## AISACT CELEBRATING 1973 2023 YEARS







### **VALUES**

#### INDEPENDENCE

The right of schools to actively promote their independence through each school's ethos and the values reflective of the school community.

#### CHOICE

The opportunity for parents and carers to exercise choice regarding the schooling they wish for their children.

#### DIVERSITY

The provision of diversity in education, and that each independent school community has the right to have their values reflected in the nature and characteristics of their school.

#### **EXCELLENCE**

The pursuit of excellence in education so that all students can reach their potential.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

AISACT acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as the traditional custodians of the land on which our office and Member schools reside, and pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region, and as the first teachers and storytellers of this land.

#### **MEMBER SCHOOLS**



Blue Gum Community School





Buramann Analican School



Canberra Christian School



Canberra Girls Grammar School



Canberra Grammar School



Canberra Montessori School



Covenant Christian School



Daramalan College



**Emmaus** Christian School



Galilee School



Islamic School of Canberra



Marist College Canberra



Orana Steiner School



Radford College



St Edmund's College



Taqwa School



Christian School

### **ASSOCIATE MEMBER SCHOOLS**





Snowy Mountains Grammar School

### **FOREWORD**

On 22 February 1973, a meeting was held "to investigate the formation of an Association of Independent Schools of the ACT". The Principals/ Heads and Chairs of six schools were at this initial meeting, believing that it was important to form an Association to have the views of independent schools advocated to Government and education departments. Influential in this position was the desire to have a collective voice to the soon to be established Schools Authority in the ACT, which would become the ACT Education Directorate, as the ACT school system broke from New South Wales.

The Inaugural meeting of the A.C.T. Association of Independent Schools held on 21 June 1973. Seven schools were present across those first two meetings: (in order presented in the Minutes) Canberra Grammar School, Canberra Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Marist College, Daramalan Sacred Heart College, Braddon Catholic Girls' High School, St Edmund's Christian Brothers' College, A.M.E. School. Those present emphasized the opportunity for the Association to:

- work with the Interim Council of the new ACT Education Authority and to speak on behalf of Member schools
- represent the schools' point of view to Federal Government in respect of the Karmel Report
- be able to work corporately from common interests in relation to industrial matters and education issues

### JUSTIN GARRICK

Chair



## ANDREW WRIGLEY

**Executive Director** 



At the first meeting of the Association in 1974 a further two schools were represented: Catholic Girls' High School Braddon, and the Seventh Day Adventist School.

The relationship with the ACT Schools Authority progressively increased over the years, as did the Association's representation on committees and working parties. As well, the interaction with the National Council of Independent Schools, and AlSs in other jurisdictions, continued to evolve, and became an integral part of the work of the Association. The intricacies of government funding models, and the impact of funding felt by individual schools, were articulated from the first meeting of the Association, and remain important to this day.

After five decades of service and support to independent schools in the ACT, the AISACT remains committed to the advancement of educational excellence through the promotion of a strong independent school sector.

The Association remains as dedicated as ever to ensuring that Member schools are recognised as integral partners in the education landscape of the ACT, and committed to contributing to the overall quality of ACT education. Our small size is our strength, commanding personalised advice to, and knowledge of, Member schools.

In celebrating 50 years of work with Member schools and in this jurisdiction, we recognise the incredible achievements of all who have given their energy and expertise to the development of the Association. From its formation in 1973, the Association now has 18 Member schools who educate over 16,200 students (20% of the student population). We celebrate the incredible achievements of our Member schools, their leaders, staff and directors, and all who continue to shape education in their schools and across the ACT.

## ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF THE ACT

#### **BOARD CHAIRS**

1973	Mr R Jay	1996 – 1998	Mr Graeme Wigg
1974	M P J McKeown	1999	Mr Colin Dwyer
1975 – 1977	Mr D Hay	2000 – 2002	Mr Simon Murray
1978 – 1980	Rev Neil Edwards	2003 – 2005	Mr Paul Browning
1981	Mr M Von Gelder	2006 – 2008	Ms Christine Harrison
1982 – 1983	Rev Neil Edwards	2009 – 2011	Mr David Holmesby
1984 – 1986	Br R J Wallace	2012 – 2016	Mr Steven Bowers
1987 – 1989	Mrs Elizabeth McKay	2017 – 2019	Ms Rita Daniels
1990 – 1992	Mr T C Murray	2020 – 2023	Dr Justin Garrick
1993 – 1995	Fr Dennis Uhr		



#### Yvette Berry MLA

Deputy Chief Minister

Minister for Early Childhood Development

Minister for Education and Youth Affairs

Minister for Housing and Suburban Development

Minister for Women

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member for Ginninderra

Mr Andrew Wrigley

**Executive Director** 

Association of Independent Schools of the ACT

aisact@ais.act.edu.au

Thank you for your letter of 19 January 2023 regarding 50 years of the Association of Independent Schools of the ACT (AISACT).

Congratulations on this important milestone.

Independent schools play an important role in the education offering for Canberra students and families. AISACT is a key partner in the delivery of quality education for all children and young people in the ACT.

This is a very exciting time for both AISACT and the ACT public education system as we each celebrate 50 years of advancing school education in the ACT.

I look forward to hearing more about and participating in your celebrations throughout the year.

