



St Patrick's Parish School

Upcoming events

Tue 28-30 Oct

Tennis Program

Fri 31 Oct

Kinderstart #1

World Teacher's Day

Fri 31 Oct- 2 Nov

Tournament of Minds

International

Competition

Wed 5 -7 Nov

Year 6 Cooba Camp

Year 8 Jindabyne Camp

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

Welcome back to our final term of 2026. The staff commenced with a professional development day led by Rev Dr Richard Leonard (Jesuit Priest). The themes of the day were three-fold – **Faith, Hope** and **Love**. Offering a leadership of Faith, Hope and Love, Catholic Education stands for meaning, interconnectedness, hope, spirituality, the soul and a passion for this world while we look for the next. Along with parishioners and staff from St Joseph's Bombala, our staff explored how our schools are meant to be places offering a sane faith, a sure hope and a deep love for God. Pope Francis designated 2025 to be the Church's Year of Hope.

1. The bible gives us 230 names for God and so there are many ways to know God and many places where God meets us in our complex realities. Bouncing off The Truman Show we explored how God does not send evil upon us but accompanies us as we are called us to freedom from our destructive moments into the joy of being forgiven and loved.



2. Every mental health indicator in Australia demonstrates that things are deteriorating quickly for young and old alike. We have never needed to **hope** more than now in something greater, something more enduring in this world and the next. If ever we needed an example of how much **hope** we should have in Christ's invitation to start again, we can reflect on the life St Paul who went from being a murderer to a missionary.

3. **Love** is the summary of Jesus' message because Jesus said so: love God; love your neighbour; and love yourself. Our staff explored how the pilgrimage of faith is meant to be a journey of love where we communicate, or pray with God to be the best witnesses we can in the world. Pope Francis showed us how real and practical our sacrificial love needs to be. Some of the feedback included:

"I just wanted to say, 'thank you'! Thank you for organising the best and most wonderful PD Day our school has had in a very long, long time. I appreciate I'm not a teacher, but I believe our staff, and the parishioners, felt very grateful for being part of such a beautiful experience. Thank you again, Warmest regards."

Sean, I just wanted to say thank you for organising today. That was the most enjoyable spiritual day I have had since commencing at St Patrick's 4

"years ago. As a practising Catholic I really resonated with his messages. So once again, thank you for going that extra mile with the airport pickups, home stay and drop off."

Last week, we sent a **Uniform Survey** for parents to complete. The aim of our uniform review is to create a school uniform that instills pride in our students and school community, while being as functional, affordable, comfortable, and durable as possible. Our Uniform Committee will be reviewing and collating your feedback to provide a summary, so we can report back to the Senior Leadership Team on what we heard. Your input will help us seek samples for any changes to the uniform that can be considered for future implementation. Uniform pictures have been placed randomly through the survey to help with your responses. Already we have had close to 100 parents respond. This is encouraging as the Committee will meet and analyze the Survey results.

Congratulations to our Primary Debating Team on winning the inaugural Dugald Mitchell Memorial Debating Grand Final. Well done to Ellie Reid (Year 6 student) on being awarded "Speaker of the Tournament". A special thanks to Mrs Menshic for coordinating this opportunity for our students. In the next week, we will be wishing our student teams in Tournament of Minds (Arts and STEM) every success as they represent us in the International Final in Sydney.

Thank you for your support with our Open Day held this week, followed by the Year 7 Information Evening in the Secondary Library. I know that our Grandparents and friends also appreciated the day and enjoyed visiting classes and sharing a picnic lunch.



Dr Sean Mangan

Principal



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, OUR LOCAL VINNIES IS KINDLY ORGANISING CHRISTMAS HAMPERS TO SUPPORT FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO MAY NEED A LITTLE EXTRA HELP DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW COULD BENEFIT FROM THIS ASSISTANCE, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE. ALL INFORMATION WILL BE HANDLED CONFIDENTIALLY AND PASSED ON TO VINNIES WITH CARE AND RESPECT.

LET'S CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER AND HELP MAKE THIS CHRISTMAS A JOYFUL TIME FOR EVERY FAMILY IN OUR COMMUNITY.



Our Arts & STEM

Tournament of Minds

teams received their team shirts today ahead of the International Finals to be held in Sydney from the 31st October.

