

FIFTY SEVENTH EDITION | 2021

# SOMERSET

## *lifetimes*



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### Information

**Somerset Lifetimes** is published twice a year by Somerset College to share items of topical interest relating to overall activities of College life and the greater Somerset community.

**Cover Photo:** The inaugural Avenue of Welcome for our Class of 2026 as they entered Senior School in Year 7 for 2021.

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**Contributing Writers:** Thank you to all those who contributed articles to the edition, including Craig Bassingthwaite, Anne Rowe, Alexis Butler, Sarah Cosson, John Bacon, Lisa Thomson, Michael Brohier, Peter Singh, Courtney Doyle, Charlotte Hill, Rohan Stevenson, Rebekkah Ward, Sara Carrigan, Anne Copperwaite, Victoria Reichelt and Ash Abdou

**Contributing Photographers:** Move Photography, Paul Broben, Mick Kirby.

#### Acknowledgments

Thank you to John Bacon for reviewing the edition.

To receive a printed copy of this issue, please email:  
[publications@somerset.qld.edu.au](mailto:publications@somerset.qld.edu.au)

### Somerset Alumni Association

All students become life members of the Somerset Alumni Association, founded in shared experience and comradery. The Association seeks to create, nurture, and grow positive and mutually beneficial associations within the College community.

The Association also provides all members with a copy of the College's annual *Somerset Lifetimes* publication, and works to contact our many Association members with information about upcoming events and engagement opportunities.

All College alumni can access the Association, simply visit us on any of our networks.

#### ***This network is your network, so come and join us!***

For further information regarding the Association, please contact our Community Relations Office:

<b>Instagram:</b>	@ReturnToSomerset		<a href="https://www.instagram.com/ReturnToSomerset">www.instagram.com/ReturnToSomerset</a>
<b>Facebook:</b>	/ReturnToSomerset		<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ReturnToSomerset">www.facebook.com/ReturnToSomerset</a>
<b>Linkedin:</b>	/in/ReturnToSomerset		<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/ReturnToSomerset">www.linkedin.com/in/ReturnToSomerset</a>
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# FROM THE *Headmaster*

*Craig Basingthwaighte*

Headmaster

We warmly welcomed new and returning families at the start of 2021. In the first week of the year, we had 209 new students, 151 in the Junior School and 58 in the Senior School, begin their journey at the College and we certainly hope theirs will be as rewarding as ours. We started the year with a record enrolment of 1,594 from Pre-Prep to Year 12. On behalf of the College Board, I thank the community for its continuing support of Somerset, now in our 39<sup>th</sup> year.

We welcomed several new staff for 2021, including Mr Nicholas Brice our Deputy Headmaster and our alumni Mr Ben Goodall (Class of 2004), Mr Mick Hall (Class of 1991) and Mr Luke Mason (Class of 2017).



*Mr Craig Basingthwaighte  
Headmaster of Somerset College,  
now in its 39<sup>th</sup> year.*

## CLASS OF 2020 ACADEMIC RESULTS

Congratulations to the Class of 2020, the ATAR edition!

After such a tumultuous 2020, we were delighted to receive the results of the inaugural ATAR cohort.

There were many highlights but what is very obvious is the endeavour of the students, the skill and expertise of their teachers, the leadership and gentle guidance of the Dean of Studies, Mrs Karen Crowley, the responsiveness and creativity of the College Leadership Team, and the patience and support of their families, have combined to produce a stellar set of results.

We congratulate all our students who completed their Queensland Certificate of Education including the Business Diploma. It is no mean effort to run the race and finish; perseverance and discipline that will set our students for life.

One of our students, Jacinta Mai, the Academic Captain, received the highest possible score, 99.95, one of only 30 students across the state.

Another 11 students received a score of 98.85 or above which is the rough equivalent of the old OP 1. At 12 per cent of the cohort, it is probably our best ever result.

We had 55 students, 56 per cent of the cohort, received a score of 90+. Our median score of 91.2, roughly an equivalent OP 5, is equal to our best ever result. In the middle of a pandemic, as the first group to go through this unknown system! Truly we dip our lids to this achievement.

Georgina Powell, College Captain, topped the state in English and Music with perfect scores of 100 as did Chester Whiting, Starkey House Captain, in Philosophy and Reason.



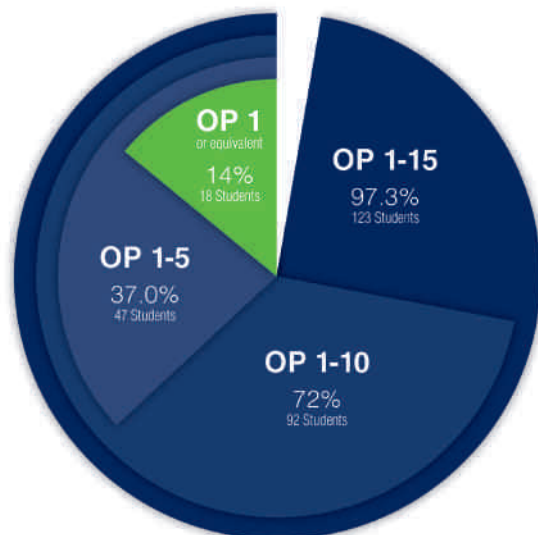
*Jacinta Mai (Class  
of 2020) received  
the highest  
possible score in  
Queensland, 99.95,  
one of just 30 in  
the state to achieve  
this score.*



