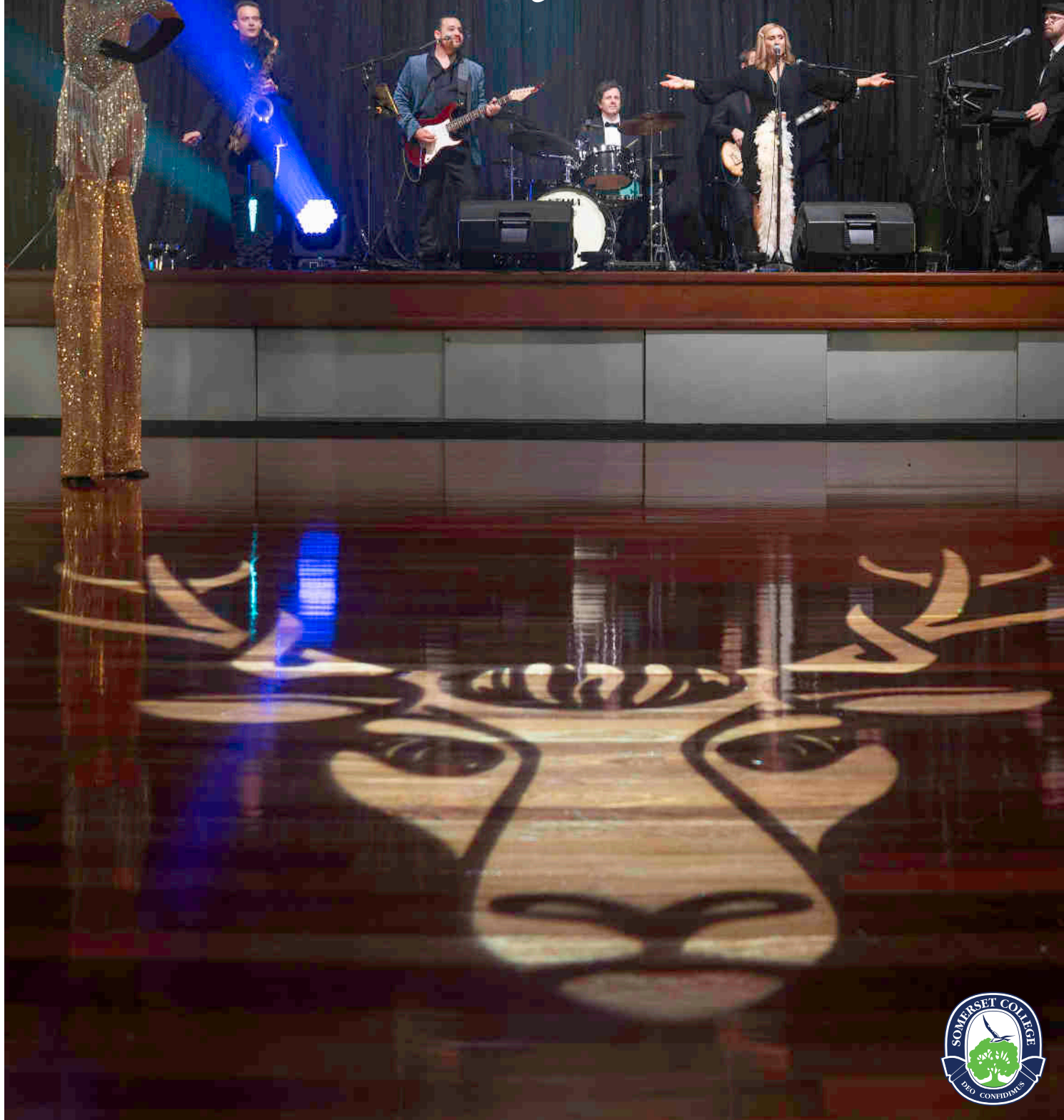


FIFTY EIGHTH EDITION | 2022

SOMERSET

lifetimes



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Information

Somerset Lifetimes is published once 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: Our Great Hall ignited with sparkle and style when yesteryear met contemporary in July. After a forced two year break the Somerset Alumni Association hosted its annual Return to Somerset Gala. The theme, The Great Gatsby.

Editor: Narelle Higgs

Assistant Editors: Grant Peel

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Contributing Writers: Thank you to all those who contributed articles to the edition, including Craig Bassingthwaite, Samantha Cardone, Graeme Gardiner, Luisa Navanteri, Grant Peel, Lily Peters, Nick Richards, Peter Singh, Anna Thomas.

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

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:

Instagram: @ReturnToSomerset | www.instagram.com/ReturnToSomerset

Facebook: /ReturnToSomerset | www.facebook.com/ReturnToSomerset

Linkedin: /in/ReturnToSomerset | www.linkedin.com/in/ReturnToSomerset

Email: connect@returntosomerset.com.au

Phone: 07 5559 7100

Mail: Community Relations Office
Somerset College
Somerset Drive
Mudgeeraba Qld 4213



FROM THE *Headmaster*

CLASS OF 2021 ACADEMIC RESULTS

ATAR RESULTS

In the second year of the new QCE system, the first with the full suite of assessments, and in the midst of all the COVID disruptions, the students have shown their fortitude and expertise.

- Our College Dux and Academic Captain, Roy Hsu, achieved the highest possible score, 99.95, one of only 32 students across the state.
- 12.3% of the Year 12 cohort achieved an ATAR of 99 or above, placing them in the top 1% of the state; that will mean the most common score for Somerset will continue to be the equivalent of an OP 1, an incredible statistic, possibly shared by only one other school in the state.
- 41% of the Year 12 cohort achieved an ATAR of 95 or above, placing them in the top 5% of the state.
- 66% of the Year 12 cohort achieved an ATAR of 90 or above, placing them in the top 10% of the state.
- 87% of the Year 12 cohort achieved an ATAR of 80 or above, placing them in the top 20% of the state.
- An astonishing 35 achieved straight A results in their subjects.
- Three students received perfect scores of 100 in their subjects: Roy Hsu in Physics, Ella Kirk in Drama and Joy Jeng in Music Extension.
- 27 students graduated from our Business Diploma programme.
- The Class of 2021 achieved 23 Merits. A merit is the highest score awarded for a subject in the Diploma Programme.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA RESULTS

Congratulations to our top achievers!

