

Meet me at the Gym



Celebrating the
new Erskine Stuart
Gymnasium



Alumnae sports
stars to watch



Parent-powered
volunteers

Baradene

HEART



BARADENE HEART is published twice yearly.
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Above: Principal Sandy Pasley bids a fond farewell to the Baradene College community at the end of this year. She is pictured with Sister Elizabeth Snedden RSCJ at the Alumnae Meritae Award High Tea in 2018, where Sister Elizabeth was the Meritae Award recipient.

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BARADENE HEART

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A WORD FROM THE BOARD



Liz O'Neil, Parent Representative on the School Board, has two daughters who currently attend Baradene. Here she reflects on the positive impact physical activity and sport can have on our students' lives.

In an Olympics and Paralympics year like this one, an extensive array of sports are on the world stage, showcasing the physical prowess, grit, and determination of athletes from across the globe. These events are high in drama, excitement, national pride and, at times, disappointment when plans don't come to fruition for athletes. But sport is not only about competition on the world stage – our courts, fields, pools, lakes, and roads around New Zealand are platforms for competitive and recreational engagement in sport on a daily basis. The benefits extend well beyond the physical, as Australian racewalker and 2024 Olympic Bronze medallist Jemima Montag enthuses:

“Sport is about community, a sense of belonging, making friends, looking after your physical and mental health, learning amazing life skills like dedication and leadership, which are all such great things for the next generation of women and girls.”

Embedded within Baradene's Strategic Plan is the desire to empower lifelong learners through the encouragement to participate in and pursue excellence in sport, and thanks to immense contributions from the wider Baradene community – students, parents and caregivers, staff, alumnae, and our Boards – we celebrated the opening of the Erskine Stuart Gymnasium in July. This high-quality sport and teaching complex helps facilitate 30 sports, creating opportunities for Baradene students to get involved and challenge themselves.

Beyond the sportsmanship on display during the Games, there were also many demonstrations of our Focus Goal for 2024: “The Building of Community as a Christian Value”. Connection between the athletes, officials, volunteers, and fans transcended nationality and showed, no matter the outcome, inclusion and mutual respect for one another as humans. These values are consistent with the teachings of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ, and all students at Baradene are encouraged to live their lives in this manner.

To learn more about Liz and the other members of our School Board, scan the QR code.





“I will always remember my time at Baradene fondly, and I count myself fortunate to have shared such a rewarding chapter in my career with so many wonderful people.”

In her final message for Baradene Heart, outgoing Principal Sandy Pasley shares news highlights from the year, and reflects on her tenure as Baradene’s school leader and champion of the Sacred Heart educational tradition.

The highlight of our year has been the opening of the new Erskine Stuart Gymnasium, which took place at the end of Term 2. The event was a special one for the school, with performances by our Kapa Haka group, Concert Band, Karakia by Kaumatua Manuel Beazley, Blessing by Monsignor Bernard Kiely, the attendance of the Honourables Erica Stanford and David Seymour, and special guests. The event was also live-streamed to our parent community so all could enjoy the occasion. The gymnasium complex was delivered on time and on budget by our proprietors Baradene College Limited. We are immensely grateful to BCL and all those who worked so hard to bring this project to fruition. We are also thankful to our community of parents, caregivers, friends, and alumnae who supported Giving Week in June. Together with funds provided by the School Board, the PTA, and community grants, we were able to open a fully equipped gymnasium to students at the start of Term 3.



The gymnasium complex will provide an invaluable resource in the coming years, not only by supporting the health and wellbeing of students, but in providing a hub for social interaction. Read more about the gym opening on page 6.