Yours sincerely

Minister for Education and Youth Aff

07/03/2023

ACT Legislative Assembly London Circuit, GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

**Y**@YvetteSBerry

YvetteSBerry Vvette\_berry\_mla

### 27th February, 1973.

## PROPOSITION TO FORM AN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY.

A meeting was held on the 22nd February, 1973 and was attended by:-

Mr. R. Jay Chairman of Canberra Grammar School

Mr. P. J. McKeown Headmaster of Canberra Grammar School

Mr. G. Warwick-Smith

Chairman of Canberra Church of England Girls! Grammar School

Mr. D. V. Selth Headmaster of Canberra Church of England Girls' Grammar School

Rev. Bro. Mark Principal of Marist College

Rev. Bro. Lionel Marist College

Rev. Fr. J. Littleton

Principal of Daramalan Sacred Heart College

Sister Mary Helen Principal of Braddon Catholic Girls' High School

Rev. Bro. R. Wallace

St. Edmund's Christian Brothers' College

It was agreed to go ahead and investigate the possibility of forming an Association of Independent Schools in the Australian Capital Territory and that, at the next meeting, a draft constitution would be examined with the idea of agreeing upon such a constitution and also looking towards the formation of a committee and the election of office bearers.

It was thought that it was important to form an Association of Independent Schools in the Australian Capital Territory to deal with the Government about such matters as subsidies and state aid and in-service training, and to have the views of independent schools represented if an independent education authority were formed in the Australian Capital Territory. Apart from these considerations it was also agreed that an Association could help the exchange of educational ideas between schools and that co-operation might be profitable to us all in terms of facilities, equipment and an exchange of ideas on methods of administration.

A copy of the draft constitution for consideration at the next meeting is attached.

The next meeting will be held in the Headmaster's Office at Canberra Grammar School on Wednesday 21st March, 1973, at 4 p.m.

## AGENDA FOR THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE A.C.T. ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

21/6/73

- 1. Apologies
- 2. Statement of purpose P.J. McKeown, Headmaster, Canberra Grammar School
- 3. Election of office-bearers:
  - a) Chairman
  - b) Secretary
  - c) Treasurer
  - d) 4 Committee Members
- 4. Annual General Meeting of the National Council of Independent Schools of Australia - 11 July, 1973, Adelaide
- 5. Any other business -
- 6. Next meeting

## MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS (A.C.T.)

- Dr. Baxter, Mr. R. McConnell (A.M.E.School),
  Br.G. Kerr (St. Edmunds), Fr. J. Littleton
  (Daramalin College), Mr. R. Jay, Mr. P.J.
  McKeown(Canberra Grammar School).
- 2. Apologies: Br. Mark (Marist Bros. College), Mr. G.
  Warwick-Smith and Mr. D. Selth (Canberra
  C.E. Girls Grammar)

## 3. Statement of Purpose:

Mr. McKeown spoke of the need for the Association in Canberra at the moment. He suggested that in dealing with the Interim Council of the new Independent Education Authority, it would be as well for us to have an Association which might on occasions speak for us all. With the publication of the Karmel Committee report, there is also a need for us to be able to represent our point of view to the Federal Government. There were industrial matters as well as educational ones that might be considered corporately to our common advantage. Questions were raised concerning differing points of view about particular matters. It was decided that we could expect that, from a group of independent schools and such differences should be presented to government when they occurred.

Br. Kerr mentioned that his school was in some respects related to the diocese and that although they were interested in the Association, they would prefer to be observers at first, rather than full members.

### 4. Election of Office-Bearers:

Mr. R. Jay (Chairman)
Mr. P.J.McKeown (Secretary)
Fr. J. Lettleton (Treasurer)

It was decided to work with this Executive till the beginning of 1974, but that the Executive should have the power to co-opt should it need to increase the members.

### 5. Constitution:

The draft constitution, which was presented was adopted.

### 6. Next Meeting:

4 p.m. Wednesday, 25th July in Headmaster's Office at Canberra Grammar School, when the main item of business would be the consideration of the Karmel Committee Report.



Edstart would like to congratulate AISACT on the celebration of their 50th Anniversary.

We applaud AISACT's leadership and support as a strong and active peak body in the Independent School sector, and their commitment to continue to help evolve the education landscape in the ACT in every capacity to offer families choice and diversity in education. We are proud to call ourselves a Principal Partner of AISACT and the important role they play in the education space.

Our partnership with AISACT has been formed on mutual goals and values, where we have been working with independent schools for a number of years across the ACT to help make it possible for families to access quality education without being held back by finances. We are proud to partner with AISACT and look forward to seeing the continued impact in the Independent Schools sector.

We wish AISACT continued success for the next 50 years.

## ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF A.C.T.

**CIRCA 1975** 



Association of Independent Schools of the A.C.T. Incorporated

**CIRCA 1992** 



**Association of Independent Schools** 

of the ACT Incorporated

**CIRCA 2003** 



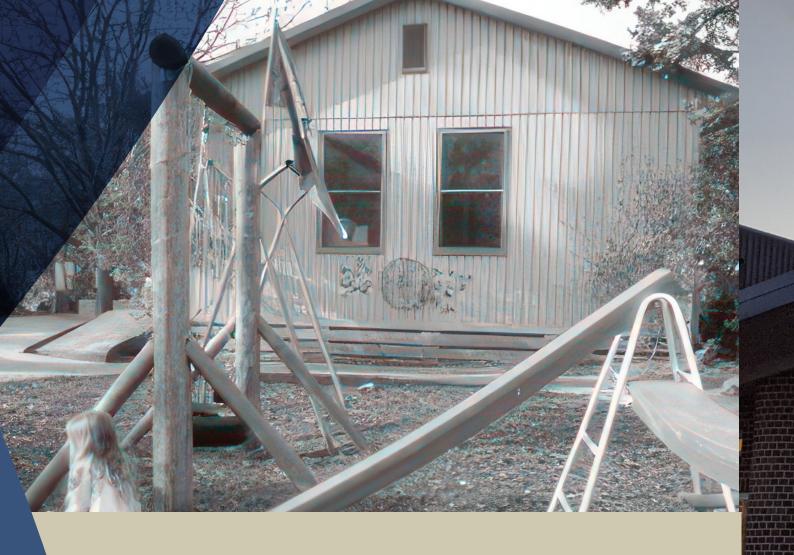
**CIRCA 2007** 

LOGO CHANGES THROUGH THE YEARS



2019 onwards

THE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF THE ACT



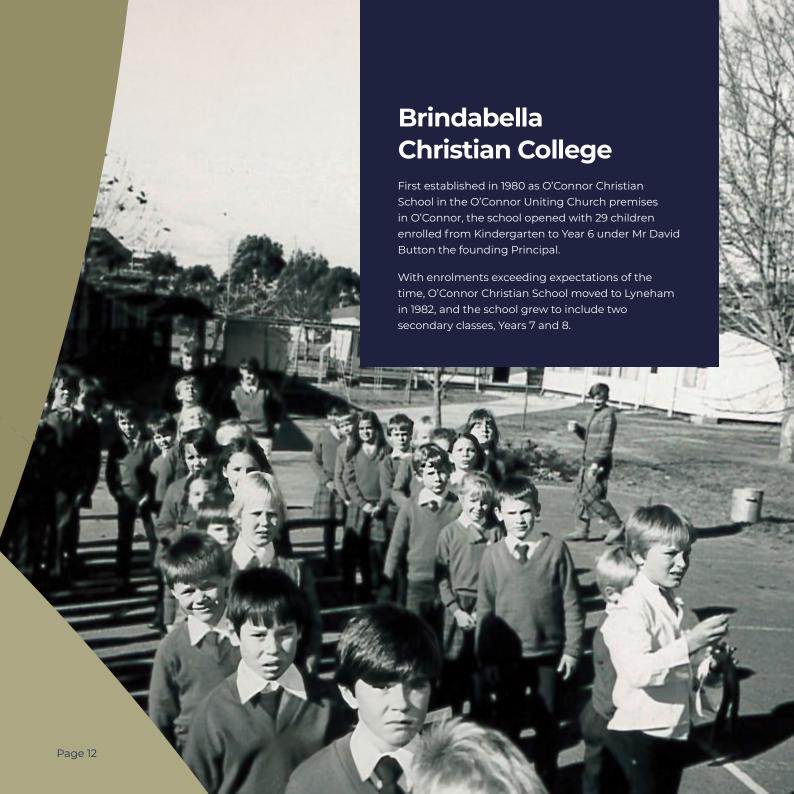
## Blue Gum Community School

Blue Gum Community School is a small community-based secular co-ed independent school offering education programs from birth to 16 years – Playgroup, Preschool, Primary School, Middle School, High School, After-School & School Holiday programs. Our school highly values our

Australian context, environment and inheritance, with a particular emphasis on outdoor education and the arts.

1998 saw Blue Gum open our inaugural early learning centre, offering extended-hours all-year-round part-time/full-time preschool options for 3 & 4 year olds - a new initiative for Canberra schools which added to the DIVERSITY of pedagogical approaches to learning in the ACT. Families valued having educational CHOICE







In 2002, ownership was handed over to Brindabella Christian Education Limited (BCEL) and the school was renamed Brindabella Christian College.

In 2009, it developed its first Early Learning Centre (ELC) at Lyneham, saw the first Year 12 graduates with Senior Secondary Certificates and ATAR scores in 2012, and established a second Campus in Charnwood in 2014.

In 2021, as part of its focus on sustainability and renewable energy, Brindabella Christian College became the first independent school in Australia to achieve Climate Active Certification as a Carbon Neutral ZNE organisation.

Brindabella Christian College operates as a nondenominational Christian College, and its vision is to advance a community of Wisdom, Integrity, Service and Excellence in and through Christian Education. These are the core values that underpin life and learning within the school. The College strives to provide a strong, biblically informed Christian education that is relevant and innovative. Equal value is placed on students' intellectual, physical, spiritual, and emotional development. Students are encouraged to participate in co-curricular opportunities, develop confidence in who they are, and demonstrate compassion for others through service and leadership opportunities.

The school has provided a dedicated faith based, Christ-centered education in the Canberra region for over 40 years. The school is currently blessed with over 1200 students and young children enrolled over its two Campuses and two Early Learning Centres.

## BURGMANN ANGLICAN SCHOOL

Burgmann Anglican School celebrates its 25th year anniversary in 2023. The foundation stone for the school was laid in November of 1998, and Valley Campus opened in 1999 with 28 students and two staff. Burgmann has maintained its strong partnership with Gungahlin Anglican Church, whose parish members envisioned a school for the local Gungahlin community in the Anglican tradition.

