



ST CATHERINE'S
COLLEGE

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THE

BANKSIA

MAGAZINE FOR OUR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



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Welcome

It is a privilege and a joy to Chair the Board of St Catherine's College. Not only is the work the Board handles interesting and challenging, but the integration of skills and personalities, ensures that every point is thoroughly discussed and weighed up to provide the best outcome for the College.

The Board clearly understands the governance role it plays and by supporting Fiona Crowe and her staff in their roles, we are collectively better able to serve the College and the residents. As an Alumnus of St Catherine's, you can be assured that your College is performing exceedingly well and the growth on all levels aligns with the KPIs set out in the current Strategic Plan.

This year has seen a sharp increase in the number of metropolitan students coming to St Catherine's, the highest number across all the Colleges at the University of Western Australia (UWA).

There is a misguided perception that residential colleges in Perth are only for regional students or if you are a metropolitan student who wants a residential experience, you have to go to the Eastern states universities. I went to The Women's College in Sydney even though my family lived in Sydney. It was one of the best experiences of my life and set me on a positive trajectory for my career. At St Catherine's College we would like to see more Perth metropolitan students living in College and experiencing what all our other residents do in terms of the programs, the leadership opportunities and the social networks. Read about one such student on page 18.

Leadership of such a multi-faceted organisation is paramount and the depth of experience and skill exhibited by the College staff means every resident at St Catherine's sees active leadership in practice every day.

Leadership opportunities are regularly presented to residents, and they are encouraged to challenge themselves to try new things, put themselves out of their comfort zones and think about their future after graduation.



Hon Dr Elizabeth Constable, Chair of the Board, St Catherine's College

You will note this common thread in many of the Alumni profiles in this issue of *The Banksia* and what an impact it has had on those who have jumped at every chance to do something challenging.

Lastly, I also encourage you to support the College in whatever way you can – every contribution, whether in expertise, mentoring or financial support makes a huge difference to the College. For our Alumni to support us means your time at St Cat's and your legacy lives on in this generation of residents.

Thank you for being part of the larger St Catherine's family. I hope you enjoy reading about the achievements of our residents and younger Alumni.

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Definitions

Alumna: A female former pupil or student of a particular school, college, or university.

Alumnus: A former pupil or student, especially a male one, of a particular school, college, or university.

How do I use these terms? When used in the singular, alumnus (which is a male form in Latin) generally refers to a male former student, with alumna being the corresponding female term, but the plural alumni can refer to pupils or students of either sex.

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Philanthropy is about shared goals and collaboration



Dandjoo Darbalung residents enjoying the new St Catherine's Vehicle supported by Lotterywest



The Agreement Signing Event

St Catherine's is a leading residential college in Australia and is constantly looking at partnerships which are meaningful, support our values as a College, and allow us to increase investment in our residents. We like to foster ongoing relationships and work in collaboration with our partners, which in turn helps to grow stronger relationships with time. Recently, two new partnerships have been forged which are exciting and are opening doors (quite literally!) for our residents.

LOTTERYWEST SUPPORTS ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE

We are thrilled to announce that St Catherine's successfully applied for a grant from Lotterywest to fund a transport vehicle and contribute towards the development of the outdoor space associated with the new 45 bedroomed building at St Cat's themed around Indigenous culture. Parts of the building were opened in February with the remaining development due for completion in July. Once the project is completed, work will commence on the gardens with a grand opening planned for later in the year. (More to come. There will be a full spread on the new building in the November issue of *The Banksia*).

Funded by ordinary West Australians, Lotterywest funds community projects with impact, and the College is very grateful for the sizable contribution towards our programs.

The positive partnership that developed through the application process further resulted in a holiday internship for one of the College residents, Savannah Cox. Savannah, who is studying a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Indigenous Knowledge History and Heritage worked in the Grants Office over the summer holidays and gained a wealth of experience in stakeholder engagement, relationship building and service provision.

WA'S LEADING MINING COMPANIES FORM AN ALLIANCE TO SUPPORT INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Education and employment outcomes for our Indigenous residents received a \$180,000 boost from four corporate leaders in the Western Australian mining industry.

AngloGold Ashanti Australia, Barmenco, Independence Group (IGO) and Sandfire Resources have joined forces to support 100 Indigenous students to complete the Dandjoo Darbalung program at St Catherine's. Each company has made an investment in the program of \$45,000 over three years.

Thank you to our partners:



A vitally important element of the partnership is the peer-to-peer mentoring of Dandjoo Darbalung students in regional communities which encourages secondary school students to pursue tertiary education.

IGO's Company Secretary and Head of Corporate Affairs, Joanne McDonald, was initially approached by St Catherine's College regarding sponsorship of the Dandjoo Darbalung program.

"This was a perfect opportunity to reach out to others within our industry to see if they would be interested in taking a collaborative approach to community investment. AngloGold Ashanti, our joint venture partner at Tropicana, Barmenco, our mining contractor at Nova, and Sandfire, our neighbour in the Fraser Range region, all committed to the project. It made sense as we all have operations in remote locations where many of the students in the program come from. It was through the power of collaboration that we saw an opportunity to make a significant impact.



