

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 30th June 2026

From the Principal

Recently Pauline Hanson, the leader of the One Nation Party, suggested that multiculturalism in Australia had failed and that, if elected, her party would move towards Australia becoming a monoculture. Like many others, I had to look that up to try to understand what it means. Apparently, it's a society where everyone shares the same values, norms and laws.

Whether you think this is a good idea or not is besides the point. What I find strange is when politicians think they can decide what a culture should be. Because the reality is, no matter what Pauline Hanson or any other Australian politician thinks a culture should be, and no matter what laws are put in place in a democratic society to try to make this happen, it is doomed to fail. In fact, trying to make a country a monoculture is likely to split the country more than bring it together.

The first thing we need to remember is that *culture* is not a static thing. That is, culture never stays the same. In the almost 240 years since European settlement in Australia, the culture has continuously evolved. What the culture in Australia was like in 1900 is not the same as what it was like in 1950 and is definitely not the same as what it is like today. Technological and medical advances have changed culture dramatically, and will continue to do so. Even COVID-19 has had a major effect on Australian culture. The belief that politicians can have any major impact on what a culture is is a bit ambitious. Only allowing people into Australia of a certain skin colour or a certain religion or a certain language may indeed have an effect on Australian culture, but there are actually much bigger forces at play.

Because of this, you can't really control what a culture actually is. So politicians may have grand ideas about what they want a culture to be and make laws to enable that to happen, but the idea of *culture* they have in their head and what actually happens in real life are going to be very different.

And, of course, in Australia and many other democratic countries, no one likes being told how they should live their lives. Those who support ideas like *monocultures* think that they are the ones who are already living the right way and "wouldn't everything be so much better if everyone lived the same way that I do?" But there are just as many people who don't want to live the same way their neighbour does, and will usually not do so. And then, all of a sudden, we have a divided country. Rather than creating unity in the country, these ideas tend to be quite divisive.

So what's this got to do with the Star of the Sea Catholic community? Perhaps rather than trying to dictate how we should live our lives, politicians may want to set an example of how we want Australia to be - kind, compassionate, attentive, hospitable. And then through their example, people will jump on board. That's what we try to do every day at Star of the Sea. We hope that everyone feels welcome in our community, even if on some days it doesn't go right. This is the *culture* that God calls us to live out, so we can be the people God calls us to be.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*A nation's
culture
resides in the
hearts and in
the soul of its
people. -
Mahatma
Gandhi*

*Star of the Sea
Catholic College
acknowledges the
Leterremairener
people as the
traditional
custodians of the
land on which
our school stands.*



Religious Education and Faith Development

Heart
Spirituality



Attentiveness
Hospitality
Compassion

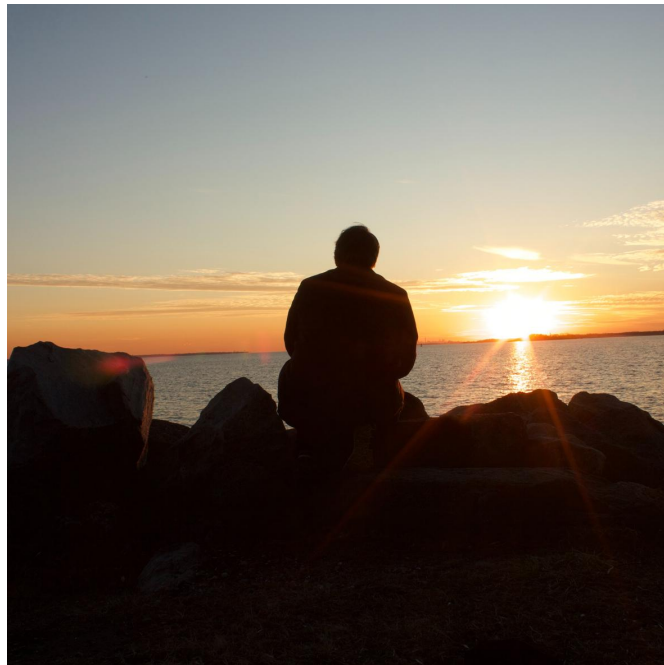
Psalm for the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God.*

I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.

