

From the President of the Old Collegians

Well, the 2020 year has certainly seen a strange start! COVID-19 has affected us all and the shutdown of our borders, businesses, schools and country has thrown many associations, clubs and organisations into a 'state of suspension'. Our Old Collegian Association is no different. We have already seen the postponement of our annual OC fixtures against the 1st XI College Cricket team, as well as both the Girls' 1st XI and Boys' 1st XI College Hockey games. It's disappointing that this has happened, as I know the OC's who compete in these annual fixtures love to come back to the College and see how the new generation of sports stars are going, but rest assured, if we can reschedule these games, coordinating with the College coaches for later in the year, we will. This will depend on how those sports schedules have changed with a compressed calendar.

It would be great to hear from Old Collegians living in other parts of the world as to how you are coping in your daily overseas lives with the various restrictions in place. If you could provide an insight into how you have adapted and are dealing with challenges to our Piper readers, I feel it would help those who might be planning an overseas experience in the future. Please get in touch with us at skoca@saintkentigern.com

This is a dynamic, changing situation so we need to be flexible in our approach to the different events we had planned for the rest of 2020. Some of our events, like the annual golf day and Recent Old Collegian evenings aren't scheduled until later this year, so we can park these for now and update you all in the future.

Our Annual Dinner and our 'Graduating Class of 1995' 25 year Reunion Dinner can also be planned for later in the year, however, the format, size and venue of these events might need to be changed to fit with the current government requirements for socialising and

organised event management. If we can make these events happen, we're all for it as I think everyone will be pretty keen to have a couple of get togethers if things improve!

You may have seen that our Annual AGM has been postponed to 25 June 2020. Under Levels 3 & 4 we could not conduct an electronic meeting under our constitution. Fortunately we had some breathing room as the SKOCA Constitution states inter alia ...'The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held at a date no later than six months after the balance date.' As our balance date is 31 December 2019, under the Constitution, we have until 30 June to hold the AGM. To allow things to hopefully return to 'as normal' as possible, we have decided to reschedule the AGM to 25th June 2020 at 6.30pm, with the venue to be decided closer to this time.

Lastly, I would like to encourage all Old Collegians to stay connected and involved in this great community of ours. Now, more than ever, we may have the ability, means and empathy to help out our community in any way we can. Together, there are over 17,000 of us who are linked in a common bond through our time at Saint Kentigern and the lessons and friendships we learnt there bind us together no matter where we are in the world. Reach out and reconnect, offer assistance and help wherever possible, whether it's through philanthropy, your personal time or even as a business owner. If you are looking to employ someone, I'm sure there is a fellow Old Collegian out there who needs that support and help. Together we are a very strong community.

Stay safe and healthy and as always,

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**Hayden Butler,
SKOCA President**

**The committee welcomes feedback from
members so please keep in touch:
skoca@saintkentigern.com**



In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we record the passing of the following members of the Saint Kentigern community. We express our condolences to their families.

COUGHLAN Jack	College teacher 1956 - 1958 and 1960 - 1992
HEANEY David Jonathan	#1834
MARSHALL Brian Andrew	#813
SHIRLEY Ian Kenneth Richard	#18
STAPLES Bryan Justin	#640

Hilary Wham – Legal Adviser

Hilary graduated from Saint Kentigern as the Head Girl in 2008. During her college years, she enjoyed English, History, Art History and Economics which influenced her to pursue a career in Law. 'I loved stories, language, art, learning about how the world works and what makes people tick. A big part of why I enjoyed these subjects so much was because I had great teachers who were passionate about their subjects and about teaching.'

Following Saint Kentigern, Hilary studied a Bachelor of Law (Honours) / Bachelor of Commerce (Economics) at the University of Auckland and is currently a legal adviser at the Competition and Markets Authority in London, England. This is her first role working in London's public sector as previously she was a lawyer at a large commercial law firm in Auckland. The CMA looks after merger control, consumer law issues and investigates cartels and other anti-competitive conduct.

Francesca Wilkinson- Continuing to Offer Service

Francesca Wilkinson graduated from Saint Kentigern in 2013 and is well-remembered for her skills in cricket, hockey and tennis. During her time at the College, Francesca was a peer support leader and enjoyed mathematics and science, so much so that she decided to study something that would not only challenge her in these areas but also help others – Engineering was her logical choice.