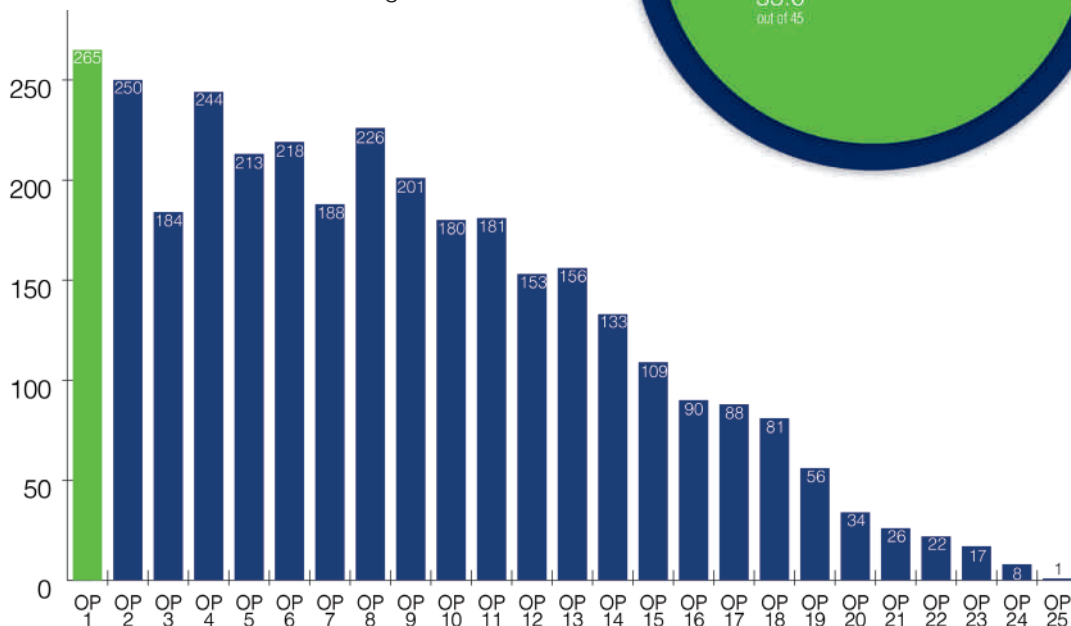
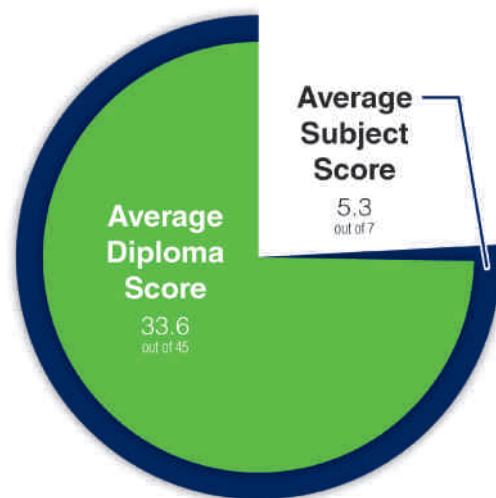
# FROM THE *Headmaster*



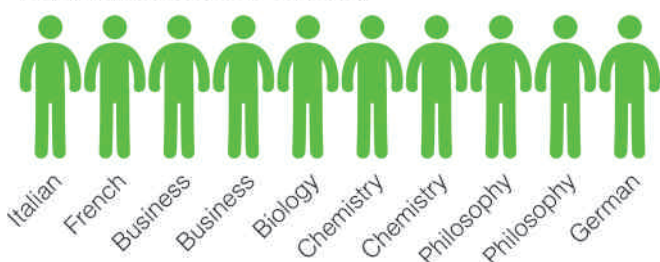
*James Guy (Class of 2020) successfully balanced his sport with Year 12, earning an ATAR of 99.65 while playing senior grade cricket.*



To show the breadth of our students and their interests, Sports Captain, James Guy, received an ATAR score of 99.65 and then proceeded to score his first ton, 105 not out, in senior grade cricket on the Gold Coast. Knowing



#### 10 Merits (a score of 7 out of 7)



James, it will be obvious what brought the greatest joy last Saturday.

At Somerset, we continue to have the vast majority of our students ATAR eligible or enrolled in the IB Diploma, 98%+. You will see results from other schools in the media but until we know the rates of eligibility within cohorts, it is impossible to compare these results. Some schools last year reported eligibility of less than 10%, making them statistically anomalous.

Our International Baccalaureate Diploma students achieved the following results:

- 3 of the 15 IBDP students obtained the equivalent of an ATAR or above of 98.85, bringing our OP1 equivalents to 13.2%
- 7 students out of 15 scored more than 94 ATAR (36+/45 IB score)

On 27 January 2009, 20 of the current Seniors had their first day at Somerset ... and so did the new Headmaster.

#### 11 Students Received **OP 1**



#### 16 Students Completed **IB Diploma**



I thank them for their friendship and help in walking these past 13 years with me. Goodness knows, they deserve a medal! I was delighted to acknowledge them on the first day of their Senior Year, coincidentally 27 January 2021!

After more than 16 years of outstanding leadership and service, Mrs Karen Crowley will retire as Dean of Studies after taking long service leave in Term Three, 2021. During those 16 years Mrs Crowley has served Somerset on two different occasions; from July 1995 to December 2001 teaching in the Senior School before becoming Head of House – Franklin; and since 2012 as Academic Counsellor and Dean of Studies.

Mrs Crowley has achieved magnificent outcomes for our Senior Classes and guided our transition from the OP to the QCE achieving enormous success in both. She has been a wonderful and spirited member of the College Leadership Team. I am sure that you will join with me in wishing Mrs Crowley and Mr Crowley all the best as Mrs Crowley transitions to a well-deserved retirement. Year 7 Orientation Day 2021



*Mrs Karen Crowley pictured here with James Guy (left) and Eliza Folliott (right), is retiring after 16 years at the College. Mrs Crowley began as a teacher in the Senior School before becoming Head of House - Franklin, Academic Counsellor but leaves us after her tenor as Dean of Studies.*

# STARTING IN THE SENIOR School

**The transition from Junior to Senior school is a significant time of change. At Somerset College we recognise this, and we strive to make this transition as smooth as possible.**

The impact of COVID-19 on our 2020 end of year activities meant that we needed to rethink our 2021 Year 7 Orientation Day and ensure we addressed key concerns the students may have as they navigate the various academic and social challenges ahead.

Several different activities and resources were trialled to help the new Year 7s to feel at home in the Senior School and to build their relationships with each other and their teachers.

One of the main highlights of our 2021 Orientation Day was the inaugural Avenue of Welcome, where the Class of 2026 were welcomed to the Senior School by their teachers, parents and the Class of 2021.

Following are some statements from the Year 7 students featured on the cover of this edition of *Somerset Lifetimes*, Alexis Butler and Sarah Cosson.

*Anne Rowe*  
Year 7 Co-ordinator

On Orientation Day, I could not have felt more grateful to be walking through the Avenue of Welcome, tall and proud and to be continuing as a student at Somerset College. And...waiting at the end of it was a bag of lollies for each of us!

