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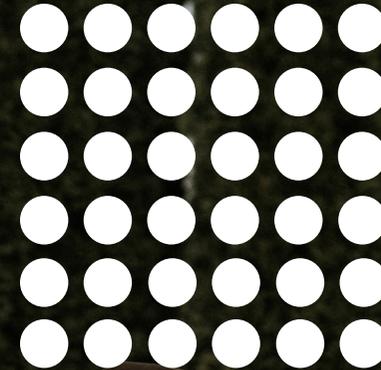
MILLENNIAL ALUMNI OF
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLING,
INFLUENCERS WHO ARE
MAKING A MARK IN
THE WORLD



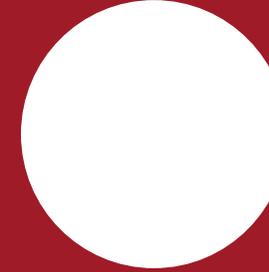
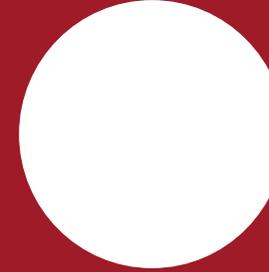
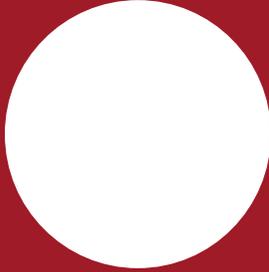
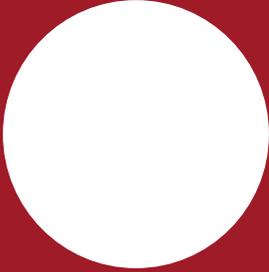
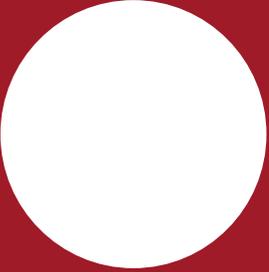
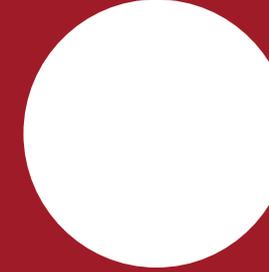
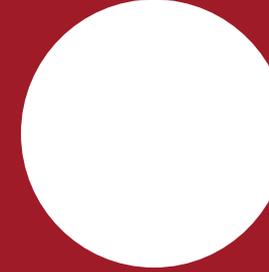
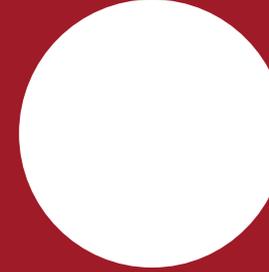
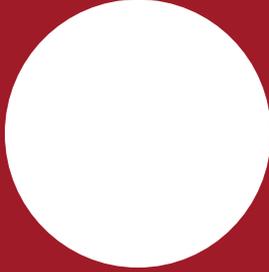
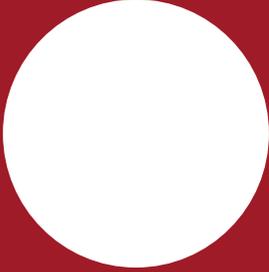
Meet 36 millennials.

These are alumni of Christian schooling now utilising their learning especially post-school-learning, for the common good.

The value of a school's legacy cannot be underestimated. Legacies have to be stated in human terms, not in terms of school buildings or grounds.









Finding Our 36 “Influencers”

Associated Christian Schools identified a range of alumni fitting the broad definition of a millennial (born 1980–2000) who after matriculating completed their degree/ apprenticeship / training have had a minimum of five years to establish their career. These millennials have made a significant positive impact in their career, and are now influencing society for the common good.

The Cardus Education Survey Australia Report (2020) revealed across all sectors within Australian education, Millennial graduates contribute to the common good by promoting flourishing and sustaining civic life in various ways. To different extents across all sectors (Government, Catholic, Independent, Christian) schools encourage academic excellence, invest in the development of relationships and the teaching of a set of commitments and values.



While study and work are key areas where millennial graduates contribute to the common good, they are also engaged citizens and find belonging in their communities through membership and volunteering within various groups. Millennial graduates are making a positive impact in the lives of others through their generosity, by donating their time and money.

Family and relationships, as well as Australian millennials' understanding and engagement with faith and religion, positions them within the social fabric of their communities.

Born in the '80s and '90s, millennials have grown up as digital natives. Most of them seamlessly incorporate technology into their lives, careers, and ministries. They also come from the most diverse generation in Australian history.

These influencers span sectors of work, uniquely contributing in business and non-profits, media organisations and ministries, academia and the arts. Some are up-and-coming in familiar institutions; others are venturing out with projects of their own. Most, if not all, of their names will likely be unfamiliar.

Associated Christian Schools wanted this project to introduce a variety of young committed Christians, to put stories and faces to the millennial generation.



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01 / 36

Will Swanson

BBus BHealthSc (QUT) GradDip International Relations & Affairs (LSE)

Will¹ is a freelance documentary photographer and Emmy-nominated journalist, working in Africa and the Middle East. His work has been exhibited in London, UN headquarters New York and Los Angeles and featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, Foreign Policy Magazine, The Guardian, and Financial Times.