Also in Term 2, we were honoured to host the annual Sacred Heart Schools Conference. We welcomed students and staff from ANZNet Sacred Heart schools Stuartholme School in Brisbane, Kincoppal-Rose Bay School in Sydney, and Sacré Coeur Glen Iris in Melbourne, as well as guests from Sophia Education Ministries Australia. We also welcomed representatives from our Sacred Heart schools in Asia, Sacred Heart Girls’ High School in Korea, and International School of the Sacred Heart in Japan as we prepare to become a new Province together with these countries. We are fortunate to be part of a worldwide network of Sacred Heart Schools sharing the same goals, and this event provided the opportunity to discuss and explore this year’s goal of “Building Community as a Christian Value”, with a particular focus on social media.



It provided a space to share ideas and learn professionally about how we as Sacred Heart schools continue to build community using technology in a positive way. During Term 3, I embarked on a Ministry of Education sabbatical, which was an opportunity to further build Baradene’s connections with other Sacred Heart schools overseas.

In Term 4, another successful school year will draw to a close with prizegivings, the Thanksgiving Mass, leavers’ events, and our senior students sitting external exams. These events will be especially poignant for me as it will be the last time I take part in them as Principal.

It has been an honour and privilege to serve as Principal of Baradene for the last 13 years. When I was appointed Principal in 2011, Baradene was a little different from how it is today. In that time the roll has grown significantly, and the campus has undergone something of a transformation, with the addition of the new Conservatoire de Musique, hockey turf, and car park, and now the Erskine Stuart Gymnasium. However, the heart of the school has remained constant, with the Sacred Heart charism and Cor Unum values that guide and bind us remaining unchanged over the past 115 years.

It has been such a special community to be part of, and I feel truly blessed to have shared this journey with so many others.

RSCJ Sisters

The support provided by the RSCJ sisters has been invaluable. The RSCJ are the heart of our school; living on site, they are a tangible link to all RSCJ who have gone before them and their steadfast commitment to providing an education in the tradition of the Society of the Sacred Heart. I have been so grateful for their constant guidance and for the love, care, and friendship they have bestowed on me. Sister Elizabeth Snedden RSCJ has been at the forefront of this relationship and, as a fellow educator, her wisdom and compassionate nature have been hugely helpful and much valued. I also thank our Provincial Lynette Toohey RSCJ and the Australia New Zealand Province Leadership Team who have worked closely with Baradene, strengthening our bond with Sacred Heart schools in Australia and around the globe.

Boards

Over the years, the Board of Trustees has evolved through the intake of new members, and I have been fortunate to work alongside so many dedicated and talented people who have willingly given of their time and skill to ensure Baradene is well governed and meets the challenges of educating in the 21st century. Our many achievements as a school community are testament to these hardworking volunteers. I thank them all for their contribution, in particular our past Chair Edmund Lawler and current Chair Gill Chappell for their wonderful guidance.

Baradene College Limited

The Board of our proprietors, Baradene College Limited (BCL), has worked tirelessly to ensure the Catholic Character of Baradene is preserved, and to develop and improve the campus to meet our future needs. The new buildings are a physical manifestation of that dedication, and I thank previous Chair Reuben O'Neill, current Chair Edmund Lawler, and the BCL board members, past and present, for their commitment and for the many hours of work they have put into ensuring these projects are successful.

Growing Heart

In 2016, Baradene's Foundation, Growing Heart, was established to deliver better resourcing to our students. Since then it has established several student scholarships and contributed to the fit out of the Conservatoire de Musique, Makerspace, and Erskine Stuart Gymnasium. I thank Edmund Lawler, Founding Chair of Growing Heart and Richard James, current Chair, for their commitment to the Foundation's success, and the Growing Heart Trustees and our community for supporting Growing Heart initiatives.

Staff

Baradene is fortunate to have very talented teachers, some of whom have taught here for many years and who have

become part of the fabric of the school. Over the years our teachers have delivered outstanding academic results of which we can all be proud. I am appreciative of the professionalism, collegiality, and willingness of our teaching and support staff, who are prepared to go the extra mile to deliver on their ambitions for Baradene students. I remain incredibly thankful for the staff's amazing response to the challenges imposed during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Leadership Team has worked alongside me to deliver on the broader education goals and plans for the students at Baradene. Aside from their dedication to delivering the best education possible, we have shared many enjoyable personal moments which I will treasure.

