



THOMAS CARR  
COLLEGE

CELEBRATING **25** YEARS



# The SPOTLIGHT

ISSUE 05  
AUGUST 2021

“We have to reach beyond ourselves, we have to be a light to the world.”

*Joe Biden, on stage at the Global Citizen Festival New York, 2015*



Thomas Carr Day Mass 2021



Thomas Carr Day Mass & 25th Anniversary celebration



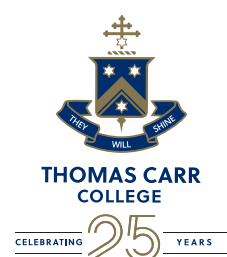
Current and Former Principals celebrating the 25th Anniversary. L to R - Mr Craig Holmes, Mr Paul D'Astoli and Dr Andrew Watson

I was taken by the above quote from Joe Biden which resonates with our College motto: 'They Will Shine'. While our community continues to navigate the uncertainties of COVID-19, our students continue to shine in their individual pursuits and as a cohort of students in 2021.

In this year of our 25th Anniversary we have the privilege of sharing in the significant anniversary of 200 years of Catholic Education in Australia, making 2021 a great year for our Catholic community. In 2021 we have our theme from Hebrews 6:19 – *'We have this HOPE as an anchor for the soul – firm and secure.'* Let us stay true to our theme.

As a young school this anniversary is an important milestone in our journey as we forge a successful path to maturity as a Catholic School in the emerging West. At this time here at Thomas Carr College it is appropriate to honour our past as we look to our future with high expectations for all students.

Our strategic intent moving forward is to develop Thomas Carr College to its full capacity, which entails building the capabilities of each student that is enrolled at the College for today and into the future. As a Catholic College we are proud of the young people we transition out to 'the big wide world' as confident and compassionate young people who will make a difference as global citizens.



## Let Us Celebrate Our Community!

In this year of celebration, we are having a wonderful time showcasing the journey our College has taken over the past 25 years. We are proud to be the current custodians of an outstanding community for learning where students have endless opportunities to flourish.

The Lenten Term was filled with community building events beginning with the College Opening Mass, where students received their 25th Anniversary badge. Other key events included the Year 7 Camp, Swimming Carnival, Athletics Carnival, and the International Women's Day breakfast which was followed by an inspirational address by our local Member for the Federal Parliament, Joanne Ryan. Our female student leaders also attended round table discussions with Sarah Connolly, while three of our teachers developed their own program to support and inspire our male students with aspirations for leadership. Our student leadership program continues to grow with 160 students holding a position of leadership in 2021.

On Sunday March 21, we hosted a most successful Open Day. Despite the rain, the crowds kept coming to see our excellent facilities, our rich and varied subjects and programs, and our students in action as baristas, master chefs, tour guides, athletes, and talented performers as they rehearsed for the exceptional performance of the musical Matilda.

The Pentecost Term began with the Anzac Day and Malaya-Borneo Veterans Association Remembrance Service which captivated the hearts and minds of our staff and students as they participated respectfully and in awe of the eight



*Thomas Carr Day Mass & 25th Anniversary celebration*

decorated Veterans who attended the College assembly and then laid wreaths in our memorial garden.

This year, our Mother's Day Mass and breakfast attracted 180 guests, the greatest response to date. The following week, we celebrated the Thomas Carr 25th Anniversary Mass with Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli, together with the three priests who founded the College, Fr. Moran, Fr. Tobin and Fr. Ray and our current local Parish Priests. The presence of Archbishop Peter and so many priests made this Mass most memorable and the highlight of the year, so far.

On this special occasion, we were delighted to have had the founding principal, Mr. Paul D'Astoli address our community and sharing stories from the beginning when the land purchased as the site for this new school was overrun with rabbits. The stories and the photographic presentation

*Thomas Carr Day Mass 2021*



◀ Let Us Celebrate Our Community! (continued)

gave us an appreciation of how quickly our College has developed and transformed thanks to the vision, dedication, determination and hard work of so many. We were honoured to have had past staff members, including former principal, Dr. Andrew Watson, principals from local Catholic schools, representatives from the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools and parent representatives share this joyous milestone with us.

During the Assumption Term, we will hold further 25th Anniversary events: Thomas Carr Carnival Day, Alumni and Staff Trivia Night and Good Samaritan Country Campus - Family Fun Day as well as many other events. In the final term of 2021, we will hold our inaugural Gala Night of Excellence, our Year 12 Graduation celebrations, and A Night to Shine – all College community events which showcase the achievements, strengths and talents of our students and staff, as inspired people of Hope.