The school grew quickly under the leadership of Mr Paul Browning, and when he left in 2008 the school had grown to over 850 students, graduating its inaugural Year 12 class. Mr Steven Bowers became the second principal in 2009 and was responsible for the opening of

the second campus at Forde in 2010. This campus became the location for Burgmann's Middle School, while also nurturing a second P-2 learning community.

An Early Learning Centre was opened at Valley Campus in 2020. This extended the care and learning journey for children from six months to Year 12. In 2023, Burgmann has grown to become a diverse and vibrant community of more than 1800 students and 300 staff, that remains committed to its mission to provide a supportive educational environment that challenges, inspires and empowers each child and young person to achieve their potential, within Christian framework.





## CANBERRA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

In 1970, members of the local Canberra Adventist Church and conference made the pivotal decision to establish an Adventist School in Canberra. After considerable effort and planning, Mawson Adventist School welcomed its first cohort of 26 students in February 1972.

By 1981, further infrastructural enhancements were underway, including the addition of a craft room, resource area, and storage space. The school was fortunate to receive unwavering support from families who contributed significantly to maintenance, working bees, canteen management, and numerous other initiatives.

In a significant move in 1997, the school underwent a rebranding, transitioning from Mawson Adventist Primary to Canberra Christian School, a name that proudly stands to this day.

October 2014 marked another milestone with the inauguration of the new Early Learning Centre, a project that had been under consideration for several years. This facility was situated in the refurbished church hall that the school had acquired in 2004. Concurrently, the school

expanded its physical capacity with the addition of eight demountable classrooms over two stages. The construction of a new administrative block and foyer unified the school and church under a single roof.

As the school grew, it necessitated frequent repurposing and rearrangement of rooms. The church continued its support by sharing spaces with the school. The recent completion of the hall and staff spaces has provided our expanding team with a dedicated area for collaboration, as well as a specialised art/science space. A notable achievement this year was reaching a student count of 200 in the primary school, a remarkable milestone for a school that commenced its journey fifty years ago with only a handful of faithful pioneers.



# CANBERRA GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

At almost double the age of AISACT, Canberra Girls Grammar School (CGGS) will soon celebrate a century of inspired learning. Since 1926 generations of students from across the globe have experienced that at CGGS, 'anything is possible'.

Being the first Independent school in Canberra, it was originally known as St Gabriel's School, and initially located at St John's Rectory (Glebe House) in Reid from 1926. Mother Emily Ayckbowm's the Anglican Community of the Sisters of the Church (CSC) opened the doors with just 10 students.

The Sisters' spirit of fearless leadership, visionary thinking, resilience and a deep passion for learning lives on. Still located in the heart of the nation's capital, and now spanning three campuses.





CGGS provides a world-class educational and co-curricular offering to 1300+ students.

The School's four values of courage, integrity, respect and inclusion are actively lived at the School. As a three program IB World School offering the PYP, MYP and a choice between the ACT BSS and IB Diploma, students are challenged to be co-creators of a hope filled, more just world.

Set in Deakin, the Senior School is nestled the picturesque foothills of Red Hill. The Foundation stone was laid in 1927, just one day before Parliament House was opened. Once surrounded by sheep paddocks, the original School building is now Canberra's oldest Boarding House.

Across the decades the School's name changed from St Gabriel's School to Canberra Church of England Girls' Grammar School and finally to Canberra Girls Grammar School in the 2000's. Facilities, infrastructure, enrolments and programs ebbed and flowed, evolving with Canberra's population and preferences

for independent education. In a true reflection of the AISACT value of excellence, CGGS has long experienced and refined innovative educational approaches for a modern world and today includes brilliant opportunities across the:



- ELC and Junior School campus on Grey St, Deakin
- Senior School campus on Melbourne Ave, Deakin
- Two dynamic multipurpose facilities, Yhuuramulum (Ngunnawal for 'to dream') and the Elizabeth McKay Centre, in Yarralumla on the banks of Lake Burley Griffin.

CGGS continues to leverage the strength of its foundations to create an environment where students are enriched by the diversity of opportunity and the School's focus on the formation and empowerment of young people.



## CANBERRA GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Prime Minister Stanley Bruce laid the foundation stone for Canberra Grammar School in 1928. CGS grew from its humble beginnings as Monaro Grammar School in Cooma in 1908 before transferring to the vast sheep paddocks of early Canberra. With 15 acres and only a few complete buildings, CGS began educating the region's young men in 1929.

In that year, CGS commenced with a small staff and just 50 students. Today, the school educates close to 2300 students across two campuses, and the connection to Canberra and its people runs deep.

Canberra Grammar School's values of being Curious, Creative, Confident, Compassionate, and a Citizen of the World complement the AISACT values of Independence, Choice, Diversity, and Excellence. Both aim to create an environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, preparing them to be active and engaged members of the global community.

The values are reflected in the following ways:

Independence and Curiosity: At CGS, fostering a curious mindset is encouraged, allowing students to explore knowledge independently.

Choice and Creativity: CGS values creativity and provides students with opportunities to express themselves and make choices in their academic pursuits and co-curricular activities.

Diversity and Compassion: Canberra Grammar School's value of compassion is evident in its emphasis on understanding and respecting the diverse perspectives and backgrounds of its student body.

