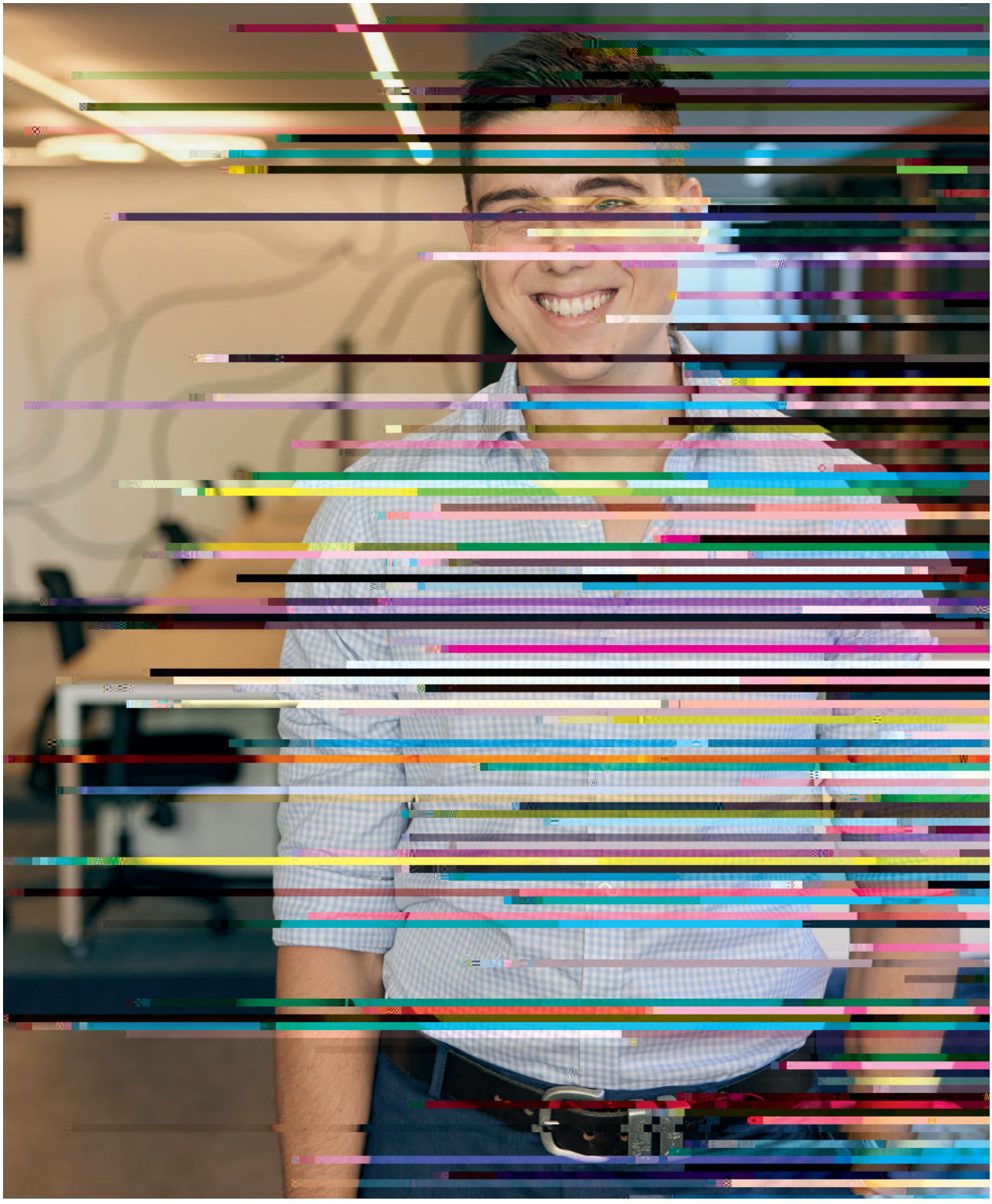

04 Johann Oberholzer Class of 2012
06 Kyla Alexander Class of 1990
09 Ashley Beecham Class of 2005
12 Jeff and Debbie Winnington Class of 1992
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From the Acting Principal

A caring environment, lively College spirit and uncompromisingly Christian values have defined our community for over forty years, drawing alumni back to school as parents seeking a Christian, values-based education for their children.

For these alumni, this is where their journey began… where they explored their interests, found their giftings, grew in their relationship with Christ, developed their skills and flourished.

In this edition of *Review Magazine*, we share stories of alumni who are excelling in their field, caring for the vulnerable at home and abroad, and creating opportunities for others to flourish while achieving in their own business.

