



AMICUS

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Journal of the BSHS Past Students' Association Inc.

STATE HIGH
CONNECT



Celebrating 100 years in 2021



STATE HIGH
FOUNDATION
uncovering potential



GRADUATION 2020

A high energy celebration farewelled the 2020 Year 12 graduates who, in 2016, were the first cohort to commence secondary school in Year 7. **Amanda Newbery (O'Chee)**, Class of 1990, dispensed some sage advice with a good dose of common sense on how to handle the opportunities that will arise in the future.

As in previous years the graduation certificates were presented by past **BSHS** school captains viz. **Graeme Payne**, 1960, **Christine Grimmer** and **Otto Lechner**, 1970, **Jackie Witham** and **Lionel Hogg** 1980, **Nick Denham** 2000, **Cecelia Redfern** and **Dr Tom Williams** 2010. Cecelia and Tom assumed the MC duties.

Executive Principal Wade Haynes reiterated that "Knowledge is Power" and advised the graduating class to use the school's motto to their advantage to have an impact as they embark on the next stage of their development.

CENTENARY LAUNCH

On 29 January, **State High's** Centenary was launched on the Kurilpa Roof Terrace, attended by distinguished guests, past students, staff and 2021 student leaders.

Fourth generation **State High** student, **Jade Bartholomeusz** (Year 10), spoke of her family's significant history at our school, starting with her great grandmother **Audrey Liscombe (Smith)**, Class of 1931, Jade's grandfather **Everard Bartholomeusz**, Class of 1964, father **Mark Bartholomeusz**, Class of 1994, and family who attended this special occasion.

CENTENARY PROGRAM

31 March	Senior's Morning Tea	BSHS	A Foundation event
23 April	ANZAC Day Ceremony	BSHS	
4 July	"Tour of State High"	BSHS	A BSHS PSA event
31 July	State High Day	BSHS	A BSHS P and C event
19 July	Foundation Day Assembly	Brisbane Convention Centre	
September	Centenary Showcase	QPAC	
15 October	State High Golf Masters	St Lucia	A Foundation event

Additional information and registration is available at: www.bshs100.com.au

Register on www.statehighconnect.com.au to view all school magazines from 1921.

Tour of State High

The first day of school for **Brisbane State High School** in 1921 was on 4 July in the **Normal School**, on the corner of Adelaide and Edward Streets.

The school moved to the **Red Brick Building** in Musgrave Park, for the start of the 1925 academic year.

Symbolically, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of this significant date, the **Brisbane State High School Past Students' Association** extends an invitation to past students to trace the development of the **State High** campus, on Sunday 4 July 2021, with a "**Tour of State High**".

The "**Tour of State High**" will involve an escorted, external walking tour of the 2021 campus from the heritage listed **Red Brick Building** to "**The Farm**" followed by an afternoon tea under the heritage listed Moreton Bay Fig tree. Register now at www.bsbs100.com.au

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

The **BSHS PSA** acknowledges the contribution that **Bill Bowness AO**, Class of 1961, and **Sam Strohmayer**, Class of 1989, made to the development of the now suspended UQ COVID-19 vaccine research initiative.

Bill noted, "It is gratifying to be participating in research which is at the heart of UQ and hopefully has immense global impact." On behalf of Glencore Zinc, Sam noted, "Glencore is honoured to support UQ's efforts to find a vaccine for COVID-19."

REUNIONS

The following 2020 reunions have been re-scheduled:

Class of 1953 – 68 Year Reunion

Date: 3 September 2021 **Venue:** Sofitel Brisbane Central **Contact:** Alan Skyring **Email:** alanskyring@gmail.com

Class of 1970 – 51 Year Reunion

Date: 22 Oct 2021 **Venue:** The Ship Inn **Contact:** Cecily Blake (Welsh) **Email:** bsbs1970reunion@yahoo.com.au

Class of 1980 – 41 Year Reunion

Date: 18 September 2021 **Venue:** Darling & Co **Contact:** Rona Zorzetto (Yaxley) **Email:** mezorzetto@bigpond.com

The Classes of **1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001** and **2011** are requested to contact the **PSA** Registrar via bshspsa@gmail.com with information regarding your 2021 reunion.