- Chloe Ming – 44/45 (ATAR 99.75)
- Helena Hagan – 43/45 (ATAR 99.45)
- Miku Adachi 42/45 (ATAR 99.10)
- Jarvis Dover 40/45

We are all about opening as many doors for students as we can, so they can choose their individual opportunity.



Mr Craig Bassingthwaite
Headmaster of Somerset College



Roy Hsu - 99.95

ATAR DUX 2021

Roy is one of only 32 students in Queensland to achieve this result.



Chloe Ming - 44/45

IB DUX 2021

"My journey through the IB Diploma Programme has enabled me to realise, tasks that may seem out of reach at first can always be achieved through perseverance, patience and self-belief."

FROM THE *Headmaster*

2021 DIPLOMA MERITS

- 23 Merits achieved across the cohort (Achieved Grade of 7 - Highest grade possible in a subject)
- Average Grade obtained: 5.82 | November 2021 Exams - World average 5.19
- 11 Students achieved A or B for Extended Essay
- Congratulations to Chloe Ming whose Extended Essay research was awarded 'Semi-Finalist in the 2021 BHP Foundation Science and Engineering Awards'.

Average Grade obtained

5.82

November 2021 Exams
World Average Grade

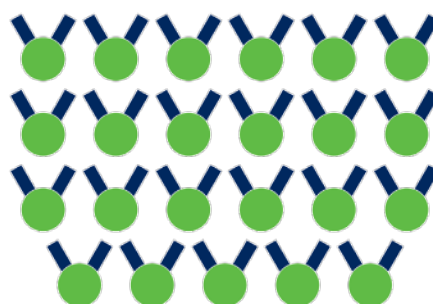
5.19

2021 VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

We celebrate the success of students who completed one or more vocational subjects including Diploma of Business and Certificate qualifications (many in addition to completing their 5 or 6 QCAA General subjects for an ATAR):

- 27 students graduated with the Diploma in Business
- 10 students - VET Qualifications: Certificates I, II or III

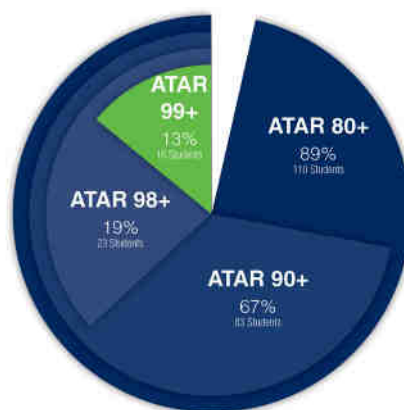
Somerset Students achieved **23** Merits



27 Students Graduated with a **Diploma in Business**



10 Students Graduated with **VET Qualifications: Certificates I, II or III**



11 Students achieved A or B for **Extended Essay**





Mr Craig Sayer, from left with Head of Senior School Mrs Allison Foster and Dean of Admissions, John Bacon

After 28 years of outstanding leadership and service, Mr Craig Sayer will retire as Dean of Activities at the end of Term Four 2022.

During those 28 years Mr Sayer has served Somerset over two distinct periods; from January 1988 to December 1999 teaching in the Senior School before becoming Head of House – Veivers; and from 1994 to 1999 as Director of Sport. Mr Sayer returned to Somerset in 2006 as a relief teacher in the Senior School before being appointed as Director of School Activities, now known as Dean of Activities, in 2008.

Mr Sayer has been an amazing support, helping diversify the College's offerings and its student population. Mr Sayer has overseen enormous change and success in the Activities areas of Sport, Culture, Outdoor Education, and Facilities. He has done so with incredible energy. One only has to wander the grounds before and after school to see, hear and feel the effects of Mr Sayer's energy and vision. Spartan pride abounds. He has always led from the front and has the admiration of all. We will miss him greatly.

After 17 wonderful years of excellent service to Somerset, I have, with regret, accepted the resignation of Ms Jenny George from the end of 2022.



Mrs Jenny George, with students from 6G

Ms George has had such a distinguished career at many schools here and overseas with her two favourites being Whitsunday and Somerset ... they are mine too! I'm sure that new staff who come across Ms George receive the same vote of confidence Ms George gave me when I became a new colleague - that she thought I'd go OK.

Ms George is the epitome of an independent school teacher; her energy, passion, expertise and commitment to her students and colleagues are exceptional, making everyone in her orbit a better person. All will miss her greatly.

Somerset is privileged to have three generations of Georges strolling the Quad, something rare and treasured.

I am sure that you will join with me in wishing God's richest blessings upon Ms George as she leaves us to move to the next phase in her life.

Hopefully Ms George will be a frequent visitor to Somerset, especially at our next Grandparents' Day!

Craig Bassingthwaite

Headmaster

YEAR OF THE *Scarf*

WHAT'S IN THE BOX MR B?

Thirteen years ago, as Preps, the Class of 2022 gifted our Headmaster a hand-knit scarf under the infamous direction of Mrs Anne Copperwaite.

This Semester saw history repeating itself, as these 13 Year Seniors teamed up with Mr Roberts' Preps in the Junior School, in a top-secret knitting mission to revamp the scarf. Facilitated by Mr Roberts, Year 12 students made their way down to the Prep room to each knit a section of the scarf over many morning and lunch time sessions.

When the scarf was finally ready, the 13 Year Seniors joined Mr Bassingthwaighe in the Boardroom for his surprise morning tea and presentation of the freshly hand-knit scarf.

In keeping with tradition, students took the opportunity to play the, 'What's in the Box?' guessing game with Mr B, one last time before they leave Somerset College.

Our Headmaster was both surprised and touched to receive his new scarf! Thank you to Mr Roberts and Mrs Copperwaite for enabling this special collaboration.