Students, Parents, Caregivers, and Families

It has been a joy to watch so many young girls walk through the school gates in Year 7 and leave here in Year 13 as confident and accomplished young women ready to take their place in the world, and to make a difference in the lives of others. I have loved their energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to their studies, cultural pursuits, and sports. It has been so rewarding watching their progression and success in so many different areas. Delivering excellent educational outcomes to our students has been the driving force behind my career as an educator, and sharing the educational and life journey of so many amazing young women over the years has been an inspiration and a source of delight to me. The families of our school students have also been incredible, joining the Board of Trustees and PTA, supporting fundraising, coaching sporting teams and cultural groups, to name a few. I have enjoyed building connections with many Baradene families, and these relationships will remain special to me.

Alumnae

The Alumnae Association celebrated its Centenary this year, and over the years it has ensured alumnae remain connected to each other and to the school. I am thankful to all Alumnae Association Presidents and Committee members who have nurtured this special bond so alumnae value and maintain a strong interest in the school throughout their life.

My Family

Last, but by no means least, I thank my family: My husband David, our four adult children, and their spouses. During my time here they have been completing tertiary studies, pursuing careers in their chosen professional fields, travelling and working overseas, and marrying and having children of their own – all the while taking a real interest in my role at Baradene. In particular, I would like to thank Dave for his wise counsel and willingness to attend so many Baradene events over the years, which made them all the more special for me. I will always remember my time at Baradene fondly, and I count myself fortunate to have shared such a rewarding chapter in my career with so many wonderful people.

As we prepare to farewell Principal Sandy Pasley, we extend our grateful thanks and share a few interesting facts about her life and career.

Sandy was born in Oamaru and was educated at Teschemakers Dominican College. She attended Otago University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Chemistry, after which she completed a Postgraduate Diploma of Science in Chemistry.

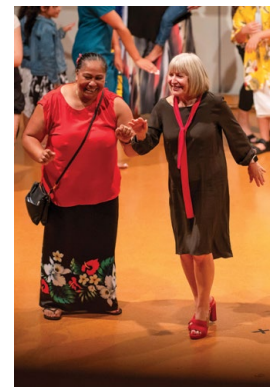
Teachers' Training College followed, and after developing her skills and experience as a teacher, Sandy became Deputy Principal at Birkenhead College. In 2002 she became Principal at St Mary's College, Ponsonby – the first lay principal in their 150-year history. During her time as Principal at St Mary's, Sandy completed her Master's Degree in Education Leadership and Administration, all the while having four teenagers of her own at home!

She became Principal at Baradene in 2011, and has been instrumental in driving Baradene's excellent performance since then. From 2015 to 2017, Sandy was President of the Secondary Principals' Association of NZ (SPANZ), during which time she was frequently called upon to provide comment to the media.

Sandy was the first female President at SPANZ, a role she took to demonstrate that women should not be afraid to accept leadership positions that are out of their comfort zone. Sandy has also assisted with the setup of two new Catholic colleges, Sancta Maria College in Botany and St Ignatius of Loyola Catholic College in Drury.

Sandy dedicated herself wholeheartedly to her role as Principal at Baradene and, as our community will testify, she also spent many hours on the sidelines at sports matches and attending school and alumnae events often held in the evenings and weekends.

The School Board, Baradene College Limited, Growing Heart, Senior Leadership, Staff, Students, PTA, Baradene Alumnae Association, and the entire Baradene community thank Sandy for her commitment, dedication, vision, and leadership during her tenure, and wish her our best as she embarks on her next chapter.



Meet me at the gym

This year our school's focus goal is "The Building of Community as a Christian Value", and there could not be a more fitting time for the completion of Baradene's newest facility, The Erskine Stuart Gymnasium, which was dedicated on 5 July.

