

## Student Philanthropy

The culture of philanthropy at St Margaret's continues to develop with the intent to inspire the girls to begin a life-long commitment to giving through activities that have a positive impact on the communities in which they live and will, one day, work. Through the many philanthropic endeavours in which the school is involved, it is intended that students will improve their understanding of current community issues and, in doing so, build important relationships between the school and the community. Philanthropy at St Margaret's is driven by selected senior students who form the Philanthropy Group. These girls collaborate with other groups throughout the school to raise awareness and funds for many causes and organisations within the broader community.

### **Toc H**

Toc H is a community based organisation in which many students at St Margaret's participate. Toc H first started during the First World War, when the Reverend P.B. (Tubby) Gayton opened a centre called Talbot House in a Belgian town of Poperinghe. This house was a peaceful retreat for thousands of young men on their way to and from the front lines where they could try to forget the war, enjoy each other's company and find spiritual help. After the war, the men who had visited Talbot House sought to continue 'Toc H', the signaller's code word for Talbot House. Toc H now operates in many countries and at St Margaret's is concerned with putting Christian values into practice and has four simple aims. These aims are:

- Friendship: to welcome all in friendship
- Service: to give personal service
- Fair-mindedness: to listen always to the views of others
- The Kingdom: to acknowledge God: spiritual nature of all people.

### **Student philanthropy in the primary school**

The service component of Body, Heart, Mind and Soul is diverse and benefits the local, national and international communities. This community engagement is embedded as part of the school ethos and learning. It aims to develop a sense of social responsibility in our students. Our service program is addressed through Cornerstone Project, House Charity and Year Level Service Learning Projects. The cornerstone project is conducted in Year 6 and the aim of project is for students to plan and conduct a fundraising venture. Each House raises money to contribute to a school charity. Each year level is involved in a project that is reflective of their understanding and is used as a tool to enhance and enrich classroom learning.

Maria Cobain (2015) spearheaded student philanthropy during her time at school and was awarded Junior Philanthropist of the Year 2015 by the Queensland Community Foundation for her very significant efforts in this area.

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Try watching this video on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), or enable JavaScript if it is disabled in your browser.