Luisa Navanteri

Year 12 Co-ordinator





Mr Bassingthwaite with the Class of 2022 holding the original scarf



The Class of 2022, who knitted the original House-inspired scarf in Prep

Singing Star

LILY GRACE



LILY GRACE LIVE

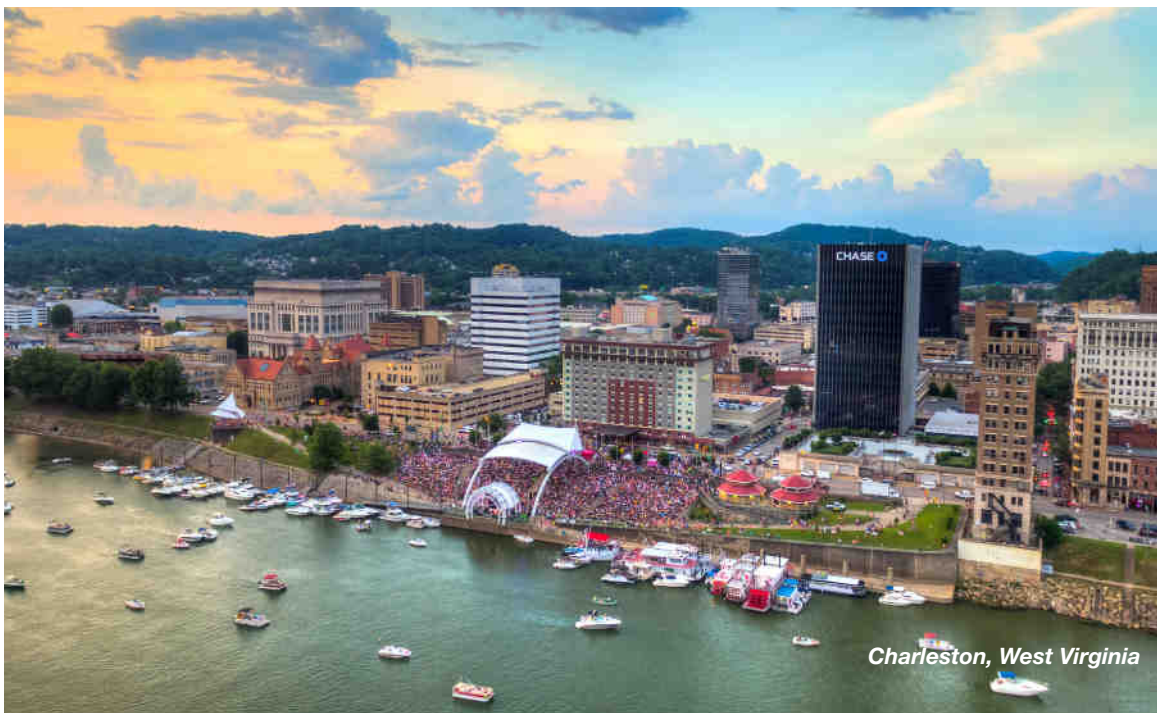
She's known on stage as Lily Grace but around the Somerset College corridors, she's humble Year 11 student, Lily Peters. Lily has been taking her music around the world! She recently returned home and is now preparing for the upcoming Gold Coast Music Awards, after learning this month, she was a finalist.

In June, 16-year-old Lily travelled to the States, to play at the Barefoot Country Music Festival in New Jersey, to a crowd of 40,000. Lily also played in West Virginia, where she shared a stage with the state's well-known Davisson Brothers Band.

Another highlight, the Mudgeeraba local says, was travelling to the world's country music capital, Nashville, where she also caught up with her producer. The country-centric vibe in Tennessee impressed Lily.

"It's amazing how much you hear it played on the radio and see country singers feature on billboards."

After picking up her first guitar at the age of 11, Lily's career has taken off. In 2021 she released her debut



Charleston, West Virginia



Playing with the **Davissson Brothers Band**



single *Annie June*, a collaboration with the iconic James Blundell, hitting as high as number two in the charts in May last year and her latest single, *The Two Of Us Meet*, surpassing one million streams.

In 2021 Lily performed with a four piece band at Groundwater Festival in good company with headline acts including The Wolfe Brothers, Adam Harvey, Casey Barnes, Gina Jeffreys, Andrew Farriss and Adam Brand.

While Lily's future is certainly bright, she says she still takes school seriously now she is in her senior years.

"School is still important and the late nights can be hard if I'm out playing, but my goal is to create great music and to one day have the opportunity to collaborate with well known international artists," Lily said.

Lily is preparing for shows in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast this September, also when the Music Awards will be held at HOTA.

To follow Lily's journey, download her music and see when and where she is performing, visit:

lilygracelive.com

Storyfest

GIVING DAY

STORYFEST GIVING DAY

Community contributions have helped Storyfest achieve great things and thanks to the support, we have been able to impact 27,863 people in the past year along with 74 schools and put over 4,700 books back into the community.

On Wednesday 1 June 2022, we hosted our inaugural Giving Day for Somerset Storyfest with the aim to expand our reach and ensure that every child has the opportunity to fall in love with reading.

We are profoundly grateful for community support. With your generosity, and the help of our matching donors, \$157,728 has been raised for Storyfest, this amount smashed what we were hoping for. We are overwhelmed by your support.

Your gift will enable us to provide unique opportunities for children to publish their work through our Short Story Dispenser or take a 'choose your own adventure' with Story City. We will also be able to support local authors to connect with their audiences as well as connecting more children with books and authors and to celebrate the magic of stories and reading!

As we head into our 30th year, we are proud of our achievements and the impacts we've had on children. Our mission is simple - changing children's lives, one story at a time... We could not have done it without you!

Spread the word! It is one of Australia's most respected and inclusive literary events.

Andrea Lewis

Director - Somerset Storyfest





Funds were raised to see Heads of House and House Captains slimed in our Towers Quad.