We learn how a Citipointe education has prepared them for a significant purpose, and how the Christian values they learned while at school have shaped their success in life, love, faith and career.

With the Class of 2021, we celebrate their accomplishments at school and watch, with joyful expectation, as take their first steps as Citipointe alumni. We anticipate many more, wonderful stories to follow.

Mrs Ruth Gravestein
Acting Principal

Johann Oberholzer

Class of 2012
App creator, chartered accountant

Motivated by a desire to share his accounting expertise, and make a di□erence in the lives

Kyla Alexander

K

Through the organisation, Kyla and her team partner with loving and motivated locals to create systems that allow children with disability and their families to thrive.

“Seeing young (and not so young) Chinese people stepping into their call and serving others through our partnership with them, gives me so much satisfaction and drives passion in me.”

It is the love, care and opportunities for meaningful relationships with others which so enriches the lives of the children. The transformation of children, as they go fromren.0W6esesioneed,ocals t

A lot of people interested in this pathway plan to go into the field for a year or two, but Kyla challenges people to think about a long-term commitment overseas.

"It takes a very long time to develop the cross-cultural skills. You need time to develop these skills for success. You also need time to develop relationships overseas where you can support the development of communities sensitively and appropriately."

Her heart for the cause

Kyla reflects on the amazing transformation in the wellbeing and opportunities for children with disability living in China.

Here she reflects on the organisation's impact and how hope has been awakened.

When I think of the hope brought through ICC, I reflect first on the hopelessness we initially encountered in the children we met and worked with. We all remember the darkened flat expressions, the lack of eye contact, and children who grabbed desperately at food or just refused to eat at all. In these children were the signs of hopelessness, children who barely held onto life and had ceased to know joy.

Though … years have passed, and much has improved in China's social welfare system, each year we still receive children into our care, some of whom arrive with a sense of hopelessness in their eyes. But as we surround them with family love and attention, we see them slowly awaken to hope and begin to live again, with joy. Such transformation has shown us the resilience of the human spirit.

I will never forget a child we cared for in 2011 and 2012 that transformed my faith in God to restore lives and bring hope. She came to us broken and malnourished, barely clinging to life. I confess to thinking she would not live, but we all took on the task of supporting the caregivers of this fragile little girl. Several months later, this tiny girl had started to come to life, and live with passion and quite a bit of spunk.

Seeing Pearl's transformation at that time, and learning the power of God's love and hope, the verse that God revealed to me was from Ephesians 3:20:

> *Never doubt God's mighty power to work in you and accomplish all this. He will achieve infinitely more than your greatest request, your most unbelievable dream, and exceed your wildest imagination! He will outdo them all, for his miraculous power constantly energises you.*
> (The Passion Translation)

God's love and hope is demonstrated in ICC through the transformation and healing of children, energising them through his spirit, and bringing them to life. And in doing this work He shows us His love, His goodness and His faithfulness, and transforms us as well. To Him be the Glory!

Learn more about International China Concern and how to help by visiting: **https://chinaconcern.org**

“Some people train their whole lives and they never get to go to one Olympic Games. So, to be selected, you're one of the best in the world. It’s hugely significant, also a little bit unexpected. You always have goals, but you never know what's going to be [o□ered to you].”

Unfortunately, a grade three quad tear, sustained during one of the final training sessions leading up to the Olympics, prevented Ashley from attending.

“I've never had an injury that significant in my life. Really unfortunate, by far the biggest setback or challenge I've ever had. Physically, you can be fixed. The brain, that's a very di□erent kettle of fish.”

Tapping into resources within the FIFA network, Ashley picked up the phone to the FIFA sports psychologist, who works with match o□cials to promote optimum wellbeing.

“We spend a lot of time talking about mental health, dealing with pressure and anxiety, and a lot on cognition and mental skills, and understanding how the brain works.

“[I learned] it's okay to feel upset or frustrated when an opportunity is taken away. But if it's persistent anger, persistent sadness, that’s a problem. You've got to have that ability to reframe and then move forward.”

Ashley says quality performance over a long period of time, attracts the attention of selectors and ultimately leads to the opportunity to referee at an elite level.

Pathway to elite sport

Ashley's competency and performance as a referee was noticed by Football Australia, along with his good character.

This allowed him to progress through four levels of refereeing from junior and youth matches to top-level state or national matches.

