



Churchlands Senior High School
FOUNDATION AND ALUMNI

Churchlands *PastBlast*

2021 Edition



From the Alumni Chair

Dear Fellow Churchlands Alumni

Hello to all of you, our esteemed Alumni of Churchlands SHS, covering almost 60 years of quality education and lasting friendships.



2021 has continued to be another year of interrupted travel plans and abnormal social restraints, thankfully an education with Churchlands SHS includes a healthy nod to instilling resilience and giving your best regardless of the circumstances you find yourself in.

The Alumni committee has continued strongly, building on some very successful yet simple strategies that have been embedded over the last few years.

We have continued to provide a Morning Tea to the year that celebrates its 50th anniversary of graduation. This includes a very popular tour of the school – a special thanks to the Principal and Associates that have supported this.

In 2020 the 50th anniversary morning tea for the Class/Graduates of 1970 was held in October and attended by over 40 graduates. Mike Fitzpatrick, Head Boy and Churchlands Champion, sent an excellent video message from Melbourne. A new Churchlands Champion was announced – Deidre Croft. An expose of Deidre's achievements is found later in the magazine. Deidre was subsequently the guest speaker at the school's breakfast event for International Women's Day in March this year.

The Year 13 Sundowner was also well attended by students who enjoyed catching up with their peers and teachers. This year the Year 13 Sundowner will be held on the 26th of November 2021 – see the advert later in the magazine for more details.

We also look forward to the upcoming Class of 1971 50th Reunion to be held on the 21st of October 2021 (*see adverts later for more details on the all the upcoming events*), the 1962 Foundation students 60th Anniversary reunion (February 12th 2022) and a 40th Reunion for the class of '81 on the 6th of November 2021.

We must bid sad farewells to some of our beloved and high-achieving Alumni, of note Taryn Fiebig and Kim Dullard. Please take the time to read of their remarkable careers.

At the same time, we continue to receive news of the fantastic ongoing achievements of our Alumni out in the community and spread across the world. We have highlighted a number in this magazine, so hopefully you can take as great pleasure as I did in reading of their exploits, including four more Olympians this year! As always, we need you to notify us of such wonderful stories, and in doing so we gain more nominations toward future Churchlands Champions. What a wonderful collection we have already amassed across a diverse range of pursuits and devotions!

Finally, it is with great pleasure that we welcome the new Principal, Dr James Kent. We warmly welcome him to that exalted position and are already enjoying his support toward the CSHS Alumni Association.

On behalf of the Alumni Committee, I welcome new members and look forward to your continued patronage of events. We are always keen for suggestions, ideas and feedback. Churchlands SHS has always been the stronger through its closeness to community, and the Alumni Committee is one formal way of supporting this.

Steve Reynolds

WELCOME TO THE NEW PRINCIPAL



Dr James Kent - Principal

In Term 1, Churchlands SHS welcomed Dr James Kent as the new Principal. Dr Kent commenced with the Department of Education in 1989 as a Mathematics teacher at Morawa District High School. Since then he has

worked at Thornlie Senior High School, Tom Price Senior High School, Swan View Senior High School, Tuart College and Yanchep Secondary College and has held positions as Head of Department (Mathematics), Program Coordinator, Deputy Principal, Vice Principal and Principal.

His first Principalship was at Yanchep Secondary College in 2017, followed by his appointment to Churchlands Senior High School commencing 2021. James has completed his Masters of Educational Leadership (1999) and Doctorate in Education (2006) at the University of Western Australia. His doctoral thesis was on developing an understanding of how mathematics teachers pass on their expertise and knowledge in class, and how this compared to student attitudes toward mathematics.

Dr Kent took over from Mr Paul Housley who was the Principal in Semester 2 in 2020 ad interim after Mr Neil Hunt (2003 - July 2020) took up a Director's position at the Department of Education's Central Office.

NEW SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

Mrs Katherine Sturley is selected as the Chair of the Churchlands Senior High School Board for the next two years. Katherine has spent many years on the Wembley Primary School Board and the P & C including three years as President. Katherine's daughter, Sophie is in Year 11 at Churchlands and Tom is in Year 9 at Shenton College (GATE).

Katherine is a Consultant at MODAL, a leadership development organisation where she facilitates learning programs and workshops with clients from a variety of industries, both public and private. She is a qualified Vocational Education Training (VET) trainer and assessor and holds a Master of Business Leadership from Curtin University. Katherine is excited about her appointment to the Board and hopes her experience and knowledge will be of assistance.



Katherine Sturley

Happenings at the School

Churchlands Senior High School Board Chair Tracey Gralton had stepped down from her role as the Churchlands Board Chair which she assumed in 2020. She has been a strong advocate for Churchlands SHS and has worked with a range of committees throughout the school. Tracey was involved in the transition process of the appointment of the new Principal, contributed towards the work of the Solar Power to Scholarships Project through to completion and has worked with the school on a number of local issues.



