**WELCOME TO ST HILDA’S SCHOOL, GOLD COAST**

Entrance: Gates 2 and 3, Cougal Street, Southport
Tour Departures: 9am, 10am, 11am
Assembly Point: Front of James Administration Building

**St Hilda’s School, Gold Coast**
Welcome to St Hilda’s School, the Gold Coast’s only girls’ school and only girls’ boarding school. Established in 1912, St Hilda’s is an Anglican school named in honour of the seventh century Abbess of Whitby. Born in 614, Hilda was the daughter of a nephew of King Edwin of Northumbria and was about 20 years old when she decided to become a nun. In 657 she travelled to Whitby in England’s North Yorkshire, establishing a monastery for men and women that became renowned as a great centre of learning.

The school origins date to 1880 when Miss Helena Davenport and her mother Anne came from England and travelled to Ipswich to establish a small, private boarding school for girls. By mid 1882, they relocated to Southport, bringing their students with them by paddle steamer. They chose the name of Goyte-Lea for the Southport school, named after the Davenport family home in England. The first Goyte-Lea was a rented house in Bauer Street. They moved in 1883 to a house they built at the corner of Bay and Davenport Streets, Southport. It was reputedly the largest house in Southport! This schoolhouse was purchased by the Brisbane Anglican Diocese in 1912.

Miss Catherine Bourne was appointed by the Church as St Hilda’s first Head Mistress. There were 23 boarders and seven staff at the school. Due to cramped accommodation and increasing enrolments, Miss Bourne purchased 25 acres of land in 1915. This is the land upon which St Hilda’s School stands today. She called the land ‘Whitby Estate’ and her dream was for the church to build a substantial school upon it. In 1918, the dream was realised when the first brick building, now called ‘Whitby’ was completed. It was designed to house up to 80 boarders. When the building was finished, Miss Bourne gifted the deeds to the land to the Brisbane Anglican Diocese.
**James Administration Building**
James Administration houses reception areas for visitors, Junior, Middle and Senior Schools and the Head of School’s office. The building was completed in 2002 and named after Mrs Josephine James, the sixth School Principal who was in office from 1989-2002. The building features a stained-glass window of St Hilda holding a small replica of an Abbey in her hands. She is often depicted in this way. This window represents the remarkable achievements of Hilda and the deep commitment to her faith and service as the Abbess of Whitby.

**The Abbey**
The Abbey was opened in 2007. This modern building houses the Pre-Prep, Prep and Years 1 and 2 classes.

**The Caedmon Centre**
The Caedmon Centre was built in 2001 and is the home of Drama and weekly Assemblies in the Junior School. Caedmon, a herdsman, became a seventh century monk at St Hilda’s Abbey in Whitby. Encouraged by Hilda, he is said to have composed the first hymns in the English language.
Junior School Library
The Junior Library was built in 1968.

The Multi-Purpose Centre
The MPC serves the school as a second gymnasium for indoor sports as well as a gathering place for assemblies and events such as TEDx and Year 9 Dance Classes. This building was constructed with a grant funding by the Rudd Government’s Building the Education Revolution program in 2010.

St Hilda’s Sports Centre
The St Hilda’s Sports Centre comprises a gymnasium for indoor sports such as volleyball and basketball, a gymnastics floor and pit and a 50m heated swimming pool. The complex was built in 1993 and visited by Princess Anne in 2000. Her visit was a thank you gesture to the school following the use of the gym and pool by the British Olympic Swimming Team in the lead-up to the Sydney 2000 Olympics. St Hilda’s School is a member of the Queensland Girls’ Secondary Schools Sports Association (Years 7-12) and Andrews Cup (Years 3-6) competitions.
Del Mellefont Oval
Physical Education classes and sports such as touch and hockey are played on the Del Mellefont Oval. Del or ‘Mellie’ was a pupil from 1951-1954 and sports teacher from 1962-1996.

Bourne and Fittock Buildings
The Bourne and Fittock Buildings, separated by a modern shaded courtyard, are named after the first two Head Mistresses. ‘Bourne’ was built in 1956 and named after the first Head Mistress, Miss Catherine Elizabeth Bourne, in office from 1912-1923. ‘Fittock’ was built in 1959 and named after Miss Winifred Fittock, the second Head Mistress, in office from 1924-1951.