We are 'Team ACT' because they are our nearest Branch - very happy to make up 2 of the 4 secondary school teams for the ACT!



Crazy Sock Day

in support of the work of the Catholic Mission Australia





“Shamrock’s Journey – Past, Present, Future”

Artist: Emilia Kovács

Unveiling Date: October 2025

Mural Story & Symbolism

This mural is a visual narrative that weaves together the rich heritage, present identity, and future aspirations of our school community. At its heart is a shamrock, a symbol deeply rooted in Irish heritage, Catholic tradition, and a unifying emblem for our school.

Each of the three leaves represents different dimensions of our story: past, present, and future. Together they reflect the unity and diversity within our school. In the centre and stem of the shamrock our school’s crest flows into the three leaves, grounding the mural in our shared identity and mission.

The Shamrock Leaves: Past, Present, Future

- **First Leaf – The Past**

This leaf honours our history and heritage. It features imagery of St Patrick’s Church, St Patrick, and the St Brigid’s Cross, representing the spiritual and cultural foundations upon which our school was built. These symbols remind us of the values and traditions that continue to guide us.

- **Second Leaf – The Present**

Here, we see various orientations of the convent and surrounds, symbolising how the past is carried into the present. The blending of old and new reflects our evolving identity, rooted in tradition but responsive to change. It’s a celebration of our current community: students, staff, and families, who live out our values daily. The flowers in the garden are at different stages of growth representing the stages of learning for staff and students.

- **Third Leaf – The Future**

This leaf is interwoven with the vines of the Secret Garden, symbolising growth and an expansive vision of education. The vines crossing it represent the connections and experiences that shape each student’s journey.

Background: Stones of Time

The mural’s background transitions from the warm browns of the convent stones, symbolising history and heritage, to the greys of the building extension, representing progress and modernity. This gradient reflects the journey from our origins to our future, showing how the past supports and shapes our growth.

Hidden Details & School Spirit

Scattered throughout the mural are seven tiny shamrocks, subtle nods to our identity and unity. A playful magpie adds a touch of humour and warmth, recalling the many lunches cheekily stolen from bags by birds over the years. Yet, the bird also carries deeper meaning: it symbolises our students and staff learning, growing wings, and preparing to take flight into their next chapter.

School Motto: Strength in Gentleness

At the top of the mural, our motto “Strength in Gentleness” crowns the artwork, reminding us that true strength lies in compassion, kindness, and quiet resilience. It’s a guiding principle that echoes through every brushstroke and symbol.

We are deeply grateful to former student, Emilia (Class of 2023) for the extraordinary mural she created as a gift to our school.

Representing the past, present, and future of our community, this artwork is a vibrant reflection of our story and spirit.

Emilia generously gave up countless hours, including weekends, school holidays, and precious time in between her Year 12 studies, to bring this vision to life.

Her dedication, creativity, and love for our school shine through every brushstroke.

This mural will continue to inspire and connect generations of students.

Congratulations to our **Primary Debating Team** on winning the inaugural Dugald Mitchell Memorial Debating Grand Final. Well done Ellie Reid on being awarded speaker of the Tournament. Thank you Mrs Menshic!



Wigs For Kids

Hi, my name is Claire , I am 9 yrs old and I am in Year 4 and I cut my hair for 'Wigs for Kids'. In case you were wondering 'Wigs for Kids' is a company that makes wigs for children that have cancer. I cut 20 cm of my hair and sent it to 'Wigs for Kids' so they can make a wig for a child with cancer.

It feels good knowing that I have helped someone deal with cancer a bit more. I felt nervous at first, but now I feel like a really good person. I hope you know how good it feels to help people. A lot of people are proud of me, and I am too.

If you have done this in your life you should be proud of yourself too.

I am writing this so people know that helping people with cancer is an amazing feeling!





Check out our new selection of sports books that are now in the **Primary Library!**

Drawing the beauty of God's Creation in **Kindergarten**



Beautiful creations from **Kindergarten** in breaktime.



Kindergarten showing off
their tennis skills.



1 Gold



Year 6



A big thank you to all our Q&A panel members for giving up their time to provide valuable insight into what it means to be a leader at the

Year 9 Leadership Retreat.

Year 9 were exploring themes of trust, honesty and respect as part of the day.



**Congratulations to our
Week 2
Award Winners**



Year 5 Cooba Camp

Kindergarten - Preparing our prayer table for the month of the holy rosary.