Tracey Gralton with new Board Chair Katherine Sturley

Tracey has ensured that the Board is functioning effectively and leaves her role confident that the school and the Board are progressing positively.

Tracey is a member of the Churchlands Alumni (Class of 1980), having attended Churchlands as a Music student from 1976-80. She served as the Chair of the Churchlands Alumni Committee upto 2020 and is currently the Deputy Chair.

Tracey has served on the Churchlands P & C, and the Music Parents' Committee and highly values the rich and thorough education Churchlands offers. She is involved in other community groups and continues to enjoy music; playing the piano, singing in a choir and attending concerts.

Upon her resignation as the School Board Member, Tracey was invited to join the Churchlands SHS Foundation as a Board Member.

CHURCHLANDS SHS EVENTS

Year 12 MADD Night **FREE EVENT**

Monday 23 August 6.00pm-9.00pm
Churchlands SHS Concert Hall

A showcase of Year 12 ATAR 2021 performing arts students in Music, Dance and Drama

Senior Concert

Friday 27 August 7.00pm
Churchlands SHS Concert Hall

Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/BQTGZ>

Junior Concerts

Wednesday 1 September 6.00pm & 7.30pm
Churchlands SHS Concert Hall

Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/BQTGR> 6.00pm
<https://www.trybooking.com/BQTGV> 7.30pm

Intermediate Concert

Thursday 2 September 7.00pm
Churchlands SHS Concert Hall

Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/BQTHB>

Year 12 Visual Arts Exhibition **FREE EVENT**

Friday 15 October 5.30pm-7.30pm
Churchlands SHS Art Gallery

Featuring photographic, media and visual arts works by the Year 12 students of 2021

Chamber Ensembles Concert **FREE EVENT**

Friday 5 November 3.45pm
Churchlands SHS Paul Lantham Auditorium

Year 9-10 Dance & Drama Night **FREE EVENT**

Tuesday 7 December 6.00pm-8.00pm
Churchlands SHS Concert Hall

Showcasing the amazing talents of Year 9 and 10 students who will demonstrate what they have been learning and working in class

Lower School Arts & Technologies Exhibition **FREE EVENT**

Friday 10 December Time to be confirmed
Churchlands SHS

Featuring display of artwork, woodwork, metalwork, jewellery and much more. Also include food sampling and fashion parade

LINDA MAY HAN OH 2003



Class of 2003 alumna, a bassist and composer Linda May Han Oh earned significant recognition in the 25th 2021 Jazz Journalists Association Awards announced on 5th May. Linda was named Bassist of the Year which she has earned 4th time in a row.

Linda also became a proud first time mother recently with her new bundle of joy.

Last year Linda won the prestigious 2020 Art Music Awards for her title 'Aventurine' Work of the Year: Jazz Category. The 10th annual Arts Music Awards ceremony was celebrated virtually on 8 September 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

After completing her high school, she attended the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) and moved to New York in 2008 where she completed her master's degree at the Manhattan School of Music.

Linda is currently based in New York City and is an Associate Professor at the Berklee College of Music and is also part of the Institute for Jazz and Gender Justice. As an active educator she has also created a series of lessons for the BassGuru app for iPad and iPhone.



Photo credit: AustralianJazz.net

Congratulations Linda! We are very proud of you and wishing you many more success in your career.

Alumni Spotlight

GEORGIA ONGAREZOS 2019

We are very proud of Georgia Ongarezos from the Class of 2019 who completed a solo 20km swim from Rottnest Island to Perth in November 2020 to help raise money for Lifeline WA. Georgia raised more than \$13 000 for suicide prevention service.

Well done Georgia! What a fantastic contribution to the society.



Taking steps out of the darkness

A SWIMMER has made the 20km trip from Rottnest Island to Perth, raising more than \$13,000 for suicide prevention service Lifeline WA.

Scarborough teenager Georgia Ongarezos completed her solo night journey at sea, swimming 19.7km in under six hours.

Ms Ongarezos initially planned to swim to Rottnest, as first revealed in the Stirling Times, but changed her plans, setting off from Rottnest overnight last Wednesday.

The 18-year-old said Lifeline WA had saved the lives of a couple of her friends and she had recently been through a difficult period.

"I went through a really tough stage a few months ago; I've always been in and out of depressive states but this time round it was a whole different story and it felt like literal darkness," she said.

"I decided to swim in the darkness from Rottnest to Perth to inspire those who are struggling at the moment and feel like they are in darkness that there is light at the end of the tunnel and you can get there if you believe in yourself."