In 2015 Will received a grant from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting to focus on the marginalisation and extra-judicial killings of ethnic Somalis along Kenya's north east border with Somalia, a volatile and under-reported region.

Will has filmed and produced a series of documentary shorts on child soldiers, for the NETFLIX film *Beasts of No Nation*, and has produced and filmed for CNN's *Inside Africa*, ARD German Television, Voice of America, The Washington Post, France 24 and TIME Magazine.

Will was part of a news team that produced a documentary on the Locust Crisis in East Africa, nominated for an Emmy Award 2021.

Will was made a Fellow of The GroundTruth Project, dedicated to supporting the next generation of journalists in the U.S. and around the world, receiving a grant to report on gender and the impact of conflict on women and children in Yemen.

¹Northside Christian College, *Class of 2000*



02 / 36

Dr. Annie (Meng-Wei) Kan

B Biotech (Hons) PhD (Medical Chemistry) UQ

Dr Annie (Meng-Wei) Kan,² with a language background other than English, said her experience of Christian schooling truly helped her professional and personal development.

Thanks to the support of friendly and patient classmates and teachers, Annie represented her school in a Rostrum Public Speaking competition, an experience which helps her give the scientific talks she now delivers. Listeners have told her she is "very charismatic" when giving her presentations.

Annie was invited to join an Advanced Study Program in Science when she started her degree and had the opportunity to interact with leading researchers, gaining insight into research culture. This led to a position as the Professor's executive assistant. Their research group is interested in using plants as 'bio-factories' for producing high value peptide-based pharmaceuticals.

Annie described this basically as taking Australia 'from the farm to the pharm'. Her hope is that one day treating cancer might be as easy as eating a sunflower seed or taking a sip of tea. Beyond this, she hopes one day to help developing countries in the way we make medicines. A lot of the time, people in developing countries do not have access to medicines because they cannot afford them. "We really hope one day they will be able to grow their own medicines in their backyard" she commented.

² Emmanuel College, Class of 2002



03 / 36

Dr. Alex Deagon

PhD BLaws(Hons1) BSc GradCertAcademicPractice

Dr Alex Deagon³ is a Senior Lecturer in the QUT School of Law. His research focuses on jurisprudence, law and theology, and freedom of religion. For his PhD thesis, Alex was awarded the GU Chancellor's Medal, which was later also published as a book (Hart Publishing Oxford). Alex is currently working on publication of a second book with the same publishing house.

Alex's work advocates for religious freedom, continually writing about current societal pressures that seem to work actively against Christian values.

His research has been quoted in the Australian Parliament by a Government Minister, arguing against removal of religious exemptions for religious schools in the Sex Discrimination Act which allow schools to select and regulate staff and students to maintain their religious ethos. He has written similarly for the Sydney Morning Herald. Alex has been published in many prestigious national and international journals, and presently teaches in Theories of Law, Constitutional Law, and Evidence.

Alex has presented his research at a number of local, national and international conferences over the last three years, and has had numerous citations in academic journals.

³ Redlands College, *Class of 2006*



04 / 36

Deanna Garbutt

BA (Mgmt&Hist) UNSW at ADFA

Deanna Garbutt⁴ joined the Royal Australian Navy after school as a midshipman, later undertaking academic and military studies. After graduating, Deanna returned to the fleet to continue Maritime Warfare Officer training.

Deanna served as an Officer of the Watch for two years, which included deployment to the Middle East. Shortly after returning to Australia she deployed again, this time to East Timor, as part of the International Stabilisation Force based in Dili. On completion she took up a posting as Executive Officer of a patrol boat crew based out of HMAS *Cairns*.

Deanna later received a brief shore respite, a 6-month posting as a divisional officer at ADFA, before joining HMAS *Sydney* for the frigate's decommissioning voyage. Deanna was posted as the Gunnery Officer to HMAS *Arunta*, which deployed to the Middle East, and on her return took up the role of Operations Officer in *Arunta*.

Deanna was posted on exchange to the United States Navy as Assistant Operations Officer to USN Amphibious Squadron Eleven, part of the US Seventh Fleet based in Sasebo Japan. That posting involved multiple deployments in and around Japan, North and South Korea, China and the greater Asian Region conducting multiple operations and exercises.

On completion and return to Australia, Lieutenant Commander Garbutt took up her present position as Plans and Future Operations Officer at the Australian Fleet Battle Staff, part of the ADF's Deployable Joint Force Headquarters (DJFHQ) based at Gallipoli Barracks in Enoggera, Brisbane.

⁴ Northside Christian College, Class of 2003



05 / 36

David Nelson

B Physics B Chemical Engineering (Honours) (UQ)

David Nelson⁵ won many awards during his university years, including competitions and an exchange to Purdue University IN USA. A Kings College residential student, he was a Residential Tutor and a member of UQ's Advanced Study Program in Science.

David won The University of Queensland's ILab entrepreneur competition including \$20,000 to develop, manufacture and market his project, the HOMECUBE. HOMECUBE is a potential solution to the global housing crisis with up to 1.2 billion people without adequate shelter, by providing housing ten times cheaper and faster to build while absorbing CO₂.

David also worked on POWERCUBE, a modular solar battery system designed to empower the 1.2 billion people without electricity. It is designed to be affordable to those who don't have \$24K spare to buy a Tesla Powerwall.

