

BRIGIDINE COLLEGE ST IVES

THE bridge

ISSUE 1 2020





The Bridge, the Brigidine College bi-annual magazine.

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Welcome

You may have noticed the new cover, but that's not all that's new. Brigidine is celebrating a new Principal this year, Ms Laetitia Richmond. Laetitia brings with her a fresh approach which resonates in this brand new design of *The Bridge*. Her contemporary outlook and friendly, down to earth approach has won us all over.

We chose to update the design of this 2020 issue to coincide with some exciting new changes to come this year and beyond.

We invite everyone to participate, speak to each other about the content, delight in the students work, look for the faces of old friends... and new ones. Write to us and let us know your thoughts at communications@brigidine.nsw.edu.au

Artwork to the left

Madeleine Reid, Class of 2019,

Year 12 Major Work

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A SELECTION OF LETTERS SENT BY THE BRIGIDINE COMMUNITY TO SHARE THEIR FEEDBACK ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES

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With thanks to our Brigidine community who gave up their time to share their experience of our new online learning systems.

Malinda Gardner

ISOBEL YR 8

I just wanted to write and say a big thank you and well done to all of Isobel's teachers at Brigidine over the past few weeks in what has been the most difficult and probably the most stressful time for all of us.

The transition to online learning has been so smooth and not stressful for Isobel and this is because of the calm and assured manner in which Brigidine has undertaken the change. I know from personal experience that the last few weeks have been like no other time for teachers and I just wanted all of the Brigidine teachers and staff to know that their efforts have not gone unnoticed and they have made the change look effortless.

Please pass on to all staff my sincere gratitude and congratulations, well done.

Sarah Gillard

LILY BOYSE, YR 11

Hi all, I'm sure you're being inundated with messages right now but **I just wanted to say thank you**. Thank you for the communication, the structure, the online teaching and everything else that I'm sure is going on behind the scenes.

We have been blown away by the incredible way Brigo mobilised and had everyone set up so quickly and so successfully.

It's a strange world we live in right now but knowing Lily is in such good hands and her learning has been so seamless is very comforting. Its even been really great watching some of her lessons – its something we normally wouldn't experience so there are even positives to this!

Thank you again – stay safe and healthy and we look VERY much forward to the day we're back to a normal routine and especially back on the sports fields!

Donna

LIBBY YR 12 & JASMINE YR 10

I just wanted to thank the teachers and IT for getting together the online learning package. It seems to work really well and both my girls are finding it to be very good and straight forward to follow.

I would also like to add that we are also very pleased with the adjustments made to the home learning package that came in to effect this week (incorporating breaks between lessons). The school have clearly listened to the feedback from parents, pupils and staff which is wonderful. Thank you

Kaylee Barnett

DAUGHTER YR 8

I wanted to reflect my feelings as I was concerned about how my daughter (we) may find the change to the learning platform and environment, particularly as it was implemented in trying circumstances.

I was worried that there would be a significant impact on her progress as a result. I was also concerned about the impact of having everyone home and how that may work.

I think most parents would counter any concerns with absolute praise for all concerned. **It has been amazing!**

My daughter is focused, engaged, settled, organised and finding this to be a fantastic experience - I am a little surprised as I wasn't expecting such a high level of responsibility towards her school day and tasks immediately, but like all the girls and staff, the motto "Brigo girls can do anything" is well and truly proven yet again. Thank you!

Penny Banbury

DAUGHTERS YR 8 & YR 12

Just wanted to let school know remote learning...zooming is going really well. I think the key is to get kids doing something physical before and after school so that they burn some energy.

Many thanks to the school for a seamless transition to online learning and keeping the girls calm in this crazy world.

Louise & Alex Baczkowski

DAUGHTER YR 9

Please pass on our sincere thanks to the Principal and staff for the excellent way the on-line learning has been implemented for the students.

From our perspective, the first few days have gone very smoothly and my daughter has been fully engaged with her school work. I think the changes you are making are a sensible modification to the program. *We cannot thank you all enough as I'm sure it has been a very challenging time for everyone concerned.*

Anonymous

DAUGHTERS YR 9 & YR 11

Thank you for all the hard work you and your staff have put into setting up remote learning and keeping the girls focused. It has made our job at home seamless in these crazy times.

I have two daughters, one in Year 11 who is an avid learner and doing two accelerated subjects (need I say more) and a Year 9 student who is more of a "relaxed" learner.

Both have adapted positively and only yesterday they said we hope our school term doesn't finish early as we look forward to our lessons each day. It gives them something to do and structure in their day.

All the best.

The sense of community has always been such a wonderful aspect of life at Brigidine

LAETTIA RICHMOND AND PARENTS AT THE P&F COCKTAIL PARTY



WHAT WE LIKED

A welcome and a farewell - both sides of the greeting spectrum accounted for the most liked social media posts so far for 2020. Day 1 of Term 1 our new Principal, Ms Richmond, greeted girls across all Year groups. It was an unforgettable day of enthusiasm for the waking of a new school year.



CARE TO SHARE?

We are always delighted to receive photos and stories that we can share on our social media. Please send content to communications@brigidine.nsw.edu.au

Catherine Murphy

ALUMNI 1970'S

Hi Brigidine! I felt the need to write to you...

I was a Brigidine pupil back in the 70's and I was a constant cause of alarm for the nuns.

My name is Catherine Murphy (Cate) and despite my extremely rocky road through my schooling I have been successful in the service sector, first qualifying as a then called Psychiatric nurse, and now I run a large disability employment service. My path has always been one

of fighting for social justice. I am now 62 years old and working from home (as so many of us are) and trying to hold it all together for my marginalised customers in a rural northern NSW area. I am also finally doing my university degree.

I wanted to touch base because I think we are all reaching out to one another and wanted to say to the Brigidine community, that even though I was trouble when I was there, my passion for social justice was never dampened by the nuns. I was

given credit where due and there was never any backlash when I revolted against the reins being pulled in on me. I loved Brigidine and always think fondly upon my years there. Unfortunately, I have not remained in contact with anyone from that time, but think of them all often.

I know that Brigidine will support everyone to the best of their ability. I credit the school and the nuns with allowing me to be who I am and giving me the strength, courage and compassion to overcome and transform and

give back in a meaningful way. I have a big story that plunges into alcoholism and out again, but my faith never wavered, it is a faith in the knowledge that everything will be ok. It got me through and I firmly believe that if I had a different schooling background I may not have believed in myself the way Brigidine taught me to... even if they didn't know they were.

*Kindest regards,
Cate (Catherine) Murphy*

(hey look me up in your records... mine is the file with the big black X on it!)

Have your say: send a letter to the editor
communications@brigidine.nsw.edu.au

A bright new future

Our vision into 2020

By Ms Laetitia Richmond
New College Principal

Brigidine College, St Ives is a school infused with the importance of honouring individual strengths and talents and nurturing students to work collaboratively, looking outwards to the world. I am proud and excited to be the new Principal for Brigidine College in 2020. In the role of Principal, the opportunity to continue to drive this strong community forward and shape the vision for the future of Brigidine is a challenge I welcome. I am a passionate advocate for Catholic and girls' education.







‘Education cannot be limited to capabilities acquisition devoid of personalization of thought. A love of learning and to be an inquisitive learner coupled with a high expectation of personal best is, I believe, an essential skill for our Brigidine students today’.

The corridors of Brigidine College resonate with the tradition of excellence in girl’s education. As I begin my tenure here I am committed to ensuring that Brigidine College continues to grow as a student centred learning community where faith, guided by Brigidine tradition, is integral to all aspects of school life and teaching and learning showcase excellence and innovation.

My own formation as a teacher and subsequent study encompassed the areas of Visual Arts and Arts Administration where the focus of creativity and the strength of developing critical thinking is paramount. This has been a personal and professional focus of mine for engaging students and staff in their own learning journey.

My career spans over thirty years in Catholic Schools, during which I have been fortunate to fulfil a diverse range of positions in leadership. Within these roles, encompassing the realms of both pastoral care and curriculum, my aim has always been to inspire by establishing and remaining faithful to leadership strategies that support and journey with colleagues

on the way to meeting positive whole school outcomes.

Catholic education has a duty to provide a nurturing and empowering place for staff and students. Continuing to build upon a College culture that values authenticity and mutual respect will ensure that Brigidine remains faithful to the ideals of our founding Sisters. Respect for individual intellectual capability, successful wellbeing programs and structures which build community, social awareness which impels faith into action, and the nurturing of personal growth in a safe and supportive learning community, have always directed my decision making.

