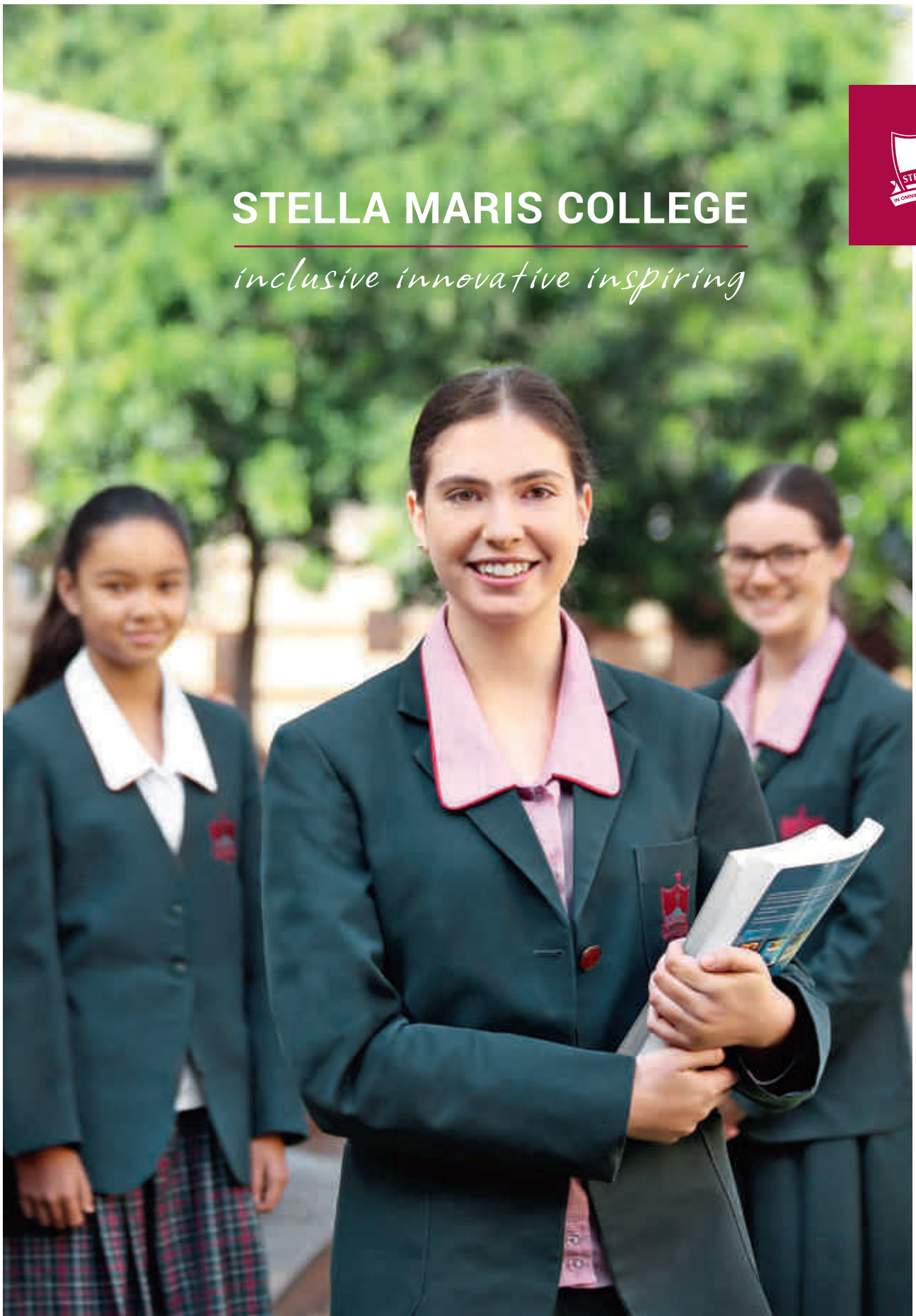




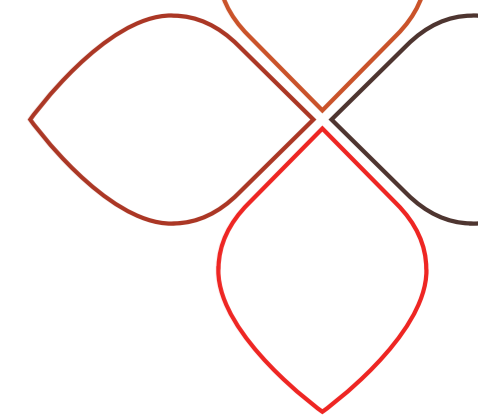
STELLA MARIS COLLEGE

inclusive innovative inspiring



PROSPECTUS

When I walk
through the school
gates every day
I feel like I belong.
Emily, Year 7



Welcome



I am privileged to be the Principal of a **vibrant Catholic girls' school community** on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

Stella Maris College, a school of Good Samaritan Education, offers a distinctive secondary education with a diverse and flexible curriculum supported by innovative learning and pastoral structures that promote student wellbeing. We encourage our girls to nurture personal growth and embrace learning as a lifelong endeavour.

Our College values are drawn from Benedictine spirituality and the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The College values of community, hospitality, stewardship, peace and justice guide our educational practices.

I am very proud to say that many Stella Girls:

- achieve their potential academic outcomes
- contribute to a resilient and inclusive community of learning, leadership and creativity
- engage in diverse activities that challenge them
- grasp opportunities to be entrepreneurial
- follow pathways to success
- respond to social justice needs

In the following pages, I invite you to encounter the voices of our girls and imagine your daughter's journey as a 'Stella Girl'.

Elizabeth Carnegie
Principal

Catholic Education in the Good Samaritan Benedictine tradition is committed to developing students who will engage with today's world as grounded, hope-filled young people who are equipped to lead wisely, to listen deeply and to treat their neighbour and their environment with justice, love and the compassion of Christ.

Why choose Stella?

Stella Maris has a reputation for the excellent care it takes of its girls. Our aim is to ensure our girls are supported socially, pastorally and spiritually in order to achieve their academic outcomes as well as support their personal wellbeing.

There are many reasons to choose Stella:

- current research indicates that girls will achieve in an all-girl environment
- the classroom experience is tailored to girls' learning