Excellence and Citizen of the World: CGS instils a sense of global citizenship in its students, encouraging them to be socially responsible and engaged with the world.

Overall, Confidence is a unifying value that supports and enhances the other values at Canberra Grammar School. It empowers students to embrace their curiosity, compassion, creativity, and sense of global citizenship, creating a positive and enriching educational environment.







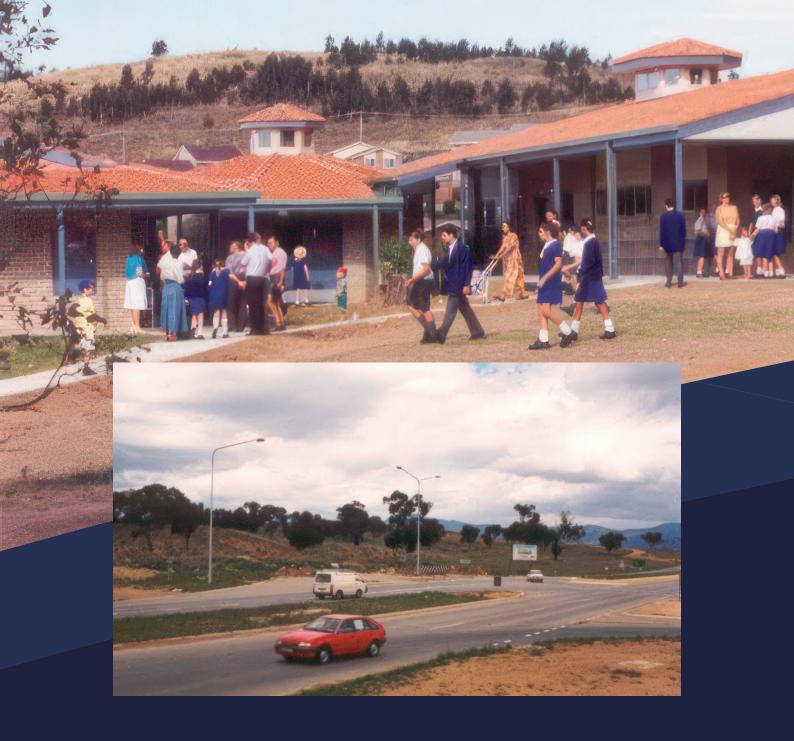
In 1996, without government funding, primary classes commenced. These classes started in the former St Peter Chanel Catholic School premises in Yarralumla, and the following year, Government recurrent funding was granted: Canberra Montessori School had been accepted by government as a legitimate member of the Independent school community and now offered an educational choice in the ACT.

In 2004, after 23 years in rented premises, the Canberra Montessori School moved to a new purpose-built school at Holder. The initial build provided for 5 classes. Subsequent building programs have doubled the school's capacity and the School has extended its Montessori education into: parent/toddler programs; long day care for 18 months to 3 years; and out of school hours care



In 2023 the Canberra Montessori School provides for up to 200 children aged 18 months to 12 years and is part of a network of independent Montessori schools across the country.







# COVENANT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Covenant Christian School was started in 1991 by a diverse group of Christian families seeking to provide a soundly Bible-based Christian educational alternative for parents.

The School first started classes at the former St Peter Chanel's Catholic school site in Yarralumla with one teacher and 25 students across Years K-5. In January 1993 it moved to its permanent location in Gordon with 115 students across Years K-7, and the School continued to grow and progressively extended up to Year 10 over the following three years. In 2016 the School opened its Early Learning Centre and welcomed its first class of 16 Preschool students.

Over the past six years the student enrolments have grown significantly such that the School

Council is now planning for the double streaming of all classes from Kindergarten to Year 10.

The growth of the School is a testament to the genuine choice that parents have to select a school for their child(ren), one that accords with their own ethos and philosophy. The School accepts enrolments from families that are willing to support its educational program, and it now has a very diverse body of students with many coming from non-English speaking backgrounds as well as different religious backgrounds.

Parents have also appreciated the School's ability to act independently from other schools and systems, with one of its distinctives being the offering of an educational program that challenged, encouraged and supported to love learning and pursue excellence to the glory of God.

# DARAMALAN COLLEGE

Daramalan College was established in 1962 by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSCs) with an enrolment of 240 boys in Years 5, 6 and Form 1, 11 members of staff; 9 MSC priests and brothers, two lay female teachers, and two lay office staff.

The College has grown and evolved over the past 61 years and is now a Coeducational Year 7-12 College with an enrolment of just under 1490 students and almost 180 staff. Aside from our College Chaplain, there are no longer MSC priests or brothers as staff. In 2019 the remaining MSC Priests and Brothers in residence at the College relocated to Sydney.

In 2024 a Performing Arts Centre will be opened on the former residence site and will be known as the Issoudun Performing Arts Centre in recognition of the town where the MSC were established in France.

Our ethos, centered on the Spirituality of the Heart and our mission to be on Earth the Heart of God has remained constant over the years. The College introduced Coeducation into Years 11 and 12 in 1977 and became fully coeducational by 1999. In 1996, after 34 years, the primary school was closed.

Throughout the College's history there has always been a focus on providing a wide range of diverse curriculum offerings coupled with opportunities beyond the classroom, thus the College's vision of being a community that inspires learning, nurtures potential and is strong in faith has come to life. The College's long tradition of excellence in the performing and visual arts, sports, science and technology, to name but a few areas, continues to this day.





