

Upcoming Events

EKKA –

The Royal Qld Show

10 – 19 August

Father's Day

2 September

Redcliffe KiteFest

25 – 26 August

End of Term 3

21 September (Brigidine)

Start of Term 4

9 October (Brigidine)

Reunion Updates

10 year – Sat 22 September

College Tour from 4pm

Evening venue TBC

20 year – Sat 20 October

College Tour from 4pm

Pig n Whistle Ind. From 7pm

30 year – 13 October

College Tour from 4pm

Evening venue TBC

40 year – TBA

50 year – TBA

Join the Brigidine College Indorooopilly Alumni Group on Facebook, or email alumni@brigidine.qld.edu.au



Her Story

Dr Devini Ameratunga

– Class of 1997

Speech extract from the Awards & Acknowledgement Evening 2012

It was a walk down Memory Lane to come back to Brigidine after graduating 20 years ago. I wasn't exactly a star pupil in the traditional sense but I think I took advantage of a variety of things that I really enjoyed doing. Apart from all the school dances, formals and semi-formals, I remember taking part in Public Speaking, a Rock Eisteddfod and a fashion parade. Drama was the subject I enjoyed most and I remember playing lots and lots of sport. I was a Prefect and Athletics Captain back then, mainly because it was hoped these roles would keep me out of trouble!

When I told my family I was going to be Guest Speaker at Awards and Acknowledgement Evening, my brother piped up "Why you, it's not like you've done anything!" That's what it's like being in a family of high achievers. But the truth is, upon reflection, I reckon I have achieved something; I get to do what I love every day: something that I'm passionate about, something that amazes and excites me and I get to help people along the way. I think that's an achievement, don't you?

When I was in Year 12, I had no idea what I really wanted to do. And that's okay., sometimes we need a bit of time. All I knew was that I liked sport and working with my hands. I certainly wasn't interested in Medicine.

I eliminated careers until I finally plumped for Physiotherapy and I'm so glad I did. It allowed me to travel, to get a good foundation and, when I did finally decide to go into Medicine, I was ready. It all just proves the point that there's not just one way to finally end up where you want to be.

There are now many different facets to my life. I have finished my speciality in Obstetrics and Gynaecology with a special interest in minimally invasive surgery. I work at one of the largest maternity hospitals in Australia and I've started my private practice in fertility and Gynaecological Surgery in 2013. I am a lecturer at the University of Queensland Medical School and I still have to study, present and do research, all the boring stuff that comes with my job. It's certainly not for everyone, but it's a great place to be - for me.

The excitement of performing surgery, the thrill of delivering a baby when delivery is essential within minutes, far outweighs the few really, really hard times that you can imagine comes with such responsibility.

No matter at what stage of life you are at, I would like to give you something to think about:

(Cont.)

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Embrace the simple and do it well: For instance, when I was at University of Queensland, I got a job as a Physiotherapy Assistant. It was such an easy job, but I really liked my course and what being a Physiotherapist entailed so I embraced it. I worked hard at the really simple things like being organised, cleaning the clinic, making sure I gave good massages and basically contributing to the business as best I could. This, of course, led to an amazing job offer as soon as I graduated. I find this philosophy still true to this day. People notice and opportunities arise when you are seen to be passionate about what you do and how you do it.

Explore all possibilities: As most of you probably feel, school is only just the beginning. Don't get me wrong, school was great fun but the world out there is even better if you are open to opportunities that come your way.

The reason we put so much effort into our schooling is because it is the foundation - to everything! Whether it be arts or the sciences, take every opportunity that presents to you. You never know - it might ignite an amazing passion!

Be passionate about things that matter: My hope is that you all find something that you love to do, something that you embrace with all your heart, something that you invest your time and energy into. It just has to be something you love, because it's an amazing feeling to get up each day and want to go to work. Unfortunately, women still have many battles to face. You may know that more than 50% of graduates from our medical schools, law schools, economics and arts are women but only a fraction of our leaders, CEOs and managers are females. As Brigidine women, we are taught the foundations of how to function in society, whether it be as leaders or not. It's still really hard in many professions, including mine, but obviously, we've come a long way and all of us are taught by our parents that we can achieve anything. And we can.

Just open your eyes, be open to opportunities, work hard and utilise your gifts. And, I promise you, the choice to one day do what you love to do will await you.