The day really helped us to get to know the new students and the teachers. We also met the Year 12s and received our lockers and planners.

Then before we knew it, in Week 3 Year 7 camp was on. By Week 4, we were feeling like experts at Senior School. Overall, I don't think that there could have been a better way of being welcomed to the Senior School!

*Alexis Butler*

Year 7 Starkey



Senior students meeting the newest members of the Senior School on the inaugural Avenue of Welcome



Mrs Rowe instructing the Class of 2026 on Orientation Day, 2021





*Alexis and Sarah being greeted by parents and teachers in the inaugural Avenue of Welcome*

It was an honour to be taking our first steps into the Senior School. As we walked down the Avenue of Welcome, the teachers, parents and Year 12s looked at us with pride and could see the potential for our future. To make us feel even more welcome, our teachers introduced us to all the perks of Year 7: the ping pong tables, the orange lockers and our wonderful classrooms.

Over 30 Year 7s were new to Somerset this year, and a good way to recognise everyone's Houses was a Tug-o War! We cheered everyone on with our Spartan Spirit, because even if you didn't win, you had fun participating.

Everyone changes throughout their lives and the biggest change is 'growing up'. We got to record some information for a time capsule. We were given a booklet and we wrote down some strange information, like the size of our hands and feet and our arm span. At the end of the year, we'll be able to see how much we've grown.

*Sarah Cosson*

Year 7 Franklin



*Year 7s on camp on Mount Tamborine*



# STARTING IN THE JUNIOR *School*

**This year Somerset College introduced a new class, responding to increasing demand and relieving some families on our ever growing wait list.**

Somerset added an additional Year 3 class for 2021, joining the Year 4 intake.

To welcome the two new classes, the Year 3s and 4s enjoyed a first day ahead of the Junior School. Along with meeting new teachers and friends in the classroom, students enjoyed games on Wyangan Oval.

*John Bacon*

Dean of Admissions







## SOMERSET STREAM

**As part of our communication strategy for 2021 and beyond, we continue our commitment to communicating with our community about our events and the Somerset Experience, in relevant and meaningful ways. In 2020 we adapted to an unpredictable environment which led to a range of new and innovative ways to communicate to our community, in addition to our existing platforms. Now in 2021 we will continue to build on these successes.**

At the end of 2020, a range of parents participated in a Communication Survey that provided us with valuable feedback. Overwhelmingly the feedback was positive and especially endorsed new directions in 2020 such as the live-streaming of signature College events and our introduction of the *Spartan Stream*, our first foray in news on all things sport in a video format. In 2021, we remain committed to continuing to live-stream key events and allowing parents and extended family to share in these events.

*Spartan Stream* was created with the ultimate aim, if successful, of launching Somerset Stream. In 2021, we'll move to Somerset Stream and *Spartan Stream* being produced on alternating weeks.

Our feedback on the *Somerset Times* was very positive and *Somerset Times* will still continue on the alternate week to *Somerset Stream*, as a valuable source of College news.

Moving to a video format allows us to incorporate more of a dialogue about College life, help to put faces to names, whilst also capturing and sharing dynamic content of key events.

Both our *Somerset Stream* and *Spartan Stream* are inherently focused on our student voice, with a wide range of roles from hosting, reporting and behind the camera production work. We are excited about the opportunities for our students, who range in ages from all year levels across the College, to share. We hope that you will keep a look out for the *Somerset Stream* and *Spartan Stream* on a Friday afternoon.

We also look to use our College Instagram this year in a more targeted way to share the Somerset Experience. Every week, our students are involved in an amazing range of activities, both inside and outside the classroom. Our aim is for different student groups and year levels to have the opportunity to be guest 'hosts' for the week on our Instagram and bring their passions, successes and outreach to the wider community.

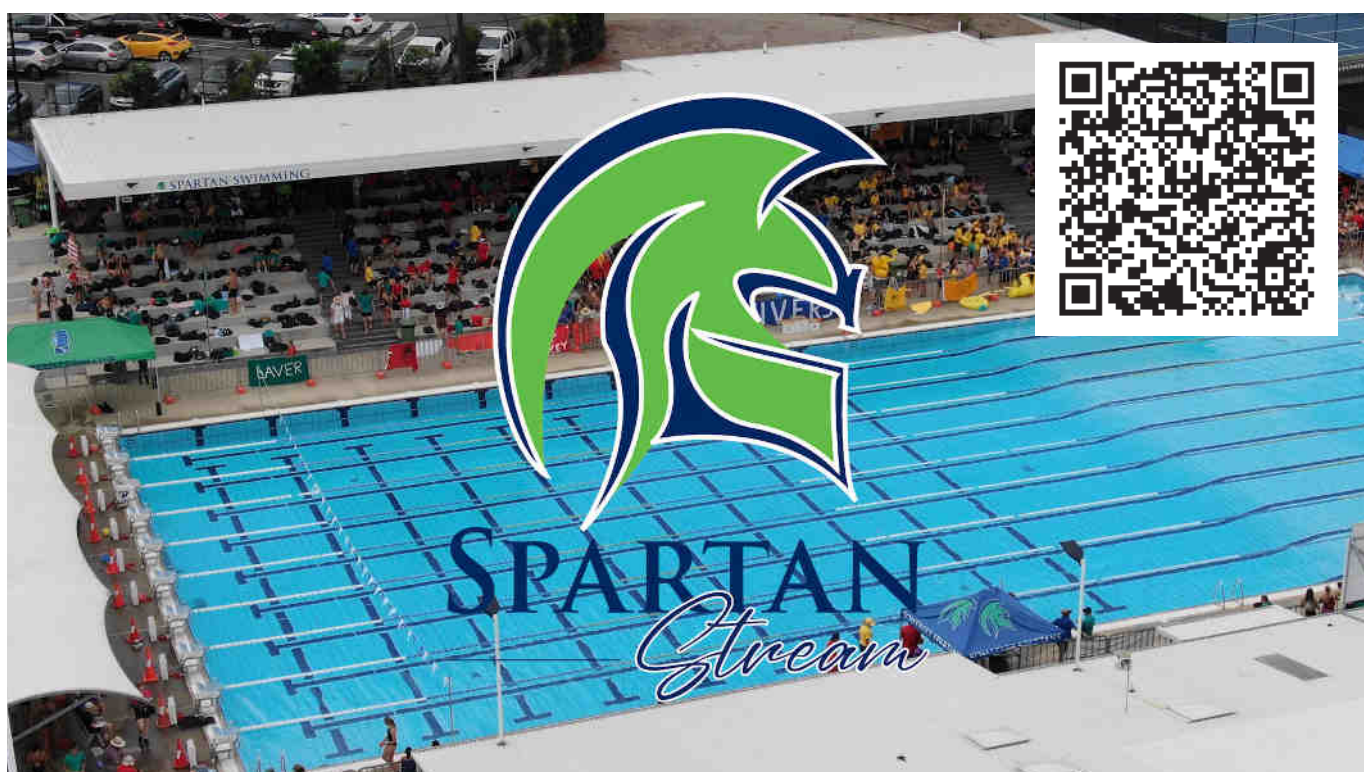
Our College life continues to be vibrant at all year levels and in so many ways. We look forward to sharing more of these experiences with you in 2021.

