

The magazine of Brigidine College St Ives

# the bridge

Issue 2 2018

## NEW MODEL *of* LEADERSHIP

2019 SENIOR  
LEADERS ANNOUNCED

BRIGIDINE  
BREAKS

## World Record

STARGAZING LIVE

## 21ST CENTURY

## Faith

TEACHINGS IN A  
MODERN AGE

BRIGIDINE COLLEGE  
ST IVES

BRIGIDINE ST IVES



# the bridge

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## LETTER FROM *the Editor*

Christmas – a time of peace, love, family, gratitude and giving to those less fortunate than ourselves. I remember participating in St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeals during my high school years at Brigidine, a fundraising initiative still run by Year 7 today. In fact, I remember taking part in a number of social justice activities and I believe those experiences helped shape me into the person I am today.

This still rings true for current Brigidine students. One of the College's most recent graduates, Ciara Flynn, declared in her College Captain's Address at the Year 12 Graduation Assembly that "Brigidine's focus on social justice is its most special attribute. By immersing girls in the value of service from Year 7,

fundraising, organising, donating and giving become the norm." This is something unique to Brigidine and being a Brigidine girl.

This issue of *The Bridge* shines a light on the spiritual dimension at Brigidine College that teaches girls the benefit in connecting to something that is bigger than ourselves and that we can all make a difference in the world.

You may have heard Brigidine College St Ives described as 'a spirit worth experiencing'. This 'spirit' can be quite hard to put into words, one rather needs to experience it for oneself to obtain a full understanding. I'm sure all present at the recent Year 12 Presentation of Awards gained a sense of the meaning, when two Year 12 girls were called onto the Bowie Hall stage to receive an award for their service to their unwell parents for whom they are carers. The rapturous applause that penetrated Bowie Hall and lingered well past the reception given for academic

success was proof of how service to others is valued and recognised by the Brigidine community – a spirit worth experiencing.

I hope the pages of this issue provide some insight into that 'spirit' which aims to nurture Brigidine girls into young women filled with confidence, courage and compassion.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year, and encourage you to give to those less fortunate.

**Aleisha Ford Class of 2001**  
*Editor*



# GRADUATION Week



*“ Thank you to everyone – teachers and students – who touched my life over the past six years... Thanks to all of you, I know I will never forget what it means to be a Brigidine girl.”*

CIARA FLYNN  
COLLEGE CAPTAIN 2018





# 21ST CENTURY *Faith*

*One of the most important elements in the faith formation program at Brigidine is the idea that we 'meet the students where they are'. It sounds simple, yet it requires a complete rethink of the way that faith and spirituality can be nurtured and shared.*

'Meeting students where they are' presumes that they are inherently spiritual people but lacking in formal religious structures and organisations of past generations. Students are experiencing the world in new and challenging ways with social media, easy access to information, and a

post-modernist disregard for authority and tradition. In this difficult climate, the need for a sense of purpose and a deep connection to strong Christian values become the key elements for our girls. We feel that this can be achieved with an intentional program that realises the following aspects for the young women of Brigidine College:

1. Connection to something that is bigger than themselves and to play their part in making a difference in their world.
2. Engagement in personal, lively and moving liturgy and reflection, where they can feel connected and involved.

3. Community action that enables justice and an opportunity for advocacy for others.

In 2018 the emphasis has been on reawakening the spirit and energy of the girls in reconnecting to their own faith and spirituality. At the centre of this is a re-emphasis on core Gospel teaching and the impact on people of the life and actions of Jesus. Students are encouraged to take an approach to faith that is based on 'head, heart and hands'. The 'head' involves thinking about the message of Jesus and learning more about their faith. The 'heart' involves empathy and compassion for others,



feeling the cry of the poor and of the earth, and living kind and considered lives. The 'hands' represents the actions that assist others and create change in their lives through charitable works and advocating for those less fortunate.

In Chapel time and in all liturgy, the girls are encouraged to experience a deep sense of stillness and listening. This quiet time allows for the stirrings of the heart to arise in a world full of technology, timelines and demands. Each Mentor group explores important themes and values in the reflections and prayers they create together. Music, video footage and

simple prayers are used to express their feelings and desires for the world. In whole school gatherings the music choices and the selection of readings are suited to young people, enabling them to participate and feel comfortable.

Faith and wellbeing are deeply interconnected. In my role as Deputy Principal I hope to see these aspects grow and flourish in the lives of the girls during their time at Brigidine. When girls feel that they have a sense of purpose, feel good about themselves and develop strong positive relationships they can achieve great things

together. Our Catholic tradition and our Brigidine story contain a depth of wisdom that can provide a counter-cultural framework for a life to be fully lived and to make a real difference to the world.

*“When girls feel that they have a sense of purpose, feel good about themselves and develop strong positive relationships they can achieve great things together.”*

# 21ST CENTURY Faith

## Youth Ministry Day

*In May this year the College community celebrated the 'Year of Youth' with a special visit by preacher and musician, Jesse Manibusan.*

Jesse came to Brigidine to enliven the community with songs, stories and reflections that helped them all to see that they are the church, and that they can be alive to the spirit within. Jesse and his team conducted whole school liturgies at either end of the day and met with students in various Year groups throughout the day to inspire and encourage them to be 'the church' and to act with courage in the world. The day was filled with humour, energy, passion and joy. It enabled our girls to see that life is about a personal commitment to others and that they are Jesus' heart, hands and feet on this earth. Their own 'Yes, Lord' to God was an important step in opening their hearts to understand that they can be ministers to their families, community and the wider world as young people.



## Aboriginal Reconciliation Week

*In late May Brigidine participated in Aboriginal Reconciliation Week by creating a 'Sea of Hands' on the College Green.*

All staff and students were invited to select a coloured hand and write a message of reconciliation to the Indigenous people of Australia. The hand

was then placed on the message and spiked into the ground. The shape created by the sea of hands was the Cross of St Brigid decorated in the colours of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. The initiative was supported with a College Assembly on reconciliation and discussion of Indigenous issues in all Religious Education and Studies of Religion classes that week.



# 21ST CENTURY *Faith*



## Land Transfer Ritual

*In June this year the College was officially handed over to Kildare Ministries by the Brigidine Sisters.*

This new body is made up of all the Brigidine Colleges in NSW, QLD, SA and Victoria and also includes a Presentation Sisters school in Victoria and two women's facilities in Victoria. The Sisters are still a major part of this new church entity that ensures that the story of St Brigid and the founder of the Brigidine Order, Daniel Delaney, can continue to inspire and influence the communities that are a part of Kildare Ministries.

The Ritual liturgy was a journey through the story of Brigidine College St Ives that was linked to an Indigenous painting created by Year 10 students whilst on their Year 10 Camp on Cockatoo Island. The painting, prepared and inspired by the *Wandana* indigenous group, tells the story of the College from the original Sisters and the early student pioneers to the present-day community.

## 2018 Spirituality and Wellbeing Day

*In August, students in Years 7–10 took part in a Spirituality Day that explored important ideas and issues relating to faith and wellbeing.*

Year 11 students acted as leaders for the various activities and were able to demonstrate effective leadership through the day building connection and rapport with the younger students.

Year 7 focused on 'Being a Brigidine Girl' and were inspired to learn more of the Brigidine story from the Sisters and from the Year 11 Leaders and captains.

Year 8 focused their day on their own self-worth through discussion on the topic 'More than my Selfie' with an emphasis on healthy self-image, their social media footprint and impact, and the need to be 'real' and honest with themselves.

Year 9 focused on a program called 'ALL-U-RE' or "all you are" that again had a strong emphasis on self-worth and a deeper understanding of themselves compared to popular and media portrayals of beauty and femininity.

Year 10 were led by the Catholic Social Justice organisation, Caritas, to explore the need for justice in the world and the 'see, judge, act' model for making a difference to others. This day grounded the students in the importance of social justice teaching in the Catholic church and in the world.

In 2019 we hope to expand the day to include separate experiences for Years 11 and 12 to enable the whole student community to have a day for developing spirituality, faith and wellbeing.

**Brian Loughland**  
*Deputy Principal Faith and Wellbeing*



# BRIGIDINE BREAKS *world record*



## Stargazing Live

*Excited families, friends, staff and students joined the College Astronomy Club in a celebration of the night sky as they attempted to break a world record in May. Here is a report from club member and 2019 Science Captain, Mia Gougousidis of Year 11.*

One hundred members of the Brigidine community gathered at the College with their telescopes and binoculars on the evening of Wednesday 23 May. This event, or “Star Party”, was one of many across Australia, where people were getting together to try and break the *Guinness World Records* title for the most people in one country stargazing at the same time. The crowd at Brigidine quickly grew as we set up telescopes and observed the night sky.

The first half of the night was filled with smiles and fun as everyone shared

telescopes, chatted and ate pizza. At 8pm, the ABC’s *Stargazing Live* broadcast commenced and was projected onto screens in different areas of the school. The crowd sat and watched the interesting program, hosted by Professor Brian Cox and TV presenter Julia Zemiro, while observing celestial objects like the moon and Jupiter.

Then the time came for the world record attempt. The cameras were set up, timekeepers were on call and binoculars and telescopes were pointed towards the moon. Everyone stood, still and quiet, and stargazed for 10 minutes straight. After the long 10 minutes had ended, there was cheering all around and before we knew it, the night was over.

Brigidine’s Star Party was a great success with perfect stargazing conditions and 80 of the 100 attendees taking part in the record attempt. All who attended enjoyed a night of excitement, wonder and fun.

**Mia Gougousidis**  
Year 11, Astronomy Club



## From ABC news

ABC can confirm more than 40,000 people simultaneously observed the moon through telescopes for 10 minutes on Wednesday night, eclipsing the previous record set by the Australian National University (ANU) in 2015 of 7960 people.