“At that age, especially when you're young, it's really good for skills, like leadership skills [and] communication skills,” says Ashley. “The bonus is you get paid quite well. You're out in the sun; you get to do something in sport.”

Refereeing has opened a world of opportunities for Ashley. He has been involved in elite sport around the globe, refereeing at the U17 FIFA World Cup in Brasil, Asian Champions League Semi-Final in Japan and professional league in Saudi Arabia. .

Ashley says highlights include refereeing in stadiums full of 80,000 football fans and the cultural experiences gained while travelling.

He says the challenge in refereeing at an elite level is keeping up with the speed of the game – physically and mentally. He says you must be fit and be able to make a good decision. Another challenge is balancing sport with his other commitments.

Fundamental to Ashley’s success in football, business and life have been the values of care, learning, passion and dedication that he experienced while at Citipointe.

He remembers the pursuit of the goal, and a focus on addressing performance standards. Being in class on time, being at training on time, performing well in the game are habits which he learned and has applied to his life.

Ashley says his education at Citipointe gave him a strong base, and he believes that if you build on that base, you can do almost anything.

He says attitude is also important. The way you turn up to work after a grueling training session or the way you step out of the car to be a husband and dad, this attitude is key to successful work and family relationships. Ashley is married to Mischa and they have two daughters, Oriana (aged 3) and Eloise (aged 1).

Inspiring leadership

When not on the field, Ashley

Ashley as assistant referee for the 2021 FIFA Club World Cup Final

“You've got to earn that trust and be able to deliver the result. There are so many transferable skills from sport that I bring back to the workplace, whether it's to do with leadership, communication, how we engage, how we set vision and direction, how we think.”

Advice for aspiring students

When it comes to being involved in elite sport, Ashley is keen to emphasise that this world is not just for the athletically gifted.

“Normal people can get in. You don't have to be born into it.”

Ashley says that with just a little motivation, and small changes, aspiring sportspeople can improve their performance to achieve great results.

“I always talked a lot around the one percentage [when speaking to young athletes]. If you're changing one per cent of a four second sprint, that's a huge amount.

“[For students, it could be] doing an extra five minutes at the end of the session or spending an extra five minutes on homework.”

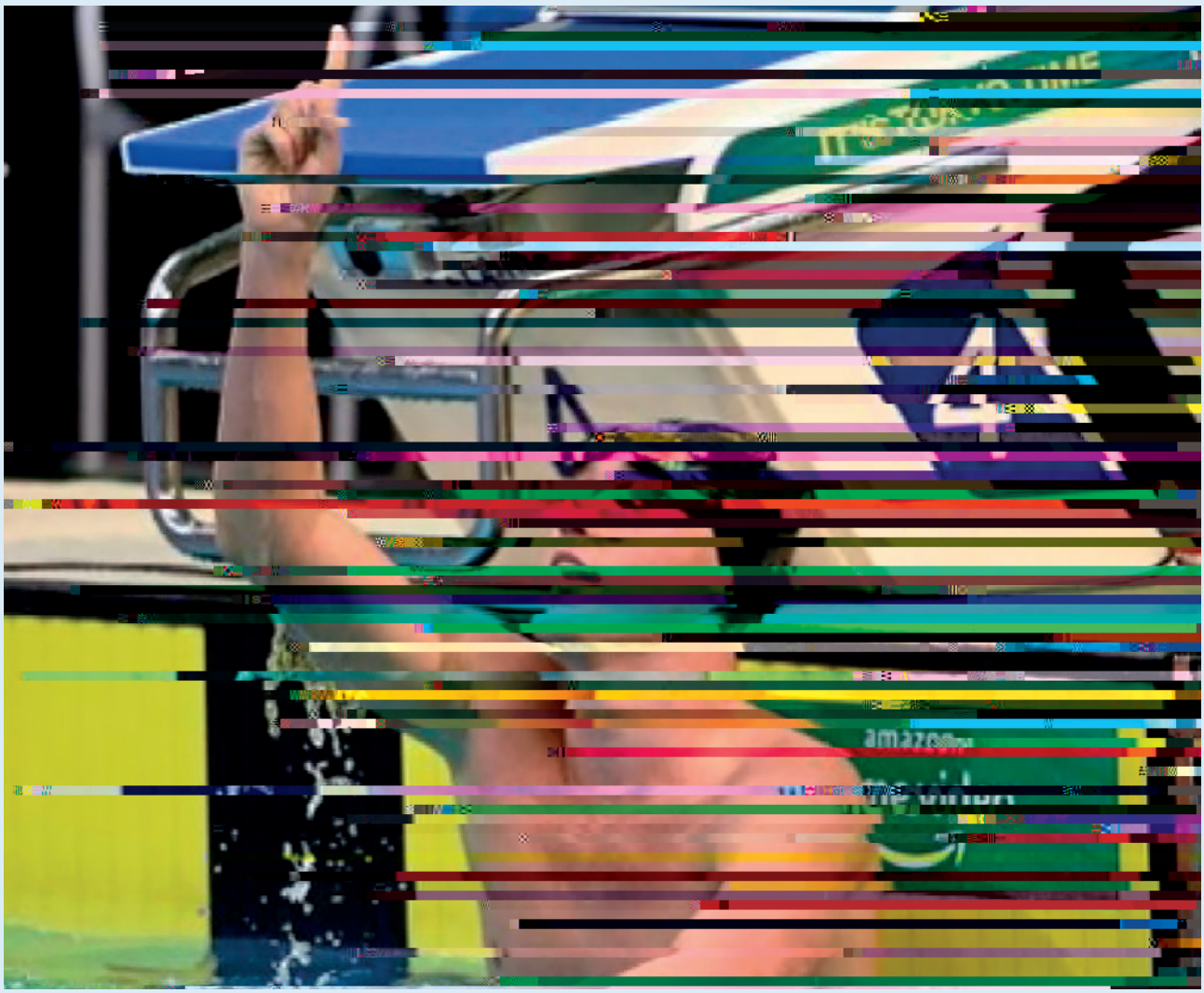
Ashley cautions that applying the one percent strategy to every aspect of life can be fatiguing, Instead, he suggests focusing on one area at a time.

