

BRIGIDINE COLLEGE ST IVES

THE bridge

ISSUE 1 2023





The Bridge, the Brigidine College
St Ives biannual magazine

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Cosmic Confluence (graphic design) by Abby Lush, Year 12 2022 was selected for ARTEXPRESS 2023.

WHAT WE LIKED

The Duke of Edinburgh program continues to thrive at the College offering students a sense of personal achievement through individual challenge, teamwork and fun. Our Duke of Edinburgh program promises many vast experiences again this year with Year 9 thriving on their Bronze Award camp at Murramarang National Park in March.



CARE TO SHARE?

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

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From the Principal



“Peace is not just the absence of conflict; peace is the creation of an environment where all can flourish regardless of race, colour, creed, religion, gender, class, caste or any other social markers of difference.”

NELSON MANDELA FROM A MESSAGE TO THE GLOBAL CONVENTION ON PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE, NEW DELHI, INDIA, 31 JANUARY 2004

LIVING JUSTICE, LIVING PEACE

Our College motto, *Strength and Gentleness*, reflects the values of our community. The Brigidine Sisters who founded Brigidine College St Ives believed that a balance of strength and gentleness would allow students to flourish. Our motto calls us to be strong, gentle and compassionate.

This is echoed in their mission “to help young women grow in faith and character so they may become witnesses of God’s love and peace in the world.” The Brigidine Sisters knew that students thrive when they are free from fear, but also feel cared for and protected in their environment. Our teachers strive to provide this balance to each student they work with.

Today, nearly 70 years on from the founding of our College by the Brigidine Sisters, our College is a member of the Kildare Ministries community of schools and community works. The values of the Brigidine Sisters are honoured and lived in each of these member ministries.

Kildare Ministries takes its name from the Irish Cill Dara, Church of the Oak. It links to the spiritual heritage of St Brigid, Patroness of Ireland, and to the ancient order of St Brigid of Kildare, which existed in Ireland from

the fifth until the sixteenth century, when the monasteries were suppressed. Bishop Delany chose St Brigid as patroness of the Brigidine Congregation.

At the centre of the Kildare Ministries’ vision and mission is the ‘Living Justice, Living Peace’ charter. It deepens the Kildare Ministries’ Vision, Mission and Values. This charter is also integral to the vision and mission of our school and our connection to the other Kildare Ministries communities.

The following three central tenets of the charter provide a framework that we strive to reference with students, staff and our wider community.

Living with Compassion recognises our common humanity and sacred dignity. It is intentionally reaching out and embracing those who are suffering, irrespective of their social or personal identity.

Learning with Wonder reminds us of the beauty, complexity and fragility of creation. It challenges us to search for meaning, truth and peace.

Leading with Courage. Working for justice is challenging for students and adults alike. In a society that protects the privileged to be







counter cultural in this realm takes courage and resilience.

As a Catholic school we align with the four aspects of Jesus' ministry identified in the charter:

- Walking in Solidarity
- Seeking Change
- Inviting and Welcoming All
- Healing Creation

Combined with our school motto *Strength and Gentleness* this is a constant call to be courageous in all aspects of our lives. It gives students an invitation to turn their faith into action for the betterment of the world.

Brigidine College is a place that nurtures its students to be courageous young women who act compassionately to build community

and be alive with the Brigidine Charism. In a school where much happens, it is important to stop, pause and reflect on the foundation and core of all that takes place here.

By participating in planning and implementing effective justice actions, students are invited to express solidarity with those marginalised in our world and to challenge structures that cause and contribute to injustice.

As a school community we believe it is important for students to understand the needs of others around them so they can better serve those in need through acts of kindness and compassion. Our Community Involvement Program undertaken by our students in Years 7-10 is extensive and dedicated to helping students identify ways they can get involved in their community through volunteering opportunities as well

as providing them with education on social justice issues that affect people around the world every day.

The staff at Brigidine believe that learning is a process of wonder, curiosity and exploration. We believe that every child has the ability to learn. We encourage our students to ask questions, find answers and explore new ideas. Our teachers are trained to help students develop their own learning style, which helps them become confident in their learning abilities. Students learn best when they are free to wonder. We know if students explore their curiosities, they will develop into lifelong learners, people who can find solutions to the problems of our world.

For Brigidine students, our school is more than just a place to learn; it's a place to grow, and a place where each student is



“Student leadership opportunities need to be about service, not power. Our hope is that the experiences our students have as leaders encourages them to use their talents and strengths to make the world a better place.”

encouraged to pursue their own interests in the classroom, on stage, in sports, or in life. We want our students to experience all that life has to offer – to feel the joy of learning and the thrill of discovery as they explore all that is possible.

We encourage students to find their own strengths to achieve all they can at Brigidine. We inspire them to be leaders who are kind, insightful and determined. We aim to help them see how small acts of kindness can make a big difference in their world and the lives of others.

Student leadership opportunities need to be about service, not power. Our hope is that the experiences our students have as leaders encourages them to use their talents and strengths to make the world a better place by serving others first and foremost.

Our mission is to provide a holistic education in the Catholic tradition that inspires wonder, fosters courage and compassion, and nurtures leadership. We aim to develop the whole person through a program of intellectual inquiry and academic excellence, spiritual growth and moral responsibility, social justice and servant leadership.

Brigidine holds its purpose firm – the education of young women modelled on the strength and gentleness of St Brigid. We believe this balance is key to success at Brigidine and beyond.

**LAETITIA RICHMOND
PRINCIPAL**

Latest News

2022 HSC Results

We are delighted to share with you the outstanding HSC achievements of the Class of 2022.

The Class of 2022 displayed self-motivation, resilience and engagement in their approach to study and involvement in school life throughout their final year of high school. Early entry offers to university and a record number of nominations for HSC showcases with excellence in Dance, Drama, Music, Textiles and Visual Arts set the scene for success for this cohort of students. As a community, we wish them all the best for their future study, endeavours and life beyond Brigidine. We couldn't be more proud that they have graduated as women of strength and gentleness, ready to make their mark on the world. Congratulations to the Class of 2022 on their outstanding HSC results.

Some of the highlights from the results for the Class of 2022 are:

Dux

Rose Wood achieved an ATAR of 99.80

Proxime

Georgie Bickerton achieved an ATAR of 99.60

All-Rounders

Georgie Bickerton	Sarah Hanna
Olivia Bortolussi	Abbi Jackett
Ashleigh Croft	Jessica Marx
Hisae Garonne	Rose Wood

Top Achievers in the State

3rd English Advanced: Rose Wood
6th English Extension: Rose Wood
9th Geography: Georgie Bickerton
10th Geography: Rose Wood

Distinguished Achievers

85 students were mentioned on the Distinguished Achievers list, with 158 Band 6s across a broad range of subjects

Brigidine College ranked

- 9th among Independent Catholic Girls' Schools in NSW
- 10th among Catholic Girls' Schools in NSW
- 69th overall in NSW.