Residents sharing their new home with our partners

"We are so excited that we have been able to finalise the agreement and help the program expand and be able to assist more students. I think this serves as a great example for our peers in the mining industry to find more ways to collaborate on programs that bring shared value – together we can make a huge difference," Ms McDonald added.

Fiona Crowe, the Head of St Catherine's College strongly advocates this approach. "This program is making a fundamental difference to young Indigenous people from regional and remote communities. Supportive partnerships such as this enable us to grow the program and provide the depth of academic and pastoral support which ensures real success. Higher graduation rates and secure employment for Indigenous students are our shared objectives!"

The College is deeply appreciative of partnerships such as these and without them, we would not be achieving the impact we currently are.

Margie Tannock



Name: Margie Tannock
Occupation: Partner at Squire Patton Boggs
St Catherine's Board: 2019

fast facts

You are a Partner at Squire Patton Boggs. Tell us about your role?

I head up Regulatory and Public Policy in Australia. This encompasses everything from delivery of a licence to operate for a mining project; to working with clients on potential changes to government policy. It is a great, diverse job, with a wonderful team.

You are in a leadership position. What makes a good leader?

I was talking about this the other day with a female colleague. Leadership skills and opportunities are from all parts of your life – and everyone leads a different life. My view of what makes a good leader is determination, kindness, clarity of thought, resilience and a capacity to listen and change your mind when you are wrong.

You have recently become a Board member at St Catherine's College. What drew you to the position?

I have been working on a pro bono basis for Bloom for many years. This was how I got to know the wonderful people at St Catherine's, and their commitment to values and educational outcomes that mirror my own. When the Chair called me to ask if I would consider a Board role, I didn't hesitate!

Has your career turned out as planned?

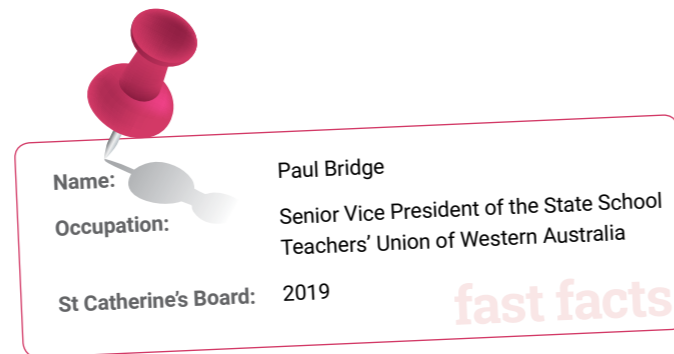
That would imply that I had a linear plan! To paraphrase John Lennon, life in the form of children, relocation and new interests, means sometimes your early plans change. I've considered each career opportunity as it presents itself and decided how it fitted into the rest of my life, and then given it everything I could.



What career advice can you give to our current residents who are wanting to enter the legal profession?

Be open to opportunity and change in careers and type of legal practice. The advent of technology, the use of big data in law and the chance to work outside the confines of an office as a lawyer are just wonderful chances to extend yourself personally and professionally.

Paul Bridge



Name: Paul Bridge
Occupation: Senior Vice President of the State School Teachers' Union of Western Australia
St Catherine's Board: 2019

fast facts

You have over 25 years' experience in education as a teacher, school leader and area director in rural and remote communities. Tell us about your career journey.

My career journey actually started with me visiting some universities in Year 12. Until that time, I hadn't made up my mind in terms of where I wanted to go at the end of Year 12. However this was a very interesting phase; I visited places like UWA, amongst many others. It was through the information that I got there, and with a family member involved in education, that I formed the crystal-clear vision of wanting to become a teacher.

Also, as a person that has come from the Country, I was passionate about giving back to these regional and rural areas. Particularly in terms of education and I think my career path through Aboriginal schools is testament to that.

I've been very fortunate to have worked under the guidance of strong school leaders, resolute educators and inspiring Aboriginal leaders who have guided me along my journey. As such, part of my role now is not only to support those Aboriginal educators, but also other teachers and school leaders. I encourage them along their individual journeys, particularly with regards to rural and remote schools. I've been in education for 25 years, but I'm not planning to leave anytime soon!

As an Aboriginal educator, what are the critical challenges facing Indigenous students in rural and remote communities?

As I reflect on my time, I think that the significant cultural and climactic changes that you encounter when going from the Country to the city is obvious. I was one of those students that moved from the Country into a boarding school and I found it really challenging, especially as I was very young. Moving to a metropolitan area can be daunting, but places like St Catherine's provide phenomenal levels of pastoral support, that I can only wish I had back in my time. It's not only the challenge of being away from family, but moreover those adjustments that all young people have to make in terms of the competitive nature of education nowadays. You've got to be self-reliant, resilient and have a strong work ethic to carry you through to future endeavours.

Tell us about your involvement as a Board member at St Catherine's and what contribution you feel you can make?

I have only been appointed recently and it's certainly from my perspective been a steep learning curve. However, what has come out clear is that the Board members have incredible levels of expertise and the collective knowledge shown within this group is unparalleled. I know that I will not only be able to provide my advice in terms of education but also in terms of Aboriginal education and offer my ongoing support within St Catherine's. Bringing my experience to the forefront, when accomplishing my objectives in this regard, will be of great significance.

