## Horizons issue 49 December 2023

King's Baptist Grammar School





Celebrating 45 Years

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### From the Principal's Desk



40 Years Of...

As 2023 draws to a close, it is with gratitude and a warm heart that I reflect upon the incredible journey of our community.
Our 40th Anniversary year, a landmark celebration, has invited us to reminisce, reflect and to anticipate the future with great confidence and expectancy.

"40 Years Of..." is a phrase that rings with the richness and blessing of God's provision for our community. It encapsulates four decades of unwavering commitment, relentless pursuit of excellence, and an enthusiastic dedication to shaping the minds and hearts of our students in the prayerful hope that they might live faithful lives in God's service.

Four decades ago in February 1983, our journey commenced in humble beginnings and was nurtured by the Vision of Faith and a handful of visionaries. Today our community stands as a testament to the determination, fortitude, and shared belief in the transformative power of Christian education. Fundamental to everything is the deep faith of our Founders and others from Tea Tree Gully Baptist Church.

In this our 40th Year, we have celebrated:

"40 Years Of...Nurturing Faith" – where our classrooms have become and remain safe places for students to explore faith and who they are in Christ.

"40 Years of...Adaptation and Progress" - as we embrace change, integrate technology, adopt modern pedagogy, and a forward-looking curriculum to equip our students with the tools necessary to navigate an increasingly complex world.

"40 Years Of...Creative Endeavour" – as we seek to provide a diverse palate of cultural, sporting, and spiritual opportunities to ignite passion and creativity in our students.

"40 Years Of...Building Community"

– as we continue to pursue the 'Vision of Faith' that was placed on the hearts of our Founders 40 years ago.

The pages of our history do not simply narrate events; they chronicle the spirit, the ethos, and the soul of our community. Our history then is a symphony of shared experiences, cherished memories, and profound moments that have shaped us into the thriving community we are today. As we say farewell 2023, let us be sure to carry forward the legacy established by our predecessors.

Let us honour their Vision of Faith by paving the way for the future. Let us renew our commitment to nurturing compassionate leaders, critical thinkers, and responsible global citizens.

As we look to a new year, let us do so with renewed zeal, resilience and an unwavering belief in our God and his promise to script another 40-year chapter in the Vision of Faith.

May you be blessed this Christmas season. I pray that it is a time of reflection, joy, and connection with loved ones.

Don Grimmett, Principal

"My gratitude extends to every member of our community—the dedicated staff, the unwavering support of parents, the enthusiasm of our students and the enduring partnership and passion of our alumni. Each thread of our community intricately weaves into the fabric of our King's story."



### From the Editor

Within this commemorative issue of Horizons, you'll find pages dedicated to sharing the memories of some of our most beloved institutions here at King's—ranging from Sports Day (now House Games), the annual Musical and the mighty German, Japanese and East Coast Trips.

The galleries within are accompanied by reflections from past (and some current) staff and students of their time here at King's. It's been a joy working with our archivist, Peter Wright, to dive into our extensive photo archives and curate some of the best moments and memories from the past 40 years to share in this issue. It's also been a pleasure speaking with some true icons of the teaching team who have been kind enough to share their reflections about their time at King's. As

always, we thank every contributor who has generously shared their stories and photos to make this one of our brightest issues yet.

I encourage you to grab a friend, child, parent or pet, get comfortable and flip through these pages to see who you can spot. With an Old Scholar base of well over 2000 students, it's been difficult to make sure that everyone has made an appearance in this issue. I am confident,



however, that the photos speak to the funny, carefree, fearless (and sometimes awkward) stories that we can all relate to and remember fondly.

Enjoy the stroll down memory lane!

David Matthews, Editor

### **KOSA**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



As we draw to the end of 2023 there is so much to look back on and be grateful for! KOSA has had another wonderful year of planning and engaging with the King's Community.

KOSA meetings are always filled with lots of laughter, great discussion and such a sense of God's love and its translation to service for the community. Throughout the second half of 2023 we were able to involve ourselves with King's events including the musical, Careers Breakfast, Paint & Sip and a 40th Anniversary wine fundraiser, to name a few!

As we enter another year our hopes and prayers remain the same—to involve ourselves within the King's Community and spread God's love through service.