ERSKINE STUART
GYMNASIUM





Edmund Lawler, Chair of Baradene College Limited (BCL), reflects on the opening of the new Erskine Stuart Gymnasium Complex.

I was pleased to attend the inauguration of our new Erskine Stuart Gymnasium on 5 July. We were privileged to have the building opened by the Honourable Erica Stanford, Minister of Education, and blessed by Monsignor Bernard Kiely. Our Kapa Haka group welcomed distinguished guests Sister Lynette Toohey RSCJ, Provincial for the Australia and New Zealand Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart; Kevin Shore, CEO of the NZ Catholic Education Office; Catherine Ryan, Vicar of Education for the Catholic Diocese of Auckland, and David Seymour, Associate Minister of Education. Our Kaumatua, Manuel Beazley, performed the Karakia, and our Concert Band provided entertainment.



facility rises beautifully from the schools grounds and includes a gym floor with a championship-size court which can be divided into two separate courts, three changing rooms, a fitness centre, three classrooms, and PE and Sports Faculty offices. Our various indoor sports teams are already enjoying the ability to practice, play, and host games. Additionally, a new café with adjacent courtyard has centralised and expanded the social hub for all students.



Left: Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education. Right: The Kapa Haka group leads special guests into the ceremony.

The building was named after Janet Erskine Stuart RSCJ, who was a former superior general of the Society of the Sacred Heart in the early 20th century. She was known as an outstanding educator and spiritual guide, and is one of the three wise women, along with Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne and Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, who guide our Catholic Sacred Heart charism here at Baradene.

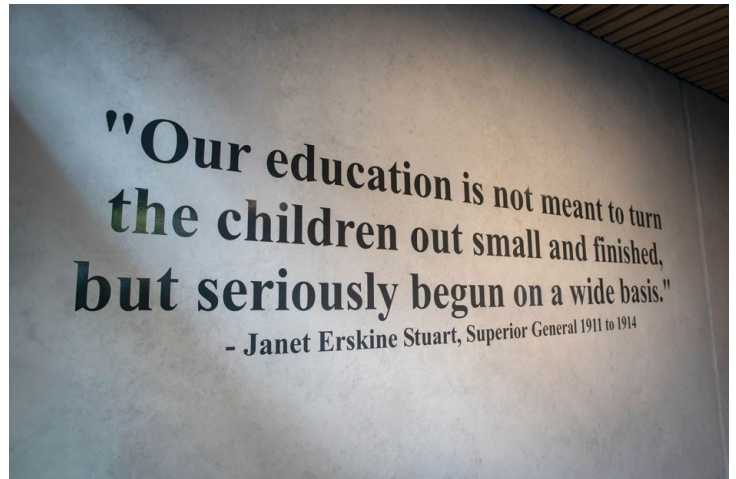
The design discussions for the project commenced in 2021 to respond to the need for a new full-size gymnasium that could accommodate the growing roll at Baradene. The completed



BCL thanks our principal construction company Watts and Hughes, which rose to the challenge of working under pressure in the middle of a fully functioning school delivering an excellent outcome one month ahead of schedule. BCL also extends our thanks to the many consultants who made it such a success, particularly our architects Jasmax, quantity surveyors BBD and project managers Rubix. Within our school community we would like to particularly acknowledge BCL Executive Officer, Sarah Nightingale, and Richard James, BCL Finance Chair, who were greatly involved in all aspects of the project. As this was a major financial undertaking for BCL, we are also especially thankful for our parent community's ongoing support. We are confident this facility will strongly improve the total wellbeing of our students and enhance their educational experience and achievements here at Baradene for many years to come.



Above: Monsignor Bernard Kiely blesses the building with Deputy Head Girls Amy Mason and Maddy Meredith. Below: A quote from Janet Erskine Stuart RSCJ in the gymnasium foyer.



GROWING HEART NEWS

A total of
\$277,590
was donated to
the Growing Heart
Gym Fit Out
campaign!

It has been another busy and successful year for Growing Heart.