In the role of Principal, I constantly engage in the challenge to bring about excellence in teaching and learning for students and staff alike. In working with and leading staff, I have come to understand that values integration, successful pastoral programs, and faith formation must be aligned with curriculum development and innovation to equip students for lifelong learning. Giving our students at Brigidine space and the skill to fully explore every opportunity is important. I believe that this provides



In working with and leading staff, I have come to understand that values integration, successful pastoral programs, and faith formation must be aligned with curriculum development and innovation to equip students for lifelong learning

the opportunity for students to develop a strong sense of self. I value creativity and the humanness of that pursuit. My own educational background in Arts Education confirms my belief that more than ever individual expressions of creativity and innovation need to be instilled in our students for personal and professional growth. Education cannot be limited to capabilities acquisition devoid of personalization of thought. A love of learning and to be an inquisitive learner coupled with a high expectation of personal best is, I believe, an essential skill for our Brigidine students today. At the heart of the communities I have led I have aimed to instill a positive and transparent culture. Ensuring varied and broad opportunities exist for staff, students and the wider school community to develop lines of communication with each other and strengthen our opportunities for growth. Our Brigidine Charism and traditions are firmly centred on the stories of St Brigid. What continues to emerge for students today is the portrait of a strong and gentle woman, a powerful leader, a

good organiser, a skillful healer and a wise spiritual guide. At the heart of the work that Brigidine staff undertake, holds the ideal that the girls of Brigidine College are the women that St Brigid imagined carrying on her vision for the world today. To be women who meet the world with a strong sense of self and an understanding of others; to be inspirational and transformational. As Principal I will ensure that instilling our College motto of “Strength and Gentleness” as a lived value for Brigidine students will continue through the opportunity to engage and lead in liturgy, prayer and contemplation as a real and lived experience and an essential aspect to daily school life. It is my hope that students are able to display discernment and compassion towards others where nothing is diminished. - That confidence, strength and optimism are constant themes in daily school life for students and staff, modelled by school leadership. That students see the joy and humour in everyday life. - That leadership and opportunity is continually coupled with humility and accountability back to the community and to self.

- That staff through their teaching and daily interactions with students encourage high expectations and ability to question the world in which they live. That they unlock the potential in each student, empowering them to realise their aspirations. - That students are prepared to operate in a rapidly changing world with courage, integrity, and wisdom. The compass point upon which I have based my leadership style is of true service and building authentic relationships within the school community. As Principal, I believe that the busiest and most challenging days should be met with a calm, well humoured and professional approach. I am committed to advancing opportunities for students through their experiences in holistic education encompassing their faith, academic and pastoral life. I am privileged to lead the College in these aspects. I am honoured to be part of such a dynamic learning community here at St. Ives. I look forward to continuing to meet our Alumni and families and to working alongside you to provide the best educational opportunities for your daughter.

We have found that *‘necessity is a great teacher’*

Whilst it has been an enormous challenge to change our mode of delivering lessons, our teachers and students have embraced remote learning opportunities with a positive attitude.

Personally, this pandemic has provided me with an opportunity to reinvent myself as an educator; as the saying goes, necessity is a great teacher!

I have also realised why teachers will never be out of a job and can't be replaced by robots, because learning is essentially a social exercise and building a sense of community is much more challenging when we are all sitting behind an interface. Learning is a collective experience; it isn't an individual pursuit. As John Donne wrote: 'no man is an island'. So, whilst I am very pleased that because we live in 2020 and therefore have the tools we need to continue to provide our students with quality teaching and learning experiences, the isolation that is associated with being a solo voyager is impacting our community on an emotional level.

Every day that I am working remotely, I am reminded precisely why schools are so important; as educators, we provide our students with a sense of belonging, connection, routine, psychological safety, normality and structure.

From the outset, I conveyed to the staff that we cannot expect that remote learning will ever be able to fully replicate the dynamism and sense of community which one receives when being part of a school.

Article 26 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights is about education, and it reminds

us that one of the most important aspects of education is: the full development of the human personality. That is why my colleagues and I are really looking forward to the day when school-life will return to normal, so that we can reinstitute assemblies, clubs, carnivals, liturgies, excursions, rites of passage, incursions; all of which are integral to the holistic development of our students.

We know that any change in learning design requires prototyping and it is iterative, as such, after our first week of remote learning, we made changes to the timetable. These amendments were well-received because they allowed for more time for students to refresh between each lesson.

This was undoubtedly a positive move but as a leader of learning and a parent (who has two children who are now learning from home) I am acutely aware of the fact that even a change to our timetable will not be able to alleviate the fact that families are also managing the emotional and psychological stressors that are associated with living through a pandemic. The reality is that none of us have been habituated into this new normal.

An additional challenge which schools continue to face is the extent to which our students engage in either asynchronous (literally not keeping time together) or synchronous learning: is learning in real time (such as Zoom).

At the end of Term 1, I encouraged our teachers to adopt more of the asynchronous approach, this requires students to access information, demonstrate what they've learned, and communicate with classmates without necessarily being in the same classroom or even in the same time zone to participate. It has also been referred to as

'location independent learning'. Teachers have continued to prepare engaging and interactive learning tasks, which promote higher order thinking. However, these tasks need not necessarily occur in real time.

Some of the tasks students have engaged in have been: recording a presentation or slideshow, collaborating tasks and documents in the cloud, discussions on boards, portfolio or project-based learning, quizzes using interactive platforms, such as Firefly, Socrative, Maths Space and Education Perfect and activities which do not require students to be on a screen, reading a book or article, watching a film which is relevant to a particular subject area. Teachers may create online group spaces for small groups of students and ask them to support and consult with one another before sending emails to you directly.

Teachers are still able to check-in with their mentor groups and classes and staff are still engaging with students, providing feedback and support where required.

Research into effective online learning has demonstrated that: "Asynchronous Learning is the key feature of successful online learning programs" (Elizabeth Trach). This is primarily because this type of learning allows flexibility for learners as it easily accommodates different learning styles, as students can often "choose their own adventure" when it comes to the order they wish to cover material and how deep to dive into a given topic.

I have learned that communication really is the key, as well as the ability for students to be supported in creating weekly learning targets and make plans for all subjects so that teachers can pre-empt potential challenges which might emerge. We want to be able to ensure that students feel a level of success each week; and this will look different for every student.



The Brigidine approach to remote learning: strength and gentleness online

Week 8

MARCH 16

After our return from camps and retreats, the College sensed the pending move to online learning and began to survey the students and teachers about their knowledge, skills and attitudes to working online. We found that students were very positive about this possible change to routine, though some had misgivings about their home wifi service. Teachers mostly felt confident but needed more information.

Teachers were set up with Zoom accounts and given training in the use of video conferencing software. A staff meeting was held which devoted time to ICT training and the sharing of information about managing online learning. This was well received by teachers, who felt better prepared. In that week, teachers also created Teams for their classes and mentor groups, enabling students to actively participate and be social in less formal ways if required. Our ICT Team facilitated all these changes with a sense of urgency and commitment.

Training was provided by the Teacher-Librarians for those teachers needing additional skills in the software and systems needed for teaching online. This training was provided at school and through some ICT Help pages lodged in Firefly. These included: using Microsoft Teams, Firefly Task setting and uploading, task marking techniques, recording audio onto Powerpoint slides, screen recording, screencasting and video-making, as well as a range of other things people needed to know!

Week 9

MARCH 24

Brigidine College commenced teaching using the Remote Learning model, adhering to standard timetabled lessons. The students who attended school on campus also participated in this model and their classes were attended from the Kinkead Library. Over the course of that week, all students moved to learning from home. In response to some feedback about time management, the school moved to a modified timetable, which allowed for longer recovery breaks between lessons, and a longer lunch break to enable physical activity and interaction within the family home. The transition to the Remote Learning model happened relatively smoothly. Within Zoom, teachers have successfully experimented with screen sharing and managing their classrooms in ways such as using breakout rooms, screen chat and other sharing options. Using a combination of the Firefly Learning management system, Sentral, Teams, Google Classroom, Zoom, email, Libguides, Library eResources, Education Perfect, Literatu, Mathspace, and Office 365 apps for collaboration, students and teachers have engaged with a wide range of learning and research tools and had a variety of educational experiences.

New skills have been learned, new strengths have been found, and all the while the entire school community exhibited kindness and care for each other.

“Brigidine’s Year 12’s goal is to encourage the community to embrace the magic in others and in themselves. They would like to cultivate an attitude of gratitude and kindness within the school”

Our senior Student Leadership team together with Year 12 had the exciting opportunity of launching our theme to lead and inspire the year ahead. It was a new decade and a new beginning. Please join with us to celebrate our ‘2020 Vision - See the Magic.’

