



# ANNUAL REPORT

2018



**STRATHCONA**  
BAPTIST GIRLS GRAMMAR



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## Values

*Respect*

*Integrity*

*Compassion*

*Courage*

*Empowerment*

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## Guiding Principles

*To be courageous and creative in thinking, learning and research*

*To act judiciously and purposefully in contribution to the world*

*To be resourceful, resilient and optimistic in spirit*

*To utilise authentic and agile learning places and systems*

*To enrich and strengthen our multi-faceted contemporary community*

*To ensure visionary leadership and wise stewardship*

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Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar ensures every student receives individual care in a friendly, supportive environment, while being challenged through innovative programs to achieve the highest possible level academically and in co-curricular pursuits.

There is extensive choice in subjects with the VCE program offering all prerequisites for tertiary courses and a wide selection of studies in Mathematics, Sciences, Humanities, Business and Creative Arts. Languages studied at Strathcona are French, Italian and Mandarin Chinese.

Strathcona's diverse co-curricular program encourages participation in a wide range of activities including drama, music and sporting activities, debating and public speaking. An extensive Global Links Program enables students to participate in tours to France, Italy and China and to take part in exchanges with schools in Korea, Japan, China, France and Germany.

Strathcona's inclusive educational philosophy and extensive curriculum and co-curricular programs are complemented by outstanding facilities. The School has three campuses, Senior School and Early Learning Centre in Scott Street, Canterbury, Junior School in Prospect Hill Road, Canterbury and the Year 9 Campus in Yarra Street, Hawthorn.

Strathcona is an organisation committed to Child Protection and to the implementation of Child Safe policies and practices.

Established in 1924, Strathcona provides a distinctive education in a Christian environment and is one of Melbourne's leading girls' schools.





## FROM THE *Board Chair*

2018 was again a wonderful School year for Strathcona. The Board of Strathcona has had a productive and successful year. I'm pleased to report to the community that the school's finances are in a sound position.

The Board has worked well and positively together this year in an environment of trust and collaboration and membership of both the Board and its Committees has expanded.

Liz Rodriguez and Bruce Tobin joined the Board during the year - Liz is involved in the Grossi chain of restaurants and bars with a passion for education and Bruce is a communications expert. We welcome both their skills to the Board.

During the year we also welcomed four new members of the School community to the Board's committees. Geoff Reeve and Rachel Butler have joined the Property Committee. Geoff is the CEO of Pinnacle Living and has extensive experience in relation to master planning and property development. Rachel is a town planner and a Strathcona alumnus. She won the VPELA Young Professional Award in 2018. We are delighted to have them both on the Property Committee as we work towards the School's centenary and our next master plan.

Adam Stolz has joined the Finance and Risk Committee - he is the deputy chief actuary of Medibank - the school is fortunate to have an actuary join the Finance and Risk Committee.

Richard Close has joined the Development Committee which was established this year to replace the former Marketing Committee with a renewed focus on strategy, enrolments and philanthropy as we head towards the school's centenary in five years. Richard is the Director - Institutional Investments Distribution at Antares Equities and has extensive business development experience.

Thank you to the Board Directors - Sonia Rendigs, John McKinnon, Laura Loftus, Rob McFee, Glen Noonan and Michael Pittendrigh - for your contribution to guiding and leading the school and setting its direction. Particular thanks are due to Trudy Skilbeck who retired from the Board this year after 11 years of outstanding service.

Thank you also to Ivan Andolfatto, Ian Stollery, and Penelope McKay for your contribution to the Board's committees.

The Board and its committees are well positioned to support the school's strategic development in 2019 and beyond.

The board also expresses sincere appreciation to Marise McConaghy for her tireless efforts in leading Strathcona. Marise manages to oversee the day to day operations of the school as well as finding time to attend the many functions and out of school hours events and competitions. On top of that she is constantly questioning, researching and implementing the best structure and frameworks possible to maximise the education, development and potential of our students. Thank you to Deputy Principal Jenni Farmilo and Business Manager Mark Glover for your support of Marise. I know she counts on you both for support in successfully running the school.

But it is not only the Board and staff who contribute to making Strathcona the best place it can be for the education, care and growth of our students.

In an era when we have all become customers and so many of the transactions we do are online and disconnected with other people, the community that a school is becomes increasingly precious and important.

I want to thank all of the Strathcona community members for contributing to our vibrant and passionate community.

Thank you to the Class of 2018 for what you have brought to Strathcona and the mark you will all leave. You are now valued stitches in the tapestry that is the Strathcona story. I hope each of you holds happy memories of your time here in your hearts for the rest of your lives.

Never forget that you have the right to achieve whatever you want.

Thank you to the parents of the Year 12s for your contribution over the years that your daughter was at Strathcona.

For those parents starting and still on the Strathcona journey, thank you to you too for your contribution to the Strathcona community.

*Mrs Jocelyn Furlan, Chair of the Board*



# FROM THE *Principal*

## Presentation Night Speech 2018

Good evening distinguished guests, staff, students, families and special friends of Strathcona.

I would like to acknowledge Rev Daniel Bullock, Director of Mission and Ministries at the Baptist Union of Victoria, and also Dr Kate Rickersey, recipient of this year's Strathcona Medal.

Thank you for giving up your time to be with us this evening and to be part of our program. We are very grateful.

On behalf of the parents, staff and students of Strathcona, I would like to thank members of the School Board, and the Board Subcommittees

- Nominations and Governance
- Finance and Risk
- Property
- Development
- Old Strathconians and the Strathcona Family Association
- Also to be mentioned in this context are the many other groups and individuals within the School who give up personal time to make the School the vibrant and warm community that it is. Thank you. Your generosity and community-mindedness is very much appreciated.