Following her graduation, Francesca moved down south to study Mechanical Engineering at the University of Canterbury. She has been working as a mechanical engineer at Beca for more than two years and helps clients around the world in a variety of industries with their projects. Some of these industries include mining, food and beverage, chemical production, pulp and paper, and oil and gas. Francesca says she loves being able to work internationally and learn about different cultures. 'I love travelling, especially to parts of the world less developed than New Zealand.'

Francesca works primarily with clients in New Caledonia, Indonesia and New Zealand, building apps for them in an online database used to plan and track their projects. 'This isn't the path I would have expected myself to go down when I left school, but I think I have found my niche! I am hoping to dive more into the digital services space in years to come.'

Beyond work, Francesca plays cricket, loves to run and has completed three marathons since leaving school and is currently training for a half ironman in September. Her major passion although is helping others in less fortunate positions than herself. 'I think this passion was installed in me throughout my years at Saint Kentigern, where there was always a strong emphasis on service to others.'

In January 2020, Francesca travelled to Buikwe, Uganda to volunteer with a New Zealand organisation called Purpose Projects. 'A major barrier to effective and sustainable volunteer work is a true understanding of the culture and the community. Purpose Projects, therefore, chose to partner with the local organisation, Hope Line, to help where it is truly needed. Hope Line is based in Lugazi and run by Tony Wanyoike who grew up in Kkoba, Buikwe District.'

While in Buikwe, Francesca helped to finish the construction of St Gerald's Wellshine Primary School. 'This school was built by local labourers and volunteers from the previous two trips with Purpose Projects. St Gerald's Wellshine is now providing quality education to students within Kkoba who otherwise would have had to travel for



miles to get to school each day – a journey which can be very dangerous. The school officially opened on the 14 February with the students parading through Kkoba. School is not funded in Uganda and that is a major barrier to learning. Every child at St Gerald's Wellshine is sponsored, with the families paying a small remaining fee.'

'The construction of a high school in Kkoba commenced last year and we continued this construction during our time as well. Aside from construction, we also worked with Hope Line's women's groups in Mayindo and Bullyntete. We attended their meetings and helped make their craft business profitable. During the school holidays, we also ran school holiday programmes for children in Kkoba, Mayindo and Bullyntete which included lessons and games.'

Francesca says she is grateful for the opportunities that Saint Kentigern gave her in academics and sport. 'Saint Kentigern pushed me to not just achieve, but to excel. I wouldn't have had all my success in sport without the coaching and facilities offered to me. Saint Kentigern also taught me the value of serving others and it has stuck with me to this day.'

Francesca encourages students to make the most of their opportunities while at Saint Kentigern. 'You will only discover your skills and passions if you try new things. At school, I didn't do any volunteer trips and I regret it. It's so easy to become engulfed in your own bubble and take your life out of perspective, but it's super important to see what else is out there beyond your life. Saint Kentigern offers some of the most incredible service trips and it's an opportunity to gain perspective on the world we live in.'

'The sporting opportunities are second to none at Saint Kentigern as well. It has some of the most incredible facilities and coaches available, so make the most of it while you can – I wish I got into triathlon while I was there!'

'I've attended company 'dawn raids', assisted on investigations into misleading online prices, and investigated a range of different industries for collusive conduct. I work closely with economists, policy teams, and other lawyers, so it is a great mix of my professional interests. It is an interesting time to be working in the UK as it prepares for EU-exit. I'm moving back to private practice later this year and am looking forward to putting my experience at the CMA to use advising clients.'

Hilary said she owes a lot to Saint Kentigern as it gave her a great start in life. 'I'm grateful, I squeezed all the juice out of it that I could. High school is a unique time and Saint Kentigern was a great place to spend it. In my five years there I dabbled in a bit of everything – a huge range of subject choices and extra-curriculars. I wasn't good at all of it but having a chance to explore and start to figure out what you like and what's valuable to you is important and harder to do as adult life kicks in. One of the best things I got out of Saint Kentigern are my friends. Some of my best friends today are my friends from high school.'