*“It’s great to break the world record for the number of people stargazing simultaneously, but I think this is only half the story,” Stargazing Live host Professor Brian Cox said in a statement.*

*“The real value is that many thousands of Australians have been introduced to the wonders of the night sky, and many of those will be children. They will develop a lifelong interest in astronomy and science, and the impact of that will be felt in decades to come.”*

Reference: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-24/stargazing-world-record-announcement/9797184>





# NEW MODEL OF Leadership

*From 2016–2018, research was conducted by a group of College staff around Student Leadership: what is considered 'best practice' in student leadership, what worked well in other schools, brought in expert speakers and attended training days and conferences on student leadership and what would benefit Brigidine and suit us.*

What their research showed was that schools were not making good use of all opportunities for teaching leadership skills, especially to girls. It suggested that leaders need to be flexible and diverse, understand self in a global context and be technologically competent. It also found

that many girls believe that leadership requires a title and it is this title that defines a leader's responsibilities, tasks and recognition within the school.

The more leadership experience students get at a younger age, the better they are as older leaders and this needs to be taught and practised. This is now happening and all in our community are being taught the skills of leadership and greater opportunities now exist for girls to put these skills into practice.

Congratulations to the first senior group in this new model. This year we commissioned a College Captain and Vice



Captain and eight Senior Captains. They will work as a team but take on specific responsibilities as identified and needed. They will also be supported by a variety of leaders with specific oversight of Year groups, Houses and cocurricular teams.

It has been a fast and exciting journey to this new model and I know that all of our new leaders will, as our College Mission Statement says, "Act in the world with strength and gentleness".

**Jane Curran**  
Principal

## 2019 Senior Leaders

College Captain: \_\_\_\_\_ *Caitlin Cummins*  
Senior Vice Captain: \_\_\_\_\_ *Amber McCully*

### Senior Captains

<i>Olivia Barratt</i>	<i>Lauren Hocking</i>	<i>Isabella Reddy</i>
<i>Meaghan Collins</i>	<i>Abby Johnson</i>	<i>Madeleine Reid</i>
<i>Kahli Gilchrist</i>	<i>Nina Loone</i>	

### Year Ambassadors

<i>Alison Akhurst</i>	<i>Kathryn Fung</i>	<i>Jasmin High</i>
<i>Tara Ferreira</i>	<i>Tegan Greig</i>	

### House Captains

Fatima: \_\_\_\_\_ *Corina Behrens, Bianca Burmeister*  
Kildare: \_\_\_\_\_ *Zali Beuzeville, Penelope Godfrey*  
Lourdes: \_\_\_\_\_ *Annabelle Judd, Poppy Koulouris*  
Prague: \_\_\_\_\_ *Ruby Rayner, Rachel Tysoe*



## Captains 2018

Art: \_\_\_\_\_ *Riley Jacka, Bridget McKee*  
Athletics: \_\_\_\_\_ *Madelin Owen*  
Basketball: \_\_\_\_\_ *Rebecca Warian, Jade Woo*  
Dance: \_\_\_\_\_ *Jasmine Barbour, Georgia Tindall*  
Debating: \_\_\_\_\_ *Ella McCarthy, Auria Nunes*  
Drama: \_\_\_\_\_ *Olivia McNamara, Abbey Tyler*  
DEA: \_\_\_\_\_ *Charlotte Thomas, Antonia Wong*  
Football: \_\_\_\_\_ *Charlotte Flynn, Taylor Klose*  
Hockey: \_\_\_\_\_ *Olivia Barratt, Helena Smith*  
Honours: \_\_\_\_\_ *Auria Nunes, Madeleine Reid*  
Languages: \_\_\_\_\_ *Jazmin Wright*  
Mock Trial: \_\_\_\_\_ *Anita Furtado, Phoebe Jenkins*  
Music: \_\_\_\_\_ *Zoe Gougousidis, Abby Van Balkom*  
Musical: \_\_\_\_\_ *Abby Van Balkom*  
Netball: \_\_\_\_\_ *Ainsley Hermann, Rebekah Moore*  
Public Speaking: \_\_\_\_\_ *Meaghan Collins, Nina Loone*  
Robotics: \_\_\_\_\_ *Charlize Brouwers*  
Science: \_\_\_\_\_ *Mia Gougousidis*  
Social Justice: \_\_\_\_\_ *Brianna Parker, Amy Skiffington*  
Softball: \_\_\_\_\_ *Taylor Klose, Sarah Lowry*  
Sports Aerobics: \_\_\_\_\_ *Jemima Belger, Kahli Gilchrist*  
Swimming: \_\_\_\_\_ *Ella Cooper*  
Tennis: \_\_\_\_\_ *Selina Lewis, Charlotte Thomas*  
Tildesley Tennis: \_\_\_\_\_ *Rebekah Moore*  
Textiles: \_\_\_\_\_ *Kathryn Fung, Emily Goad*  
Touch Football: \_\_\_\_\_ *Sarah Lowry, Rachel Tysoe*  
Volleyball: \_\_\_\_\_ *Emma Board, Abby Johnson*  
Water Polo: \_\_\_\_\_ *Mia O'Sullivan, Ella Worland*

# FUTURE Pathways

*In May this year the OECD launched The Future of Education and Skills 2030 project. It stated that:*

*The children entering education in 2018 will be young adults in 2030. Schools can prepare them for jobs that have not yet been created, for technologies that have not yet been invented, to solve problems that have not yet been anticipated. It will be a shared responsibility to seize opportunities and find solutions.*

It is clear, that strategic planning in education needs to develop a long-term vision that enables students to grow and flourish in an uncertain and ever-changing world. Students starting kindergarten in 2018 will leave school in 2031, work in the latter half of the 21st century and likely live in the 22nd century. Given the explosion of the impact of technology on everyday life in the last 15 years, are we developing an education that meets this challenge? In the last edition of *The Bridge* (Issue 1 2018) I explored the many constraints on a school's capacity to do that.

Curriculum in a secondary school is structured around the traditional, classical disciplines of specialised knowledge and thinking that are represented by the subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography. Each

take their place from Year 7 onwards in mandated, isolated blocks of time. At the same time, the Australian Curriculum has developed a set of general capabilities which capture the inter-disciplinary knowledge, skills and dispositions that flow through all subjects. They present opportunities for existing knowledge to be integrated, allowing new knowledge to emerge that can transcend the original. The importance of finding ways to structure a curriculum that is both discipline-specific and generally capable is evident in a paper commissioned by Deloitte in 2015 (*The paradigm shift: Redefining education*):

*Google (a leading indicator in business practices) has shifted its hiring practices from trying to find the most highly credentialed specialists possible, to focus on identifying what they call 'smart creatives' – smart and capable generalists who demonstrate the attitudes and behaviours that will enable them to be effective learners and team players, with formal credentials (should the candidate hold them) playing only a minor role.*

At Brigidine, curriculum structures have already been tweaked to deliver opportunities that cater for different levels of ability and enable each girl to achieve personal success and feel

accomplished. Acceleration opportunities, the introduction of Philosophy, the development of meaningful Life Skills courses and a consideration of class groupings have been part of this planning. These, however, do not in themselves address the problem being considered.

The most flexible part of a school curriculum exists in the structure that accommodates the electives. By their very nature they enrich the traditional disciplines but significantly, the creative arts and technology subjects are at the heart of those skills deemed necessary for the future. The promotion of languages suggests global movement and work opportunities, despite English being the international language of business and communication. The potential to energise a curriculum for the future can be to utilise the flexible nature and scope of the electives to integrate disciplines with capabilities. A sensible plan is to explore the possibilities and create changes in small, incremental ways across the whole

*“... the creative arts and technology subjects are at the heart of those skills deemed necessary for the future.”*



curriculum that maximise the potential to achieve a paradigm shift, rather than introduce, say, Engineering Science into Stage 6 in an isolated, disciplinary form to satisfy a demand for STEM (skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics).

With a curriculum review due at the end of the year the government may make some of those changes for us, but we can make a start. Brigidine College's strategic intent is founded on the principles of "possibility, growth and personal success".

The challenge is to consider changes in Year 7 that will align with developments and potential within the Stage 5 electives and flow through to the Stage 6 electives. It is possible to create fluid pathways from Year 7 to Year 12 that will capture the capabilities and develop critical, creative and computational thinking that lead to powerful and appropriate STEM skills, an awareness of ethical responsibilities and nurture social justice, global citizenship and free spirits, whilst continuing to strengthen and deepen discipline-specific knowledge and understanding.

Next year in Year 7, two small modules will be introduced which capture this strategic thinking. Critical thinking using time from English and Religion, and STEM thinking using time from Mathematics and Science will be developed utilising real world problem solving. The two modules will be separate but integrated by their commonality of critical thinking. Upon evaluation, the modules have the potential to be further developed for Year 8 so they can be integrated with a more flexible elective structure in Years 9 and 10.

Presently the electives are taught as 200-hour courses over Years 9 and 10. They can be taught as 100-hour electives which we have not encouraged because, on their own, there is a risk that the learning may not develop the deep knowledge and understanding that is possible in a 200-hour course. If, however, the electives can be developed as rich modules that integrate with one another, creating pathways that engage student interest and have connection to the Stage 6 electives, it is quite exciting to imagine what some of those modules could be. If a 200-hour course became 4 x 50-hour modules they could exist as they presently do, as four related topics. If new topics or modules were created, for example forensic science, could it

be integrated with the History elective module on archaeology? STEM would then emerge in a more meaningful way in the electives by integrating those disciplines. Could a philosophy module be integrated with religious education? It would be a meaningful way to explore intercultural understanding and be ideal preparation for Studies of Religion in Stage 6. The possibilities are endless and fascinating to contemplate. I imagine the elective pathways would be similar to how universities offer their courses to students. Students would be able to map a pathway that provides foundational knowledge then elect opportunities to deepen their knowledge, understanding and related skills.

