



# Stella Maris

COLLEGE MANLY



PROSPECTUS

Living and learning  
*Benedictine values*  
in the 21st Century



# Welcome



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

Stella Maris College, a girls' Catholic independent school, offers a distinctive secondary education with a diverse and flexible curriculum supported by over a century of innovative learning and pastoral excellence. We encourage our girls to nurture personal growth and embrace learning as a lifelong endeavour.

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

I am very proud to say that Stella Girls typically:

- achieve their potential academic outcomes or greater
- 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

A detailed description of life at the College can be found on our website. 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

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





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

## Why choose Stella?

Stella Maris has a reputation for the excellent care it takes of its girls. Going **that extra mile to ensure our girls are supported socially, pastorally and spiritually** makes a world of difference to their academic outcomes as well as to their personal growth.

There are many reasons to choose Stella:

- wide variety of subject choices
- many extra-curricular opportunities
- values education focused on the Gospels and respectful of all traditions
- leaders in the integration of information technologies
- beautiful location near Queenscliff Beach and lagoon that we regularly access
- research shows very clearly that girls perform better in an all-girl environment
- the classroom experience is entirely 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 girls' Catholic school on the Northern Beaches





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

## A clear vision

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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



## Our story so far

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

Begun by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict, the College's Mission and Vision rest on two pillars, both of which are perhaps more relevant today than ever:

- 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?"

As a natural progression from its early days, 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, Year 12, 2012





I'm glad to be a Stella Girl because we all stick together and help each other out. It is good to feel that I am receiving my education in a safe and supportive environment.  
Millie, Year 7





## Listening with the ear of our hearts (St Benedict)

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We listen to the joys and concerns of each girl. **Our girls are quick to identify the facets of school life that are important to them.** They are articulate about their learning and what they love about being a Stella Girl.

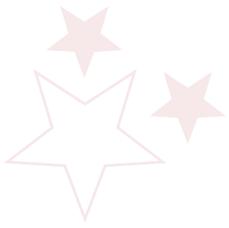
First and foremost, our girls love being part of an energetic and supportive community that they enjoy coming to every day. They have a deep sense of belonging and connection.

Secondly, they recognise that their passion for learning is fueled by the dedication and expertise of our highly experienced and qualified staff, resulting in measurable, and often profound, academic and personal growth.

Some of the things they've told us they love about Stella include:

- a nurturing and safe environment
- being encouraged to take risks and make mistakes in order to learn something new every day
- academic and personal challenges
- expert teachers who care about their learning
- opportunities to express themselves
- room to explore their individual potential and diversify their interests
- personal growth supported by strong pastoral care
- contributing to the wider community and working for the good of others
- respect, acceptance and lasting friendships
- feeling part of a second family





## 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 first hand 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 favourites because we bring out our creative streaks 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.

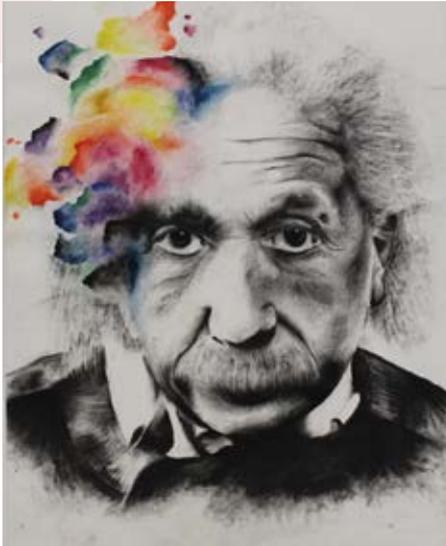
**Karina, Year 7**

## Inspiring

I love being part of all the fundraisers because I know they are going to change others' lives.  
Olivia, Year 7

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

- to be active contributors to the community
- to test the limits of their academic potential
- to see themselves as creators and leaders of the future
- to share their knowledge and expertise for the benefit of others
- to value what is right and just
- to embrace excellence of effort
- to strive for what is worthwhile
- to be brave advocates for the disadvantaged



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**

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

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









## Innovative

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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

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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

If you had asked me in Year 7 what I pictured I would have achieved by the time I got to Year 12, I would not have listed learning to play the euphonium as one of them.

Our school is one that not only nurtures all talents but actively seeks to extend the interests and abilities of its students. Our thriving sports teams, drama ensembles and art departments are testament to the diverse culture we seek to foster. We offer a wide range of subjects as well as extra-curricular excursions, clubs and competitions to keep young minds alive and engaged.

From the charity cake stalls our girls organise almost every other week to the mandatory community service in Year 10, to the simple principle of hospitality that every staff member espouses, Stella Maris has taught me what it means to live as a decent human being. Though our community

is a Catholic one, we open our doors to all faiths and ideologies.

Stella Maris raises, nurtures and celebrates young women who understand the value of community, the importance of charity, and imperative of compassion. We are an educational institution, but not just in the academic sense.

Our goal is to instil each girl with a balanced worldview, an appreciation for education, as well as compassion for others. That is what I think is Stella's greatest asset: that it prepares young women for the next chapter of their lives in every sense. Academically, socially and morally, our school is committed to a holistic education, and for that I am forever grateful.

**Matilda, College Captain 2015.**  
An excerpt from her address to Year 7, 2016.





# Stella Maris

COLLEGE MANLY

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*inclusive innovative inspiring*