Dr Devini Ameratunga - Senior Registrar Mater Hospital and Brigidine Graduate 1997

Outstanding Achievements



Nat Grider (2017)

Announced as the Captain of the U18 Qld Girls AFL Team

2017 Brigidine College graduate Nat Grider, is becoming the next rising star to watch. Nat is currently in her first year of tertiary study where she is working toward completing a degree in Exercise and Sports Science at UQ and has been named the Captain of the Under 18 Queensland girls AFL team. and was named most valuable player for Queensland at the conclusion of the NAB AFLW Under-18 Championships on the Gold Coast in July. Check out Nat's profile on the UQ Alumni page; [UQ Alumni Pages](#)

Lilly Graham (2014)

Finalist and Semi-finalist for the Queensland Training Awards

Lilly was the metropolitan Finalist for the **Queensland Training Awards - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Award**. This is awarded for outstanding achievement by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student within the Queensland vocational education and training sector.

Lilly was also a Semi-finalist **Queensland Young Achievers Award - Semi-finalist of The Kennelly Constructions Aboriginal Achievement Award** This award is about young indigenous people using their own stories and life experience to give back to their communities. The College is looking forward to having Lilly visit and share her story with the current students.

Out of the Archives – The Early 1930s

The view of Indooroopilly from Mt Coot-tha in the 1930s. Such a large amount of farmland where Yeronga and Indooroopilly Golf Club now reside, with only a train bridge from Chelmer.



View of Indooroopilly from Mt. Cootha, Brisbane.

Getting to know Mrs Gina Brosnan

aKa Brozzie

Started teaching – 1978

Started teaching at Brigidine College - 1978



The College has sent out almost 400 keyrings this year. Update your contact details to receive yours.

We'll keep you informed of events and details of the 90th Anniversary celebrations and other Alumni events throughout the year.

Click on the below link to update your details;

**UPDATE
CONTACT
DETAILS**

Get involved

- Would you like to be a guest speaker sharing your life, career or industry knowledge?
- Be a mentor to Year 12 students?
- Assist with promotion & events for Alumni?
- Does your business run workshops or training suitable for students or staff?
- Submit articles for our future newsletters.
- Be a supplier or entertainer for College events
- Would you like to advertise for free in our next newsletter?

How long have you been teaching?

I'm now half way through my 40th year at Brigidine; my first and only full-time, paid job.

What was it that got you interested in teaching?

At the end of Year 12, I was offered a State Government Scholarship to become an Art teacher, but in those days this was not a degree program, so I opted for a Commonwealth Scholarship to take my first degree. In those days, many – perhaps most – teachers did not have a degree and I always wanted to aim high. I succeeded, with a First Class Honours degree, the University of Queensland Medal “for outstanding scholarship” and a Commonwealth Postgraduate Scholarship. I opted for teaching for financial reasons because I was about to get married and Denis’s University teaching and postgraduate study gave no guarantee of a stable income. What happened? I loved Brigidine students from the moment I walked in the door. I also worked with some hugely impressive Brigidine sisters: Sister Joan Smith, Sister Leonard (Mary Singer) and Sister Maree Marsh, who later headed the Brigidines worldwide. Brigidine in those days was full of remarkable teachers – selfless, dedicated, thorough, intelligent and focussed; and our students were creative. What was there not to love in my new profession? I loved it so much in fact that I’ve delayed postgraduate studies; when this happens, it will be the product of a mature, reflective mind.

Is there anything you wish you taught but didn't have the opportunity to?

While I’ve loved almost everything I’ve taught, English and Ancient History were the best. I’ve always loved Art and although I’ve not formally taught the subject, I’ve incorporated many elements of it in my other subjects.

Do you think being book smart the only way to succeed in life?

Absolutely NOT. I am the first in my family in living memory to attend university; perhaps the first ever. Yet my family have been hugely successful by dint of honesty and hard work. My Mum left school in war-torn Italy in Year 3. Dad escaped Mussolini and came to Australia but did not finish primary school. What is more important is to love what you do and to focus on the goals that you have chosen. Being book-smart may be easier on the body but of itself is meaningless as an indicator of real success or indeed happiness.

Are there any embarrassing teaching moments you're willing to share? What are they?

I found out just after the event that follows that it was all a set-up. Here goes. One student tried to bribe me to give her English paper an A. She and her friends had raided a charity box to show me a few hundred dollars, to make it look believable. When I refused, the student stormed out and her friends took a large doll that had been dressed in a Brigidine uniform and threw it out the window, giving the impression that the student had jumped. They screamed. When I ran to the window, I saw what looked like the girl who had tried to bribe me, face down on the concrete. Only then did they tell me the joke. I said earlier that my students were creative. When the whole story came out, they said their only worry was what they'd have had to do if I'd accepted the bribe!

What is one of your hidden talents?

