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322 WECKER ROAD CARINDALE QLD 4152
T 07 3347 5899  F 07 3347 5900  E MAIL@BRISBANE.COC.EDU.AU
WWW.BRISBANE.COC.EDU.AU
CONTACT THE REGISTRAR FOR ENROLMENT ENQUIRIES
EDITOR MRS DESLEY HERSCHELL  EDITORIAL MR DARREN TRINDER
EMAIL YOUR ALUMNI STORIES TO REVIEW@BRISBANE.COC.EDU.AU
ART DIRECTION/DESIGN STUDIO e PTY LTD T 07 3356 2584  E CAROLINE@STUDIOe.COM.AU

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Cover Story: first flight of an Australian Super Hornet
Welcome from the Headmaster

On campus, the completion of the new $3M College Hall, funded under the Australian Government’s Building the Education Revolution fiscal stimulus, is nearing completion. This huge Spantech construction is located on the site of the old tennis courts adjacent to the swimming pool.

On current plans, the primary school extension in the northwest corner of the Primary Quad and College Hall will be officially opened near Foundation Day May 2011. The extension is to be named the Dr Brian Millis Building in honour of the third headmaster of the College and in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Christian education in Australia through the founding of Christian Heritage College.

Again with this Review comes a plea from us to all College alumni to visit the College’s website (http://www.brisbane.coc.edu.au) and register on the Alumni Register page so you can continue to be in touch with us.

Review is all about alumni stories which we hope will encourage you to stay connected.

Pastor Ron Woolley
Headmaster

HIGH HONOUR FOR HIGH FLYER

received recognition for Conspicuous Service in the Australian Defence Force this year, being named in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List.

Over the past several years John (Class of 1994) has been a key figure in one of the most important projects in Australian defence force history: the upgrading of Australia’s frontline jet fighter fleet.

By September next year, Australia will finalise its acquisition of 24 F/A-18F Super Hornet jets, replacing the iconic F 111s. For his critical role in this project John received the Conspicuous Service Cross.

Despite the significance of the project, and the prestige of the award, John says it’s all just part of a day’s work.

“The Super Hornet acquisition program is probably the most interesting, and high workload job, I’ve been involved with,” he said.

“Being included on the Queen’s Birthday Honour List was humbling given that it was an opportunity of a lifetime – something that most fighter guys would have paid to be part of.”

Since joining the Air Force straight out of school, John’s career in the defence force has been rich in challenge and rewards.

After graduating from the Defence Academy in Canberra, John conducted flying training in Perth, before being posted to Canberra to fly the VIP aircraft.

“During that time I flew Her Majesty the Queen, the Governor-General and the Prime Minister and various international dignitaries around Australia and the world,” said John.

He then went on to fast jet training, and began his association with the Super Hornet aircraft during an exchange posting with the United States Navy which started in 2006.

Toward the end of the first year of living in Central California with his wife, Micah, the Australian Government decided to purchase the Super Hornet, and John was in the right place at the right time.

His sojourn in the U.S. was extended for three years to fly the aircraft and develop the training that would be delivered to Australian aircrew and maintenance personnel. Last year, a number of groups of Australian aircrew and maintenance personnel joined John to train on the aircraft.

In March this year John and his family returned to Australia, at the same time five Hornets were delivered to RAAF Base Amberley, just outside of Ipswich.

Squadron Leader John Haly (pictured centre)

“I love that my career has been so varied and full of challenges,” said John.

“I enjoy the calibre of people I work with every day across all three services of our Defence Force (Army, Navy and Air Force), and the fact that each job I do is my favourite.

“I get to live in Brisbane and fly fighters for a living – what could be better than that?”

John married Micah six years ago, and the couple have a daughter Lauren who turns four at Christmas.
Creative jack-of-all-trades

Tiina Cook (Class of 2003) is a master juggler and a jack-of-all-trades. She consistently delivers acts of daring and at times creates moments of ‘wow’ for her paying customers. She hasn’t joined the circus; Tiina is a creative in the marketing industry.

Working for Brisbane marketing company, Strategy and Action, Tiina’s expertise is delivering on her company’s name.