Ms Ongarezos said it was "the best swim" she had ever done.

"The last few swims I've done have been really hard," she said.

"But this time, because I was so filled with love, the whole way over I loved it."

"Each kilometre I dedicated to one of my friends who was struggling with mental illness or had gone through a tough time and that was the whole swim, just that person each kilometre.

"It took me about 4km to settle down, but once you settle down, you surrender to the darkness, the possibility of sharks being there and all those negative thoughts going through your head.

"You become fearless and it becomes like walking."

Lifeline WA chief executive Lorna MacGregor said Georgia's efforts, and other fundraisers, would make a direct impact on the service's ability to answer every call.

"The funds raised by people like Georgia are used to train more telephone crisis volunteers, which is the key to answering more calls," she said.

"The recent demand for our vital service has been unprecedented and our WA volunteers have stepped up, answering thousands more calls this year compared to the same time last year."



Georgia Ongarezos rugs up after the crossing.

Stirling Times 19 November 2020

ELIZA BOURGAULT 2012

Churchlands SHS music student from the Class of 2012 Eliza Bourgault released her debut solo album *Girl in the Mirror* on 5 November 2020.

The album explores themes of love, heartbreak, trust and betrayal. Congratulations Eliza!

You can check out her album on Spotify link [here](#).

Eliza's passion play in song

Tyler Brown

CONNOLLY harpist, pianist and singer-songwriter Eliza Bourgault du Coudray is excited with the release of her debut solo album.

Titled *Girl in the Mirror*, the album features 12 original songs that explore love and heartbreak, trust and betrayal, and loneliness and connection.

The 25-year-old describes the work as “intimate” with poetic lyrics, expressive instrumental accompaniment, minimal production and a “bare texture” with “only one vocal line backed up by either a harp or a piano”.

Bourgault du Coudray was first classically trained on the piano before venturing to the harp.

She was a music student at Churchlands Senior High School, then went on to study music at the University of WA where she graduated in 2016.

“I have loved singing from a young age and developed a love for writing prose and



Eliza Bourgault du Coudray has released her debut album, *Girl in the Mirror*. Inset: Picture: Linda Dunjey

poetry in my teenage years,” Bourgault du Coudray said.

“This debut album is the result of my passions for singing, playing music, and writing.”

Girl in the Mirror was released on all streaming platforms earlier this month.



Joondalup Times 19 November 2020

Alumni Spotlight

JOEL WESTERN 2020

Congratulations to Joel Western (Class of 2020) for being drafted by the Fremantle Dockers. Aussie Rules Draft Central: Joel was said to have some serious athleticism to go with his footballing nous. Well done Joel!



Photo credit: www.waf.com.au

KENDRA TURNER 2013

Kendra Turner from the Class of 2013 On Friday was recently named the 2021 Lawyer of the Year (less than 5 years experience) by The Law Society of Western Australia.

During her university days and professional career, Kendra had undertaken placements with the Aboriginal Legal Service, Tenancy WA Inc, Women's Legal Service WA (formerly Women's Law Centre of Western Australia) and Legal Aid Cambodia. She had also run workshops with high school students, discussing the importance of a more inclusive society with the ICEA Foundation, and promoting diversity and inclusion within the Western Australian legal profession with the Society of African Australian Lawyers Inc. and within her workplace, at Corrs Chambers Westgarth.

What a great achievement. Congratulations Kendra!



Photo credit: The Law Society of Western Australia



The Law Society
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
The voice of the legal profession in Western Australia



Alumni Engagement

BREAKFAST CLUB SPEAKERS

Year 12s were very fortunate to have two of our alumnae from the Class of 2014 present as the guest speaker of the Breakfast Club held on 1 April 2021 at the Rendezvous Hotel Scarborough. They are former students of Churchlands SHS who were part of the “half cohort” when they changed the starting age for school. They shared their experiences post-secondary and gave some valuable advice to our Year 12 students

AMY DE GROOT 2014

Amy was part of the music program and was a member of the Breakfast Club. Academically, in Year 12 she studied Chemistry, Literature, Maths Methods, Modern History, Physics and General Music. She achieved five As and a B and an ATAR in the high 90s. Initially studying Health Science, after a year Amy switched to Engineering where she graduated at the end of 2019 with a Bachelor of Civil and Construction Engineering with 1st class honours!



Amy De Groot

Amy held a number of positions while a student and is now a Graduate Engineer with Woodside Energy. When asked if she could speak at the Breakfast Club, she was delighted to help and very glad that the tradition of the Breakfast Club still continues. We are honoured that she was able to find the time to share some of her memories, ideas and thoughts with the current group of Year 12s Breakfast Club members.