David admires the goal of Singularity University, to inspire entrepreneurs to leverage exponential technology to impact the lives of a billion people within ten years. David believes everyone has the calling to love God, others and self, but have different giftings.

Figuring out how to use David's gifting to maximize life's purpose took a lot of thinking, searching and praying.

⁵Bundaberg Christian College, *Class of 2010*



06 / 36

Katie Lane

BSc(MedSc)Hons(UQ) BMed (GU)

Katie⁶ began tertiary studies in science majoring in biomedical science and cementing her desire to pursue postgraduate medicine.

Taking a gap year between studying science and medicine, Katie travelled around Europe, later working in South Africa in trauma and emergency medicine as part of her medical degree, then using her travel experience to brave a road trip through Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Congo and Namibia.

Katie's medical degree was followed by an intern year in Cairns, which she found a unique experience, treating patients with diseases she hadn't seen before, tropical medicine, indigenous health and refugees with unique conditions.

Katie understands the importance of depth-of-care for people. She enjoys the unique moments she shares with a wide range of people - sometimes emotional and solemn, sometimes giving someone the news they were waiting for, or listening as patients relate things they have never told anyone else.

An aspect of school life that Katie has taken into her medical career is not judging people, a legacy from her memory of being accepted at school for who she was.

⁶ Citipointe Christian College, Class of 2009



07 / 36

Nathan Laing

Grad Dip Legal Practice, B Laws(Hons) BA(Bond)
Dip Military Leadership (Australian Army)

Nathan Laing⁷ began his career as a police constable then later undertook legal studies.

Upon graduating, Nathan practised as a solicitor and consultant. Placing his legal career on hold, Nathan commissioned into the Australian Defence Force, where he served for seven years, reaching and discharging at the rank of Captain in the Australian Army.

In his military service, Nathan was assigned initially as an Infantry Officer leading a platoon, and later as Military Instructor, where he was awarded the Australian Army's qualification badge, and was responsible for the administration and development of up to 60 recruits in three intakes.

During this time, he undertook the Bar Exams and having successfully completed the course, now practises law as a Barrister in Brisbane, serving the wider southeast community.

Outside his profession, as a qualified Justice of the Peace, Nathan also dedicates himself to a variety of community organisations, to assist disadvantaged persons with their dealings in the legal system. Nathan regularly attends a pro-bono legal clinic on the Gold Coast.

⁷ Emmanuel College, Class of 2004



08 / 36

Amy Secomb

BAppSc HumMvmt (QUT) GradDipMedUltrasound

Amy⁸ studied a four-year degree in Applied Science in Human Movement at QUT before working as an Exercise Physiologist, then as a Cardiac Scientist.

Amy trained in echocardiography (ultrasound). She continued her study with a 2 year post graduate diploma specialising in cardiac ultrasound, and now conducts training for doctors and students. She enjoys being a part of the team that does a lot of cutting-edge work with Australian-first and world-first procedures.

Amy runs workshops around Australia, teaching a point-of-care cardio ultrasound to rural GPs, anaesthetists, emergency doctors and others teaching them to differentiate between what is normal and what is not.

Amy juggles her career with parenting. She likes she can retain her skills, working teaching around her family responsibilities.

She and her husband travelled when first married, and hopes to do with the children. She wants them to grow their love of our world, and show them not everyone has a house, or water in the sink or access to good food.

Amy thinks becoming a mother challenged her, taught her patience and slowing her down.

⁸ Citipointe Christian College, Class of 2002



Daniel Chen

B Journalism (GU) Grad Dip Ed (CHC)

Daniel Chen⁹ is a Christian Heritage College postgrad who now teaches Chinese to students at Saint Stephen's College Junior School. Daniel developed his school's Chinese curriculum from scratch, finding resources on his own, while fitting into a new school environment.

Daniel was selected as a finalist for the 2019 QCT TeachX Awards – Excellence in Beginning to Teach Awards. He was nominated by his Headmaster for The Australian Education Awards (The Educator Rising Star of the Year).

Daniel has really fuelled success in the Chinese program in the College's Junior School, where students previously studied via Skyping to China. The language abilities and culture he has instilled in his youngest learners is forming a solid foundation for future years. Daniel made a distinct impression with his ability to put together video lessons for his Chinese class, using his great knowledge of film and media. His original video lessons are of high quality, very engaging and memorable.

Daniel has revitalised interest from students who were previously disengaged as a result of the previous program. His organisation, lesson preparations and enthusiasm towards his teaching practise is of high quality.

⁹ Christian Heritage College Graduate, *Class of 2017*



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Breanna Solomon

DipHealthSc (USC) BCouns/BehaviouralSc (CHC)

Breanna¹⁰ works with care and dedication offering specialised, professional help to young mothers, helping them complete their education, and working as an Alcohol and Other Drug counsellor for Lives Lived Well and a private practice counsellor for children and adolescents.

During her spare time, she volunteers with A Brave Life, something very close to her heart, which she co-founded with her mother. This non-for-profit organisation supports teenage and young mothers completing high school education or tertiary studies.

Teen pregnancy can come unexpectedly to some of these young girls, the majority stemming from trauma-impacted or socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds. This complexity utilises her skillset in trauma-informed counselling and education, positive parenting programs and integrative family systems.

Breanna is completing a Masters of Trauma-Aware Specialisation of Education, and is a PhD candidate. This is her endeavour to open doors and involvement in future research projects, contributing to the way students are taught, professionals formed, and the community sees trauma-impacted communities.

