- Ava Byrne (Year 9) - Excellence
- Elizabeth Murray (Year 11) - Distinction

The students spent time over the first term and the school holidays researching and writing a 2,000 word essay on a topic of their choosing. The competition challenged them to explore issues they are passionate about, think critically across disciplines, question assumptions, and defend their ideas with rigorous evidence.

LARA STRATI

High Potential Gifted Teacher (7-12)

"Teachers and professors, I would argue, shoulder the underpaid, underappreciated burden of dragging the human race forward in leaps and bounds using crayons and whiteboard markers. To even suggest replacing this role with AI, or substituting parts of it, is to endorse a sterile imitation of what humanity has the potential to be."

Excerpt from essay by Georgiana Holford (Year 10)

High Potential Gifted Education



KIDS' LIT QUIZ

Congratulations to our four Loreto Kirribilli Kids' Lit Quiz Teams who did exceptionally well in the Northern Sydney Heats of the quiz. After some challenging rounds that tested knowledge of Classic Tales, Animal Rights, Confectionery and Characters from Mythology, the Junior School team of Emily James, Amber Wenkart, Nina Little and Grace Wiblin won the heat, earning them a place at the Nationals at the State Library.



GOLD MEDAL ETHICS

Congratulations to the Years 5 and 6 students who proudly represented Loreto Kirribilli in the 2026 Junior Ethics Olympiad Competition. Competing against 24 schools from across the region, our Year 6 team placed an impressive first place, taking the gold, with our Year 5 team followed closely behind in 7th place.

Year 5: Zoe Carroll, Lannika Kaye, Sofia Liddy, Olivia Szalay, Allegra Tang

Year 6: Charlotte Capes, Chloe Gordon, Claudia Gray, Helena Masztak, Isabella Volpato

These students have attended weekly training sessions with our High Potential and Gifted education teacher, Miss Kate Archer, engaging deeply with a wide range of ethical and philosophical case studies.



MOCK TRIAL

Loreto Kirribilli's 2026 Mock Trial team had our second round of the year, and we are very proud to say that we won! We competed against Cammeraygal High School, whose team presented a very strong case throughout the evening. It was lovely to welcome them to our school and host the Mock Trial in Spiritus.

The case we were arguing was about reckless property damage at a New Year's Party. It was very different to our last case, which was a financial dispute, but both cases have been equally engaging and fun to argue.

The Trial was a great opportunity for us to showcase what we have been training for over the past few weeks, and many of us tried out new roles for the first time. We would like to thank our coach, Mr Bain, for all of his guidance throughout. We look forward to the upcoming rounds of Mock Trial and to hopefully progress further in the competition.

MOCK TRIAL TEAM

Caroline Brown, Isabelle Cheung, Imogen Dobbs, Celia Nixon, Chloe Olesnick, Isabelle Trippe, India Wills, Arabella Wright

Junior School Athletics Carnival



OPEN 100M CHAMPIONSHIP	
1st	Isabella Sanz-Chafardet
2nd	Veronica Soo
3rd	Claire Chan
TRACK CHAMPION	
Isabella Sanz-Chafardet	
FIELD CHAMPION	
Alyssa Turton	
JUNIOR CHAMPION	
1st	Isla Robinson
2nd	Alexandra Mansfield
3rd	Willow McCarty
SENIOR CHAMPION	
1st	Isabella Sanz-Chafardet
2nd	Alyssa Turton
3rd	Claire Chan
SPIRIT AWARD	
Ward	
OVERALL POINTSCORE	
Milson	



Senior School Athletics Carnival



OPEN 100M CHAMPIONSHIP	
1st	Eva Webb
2nd	Alex Bova
3rd	Ava Jacob
TRACK CHAMPION	
1st	Belinda Matthews
2nd	Alex Bova
3rd	Victoria Jacob
FIELD CHAMPION	
1st	Winter Wawn
2nd	Alex Davis
3rd	Alessia Eerenstein
JUNIOR CHAMPION	
1st	Victoria Jacob
2nd	Elizabeth Noyes
3rd	Summer Easton
INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION	
1st	Winter Wawn
2nd	Alex Davis
3rd	Alex Bova
SENIOR CHAMPION	
1st	Belinda Matthews
2nd	Alessia Eerenstein
3rd	Mary Dunstan
SPIRIT AWARD	
Heaton	
OVERALL POINTSCORE	
Ward	