Growing Heart Gym Fit Out Campaign

It is hard to believe that this time last year, in the October 2023 issue of *Heart* magazine, we noted the excitement building as the new gymnasium complex began rising out of the ground. One year later... It is as if the Erskine Stuart Gymnasium has always been here!

With our proprietor Baradene College Limited funding the construction of the new building, Baradene was responsible for the cost of the equipment needed to fit out the complex – including the bleachers; audiovisual, electronics, and PA system; café and kitchen equipment and furniture; sports equipment; court dividing curtains; Fitness Centre equipment; and the protective floor carpet. Funds for these items had to be raised from several sources.

We are delighted to report that a total of \$277,590 was donated by students, alumnae, and past and present parents, grandparents, and staff to the Growing Heart Gym Fit Out fundraising campaigns in 2023 and 2024. This contribution, together with nearly \$32,000 raised by the TaxGift initiative run by Growing Heart two years ago, and \$53,000 provided by grants from community trusts, has greatly assisted the School Board in meeting the significant cost of the fit out.

The fit out completes the gym, transforming the complex into a state of the art sports and fitness facility. Importantly, the efforts of our very generous Baradene community

have contributed to Baradene achieving its goal “for every student to have the desire and means to access sporting opportunities.” It is wonderful to see Baradene students now making the most of this amazing facility.

A heartfelt thank you to all those who have so generously supported the Growing Heart Gym Fit Out fundraising campaign over the last 18 months. Every donation is appreciated. A special thank you also to Murray Dyer (parent) for assisting Growing Heart with this fundraising campaign. His support was invaluable.



Above: Ball sport equipment in action. Below: Court dividing curtains and the Fitness Centre.



From top: *The competition court during an inter-school game, commercial kitchen equipment in the café, and outdoor seating for students to sit, eat, and socialise.*

With the Heart of an Educator

There is continued interest in our special film *With the Heart of An Educator: Stories from the Religious of the Sacred Heart, Baradene Convent*. Recently we held a screening in Havelock North for Baradene and Erskine alumnae, who were joined by Baradene Principal Sandy Pasley and Growing Heart Trustee Gavin Rennie. The film also featured at our Alumnae Association Centenary celebrations in May. We are currently planning screenings for our parent community, as well as online screenings for our alumnae throughout New Zealand and overseas, and we will share details when they are available.



Thank you to our generous community for supporting Growing Heart

Our Growing Heart supporters are building on the legacy of previous generations going back over the last 115 years – “giving back” to enable Baradene to continue to provide an outstanding education for its students.

Growing Heart contact details:

Anna Stone (Class of 1978), Foundation Manager
 Email: development@baradene.school.nz
 Phone: 09 524 6019 ext 865



How to donate to Growing Heart

You can donate online to Growing Heart. Please visit baradene.school.nz/our-community/growing-heart to donate. Growing Heart supports Baradene by raising funds for the Student Scholarship and Support Fund, the Staff Support Fund, the College Facilities Fund, and through a Trustees Discretionary Fund to maintain Baradene’s special character.

Major donation in support of archery

Growing Heart would like to acknowledge and thank the family who have made a major donation in support of Baradene College Archery. They made the donation in appreciation of “how Baradene encourages the girls and gives them so many opportunities to participate in sport.” This donation has enabled Baradene Archery to purchase the equipment necessary for Year 7 to 13 students to use for both training and competitions. We are immensely grateful to the family for their incredibly generous contribution, which will have a significant impact on the opportunities for Baradene students, current and future, to participate in archery.

“Leave A Legacy” plaque in the new gym

Plans are under way for the “Leave A Legacy” donor plaque in the new gym. This will acknowledge those major donors who so generously supported the gym fit out, and mark an important chapter in Baradene’s history.





HEARTS TO SERVE

Service and compassionate action help shape a student's experience at a Sacred Heart School, so they see the world through new eyes.