Finally, a reminder to all Old Scholars: spaces at King's continue to fill quickly, with Reception classes in the next couple of years already at capacity. Be sure to send in your applications as soon as you can to secure your spots!

**Daniela Krzystoszek,** KOSA President (Class of 2018)



## King's Old Staff



King's Old Staff have continued to celebrate in style this year at events hosted at the Tea Tree Gully Golf Club. As always, our Old Staff have an amazing time together at their triannual meetings. Also pictured are Carole Birch, Andrew Hamilton and Ruth George who all started working at King's on the same day in January 1993—30 years ago this year.

We are blessed to have Carole as a member of our Old Staff community and as a proud grandparent of two students currently at King's. If you're an Old Staff member and are keen to reconnect with the King's Community, don't hesitate to get in touch with Carole!



### **Careers Breakfast**

The Careers Breakfast is an annual event where the school hosts a range of experts on a variety of industry tables. Students from Years 9–12 nominated to sit on a table of their chosen industry and can engage in informal discussion and ask questions about what it is like to work in the chosen industry. This year, we were able to offer tables in industries ranging from education to engineering and paramedicine to policing. We are so lucky to have a wide range of Old Scholars and members of the King's Community willing to give back to our current students!



BACK: Caila Purdie (Class of 2020), Emma Wiggins (née Kingham, Class of 2011), Alyssa Clohesy (Class of 2018), Sam Kenny (Class of 1996), Daniela Krzystoszek (Class of 2018), Stephanie Hewitt (née Blakey, Class of 2017), Tae Cook (Class of 2019), Lara Nemeth (Class of 2016), Andrew Farnworth (Class of 2009), Rochelle Bartlett

FRONT: Mithusha Kulatunga (Class of 2022), Kathleen Sherlock (Class of 2009), Chloe Gremmert (Class of 2022), Haydn Evans (Class of 2008), Liberty Gates (née Duff, Class of 1997). Jessie Kremer (Class of 1999).

NOT PICTURED: Alice Blanchard (née Birch, Class of 1999)

# Yearity Ball



The Year 12 Charity Ball held at the Hilton on 15 April was an unforgettable experience. After much anticipation in the lead up to the event, many hours spent getting ready, and smiling for hundreds of parent photos until our mouths hurt, it was wonderful to see everyone so beautifully dressed and excited to dance the night away. It was a fun and memorable way for our cohort to celebrate the last year together and reflect on the many memories made over our schooling. We would like to extend our gratitude to all the amazing teachers who gave up their time to plan, organise and attend the event. We were incredibly blessed to partake in such a special evening, that would not have been possible without all their effort. And to our Year 12 cohort, thank you for making our formal experience better than we could have imagined!

**Jenna Drury & Jared Filmer,** Head Prefects















# FOOTIOSS Gouth Edition







At the start of Term 2, we excitedly welcomed audiences back to the King's Community Centre to see the hard work and talents of our students in the 6–12 Musical Production of Footloose the Musical, Youth Edition. The popular film was adapted for the stage with upbeat and recognisable 80s tunes, and our students had a blast bringing these well-known characters to life...complete with big hair and cowboy boots!

Footloose the Musical, Youth Edition was a perfect fit for us this year. It gave our backstage crew a great opportunity to play around with a new style of set design; our costume, hair and makeup teams to have fun with 80s fashion and styling; and our cast the chance to explore a meaningful and relevant message of heart, perseverance and understanding. They did this beautifully, finding the perfect balance between the fun-filled musical numbers, and the more serious emotional undertones of the script

We were also lucky enough to be able to include live musicians in our show, with students and staff donning their instruments while more members of our community highlighted these talents via sound and lighting.

This year's cast and crew cemented their place in the hearts of our Production Team early on, as they bonded together, inspired one another, and became each other's biggest cheerleaders. One motto in our team is that the process is just as important as the product, and this group brought joy and excellence to every step of our show.

Finally, we were blessed once again with a team that was a wonderful cross-section of the King's community—students, teaching staff, support staff, administration staff, ground staff, parents, and Old Scholars—all working together, and having a blast doing it. A huge thank you to everyone involved!