She started with the company in 2006, straight after graduating from the Queensland College of Art (Griffith University) with a Bachelor of Design (Communication Design), and has taken on the jack-of-all-trades approach to her work ever since.

Tiina’s folio ranges from logos to catalogues, through to web design, events and copywriting, to name just a sample.

Tiina says her passion is taking the time to listen to her client’s needs, understand and then deliver strategies and action that bring results; and she does so at frantic pace.

“The company acts as a ‘plug-in marketing department’ for small-to-medium enterprises, so my client list is long and varied,” she said.

“I did a count last week, and over the last four years I have worked on marketing activity and design for over 357 individual clients, each with three-five project elements completed.

“So on average I am likely to get a new client or project every 1.7 working days. For anyone working in the creative industry, it is a large juggle of volume that I am quite proud to be able to handle,” said Tiina, who admits the workload is often tiring. There are some benefits however.

“I learn something every day…it makes me very good at trivia.

“I work alongside engineers, product developers, retailers…you name it. My objective is to understand their businesses inside and out, so that in directing their branding and print media we get the best return-on-investment and strongest response from their core market.”

Tiina said one of her joys is the pro bono work that Strategy and Action perform for SIDS and Kids Qld, including involvement in the renowned Red Nose Day campaign.

As stress relief Tiina dabbles in baking and cooking and is currently teaching herself to sew with a view to entering fashion design in the future. She lives a healthy lifestyle and is a regular at the gym.

Behind the scenes in every successful newsagency is a multitude of contracts and dealings between interested parties including suppliers, shopfitters, centre construction managers, landlords, franchisees, customers and other retail tenants.

James is Supanews’ in-house legal counsel – the national newsagency retailer. Due to the company’s strategic direction, James says he has been extremely busy since joining the organisation in 2006, being involved in “putting new stores on the ground at a rate, at times, of one a month.

“Getting even one retail outlet off the ground is a mammoth task; and I have been an integral part of this process.

“As in-house counsel, it is rewarding to see the practical effect of my ‘behind the scenes work’. At the end of the day I can walk down to my local shopping centre and see one of our outlets and experience the fruits of my labour in a tangible way.”

From about 12 years of age, James knew that he wanted to study and practice law, and after leaving COCB (now Citipointe Christian College) completed a dual degree in Political Science and Law with the University of Queensland.

He finished his degree part-time after taking up a part-time legal position with Supanews. He then completed a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice with the College of Law and was admitted to practice law by the Supreme Court a month later.

“I would recommend that any budding lawyer gain as much practical experience as they can while still at University,” said James. “Having actual sector experience exponentially enhances job prospects.”

Behind the news(agents)

There’s a thrill when walks into a newsagent – and it’s not from buying a casket ticket.

For James (Class of 2002) the thrill is knowing that the newsagency’s very existence is, in part, due to his skill in the legal arena.

Behind the scenes in every successful newsagency is a multitude of contracts and dealings between interested parties including suppliers, shopfitters, centre construction managers, landlords, franchisees, customers and other retail tenants.

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“I would recommend that any budding lawyer gain as much practical experience as they can while still at University,” said James. “Having actual sector experience exponentially enhances job prospects.”

Not surprisingly, among many other memories, James fondly recalls legal studies at COCB.

“I don’t think anybody who took Mr Bettinson’s Senior Legal Studies could forget his very enthusiastic approach to the subject.

“I have good memories of COCB, particularly the friends that I made, some of whom I still remain in contact with.”

Tiina says she remains in contact with many of her friends from COCB (now Citipointe Christian College) and was inspired by some of the teachers to continue reaching for the unknown.

“Mr Richard Leo and Mr Joshua McIntosh gave me a desire to continue learning about the world and how my actions impact it – I still rely on that today,” she says. “I was inspired to learn and continue to do so.”

Tiina with her brother, Douglass, year of 2006
own schedule and travel the world unhindered by the constraints of typical workplace.

Michael honed his IT skills straight out of school, building on his interest in computer
programming and graphics which he started in his senior years.