What advice would you give to our current residents who want to work in rural and remote areas of Western Australia?

I think that going into rural and remote areas to work can be a life-changing experience, particularly if all your life skills have been confined solely to the metropolitan area. Certainly, it is incredibly rewarding – even though it can be challenging. However, in terms of giving back to rural communities it is really important because those communities deserve the same support and services as those provided in metropolitan areas. Whether it's in education, health or in any other field, it is definitely unimaginably rewarding to work in such areas. I would encourage this, particularly if you're in the early years of your career, or even in university, since it can provide you with valuable experiences and can shape your perspectives for the better.

What challenges have you faced throughout your career?

That's a really good question. I think the high levels of expectations that are placed on you as a school leader – as a result of the ever-evolving dynamics of education – comes with a greater deal of responsibility that one has to be held accountable for. Especially when it's in relation to serving the wider community. Another challenge is that within some of the school communities we serve, some of our students live complex lives. The obstacle I must help with circumventing in that regard is how I can best tailor education to the unique needs and aspirations of students within that community.

You are currently the Senior Vice President at the State School Teachers' Union of Western Australia. Tell us how your role further moulded your experience as a leading educator?

I am currently undertaking the Senior Vice President role at the Union. A crucial objective of being in this role is supporting school leaders across Western Australia. I'm additionally a Board member of the Stronger Smarter Institute. This is a not-for-profit organisation that facilitates leadership opportunities for educators, like myself. Their philosophy revolves around setting higher objectives for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students alike, while instilling the core underlying values of respect and integrity that all students should possess when communicating with their teachers and parents.

For Aboriginal students, there are further processes in which we impart the values of Aboriginal learning; ways of doing and being. This is meticulously integrated into the educational framework.

The work that I do in my roles particularly looks into schools with high Aboriginal populations, and this has been so interesting. Experiences such as these have shaped my perspectives on how I view rural and remote schools and their distinctive roles in the Western Australian educational system.

"I think that going into rural and remote areas to work can be a life-changing experience, particularly if all your life skills have been confined solely to the metropolitan area."



Jordin Payne

Name:	Jordin Payne
Studied:	Sociology at Murdoch University
Years @ St Catherine's:	2008
Location before St Catherine's:	Broome and Esperance, Western Australia

You are a Senior Consultant at Cannings Purple. Tell us about your work.

I am first and foremost a proud Nimanburr woman and traditional owner from Broome, Western Australia with ancestral ties to Yarwuru, Djugan, Nyul Nyul and Bardi groups on the Mid Dampier Peninsula. I bring a strong background in community and stakeholder engagement to my senior consultant work, specialising in Aboriginal engagement, strategic corporate partnerships, relationship building and event development.

Cannings Purple is a leading strategic communications and public relations firm in Western Australia. We work together to deliver expert advice and services across major sectors and my team and I spend most of our time on corporate affairs and stakeholder engagement but also do some work with our digital team and pro-bono services.

Failing to understand and talk plainly with certain communities is the quickest way for a project or organisation to fail.

We collaborate with corporates, social enterprises, and community leaders to drive conversations with impacted communities and the people who can influence the reputation and improve the experience associated with business or leadership.

Ultimately, we work to help explain, engage and encourage support for the most complex or contentious of projects and issues facing our communities. Community engagement should never be about ticking boxes, and our team mentality aligns with the belief that having the right conversations in the right way with the right people can enact change.

What was your career journey after leaving St Catherine's College?

Sometimes when considering a journey, we look to our career milestones. For me however, the journey that has been most impactful has been the personal one. It is one that involves exploring who I am and working towards spiritual and professional skill growth.

It was at St Catherine's that I met one of my closest friends, a woman who has supported me through the many ups and downs that come with 11 years of friendship and who has inspired me many times over. It was by living there that I was given an opportunity to create a home away from home and take the time to learn about my new environment and feel comfortable with my independence and expression. I carried the things I learned with me from these experiences into life after College.

When it comes to my career, I have always been a believer in critical self-reflection and saying yes to opportunity – even when it scares me! I have worked in hospitality, mining and operations, tertiary education and now communications, and can honestly say each change in direction was instigated by a question I would ask myself - is this adding value to my life and to who I am? By doing this I was able to understand the areas of work that I wanted to do more of, the gaps in my own skills that were perhaps hindering my ability to do more in that space, and the areas that no longer interested me or where I felt I had reached my capacity in.

Having strong guidance through my liyan is important to me and my culture. Your liyan is more than your general wellbeing and the way you feel about yourself. It extends to every relationship and interaction you engage with as you navigate spaces, and that you do so with the inner guidance from your ancestors. Connection to country, each other, and the world around us is fundamental for a good liyan. This has been my guide in my career journey as it is my guide in life – searching to learn, to grow and to give back.

* For Yarwuru people, mabu liyan is at the heart of what it is to have and to know a good life. Strong connection to country, culture, family, community and identity are all fundamental.

Tell us how the Dandjoo Darbalung program at St Catherine's prepared you for your future.