Year 12 Class of 2020

Jemima Guberina, College Captain 2020

Cinderella was the first to tell us: “Have courage and be kind... where there is kindness, there is goodness and where there is goodness, there is magic...” Our Charity Launch in February was a highlight in my life, to work together as a team and have our school community warmly embrace and celebrate our theme was everything Year 12 had hoped for. But it also came with tears as we shared the Charity focus which was near to our hearts; ‘Feel the Magic’, a beautiful organization which provides grief education and support to bereaved children and their families to help alleviate the pain and isolation felt by the loss of a loved one. Never in my wildest dreams would I have believed that 2020 would see us experience Drought, Fires, Floods and a Pandemic that found many isolated and lives lost with no care to race, religion, class, gender or politics. It offered a startling reminder of our fragility and interconnectedness. Globally it was a year that showed the impact of leadership and teamwork. Working for the love of humanity were our first responders, healthcare workers, firefighters, police officers and defence forces. Essential workers, educators, community services, food services, transport, government and more. I discovered that good leadership was integral to getting us through but more importantly, teamwork was important to the success of all leaders. What has emerged are new insights, fresh perspectives, gratitude and the knowledge that we are stronger than we’d suspected. In the words of JK Rowling: “We all have magic inside us.” Our final year of high school will be changed forever but our ultimate goal as senior leaders will remain unchanged: to offer mateship with spirit and soul. With courage and compassion we transform our lives and our world for the better. Our passion will drive our efforts to deliver this school community

a magical experience, and when this ends we will be back at Brigidine, our home away from home. Leadership knows no titles. Leaders are not born, they emerge in situations where they need to. It is on every one of us to take that chance and responsibility. Leading others ultimately means service before self.

“Keeping the Magic Alive” by Charlotte Cuda, College Vice-Captain 2020

We have faced the unprecedented challenge of remote learning which initially seemed really disappointing because many of our exciting initiatives were consequentially cancelled despite being vital to the fundraising for our charity; our Op shop initiative where Year 12 would donate clothes for younger students to buy, or lunchtime disco plans, contributing to our charity in fun ways. It is also very difficult to raise money when the majority of people are facing great economic struggles – however, it is equally as important to raise awareness for our charity during this time and its focus on addressing grief and mental illness. So, we hope to keep ‘Feel the Magic’ alive within our community by garnering a significant understanding of grief and staying closely connected with every single student. By sending out funny Easter videos and recognising students who are trying hard to keep spirits high, we hope to maintain the Brigo spirit as though we’re still back at school. This experience has taught us student leaders that when things don’t go to plan, the answer is not to take a back seat and see how things pan out. Ultimately, this has been an experience that has developed our ability to respond to adversity, but more importantly, it has inspired us to keep the flame alive and make sure that all students feel connected to their community.



CLASS OF YEAR 12 PROUDLY HANG THEIR BANNER, ‘2020 VISION - SEE THE MAGIC’



CHARLOTTE CUDA, COLLEGE VICE-CAPTAIN AND JEMIMA GUBERINA, COLLEGE CAPTAIN 2020

JEMIMA GUBERINA, COLLEGE CAPTAIN AND CHARLOTTE CUDA, COLLEGE VICE-CAPTAIN

Memorable speech by Ella Coakes

When our Year 12 student, Ella gave a speech at the launch of this year's Year 12 Charity she brought the whole school community to their feet. The following is an extract of her wonderful and brave speech...



Year 12's charity this year is 'Feel The Magic', an organisation that runs camps for children aged 7-17 who are suffering from the loss of a parent, sibling or legal guardian. I heard about the camp about 6 months after my dad died four years ago, and was adamant that I wouldn't go. I didn't want to acknowledge, let alone talk about my own grief with a group of strangers, but eventually I got to the point where I needed to connect with people, and reluctantly agreed to go.

Feel The Magic pairs each camper with a mentor, someone who may not have necessarily had the same grief experience, but is a similar personality with similar interests. I don't know how they work this out, but my mentor Ash was perfect for me. The campers are divided into age groups and given mentors. The four girls from my group had all lost their fathers, and we all formed such a strong connection. The camp combines group therapy and regular camp activities. It's incredible watching all these people go from discussing highly emotional and confronting topics to playing a game of footy.

I wasn't sure about the Memorial Service where you write a note to your dead person and then burn it, the ashes being theoretically carried up to your loved ones while listening to Coldplay. I was upset but actually found it really helped. This was the first time I really acknowledged I had lost not just my dad, but him as a person - the jokes, the hugs, the future memories I will never get to make - and allowed myself to grieve.

There is a stigma surrounding grief which contributes to the

isolation that occurs after the loss of a loved one. People clam up when they find out why my dad's not around, and become incredibly uncomfortable when I talk about him. The power of Camp Magic lies in its ability to dismantle the taboo of death and provide the grieving within a community where loss is normal, and discussion regarding death is encouraged. The camp has not only allowed me to confront my own experience, but has fostered my emotional intelligence and ability to recognise and talk about how I'm feeling, even in aspects of my life not pertaining to grief. For a lot of kids this is the only kind of therapy or professional emotional support they are ever going to get. There are some kids who wouldn't be able to afford this camp if it wasn't offered free to campers. Some kids are circling in the foster care system who will likely never get any kind of therapy except for what they receive on the camp. Who you live with and how much money you have should not determine whether or not you get support. Thankfully Camp Magic is catering for all grieving children.

People who have lost a loved one before the age of 18 are three times more likely to take their own life, and 30-40% more likely to be hospitalised for depression. There is an evident need for society to accept and address the reality of mental health issues within the grieving community, and Camp Magic is allowing grieving kids to acknowledge their sadness, that they do not always feel good, instead of being expected to keep silent. I know this camp is saving lives. It is helping to break down the social stigma whereby grief and mental health are too confronting to be spoken about, by enabling a community of young people who care enough about themselves and other people to acknowledge that their own mental health is relevant and important, and talk about their own emotions. Pre-camp: I would just pretend I was fine. Now my friends from camp and I have genuine discussions about how we are actually feeling, and we aren't afraid to just simply say "I'm having a bad day".

For someone who loses not only their parent, or sibling, but decades of future memories, Camp Magic is an incredible community. Over 160,000 children lose a loved one every year, and Camp Magic can only accommodate 1000 children annually. This leaves 159,000 kids without the community that I honestly think I would not have recovered without. It costs \$1000 to send a camper and their mentor to the camp for three days.

I thank you in advance for what you contribute, and I want you to know that this is a charity that I know from experience has changed my life, and the lives of thousands of kids like me.

HSC results

Congratulations to the Class of 2019 for an outstanding result

It is with much pleasure and pride that we congratulate the Year 12 Cohort of 2019 on their outstanding HSC results. Every student's learning journey was different, and they all made a unique contribution to the life of our College. We are extremely proud of each student's achievement.

Lauren Stanaway
ATAR 98.55

College Proxime,
8th in state Studies of Religion II (HSC 2018), 1st History Extension, 2nd Economics, 2nd English Advanced, 3rd Studies of Religion II (HSC 2018), Recipient of NAB Economics Grant, College White for Academic Achievement, Academic Excellence Award, Application to Studies



Christina Chan
ATAR 98.60

College Dux, All Rounder, 1st Business Studies, 1st Chemistry, 1st Economics, 3rd Studies of Religion II (HSC 2018), Recipient of NAB Business Studies Grant, Academic Excellence Award, Application to Studies



Lauren Hocking
ATAR 98.55
College Proxime,

All Rounder, College Senior Captain, 1st Geography, Caltex Best All Rounder Award, Reuben F Scarf Award for Commitment to Studies, Recipient of Margaret Cook Geography Grant, Application to Studies, Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

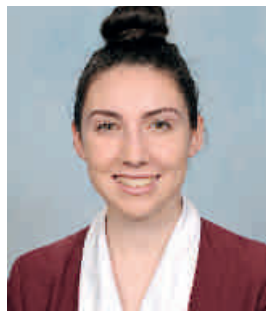
Jemima Belger
ATAR 97.50

4th in state Dance, All Rounder, Selected for Callback (Dance) Core Composition, Nominated for Callback (Dance) Core Performance, 1st Dance, Trussell Family, Award for History Extension Major Project, Application to Studies, Sports Aerobics Captain



Abby Van Balkom
ATAR 98.05

All Rounder, Nominated for OnSTAGE (Drama) Individual Performance, Nominated for OnSTAGE (Drama) Group Performance, Nominated for ENCORE (Music) Vocal Performance, 1st Music 1, College Blue for Academic Application, Application to Studies, Music Captain, Musical Captain



High achievers

We acknowledge the commitment of the teachers and support staff who feel privileged to have worked with such an accomplished and impressive group of young women.