Sport K-12

ALICIA BATES | ASSISTANT HEAD OF SPORTS

Term 2 was a very busy term for Sport at Loreto Kirribilli. Students participated in and represented the school with pride in a wide range of events, from CGSSSA Football to the Senior School Athletics Carnival, IPSHA, IGSA & CGSSSA Cross Country, and the exciting, inaugural Loreto Toorak Netball Shield. We also saw athletes compete at NSWCCC Netball, NSWCCC Basketball and Water Polo selections, NSW All Schools Swimming, NSWCCC Football, the Junior School Athletics Carnival, CGSSSA Futsal and NSWCCC Cross Country.

IPSHA Football



IGSA Cross Country

Senior Hockey



Across all events and every aspect of sport this term, students demonstrated determination, teamwork, and school spirit. Whether achieving personal bests, stepping up to new challenges or cheering on teammates, every student contributed to a vibrant and memorable term of sport at Loreto Kirribilli. We thank all students and families for their continued commitment to and support of Loreto Kirribilli Sport.



IPSHA Cross Country



YEAR 8 NETBALL TOUR

The 2026 Netball Tour of New Zealand was a wonderful sporting and cultural experience for our Year 8 Netballers. The South Island trip included a visit to the Crusaders rugby training ground, volunteering at PIPS, discovering the hot springs at Hanmer, visiting a wildlife reserve, and, of course, enjoying training sessions and competitive games against New Zealand colleges. A highlight was a private coaching session with ex-Silver Ferns player and experienced coach, Julie Seymour, and a Q&A session with captain of the Tactix Netball team, Erikana Pedersen.

Sport K-12



LORETO NETBALL SHIELD

The inaugural Loreto Netball Shield was hosted by Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak in Melbourne over a long weekend in May. Ten Year 9 girls were selected to represent Loreto Kirribilli and participate in a wonderful experience of connection, community and sport. As one participant noted: *"Our trip wasn't just about Netball; we made so many new friends with girls from other Loreto schools, with whom we hope that we can keep in touch as we grow older."*



CONGRATULATIONS PALOMA

Year 11 rower Paloma Tsang was selected for the Rowing NSW Junior Pathways 1st 8+ to compete in April's 2026 Pathways Interstate Junior Pathway Regatta held at SIRC. The Junior Pathway program is a chance for young rowers to gain valuable experience racing at a state level, and discover some future rowing opportunities post-school, including Club rowing, State and Australian representation.



SWIMMING

Loreto Kirribilli's champion swimmers attended the 2026 Australian Age Championships in Queensland, the pinnacle swimming event of the year where all the best junior swimmers in Australia compete against one another. Six of our swimmers qualified to compete. Ella Liu and Michiko Connor (Year 8), Lucy Matthews (Year 9), Hannah Jamieson and Abby Damian (Year 10), and Eliza Damian (Year 11). It was a big, exciting week of competition!



FOOTBALL

Football players Alannah Toouli (Year 10), Charlie Wood (Year 12) and Sarah Holt (Year 12) represented the CGSSA in the NSWCCC Football Championships. In an exciting Grand Final, the CGSSA team defeated Sydney Catholic Schools 1-0. Alannah was named MVP for the Finals game, and she and Sarah have been selected for the NSWCCC team.

Dance



DANCE ENSEMBLES

Loreto Kirribilli Senior Dance troupes competed in the prestigious 2026 Sydney Eisteddfod, performing on stage at the Concourse in Chatswood. We are proud to share that our Senior Modern Troupe and Years 7-9 Jazz Troupe both received 2nd place, while our Senior Jazz Troupe was awarded a Highly Commended in a very competitive section.

The dancers returned to the stage on Sunday for the Extreme Eisteddfod, where the Years 7-9 Jazz Troupe placed 1st, the Senior Jazz Troupe placed 2nd and the Senior Modern Troupe placed 3rd.

We are thrilled with these results and are so proud of all of the dancers for their performances on stage.

CAROLINE BROWN (YEAR 11)

Dance Captain



Our Junior School dancers had a great day of competition in the IRBD - I'd Rather Be Dancing dance eisteddfod. This competition is based on the Northern Beaches and North Shore regions of Sydney. Our Years 3 and 4 Jazz troupe were awarded 2nd place for their 'Groove' piece. Our Years 5 and 6 Jazz, Senior Modern and Senior Jazz troupes all earned Highly Commended. Well done to all our dancers, who performed beautifully against some tough competition!