Malaya & Borneo Remembrance Service



International Women's Day Breakfast



International Women's Day Breakfast



Malaya & Borneo Remembrance Service



International Women's Day Breakfast



Malaya & Borneo Remembrance Service

## A Culture of Excellence: We are partners in learning

Shaped by our Catholic identity we place great value in students, teachers and parents working in partnership to ensure all students reach their full potential and excel in their studies.

The impact of extended periods of remote learning throughout 2020, highlighted the important partnership schools and families play in supporting the learning and wellbeing needs of students. It was evident that the ability of teachers and families to work together during this time was powerful in fostering a strong culture of learning both at school and at home.

At different stages this year, our LEARNING@HOME model has continued to provide us with a framework to engage and connect as a dynamic Catholic learning community. The recent period of remote learning in Term Two, was also a timely reminder of our commitment to working in partnership with families to co-design the learning experience for our students away from the traditional classroom environment.

Throughout this year we have continued to develop these partnerships and have extended this by implementing a number of initiatives that aim to provide students with the opportunity to develop effective study strategies to enhance their learning. These include:

- The College's Tutor Learning Program is a targeted program focusing on supporting the literacy and numeracy needs of our students.
- VCE (40+) Mentoring is an ongoing study support program offered to VCE students to work alongside past students who have achieved outstanding results and gain their insights in how to achieve their very best across a range of subjects.
- VCE Study Skill workshops are offered throughout each term. These are facilitated by past students who share useful tips and strategies in how current VCE students can achieve their academic goals.

Earlier this year, Year 12 students and parents attended a series of workshops facilitated by Darren Periera. Strategies discussed included the importance of goal setting and time management with a focus on developing a 'Growth Mindset'. Parents also had the opportunity to hear from Darren as he shared the strategies parents can also use to support their child to achieve success.

These programs are in addition to the wonderful support and guidance our teachers provide in and outside of the classroom daily to cater for the learning needs of our students. Such programs are also further evidence of our commitment to supporting the learning and wellbeing needs of our students.



Thomas Carr Day Mass & 25th Anniversary celebration



VCE Study Skills Workshop



## Celebrating 25 Years

On Friday May 14, 2021, the Thomas Carr College community gathered to celebrate the Eucharist to mark our 25th Anniversary. The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Peter Comensoli, and concelebrated by present and past canonical administrators, Fathers Albert Yogarajah, Jude Pirotta MSSP, Vincent John CMI, Peter Ray, Barry Tobin and Barry Moran.



We remembered with gratitude those who had the vision and the courage to plan for a future secondary school that could provide Catholic education for the young people in the rapidly growing areas of Hoppers Crossing North, Tarneit and Truganina: those pioneers, priests, principals, parents and parishes who saw a need and, in the words of Saint Mary of the Cross, did something about it.

Twenty-five years of history is, relatively speaking, perhaps only a short while compared to many schools. Yet, it is a significant milestone in the life story of Thomas Carr College. It is a time to reflect and acknowledge the past, welcome the present, and look forward in hope to the next 25 years.

Thomas Carr College was opened on January 30, 1997, in honour of Archbishop Thomas Joseph Carr who was the second archbishop of Melbourne from 1886 until his death in 1917. Education was a key priority for Archbishop Carr. He believed that Catholic schools were necessary for the holistic education of Catholic children and young people. He understood well the importance of good schools and the value of education.

In this anniversary year of the College, and coincidentally in this, the 200th anniversary year of Catholic Education in Australia, Archbishop Thomas Carr's spirit, philosophy and foresight will live on in the College that is proud to bear his name.

## SACCSS & House Sport

Since our last edition of The Spotlight, the College has participated in our House Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals, the SACCSS Swimming and Cross Country Carnivals, Yr 7 Premier League and Senior Boys and Girls AFL, Netball and Cricket fixtures.



The House Athletics Carnival was held at Newport Athletics in bright sunny conditions on Friday March 19. The air was filled with much anticipation, house spirit and a great sense of community. It was great to see our Year 12 students decked out in their superhero costumes raising much needed funds for those less fortunate. There was lots of fun in the novelty events and some great performances in the track and field events. Congratulations to Galway on winning this year's House Athletics Carnival.