Rebekah Moore
ATAR 95.25

All Rounder, Netball Captain, Tildesley Tennis Captain, Application to Studies

Caitlin Cummins offered B Sc/B Ed (Secondary), and **Amy Skiffington** offered B Bus Anlys/B App Finance. Both were awarded Macquarie University Leaders and Achievers Scholarships for 2020 worth up to \$50,000 each. The scholarships were awarded on the basis of their senior school results, leadership qualities and extra-curricular activities in their school and/or community.

Kathryn Fung invited to study at both NIDA (only 6 places offered a year) and WAPPA for costume design: these are opportunities rarely given to students straight out of school.

Madeleine Reid offered Civil and Environmental Engineering at UTS with Women in Engineering and IT Scholarship.

Mei Tribolet-Ho accepted into the prestigious National Art School, Sydney.

ATAR and University entry

Class of 2019

The Class of 2019 have maintained the trend of graduating students with the majority applying for and attending tertiary opportunities following their completion of the Higher School Certificate.

Preferred courses of study in 2020

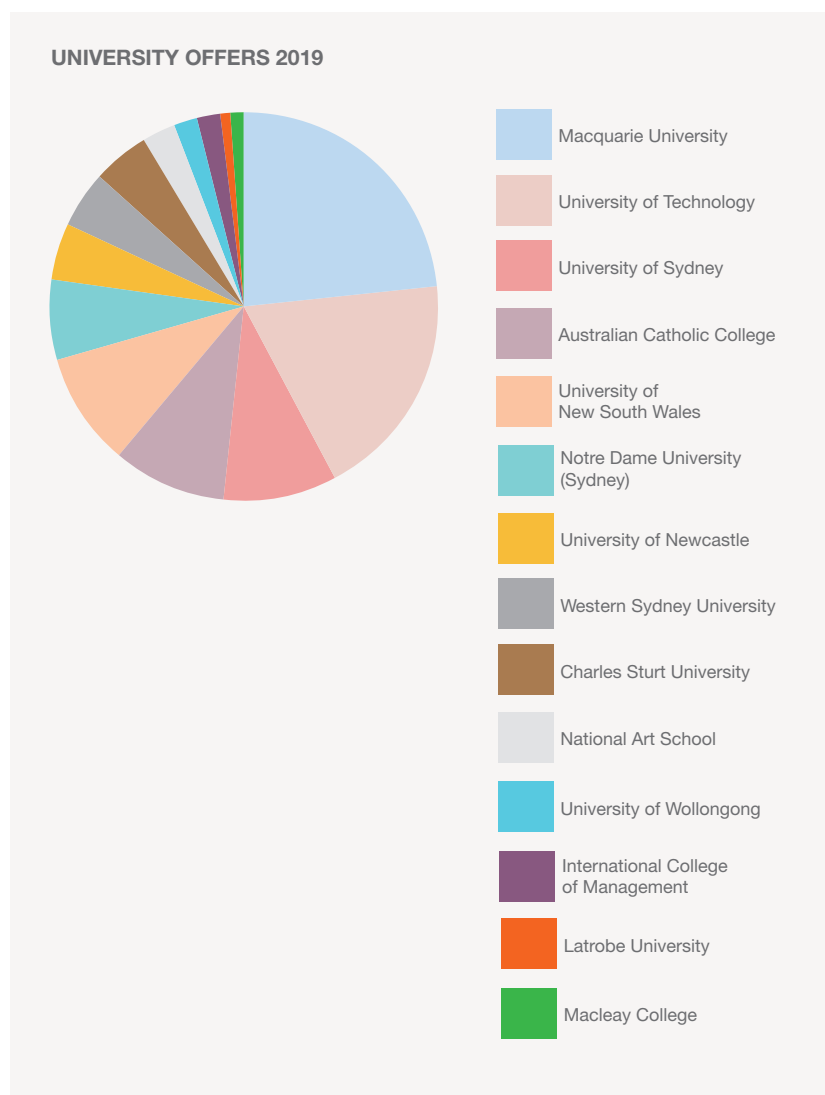
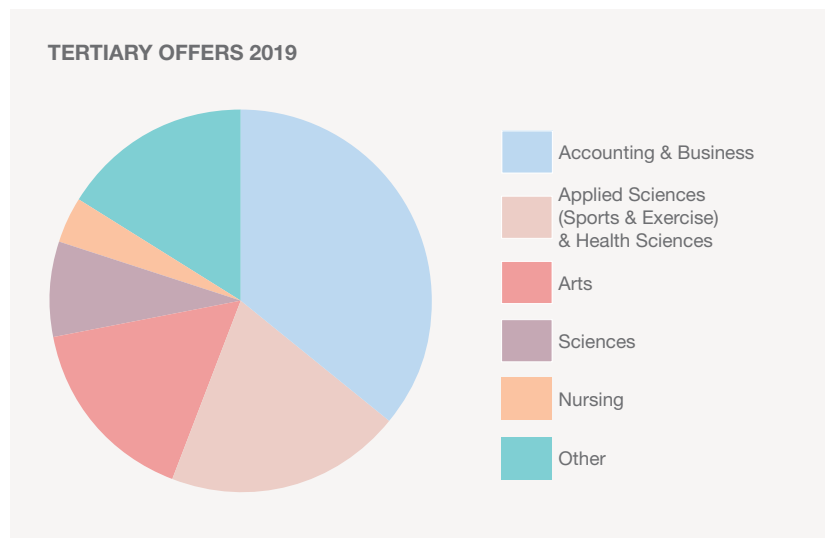
The top 5 areas of tertiary study for Year 12 graduates in 2019 were; Accounting and Business, Applied Science (Sports & Exercise) and Health Sciences, Arts, Science, and Nursing.

There has been a shift from previous years where Communications and Media courses would have appeared as a top preference. Anecdotally, in careers interviews, many students in 2019 expressed a desire to study a course that will eventually lead to a career which would help and support others, whether through business/commerce, science, or health focused study.

UAC Applications

Most students chose to attend university in Sydney rather than move to a regional university for tertiary studies. University offers indicated the following order of preference: Macquarie University, University of Technology, University of Sydney, Australian Catholic University, University of New South Wales, Notre Dame University (Sydney), University of Newcastle, Western Sydney University, Charles Sturt University, National Art School, University of Wollongong, International College of Management (Sydney), Latrobe University, Macleay College.

Information available to the College may not be entirely accurate as it is gathered by a variety of sources and the final choice of study for our graduates is not always available. However, it is interesting to know what tertiary institutions they are choosing and the trending courses



Showcase Class of 2019



CHARLOTTE HARRY,
INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY



ANGELIQUE KRELLER,
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



KATHERINE BROWN,
TEXTILES AND DESIGN



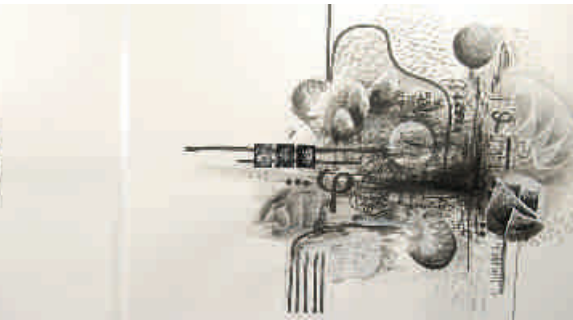
KATHRYN FUNG,
TEXTILES AND DESIGN



KEIRA PAINE, VISUAL ARTS



LAUREN HOCKING, VISUAL ARTS



JESSICA ROUTLEDGE, VISUAL ARTS

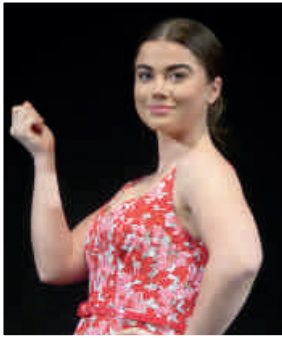


RILEY JACKA, VISUAL ARTS

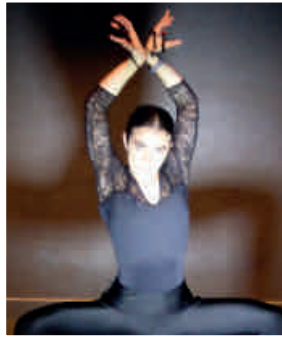


MADELEINE REID, VISUAL ARTS

Our HSC students excelled in the areas of Dance, Drama, Music, Textiles and Design, Design Technology, Industrial Technology and Visual Arts