To our departing Schools Captains - Alisha Sandhu, Natasha Hawkins and Rebecca Furlan - I give my heartfelt thanks. In order to nurture in our students strong leadership, I believe in the importance of a place for student voice and empowerment. We shall be continuing to provide opportunities - small and large - for as many girls as we can to exercise their leadership muscles and strengthen a strong sense of self-agency. 2018 Captains, you have been a fine example for this.

Tonight is a celebration of our whole community for this school year, which is so rapidly drawing to a close. Naturally it focuses on our wonderful students, in particular our departing Year 12s. An evening such as this gives us an opportunity to applaud outstanding achievements across many areas, diverse talents and areas of engagement of all our students, staff and community. While tonight is about this - more importantly - it is also about joyfully showcasing the breadth and depth of all that is done, together, at Strathcona.

This symbolises our approach to the education of girls; definitely striving for the best in learning outcomes for all, but also the importance of a balanced approach to School life, which includes areas such as arts, sport, community service, global engagement, socialising, having fun and just having a go. So much goes on in a School year and the momentum is such that there is a strong *#Strathcona Unstoppable* feeling.

To say that this is a very busy time of year to this audience, is very much to state the obvious.

Over the past few weeks, in different groupings, we have already gathered together to celebrate so much of what has occurred this year and specifically our girls. Parents, thank you so much for your support, sheer endurance and logistical capacity to manage competing obligations to be with us every step of the way throughout the year and now particularly as it all draws to a close. We have been together just in the last few weeks for:

- Sports Celebration Evening,
- A Volunteer Cocktail Party,
- The Valedictory Dinner,
- Year 6 Graduation,
- Junior School Music Concert,
- Early Learning Centre Christmas plays,
- Christmas Church Service,
- ...and more recently and most memorably, PAF - our Performing Arts Festival - where our girls astonished us all in what they could create and perform in a week. It was the first year that we included the whole House from Year 7 - Year 11, as part of our new approach to pastoral care, strengthening the House sisterhood, and providing leadership experience and role modelling. You did all that so well and showcasing our amazing talent in the performing arts. It really was quite outstanding. Tonight we will show you film highlights of this as well as the many other events of the School's 94th year.
- Last, but very much not least the core business of teaching and learning has occurred too, of course.

I am sure you have noticed our marketing campaign this year *#Girls Unstoppable*. We adopted this as we wanted to

communicate to the girls – and to the community - a belief that girls are strong, they can be invincible, and that they can do anything with a bit of grit, appropriate support, and determination. This fits in nicely with Growth Mindset as well as the character trait in our School Motto 'Bravely'. Whenever I say 'girls can do anything', I always hear the words of former Governor General Governor, Quentin Bryce in my head when she spoke to a group of Queensland girls about 13 years ago. Yes, she said to them, you can, and you will if you want, but 'not necessarily all at the same time and not all of you will want to'. I think that is wise counsel for all of us. I am conscious not to gloss over things for our girls and young women - or to avoid the fact that there are very real challenges in workplaces, relationships, and balancing timing and life choices.

Having watched past students navigate lives after school for a few decades now, I am very wary of the 'have it all', just 'lean in', 'conquer the world' and it will all be fine glibness. We want wise, discerning, considered, savvy feminists. But nonetheless, together – girls, staff, parents, the whole community - we shall be as unstoppable as we can in achieving our aspirations. We do not want our students – or staff for that matter - to be timid about doing challenging things or of letting fear of failure stop them. We want them to understand the notion of 'Impostor Syndrome', but to cut through it anyway. I very strongly believe that our girls – and our staff – are capable of far more than they think they are. I love for them to be surprised at their own capabilities - as in PAF, Envision, #CoLAB, sport, Girls Outdoor, hard Maths problems, leadership – or any number of things that have been accomplished – and to feel a sense of pride and empowerment.

Also, we need to endure the times when things are not quite there yet – we are a learning community, after all, not a perfection community and learning is mostly an incremental occurrence. We are committed to providing opportunities to explore every aspect of the potential of our students by challenging them to step out of their comfort zones, while also being safely held in our caring community. The decision to take up the notion of 'unstoppability' perhaps was considered by some as a bit radical – subversive even – and a different, more 'dialled up', approach for Strathcona. However, I wanted to signal to the wider community the bench strength, not only of our girls, but the School as whole. We might be a lovely mid-sized school with campuses tucked discreetly away in some of the most beautiful streets in Melbourne, but our students and staff punch well above their weight in so many areas - and our aspirations as a School are hardly timid - and nor are we overly conservative. We are considered and we are here. We are not on a major road where signage, long fences, many acres, tall buildings and large bill boarding shout out 'here I am', but we are quite a force in our own unique Strathy way.

How's this for a few examples?

- 13 of our teachers are VCAA markers
- Two have written text books
- Two of our teachers have received national awards
- Our academic programs have drawn at least 15 groups of

visitors from other schools, in some cases, from interstate and overseas

- Three of our teachers have recently presented at international conferences and six at State and National level
- Our Business Manager was one of a very few Australian Business Managers (ASBA) to attend the new Hewlett Packard Education Enterprise Centre in Singapore, thus accessing some of the most cutting edge technologies in the IT industry. Additionally he is a national board member of the Australian Schools Bursars' Association and State Vice-President and Professional Development Convenor for ASBA (Victoria). He also sits on the board of ASCA Better Buying Power for Schools
- I am on the board of Alliance of Girls Schools Australasia and act as national Vice President and have recently been made Victorian Representative for Harvard Women Australia
- A number of our teachers have work which has been published in various academic journals
- *Legally Blonde* received a number of 2018 Lyrebird Youth Awards including Best Ensemble, Best Choreographer, Best Comedic Performance, Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress
- Our Leader of Curriculum and Innovation in the Junior School has 22.0k Twitter followers from all over the world and she is regularly invited by Google to launch various products and together with the Head of Technology and Innovation are regularly invited to present in various forums.