LAETITIA RICHMOND PRINCIPAL



Rose Wood, College Dux



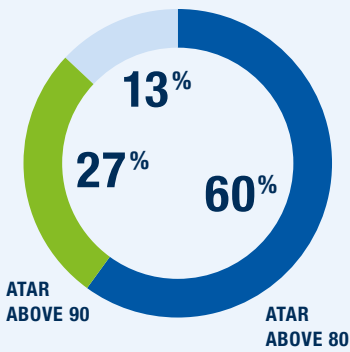
Georgie Bickerton, College Proxime



Out of 151 Year 12 students:

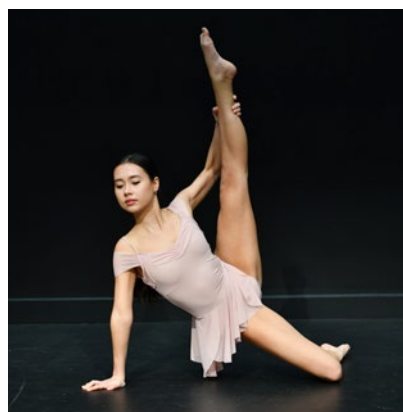
- 13% received an ATAR above 95
- 27% received an ATAR above 90
- 60% received an ATAR above 80

ATAR ABOVE 95



RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR ONSTAGE AND CALLBACK

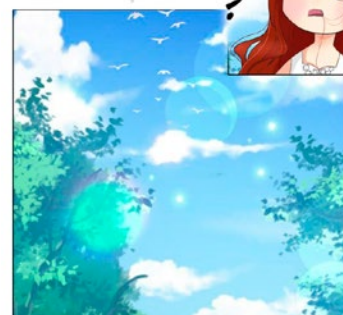
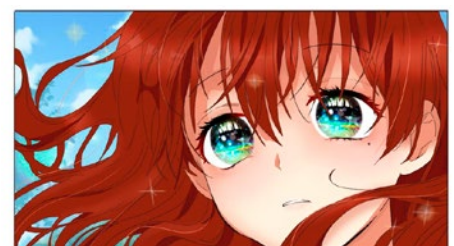
In 2022 Brigidine College St Ives received 29 OnStage nominations, the highest number of nominations for any school in NSW. The College also had a record number of Callback nominations with 13 students receiving nominations.



Above left: *Titania, Queen of the Fairies (Costume)* by Rose Wood selected and awarded Best in Show for *TEXStyle*.

Above: *Coco Yamaguchi's Core Performance* selected for *Callback*.

Right: *Tensei (Graphic Design)* by Bronwen Heal selected for *ARTEXPRESS*.



2022 HSC RESULTS

85

STUDENTS MENTIONED ON THE DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVERS LIST
THOSE WHO SCORED 90 MARKS OR HIGHER – BAND 6

158

MENTIONS ON THE DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVERS LIST ACROSS A BROAD RANGE OF COURSES

99.80

BRIGIDINE'S HIGHEST ATAR ACHIEVED



RANKED 9TH IN NSW OUT OF INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC GIRLS SCHOOLS AND 10TH IN NSW OUT OF CATHOLIC GIRLS SCHOOLS

BRIGIDINE RANKED 69TH SCHOOL IN NSW

4

TOP ACHIEVERS IN THE STATE



8

ALL-ROUNDERS

4

SELECTIONS FOR HSC SHOWCASES
1 BEST IN SHOW
47 NOMINATIONS



158

BAND 6 MENTIONS

346

BAND 5 MENTIONS

13%

ATAR OVER 95

27%

ATAR OVER 90

60%

ATAR OVER 80

Staff Update



MEET EDWARD CODSI, DIRECTOR STAFF

An often-quoted piece of educational research is that teachers are the biggest in-school determinants of the academic outcomes of students. Many of us can quickly recall the teachers who have had significant impacts on our lives, the ones that lit the sparks of our intellectual, creative, spiritual, physical and emotional development. This then begs the question of who enables the teachers to fulfil their roles? Who is it that ensures that all the technology is working, bills are paid, legislation is followed, students are enrolled, timetables created, excursions booked, furniture provided, rolls are created, band-aids applied, parents called, lawns mowed, floors swept, and food supplied?

As Director Staff, a big part of my role is to assist the people who do all of the above.

My Brigidine journey commenced 20 years ago when I returned to education after several years in the publishing world. Prior to this, the early years of my career were spent at Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College and Kincoppal-Rose Bay School. After leaving Brigidine, I spent nine years at Saint Ignatius' College Riverview, most of that time as Director of Middle Schooling, and have returned to St Ives after a number of years at St Pius X College, being responsible for staff professional learning.

Brigidine College St Ives is an intellectually rich and nurturing environment that truly provides an holistic education. My role as Director Staff provides me with a wonderful opportunity to work with everyone in the Brigidine community in helping to develop young women of courage, confidence and compassion.



WELCOME NEW STAFF

(Pictured left to right) Brent Tansley – Sports Administrator, Branden Garrett – Religious Education, Surmita Singhal – Mathematics, Brianna Power – Science, Emma Forbes – Head of Social Science, Cathy Arnott – TAS, Edward Codsi – Director Staff, Garth Aird – Head of VET, Mark Crewe – TAS, Matilda Griffin – Sports Administrator, Arslan Haider – IT Department. Absent: Belinda White – Assistant Head of English.

FAREWELL TO LONG-STANDING STAFF

Jo Baker **Studies Coordinator and PDHPE teacher**

Jo Baker commenced at the College in 1997 as Head of PDHPE and led an active and productive department. In 2011 Jo accepted a new leadership position, Studies Coordinator, supporting the teaching and learning practices of the College, working closely with the Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning and the Heads of Department. During her time at the College Jo was also very involved with social justice through her engagement with Antipodeans, encouraging student leadership and connections with overseas communities needing financial and community support.



Marisa Reddy **Executive Secretary**

Marisa commenced at Brigidine in February 2012 as Administration support. In 2014 Marisa accepted the role of Executive Secretary supporting the members of the Leadership Team. As these roles diverged and changed Marisa's final term supported specifically the Deputy Principal Faith and Mission and the Director Student Wellbeing. Throughout her time Marisa was part of the Administration team and willingly helped in any area as needed.



Liz May **Director Staff and Mathematics teacher**

Liz commenced at the College at the start of 2004 as an experienced Mathematics teacher. In 2008 Liz became the Year 11 Coordinator and enjoyed working with students in this pastoral capacity. In 2011 Liz became Director Administration and then in 2015 accepted the role of Director Staff. As a member of the Leadership Team, Liz enjoyed working closely with staff to provide support and an understanding of many staff issues. Liz brought her considered, judicious view to any concern. She worked diligently through the COVID-19 pandemic in keeping abreast of the NSW Health Regulations and knowing how to implement them at the College with care and concern for all stakeholders.