Hannah and Amy with Principal Dr Kent (left) and Associate Principal Senior School Mr Housley (right)

HANNAH POPPERWELL NEE SALM 2014



Hannah Popperwell nee Salm

Hannah was an outstanding Head Girl and was in the music program. She was also part of the Breakfast Club. Academically, in Year 12 she studied Chemistry, Japanese as a Second Language, Literature, Maths Methods and Music as well as completing a Certificate II in Hospitality. For her five ATAR subjects she achieved five As and an ATAR also in the high 90s.

At the Year 12 Presentation Ceremony in 2014, she was awarded the NMERO “Commitment to Excellence” Award but, more importantly, Hannah won the prestigious John Curtin Undergraduate Scholarship (JCUS) of which only a dozen are awarded each year. This covered her university fees, some money each year and \$6000 towards some overseas study.

Hannah completed a Bachelor of Physiotherapy at Curtin (2015–2018) and has worked as a Physiotherapist since. Hannah was recently married to Drew and she is now proudly known as Hannah Popperwell!



Amy and Hannah with Careers Advisor Mrs Slodecki (left) and Mr Housley

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Deirdre Croft Class of 1970 and also a Churchlands Champion for Disability Advocacy was invited as a speaker at the International Women's Day Breakfast held at Churchlands SHS for staff and its community teams on 8 March 2021.

Deirdre delivered an inspiring presentation where she shared her valuable life story, the challenges she encountered raising her son Richard who was born with a complex intellectual disability and how she overcomes each hurdle throughout her life.

The story of Deirdre's son Richard and his family can be rented on [vimeo](#). The film made it to the 2016 Sydney Film Festival.

(More on Deirdre on page 11)



Deirdre Croft at International Women's Day Breakfast

Ben Gubana 2020

Ben Gubana 2011 alumnus and Head Boy shared his experience to Churchlands student leaders at their leadership program on 2 March 2021. He spoke about his journey post school and how his leadership opportunities at Churchlands SHS have benefitted him along the way.

Ben is currently a journalist and digital producer in the Perth ABC newsroom. After high school, he pursued his Bachelor of Communications, Broadcasting and Journalism Double Major and a Graduate Diploma of Broadcasting at Edith Cowan University (ECU).



Ben Gubana with student leaders at Churchlands SHS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Churchlands has initiated The Family and Community Engagement Program in 2020 to move towards a 'doing with' relationship with stakeholders in comparison to 'doing it'. It aims to create a positive working partnerships with parents and community members through shared learning experiences to support improved outcomes for students.

We want our alumni to be engaged in what the school is doing - we welcome you to get involved and share your expertise with us.

Areas that you can get involved:

- Speakers at our events/activities eg. Breakfast Club, Careers Expo, International Women's Day
- If you own a business, you can be a host employer for our Vocational Education and Training (VET)/ Workplace Learning (WL) program students
- Provide opportunities for casual/part-time/full-time employment/traineeship for our students

If you are keen, please complete the form [here](#). *If you are not a parent of a child at school, you may require a Working with Children Check.*

CHURCHLANDS DAY 10 DECEMBER 2021 & CHURCHLANDS 60TH ANNIVERSARY 2022

All of us hold on to meaningful remembrances of our school days. Whether it is our uniform, sports t-shirt, yearbook, photographs, exercise books, test papers, many of us have them stored somewhere in our homes memorabilia.

To help us celebrate Churchlands Senior High School Day on 10 December 2021 as well as the upcoming 60th Anniversary in 2022, we are reaching out to you to consider donating your memorabilia back to the school as part of our alumni archive collection and to become part of alumni displays at the school. We'd like to share those memories with the entire Churchlands SHS community

**The success of
any school can be
measured by the
contribution the
alumni make to our
national life**

~ John F. Kennedy

Please be aware that any item donated to the school will become the property of Churchlands Alumni Association for future events.



Items to be donated can be mailed or delivered to:

Churchlands SHS Alumni Association
20 Lucca Street
Churchlands WA 6018

If you have any questions, you can email us at CSHS-Alumni@churchlands.wa.edu.au

Churchlands Champion

DEIRDRE CROFT 1970



Deirdre Croft was a student at Doubleview Primary prior to attending Churchlands Senior High School from 1966 until 1970. Deirdre served as a prefect at Churchlands. After graduation, she went on to study at UWA, and later at the University of Melbourne.

Deirdre is a journalist by profession and her career includes positions at the ABC; in the office of the Victorian Attorney General; with the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth; and at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. She has a strong academic and research background and undertook research on disability and society as a PhD candidate at Curtin University of Technology.

Deirdre is the mother of a son with complex disability who needs care 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The nature and demands of caring for Richard have been the impetus for Deirdre's lifelong commitment to advocating for people with disability and using her intellectual and artistic skills to campaign, present evidence and tell stories to support better provisions for people with disability and their carers.