Her focus on mental health, teenage pregnancy and First Nation students has expanded into seminars, parents support groups, trauma-informed tutoring services, advocacy roles, community fundraisers and literacy writing.

¹⁰ Genesis Christian College, *Class of 2012*



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Tim McCullough

Tim¹¹ began a school-based carpentry apprenticeship at school and after school, during which time his best mate started a bike shop from his garage. Tim's help was needed so they worked apprenticeships through the day then their bike shop until late.

Eventually they opened a store specialising in mountain bikes, saw the online potential, subsequently moving to online retail full-time.

Tim and his mate now have eighteen staff who work remotely across the country and in New Zealand. Tim has discovered some pros and cons of running your own business: the pros: the freedom to push in the direction you want; the cons: working long hours for a long time.

Tim has found joy in an e-commerce industry that helps people with their hobby.

Tim puts his success down to having a customer service mindset, from characteristics ingrained in school – honesty, integrity, hard work – as crucial to running his business.

Tim has advice for students starting their own business: start early, when the stakes are lower. "I'd always rather have a go and fail than look back thinking, "Oh, I had such a good opportunity there, I wish I'd had a crack!"

¹¹ Citipointe Christian College, Class of 2002



Tegan Gilory

BNursing (QUT)

Tegan¹², a clinical nurse with Ramsay Health Care, together with her husband and brother-in-law, founded 'Nakie,' an Australian-owned company producing outdoor adventure products like blankets, hammocks, bug nets and tarps from 100% recycled products.

The company also contributes to reforestation, with four trees planted by local villagers in northwest Madagascar for every product sold, with over 132,504 trees planted to date. This is achieved through a partnership with Eden Reforestation Project, employing locals to plant millions of trees with support from companies like Tegan's.

Tegan has partnered with St Vincent de Paul Society to reach people in need across Australia, donating a blanket for each sold during the month of August. She considered that for them a partnership with Vinnies just made sense; values aligned so well, and they love they can directly engage in the act of giving.

Nakie's overarching objective is to make a difference, not just a profit, and so have committed to an ongoing strategic partnership with Vinnies, with plans to donate 1500 blankets annually."

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¹² Redlands College, Class of 2009



Benjamin Higgins

M Leadership (ACC) Dip IT (Multimedia) Dip Christian Ministry

Benjamin Higgins¹³ M Leadership (ACC) Dip IT (Multimedia) Dip Christian Ministry is location pastor of Life Church Brisbane North, and as a Generations Pastor for Life Church Australia leads a team and staff for a Youth Ministry program ministering to over 200 students weekly from Years 5-12. As Worship and Creative Arts Pastor, he leads a volunteer team of over 100 people.

Benjamin serves as Young Adults Director and Brisbane South Director for Youth Alive Queensland. In this role he is responsible for leading a Young Adult Conference, a Young Adult Pastors and Leaders' summit called 'Catalyst' for young adult ministries throughout Queensland, and overseeing a conference for 500+ young adults hosted in January on the Gold Coast.

In his role on the Youth Alive Queensland (United We Stand Events) and State Team Benjamin oversaw two events across Logan and Brisbane South, which typically attract between 1000 - 1500 people each year.

Leadership training events see him connecting primarily with Young Adult and Youth Pastors, and conducting leadership training events in major regions throughout Queensland and the Northern Territory. Ben is now the National Youth Director for Alpha Australia. This is the International Alpha Discipleship Course.

¹³ Brisbane Christian College, *Class of 2002*



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Prisca Widjaja

BMedSc(Rad)(QUT) GradDipGenSonography(SA) BMus(UNE)
LMusA(violin) LMusA(piano)

Prisca Widjaja¹⁴ has managed to combine two major passions: high-tech medical care and performance music for two instruments, piano and violin.

Prisca believes "we don't have to be limited to one profession, and that our minds are incredible". As a music teacher she engages with people of all ages, privately and at a music school.

Prisca volunteers with Wesley Mission playing at various nursing and retirement homes, yet has also worked on corporate events like those for Singapore Airlines. She also volunteers with the music team at her church, and together with a friend is writing music for a future album release.

In her medical profession post-school Prisca began with a medical imaging degree and has since then explored her present specialty Sonography, specialising in Echocardiography (heart).

Prisca believes God has given us the capability to do so much more, but people need to get over the limitations they put on themselves, something she has learnt and is consistently learning.

¹⁴ Citipointe Christian College, Class of 2012



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Daniel Harris

Assoc Dip App Sc (Textiles & Int Trade) (RMIT) B Comm (Fin) M Fin

Daniel Harris¹⁵ found an interesting way to finance his early tertiary studies, signing up to fashion modelling agencies, eventually leading to working, post-graduation, for top UK-based agency Storm Models.

Soon Daniel was booked for three shows in London fashion week, including a runway for Royal family tailor Geives & Hawkes, and a Saville Row show held in the Winston Churchill War Rooms underneath London alongside some well-known celebrities.

From there, Daniel travelled to Milan and worked for other famous designers and publications including Ermenegildo Zegna. He had a clear goal in mind so was very careful with gym and diet. This training and preparation led to living in Milan and casting in front of Giorgio Armani.

In Abu Dhabi awaiting a flight, Daniel began to contemplate a career-change to banking and finance. So once again, he found an interesting way to finance his further studies, working for a wealth-management firm while studying fulltime.