# EMMAUS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Emmaus Christian School in Canberra has grown from very humble beginnings. In 1996 a group of parents went out for dinner and the topic of schools was discussed. Lively conversation left them with the question, "Why can't we start our own school?" The idea, like a seed, started to grow. It's hard to imagine that this small group of very passionate and committed parents would envisage what Emmaus is like now.

This year the school celebrates 26 years of Emmaus Christian School. It's a thriving school of over 550 students from 3-year-old preschool to Year 10, with a focus on building community and belonging. The school is well established in the Dickson Community and provides an opportunity for families to choose an independent school with Christian Values.

Principal Erik Hofsink noted "Emmaus has a rich history, the greatest story though is the way that through teaching in a community that lives out gospel values, we have seen the lives of students, past and present, transformed. We know too that our exemplary staff are also encouraged and blessed as they work in partnership with one another and families. This is the legacy and testimony of God's goodness. We know that Emmaus has impacted so many students and the impact of this is felt through generations."

Throughout its history, Emmaus has worked closely with, and appreciates the work of, the AISACT in advocating for the interests of Independent Schools, supporting choice and diversity as well as being a well-respected voice to Government.





## **GALILEE SCHOOL**

In 1985, fifty dedicated people from various churches across Canberra met to discuss how to help Canberra's disadvantaged youth. In 1986 that group formerly registered themselves as Galilee Inc and the Family Placement Scheme commenced. This foster care program would be the main program for Galilee Inc for some time. Galilee Inc.'s research report of 1996 to the ACT Government, *Leaving School Early*, recognised that an alternative education program was necessary – and was the basis for the eventual development of Galilee School.

In 1998, The Galilee Day Program attained provisional registration as a specialist education provider. In 1999, Galilee Day Program become registered as the Galilee Day Program School with 20 students, led by Founding Coordinator, Rob Long.

In 2003, the Canberra bushfires destroyed many of the buildings at the site of the school

Westwood Farm, including the school. In 2005, the newly rebuilt school building was officially opened, and in 2004 the Galilee Day Program School was renamed Galilee School.

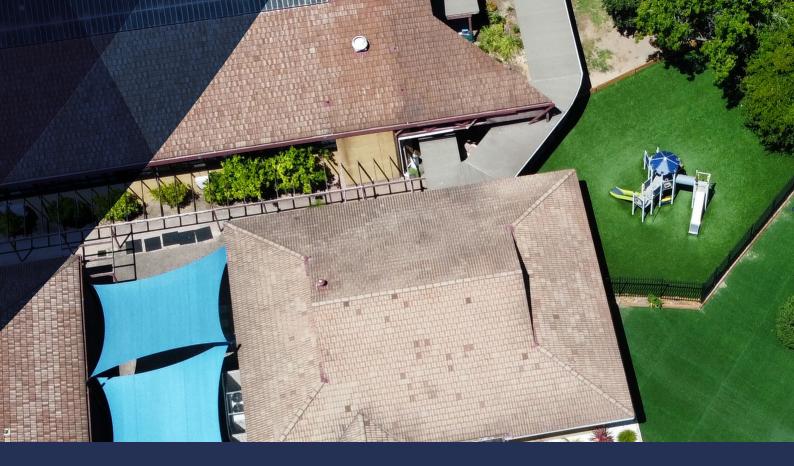
In 2006, Galilee School became a formal member of the Association of Independent Schools of the ACT. In 2011 Galilee Inc merged with Communities at Work and, now, in 2023, Communities at Work remains the Governing authority of the school.

The second campus of Galilee School was officially opened in 2017, and the school's Year 10 program began operating out of that Campus.

The Galilee School Senior Secondary College began operations in 2021 with the first intake of Year 11 students. In 2022, the first graduates of the Galilee School Senior Secondary College received their Senior Secondary Certificates.







# ISLAMIC SCHOOL OF CANBERRA

With 42 students grouped into three composite classes with children from Kindy to Year 6, the Islamic School of Canberra started its journey as a primary school on 14 February 2005. The school was located in the Canberra Technology Park buildings at 49 Phillip Avenue, Watson, ACT. In 2010, the school moved to the Weston campus and the ACT Chief Minister Mr Jon Stanhope MLA officially opened the permanent site of the Islamic School of Canberra.







The school is now providing education to students from K-10 and we are preparing to open Years 11 and 12 in 2025. The age-old buildings are being renovated one after another and new buildings are being constructed, new sports facilities are installed, a multipurpose hall, new educational resources are procured, covered outdoor learning area is constructed, new science lab, food technology, and arts facilities are added as well. Academic excellence is our main focus which is being reflected in NAPLAN, ACER, and ICAS results. The school prioritizes child safety on top of everything and thus it values the student and staff wellbeing as important pillars of the school operations.

In 2023 the student number is 370 and it is projected to exceed 420 in 2024. The Islamic school of Canberra acknowledges the Commonwealth Government and the ACT Government for their continuous support for the school. It would not have been possible to achieve all these projects without the grants from both ACT and Federal Governments.

The Islamic School of Canberra continues to grow as a vibrant co-educational school. Thanks to our community for contributing towards our success and achievements.





Marist College Canberra – an historical timeline:

**1872** – The first Marist School in Australia, a primary school, is founded in The Rocks, Sydney.

1875 – The first Marist High School in Australia is founded.