Justice, peace, and the integrity of creation (JPIC) are among the international priorities of the Society of the Sacred Heart, including social justice work, peace-building, care for creation, the defence of human rights, and the promotion of integral human development.

In the spirit of putting Catholic Social Teaching principles into action, Year 12 students are invited to lead a portfolio intended to raise awareness of the needs of others, and consider how we can respect the human dignity of all, and respond to situations that create injustice and contribute to poverty.

The Year 12 programme is designed to:

- Encourage hospitality of heart through identifying need.
- Take action in support of others, in the spirit of servant leadership.
- Show regular commitment and effort.
- Reflect on one's place in society as someone who has the capacity to act with compassion.
- Develop a sense of justice through practical experience.

Portfolios include Tearfund Poverty Cycle, support for safer families with Shine, Cancer Society Daffodil Day, Red Cross, Down Syndrome Awareness Week, and Asthma NZ Breathe Easy wellbeing awareness. Here are some highlights from initiatives our community has been involved in this year.

Daffodil Day

Collectors were out and about selling ribbons and daffodil flower pins in support of the Cancer Society's Daffodil Day appeal, with a lunchtime bake sale to indulge all those with a sweet tooth.

Tearfund Poverty Cycle

Students have the opportunity to engage with the issue of human trafficking in various ways, including the Year 10 Global Virtual Exchange and Year 12 Religious Education. One way we expressed our support was to see how many kilometres of a human trafficking route students and teachers could "reclaim" in one lunchtime on stationary bikes.

Red Cross

The Red Cross portfolio leaders created ribbons for the school community to wear with a gold coin donation. The word-find treasure hunt across the college, with Red Cross facts to discover, was a fun way to learn more.





RSCJ NEWS

The Society of the Sacred Heart General Chapter was held from 1 to 31 August in Nemi, Italy, bringing together 70 RSCJ from 41 countries.

In the lead-up to the 37th General Chapter, Society of the Sacred Heart districts and provinces around the world held their respective Chapters in preparation for this significant event where the worldwide Society set their priorities and focus for the next eight years.

Sister Lynette Toohey RSCJ and Sister Diana Hayes RSCJ attended the General Chapter to represent Australia and New Zealand. The theme of the 2024 Chapter was “Courage, Confidence, Transformation through the Power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14)”.

General Chapter 2024



There are currently 26 individual provinces, which are proposed to become eight. Early on in the Chapter, these possible new provinces introduced themselves through the "Tents of Encounter", where delegates were able to meet and talk with those in their proposed provinces. Each province decorated their tent with items related to the cultures of their countries, and featured important information about each province.

One of the most important parts of the Chapter was the selection of the new Superior General. Sister Claire Castaing RSCJ of Marseille, France, was named as the new Superior General and, with her team, will lead the Society for the next eight years, following in the footsteps of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ.

Above: The new Superior General, Claire Castaing, lights Sophie's Candle. This candle was at Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat's bedside at the time of her death, and it has been kept by the Society since then. Each new Superior General, at the time of her election, lights this candle for a brief moment.



MEET OUR NEW SUPERIOR GENERAL

CLAIRE CASTAING

MARSEILLE (FRANCE)



“ Allow ourselves to be transformed by the Spirit, to rediscover the agility of a living Body on a MISSION. To do this, we must consent to the transformation of the Institution, lightening and simplifying, adapting our governance structures to our priorities, our reality and our time in CONFIDENCE.





THINKING GLOBALLY

In July, five Baradene students travelled to Wellington to take part in the Model European Union (EU) Council at Parliament.

The Model EU Council event is organised by the Delegation of the European Union to New Zealand and is hosted by Lawrence Meredith, the EU Ambassador to New Zealand. Brent Coutts, Social Sciences Head of Faculty, is always keen for students to participate in these academic extension opportunities including a number of UN Youth opportunities, such as the Aotearoa Youth Declaration, the Auckland Model United Nations Assembly, and the Rotary International Model United Nations.