STUDENTS MAKE GLOBAL *Shortlist*

SECOND YEAR RUNNING, SOMERSET STUDENTS MAKE SHORTLIST IN GLOBAL ESSAY COMPETITION

Isabel Hong (Year 11) and Kyonosuke Naito (Year 12) have been short-listed in the John Locke Institute Global Essay Competition, held by the University of Oxford. As finalists, Kyonosuke and Isabel are invited to Oxford University in September for the gala dinner to announce the winners and participate in seminars and lectures on critical thinking.

The competition is highly competitive, with 755 submissions in the Philosophy category alone. 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 at:

www.johnlockeinstitute.com/essay-competition.

The essay competition is highly prestigious. Students who receive a 'Commendation' are encouraged to include that award on their university applications, and when applying for a scholarship, or an internship.

Isabel is in Year 11 and studying for the International Baccalaureate Diploma. Isabel responded to the Philosophy question:

When, if ever, can acts involving only consenting adults be morally wrong?

Kyonosuke is in Year 12 and studying for the Queensland Education Certificate and he responded to the Philosophy question:

If our actions are a consequence of our capacities and preferences, and if those things are, in turn, a result of our genetic inheritance and the external world in which we happen to find ourselves, are we ultimately responsible for our choices?

We wish Kyonosuke and Isabel all the best in the final round of judging in September.

Peter Singh
Senior Teacher - Philosophy





Isabel Hong
Year 11, Andrews

When, if ever, can acts involving only consenting adults be morally wrong?

"I started my essay with what exactly morality is and what the two mainstream ethical theories are in normative ethics; deontology (duty-based ethics) and teleology (consequence-based ethics). Subsequent to this, I presumed the opposite premise of the question, and raised a question of when such adult-consenting actions can be morally permissible. In my essay, I gave the DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) orders as an example of when adult-consenting actions can be morally right. Next, I returned to the initial query and reasoned on whether actions involving only consenting adults can be morally wrong. I created a thought experiment on the sale and purchasing of sex robots between a company and its customers. Each premise was rationally tested for validity through a dialectical synthesis of two opposing philosophers: namely Immanuel Kant and Jeremy Bentham."



Kyonosuke Naito
Year 12, Laver

If our actions are a consequence of our capacities and preferences, and if those things are, in turn, a result of our genetic inheritance and the external world in which we happen to find ourselves, are we ultimately responsible for our choices?

"I wrote about the ontological possibility of free will and moral responsibility in a world that inherently follows deterministic laws. I mean if you consider the free will debate, it's fascinating because it's such an intuitively contradictory topic. Events being necessitated by the chain of causality seems so fundamental to our world, yet free will and moral responsibility feel so intrinsic to being human. The question then, is whether these two premises are compatible with each other."

Learning FOR LIFE AT QUOLL HQ

A SERVICE VISIT TO QUOLL HEAD QUARTERS

A small group of Year 10 Biology students journeyed from coast to country for an unexpectedly extended stay at Quoll Headquarters in Tenterfield; a wonderful opportunity to learn about Australia's biodiversity and conservation strategies in our own backyard.

From tree-planting for koalas to painting animal-shelters, we challenged ourselves to develop skills – including teamwork, social awareness, and resilience in the face of the unexpected flooding and torrential weather on the Gold Coast. All of us enjoyed the search for the elusive quoll who was caught on camera when visiting our camp one night, cuddling with a young joey, and spending time with many kangaroos.

The service we completed involved a range of activities while the wildlife we saw, proved to create an incredible experience for all and helped to build a lasting camaraderie between all of us. The owners of Quoll Headquarters, Steve and Bianca treated us with warm

hospitality, and their selfless dedication and hard work in conserving native wildlife and bushland for the future was inspiring. Witnessing their efforts to preserve the rich biodiversity that the NSW northern tablelands supports made this trip an amazing service-learning experience.

As the first group to visit Quoll Headquarters, we are so thankful to Mr and Mrs Walker who provided us with this opportunity and really opened our eyes to the importance of Australian nature conservation after the recent bushfires (and now flooding). We are also grateful to Steve and Bianca for welcoming us in with open arms and helping us appreciate what nature has to offer!

Anna Thomas

Year 10 Veivers



Young ENTREPRENEUR



YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR RAISES FUNDS FOR CHARITY

Year 2 student Harry Greensmith has been holding plant sales out of his driveway, for the past two years. When he discovered how easily he could make money, he became motivated to help others with the funds he had raised.

Harry began by propagating cuttings from plants in his own garden and then with his dad built the plant stall. The youngster was involved with cutting, drilling and painting the stall.

Once Harry created enough plants to sell, he advertised through local Facebook groups. Taking photos of his plants himself, he helped create a poster. This year with the help of his parents, he advertised to the Somerset community.

Harry designed the signs and priced up his goods. With the generous support of both the local community and some of Somerset friends, he raised \$557.

The funds were split between the Tonga tsunami appeal and the Salvation Army's flood appeal.

The first year Harry decided he wanted to raise money for a Save the Rhino charity and raised almost 170 pounds for a charity in the United Kingdom.



See Harry talking about his venture on Somerset Stream.



CELEBRATION OF

Mothers

A Somerset Parents' and Friends' Association tribute to mothers continued this year at the Celebration of Motherhood, held May 13 in the Ray Dining Room. Dedicated volunteers went above and beyond creating a fantasy-themed evening of festivities.

Balance is the key to having it all, according to the three accomplished mothers who made up the panel of speakers at the Somerset College Celebration of Motherhood.

Simone Fraser, full time Family Law Barrister and mum of three children in primary school, said women can have it all, but it depends on your definition of 'all'.

"We have three very busy children and there are a lot of logistics and organisation that goes into each week, but the reward is totally worth it," Mrs Fraser said.

"I think by calling on good support, it means that the time you're not working you are able to spend quality time with your children. Down time is down time."

Michelle Loschiavo, pharmacist and owner of compounding chemists on the Gold Coast and in Byron Bay, as well as skincare brand Plumped, and mum of three, agreed that setting boundaries was a priority.

"You have to set boundaries to maintain the balance. If you're answering emails while trying to cook dinner or working while having a weekend away, you're not doing your business or your family justice," Ms Loschiavo said.