As a start, in 2019, a new Vocational Education Training (VET) course, Information and Digital Technology, will be introduced. This is a powerful, skills-based, capability course for every future workplace. It will be taught as a Preliminary course in Years 9 and 10 on the elective lines and continue into Year 11 as an HSC course. It has the capacity to offer students both an HSC course for ATAR consideration and Certificate III for immediate workplace qualification. This course, being the first IT course to be delivered in a few years, will take its place in a curriculum that will seek to consider the future introduction of a course such as Software Design and Development.

Small shifts, strategically placed, have the potential to create powerful opportunities

for learning that not only benefit each girl's educational experience but prepare her more appropriately for the future. The industrial model of the 20th century is no longer the appropriate paradigm for education – it needs to shift. The current model of curriculum needs to change.

**Sue Martin**

*Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning*

*“... in 2019, a new Vocational Education Training (VET) course, Information and Digital Technology, will be introduced.”*



# STAFF News

## Welcome New Staff

### *Paul Clegg, Finance Manager*

Paul joins us from Ravenswood where he held a similar role for the past four years. He is a qualified CPA with a Bachelor of Commerce & Admin from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Since migrating to Australia in 2000, Paul has gained wide ranging experience in Financial & Management Accounting across different industries including FMCG, Media & IT, including Sony ANZ, in Finance Manager and Senior Management Accounting roles.

Paul leads the Finance Team of Natalie Coakes, Ilze Beyers and Nicole McLeod and will champion the Finance phase of the Sentral Project, which will upgrade and integrate finance processes and payments into the new Xero accounting system.

When he is not catching up on homework, Paul also helps out as Treasurer for Phoenix Aero Club at Camden Airport, twirls and dips the ladies doing Ceroc dancing, and plans little weekend adventures for his young son.



### *Jessica Moore, Archivist*

Jessica comes to Brigidine after studying a Masters of Museum and Heritage Studies at University of Sydney. Jessica has worked at the Australian Turf Club Heritage Centre at Randwick Racecourse as a Heritage Administrator since 2017. Prior to this, she volunteered her time with the Illawarra Museum and the Creative and Curatorial Services department of the City of Sydney. Working at these various institutions, Jessica has had experience in collection and database management, researching and writing publications, displaying small exhibitions and touring visitors. She is a member of the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) and Museums and Galleries Australia.

Jessica lives in Wollongong and is passionate about history and the past. In her spare time, she researches her own family history, plays family games of dominos with a set that has been passed down to her through four generations, and volunteers to transcribe war documents from the Australian War Memorial Archive.

## Brigidine Babies

Brigidine staff were thrilled to receive a visit from our new mums and their babies in September. We congratulate them and welcome their newborns to the Brigidine community!

Pictured left to right:

- Mathematics teacher Philippa Lees with baby Cooper, born July 2018.
- Year 9 Coordinator and PDHPE/RE teacher Kate Ryder with daughter Abigail and baby Emily, born February 2018.
- History/RE teacher Samantha Rae with baby Darcie, born March 2018.
- History teacher Radell Carlson with baby Charlie, born June 2018.
- College Psychologist Amy Hockey with baby Eve, born January 2018.



We also congratulate Multimedia Specialist, Gareth Edey and wife Shannon on the arrival of their second child Elliot, born September 2018.

## Granting a wish and more!

It seems that past staff member, Margaret Cook's decision to award a one-off Geography grant in 2017 was such a positive experience for her and the recipient that she decided to repeat the award, with Eloise Carroll being this year's recipient. We asked Eloise for some thoughts about this.

"I am so thankful to Ms Cook for granting me this wonderful opportunity! Thanks to the grant, I have been able to attend holiday HSC workshops for Geography where my skills have

improved, including my essay writing. Receiving the grant from Ms Cook was an absolute gift that I am so grateful for, but better yet it has started a delightful friendship! Ms Cook and I regularly email each other, and I am so grateful for her support through my HSC trials and the wisdom she imparts about school, choosing degrees and life. I really enjoy not only hearing about her life, but her wonderful involvements in the Uniting Church and teaching English as a second language. I look forward to university where I can hopefully make her proud."



Past staff member, Marg Cook with 2018 Geography grant recipient, Eloise Carroll, Year 12

# TO THE Western Front

*The Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship gives secondary school students the opportunity to travel on an international study tour to develop their knowledge of the history of Australians at war. Schools across NSW are invited to submit an expression of interest to participate. This year, Amber McCully of Year 11 was one of the 20 students selected. We asked her to share her experience.*

I had the privilege to represent Brigidine on a tour of the Western Front Battle sites with the Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship (PAMS) tour during the mid-year holidays. We started the tour in London, where we spent two days exploring the city's history, especially in relation to its involvement in World War I. These activities included visiting the Hyde Park memorial, Covent Gardens, Buckingham Palace to see the Changing of the Guard and the Imperial War Museum. From London, we caught the Eurostar to Lille, France where we began the exploration of the Western Front.

On the first day, we focused on the impact of WWI on civilians by exploring Amiens. Specifically, we visited the beautiful Notre Dame Cathedral which was hit by shells during the First World War. We next spent the day exploring the Somme. Some of the key places we visited were the Lochnagar Crater, the killing fields of Pozieres, the Newfoundland Memorial Park and Mouquet Farm, where Australia lost 23,000 men in six weeks of fighting in 1916. We also visited the Thiepval Memorial, where the names of 72,000 British soldiers missing from the Somme fighting are recorded. The third day in

France was especially significant as it was the Centenary service of the Battle of Hamel in 1918. After this ceremony we visited the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux and the new Sir John Monash Interpretive Centre.

On our final day in France we headed north to explore Fromelles and the surrounding area. Some of the main sites we visited were the Canadian memorial at Vimy Ridge and its incredible preserved trenches. These interactive experiences gave us the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of our soldiers during the WWI. At Fromelles we visited VC Corner Cemetery, the Australian Memorial Park, the new Fromelles (Pheasant Wood Cemetery) and the Australian Museum.

We then travelled to Belgium where we started with the Ypres Salient. We began this part of the trip at the 5th Australian Division Memorial at Polygon Wood and the Buttes New British Cemetery. This was one of the most emotional days of the tour, as when we were in Polygon Wood we spread the ashes that we received on the first day of the tour. These ashes were an initiative of the Hyde Park Memorial, in which cardboard stars are symbolically burnt and spread as ashes to commemorate the nameless Australian soldiers lost in battle. We each took a handful of the ashes and spread them on behalf of all Australian soldiers who had sacrificed their lives during the First World War.

While in Belgium we also visited the cratered landscape of Hill 60 and the German Cemetery at Langemarck where we learnt about the experiences of the Germans in WWI, along with the Passchendaele 1917 Museum and Tyne Cot Cemetery, the world's largest

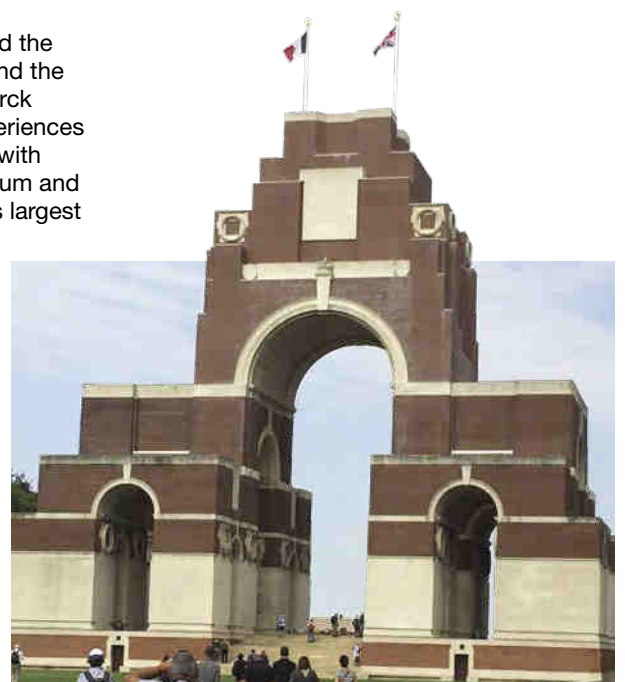
*“We each took a handful of the ashes and spread them on behalf of all Australian soldiers who had sacrificed their lives during the First World War.”*

Commonwealth war cemetery. Finally, we attended the Last Post service at the Menin Gate. We then visited Poperinghe to see Talbot House, a rest house during the war that today is an interactive museum that tells the story of life and death in the Ypres Salient. This signalled the end of our exploration of the Western Front, after which we headed back to London where we visited the Natural History Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Thank you to the OVA, Mrs Curran and Mrs Bremner for approving the trip and being so supportive in this venture. It has been the experience of a lifetime.



**Amber McCully**  
2019 College Senior Vice Captain



# SPOTLIGHT ON *Social Justice*

*“Real Fringe Hair Bands (RFHB) is so grateful to the students who committed to cutting at least 15cm off their hair to donate and create a RFHB for someone with hair loss.”*

NICOLE DEMATOS, RFHB



*Pink Day: Year 9 raised over \$4000 in funds from food stalls and activities on Pink Day. This money will help the running of free workshop sessions for people undergoing chemotherapy.*



*Cut for a Cause*



*Market Day*

*“The response by the girls to this cause was overwhelmingly positive with nearly 50 students cutting their hair to provide women undergoing cancer treatment with fringe hairbands to be worn with caps and scarves.”*

BRIAN LOUGHLAND, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL FAITH AND WELLBEING

*A big thank you to Year 9 who donated \$690 from their Market Day profits towards Rural Aid in support of Australian farmers.*



*Cut for a Cause*



*"We are so happy and grateful to be part of this kind and caring school community who use their strengths to be helpful and gentle to those in need."*

ELLA KENNEDY,  
YEAR 7

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal



Over the year, Brigidine raised \$20,000 for the Year 12 charity, Foster Care Angels.