Laura Nitschke, Director











## 40 YEARS









"My life did a complete 180 when I was introduced to music and the musicals. I was only in Year 7, but I struggled through those middle years. Penny (Van Der Vlag) and Pete (Lymberopoulos) were pivotal in changing my behaviour, engagement with the school and my life. I work now as a music therapist in youth justice with disengaged kids, who need to find that spark in their lives and Penny had most definitely shaped who I am because of her guidance and the performances opportunities."

**Tom McGrath** (Class of 2009), Favourite Musical Character: Cat in the Hat, Seussical (2009)







"Music was the reason why I loved going to school every single day. What Penny (Van Der Vlag) has done for her students is incredible and she has left an irreplaceable legacy."

**Tina Hill** (Class of 2009), band pianist as a student and an Old Scholar. Musical highlight: Buddy the Buddy Holly Story (2007)











To put on a musical creates lifelong friendships!







After three years of King's putting on Rock Eisteddfods (2000–2002), Russell Eley (Principal 1996–2019) asked if we could do a musical for the school's 20th Anniversary. The answer was, "Yes, of course," and the rest is history. In 2003 we had our first school musical at the Gillies Plains Tafe Theatre, Bye Bye Birdie. I was privileged to be a part of the King's Musical Production Team from 2003–2019. It has been encouraging to see how the past three years (besides 2020) have continued with the strong King's tradition of putting on a school musical. I hope that the school continues to allow our students to shine.

Musicals

A positive with putting on musicals is the students are not in a typical learning environment and are mixing with students from different year level groups. Working together with students for a common goal is different to just teaching them, and seeing them grow is very rewarding. Students who may not excel in perceived "academic subjects" but who are put on stage, in the pit or backstage are given the opportunity to really shine. Students were able to get SACE credits with the musical through Integrated Learning, Creative Arts, Dance and Music (Ensemble Performance). After musicals, students have gone into local theatre companies, done Performing Arts degrees and performed professionally on-stage, on cruises, overseas and locally.

Penny Van Der Vlag, Teacher (1994–2022)













"It was great having more opportunities to perform and use new and different skills on

Abbie Doherty (née Wait, Class of 2006), Favourite Role and Costume: Miss Adelaide, Guys and Dolls (2004)









"Being a part of musicals truly made me who I am today and taught me so much more than Musical Theatre. It was such an honour to be a role in so many musicals through out my time at King's."

Laura Brook (née Wilden, Class of 2011), Favourite Role and Costume: Gertrude McFuzz, Seussical (2009)









"Musical theatre has its own special kind of magic. Getting to experience that in high school was truly a gift to students such as myself. It gave us a place to belong and be a part of something bigger than ourselves. I honestly don't remember much of any of my classes at Kings, but I remember every opening night of every show. Every costume. Every song. Musical rehearsals were the highlight of my week. And I remember Penny. Her unending passion, hard work and belief in us. That was the greatest gift of all."

Lisa Shetler (née Carlino, Class of 2005), Favourite Costume: Katisha, Hot Mikado (2005)













"Being blessed to be involved in every school musical (except Footloose 2023), I have seen that musicals are amazing opportunities for growth. From practising in my early years through to returning as an Old Scholar has allowed me to give many students a chance to shine and build their dreams that they too will hopefully follow."

**Brad Rogers** (Class of 2008), now a current parent who is an invaluable supporter in production design and prop construction.

























Kayla McCulloch (Class of 2016), Favourite Role: Millie, Thoroughly Modern Millie (2014)

# 40 YEAR

### Fun, friends, lifelong memories!

What's not to love about the German language exchange program? For the students who participate in the exchanges it's a once in a lifetime event. Never again will they experience what it's like to live with a German speaking family and attend a German academic high school! And that's just the beginning!

There are so many benefits to be gained by taking part in an exchange, whether you are a student or a teacher. From a teacher's perspective it was an absolute joy to be involved in so many exchanges. To hear the students' first attempts at speaking German to 'real' German people and to see the thrill they experienced when they were able to communicate with them, is something that will be with me always! As a non-native speaker of German, I know first-hand just how exhilarating this feels!

Over 20 years of the exchanges, students have documented their highlights. They all mention learning more about German culture, making new friends and experiencing all the wonderful sights, sounds and tastes that Germany has to offer. The words of one student sum it up perfectly:

"The exchange was an experience of a lifetime and something that I will never forget!"