*Lisa Thomson*

Dean of Information Technologies and Communication

**To view episodes of our Streams, click the QR codes on the right hand side of the page.**







2021

# Storyfest

## STORYFEST RETURNS

**The 2021 Storyfest programme had something for everyone. An authentic literary event to delight, educate, inspire and, on occasion, confront, leaving its audiences re-evaluating societal norms and conventions.**

Storyfest 2021, did just that. In the year following the overwhelming sadness and tumult of 2020, this literary festival of ideas and creativity was more important than ever, even as we aimed to inspire and create hope; antidotes to the past year. The breadth of writers, dramatists, illustrators and creative artists, delighted and educated young readers (and adults), inspiring them to read fiction, venture into writing in all its forms, and in the process improve their life literacy.

The ABC's dynamic and thought-provoking Matt Beard and Carl Smith threw ethical conundrums to young people to problem solve, through their 'Short and Curly' shows. Writing workshops, Master Classes in writing and dynamic and topical drama, rounded off the festival of words and ideas.

The festival also catered to adults through writing workshops, external 'In Conversation' sessions, the Literary Lunch with Walkley Award winner, Jess Hill and the Literary Dinner with acclaimed author of adult fantasy and historical adventure-romances Fiona McIntosh. Fiona's most recent novel, *The Champagne War* (October 2020) and her newest (long anticipated) crime

fiction novel, *Mirror Man*, (June 2021) represent the latest and the future, in a long line of literary successes.

I was immensely privileged to be part of Storyfest and encourage the Gold Coast community to find the time to visit and be delighted by what was on offer at the Coast's most respected and inclusive literary event.

*Michael Brohier*

Artistic Director - Somerset Storyfest





# JUNIOR SCHOOL Musical

## ROCK BOTTOM

**This year the Junior School of Somerset College took it back to the stone age with the production of *Rock Bottom*.**

The Cobblestones, just an ordinary Stone Age family of cave folk living on Stoney Street, Rock Bottom! But when cave boy inventor Bobby Cobblestone hatches his very first good idea, he's whisked off to work for none other than the beautiful celebrity Lady Lava! Unfortunately, BC is soon up to his

neanderthal neck in trouble when he discovers his new boss hides a dark secret that will rock Rock Bottom to its foundations. With mysterious monsters terrorising the town and a volatile volcano ready to blow its top, can BC become a little boulder and hatch a plan to save his family, his friends and his very own precious Rock Bottom? Only time will tell...

A cast of crazy cave folk join in the neolithic naughtiness, not to mention a flock of prehistoric birds, two dippy dinosaurs, a vacuum-cleaning mammoth and a sabre-tooth tiger called Tiddles! With eight toe-tapping songs to get you rocking like a rolling stone and a puntastic script as sharp as a flint, one thing's for sure - the Stone Age rocks!







# Students GLOBALLY SHORT-LISTED

## STUDENTS SHORTED-LISTED IN GLOBAL ESSAY COMPETITION

**Soumia Lamont and Giulia Provenzano (Year 12) have been short-listed in the John Locke Institute Global Essay Competition, held by the University of Oxford.**

The competition is highly competitive, with some 4,000 submissions from 101 countries. The categories have set questions and include History, Politics, Philosophy, Economics, Psychology, and Theology. There is also a Junior category for younger students. The John Locke Institute website has the details. (<https://www.johnlockeinstitute.com/essay-competition>)

The John Locke Institute Global Essay Competition is highly prestigious. Students who receive a 'Commendation' are encouraged to include that award when they submit their university applications, and when applying for a scholarship, a job or an internship.

This is only the second year that a Somerset student has entered the competition. Last year, Clare Hong (Class of 2020) wrote a Philosophy essay and was awarded a 'High Commendation', placing her in the top five percent.

In the 2021 competition, Soumia addressed the Law question on the problem of the presumption of innocence and public censure. Soumia interpreted the problem as one of jurisprudence and an ethical dilemma, which matched her studies in

the subject of Philosophy & Reason.

Giulia's essay was an introspection on moral philosophy and delved into whether one ought to ascribe to hedonistic act utilitarianism, as proposed by Jeremy Bentham, or Immanuel Kant's deontological ethics.

Oxford University announced that Soumia's and Giulia's essays were among the 400 short-listed submissions. This means their essays are in the top 10% and will be awarded some form of commendation. The short-listing also means the following.

- The essays will be further assessed and is eligible for either a prize or a high commendation.
- The student is eligible for a £500 scholarship for Oxford University's prestigious Humanities Conference at Radley College, in Oxford, this August.
- The short-listed student is invited to Annual Awards Ceremony & Gala Dinner, at which the prize winners will be announced. This will be held in Oxford University in September.
- The grand-prize winner receives a \$10,000 USD scholarship to attend one or more of the John Locke Institute's summer schools or gap-year programmes, held at Oxford University.

