



Stella Maris

COLLEGE MANLY

**Stella Maris College Manly**  
**Parents & Friends**

**Minutes**

**Thursday 3 April 2025**

**Meeting opened:** 7.30 pm.

**Attendance:**

Online:

Stuart Frank, Cassie Mappin, Charlotte McVicar, Guo Ming, Lisa VanderWert-Walsh, Vicky Walls, Tasha Wang.

In person:

Michal Brenchley, Nicole Bruin, Linda Rowe, Clare Cahill, Catherine Fitzgerald, Sharyn Quirk, Sue Homman, Sarah Hipsley, Melissa Fox, Eve Harvey, Belinda Hay, Maree Hayes, Mel Hill, Cecilia Lee, Vanessa Morello, Sarah Olofinsky, Jo Reid, Kirsten Prince, Leesa Shannon, Ellie Weeden, Sarah McDonald

**Apologies:** None

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**Prayer and welcome with Acknowledgement of Country**

Catherine welcomed the group with the prayer and Acknowledgement of Country.

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**Acceptance of Minutes**

The minutes from the P&F Annual General Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were accepted.

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**Business Arising**

None.

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**Reports**

**President's Report**

Term 1 – We ran three events over the term, which all went very well:

- Stella Sunset Social – 186 new and existing parents and carers in the courtyards
- Year 7 Mixer last week – 87 attended the Freshwater Brewery
- Stella Fellas got together at Manly Bowling Sunday and persevered under slightly damper conditions, but all had a great afternoon
- We also staffed the BBQ for the open day with almost 20 volunteers who cooked over 600 sausages

**Budget**

We are approximately at \$8,000.

## **Principal's Report**

Sharyn Quirk gave her first Principal's report which included. A copy of which is attached to these minutes.

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## **Matters arising from the executive meeting (includes motions proposed)**

### **AGM (5 June)**

At the AGM, there will be re-election of existing officers and some new roles created as follows:

#### **1. Marketing & Communications Officer**

The Marketing & Communications Officer develops and executes communication strategies to promote P & F activities and events. This role involves managing social media, WhatsApp channels, newsletters, and school platforms, ensuring accurate and timely messaging to parents, carers, and stakeholders. They collaborate with other committee members to maintain consistent branding and effectively promote fundraising initiatives and school community events.

#### **2. Event Manager**

The Event Manager oversees the planning, coordination, and execution of P&F events throughout the year. This role involves managing logistics, securing venues, coordinating volunteers, and liaising with suppliers to ensure the success of P&F events. The Event Manager collaborates closely with other committee members to deliver fun, engaging, and well-organised events that strengthen the school community and advance fundraising goals. Additionally, this role is responsible for the rollout of all P&F events via the selected event platform. Primarily, this role looks after Stella Sunset Social, Open Night BBQ, Year 7 Mixer, Trivia Night, Luna Park, and Ladies Long Lunch. Note that we don't run the Stella Fellas events, but we do assist in setting up the event ticketing platform and marketing.

#### **3. Fundraising Coordinator**

The Fundraising Coordinator is responsible for organising and managing fundraising activities, with a focus on securing prize donations for key events such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Trivia Night. This role involves setting up platforms for ticket sales, organising auctions and silent auctions, and collaborating with the Marketing & Communications Officer to effectively promote these initiatives. The Fundraising Coordinator ensures that all fundraising efforts are well organized, meet financial goals, and encourage strong community participation.

This description highlights the specific duties related to events and prize donations!

#### **4. Graphic Designer**

The Graphic Designer is responsible for creating visually appealing designs supporting P & F's marketing and event materials. This includes designing promotional graphics for social media, WhatsApp, newsletters, and events. The Graphic Designer works closely with the Marketing & Communications Officer to ensure consistent branding across all platforms and helps bring creative ideas to life for events such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Trivia Night. They are crucial in making P & F events and campaigns visually engaging and professional.

This role description complements the others by emphasizing the visual aspects of communications and events.

### **Succession Planning for 2025 P&F**

This will be on next year's agenda as some of the P&F roles will become vacant so the team will need volunteers.

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### **Events**

#### **Term 2**

- Mother's Day Breakfast (raffle) May 9<sup>th</sup> – drive for prizes started this week
- P&F Trivia Night – Launches May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The teaser went out in the school newsletter today

#### **Term 3**

- Luna Park – 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug TBC
- Father's Day Breakfast (raffle) – 5<sup>th</sup> Sept
- Stella Ladies Long Lunch – Booked at Teddy Larkins again for Sept 19th

#### **Term 4**

- 2026 planning
- End-of-year drinks TBC

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### **Matters for future consideration.**

None.

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### **Q&A with Sharyn Quirk**

The group had the opportunity to ask questions of our new Principal, Sharyn Quirk

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### **Next P+F General Meeting**

AGM – 5th June. 7.30pm

# Principal's Report

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## **Term 1 Report**

As we wrap up Term 1, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the warm welcome I have received as the new College Principal. The energy and enthusiasm within our community have been truly inspiring, and it has been a privilege to witness the vibrancy of our school. Our students returned with bright smiles and a strong eagerness to learn, bringing the campus to life. The excitement of Year 7 students taking their first steps in secondary school was palpable, while Year 12 students dove into their studies with determination and focus, setting the tone for their final year. The 'Stella' atmosphere—defined by ambition, belonging, and excellence—was evident from day one.