Hilary encourages current students to give it all a go. 'Follow your interests because the school will cater for them and provide you with the most incredible resources to flourish. And enjoy it – have fun. High school and life more generally can be a bit serious sometimes, but it is easier to cope if you let yourself have a laugh along the way. I'd also say be kind to each other. There is a lot of life to live after high school and you'll inevitably meet old classmates again, no matter where you are in the world, and it is much nicer running into a friendly face. If you're in Year 13 and don't know what comes next, you're certainly not alone in feeling that, but talk to someone because there's always lots of help if you ask.'



Jolene Muir – Humanitarian Aid

While at Saint Kentigern, Jolene was the Football Girls' 1st IX captain, winning several football, as well as academic, awards. She looks back on her time at Saint Kentigern with fond memories and thanks football coach, Malcolm Cowie in particular, not only for coaching her but for 'being a great mentor and friend.'

'Mr Cowie pushed me, supported me and instilled confidence in me that I was severely lacking at the time. While he may not have influenced my chosen career path, his encouragement gave me the drive to pursue what I wanted and chase a scholarship in America.'

After graduating from the College in 2012, Jolene took up a football and academic scholarship at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee, where she played Division 1 Football (Soccer) for two years, while majoring in Journalism and Film. Following this, she had a change of heart about her academic career and returned to Auckland where she graduated in 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology, followed in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours) in Development Studies. Throughout her studies, she was also working in several different roles for World Vision NZ.

Most recently, Jolene has returned from Geneva, Switzerland where she worked as a Humanitarian Intern for the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team. 'Working directly under the Global Lead for emergency responses, this role was both challenging and rewarding - particularly being involved with the coordination of international training simulations and the UN's response to emergencies, such as Cyclone Idai in Mozambique last year.' While in Geneva, she was also fortunate enough to play football for the semi-professional team - Servette FC.

This year, Jolene was set to start a Double Masters in Human Rights/Peace and Conflict Studies at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Cali, Colombia & University of Peace in San Jose, Costa Rica, but

unfortunately, she lost her scholarship opportunities due to COVID-19. Currently, she is attempting to save and/or source funding to start this in July but, alternatively, will be looking to start a Masters in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland.

Beyond her work and studies, Jolene enjoys playing football, travelling and volunteering for different organisations.

During her time in Nashville, she was fortunate to complete two volunteer trips to San Salvador, El Salvador - one with the generous support of Saint Kentigern. Although she struggles to define these trips as beneficial for those she was there to 'help', she said these trips influenced her chosen career path. She also went on a Habitat for Humanity build outside Kanchanaburi in Southern Thailand, where she worked with other New Zealanders to help build homes for those in need.

Jolene encourages students to step outside their comfort zone, to try new things and explore overseas. 'I wish someone had told me that's it's okay to not know what you want - what you want to study, where you want to go, what you want to do with your life. Don't be afraid to change your mind - try and fail as many times as you need to, you'll figure it out in the end. Also, travel. Explore as many places as you can, there's only so much you can learn in a classroom or online, get out there and see the world.'



John Le Bailly Chamberlin – Railway Enthusiast

John attended Saint Kentigern from 1955 to 1961 as a Bruce House boarder. Following his graduation, he went on to complete a Master of Commerce at The University of Auckland and in 1969 landed his first job at the accounting firm, Clarke, Menzies & Co (New Zealand member firm of Touche Ross & Co) which merged/morphed over the years to become Deloitte in 2000.

In 1971, John spent two years in Touche Ross London before returning to Clarke, Menzies & Co, where he became an audit partner in 1976. Following this, he achieved a Lead Client Service role as the Tax Consulting partner in Deloitte Auckland. He ended up retiring in 2003 but remained as a consultant to the firm, actively involved in providing business advice to selected clients.

In late 1961, whilst still at school, John was introduced to the Railway Enthusiasts Society (Inc) by Saint Kentigern teacher, Mr Stan Dunn, following a post-exam school visit he led to the Otahuhu Railway

Workshops. Inspired by Mr Dunn, railways and transportation were to become a lifelong passion for John.