*Peter Ginch*  
Senior Teacher - Philosophy



*Essays from Soumia and Giulia can be read on Schoolbox at the Dead Philosophers Club's library of amazing essays.*



*Hear Soumia and Giulia discuss their essays on Somerset Stream.*



*"My essay was based on whether the idea of a person being innocent until proven guilty should apply in public censure. I used the idea of having a baby milk formula brand potentially having arsenic in their formula and whether supermarkets should tell their customers that this could possibly be a case even if it would damage the company's reputation. So, whether it would be a utilitarian or deontological solution".*

*Gounia Lamont*  
Year 12, Laver



*"It's really interesting how many different ways there are to look at morality and it's really a personal decision or choice. It's almost unconscious, we never really think, 'oh yes, this is the theory I align with,' and yet so many people align with different theories unknowingly and that's really fascinating."*

*Giulia Provenzano*  
Year 12, Laver

	<p><i>Gounia Lamont</i> TOP QUARTILE - LAW QUESTION 1 Should 'innocent until proven guilty' apply not only to courts of law, but also to public censure?</p>
	<p><i>Giulia Provenzano</i> TOP QUARTILE - PHILOSOPHY QUESTION 3 Are you more moral than most people you know? How do you know? Should you strive to be more moral? Why or why not?</p>



# Flourish

## SOMERSET WOMEN'S NETWORK

***Flourish: Somerset Women's Network is guided by the notion that our students are at the centre of all we do. Striving for continuous improvements, we partner with career professionals within the Somerset community to enhance engagement and learning opportunities for our students***

(Flourish Charter)

**The inaugural Flourish, a Somerset College initiative providing a platform for young women preparing to embark on their career journey, launched earlier this year.**

Parents' and Friends' Association President, Justine Cirocco spearheaded the event, hosting a breakfast and welcoming a panel of career-driven women to the Terry Herbert Foyer.

Suzy Costello (Class of 2003) led the panel about her career path in law and said there is great value in networking with a community of people who are potentially leading a life of young women's dreams.

"It's a fantastic initiative and something I wish I had when I was in school," she said.

Petra Warwick experienced a male-dominated field during her career in engineering. "It was important to share my story with the girls about all the opportunities that are out there and give them an insight into what it's like when you finish Year 12 and choose a path, there's options still for many years to come."

Andrea Lewis was insightful with details about her career path before Somerset, as a parent of the College and now as Event Manager and CEO/Festival Director of Somerset Storyfest.

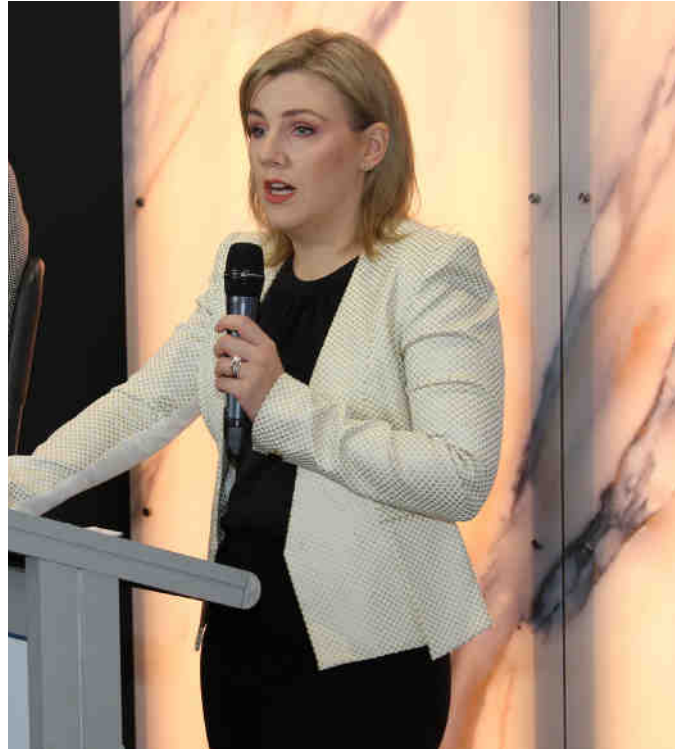
Student attendees said they were impressed with the women proving a success for the first time event.

*Parents' and Friends' Association*  
Somerset College



Watch on Somerset Stream!





*Flourish panelists (clockwise from top left), Petra Warwick (current parent), Suzy Costello (Somerset alumni and current parent), Andrea Lewis (Somerset College Events Manager) and inaugural host Justine Cirocco (P&F President)*



# CELEBRATION OF *Mothers*

As a tribute to mothers of the Somerset College community, our Parents' and Friends' Association hosted an exquisite lunch in the Great Hall, Friday 18 June.







# NEW Staff



*Courtney Doyle*

Teacher - Junior School (Year 1)

I grew up on the Gold Coast and completed my Bachelor of Education at Griffith University.

Previously to Somerset College, I taught Year 3 and Prep at St Hilda's School. Prior to that, I taught in Sydney for two years.

As a teacher, I have a passion for reading, STEAM challenges and implementing engaging lessons based on student interest. I am excited to be teaching at Somerset College and inspire students to become lifelong learners.

Since buying our house, I have become an enthusiastic renovator, spending many weekends building, painting and gardening. When I'm not renovating, I enjoy spending time out on the water and with my adorable and mischievous mini Spoodle called Merlot!



*Charlotte Hill*

Teacher - Senior School (P.E.)

I grew up in country Victoria and moved to Bendigo to complete my teaching degree at La Trobe University.

Since finishing my degree, I spent several years travelling the world and exploring new places. My most memorable trips would be riding a horse through Mongolia and volunteering with the wildlife in Namibia.

Growing up I always enjoyed anything outdoors, whether it be camping, hiking, kayaking or spending time with my horses. This love for the outdoors is what lead me to study Physical and Outdoor Education at University.

I moved to the Gold Coast five years ago with the expectation of only staying for six months! I am happy to now call the Gold Coast home.



*Rohan Stevenson*

Head Coach - Basketball

Born in Newcastle, New South Wales I have been coaching and playing basketball professionally for two decades.

I have a FIBA coaching certificate and Masters in Sports Coaching and Education through the University of Sydney.

I have been Head Coach, Director of Basketball and Development Manager in Newcastle, Brisbane, South Australia as well as Easton Pennsylvania before settling on the Gold Coast.

In 2017 I won a NBL 1 championship as an assistant with the Mount Gambier Pioneers. I am currently Assistant Coach with the Logan Thunder NBL 1 men's program as well as Head of Basketball at Somerset College.

I love coaching and teaching basketball, helping students obtain scholarships as well as promoting the growth of the Somerset programme. .