- extra-curricular activities are wholly focused on the needs and interests of girls
- all student leadership positions and areas of responsibility are filled by girls
- we are the only all-girls' Catholic school on the Northern Beaches
- a variety of subject choices
- our beautiful location near Queenscliff Beach and lagoon which we access regularly

Stella is such a loving environment. I come to school every day knowing I'm going to be taken care of and knowing I will learn something new.

Daisy, Year 7





A clear vision

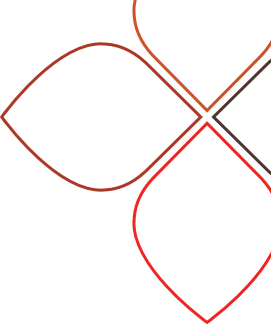
Stella Maris College, a school of Good Samaritan Education, recognises and respects the **individuality** of each person who forms part of the College **community**.

This **Catholic** community is committed to providing an **inclusive education** through a variety of **quality learning experiences**, which enhance the development of students in the Benedictine Tradition.

Students are challenged to be **innovative, creative** and **collaborative** learners in order to achieve their **full potential**. They are **empowered** to meet the demands and challenges of the 21st century and to take their place as young women who will **make a significant and positive difference** in our world.

Stella Maris College
Mission Statement

School leaders are very influential and their compassion, humour and hospitable nature gives younger students something to strive for.
Aiden, Year 9



Our story so far

From its beginning as an industrial school and orphanage in the 1880s, **the College has evolved into a forward-thinking, thriving community of learners steeped in our Benedictine tradition.**

Established by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict, the College's Mission and Vision rest on two pillars:

- The Rule of St Benedict
- The Parable of the Good Samaritan

St Benedict was concerned to create a stable, sustainable community where work, life and prayer were in perfect balance and the principles of the Gospels permeated the daily lives of all its inhabitants.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us profound respect for our shared humanity and challenges us not only to consider the question, "Who is my neighbour?" but also, "How can I be a good neighbour to all?"