After completing two diplomas in design and programming through QANTM, Michael
worked various jobs before landing back in familiar territory. After working at COCB for
five years in the IT support department, he decided to launch his own business in 2008
and fulfill a long-held ambition, which has proved highly lucrative.

Having gone from zero income to six figures in his first year of business means Michael is
setting his sights high and is looking forward to what the future may bring. In the past year
he has spent eight months overseas in Japan, Canada and the United States to further his
business (and snowboarding ability).

“The best thing about my business is that my income is passive, which means it keeps
coming in even when I’m not working. As my primary market is the US I actually make
most of my money while I’m sleeping,” said Michael.

These days, away from the Disney spotlight, Anita performs in a cabaret dance group
and works for various promotional companies. She is also involved in a hip-hop musical
performing at QPAC, and has a goal to study psychology.

Anita and Michael each have different memories of COCB.
Recalls Anita; “I loved secondary school especially Year 12. I was great friends with teachers
and my fellow classmates. My leadership role as School Captain meant I was involved in
many school events such as Year 8 Camp and mentor groups.

Michael: “My fondest memory of secondary school would have to be playing saxophone in
the school bands. We had a lot of fun. My favourite teachers would have to be Mr Condon
and Mrs Herschell.”
When miners descend underground to work, they depend on the skills of Justin Kaiser and his colleagues to ensure they'll return to the surface at day's end.

As a consultant working with worldwide engineering consultancy AECOM, Justin (Class of 1999) is today specialising in designing infrastructure solutions for mining operations.

Some of his most significant work is ensuring the inhospitable subterranean world of mineral extraction is fit and safe for humans, for example designing ventilation and dewatering systems.

Currently he is lead dewatering engineer for the Ernest Henry Underground Mine in Cloncurry which extracts 100,000 tonnes of copper and 125,000 ounces of gold each year.

“I lead a team of engineers and designers to provide the infrastructure to dewatering the underground mine in both everyday operations and emergency storm conditions,” said Justin.

“I enjoy working on world class projects and with large project teams; the challenges that these projects bring and the variety of work that needs to be done.”

Since graduating from QUT with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 2004, Justin said he has been fortunate to have worked on projects all around the world, including America and New Zealand. Apart from mines, he’s also worked on projects involving railways, harbours and dams.

“My dad was a mechanic, and I had a great interest in cars so I thought mechanical engineering would best suit my interests,” said Justin, who worked as a drafter in a small engineering company for the last year of his degree.

Today, Justin balances his work life with a range of hobby and pursuits, some with old friends.

“I am still involved with various sports including weekly Futsal at the Bayside Indoor Soccer competition with friends from COCB (now Citipointe Christian College).

“I play golf as much as I can, and have recently taken up social rock climbing as a fortnightly event. The majority of my spare time is spent restoring my house and travelling.

“Natalie (whom he married in 2008) and I love travelling and have been to countries like Scotland, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Singapore and others.

“The things I loved most about COCB was being involved in the great sporting teams like cross country and athletics, as well as awesome bands like Stage Band and Concert Band.”
Where art and language intersect

Sam Adams (Class of 2002) loves living in Melbourne. There’s something about the city’s mix of culture and art that set it apart from all others cities in Australia.

Just like the Melbourne, Sam’s work as a web developer with business solutions company Conec2 is a combination of art, business and the presence of multiple languages.

Sam began working with the company, which is owned by his brother Cameron, in 2007, and is well on the way to completing a Bachelor of Multimedia Studies, majoring in web development and design.

“I really like the satisfaction of designing and developing a company’s website from scratch,” Sam said.

“Working with up to five different coding languages is a challenge. I like the mix of artistic work and regimented coding rules that are required to produce a website.

“The web industry is constantly changing and evolving, which means you need to be a continual learner – which is fun.”

Sam discovered his interest in web development only after a process of elimination, studying both secondary education and film and media.

During a stint with Hillsong in Sydney, Sam worked within the production crew responsible for the filming and development of the Hillsong United DVDs which have sold around the globe.

TOGETHER IN THE MILITARY

A year after leaving COCB, Maxine Burnett (nee Peters, Class of 2005) moved hundreds of kilometres, from Brisbane to Newcastle, to be with her fiancé.