John joined the Society on Mr Dunn's suggestion in 1962, upon commencing his university commerce degrees. Later he was to become President of the Society for two separate terms (13 years in total). He said, 'I was contemporaneously Chairman of the Society's 'subsidiary' entity, The Glenbrook Vintage Railway Charitable Trust Board. Fundraising to develop and maintain Glenbrook's rail and property assets was critical. Following my retirement as a partner in Deloitte Auckland, I have continued to undertake the role of 'Overseas Tours Director,' organising and leading Overseas Railtours, and related ships'

voyages - principally on Cunard, for groups of between 25 and 90 Society members on each tour. These commenced with Australia and quickly extended on a twice a year basis to include North America, including Alaska, the UK, Russia's Trans-Siberian Railway, Europe and Scandinavia, Japan and South East Asia. Unfortunately, Covis-19 has led to the cancellation of our 2020 May and June Railtours of Japan and Switzerland and like many activities at present the future remains uncertain!'



Dr Nelson Lam - Post-Doctoral Research in Medicinal Chemistry

Former Hamilton House Prefect and Dux of the College, Nelson Lam graduated in 2009 and says he wouldn't be where he is today without the help of his teachers. Nelson says his College teachers were outstanding mentors and helped him to discover his passions.

'I would not have chosen my career path without my Science teachers, particularly Peter Hadfield and Sue Miller, really fostering my love for the subject. Beyond this, the most influential mentors were my English teachers, Flora Mather and Bridget Hansen, and the teachers who led the Scholars' Programme, Alison Lee and Jenny Sanders. Each and every one of them was instrumental in shaping how I responded to problems/issues, and shaped and broadened my perspective of the world at large.'

Following his time at the College, Nelson studied at the University of Auckland, graduating with BSc (Hons) in medicinal Chemistry, conjoined with a BMus in Music Composition. He then was selected as a Woolf Fisher Scholar from New Zealand and completed his PhD in Chemistry at the University of Cambridge in the UK; his collegiate affiliation during that time was with Trinity College.

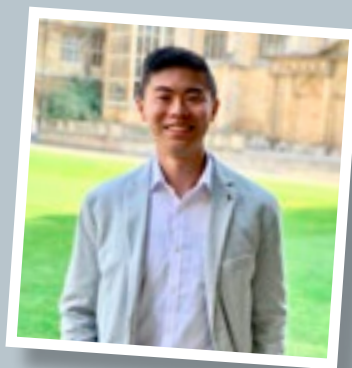
Nelson is now a post-doctoral research associate/elected Lindemann Fellow by the UK, at the Scripps Research Institute at La Jolla, California. His doctoral thesis explored the synthesis of architecturally complex marine derived compounds as promising anti-cancer candidates.

Drawn by what he saw as huge inefficiencies in the field of chemical synthesis, which he had to experience first-hand doing his PhD, Nelson elected to pursue his postdoctoral research in the field of 'C-H activation'. Nelson's current focus lies in the development of novel metal catalysis to help greatly expedite the synthesis of bioactive/pharmaceutically relevant compounds, and hopefully fundamentally reshape how scientists think of constructing molecules.

Outside his study, Nelson continues to enjoy music. Whilst at Cambridge, he sang with the Choir of Pembroke College for two years and during this time, was able to record at Abbey Road Studios (with Tom Chaplin - lead singer of Keane) as well as go on tour to Zambia. Nelson says the music teachers at Saint Kentigern, Ross Gerritsen and Kris Holmes, were another source of great mentorship and helped him to discover his love for music.

Nelson has many fond memories of his time at Saint Kentigern and says the teachers were not only phenomenal educators but were willing to go above and beyond their call of duty. 'They were wonderful counsellors for my formative years. I have a lot to be grateful for, especially for their tutelage, and I don't think I can thank them enough.'

Nelson advises our current students to 'push yourself to try new things. There are so many things outside of your classes on offer and each of them gives more depth and meaning to your high school experience. The path I took, reaching here as a postdoctoral researcher in chemistry had many side steps (e.g. music, commerce/entrepreneurship), a lot of them are extracurricular interests, each of them driven by curiosity, but all of them were instrumental in how I approached problems and my perspective on my work/the field at large. As well, I have met some of my closest friends from these shared experiences, who give wonderful perspectives of life outside of my field.'