Lorraine Edwards, Teacher (1997–2022)





















Exchanges & Trips
From Imanpa to India, the East Coast to Japan, and beyond









































































# 40 YEAR





The King's Formal was always an institution and for some students the highlight of their final year at school.

When former Principal Russell Eley suggested that the student focus should be on others rather than themselves, a new tradition was established; The King's Charity Ball.

The Year 12 Formal/Ball Committee was then responsible for not only arranging the venue, menu and music, but for choosing a charity to support and suggesting various fund-raising activities. Many thousands of dollars have been raised since then for a variety of charities. Much has been learned about compassion, planning and organisation. Moreover the students have had fun! Nowadays, the Charity Ball is planned and managed by the Senior School's House Leaders (in other words, the four Year 12 Pastoral teachers).

As a staff member it was exciting and exhausting to join the students on the dance floor to the "The YMCA" and Tina Turner's "Nutbush", the staff enjoying the night as much as the students, having had the opportunity to dust off our "glad rags" for the occasion. The highlight for staff, however, was when the limos pulled up, the doors sprang open and out spilled the beautiful young men and women of King's. What wonderful memories!

**Liz Silz**, Teacher (1995–2011)















# Formals & Charity Balls









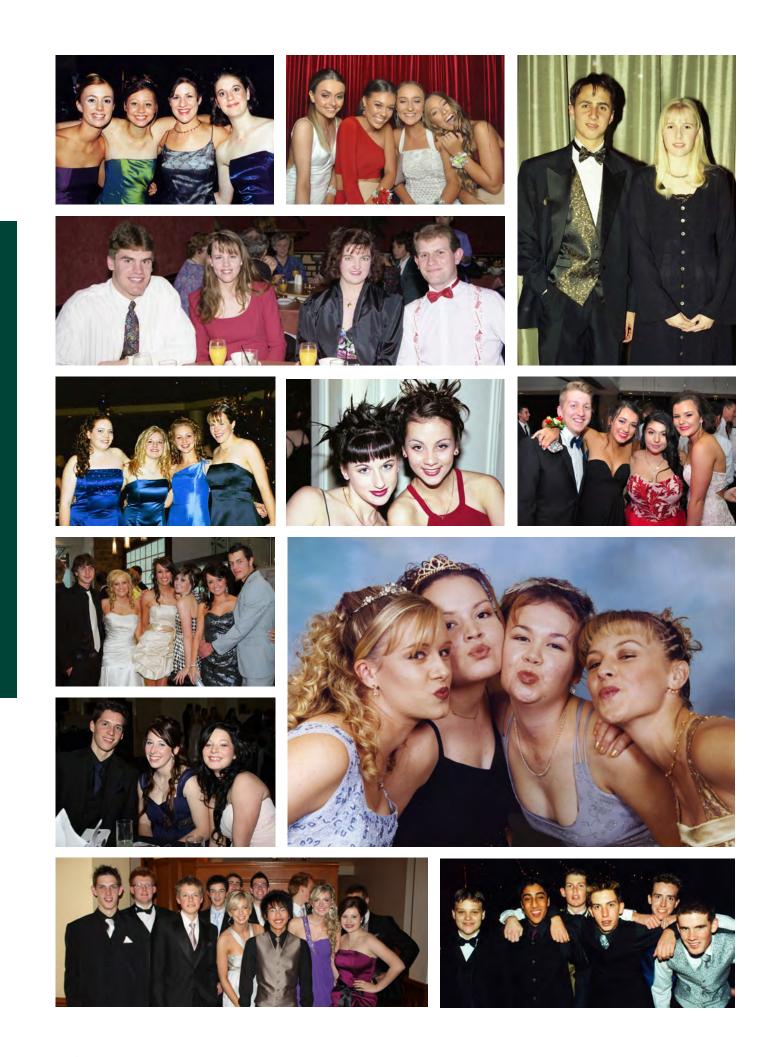


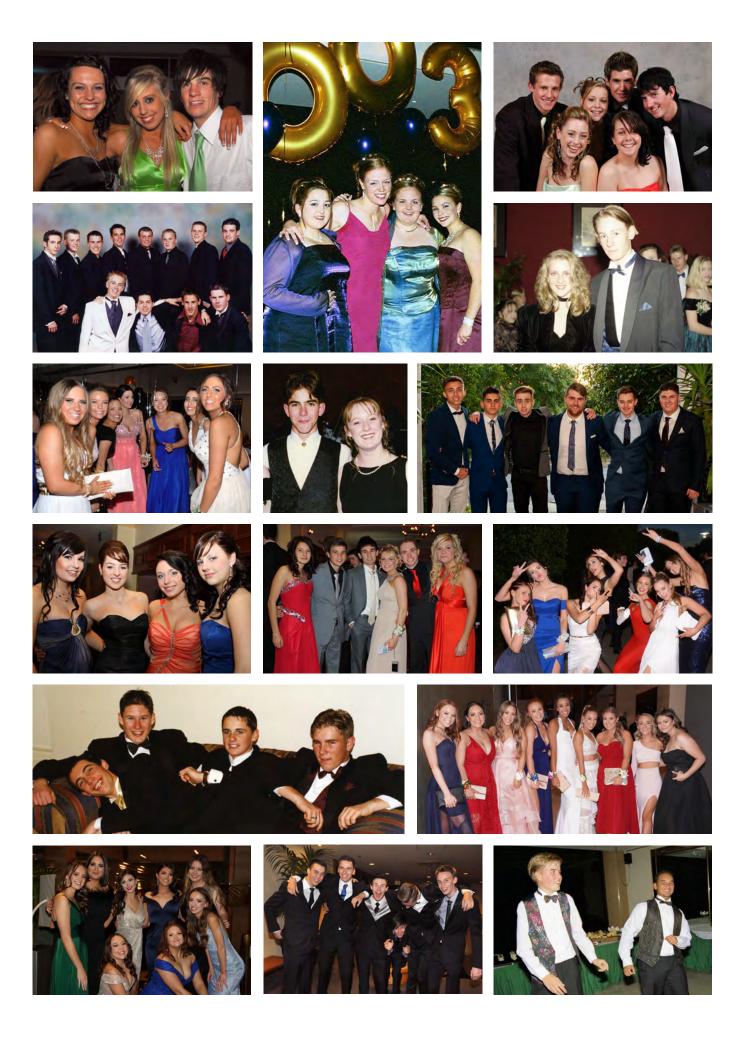












40 YEARS























# Sports Days & House Games















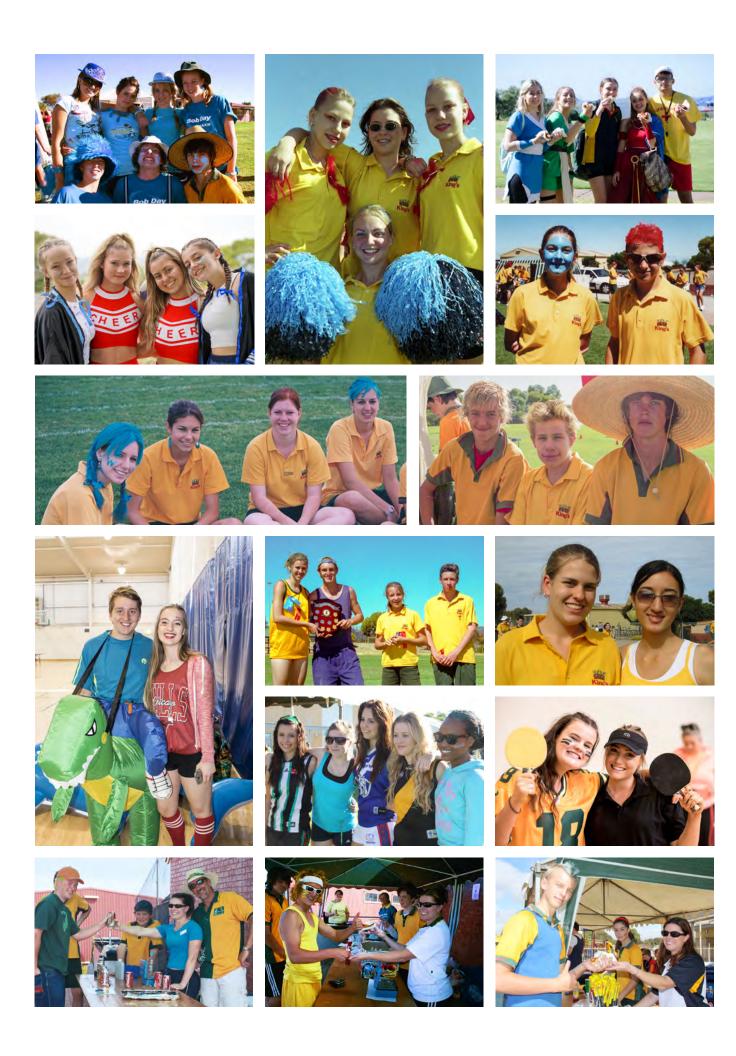


















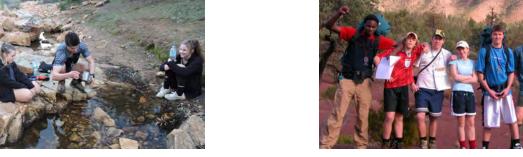


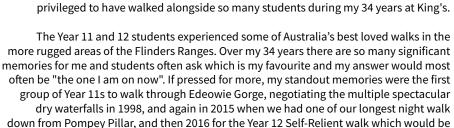