Connection to place and community are foundations for success and so important in creating an environment that supports learning and development. The program was in its incubator stages when I was at St Catherine's and we were only seven young women trying to find our way in a new world of opportunity. Many of us were the first in our families to go to university and having a space that provided a network of people from my own cultural background meant that I had people around me who understood not only what I was feeling but also the barriers I faced.

As a proud Nimanburr woman, what advice can you give to our current residents of the Dandjoo Darbalung program who are wanting work in the communications industry?

One of the greatest lessons I have learnt over the years is to view the challenges that will come your way as opportunities to learn and be better. Also, not to be tied down by how you think you should act or how you think you should be, but to remember that you are in control of your identity and your future. We all contribute to society in our own ways, and the intersectionality of our Aboriginal identities is what gives us strength. It gives us the ability to have impact on current practice and set the standard of best practice not only in work but also in how we relate to each other.

How do you maintain a work/life balance?

Trying to maintain balance in a full life is hard to do and it is a constant adjustment. I go by a rule where I try to make sure I do at least one social event, one family event, and something just for me every week. I do this to make sure I give time to the relationships that are important to maintaining a strong liyan, including the relationship I have with myself.

The hardest part of maintaining a balance is remembering to be kind to yourself. There are going to be times when you are going to be tested and spread thin but as long as you keep checking in and making adjustments to ensure you are in the right frame of mind, that is all that matters. If you are not okay, the relationships around you will not be okay either. The trick is not to feel guilty about taking that time for yourself and to understand that it is necessary to be able to give back to those around you.



Gabriel Driver-Wilson



Name:	Gabriel Driver-Wilson
Studied:	Computer Science
Years @ St Catherine's:	2015
Location before St Catherine's:	Salem, Oregon, United States

fast facts

What are the most valuable skills that you have learnt through your studies and current position?

Communication. I haven't learned everything about it – and probably never will – but through my studies, work and life itself, having proper communication is the most valuable skill I've learnt. Whether in a job environment or social environment, misunderstanding or miscommunicating can be detrimental. Taking the time to think something through, really weighing all the information you have at hand, before giving a considered response can make a world of difference.

You were a resident at St Catherine's in 2015. What influenced your decision to live at St Catherine's?

I was an exchange student from Oregon and wanted a typical Aussie experience. St Catherine's caught my eye with its more formal take on College life. I saw pictures of the fancy dinners and state-of-the-art new buildings and it all looked very nice. That, plus the gym membership and the all you can eat meals. I miss it!

What were the highlights of living at St Catherine's?

All the events that were held. I remember the crazy dodgeball game, the dances, and of course LipDub. Another highlight would have to be the people. Everyone who worked at St Cats and all the other students living there were amazing. I didn't get to know everyone as well as I would have liked to, but I made friends I'll never forget.

What's your best piece of advice for our current international residents?

Do everything! I'm exaggerating, but only a little. If something you see posted online or on a bulletin board at the College catches your eye, sign up for it.

That's one thing I'll always regret, not doing more things and meeting more people. I ended up spending too much time in the gym and missed out on a lot of amazing events.

What are your career plans?

Right now, my career plan is to work as hard as I can and try to become a QA engineer at Mercari. Furthermore, I have the hopes of one day becoming a product manager or designer. In the long term I hope to eventually start my own tech company and be my own boss, designing my own products. I want to create something that people will love.

I don't expect to create the next Snapchat or Instagram but who knows, it's never a bad idea to shoot for the stars, right?

You are working as a Software QA Tester at Mercari. Tell us about your role. How did you end up in this position?

I originally started working at Mercari in September 2017 as a moderation analyst. Mercari, is only an American and Japanese based company – for now. We offer a service that makes selling online as easy as buying online. As a moderation analyst I was basically the marketplace police, making sure any listings or users that violate our terms of service were deleted and banned. Although fun at times, it quickly started to feel like a job a robot would eventually take over. Long, tedious hours of repetitive work.

In December of 2018 the QA tester position was announced! A brand-new position never offered at the company before. I jumped at the opportunity and got the job! A QA tester works in the product department, alongside the QA Engineers, testing the app and website on a daily basis to make sure everything is working as expected.

I love this role as my team and I get to play with the latest smartphones and test out brand-new features on the app before anyone else. We provide our feedback to the product managers and engineers, and sometimes, within as little as a week, we see the changes live. It feels amazing to think I'm making a difference at the company and improving the app.

Matthew Robson

Name:	Matthew Robson
Studying:	PhD in Psychology, University of Western Australia
Years @ St Catherine's:	2014 - 2016
Location before St Catherine's:	Sydney, New South Wales

fast facts

What is your favourite memory of St Catherine's? What was the most meaningful thing you learnt?

I have a lot of favourite memories from my time at St Catherine's! The first one that comes to mind was the 'Secret Friends' Week' in first year, where I went down the creepy route by handmaking a personalised story book about scary bears for my secret friend. Another great memory I have was the Neon Foam Party that took place in the Jull courtyard, but it only occurred once because it ruined the lawn. We also won two out of three Inter-College cups in 2014, so we set off a bunch of fireworks to celebrate. A final favourite memory was helping organise and semi hosting the Four Seasons Ball in my first year. Even though it was stressful, the event was so much fun.