The girls value the ministries of the Good Samaritan Sisters and support their work in Santa Teresa, the Philippines and Kiribati.

Stella Maris College opened its doors on 4 February, 1931 to thirty three students from Kindergarten to Intermediate Certificate.

Today Stella Maris is large enough to provide a breadth of learning and social experiences and small enough to ensure each girl is recognised, supported and valued as a cherished member of our Benedictine community.

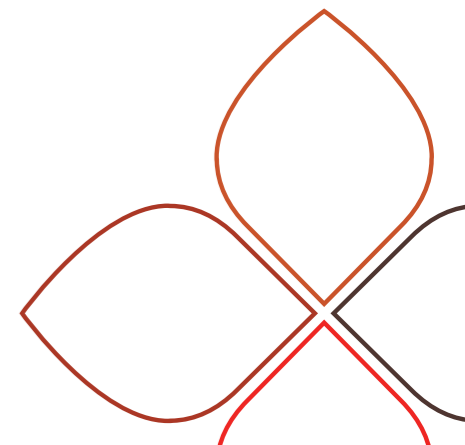


*You suddenly
have two families.
Anja, Year 7*



Stella Girls have that confidence that comes from being part of a strong community with a long history behind it. When I meet a group of girls I can always pick a Stella Girl.

Savannah, former Stella student





Listening with the ear of our heart (St Benedict)

Our girls are quick to identify the aspects of College life that are important to them. They are articulate about their learning and what they love about being a Stella Girl.

First and foremost, our girls love being part of an energetic and supportive community that they enjoy coming to every day. They have a deep sense of belonging and connection.

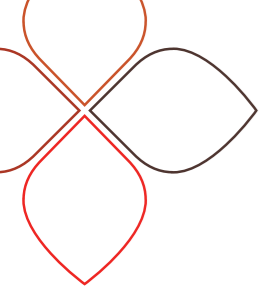
Secondly, they recognise that their passion for learning is fueled by the dedication and expertise of our highly experienced and qualified staff.

Some of the things the girls have told us they love about Stella include:

- it is a nurturing and safe environment
- you are encouraged to take risks and make mistakes in order to learn something new every day
- the academic and personal challenges
- our expert teachers who care about their learning
- many opportunities to express themselves
- personal growth is supported by strong pastoral care
- we contribute to the wider community and work for the good of others
- the respect, acceptance and lasting friendships



I'm glad to be a Stella Girl because we all stick together and help each other out. It is a good feeling to come to school everyday in a supportive environment.
Millie, Year 7



Inclusive

At Stella, every individual has a place in our community. Classroom experiences and extra-curricular offerings are broad in their scope so that each girl can find familiar things she enjoys and challenges she feels ready to face.

The teachers undertake ongoing professional development in areas such as differentiating the curriculum to create more inclusive classrooms. This means that each girl is able to participate and succeed in ways that align with her particular learning needs.

The College community includes the parents and caregivers. We are committed to open and engaged relationships with each of our families so communication and participation is facilitated at every level.

We welcome students from overseas who bring with them different perspectives and cultural knowledge. They are an exciting addition to our College community.



I do Drama Ensemble as an extra-curricular activity. It builds my confidence and allows me to accomplish something by learning new plays.
Georgia, Year 9

'Book and a Bear' is one of my favourite events because we bring out our creative streak whilst raising money for Bear Cottage.
Amy, Year 9

As a result of going to Stella, I have found who I am and what I actually like. Girls will find their strengths with our amazing extra-curricular activities.
Laura, Year 8

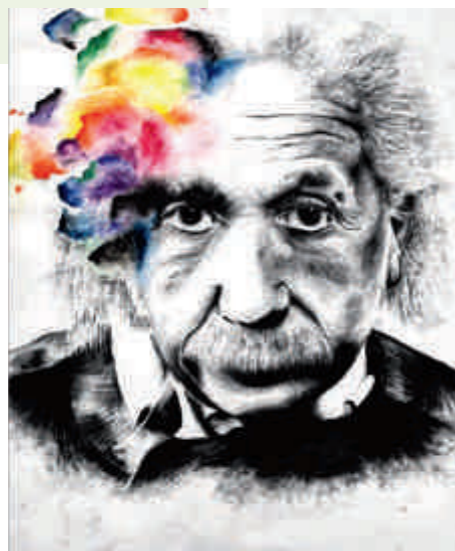
I am glad I'm a Stella Girl because all Stella Girls are really caring towards each other and the community.
Saskia, Year 9