"I want to cherish motherhood and because I am self employed I have the flexibility to be able to go to functions and sporting events and pick them up when I have to.

"I like my children to be able to see that I'm managing my time as well, that it is possible to juggle a few balls and also have control of those balls.

"It's also very important to have time to yourself and to recharge. As a mum and as a business owner, we have a lot of demands on us. I care about what I'm doing and want to do a good job and I like to think of new ideas and stay inspired."

Despite her success as a business owner, Ms Loschiavo stressed that a woman shouldn't feel pressured into following a career.

"It's just important to have something for yourself. Something you feel inspired about and to have a purpose that makes you a happier, fulfilled person. It's important to set a good example for our children that we are a happy and fulfilled parent."

Mary Rudkin, mum of three and grandmother to four, was a founding member of the Somerset College Board, a position she held for 25 years.

A stay at home mum, Mrs Rudkin played an instrumental role in establishing Somerset College as the first co-ed private school on the Gold Coast, whilst at the same time, driving her three children to three different schools and extra-curricular activities everyday.

"We had no family here at all and no support. It was just about having the energy and the will. My husband was working ridiculous hours back then, so it was a matter of fitting in what you could and when you could and having the passion to do it.

"It was my dream to have a family and look after the children and be as involved as I could."

Although from different backgrounds, each with a different story to tell, the mothers agreed that motherhood should be celebrated and it is a wonderful gift to have children.

"I feel very thankful and fortunate and it's getting better and better. It's a big job, but I feel grateful," Ms Loschiavo said.



Compère of the event, Tilly Ryan (left) with guest speakers, Mary Rudkin (second from left), Michelle Loschiavo and Simone Fraser (right)



TRIBUTE TO *Grandmaster*

Arianne Casili

22.12.1986 to 30.03.2020

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN'S CHESS INTERNATIONAL MASTER

We honour the life of Arianne Caoili, who was taken far too soon at the young age of 33. She was involved in a serious car accident 14 March, 2020 in Yerevan, Armenia and though it seemed that her condition had stabilised, she passed away a few days later.

Arianne was born in Manila, Philippines in 1986. I first met her when I taught her chess in Year 1 at Somerset College. By Year 2 she was terrorising Year 12s (such as David Cowland-Cooper, Remi Broadway, Nigel Prescott and Philip Lo) in lunchtime chess club and participating in the Australian Junior Chess Championships. She was often coached by International Master Alex Wohl. They remained close friends until her death.

She represented Australia at multiple World Junior Chess Championships, at which she made lifetime friendships. She left Somerset and went to Germany with her mother for chess coaching with one of the world's top Grandmasters. Back in Australia she completed her Year 11/12 studies by self-teaching at home.

She studied at The Australian National University, and for a while she coached for Gardiner Chess. Somerset students Daniel Barrett, Brendan Baker and Jonas Muller were just three of several students I recall she taught.

With regard to tournament chess



highlights, Arianne played the Australian Junior Champs which were held at Somerset College in January 1994. She had just turned seven. She won the Australian U16 Girls title in Perth, 1997 age 10. Later she won the Asian Girls U16 title in 2000 in the Philippines. She won the London Women's Chess Classic in 2009 and the Oceania Women's Title at the Oceania Zonal held on the Gold Coast in 2009. She became a Women's International Master with a highest FIDE (world) rating of 2309.

After attaining the title of Women's International Master, she represented Australia in each of the biannual International Chess Olympiads between 2004 and 2012, including on the top board.

At the Turin Olympiad in 2006 Arianne inadvertently made headlines in *The Times*, London and *The Australian* newspapers when two Grandmasters with amorous intentions had a punch-up on the dance floor over her.

In the same year, Arianne became attached to one of the

world's leading Grandmasters, Levon Aronian, whom she met many years earlier at a world event, and they eventually married in 2017. The President of Armenia attended the wedding. Aronian led Armenia to three Olympiad successes ahead of such powerhouses as Russia, China and America, so he was and is a super-star in Armenia.

Arianne appeared in Australia's *Dancing with the Stars* in 2006, where she finished runner-up.

For a while Arianne worked as a consultant for Price Waterhouse Coopers. More recently she has worked in the field of governance and was an advisor to the Armenian Government.

She commenced a PhD in Russian foreign policy. She spoke at least five languages fluently.

In 2015, Arianne climbed the highest mountain in Armenia, Mt Aragats at over 4000 metres. In September 2018 she completed a 1800km cycle ride from Armenia along the Turkey/Syria border, one of the most dangerous regions in the world, to raise funds for disadvantaged kids in Armenia. She had to teach herself to cycle before attempting the ride. During the journey Arianne was interviewed in this nine-minute video about the ride, archaeological sites she visited, chess, and her life generally.

In December 2018 Arianne, on a brief trip to Australia to see her family for Christmas, along with Rhys Rakauskas, visited Wendy and me. He was in her cohort at Somerset College. We had a very pleasant afternoon tea recalling 'old-times'. Arianne had also kept in touch with another Somerset student, protagonist and close friend, Chris Page.

Arianne had a great love of music. She owned a jazz club in Yerevan, and came back to Australia to record an EP, which included sultry, bluesy number *On A String*.



Arianne learning with Gardiner Chess at Somerset

A very well attended memorial chess event for Arianne was run by the Gold Coast Chess Club and held at the Nerang Bicentennial Hall in November 2021 and this will be repeated annually.

Such a one-off, multi-talented lady who died far, far too young.

Graeme Gardiner

Somerset Chess



Read about how Arianne supported Armenian children.



Watch Arianne's performance on Dancing with the Stars.



Listen to the sounds of Arianne's soulful voice in her recorded EP.

THE *Alumni* CHAPTER



Alumni

AWARDS

SOMERSET ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL ALUMNI AWARDS

On Wednesday 14 July 2021, the Somerset Alumni Association proudly hosted the 2021 Annual Alumni Awards Dinner with Alumni Nominees and Award Recipients from 2020 and 2021, reuniting with Board and Foundation Members, and past and present staff.