The staff at Strathcona would have to be described as high performing. Over the four years since I have been here, every area, both teaching and non-teaching, has been reviewed and changes made where necessary. Often the reviews conducted have been external so that there is a strong sense of high level scrutiny and accountability. Staff have implemented new systems and taken feedback graciously, setting themselves individual goals and a professional learning path. I am excited at the ideas they put forward and their sense of ownership of the school and their own development. They are fine role models for the students showing them that learning, collaboration, being brave and being responsive to change are vital in today's environment.

On Q & A a few of months ago, the audience was asked if they believed a great teacher can change a life. 99% said yes. Our teachers do things small and large every day to assist students achieve their best and grow well. Go, #StrathyStaff, thank you, you are very Unstoppable! Thank you.

And what about our students' #Unstoppability?

How's this for a few examples?

- One of our younger girls was invited to a morning tea by the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer to receive an award for leadership, academic excellence, resilience and kindness.
- Two of our Year 12 students were awarded the 2017 Kooyong Leadership Prizes for General Excellence, leadership, and contribution to community

- A senior student has been welcomed into the class of 2019 Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars' Program at the University of Melbourne
- One of our Year 11 was been invited to perform at one of the Top Class Concerts held at the Melbourne Recital Centre
- A Year 11 student was selected to participate in the National Schools' Constitutional Convention in Canberra
- The Year 9 Future Problem Solving team were awarded second place in the International Future Problem Solving Competition held in the US
- Two of our students won the prestigious Hawthorn Voice of a Generation Competition on the topic
- One of our Year 12 students has been awarded a Melbourne Principal's Scholarship to the University of Melbourne
- 88 students participated in the ICAS Mathematics Competition and 7 were awarded High Distinction, 23 Distinctions, 36 Credits and 6 Merits.
- A Year 11 student has been selected to participate in the Australian Chemistry Olympiad School at the ANU
- A Year 12 has received a Gold Medal in the 2018 Australian Art Award

While this is a list of some stellar achievements, the days of School life are full of little, important moments, where each and every student pushes through on things that are challenging thus building character, self-understanding, strength and learning. It might be to be in a class where they did not know anyone at first but pushing through the awkward first days and to getting to know people. Or asking a teacher a question or answering a question in class. Or staying with a difficult concept until a logic emerges. Or speaking in public. Or speaking up for something important or defending someone who is not being treated well. All these small decisions and actions are so very precious and important in development.

I spend many hours interviewing intake students. Presently I have been doing some for little girls who are coming in to Year 7 in 2021. I always ask the question 'Why Strathcona'? Responses are fairly consistent. Prospective families value the balance the school has between the academic, pastoral and co-curricular. Almost always, there is always something else they comment upon. They say, for example, that they came to an Open Day and 'just liked the feel of it', 'it just felt right - warm' or 'We really liked the girls who took the tour'. In the last few weeks, a number of different parents said 'our babysitter is a Strathcona girl and I just really like her, that's why I chose the School for my daughter'. A while ago a mother said that her Year 12 son had a Strathy girlfriend and, after looking into the school, she decided that she wanted this for her daughter. Two weeks ago, a father who is a physiotherapist said that he treats students in Kew from many schools. He said he just liked the Strathcona girls best. He said they were courteous, pleasant to their parents, and curious about the science of their injuries and intelligent in questioning. Another mother said she intentionally sought

Work Experience students from various schools to assist with her research in regard to a school for her daughter. She chose Strathcona because she liked the character of the girls best.



So, girls, you are Unstoppable each in your own dignified, understated, lovely way. You are not perfect, of course. But you are something pretty special. I think this comes from an alignment of values and aspirations of your parents - and of the enduring culture of Strathcona - established long before I stepped into the gates of Scott Street. Thank you for being you. Year 12, it is time to say goodbye to you as Strathcona students. Tonight really will be the last time you wear that blue checked dress and remove the white ribbon from your pony tail. However, you are the Strathy sisterhood of 2018, forever. It is time for the 2018 academic year unstoppable-ness to stop. We now need - all of us - to rest, reflect and relax.

#### **Year 12...**

When you come to the edge of all the light you know,  
 And are about to step off into the darkness of the unknown,  
 Faith is knowing one of two things will happen;  
 There will be something solid to stand on,  
 Or you will be taught how to fly.  
 At Strathcona we have provided you with something solid to stand on.  
 Now it is time for you to test your wings...  
 May the road rise to meet you,  
 May the wind be always at your back.  
 May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
 The rains fall soft upon your fields.  
 And until we meet again,  
 May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

*Mrs Marise McConaghy, Principal*



## FROM THE *School Captain*

One of the most exciting moments of this year for me, as sad as it may seem, was receiving my student ID card. Nothing is better than buying discounted movie tickets or getting 10% off Topshop items. However, what was most amusing was aligning my previous ID cards and comparing my 'trendy' hairstyles, ranging from the sweeping Bieber side fringe, to the side ponytail that made me look like I belonged to an 80's TV show. Despite the slow and unfortunate loss of my tan and the darkening of my under-eye bags from all the late nights, when it came to this year's picture, I was happy to see that regardless of the challenges of growing up and being well aware of the hardships my final year had to offer, I was still beaming in my final photo.

Beginning my Strathy school career at age 8, my eyes and heart were open to the new experiences and opportunities of our school. From our small class of 18 in Grade 3 to our Year 12 cohort of 94 students, we've together experienced the ups and down of life itself. We've endured the slog of SAC's, jumped in the pool at the Swimming Carnival and glammed up for the Formal and Valedictory. We've received the symbolic Year 12 stripe, ran our final lap on Aths day and adjusted to the ever-changing architecture of the School, which agonizingly left us to endure the portable classrooms for the entirety of 2014! Likewise, we shall enter into this new period of our lives beyond school, uncertain of the future but much more prepared than we were this time last year.