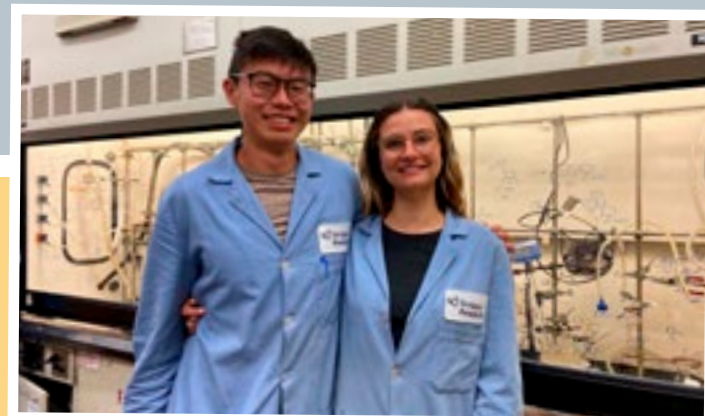
Dr Rachel Gillard - Post-Doctoral Research in Medicinal Chemistry



Rachel graduated from the College in 2009 having been a Wishart Prefect, a Stage Challenge and JRock leader. She loved dance, involving herself in the plays and musicals, whilst also playing and coaching netball. Having received Academic Honours in Years 9-13 as part of the Scholars' Group, she went on to study chemistry at the University of Auckland.

Rachel thanks Saint Kentigern teachers, Peter Hadfield and Sue Miller for having had an enormous influence on her interest in science. She said, her passion for both chemistry and biology piqued her interest in medicine, but she never wanted to be a doctor. 'When I discovered the subject of Medicinal Chemistry at Auckland University, I was set. The idea of being involved in the discovery and creation of medicine, interested me far more than treating patients. The science behind it is just fascinating.'

Rachel gained a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Medicinal Chemistry (1st class Honours) and then worked on the synthesis of novel antibiotics. She was awarded a PhD scholarship, completing her PhD in Organic Chemistry at Monash University in Melbourne, and worked on the discovery of novel chemical reactions allowing access to previously unattainable molecules.



During her PhD, she spent four months in Scotland and worked at the University of Saint Andrews as part of an exchange programme. Following her PhD, she returned to New Zealand in 2019 and worked for Distinguished Professor Dame Margaret Brimble and wrote a paper on the synthesis of naturally occurring molecules with medicinal potential (published in 2019).

To date, Rachel has worked in five laboratories all over the world, in Australia, New Zealand, Scotland and America. She has six publications in peer-reviewed journals. Her major areas of research are the discovery of novel ways to synthesise molecules and also the design and synthesis of new medicines. She is currently working at Scripps Research in California as a postdoctoral researcher, working on the design and synthesis of novel anti-cancer compounds.

Rachel is grateful to have been given the opportunity to attend Saint Kentigern and says the College provided her with the tools to figure out what her interests were - that she loved chemistry, biology, and, as a consequence, medicine.

'I started university majoring in Chemistry and Biology, I never even knew what a Medicinal Chemist was until my second year and then I switched. It is impossible to know 'what you want to be when you grow up', just use these years to find out what interests you, the rest will fall into place.'

Laura Hunt (nee Stenberg) – Communications

Laura started as a foundation girl in Year 9, 2003, graduating in 2007. Coming from a small country school, she said Saint Kentigern was 'quite the change,' but she quickly made friends. During her College years, she particularly enjoyed History and English, and Media Studies in Year 12. 'The wonderful thing about Saint Kentigern is there are so many strong departments, everyone can find something they love and get the support they need to do well in that area. I loved Media Studies and the many opportunities there were to get real-life work experience at local newspapers and hands-on experience working on the College newspaper, The Voice.'

Her teachers, with a passion for media, influenced and encouraged her decision to enrol in a Bachelor of Communications degree at Auckland University of Technology. 'So many older students from Saint Kentigern had done the degree and it seemed like the obvious path to follow if you were looking towards a career in the media industry.'

