



SYNOD 2023 REPORT METHODIST LADIES' COLLEGE

MEMBERSHIP

Chair	Nicholas Henry
Deputy Chair	Marie-Louise Martin
Council Secretary	Vicki Robson
Member	Livia Hool
Member	John Kiepec
Member	Valerie Gould
Member	Jennifer Mathers
Member	Sarah Coleman
Member	Chinar Goel
Principal	Rebecca Clarke

REPORT

Executive Summary

Established in 1907 on a stunning campus by the Swan River, Claremont, Methodist Ladies' College continues to uphold its vision to be an international leader of holistic learning and teaching, and its mission, to mentor motivated learners to choose purposeful futures. Ours is a community that believes deeply in the empowerment that comes from an all-girls' education. We are committed to enabling each student to develop confidence in her capabilities and the determination to realise that she can be an agent of change in her own life and in the lives of others. As a College aligned with the Uniting Church, diversity and inclusion are at the core of all that we do. Our community is a microcosm of the vast array of cultures and people within the Western Australian and wider global community and we

are proud that the differences we each have are embraced thus strengthening the bonds that connect us.

The following [Link](#) will take you to the 2022 Annual Report.

Selected Highlights

Change in Principal

At the end of Term 3 2022, MLC farewelled Dr Marie Perry following 5 years of dedicated service as Principal of MLC. During Term 4 2022, Mrs Jenny Ethell undertook the role of caretaker Principal in advance of Rebecca Clarke commencing her tenure as Principal in January 2023.

Rebecca joins MLC following a ten-year term of leadership at Walford Anglican School for Girls in South Australia. During her time at Walford, Rebecca held positions on the board of the Association of Independent Schools, South Australia (AISSA) and the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA), where she also led as Chair for South Australia. Rebecca also held posts on two University of Adelaide Advisory Boards and was a member of the Resthaven board, one of South Australia's largest not-for-profit aged care community service providers affiliated with the Uniting Church in Australia.

A passionate advocate for girls' schools, Rebecca is committed to fostering a community of belonging and inclusivity which prepares students in a holistic sense for the future. She is very much enjoying engaging with the MLC Community, connecting with staff, students, families and Collegians.

In other key leadership appointments, we have been pleased to welcome in Semester 2 2022 a new Deputy Principal 7 – 12, Miss Katy Moore and in January 2023, a new Head of Boarding, Jodie Mellor. We look forward to welcoming a new Director of Marketing and Communications, Lavinia Thurairatnum in August 2023.

Strategic Planning

With Covid behind us and with a new Principal and Executive Leadership Team in place, we have undertaken a community consultation in advance of preparing a new strategic plan. We have named the process ***Rise and Strive Towards 2030***, and so far, have surveyed our community and convened focus groups as we identify the priorities in which we will invest our energy into the future. We look forward to launching our new strategic plan later this year.

Australian Combined Schools Music Festival (ACSMF)

MLC was proud and honoured to host the ACSMF in July 2023, the first time, since its founding 50 years ago, that this event has ever been held in Western Australia. This prestigious Festival brought together young Musicians from the nation's most accomplished consortium of Music Schools to develop their musicality over three days of rigorous workshops and rehearsals. More than 200 students attended the festival, each of whom was hosted by a billet family from MLC, Christchurch, Scotch College and John XXIII. Across the three days, our students were taught by internationally renowned visiting musicians – Victoria Longdon (London), Stephen Williams (Sydney), and two of Perth's finest experts in youth music-making, Sam Parry and Perry Joyce. The event culminated in a spectacular Concert at Winthrop Hall on the evening of 1 July. The ACSMF is held every two years with the next event taking place at Westminster School in Adelaide in 2025.

MLC Needs based Scholarships

On 22 June, MLC held a giving day to raise funds to support a needs-based scholarship for a deserving recipient. MLC is committed to being a diverse and inclusive community and to providing opportunities for students to attend the College who may otherwise not have the means to do so. The generosity of the MLC community is inspiring and it is through this collective commitment that we have welcomed many students into the College and look forward to welcoming many more long into the future. In addition to this needs-based scholarship, a range of other scholarships and partnerships are provided. This year, in addition to our Yalari scholarships, we are pleased to have entered a partnership with Madalah Limited as we expand our indigenous program at MLC.

Reconciliation

MLC's reconciliation committee, consisting of staff and students, meets regularly during the year to fulfill the objectives of the Reconciliation Action Plan. This year, our students designed and launched their NAIDOC shirts which they wore with pride during NAIDOC week. NAIDOC week also saw the premiere of the Indigenous Dance group which performed for the first time at the Annual Dance Showcase.

Service Learning

MLCs service learning program continues to strengthen under the guidance of our staff and our College Chaplain, Simone Smalley. The Nulsen Youth Patron program which is offered through Nulsen Disability Services is well supported by our students who participate in a range of programs that improve the quality of life for people with disability. We have continued to support Uniting WAs Christmas Appeal, Uniting WAs cosy toes sock Appeal,

the Sony Youth Camp holiday program, the Red Cross Soup Patrol, the Guide Dogs Association and a range of other organisations throughout the year.

Teaching Her: Unlocking your career in girls' education

This year, we have aimed to strengthen our commitment to supporting and encouraging our next generation of teachers and leaders at MLC. Our inaugural event, *Teaching Her: Unlocking your career in girls' education* welcomed prospective staff, particularly early career teachers, to the College to learn more about the benefits of working in an all-girls' environment. A panel of experienced principals provided tips and strategies for preparing professional applications and on the workplace culture and career opportunities available at MLC.

Board Appointments

This year, we have welcomed Ms Sarah Coleman and Dr Chinar Goel to the MLC Council. Sarah is the CEO of Idoba Pty Ltd bringing to MLC a strong background in innovation, whilst Chinar is a Psychiatrist at King Edward Memorial Hospital and adjunct Senior Clinic Lecturer at Curtin University, adding her expertise to the wellbeing focus of the College. MLC has farewelled Mr Dan Minchin from the College Council.

*Rebecca Clarke, Principal
Methodist Ladies College
Rebecca.clarke@mlc.wa.edu.au*