

Like the Songlines of our traditional land owners; the Jagera and Turrbal peoples, there are many stories embedded within the buildings, halls and surrounds of Stuartholme School. We welcome you to discover the history of Stuartholme School through the paths of Songlines.

Early history

An early article published in Brisbane’s local newspaper records a meteorite landing on the grounds and setting fire to the original cottage. A former student from our sister school in Sydney (now known as Kincoppal-Rose Bay), visited the site and was taken by its beauty. She dropped to her knees and prayed that this land would one day become a School of the Sacred Heart.

Stuartholme Chapel

Completed in 1961, the Stuartholme Chapel is a well-recognised Brisbane landmark. Its large and intricate stained glass window allowed the structure to be built without buttressing. The Chapel window was designed by Andrew Sibley, who taught Art at Stuartholme at the time the Chapel was being built.

Spruson Building

The Spruson Building opened in 1991 and was named after our first Principal, Sister Clare Spruson rscJ, and her niece, Sister Joan Spruson rscJ, who taught Science at the School. The Spruson Building houses the Science laboratories, which replaced the original laboratories under the Chapel that were designed by Sister Joan Spruson rscJ.

Our Lady of Stuartholme monument

The Our Lady of Stuartholme monument was first erected on ‘The Hill’ (the site of the present oval) in 1954 to honour the Church’s Marian Year.

Surrounding bushland

The untouched bushland that surrounds Stuartholme is a feature of the School’s beauty, with many referring to it as ‘an educational sanctuary’.

Aquatic Precinct

The original swimming pool was built in 1953. It was upgraded and extended twice, first in 1983 and again in 2010 to create the beautiful Aquatic Precinct we have today.

Oval

The oval was constructed in 1983, following the removal of nine metres from the top of ‘The Hill’. The resulting fill became part of the Moggill Road overpass on the Western Freeway.

Main Building

The Main Building was extended in two stages. It was completed in 1986.

Lift in the Main Building

The lift in the Main Building was added by the US Army to take stretcher cases when Stuartholme was used as the 42nd Base Hospital.

Pink Balcony

The Pink Balcony is the Boarders’ entrance to the School. Generations of girls have run up these stairs, eager to greet their friends.

Alumnae portraiture

Our Alumnae always remain part of the Sacred Heart Family. Their children and grandchildren delight in finding them in the class photos along the corridors in the Main Building.

Australian Room, former Chapel

The former Chapel, now known as the Australian Room, once housed the Stuartholme-Behan Collection of Art. Due to its value, it is on loan and displayed at the University of Queensland (UQ).

Benches

The benches seen around the corridors originated from Kerever Park, Bowral, a former Sacred Heart Primary School which was later used as a Retreat House.

Trophy cabinets

Trophy cabinets hold the symbols of our students’ achievements in co-curricula areas.



Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat sculpture

The sculpture of our foundress Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat stands in the centre of the grounds, and is our educational inspiration. The graduating students of years 2005 to 2010 presented this sculpture to the School for its 90th Anniversary.

School Bell

The school bell once called the people of the second Catholic Church in Brisbane to prayer. It was given to Stuartholme as the Chapel bell by the Jesuit Fathers. The bell was refurbished for the 90th Anniversary celebrations and according to tradition for bells, given the name ‘Janet Stuart’.

Tennis Courts

Originally located next to the pool, the tennis courts were relocated to their current position in 1985. The tennis courts boast panoramic views of Brisbane city. The covered barbecue facilities located nearby were donated by the Tennis Parent Support Group in 2004.

Kiosk

The Kiosk was given to the School by the Alumnae in the 1930s.

Cemetery

The Cemetery is where the Religious of the Sacred Heart (rscJ) who have died in Brisbane are laid to rest; four of whom were educated at Stuartholme.

Heritage Garden

The Heritage Garden was created as part of the 2010 90 year celebrations. Its various elements recognise the history of the School: the traditional owners; the rscJ; the 42nd Base Hospital of the US Army; and our many students from regional Queensland.

Performance spaces

Landscaping around the School provides several spaces for outdoor drama and music performances. Many of our 1950s Alumnae remember performances taking place on the ‘The Hill’.

Joigny Building

Our Performing Arts Centre, known as ‘Joigny,’ replaced a former US Army building which was built and used during WWI.

Grandfather clock

Our beautiful grandfather clock was a gift from our Alumnae in memory of Reverend Mother Salmon, Superior Vicar (1895-1936).

Memorial plaque

The memorial plaque outside the Chapel helps us to remember and pray for those who have left a bequest to Stuartholme.

Foundation Stone

The Foundation Stone, blessed by Archbishop Duhig in 1920, was moved to the entrance of the Chapel from its original location in the foundations.

Front entrance

The once imposing front entrance is now masked by the Chapel building. The original sandstone pillars link the Main Building to the Chapel.

Mother Zahel paintings

Mother Zahel, one of the founding Sisters, painted a number of the large religious paintings around the School.

Health Centre

The Sharon Beirne Health Centre was named in honour of an Alumna who worked with Dr Fred Hollows.

Founding members

The founding members of the Stuartholme Family are represented in our historic corner.

Mater Admirabilis

Mater Admirabilis, a loved icon, found in a place of prominence in all our Sacred Heart Schools was painted on a wall in the Trinita dei Monte in 1844 by Mother Perdrau. Pilgrims are said to have received many favours when praying at her shrine.

Stuartholme Art Collection

Our two saints were painted by Maureen Hansen, our former Artist-in-Residence. ‘Views of Stuartholme’ (located near the entrance to the Australian Room abd Chapel) was painted by our current Artist-in-Residence, Nick Olsen.