"As I recall these walks, others come flooding back to my mind. For me and many students it's the









Journeys

I ran my first bushwalking journey in 1990 as an elective for our first Year 8 and Year 9 classes in Mount Crawford Forest; from there we began to walk further afield using Wirrabara Forest-Telowie Gorge, Mambray Creek, Dutchman Stern, Ikara Flinders Ranges National Parks, Flinders Case National Park and then in 2000 we had our first journey into the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park. These four-to-seven-day journeys provide rich experiences for those who were a part of them. Old scholars regularly tell me these experiences are the best memories from their years at school and I feel very

dry waterfalls in 1998, and again in 2015 when we had one of our longest night walk down from Pompey Pillar, and then 2016 for the Year 12 Self-Relient walk which would be one of the wettest. The Cradle Mountain trip in 2003 was also amazing. For those of you who participated in those walks, you will understand why they were most significant for myself, but there are also so many moments from other walks that were significant for me and I am sure your walks were also significant for you.









Bushwalking





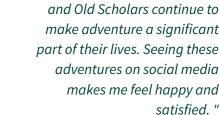














# FULL LINE SATIRING Awards

The last couple of years have seen significant changes in the way King's approaches senior schooling, with a greater focus on and push for VET innovation and engagement with students and the broader community.





Pictured: Year 12 students (2023) who have participated in VET studies during their senior schooling, including Cert III in Early Education and Care, Fitness, Christian Ministry and Theology, Hospitality, Business, and Information Technology