Coming to St Catherine's was a very memorable experience for me. I completed my undergraduate over East and then decided to take a year off. Afterwards, I applied to UWA in Perth to start my PhD and was fortunate enough to be able to stay at St Catherine's. St Catherine's enabled me to be immersed in an academic and social culture which I missed out on during my undergrad. Personally, this was very meaningful. Some words of wisdom for the current residents: Always get involved and throw yourself in and give everything a go. However, remember not to overload yourself as your studies are just as important.

You are currently completing your PhD in Psychology at UWA. Tell us about your project?

My project is specialising in atypical face perception. Specifically, we are looking at people with congenital prosopagnosia, a condition that affects about 2.5-3% of the population. It is a specific face identity recognition impairment that prevents people from deriving identity cues from the face. This can affect an individual's functioning throughout their life, as they can have trouble recognising friends and family or even following movies. It is important to note that I am not looking for a cure or treatment. The actual research is quite young, and it has only been reliably diagnosed since 2006. I am looking at other abilities related to face identification that those with prosopagnosia may or may not be able to do. This will tell us whether the impairment is specific to all face aspects or identity.

Tell us about your experience as a PhD student? What advice would you give to our current residents about going into research?

Research is very different to your undergraduate studies. In undergrad, you have prescribed coursework and your professors and tutors have the answers. There is this idea that your PhD supervisors will also have the answers, but this is not the case.

Your supervisors are there to mentor and work collaboratively with you. They don't know the answers, and that is why you are working on your PhD project. I changed my area of focus from social psychology in honours to neuropsychology for my PhD, as I was interested in perception. Most people tend to go into a PhD based on their honours work, so shifting gears made it more difficult to get started.

My advice to current students who are wanting to go into research is to make sure you are statistics trained. I find a lot of undergraduates have inadequate statistics skills and to really engage in a lot of research, you will need to be proficient beyond the basics. This will open a new world of understanding for you. Secondly, I recommend that you should take the opportunity to learn specialised skills, because you have a lot of opportunities that won't be available to you after you finish your PhD. These will help you get a job in the future. Remember a PhD is a marathon not a sprint. You are going to feel like an imposter and you may think you don't know what is going on. It is a slow pace and you will see results over the years. Don't lose sight, you will get there.



What's happening around College?

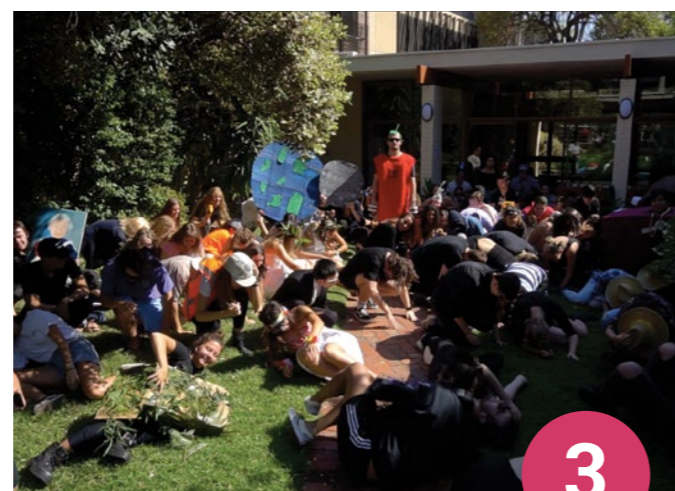
Semester 1 is always a very busy time where new residents get to know others, learn to navigate the university world and actively participate in the many events and programs on offer at College. It is also a time to celebrate differences, remember where we have come from and support a future world that is sustainable and green!



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COMMENCEMENT DINNER

Commencement Dinner marks the beginning of the academic year and welcomes all residents, both old and new, to celebrate the festive spirit of community that is St Catherine's. 2019's dinner, with a Secret Garden theme, had a mouth-watering spread of food and live music, all creating a night that was both memorable and magical. The dinner was a chance for freshers to establish new friendships and returning residents to rekindle existing ones.

SECRET FRIENDS' WEEK

During Secret Friends' Week, while remaining anonymous, residents leave little gifts outside the doors of their secret friends, commonly accompanied with thoughtful letters of appreciation and encouragement. Notable gifts for 2019 have included coupons from popular shops, mini gift hampers and stationary – all highly relevant to the quintessential university student! At the end of the week, a casual gathering is organised where secret friends reveal themselves. The week represents the spirit of care and community that St Catherine's fosters and is a really fun way to get to know other residents.

LIPDUB

The highly popular LipDub event takes place as an Intercollege festivity. Each year, the Colleges battle it out, through several strenuous recordings, to create a LipDub masterpiece, with the ultimate hopes of emerging as LipDub champions of College Row. LipDub screening takes place with all Colleges invited to an unveiling shown on a massive projector. Highest marks are awarded for creativity and entertainment value, for which St Catherine's maintains a high standard each year. St Cat's won last year but lost to University Hall this year!