Deirdre has served on state and national disability campaign committees, including four years on the National Disability and Carers Advisory Council.

She has carried out research investigating the historic provision of accommodation support services for Western Australians with intellectual disability and examining the needs for the future. She has written submissions and articles detailing the particular needs of people with intellectual disability and the tendency for these people to be underrepresented in many disability forums.

Deirdre's deep concern for telling the stories of lives that are often hidden from most of us, inspired a trilogy of documentary films made by Andrew Wiseman exploring the journey and challenges of a family caring for a child with a complex disability. The first featured Deirdre's son Richard as a child and the second as a teenager. The third film, *On Richard's Side*, about Richard as an adult, was selected for the 2016 Sydney and Melbourne Film Festivals and has been critically acclaimed for its honest and insightful treatment of this important subject.

And while doing all this, Deirdre has developed and managed a Personal Advocacy Network for Richard through WA's Future Living Trust, an organisation that assists families to plan and establish long term living arrangements and care for their loved ones that will endure when family can no longer provide full support.

Deirdre's commitment and lifelong advocacy for Richard and others like him is extraordinary. Her path is not one that anyone would envisage, yet the contribution Deirdre has been able to make, by harnessing her dedication, passion and skills is worthy of gold medals or high office or wild applause, none of which she has probably received. She is a very worthy Churchlands Champion.

For her many benevolent contributions and disability advocacy, she was named the Class of 1970 Churchlands Champion at the 50th Anniversary Reunion held on 28 October 2020.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to the 2021 Churchlands Senior High School Foundation Music Scholarship recipients, Georgia Elliott and Parsa Rahimi. Foundation Chair and Class of 1968 Alumni, Mr John Gillon, presented the awards to the two Year 7 Gifted and Talented Music students at the Year 7 Welcome BBQ held on Tuesday 16 February.

In his brief remarks, Mr Gillon thanked parents, staff and CSHS Alumni for their generosity that made the annual music scholarship possible. He also mentioned that the Photo Voltaic solar panels that are part of the Solar Panel to Scholarship project were successfully installed on the roofs of the school last year. He further added that the Foundation is looking into creating more scholarship opportunities for students in the areas of sports, academic, VET, leadership and much more. This would be possible through the savings from the school's electricity costs.

Every year the Foundation grants two music scholarships to gifted and talented students based on academic merit and financial assistance. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded 12 scholarships including the current 2021 scholarships.

"I wish to thank the Churchlands Foundation for recognising me with the 2021 Music Scholarship. It was an absolute surprise and I am humbled to receive it. The funds will be a great support towards my instrument and computing costs throughout the next six years. I will work hard to demonstrate my commitment and appreciation," Georgia said.

Parents Mr Rahimi and Mrs Mirzaei thanked the Foundation for the scholarship. "It was a huge support for our son to start the next chapter of his life at Churchlands Senior High School," they said.

The Scholarship provides a sum of \$2000 in the first year of the program (Year 7) and \$500 in consecutive years up to their last year of High School (Year 12).

The Foundation is currently looking into creating more scholarship opportunities for our students in the areas of sports, academic, VET, leadership and much more. Our ultimate aim is to generate opportunities for our students and create a sense of belonging to this community.



John Gillon with Georgia Elliott (left) and Parsa Rahimi (right)

Congratulations



Churchlands Senior High School
FOUNDATION AND ALUMNI

Alumni Bereavement

VALE TARYN FIEBIG 1989



Taryn Fiebig
1 February 1972 - 20 March 2021

Churchlands Senior High School and the music community were saddened by the passing of renowned soprano associated with Opera Australia and Pinchgut Opera Taryn Fiebig.

Taryn attended Churchlands SHS as a music student from 1985 to 1989. She then completed a music degree in cello at UWA, before undertaking voice studies. An Arts WA Scholarship and a Churchill Fellowship enabled her to study in England with Emma Kirkby, Evelyn Tubb and Jane Manning. She has performed in a wide variety of settings and genres in Australia including with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and many contemporary ensembles. In 2005 Taryn joined Opera Australia as a principal soprano and has performed many roles including Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Clorinda in *Cenerentola*, Musetta in *La bohème*, Eliza Dolittle in *My Fair Lady*. She continues to be in demand for opera roles and concert performances.

VALE TO THE INSPIRATIONAL TARYN FIEBIG (1972-2021)

There are some students in your teaching life you never forget. Taryn Fiebig was one of these inspirational and generous student who shines like a beacon of joy. She inspired us all, staff and students at Churchlands SHS with her talents on cello and voice, and then worked hard to achieve such a devoted following in the Australian Opera and the classical stage. She was a beloved singer, musician and a beautiful spirit. When news spread in the music world of her passing there was a palpable sorry across Australia and beyond.