At the time of writing, Maxine who also joined the Australian Air Force as a clerk in 2008, is temporarily posted thousands of miles away from her husband in an undisclosed region.

It’s all part of life for a family in the military.

Just after Maxine and William were engaged in 2006, William was posted from Brisbane to the RAAF Base in Williamstown, near Newcastle. Maxine moved to Williamstown as well, putting her study (Bachelor of Business, QUT) on hold.

The couple later married in October 2007 in a ceremony at Kiama Beach, but with each being in the military, the unexpected is inevitable.

“I love my job because it is different,” said Maxine, adding that due to security she cannot disclose too many details.

“Although I do work in an office most of the time, there is always a chance to get out and do something different, for example, ride in a helicopter,” said Maxine.

“It’s hard to be away from home, but when I am it is rewarding in its own way. But I miss my husband and family very much and can’t wait to come home next year.”

Since joining the military, Maxine once again took up her business degree, this time through correspondence. She is also studying Certificates 3 and 4 in Fitness, with a view to starting a personal fitness training business in the future.

When in Williamstown, Maxine also finds time to sell Bodyshop through parties, and cares for their two Pomeranian dogs. COCB (now Citpointe Christian College) seems a long way, both in terms of time and distance, from her current posting.

“COCB gave me a great education, and some of the people there I will never forget.”
If you are a jobseeker at a crossroads, Yvette Roma can help. Yvette (Class of 2001) started as a Job Capacity Assessor (JCA) in Sydney, a position with the Federal Government just over two years ago. Her role focuses on assessing a wide variety of people, most who are going through a difficult time in regards to their employment, health or personal lives.

It could be a person who has applied for a Disability Support Pension or due to illness or injury needs a career change or time to heal. As part of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Yvette’s job is to assess each individual case. The goal is to ensure the person receives the right assistance or direction that will give them the best chance to build a new future.

“I love working with clients to identify their needs and then recommend the appropriate intervention,” she said.

“My role also encompasses counselling services and assessment of IQ and memory, each of which I find highly interesting.”

Yvette earned the role as a JCA with help of a Bachelor of Psychology (with Honours) which she completed in 2007. Her job doubled as a two-year placement, needed to gain full registration as a registered psychologist, a status she attained in October this year.

Working as a JCA is her second paid position in the field of psychology, the first was co-writing and implementing a mentoring program for young single mothers completing their secondary education.

“That position helped me realise I had chosen my career correctly,” she said. “I enjoyed negotiating the challenges that it presented and the feeling of accomplishment.”

When it comes to understanding employment needs of her clients, Yvette not only brings professional expertise, but also a solid base of empathy to her role. Since graduating from COCB (now Citipointe Christian College) in 2001, Yvette held many jobs and tried many creative ways to provide for herself during her six years of study. In between she also fit in some international travel.

“For five years I was a youth leader in my local church, facilitated a small group, sang in services and also helped at times with school breakfast clubs and development programs.

“I had many casual employment roles – from data entry, Tuppaware sales and video store attendant to medical receptionist and customer service supervisor.

“When I look back I can see that each of these roles helped to increase my ability to communicate with people.

“In 2005 I taught English at a summer camp in Fuzhou City, China for one month during my university semester break. I also went on a mission trip with Planetshakers to Kuala Lumpur Malaysia in 2006.

“After completing university I travelled to Europe for nine weeks – that was an amazing experience and a great holiday to celebrate finishing my degree.

“Through the last 10 years I believe I have continued to see God’s guiding hand time and time again.

“When I have not know which direction to go, doors have been opened. As a Year 12 graduate I would have never imagined being where I am today, having had so many amazing experiences along the way. I can’t wait to see what is in store for the decade ahead.”

Under the Arc de Triomphe in Paris
December 2007
It’s no coincidence that David Biggs (Class of 2001) and wife Samara are expecting their first child exactly one year (less one day) after their marriage.

As a former Director of an After School Care facility, and now the Children’s Pastor in his church, David’s love for children is obvious to all. Samara is also involved with children’s ministry.