If I had to take one thing away from us as a cohort, it is our ability to stand by one another in unity, even in the most adverse situations. I encourage you to keep that, because, as my parents repeatedly remark, 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going'. Always push yourselves, learn to challenge, question everything, pester teachers until you finally understand the concept and speak to those girls you've not done so before. Whatever it may be, I encourage you to never stop and always be optimistic.

Endless thanks must be extended to so many, but I'd like to acknowledge a few in particular:

My parents, for supplying me with cups of coffee that I took advantage of far too often and lunch orders for when I was too tired to prepare anything myself. Your reinforcement and encouragement, along the side lines, made the tough times easier to withstand.

The staff, who always exude dedication and care towards us students. You have shaped and equipped us in a way that cannot be replicated. Each teacher has supplemented each student with a unique understanding that has made our schooling more memorable, and for that, we will be forever grateful.

Mrs McConaghy and Mrs Farmilo's teamwork and deep adoration for each students' wellbeing is cherished by us all, particularly us Captains who cannot thank you enough for your care in ensuring that we have had a comfortable and balanced year, and helping us put together those last-minute assemblies!

And of course, I cannot forget my Deputies and my peers. Natasha and Rebecca, your guidance and friendship has been indispensable and I'm forever grateful for your role in making the school a better place. And to the rest of my fellow 2018 graduates, this year has been a blur, yet your unrelenting enthusiasm and support for one another has been vividly inspiring. As we springboard into our respective interests of continuing our studies at University, volunteering, travelling or exchanges, I have no doubt that we, as a cohort, are destined for great things.

So, next year, when I receive my new University ID card, I'll be able to place it next to my collection of secondary cards and continue to map the evolution of all my hairstyles and my life ahead.

*Alisha Sandhu, School Captain*





## ATTENDANCE RATES

Prep to Year 12

# 95%

2018 School Year

# GOVERNANCE & Corporate Structure

Strathcona's vision is to be recognised as the premier girls' school in Melbourne, at the forefront of curriculum delivery and pastoral care. We aim to foster the academic achievement of students at all ability levels and promote excellence in a wide range of co-curricular activities.

The School's constitutional structure is served by a Board of Directors. The Board exists to provide:

- policy development and ongoing review
- financial oversight
- strategic planning
- risk management
- good governance in general

The day-to-day management of the School rests with the Principal and her staff.

The Board comprises up to 15 members. Some are current parents and some are past students or parents of past students. All share a collective aim of protecting and enhancing the wellbeing of the School. The Board composition reflects a diverse School community. All Board members have leadership experience; many have financial, legal, education or marketing expertise.

## The Board for the 2018 School year comprised:

- **Chair:** Mrs Jocelyn Furlan, *B.Com, LLB, MAICD, FIPA*
- **Deputy Chair:** Ms Sonia Rendigs, *B.Public Relations and Organisational Communication (NY) (Marketing)*
- **Deputy Chair & Secretary:** Ms Trudy Skilbeck, *B.Sc., LLB, FGIA, FCIS*
- **Treasurer & Finance and Risk Committee Chair:** Mr Glen Noonan, *B.Sc. (Computer Science and Accounting), CA*
- **Property Committee Chair:** Mr Robert McFee, *B.Arch., CertTech, Member ARB*
- **Development Committee Chair:** Mr Bruce Tobin, *MA (Communication)*
- **Baptist Union Representative:** Mr Michael Pittendrig, *B.Bus (Accounting), CA*
- **Old Strathconians Association Representative:** Ms Laura Loftus, *B.Com.(Accounting), LLB (Hons)*
- Mrs Elizabeth Rodriguez, *B.Hosp & Mgmt, GAICD*
- Mr John McKinnon, *B.Sc., Grad.Dip.Comp*
- **Principal:** Mrs Marise McConaghy, *BA., Dip Ed., ASDA, MACE, FAIM*
- **Deputy Principal:** Mrs Jenni Farmilo, *Dip Teach, Grad Dip in Music Ed, Master of Educational Leadership, Dip of Life Coaching, MACE, MACEL*
- **Business Manager & Company Secretary:** Mr Mark Glover *AssocDipBus DipCorp Governance, CPA, MBA*

## The 2018 School Leadership Team comprised:

- **Principal:** Mrs Marise McConaghy, *BA., Dip Ed., ASDA, MACE, FAIM*
- **Deputy Principal:** Mrs Jenni Farmilo, *Dip Teach, Grad Dip in Music Ed, Master of Educational Leadership, Dip of Life Coaching, MACE, MACEL*
- **Business Manager:** Mr Mark Glover *AssocDipBus DipCorp Governance, CPA, MBA*
- **Senior Dean of Learning, Research and Innovation:** Mr Ross Phillips, *BSc, GradDipEd, MEdSt, MACE, MACEL*
- **Dean of Academic Operations:** Ms Tracy Herft, *BSc, DipEd*
- **Dean of School & Head of Science:** Mr Mark Hamilton, *BSc, DipEd, MEd*
- **Head of VCE:** Ms Simone Boland, *BEd, MEd, PostGradDip (Stud.Welfare)*
- **Head of Tay Creggan:** Mrs Julie Plymin, *B.Sc.Ed., Grad.Dip.Sci. Ed, Grad.Dip.Hum., Grad.Dip.Teach.LOTE*
- **Head of Junior School:** Mr Geoffrey Little, *BEd(Prim), MEd(ICT)*
- **Director of School & Community Relations:** Mrs Joanne Wilson, *BBus*
- **Director of Marketing & Communications:** Mrs Marion Cape, *BA(Media and Comms)*



Year 12, 2018 cohort

# STUDENT OUTCOMES

## VCE

It is with pleasure that we congratulate the class of 2018 on their outstanding VCE results. We are proud of our enduringly strong academic results and acknowledge the hard work and commitment of our students, their teachers and the constant support and encouragement of our parents.