The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.

The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down.



Star of the Sea Mass Times

Mass times for this week:

Saturday Vigil Mass - 5:00pm Saturday

Sunday Mass - 11:00am Sunday

at the George Town Catholic Church (Our Lady Star of the Sea) which is located in Goulburn Street, across the road from the Hall.



staff Movements

Mrs Robotham is at a meeting on Wednesday.

Mr Laurence is on leave Friday and Monday.

Mrs Davis begins long service leave next Monday. We wish her well during her time away. She will return Week 5 of Term 3. During her time away, **Mr Jimmy White** will take the Grade 6 class.

Grade 5/6 Winter Sport

Grade 5/6 Winter Sport begins next week (weather permitting). Mr Wedlock will be in charge of Star of the Sea's Winter Sport teams. The days will be held at South George Town Primary School.

Sympathy and Thanks

We pass on our sympathy to the Brown family (Angelina, Ashton and Chad) on the passing of their Mum, Grandmother and Great Grandmother Gwen. We are lucky to have memories from SetUp and some beautiful things she crafted for us which will be treasured forever by the Star of the Sea community. The pictures below show some of the quilts and some of the I Spy bags she made. She also did little angels for the parents at Christmas time and these were given out at each end of year party in SetUp.



School Lunches

School Lunches

School lunches are as normal this week.

Wednesday - Grades 3 to 6

Friday - Preps to Grade 2



This week's meal is Curried Sausages with Rice and Fruit Yoghurt.

Term 2 Primary Assembly Roster

The following classes will be leading assemblies over the coming weeks:

Please note that this roster may change

WEEK 9	Thursday 2nd July	Prep	12.10pm
WEEK 10	Thursday 9th July	Kinder	12.10pm

Congratulations Jorden

We congratulate Jorden Cox and her family on the arrival of her new baby boy, Hudson. We wish the whole family well in this special time.

Utility Officer


Last week we farewelled Mr Zen Lazdauskas who is retiring after spending the last 10 years as one of our Utility Officers here at Star of the Sea. Over that time Mr Lazdauskas has done an amazing job of keeping the grounds neat and tidy and making sure everything was planted when it needed to be and cut back and pruned when it needed to be. We wish Mr Lazdauskas well in his retirement, but we will still see him around as he will do some relief work for us from time to time.

Poetry in Action

On Monday 29 July, students from Years 6–10 enjoyed an energetic and entertaining performance from Poetry in Action, Australia's leading touring poetry theatre company. Their show, Rhyme Battle Royale, brought poetry to life through quick-fire humour, movement and clever wordplay, turning the Hall into a lively arena of rhyme and rhythm. The performers demonstrated how poetic devices such as repetition, alliteration and metaphor can be used creatively to persuade, entertain and connect with an audience.



Calendar Term 2 - 2026	
Sunday 5th - Sunday 12th July	NAIDOC Week
Friday 10th July	End of Term Assembly; Term 2 ends for students
Monday 27th July	Pupil Free Day
Tuesday 28th July	Students resume Term 3



Stars of the Week - 25th June 2026

Kinder	Aj Freeman	For being so great at following the rules and routines of Kindergarten every single day no matter what.
Prep	Connor Sherriff	For working hard in all lessons and overcoming any challenges that might have come his way.
Grade 1/2	Willow Brown	For becoming more independent with her learning and a role model for others.
Grade 3/4	Harlow Franzekow	For her consistent application across all learning areas. Well done Harlow!
Grade 4/5	Alby Hawkins	For demonstrating excellent and creative artistic skills.
Grade 6	Evie King	For demonstrating resilience in overcoming difficult friendship situations. You shown great maturity and leadership. Well done!

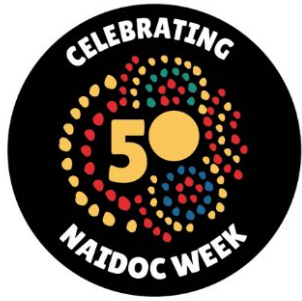
SetUp for Success

Our early learning program, SetUp, is back in 2026 and is on every Thursday during term time between 9:00am and 10:30am in the Kinder room and is for children from birth to 5 years of age.