What You See Is What You Get. I think all my talents are on display, though not all the time. Maybe people do not know that I'm an Italian citizen as well as an Aussie and that I speak Italian and Marchegiano, an Italian dialect.

What would former students be surprised to find out about you?

For four decades as a teacher, and even before then, I have had a pastoral role with several thousand university students at five of UQ's residential Colleges. I know in spectacular detail what students get up to once they leave school.

If you could grow up in any decade, which would you choose?

We who grew up in the '60s and '70s lived in a Golden Age. Many elements of the society that we take for granted today really kicked off then, with second-wave feminism, the blossoming of education for women and cracks – even some holes – in the glass ceiling. The Brigidine nuns were trailblazers and leaders in this. In the late '70s and early '80s, Brigidine students were encouraged to think; they were not just told it was good enough to be a parrot.

What would be your dream vacation?

I love Italy and have been there many times. Living there for a year would be perfect.

(Cont. P5)

Of the years that you've been a teacher, which do you think was your most memorable?

There have been too many to single out one. In my early years, there was the Helga saga; she was a doll around whom an epic story evolved. Students were often in trouble over where she ended up. "Pretty (yes, it was indeed 'pretty') help you" students would be told by the principal. There were the early "Schoolies" days when teachers were actually invited to attend; students wrote original songs about their love of certain subjects. Later, when Dynasty was popular on TV, students re-enacted key scenes with great relish. Walkathons, which are now somewhat unfashionable, were all the rage as charity fund-raisers. The Drama Festivals and the Public Speaking Competitions showcased the wealth of talent we have at Brigidine. Throughout the early days, I still wore unfashionable platform shoes which amused students no end. I suppose I had the last laugh when they eventually came back into fashion.

There was the year when one of my classes presented me with a present that I thought was a box of Cadbury's Roses Chocolates and when I opened it, the box contained a new unlocked mobile phone, quite a luxury in those days. There was the year my Home Room Year 12s surprised me with my new track suit after feeling a little embarrassed for me over the traditional green one. Another year, I was presented with a Kindle and there have been so many years where beautiful flowers, Gold Class movie tickets and tasty foods have come my way. Brigidine students or their parents have been excellent cooks. There have been the many gifts in orange and my nickname "Brorange" because of my love of the colour even when it had become unfashionable. Finally, there were the Europe trips and seeing students' reactions viewing Pompeii, the Colosseum and Parthenon and other significant sites and monuments.

With technology changing so quickly, what current trends are baffling to you? Why?

If I'm given access to sufficient PD, nothing technical baffles me. What does amaze me is the way in which technology is abused in order to make money from naïve minors. Fake news is everywhere and students can find it hard to pick between the truth and the dross.

What song do you know all the lyrics to?

Eagle Rock is number one. This was very popular at one of the UQ Colleges where I lived. A certain tradition sprang from this song and it has spread far and wide. Needless to say, I also know I Am Woman, Yellow Submarine and Barbie Girl. What does this say about me? I hope no past student who is now a psychiatrist or psychologist will analyse this list.

If you could pass on any wisdom to your former students, what would you share?

I recently saw these words written by George Bernard Shaw:

"I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. Life is no 'brief candle' to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment; and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

I think this is a good philosophy for life and I am reminded of a past student, Rebecca Galloway, who had a short but fulfilled and fulfilling life, who taught both her peers and me how to make the most of what we've been given.

*She
Believed
she could so she did.*

What's On

EKKA – Royal Queensland Show 10 – 19 August 2018

www.ekka.com.au

Our farmers need support at the moment, so why not show your support by heading along to the EKKA;



It's vital the next generation understands that everything starts with agriculture, from the food we eat to the clothes we wear. That's why the RNA is committed to providing first class educational activities and facilities in the lead-up to and during Ekka. Since 1876, millions of students have enjoyed discovering where their food comes from and have taken part in true city meets country experiences.

The RNA Foundation raises funds to aid agricultural heritage preservation, agricultural education and agricultural awareness and development. Plus you will have the chance to meet the Farmers, like Farmer Dave – [Farmer Dave's Story](#)

You can also sign up to their newsletter to receive 15% off your tickets – conditions apply.



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Redcliffe KiteFest 25 – 26 August 2018

www.redcliffefestival.com.au

Families will get swept away in the fun, colour and excitement of the annual Redcliffe KiteFest where kites of all shapes and sizes fill the sky. 2018 will be the biggest KiteFest yet with a huge contingent of international and domestic kite flyers set to come together in Pelican Park.

Redcliffe KiteFest 2018 is the Ultimate Kids Weekend. The whole family will love the markets, huge array of live music and amazing roving performers.