The Awards recognise the achievements of our exceptional alumni, presenting three category awards; Early Career, Community Engagement, and Annual Alumnus.

2021 AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 2021 Early Career Category
Peter Thurnwald - Class of 2015 (pictured on right)
- 2021 Community Engagement Category
Dr Prue Cormie - Class of 1999 (pictured middle)
- 2021 Annual Alumnus Category
Luke Maguire - Class of 2007 (pictured on left)

2021 NOMINEES

2021 Early Career Category

Risa Utama – Class of 2017
Ashraf Docrat – Class of 2017
Peter Thurnwald – Class of 2015

2021 Community Engagement Category

Stephanie Teixeira – Class of 2015
Dr Prue Cormie – Class of 1999
Major Clinton Shiell – Class of 2001

2021 Annual Alumnus

Alison Ewens – Class of 1990
Dr Annaleise Howard-Jones (nee Grummit) – Class of 1996
RAAF Officer Michaela Orsmond – Class of 2012
Luke Maguire – Class of 2007



See award winners
Luke Maguire and Peter Thurnwald in the story about the Annual Alumni Awards in Episode 10 of Somerset Stream.



2022 NOMINATIONS

2022 Annual Alumni Award Nominations

- Category One - Early Career

An alumnus in the early stages of their career whose early career accomplishments inspire and provide leadership. This award category extends to include volunteering, community work, and philanthropy.

- Category Two - Community Engagement

An alumnus in the community engagement category who has made an outstanding contribution, given exceptional effort or commitment, and/or given exceptional service to a community over and above their role, or in excess of their chosen field of employment.

- Category Three - Annual Alumnus

Presented for achievement of an exceptional nature in any field including but not limited to sporting, cultural, vocational, voluntary, philanthropic, or professional. Recipients will have brought distinction to themselves, the Alumni Association, and Somerset College. The Annual Alumnus award is the highest honour the Alumni Association can bestow.

The 2022 Annual Alumni Awards will be presented at Home of the Arts, September 14, 2022.

This event celebrates our outstanding alumni throughout the years and brings together the Somerset alumni community. The Annual Alumni Awards provide the opportunity to reconnect and celebrate the winners and nominees.



RETURN TO *Somerset*

SOMERSET COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION GALA

All Somerset College alumni were invited to celebrate in Great Gatsby style, with many coming from near and far to attend the gala reunion, 23 July 2022.

The annual Return to Somerset Gala saw more than 200 guests gather in our Great Hall to reminisce with former classmates with milestone reunions recognising 10, 20 and 30-year Alumni.

Some of the notable guests on the attendance list include Cr Hermann Vorster, Olympian swimmer Joanna Fergus, and Grace Loves Lace Founder and Creative Director Megan Ziems.

After two years of cancellations the celebration kicked off with nine Milestone Year Levels, the Classes of 1990, 1991, 1992, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2010, 2011 and 2012

"We are absolutely delighted to welcome Somerset College Alumni,

staff and guests to the 2022 Return To Somerset Gala Reunion," Headmaster, Craig Basingthwaite said.

The Great Gatsby style evening saw guests dressed to impress as they kick up their heels and celebrated.





SECOND *Generation*

FIRST GENERATION

As Somerset expands, so does our number of past students who return as parents. In our *Second Generation* feature, we highlight our students who choose Somerset College for their children.

*Gam Cardone
(nee Morley)*

Class of 2001

What did you most enjoy about your time at Somerset?

The thing I enjoyed most was the well-rounded nature of my education. I love school, drama, musicals, sport and it gave me an environment where I could enjoy that full spread of experiences.

When I think about my school experience the relationships I built with teachers, coaches and other students and those relationships have meant a lot to me through my entire adult life and I often reflect how important those relationships have become.

How did you decide on Somerset for your children's education?

I wanted to give my children the same sort of opportunities that I was given. The decision where to send them to school, was not one I took lightly. It was a decision I made with gravity.

Once I toured the school with my husband, it was an instant yes. All the things I had loved about Somerset had been embraced and had grown.

I was pleased to see the growth of the school and it made me feel really confident in my decision to send my children there.

I was particularly thrilled to see the way the IB programme had been embraced.

I was the inaugural year of the IB, in Year 11 and to see the way it had flourished within the school and now starts in day one in Pre-Prep was a huge indicator to me that, the school had grown in the right direction.

Raising a global citizen. That one statement connects so strongly with my belief set. I want my kids to engage in the world and to understand how their actions and interactions impact people. That is what I want for my children's education.



SECOND GENERATION



Charlie Cardone

Class of 2028



Evie Cardone

Class of 2030



Lily Cardone

Class of 2030



Sam in Laver's Tug-o-War on Founders' Day 2001



Charlie (6G) in Tug-o-War on Founders' Day 2022



SECOND *Generation*

Cont...

What are the biggest changes you have noticed at Somerset?

There's some pretty new buildings that's for sure!

The facilities were amazing, now they're beyond incredible. I just think the opportunities the kids have now, with different technologies are just incredible.

The way the school has embraced IB is definitely a big change and I have seen that, as it now comes through the Junior School.

I have also been really happy to see the school has grown in number, slowly. It has not just exploded and so, the community feeling of Somerset has remained. Although the school has grown and there's lots of big, new, fancy buildings, it still feels like a community. Everyone knows each other and the kids all know each other's names. I am ecstatic to see the growth, it is lovely to see the new buildings but we still feel like a community which for me is really, really important. I wouldn't want my kids going to a school where they didn't know the teachers and where they feel like a number.

I think one of the interesting things I've noticed is how many alumni are at the school. It is a massive indicator of how people feel about the education they experienced and what they hope for their children.

The numbers of alumni in my children's grades are incredible. It's like a reunion every Monday!

How does your education journey compare to your children's?

I think the biggest difference I've noticed is the way that technology is impacting this generation's learning journey and also the way the school has evolved from the old version of reading, writing and arithmetic to such a holistic view of learning. To see the kids planting gardens and then cooking food in the science lab, is incredible.