Congratulations to Tiana Buda (Year 8) who recently competed at the Australian Teachers of Dance NSW Junior Jazz Championship. Tiana specialises in this form of dance and impressed the judges to be awarded First Place. She is now State Champion and will compete in the national competition.

Theatresports

JESSICA FARRELL | HEAD OF PERFORMING ARTS (EXTRA-CURRICULAR)

The culmination of many weeks of preparation, the Grand Final of the Interhouse Theatresports Competition was a highly entertaining event. Teams from Years 9-12 treated the audience to operatic scenes, musical theatre, and even soap opera as they worked together to create improvisations reflecting different scenarios. Congratulations to all performers and the Drama Captains and Councillors who worked so hard with their teams.

Theatresports is a great opportunity for girls to develop their confidence, teamwork and skills in reacting quickly. This year the girls did some sessions with Impro Australia, learning some of the finer points of Theatresports games. Thank you to Mrs Stacey Coull-Whitmore for her leadership of this activity and for the energy and knowledge she brought to the rehearsals and performances.



A Global Conversation on Girls' Education

LINDA WALBURN | ASSISTANT HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

In June, I had the privilege of attending the International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS) Global Forum on Girls' Education in Toronto, Canada. I was fortunate enough to receive the Brother Farrelly Teaching Scholarship and travelled with colleagues - Dr Nicole Archard, Sue Kerr, Rachel Noonan and Kate Archer.



Throughout the Forum, a particular highlight was seeing our Loreto Kirribilli Australian educators sharing their expertise with an international audience. Dr Archard spoke, as already mentioned on page 2; Sue Kerr shared insights from *The Parent Code*, focusing on strengthening partnerships between schools and families. Kate Archer presented *Nurturing the Gifts of Girls*, highlighting the importance of recognising and developing the unique strengths and talents of every student. Rachel Noonan delivered *Growing Future Changemakers: SEEDing Leadership in Girls Through STEM*, demonstrating how STEM education can foster curiosity, leadership and problem-solving skills in girls.

I was proud to present our WAVES: *Wellbeing and Values Empower Students*, sharing Loreto Kirribilli's Junior School wellbeing framework

with educators from around the world. The presentation highlighted how the integration of wellbeing, belonging, leadership and the Loreto values of Freedom, Justice, Sincerity, Verity and Felicity supports girls to thrive academically, socially and emotionally. It was encouraging to see strong interest in the program and in the role that values-based education plays in fostering connection, purpose and wellbeing within girls' schools.

The conference strongly affirmed many of the priorities already embedded within our school. In particular, it reinforced that a strong sense of belonging remains one of the most significant protective factors for girls' wellbeing, that student voice should be central to school life, and that girls flourish when given authentic opportunities to lead. The importance of explicit, evidence-informed wellbeing

education was also a recurring message throughout the conference. Hearing from educators across different countries highlighted that while contexts may differ, many of the challenges facing girls today are remarkably similar, and there is great value in learning from one another's experiences and practices.

The conference concluded with a powerful address from Catherine McKenna, former Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change, whose words captured the spirit of the Forum:

"Every time a girl is heard, supported, seen and given the chance to lead, your school becomes stronger. Because teaching girls isn't just equality. It's leadership. It's innovation. It's building a better future for everyone."

Community Spirit in Action

DEBBIE HENRY | DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



May Day continues to bring joy to our Loreto Kirribilli student community with a day of liturgical celebration to Mary our Mother, whilst fundraising to support the work of our Loreto Sisters through Mary Ward International Australia (MWIA). This May Day we also welcomed our Philomena Heaton Society members, proud ambassadors and supporters of our philanthropic bequest program. These members enjoyed this special traditional May Day event with the same joy they remembered from a bygone era. (See inset.) We were extremely grateful for these ex-students who then delivered our student May Day flowers to our Loreto Sisters and community living in retirement and nursing homes.

Open Day provided another opportunity for Loreto Kirribilli to open our gates for the wider community to discover our school and witness the 'spirit of Loreto' in full swing! We are truly blessed to have a community who stepped up and supported this outstanding successful event whilst also raising funds to support MWIA.