Daniel now works as a Private Banker for Macquarie Groups, and is planning to further his career in international markets with Macquarie Group.

¹⁵ Citipointe Christian College, Class of 2007



Rebekah Noe

Cert4 Min BHumServ(Counselling) (USQ) MSocWk (UNE)(GU)

During Rebekah's¹⁶ post-school year she heard of a new degree being released at USQ and so transferred to that course.

Rebekah has since had opportunities as foster care support worker, chaplain, family support worker and counsellor, walking alongside people on their journeys of healing, self-care, and belief in themselves.

After marriage and her first child she completed a Masters of Social Work to expand her knowledge and widen employment opportunities and her area of passion.

Rebekah found rural communities provide incredible opportunities and exposure for the development of young professionals. She has worked with families, serving through local activist groups, South Burnett Suicide Prevention Group and South Burnett Sexual Assault Action Group. These promote in the community the importance of self-care, managing mental health, and how to be active bystanders who fight for each other and keep each other safe.

Rebekah currently works as a counsellor in the area of both sexual assault and family relationships, walking beside her clients through their different experiences of trauma. She is humbled by people's vulnerability to share their journeys, fight for their futures and break generational trauma.

¹⁶ Toowoomba Christian College, Class of 2004



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Dr Josh Francis

BAppSc MBBS FRACPP

Dr Josh Francis¹⁷ is Senior Research Fellow at the Menzies School of Health Research and Adjunct Senior Lecturer at James Cook University.

As a staff member of Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin, Josh worked with Timor-Leste's national hospital in Dili during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic to help establish testing procedures. He expressed grave concerns about the damage the virus could do to a population where four out of 10 people live in poverty, "the fear of COVID-19 tearing through the community and wreaking havoc is very real, but the government has responded proactively."

Josh continues to assist Timor-Leste with its COVID-19 testing plan. He leads programs focused on teaching, capacity building, health systems improvement and operational research.

Josh is chief investigator on the Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security funded STRONG TL project, to improve communicable disease surveillance and control, building capacity for antimicrobial resistance surveillance; and rheumatic heart diseases projects which have engaged remote communities in the Northern Territory and Timor-Leste to tackle rheumatic heart disease through active case finding and community awareness initiatives.

His research on tuberculosis, rheumatic heart disease and antimicrobial resistance has significantly impacted policy, guidelines and health system strategy on the national level.

¹⁷ Redlands College, Class of 1999

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Justine Flynn

B Management (HR & Marketing) Deakin

Justine Flynn,¹⁸ while still studying, along with her (now) husband, Daniel and friend Jarryd, founded Thankyou. Thankyou is a social enterprise that designs and creates consumer products for the sole purpose of ending extreme poverty.

Thankyou's mission is to amplify impactful change-makers to better serve people living in extreme poverty by redistributing wealth from consumer spending.

Since founding Thankyou in 2008, Justine has seen it grow from a small start-up become one of Australia's leading mainstream social enterprises.

Thankyou products are now found in thousands of retail stores across Australia and New Zealand. To date, Thankyou has given over \$17 million to its impact partners who are serving the world's poor. Justine is passionate about brand and passionate about people and has had the opportunity to lead both in her roles at Thankyou.

In October 2014, Justine was named a finalist in the Telstra Women's Business Awards in recognition of her efforts in establishing Thankyou Group. In 2015, Thankyou was awarded Employer of the Year at the Food Magazine Awards.

¹⁸ Mackay Christian College, Class of 2005



Dr Joseph Nolan

BBus(Hons1) PhD (GU)

Joseph¹⁹ was inspired to start a Business degree through a teacher helping him develop his interest. When selecting his major, sport management stood out to him. Spending time during his teenage years as a track and field athlete, the combination of sport and business excited him so he chose to double major in this as well as Marketing.

Joseph then undertook a research Honours, little knowing research was something he would become passionate about as a career path. Joseph was awarded a University Medal at the end of his Honours year.

With new-found passion for research, Joseph embarked on a PhD. His thesis focuses on stakeholder relationships in sport, and his goal is to develop an assessment tool sports organisations can use to measure, and subsequently enhance, their relationships with internal stakeholders.

Joseph's research is the first of its kind to examine an array of sport stakeholder relationships from multiple perspectives within the one study, and the Queensland Academy of Sport has been instrumental in helping connect him with sports, conducting his research working with like-minded people who share his passion for sport.

¹⁹ Citipointe Christian College, *Class of 2012*



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Laura Brock

BEd (QUT)

Laura²⁰ is a professional athlete and Olympian, with a playing career spanning 13 years playing both in Australia and abroad.

During those years, Laura has played for Melbourne Victory, Brisbane Roar, Melbourne City, Orlando Pride (USA) and Melbourne Victory. She has participated in three FIFA Women's World Cups, however in 2019 was injured after being selected. Laura has also competed in two Olympic Games.

In 2015, she was nominated for Professional Footballers Australia Women's Footballer of the Year.

Laura is an influential athlete who has represented Australia at the highest level. Her hard work both physically and mentally are an inspiration to young women who hope to pursue a career in sport.

Laura's commitment and determination to achieve sporting excellence have been evident from her schooling days and have served her well in her sporting endeavours.