As David and Samara eagerly waiting their first child, they continue to care for and teach children from many other families. Few have such opportunity for practice before parenthood.

David accepted the position of Children’s Pastor at Calvary Family Church in 2006 after a short stint as Director of Outside School Hours Care at Calvary Christian College, and has worked in the role ever since.

A year after starting as Children’s Pastor, David recalled an incident in the last few days at COCB which reassured him that he was on the right career path.

“I was listening to a tape of prophetic words spoken in Year 12, and I realised that every part of it had come to pass,” said David.

He recalled that at an end-of-year chapel in Year 12, prophetic words were spoken over students. In David’s case, it was revealed that after four years of training that he would step into a pastoral role within a church.

David studied a Bachelor of Human Services – Child and Family Studies at University, after which he accepted the position of Director at Calvary Christian College.

“I was offered the pastoral role at my church pretty much four years to the day after I started training at uni,” said David.

After four years of caring and teaching children the ways of God, David still loves his work. Besides his week-by-week duties, David said he enjoys the bi annual children’s holiday program Kids Games, based on a worldwide strategy which brings a greater community focus to his work.

“I love bringing the Word of God to so many children in the community, and I get to help them see how fun following God can be.”

David recalls music lessons at COCB (now Citipointe Christian College) with the same fondness some of his own children may recall children’s church at Calvary Family Church.

“The one memory I have of COCB that will never leave me are music classes with Mrs Pratt. She taught me the importance of character and through all things stick to your values.

“It didn’t matter what type of day you had, music class kept you sane,” he recalled.

“I will never forget the joy that music with Mrs Pratt brought me and our music class.”

Melinda Smith (Class of 2006) is entering the crescendo of a five year degree with the University of Queensland.

Studying a double degree in Music and Education, Melinda said she is looking forward to moving into a year of professional development as part of her learning, before graduating.

“I can’t wait for the opportunity to teach students music and inspire children to live an enjoyable life for God,” she said.

Keeping her own skills hones, Melinda has juggled a number of musical pursuits throughout her studies. She has played in both the Queensland Youth Orchestra and the University of Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

As part of a field study last year, she and other students visited a Retirement Village, engaging the older generation in composing and improvising in music.

“This proved to be a valuable experience – music education isn’t only for young school students.”

When not creating rhythm and melody, Melinda works at Target and coaches school children in netball, and sporting techniques. She is also a youth leader with Citipointe Church, Brisbane, and the proud owner of a pond of goldfish.
Despite the public’s disillusionment with politics, (Class of 2000) remains an optimist.
Gabrielle is positive that everyday Australians ultimately benefit from the cut-and-thrust of negotiation between competing interests and policy development at the highest level in the public service.
It took Gabrielle just nine years to take her energy and buoyancy to Australia’s top office, when she was appointed to the Department of the Prime Minister in 2009.
From there, through her keen interest in social justice and a desire to make a positive change, Gabrielle was asked to join the Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Council as an advisor, and is today based in Sydney.
As part of the COAG Reform Council, the peak intergovernmental forum in Australia which represents all federal, state and local governments and is charged to drive reform, Gabrielle is learning the dynamics of fast paced, high stakes decision making.
In a nutshell the COAG Reform Council’s mission is to make governments throughout Australia more accountable. As someone passionate about social justice, Gabrielle believes she is well suited to the role.
“For me the public service is exactly what it sounds like – it’s a job that is about serving the Australian people,” she said.
“The COAG Reform Council is unique because it doesn’t report to one government, but to all governments through COAG.
“It drives performance in governments and has the potential to create some really powerful outcomes for the Australian people.
“Ultimately, it’s a job that I can believe in where I can use my creative side – problem solving, strategising and negotiating – for better social outcomes.”
Politics is often compared to theatre, and ironically drama was Gabrielle’s main interest after leaving school, enrolling in a Bachelor of Art at UQ with a double in drama.
“I loved theatre because it was about people telling stories, so naturally I ended up doing mainly social theatre or theatre with a community development focus.”
The stage transformed to reality when after one year at university, Gabrielle landed a job in Alice Springs in an aboriginal hostel for Aboriginal women from remote communities. During her studies, she also worked as a youth community development worker and in disability advocacy.
Gabrielle said that these real-life experiences refined her passion for politics and social justice in Australia, together with an interest in the social welfare system.
In her final year of study, Gabrielle received a scholarship to study in Finland, comparing the Australian and Finnish social welfare models. She took the opportunity to explore Europe as well as her academic interests, and upon returning to Australia graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Drama) and a Bachelor of Social Work (Honours 1).
She started her public service career as a graduate in the Attorney General’s Department, and among other projects, worked on policy relating to the future of local government and Australia’s inter-country adoption policies.
After a brief stint in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet developing policies around the future of Australia’s capital cities, Gabrielle landed her current role.
She is still involved in theatre and is a strong advocate for people of all persuasions to become more politically active.
“Once I realised that politicians were making decisions that would have a direct impact on my life and on what my country would look like in the future, I decided I wanted to have an influence on what they decided,” she said.
“I think all young people should be better informed about what kind of future they want, and then actively encourage the creation of that future.
“Change only ever happens when a new generation of people have a different vision and are tired of the status quo.”
Motorbikes and country quiet