The 'gift of giving' is twofold, through volunteerism and financial giving. To our community, we thank you for generously supporting both avenues.

www.loreto.nsw.edu.au/giving

SAVE THE DATES

MASS OF GRATITUDE & BRUNCH

Friday 23 October

LK CONNECT, WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY HOSTED BY AMAZON

Tuesday 27 October



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

After the Liturgy on May Day, we held a special morning tea in the front parlour of Elamang. This historic setting was a fitting place to welcome members of the Philomena Heaton Society, remembering that the original sandstone building was the very first building of Loreto Kirribilli, bought by the Loreto sisters in 1915 after a generous donation from Philomena Heaton's mother, Sarah Heaton. Society members and ex-students enjoyed meeting with our Principal, Dr Nicole Archard and a past Loreto Principal, Sr Anne Kelly CJ. Around the table, generational Loreto stories were shared, and the group remembered the impact Loreto has had on their lives. For many, seeing the school again through the grandparent lens, they now experience the same joy they remembered from school days.

In the words of one of our members, "I felt like one of Mary Ward's friends sitting around, just as I have seen in the artworks of Mary Ward's Circle of Friends".

Parents & Friends

JACQUIE MURRAY & JORDAN KENNEDY – JOINT P&F PRESIDENTS

The P&F theme this year is 'Community'. Community perfectly captures what makes Loreto Kirribilli so special. Every event and initiative is made possible by a community of parents, carers, staff, students, alumni and local businesses who generously contribute their time, talents and support to enrich the experience of every Loreto girl.



Throughout Term 2, we have once again seen the incredible strength of our school community in action. From our much-loved community events such as the P&F class parent-led BBQs, to the countless volunteers working behind the scenes, it has been wonderful to see parents connecting, building friendships and creating opportunities for families to engage with school life beyond the classroom.

One of the highlights of the term was our annual P&F Lunch, which brought together 250 parents for a day of connection, inspiration and generosity. We heard from Loreto Kirribilli alumni, Emma Rossi, who generously shared her personal story and delivered a heartfelt entertaining speech which epitomised the values of a Loreto education. With fantastic prizes and remarkable support from attendees and sponsors, the event was a tremendous success. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended, donated, volunteered or supported the event in any way.

Another highlight was Loreto Kirribilli's inaugural Open Day held in May which highlighted our extraordinary school community spirit. We thank everyone who participated in the day, in particular to Parent Open Day coordinator, Louisa Casali and our BBQ gurus, John Nandlal and John Taylor.



Our fundraising efforts continue to demonstrate what can be achieved when our community comes together. This year, the P&F has already raised over \$80,000, thanks to the success of the P&F Luncheon, the Secondhand Uniform Shop, our new merchandise line and the ongoing generosity of our school families and supporters. These funds will contribute to important projects that enhance learning environments and benefit both current and future generations of Loreto students.

Looking ahead, excitement is building for our Spring Fair, one of the most anticipated events on the Loreto calendar and a true celebration of community. This year's theme for Spring Fair is 'Felicity in Bloom' and the day promises something for everyone, with favourite food stalls including the Italian Mammás, Chicken and Champagne and Devonshire Tea, returning alongside exciting new additions, student performances, entertainment and plenty of opportunities for families to come together and celebrate the vibrant spirit of Loreto.

We are especially proud of this year's Spring Fair logo, inspired by artwork created by our Junior School students, reflecting the creativity and joy that sits at the heart of our community. Their contribution is a wonderful reminder that every member of our school community has something valuable to offer.





The P&F's work extends far beyond fundraising. Whether welcoming new families, supporting school initiatives, partnering with staff, or creating opportunities for parents to connect, our focus remains on fostering an inclusive, engaged and supportive community where everyone feels they belong.

To everyone who has volunteered, attended an event, donated, sponsored an initiative or simply lent a helping hand this year - thank you. Your generosity, enthusiasm and commitment embody the Loreto spirit of community, and together we continue to make a meaningful difference for our girls and for the future of our school.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming P&F events as we continue to celebrate all that makes the Loreto Kirribilli community so extraordinary.



10AM - 3PM | SUNDAY 30 AUGUST

Sharing our Community



MUSEUM SUPREMO

In an amazing piece of ex-student news, Dr Melissa Chiu ('89) has been appointed as Director of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York. Melissa is currently Director of the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington DC, where she has worked for the last 12 years, and is credited with transforming the museum into one of the most dynamic destinations for modern and contemporary art in the country.