Rachel Copeland **Sports Administration Assistant**

Rachel joined the College at the start of 2012 as the Sports Club Assistant. During her time at Brigidine Rachel saw much change in the management of sport and was a consistent administrator throughout that time. Rachel brought energy and passion to this area and ably assisted the Head of Sport and Sports staff to deliver a varied program.



Natasha Mountfort **Visual Arts teacher**

Natasha's employment with the College commenced in 2004 as a casual relief teacher. Over many years Natasha worked casually and filled temporary blocks, mainly in Visual Arts and Diverse Learning. At the start of 2021 Natasha commenced permanent employment in Visual Arts and both staff and students enjoyed the benefit of her passion and talent in this area.

Latest News

Building Resilience through Camps and Retreats

In our holistic approach to the education of young women at Brigidine College, camps and retreats are an essential component for their learning, wellbeing and spiritual growth.

In a post-COVID paradigm we need to be even more persistent to ensure our students experience challenge in outdoor settings, work as a team with others to achieve success, and spend time in the great outdoors away from the secure setting of their own homes. Lessons learned from experiencing the world, their fellow students and their teachers whilst on camp can create life-long memories and form a sound foundation for self-belief and resilience in times of challenge in the future.

Not that our Camps and Retreats program is based on current television programs like *SAS* or *Survivor* in any way at all (though students, and possibly some of our parents, may perceive them as such) but they are far more inclusive, utilising challenge by choice for all activities and moving students gently out of their comfort zones in sequential programs that build upon prior success. Students get to try new things including surfing, snorkelling, cooking meals together, Indigenous education experiences, cycling, bush walks, hiking, stand-up paddle boarding, group initiatives, raft-building, canoeing, and simply walking together, telling stories and sharing experiences without having their phones with them.

In 2023 we incorporated outreach and service to others for both the Year 8 Camp and the Year 11 Retreat. Students walk gently with other people, and, in acts of service, play their part in making a difference to the world around them.

Brigidine students are potentially capable of “moving mountains” when given the right setting and motivation from their inspirational teachers and outdoor education providers, like the Land’s Edge Foundation, who work with us on the Year 7 and Year 9 Camps. The challenge for both educators and parents is to occasionally re-frame the camp perceptions, negative stereotyping and negative self-talk. We need to continue to give our students time in nature and time away from devices to develop them more fully. Time on Camps and Retreats builds resilience, the capacity to work and learn with others, and allows all to experience a wide array of activities in the natural world, up and out of “their chairs”. Our program will continue to evolve and provide challenge for the capable students as well as opportunity for those who struggle with their health and the outdoors. The Camps and Retreats held annually in Term 1 provide a wellspring for our students to draw from as they mature and move beyond Brigidine.

BRIAN LOUGHLAND
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL FAITH AND MISSION

“Time in nature is not a luxury. It is a necessity. And we must give our children time to explore, discover, and get to know the world, which brings endless delights and lessons that never cease.”

AINSLEY ARMENT, AUTHOR

“If we want our children to move mountains, we first have to let them get out of their chairs.”

NICOLETTE SOWDER, EDUCATOR





Year 9 Camp



Year 8 Camp



Year 10 Camp



Year 7 Camp

Latest News

Engineering Studies added to Curriculum

It is my great delight to announce that 2023 marks the first year Brigidine is offering Engineering Studies as a senior subject. Despite its small size, the inaugural Engineering Studies class represents a small step at Brigidine towards building students' opportunities in STEM and a giant leap in contributing to Australia's future engineers.

The Engineering Studies course delves into the theories underpinning key specialist areas of the profession including engineered products, braking systems, biomedical devices, civil structures, transport, aeronautical and telecommunications. Students learn about the history and practice of engineers, with time to explore and master their expertise in technical drawing, advanced mechanics, material science, collaboration and communication.

Students study engineering by investigating a range of applications and fields of engineering. Brigidine students will meet with professionals from the Engineering industry and interact with College alumni who have pursued specialist areas of engineering professionally.

The modules in the Year 11 Preliminary course have been designed to progressively develop knowledge, understandings and skills, commencing with Engineering Fundamentals (module 1) and concluding with Biomedical Engineering (module 4).

ENGINEERING STUDIES COURSE OUTLINE

Preliminary course

1. Engineering Fundamentals (application module)
2. Engineered Products (application module)
3. Braking Systems (application module)
4. Biomedical Engineering (focus module)

Students are required to produce a component of an engineering report in the Engineering application module 3, Braking Systems, and then a complete engineering report in the Engineering focus module 4, Biomedical Engineering.



HSC course

1. Civil Structures (application module)
2. Personal and Public Transport (application module)
3. Aeronautical Engineering (focus module)
4. Telecommunications Engineering (focus module)

Students are required to produce one engineering report from either of the two engineering application modules, and one from either of the two engineering focus modules.

One engineering report from the Preliminary course and one engineering report from

the HSC course must be the result of collaborative work, reflecting the importance of teamwork for successful engineering projects. Other areas the subject promotes include environmental, economic and global awareness, problem-solving ability, engagement with information technology, self-directed learning, communication and management skills.

BYRON USMAR
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Latest News

Creating a Better Future



Inspired by our students' passion to create a better future for the world we hope to raise enough funds this year to purchase and install solar panels on Bowie Hall and the Anita Murray Centre.

This would provide enough energy to power the College including all classrooms within the school. The addition of solar panels to both Bowie Hall and the Anita Murray Centre will increase the solar harvesting capacity of the school and reduce our own carbon footprint.

Our hope too is for the purchase and installation of water tanks to allow the College to catch and store rainwater and storm water run-off that will enable self-sufficiency. This is eco-friendly and there are so many applications including irrigation for our gardens and agriculture plots, washing and plumbing.

You will soon receive an email inviting you to make a donation and outlining methods of doing so. This will help Brigidine on our quest to "go green".

Your contributions are tax deductible.

We have seen in the past what can be achieved when our vibrant Brigidine community bands together in support of a cause. Indeed, this is a unique opportunity to make a difference. Working as one, the target to increase the solar harvesting capacity of the College and water storage is an achievable goal.

If you would like more information please contact Mandy Loomes, Director Community Engagement on mloomes@brigidine.nsw.edu.au or 02 9988 6200.

You can make your contribution through our website brigidine.nsw.edu.au/giving or scan the QR code:



Finding Your Voice



It is hard not to admire and respect public speakers as they navigate one of the most challenging activities known to humanity. And while we can all relate to the difficulty of having to speak before an audience, it's a far deeper challenge for our competitive public speakers than perhaps we at first appreciate.