HELENA SMITH



JULIETTE BRENNAN



ABBEY TYLER



ANJA KASTOWSKY



KADDISON VON RHOON



LAURA GALOUSTIAN



PENELOPE GODFREY



POPPY KOULOURIS



VICTORIA BILES



SCOUT'S HONOUR



JESSICA ATALLA



CORINA BEHRENS



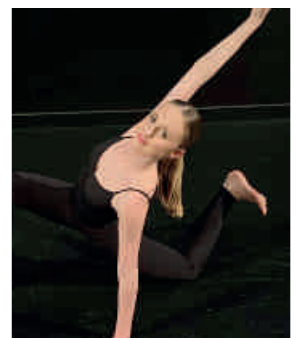
THE WILD WEST



OLIVIA MCNAMARA



MICHELLE WILLIAMS



JASMINE BARBOUR

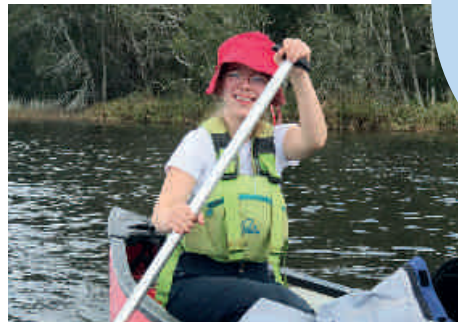


Duke of Edinburgh Award

The first few months of 2020 have presented many challenges for us all. For those of us involved in Duke of Edinburgh we are having to react in a way that lives up to the values of the DEA award, being empowering, progressive, diverse and connected. At times like this building resilience, enhancing communication, encouraging adaptability, problem solving, and tenacity are even more essential. As a Brigidine DEA community, we continue striving to do this more than ever.

By Skye Wachter DEA Coordinator.





Camps & retreats

Snapshot 2020





This year our Camps and Retreats were greatly enjoyed by many students and continued to be an important component of the Faith and Wellbeing Program at the College.

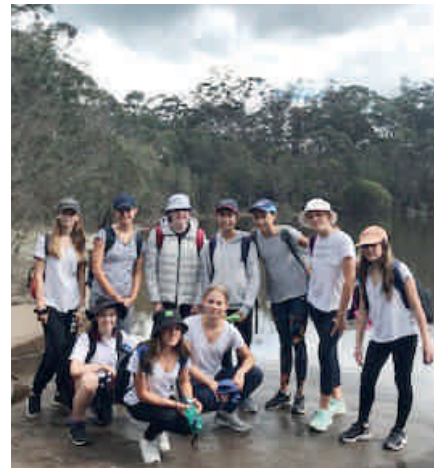
Our Year 7 travelled to a new venue at Katoomba and appreciated getting to know one another through such activities as Scenic World, kite making, bike skills and mini Olympics.

Year 8 found their own strengths and capabilities at Wombaroo Camp, participating on the giant swing, vertical climb and raft building as well as an overnight camp out as a Mentor group.

Year 9 took on the great outdoor challenge of Biloela Camp over four days to survive and thrive in this environment. They participated in mountain bike riding, abseiling, flying fox and river canoeing.

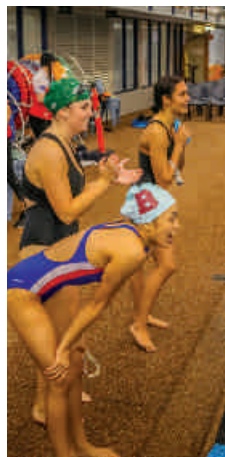
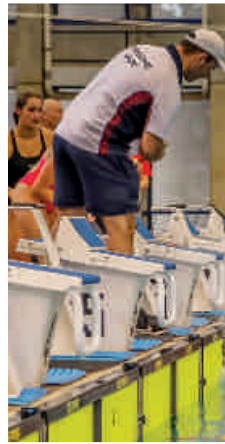
Year 10 had a choice of two different camps, some students camped at Myall Lakes enjoying canoeing and surfboard lessons, while the other half took part in the Urban Challenge which involved visits to Our Big Kitchen, Museums and Galleries and also dragon boating on the harbour.

The Year 12 Retreat was at Elanora and included a morning beach walk to Turimetta Beach and a range of exciting experiences. Unfortunately the Year 11 Retreat was cancelled due to the potential impact of students on the many placements they would normally visit as part of the Street Retreat.



Swimming carnival

Snapshot of the day



It was a great carnival and all the students must be congratulated on the excellent level of participation, house spirit and awesome swimming we saw on the day. Some of the highlights include the war cries, house relays, Invitational 50m Freestyle and of course, the Staff v Students relay

New records (Old records in brackets)

- Magali Ogg:** Inter 100m Freestyle, 1:009, (1:01.51)
- Magali Ogg:** Inter 200m Ind Medley, 2:31.75 (2:32.75)
- Anika Townley:** 17+ Years 50m Breastroke, 35.93 (36.14)
- Indie Smith:** 13Yrs 50m Freestyle, 29.96 (30.09)
- Taylor Bradac:** 15Yrs 50m Freestyle, 28.10 (28.41)
- Magali Ogg:** 16Yrs 50m Freestyle, 28.70 (28.81)
- Magali Ogg:** 16Yrs 50m Backstroke, 32.46 (32.47)
- Taylor Bradac:** 15Yrs 50m Butterfly, 30.97 (31.43)
- Taylor Bradac:** Open 50m Invitational, 28.15 (28.36)
- Kildare:** Intermediate 4x50m Freestyle, 2:00.00 (2:05.29)

Open Invitation 50m Freestyle Champion:

Taylor Bradac

School Champions: Magali Ogg and Anika Townley (72 points). Record, Magali Ogg was School Champion four years running shared with Anika Townley.

Age champions

- 12 Years:** Clara McGee, Georgia Luca, Charli Marks
- 13 Years:** Indie Smith, Audrey Draper, Sophia Cooper
- 14 Years:** Zannah Dixon, Lara Price, Hannah Smith
- 15 Years:** Taylor Bradac, Alexandra Lawrence, Scarlett Judd
- 16 Years:** Magali Ogg, Ashleigh Kuznetsoff, Georgia Bonadio
- 17+ Years:** Anika Townley, Elsa Schuller, Amy Rose
- Multiclass:** Lisa Weingartner, Jessie Walsh, Jessica Garrett

House places

- First:** Lourdes, 898
- Second:** Kildare, 892
- Third:** Prague, 840
- Fourth:** Fatima, 788

War cry results

- First:** Kildare
- Second:** Prague
- Third:** Lourdes
- Fourth:** Fatima

Relay champions

- Open:** Prague
- Intermediate:** Kildare
- Junior:** Lourdes

The ribbons and trophies are all ready to go at school and we will be sure to get them to you as soon as we can.



Student Achievements

During our brief time so far this year when we could interact with others, our girls accomplished some impressive successes.

Holli Raaff

After attending the Touch Football tournament during Camp week, Holli Raaff was selected in the under 20s State Of Origin squad for 2020. Congratulations Holli, what a great effort !



Jemima Guberina

Congratulations to our College Captain, Jemima Guberina who won the Public Speaking Award for the Lions Youth of the Year competition held at the Greengate Hotel.



Priya Wheatley and Nicole Chan

Students Priya and Nicole were selected as part of a trio on the Australian Team for the 2020 Flanders International Acro Cup in Belgium. Congratulations !



Great Speech

Clearly some of our students made some great speeches recently as they achieved amazing results in their ASCA examinations. Australian Speech Communication Association (ASCA) is an organisation which promotes and helps the development of oral communication and listening skills in education, professional and social spheres. Congratulations to these students:

- Jemima Guberina – Diploma of Communication, Centre Award for Outstanding Performance
 - Tara Thai – Certificate of Communication
 - Cherry Liu – Centre Award for Outstanding Performance
 - Olivia Chaffers - Welsh – Studio Award for Outstanding Performance
 - Angela Bui – Studio Award for Outstanding Performance
 - Sabina Arianaygam – Studio Achievement Award
 - Coco Guberina - Studio Achievement Award
- High distinctions were also gained by Lila Barnard, Angela Bui, Sabina Arianaygam, Olivia Chaffers-Welsh, Cherry Liu, Zara Maciliquam, Coco Guberina, Tara Thai and Jemima Guberina.



Swimming and Diving

Our Brigidine swimmers and divers travelled to Homebush for the annual IGSSA Swimming Carnival. Hannah Smith (Year 8) represented Brigidine in the 14 years Springboard event and Opens Platform event. Hannah placed 1st in the 14 Years Springboard which is a significant achievement and she is the first diver from Brigidine to win an event at an IGSSA carnival! Well done !

NSW All Schools Triathlon

Amelia Thornthwaite, Year 8, Alara Sheather, Year 8 and Zannah Dixon, Year 8 and Ashleigh Kuznetsov, Year 11. Ashleigh and Amelia represented Brigidine at the NSW All Schools Triathlon in the individual events on Wednesday 26 February at the Sydney International Regatta Centre in Penrith. Ashleigh finished 28th in the Intermediate Girls division and Amelia placed 3rd for NSWCCC and 7th overall in the Junior Division to compete in Queensland. In the All Schools event. Amelia, Alara and Zannah then competed in the team event on Thursday 27 February. The girls finished 3rd overall and were the 2nd NSWCCC team across the line, an amazing effort by the girls!