Excellence in outcomes are a result, not only of individual self-discipline and tenacity, but of team effort. This does not happen by magic, nor is it the result of any one person but it is a strong community that creates the appropriate care, support, time and belief that brings out the best in our young women.

I am delighted with the diversity of achievements across the academic disciplines, not to mention the co-curricular participation, which has enriched the girls' lives and will assist in post-school pursuits.

Our students' have started to find their own individual passions and interests, demonstrating determination, exhibiting leadership, while also involving themselves generously and joyously in all parts of school life.

The full stories of achievement and contribution will be told over time, but the seeds have been planted now. Our graduating students will continue to grow and learn.

A Strathcona girl is far more than a number. She is intelligent, brave, creative, warm and compassionate.

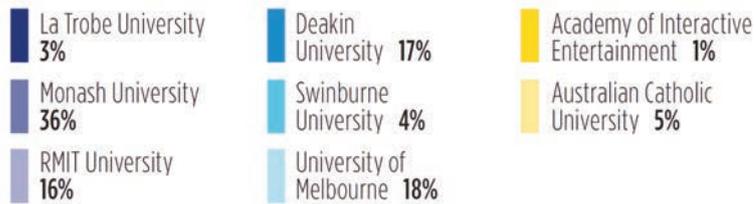
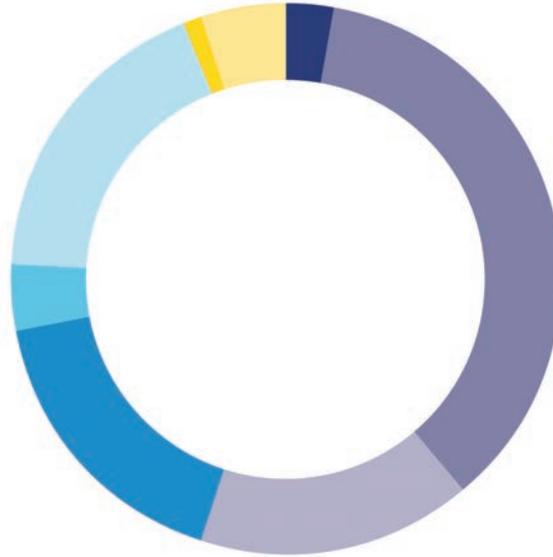
Our Class of 2018 go out into the community fully equipped and ready to make their generous contributions to the world.

*Mrs Marise McConaghy, Principal*

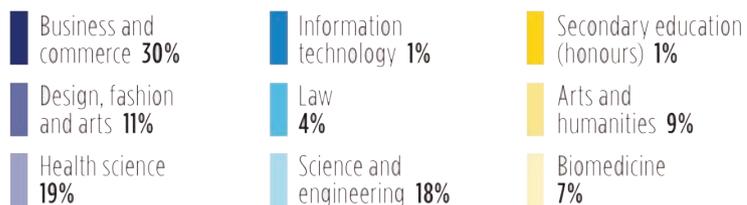
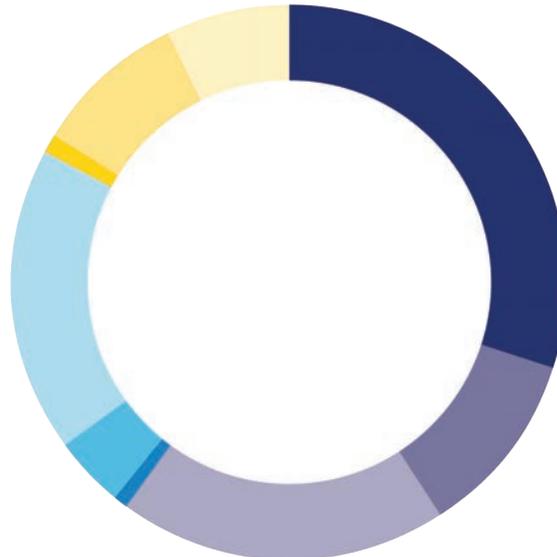
- **10%** of students with an ATAR 98+ (top 2% of the state)
- **3** perfect study scores of 50
- **46%** of students with an ATAR of 90+ (top 10% of the state)
- **76%** of students with an ATAR of 80+ (top 20% of the state)
- **25%** of study scores were 40 or above

HIGHLIGHTS

## University Destinations for the Class of 2018



## Course Type for the Class of 2018

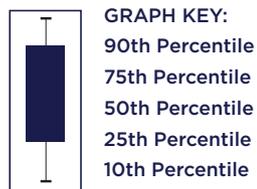


# STUDENT OUTCOMES *Naplan*

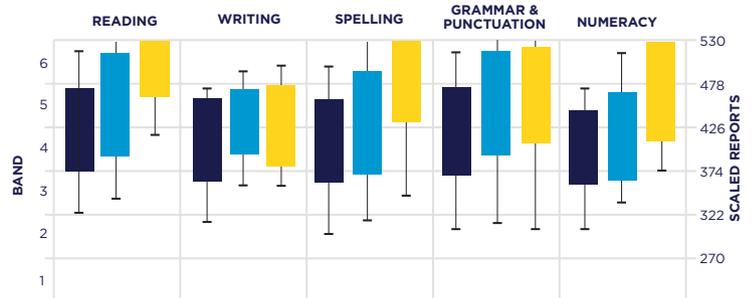
NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy) assesses students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in numeracy and literacy each May. This testing provides the parents and the School with feedback on how their daughters have performed in literacy and numeracy against national benchmarks. These reports were sent home in September. The School has access to the details of the marking of the tests to assist with assessing the curriculum directions of the School and for tracking the specific needs of individual students. The results must be seen as a snapshot of performance on the day of the test and are not an indication of a student's potential. Strathcona students continue to perform exceptionally well in the NAPLAN tests with their average score being about two years ahead of the average student score in the State. The data also reinforces Strathcona's focus on differentiation as it details the levels at which students are operating, supporting the information gleaned by the teachers in their day-to-day work with the students. The growth of our students from test to test is of greatest importance, which on average is very strong. However, the data also highlights students who perhaps could be doing a little better. As research supports, a broad curriculum is advantageous in developing literacy and numeracy skills in all students and it is not just in English and Mathematics that these skills are learnt and reinforced. The following graphs show the results of Strathcona in 2018 compared with the rest of the country and the State. In seventeen of the twenty tests the median Strathcona student scored near or better than 75% of students in the State.