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INTERCOLLEGE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Intercollege Swim Carnival takes place each year at the UWA Aquatic Centre. St Catherine's College swimmers are known for their determination, while always being cheered on with support and encouragement from the massive crowd of loyal College supporters. St Catherine's male and female swimmers battled it out to successfully secure 1st place for 2019.

MULTICULTURAL WEEK

Multicultural Week celebrates the kaleidoscope of cultures present at St Catherine's. During the week we celebrate a diverse array of ideas, cultural traditions and backgrounds of those who live at the College. It culminates in "Multicultural Night" which allows residents to showcase their culture through dance, musical performances and heart-warming speeches. The night ends with a community dinner with an elaborate spread of cuisines from all corners of the world and is a celebration of the global diversity of our residents.

EARTH HOUR

St Catherine's mission is to always encourage a greener tomorrow and during Earth Hour all the lights in and around the College were turned off from 8.30-9.30 pm. During this time, residents gathered on the rooftop gardens to admire the stars, while enjoying some hot chocolate!

Sonia Sachdev and Lianda Stoel

Name:	Sonia Sachdev and Lianda Stoel (Gannon)
Studied:	Dentistry (SS) and Health Sciences (LS)
Years @ St Catherine's:	1999 - 2002 (SS) and 2000 - 2001 (LS)
Location before St Catherine's:	Sydney, New South Wales

fast facts

Have your careers followed the trajectory you expected since leaving St Catherine's in the 1990s?

LS: Mine has changed quite dramatically. Originally, I was studying a Bachelor of Health Science (Dip Ed). After my practicals in teaching, I realised this was not quite the career I wanted and applied for a position training financial advisers on Life Insurance products. Interestingly, I loved it from the moment I started and have been in the industry for almost 16 years.

SS: To a certain extent. I have to say that when I was studying dentistry at UWA, I wasn't sure if it was going to be the career for me. The course at the time focussed on the technical aspects of dentistry and not so much the people side of things.

When I graduated and started working, I realised that there was a whole relational side to dentistry that I hadn't discovered during Uni and I loved it!

The technical aspect is a good balance between science and art and I love dealing with people. I worked in public dentistry for a few years, before venturing into the world of private dentistry. I have had my own practice for 9 years now and, in addition to that, I teach with the University of Sydney once a week. This is a great balance and I love being able to mentor budding dentists who may be experiencing the same things I was during Dental School.

How do you stay connected with the friends you made from St Catherine's? Tell us about your own friendship journey.

LS: The challenge in the '90s was distance! Not everyone had mobile phones, so email was what you relied on to keep in touch. Facebook and other social applications have certainly helped to reconnect a lot of friendships after College.

SS: We were both from Sydney, so had that connection to begin with. The beautiful thing about College is that friends become your family when you are away from home. Post College, Lianda moved back to Sydney and we tended to catch up every time I went over there on holidays. When I moved back to Sydney permanently our friendship picked up right where we left off.

Tell us a memory about St Catherine's that has really stayed with you both.

There are so many, it really is hard to choose.

- Wine and Cheese nights
- Many trips down to 7/11, Broadway Pizza and Tiamo's
- Pasta dinners shared over wine with the girls
- Many, many, many fire alarms – generally during exams! (And seeing how many boys were actually staying overnight in a supposedly all-women's College!)

The one memory that particularly stands out is when the fire alarm was set off during O-week and, as Freshers, we were rounded up together and taken to McDonalds in the city for breakfast!

How do you think your time at St Catherine's prepared you both for life beyond university?

Living in College expands your horizons and also gains you an independence you simply don't get living at home and going to Uni.

St Cat's was always progressive for women's agendas and culture. You felt very supported and yet challenged at the same time to move outside of your comfort zone. This is vital when moving into life outside of College.

What words of wisdom would you like to pass on to our current St Catherine's residents?

Jump in with both feet! You get the most out of the College experience when you try to experience the most possible. Whether you are good at something or not, give it a go – some of our best memories are failing splendidly at a sport we'd never played or getting up and singing to the top of our lungs and being somewhat off-key!

Also, take time to chat with everyone – some of our fondest memories at College were times spent with girls from backgrounds we had not had any exposure to.

Enjoy every moment at university and at College. It is such a fun stage of life and it goes by so quickly. Like us, you will make friends who will be by your side for life.

"St Cat's was always progressive for women's agendas and culture. You felt very supported and yet challenged at the same time to move outside of your comfort zone. This is vital when moving into life outside of College."



Sonia was the bridesmaid at Lianda's wedding

Luke Ribet and Taufiq Zainal

Luke and Taufiq were at St Catherine's together for three years and became great friends. They were the inaugural members of the Marketing Intern program at the College and are now working in Sydney in different aspects of Marketing.

You are both working in the marketing industry in Sydney. How is it going? Tell us about your roles.

TZ: Whenever I tell people I work at an advertising agency, they immediately think that our world is all about making ads, jetting off to Cannes, sipping expensive rosé on the Promenade de la Croisette in the French Riviera, whilst wearing pastel trousers. That's what advertising is all about right? (Clue – it isn't.)