Kayak Champion, Zoe Shirdon

Congratulations Zoe, who recently competed at the Australian Kayak Sprint Championships. She had an outstanding meet with 7 gold and 3 silver medals in individual and team events with the highlight being crowned Australian Champion in the U14 girls 200m K1.



Magali Ogg, Year 11

Magali has been selected in the Australian 16 & Under Water Polo squad after competing at the Nationals during the January school holidays. She will be eligible for selection for the team for the FINA Junior World Championships and Pan Pacific Youth Championships later in the year. Well done !



Hair with Heart, Bella Sham

Hi all, during this challenging time when all the focus is on COVID-19, I started thinking about charities and how they have been forgotten. We need to be aware that just because our lives are consumed by all things COVID-19 doesn't mean we should stop being aware of other peoples hardships. Charities need our help more so in these times. For example there are people still fighting their battles with cancer. I've been thinking about how I can create awareness for these causes and I came across Variety's Hair with Heart. On Sunday I did the 'Big Chop', shaved and donated my hair to be made into a wig for a child who has lost their hair due to a medical condition. I have almost reached my donation goal and would like to challenge you to do your part by donating, shaving or at least thinking about how you can make a difference in someone else's life.

Donation link:

<https://hairwithheart.variety.org.au/fundraisers/bellasham/hair-with-heart>

Watch my 'Big Chop' on YouTube !

Thanks for taking the time to read this and I hope we will be together at school again soon, Bella



Ella Johnson, Year 11

Ella has been selected in the final team of 12 for the NSW 17 and Under Netball team and will hopefully compete at the Nationals in Hobart sometime later this year. Good Luck Ella !

Emma Lowry, Year 11, Kirra Gilchrist, Year 9 and Sophie Zillman, Year 8

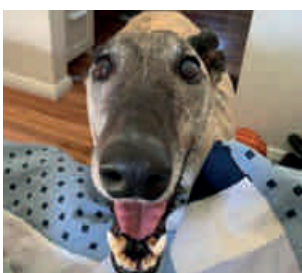
Emma, Kirra and Sophie trialled for IGSSA Softball in extremely wet conditions and were successful in being selected in the Opens team. After representing IGSSA in the NSW CIS Challenge, Emma was then successful in being selected for and representing the NSW CIS team at the NSW All Schools tournament. Emma was then further selected in the NSW All Schools team !



What's been happening at home?

Pets online... A response to Ms Richmond

Hi Ms Richmond,
Thank you for being so positive throughout this situation and giving the school a daily laugh with your funny pictures!
Hopefully this will all end sooner rather than later and we can go back to normal! Here's my rescue greyhound Penelope to brighten your day, Jess



A special thankyou to the students who wrote to medical workers, Years 8, 10, 12, and the elderly, Years 7, 9, 11. This was an example of the kind and gentle spirit of Brigidine. To everyone who took the time to write those lovely notes, you have brought a lot of joy to people at this challenging time. Skye Walcher



SMH writing response

Thankyou to all the students who kindly shared their Remote Learning experience for the Sydney Morning Herald competition

"Year 12 is not the final mark it's the friends along the way, the memories you make and the stories you tell ten years from now." Georgia Prendergast Year 12: extract from her submission to the Sydney Morning Herald in response to a call out to students for their experiences, thoughts and feelings regarding doing lessons at home. The College submitted 36 written articles to the Herald and to our delight we had two articles published - Georgia Prendergast and Isabel Vitoria both Year 12.

FEATURE



P&F Social pages

It was with great pleasure the College hosted its annual Welcome Cocktail Party in February this year. With the support of the P&F the evening was a fabulous opportunity to bring its community together. Katrina Tucker President of the P&F writes, 'The Floral Friday Welcome Cocktail Party on 21 February was a wonderful evening for old and new parents and carers to come together starting the school year off in style. It was a special evening taking on even more significance given the current environment. The P&F team look forward to bringing the community together again when we reach the other side.'





Staff news

Brigidine would like to introduce our three new heads of staff in the English, Art and Social Science departments. They each bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience

Janet Walker, Head of English

It is my great privilege to join the English Department at Brigidine. I feel very fortunate to lead such a hard-working and dedicated team whose results speak for themselves. I come to Brigidine with significant experience in girls' school environments, including most recently at Hornsby Girls High School and previously at Abbotsleigh and SCEGGS Darlinghurst.

I am a parishioner at Holy Name Catholic Church in Wahroonga and sat on the Parish Council in 2018. I have a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws as well as a Graduate Diploma in Education and I have completed several English Literature subjects at postgraduate level. Much of my professional development has been in the areas of differentiation, lifting student achievement and classroom innovation.

In our rapidly changing, 'post-truth' era, I believe that literature has a more important role than ever in helping students develop the communication and critical thinking skills to explore who they are, what they value and where they are heading.

Brigiat Maltese, Head of Visual Arts

My background in Visual Arts education spans 25 years mostly within girls education; I have been a Head of Department in schools such as Abbotsleigh and Ravenswood, creating high expectations of young women to achieve to their highest potential. I truly believe and have observed that Visual Arts affords opportunities as a pathway to creative and innovative thinking as well as academic success. It fosters a growth mindset and resilience in learning.

In recent years I have also worked extensively at NESA as HSC Senior Examiner, sat on consultation teams and as the ArtExpress Senior Project Officer. Additionally, I have worked in the role as Director of Creativity at Knox,

imbedding 21st Century Learning Skills across different subject areas. Each role stretched me professionally and I thoroughly enjoyed the chance to expand my capabilities. These experiences also reminded me of how fulfilling teaching students in the classroom is and served to reinforce my love of Visual Arts. I have always maintained my own studio practice in Drawing and Painting and have had my work shown at the Art Gallery of NSW in the Wynne and Sulman Prize.

I am thrilled to be a part of a community that holds at its core a sense of belonging and spiritual connectedness.

Amie Clark, Head of Social Sciences

They say there is no place like home, and this was certainly how I felt walking back into Brigidine after some two and half decades since I was last here.

Having decided to follow my true passion and add a Diploma of Education onto my Economics degree there was never any doubt that I wanted give something back to the Brigidine community.

Over the years I have been very privileged to have worked at a range of different schools such as St Luke's Grammar School and Oakhill College as a HSIE teacher and as HSIE Coordinator at Rosebank College and then as Head of Economics, Business and Legal Studies at St Joseph's College Hunters Hill.

I was totally thrilled when the opportunity presented itself to return and whilst the buildings and technology have certainly changed over the years, the dedication and commitment of those who teach here has not. I look forward to working with my department over the coming years to help our Brigidine girls see the crucial role social sciences play in making them strong and informed young women who are leaders of action in our ever changing world.



JANET WALKER



BRIGIAT MALTESE



AMIE CLARK

Alumni profile

Louise Smith

I was the College Captain at Brigidine College in 1992 and went on to study Media and Communications at Macquarie University. I've been a film and television producer for the past twenty-five years.



One of the things I love about my work is that I get to tell stories – whether they are told over 30 seconds or 5 hours. I love working with creative people like writers, directors and actors, and I love bringing teams of creative people together to tell a story and create a vision. I love entertaining people – which is definitely something I developed a love of while I was at Brigidine, through the band, the annual musical performances and the Year 11 play.

I started out producing television commercials, music videos and short films, which is where I learnt “how” to produce. A lot of my short films and music videos were very low budget (or no budget!), so while they didn’t make me money, they allowed me to get the experience I needed, and these were often my most bold artistic projects.

Over my career I have had the opportunity to work with some amazing people, both in front of, and behind the camera. The first short film I produced, *Tulip*, was back in 1998, and it was written and directed by Rachel Griffiths and starred the wonderful Bud Tingwell. In 2003 I co-produced *The Rage in Placid Lake* starring Rose Byrne and musician Ben Lee in his first acting role; in 2007 I produced *The Square* written by Joel Edgerton (who also starred in the film) and Matthew Dabner, and directed by Nash Edgerton; and in 2017 I executive produced *Dance Academy: The Movie*

starring the wonderful cast from the successful ABC TV show.

The life of a producer is a roller coaster, like any creative career it’s full of both rejection and triumphs. Some years you are stuck in the land of development and you feel like nothing is ever going to get financed, other years you are on location filming for months at a time, working 24/7 and wondering if you will ever get a break, and then other years, you get to travel the world screening your work at international festivals, hoping they love it as much as you do.