The educational experience is so broad, and to see the children learning from an inquiry point of view, where curiosity is rewarded and chased down with the teacher on the journey, it is a very different process to what I remember in Year 3. I can recall worksheets and chalkboards, so to see the evolution of how the junior experience is now taught, has been really fantastic. You can see the kids just thrive in that environment.

I think that I really have loved the way some of the learning has included introducing technology into the classroom without letting it dominate. I find as a parent, we all face this struggle between how much tech is too much and how much is enough and I've really felt supported in the way the school has leant in and brought technology into the classroom, without letting it overtake. I think we need to still raise strong communicators who can have conversations without a screen being in between them.



ALUMNI *Updates*

ACHIEVEMENTS

Cale Davis

Class of 2007

Dr Cale Davis. Lecturer in International Criminal Law. Empirical research. Prosecutorial decision-making.

Earlier this year Dr Davis defended his PhD at the Leiden University on Prosecutorial Discretion in International Criminal Justice.

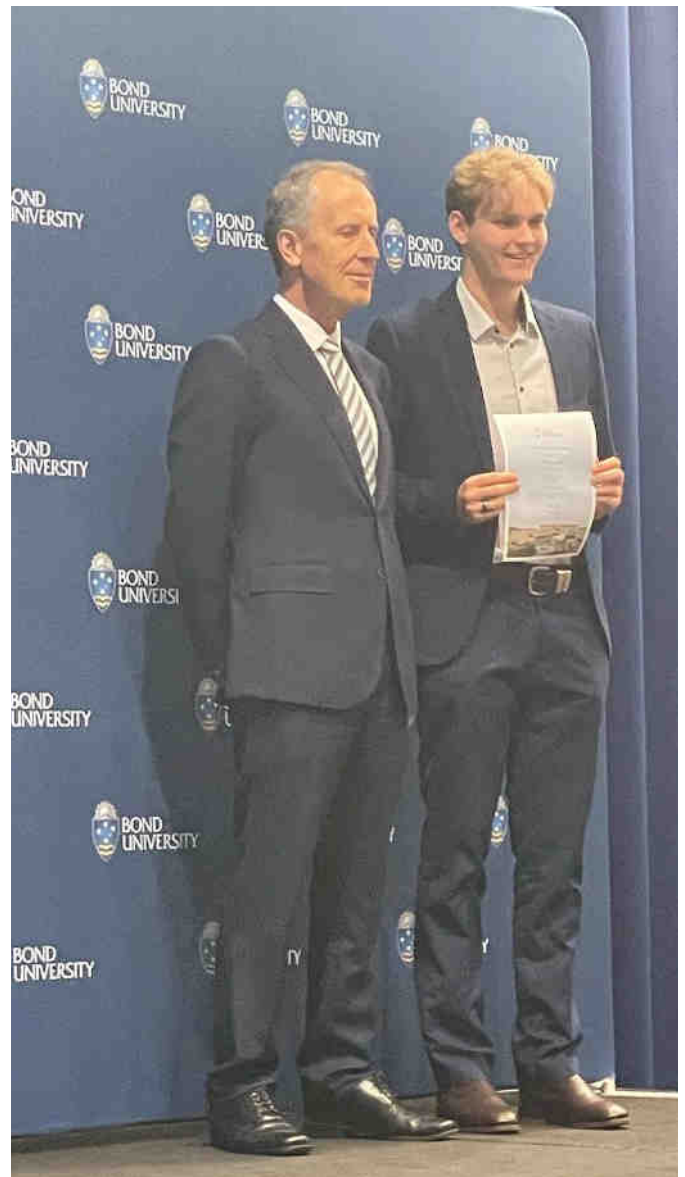


Brock Hudson

Class of 2019

Actuarial Science Honours Student and Private Tutor

"Early this semester, I attended the Bond Business School Awards Ceremony for First in Class, Financial Applications and Analysis (94%). It was also my best semester yet with a semester CPA of 88%. Looks like my Honours is going well so far!"



ALUMNI – A FEW YEARS DOWN THE



Nick Richards

Class of 2003

In this edition of *A Few Years Down the Track* we ask recently appointed Somerset Alumni Association President, Nick Richards about his time at Somerset.

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

I really loved the community at Somerset. It's what stuck with me when I finished school and what brought me back to become part of the Alumni and volunteer at the Celebration of Entrepreneurship. Somerset has such a unique community in the students, parents and alumni. To me, that's the magic which makes the college so great. I always just enjoyed showing up to school as a student and being part of everything going on.

How did Somerset shape your career path?

I've had a pretty interesting career so far. I started in corporate banking and wound up in Entrepreneurship. I currently run two companies in very different industries, as well as mentor young people looking to get into business. There was always an opportunity to work on an interesting project at Somerset and this benefitted me a lot. There's also such a wide range of activities and initiatives going on at any given time. This allowed me to build a very generalist skill set, which is vital in entrepreneurship. The way in



which Somerset teaches also shaped my through process to be very open minded when approaching problems and challenges.

How do you spend a working day?

Oh man, as an Entrepreneur every day is different! I'll generally split my time between my e-commerce company, my new media startup and doing Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. I've recently started working at the co-working hub on campus which has been fun. I'm a really social guy, so I like to get out and about, talk to people and have about 95 coffees.

Who are the people who inspire you?

I'm inspired by people who live interesting lives. Ultimately we have a limited time here, so I love seeing people who live life to the fullest. I'm also constantly inspired by people who are just positive and great to be around. You know, those people that just light up a room when they walk in?





*Nick at the Return to Somerset Gala 2022
and with wife Zoe (left)*

Finally, my wife is a constant inspiration as one of the most patient people on the planet.

What advice would you offer current students?

I'll probably get an angry email from the faculty about this, but ah well.

School isn't the be all and end all in life.

You definitely have to focus and try your best, but don't put too much pressure on yourself. I remember being in grade 11 and 12 and feeling like my life was on the line.

Also more generally, just work on stuff that interests you. As long as you keep working on things that you're passionate about and you keep learning, you'll be fine. Going to work and hating your job is the worst. Work will be hard and draining sometimes, but it's way easier to show up and do something that you're interested in. I wish I knew that when I was 21, instead of 35.