²⁰ Redlands College, Class of 2007



Dr. Travis Rule

BAppSc(MedSc) MBBS RANSCOG AGES

Dr. Travis Rule²¹ is pursuing a medical career now focusing on women's and reproductive health. Travis has worked at various Queensland health facilities and entered the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 2018.

Through his time working in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, while working clinically, Travis has published various research articles focusing on antenatal care, maternal-fetal medicine and in reproductive health and laparoscopic surgery. He has also contributed to health services in governance, policy development and auditing processes. Travis is undertaking a UNSW Master's in Global Health with an interest in public health and policy domestically and abroad.

Travis has a strong interest in working with often-marginalised groups within the community, and advocacy of such groups. He has studied and worked in rural and indigenous areas including Torres Strait, and has volunteered overseas working with various NGOs in Colombia, Thailand, Solomon Islands, living for a year in Mozambique as a medical officer working in health care and public health.

Travis's role as a senior registrar in obstetrics and gynaecology requires a strong ethos of leadership and teaching. He is currently an associate lecturer with the University of Queensland, providing teaching for UQ medical students and career support through their UQ medical society, He leads education of junior medical officers for his department at his current hospital placement.

²¹ Westside Christian College, Class of 2005



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Jessica Oostenbrock

BPsychSc (GU) GradCertPoliticalAnalysis

Jessica²², currently completing an MBA, is Senior Director, Strategy Branch in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Division, Queensland Health.

Jessica has more than ten years' experience working in the children and family's sector in Queensland including policy, program management, and evaluation.

Jessica leads the Strategy Branch whose remit ensures the delivery of more than \$70 million each year to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to have access to culturally safe and targeted health services eg antenatal care, primary health and chronic disease management.

Jessica leads her team to ensure system oversight to monitor health performance, and is working with the key stakeholders to lead implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equity reform program in Queensland, to will accelerate system wide efforts to Close the Gap and achieve health parity.

Jessica has led codesign of legislative reform substantively changing the legal framework guiding the public health system in Queensland prioritising First Nations health equity.

Jessica acknowledges the positive influence senior schooling had on shaping her values and commitment towards creating a lasting benefit in the community.

²² Parklands Christian College, Class of 2007



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Yunxiang (William) Chang

BCompSc & Comp Math (Distinction, Dean's Honour))

Yunxiang (William) Chang,²³ prior to starting his tertiary studies explored the question,

"which university connected students with employers pro-actively throughout the course, giving them real world application for their studies, and also the highest possibility of landing a rewarding career"?

The answer led William from Brisbane to Waterloo University Ontario Canada. It was Waterloo's unique cooperative program for mathematics students that attracted him most, the first of its type in North America, and true to its promise, William enjoyed several outstanding work placements and experiences.

The first was at world-renowned software company Honeywell, in Atlanta, in a team developing Intrusion Detection Software for vehicles. The multi-million-dollar project seeks to stop hackers from gaining access to on-board systems, and gave William, as a Software Engineer intern, an opportunity to apply much of his study from the previous three years.

His focus on computer science later led to William working with Yahoo as a Software Development Engineer Intern in its Californian headquarters, then with Oracle in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada on an internship, now continuing with Oracle as a Software Developer.

²³ Citipointe Christian College, Class of 2014



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Amarina Smith

BLaws/BIInternationalRel'ns (GU) GradDipLegalPrac

Amarina's²⁴ distinguished tertiary career included an Arrow Energy Scholarship each year of university, and a Global Voices scholarship and research fellowship at ANU representing Australia at the World Trade Organisation's Public Forum in Geneva.

Amarina received a New Colombo Plan Scholarship to Hong Kong University and was nominated a Fellow for that location as the highest achieving scholar, representing Australia as an ambassador of the New Colombo Plan.

Amarina has presented at a student leadership conference on the importance of developing a self-culture of leadership, and at the Australian International Education Conference on the importance of diversity.

Amarina continues to serve as a New Colombo Plan alumna, representative and mentor, and was a panel member discussing DFAT's Indigenous Diplomacy Agenda and promoting the New Colombo Plan.

Amarina worked as a Policy Officer for the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy through university reviewing and adapting Land policies, and later began her current role with the Department of Foreign Affairs and trade, involved in bi-lateral trade division, Vietnam desk and a consular role during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Amarina is a solicitor in the ACT, and has since accepted her first diplomatic posting to the High Commission Fiji.

²⁴ Heights College, Class of 2013



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Rayne Fouche

BArchDes MArch (UQ)

Rayne Fouche²⁵ is an architect married to an architect. On a post-graduation American trip, Rayne and his wife decided to enter a prestigious architecture competition to design resilient housing in a coastal environment.

While travelling in Peru they found they had won the competition, and so began to think further about the design of buildings that can last and weather big natural disasters.

Rayne and his wife on return to Queensland set up their architectural firm on the Gold Coast, somewhere they thought would be a good place to raise a family and establish themselves.

Their work takes them all over Australia, though mainly in NSW and Queensland.

Rayne refers to the importance of having a moral compass. Since working in his profession can command considerable profit, he and his wife always try to put their project first, before considering profit, because they care so much about their projects and the people they are working for.