In all seriousness, I work with clients to grow their brands and drive sales (or other business result) through effective communication strategies. This involves a deep understanding of how consumers use media, and a constant curiosity to know what makes people tick. I love this job because it truly sits within the intersection of data, technology and creativity.

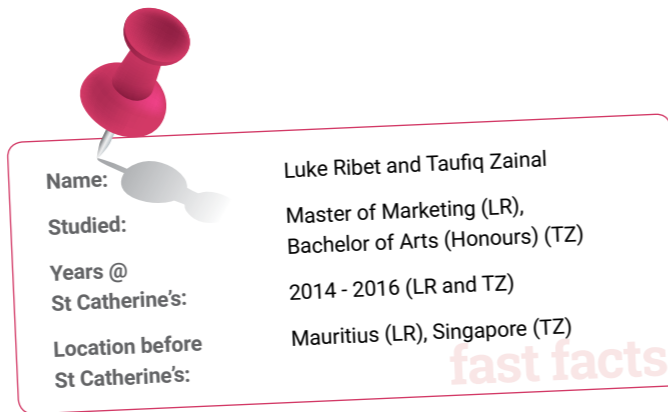
LR: In contrast, I work on the client-side of the marketing equation. Within the realm of market strategy and planning for a Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) Company, I take ownership in delivering the business fundamentals of product portfolio management, trade (B2B) marketing, channel management, volume distribution and merchandising. It's a challenging role, but a deeply rewarding one as well.

Your careers so far (at such a young age) are so inspiring. What do you attribute your success to?

TZ: Resisting the temptation to 'go deep'. I think a large part of the university system is designed to help you hone a skill and develop specialism. But the reality is that most employers today are looking for people with a breadth of experience.

Living in College was great because all the volunteering, leadership and learning opportunities I participated in really helped my resume stand out.

LR: I agree! The best way to truly embrace change post University is to build your confidence, especially through the experiences and



Name:	Luke Ribet and Taufiq Zainal
Studied:	Master of Marketing (LR), Bachelor of Arts (Honours) (TZ)
Years @ St Catherine's:	2014 - 2016 (LR and TZ)
Location before St Catherine's:	Mauritius (LR), Singapore (TZ)

fast facts

skill sets gained when you afford yourself everything that College life has to offer. I think it's also worth mentioning that Taufiq and I were interns in the College's marketing department. We were fortunate enough to be involved in a significant re-branding project for the College and developed recruitment strategies that resulted in an admission waiting list for the first time in the College's history!

Moving to Sydney - how did you know it was the right time to take this next step?

TZ: If you take a pragmatic look at where all the large multi-national advertising, public relations, media or market research agency networks are based in Australia, you'll find them primarily over on the Eastern seaboard. I was also drawn by the enormous size, pace of change and significant client billings of the big agency networks, so for me, the move was a necessary and inevitable step.

LR: Towards the end of my degree, I was submitting several applications for various roles – and to be perfectly honest, I didn't really pay much attention to where those jobs were located! The opportunity to move to Sydney presented itself when I was offered the role that I'm currently in – which leads me to this point: just take the plunge!

What would you say your favourite thing is about what you do? And what would you say is the most challenging?

LR: I love solving business challenges and helping my company's portfolio of brands 'win' in its category.

The challenge is developing innovative solutions – the best of which are those that are so brilliant in their simplicity. Easier said than done!

TZ: The pace of change in marketing has never been faster – and I love it! Our phones talk to us and store the entire world's information in their memory banks. We know everything about everyone, all the time. In the context of my day-to-day work, we've moved past 'spots and dots' on a media plan, to a complicated integration of communications to serve our clients' business needs. The challenge in that is staying on top of change. What I mean by that is making sure that the way I work and think remains nimble so that I can see the possibilities for my clients faster and without anxiety.



"The opportunity to move to Sydney presented itself when I was offered the role that I'm currently in – which leads me to this point: just take the plunge!" Luke Ribet

What are key or critical tips you have for our residents who are thinking about a career in marketing?

TZ: Marketing is a massive, thriving industry. Many forget that marketing touches upon multiple disciplines, from creative to analytics and even behavioural sciences. There's also the option to go client-side or agency-side. A good place to start familiarising yourself with the landscape is through the trade press. B&T and Mumbrella are some of Australia's leading publications for the advertising, marketing, media and PR industries. Subscribe to their newsletters to stay on top of what's happening in our world!

LR: Learn as much as you can about the tools most digital advertisers use. The resources in Google's Academy for Ads are free and amazing at helping you get a head start on your career in marketing. It's also where you go to take the AdWords certification exams – pro tip: digital marketing professionals value this a lot!

ACHIEVEMENTS

Beazley Medallist at St Catherine's

Pooja Ramesh is the recipient of the 2018 Beazley Medal for WACE students. It is an award that is given to the highest achieving student from the WACE (Western Australian Certificate of Education) and the VET (Vocational Education and Training) pathways in Western Australia. This Perth Modern School graduate never thought the award was a possibility for her but through hard work and sheer determination, she earned the highest ATAR score in the state and gained a direct pathway into her medical degree.

