



Upcoming events

Fri 26 Sept

School Holidays start

Mon 13 Oct

Staff return for Term 4

Tues 14 Oct

Students return for
Term 4

Address:

Murray St
Cooma NSW 2630

Phone:

02 6452 1721

Website:

[https://
stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au](https://stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au)

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/
StPatsCooma/](https://www.facebook.com/StPatsCooma/)

Office hours:

8.30am-3.30pm during the
term

St Patrick's Parish School

As we conclude Term 3, there is so much to celebrate across Infants, Primary and Secondary. The Snowsports Program was a significant highlight with over 150 students participating at Perisher, learning and refining new skiing skills. I was fortunate to visit on the last day of the Primary program and was so impressed by our staff and students engaging with their instructors and having an enjoyable time. Students have also achieved great success in debating, sporting carnivals and we are right behind our two teams who have progressed to the International Grand Final in Tournament of Minds. This will be held in Sydney over a weekend in late October.

Several community Parish/School events have been held with the successful Sam Williams Father's Day Event, the Secondary Disco and First Holy Communion held last Sunday at St Patrick's Church. Our Year 3s



engaged in a successful Retreat in preparation for the first Holy Communion. It was great to see so many families participate in the shared lunch held in the Food Technology Centre. Special thanks to Mrs Kovacs, Mrs Wilkins, Fr Mark Croker, the Year 3 classroom teachers, Mrs Blumer, Ms Tessy and all parents, grandparents and carers for their support with this occasion.

Recently at our Community Council meeting, we completed a consultation process to help shape our next Strategic Plan and Annual Improvement Plan. On Friday of this week, we are providing our staff with the opportunity to have their input into the consultative process. There are five

domains that define our strategic plan, aligned with those of the Catholic Education office. They are:

- Catholic Identity & Culture
- Excellence in Teaching & Learning
- Staff Capacity & Leadership
- Partnerships & Community
- Stewardship & Resources

We look forward to progressing this work in preparation for 2026 and beyond. Today, our Year 9s participated in a Leadership Retreat in preparation for leadership opportunities in 2026. We also appreciate student voice as being important to our future plans. In terms of future plans, our newly formed Uniform Committee have met twice and would like to reach out to parents and carers to receive their input and feedback. Please take the time to complete this survey as we value your feedback.

Over the break, we will be installing new carpet in the Convent classrooms and offices, and we are continuing to prepare a new sporting precinct on our secondary campus. This will open many more opportunities for students to participate in a range of sports, such as soccer, basketball and volleyball and other courts sports.

I hope you and your family enjoy a restful Term 3 break. Next Term, students will return on **Tuesday 14 October 2025**. Students will be required to wear their summer uniform with the school hat as we move into the warmer months.



Dr Sean Mangan
Principal



St. Patrick's Parish School Cooma

Strength in Gentleness

We welcome new enrolments to

St Patrick's Parish School

Cooma

Kindergarten to
Year 12 pathway with
St Mary MacKillop College

Enrolling now for 2026
Transition programs starting in
May. Contact us for more details.



BIG STEPS TO SCHOOL



STEPPING UP TO HIGH SCHOOL

Phone 6452 1721



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn



Vale Bishop Patrick Power – a true shepherd and a voice for justice

By Lou Mackay



Bishop Pat Power died last week at the age of 83.

Born in Cooma, we felt we could count him as ‘one of us’. He was a deeply beloved man—humble to the end and inspirational in his unwavering advocacy for those on the margins of society.

Affectionately known as Father Pat, he often visited Cooma, where his sister Loretta and her husband Mick lived. His nieces attended our school, and his presence in the community was always warm and familiar.

Throughout his ministry, Bishop Pat lived the Christian values of empathy, justice, and service. He officiated weddings, confirmations, and funerals with sincerity and care, always making people feel seen and valued. Even in retirement, he continued to serve—filling in for Masses, visiting the sick, and regularly celebrating Christmas Mass at the Cooma gaol.

I remember one Christmas, he told me a story about leaving the gaol in plain clothes, carrying his battered Mass bag. A visitor mistook him for a released inmate and said, “What a lovely day to be getting out of gaol.” He simply smiled and agreed.

Father Pat was the first to help, the first to notice the unnoticed, and the first to speak out for justice. His legacy is one of love, courage, and deep humanity.

We are blessed to have had him share a part of our lives here in Cooma.