²⁵ Citipointe Christian College, Class of 2004



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Dr. Kristi Swan

D Medicine and Surgery (MChD) (ANU)

Dr Kristi Swan²⁶ grew up in regional Queensland. She topped her undergraduate course winning a Faculty Medal for Academic Excellence, and a clinical excellence award. Kristi moved to Canberra to work as an Ambulance Paramedic, a career she loved, especially one-on-one patient care and being able to give back to her community. Kristi has a well-demonstrated ability to work in teams in high-stress situations, assuming leadership roles as required.

Kristi studied medicine (at ANU) because she wanted to further develop her healthcare skills and provide high quality continuity of care to the public. She chose to complete her third year of medical school rurally, to gain experience with the challenges facing regional healthcare. Whilst studying, she collaborated with clinicians to review prehospital critical care guidelines, a project resulting in two publications. Her career goals include living and working rurally in the sub-specialties of GP Anaesthetics and GP Emergency Medicine.

Kristi is passionate about healthcare in rural and regional areas. She completed a volunteer rotation as a medical student in an extremely poor rural hospital in India, and plans to volunteer with Mercy Ships (or an equivalent Christian medical mission) after she becomes a Rural Generalist with the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine.

²⁶ Suncoast Christian College, Class of 2010



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Scott Bancroft

Scott²⁷ had a passion for flying since 5 or 6 years old, then during senior school years as part of 215 Squadron Air Force Cadets he fell in love with flying. After Year 12 graduation, he gained his Commercial Pilot Licence and Air Transport Pilot Licence.

Scott soon found himself in Broome flying tourists up the Australian coast to the Kimberley, the northernmost region of Western Australia.

In 2015 he moved to Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory flying passengers between the remote communities and soon became the Senior Base Pilot of Arnhem Land. Of this experience, Scott says, "It is like nothing you can imagine unless you've lived there." Scott also flew locals between all the outer islands in the Torres Strait and Papua New Guinea.

Now based out of Brisbane Scott's short-term career goal is to transition to international long haul, but until then he is enjoying the destinations, the experiences and the responsibility of flying. And the views from above are spectacular! His love of photography is a means he uses to capture the beauty below.

²⁷ Citipointe Christian College, Class of 2012



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Kathleen O'Hagan

B Fine Arts (Griffith)

Kathleen O'Hagan,²⁸ in her first undergraduate year, was awarded the Billie Hall Bursary for Outstanding Achievement in Fine Art at the Queensland College of Art, for a student with the highest grade-point-average. Other successes include a Mosman Youth Award (2017) and a Ken Done award (2018), with several others along the way.

Her works have been exhibited at Mosman Art Gallery in NSW, the National Trust S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, Future Visions Award, USQ Artworx, Toowoomba, Ipswich Art Gallery and the Gallery of Modern Art at South Bank, Brisbane.

Kathleen held her first solo exhibition, "Joyful Creation" at her former school, where she had previously won a student acquisition prize.

She was illustrator for a picture book, *Colourful Memories*, published by Wombat Books. She was one of the team designing and painting the murals at Eat Street, North Shore, Brisbane, and an assistant for Saudi Arabian artist Saffaa at Fish Lane Brisbane.

²⁸ Northside Christian College, Class of 2016



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Liam Wilson

B Business (Massey University) Dip of Financial Planning
Advanced Dip FP,

Liam Wilson,²⁹ after completing his studies, has established a financial planning and accounting business that has flourished in the regional city of Toowoomba.

Liam is now heavily engaged in civic activities which are making a positive impact in the city. He focuses on developing leaders in both his business and the community at large, all the while walking a journey of faith as a family member fights a serious illness.

Liam hosts networking events, offering free advice to those in need, and has a large influence both within his industry and the local community.

²⁹ Highlands Christian College, Class of 2005



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Chloe Maguire

BCommunication&Arts (PR/IR)(UQ)

Chloe Maguire,³⁰ while completing her Bachelor of Communications and Arts, majoring in International Relations, Public Relations and French, in her third year completed a semester exchange at Institut d'Etudes politiques de Paris where she studied a variety of political science and French courses.

In Chloe's final year of university she completed an internship at Network Ten, and at the United Nations Association of Australia.

Just before graduating, Chloe applied for an internship at Bango Media realising the need to gain some practical experience in Public Relations (PR), the area she enjoyed most at university. Chloe is now the PR Director for this company, living and working in Sydney.

Chloe speaks passionately about her career "where no two days are the same". She has toured with Jamie Oliver, managing his publicity in Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth, helped launch RunWest, the largest inaugural fun run in Western Sydney which saw over 10,000 people participate, launched first Maroon Festival in Queensland, which saw the Queensland Maroons team cruising down the Brisbane River before meeting fans at South Bank, filming with Sunrise and the Today Show, organising live weather crosses, photo shoots with the Courier Mail and The Daily Telegraph.

³⁰ Citipointe Christian College, Class of 2009



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Adam Schoenmaker

B Business (QUT) M Divinity (BST)

Adam Schoenmaker³¹ was a Senior Accountant with KPMG prior to a major career change, becoming Lead Pastor at Bray Park Community Church.

About this change, Adam says "number crunching and neatly categorising assets and liabilities is second nature to an accountant. But in the world of pastoral ministry, things get a little messy where there are very few things that are clear and neat, and often there is no simple or quick solution".

Previously employed as a chaplain by his former school, Adam now sits as a Director on the school's Board, where he continues to impact future students. One of the things he loves about working with young adults is the questions they ask.