1910 – After moving location several times, the first Marist High School in Australia (founded in 1875) finds a home in the heights of Darlinghurst, Sydney and is now known as Marist Brothers Highschool Darlinghurst.

1960s – With demographics threatening the future of the School in Darlinghurst, and Canberra in need of Catholic schools, the decision is taken to sell the Sydney property and use the proceeds to transfer the school to Canberra, along with the colours, motto and crest.

1968 – The construction of the Marist College Canberra primary school is complete. The College opens for primary classes while the construction of the secondary school building is completed.

1971 - The first Senior Classes commence.

1973 – The main secondary buildings and gymnasium are complete.

1975 – The College celebrates the first Graduating Class of Marist College Canberra.

1986 – The College introduces a vertical House system in the Senior School, which becomes an integral part of the College Pastoral Care system and remains so today.

2015 - After 47 years of presence at the College, Marist Brothers are farewelled from the School, with all teaching and care for students now undertaken by dedicated lay people.

**2018** – Marist College Canberra celebrates 50 years of education in Canberra.

2023 – The College is now one of the largest schools in the ACT, known for its academic excellence, pastoral care and co-curricular program offered within the unique Marist educational charism.

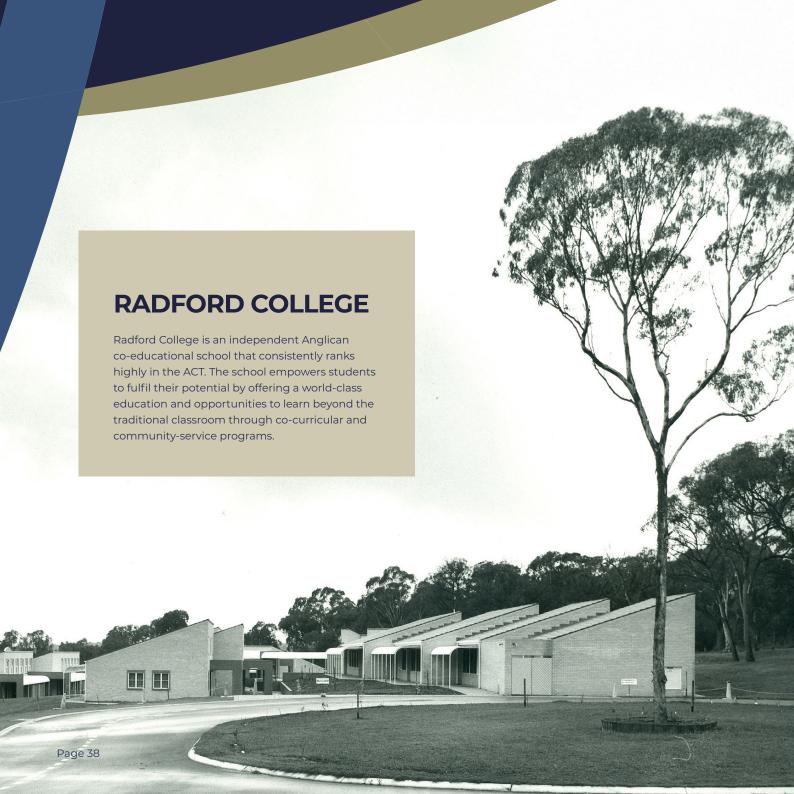




## ORANA STEINER SCHOOL

Founded in 1981 with only a handful of students, and set within unique and natural surroundings, Orana Steiner School has grown to over 540 students. As an independent, co-educational and non-denominational school in Weston, Canberra, Orana Steiner School offers a seamless Pre-School to Year 12 education that seeks to provide a holistic education that inspires students to achieve their best, work creatively and become aware of themselves as individuals who will contribute positively to global social change.





Radford College historical timeline:

1 February 1974 – A third Anglican school for Canberra is first mooted.

1 May 1978 – The Establishment Committee is created.

1 September 1980 – The Establishment Committee begins to gather support for the new school.

1 March 1981 – Newspaper advertisements are published to gauge public interest. The first enrolments begin to flood in.

1 March 1981 - The Bruce site is selected.

**3 February 1982** – The Interim Board is established under the leadership of Dr. T.B. Millar.

22 December 1982 – Jock Mackinnon is made Radford's first Principal.

9 February 1983 – The new school is formally named Radford College.

**30 April 1983** – The school's foundation stone is laid by Bishop Cecil Warren.

1 February 1984 - First day of school.

11 February 1984 – Radford College is formally opened by Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen with just 235 students and 15 teachers.



3 November 1984 – The current school crest and motto are chosen.

**3 December 1987** – The original Senior School area is opened.

12 December 1988 - The first Year 12s graduate.

3 December 2002 - The Chapel is opened.

31 March 2004 - The Middle School is opened.

29 March 2006 – The Early Learning Centre is opened.

6 May 2008 - The Junior School is opened.

2023 – Radford College is a thriving independent school with 2112 students and an equal number of boys and girls across all year groups.



## ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE

Founded by the Christian Brothers in 1954, St Edmund's College celebrates its 70th anniversary in 2024, the oldest continuing Catholic school in Canberra. The College has established a strong community for our students and their families and proudly identifies with the traditions on which it was built.