A message from the AP's Desk....

I wrote this article in mid-2024. Unfortunately, I feel the need for it to be communicated once again.

Who taught you to tell the time, to tie your shoelaces or how to write a complex sentence? I have memories of my parents and teachers taking a shared hand in helping me to learn these skills as a child. But what about more challenging tasks? Who taught you to be resilient, analyse a poem or to solve complex algorithms? The answer is probably both a parent and a teacher.

Mr Hamilton (my favourite teacher of all time), continually displayed his love for reading and writing (particularly for science fiction and fantasy genres). By the end of that year, I also shared this passion and became an avid reader of similar books. Mr H is also the reason why I wanted to become a teacher!

I remember my parents encouraging me to practise what I was learning in class and to do what the teacher asked (even if they sometimes disagreed with what they were doing). Why? My Dad told me that he would not question them in their profession, just the same as they would not walk onto a building site and tell him what to do.

In my first 15 years of teaching, I saw how both parents and teachers respected and supported each other.

Unfortunately, over the last 4-5 years I have seen a decline in respect that some parents have for teachers.

Recently, I have been informed by teachers, relief teachers and support staff that some parents are becoming more aggressive towards them. There are some parents who believe that they have the right to storm into a classroom to berate or make demands while the teacher is teaching their class. **This is not acceptable.**

I am also aware of several Facebook groups that are set up for different year levels. It has also come to my attention that there has been conversations where the teacher has been spoken about between parents who are part of these groups.

Talking about a teacher on any social media site **is not acceptable**. It could also potentially become a legal situation, if a teacher has been defamed (whether oral or in written form). There have been times when I have been sent a screenshot of messages talking poorly about our teachers.

I have included a link to from the NSW Government webpage about this below.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/rights-and-accountability/legal-issues-bulletins/defamation>

What is the learning taking place here?

What some children may be learning and witnessing at home (if they hear parent conversations speaking negatively about their teacher) is that it is okay to speak rudely and argue back to a teacher. It is well-documented that the children of these parents are regularly the ones who argue and refuse to do what the teachers quite reasonably ask them to do. A few weeks ago a student of one of these parents told the teacher that they could do what they-wanted because their mum told them that they could refuse the teacher's directions.

I would like to pose these questions; would it be acceptable to walk into the doctor's surgery and demand an appointment? Would you walk into your solicitor's office and berate them in front of their peers because you disagreed with their policies?

While both parents and teachers are influential, albeit in different ways, as far as children's learning is concerned, **education is a shared responsibility**. If there is an issue that needs to be raised, parents need to organise a meeting with their child's teacher instead of talking about them on a social media platform.

Schools, friends, families and communities all play unique but complementary roles. We are all here for one thing - the children!

If you are not sure about something that is happening at school, please talk to your child's teacher instead of with other parents or on social platforms.

Steven Joyce

Assistant Principal



**Casual Teachers
needed**

**Secondary & Primary Teachers
needed. Click on link to apply.**

St Patrick's Parish School Cooma

<https://careers.cg.catholic.edu.au/jobs/casual-teacher-d7868653-1a56-4336-91fe-927330a1075d>



Big Steps Program Kindergarten 2026





Yr 7 Transition Day





It has been a very big term for **sport** at St Patrick's. It started out with a team of 12 students competing at the Southern NSW Interschools Snowsports Championships where we had a number of students qualify and compete at the NSW State Championships. This was followed up with our school



Snowsports programs where we had over 270 students from infants to secondary participate in our two and four day programs at Perisher.



St Pat's also saw great success at the Canberra Goulburn Archdiocesan Basketball Championships where our two boys teams finished in the top four of their age groups, marking our best results at this event. This was followed up a week later

when our mixed senior mountain bike team finished 4th at the ACT Schools Mountain Bike Championships, missing the podium by only a few minutes.



To finish the term we've just had two students compete at the NSW

Combine Catholic Colleges Athletic Championships in Sydney last week where both students scored top 10 results in their field and track events.



Primary has a new chess board!



Lots of fun was had during **Year 3's** Communion Retreat!



Year 5 at the Leadership Retreat led by a Vinnies Youth Leader



CONGRATULATIONS



TOURNAMENT OF MINDS

Congratulations to
our STEM & ART
teams who will be
competing at the
International
Tournament of Minds
final in October in
Sydney.



Tournament of Minds Success!

