



photography by Simon McClure



St Augustine's Reception and Gym

Location: Salisbury, SA

There is a row of magnificent River Red Gums at St Augustine's Parish School in Salisbury. They stride along the southern boundary of the school, bringing shade, beauty and majesty to the campus.

They also caused some furrowed brows for the project team of the new Reception Learning Building and Gym.

It was always going to be difficult to squeeze the buildings into the southern part of campus while preserving the trees. We thought we had succeeded when we developed a building form that met our client's functional brief as well as respecting the trees.

It was only then however that the real work began: threading all the underground services between trees and buildings without destroying the roots. To complicate matters, there were stringent requirements for site levels to mitigate flooding risk.

It took a concerted effort over many months by the whole team to sort it out, however we are pleased to say the challenge was met!

The new Reception building provides eight learning areas linked by generous naturally lit shared common areas. All learning areas connect directly with outdoor spaces and the entire building celebrates the heroic gum by wrapping around it to form a courtyard featuring an elevated timber deck.

The Gym incorporates Performing Arts facilities at one end and a new OSHC at the other.

The development includes extensive outdoor learning facilities with a particular focus on inclusivity; we will focus on those in a future issue.

Like children negotiating climbing structures, it's the challenges the project presented that have made it particularly rewarding.



Site Notes



TOP ROW (left to right): Trinity College, Roseworthy Site Tour. Dr Stephen Schrapel.
CENTRE ROW (left to right): St Columba Site Tour. Aaron and Emma. Josh and Chantel.
BOTTOM ROW: Christmas Party 2025

Office News

After a whirlwind year packed with projects, deadlines and milestone moments, we marked the end of 2025 with our annual Christmas Party at the beautiful Harvest Kitchen, Jacob's Creek. On the way, the team were lucky enough to make two stops, touring our completed projects at both St Columba College and Trinity College Roseworthy Campus.

Our Golden Swanny award ceremony delivered its usual dose of entertainment, as Cam and Emma hosted their final event before handing over to our new hosts Jamie and Bailey. The Golden Swanny was claimed this time by Associate Director Nick Grbin, after an unfortunate typo proved that autocorrect cannot be trusted under any circumstances.

This year, Jenny's Black Cardi award went to Architect Edward MacKinnon who bravely embraced the Christmas spirit, wearing an impressively fluffy Santa hat despite the scorching hot weather forecast.

After almost 13 years of dedicated service, our Finance Officer, Angela Holmes has retired. Angela and her husband are looking forward to spending more time overseas, following their son as he competes in cycling races across Europe. Over the years, Angela has been a valued member of the team, sharing many milestones and plenty of laughs, especially with the admin team who have worked alongside her throughout her time here. We sincerely thank Angela for her contribution over the past 13 years and hope that she enjoys her well-earned retirement!

Swanbury Penglase is pleased to share that Graduate of Architecture Jake McCabe and Graduate Interior Designer Claire Rose have recently joined our team. We have also seen a few staff members reach significant milestones at the firm. Director Justin Carter and Felicity Swanbury have both reached a remarkable 25 years of service, while Project Director Kon Michael marks an impressive 20 years with Swanbury Penglase. Senior Architect Nathan McEwen has also achieved a 10 year milestone. We congratulate Justin, Felicity, Kon and Nathan on these outstanding achievements and thank them for their ongoing contribution to the team.

There has been a lot to celebrate in the office recently! We'd like to congratulate Architect Joshua Paech and his partner Chantel who tied the knot in January at Grünthal, in Verdun, followed by a lovely honeymoon in New Zealand. Architects Aaron Fox and Emma Dohrmann were also married in February at the beautiful Anvers Wines, Kangarilla, then jetted off to Thailand to enjoy their honeymoon. We wish both couples a lifetime of love and happiness.

And finally, we are pleased to announce that Dr Stephen Schrapel has recently been appointed to the ICOMOS Twentieth Century Heritage International Scientific Committee (ISC20C). ISC20C works to conserve and champion mid to late-twentieth-century heritage at risk, due to limited recognition and protection. Stephen has also been confirmed as co-host of the ICOMOS General Assembly 2026 Scientific Symposium session, "Common Threads: Similarities for a Peaceful Future," to be held in Malaysia, later this year. We congratulate Stephen on such a wonderful achievement and all his hard work.



Staff Notes

Name: Jamie Becker

Position: Graduate of Architecture

Current projects: New Northern Suburbs Secondary School, Annesley ELC and St Columba Junior School

When I'm not working, you'll find me: On the footy field or trying my hand at a new skill like pottery.

One thing I can't work without: My AirPods. Usually worth a trip home if I've forgotten them!

Go to coffee order: Iced chai

Fav eatery: Can't go past the sandwiches from Dante's at Glenelg on a sunny day.

Best thing about living in Adelaide: Everything being so close; from the city, beaches, hills and wine regions.

If this wasn't my career, I would be: I'd likely be involved in sport in some way - either coaching, working in sports performance or something that keeps me active.

Fantasy (or next) holiday destination: Planning to hit the next winter in Japan! Otherwise, I have my eye on Vietnam.

Memorable SPA moment: Not one specific moment, but I have enjoyed many of the social events like the golf day, and the end of year Swannies presentations.

Project I'm most proud of: St Peter's Girls Gym and Performing Arts as it's the first project I've worked on from sketch to construction.