One school memory close to my heart was in Taryn's Year 12. We in the Music Department had decided to produce the musical *Cabaret*. After auditions we had no lad who could do justice to the Joel Grey character of *Emcee*, so we had the brilliant idea of casting Taryn in this role. We slicked back that Botticelli mass of blonde hair, did an over the top *Emcee* ake-up and she was magnificent. She stole the show. (cont'd)



Taryn as Joel Grey character of *Emcee* in the *Cabaret* Annual Musical

Alumni Bereavement



Caberat Annual Musical



Year Book 1989

With permission from *The West Australian Newspaper* and its writer Patrick Cornish, we felt this beautiful obituary for Taryn captures not only the versatility and the brilliance of her successful career, but also her generous charm, humility, courage and beautiful spirit. Her glorious voice will shine in our memories forever.

Prue Ashurst
Music Staff CSHS (1985-1991)

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARIES

The West Australian
Tuesday, April 13, 2021

A voice enshrined

Taryn Fiebig
Soprano, cellist
Born: Fremantle, 1972
Died: Sydney, aged 49

Opera needs loads of dressing up, of course. "Those wigs, my goodness," fans say, "and the helmets with horns, if it's Wagner at his grandest ... but how could you show the audience a salesman transformed into a giant insect?"

And who could Opera Australia get to play the unfortunate man's mother ... horrified by the sudden change but still conveying love for her son. A few touches of comedy were also required.

"Taryn can do it," the composer, director and company agreed. "Taryn will be spot-on as Mrs Samsa, mother of Gregor."

Their faith was justified. In 2018 *Metamorphosis*, based on the surrealist novel by Franz Kafka, was performed at Sydney's Opera Centre, a couple of kilometres south of Circular Quay and the Sydney Opera House.

Fiebig acted with her usual aplomb and, as the *Limelight* arts magazine put it, sang with the "gorgeous clarity" everyone had come to expect of this multifaceted performer.

Versatility in spades was ever her strong suit.

No wonder she would recall how, while growing up in Perth, attending Churchlands Senior High School and completing a music degree in cello at the University of Western Australia, her "first crush" was Sammy Davis Jr, a brilliant exponent of dance, comedy and song.

Fiebig's own comic timing, able to drop the right one-liner for any occasion, was admired by many, including a peer given the opportunity to pay tribute. Unstinting praise comes from Emma Matthews, head of classical voice at the WA Academy of Performing Arts, a soprano whose own awards and lead roles, on stages national and international, fill pages.

"Taryn was every director's favourite cast member," she recalls.

"So positive, open to suggestion and ready for any task.

"We first met as teenagers, given lessons by the same piano teacher. In the 1990s I began hearing about her classical singing that had audiences raving. They were right to do so."

Lyndon Terracini, Opera Australia's artistic director, says Fiebig was a "wonderful colleague who worked extremely hard. Her final performance for us was *Despina*, in Mozart's *Così Fan Tutte*, in Melbourne's 2019 autumn season."

This opera, a high point in theatrical comedy for more than 200 years, was a fitting finale for a soprano who had, at the age of nine, passed tests for musical aptitude at her first school, in Wembley Downs.

Taryn Margaret Fiebig was



Taryn Fiebig as Eliza Doolittle, in *My Fair Lady*.

born in Fremantle on February 1, 1972, only daughter of Margaret (nee Green) and Malcolm Fiebig.

Taryn, as well as completing university studies, was fortunate to be noticed by a Perth musical director, Talya Masel, who pushed her towards an audition for Perth's Australian Opera Studio that gave teaching and encouragement to many during its existence from 2002 to 2008.

Fiebig was on her way. The wonderfully expressive voice, rather than cello, would be her main instrument. In 2004 she won a place on Opera Australia's Young Artist Program and relocated to Sydney.

A permanent position as principal soprano with OA followed. She won a Helpmann Award, named for Sir Robert Helpmann, an Australian performer of worldwide standing and role model for any aspiring all-rounder. She would win a second Helpmann for that performance in *Metamorphosis*.

There are hundreds of contenders as to which particular Taryn Fiebig — over the following 15 years — brought the most thorough enjoyment to those in her presence.

Her singing French baroque cantatas on an album, perhaps? Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*? Mabel, the captain's daughter in *The Pirates of Penzance*, possibly. Fiebig adorned many other Gilbert and Sullivan productions.

As for admirers, the boys of

Sydney Grammar School certainly looked forward to her regular music teaching lessons. Emma Matthews' sons, as preschoolers, were captivated by her reading of a book about snot-gobbling.