Congratulations to Year 10 who raised money through market stalls for Red Dust, an organisation promoting health in remote Indigenous communities.



Daffodil Day

*"So many staff and students bought daffodils to raise funds for lifesaving cancer research that we sold out halfway through lunch!"*

SKYE WACHER,  
ACTING YEAR 9  
COORDINATOR



Buy a Bale Mufti Day

*"Together we raised an amazing total of \$2450 which we will donate to Rural Aid to buy hay, water, petrol and food for the farmers. We would like to thank the College community for their generous donations."*

SARAH HUDSON AND MADISON LISLE,  
YEAR 7

# HOSPITALITY *launch*



*The first event catered for by our Year 11 Hospitality students was thoroughly enjoyed by some of our donors.*

There were current and past parents, current and past staff and alumni in attendance who all support the College with donations in various ways including the Annual Giving program and Voluntary Building Fund. College Principal, Jane Curran thanked all those present for their support.

Our Hospitality teacher and chef, John Gregory led the girls in their theming,

preparation, cooking and serving during the event. They were all brilliant! It was clear that these girls have learnt much, including excellent organisational and presentation skills which will transfer to other aspects of their working lives.

Tawney Peachey, Head of TAS, acknowledged donations to the purchase of the Digital Laser Cutter which allowed the creation of this year's Vivid design projects. Many of our guests enjoyed this display on their way to the Year 11 Play after the event.

The event was also the launch of this year's Annual Giving program which

focuses on supporting Scholarships and Bursaries and the Take a Seat project.

We do ask parents to support Annual Giving to enable these educational opportunities for the girls that make such a difference to their lives and development. So far this year \$12,000 has been raised to support special projects and bursaries for students in need. Donations can be made through the Payment portal on the College website.

**Di Lawrence**

*Director Development and Community Relations*



Find out more about how you can make a difference to the future possibilities for girls by watching our *Their future starts now!* video, available on the College YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/S00FRxAOkUw>

*We thank the following donors and those who chose to give anonymously for their support of this year's Annual Giving projects:*

The Barratt Family  
The Biggs Family  
The Bowesman Family  
Ruth Bridger  
The Camilleri Family  
Claire Wai Tse Chen

Margaret Cook  
Jane Curran  
Dominic and Maria Dunn  
Philippa Goddard  
Kitty Guerin  
The Holman Family

The Keyser Family  
Di Lawrence  
Ann Li and Johnson Lu  
Brian Loughland  
The Maher Family  
The Mangal Family  
Anne Mayoh  
The McGain Family  
Moya Morgan

Dr Kerry-Ann O'Sullivan  
Christine Pickering  
The Preziuso Family  
The Rolfe Family  
Christine Shen and Jack Zhu  
Katrina Stanmore  
David Supierz  
The Trussell Family  
Tom and Ingrid Veidners



# MAKING A *difference*

## Richard and Roma Flynn Bequest

*One of my earliest memories of Brigidine College was learning about Philosophy from Dr Anthony Imbrosciano at the Open day. I was 12 years old and became hooked from that point. I told my mother that I wanted to go to Brigidine to learn Philosophy.*

Some months later it became clear that Brigidine was no ordinary school when word spread that the same six-foot-something teacher had been carried out of a classroom by several Year 7 girls. He was ejected from the classroom as they objected to views expressed by his character, Mr A Hunt, who stated he liked shooting animals for sport. It was a memorable ethics class!

I studied Philosophy to Year 10, then Comparative Religion (2 unit Religious Studies) with Dr Imbrosciano. The lessons I learnt in the final two years of my schooling at Brigidine, especially from him, were invaluable and ones that I carry with me.

These last two years of my education at Brigidine would not have been possible without the Roma Flynn Bequest, established in the Will of Roma Flynn.

Roma Theresa O’Dea was born in 1904 to an affluent and religious family from Sydney’s Eastern Suburbs. She was a musically talented student of Kincoppal Convent whose love of music led her to compose and perform. She enjoyed a social life which included Catholic balls, dances and parties, at times appearing in the social news and gossip pages of the press.

Roma met Richard Flynn and married in 1938. Richard Flynn (1893 – 1957) was the eldest of a family of six sons and three daughters; all six sons graduating in medicine and two daughters becoming Brigidine nuns.

As a couple, Richard and Roma were extremely interested in the education of youth despite having no children of their own. They were keen to provide educational opportunities to young people in less fortunate circumstances than their own.



When Roma passed away in 1996 she fulfilled an ambition both for herself and for Richard. Roma’s Will instructed that her estate was to help “a specific child or children in their educational costs” through scholarships. Several schools received generous support from her estate and Brigidine College St Ives was one.

The Roma Flynn Bequest of \$120,000 has facilitated Richard and Roma Flynn Scholarships for students to allow their continued enrolment at the College in times of hardship. The funds have been kept intact to generate income to support scholarships and bursaries since 1997.

I was one of the earliest recipients of this support, being awarded a scholarship in 1997. When I graduated in 1998 my mother wrote a note which read: “Thank you for supporting my daughter with this bursary. Without it she could not have finished her schooling at Brigidine. The education she has received at the College will stand by her long after the HSC is forgotten.”

As my mother predicted at the time, the education I received, especially the critical thinking skills taught in Philosophy and comparative Religious Studies by Dr Imbrosciano, continues to influence and guide me. I use these skills every day and now attempt to emulate his

dedication to his students and faithful following of the Socratic method in my own teaching. My continued enrolment at Brigidine and the lessons I learnt in the last two years of my schooling would not have been possible without the Richard and Roma Flynn Scholarship. I am very grateful to Brigidine for this scholarship and I hope that many other girls will benefit from this scholarship and others like it in the future.

## Carmel Lee Class of 1998

Carmel is now a Barrister at the New South Wales Bar and a member of Greenway Chambers. She practises in Wills and Estates, Property Law, Equity, Public Law and Human Rights including providing *pro bono* advice on matters pertaining to the rights of asylum seekers and civil liberties. Carmel is also a Teaching Fellow in the University of New South Wales Faculty of Law where she teaches legal ethics.

**A Bequest is a gift, small or large, made through one’s Will to a beneficiary. Roma Flynn’s Bequest has helped enable the education of girls at Brigidine. Our website contains further information about the possibilities that may be created by gifts made through a bequest.**

[www.brigidine.nsw.edu.au/support/bequests](http://www.brigidine.nsw.edu.au/support/bequests)



*Dr Anthony Imbrosciano was the Founding Director of the Centre for Excellence (1994) at Brigidine College. He inspired and influenced many students and members of staff during his time at Brigidine (1990 – 1998) as is evidenced by Carmel’s words. Sadly he passed away on 13 July 2008. (Vale – The Bridge Issue 3 2008)*

# FROM SUPERHEROES TO *Team Ikea*

## DIY Trivia Night

*This year's P&F Trivia Night was the biggest ever with around 240 people filling Bowie Hall with their creativity and willingness to have fun.*

The combination of raffle, auction and ticket sales led to a wonderful result with Pip Inman, P&F President, handing over a cheque for \$41,000 to College Principal, Jane Curran at the end of the night. This wonderful support from parents will bring improvements to Kinkead Library, a key facility for the College that will benefit all students and staff. Around 700 people come and go to the library every day!

The College is grateful to this year's P&F Committee: Pip Inman, Sarah Gillard, Patty Isabelle, Debbie Jenkins, Angela Oppen, Katrina Tucker, Lydia Thomson, Frances Whitfield, Maria Lowe, Jenny Bellenger, Dan Tunks, Tania Raubenheimer, Samantha Romer-Mulhern and Shona Cooley.



We particularly appreciate all the effort made by Pip as she steps down from the Presidency with the graduation of her daughter, Issy, this year. She has been a wonderful leader for the committee over the past three years and we are all grateful for her achievements.

The Best Dressed table was the team of Superheroes and the overall Trivia Winners were Team Trivia Newton John. Peta Dewar excitedly won the Ring Game and now enjoys her spectacular diamond ring!

Thank you to our sponsors who collectively contributed \$8000 to help our girls. Please support them and the local businesses who supported us with their donations.



Thank you to parents who bought and sold raffle tickets adding to the success of the fundraising. We are also grateful to all those parents who donated items to the auction. These donations really make a difference to the funds raised and facilitate valuable improvements for our girls and staff.

### Di Lawrence

*Director Development and Community Relations*



Thanks to our DIY Trivia Sponsors:

**acer**

acer.com/ac/en/AU/content/home  
Platinum Sponsor

**exetel**

exetel.com.au  
Gold Sponsor

**FOREST**

forestcoachlines.com.au  
Silver Sponsor

**BRASV Group**

brasvgroup.com.au  
Bronze Sponsor

# LIGHTS, CAMERA, *Action!*

## Music Gala

*This year saw the very first Brigidine Music Gala Concert, which was quite the showcase, being an exciting event for performers, families and all attendees alike.*

The final weeks of Term 2 saw the Bowie Hall transformed from its former state to a fully decked out, glistening world of 'Hollywood' appropriate to the theme of the program, with a swathe of coloured lights and a red carpet running down the centre of the space.

The night ensued a range of performances, from soloists and vocalists to strings, and various bands to brass ensembles. Tables of up to 10 allowed parents and teachers to mull over the evening with platters of cheese and refreshments, establishing an evening of glamour and enjoyment.

The night began with a bang, with the newly-formed College Orchestra starting the concert with a medley of songs from the Westerns movie genre. After a few more numbers from this ensemble we heard from the wonderful Choir, now boasting approximately 80 members! Next to take the stage was the String Ensemble, performing beautifully for the engaged crowd who were thoroughly entertained.