The school seeks to give active witness to the four Touchstones of our Charter as a school in the Edmund Rice tradition. These Touchstones - Liberating Education, Inclusive Community,

Gospel Spirituality and Justice & Solidarity - form the school's core character and identity and align very closely to the AIS values of Independence, Choice, Diversity and Excellence.

It is our hope that each young person who moves through St Edmund's College develops a heart and mind that have been shaped by the light of Christ, allowing them to move into a world where they are true to their character and make a tangible difference in their own unique way. We are a College of vibrant spirit, strong character and tailored learning.







## **TAQWA SCHOOL**

In 2015 Taqwa School opened its doors as the first Islamic school in North Canberra for families who require an academic inclusive and forward-thinking learning environment for their children. At Taqwa, students receive the Australian National curriculum wrapped around the Islamic values and the learning environment is centered on the basis of creating and maintaining a supportive Learning Community where collaboration, leadership, and Innovation are always actively encouraged.

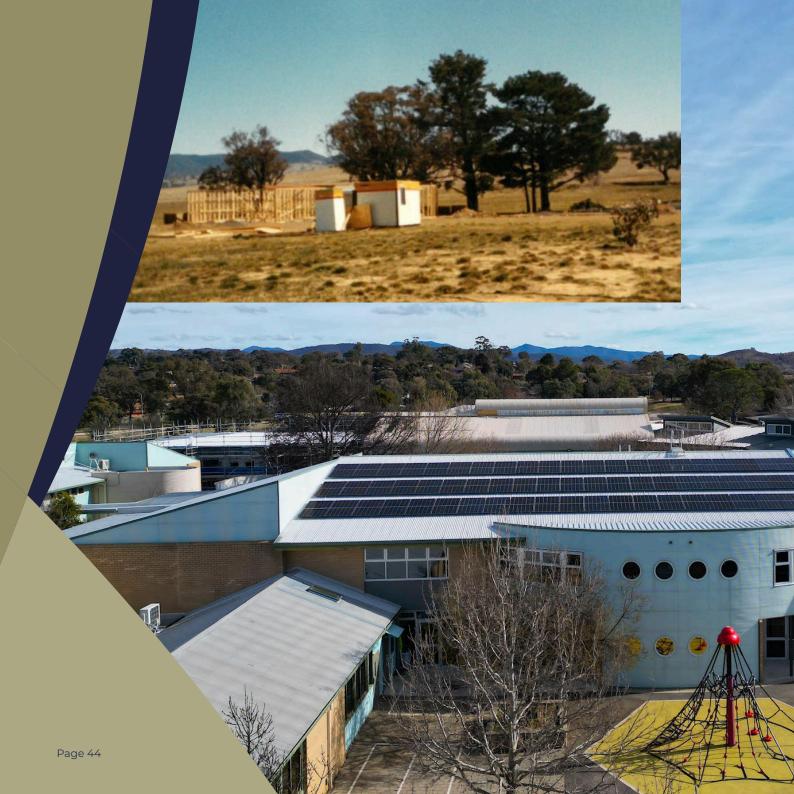
We have gone above and beyond to ensure that our teachers meet the highest standard available to ensure the very best learning quality for our children. Over the years we have transformed this beloved institution from a rented space with just 33 students in 2015 into a well-developed school complex with over 230 students in 2023. The school currently takes admission for Kindergarten up until year six and preparations have been made for expansion up to year 10 by 2026.

The construction of a year 7 and 8 building is already completed, and we expect to start year 7 & 8 classes in January, 2024. In 2025, we intend to start Year 9 and 10 classes.

The students at Taqwa pray in congregation. The beauty of Tagwa School also lies in its cultural diversity. We have students from over 30 different countries, but they all come together under the same ethos and values. Here they are taught to adapt and tolerate their cultural differences and work together as a team to accomplish their goals. At its core Tagwa School is a community oriented institution dedicated to providing a holistic approach to learning in compliance with the Islamic ethos. This shared commitment is achieved through the formation of lively communities of practice and the ongoing cultivation of the idea that all members of Tagwa School students, staff, parents and friends are part of a learning community.









## TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



In the late 1970s, the population of Canberra was flourishing and a new independent school was seeded in the growing region of the Tuggeranong Valley. A small group of families were intent on establishing a school where Christian ideas and values could be openly and honestly discussed. Trinity Christian School commenced in May 1980 with just seven students and one teacher, housed in classrooms in what was then Wanniassa High School.

The school grew to eleven students by the second week and within one year had nearly 90. In 1983, the School moved to a permanent location on McBryde Cres, Wanniassa and was officially opened in May 1984.

In 2004, Trinity opened for Year 11 and 2005 marked the inaugural year when the first Year 12 students successfully graduated, many of whom had been at the school since Kindergarten. Trinity remained a Kindergarten to Year 12 school, until 2016, which saw the opening of the Early Learning Centre. The Centre enabled Trinity to offer a Preschool program for three and four year olds, further expanding the educational choices available to Canberra families.

In 2020 Trinity Christian School celebrated 40 years of excellence in Christian education. Trinity currently delivers education to around 1200 students from diverse backgrounds on a campus that includes indoor and outdoor learning spaces, sporting facilities, a library and resource centre, a commercial kitchen and a purpose-built Trade Skills Centre. As a school, Trinity is committed to equipping students to live meaningful lives in and outside the classroom and is a learning centred school, focusing on excellence and growth in learning.

MEMBER SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS OVER TIME





