The **PSA** has prepared a checklist that is useful in planning your reunion and arranging publicity. The checklist is readily available from the **PSA** Registrar.

VALE

The **BSHS PSA** records with regret the passing of the following past students and extends condolences to their family and friends.

Peter George Bellas	Class of 1965
Michael John Bryce, AM, AE, KStJ	Class of 1955 and State High Legend
Dr James Cameron	Class of 1970 and 1970 Dux
Victor Marmysz	Class of 1959
David John McIntosh	Classes of 1990 and 1991
Dr Raymond Morrice Cash	Class of 1965



A NEW BEGINNING

Lachlan Reberger, School Captain 2016, is the face of the new workforce. After finishing his Actuarial Science degree, the Bond University Vice-Chancellor's Elite Scholarship student landed a role at ANZ, but was there only a month before COVID-19 forced staff to work from home.

ACADEMIC RESULTS

The 2020 Year 12 academic results for graduating **State High** students included:

- 49% of all results were As.
- 30 students achieved 100% in a subject and another 28 scored 99%.
- One student achieved an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 99.95, five more a 99.9, five more a 99.85, five more a 99.8 and six more a 99.75.
- 269 students achieve an ATAR of 90 or more and 69 achieved 98.9 or above. This is equivalent to the previous OP1 ranking. **Editor:** Impressive results.

IN RETROSPECT

In 1954, ten **State High** senior students were awarded Open Scholarships to the University of Queensland. Eight **State High** senior students were also awarded Open Scholarships in 1953 and 1955. Open scholarships were awarded to the top 25 students in the Senior examination.

In 1971, George Lockie announced that 67 **State High** students received Commonwealth Secondary Scholarships, the largest number in any Australian school. **Editor:** A sign of continuing academic success.

60 Years of Female Leadership at State High 1961 – 2021

Kerry McCarthy (Bowers), School Captain 1983, requested information on the position of the “Senior Mistress” at **State High**.

Miss D L McCorkell (Dot) was appointed to the teaching staff at **State High** in 1936 and became the first “Principal/Senior Mistress” at **State High** in 1961. She reigned supreme until her retirement in 1971.

Mrs Betty Barrett succeeded “Dot” in 1972 and continued to 1979.

Miss T F (Fay) Russell joined the teaching staff in 1975 and was “Senior Mistress” from 1980 to 1993.

The position was first designated “Deputy Principal” in 1988 and this title was interchangeable with “Senior Mistress” until 1991. The Deputy Principal designation has remained since 1992.

Other long-term Deputy Principals include Mrs P (Trish) Underwood who was Deputy Principal from 1994 to 2008 and Ms Janice Head who joined the teaching staff in 2001 and has been a Deputy Principal since 2004 (in an acting capacity from 2004 to 2006) and is currently Deputy Principal – Operations.

Currently, the Executive Team includes the Executive Principal, the Dean of Teaching and Learning, four Deputy Principals and four Deputy Deans.

Ms Emily Simons joined the Executive Team in 2012 and is currently the Dean of Teaching and Learning. Both Janice Head and Emily Simons have acted in the position of Executive Principal during the absence of the Executive Principal.

ANOTHER BEGINNING

Bronwyn Dewar (Howell), Class of 1970, has retired from the teaching staff at **State High** after a distinguished career that began in 1998 as the Head of LOTE (Languages other than English). Bronwyn was Head of Department - Languages and a member of the School Leadership Group from 2012 to 2020. The PSA thanks Bronwyn for her commitment and input to the school for 22 years.