A few years ago, I produced the telemovie *Riot*, and I was honoured to meet with and interview many of the activists known as the “78ers” who were instrumental in organising the first Mardi Gras parade in 1978. It was incredibly special to hear their personal stories and to be able to shape and mould these into a 90-minute telemovie for the ABC. They aired it the week before the 40th Anniversary of the Mardi Gras and watching it with some of the original LGBTQI campaigners was a truly memorable moment in my career.

Most recently I produced *The End*, a ten-part series that has screened on Sky in the UK and will screen on Foxtel later this year, so please make sure to watch it when it goes to air!

Alumni profile



Emma Radcliff, Class of 2013

I have fond memories of my time at Brigidine and would like to thank the College for giving me a love of learning and the confidence to pursue my dreams

My passion has always been animals and the environment. As a young girl growing up, our house was home to a variety of pets. It was a natural progression after graduating in 2013 to study Biodiversity and Conservation at Macquarie University. Whilst studying I volunteered at Taronga Zoo in the Herpetofauna Division for 3 years. This was a challenge at the start as I didn't feel very comfortable working with reptiles. It gave me such an appreciation of them that I now have a snake and four bearded dragons of my own. I also volunteered in the Marine Division for 18 months. This experience further fuelled my desire to be a zookeeper and work closely with animals to help conserve them. After attaining my Bachelor's degree I completed Certificate 3 in Captive Animal Care through the Taronga Training Institute. I am currently working in the Marine Division.

I have been fortunate to have travelled on safari through Kenya and volunteered in an animal orphanage in Zimbabwe. I also spent a month in Borneo exploring and observing the wildlife in some remote locations. At the moment I am studying AUSLAN (Australian Sign Language). My goal is to be able to sign whilst I am presenting the seal shows.



Katy Rogers (nee Hulme), Class of 2003

Jono and I met in Tasmania about 10 years ago when we both worked at the ski resort there, but it wasn't until 2016, when I was living in the UK, that we became an item. We were married 10 October 2019 in a beautiful Georgian manor house, Newton Hall, situated in the beautiful countryside of North East England. It was honestly the happiest day of our lives, completely filled with love and joy, and we were so lucky to be joined by so many friends and family from all over the world. I had four bridesmaids, three who are Brigidine alumni and travelled all the way from Australia to be there on our special day; my Matron of Honour Laura Lee (nee Ingram), Class 2003, Maid of Honour Melanie Firbank, and bridesmaids Hayley Patience and Priscilla Pek, both Class of 2003.

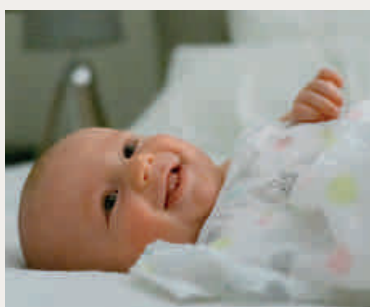
Two days after the wedding we left for what was the perfect honeymoon in spectacular Zanzibar where we relaxed on the gorgeous beaches, snorkelled in the Indian Ocean and learned a bit of Swahili! We were absolutely blown away by the beauty of the place and the incredible kindness and hospitality of the people there. We loved Africa and hope to visit again one day soon.



Marriages, Births & Christenings

Ashleigh Wheeler (nee Thompson), Class of 2003 introduces Henry James Wheeler. My husband, Chris and I are thrilled to share with you the news of the birth of our son who arrived on 17 February 2019 at 10.14am, weighing 4.125kg.

Aleisha Ford (nee Conlay), Staff and Class of 2001 Hunter Harrison Ford born at 7.21am on 14 February was the perfect Valentine's Day present for Tom and Aleisha. At 4.17kg and 57cm he's tall like his parents and is keeping them very busy as they adjust to parenthood.

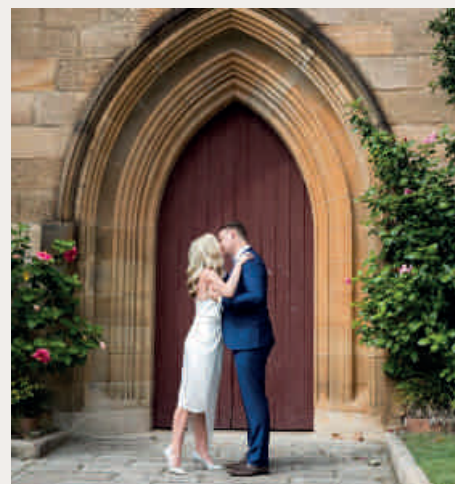


Cayleigh Hosking (nee Timm), Class of 2008 On Sunday 17 November 2019, the christening of Sierra Hosking took place in St Brigid's Chapel. Sierra can be seen in the photo above in the arms of her mum Cayleigh Hosking (nee Timm) along with Class of 2007 alumni Hannah Reid-Anderson, Roxy Cates, Nikki Atkins, Sophie Cook (nee Ticehurst) and Godmother Simone Griffin (nee Ferguson). Also in the photo is former College Principal, John Bowie and his wife Patty who were guests at the event.



Katherine Hatton (nee White), Class of 2002, gave birth to a daughter, Sofia, on Saturday 2 November 2019, a beautiful and loved sister to Eve. Kat is married to Brock Hatton, son of Di Lawrence, who is our Director Development and Community Relations at the College.

Matthew Selby, Brigidine College Maths Teacher, and Bridgette Leech together, as seen in the SMH. Our big day was planned for 18 April but COVID restrictions put a halt to this. On Friday 27 March, we decided to move the wedding forward and get married the next day! With only five people allowed inside the church, we held it near the door so that family and friends could watch. Whilst it wasn't what we originally planned, we are still very happy and will have a function to celebrate later in the year when we are allowed.



Anna Pentelow, Class of 2008

George John Edward Bullock was born on 27 February weighing 3.6kg at Sutherland Hospital to his lucky parents Anna and partner Nathan. George has brought a new found happiness and love to his parents who feel very blessed and special to have him in their lives. His aunties Sophie Pentelow, Class of 2012 and Lucy Pentelow, Class of 2016 (seen below) were excited to welcome him to the family.



Karen Gordon, Class of 2005

Karen Lee-May Gordon, College Senior Vice Captain 2005, said "I do at the (Taronga) Zoo!" when she married Chris Davis (Knox Alumni) on 27 October 2019. In a memorable outdoor ceremony on a beautiful Sydney Spring afternoon at the Bird Amphitheatre, The function was preceded in the morning by a traditional Chinese Tea Ceremony held at the Shangri-La Hotel where Chris, supported by his groomsmen, had to perform feats of intellect and daring to see the bride-to-be, dressed in a traditional Chinese cheongsam. They plan an around-the-world honeymoon later this year.

Vale

We would like to remember Anne Baillie (nee McElhone), Class of 1989. Admired for her kindness, humour and strength



Anne Baillie (nee McElhone) was a loving and beautiful daughter, sister, wife, mother, auntie and friend. Anne was second of the seven McElhone sisters to attend Brigidine from 1979 to 1989, with her daughters Minnie (Class of 2013) and Maddie (Class of 2015) following in her footsteps. Anne had so many wonderful memories from her time at the College and her warm presence remained an active part of the Brigidine community for years to follow alongside her mother Denise.

Anne was admired for her kindness, humour, strength and resilience displayed throughout her life especially in the last 22 years where together with Chris she raised three incredible children amidst her battle with cancer. She was an amazing mother

known to have the incredible ability to light up any room she walked into.

Anne's passion for art flourished at Brigidine, she then went on to study a Bachelor of Arts and Education securing a position as an art teacher at Marcellin College, all the while exercising her creativity and remaining an avid painter. She produced several masterpieces that will live on in the homes of family and friends. Anne showed us how to live one's best life in the face of adversity and although we miss her beyond belief we find comfort in the joyful memories she made with everyone she crossed paths with. To know her was to love her, and loving her was too easy.

Anne Baillie Forever in our hearts.



Nathalie Gibson, Class of 1998

Late one wintery Sydney evening on 31 July, much to the surprise of her mum (Class of 1998) and dad (Jamal), Eve Smith arrived at 31 weeks + 4 days weighing 1.7 kg. After living in New York, Nathalie had returned home at the end of June to have her first baby (originally due at the end of September), while Dad was still in New York packing up their apartment. Luckily, by the power of technology he was virtually in the birthing unit via Whatsapp. After 43 days in Special Care she is now home with us in North Narrabeen.

Community

Bushfire relief fundraising by the College

At the start of 2020 many parts of the country were ravaged by terrible bushfires so the Brigidine community helped

Communities were devastated and support came in many shapes and forms from across the country and the world. The College became aware of two schools in Broulee, NSW who were directly affected by the fires: *Carroll College* and *St Peter's Anglican College*. One lost all their sporting equipment and the other sustained significant damage to fencing and livestock in their agriculture program.