Amongst all of the fabulous ensembles, the night also consisted of some phenomenal solos performed by our four Year 12 HSC Music students; Miki Ellis on piano, Annabelle Ambrogio on the saxophone, Emma Gillman on drums and Lucy McKern on vocals.

In addition, the Junior Vocal Ensemble, consisting of keen singers from Years 7 and 8, sang a very heartfelt rendition of "Alone in the Universe" from *Seussical: The Musical*, before being joined by the Senior Vocal Ensemble to perform together. The Junior Concert Band continued to amaze the audience with their upbeat numbers that had everyone singing and dancing along in their seats. The new Brass Ensemble also performed, adding some variety to the program with some classic tunes. The first Act concluded with the Rock Band, comprising of girls from Year 11 who never fail to put on an amazing show.

The second part of the evening began with the extraordinary Senior Stage Band, where their jazzy, foot-tapping numbers were accompanied by extravagant stage lighting engulfing the stage in an array of vibrant colours which was quite the spectacle. The Chamber Strings then performed exquisitely, entertaining the audience with some magnificently played well-known pieces. The Senior Vocal Ensemble followed and performed many enthralling songs, concluding their set with the groovy "Conga Rhythm". The last ensemble of the night was the Senior Concert Band, who wowed the audience with several movie classics, including songs from *The Incredibles*, *The Jungle Book* and selections from the upcoming Brigidine College Musical for 2019, *Mary Poppins*.

The evening ended fabulously with a final number, Toto's 1980s classic song

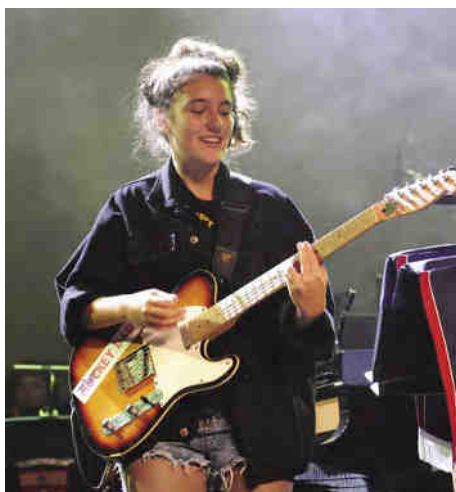


Have you seen our Performing Arts video? Head to Brigidine College St Ives' YouTube channel or go to [https://youtu.be/fdaG9Ybn\\_pk](https://youtu.be/fdaG9Ybn_pk)

*Africa*. Every member of the various Music Club ensembles joined each other on stage to conclude the night with this show-stopping performance, leaving the large audience reeling for more!

The concert was a fantastic opportunity for Brigidine to showcase the abundance of talent from its Music programs, with all girls performing phenomenally on this very entertaining and memorable night.

**Annabelle Ambrogio and Lucy McKern**  
*Music Captains 2018*



# THE HISTORY OF *Everything*

## Year 11 Play

*2001. The most famous year in recent times? A momentous year in so many ways for the wide world and for the world of the actors who performed in the Year 11 Play. Why? Our wonderful Year 11 students were either born or conceived around 2001.*

For many of us slightly older than our actors, that year seemed to be a particular turning point for humanity as many of that year's horrific and iconic images will be forever seared in our memories. But did you also know that the most popular girl's name in Australia in 2001 was Emily?

I first saw this incredible play in its only other Australian production at the Sydney Theatre Company in 2012. Not only was it an inspiring ensemble performance but it gave food for thought about the relative significance of different events in not only our own lives, but in the lives of humankind. Developed by the internationally recognised and awarded Belgian theatre troupe Ontroerend Goed, *The History of Everything* has been performed by professional theatre companies in Sydney, Belgium, London, and Amsterdam – and now Brigidine College St Ives. I am beyond thrilled that we are the first school in the world to have taken on the immense challenge of staging, literally, the history of everything.

What events in our history become important to share? We live in an insta-contemporary world where we are aware virtually immediately of any event, ranging from the earth-shattering to the trivial, due to the pervasive nature of social media. Before that we relied on television or radio news, before that, the printed word and preceding that, word of mouth. As the scriptwriter and adapter,

I was influenced by and included some of the most significant events that occurred in my lifetime. I can still clearly remember where I was when I heard about the car accident involving my namesake, Princess Diana, as well as the disbelief and numbness that the Brigidine students and I shared as we all arrived at school on 12 September 2001. Our lives are often bookmarked by these events.

Where to start? We started with today, questioning what has happened today that is important. To our Year 11 students, it can often be the successful completion of an assessment task, purchasing a new phone or arguing whether it's Laurel or Yann. To someone else it might be a milestone event such as a birth, engagement or a funeral. If you watch or read the news, there are bigger picture events such as the scandal as a cricket ball is rubbed with sandpaper, a volcano exploding on a tropical island, or a fairy tale royal wedding, all of which become part of our shared human experience.

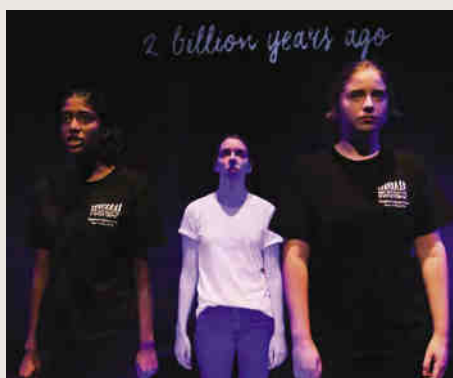
How did we stage this? Every other production of this play has utilised a vast number of props. Instead I chose to use what our actors are blessed with – voice and movement. We all come into this world with nothing, and we leave with nothing, so it seemed important to imbue this very human experience with the 'props' that we all have as humans.

I am so grateful to my fabulous colleagues and thank Mrs Brigitta Anderson for her magnificent and generous right-hand support with all facets of this production, Mr Gareth Edey for his absolute brilliance and dedication in the technical production side, Mr Chris Rutherford who designed the promotional design, Mrs Katrina Pattalis who choreographed the dance routines and Mrs Samantha Greer for ticketing and box office.

Finally, I congratulate our fabulous Year 11 Players (cast and crew) who devoted so much time, energy and effort to bring our history of everything to life.

**Miss DiAnne McDonald**  
Director and Adapter

*“I am beyond thrilled that we are the first school in the world to have taken on the immense challenge of staging, literally, the history of everything.”*



# FILM BUFFS

## Unite

### BrigFest 2018

*Murray Theatre was full of film buffs for the BrigFest Awards this year! There was some great competition amongst the film makers, particularly with the fantastic prizes being awarded thanks to our sponsors Videocraft, East Coast Audio Visual and Sonic Sight.*

BrigFest is Brigidine College St Ives' annual short film festival where students are encouraged to explore film in creative ways. In 2018, we celebrated the ninth Festival.

This year's signature item was 'fur', the mandatory item to appear in each film. This concept was interpreted in very different ways which led to the production of some excellent films.

Congratulations to all BrigFest film producers, directors, editors and actors on their spectacular film creations.

#### Di Lawrence

*Director Development and Community Relations*



*Sophia Furtado (Year 8) with Luke Simpson from Videocraft*



*Natalie Bowesman, Catherine Failla and Micaela Mulholland (Year 9) with Luke Simpson from Videocraft.*



*Overall Winners, Olivia McNamara and Sarah Bakker of Year 11 with their prize from East Coast Audio Visual*



*Olivia McNamara and Sarah Bakker (Year 11) with Geoff Anderson from Sonic Sight*

#### The winning entries were:

**Winner Years 7-8**  
Sophia Furtado

**Winner Years 9-10**  
Catherine Failla  
Micaela Mulholland  
Natalie Bowesman

**Winner Year 11-12**  
Olivia McNamara  
Sarah Bakker

**Winner Best Film**  
Olivia McNamara  
Sarah Bakker

#### Thanks to our BrigFest Sponsors:



[sonicsight.com.au](http://sonicsight.com.au)



[videocraft.com.au](http://videocraft.com.au)



[ecav.com.au](http://ecav.com.au)

# SHOWCASING *HSC talent*

## ThExhibition

*Congratulations to the Year 12 Design and Technology, Textiles and Design, and Visual Arts students on their wonderful exhibition.*

ThExhibition opened on the evening of Tuesday 21 August and showcased this year's HSC Major Design Projects, Major Textiles Projects and Bodies of Work. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of this talented group of students with family, friends and the Brigidine community.

The depth of creativity and technical accomplishment was evident in all works on display. It is a credit to our Year 12 students who have worked consistently under the guidance and support of their classroom teachers.

**Tawney Peachey and Lu Buckley**  
Head of TAS and Head of Visual Arts



*“This display of great talent at Brigidine is exciting and inspiring as a junior student, for it is an indication of what can be achieved and created from imagination and dedication to a subject.”*

SOPHIE TUNKS, YEAR 9 VISUAL ARTS LEADER



# ATHLETICS Carnival

*The Brigidine College Interhouse Athletics Carnival was held at Narrabeen Academy of Sport on Friday 27 July.*

Well done to all participants for the colour, spirit and enthusiasm that was displayed across the entire day. Congratulations to the Year 12 students especially for their inspiring leadership.