In September this year, King's was shortlisted as a finalist in the 2023 South Australian Training Awards in the category VET Innovation for Schools. This nomination came with an invitation to attend an Awards Gala Dinner at the Adelaide Convention Centre. At the Dinner, we were given the opportunity to meet the Chair of the South Australian Skills Commission, Cameron Baker (pictured), the Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Blair Boyer, and representatives from other schools that are innovating in the VET space. Our nomination came off the back of some significant growth in VET at King's as we have focused on promoting a range of industry areas to students over the past two years.

In 2021, we embarked on hosting the Certificate III in Fitness (SIS30315) that saw 40 students complete the qualification in the inaugural program. In 2022, we employed our first School-based Trainees in areas such as Business and Childcare. The success, particularly of students in childcare, prompted significant work behind the scenes so that in 2023, the school was able to host the Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care (CHC30121) on site in the King's Community Centre.

In a very short period of time, we have seen VET at King's go from something that was seen as difficult for students to manage and less significant than their academic studies to a capstone program that can project students into their desired industry.

The school community, including the Executive Leadership team, staff, parents and students, now see VET within Senior School as a highly desirable part of a students' education and learning and one which should be celebrated, promoted and supported rather than discouraged. Ultimately with this change in attitude, and with the continued support from our Old Scholars and current families who are willing to support our School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships, it is our students who benefit.