The most obvious challenge is presented by the audience. In the audience sit competitors, family and loved ones, the adjudicators(s), and a demographic that is incredibly diverse (age and culture), and all those in the audience sit silently and attentively in judgment, a predicament that is daunting, frightening, exciting, complex, and dangerously alluring at the same time.

To speak is to be extremely brave, as you're acutely aware that your intelligence will be judged, your character will be assessed and perhaps unfairly linked to what you say, or don't say. Those who sit in judgment, are constantly considering – are you relatable, engaging, using appropriate gestures, clear, too fast, too slow, offensive, politically correct, honest, informed, right, wrong, biased, stereotypical, too reliant on palm cards and text, hypocritical, funny, or not? It's a tough gig, to say the least!

The less obvious, but possibly the greatest challenge is overcoming self and self-doubt. For public speakers, it is the ever-present *elephant in the room*. Self-doubt first appears in considering the decision to give it all a go in the first place, and it never leaves. The reasons why the public speaker cannot escape self-doubt have something to do with the following questions. What should I talk about and how should I attack the question or stimulus? Is my point of view valid? Why should anyone care about what I think or say? What if they, the audience, don't understand?

“A great public speaker is not just heard, they are felt.”

What if they don't laugh when they should, agree with me, or, worse still, care about what I'm saying? How will I be judged by my peers – will they think of me as elitist? Why would I even bother doing all of this extra work?

Many of our competitive public speakers began as public speakers in primary school where they were able to rely on their personal talents and gifts, namely their intelligence, writing skills, a clear voice, strong general knowledge, and the ability to memorise content, all of which are still extremely

valuable, yet as they navigate the early stages of adulthood our students are discovering a much deeper challenge, and are being forced to consider that public speaking is more about making connections and being the catalyst for an emotional and intellectual response in the audience. A great public speaker is not just heard, they are felt.

Public speaking is as much about finding your inner voice as it is about being heard by the audience, and it's this truth that leads to the greatest learnings for some of our bravest students.

In 2023 Brigidine College students will attend a range of cocuerricular public speaking competitions. These include the Catholic Schools' Debating Association (CSDA) public speaking competition, the Rostrum Voice of Youth competition, the NSW Arts Unit Plain English-Speaking Award, the Lions Youth of the Year Award, and the IGSA Festival of Speech competition. We look forward to seeing our public speakers develop their skills further through these opportunities.

**OWEN VALE
DIRECTOR COCURRECULAR**



CSDA public speaking competition competitors with Public Speaking Coordinator, Patrick De Souza.



We asked some of our 2023 competitive public speakers what they thought was the hardest thing about public speaking and here are their responses.



Rostrum Voice of Youth competitors Josephine Crocker, Amelia Hague, Summer Woods and Charlotte Ross.

Everything and everyone has a point of difference, staying relevant and connected with everyone in the room is really hard.

– **Josephine Crocker, Year 10**

Engaging older people in the audience is hard, really hard, ... it leads to a fear of not being relevant, not being heard, and being judged in a profound and deep way.

– **Amelia Hague, Year 9**

Finding the speech concept to begin with, trying to stay original, and managing the fact that each year the performance standards just keep rising. Finding the balance is also really hard thing – like truth vs a good story, being relatable but not average, a little bit controversial but still appreciated, funny but not politically incorrect.

– **Summer Woods, Year 10**

The hardest things are being assessed, having self-doubt, and most of all controlling stress.

– **Charlotte Ross, Year 7**

Events

Footloose

Lose your blues, everybody cut footloose...

Brigidine College St Ives has proudly presented an annual musical for many decades to showcase the talents of our students as actors, singers, musicians and dancers on stage. Our Musical Director Mrs Roslyn Boyd and I have collaborated in this cocurricular space for nearly 15 years, and we have always endeavoured to find new shows that we have not staged here to add to the rich history of Brigidine musicals.

Footloose is the first we have been able to complete with a live audience since 2019. Even writing that date feels surreal and somewhat unbelievable – as an indicator, the Year 12 students in this production were in Year 8 when we completed our last show, *Mary Poppins*. With the world plunged into uncharted territory during COVID-19, our production of *Chicago* due for March 2020 had to be cancelled and we distributed filmed 'Musical revues' in 2021 and 2022 for family and friends to enjoy at home.

It was important to us that the choice of show in 2023 reflected, in some small way, the journey of the past three years. Whilst that might be an unusual thing to write about *Footloose*, a film mostly remembered for Kevin Bacon's performance and the excellent soundtrack of 80s hits, it acts as a strident metaphor for our collective experience.

The midwestern American town of Bomont has managed an unexpected loss by imposing a series of restrictions in the interest of keeping its citizens, especially its teenagers, safe: no drinking, no rock and roll, and definitely no dancing. When the spirited Ren McCormack moves to Bomont from metropolitan Chicago, he tries to persuade the local Reverend to reconsider. It's easy to paint Ren's character as a rebel, but there are good intentions from this young man who has also endured his own loss: his goal is to



remind the town of the joy that comes from connecting and from celebrating.

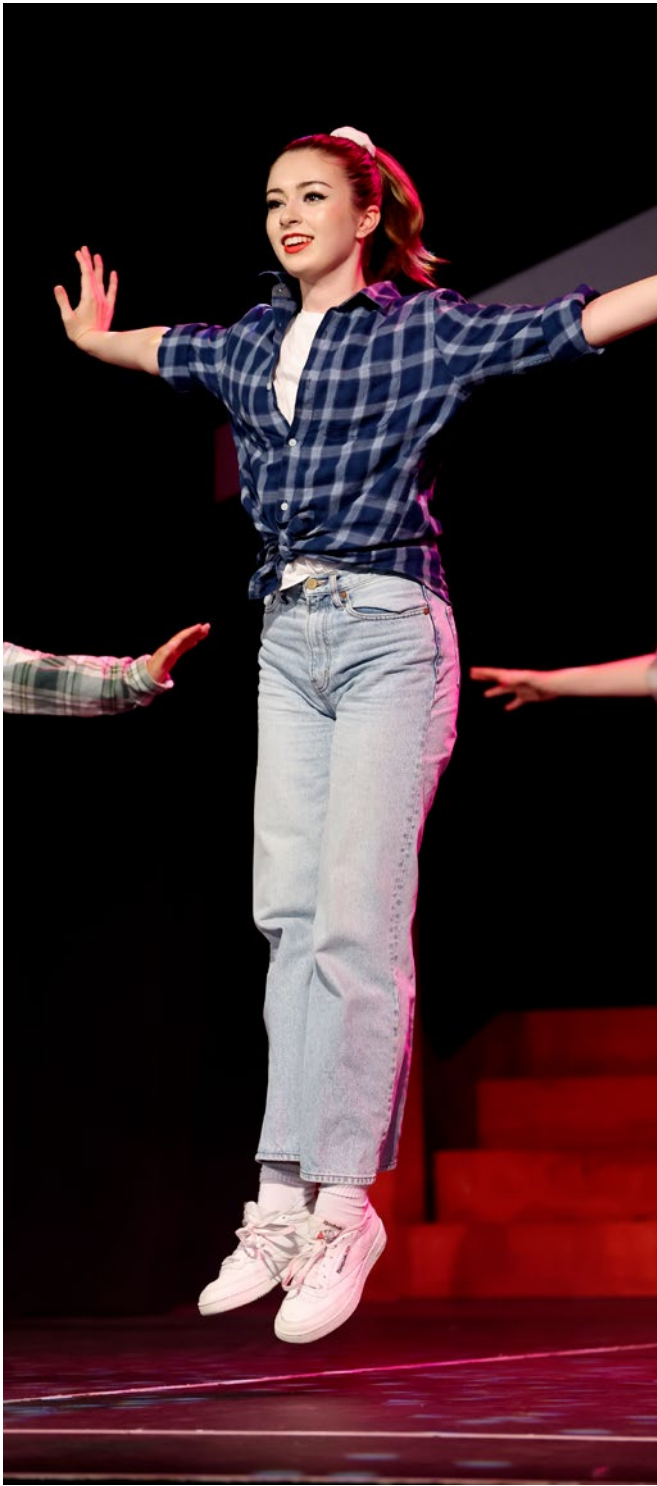
In short, it is the story of a faith community learning to dance again with the salient reminder that we often find our spirit in the space that exists between people. Through this lens, *Footloose* resonates with all of us in a post-lockdown world processing what it means to rediscover the things we may have taken for granted.