**Claire Hatherell**  
Head of Sport

### 12 Year Age Champion

- 1st \_\_\_\_\_ *Meg Wannell*
- 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ *Mikaela Tregale*
- 3rd \_\_\_\_\_ *Alejandra Blanco*

### 13 Year Age Champion

- 1st \_\_\_\_\_ *Keeley Holmes*
- 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ *Giuliana Panozzo*
- 3rd \_\_\_\_\_ *Hannah Thonell*

### 14 Year Age Champion

- 1st \_\_\_\_\_ *Olivia Tommerup*
- 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ *Esme Sergi*
- 3rd \_\_\_\_\_ *Danielle Thrum*

### 15 Year Age Champion

- 1st \_\_\_\_\_ *Roisin Dengate*
- 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ *Emma Lowry*
- 3rd \_\_\_\_\_ *Aleisha Jeremy*

### 16 Year Age Champion

- 1st \_\_\_\_\_ *Natarsha Vidulic*
- 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ *Claudia Vidulic*
- 3rd \_\_\_\_\_ *Heidi Richardson*

### 17 Year + Age Champion

- 1st \_\_\_\_\_ *Helena De Gruchy*
- 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ *Isabelle Ronksley*
- 3rd \_\_\_\_\_ *Rhona Kennedy*

### Pare Athletics Age Champion

- 1st \_\_\_\_\_ *Lisa Weingartner*
- 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ *Ellen Mulhearn*
- 3rd \_\_\_\_\_ *Natesha Shalliker*

### Open 100 Invitational Champion

Aleisha Jeremy

### New Records

Ta'alili Feaunati – 15 Years Shot Put (10.93m)

Giuliana Panozzo – 13 Years Discus (28.43m)

### Overall Athletics Champion

Helena De Gruchy

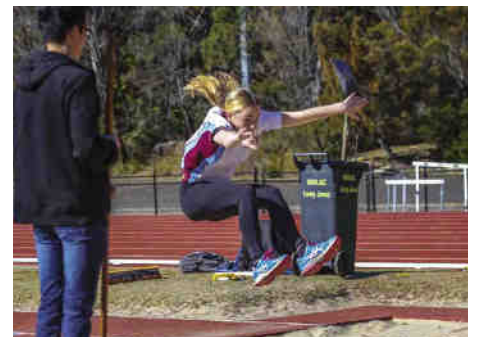
### House Points

#### War Cry Results

- 1st \_\_\_\_\_ *Lourdes*
- 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ *Fatima*
- 3rd \_\_\_\_\_ *Prague*
- 4th \_\_\_\_\_ *Kildare*

#### Overall Results

PLACE	HOUSE	POINTS
1st	Fatima	1414
2nd	Kildare	1146
3rd	Prague	1124
4th	Lourdes	1091



## SPORT AND *Clubs*



Stage 2 (Year 9) – Bronze Medallists



Secondary Aerobics (Year 10) – Bronze Medallists

### Schoolaerobics National Championships

*This year has been our biggest year yet for Sports Aerobics at Brigidine, with 11 teams competing throughout the qualifying phases of the Schoolaerobics competitions in NSW.*

On Saturday 25 August, seven teams from Brigidine flew to the Gold Coast to compete in the Schoolaerobics National Championships. Our teams consisted of students from Years 7 to 12, with a record number of 43 students representing both the College and NSW.

As expected, the National Championships standard was extremely high and our teams were able to mix with the best, achieving some excellent results.

#### Stage 2 (Year 9) – Bronze Medallists

Georgia Bonadio, Ella McNamara, Taylor Elliot, Mia Ferguson, Andie Hilton, Amelia McGirr

#### Secondary Aerobics (Year 10) – Bronze Medallists

Holli Raaff, Sacha Clements, Elizabeth Mitcherson, Charlotte Ellis, Shae Griffiths, Claudia Dixon, Anika Townley

#### Secondary Open B Juniors – 4th place

Ariel Belger, Abbie Gates, Annika Geftakis, Emma Lowry, Ashlea Geftakis

#### Secondary Open B Seniors – 5th place

Isabella Geftakis, Lilly Holdsworth, Tamara York, Jemima Belger, Kahli Gilchrist

#### Stage 2 (Year 9) – 4th place

Sienna Papalia, Imogen Ryan, Ruby Szelid, Julia Manias, Claudia Jacka, Maya Preziuso

#### Stage 1 (Year 7) – 7th place

Sophie Temple, Genna Papaioannou, Keeley Holmes, Ella Kennedy, Manon Preziuso, Anna Weinress, Amelia Fitzpatrick

#### Stage 1 (Year 8) – 6th place

Zoe Ellis, Nicola Vaccarella, Georgia Waite, Isabella Binns, Lara Griffiths, Madeline Keyser, Emma Rous

Big congratulations to all our 2018 teams and their coaches.

#### Josh Holmes

Convenor, Sports Aerobics

### Water Polo

Our three Intermediate Water Polo teams all made the semi-finals of the NSSWPA Competition. The Inter A's drew in their semi-final but did not progress as the higher placed team moved through to the Grand Final. A great game was played that showcased how much the team has improved over the season.

The Inter C's had a tough game against NSGH and unfortunately missed out on the opportunity to play against Brigidine B in the Grand Finals after they had an easy win over Wenona B.

The Intermediate B team progressed to the Grand Final and played very well to overcome a tenacious North Sydney Girls High team 4-1. Well done to the following girls.

Rachel Whitfield, Rachel Abbott, Bianca Bezinovic, Sally Neilson, Sofia Szelid,



Abbey Shaw, Tara Gategood, Georgia Waite, Molly Fileman, Kira Beuzeville.

Congratulations to our Year 7 Brigidine Maroon Water Polo team who beat St Luke's 7-2 in the semi-final before taking on Pymble in the Grand Final.

The score was locked at 5-5 after full time and for a further period of extra time so they were named joint premiers!

#### Claire Hatherell

Head of Sport



### Dance Club

The Eisteddfod Contemporary Ensemble Group performed at the prestigious Sydney Eisteddfod Ballet Scholarship event held at the Sydney Opera House in August. They were invited to perform as one of the top 8 contemporary high school groups in Australia. They competed against schools from QLD, Central Coast and local schools in Sydney. Even though they did not place in the top 3, they received a plaque and a cash prize for being a part of the top 8.

More recently, Brigidine dancers participated in the DanceSpec Eisteddfod. For the High School Contemporary section, we received 1st and 3rd place in the same section up against 16 other competitive schools including PLC and Stella Maris who are always our biggest competition. Our Company Group took out 1st place and our Ensemble Group received 3rd place.

This was the perfect way to end our eisteddfod season for the year. The Year 12 girls were very happy but emotional as it was their last time dancing for the College. We couldn't be more pleased with the results. We are so proud of the girls and all their hard work throughout the year. It was well deserved.

**Lauren Grieve**  
*Convenor, Dance*

### IGSSA Touch

Holli Raaff (Year 10), Esme Sergi (Year 9) and Alana Reddy (Year 7) were members of the IGSSA U15 Touch team that competed at the NSW CIS Championships in June. The IGSSA team went through the day undefeated to claim the Gold medal. Holli and Esme were then selected to represent NSW CIS at the NSW All Schools Championships in August.



### IGSSA Netball and Hockey

Congratulations to Brig 1, 5 and 6 Hockey teams and Brig 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17 and 19 Netball teams who all finished in the top 4 of their IGSSA divisions and played in the semi-finals.

Brig 1 and 6 Hockey and Brig 2, 6, 12, 14, 16 and 17 progressed to the Grand Finals where Brig 6, 12, 14, 17 and 19 Netball teams won their matches!

### Music Club

The Music Club has had a busy year with some fantastic highlights.

Congratulations to the following bands who achieved success in the NSW Band Festival.

**Senior Stage Band – Gold**

**Junior Concert Band – Silver**

**Senior Concert Band – Bronze**

Congratulations also to the groups who gained the below results in the Ryde Eisteddfod.

**Junior Concert Band – 2nd place**

**Choir – 2nd place**

**Vocal Ensemble – 2nd place**

Our Stage Band and Orchestra performed in the Ryde Eisteddfod Large Group Secondary and were awarded 2nd Place and Highly Commended respectively. A special mention to our orchestra for whom this was their very first time in competition.

**Charlie Lovelock**  
*Head of Cocurricular Music*



# CENTRE FOR *Excellence*

## Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Award

The Hornsby Kur-ring-gai Zonta Club's Young Women in Public Affairs Award (YWPA) Award was held in June at the Killara Golf Club. The goal of the YWPA Award Program is to encourage more young women to participate in public affairs by recognising a commitment to the volunteer sector, evidence of volunteer leadership achievements and a dedication to empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

This year Jacinta McGrath of Year 12 represented Brigidine. Jacinta has not only participated in Social Justice programs organised by the College, she has also volunteered outside of school. Congratulations to Jacinta who was a most worthy applicant in the competition and a fantastic Brigidine ambassador.



## Legacy Public Speaking

Year 9 students Tara Thai and Flora Tucker represented Brigidine College in the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award at Abbotsleigh in August. Both girls gave a five-minute prepared speech and were also required to present an impromptu speech. All competitors were given five minutes to prepare their two-minute impromptu speech.

Flora was one of three students who were selected to take part in the Regional Final held in September at The Arts Unit, Lewisham.

Round 2 of the competition was very competitive and although Flora was not chosen to progress into the next round she gave a brilliant speech.



## Tournament of Minds

The Sydney North Regional Final of the Tournament of Minds was held at Roseville College in August. This year, three Brigidine teams worked busily towards the presentation of their Long Term Challenge, commencing at the beginning of Term 3. Teams are given 10 minutes to present their solution to one of the challenges from a choice of Social Sciences, Language Literature, STEM and The Arts disciplines. The teams also participate in a Spontaneous Challenge on the day.

The following students represented Brigidine College at the Tournament.

**Team 1:** Charlotte Price (Year 9), Salina Perera (Year 9), Sarah Matthews (Year 9), Abigail Mills (Year 7), Mikaela Tregale (Year 7), Raya Santos (Year 7), Charlotte Sim (Year 7).