At Loreto Kirribilli, Melissa was a keen art student and a recipient of the Lynn Patterson Art Prize. Before forging her career in the United States, Melissa earned her bachelor's degree in art history and criticism from Western Sydney University and her master's degree in arts administration from the College of Fine Arts at UNSW. She completed her Ph.D. with a dissertation on experimental Chinese art at Western Sydney University in 2005. She has authored and edited several books and catalogues on contemporary art, and has lectured at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, the Museum of Modern Art, and other universities and museums.

Melissa said of her new appointment, *"I look forward to ensuring that the Guggenheim in New York remains a place of joy and learning about art and artists for all who visit."*

Photo credit: Greg Powers. Courtesy of the Hirshhorn.



THE CHIU SISTERS

From left to right, Chiu sisters Stephanie, Alison, Elisabeth and Melissa.

Dr Melissa Chiu is one of four sisters (two sets of fraternal twins) who are all Loreto Kirribilli alumni, and whose careers have gone in quite different directions.

Elisabeth Leese

Elisabeth is currently working in the learning and development space for a non-profit Early Childhood Education provider. She is passionate about promoting awareness and recognition of the ongoing situation in Gaza, supporting disenfranchised groups and opposing racism.

Alison Chiu

Dr Alison Chiu is an ophthalmic surgeon specialising in surgical vision correction and restoration, from LASIK laser eye surgery to refractive cataract surgery, helping patients live free of glasses. She is active in research and clinical trials, having completed her PhD through University College London, Cambridge University and the University of Sydney. Alongside her private practice and international teaching and lecturing commitments, she has spent over a decade in public sector roles, training the next generation of Australian surgeons and contributing to governance.

Stephanie Chiu

Stephanie has spent the last two decades working in Afghanistan, the Asia-Pacific, the US and Australia across human rights, gender justice, First Nations advocacy and radio/podcasting. She is now establishing a foundation to support talented high school artists experiencing financial disadvantage so they can develop their creative practice, pursue their ambitions, and enrich Australia's cultural life. She lives in Surry Hills with her two teenagers, three cats and one dog.



Sharing our Community



BRONZE MEDAL ROWER

Ex-student and Olympian Rower Tara Rigney ('17) had a thrilling race in the Women's Single Sculls A-Final at the 2026 World Cup III in Lucerne, Switzerland, securing third place after Britain and Ireland. This prestigious three-day regatta, held on the calm waters of picturesque Rotsee Lake, attracted over 650 athletes from 42 nations. It is a major international event in the build-up to the World Rowing Championships in August. Go Tara!

Photo credit: Patrick Boéré



KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Congratulations to Deborah Coakley (Rowe '90) on being recognised in the King's Birthday Honours, receiving the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her *"significant service to business in the property and investment sector."*

Deborah is currently Chair (Pre-Sale Finance Guarantee Program) with the NSW Department

of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and Managing Director, Real Estate at QIC, where she leads real estate investment, development and funds management across diverse sectors. She also serves as an Executive Director of Dexus Asset Management, contributing to the governance of listed and private capital investment strategies. A strong advocate for women in business, Deborah embodies Mary Ward's words - *"women, in time to come, will do much."*

SHARE YOUR STORY

Spirit magazine loves to celebrate the achievements of our Loreto Kirribilli community. Please email development@loreto.nsw.edu.au if you have a story you'd like to share.



EVA BURROWS AWARD

Congratulations to ex-student, Kathryn Greiner AO (Callaghan '64), on receiving the Salvation Army Eva Burrows Award, announced at the 2026 Red Shield Appeal. The award recognises Kathryn's outstanding contribution, dedication, and extraordinary service to the Salvation Army. Kathryn has had a long association with social work and the Salvation Army, has served on the Council of the City of Sydney, and has also served as Loreto Kirribilli Board Chair. The school community celebrates Ms Greiner for this well-deserved award.

The Eva Burrows Award honours the legacy of General Eva Burrows, the 13th General of The Salvation Army, who was recognised for her commitment to education, social justice, and frontline leadership.