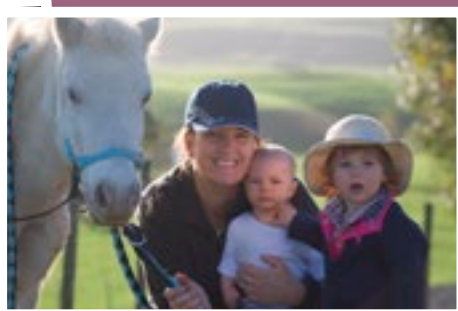
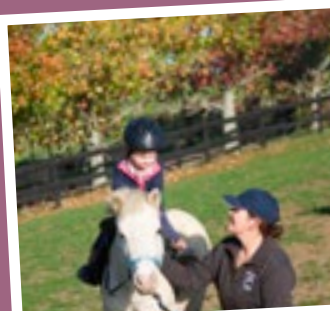
Laura started out thinking she would major in Journalism, however, she ended up choosing Public Relations as a major and Journalism as a minor. She graduated in 2011 before spending six months doing a range of different consulting roles, and helping a variety of small businesses and organisations with their public relations and

communications projects. She started as an Account Executive at Goode PR in June 2012, working across a portfolio of clients, planning and delivering PR campaigns and was promoted to Account Manager in July 2013. In the following year, she took up an exciting role as Communications and Marketing Manager at the then recently launched Well Foundation, the official charity of Waitemata District Health Board. 'This was an amazing but hugely challenging role to build brand awareness of the foundation and its mission amongst the huge population living in the Waitemata district and amongst the DHB's staff of almost 7000 people. Lots of fun, lots of knowledge gained and big goals achieved!'

In 2016, Laura and her husband, George bought a lifestyle block in North Waikato from where she commuted to North Shore and Waitakere Hospitals to continue working for the Well Foundation; 'as I enjoyed the role so much'. However, by March 2017, she had to make the tough decision to leave the Foundation as the thousands of kilometres of travel each month were too much.

Laura took over the administration of their small farriery business as well as picking up work copywriting, preparing various communications materials, managing social media accounts and more for several small businesses. She also had a role as Senior Features Writer for Show Circuit Magazine, a popular New Zealand equestrian magazine, and a casual role writing for Love Racing New Zealand, profiling jockeys, trainers and other personalities in the New Zealand thoroughbred racing industry. As a passionate equestrian herself, having had horses all her life and still competing regularly on the New Zealand show jumping circuit, these two roles were a dream come true for Laura.

Married to George, their daughter Scarlett was born April 2018, followed by Oliver in November 2019, she says there are never enough hours in the day and life for now is all about her family!



Donald Sinclair – Retired Pilot

Donald attended Saint Kentigern from 1955 to 1959 and returned a year later to become a Housemaster under the guidance of Stan Mair. During his time as a student, Donald was a member of the first Pipe Band and has many fond memories of his time at school, before moving on to work in the accounts firm, Swan, Swan and Fawcett.

After two years working at the firm, Donald decided to make a career change into Aviation. Following his extensive training, he became a junior Instructor at the Waikato Aero Club for three years before moving to Papua New Guinea to join Territory Airlines for eight years. Mr Mair later married on the Chimbu Airstrip in the Highlands region of the country, where he went on to become their Chief Pilot.

Upon his return to New Zealand in 1976, Donald joined Capital Air Services in Wellington. For a short time, whilst in Wellington, he flew

for Nationwide Air. He says, 'The aircraft was a car freighter and a converted DC 4'. Once the company went into receivership, he went on to fly for Eagle Airways for nine years, where he landed a training role and later became their Chief Pilot.

Following this, he moved on to join Air Freight New Zealand, which is based just out of Auckland. This job involved flying a Night Freighter, a Convair 580, and later led to him becoming their Chief Pilot for several years until sadly a car accident ended his flying career.

Last Christmas, the current Saint Kentigern boarders sent Christmas cards to the former boarders and Donald was a grateful recipient!

Tessa Meyer – 2020 Future Thinker of the Year

The College 2011 Head Girl, Tessa Meyer made her mark during her College years as an exceptional student leader. She was an all-round student, Tessa excelled in academics, her chosen sport, was an outstanding public speaker and an exceptional young artist. During the 65th Jubilee, she was commissioned to paint the remarkable artwork, 'Upward Contemplation' that now hangs in the MacFarlan Centre.

Following her College years, Tessa took a gap year to further her artwork and travel. Upon her return, Tessa completed a Bachelor of Science, undertaking a double major in environmental science and geography at the University of Canterbury, before going on to complete a Master's in Urban Resilience and Renewal. Tessa says the IB Diploma Programme at Saint Kentigern was 'a blessing' and helped her to discover her love for science and the importance of service. 'Had I not done IB while at school, I probably wouldn't have seriously considered science or climate change planning as a career pathway. My work really comes down to improving the health and wellbeing of people and our communities through infrastructure and planning. I really enjoy what I do.'

