Time to join our College family?
A.B. Paterson College is located in the suburb of Arundel on the beautiful and vibrant Gold Coast of Queensland. Nestled between the iconic golden sand beaches of our coast and the lush green Hinterland, the scenery, land and the people are diverse and welcoming.

A.B. Paterson College was founded in 1991 and named after a true iconic and legendary Australian, Andrew Barton (Banjo) Paterson. A journalist, lawyer, bush poet, author, farmer and soldier – he was a man in love with his country, its people and one who was willing to give his life in the service of others.

It is fitting and proper that the values of Excellence, Care and Commitment, so evident in this man, form the very heart of our College.

A.B. Paterson College has a wonderful history of high academic achievement and an outstanding commitment to the education and development of young people since its Foundation in 1991. The College is focused on meeting the contemporary needs of our current and future students, preparing them for the world they live in, and providing our society with the leaders of tomorrow, whilst preserving the Australian heritage of the College.

We aim to provide opportunities throughout the College, and in all areas of endeavour for developing the character and leadership of our young men and women through their active participation in a wide range of educational experiences. These opportunities are provided by a committed and professionally focused staff, who model the College’s Motto of Excellence, Care and Commitment in all that they do within the College. A culture of leadership, sense of community, integrity and service are the integral elements of our Key Focus Areas.

The Strategic Intent of the College has at its very foundation our belief of ‘One College, One Focus’ and is grounded in whole school goals and strategies to ensure a seamless transition throughout the College.
A.B. Paterson College is one of the leading Colleges in Queensland and is developing as a centre of excellence in education and leadership development. With partnerships and relationships with the Centre of Innovation, Research, Creativity and Leadership in Education (CIRCLE), Griffith University, Bond University, international universities, including Harvard University and the Singapore Management University, Independent Schools Queensland and the Association of Heads of Independent Schools Australia, we provide outstanding opportunities for staff development and professional learning.

Our College recognises the significant responsibility and impact that teachers play in the lives and development of the young people entrusted to them. With this in mind, the College has a number of programmes and processes designed to assist and direct staff in their development as outstanding educators. The College’s programmes build on the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers and provide a developmental sequence for teaching staff at A.B. Paterson College. These Standards are based upon national and international evidence that indicate that teacher quality (and their effectiveness) is the single-most important factor influencing student outcomes and achievement. Effective teachers can be a source of great inspiration and, equally importantly, provide a dependable and consistent influence on young people as they make choices about further education, work and life.

Our College offers a unique professional learning opportunity for staff within our Instructional Leadership and Development Programme, which includes a specific course for Aspiring Leaders and for Advanced Leadership, thereby preparing tomorrow’s leaders, today.

This programme, designed and developed at A.B. Paterson College, provides the opportunity for staff to undertake advanced educational studies, accredited by the Centre of Innovation, Research, Creativity and Leadership in Education and the University of Tasmania, thereby ensuring leading practice. This unique programme enables teachers to pursue further learning in the art and science of education, and to develop the essential educational leadership skills to further their career.

These professional courses enable our staff to develop as leading coaches and exceptional teachers within the classroom.
Our Students

There are many measures that people use to assess a school and its performance. Some of these measures include academic achievement, standardised tests such as NAPLAN, sporting achievements, the professional standing of their staff, or the nature of the facilities.

Despite the many facets of schools that are examined and compared, the best measure of any school can be seen in the very nature and character of the young people that graduate from it.

Our College has achieved academic results that place it as one of the finest in Queensland; it places competitively within our Associated Private Schools (APS) sporting competition, winning many of the individual sport championships each year; and has stunning facilities. Notwithstanding these strong performance indicators, our point of difference is in fact the personal standards, nature and character of the young people who graduate from our College.

Our Vision is to develop young men and women of character – leaders now and for the future. We achieve this by developing in our students the intellectual character necessary to become passionate about the ongoing pursuit of learning; to have the skills and confidence to succeed in an increasingly complex world; and to become committed to creating positive futures for the good of all, through leadership and active participation in their communities.