*Mr Ross Phillips, Senior Dean of Learning, Research and Innovation*

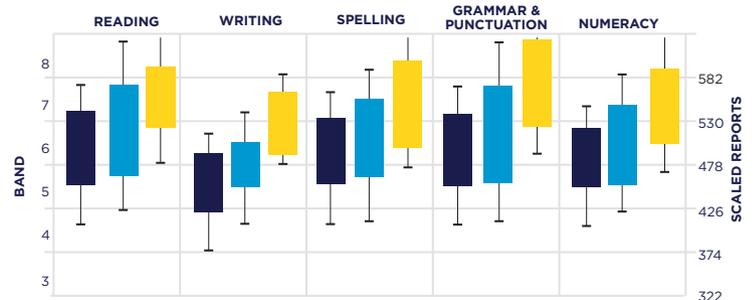
National
  State
  Strathcona



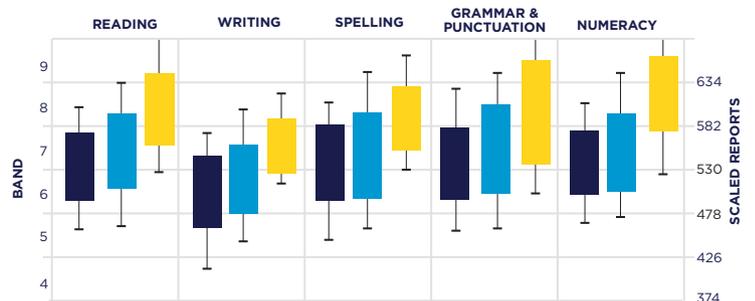
**Year 3 NAPLAN 2018**



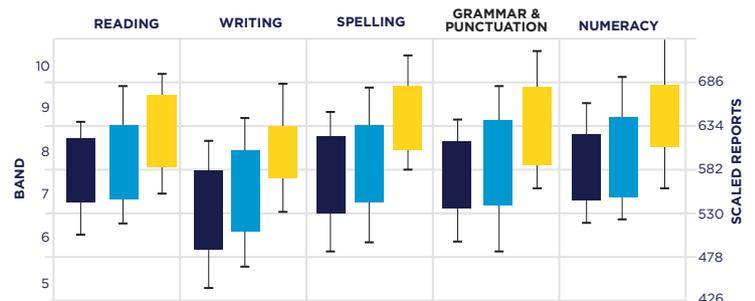
**Year 5 NAPLAN 2018**



**Year 7 NAPLAN 2018**



**Year 9 NAPLAN 2018**



# TEACHING & Learning

Learning is always the focus at Strathcona. There are many developments each year that ensures Strathcona stays fresh and contemporary in learning. The following outlines the major developments in curriculum and pedagogy at Strathcona in 2018.

As foreshadowed in 2017, a major initiative was introduced at Year 9 in response to the changing demands on learning driven by changes in work and society. Envision in this first incarnation implemented much of what research highlights is needed for the contemporary students at this age. This includes working collaboratively and creatively, developing interpersonal skills and initiative. It has long been accepted at Strathcona that Year 9 is an age group that requires unique attention given their developmental stage, needing to move safely from early adolescence to young adulthood. This recognition led to the purchase and establishment of Tay Creggan as a separate campus for Year 9 fifty years ago. In 2018, with Envision, Year 9 students cycled through several programs including Explore, which built on the former ILearning program and involved exploring the city of Melbourne. In Explore students made a range of art works representing what they discovered about Melbourne as they got to know the city's history and present, better than many of their parents. Engage had the students performing with Music and even had a film festival of their own works shot at Tay Creggan featured, along with a production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Enterprise involved students in establishing a small business. The girls hosted six events throughout the year including a night market, an afternoon tea, a conference for outdoor education teachers, a parent information evening and a fashion show. It was certainly a diverse program that allowed students opportunities for creativity and venturing beyond what the more formal part of the curriculum usually allows.

Also Digital Technologies is an essential part of learning for our times. It is also a key component in the Victorian Curriculum. With the appointment of two high profile and engaging teachers in this field, Strathcona advanced rapidly in its provision in this area. The Junior School established coding, involving the use of a range of robots, and the Tinker Train, the vehicle our teachers designed to present design thinking to the students. This extended into the Senior School with virtual reality, augmented reality and other advances such as 3D printing making their way into our classrooms. At the end of the year this culminated in a reinvention of the program formerly known as SEED to #coLAB! For this unit all Year 7 and 8 students worked in collaborative teams for over a week, developing their own video games. They went through a thorough process of analysing what worked with games, learning to code, setting criteria for success and programming their games. The unit ended with an arcade of all their games to play filling the Year 7 and 8 area. It was a great learning experience developing some of the most important skills for students of 2018.