ALUMNI *Staff*

Grant Peel

Class of 2014



I often joke about the fact that, unlike most alumni, I am unable to “Return to Somerset” because, quite frankly, I’ve never really left....

However, I truly believe that this is testament to the kind of place Somerset is. The wonderful community, the outstanding opportunities, the supportive environment is what makes me proud to say, Somerset has played a monumental role in my life, and therefore, is why I am still here today – and proud to rep the “Return to Somerset” coffee mug at Café Mackenzie each morning.

After graduating Somerset in 2014, I completed a Bachelor of International Tourism and Hotel Management, and a Bachelor of Business at Griffith University.

Whilst studying, I was fortunate enough to be offered a role at Somerset as an IT Help Desk Support Officer – a whole three months after graduating Year 12.

Fast forward to now, my primary role is the College Videographer, producing video content on everyday life at the College, including Somerset and Spartan Streams and live streaming major events.

I started at Somerset in Year 8 (2010), after attending two previous schools. I’ll be the first to admit, I wasn’t the most academic nor athletic student, but I was still able to find my place at Somerset. Being heavily involved in the various committees, especially the Technical Services Crew allowed me to realise my interests and ultimately lead to where I am today.

I have been so fortunate to experience so many opportunities in my role at Somerset. No two days are the same! This year, I was lucky enough to attend the Year 6 trip to Cairns (in place of the annual Tasmania trip), which was quite sentimental for me, as this cohort of Year 6 students were in Pre-Prep when I was in Year 12. Although, it’s not the physical experiences I find most rewarding. It’s the small things – celebrating student’s success whilst producing Somerset Stream or Spartan Stream. It’s working with a wonderful group of people every day. It’s being a part of the Somerset community.

My advice to current students would be to get involved. Appreciate how fortunate you are to be in such a wonderful learning environment and don’t underestimate the opportunities you are given. You never know where that opportunity might lead you. I certainly didn’t, and I am so grateful!



Grant with colleagues at RTS Gala, 2022



Universal Studios, USA Trip 2014



Valedictory Chapel, 2014



Filming on location in Cairns, in 2021, the first year of Somerset Stream



NEW Staff



Krystal Dinsdale

College Receptionist

I grew up in Brisbane and only moved to the Gold Coast at the start of this year.

Previous to Somerset I worked in real estate for two years in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast.

I am currently studying my Bachelor of Education specialising in Primary Education.

As well as working on the Main Reception desk at Somerset College, I have been undertaking the practical component of my degree in the Junior School. I have really enjoyed my time with Year 4s and I look forward to working in other year levels.

In my spare time I enjoy going for a hike in the Gold Coast hinterland or heading out for a run along the Burleigh coastline.



Jordan Gasmier

Teacher - Senior School (P.E.)

I have been teaching for almost four years. I have been fortunate enough to teach a wide selection of subjects across Prep to Year 12, however my main areas of teaching are P.E. and History.

My family is from Adelaide but the majority of my life I have spent up here on the Gold Coast.

I am an avid footy fan, supporting the Adelaide Crows. I enjoy all sports and have been grateful for the opportunity to play and train at competitive levels in Field Hockey and AFL.

I have also been super fortunate to experience the world, travelling extensively overseas in Europe and some parts of Asia. I toured around the West Coast of the U.S. as well and I am looking forward to returning to travel again soon!



Olivia Woolley

Junior School Teacher - Year 3,
House Convener - Andrews

I grew up in Campbelltown in New South Wales, where as a child I was immersed in the outdoors. Sport took me around the world. I competed in many sports including swimming, running, athletics and hockey. I competed in swimming at state, national and international levels, including the World Cup and World Championships in 2011.

After graduating, I continued my career as an athlete and began nurturing my love for teaching, through coaching. I was a swimming coach and Personal Trainer until I moved to the Gold Coast.

I began studying Primary Education at Swinburne University, retired from swimming, married my husband and had my three beautiful children Aaria, Hayden and Ethan before beginning my next chapter as a teacher. I have enjoyed all aspects of teaching and look forward to the journey ahead.



Russell McGrath

Teacher - Senior School

Growing up, I lived in the country Queensland towns of Gympie, Rockhampton, Wallaville and at eight-years-old arrived in Bundaberg, until finishing high school. I enjoyed fishing, camping and playing soccer.

The following 10 years I worked and studied at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, where I completed a Bachelor of Science (math) and then a Post Graduate Diploma in Education.

My first five years of teaching was on the Gold Coast at All Saints Anglican School, before my partner (now wife) and I moved overseas. We spent the next 20 years in International Education in Sweden, Indonesia, China and South Korea. A year ago we moved back to Australia so our children Bella (15) and Will (14) could live in Australia and experience life in their home country for the first time.

We are really happy to be back here on the Gold Coast and to be part of the Somerset and broader community.

Staff **UDPATES**

BABIES

Kate and Aaron Grigg

Alumnus Kate (Class of 2006) who began at Somerset in 2011, is a Junior School Teacher and Andrews Junior House Convenor, welcomed baby Chloe Grigg to the world on February 22, 2022, with husband Aaron.



Will and Bronwyn Boston

Junior School Teacher Will Boston, who first came to Somerset in 2012, and his wife Bronwyn, welcomed their son on May 24, 2022.

August Henry Boston came in weighing 3.52kg and measuring 52.5cm in length, a baby brother for big sister Elowen.



ENGAGEMENTS

Corina Jeflea and Peer Richards

Somerset's Head Coach for Rowing, Peer and Senior School Teacher Corina, celebrated their engagement September 25, 2021.

On April 11 they welcomed their baby boy, Thomas Van Richards.



Kate Webb and Shane Cowling

Somerset's Junior Sports Co-ordinator Kate and Junior School Teacher (Year 4) Shane, enjoyed a tour of the United States in July when Shane proposed.

Kate captioned the occasion as, "The most perfect and unforgettable moment in Yellowstone National Park.

"I can't wait for forever with you!"





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