For the bulk of our cast, this was their first musical at Brigidine. For others, it was their first time performing in one with a live audience. They are fortunate to have had so much warmth and support from the Brigidine community as they reignited the flame of this long held and deeply valued tradition for the College.

As always, it was a group effort to put on these shows. The performers were ably supported by Mr Gareth Edey's Girls In Black technical crew whose contributions to the musical are essential. The set was designed by Mr Andrew Hodgson, our Property Manager, and built by Mr Glenn Cameron and Mr David Yu from his team. We had additional support from a variety of staff members and on behalf of the Production Team we thank them for their contributions.

For those who came to watch a performance, we hope the music in this show stirred some nostalgic joy for those who remember the original movie and inspired all of you to dance through the rest of the year, whatever it may bring.

CHRIS RUTHERFORD
DIRECTOR





Events

Swimming & Athletics Carnivals

This year the annual Brigidine Swimming Carnival was held on the very first day back at school. Although it was a bit of a shock for some to jump straight into a carnival on the first day back, it was a great way to start the year with lots of house spirit bringing everyone together!

It was wonderful to welcome our new Year 7 students to their first secondary school carnival and to see a new group of swimmers coming through. The highlights of the carnival were the Inter-house relay, which sees two swimmers from every year group swimming for their house in a 12 x 50m Freestyle event, the Invitational 50m Freestyle, which sees our fastest eight swimmers across the day battle it out for the title of Brigo's fastest girl, and the Staff vs House Captains relay, with the staff being victorious on this occasion. Congratulations to all the girls who swam and earned points for their house and congratulations to our winning house, Lourdes.

In another change to the calendar this year, the annual Brigidine Athletics Carnival was held in Week 4 of Term 1. This is a carnival that is traditionally held in the cooler months, so it was another shock to the system to be holding our athletics events in temperatures over 30 degrees! Despite the heat, the level of participation from the students was excellent. The usual colour and glamour of the house themes were on display, with some fabulous costumes seen flying down the track in the 100m sprints. Although some of the usual carnival activities were unable to proceed due to the hot weather, the carnival was a great success, with our new Year 7s once again displaying excellent athletics skills – we look forward to seeing them represent Brigidine in the upcoming representative carnivals. Congratulations again to Lourdes, who took out the winning house trophy for Brigidine Athletics 2023 after claiming the Swimming trophy only weeks earlier!

CLAIRE HATHERELL
HEAD OF SPORT



Events

Brigidine Celebrates Women in Science



We were thrilled to host Brigidine's first Women in Science Expo in the Anita Murray Centre in February. Keynote Speaker and inspirational Astrophysicist and Science Communicator, Kirsten Banks, shared her expertise and passion for space and astronomy with a presentation on the night sky from an Indigenous perspective.

Brigidine students gave their own presentations on science-related topics and experiences including visiting NASA, involvement in the National Youth Science Forum, Stage 6 Depth Studies and Science Extension projects.

The evening concluded with Brigidine alumni Aisling Tutaan Class of 2022, Natalie Bowesman Class of 2021, Elle Miller Class of 2016 and Brianne Clarke Class of 2016 sharing their post-school pursuits, aspirations and careers in science.

Congratulations to Jasmine Mulholland and Raya Santos (Year 12) for co-hosting the event and to Hakone Liceralde, Veronica Scully (Year 8), Paige Copley (Year 9), Georgie Calleia and Georgie Thomas (Year 10), Hayley Christie, Katie McCrindle, Sophie McGrath, Mia Perry and Jana Weingartner (Year 11) and Jessica Hildebrandt and Hannah Thonell (Year 12) for their presentations.



We give huge thanks to Mr Byron Usmar for the time and effort he put into organising this highly successful event. We are already looking forward to next year's Women in Science event!

ROB FARR
HEAD OF SCIENCE

Events

Career Clusters

This year Ms Shelley Cooper, Brigidine's Careers Counsellor has introduced a new way for students to consider career development and planning. The three Career Clusters evening sessions planned for 2023 aim to give students examples of how careers can be related through their shared skills and work environments. The number of cluster groupings vary across the world. Brigidine is using the model of six clusters as developed by Lucy Sattler, the developer and owner of Study Work Grow.

WHAT ARE CAREER CLUSTERS?

There's more to work than industries. That is why it does not make sense to only group jobs based on the industries they are found in. Career Clusters group people based on their key tasks, core technical and transferable skills and common outcomes.

Career clusters is a new way of thinking about jobs that can help students pick their career path by looking at jobs with shared characteristics. These shared characteristics can include concepts, industry, skills, objectives and interests. Students can look beyond the most popular jobs in each industry and understand the diversity of the jobs on offer.

The six identified Career Clusters used by Study Work Grow that are being shared with students are:



The Informer

They have careers where they use their knowledge to advise and teach. They ensure processes are implemented, regulations are complied with, systems and policies are created and followed. Careers for Informers include Accountants, Curators, Sky Dive Instructors, Lawyers and Principals.