HONORARY DOCTORATES

Honorary Doctorates are a prestigious award conferred by a university on individuals who have excelled in specific fields of endeavour.

State High past students who have been the recipient of Honorary Doctorates from the University of Queensland, the Queensland University of Technology and Griffith University include:

The **University of Queensland** awards Honorary Doctorates for distinguished service, a distinguished career, significant achievement, academic distinction or exceptional service or contribution to the University of Queensland.

William (Bill) D Bowness AO , Class of 1961, Doctor of Business honoris causa	2015
* Michael J Bryce AM AE , Class of 1955, Doctor of the University honoris causa	2008
* General Eva E Burrows AO , Class of 1946, Doctor of Philosophy honoris causa	1993
Roy Deicke CMG , Class of 1946, Doctor of Engineering honoris causa	1990
* Robert F (Robin) Gibson AO , Class of 1947, Doctor of Letters honoris causa	1989
* Dr Nicholas S Girdis CBE , Class of 1944, Doctor of Philosophy honoris causa	1995
* William (Bill) G Hayden AC , Class of 1949, Doctor of Laws honoris causa	1990
* Sir Leo A Hielscher AC , Class of 1941, Doctor of the University honoris causa	2017
* Andrew N Liveris AO , Class of 1971, Doctor of Science honoris causa	2005
Dr Nicholas J Nicolaides AM , Class of 1945, Doctor of Medicine honoris causa	2002
* Dr Gary S Roubin , Class of 1965, Doctor of Medicine honoris causa	2013
* Sir Sydney Sunderland Class of 1929, Doctor of Medicine honoris causa	1975
Graeme T Wood AM , Class of 1964, Doctor of Economics honoris causa	2011

The **Queensland University of Technology (QUT)** awards a Doctor of the University (Honorary Doctorate) for distinguished service to the community, QUT or for scholarship.

Kathleen Mercy Dickinson (Griffin) AM , Class of 1936	1994
Keith G Hilless AM , Class of 1955	2008
* William F Robinson AO , Class of 1953	1998

Griffith University awards a Doctor of the University (Honorary Doctorate) for remarkable contribution to our society or for rendering distinguished service to the community.

* General Eva E Burrows AO , Class of 1946	1994
* Brett J Dean , Class of 1978	2007
Dr Paul Eliadis , Class of 1970	2008
* Robert F (Robin) Gibson AO , Class of 1947	1986
* William (Bill) G Hayden AC , Class of 1949	1990
* Sir Leo A Hielscher AC , Class of 1941	1993
* Lawrie W Powell AC , Class of 1952	1996
* William F Robinson AO , Class of 1953	2005

* Honorary Doctorate recipients, **Michael Bryce, Eva Burrows, Brett Dean, Robin Gibson, Nicholas Girdis, Bill Hayden, Leo Hielscher, Andrew Liveris, Lawrie Powell, Gary Roubin, William Robinson** and **Sydney Sunderland** have also been inducted as **State High Legends**.

Another group of **Brisbane State High School** past students will be inducted as **State High Legends** at the Centenary Foundation Day Assembly on 19 July 2021.

THE ARCHIBALD PRIZE CENTENARY

The Archibald Prize, which is awarded annually to the best portrait “*preferentially of some man or woman distinguished in art, letters, science or politics painted by any artist resident in Australasia*”, will celebrate its centenary in 2021.

The Archibald Prize was first awarded in 1921. In establishing the prize, J F Archibald’s aim was to foster portraiture as well as support artists and perpetuate the memory of great Australians. Over the years some of Australia’s most prominent artists have entered and the subjects have been equally celebrated in their fields.

William Robinson AO, Class of 1953 and **State High Legend** has won the Archibald Prize for portraiture twice: first in 1987 for *Equestrian self portrait*, then in 1995 for *Self-portrait with stunned mullet*. He has also won the Wynne Prize for landscape painting in 1990 (*The rainforest*) and 1996 (*Creation landscape – earth and sea*).



1987 Equestrian self portrait



1995 Self-portrait with stunned mullet

THE RAAF CENTENARY

On 31 March 2021, The Royal Australian Air Force will mark 100 years of service to Australia.

Numerous **State High** graduates have served and are currently serving in the RAAF including **Air Marshal Raymond George (Ray) Funnell, AC**, Class of 1952 and **State High Legend**, who served as Chief of Air Staff (CAS) from 1987 until 1992, **Air Marshal Geoffrey David Shepherd AO**, Class of 1969, who served as Chief of Air Force (CAF) from 2005 until 2008 and **Flight Lieutenant Virgil P Brennan, DCF, DFM**, Class of 1934, a “flying ace” of the Second World War.

Visit the RAAF Centenary website to learn more and stay up to date: www.airforce.gov.au/100

REFLECTIONS

My four years at the illustrious school began in 1946, only a quarter through its 100 years. Seventy five years on and I’m still here to reflect on those years...

WORLD WAR II – 1939-1945 Blackouts, rationing, air raid precautions, parts of northern Australia bombed, hostile activity around the coast, threat of invasion, arrival of the Americans, valiant defence by Allied forces, telegrams in black edged envelopes, finally victory.

So, it was for most of my primary schooling, no carefree adolescence for those growing up at that time. Schools struggled with teacher shortages but still produced admirable results.

BSHS AT LAST - When 1946 arrived, it was a joyful release to set all that aside and catch the 8.03 from Gaythorne to Central Station, walk through the subway and Anzac Square, across Adelaide Street and via Isles Lane to Queen Street, Dutton Park tram to Musgrave Park, where stood the impressive Red Brick building. There we took our places as sub-juniors, ready to be guided through secondary education by a fine group of teachers.

Some names which deserve to be mentioned. The nicknames are terms of affection not disrespect.

“Pancho” Barnes, “Jumbo” Jenks, George Lockie, Vic Honour, Miss Sully, Nesta Brown, Lucy Cribb, Roly

Trickett, “Buster” Boyland, “Dot” McCorkell, Gilbert Ward, John Churven, Harry Mayze, Mr Barrell, Mr Wolfe, Ted Shogren, the Hanger sisters, Alma Platen, Mrs Pyle, and of course the principal from 1947 was Mr H G Watkin (later Sir Herbert).

We as their students, owed them a debt of gratitude for teaching well and opening the door to our future which lay in the second half of the 20th century. Time moves on and those futures are now our past A reflection as we pay homage to the school, BSHS that provided part of the foundations on which our lives were built.
Robert Grahame (Bob) Miles, Class of 1949

Editor: An extract from Bob’s reflections that began with his sisters, **Mavis Miles**, Class of 1937 and **Audrey Miles**, Class of 1940.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SINCE 1921

The *Lilley Medal* named after Sir Charles **Lilley**, the *Byrnes Medal*, named after Thomas Joseph **Byrnes** and the *T J Ryan Medal* named after Thomas Joseph **Ryan** have been awarded variously for academic excellence, viz. the top place, in the State Scholarship, UQ Junior and UQ Senior Examinations. Lilley, Byrnes and Ryan were all Queensland Premiers.

One hundred years ago, founding student **Queenie Doreen Jewel Wendorf** was awarded the *Byrnes Medal* for achieving the top mark in the 1921 UQ Junior Examination. This followed her success in winning the *Lilley Medal* in the 1919 Scholarship Examination from Windsor State School.

Significantly, in our centenary year these prestigious medals have been donated by Queenie Wendorf’s family to the **PSA** and will be displayed in the school museum.

These medals are the most significant items of memorabilia that have been donated to the school museum since **Professor Martin Green AM**, Class of 1965 and **State High Legend** donated his *Lilley* and *BHP Medals* to the school museum in 2016. Martin was also the **BSHS Dux** in 1965

Recipients of these academic medals who have a **State High** connection include:

- 1931 **Nona Mary Mills** - *Byrnes Medal* in the UQ Junior Examination
- 1938 **Donald Neill** - *Byrnes Medal* in the UQ Junior Examination
- 1941 **Max Brightman** - *Byrnes Medal* in the UQ Junior Examination
- 1943 **James Syme** - *Byrnes Medal* in the UQ Junior Examination
- 1945 **David Tribe** - *Lilley Medal* in the Scholarship Examination from Ironside SS
- 1947 **David Tribe** - *Byrnes Medal* in the UQ Junior Examination
- 1949 **David Tribe** - *John Black Scholarship* to UQ for the top place in the UQ Senior Examination
- 1953 **Thelma James** - *Lilley Medal* in the Scholarship Examination from Tully SS - **BSHS Dux** in 1957
- 1957 **Aiya Ekis** - *Lilley Medal* in the Scholarship Examination from Wilston SS - Captain 1961
- 1960 **Ross Diplock** - *Lilley Medal* in the Scholarship Examination from Mt Gravatt SS
- 1960 **Yvonne Burke** - *Lilley Medal* in the Scholarship Examination from Milton SS
- 1962 **Ross Diplock** - *Byrnes Medal* in the UQ Junior Examination. **Michael Baron** who was the **BSHS Dux** in 1964 placed 2nd and **Yvonne Burke** was the Top girl in the 1962 UQ Junior examination.
- 1964 **Andrew Elek** - *Lilley Medal* in the UQ Senior Examination - Rhodes scholar in 1968
- 1965 **Martin Green** - *Lilley Medal* in the UQ Senior Examination - **BSHS Dux** in 1965
- 1967 **Gayle Adams** - *Ryan Medal* in the UQ Junior Examination
- 1969 **Gayle Adams** - *Lilley* and *BHP Medals* in the UQ Senior Examination - **BSHS Dux** in 1969

David Tribe, Class of 1949 and Dux, has the distinction of being the top student in all three major Queensland examinations, viz. the State Scholarship, UQ Junior and UQ Senior examinations.

David was a leading author, secularist and humanist and in 2005 he established the David Harold Tribe Awards. This is a suite of awards to encourage excellence in the fields of literature, philosophy, sculpture and music, with a \$300,000 bursary at the University of Sydney. What motivated him was a concern to foster excellence in the creative arts in a society otherwise devoted to sport.

BSHS Past Students' Association 2020 Annual Report — Brad Thomas President

2020 sadly saw a significantly different year to the past as the COVID-19 virus affected the environment for all of us. Our reunions were especially affected, with events being postponed or cancelled. The Spirit of State High, however, was demonstrated by the efforts of our Registrar, **Barry Irwin**, and Museum Curators **Glenise** and **Ian Scotney** as they continued their activities. Donations of memorabilia forwarded for inclusion in the Museum have been greatly appreciated and our Museum warrants a visit during its Open Day on State High Day each year.

We look forward to the countdown to State High's Centenary year in 2021. We have been working towards a successful celebration throughout 2021 of State High's 100 years and how the school will fit into the new academic environment with the new Brisbane South State Secondary College at Dutton Park.

Our **PSA** members cannot afford to sit back and let a select few struggle with the planning and implementation of Centenary events; the PSA looks forward to all interested parties joining the President and Executive in planning events for members to ensure further memories for years to come.

The **PSA** continues to be an integral part of the State High community with representatives on the State High Foundation and attendance at School Council meetings as an observer. The State High Foundation was initiated in 1999 and founding directors **Tony Bellas** (Class of 1970) and **Barry Irwin** (Class of 1961) have been joined in recent years by **Louise Bolger** (Class of 1985), **Dene Crocker** (Class of 1983), **Marshall Irwin** (Class of 1970) and **Ross Perrett** (Class of 1974).

The **PSA** will continue to present the annual Spirit of State High Award at the school's Awards Ceremony.

Our Registrar has been quite active in matching and crosschecking the PSA and State High Connect databases. It is our intention to upgrade the details for all past students and we are aiming to increase the number registered for the Centenary year.

As President, I have been working on changing the membership structure to be inclusive of all past students freely and automatically. The Executive looks forward to the input of members and past students on this new policy.

Furthermore, I have been working on creating a Young Past Students Focus Group to keep the **PSA** at the forefront for potential **PSA** events and relevant to recent past students to ensure an active, thriving and youthful presence among the ageing section of past student membership.

The **PSA** is indebted to the continued interest and effort by our volunteer Registrar **Barry Irwin**, who continues to assist with school reunions, school tours, museum contributions and enquiries for information from the school's administration, staff, students and past students. He also maintains the PSA membership database and produces the AMICUS newsletter.

Those past students who have contributed significantly to the broader community and have the power to inspire current students are considered for induction as Legends of State High. The **PSA** has nominated 18 past students for induction in 2021 during the Centenary celebrations to join the Legends inducted in 2007 and 2014.

This year, **The Honourable Justice Peter Applegarth AM** (Class of 1973), **Professor Gregory Hill AO** (Class of 1965), **Mr Thomas Holmes OAM** (Class of 1956) and **Dr Lyndall White AM** (née **Whitney**; Class of 1969) were awarded in the Queen's Birthday 2020 Honours List. **Ms Marita Cowie AM** (née **Anderson**; Class of 1980), **Dr Paul Eliadas AM** (Class of 1970), **Mr Ian Healy AO** (Class of 1981) and **Dr Stephen Papas OAM** (Class of 1959) were included in the Australia Day 2020 Honours List.

During the year, *The Courier-Mail* listed the Queensland Girls' Secondary Schools Sports Association's (QGSSSA) top 40 sportswomen, which included 12 past State High students, but did not include eight past State High student Olympians. State High's past students continue to shine in the community both in the academic and sporting spheres.

The **PSA** extended condolences to the family and friends of those who passed away during the year, including **Lynette Antrobus** (née **Jordan**; Class of 1971), **Allan Baskerville** (Class of 1975), **Gregory Beacroft** (1970–1973), **Ian Bryce** (Class of 1956), **Dr James Cameron** (Class of 1970), **Pamela Chowns** (née **Braid**; Class of 1950), **Allen Crisp** (Class of 1957), **Allan Doobov** (Class of 1959), **Alan Duus** (Class of 1963), **Ronald Feenaghty** (Junior 1947), **Dr Stephen Hinchy OAM, ASM** (Class of 1957), **Joan Hungerford** (née **Hughes**; Class of 1951), **Ross Lisle** (Class of 1957), **Peter Lowry** (Class of 1988), **David Nickols** (Class of 1959), **Jocelyn O'Neill** (née **Joyce**; Class of 1956), **Peter Rose** (Class of 1953), **Alexander Stoney** (Class of 1950), **Frances Packer** (née **Sweeper**; Class of 1951), **Cornelis Toonen** (Class of 1967) and **Bill Tree** (Class of 1952).

We thank **John Harding** (Class of 1977), our retiring Secretary, who has given 20 years of service to the **Brisbane State High School Past Students' Association**.

No doubt there were many other community and sporting achievements of past students within the broader community, which is to the credit of State High in contributing to the successes of its past and current students.

Our thanks also go to Executive Principal Mr Wade Haynes and State High's staff for working with and assisting the PSA during the year.

PSA Executive

- **Brad Thomas** (Class of 1967), President
- **Charles Stubbs** (Class of 1974), Vice President
- **Bob Jeffery** (School Captain 1961), Treasurer
- **Glenise Scotney** (School Captain 1962), Secretary
- **Barry Irwin** (Class of 1961), Registrar

Editor: This report was published in the 2020 annual School Magazine.