As part of the College's response to this, our wonderful community joined to help these two schools. The girls held bake sales every Friday for four weeks and our P&F donated the funds from the raffle held at the Welcome Cocktail Party at the end of February. Collectively we raised \$6000 which was donated to both schools.
Well done Brigidine !

Our new Business Networking Directory

Term two saw the launch of an initiative aimed at supporting College families during the Covid-19 global challenge. We were aware many of our families run businesses or provide services within the local and surrounding areas and wanted to encourage our College community to support them wherever possible. The Brigidine College St Ives Business Networking Directory is aimed at allowing current parents to list their business or service in a directory which will be sent out to the whole College community via email. The initiative was in direct response to the Covid-19 situation and the first edition of the directory was issued in week one of Term 2.

If you would like more details about the initiative please contact Pip Inman, Alumni & Community Relations Coordinator at businessdirectory@brigidine.nsw.edu.au

Lunch and supper groups

Starting high school is a big adventure for our girls with so much to learn about their new surroundings, but they are not the only ones who have much to learn. Mums are on a steep learning curve too as they help their daughters navigate a whole new world! Meeting other mums is a great way to share in the experience and often allows them to catch up on information their daughters may have forgotten to tell them!

Brigidine Luncheon Groups have long been a tradition here at the College, some of the original groups being set up almost 40 years ago. Since their inception the number of groups have grown and now both Lunch and Supper Groups take place regularly.

In early March we welcomed over 50 of our Year 7 Mums to the College for their first meetings. It is hoped these groups will flourish into firm friendships over the coming years.

If you would like to be part of a group but weren't able to come along to the initial meetings please contact Pip Inman, Alumni & Community Relations Coordinator at pinman@brigidine.nsw.edu.au and she will put you in touch with a group.





JILL ROLLESTON

Gentle Voices

We invite you to be involved in our recorded history program, Gentle Voices. No matter your age or time you were at Brigidine College, your story is important to us!

Q. What do you remember about your first day at Brigidine?

Q. What kind of things changed while you were here?

Q. When you think of your time at Brigidine, what is your most memorable moment?

There are different ways in which you can contribute to our collection including; photo prompted stories, written memoirs and digital photograph donations. Our collection depends on you! You are our history!

If you would like some direction or resources to help you with your contribution please contact our Archivist.

Contact Jessica Moore on archivist@brigidine.nsw.edu.au

Archives

Our Archives are founded on the stories and experiences of our community. Since 1989, our collection has grown and our history has slowly unravelled with each new addition. This year the Archives is focusing on collecting the memories of our community throughout the years as part of our recorded history program, Gentle Voices.

Past College teacher, Jill Rolleston, has been volunteering with the Archives over the last year providing the valuable service of digitising records. She has kindly contributed to Gentle Voices remembering the establishment of Chisholm Centre; below is an extract from Jill's experiences with Brigidine College.

'One of the highlights of my time at Brigidine was the establishment of The Chisholm Centre, during John Bowie's term as Principal of the College. The Centre was founded in 2000 as a support for children with special needs, established by Nola McMullen and Donna Littlewood with just three students entering Year 7; Sally Ferris, Mary Maclean and Carlie Crino. Robyn O'Bryen OAM joined the next year as the first teacher's aide.

I feel the Centre had a profound effect on the whole Brigidine community. The Chisholm Centre students were embraced by the other students, mentoring them, and demonstrating a policy of inclusiveness, both inside and outside the classroom. I remember these Chisholm students as cheerful, and sometimes, cheeky...they embraced the school curriculum, enjoyed studying basic skills and life skills. They practiced banking and shopping, and cooking... the girls ran a café for staff putting these skills to practice.' I always looked forward to this very popular event on the weekly school calendar.

Jill's recollection has become part of our archival collection, and is a valuable resource for our understanding and celebration of many aspects of our College history; the development of campus, the changes to curriculum, opportunities for learning support, and the attitudes, activities and achievements of our students. The Archives would like to thank Jill for her support both through her contribution and volunteering.



SALLY FERRIS, MARY MACLEAN AND CARLIE CRINO

AN UNCOMMON NOTE

Can we change normal?

There have been many new phrases developed during the crises of recent days, one of them being “the new normal”.

We know that so many people around the world, and in our own community, are experiencing hardship in many ways as a result of COVID-19. People are being impacted financially, emotionally and in worse case scenarios have health issues and loss of lives.

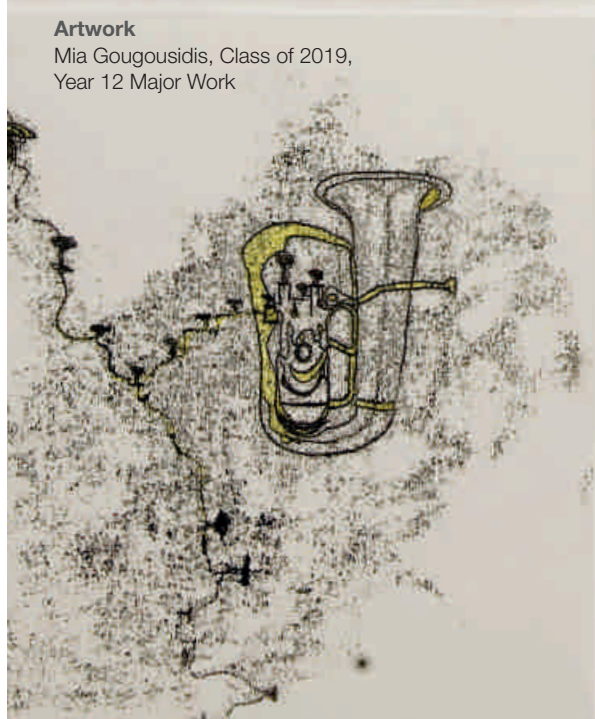
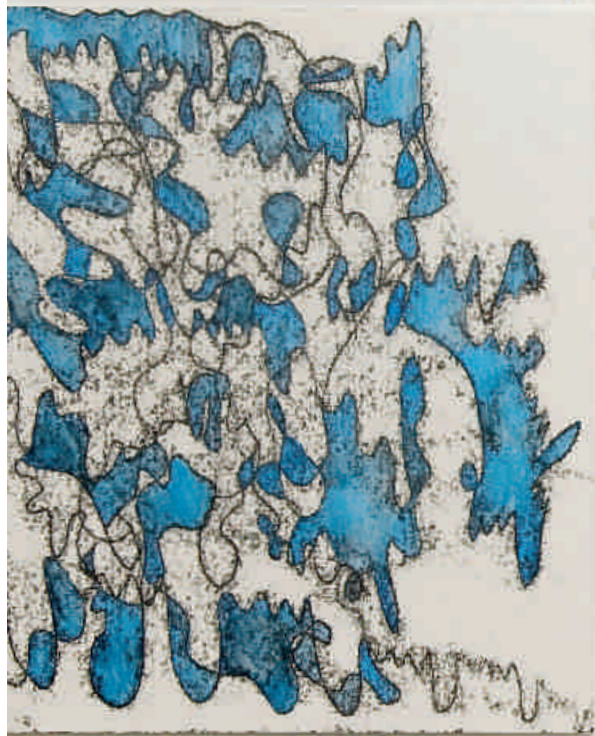
Sadly, the “new normal” means that the level of hardship caused by the pandemic has escalated across the globe. Although we know that Australia has been fortunate and the impact here has not been as great as in many other countries, we do know that loss of income is hitting hard on some of our own Brigidine families.

What should be normal at this time of year is for us to ask for your support for those in our community who are unfortunately suffering hardship. What should be normal is that there are families experiencing hardship each year. What is normal is that many in our community give what they can to our Bursary Fund to help families to provide their daughters with a safe and secure education. We are always so grateful for this support, as are the girls and their families.

This year we are not directly asking for donations to our Annual Giving Program. Instead we will draw on the gifts of the past which were directed to our Scholarships and Bursary Fund and we take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported the College during those times. Your gifts mean so much to us and to the families you are helping. Thank you all and stay safe,

Di Lawrence

**Director Development and
Community Relations**



Artwork




Mia Gougousidis, Class of 2019,
Year 12 Major Work

This year has been unique!

Thank you to those whose gifts have made it possible for us to provide a Brigidine education to girls whose families are suffering, through loss or hardship, whatever the cause. Many have given to the Scholarship and Bursary Fund in the past. Those funds are helping us to help girls today. If you can help us continue to offer this support please do so. Your gift can be given through the College website and will be greatly appreciated by us all.

brigidine.nsw.edu.au/support/annual-giving/



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