The Innovator

They manufacture, design, engineer, innovate and create the things, tools, places, and systems we use to live our lives, and work with cutting edge technology to protect, develop, solve and maintain technological systems. Innovators design everything from buildings to aircraft, vaccines, and software, and their creations are used in every industry. Careers for Innovators include Fashion Designers, Food Technologists, Photographers, Architects and Engineers.



The Linker

Their careers help us find, choose and secure things. They answer questions, support businesses, organise events and advise people on making informed decisions. Careers for Linkers include Concierge, Salesperson, Cruise Director, Head of Community and Tour Guides.



The Maker

Careers include creating and maintaining physical things. They work with their hands, and use their skills to fix, mend, create, inspect, maintain, grow and move. Makers are skilled at using tools and equipment and have a responsibility for maintaining the safety of their work site for themselves and others. They work in a variety of locations, depending on their industry, which may include industrial and commercial sites, large building projects, on farms in agricultural settings, or as tradespeople in residential homes. Careers for the Maker include Plumbers, Farm Hands, Technicians, Cleaners and Pilots.



The Coordinator

These careers plan, manage and organise things. Careers for the Coordinator include Logistics Officers, Project Managers, Executive Assistants, Wedding Planners and Business Managers.



The Guardian

Careers protect our physical and mental wellbeing. The Guardian careers include Nurses, Fitness Trainers, Beauty Therapists, Dentists and Safety Inspectors.

The first session, held on Tuesday 28 March began with an introduction to Career Clusters by our keynote speaker Lucy Sattler. Lucy Sattler has created and developed an innovative career education program that helps young people make smarter decisions about their future pathways. Lucy then facilitated a Q&A session from panellists who are Makers and Innovators in their industries.

The night was incredibly informative for all attendees and we are excited for the sessions that will be held later in 2023. If you would like more information about Career Clusters or would like to be involved as a representative of your career please contact Shelley Cooper at mcooper@brigidine.nsw.edu.au

Events

School Snapshots



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze



Pi Day



Ash Wednesday Liturgy



Peer Support



Brigidine Staff wearing #LotsOfSocks in support of World Down Syndrome Day



The Butterfly Foundation's 'Let's talk ideals' presentation to Year 9



Commencement Mass Smoking Ceremony



Year 7 Number Day



Class of 2022 High Achievers Assembly



Year 12 Breakfast



Year 12 Charity launch "Dare to Dream" in support of Sock it to Sarcoma

Community News

A Place of Community and Friendship

The transition from primary school to high school is a steep learning curve for not only our students but for parents too, so meeting other parents is a great way to share in the experience. We have two initiatives at Brigidine aimed at welcoming our Year 7 parents to the College community: Mums Lunch and Supper Groups, and Brigo Dads.

In early March we continued the tradition of our Year 7 Mums Lunch and Supper Groups. These groups have been running for almost 40 years with many of the original groups still meeting today. This year we hosted more than 60 mums all keen to form new friendships.

Brigo Dads, now in its third year, is a chance for dads with a daughter in Year 7 to meet and get to know one another in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. This year we were happy to welcome over 30 dads who came along and met some new faces over a glass of wine or a bottle of beer and a bite to eat.

We hope this year's groups are the start of some great friendships that will continue for these parents long after their daughters have graduated.

PIP INMAN
ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY
RELATIONS COORDINATOR



Community News

Let's Flamingle!

The College hosted 420 guests in March at its annual Welcome Cocktail Party. The theme for the night was Flamingle and the venue was transformed from school hall to tropical oasis. Guests were greeted with a frozen daiquiri cocktail and entertained with a performance by The Ragin Cajuns. Delicious food was cooked by Barbettes Feast and served by our Hospitality students. It was a wonderful opportunity for new and current parents to “flamingle”.



FROM THE ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR

The Brigidine College of the future is built upon the foundational values of its past. Since opening its doors in 1954, our mission has always been linked to the College motto *Fortiter et Suaviter* (Strength and Gentleness) and although our current mission statement has been written for the world we live in today, I would argue it could have been written for any time in our history.

"We inspire our students to value learning, seek wisdom, act with integrity and to honour their spiritual heritage. We challenge young women to act as global citizens, with strength and gentleness in their own lives and the lives of others."

Throughout our history Alumni have taken what they have learned at the College and gone out into the world striving to put it to good use and never could that be more evident than in the stories we share with you on the next few pages.

Rose Wood Class of 2022 was awarded 'Best in Show' at this year's TEXStyle exhibition, Annika Hather Class of 2017 used her study grant to attend events crucial to her career development and networking, and Anna Robertson Class of 2004 has found her love in connecting with people.

One of my favourite events of the year is our Pioneers and Golden Girls Day where we celebrate this group of warm and passionate women who represent the history and heritage of our school. They return to the College for this event each year and are shining examples of the community and friendship that is Brigidine.

Walt Disney, the namesake of Walt Disney World and the creator of Mickey Mouse was known for sharing motivation and inspiration through his words. One of his famous sayings was "If you can dream it, you can do it." But who needs Walt Disney

when you have Brigidine girls to turn to for encouragement? With the words "Girls can do anything, Brigo girls can do EVERYTHING" echoing through the corridors over the years, *Words of Wisdom in Transition Week* and *Are You Linked In?* show how our Alumni, through their own experiences and career paths, have a wealth of knowledge to share and inspire both current students and other members of the Alumni community.

We thank all those who have shared their stories and news with us for this issue of *The Bridge*. I encourage all of you reading these pages to think about sharing your story too because if it influences or has an impact on just one person then it's a story worth sharing.

PIP INMAN ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR

WORDS OF WISDOM IN TRANSITION WEEK

Each year our Year 10 students spend a week preparing to become seniors of the College. Do you remember how that felt? Were you excited or daunted about the last two years of school? In November, Heidi Richardson Class of 2020, Issy Inman Class of 2018, Emily Ambrogio Class of 2021 and Mia Ferguson Class of 2021 spoke to the girls to offer them some inspiration and guidance about how to manage the HSC years.

They explained how they approached Years 11 and 12 and shared some tips on what worked for them when it came to studying, finding a balance, and staying healthy both mentally and physically.

So, what have they been doing since they graduated and what advice would they give themselves as a Year 10 student now that they are alumni?



Heidi Richardson Class of 2020

Since finishing at Brigidine in 2020, I have completed my Bachelor of Clinical Science (Pre-Medicine) degree at Macquarie University. As it was an accelerated two-year course, I graduated from this undergraduate degree in December 2022. Presently, I am

studying for the Medical Entrance GAMSAT Exam to pursue postgraduate study to become an Orthopaedic Surgeon.

Aside from study I work part-time at Northern Beaches Hospital as an Operating Theatre Assistant. On the side, I have continued to tutor students in English and Science, which I really enjoy!

I am travelling to India this year to volunteer at the local hospital in Faridabad and to work in the slum clinics. I am really looking forward to this opportunity and the tangible impact I will be able to make on the lives of others.