“Sometimes I'll walk into the gym, and I'll go, *Right, the one percent today is going to be technique on the bench press* or really being mindful of the engagement, and that might be okay. Or for this month, I'm going to do a bit of extra trigger ball every night, and make sure I'm flexible. Or I'm going to swap fizzy drinks at lunch for water or something. There's so many ways you can apply it.”

As an elite assistant referee, Ashley’s training schedule involves two cardiac training sessions per week, focusing on speed, agility, and endurance. This is combined with a weekly gym session focusing on strength and injury prevention. Throughout the week, Ashley works on mobility, using a trigger ball and roller, as the number one thing to help with injury prevention.

Ashley is now preparing for the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Match o□cials will be announced in June, ahead of the competition in November.

Jeff and Debbie Winnington



Je and Debbie's son Elijah gives thanks after qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics

Here Je□ and Debbie share how they raised their sons to excel and honour God, while thriving as a couple in faith, marriage and career.

Journey after graduation

After school, Je□ went to Citipointe Ministry College to pursue a future in school chaplaincy.

Debbie was also on campus after school, working at Citipointe Church, first as associate to the Youth pastor, then assistant to the senior pastor, and later with Drug ARM.

Je□ and Debbie both worked in Youth ministry and it was then that their relationship began and flourished.

When an opportunity arose for Je□ to be part of the company owned by Debbie's parents, Pro-Ma Systems Australia, which manufactures and sells cosmetics as well as selling nutritional supplements and products for the home and the car, they moved to the Gold Coast where the business is based.

Je□ began working in the storeroom and progressed through the company, taking on a range of roles including copywriting, and is now the Director of Global Operations. Today Debbie focuses on marketing in the company as the Director of Global Sales and Marketing, responsible for marketing Grace Cosmetics natural skincare, leadership development and brand strategy.

Raising sons to glorify God

Je□ says the most rewarding aspect of family life has been watching their sons grow as people of good character who have a positive impact on their community, and knowing that, as parents, they have influenced their development.

Debbie agrees, "Raising those boys has been our absolute greatest joy which is why we've always stayed close as a family."

They say that watching their sons keep God at the centre of their choices as adults is the most rewarding aspect of parenting. Seeing their sons achieve success in their respective fields is tremendous, but nothing compares to watching them serve and love Jesus.

every day was a privilege, and I don't say that lightly because it truly was.

"I believe that a lot of the choices our boys make today are from the conditioning when they were little. I think we have to be mindful about how we want the end picture to look while we're on the parenting journey."

This included being involved in the school community through volunteering and helping in the classroom so they could get to know their sons' friends and, in turn, their families. This allowed them to develop friendships with families who shared their faith and family values.

Debbie was very involved in the school community, and Je in the boys' extra-curricular activities, volunteering as the president of the swimming clubs so he could be there, set an example and share his faith.