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.

Phone 6452 1721

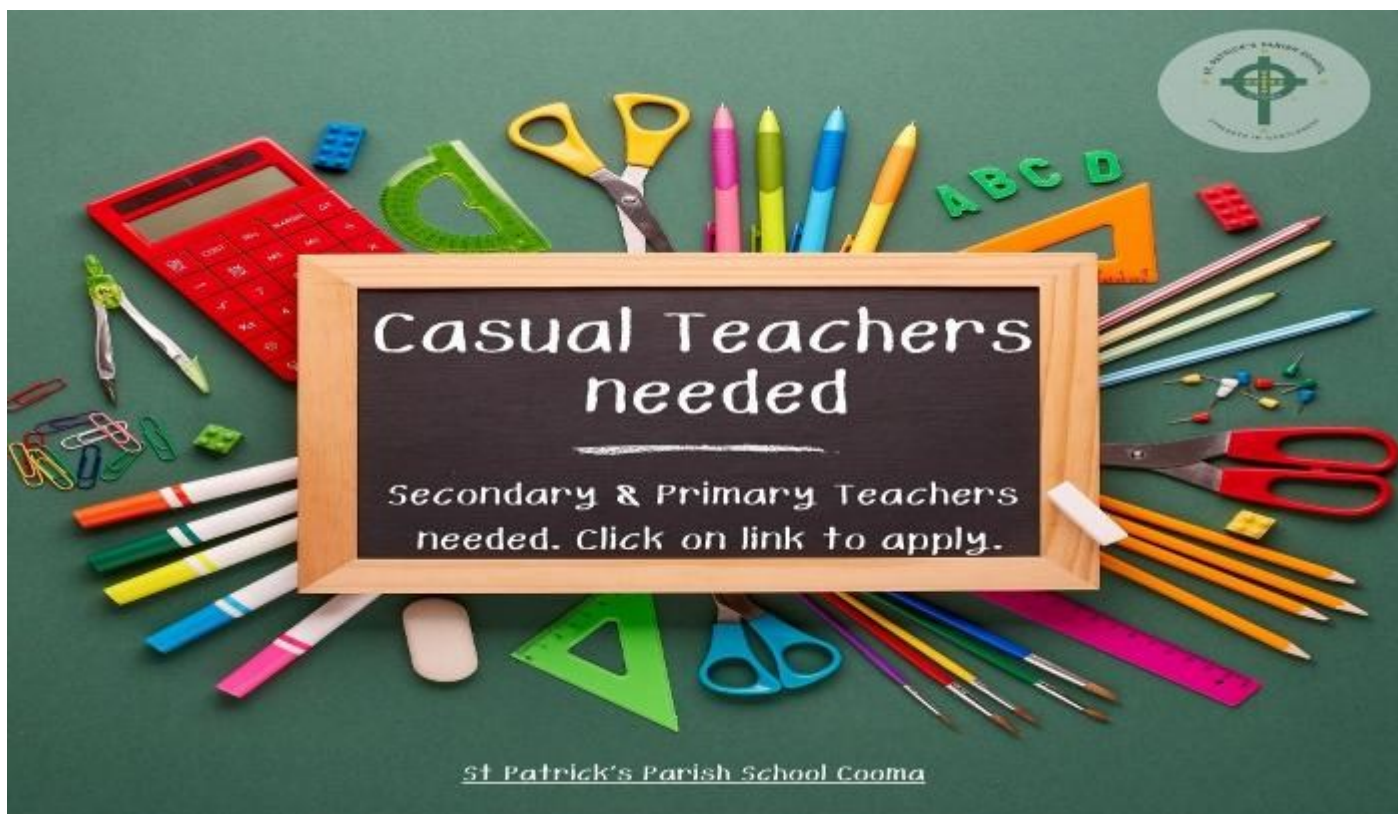
 **CATHOLIC EDUCATION**
Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn



BIG STEPS TO SCHOOL



STEPPING UP TO HIGH SCHOOL



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

Expressions of interest are invited for boys from Year 3 - 5 to try out for the **AFL pathway** in Term 1 of **2026**.

Please see the Facebook page for details:

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

NSWCPS - MACKILLOP GIRLS RUGBY LEAGUE PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT DAY



MACKILLOP

KICK OFF THE PATHWAY!