As I reflect on my high school years, my two main messages of advice would be to put in the hard work now – your future self will thank you. I remember Year 10 came with a lot of uncertainty, especially surrounding tertiary study and the future outside of Brigidine. If

you do not know where your passions lie or are uncertain of which career path you want to take, that's okay! The best thing you can do is to maximise your chances of achieving your personal best so you have more opportunities available to you for future endeavours.

Secondly, prioritise having a balance. It may sound cliché but looking after your physical and mental health as you approach the senior years is imperative. To achieve your personal best and to enjoy some of the BEST years of your life, preventing burnout is the most important thing. The support from your teachers is invaluable, so lean on them!



Issy Inman Class of 2018

Since graduating in 2018 I have been studying a Bachelor of Law/Bachelor of Arts (Politics and International Relations). This is a five-year double degree, so I am in my last year now.

I also work part-time at a law firm in the city around my studying. I am in a team that works on civil litigation of historical abuse matters. This is a people-focused area of law and one I find very interesting because each matter we deal with is different. Next year I plan to complete The College of Law for my practical legal training which will allow me to then be admitted as a solicitor in NSW.

I have also done some traveling in both Europe and Australia, although not as much as I would have liked due to COVID-19 restrictions. I hope to do more now we are free to travel again!

The main advice I'd give myself as a student would be to really take in all the small moments life brings you because the next few years will go so fast and it's those small moments that you forget. It's important to find the good parts in every day and to live in the moment rather than be overwhelmed and worry too much about the future because it comes around faster than you think!



Mia Ferguson Class of 2021

After graduating I began studying a Bachelor of Medical Sciences at Macquarie University. I am now in my second year and loving it. I am working in retail and tutoring in maths and chemistry throughout the week as well. Although I haven't planned anything yet, I would love to travel in the not-too-distant future, maybe somewhere in Europe!

Looking back as an Alumna, the most important advice I'd give my Year 10 self is to be patient with yourself and don't be afraid to look to others to find some perspective. In the middle of study, sport and clubs, friendship changes and apprehension for the years to come, it's very easy to be swept up in the chaos and feel a little out of your depth.

Looking to my parents, family and peers for support, reassurance and advice always went a long way, so don't be too proud to ask for help.



Emily Ambrogio Class of 2021

Since graduating in 2021, I have commenced a double degree of Primary Education and Psychology at Macquarie University. I have also continued working at a pharmacy and have started working at Before and After school care.

If I could give my younger self one message knowing what I know now, it would be to look after your mental health before anything. There is nothing more important than self-care, it will make you the best and most resilient version of yourself.

Our thanks go to Heidi, Issy, Mia and Emily for giving up their time. We are excited to hear what comes next for all of them.

There are many ways our Alumni can share words of wisdom with our current students or with other members of the Alumni community. If you would like to be involved please contact Pip Inman, Alumni and Community Relations Coordinator at alumni@brigidine.nsw.edu.au



PIONEERS AND GOLDEN GIRLS DAY 2023 – A CELEBRATION!

The College hosted a lunch in March for our Pioneers and Golden Girls (Classes of 1957 to 1973) to celebrate all they represent in the history and heritage of our school. The scene was set for an enjoyable afternoon with our String Ensemble playing in the background and lunch service provided by our Hospitality students. Our College Captain, Sarah and Vice-Captain, Daisy shared some stories of their Brigo days with the group and gave an insight into the wonderful opportunities on offer to our students today. Our guests chatted and laughed together as the archival display took them on trips down memory lane to stories of their own school days.

We welcomed the Class of 1973 to the group fondly known as 'Golden Girls' celebrating 50 years since their graduation from Brigidine and we acknowledged the Class of 1963 who have reached 60 years since their

graduation. Both groups were presented with a small gift to mark the occasion.

We were thrilled to be joined by our Patron of Alumni, Sr Anita Murray, along with Sr Maureen Keady and Sr Clare Keady, and we thank them for joining our celebrations.

Here are just a few of the comments made by our Pioneers and Golden Girls:

"Thank you for a fabulous, friendly afternoon. We were very spoilt and honoured."

"Many thanks for such a lovely afternoon. It was wonderful to reconnect with old friends and speak with Sr Maureen and Sr Anita. The school looked beautiful and your girls enjoy an amazing learning environment. Looking forward to the 70-year celebrations next year!"

"Thank you so much for arranging another special time at Brigidine. The company and food were excellent."

"Thanks for organising the reunion on Saturday. I think we all had a really nice time and enjoyed the get together. It was lovely to hear what the school is doing and the Captain and Vice-Captain were very impressive girls. So nice to see young, educated women nicely self-assured and confident."

We look forward to seeing this group return to the College next year when our celebrations will welcome the Class of 1974 to the Golden Girls and when the Class of 1964 will mark 60 years since their graduation.



A NEW BRIGO GENERATION

At the start of each year, we are always happy to welcome our new students to the College. As they walk through the gates on their first day, keen to start their Brigidine journey, you can feel their excitement and maybe a few nerves too.

This year, five of our students are the daughters of Alumni, following in their mum's footsteps. It was an exciting day for all of them with one mum commenting how it was the first time she had been back to the College since 2003! It is wonderful to see the Brigidine tradition being passed from one generation to the next. We are eager to hear what happens next in their stories.



Left to right: Rosie Steger, Danielle Terry (Aunt) Class of 2003, Caitlin Haydon, Anne-Marie Haydon Class of 1994, Willow Peschardt, Fiona Peschardt Class of 2001, Carla Bayldon, Erica Bayldon Class of 1994, Sophie Drysdale Class of 1994, Honor Drysdale.

Alumni Profile

ANNA ROBERTSON CLASS OF 2004

Often when students graduate from Brigidine they have a very clear idea of what career path they want to follow but sometimes that is not where they end up. Anna Robertson Class of 2004 wanted to be an actor and completed two degrees to help her achieve that dream. Today she is not an actor but is still connecting with people, just in a slightly different way, and she's loving it!

I graduated from Brigidine College in 2004 and, almost 20 years later, it still feels like yesterday. I desperately wanted to be an actor and so I attended Charles Sturt University in Wagga, where I completed two bachelor's degrees: Bachelor of Arts in Acting for Screen and Stage and a Bachelor of Arts in Television Production. I then had a brief stint in the USA after becoming eligible for a 12-month working visa. My time in the USA was challenging, they were experiencing a recession and of course I was new to the industry. I worked on shows like *Hell's Kitchen*, helped cast for films and worked for the Santa Monica Film Festival.

My first job back home was as a camera assistant with the ABC. It was great. I worked on *The New Inventors*, *Q+A* and *Good News Week*; the cast were amazing! Fast forward 10 years, during which time I also worked at SBS, and my career

in television came to an end after working as a news reporter for Channel Seven.