*Rebekah Ward*

Teacher - Senior School (English)

Prior to moving to Queensland this year, I had been living in Coffs Harbour where I taught a range of classes from Prep to Year 12.

I completed my tertiary studies with a Bachelor of Education, Diploma of Modern Languages (majoring in Indonesian) and a Master of Educational Leadership.

I was also heavily involved in the music community, playing piano and singing in local choirs and at friends' weddings.



# Staff

## UPDATES

### BABIES

*Lucy Spudic*

Mila O'Sullivan born Saturday 13 March 2021 at 12.23pm, weighing 3.755kg and measuring 57cm in length.



*Marie Roger-Morel  
and  
Steve Firmstone*

On Thursday 25 March at 8.30am Marie and Steve welcomed Mila Jeanne Firmstone. She was 51cm long and weighed 3.3kg.

Oscar and Charlie are proud and caring big brothers and were very excited to give Mila her first bath.



VOLUME 4, 2021

THE *Alumni* CHAPTER





# HALL OF FAME

*Sara Carrigan* OAM

Class of 1998

## SPORTING SUCCESS

**Somerset College Alumna Sara Carrigan has received several honours marking her sporting success but most recently has been inducted into Griffith University's inaugural Sporting Hall of Fame.**

Sara graduated from Griffith University in 2010 with a Bachelor of Business majoring in Real Estate & Property Development and was awarded Academic Excellence top 5% of students.

"I was very honoured to be inducted into the Griffith Sporting Hall of Fame."

Sara says she's grateful to the University who allowed her the flexibility to combine her studies and her

overseas training with her full racing schedule.

Along with her induction into Griffith's Hall of Fame, Sara's greatest successes include winning the Gold Medal and being crowned Olympic Games Champion in the 130 kilometre Road Race at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games medallist, two-time National Champion, World Cup winner, 12-time Australian Championship medallist, Australian representative at eight World Championships, two Olympic Games (2004 and 2008) and two Commonwealth Games (2002 and 2006), three-time Australian Female Road Cyclist of the Year (2002, 2003 and 2004), receiving the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the 2005 Australia Day Honours List and Sara Carrigan Court at Somerset College, named in her honour.

Now a mother of two, Sara balances family life with many other activities. The former Somerset student says she has thoroughly enjoyed being involved in the College, since returning to Somerset as a parent of a second generation student. Daughter Bobbi is in Prep at Somerset.



Photo sourced from Griffith University

Griffith's inaugural Sporting Hall of Fame inductees. L-R Marty Mayberry, Angie Lambert OAM, Robert Newbery, Duncan Free OAM, Naomi McCarthy OAM, Brad Clarke and Sara Carrigan OAM



"It has been super welcoming, super exciting. I can't believe it's been quite a few years since I was here but I am loving the community spirit so far."

Sara is one of Australia's most dedicated and passionate advocates of cycling. After 10 years of elite competition, Sara retired from professional sport in December 2008, following the Beijing Olympic Games. A few months later, she founded Sara Carrigan Cycling, providing coaching clinics to recreational riders in a friendly, fun and safe environment to deliver courses, group rides and safety sessions for all levels of ability.

Sara will be a guest entrepreneur at this year's Celebration of Entrepreneurship held at Somerset College in September.

For more information visit:

<https://www.somerset.qld.edu.au/celebration-of-entrepreneurship>



See the story about Sara on Spartan Stream



*Sara with daughter Bobbi in Prep*





# THE PRE-SCHOOL OF

# Rock

## ALUMNA RETURNS TO ROCK WHERE HER NIECE NOW PLAYS

**The 1994 Foundation Preps of planted a native garden to celebrate the first year of Pre-school education at Somerset College. When 1995 arrived, the Preps had a great idea, 'Let's add a HUGE Rock to the garden. A place to play, sit, chat and read.'**

Pre-schoolers are fabulous problem solvers. Finding a HUGE Rock was a challenge but we solved the problem when pre-schooler, Jamie McIntosh shared that his dad had lots of rocks at work!

Richard, Jamie's dad was involved in the development of Robina Town Centre at the time and was happy to organise a rock. Mrs Anne Copperwaite went exploring and found the perfect one.

Now the group was presented with another problem. 'How do we bring the Rock to Somerset?'

Brittany Lindores was a Prep during that year. Her father Greg Lindores began chatting with Jamie's dad, Richard at the Prep Father's Night.

The problem was solved that evening, when Richard revealed he owned a crane company. The mission to crane the huge rock from its location in Robina to the grounds of Prep in Somerset College was completed. The story made the news, printed in the local paper with a photo of the family (excerpts shown on right page).

The 1995 Prep Rock can still be found in the garden of Somerset's Pre-Prep area. Since then, it has been enjoyed by so many Somerset children.

