



**Mr Richard Burchnall**  
**Honorary Fellow of St Mark's College**

Richard Burchnall served with dedication on the Council of St Mark's College for 25 years, from 1994 to 2018, and as a member of the College Board from 2005 and as Chairman of the Council and Board from 2007 to 2018.

This was a period of extraordinary expansion and improvement of College facilities, to which Richard Burchnall made a leading contribution. He was, for example, active in helping to lead (with the Hon. Bruce Debelle AO KC and the Master, Ms Rose Alwyn) the fundraising for construction of East Wing, which opened in 2015, including making a significant multi-year pledge of financial support which he completed after his retirement as Chairman. He had also made several other generous donations to the College, beginning in the mid-1990s, and is a Benefactor of the College Foundation.

Other physical developments initiated in Richard Burchnall's time as Chairman included the College Green in the north-west corner of the College (as part of the commitment which he announced to the greening of the College), the multi-storey car park, and the Learning Commons above the Dining Hall (where the Library had been before East Wing was constructed).

Considerable attention was given under Richard Burchnall's chairmanship to strategic planning as well as a master plan for the College, and to governance reform.

On his retirement as Chairman of the Board, he was sincerely thanked for his vision, pragmatic approach to issues, extensive knowledge, and genuine care for the College community.

Richard Langley Burchnall was born in August 1948 in Oxford, England. Educated at Winchester College and (after a year teaching English in Senegal) at Lincoln College, Oxford, he played first-class cricket for Oxford University from 1968 to 1971, playing as a batsman, and receiving a University blue.

Appointed a Latin teacher at Melbourne Grammar School in 1972 (and coaching cricket and soccer teams), he earned a Diploma of Education at the University of Melbourne. After two years back in England teaching at Wellington College, he returned to Australia and rose to become head of classics at Melbourne Grammar School. He also served as head of the boarding house.

Appointed Headmaster of St Peter's College, Adelaide, he served in that role from 1992 until his retirement in 2004. Amongst many other contributions, he served as President of the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia. The sports centre opened at St Peter's College during his headmastership was named the Burchnall Sports Centre in his honour in 2013.