Our dedicated staff embraced the start of the year with enthusiasm, participating in professional learning that ensured every classroom was ready for students. Special thanks go to our support staff, who worked tirelessly over the break to ensure the campus was welcoming and in excellent condition. We also took time to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2024, whose dedication to academic excellence continues to inspire our current students.

In early February, we honoured the foundation of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, reflecting on their legacy of service and compassion. This year's theme of Peace and Justice aligns with our mission to build a community marked by respect, inclusion, and compassion, inspired by the example of the Good Samaritan Sisters and Pope Francis' Year of Hope.

## **A Snapshot of College Life**

This term has been filled with energy, both in and outside the classroom. Our students engaged wholeheartedly in their learning and extracurricular activities,

whether in sports, dance, or visual arts. Thank you to the staff who dedicated time and effort to making these opportunities possible.

A particular highlight was the Year 7 Visual Arts students' unique experience with the Kindy Farm. They had the chance to sketch live animals, enhancing their observational drawing skills and deepening their appreciation for nature and art.

Our Year 10 students also embarked on the Tomorrow Woman program, empowering them to explore self-awareness and resilience. As they move through the various modules, they continue to develop confidence and a sense of personal agency.

### **Building Connections**

Throughout the term, I have made it a priority to engage with our students and begin building meaningful connections. One small but significant way this has taken shape is through the delivery of personal birthday cards to each student on their special day. This simple gesture ensures that every girl is seen and celebrated as an individual—regardless of her interests, talents, or stage of school life. Celebrating birthdays in this way fosters a sense of belonging and unity, reinforcing that each member of our community matters and contributes to the fabric of Stella.

Our Year 12 students were also invited to a series of “Lunch with the Principal” gatherings, which I hosted to create a relaxed and open environment for conversation. These moments have been invaluable in allowing me to get to know our senior students more personally, to hear about their experiences, and to reassure them of the College's support as they navigate their final year. Most importantly, these gatherings affirm that they are not alone—we are with them, every step of the way.

### **Community Events and Initiatives**

Term 1 was marked by several significant events. The Year 7 Parent Information Night, held in February, was an excellent opportunity for families to connect with staff and

learn more about the Year 7 journey. This was followed by the P&F Sunset Social, where parents, staff, and students came together to build community spirit.

The Swimming Carnival was another memorable occasion, where students showcased their creativity and House spirit with fantastic costumes. The event was filled with energy and camaraderie, and it was a joy to see everyone come together to celebrate.

We also had the privilege of participating in a special Mass for the installation of the relic of St. John Vianney at the Shrine of Mary Immaculate, led by Fr. Chima and the parish community. This sacred occasion was a moving reminder of faith, service, and the enduring legacy of the Saints.

### **College Open Day**

Our recent College Open Day was a truly wonderful occasion, showcasing the very best of Stella. We were delighted to welcome over 1,000 visitors to our campus, where guests were treated to an impressive array of faculty presentations, student-led tours, co-curricular displays, and interactive experiences across all learning areas. The atmosphere was vibrant and welcoming, a testament to the pride our students and staff have in their College. Open Day was not only a celebration of our community's talents and achievements, but also a powerful reflection of the strong culture of learning, creativity and connection that defines Stella. It was an outstanding success, and I extend my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to making the day so memorable.

### **Sporting Endeavours**

Stella students have continued to embrace a wide range of sporting opportunities with enthusiasm and commitment. Participation across disciplines—including Dance Troupes, Touch Football, Water Polo, Basketball, AFL, and Tennis—has been strong, with many teams reaching the conclusion of their competition schedules this term. Dance rehearsals will carry into Term 2 as students prepare for upcoming performances. Our girls are to be highly commended for their sportsmanship, dedication, and the determination with which they represent the College. They not

only engage wholeheartedly in a broad spectrum of sporting pursuits but also consistently demonstrate the values and spirit that define Stella—graciousness in competition, teamwork, and pride in their community.

### **Celebrating Women and Faith**

In March, we marked International Women's Day by reflecting on the contributions of women throughout history and recommitting ourselves to advancing a world of equality and opportunity. This day, rooted in the labor movements of the early 20th century, aligns with the mission of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, whose work in education and social justice continues to empower women and girls.

We also gathered for our Ash Wednesday Liturgy, marking the beginning of Lent with a focus on reflection and spiritual growth. Our Year 12 Student Leadership Team led the service with grace, creating a powerful atmosphere of prayer and humility.

### **Academic Achievements and Opportunities**

We are incredibly proud of our Year 7 and Year 9 students for their positive approach to NAPLAN testing. Their focus and resilience were commendable, and the results will help guide future teaching to better support each student's development.

In addition, our students have been involved in various competitions and events, such as the Mosman Youth Art Awards, where Year 8 student Erica Kok won the Susan Rothwell Award. Congratulations to all the talented artists who participated in this prestigious event

### **Looking Ahead**

As we conclude Term 1, we reflect on a vibrant and enriching start to the school year. We look forward to the continued growth of our students and the strengthening of our community. Thank you to everyone for your support, enthusiasm, and dedication to making this a memorable term.

Wishing everyone a restful and rejuvenating break, and we look forward to all that the next term will bring.

Mrs Sharyn Quirk

**Principal**