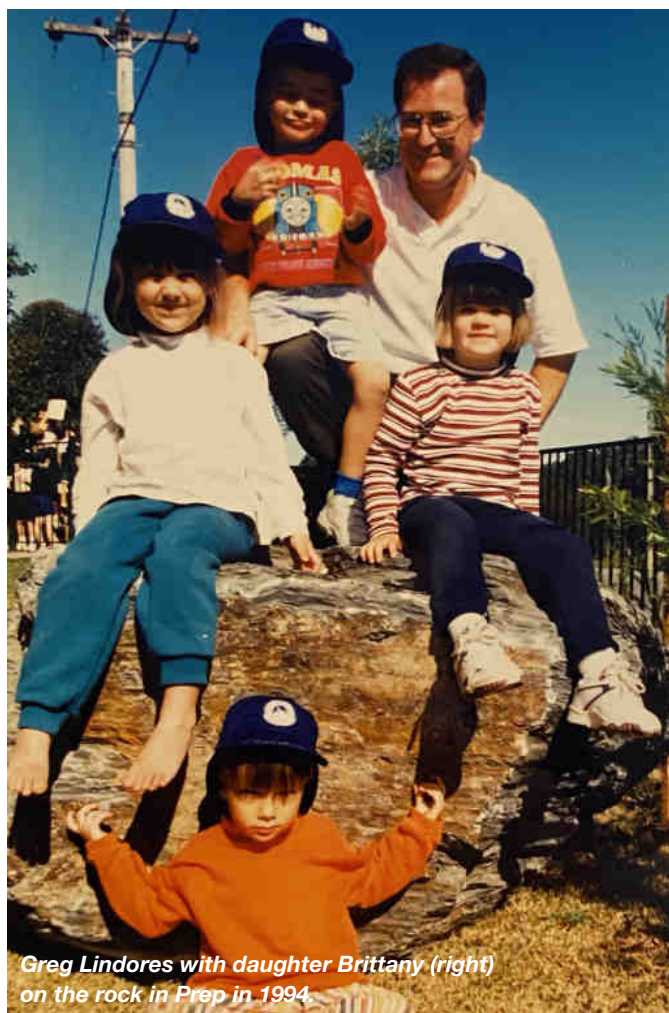
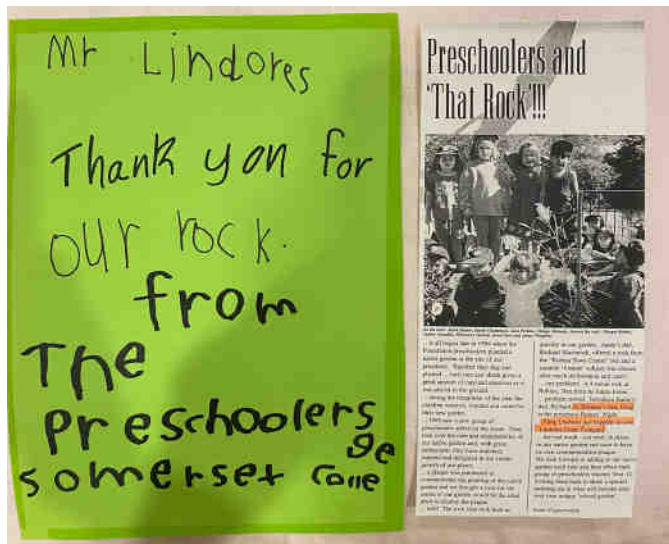
It is now 2021 and Eva, the granddaughter of Greg and niece of Brittany is enrolled in Pre-Prep. How special this is for the Lindores family and our Somerset community.

*Anne Copperwaite*

Former Teacher - Somerset College



*The Lindores family now with second generation student Eva (third from left), the niece of Brittany Lindores (right).*





# ALUMNI *Updates*

## ENGAGEMENTS

*Abigail Spanner*

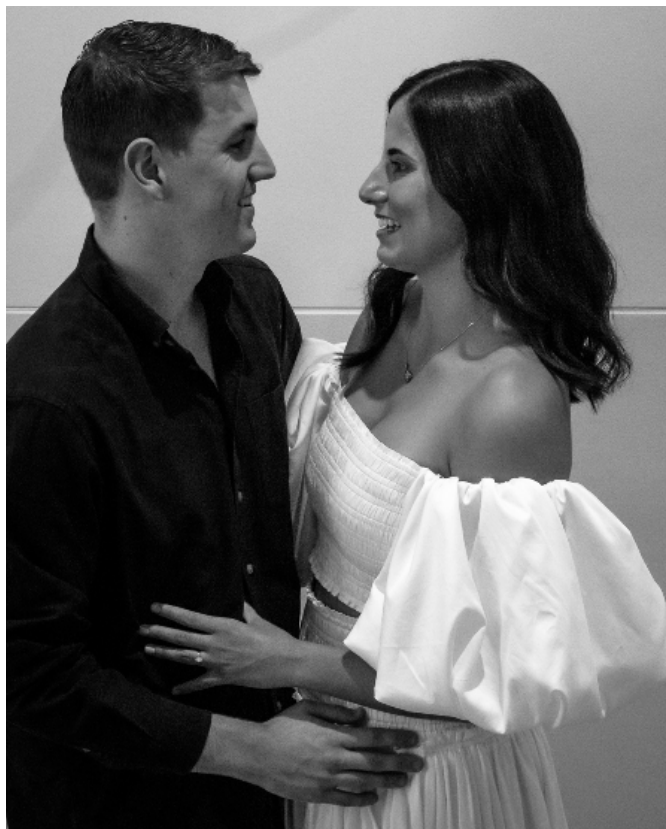
Class of 2014

*and*

*Robert Cary*

Class of 2013

Abigail and Robert celebrated their engagement Saturday 22 May, 2021.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

*Carter Jensen*

Class of 2016

*"Four years ago I embarked on a journey that would take me halfway around the world, from Australia to Iowa. I entered as a boy seeking to leave a legacy and fulfill my potential. I leave now as a confident young man, knowing that I am prepared to take on the world before me."*



*Nachiket Shah*

CLASS OF 2016

UC Berkeley School of Economics

2021 admitted into graduate fellowship PHD Economics



# ALUMNI – A FEW YEARS DOWN THE

# Track

*Victoria Reichelt*

Class of 1996

***What are some of your fondest memories of your time at Somerset?***

Somerset offered amazing opportunities through sport and academics to really help narrow down my field of study. Being driven toward sport, I strive in many sporting events, particularly Tennis. I also enjoyed spending time with Junior School students, in my Senior years.

***How did Somerset shape your career path?***

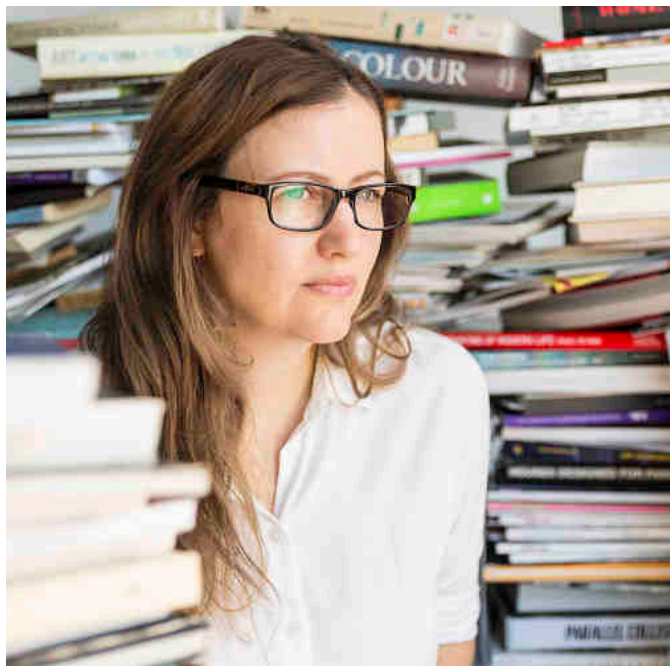
I was keen on visual arts from an early age and was nurtured and inspired by my wonderful art teachers Mr (Ross) Keefer and Mrs (Nanette) Bidmead. I feel like the English teachers I had, like Mr (Andrew) Stark, also helped me enormously especially when I ended up having to write a lot while completing my Doctorate at Griffith University.