Ex-Students' Union

CELIA SHELDON (ROBERTS '88) | PRESIDENT



In May we celebrated with the annual **Mother Daughter Mass** – a much-loved opportunity to re-connect and spend a beautiful morning with the special women in our life. Thank you to all those who support this wonderful annual event.

Ex-Students' Card Day, which has been held in one form or another for the past 70 years, brought together many tables of bridge and mahjong players for a highly enjoyable day of friendship and fun. This year we again raised several thousand dollars for the Bursary Fund. Sincere thanks to Ruth and Sue who have worked hard to make this day such a success over many years, and all those on the committee who also give so generously of their time every year to guarantee its success.

This was the last year of the Card Day in its current form but stay tuned if you are a card or mahjong player... something will replace it!

Loreto Alumni in Tasmania officially commenced on 10 August with their inaugural lunch. If you are in Tasmania and would like to connect please email: loretoalumni.tas@gmail.com

Spring Fair is on again and we will be there, on 30 August. Come and find us on the Front Drive!

All ex-students, past parents, family and friends are warmly invited to **Federation 2026 UNITE with open minds**, 9-11 October. The extensive program for this year's event includes the traditional conference, as well as new ideas: a

'pop-up' choir, and a group artwork to be created then auctioned for Mary Ward International. There is truly something for everyone, and we encourage you to join us for the full weekend, if possible, to get the most out of this wonderful opportunity. Book now via the website loretofederation.com.au

EX-STUDENTS' UNION KEY DATES

SPRING FAIR

Sunday 30 August

YEAR 12 EX-STUDENTS' UNION LUNCH

Wednesday 16 September

FEDERATION 2026

Friday 9 - Sunday 11 October

ANNUAL MASS & AGM

Sunday 22 November



loretokirribilli_exstudents



Loreto Kirribilli Ex-Students Union

Reunions



CLASS OF 1996

The Class of 1996 took a trip down memory lane with a visit to the school campus, with ex-students joining us from as far afield as Canada, the UK and rural country towns. This was followed by a party at Foys, where more than 60 Loreto Kirribilli classmates gathered to celebrate their 30-year reunion and raise funds for the Loreto Kirribilli Bursary. "After 30 years, we still have such a strong connection", commented one ex-student.



UPCOMING REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1976 - 50 YEAR REUNION

Saturday 7 November 2026

Barbara Taylor bwtaylor600@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1981 - 45 YEAR REUNION

Friday 25 September 2026

Annie Nadim annienadin1@gmail.com

Book here:

events.humanitix.com/lk-class-of-81-reunion

CLASS OF 1986 - 40 YEAR REUNION

Saturday 12 September 2026

Brigid Wright brigid.wright@bigpond.com

CLASS OF 1991 - 35 YEAR REUNION

Saturday 17 October 2026

Anna Clarke annaclark233@gmail.com

CLASS OF 2006 - 20 YEAR REUNION

Saturday 10 October 2026

Liz Ross lizross@outlook.com



Federation 2026

CELIA SHELDON & EMMA SEWARD | CO-PRESIDENTS, LORETO FEDERATION COMMITTEE

Calling all Loreto parents, past parents, ex-students, friends & family...

Federation is coming to Kirribilli this October and you are all invited!
Federation is a full weekend of fun, connection, engagement and inspiration ... essentially a conference but actually so much more!

We hope you can join us for the whole weekend, to fully appreciate the fabulous program we have created and engage with an outstanding selection of almost 60 speakers whose contributions span business, media, sport, the arts, advocacy and community leadership.

Anyone with a Loreto connection is invited and warmly welcomed to join the weekend - ex-students, school staff, families & friends. Everyone, just come along!

Conference and social activities are planned from Friday morning until Sunday afternoon, including free and low cost events on the Friday through to a cocktail party, formal dinner and conference activities over the whole weekend. Join us for the whole weekend if you can, or just come for the day. Either way, don't miss out!

9 - 11 October at Loreto Kirribilli will be huge, as we host our friends from near and far, and we want all of you to be a part of this fabulous Federation experience.

Registrations are open and we invite you to **BOOK NOW**

See the Federation 2026 website loretofederation.com.au for more information. We can't wait to welcome you!