"They, like most people, want to know that the Christian worldview is not just existentially satisfying, but intellectually rigorous as well. In other words, they not only want to know how to walk with Jesus, but also to consider if the foundation of their faith is solid ground on which to rely".

Adam's full-time ministry impacts his local community, with a world-wide effect through missions.

³¹Genesis Christian College, Class of 2004



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Eve West

BSc (UQ) M Physiotherapy MD

As a doctor in NSW, Eve³² completed research in Indigenous public health/epidemiology with the aim to help regional and rural communities across Australia.

Growing up near the beach, Eve's time was shared between surf lifesaving, study and piano. Eve dreamed of being a doctor. Then in 2013 during a patrol of Stradbroke Island, she was involved in a 1 rescue and resuscitation. Awarded a National Bravery Award for her efforts (central to the National Surf Life Saving Campaign 2017) this became significant in reaffirming Eve's dream of becoming an emergency doctor.

While prompted to pursue medicine, Eve also helps support rural and regional medicine.

³² Redlands College, *Class of 2012*



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Kurt Payne

B Disability Studies and Development Ed (Flinders)

Kurt Payne³³ has in mind as a career objective, *THE IN CROWD*, a non-profit collective, providing support, education and services to people living with disabilities, mental illness and homelessness, enabling them to be integrated and independent in their communities.

"This means supporting individuals to find and develop skills with the ability to be mirrored in communities, finding a daily purpose to maximise individual development in all areas of life. It also means supporting families living alongside individuals with disabilities, mental illness impacted by homelessness, providing them with services to support them and their families, building rapport with the community toward breaking down stigmas and barriers in society", Kurt says.

Kurt has volunteered with The Compass Institute, as a trainer working with adults with physical and intellectual disabilities in developing social skills, physical coordination, fine motor skills, to find their purpose and become a contributing member of their community.

Volunteering with Lifestream Australia similarly involved working with adults with physical, cognitive and intellectual disabilities, providing support. Kurt is focused on social and physical environments to enhance and maintain morale and positive mental health.

³³ Nambour Christian College, Class of 2014



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Heidi Walkden

B Biomedical Science (Hons1) (QUT)

Heidi Walkden³⁴ has won multiple prizes for her medical presentations, including the Three Minute Thesis™ international competition. In recognition of her achievements Heidi was invited by colleagues to present her research at the Max Planck Research Unit for Molecular Neurogenetics in Frankfurt, Germany, the International Student Research Forum, Odense, Denmark and the Australasian Neuroscience Society Conference, Adelaide.

Heidi participated in the 'Catch A Rising Star' initiative, where her team travelled to Bundaberg for National Science Week 2017. She designed and organised several hands-on experiments for students from Years 3-12, liaising with multiple schools and community organisations to coordinate events. This initiative inspired many children to consider pursuing STEM careers. Heidi then talked about this experience on ABC Radio Brisbane.

Her dedication is shown by extensive experience with community engagement, multiple fundraising events including raising money for the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation. Her media advocacy experience included several radio and TV interviews, and blogs with Queensland Science and Griffith University. Videos featuring Heidi and her research have been watched more than 50k times.

Heidi manages social media accounts for 'That's RAD! Science' (an initiative encouraging children into science, technology, engineering and medical careers with books authored by women scientists) and the 'Spinal Injury Project' team of researchers and clinicians working towards a therapy for paralysis.

³⁴ Westside Christian College, Class of 2011



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Mitchell Mahaffey

Cert 3Min Cert4Bus Cert4OutdoorEd BMin(Malyon)

Mitchell Mahaffey³⁵ began his vocational studies at school, furthering his VET qualifications post-school. During secondary school Mitchell had participated in mission trips with Teen Missions to India, Egypt and Vanuatu.

While working on Norfolk Island, Mitch began studying for his Ministry degree through Malyon Bible College. He went on to study at Capernwray Bible College in 2017 in the Lakes District in England and was asked to stay on afterwards to write content for summer ministry programs.

Mitch was called as Minister to Children and Youth for Norfolk Island on behalf of five churches and the Ministers Fraternal where he served for two years, founding a youth group and community-based ministry. Two years later he was called as an Associate Pastor in Gympie where he also felt the need to expand his honey-bee business. This is a social enterprise, contributing significant funds to ending sex-slavery, by partnering with Destiny Rescue.

After returning from the UK, and until present day, Mitch has continued to expand his honey company, Goomboorian Gold Honey Co, which now has 1000 honey hives, run for honey and pollination in order to send profits to support Destiny Rescue to support their work around the world.

³⁵ Cooloola Christian College, Class of 2012



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Dr. Mikaela Bazley

PhD BSc (Chemistry Hons) (UQ)

Dr Mikaela Bazley³⁶ studied dual majors in her undergraduate degree in materials and nanotechnology. She completed her PhD with the help of a Scholarship (Project-Based) Funding Agreement under the Defence Science Partnering Deed.

Mikaela's current research aims to provide a set of recommendations to fire and emergency services, law enforcement, and associated public health units for the safe and effective chemical neutralization of fentanyl in both field and laboratory settings (Queensland Fire and Emergency Administrative Officer Research and Scientific branch).

Together with professional colleagues she has had a journal article published on nanotechnology.

Mikaela has also undertaken volunteer work with Hope Within Reach, working for homeless support charity events across Brisbane, Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast.

³⁶ Nambour Christian College, Class of 2011

