

Campion College , a Catholic Liberal Arts College

Campion College is in a privileged position to give its students a thoroughly Catholic education. The College has a small enrolment and a friendly, personal relationship between staff and students.

Campion College is located in Sydney's inner west, in the suburb of Old Toongabbie, close to Parramatta . 'Old Toongabbie' is not 'back-o'-Bourke'; it is near Parramatta .

Some key features of the Campion College experience:

the degree offered is a three-year Arts Degree, fully recognised and accredited by the relevant Australian educational authorities. The qualification is called a degree in the Liberal Arts, i.e. it is an Arts degree.

the Principal and staff are active lay Catholics

the ethos is Catholic, attentive to the teachings of the Magisterium of the Church.

The Governing Council has not skimmed on quality staff; the professional, academic staff are youngish, well-qualified and lively

Campion College is a private tertiary College and does not have to compromise all the time on its core values

most of the Campion students are active, practising Catholics OR resonate with the Catholic ethos.

In 2010, Champion College is in its FIFTH YEAR of operation and expects to graduate around twenty students this December.

What are the qualifications for a young man or woman to attend Champion College ?

Similar qualifications from Secondary, Year 12 in any Australian state or territory to get into an Arts degree at any Australian university! (In the case of overseas students, equivalent secondary qualifications). If in doubt consult the Principal.

Some older men and women (e.g. in their thirties) wish to study at Champion College . These should consult the principal as to their qualifications for admission.

Where do Champion College students live while studying? Are they all residential students?

Some students are from metropolitan Sydney . They can live at home and commute to the College by car, or public transport via Parramatta

Some students live on Campus in a 'girls' or 'boys' so-called 'dormitory' (separate rooms, old mansion) and eat together in the College dining room

Some students live in groups (separate rooms) in Champion-rented private houses near the College and have their main meals in the College

Some senior students live in friendship groups in privately rented houses in the vicinity of the College and commute to Champion. Such senior students arrange their own meals.

The Costs of going to Champion College

Campion College is a registered University College . In 2010, the fees are \$7,000 per semester for a full-time student. This is the tough news. However, there is also good news

Under an Australian Government Fee Assistance Scheme, the payment can be delayed until the student is earning over a certain amount during her/his later career, in a similar way that students in an ordinary State University can have their HECS fees left to be paid after they graduate and are working.

However, (the tough news): There are the fees for 'Board-and-Lodging' where Campion students are living in the College or in College-rented accommodation in nearby streets, but the good news: the majority of the Campion students can qualify for a 'Scholarship' which can defray most of these fees for 'Board-and-Lodging'. The Scholarships are given by Catholic dioceses, wealthy friends of the College or Catholic associations, such as the Knights of Malta. Most Campion College students have Scholarship assistance with their 'Board-and-Lodging'.

In addition, Campion students (as with any Australian university students) should study the Australian Government's Youth Assistance Scheme (from Centrelink). Many Campion students should receive this Youth Assistance if they study the details and work to qualify for the grants. Youth Assistance is worth having.

Generous donors have provided Scholarships to assist gifted but from less-affluent young adults to stay at Campion College . Prospective students or their parents should, most definitely, inquire about possible scholarships to attend.

In addition, many students, especially from rural areas or interstate, should study the YOUTH Assistance possibilities from the Australian Government's agency, Centrelink and its Youth Assistance which is well worth gaining.

Perhaps, it should be stressed that most of the people to which this email will be sent are older than the classic young adults thinking of going to Campion College or planning to attend. The writer, (a 'Fellow' of Campion College), is trying to get precise and accurate information to

those who advise and support young Catholic adults as well as the young people themselves.

Therefore, please 'cut-and-paste' this email and send to young adults and older secondary students or 'gap year' young people whom you may know.

Who are the young adults who enrol at **Campion College ?**

They are normally from strong Catholic families (but not always!)

They are, however, often practising Catholics themselves

Their strong Catholic families have heard of **Campion College** ; or a brother, sister or other relative has attended the College and recommends others in the family to do so.

They have heard of **Campion College** and its Liberal Arts Degree and want to go to a tertiary institution where their beliefs will resonate with everyone else's on Campus

Some have been partly 'Home Schooled', and finished their senior secondary at a local High School, Catholic College , Grammar School or Christian School . **Campion College** seems a natural Catholic University College in which to continue their education.

Some **Campion College** students who commenced their tertiary studies at a State university but found the non-religious, anti-religious tone depressing or irritating and find their way to **Campion College** with students who share their Christian and Catholic heritage. Such students gain credit at **Campion** for a year or two years' study at the State University

(Hopefully) there are some **Campion** students from schools like Redfield College or Tangara School for Girls who are willing to be at **Campion** where they can use their experience and talents to build a complementary tertiary institution to the secondary colleges they attended.

The Religious Dimension at **Campion College**

There is a Catholic chaplain.

Mass is available in the College Chapel on every day of the week except Saturdays. Around a third of the student body attend week day Mass, at least on some days. On Sundays, students (naturally) attend the church of their choice and some, for example, go to a Latin Mass at an appropriate church.

There is a Mass in the 'extraordinary rite' (Latin) at the College Chapel once a week, but not necessarily on Sundays.

The religious and moral tone of College life is within the parameters of the standards of Catholic teaching.

There is an Annual Retreat for students.

Quality of University Life at Campion College

Over the last five years, the pioneer Campion College students have helped to fashion the sporting, social and extracurricular life of the College. When the history of the College comes to be written, these pioneer student leaders, such as Alex Hobbs, Paul O'Donovan, Jacqueline Ramsey, Siobham Reeves and Matt Harradine will shine. Their achievements are massive.