Pooja has many interests outside of academics. She has learnt Indian Classical Singing and Dance since she was seven years of age. She plays the violin in the Western Australian Medical Students' Orchestra and enjoys exploring and arranging music from South-East Asia in the Anandadhara WA orchestra. For sport, Pooja enjoys badminton, basketball and recreational swimming.

Pooja is the recipient of the 2019 St Catherine's Beazley Medal Scholarship, and is the first resident to live in the Dr Elizabeth Constable Room. "I have so much to thank St Catherine's College for. It's the medium through which I've been able to pursue all my interests. Being at St Catherine's has helped me open up to new experiences, opportunities and challenges."

Pooja is enjoying her double major in Medical Sciences and French Studies, even with its challenges. She plans to explore the field of pediatric medicine or global health policy.

Pooja's words of wisdom are: "The main thing is to love what you're doing. Choose subjects and pathways based on what you love doing and devote yourself to it. If you are passionate and self-motivated, you will find it easier to work towards achieving your goals."



Shruthi Avadhani



Name: Shruthi Avadhani
Studied: Bachelor of Commerce (Economics) with 2nd Upper Class Honours
Years @ St Catherine's: 2012 - 2015
Location before St Catherine's: Singapore

fast facts

Role: Customer Success Manager, LinkedIn Talent Solutions

The Company: LinkedIn, Singapore

What does your role involve?

Customer Success is a relatively new function that exists in Technology companies, particularly in Software as a Service (SaaS) models. The idea behind Customer Success is to ensure that the solution provided leads to the success of the client achieving their key business objectives.

REUNIONS

More opportunities to meet **old friends**

Gathering in Sydney

Whilst participating in a study tour of residential colleges and accommodation providers, College staff caught up with some Alumni living in Sydney. It was a festive and lively dinner catching up on new developments at St Cat's but with plenty of time to reminisce and laugh about their own experiences at College. It was a wonderful reminder that although things change and Alumni move on with their lives, the essence of St Cat's remains intact and takes just a moment to rekindle, regardless of time or age.



L - R: Mandy McFarland (Director of Advancement), Taufiq Zainal ('14 - '16), Ashleigh Benadretti (Deputy Head of College), Fiona Crowe (Head of College), Junran Cao ('14 - '16), Luke Ribet ('14 - '16) and Sonia Sachdev ('99 - '02). Lianda Stoel (Gannon, '00 - '01) was also present.

2000s REUNION

: Date to be confirmed
: If you are keen to be the reunion coordinator for the 2000s, please contact Brooke on 9442 0591 or email alumni@stcatherines.uwa.edu.au

I account manage a book of businesses with many clients who are currently using LinkedIn's Talent Solutions (LTS) on a subscription basis. My role is to ensure that their overall strategic goals are aligned with the usage of the solution. LTS provides innovative recruiting tools to help business become more successful at talent acquisition and management. I build out education plans, run training and webinar programs, and advise businesses on the best possible method to leverage a tool like LTS.

I have lots of fun working with clients from different walks of life, stories, and businesses. Customer relationship management is my passion!

How did you get this role?

I applied for the role on LinkedIn and went through 5 rounds of interviews. If you are ever interested in client-facing roles, a roleplay will be part of the interview process. I had the opportunity to meet with many different representatives from the organisation

during the interview process, which gave me the opportunity to ask the right questions and understand more about the role. It is important to be yourself, be honest, and ask as many questions as you can. You are interviewing your future employer as well. Questions you may ask can range from technicalities of the role, to career progression and development.

What are your tips for residents?

Have fun and get involved as much as you can. Meet as many individuals as you can during Formal Hall, professional development events and networking sessions. Even if you believe they do not have the same background as you - that's even MORE of a reason to get to know them. Expose yourself to the different cultures and career goals that fellow university students at St Catherine's College have. It will all contribute to your own growth.

Stay active, keep smiling at everyone who walks past you and enjoy your College experience! It goes past very very quickly!



2019 St Catherine's Hockey teams

YOU can make a **positive impact!**

St Catherine's alumni have the opportunity to make a difference.

BECOME A **MENTOR**

Join our mentoring program to support future St Catherine's residents who are just about to enter the workforce and who would benefit from the shared wisdom of an experienced professional:
<https://stcatherines.uwa.edu.au/current-residents/plan-my-future>

BECOME AN **AMBASSADOR** AND PROMOTE THE COLLEGE

Spread the word about your experience studying in Perth and living at St Catherine's. If you are interested in becoming an ambassador of the College, please email alumni@stcatherines.uwa.edu.au

SUPPORT THE COLLEGE **BY GIVING**

Consider supporting the College with a gift. Every gift, regardless of the size, makes a difference! Please see the Annual Giving insert or visit <https://stcatherines.uwa.edu.au/community/giving-and-philanthropy>

EMPLOY GRADUATES FROM ST CATHERINE'S

Build on your pool of talent and start connecting with St Catherine's residents and graduates.
<https://stcatherines.uwa.edu.au/current-residents/plan-my-future>

SHARE YOUR **FEEDBACK**

Let us know what we can do to make your alumni experience more beneficial.
<https://stcatherines.uwa.edu.au/community/alumni/feedback>



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