Strathcona also launched a number of new subjects for 2019 that students could select from in Digital Technologies. Students have been required to date to study two languages in Years 7 and 8. From 2019, they can opt to do one and undertake a new subject called Digital Futures. In Year 10 they can choose an elective called Creating New Worlds in Virtual Reality and Year 10 and 11 students can choose to undertake VCE VET Creative Digital Media. Strathcona has become a school with an outstanding program in digital technologies.

Significant focus is given to the VCE as the scores for the VCE are important for access to tertiary studies. The Strathcona academic staff annually review the data on the VCE performance of students to maximise the performance ensuring that Strathcona is among the top performing schools in the state. In 2018 there was enhanced focus on using the data with the assistance of consultant Carmel Richardson, who led the VCE teachers through how our students performed compared with how they were expected to perform. The intention is that teachers become more aware of what the data can tell them and use it to inform their practice, ensuring the best possible VCE results for their students.

Thinking skills and 'learning how to learn' or metacognition is perhaps the most important skill students can learn in school. When the facts covered in a unit have been forgotten, the skill to access new knowledge and apply it as required remains and is truly transferable from subject to subject and ultimately job to job. In 2018, through Independent Schools Victoria, Strathcona's Year 8 students completed a series of afternoons and follow up work with neuroscientist Dr Jarod Horvath in a project called Cognizance. These students learned skills to improve and make the most of their memories and understand some of the wonders of the brain.

A number of Strathcona staff participated in a research project with our visiting scholars, Adjunct Professors from the Queensland University of Technology Erica McWilliam and Peter Taylor called First Day, First Class. The research



worked with teachers from a range of Australian schools to understand how successful teachers set up routines in the initial lessons of the year. Most class room research tends to focus on classes that are already established, making this research ground breaking. They found a range of practices of teachers that helped inform teachers how some approaches are more productive than others.

In the latter half of 2018, the School subscribed to a curriculum documentation and development program called Rubicon Atlas. This stores all the curriculum documentation in living documents in a common format and place, enabling all users to access the full curriculum of the School to assist with planning and designing programs. The Heads of Departments will be introduced to the software to roll out with their teams through 2019.

We also undertook a review of scholarships and their value to the School.

### **Professional Development**

Teachers are students too. One of the goals of a Strathcona education is life long learning. Teachers need to model this but they also need to continuously learn to ensure that their practice and content knowledge is up to date and fresh.

At any one time, several Strathcona staff members are engaged in formal education themselves through post graduate programs at a range of universities. More broadly, there is also significant involvement in teacher and leadership conferences, in house professional learning and training. All teachers are required to undertake at least 20 hours of standards based professional learning every year to maintain their registration. Most teachers would do much more than that.

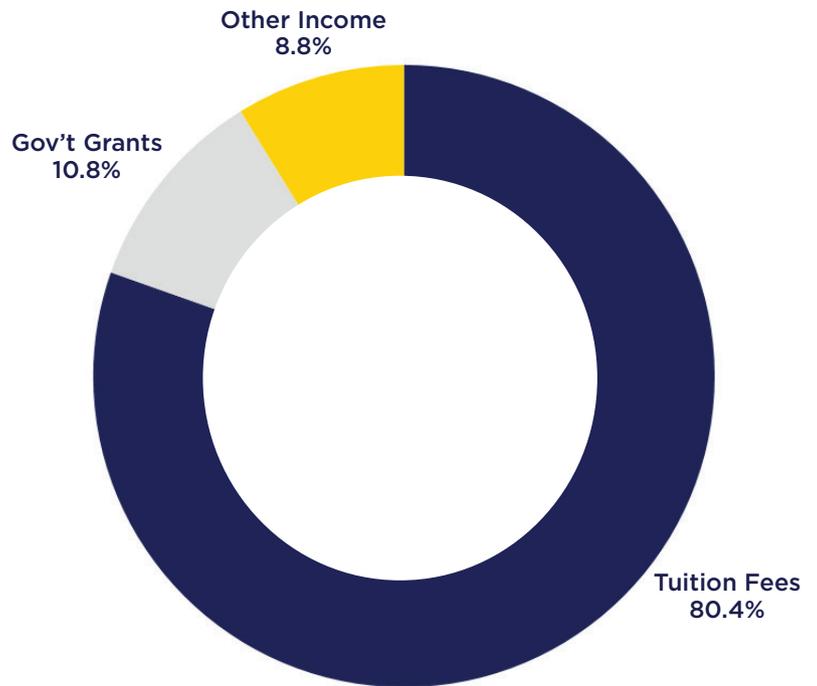
While much of the internal focus of professional learning was in the use of MyStrathcona, teachers also engaged in a wide range of curriculum and wellbeing aspects of the school.