The sporting life of the College is established and students have helped create the soccer field and Volleyball Court out of open space. The Campion College SRC is established.

The College student journal, *The Sextant*, appears regularly

The College has its Annual Ball, due 3 September, at Campion this year

A very active debating society is in operation

The College has an eighteen-seater minibus to get students to activities around Sydney : the beaches in appropriate weather, 'Theology-on-Tap' ... (+ many older students have their own cars and can assist with transport!)

There are ad hoc activities like a festive breakfast at the end of a Semester

Contacting Campion College

To contact Campion College or to support the Campion Foundation these are a cluster of contact details: P.O. Box 952 , Toongabbie East NSW 2146. Tel: (02) 9896 – 9300 or for the Foundation: 1300 792 747 or Fax: (02) 9631 – 9200 and the emails: info@campion.edu.au or study@campion.edu.au or The Foundation: k.schmude@campion.edu.au and the website: www.campion.edu.au

Campion College produces Catholic Lay Leaders

What can today's Catholic leaders do NOW for Campion College to assure its growth and success?

Pray and encourage others to pray for the growth and success of the College, a new point-of-light in the Australian Catholic Church

Encourage others to encourage young adult Catholics to see the benefits Campion College offers and enrol in its courses. Encourage Catholic parents to see the advantages Campion offers to their sons and daughters and encourage them to encourage their sons and daughters to enrol at Campion.

Continue to donate money to the Scholarships Fund so that no prospective student is intimidated from attending Campion by the tuition or 'Board-and-Lodging' fees

Sydney Catholic families can assist interstate students resident at Campion College to find their feet in what can be a vast and lonely city on weekends.

Catholic business people and employers in and around Parramatta can make available part-time jobs for Campion students, assured that they are likely to get the services of intelligent, reliable young adults

Catholic leaders can assist Campion graduates to gain jobs as they move from University College to the workplace.

Therefore, please 'cut-and-paste' this email and send to young adults and older secondary students or 'gap year' young people whom you may know.

Catholic leaders (including the professionals, employers and business people mentioned above) can assist GRADUATED Campion students to find the employment or the further studies which they wish. They can do this by arranging an annual seminar of getting that job which 'you' wish. Where Campion graduates (one-by-one) get in touch for advice, use your business contacts to assist them to get that job or position.

and then

After Students Graduate from Campion College ?

In 2009, nine students graduated from Campion College and this is where each of them headed for year 2010:

one is doing a gap year travelling o/s and two others are doing a one-year graduate Masters Degree in Teaching at Sydney University . Campion offers an Arts degree and many Arts students (anywhere!) go on for teaching.

another has been accepted for a job as a journalist in Melbourne

another has returned to the UK for a career in bio-ethics

another is already playing in a Blues rock band and also moved on a Law Degree at Notre Dame University , Sydney . Arts + Law is a very common double degree.

another is exploring a degree in the Dramatic Arts and the last (of the nine graduates) is in Melbourne doing International Relations. These days, double degrees are common.

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Finally, if you wish to make a small donation to Campion College but are dwarfed by the College's needs and you a person of modest means, you can usefully donate your 'widow's mite' (say) a \$20 to \$ 50 donation to the Treasurer, Campion College Students Society, which runs social and sporting events for the students and (since they are young adults!) do not want to have to go 'cap in hand' to the College Principal for their modest financial requirements. Mr Paul O'Donovan, Treasurer, *Campion College Students Society*, P.O. Box 952 , Toongabbie East, NSW, 2146.

Young Adult Catholic Ministry

The only really effective ministry with Young Adults is a ministry in which their own ADULT age group is directly managing. Few mainstream young adult citizens will attend and participate in events which are run by ‘Oldies’ or ‘Gerries’ for young Catholic adults.

Much, even most of Catholic tertiary ministry is vitiated because tertiary ministry is so often run by ‘Oldies’ and ‘Gerry’ Catholics for the dear young people, forgetting that they are ADULTS, if ‘young’ to the 40s to 70s age groups.

The young adults need small sums of money to support their ministries, so the (relatively) small sums that they need can pass ‘under the radar’. I hope some established Catholic bodies will see the vital relevance of supporting these dedicated young adults with what older Catholic often have more of ... Finance!

These are the key groups in Young Adult Catholic Ministry:

❖ SIX30 or (under whatever name) – a weekly Holy Hour, in the (Arch)diocesan Cathedral – based on Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Gospel Reading, Homily, Benediction – and Reconciliation available. In Melbourne: Ms Louise Ashton, Co-ordinator, SIX 30, Vocations Office, St Patrick’s Cathedral, P.O. Box 146, East Melbourne Vic 3002. Cheques: Vocations Office, SIX30

❖ Theology-in-the-Pub (or equivalent under a similar name in other Arch(dioceses)). A monthly event! In Melbourne managed by a Committee led by John Smyth, St Kevin’s College, Senior School, Moonga Road, Toorak, Vic. 3142. Cheques: ‘Theology-in-the-Pub.

❖ Australian Catholic Students Association (ACSA), peak Catholic body representing Catholic Students – practising Catholics. Their major event of the year is the Annual Conference, recently held at the Lake Hume Resort, Albury, NSW. There were 250 young adults in attendance. I was there. Their address is: The Treasurer, Australian Catholic Students Association, P.O. Box 171, Broadway, NSW 2006.

❖ Then there is the Champion College Students Association, P.O. Box 3052, Toongabbie East, NSW, 2146. (The needs of Champion College are vast; here the

**Students Association is referred to) Its Treasurer is Paul O'Donovan, Treasurer,
Campion College Students Association, P.O. Box 3052 , Toongabbie East, NSW
2146.**

**Small sums of money in support of these ventures will give a disproportionate response in their
ministries which are proven successful.**