Tessa currently works as a Corporate Responsibility Advisor at Auckland Council's Development arm, Panuku Development Auckland. In her position, she leads sustainability solutions across a variety of projects, all of which directly contribute to Auckland's transition to a climate resilient, healthy and low carbon city.

In this role, Tessa led the first Green Star - Communities ratings in Aotearoa and Panuku's world-first volume certification. She also worked on an economic analysis tool to incorporate social, environmental and economic benefits into holistic decision-making regarding community investments and urban development, has been

involved in a number of waste minimisation projects, recently completed Panuku's Toitū Envirocare carbon reduce certification and led internal behaviour change campaigns at Panuku.

This work has won her recognition from the New Zealand Green Building Council (NZGBC) who named her the '2020 Future Thinker of the Year' for demonstrating 'environmental knowledge and leadership and recognising success, and passion for greener, better buildings.' NZGBC is a non-profit organisation that works with developers, designers, and construction companies to ensure that New Zealanders live, work and play in a healthy, sustainable office, home or community space. Tessa's submission and interview focused on the need to address decarbonisation through community-wide planning and infrastructure, and to establish ways to communicate the long-term economic benefits of this.

Tessa was honoured to receive the award and said it will give her a chance to contribute even more to the green building industry and help grow the movement at a critical time. 'Infrastructure and planning have an effect that stretches beyond its function; it creates jobs, shapes behaviour and influences our quality of life for decades. We're at a critical turning point in our climate adaptation journey so my aim is to have sustainability at the heart of our developments and to ensure this makes economic sense, too.'



Aditya Arolkar – Trading Analyst

Aditya graduated from Saint Kentigern College in 2014. During this time, he was a Peer Support Leader, held Academic Colours, was awarded Saint Kentigern scholarships for his performance in IB Mathematics and Physics, and earned NZQA scholarships for Calculus and Statistics. He was also very involved in extracurricular activities and took an accelerated linear algebra course for high school students at the University of Auckland.

Most notably, Aditya entered a social enterprise competition run by Social Innovation New Zealand, where teams could create a start-up idea that both generated a profit and created a measurable social impact. Through hard work and dedication, Aditya and his team went on to win the competition and a \$2000 grant to start the company (you can learn more about their work at facebook.com/gyropad.) From here, Aditya was involved in several Model United Nations conferences around the country and competed and won in high school and university level case competitions.

After graduating from the College, Aditya went on to study at the University of California, Berkeley, located in the Bay Area. He earned a Bachelor Degree in Applied Mathematics, with a focus on Computer Science. Aditya was influenced to pursue a degree at an American university by a Princeton alumni mentor of his, who advised Aditya in his US college application process.

At university, Aditya joined the fraternity 'Alpha Delta Phi' where he made some great memories and also made close friends. He lives with three of his fraternity brothers in Oakland while working in Berkeley. He said, 'A fraternity brother of mine dropped out of college to found a market-maker trading company, 'Midpoint Markets,' that trades

cryptocurrency based on a proprietary algorithm. I am currently working as a Trading Analyst at this company.' Aditya explains that his role involves dealing with large amounts of data and generating analysis on the trading data.

Outside of work, he keeps himself busy with bodybuilding, pickup basketball, watching the LA Lakers or spending time with friends.

Aditya said if he was to offer current Saint Kentigern students advice, it would be to look at international university opportunities, as well as those within New Zealand to see what is the best fit. 'The opportunities outside of NZ are incredibly difficult to get admitted into and require years of preparation and work, preferably with a professional mentor who did the same themselves. If you are interested in such opportunities, it's important to decide whether that's for you soon and start early!'



Ashleigh Millington – Criminal Defence Lawyer

Ashleigh graduated at the end of 2013. While at the College, she played Waterpolo, was a member of the Concert Band, and coached and played Netball. She was also a Peer Support Leader in her final year.

Ashleigh started at the College in Year 8 and remembered thinking it 'seemed like a college empire'. 'I vividly remember seeing the JPC building. I was fascinated and most definitely lured by the creativity that flowed from one wall to another. Unsurprisingly I took as many creative subjects as possible, including fashion, painting and photography.'