**Team 2:** Luisa Baker (Year 8), Clarisse Tsang (Year 8), Jasmine Denyer (Year 8), Alex Lawrence (Year 7), Bethany Miller (Year 7), Annie Lane (Year 7), Monique Benson (Year 7).

**Team 3:** Mia Teuma (Year 9), Olivia Sheridan (Year 9), Ivana Ponniah (Year 8), Chesney Baillie (Year 7), Georgina Dewar

(Year 7), Alexis Pridgen (Year 7), Lulu La Ganza (Year 7).

This year, Teya Murray (Year 10) and Jazmin Wright (Year 11) assisted the teams as Assistant Facilitators, with Year 12 students Isabella Behrens, Alice Stafford and Zoe Re participating as judges.

Our three teams performed exceptionally well. Team 1, who competed in The Arts Challenge, won the Sydney North Regional Final and progressed to the State Final.

Team 3 was awarded Tournament Honours for their efforts in the Social Sciences Challenge.

Well done to the girls in all three teams.

At the State Final in September, the girls from Team 1 were given just over three hours to prepare for their presentation and complete a Spontaneous Challenge. Along with 12 teams from around the State, they performed in front of the audience in one of the university's larger lecture theatres.

Our girls did a brilliant job and were awarded Tournament Honours for their efforts.

**Jan Whiddon**  
Centre for Excellence Coordinator



# ALUMNI Events

## Class of 2017 Yearbook Afternoon Tea

The Class of 2017 had a memorable afternoon full of fun and laughter when they got together to collect their Yearbooks. There were smiles all round as the girls flipped through the pages of their Yearbooks reminiscing about their days at Brigidine and the experiences they had shared.

The afternoon flew by with lots of excited conversations about what they have been up to since leaving Brigidine!

We wish the Class of 2017 every success in the years ahead.



## Words of Wisdom

Two of our newest alumni from the Class of 2017, Sarah Stanaway and Jessica Kittos, came back to the College to speak to Year 8 students and their mothers about their experiences, memories and lessons learnt as a Year 8 Brigidine girl.

The girls were amazing and had some insightful words of wisdom:

Try everything! If you want to do something, go for it! If you're not good at it to start, work hard and your talent will grow with you.

Get involved in cocurricular activities. Don't let the fear of what other people think get in the way of being involved. Ultimately, it's those activities outside the classroom that shape you and make you a well-rounded person.

Be yourself! It's natural to want to 'fit in' but have the confidence to back yourself.

Thank you, Sarah and Jessica.



## The end of an era

We would like to acknowledge and thank two remarkable ladies who have dedicated numerous hours helping the College with its archives. Marie Duffy and Margaret Cook have voluntarily assisted with the archives for over ten years.

Kerri Genovese, former College Archivist, worked closely with Marie and Margaret. Kerri said "I not only gained a lot of information but wonderful friendships. They sorted through photos, helping to assign names to faces and dates they were taken. This often led to fascinating stories". The knowledge they have shared about the College's history has been irreplaceable.

Both Marie and Margaret were teachers at Brigidine. Margaret principally taught English and Drama during her 27 years at the College. She

originated the tradition of the Year 11 Play. Marie worked at the College for 22 years teaching History, Religious Education and Music. She was heavily involved in the College's first musical.

We thank Marie and Margaret for their invaluable contribution to the College. Their stories will be missed.

**Lisa Foulstone**  
Alumni and Community Relations  
Coordinator



# Weddings

## *Aleisha Ford (née Conlay) Class of 2001*

I married Tom Ford on 19 August 2018 and it really was the best day of our lives! We met through working in the music industry and dated for five years, two of which were long distance before he made the move from Melbourne to Sydney. With Tom having lived in Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra and with friends and relatives in each, we figured we may as well make everyone travel that little bit further to beautiful Fiji for our wedding!

Most of our guests opted to spend the full 6 nights with us at the Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort on the Coral Coast which meant that our families and friends had the perfect opportunity to get to

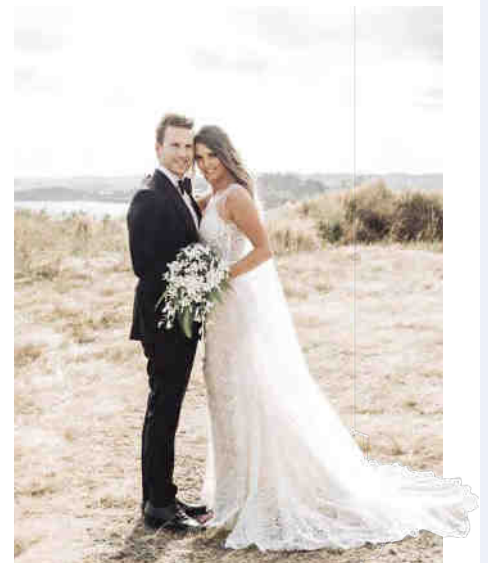


know one another in the lead up to the big day.

Held on a Sunday afternoon, the ceremony took place in Bure Ni Loloma chapel ("house of love") which sits atop Lomalagi Hill ("heavenly hill") with panoramic views of the ocean and resort. There were just under 40 of our nearest and dearest in attendance including my sister and maid of honour, Alana Major (née Conlay) Class of 2004 and Brigidine alumni Tori Layton Class of 2005, Jenna Daly Class of 2004 and Liz Stoten Class of 2004.

Everyone enjoyed being chauffeured to and from the chapel in golf buggies and then on to the reception which was held in a private venue at the resort overlooking the pool and surrounded by palm trees. We were fortunate to have Tom's eldest brother Ben – officially one of Australia's premier wedding MCs – compère our reception, which was an added bonus! We laughed, drank and danced the night away and created memories that I know we'll all cherish forever.

After another day at the Outrigger, Tom and I farewelled our remaining guests before heading to "Fiji's Garden Island", Taveuni, for our romantic honeymoon where we loved snorkelling, coastal treks, sunset cocktails and picnics on deserted islands.



## *Hayley Carruthers (née Johnston) Class of 2004*

After 13 years together, I finally married my Canadian husband Cody in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico on 16 November 2017.

We met when I was 18. I was one year into my bachelor's degree and I was head over heels for a guy who lived over the other side of the world. We met in Australia and spent a year together before I decided to defer university and live in Canada, swapping my surfboard for a snowboard and embracing the Canadian way of life (poutine, maple syrup and the freezing cold). After going back and forth for about five years, we now call Australia home.

Our wedding was perfect. We took our 69 guests to a secret location and sipped cocktails on the beach and danced all night. There was only one thing missing; it was a bittersweet time for us with my husband's mum unexpectedly passing a month before our wedding. We had been waiting a year and a half to see her and our Canadian family. My beautiful girlfriends made this day so special with

my sister, Nicholle Lacey (née Johnston) Class of 2002 and Caitlyn Brukarz-Smith Class of 2004 standing at the altar with me, and our Brigo posse (all Class of 2004) Jenna Daly, Tess Hayman, Amy Smith, Anna Cashman, Brie Nelson-Young and Liz Stoten in attendance.

After a week in Mexico visiting cenotes, beach clubs and enjoying the luxuries of our all-inclusive hotel, we said goodbye to our guests and started married life on the island of Belize, finishing our honeymoon in Costa Rica.



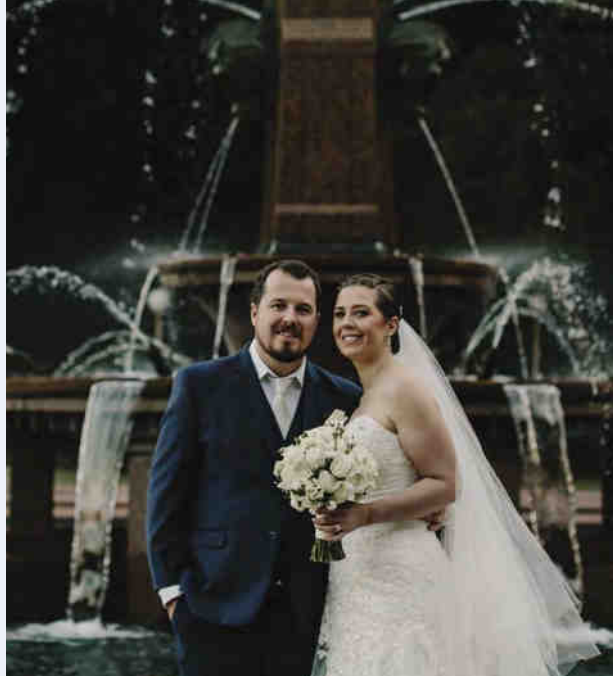
*Brigidine alumni in attendance included (left to right) Liz Stoten, Caitlyn Brukarz-Smith, Amy Smith, Anna Cashman, Brie Nelson-Young, Tess Hayman and Jenna Daly.*



## WEDDINGS, *Births, Vale*

*Ashleigh Renwick  
(née Goff)  
Class of 2001*

I married Stephan Renwick in September 2017. We met through being set up by a mutual friend. Our wedding was held at The Mint in Sydney followed by our reception at the QVB Tea Room. I had four bridesmaids, three were alumni – my sister Lyndall Goff Class of 2002, Amy Livingstone Class of 2001 and Georgina Williams Class of 2001. Amy's three gorgeous daughters were our flower girls. After the wedding we went to Thailand for our honeymoon.



## *Births*

*Kate Ryder  
(née Brannan)  
Class of 1998*

Baby Emily Katherine Ryder was born on 14 February 2018 to current staff member and College alumna, Kate.

Emily is the little sister to Ollie and Abbey and granddaughter to Brigidine Golden Girl, Barbara Brannan Class of 1957.



*Ashleigh Renwick  
(née Goff)  
Class of 2001*

Baby Isla Rose Renwick was born to Ashleigh and husband Stephan in September 2018.