Calling all rugby league girls to get involved in the MacKillop Rugby League Development Day and selections.

**Thursday
30 October
Collegians Sport Complex,
Wollongong**

Register via: sensw.sport/portal

Registrations close **23 October 5pm**

Bronte Wilson - NSWCCC representative, NSW Blues 19s and NRLW St George Dragons Player



Canberra Grammar School
Sony Foundation Children's Holiday Camp

7 – 9th December 2025



Canberra Grammar School takes great pleasure in holding our annual three day, two night holiday camp for children with special needs.

We aim to:

- Provide a fun camp for children with special needs, at no cost to parents
- Provide opportunities for children for a full camp experience they might not otherwise have had
- Offer respite to families
- Offer our senior students an opportunity to serve others

The planned outline of the camp is as follows (subject to slight changes):

- Sunday: Arrive at the School, orientation, yoga, lunch, swimming, tour of grounds and boarding houses, African Drumming
- Monday: Sailing on the Lake, return to school for a picnic lunch, swimming activities or woodwork, Reptile Zoo presentation
- Tuesday: Mini Fete, activities, Christmas party, farewell

THE CHILDREN	We are able to accommodate 18 boys and girls, between the ages of 6 and 12.
THE MEDICAL SUPPORT	Medical facilities of the highest standard are available at the School. We have registered nurses on duty each shift and doctors on call 24 hours a day.
THE COMPANIONS	We pride ourselves on our choice of Companions. Many students from Year 11, Canberra Grammar School apply for positions as personal Companions. Each applicant is interviewed and selected with great care. These students consider the experience as a privilege and learn so much about children with disabilities and themselves. Along with the nurses, the Companions are supported in their role by a number of CGS teaching staff.
SPONSORS	Special thanks to the Sony Foundation; we really appreciate their involvement and support.
SONY FOUNDATION HOLIDAY CAMPS	https://www.sonyfoundation.org/what-we-do/childrens-holiday-camps

Please return the completed application form to:

CGS Sony Foundation Camp
Attn: Alison Larwill
40 Monaro Crescent
Red Hill ACT 2603

For further information please contact:

Graeme Lendrum
Phone: 02 6260 9706
Email: graeme.lendrum@cgs.act.edu.au

or email: sonyfoundationcamp@cgs.act.edu.au



Become a stem cell donor! @ Cooma Ex-Services Club

Friday, 28 November 2025
3pm - 6pm
Function Room Upstairs

Blood stem cell donors save lives of those facing life-threatening blood cancers and disorders.

Join us to learn more about blood stem cell donation and how you can sign up to the registry!

If you're aged 18-35, consider becoming a stem cell donor with a simple cheek swab.



stemcelldonors.org.au/events

Lisa Haines - transplant recipient 2024



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



Give kids a brighter future with Barnardos

- Extensive training
- 24/7 on-call support
- Dedicated carer support program
- Respite care
- Carer Connection events and monthly newsletter
- Carer consultation forums Expertise in
- EPR* and Adoptions applications
- Specialised restoration services

Barnardos Australia is here because every child needs a champion.

Barnardos has been a trusted supporter of the Canberra community for over 60 years. Our mission to support children and young people in Canberra is only possible with the dedication of our foster and kinship carers.

Every day, we work hard to provide the resources and support that our foster and kinship carers need to thrive. We understand that when carers are well-supported, children and families can truly flourish.

What Barnardos carers say

"I feel like I am part of a strong network of people who support all of us. Communication is honest and respectful and always has the girls best interest at heart."
Barnardos foster carer

"We are just so grateful to Barnardos for the support we receive. Thank you for always being there when I have needed you."
Barnardos kinship carer

Barnardos Canberra Out-of-Home Care

Call (02) 6110 2200 or email carerenquiryact@barnardos.org.au to find out more



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JUNIORS

Come & Try Day

When: Monday 27th October

Where: Sportshub

Times: 4pm - 5pm

Cost: Free!
*additional fees will apply to register for the full Juniors season

Age: 9-13yrs

Is your child wanting to give netball a go but they're a little nervous?

Join us for a fun filled afternoon at our **Come & Try Day!**

Get your running legs ready and bring your friends for an afternoon of netball skills and games!

Register Now!

coomanetball@gmail.com