It was here that Je modelled staying true to his principles and faith no matter what people around him said or did. This gave his sons the confidence to make public statements about their faith as they followed his confident example, holding true to their values. Today Elijah uses his public platform as an elite athlete to glorify God for his gift.

As parents, Je and Debbie believe in not sweating the small stu and getting through life's challenges as a family. They made the decision to be present with their children which meant making the time to attend their schooling and sporting commitments.

This involved plenty of sacrifices, including getting both boys to the pool at 5:00 am. Je would dress in his suit ready for work, take the boys to the pool, and Debbie, also dressed for work, would pick them up with breakfast and school uniforms and do the school run.

"Some might say it is sacrifice," says Je. "We actually saw it as an investment. We were never giving up anything. We are always pouring into something and someone, and that just happened to be our boys and our family."

Grateful, intentional parenting

The boys thrived while following a full, busy schedule which the family balanced with wholesome habits – early bedtimes, healthy diets and time for God – built into their lives.

"We decided when Josh was first put in our arms, we wanted to make a di erence to his world, and so right then and there, we came to be the leading example just as Jesus was to us," says Debbie. "So,

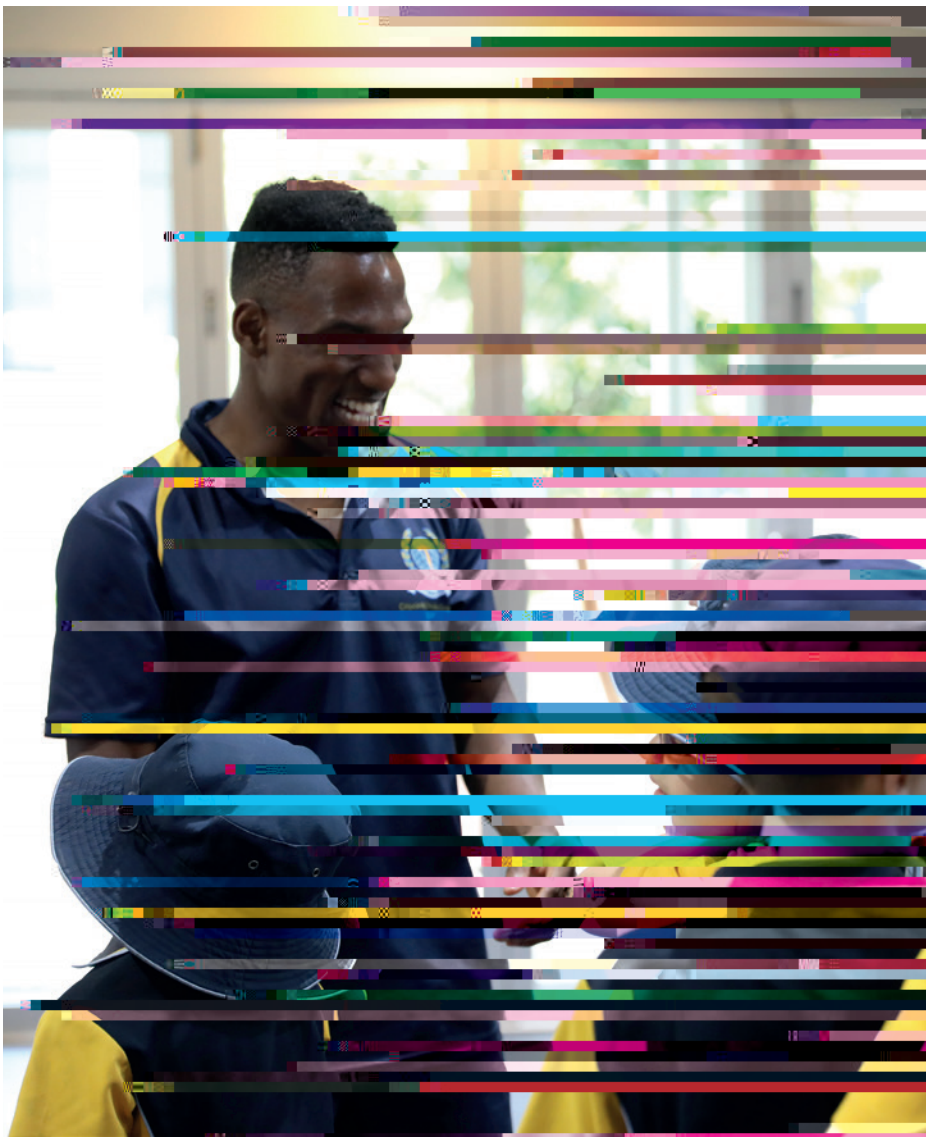
Consistency and commitment

Their eldest son, Josh, reaped the benefits of consistent parenting when he received a scholarship to Bond University.