It wasn't until I was 34, however, that my life really started to take shape and fall into place. I was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and suddenly everything made sense. I became a media advisor for a state government department, bought an apartment and started my own business as a marriage celebrant and MC!

Winifred Weddings was born out of my love for telling stories and making people laugh. As a celebrant with NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages for just over a year I married more than 300 couples and loved it! I was also a stand-up comedian and began to get requests to MC so when I moved into my current role, I worked to become an independent registered celebrant allowing me to establish my own business, Winifred Weddings. Winifred is my middle name. It was my grandmother's name, my mother's mother, who passed away before I was born so has a special meaning to me.

It's taken a while to get the right balance between working and doing something I love but now that I have, it's very rewarding.

To say Brigo helped shaped the person I am today would be an understatement. My school days are some of my favourite memories and I'm so grateful to my



parents for providing me the opportunity. I'm still in touch with some of my teachers – they are its biggest asset.

STUDY AWARD RECIPIENT – WHERE IS SHE NOW?

For some years now students have been fortunate to have several study grants on offer including one provided by Margaret Cook. Marg was a teacher at the College, she joined the staff team in 1970 and taught her last class here in 1996. Since then, she has remained connected to the College and has been supporting the Geography study grant for the last six years.

In 2017, Annika Hather Class of 2017 was awarded the inaugural Geography Award. Her progress since then has been consistently excellent and she and Margaret remain in contact with one another. Here Annika shares with us what she has been doing since receiving the grant.

I graduated from Brigidine in 2017 and always had a strong interest in Geography which led me to study a Bachelor of City Planning (Honours) degree at UNSW. This degree includes a year of paid practical work which led me to my first job with the NSW Department of Planning back in 2020 where I still am today. In 2021, I graduated with first class honours, the University Medal and an award for the best thesis in the year for my thesis on Aboriginal land rights and the NSW planning system. Whilst I experienced moments of doubt throughout my degree, I absolutely love my job today – my work is diverse, well-paid and there is a great work-life balance to the planning profession. I couldn't recommend pursuing a degree in planning more.

I also am incredibly grateful to Marg and her Geography Grant which I received in 2017. It allowed me to become a member of the Planning Institute of Australia and attend events which were crucial to my development and networking. I have loved staying in contact with Marg and for her constant support five years on, her generosity has played a huge part in my career journey and personal development. I am also incredibly grateful to Brigidine College for providing the support and drive to pursue my passions, and particularly Mrs Ballesty who fostered my love for Geography.



We wish Annika continued success in her career and look forward to seeing where her journey takes her in the future.



If you would like to read Annika's thesis, scan the QR code.

ARE YOU LINKED IN?

We have over 7000 Alumni in our Brigidine community. That's a lot of life experience, inspiration and industry knowledge waiting to be shared. We are working towards launching an initiative which will allow our Alumni to engage with one another and current students who can all benefit from their wealth of knowledge.

A new fortnightly Q&A series on our Brigidine LinkedIn page will focus on the careers of Alumni. It will feature stories of different career paths, industries and words of wisdom from across our Alumni community with the aim of inspiring current students and Alumni to follow their dreams or providing them with insight into a career they may not have even considered.

If you would like to be part of this wonderful Q&A series and be an inspiration to others, please read on.

All we need from you is to answer the questions below and send your answers and a high-resolution photo of yourself to Pip Inman at alumni@brigidine.nsw.edu.au. We will collate the responses in preparation for the launch.

- What has been your journey since graduating from Brigidine?
- Tell us about your current role and what it involves?
- How did your time at Brigidine influence and inspire your career choices?
- What has been the most rewarding part of your career?
- What are your interests outside of work?
- What is your advice to your 16-year-old self?
- Words of wisdom for today's Brigidine students?

Your story is worth sharing and we look forward to being inspired by you all!



BEST IN SHOW!

For the second year in a row, students from the College have been selected for TEXStyle, an exhibition of HSC Textiles and Design Major Projects. In 2022, Madeleine Coakes Class of 2021 was selected for her *Sapphire Coat*. This year Rose Wood Class of 2022 was not only selected but was awarded 'Best in Show' for her piece *Titania, Queen of the Fairies*.

Chosen from over 30 exemplar projects from across the state this is a wonderful achievement for Rose who worked tirelessly on her stunning costume design, guided by her teacher Ms Robyn Collins.

The prize was sponsored by Blessington and Rose will receive a fabulous sewing machine in recognition of her accomplishment.

Congratulations Rose!

BIRTHS

Anna Bullock (Pentelow) Class of 2008

Anna and Nathan welcomed Robert Wells Willis Bullock on 23 October 2022. Bob is the perfect addition to the family with his proud brother George taking on the big brother role with pride.



Archives

Get To Know Our Archives



Brigidine College St Ives Archives provides a secure location for records and memorabilia that have value as authentic evidence of administrative activity or historical and cultural significance. They are preserved by our Archivist for the benefit of the Brigidine community.

OUR ARCHIVE

In 1989, four staff members, Allen Carters, Marie Duffy, Philippa Goddard and Kerry-Ann O'Sullivan wrote to the Principal, Sr Anita Murray to suggest the establishment of an archive. The group became known as the 'Archives Committee' and with the assistance of \$1000 from the P&F they began the collection of items which would become today's archives.

Since 2003, there have been four professional archivists who have enthusiastically learnt about the history of the College buildings, staff and students, capturing events as they occurred and bringing the past back to life through displays, tours and publications. The collection now includes over 600 boxes of records and memorabilia including items such as photos, uniforms, trophies, books, paintings, diaries, programs, magazines and badges. The Archives aims to remind us of our rich and continuing culture of strength and gentleness, weaving stories and images of our past into the everyday life of the community.

OUR ARCHIVIST

Jackie Rossington has been the College Archivist since Term 1, 2021. She is a qualified archivist with a double degree in librarianship and information management and has recently completed a diploma in family history. Jackie has previously worked in school archives as well as in both public and school libraries. She is also a co-convenor for the NSW School Archivists group of the Australian Society of Archivists.

Our archivist is always interested to hear your Brigidine stories and is continually looking for new ways to remind our community of the history and enduring culture at the College. If you have an item or story you would like to share, a question you would like to find an answer to, or an idea you'd love to see come to life, please contact Jackie at archives@brigidine.nsw.edu.au



Can you help?

We are looking to increase our collection of official photos. If you have a year group or sports team photo you are willing to share, please contact us to check if it is missing from our collection: archives@brigidine.nsw.edu.au



Help Brigidine go Green

Please support the College on our quest to go green. The installation of solar panels and water tanks will help reduce our own carbon footprint and enable self-sufficiency. Your gift will help create a better future for the world.

You can make your contribution through our website:

brigidine.nsw.edu.au/giving

or scan the QR code:

