

From the President



Engagement with our alumni is at an unprecedented high level.

– Barry Irwin (BSHAlumni President and Registrar)

Memberships

Many thanks to those alumni who have renewed or commenced their financial membership of the Brisbane State High Alumni (**BSHAlumni**). We thank **Geoffrey Couser** (Class of 1986), **Lashika Gonsalkorala** (Class of 2003), **Margaret Johnston (Cullen)** (Class of 1969), **Bernard Tang** (Class of 1996), **Andrew Grant-Taylor** (Class of 1974), **Derek Trusler** (Class of 1977) and **Flora Ybarzabel** (Class of 1996), who have recently become Life Members of the **BSHAlumni**.

If you are not a financial member of our association, now is the time to support the **BSHAlumni** and **State High** and reconnect with our community.

Click on one of the links below to support your alma mater via State High Connect:



Click to join the BSHAlumni



Click to renew your membership

Or pay membership fees by Bank Transfer to the **BSHAlumni** NAB Account:

- BSB: 084 004
- Account Number: 47 870 7793
- Fees: 1 Year - \$15.00
5 Years - \$50.00
10 Years - \$90.00
Life Membership - \$250.00

A welcome to the 2022 State High graduates who have opted for Associate Memberships. Your engagement with the BSHAlumni is most welcome and in terms of our constitution, you have been granted membership for 10 years post-graduation. You will be able to transition to full membership on the payment of the relevant fee in 2033. A special mention and welcome to those current students who have opted to become Associate Members of the BSHAlumni. Your engagement and interest in our association is most gratifying.

Projects



With the support of our Associate Members, we have been able to provide \$30,000 toward an amphitheatre, which will be constructed on the Merivale Campus in 2023 to enhance outdoor performances.

At the May General Meeting, it was decided to upgrade the school museum's display cabinets. This project will be funded by the membership fees from alumni.

Request for Quotes



We would be pleased to receive quotations from those alumni who may be involved in the joinery/shop fitting industry.

Please contact **Barry Irwin** via email: bshalumni@gmail.com or call 0415 140 077 for additional information.

Upcoming Events

State of High Arts

Join Brisbane State High Alumni for its 2023 celebratory cocktail party to:

- Acknowledge the State High past students who have excelled in the Performing Arts and Entertainment sector.
- Enjoy the spectacular RIVERFIRE fireworks display from a 'box seat', with the city skyline as a backdrop.
- Engage with your association and past students from all eras.
- Enjoy all-inclusive catering with canapés and alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages.

Our Special Guests will include:

- Creative Director of Ad Astra Fiona Kennedy (née Mackie; Class of 1978);
- Composer & clarinetist Paul Dean (Class of 1983);
- Stage, screen and TV actor Paul Bishop (Class of 1984); and
- Comedian, actor & presenter Matt Okine (Class of 2002).

DATE
Saturday 2 September 2023

TIME
6:00pm for 6:30pm start, concluding at 9:00pm

VENUE
Indoor Sports Complex Terrace (F Block)
Vulture Street Campus, Brisbane State High School

TICKETS
\$75.00 per person
\$35.00 per BSHS student accompanied by an adult
Includes canapés, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and free parking
Credit card payments and carparking reservation via <https://statehighconnect.com.au/BSHA>

PARKING
Limited free parking is available in the Edmondstone Street carpark. It is essential to reserve a space when booking your ticket.

RSVP BY
Friday 18 August 2023

DRESS
Smart casual

FURTHER INFORMATION
Email: bshalumni@gmail.com
Phone: BSHAlumni President
Barry Irwin (0415 140 077) or
BSHAlumni Vice President
John Cowie (0468 323 349)

Photo by Josselin Berger

STATE of HIGH ARTS, our 2023 Alumni event, provides the opportunity for you to engage with fellow alumni and your association at an all-inclusive cocktail party. We will acknowledge those alumni who have excelled in the performing arts and entertainment sector and witness the spectacular Riverfire from an unparalleled vantage point overlooking the city skyline. Past students, past and current staff, past and current parents and accompanied current students are all welcome to join us on **Saturday 2nd September**.

STATE of HIGH ARTS follows on from the successful 2022 Commonwealth Games themed event that launched our new identity. These alumni events provide the platform to reinvigorate our association and to enjoy a social occasion in a convivial and familiar environment. These events can only be successful with your support. Tickets are just \$75 for adults and \$35 for students.

Please register to attend by clicking [here](#).

What will 2024 bring? Perhaps an Olympic Games themed event following the Paris Olympics?



Register now



STATE HIGH DAY, starting at 8.30am on Saturday 5th August, provides the opportunity to attend our next General Meeting, enjoy the "Fun of the Fair" and GPS Rugby on the school oval. The winner of the 1st XV game against Nudgee will be presented with the Paul Morgan Cup. The late **Paul "Porky" Morgan** was the 1964 school captain and an inaugural State High Legend.

Save the date
STATE HIGH MASTERS

4th annual golf day
Friday 6 October 2023
Nudgee Golf Club

Raising funds to empower the potential of
Brisbane State High School's students



To make a booking or for more information please
email Angela Dolores (Alumni & Parent Engagement) on
acern7@eq.edu.au



Another upcoming event not to be missed is the 4th annual **STATE HIGH MASTERS** at Nudgee Golf Club on Friday 6 October. Register your interest in participating or sponsoring this event by emailing: acern7@eq.edu.au.

Alumni continue to participate and support State High events:

- The **BSHA** Alumni "Spirit of State High" trophy was presented at the 2023 Leadership and Learning Awards ceremony, at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre.
- Numerous alumni attended the ANZAC Day Ceremony and **Brig (Rtd) Kevin O'Brien**, Class of 1964, delivered the keynote address. The 2023 ANZAC Scholar, **Alice Yan** focused on the contribution of non-combatant service during wartime, noting that "The voluntary work of **State High** students was of upmost importance, assisting those at war in faraway places."
- The **State High Foundation** sponsored Justicia Program was launched recently with notable legal identities including **Honourable Justice Peter Applegarth AM** (Class of 1975), **Avelina Tarrago** (Class of 2001), **Lionel**



Brig (Rtd) Kevin O'Brien as the guest speaker for the commemorative address at the ANZAC Day Ceremony.

The Honourable Justice Peter Applegarth AM (Class of 1975), Mr Scott McDougall (QLD Human Rights Commissioner), and Avelina Tarrago (Class of 2001) at the Justicia Program launch.



Communication

AMICUS is sent quarterly via State High Connect to all past students who are registered on our database. Emails via bshalumni@gmail.com and online communication via www.statehighconnect.com.au have become the major forms of engaging with all past students.

As I noted in the **BSHAlumni** Annual Report in the 2022 School Magazine and as included in our constitution, "The aims and objects of our association shall be to promote and keep good the fellowship between all past and current students of the school and to keep alive their interest in the school and to support the school."

These aims and objectives are encapsulated in all the above elements namely, membership, projects, events and communication.

Barry Irwin

BSHAlumni President and Registrar

Email: bshalumni@gmail.com

From the Editor

We have already assembled a great cohort for our annual Alumni cocktail event, **STATE of HIGH ARTS**, on Riverfire night from 6pm-9pm on **Saturday 2nd September** at the F Block Terrace (overlooking the school oval). All are welcome, including past and current staff, past and current parents, accompanied current students, and the broader State High community.

Reflecting the diverse nature of fields that our Alumni contribute to, the theme this year is the performing arts, celebrating the contribution that the arts and entertainment add to the social and cultural fabric of Brisbane and beyond. It's bound to be a spectacular evening of meeting old friends, reconnecting, and seeing the spectacular Riverfire from the best location in Brisbane.

Don't miss it and secure your tickets here: statehighconnect.com.au/BSHA

Tickets include all drinks and canapes, and student tickets are also available.

In this edition you'll see that there are many opportunities to engage with your fellow Alumni, including at State High Day on 5th August, the same day as our Alumni meeting, which starts at 9am. From there you can join the **State High** community and connect with friends from your school days. I attended State High Day last year with my daughter, who is a current student, and it was a great day out.

In this edition, we also celebrate the career and life of **Doctor Ronald K Browne AM**, Class of 1954, who has made an outstanding contribution to education and several other fields. I've always said that one of the most noble and meaningful contributions you can make to society is to be a teacher. Ronald's career took this to the next level, including reforming our national educational system.

I look forward to seeing you at State High Day and then at our Riverfire event, **STATE of HIGH ARTS**. I hope you enjoy this issue of AMICUS.

John Cowie

Class of 1994

AMICUS editor and Vice President **BSHALUMNI**



Our Amazing Alumni

Alumni Spotlight

Doctor Ronald K Browne AM, Class of 1954, is an example of an alumnus who has lived a full life, had an outstanding career, and made a significant contribution to their chosen field of endeavour.

Ronald holds a Bachelor of Arts with majors in history and government, a Bachelor of Education (first class honours), and a PhD from the University of New England, where he researched academic recruitment at Australian universities. In 1966, Ronald was awarded the Queensland Prize for Public Administration.

Ronald's early career was as a teacher and principal of Cairns and Redcliffe Opportunity Schools. He then turned his hand to tertiary education where he served as assistant to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Queensland, before becoming a senior lecturer in education at the University of New England and the Dean of Education at the then Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education (which is now known as the University of New England).

From 1978 to 1990 Ronald served as the Secretary of the Australian Education Council (Council of Education Ministers of the Commonwealth, States and Territories of Australia). During that time, the Council generated several significant policy decisions including the 'Dawkins Reforms' for restructuring higher education, reforms to technical education, a focus on encouraging more females to complete secondary education and the establishment of the Australian Children's Television Association.

Following that, Ronald changed his focus, setting up a boutique pinot noir vineyard. Ronald and his wife are now active in the University of the Third Age (U3A), with Ronald becoming the foundation Chair of U3A Alliance Australia for five years until 2012.

Throughout his career, Ronald was appointed as an overseas academic at the University of Nebraska and University of Toronto. He was a Ministerial Appointee on the Council of Deakin University and a director of the national board of UNICEF Australia. Showing his versatility, Ronald was also a Lieutenant Commander of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve.

Recognising Ronald's outstanding contribution, he was admitted as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1978, for services to educational research. Ronald's remarkable career in several fields and a life of service is a source of inspiration. Congratulations Ronald.



Other Alumni News



Tama Matheson



Tahu Matheson

An opera spectacular was presented on Sunday 11th June in the Main Auditorium, Brisbane City Hall. The spectacular featured the voices of Eva Kong, Milijana Nikolic, Rosario La Spina and Jose Carbo. The opera also featured fan favourites Love Duet and One Fine Day from Puccini's Madama Butterfly, and Cosi Fan Tutti by Mozart, among many others.

The spectacular was a production of the Ensemble Q Orchestra and involves several talented alumni. Ensemble Q is directed by Co-Artistic Directors cellist **Trish Dean** and clarinetist **Paul Dean**, Class of 1983. The spectacular was conducted by **Tahu Matheson**, Class of 1993, with his younger brother, **Tama Matheson**, Class of 1995, as the Master of Ceremonies.

Paul Dean will be one of our special guests at the Alumni's special event, **STATE of HIGH ARTS** on Riverfire night in September.

State High Shines in Opera Spectacular



We're also very fortunate to have **Paul Bishop**, Class of 1984, of Blue Heelers fame, and **Matt Okine**, Class of 2002, join us for **STATE of HIGH ARTS** on Riverfire night, Saturday 2nd September. Matt is an actor, writer & presenter and one of Australia's favourite award-winning comedians, having spent over 15 years appearing on screens and stages around Australia and the world. Paul is a multi-talented stage, screen and television actor who has served as a Redlands City councillor since 2012.



Completing a stellar line-up for **STATE OF HIGH ARTS** is actor, director and writer, **Fiona Kennedy (Mackie)**, Class of 1978. Fiona made her debut on stage at the age of four. She performed as a child actor in the Innocents with La Boite. In 2018, Fiona and her Co-creative Director established Ad Astra with the mission of enabling emerging artists to launch their professional careers. Fiona directed Will Eno's *The Realistic Joneses* for Ad Astra in 2021, and Cindy Lou Johnson's *Brilliant Traces* in 2022. Fiona and her husband, **Dan Kennedy**, Class of 1977/78, recently bought the Brisbane Arts Theatre at 210 Petrie Terrace to preserve this important Brisbane cultural asset.

State High's Head of Department for the Arts, **Aimee Gust**, will conduct a panel discussion with our special guests. **Foster's Child**, a jazz quartet comprising past and current State High students, will also perform on the night. and current State High students, will also perform on the night.



A Performing Arts Career

Click on the link below to read about Professor Ian Bofinger, Class of 1985.

[Read More](#)



Becky's Career is No Laughing Matter

The career of Brisbane comedian **Becky Lucas**, Class of 2006, is burgeoning. Becky is currently juggling international tours, a new show on Channel 7, *Blow up*, and possibly a new film project. *Blow up* is a competition reality show where balloon artists and decorators battle to create the most impressive inflatable artworks.

Now residing in Sydney, Becky will return to her hometown of Brisbane in July to deliver her stand up show. Becky's TV credits in 2022 included Channel 9's *The Hundred* with Andy Lee and TVNZ's *Patriot Brains* in New Zealand. Becky shot onto the comedy scene in the 2013 National RAW Comedy finals and has gone from strength to strength ever since.



International Handball

Alex Hodgson (Class of 2020) Co-Captained the U21 Australian Men's Handball team that competed in San Jose, Costa Rica for the International Handball Federation's Intercontinental Trophy.



Brisbane Lions Debut

Jaspa Fletcher (Class of 2021) made his spectacular debut for the Brisbane Lions on Friday 16 June at the Gabba. He ignited the crowd with an incredible goal in the second quarter.

The 18-year-old is the son of former Lion Adrian Fletcher, who played a total of 231 games with Brisbane, Geelong, St Kilda and Fremantle.



Cross Country Challenge

Sisters **Nikita** (Class of 2020) and **Keira Moore** (Class of 2021) went to the United States to run cross country in the Northern Arizona University's acclaimed program. Nikita earned seven national medals during her early career. She also earned a place on Australia's U20 women's team for the 2019 World Cross Country Championships, where she finished 80th.



Rugby Debut

Ryley Bierton, Class of 2022, recently made his Queensland Premier Rugby debut for Souths. A promising career ahead. Well done, Ryley.



The Rich List

Chris Wallin, Class of 1969, has had a big year, reportedly making \$300m in dividends from his privately-owned QCoal. Chris has an interest in four coal mines in Queensland's Bowen Basin.



Over the Fence

Samuel Labaki, Class of 2021, who first took up fencing as part of State High's extra-Curricular program in 2016, has made a major impact in the sport. He recently won the 2023 National Junior Epee Championship, and made a breakthrough at the Bahrain Coupe Du Monde, where he not only qualified, but also won two elimination rounds and placed in the top 15. This makes Samuel the first junior fencer to achieve such remarkable results. Samuel is following in the footsteps of **Imants Terauds**, Class of 1954, who competed in the Epee Teams event at the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games.

A Request from Abroad

Marta Schipporeit would like to get in touch with her class of 1977.

Hello to my fellow classmates from 1977.

I was an exchange student in your grade 11.

I would love to get in touch with you!

Love, Marta Schipporeit

To get in touch with Marta, email her on: marta16@msm.com



From the Past

"We have a grievance; we do not relish the idea of becoming members of the Old Boys' or Old Girls' Associations; one would think that these were frivolous appellations for old buffers and old dames, instead of young men and women. Why not call it the Past Students' Association?" – 1926 Senior Class Notes

This is an extract from the 1926 Senior Class Notes in the School Magazine.

Nineteen years later, the 1945 school magazine recorded; "During the year the Old Girls' and Boys' Associations, after much discussion, decided to amalgamate, 'to promote the good fellowship and spirit of cooperation among Past Students of the School.'" Thereby, the **Brisbane State High School Past Students' Association** was born, fulfilling the wish of the 1926 Seniors.

Our evolution continued in 2022 when the Brisbane State High Alumni was launched to represent our status and identity more adequately, as an independent incorporated association, in the 21st century.



Class Reunions

Class of 1973 – 50 Year Reunion



11 March 2023, The 'Paddo'

50 years may have flown by, but the old State High enthusiasm was evident at our big reunion. We met our old chums and former staff and some people we didn't know back at school, became new friends. A mark of a happy event.

For almost a year our committee meetings included decision-making marathons (where, when, how much, etc) and between meetings we engaged in some super sleuthing with hours of trolling through public records, analysing, and following up old contact lists, finding people by phone and getting the word out through our new Facebook page, all contributing to our growing master list. Over 400 students attended with our cohort for varying lengths of time from 1969 – 1973. We found around 200 alumni.

Huge thanks go to **Barry Irwin**, Class of 1961, the **BSHAlumni** President who conducted a tour of the school for a group of us on the afternoon of the reunion. It was amazing to see how many changes there have been since our day. The quadrangle is still there, but quite a few buildings, including the library, which was new around 1970, have been knocked down and replaced with an indoor sports centre. 'The Farm' has been rejuvenated with a covered walkway over Cordelia Street from the main school, and the hill where we watched footy has disappeared. There are over 3400 students at the school now, including Year 7. This is double the numbers from our days. Barry kept trying to move us along and must have really grown tired of us saying "I remember when we used to ... and this has changed so much ..." since 1973.

What a fantastic success the evening turned out to be! We celebrated with 90 people, including four teachers: Mr Jim Lucey, Marg (Davis) Lucey, John (Taffy) Saunders and Bill Simpson (no they aren't about 100!); all remarkably well and enjoying catching up, especially with footballers and netballers. A big effort was made by those who came up for the night from Tasmania, Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney. It was great to see so many familiar faces, and if you looked hard enough, you could still see the teenager in all of us, helped along by class and sporting and drama photos on the walls and in a slideshow (and some very large printing on our name tags). We had a boys' and girls' school hat, and every half hour or so, the names of Mr and Miss State High were drawn from a hat and were worn around by the lucky winners. Wearing a school hat takes quite a few decades off one's appearance!