Josh excelled at school and had dreams of pursuing law, but his commitment to swimming waivered during high school and he wanted to give it up.

That's when his parents stepped in, saying that he should honour his commitment to swimming, since it wasn't impacting his academic performance. This produced tension in their family life but Je and Debbie stayed firm on their decision. They believed that they were exercising wisdom, and their 16-year-old son's desire to quit would pass.

Today, Je, Debbie and Josh are grateful for this determination as it enabled Josh to receive his scholarship which required achieving academic results in the top five percent of the country and performing at a national level in sport. If Josh hadn't continued with swimming, he would not have maintained his national level ranking, essential for



Alberto Campbell

Class of 2012
Paralympian, spokesperson, teacher aide

When Alberto Campbell (Class of 2012) took his mark in the T20 men's 400m heat at the Tokyo Paralympics this year, he was not alone.

A contingent of Citipointe supporters were watching from their living rooms, praying and cheering on "the running man".

Our community was excitedly praying and hoping for a wonderful outcome for our much-loved Primary Teacher Aide. The competition was steep. To earn a place in the final, Alberto would need to run a personal best time.

Like some of the competitors in his heat, Alberto's preparation for the games was not ideal. Due the pandemic, he had not been able to attend major running events around the world, key for optimal performance.

Awed by the opportunity to race against the fastest men in his category

Alberto at the 2020 Paralympic Games, after placing seventh in the T20 mens 400m heat

rapport with people, Alberto was selected as the Australian team captain for the 2017 Athletic World Championships organised by the International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability (INAS). He appeared in the promotional images for the INAS Global Games 2019 in Brisbane, where he represented Australia and placed fourth in the 400m.

> **“Every race that I do, it's actually not my race, it's God’s race, because He's the One that gave me this talent.”**

He was also selected to represent Australia in the 2016 Paralympics in Rio but was disappointed when the opportunity did not eventuate. “I thought my dream had come true with my first Paralympics in 2016 in Rio. But Australia had to cut half of the team. I was one of those people who missed out. I was very, very devastated, very sad. Literally I felt like giving up."

Alberto has used this experience to motivate young people as a spokesperson at schools and churches. Reflecting on the advice he gives students, he says, “Runners at that level, well, we can have our moments, or we cannot have our moments. No matter what happens in life, just keep going. Just remember if you don't achieve it that day, you’ve got the rest of your life to achieve it.”

Seeking an opportunity to compete at the 2020 Paralympics, Alberto approached the Jamaican team, expressing his desire to run for his country of birth. Then the games were postponed due to the pandemic.

“Honestly, I was so disappointed because I didn't know if I was going to go or not. Then God blessed me by giving me another chance in a way that I wasn't expecting. The Jamaican team manager emailed me back earlier this year, saying, *We would love to have you run for us at the Paralympics.* I was like, Thank you, Lord, my dream is going to come true."

Giving God the glory

When Alberto talks about running, God is always part of the conversation.

“Every race that I do, it's actually not my race, it's God’s race, because He's the one that gave me this talent. So it's His race and no matter what happens in the race, I still give Him the glory. It's great sharing stories about God with people who aren't believers and it's just amazing how much God has done for me and my parents and all my supporters as well.”

To inspire students and encourage Alberto, Citipointe Primary invited students to write letters to Alberto while he was at the Paralympics.

Students shared their pride in Mr Campbell and said they were inspired to do things they never thought they would be able to do.

“It's just been amazing reading those letters and seeing pictures of the track and I'm really touched. I will treasure those letters from all those kids for the rest of my life.”

Inspiring children who have a disability is important to Alberto, but he is pleased to learn that his story can inspire everyone.

In his role as a teacher aide, Alberto assists HPE teachers during classes. He works mostly with students in Prep to Year 2, explaining exercises and helping them to develop their skills. Students love to engage with Alberto, drawn to his fun-loving nature and encouragement.

Training for the next Paralympics

When not working at Citipointe, Alberto trains four days a week at the Queensland Academy of Sport, preparing for the 2022 World Para Athletic Championships in Japan.

“So, it's been an amazing journey and I know there's more to come. I know God has got so much more up ahead in my future with running and I'm looking forward to it.”