**Robyn Footer**, Leader of Student Futures

### Weddings

Emma Hayes (Class of 2010) married Anthony Buccella at Maximillian's on 24 February 2023. Lucinda Hayes (Class of 2014) was the Maid of Honour and Olivia Martin (Class of 2010), Lauren Campbell (Class of 2010) and Hannah Sansome (née Albanese, Class of 2010) served as Emma's bridesmaids for the day. Also in attendance were several other King's Old Scholars; Nadia Schofield (née Wilinski, Class of 2010), Chloe Savage (née Sweet, Class of 2010), Katie Brown (Class of 2010), Jessica Freund (Class of 2010) and Laura Culbert (Class of 2010), pictured below. The cake was also made by Old Scholar Bec Spencer (née Seabrooke, Class of 2007) of Sugar and Crumb Adelaide.











Megan Wauer (Class of 2006) and Jake Brown were married at Mount Lofty House on 20 July 2023.

### Weddings

Lauren Taylor (née Edwards, Class of 2009) and Paul were married in August 2022.



Sophia Lane (née Bouzikos, Class of 2013) and Bryan were married in December 2022 in an intimate elopement shared with their immediate family.

### **Babies**



Andrew Farnworth (Class of 2009) and Rebekah have had a daughter, Londyn, born 9 February 2023, a sister to Lylah.



Nathan (Class of 2010) and Abbie Watkins (née Soeharyo, Class of 2011) have had a daughter, Eva, born 7 May 2023, a sister to Haydon (Class of 2020) and Macie.



Jordan Cooper (Class of 2015) and Lauren Cooper (née Coops, Class of 2015) have had a daughter, Aria, born 11 July 2023.



Natasha Greenwood (née Blakey, Class of 2012) and Justin have had a daughter, Lottie, born 11 September 2023, a sister to Mila.



Amy Cavuoto (née Roe, Class of 2007) and Adam have had a daughter, Mia, born 26 July 2023, a sister to Lily.



Lauren Taylor (née Edwards, Class of 2009) and Paul have had a daughter, Analise, born 19 January 2023.

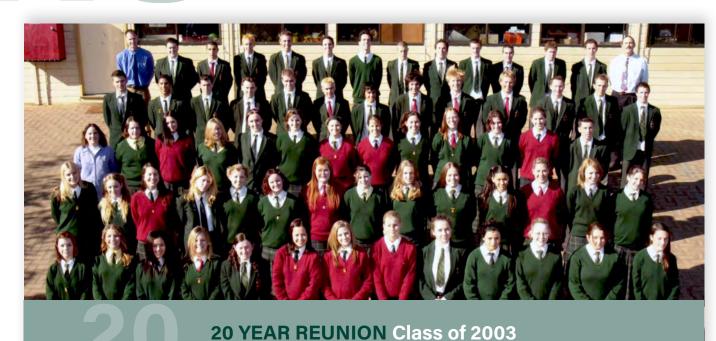
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING PLAN A REUNION, PLEASE CONTACT OUR KOSA SECRETARY AT: KOSA.SECRETARY@KINGSBAPTIST.SA.EDU.AU

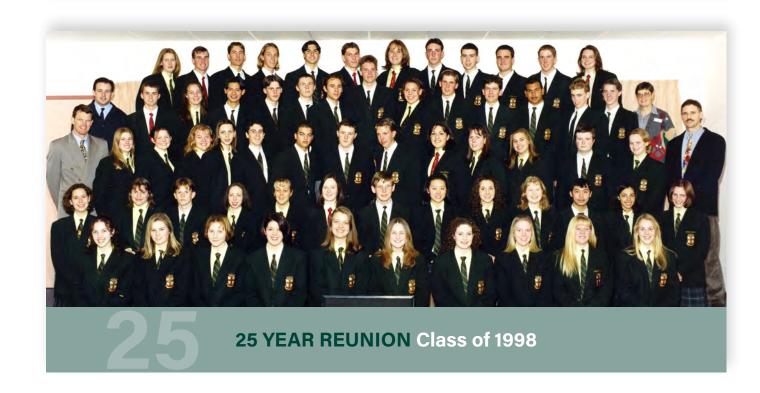
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### reunions

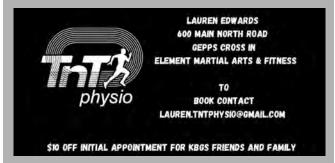




























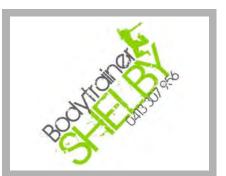


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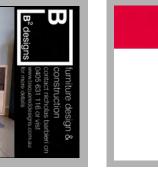




















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Hears