School captains, **Tim Trehearn** and **Erica Mikolaitis**, each addressed us. Tim sent a video from Cairns and Erica was able to be there on the night. As Tim put it: "everyone has had their share of great times and great challenges over the past 50 years, but to be together and celebrate old friendships and new acquaintances is the meaning of a reunion." There was also a moment of sad and heartfelt remembrance for those who have passed away.

We sang the School Song with gusto (Dot would have been proud), did the War Cry like it was today – and all without the need for cheat sheets! Our MC kept things flowing and we gushed over our huge 'State High' cake. A great musical soundtrack compiled from 'those' days was played throughout the night. There was a sea of smiling faces - the room was abuzz!

The names of our committee members haven't been mentioned. The Class of '73 people know who they are! A big and hearty thanks to all for every little thing you did! Most thanks though to everyone who attended, sent along good wishes and spread the word.

We suspect our next reunion will be in 5 years, i.e., at the 55-year mark, or 60 years since most of us were 12-year-olds getting ready to start high school at BSHS in 1969.

Please keep in touch to make planning easy next time!

Janet Zschommler (Voysey)

Email: Bshs69to73reunion@gmail.com

Mobile: 0438 992 050



Upcoming Class Reunions

Class of 2003

20 YEAR REUNION

Date: Saturday 19 August 2023

Venue: The Greek Club School

Tour: TBC

Contact: **Althea Papinczak (Jones)**

Email: althea@widac.com.au

Class of 1983

40 YEAR REUNION

Date: Saturday 5 August 2023

Venue: The Greek Club

Time: 5:00pm

Cost: \$100 plus booking fee (incl. 4-hour beverage package, canapes and grazing table)

Contact: **Greg Lemass**

Email: greglemass@casa.gov.au

[Join Facebook Group](#)

Class of 1963

60 YEAR REUNION

Date: Sunday 1 October 2023

Time: 11:30am

Venue: Victoria Park Function Venue

Contact: **Marilyn Walters (Horne)**

Email: bsha60y@outlook.com

Class of 1993

30 YEAR REUNION

Date: Saturday 14 August 2023

Venue: BSHS Kurilpa Rooftop

School Tour: Commences 4:30pm

Contact: **Ben Topham** or **Matthew**

McCarthy

Email: BSHA30years@outlook.com

Phone: 0438 569 896

[Join Facebook Group](#)

Class of 1978

55 YEAR REUNION

Date: Mid-week in late October 2023

Venue: TBC

Contact: **Pam Hennell (Flynn)**

0400 242 972 / **Peter Hadgelias** -

0409 997 620

Class of 1953

70 YEAR REUNION

Date: Friday 1 September 2023

Venue: The Garden Room, Roma

Street Parkland

Contact: **Rev. Kaye Pitman OAM**

Email: kaye.pitman@bigpond.com

VALE

The BSHAlumni extends its sincere condolences to the friends and family of our alumni who have recently sadly passed away.

- **Anthony Lance Airey**, Class of 1957, Architect
- **Gaele Dian Arnott (Moore)**, Class of 1963
- **Dr Frances Leggat (Hage)**, Class of 1958, UQ Microbiologist and Virologist
- **Marion Mann (Hannah)**, Class of 1953

Please note the following amendment to a Vale in the March 2023 AMICUS:

- **Constantine (Con) Dimitrios Carides**, Class of 1964
-

Join Us – BSHAlumni General Meeting

Reconnect with your alumni by attending **BSHAlumni** General Meetings. The next meeting will be held at **9:00 am on Saturday 5th August 2023** in the School Museum in the Assembly/Sports Hall on the Vulture Street Campus. Access is via gate V3 on the corner of Vulture and Edmondstone Streets. That is the same day as **State High Day**. Why not come along and join us for our meeting, then meet up with friends at State High Day, while taking in the rugby against traditional rivals Nudgee College? It is a great day out.

Suggestions Please

Do you have an idea for a good story? Please send us your information, photos or suggestions for articles to be included in future editions of AMICUS, to bshalumni@gmail.com.

Your Contact Details



If your contact details change, please advise the **BSHAlumni** to ensure that you continue to receive AMICUS via bshalumni@gmail.com.

You can find out more about the **BSHAlumni** by scanning the QR code.



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