Most graphic designers yearn for a little peace and quiet – a place where they can find time to think and let creative juices flow.

Who would have thought that when Monique Marshall (nee Tobitt, Class of 2003) married up-and-coming dirt bike rider, Robbie Marshall, she’d get just that.

When the couple married in September last year, they moved to the community of Fernvale, 40 minutes north-west of Brisbane, only 15 minutes from Robbie’s training tracks on his parent’s farm.

The ¼ acre block overlooks beautiful mountainous scenery and is bathed in the serenity of country-life. It’s the perfect place for Monique, who works in design/graphic arts in between supporting her husband’s burgeoning sporting career.

“I would never move back into the city after experiencing the serenity where we are – it’s so peaceful,” said Monique, adding that major shopping centres are only 15 minutes away.

“Most of our weekends are either at race meets or some sort of freestyle event. Robbie strides in freestyle moto-cross for a living, and also races full-time both super-cross and motor-cross (see www.robbiemarshall.com).

“We have travelled all around the coastline of Australia as well as a few inland towns. Next year Robbie’s riding will hopefully take us over to the States for the X-Games which is very exciting!

“Robbie is adored by his fans, and we even have kids coming to our house and knocking on our door for him to sign something or asking for freebies. I never thought in a million years that this would be part of my life.”

Monique’s own career path has taken just as many twists and turns as one of her husband’s races. Throw in a couple of jumps as well!

Since starting as an apprentice graphic designer at a West End printer, Monique has applied her creative skills within the construction industry and even a short time within the hairdressing empire of Stefan.

“He was definitely an interesting person to work for,” recalls Monique, who worked as a junior graphic designer/apprentice for two-and-a-half years.

“I was in charge of the makeup and cosmetic Jagar range at a time when we were bringing out new products and updating the range. The job also involved design for shelf talkers, posters, newspaper advertisements and production design.

“This took me over 12 months to get everything through production, and we launched it at Stefan’s Extravagant Awards night. I felt privileged to be a part.”

Besides enjoying married life and supporting her husband, these days Monique’s focus is her own graphic design business “On Q Design”, working out of the home she designed while working for a Construction company.

In the country quiet, it’s easy to reminisce about days past.

“I would love to go back to COCB (now Citipointe) and see Mr Coles (now retired) and let him know about my life,” laughed Monique.

“I definitely miss how easy life was back at school – your friends were always there so you saw them without effort. And I definitely miss some of my teachers.”
Alumni Reunion Groups
To view additional photographs go to the College website under College Alumni

Our website is now a major tool for two-way communication and enables the collection of information to help provide an improved level of service to our Alumni.

www.brisbane.coc.edu.au/alumnihome/login

ALUMNI ON-LINE
BE A PART OF OUR GROWING ALUMNI ON-LINE AT CCCB. THE ALUMNI ON-LINE COMMUNICATION SERVICE IS NOW ACTIVE THROUGH THE COLLEGE.