We believe in every student having the opportunity to excel and to experience those special moments that will forever remain a treasured memory of their education at A.B. Paterson College. Whether it be the first time they enter our beautiful campus; the level of engagement and endeavour within the classroom; the occasions in which they meet and overcome academic or personal challenge; their involvement in a special rite of passage; their realisation of their special achievement in an area of endeavour; or the special relationships formed with their peers and their teachers, it is these special moments that shape their character and, ultimately, their lives, long after they have commenced their journey at our College.

Our graduates are young men and women who have been supported, and given every opportunity to find their special talents and abilities, to achieve the finest academic results possible and who are ready to make their mark in society.

We only get one opportunity to develop the character and nature of our young people, to give them the positive influences, and guiding lights to steer them through the challenges presented by society. It cannot be left up to chance. Our A.B. Paterson College graduate is a young person of much distinction – it is the difference we make that sets us apart!
With approximately 1400 students from Prep-Year 12 and an additional 80 students in our Early Childhood Centre, our College is a thriving and engaging community.

**As a College, we give every student the best opportunity every day to do their best, because we only accept the finest and most caring staff.**

A.B. Paterson College’s teaching pedagogy is based upon the leading *Teaching for Understanding* Framework from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

At its heart, *Teaching for Understanding* seeks to ensure that students not only understand what they are taught, but can expand upon and apply this information in new and real life contexts and situations.

Whether measuring the chemical balance of local creeks, building rockets, creating multi-dimensional models in mathematics or art, composing songs, or digging for artefacts, students learn better by becoming practically involved in the learning journey.

In every class, students learn by participating, exploring, leading and collaborating. Teachers constantly encourage students to learn by searching for new possibilities and experiences. This method ensures relevance to the academic curriculum, stimulating interest and application.

When we understand why we are doing something, it is much easier to apply ourselves to any task. The task becomes purposeful and relevant - in other words we have gained understanding, not just knowledge.

At every age, enquiring minds are given opportunities that allow them to grow into inspired young men and women.

A.B. Paterson College is large enough to provide wonderful resources, beautiful facilities and a diverse curriculum, yet is small enough to enable us to know each and every child.

From our Administration staff that provides the support structures to assist our teachers, to our Maintenance and Grounds Teams that ensure our staff and students enjoy beautiful facilities and an exceptional College environment, our entire staff provides boundless opportunities for all students, offering a holistic education in which every child can explore their interests and develop their talents.

Our College is not academically selective and is open to all families willing to embrace our community and make positive contributions within it. Through our proactive and caring approach, and under the guidance of our teachers, our students have every opportunity available to them.

Whether welcoming visitors to our beautiful campus, conducting tours for prospective families, giving of themselves to established charities, raising funds through a sausage sizzle, giving of themselves by actively participating in our Service programme, or travelling to distant lands to assist in building community infrastructure, our students are young leaders who strive to make a difference in all they do. Through these activities, and with the guidance of their teachers, they develop a unique strength of character, a commitment to Service, leadership, initiative, courage and integrity.

The A.B. Paterson College graduate is distinctive, a responsible and respected member of society, a leader for others, confident, equipped to pursue their dreams, secure in their sense of self and with the capacity to make a difference in the lives of others, and above all ready to face the challenges and make the most of the opportunities that lie ahead of them.

Since 1991, A.B. Paterson College has remained true to its Founders in its Values of Excellence, Care and Commitment.

We are passionate about developing young men and women of character – leaders now and for the future.

We aim to help each and every child grow and realise their potential, aid in their development of character and those essential attributes that enable young people to grow into men and women who are strong, positive, engaging, responsible and respected members of society that understand the value and importance of service to others.

We not only accept, but thrive on, the challenge of preparing our students to *Step into Tomorrow* through our balanced academic, sporting, co-curricular, social and leadership activities.