## *Vale*

**Leonie Burrows (née Fleck)**

*28 August 1940 – 1 September 2018*

Leonie (known as Lee) Burrows (née Fleck) was one of Brigidine's "Pioneers". She was actually the second student to be enrolled at the College in February 1954; one of the original nine students. Lee Margaret Mary Fleck was born in Sydney on 28 August 1940. As a young girl Lee attended Linden Primary School and was then enrolled at Brigidine until December 1957.

Lee became a primary school teacher after studying at the University of New England, Armidale. She taught at Tempe Primary School and then transferred to the Bush School. Lee married Stephen Bernard Burrows on 19 December 1964 at Our Lady of Dolours Church after meeting him the year prior at a bowling alley. She and Stephen were employed by Travelodge as a pair for eight years shortly after their marriage, travelling throughout NSW.

They moved to the Gold Coast in 1972 and spent many years there as keen

prize-winning gardeners. Lee loved classical music, especially Bach and Mozart. She also had a passion for animals – particularly cats!

Each year the Brigidine Pioneers, our earliest students from 1954 to 1969, are invited to a celebrate at the College. Lee returned to Brigidine for some of these annual reunions and enjoyed catching up with her school friends from the days when the College had just a small number of students.

Lee passed away on 1 September 2018 at Pindara Private Hospital, Gold Coast. She will be dearly missed by her beloved husband, Stephen, her friends and family and of course, Pioneers and friends at Brigidine.



*Lee (bottom left corner) with Brigidine Pioneers*



*Warwick (far left) pictured with the Property department*

**Warwick Neal Gibson**

*30 April 1951 – 18 June 2018*

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of a former colleague and friend, Warwick Gibson.

Warwick worked in the Property department at Brigidine from 2003 to 2012. He will be well remembered for his work around the College, especially during concert time when many a prop was required. His love of cooking and fishing were well known amongst the staff.

We offer our sincere condolences to Warwick's family and friends.

## WHERE ARE *they now?*

### **Kathleen Stevenson** **Class of 2010**

*It's a daunting task to choose what to do after finishing school. Being interested in many things, I found it hard to decide. I'd always loved art and design and also enjoyed maths and problem solving. I thought architecture would be a great mixture of these interests.*

I studied architecture at UTS which was a highly intensive course. I learnt so much, made many lifelong friends and developed a thick skin!

After finishing my degree, I took a gap year to travel around Europe, having saved up from working in cafes and as a note-taker at uni. I had always dreamt of travelling and enjoyed studying Italian at school and learning about different ways of life. I travelled part of the time with my best friend from Brigidine, Christina, which was fantastic, but I also travelled solo for much of the time, which was a challenge I'd set myself and loved. I think the most valuable experiences come from pushing yourself out of your comfort zone. Although I have always been shy, I chose Drama as an elective

at Brigidine, and have appreciated the benefits in many situations in my life ever since, from giving presentations at uni, making friends on my travels or going for job interviews.

Since then I've travelled several more times to South East Asia, Europe, Morocco, Turkey and elsewhere. I find travel inspiring, seeing the rich diversity of different ways of life, amazing human creativity and the beauty of the natural world. It has also helped me gain a better understanding of myself and become clearer about my goals and what is important to me.

I studied graphic design and illustration after my gap year. It was fun to have a lot of creative freedom and learn new skills.

I initially looked for graphic design jobs but was very lucky to get an incredible design job with one of Australia's top interior designers, Sibella Court, and now I think it is a perfect fit for



me, being a mixture of architecture, design, art and using inspiration from travels. It's been challenging and there is always a lot to learn but I feel so fortunate to have the opportunity.

I think that if you follow what you're naturally drawn to and make goals for yourself, you will be on the right path to find work and a way of life that is fulfilling for you.

*“I think the most valuable experiences come from pushing yourself out of your comfort zone.”*

### **Kate Boyd** **College Dux Class of 2008**

*Girls can do anything, Brigidine girls can do everything. This was the phrase I took with me as I graduated from Brigidine. In my experience, it is absolutely true. I left school in 2008, eager to develop new skills, visit new places and say “yes” to opportunities. Today, I am a barrister in NSW.*

When I left school I launched straight into university. There I discovered that I did not like my psychology class, I did enjoy US history and loved being able to pop up to Newtown for a Thai food lunch. After uni I started working in a Sydney law firm and spent some time working for a Judge in the NSW Supreme Court.

I was also fortunate to spend 6 months as a secondee to the National Children's and Youth Law Centre (now Youth Law

Australia), which provides online legal advice to young people. The issues that concern young people range from school rules, their rights at work through to serious online bullying. It certainly made me remember the variety of opportunities that Brigidine girls get to learn about real life issues and make a difference in other



people's lives: Street Retreat, Pink Day and Paul Dillon talks are just a few.

While I was at Brigidine, I was encouraged to participate in netball, musicals, debating and many other cocurricular activities. I've seen first-hand that after leaving school it is important to keep up your interests outside work. I take time out from working as a lawyer by walking on the beach, going to coffee with family and friends and bingeing on *Project Runway* episodes. If and when you can afford it, travel. Some of my recent trips include Tokyo, Hawaii and Edinburgh.

My advice to all the young women at Brigidine, whether or not they're interested in doing law, is to say yes to the experiences and opportunities that scare you. Don't wait until you feel “ready” before taking a leap or trying something new. Take with you the confidence in knowing that Brigidine girls absolutely can do everything.

### Elle Miller Class of 2016

*My final year at Brigidine was the most pivotal year of my life.*

I was surrounded by teachers who motivated and inspired me, whose support and patience never wavered whether it was my first or tenth email about the same subject. The girls in my cohort were truly wonderful people, and we all unspokenly challenged each other to strive for better. The combination of these, and many other aspects, culminated in a rich environment for growth. It was during my time within the walls of the College where I transformed into the person



I am today and began to realise the depth of my full potential.

I am in my second year of a Bachelor of Adv. Mechatronic (Space) Engineering and Bachelor of Adv. Science (Physics) at the University of Sydney, and am loving every second. Currently, I am the secretary of the Physics Society, an executive on the Rocketry Team and the event coordinator for the Mechatronics Organisation. In these roles I have organised astronomy nights, networking nights, talk series and built rockets to name a few! In addition, every week I work as a tutor, university Student Ambassador at Engineers Australia.

Last year I helped design and was on the construction squad of the University of Sydney's Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite Australia (HISA) model, which showcased at the International Astronautical Congress Conference in Adelaide in 2017. As part of the Talented Students Program, I undertook a physics research project with a professor and worked with brand new data about young radio galaxies with radio jets 'shooting' from their black holes. I wrote a research paper with my findings and conclusions and presented my work to a number of professors. Under the same program, I am currently working with a Space Physics professor

*“It was during my time within the walls of the College where I transformed into the person I am today and began to realise the depth of my full potential.”*

to build the electronic component of a plasma wave detector (which would measure the power spectrum of plasma in the Earth's ionosphere), to be used as a payload instrument in the future for a real spacecraft in orbit.

Every week is different, busy and vibrant. Last week I was at a high-powered rocket launch six hours into the country with the team, and the week before was in the Science Musical production. Next semester I am going on exchange for seven months to the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, where another adventure awaits. Looking a bit further into the future, I wish to work as a robotics engineer or physicist at an aerospace company such as NASA or SpaceX. However, no matter where I go or how many years fly by, my heart will be forever touched by the small community of Brigidine who gave me lifelong friendships and helped me be the best I can be.

### Melanie Parsons Class of 1991

*I have just moved back to Sydney after spending 14 years living in the USA.*

Whilst there I was involved in starting up a business that focused on Pellet Hormone Replacement Therapy. The studies have shown how safe and effective this treatment is when done by a trained expert. I am now opening a new clinic in Macquarie Street that focuses on hormones and women's health. We are launching the Viveve machine in Sydney this month which has helped thousands of women in USA, improving women's intimate health.

I am so excited to be back in Sydney with my husband Mike, two kids Monty (11) and Michaela (7) and Mikey our golden retriever. We have settled on the Northern Beaches and enjoy being able to get to the beach and Pittwater in 10 minutes.



# brigidine



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## 2018 Term Dates

### Term 4

TERM 4 ENDS: \_\_\_\_\_ *Tuesday 4 December*

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## 2019 Term Dates

### Term 1

Year 7 and New Student Orientation Day: *Wednesday 30 January*

TERM 1 COMMENCES: \_\_\_\_\_ *Thursday 31 January*

TERM 1 ENDS: \_\_\_\_\_ *Friday 12 April*

Easter: \_\_\_\_\_ *Friday 19 April – Monday 22 April*

ANZAC Day: \_\_\_\_\_ *Thursday 25 April*

### Term 2

TERM 2 COMMENCES: \_\_\_\_\_ *Tuesday 30 April*

Queen's Birthday Public Holiday: \_\_\_\_\_ *Monday 10 June*

TERM 2 ENDS: \_\_\_\_\_ *Friday 28 June*

### Term 3

TERM 3 COMMENCES: \_\_\_\_\_ *Tuesday 23 July*

TERM 3 ENDS: \_\_\_\_\_ *Friday 27 September*

### Term 4

TERM 4 COMMENCES: \_\_\_\_\_ *Tuesday 15 October*

TERM 4 ENDS: \_\_\_\_\_ *Wednesday 4 December*

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## 2019 Reunion Dates

### Class of 1979

40 Year Reunion  
Saturday 19 October

### Class of 1989

30 Year Reunion  
Saturday 19 October

### Class of 1999

20 Year Reunion  
Saturday 19 October

### Class of 2009

10 Year Reunion  
Saturday 19 October

### Class of 2014

5 Year Reunion  
Saturday 19 October

For all Reunion enquiries contact: [alumni@brigidine.nsw.edu.au](mailto:alumni@brigidine.nsw.edu.au)