***How do you spend a working day?***

Before I had my kids (Edward 6, Henry 4 and Caroline 1), I used to paint all day but now I parent and then paint when I get any spare time and sometimes at night. Painting has been my full time job since I graduated from university and it's been a really professionally and personally rewarding career.

***Who are the people who inspire you?***

People making a living in the arts inspire me, people who choose the difficult path of freelancing - writers, artists, musicians, actors - they are so important to society and how we think



about and frame our lives. They help to contextualise the highs and the lows and yet are often under appreciated.

***What advice would you offer current students?***

To follow the path you want to, even though you might not know where it will lead.







*Victoria returned to Somerset College this semester to mentor art students of her former teacher, Ross Keefer.*



*After (books)*



*La Mere (after Elizabeth Nourse)*

*Ash Abdou*

Class of 1995



**Returning to Somerset was a moment of acute reflection on building on the collective narrative of an organisation that I had contributed to in the opening chapters. In my first week, clearing out the files from the Head of Department's office, I stumbled across my old Maths 1 and 2 textbooks. Momentarily, I found myself transported to the late '80s, by the waking memory of sitting in the sweltering heat of a demountable classroom. It was Period 5 Maths, with Mr Luxton.**

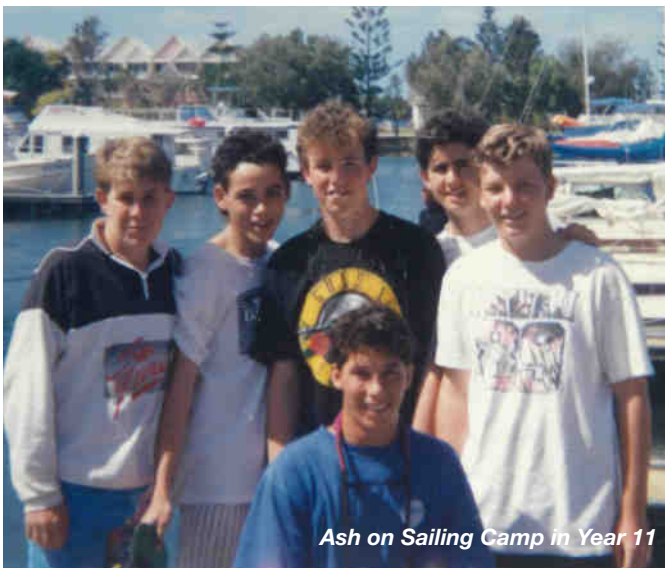
I am currently in my sixth year as the Head of Department – Mathematics. In 2016, I was employed to help lead the Department through the transition to the new Queensland Senior Syllabus. My previous experience with the ATAR system helped with implementing

new structures and preparing for external assessment. Prior to my current role, I was leading the Middle Years at St Michael's Grammar School in St Kilda, Melbourne. In the 10 years working at St Michael's, I held a number of leadership positions which provided me with the opportunity to lead and manage a diverse range of teams across primary and secondary schools. My experience over the years within various schools has provided me with many opportunities. My responsibilities have ranged from timetabling, to directing musicals; from interviewing prospective students, to coaching football; and from teaching Shakespeare in the middle years, to calculus in the senior years.

Upon graduating from Somerset, I studied engineering at Griffith University on the Gold Coast and subsequently at the University of Southern Queensland. After moving to Melbourne in the mid-90s, I completed a Bachelor of Performing Arts (Theatre Performance) at the Ballarat Academy of Performing Arts and worked in the film, television and theatre industry for a number of years. Next was a Graduate Diploma in Education at the University of Melbourne. As a student at Somerset, I will be honest and admit that I never imagined myself as a teacher; however, teaching is one of the few professions that has allowed me to combine my experience in Performing Arts with Mathematics. In 2011, I completed my Masters in Educational Leadership, also at the University of Melbourne and in 2016, my family and I relocated back to the Gold Coast.

As a student of Somerset, I was an Andrews House Prefect and I was fortunate to have developed positive relationships with many of my teachers. Most memorable were those who seemed to have endless patience and an unfailing sense of humour, like my House tutor Nanette Bidmead and my Maths 2 teacher, Rob Mulder. I remember the College Chaplain, Peter Lawrence, lending me his gold Ford Laser when he went on leave in return for taking care of his dog. I have fond memories of driving the College Chaplain's car to school in Year 12 and parking next to the Headmaster, Dr Arnison! During this time, I started each day with a friendly greeting to the Deputy Head, Mrs Gallus in the staff car park. It was

somewhat ironic that 28 years later, I found myself back at Somerset, greeting Bev Gallus each morning in the Head of Department's office as my colleague. I recall on the Year 11 Sailing camp; the students were entrusted to sail on their own boats, while the teachers had theirs. Whether it was Archery with Craig Sayer, cricket at lunchtime with Ross Keefer, or rugby with Kevin Ryan, the many positive student teacher relationships stay with me years after graduating.



*Ash on Sailing Camp in Year 11*

In teaching at Somerset, I am continually reminded about the qualities that I found most valuable as a student. What makes Somerset special is our capacity to acknowledge each student's particular strengths, talents and abilities and provide them with opportunities to engage in learning and develop as individuals. Collectively, all staff at the College assist students to build positive and respectful relationships with their peers and teachers.

Returning to Somerset after so many years, you can't help but notice the exceptional facilities and stunning architecture. There was no Great Hall, Ray Building, Fitness Centre, Athletics track, pool or Performing Arts centre when I attended Somerset. The College landscape has changed dramatically and the countryside surrounding the campus has undergone significant urban development.

As a teacher at Somerset, my aim is to ensure that students are imbued with all the skills, values and attributes that will enable them to achieve success in their learning. I also want my students to be able to experience the positive, authentic and inter-personal moments that made being a student at Somerset, such a memorable experience.







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