Cancer was to slow Fiebig's fierce drive. She died on March 20, mourned by all who came within her orbit of grace and humour.

At the funeral in Sydney, her recorded contribution included music and an item called *The Last Word*, which offered thanks for a life so rich and rewarding. A memorial service at Hale School chapel, at 2pm this Thursday, will enable a farewell in the city where she first met a cello and liked it.

Her first marriage had been to Iain Grandage, composer and director who is artistic director of the Perth Festival.

Her second, in 2015, was to an Opera Australia bass, Jud Arthur, who survives her, as do her mother, Margaret, and his daughters, Lucia and Millijana, from a previous marriage.

Taryn is also survived by her brother, Peter, and his children, Thomas and Eva.

The legacy is immeasurable. Prince Charles will never forget the day at Buckingham Palace in 2015 when Taryn sang while playing a cello made by a court musician in 1791.

The heir to the throne had a tear in his eye while saying no cello performance had ever moved him so much.

Patrick Cornish

Note: Taryn is also survived by her brother, Peter; her sister-in-law Simone and his children, Thomas and Eva.

Alumni Deceased

Reunion - 10 Years

KIM DULLARD 1970



Kim Dullard
14 February 1954 - 29 April 2021

The education community has lost an amazing member of its community. Kim had an extensive career with the Department of Education - served as a Director, Principal, Deputy, Advisor, teacher and the recent was as a leadership coach and facilitator.

Kim's leadership coaching and facilitation builds on over 30 years with the Department of Education. Some of his consultancy work involved working for the Catholic Education Office WA to support a number of Remote Aboriginal Schools in the Kimberley and to bring unity of purpose to the senior executive of Catholic Education WA.

Kim was an experienced, enthusiastic and empathetic educator who believed that goal setting provides a sense of empowerment through which personal improvement is most embedded. Kim has presented in many different locations on a variety of topics and had been acclaimed for his knowledge and application of the learning process for both adults and children. His success as a principal resulted in his then school being acclaimed nationally for the success of its Literacy and Numeracy programs and the quality and effectiveness of its leadership structure.

Kim attended Churchlands SHS 1966-1970.

CLASS OF 2010



18 December 2020 | Wembley Hotel

Reunion - We turned 55 in 2020

CLASS OF 1982



10 October 2020 | Floreat Hotel

Class of 1970

Fifty years ago, this group of people were Churchlands students Class of 1970 and they were very excited to gather again for their 50 Years Anniversary Reunion held on 28 October 2020.

The event is hosted annually by the Churchlands Alumni Association in collaboration with the school for the year group celebrating the 50th anniversary of their graduation.

Close to 30 members attended the event and it was delightful to have them 'come home' again. They enjoyed each other's company catching up, reminiscing about the past, checking out the memorabilia on display.

The group went on a tour of the school and many were surprised to see how much the school has changed and how the numbers have grown - from just over 700 during their time to 2800 currently. After the tour they enjoyed a morning tea and performance by our very talented music students.

The group was also privileged to listen to a recorded message by Mr Mike Fitzpatrick Head Boy in 1970 who was unable to travel due to COVID restriction and were fortunate to have Head Girl Jenny Hatch speak at the event. Congratulations to the Churchlands Champion award recipient Deirdre Croft for her advocacy in the area of disability.

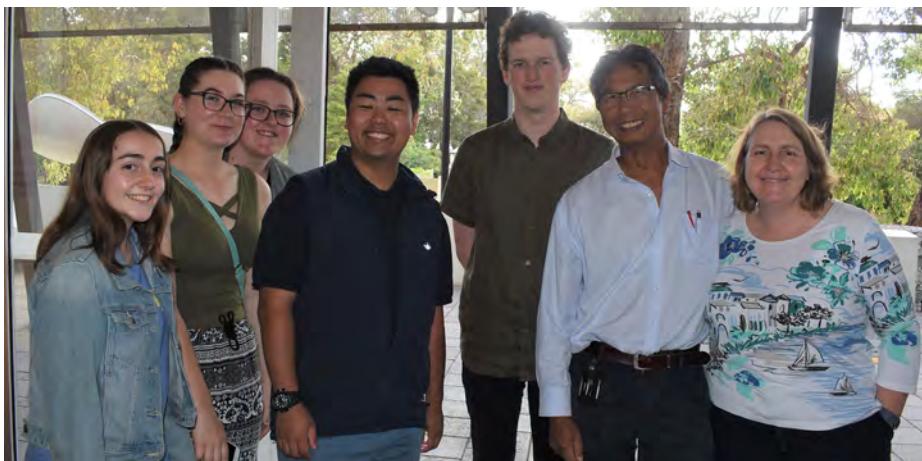


50 Years Reunion



Class of 2019

On Friday 27 November, nearly 40 Churchlands SHS from the Class of 2019 came together for their first year reunion. It was wonderful to see these alumni reconnecting and reminiscing on their days a year ago. Some even went for a wander around the school. Staff and teachers came along to say hello to these lovely bunch of students.