Fiona Moore (Class of 2005) shares how faith in God brings confidence to step outside her comfort

expenses, providing counselling and social work support, and in some cases, helping their families with a small business, which enables the family to escape poverty.

“Poverty is what is preyed upon. So, if you can break the poverty cycle, you can help protect girls, their siblings, their family members, their community from the cycle … from being exploited.”

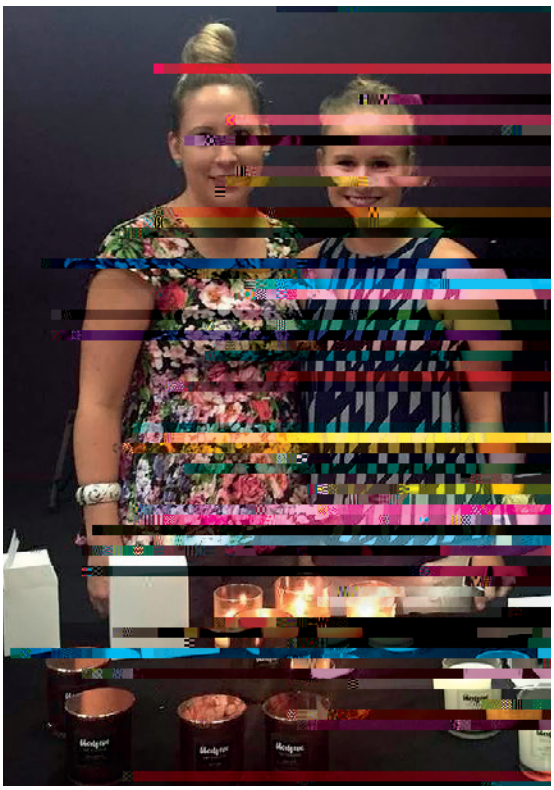
The charity saw an opportunity to employ the

Meet the makers:
Alumni who began with a passion for their craft, turned a hobby into a business, and are now helping others prosper.

Hannah Varani (née Wolfk)

Class of 2002
Business: Liberty Eve, Established: 2013

Heart for others: Hosting shopping nights for small businesses (often mums with young families) to sell their handmade products.



What inspired you to host handmade shopping nights?

I am passionate about handmade and love to support other small businesses. There are a lot of handmade stores popping up, but I love having a group of makers that are local, and most of them come along every year. It's an event that we have built and now we have wonderful customers that come along in November every year, just in time for Christmas.

How do you use the markets to help others?

The markets give small businesses a chance to sell products in the local community. We encourage handmade and, while the ma began with asel 57 (he mark25 inets. ia)30d(e small businesses) 10(seuye small 25t,S)/MCID 1646

How does God feature in your life today?

God is everything to me. When I was younger, I had a faith in God but didn't rely on Him as most important in my life and the one I should be modelling my life and behaviours on. I have learnt over the years that this is the most important thing.

How do you serve in your church?

My husband Josefa and I are the worship directors at our church, Westgate Church INC. We love worship and music and have the best time leading worship together. We also get involved in other departments as well as getting to speak and preach

Is there anything you learned at Citipointe which helps you in life today?

I so enjoyed my time at Citipointe and have grown so much since then. However, the foundations of my faith certainly came from my growing up years and school and high school. I learnt that God was the centre and that everything stems from that. Citipointe had a wonderful environment of joy and was Christ-centred in all aspects of study and other activities.

For more information, find liberty eve on Facebook or Instagram: **@libertyevesoycandles**

Jana Gillam
(née Ferero)

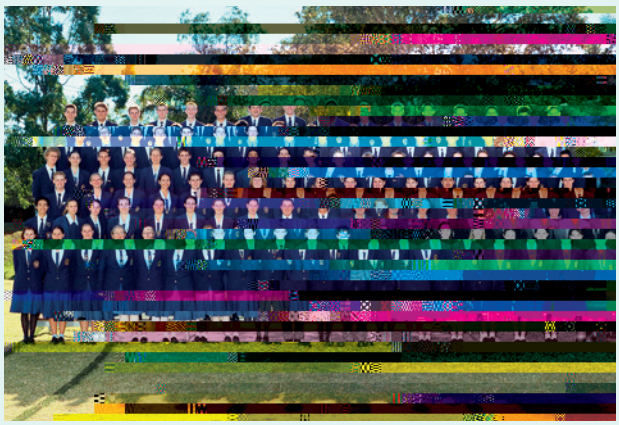
2021 Reunions

Class of 2011 reunion

“Our Class of 2011 reunion on Saturday 6 November was a success!” says reunion committee member Dr Katelyn Melvin, “We had 70 people able BT/T14 “We had 70 pe

Save the date: Class of 2012

Planning is underway for the Class of 2012’s 10 Year Reunion with a save-the-date for Saturday 8 October.

