

St Peters Lutheran College (SPLC) is a Lutheran co-educational private school in Queensland, Australia with teaching campuses in Indooroopilly and Springfield, and an outdoor education centre in Crows Nest. The college provides prep to year 12 education, with domestic day schooling at Springfield, with domestic and international day and boarding at the larger Indooroopilly campus. In year 9, students spend five-weeks completing the Ironbark Outdoor Education Program at the outdoor education centre in Crows Nest.

The college was founded in 1945 with the initial purchase of Ross Roy House, later expanding through neighbouring properties and the opening of the Springfield campus in 2008.[4] Both Ross Roy and the chapel have been listed in the Queensland Heritage Register since 2012.[5]

In 2017, St Peters had an enrolment of 1986 students with a teaching staff of 183 teachers with 182 non-teaching staff.[2]

Contents

1 Symbolism

2 Campus

2.1 Ironbark

3 Heads of College

4 Curriculum

5 Sport

5.1 AIC premierships

6 Publications

7 Chapel

8 History

9 Alumni

10 See also

11 References

12 External links

Symbolism[edit]

There are certain symbolic icons present in the college emblem, including Martin Luther's iconic white rose from his seal, and an inverted cross for St Peter, leader of the Apostles in the early Christian Church, who was crucified upside-down.

The School's motto, Plus Ultra, which is Latin for "Ever Higher", is said to emphasise the college's desire for the students to reach their goals in their learning.

Campus[edit]

Starting with the 1897 Villa "Ross Roy", bought and used as the first building of St Peters in 1945, the college campus has seen significant growth and change over the years.

Theile house, a four-storey building comprising computer labs, classrooms, Year 11/12 lockers, and the Theile study centre, was recently renovated and extended. The facilities in the new building include a study centre for students in years 11 and 12, with three private study/meeting rooms and numerous computers and laptops available to students. The girls' boarding houses have also been renovated, now featuring air conditioning, and a multi-purpose court.

There are three libraries on campus. The Senior School library is a three-storey facility where students and staff can access a collection of fiction and non-fiction. There are approximately 80 computers and students have access to a number of databases to which the school subscribes.

In 2013, a Performing Arts Centre was also opened. This is a three-storey facility including an auditorium, theatrette, orchestra and band rooms, music and drama classrooms, and rooms for instrumental tuition and practice.

Ironbark[edit]

Ironbark is the outdoor campus of St Peters Lutheran College. Located near the town of Crows Nest, some 50 kilometres (31 mi) north of Toowoomba and 150 kilometres (93 mi) north-west of Brisbane, the property consists of 600 hectares (1,483 acres) of heavily timbered, undulating granite country. The donation of land in 1971, provided the College with an opportunity to develop and implement an outdoor education program. After several years of discussion and planning, a pilot program was run in 1974. Following the success of the pilot program, Ironbark has been part of the College curriculum since 1976. Ironbark was named for the Eucalyptus Crebra, the narrow leaf Ironbark, which grows across the property.

Heads of College[edit]

The heads of college have been:[6]

Period Details

1945–1954 Wilfred Carl Schneider

1955–1970 Hermann Wilhelm Albrecht Lohe

1971–1994 Carson Dron

1995–2002, 2011 Sally Chandler

2003–2011 Stephen Rudolph

2012–2016 Adrian Wiles

2017– Tim Kotzur

Curriculum[edit]

The St Peters curriculum is designed to provide a continuum of experience and knowledge acquisition from Prep to Year 12. To this end, St Peters offers programs within four separate sub-schools: Lower Primary (P–4), Upper Primary (5–6), Junior High (7–9) and Senior School (10–12). Each sub-school operates semi-autonomously with its own Head of Sub-School and administration. The Senior School offers the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.[7]

Since 2004, the school has run an exchange program in conjunction with sister school, Immanuel college, in Adelaide, South Australia. The focus of the exchange program, or "Mind Change" as it is known, is to allow gifted students from both schools a chance to meet students their age who they can relate their interests to.

Sport[edit]

St Peters Lutheran College is a member of the Associated Independent Colleges (AIC).

AIC premierships[edit]

St Peters Lutheran College has won the following AIC premierships.[8]

Basketball - 2007

Rugby (2) - 2000, 2012

Soccer (2) - 2014, 2020

Swimming (9) - 1999, 2000, 2012, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

Tennis (9) - 1999, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

Volleyball (3) - 2012, 2013, 2014

Publications[edit]

The school has a number of publications that are made available to the school community, including:[9]

The Rock, the Indooroopilly school's weekly newsletter

Cornerstone, the Springfield school's weekly newsletter

Pebbles, a publication for the primary years

Plus Ultra, a magazine printed three times a year

The Review, an annual publication reviewing the previous year

Maroon and White, a publication circulated to boarding families

Chapel[edit]

Main article: Chapel of St Peter's Lutheran College

The St Peters Lutheran College Chapel was built in 1968 to a design of the Austrian-born architect Karl Langer. Langer's work was in a distinctive sub-tropical modernist style and was his last built project. The building has a large well-lit nave with a choir loft, vestry, and meditation chapel and features a large bell tower. It is constructed of load-bearing face brick with a roof of flat metal sheeting.[5]

History[edit]

St Peters Lutheran College was established at Indooroopilly by the Lutheran Church in 1945 with 56 boarding students. Ross Roy was the main building and focus for early college life with Luther House built by voluntary labour soon after the college's commencement. St Peters has had five heads in its history and is the largest Lutheran school in Australia, today, with an enrolment maintained at approximately 2000 day and boarding students and 350 teaching and non-teaching staff. The boarding enrolments are maintained at 150 students. St Peters Lutheran College – Ironbark Outdoor Education Centre, via Crows Nest, was established in 1974 as a trial program and in 1976 as an ongoing outdoor education program. This life changing experience is a five-week program for Year 9 students and indicates St Peters positive and strong commitment to ‘growing’ our Junior High students in significant ways. The ‘Ironbark Experience’ is seen by staff, parents and students as a vital part of the St Peters journey, fostering independence, resilience, teamwork, problem solving, ethical decision making, sustainability and environmental awareness in our young people. Commencing in 2008, St Peters Lutheran College Springfield began as a Prep to Year 8 school. It now caters for Prep to Year 12 and provides the Springfield and adjacent communities with the many benefits of the St Peters journey. All St Peters schools operate under the control of the St Peters Lutheran College Council and Head of College, governed by the Lutheran Church of Australia Queensland District.

Alumni[edit]

Alumni of St. Peters Lutheran College are known as Old Scholars. All students graduate as Life Members of the St Peters Old Scholars Association (SPOSA).[10] Notable St. Peter's Old

Scholars include North Queensland indigenous leader, Noel Pearson, Olympic athletes Dane Bird-Smith,[11] Maxine Seear, Georgia Bohl, Chris Noffke, Shane Gould, and Pita Taufatofua, and musicians and actors Sigrid Thornton, Hamish Prasad, Craig Horner, and Sam Atwell. Other well-known past students include ex-Brisbane Lions (now Essendon) Australian football player Mal Michael; 1986 Commonwealth Games 1500m Freestyle Gold Medalist Jason Plummer, Federal MHRs Steven Ciobo and Michael Johnson; TV sports reporter Stephanie Brantz; romance novelist and former Brisbane Broncos cheerleader Ally Blake; singer and member of South Korean K-pop group ENHYPEN Jake Sim, and current Brisbane Lions rookie listed Australian football player Adam Spackman.

See also[edit]

List of schools in Queensland