*Mr Ross Phillips, Senior Dean of Learning, Research and Innovation*

# FINANCIAL Overview

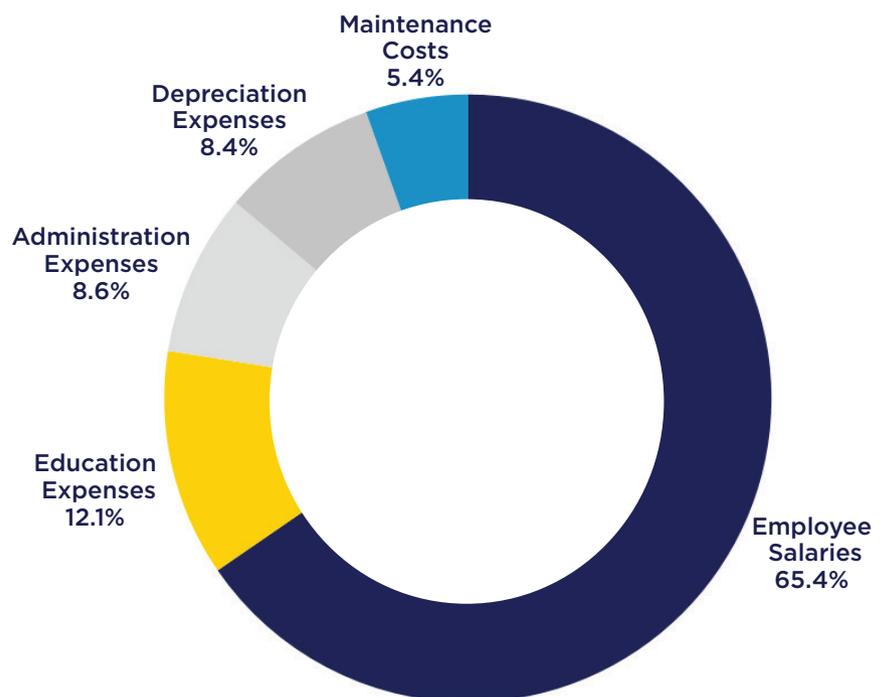
## Income

The chart shows the breakdown of income sources for 2018. Tuition fees account for more than 80% of total income with the balance coming from Government Grants (Commonwealth and State) and Other Income (Donations and Sundry Income).



## Expenditure

The chart shows the breakdown of expenditure for 2018. The major components of expenditure are Employee Salaries (staff salaries and benefits), Education Expenses (subject expenses and co curricular activities), Administration expenses (overheads, marketing and insurance), Maintenance expenses and Depreciation expenses.





# STRATHCONA ACADEMIC

## Highlights 2018

A selection of some of the magnificent individual and team academic achievements in 2018.

**Australian Art Award (2018)** - Emily Toner (Year 12) received a Gold Medal for her artwork entitled 'Starry trails over the hills'.

**Australian Chemistry Olympiad** - Tamsyn Lovass (Year 11) achieved a bronze medal after attending the summer camp in Canberra with the top 24 of the 2000 contestants in the country. Tamsyn had also been selected to participate in the Australian Chemistry Olympiad School at ANU.

**Australian History Competition** - Chloe Tremewen and Alyssa Yap (Year 9) achieved High Distinctions in the Competition.

**Australian Mathematics Olympiad** - Mahalakshme Thiagarajan (Year 8) placed in the top 2% of participants in the country.

**Australian Physics Olympiad** - Tamsyn Lovass and Maya Weston (Year 11) achieved High Distinction for Physics, placing them in the top 10% of the 1700 contestants in Australia.

**Award for Leadership, Academic Excellence, Resilience and Kindness** - Ivy Anderson (Year 7) was invited to a morning tea by the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer.

**Dante Alighieri Discorso Writing Competition** - Laura Jarrett placed 1st and Caitlin Jones placed 2nd in the Year 12 Non-Italian category. Charlotte Orgill placed 1st and Hannah Venema placed 2nd in the Year 11 Non-Italian category.

**Dante Alighieri Poetry Recitation** - Chloe Tremewen (Year 9) placed 3rd in the Non-Italian section.

**Education Perfect East Melbourne Science Championships** Years 7-9 Strathcona students won the Championships, answering the most online Science questions during Science Week.

**Future Problem Solving** - Our team of Alyssa Yap, Piper Le Page, Zoe Lee and Carissa Khong (Year 9) were awarded second place in the International Final in the USA.

**Hawthorn Voice of a Generation Competition** - Chloe Plant (Year 8) and Natasha Hawkins (Year 12) won the prestigious Competition.

**ICAS Mathematics Competition** - 88 students participated, seven students awarded High Distinctions, 23 Distinctions, 36 Credits and six Merits.

**ICAS Science Competition** - Tamsyn Lovass (Year 11) achieved the equal top result in Australia for Year 11 students.

**Kooyong Leadership Prizes for General Excellence, Leadership and Contribution to Community (2017)** - Kate Leyden and Bella Thom (Year 12).

**Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars' Program (2019)** - Tamsyn Lovass (Year 11) has been welcomed at the University of Melbourne.

**Melbourne Principal's Scholarship** - Chloe Hulme (Year 12) received the Scholarship to the University of Melbourne.

**Monash Gallery of Art Student Photography Competition** - Sophie Altmann (Year 11).

**National Schools' Constitutional Convention in Canberra** - Maya Weston (Year 11) was selected to participate.

**NCCS Coding Competition** - Our team of Mahalakshme Thiagarajan (Year 8), Shin Yi Pan, Katherine Ma and Caitlin Jong (Year 6) achieved perfect score.

**RACI Titration Stakes** - Strathcona had three teams placing within the top 35 out of 300 schools competing in Victoria, making us eligible to compete at the National Competition. Particular mention to Cate Oldham, Caitlin Deery and Sophie Golding Chan (Year 12) who came 2nd in Victoria! Sophie went on to receive a Gold Award in the National Competition.

**Science Talent Search** - Strathcona had its most successful year to date in the Talent Search. From our 25 entries, ten students received bursaries, totalling \$860 with four students being awarded major bursaries. They were awarded to Saskia Heng, Isobel Moyle, Ebony Reid, Gwyneth Chan (Year 8).

**Swannie Award, Debaters' Association of Victoria** - Anjelica Dimitriou (Year 9) best debater for her Year Level in the Camberwell region.

**Top Class Concerts** - Anna Zeng (Year 11) has been invited to perform at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

**UN Evatt Competition** - Tamsyn Lovass and Maya Weston (Year 11) made it to the State Final.

**Girls**

**unstoppable**



**STRATHCONA**  
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**Senior Campus: Senior/Middle School**  
34 Scott St, Canterbury VIC 3126

**Year 9 Campus: Tay Creggan**  
30 Yarra St, Hawthorn VIC 3122

**Junior Campus: Prep to Year 6**  
173 Prospect Hill Rd, Canterbury VIC 3126

**Early Learning Centre**  
34 Scott St, Canterbury VIC 3126