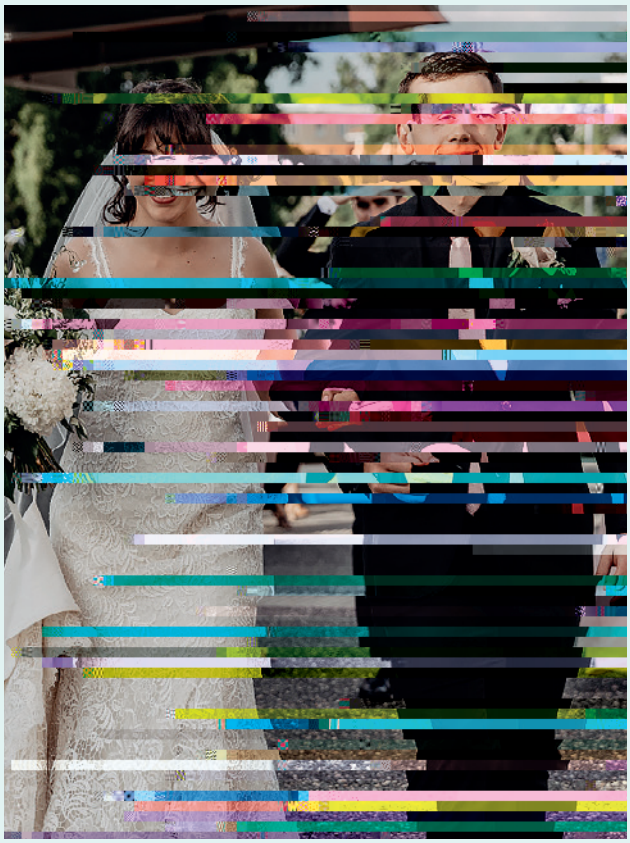


Register your interest: Class of 2001

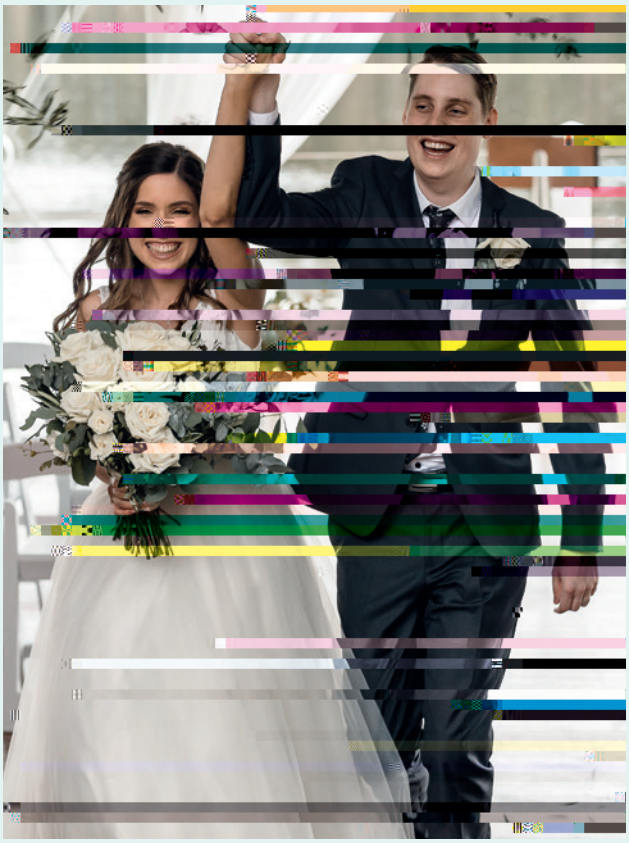
The 20 Year Reunion for the Class of 2001, has been postponed to 2022. Don't miss it! For more information, email devo□ce@citipointe.qld.edu.au.

Gather your tribe and reconnect with classmates at the following 2022 reunions:berch rFEMC h0ang eo ETE eCID 1

Celebrations



Congratulations to Hannah (née Monteiro-Haig) and James Mitchell (both Class of 2016) who celebrated their marriage at Mary Mae's Bar & Kitchen in January



Congratulations to Imke Oberholzer and William Devine (both Class of 2014) who celebrated their at marriage at Sirromet Wines in February

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recep t onists.

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