From Year 11, Ashleigh decided that she would go on to university following College. She enjoyed History and Classics and her grades in those papers essentially streamlined her decision into thinking she would study Law.

In Year 13, Ashleigh was set on enrolling in a Bachelor of Law but a 'slight hurdle' to her plan occurred in mid to late 2013, when her fashion textiles teacher at the time, Ms Henry,

encouraged her to enter into the Sylvia Park 'Off the Rack' Competition. Entering involved displaying garments that she had created at the busy shopping mall. Next thing she knew, she had won the Young Designer Competition and was presented with an \$8,000 cheque to study Fashion! She said this presented quite a difficult question – whether to pursue the Arts or a legal career?

In the end, Ashleigh decided to enrol in a Bachelor of Law. She first started at Victoria University of Wellington and later transferred to Waikato University in Hamilton. She graduated with a Bachelor of Law with First Class Honours in 2018 and was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Auckland in October 2019. From University she began a Summer Internship with the Public Defence Service/PDS (a criminal defence organisation). She remains at PDS as a Criminal Defence Lawyer.

Reflecting back, Ashleigh says her College years were some of the most important.

'That was when my work ethic was entrenched, and important future decisions were made. It was also a time when I started to gain independence. Additionally, my eyes were opened to the number of opportunities that I had right in front of me - both academically and within the sports area. It was essentially a matter of choosing what best fitted me.'

Ashleigh encourages current students to 'engage, engage, engage.' Engage in class settings and in a team sport. Ashleigh said to make sure that you ask questions and that she has always been told that, 'no question is a dumb question, the only dumb question is the one not asked.' She also encourages the students to be kind and patient towards one another and says, 'I have so many warm memories of my time at Saint Kentigern and I hope that you spend time creating those memories too.'



Sian Seeley - Engineer

Sian Seeley graduated in 2014 as a Hamilton House Prefect and the NCEA Dux. She also played netball, took part in premier theatre sports, was a member of the scholar's class, Mr Potter's co-curricular art class and the Creative Writing Society. In addition to her eclectic mix of extra-curriculars, her final year subjects were physics, calculus, English, accounting and Spanish. With her wide range of interests, she said she found it initially difficult to decide on a career path to pursue after school.

Sian was drawn to physics the most and while she was grateful to Mr Swart who took her for all three years of NCEA, it was Mr Wilde in a scholarship physics class who first put the idea of engineering into her head. 'Engineering seemed to be the perfect combination of creativity, construction and understanding how the world works. But I was admittedly unwilling to let Mrs Little's meticulous instruction in accounting go to waste.' Her solution was to undertake a double degree in Engineering and Commerce and was awarded a 'Scholarship for Excellence' for Monash University in Melbourne, accredited with being the best engineering school in Australia.

Sian found that Engineering disciplines covered a broad array of career paths. 'I eventually found my niche in mechatronics, and - in anticipation of the confused looks that always follow the word 'mechatronics' - I will add that it's just a fancy name for robotics.' In her degree, she constructed autonomous robots, body sensors, machine-learning algorithms, computer models and mobile apps.

Sian also became very interested in volunteering. One of her favourite roles was with Robogals, a student-led organisation which run workshops for children of all ages to practise problem solving (the foundation of engineering) by programming simple Lego robots.

'As engineering is a male-dominated profession, I am passionate about organisations like Robogals which aim to encourage young girls as well as boys to consider career paths within STEM (science technology engineering and mathematics).'

Now in the sixth and final year of her degree, Sian is completing a Final Year Project that centres around the teaching of spatial skills (e.g. translation, rotation, scale and perspective) to kindergarteners. The project presents young children with spatial puzzles, in the form of mobile apps, with the aim to promote their development in mathematics and other STEM subjects.

After completing internships in various industries, including telecommunications and mining automation, Sian accepted a graduate role in 2021 with Jacobs engineering consultancy; a company which is widely recognised for their commitment to inclusion and diversity in the workplace and is involved in significant infrastructure projects.

Sian said, 'I look back on my years at Saint Kentigern fondly and am grateful for the opportunities afforded to me. The lessons I learned during my school days in teamwork and leadership have been invaluable to me, but most of all I cherish the friends I made.'





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