It is completely free and all are welcome. Mrs Ros Ashenden will run SetUp during Term 2.



From the Deputy Principal



NAIDOC WEEK

50 YEARS DEADLY

5-12 JULY 2026

Star of the Sea Catholic College will participate in NAIDOC Week activities during the last week of Term Two. NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year, to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth.

<https://www.naidoc.org.au>

Winter Activities at Star of the Sea

This week we have embraced the chill of winter by starting the week with our Cozy Clothes Day. Everyone was invited to wear sports uniform and to add some warm accessories. We shared hot Milo and hot chocolates with marshmallows at recess and lunchtime. It was a nice way to begin the week, keeping ourselves warm despite the cool chill in the air.



Grade 7/8 Winter Sport

Thursday 25th June

Soccer - Brooks HS 6 def SOTS 4

In a true nod to sportsmanship BHS loaned SOTS 3 players. This means BHS automatically wins the match, but students from both schools benefited from a competitive and fun outing.



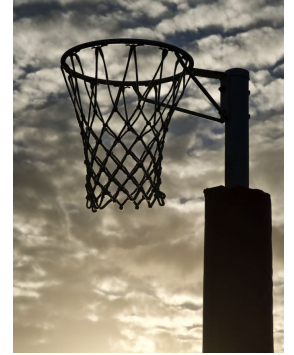
Netball - Div 1: SOTS18 def PHS2

The team played well together showing progress in both attack and defence.

Div 3a: Forfeit due to low numbers

Div 3b: - SOTS 9 def Cressy 6

With a win for SOTS the **entire** team showed a massive improvement, with an increase in calling for the ball and positioning.



Thursday 2nd July

Soccer is at Prospect High School

Netball is at The Hub - Mowbray

Enrolments

Kinder 2027 - We have now officially opened enrolments for Kinder 2027. We encourage all forms to be handed into the College office by the end of Term 2.

Year 7 2027 - If you know of someone who is wishing to enrol their child in Year 7 for next year (from another school), please encourage them to have their enrolment form into the office by the end of this term (July 10th). We may have limited spaces for enrolments next year so enrolments will not be done on a first come first served basis.

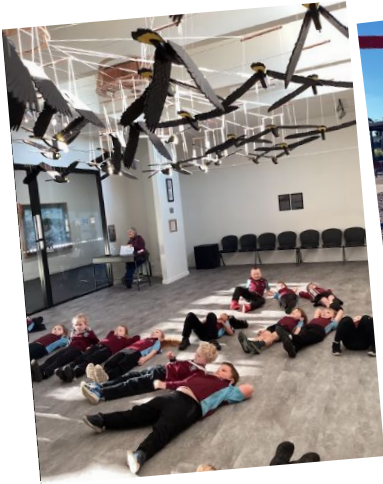
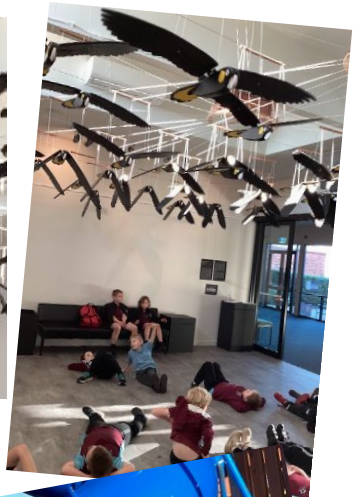
Spaces left in 2026 - Many of our classes are close to full, so we are currently accepting enrolments on a case-by-case basis. Our Grade 1/2 class is officially full and has a waiting list.

Interschools Chess Competition

On Monday June 29th 10 students from Grades 4-7 headed to Riverside High School to compete in the Interschools Chess Competition. For some students this was an opportunity to try out their skills in a new experience, in their first Chess competition. For others, it was a chance to improve on previous accomplishments and put new learnings into practice. Chess is a fantastic game to develop patience, problem solving, focus under pressure, resilience and strategic game play skills. We are very proud of everyone who took on this challenge.



Grade 1/2 Art Gallery Visit



Star of the Sea Catholic College
Invites you to our
End of Term Assembly
on
Friday 10th July 2025
At 10:00am in the Church
Please join us