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Keynote
Speakers

Grace Brennan (Clark '01)
**BUY FROM
THE BUSH**



Elouise Massa (Hahn '05)
**POLITICAL
CHANGEMAKER**



Lanneke Jones ('89)
**SINGER, EDUCATOR
& CHOIR DIRECTOR**



Optional
SING &
PAINT

Shelley Wales ('87)
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER &
ABSTRACT PAINTER**



Charlotte Ross ('20)
**TIPSTAFF, NSW COURT
OF APPEAL**



Dr Tracy McEwan
PHD (Wheeler '87)
ACU HISTORY FELLOW



Eliza Harvey (Blue '01)
**JOURNALIST & ASSOCIATE
EDITOR, RAMPART**



Georgie Aley ('02)
**PARTNER,
KPMG AUSTRALIA**



Georgie Drury ('94)
**CO-FOUNDER & CEO,
METLUMA**



Jacquie Murray ('97)
**LAWYER & SOCIAL JUSTICE
ADVOCATE**



Ann Austin (McCallum '85)
**SUSTAINABILITY
CONSULTANT**



Matilda Brown ('04)
**REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE
ADVOCATE & ENTREPRENEUR**



Rachel Grimes AM ('02)
**FINANCIAL SERVICES
PROFESSIONAL**



Rebecca Barry ('91)
**FILMMAKER & CO-FOUNDER,
MEDIA STOCKADE**



Sarah Kenny ('81)
**VICE PRESIDENT,
WORLD SAILING**



Sonia Williams ('87)
**RENEWABLE ENERGY
INNOVATION OFFICER**



Sr Anne Kelly CJ (LM '64)
**BOARD MEMBER,
LORETO MINISTRIES**



Therese Powell ('80)
**PSYIOTHERAPIST,
ICRC**



Zoe Huijer ('14)
**CRIMINAL DEFENCE
SOLICITOR**

Ex-Students' News

MARRIAGES

Sophie Gavan ('12) to Tom Faithorn

BIRTHS | GIRLS

Kyla Adele to Lauren Gardner (Henry '09)

DEATHS | EX-STUDENTS

Molly Barry (Jenkins '47), sister of Margaret Young (Jenkins '39) (dec), Pauline Doyle (Jenkins '43) (dec), Judith White (Jenkins '50), grandmother of Celia Durer (Riordan '00)

Mary Butter (Sissian '49), grandmother of Rebecca Wewege ('12), Ellie Welsh ('13), Madeleine Welsh ('15), Phoebe Welsh ('20) and Rachel Risbey ('25)

Sue O'Malley (Collins '51) sister of Kerry Bamford (Collins '56) and Clover Moore (Collins '63), grandmother of Amelia Halley ('11) and Phoebe Halley ('17)

DEATHS | RELATIVES OF EX-STUDENTS

Terence Byrnes, father of Josephine Byrnes ('85), Clare Young (Byrnes '88), Amber Byrnes ('96), grandfather of Lily Young ('20), Mia Young ('22), Arabella Ekas (Year 12), Violet Ekas (Year 10), Jemima Ekas (Year 9)

Annie Kelly, mother of Catherine Kelly ('17) and Felicity Kelly ('19), aunt of Daphne Woodhill ('16) and Madeleine Osborne ('13)

REMEMBERING FR ROBERT (BOB) BRUCE SJ

The Loreto Kirribilli community was saddened to learn of the death of Fr Robert (Bob) Bruce SJ on 17 July, aged 93.



Fr Bob devoted more than seventy years to Jesuit life and priestly ministry and was a much-loved educator, pastor and spiritual guide. At Loreto Kirribilli, Fr Bob was a familiar and welcome presence over many years. He celebrated countless Friday Morning Masses, led Year Group celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and presided at many significant Liturgies, including our Mother Daughter and Father Daughter Masses. Generations of students, families and staff came to know him through these celebrations, where his warmth, humility and quiet wisdom were hallmarks of his ministry.

May he rest in the peace of the God he served with such generosity throughout his long and dedicated life.

JOSIE RYAN

Liturgy Coordinator



UNITE
with open minds
9-11 OCTOBER 2026

Federation is a full weekend conference and biennial gathering of Loreto alumni from all over Australia. It is inspiring, informative, super social and fun. Loreto parents, staff, family and friends all welcome.

We are proud to welcome an outstanding selection of over 50 speakers whose contributions span business, media, sport, the arts, advocacy and community leadership. **SEE PAGE 48**



LORETOFEDERATION.COM.AU