Stella Maris is an inclusive community. It's a hardworking environment for growing new ideas and learning more every day.
Karina, Year 10

Inspiring

Stella Maris is a **community** that **inspires** all its members to

- grow in their knowledge and relationship with the Divine
- realise their inherent dignity, worth and potential
- deepen their appreciation of goodness, truth, beauty and the diversity of human cultures
- grow in their ability to relate respectfully and reverently to each other and to the world
- develop their capacity to recognise and challenge attitudes that exclude the vulnerable
- nurture their inner life by developing resilience and habits of compassionate reflection
- work for creation and for the common good (Gaudium et Spes)



Stella has made me realise I can be anyone I want to be if I try hard enough.
Abby, Year 8

Stella is a great opportunity to experience and try new things, if it's extra-curricular activities or doing your absolute best in everything you do.
Niamh, Year 7

There is a sense of community and welcome. We all care and look out for each other and we cherish our education. All the teachers are helping me grow and develop.
Annie, Year 7

My experience at Stella has been exceptional. I love how the teachers have such a positive attitude towards teaching you.
Brooke, Year 8

I love how the school challenges me. There are so many things that I have been able to take part in.
Sophie, Year 9



Innovative

The Stella Maris community **strives for excellence** by creating a learning environment that

- explores educational best practice
- facilitates creativity
- is nurturing and safe, where our girls feel free to take risks in order to reach increasingly higher academic and personal goals
- is characterised by diversity and celebrates the unique efforts of each member of the community
- offers a wealth of opportunities for our girls to express their individuality, diversify their interests and explore their potential
- integrates contemporary information and communication technologies to enhance teaching and learning

I love that every girl has the opportunity to pursue whatever subjects she wants from the very wide range on offer so that she can explore her full potential and be the best she can be.

Ruby, Year 12



A treasured place

We know how blessed we are to be located in such a beautiful environment.

The College is in a safe and quiet position to the north of Manly at Queenscliff Beach with easy access to a range of sporting and recreation facilities in the area.

Our magnificent local surroundings serve to impress upon the girls the richness and diversity of Australia's heritage and encourage stewardship of the environment and natural resources.

Our second site, Benedict Campus, is located on Pittwater Road, a short walk from our main campus, adjacent to playing fields and the Manly Boy Charlton Swimming Centre.



The final word

My favorite memories of my time here at Stella are often those moments of true Stella community spirit. The Swimming and Athletics carnivals, the Winter Sleep Out on the canteen deck to raise money for the local women's shelter and participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards which led me to hiking in the Ku-ring-gai National Park in torrential rain to five days of laughing and crying with my fellow students and teachers hiking the Milford track in NZ.

I never would have imagined this time six years ago all the amazing things I would do at Stella, but I knew what I was passionate about and gave everything a go.

Stella is a school that not only nurtures all talents but actively seeks to extend the interests and abilities of all students. Our thriving sport teams, the many clubs and drama and dance ensembles and social justice programs are testament to the diverse culture at Stella.

Stella raises, nurtures and celebrates young women who understand the

value of community and the importance of charity and compassion, and instills in them an appreciation for education and lifelong learning. Stella's greatest asset is that it prepares young women for the next chapter of their lives in every sense.

It has also been the ordinary everyday life at Stella which has made my journey so incredible: when you look forward to having lunch on the deck each day with friends, when you study something interesting in class or when you get the last chilli chicken roll from the canteen! It's those moments that make school life complete and that I will remember forever.

Essentially to be a Stella Girl is not about coming to a building to learn a few things and then go home, it's about connecting with those around you. The best part of being a Stella Girl isn't something you can see or describe but something you feel.

Sophia, College Captain
An excerpt from address to Year 7 at Welcome Night.



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