Our SACCSS Swim Team competed in our first ever major carnival since joining the competition, with our Senior Boys & Girls Teams winning their Divisions and the overall Senior Aggregate title which was a great team effort.

We are also pleased that we had a number of stellar individual and team performances at a very soggy SACCSS Cross Country Carnival at Brimbank Park on Tuesday May 4. The first race saw Liz Hall of Year 8 take a convincing win in the Under 13's Girls event. The last race of the day saw Liam Morgan take out his race in style in the 17-20 year old Boys event. In addition to these outstanding individual results, we had our Intermediate Girls come 3rd overall in their Division and our Senior Boys come 3rd in their respective Division.

Sadly, our Year 7 Premier League Teams and our Senior Boys and Girls Football fixtures were abandoned due to covid restrictions which ruined many opportunities for a handful of our teams to play in their respective Grand Finals. We did though have a sneak peek at the talent we have on display, and we are very excited to see what these teams can achieve in 2022.



What an amazing result by Thomas Carr College Indonesian students in the 2021 Education Perfect Languages Championships. We came 10th in Victoria out of 169 schools for Indonesian.

*Year 11 Student Nyanthier Malual recently featured in the Cadbury 'Women in Sport - AFL' Campaign. She was featured with Akec Makur Chuot, who is a Professional AFL Women's Player. Nyanthier was also featured on Cadbury advertising at Coles Supermarkets.*

Year 11 Student, Bailey Mitchell's 2020 Mythology artwork was selected to be exhibited in the 2021 Footscray Art Prize. Bailey's artwork was displayed in the Young Artists exhibition at Victoria University - MetroWest Footscray in May and June 2021.

*Congratulations to Lions Club Werribee 2021 Youth Award Winner - Thomas Carr College Year 10 Student, Oliver Pond!*

Year 12 student Isabel Choate was interviewed by 'Minutes with Moose,' a popular website dedicated to all things in Women's Footy. Well done on your amazing achievements so far Isabel!

*Congratulations to Year 10 student Oliver Pond, who this week was awarded Senior runner-up for WynSpeak (Wyndham Youth Public Speaking Competition) 2021. Well done on this fantastic achievement Oliver!*



*Congratulations to Liz Hall from Year 8 who won the Under 13 girls run in the SACCSS Cross Country.*



Year 12 student Liam Morgan, recently competed in the National Track and Field Championships in Sydney. Liam placed fourth in Australia – a remarkable achievement!



*Year 10 student Caitlin Dennis recently took part in both the Victorian and Australian Water-skiing Championships. At the Victorian Championships, she placed 3rd in Slalom, 4th in Trick and 4th in Jump with a new personal best of 15.7m. At the Australian Nationals, she came 7th in Slalom, 6th in Trick and 7th in Jump with a personal best of 16.2 metres. She was also named in the Australian Development Squad for 2021 and 2022, where she will be coached by some of the best coaches in Australia.*

*Well Done to Jack Regan from Year 11 on his Speedway Karting and Racing achievements:*

- Fifth in juniors and fifth in junior standard in Tamworth.
- All Power Nationals in Mildura fourth in juniors and in junior Standard.
- Second place in Melbourne Speedway Kart Club Championship.
- Bedgood Memorial at Avalon Speedway - Second place in junior standard.

Year 11 Student Kareem Ali won gold at Victorian State Selections for Taekwondo. He now qualifies to compete in Nationals and protect his national champion title. Kareem also started training with the National Taekwondo Team at the Victorian Institute of Sport after beating one of Australia's best senior fighters (18 years or older) at the World Championship Selections Competition.

*Year 10 Student Keira Eckley is a not only a Taekwondo Black belt, but to date she has won 64 medals, 48 gold, 9 silver and 7 bronze - across local, state, national and international events. She has won several national championship titles, gold at the Oceania Championships in Fiji in 2016 and bronze at the World Championship selections in 2018. Recently she was chosen as Australia's Female Junior Representative in the online World Poomsae Challenge where she finished Top 20 in the world. Congratulations!*

# YEAR 7, 2023 ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN



Applications are available from the Fr Ray  
Administration Centre or by  
Email: [registrar@thomascarr.vic.edu.au](mailto:registrar@thomascarr.vic.edu.au)  
Phone: (03) 8734 2444  
Applications close August 20, 2021.  
[www.thomascarr.vic.edu.au](http://www.thomascarr.vic.edu.au)



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