Tournament of Minds is a problem-solving program for teams of students, designed to challenge their creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking across a range of disciplines. This year, we proudly had three teams participate in the competition, representing The Arts, STEM, and Social Science.

Over six weeks, students worked together to solve a long-term challenge, which they presented to a panel of judges. On competition day, they also tackled a spontaneous problem-solving task as a team, in front of judges who assessed their teamwork and solution. Both scores were combined, and all three of our teams placed either first or second in their disciplines.

All three teams were then invited to the ACT State Final, held on Sunday 14th September, where they faced an unknown three-hour challenge. They were required to deliver their solution through a dramatic performance in front of judges and an audience. They also completed another spontaneous challenge, with both scores combined to determine the winning team for each discipline.

We are thrilled to announce that our Arts and STEM teams were declared winners in their respective disciplines, while our Social Science team were Runners Up and awarded Honours. The winning teams will now travel to Sydney at the end of October to represent the ACT at the Tournament of Minds International Final, competing against teams from across Australia, New Zealand, and other international regions.

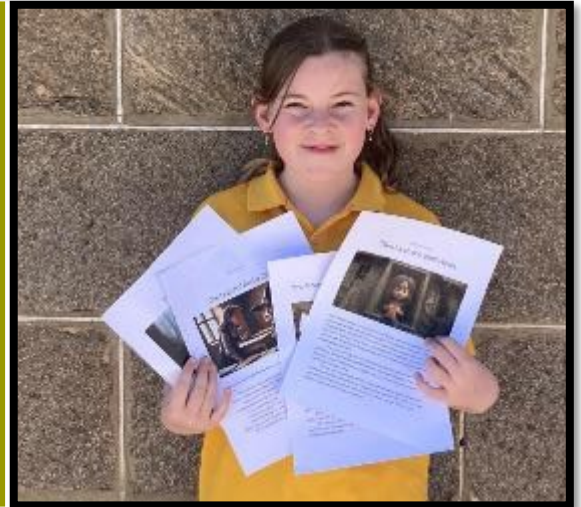
We are incredibly proud of the success of all three teams, especially given the strong competition from much larger schools. We wish our Arts and STEM teams the very best of luck in the International Final!



SES Internship

Pahanma, Annabel and Senudi did an SES Internship recently. They were presented with certificates and medals, and an SES water bottle.

Up-and-coming writer **Harper**, holding some of her latest stories. "Harper has been on a writing streak this term, bringing in her wild and spooky stories to share. Harper's stories, along with some of her peers and with the help of Mr Ephraims, are helping to form part of the MacqLit program's reading materials. Keep it up!



Year 8 Music tested out their live DJ-ing skills during a class party to celebrate the end of term.



24 October
12.30-1.40pm
Infants Campus

Bring a picnic
basket and blanket

"Grandparents hold our tiny hands
for just a little while, but our
hearts forever"

K-6
Grandparents'
Day

ST PATRICK'S PARISH SCHOOL

YR 7 INFORMATION EVENING

23 OCTOBER 6-7PM
SECONDARY LIBRARY

Student admissions are
now open! Join our school
that offers an excellent
curriculum, complete
facilities, and a learning
environment that supports
the development of each
student's best potential.

- ✓ Strong Academic Success
- ✓ Interactive Classrooms

- ✓ Digital Learning System
- ✓ Sporting opportunities

64521 721 <https://spscooma.schoolzineplus.com/> office.stpatscooma@cg.catholic.edu.au

JOIN COOMA ATHLETICS

FAMILY FUN & FITNESS

Challenge yourself to be the
best you can be, challenge
yourself with Team Cooma
Athletics, every Saturday
morning from 9am.

AGES 5 TO 16

SEASON START
18TH OCT



COOMAATHLETICS.COM.AU

COME & TRY DAYS 18TH & 25TH OCT

St Patrick's Open Day

4 - 6 pm Thursday 23 October

Please join us at our Open Day!
We'll be offering campus tours and classroom
demonstrations. We would love to showcase our new
buildings and share our exciting future plans.
Enjoy a BBQ and refreshments while exploring our
amazing school.

- ✓ Pleasingly different and demonstrably better
- ✓ We strive to make a difference in the lives of our
students and their families
- ✓ Strong academic reputation
- ✓ Strong sporting reputation

Contact Us



Phone Number:
64521 721



Website:
stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au