Year 13 Sundowner - 1st Year Reunion



Upcoming alumni events



Churchlands Senior High School
ALUMNI



CHURCHLANDS
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF

1971

WELCOME TO THE GOLD CLUB

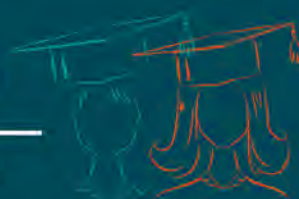
Back to school - 50th Anniversary Reunion
Thursday 21 October 2021

10.00am Gathering at Churchlands SHS

1.00pm Self funded lunch (*to be confirmed*)

(Partners and students of the Class of '71 who left in 3rd and 4th year high are also welcome)

Book Online: <https://www.trybooking.com/BQFFK>



Churchlands SHS



Year 13

Sundowner

WE WELCOME YOU BACK TO SCHOOL!

Join us for a fun casual evening and share your stories - if you are studying, working or taking a gap year. Come meet your past teachers and catch up with your peers.

Date: Friday 26 November 2021

Time: 4.00pm to 5.30pm

Venue: Concert Hall, 20 Lucca Street

Dress Code: Smart Casual

Free nibbles and juices | Drinks on sale

Book online: www.trybooking.com/BRCLE



Churchlands Senior High School
ALUMNI

JOIN US TO RECEIVE ALUMNI INFORMATION
www.churchlands.wa.edu.au/our-community/alumni/join-alumni
f ChurchlandsSHS.FoundationandAlumni

Book Online: <https://www.trybooking.com/BRCLE>

Upcoming alumni events

40TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY REUNION SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2021

CLASS OF



1981

VENUE: **Doubleview Bowling & Recreation Club** 17 Shearn Crescent Doubleview

TIME: **7pm-11pm** (6pm if you are bowling) | DRESS CODE: **Casual**

Cost: \$55 pp. Tickets: www.trybooking.com/BSARF

- Dinner: A substantial cocktail finger food selection
- Two hours of lawn bowling (optional)
- Photography will be made available to all for download
- Entertainment and a cohort video on the night
- On-mass Zoom catch-ups on the big screen with those unable to attend

Year 8 in 1977 through Year 12 in 1981 and all those who left prior to 1981 are also welcome

Contact: kim.grey@optusnet.com.au | Facebook: [Class of 77-81 Churchlands SHS](https://www.facebook.com/Class.of.77-81.Churchlands.SHS)

CHURCHLANDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

(previously known as Churchlands High School)



1962 FOUNDATION STUDENTS 60TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

SATURDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2022

Join with us to celebrate 60 years since we started our high school journey at Claremont Infants School. Monday 12th February 1962 was the beginning of what is now a fabulous Senior High School. We were only a small group (196), and sadly have lost a few along the way.

Please save the date

Planning is underway with a venue and time TBC.

Please register your interest by contacting one of the organising committee.

Kaye Pratt – 0438 188 707 / kaye.pratt@me.com

Lee Hockley – leetrevhockley@bigpond.com

Linda Marshall – linda.marshall79@gmail.com



"This could be the last time"

Click on the links to follow us on...



/ChurchlandsSHSFoundationAlumni



/ChurchlandsSHSFoundationAlumni



/Churchlands SHS Alumni

Alumni Database

Join Churchlands SHS Alumni Database

If you know of any Churchlands SHS alumni who may not be aware of the Churchlands Alumni Association, please feel free to share the magazine with them. Please encourage them to join the alumni database to receive Alumni information. We produce an annual online Alumni magazine edition *PastBlast* and from time to time we send out special editions of the school newsletter and other information about events and meetings. Access to contact details will only be by school staff to send out official alumni material. Let any friends from your Churchlands days know about this so we can build the database of interested people.

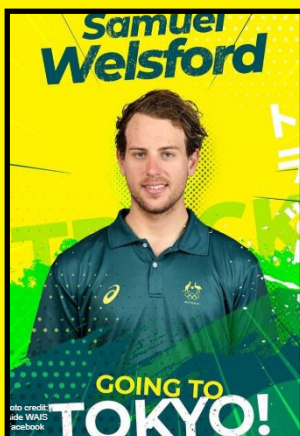


ALL THE BEST!

On behalf of everyone within the Churchlands Senior High School community, we congratulate our four alumni who will be representing Australia in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics in July. We wish them every success!



Shannon Reynolds 2012



Samuel Welsford 2013



Matthew Richardson 2016



Timothy Putt 2016