Year 6 Classrooms
The Year 6 classrooms, located adjacent to the Del Mellefont Oval, complete the Junior School campus. These classrooms were renovated in 2007 and feature the modern technology that has been installed throughout the School.
Davenport Building
Davenport, built in 2002 and named after the school’s founder Miss Helena Davenport, is home to the Middle School – Years 7 to 9.

Chapel of St Hilda
The Chapel was completed in 1962, the School’s Silver Jubilee year. The stained-glass windows along the walls depict the floral emblems of the School’s Houses, Acacia, Grevillea and Tristania in the Junior School and Banksia, Melaleuca and Karragaroo in the Middle/Senior Schools. At the far end of the sanctuary, a beautiful stained-glass window of St Hilda was installed in 2013. This window, originally located in the Jennifer Reeves Building, was relocated to make way for the extensive renovation and transformation of the Jennifer Reeves Building. The Chapel seats approximately 350 and is used for weekly year group chapel services and Boarders’ Chapel services, as well as wedding, christening and confirmation services for our student body.

The Centre for Scientific Learning and Research
The Centre for Scientific Learning and Research was opened in 2009. The $5 million facility features six laboratories and is equipped with the latest information technology, plus environmentally sustainable cooling, heating and lighting systems. The School’s first Science building was built in 1967 with the assistance of a Commonwealth Government grant. Now known as Old Science, this building was renovated in 2010 to create additional general-purpose classrooms. An extension of the early science laboratories, the Molphy Centre, was opened in 1991, recognising the pioneering work of former student Dr Ruth Molphy. This extension now houses our Hospitality kitchen, which was renovated in 2014, and further general purpose classrooms.
The Centenary Wall
One of a number of significant celebratory events held in 2012, St Hilda’s School’s centenary year, was the opening of the Centenary Wall by Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland. This addition to the campus is an artistic installation that echoes the School tradition to the earliest times, by adopting the ammonite shape seen in the School badge and crest. The wall, featuring some 15,000 names, honours all students and staff who had attended or worked at the School over its 100-year history. The names include boys of Toowoomba Preparatory School who occupied the campus from 1942-1943.

Jennifer Reeves Building
The L-shaped Reeves Building was constructed in 1988 and its courtyard covered in 1996. In 2015, following closure for some 18 months and a $9 million project redevelopment, The Jennifer Reeves Building was re-opened by His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd). The three-storey complex includes a ground floor cafeteria with seating for 350, a student-run coffee shop, Year 12 ‘common room’ and student-run radio station and stage. The second and third levels feature glass-walled classrooms, interesting study nooks, modern teaching technologies, a recording studio and the senior library. Included in the renovation was the development of a Careers, ESL and Learning Enhancement Centre.

Granowski Building
The Granowski Building houses Visual Art as well as Design and Technology classrooms. Behind this building are the School’s tennis courts and netball courts.
**The Langford Theatre**
In 2010, following a three-stage renovation, the building was re-opened as the Langford Theatre in honour of seventh Principal Mrs Sandra Langford. Additions include state-of-the art sound and lighting, an extended stage and retractable seating.

**Boarders’ Courtyard and Boarding Wings**
The Boarders’ Courtyard is a peaceful area of the School and Boarders enjoy this space for casual meals on weekends as well as lunch times. Boarders occupy spaces in the original Whitby building opened in 1918, in the McCullough wing built over the original Assembly Hall in 1970 and the two floors of the Darragh House, built in 1996. The Rosemary Hughes Room, located at the southern end of this courtyard, also built in 1996 was named after a past pupil and former School secretary. Following a substantial renovation, this space was converted to 14 senior boarding rooms arranged in clusters around common rooms and bathrooms. The courtyard also leads to the Senior Music classrooms and band/orchestra practice rooms, the original main entrance Central Hall and the modern Health Centre.

**The Boarding School**
St Hilda’s offers boarding during term time to girls in Years 6 to 12. Boarders’ Reception, formerly the School library, trophy room and visitors’ reception, was given a facelift and re-opened in 2014. It leads onto the historic Dining Room which dates to 1918.
ST HILDA’S SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Miss Helena Davenport  
1883-1911

Miss Catherine Bourne  
1912-1923

Miss Winifred Fittock  
1925-1951

Miss Gwendoline Horton  
1952-1964

The Rev Dr Helen Granowski  
1954-1874

Miss Jennifer Reeves  
1974-1988

Mrs Josephine James  
1989-2002

Mrs Sandra Langford  
2003-2005

Mr Peter Crawley  
2006-Present