The 2024 Model EU Council event focussed on “Navigating a Changing Europe”, and students debated the war in Ukraine, migration, and climate change. With the war in Ukraine in its third year, this topic was of prime interest to attendees. Each student was allocated to a country, political party, and committee. Our five Baradene participants share their highlights.



Olivia Fell (Year 12)
Austria, European Peoples Party, Foreign Affairs Committee

“I enjoyed the event very much, and my favourite part was the plenary session, an opportunity for people to get their amendments passed. It showed how much effort and research all attendees put into the event.”



Violet Goldsmith (Year 13)
Austria, Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats MEP, Justice and Affairs Committee

This experience was educational and fun, challenging us to think and problem-solve. We were put into groups for different issues, mine being migration. Each group would debate from the perspective of their country and political party. This experience was enjoyable, rewarding, and a privilege.”



Lucy Lee (Year 13)
Hungary, Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats MEP, Justice and Home Affairs Committee

“Meeting new people around the southern part of the North Island interested in the same careers and degrees was also beneficial, and it provided new connections from towns outside of Auckland.”



Catherine Cavanagh-Ginnelly (Year 13)
Belgium, Renew MEP, Foreign Affairs Committee

“The event improved my awareness of world affairs and my ability to argue and face opposition with well-formulated arguments and to do so with confidence. Attending reinforced my striving for constructive change both globally, nationally, and as a community.”

Grace O’Connor (Year 12)
Czechia, GREEN/European Free Alliance, Environment Committee

“The key highlights from the events for me were the committee meetings. Here, delegates from other countries and political parties conversed and debated remits. It was when we chose our allies, which was important for the plenary debate in the chamber.”



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Sunny Spain made for a beautiful destination during the midwinter break, with 32 of our students enjoying the culture and the opportunity to practise the Spanish language.

In the July school holidays, 32 Year 11 to 13 Spanish students embarked on an adventure to Spain alongside Ms Ross, Ms Golding, Mr Gallop, and Mr Gantley (parent). This two-and-a-half-week trip was an opportunity to experience rich culture and diverse history under the hot summer sun.

After 40 hours of travelling, we arrived in Madrid, acclimatised to the heat and visited iconic landmarks including Parque Retiro, Plaza Mayor, and the Museo del Prado. We took a day trip to the ancient city of Toledo on a journey through time, seeing the rich tapestry of its Christian, Jewish, and Muslim heritage.

From there, we went to Salamanca, where we put our Spanish skills to good use by attending the Tía Tula school for a day. A highlight of the trip was the opportunity to speak Spanish with native speakers, and while it was challenging, it was exciting to immerse ourselves in the culture and see our language skills come to life in real-world conversations!

Sevilla was next on the itinerary, offering lush landscapes, colourful buildings, and hot summer days! We visited the Royal Alcázar of Sevilla, the beautiful palace gardens, and sought refuge from the sweltering sun under the cover of a horse and carriage tour through the city.

In Granada, we visited the iconic Alhambra and explored Islamic influences on Spanish architecture and culture. We also attended a flamenco dance performance in a cave! This gave us a different insight into the Spanish way of life than we had experienced in larger cities.

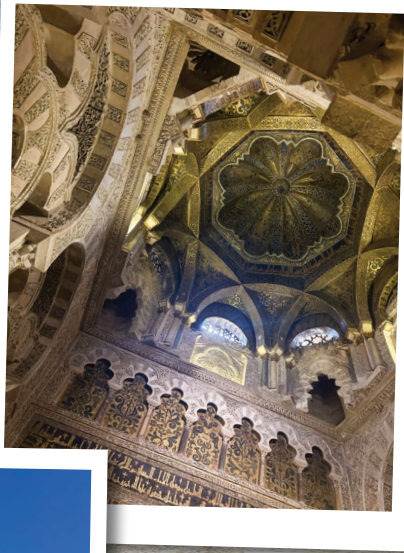
“We fell head over heels for this gorgeous country.”



We were fortunate to be on the streets of Valencia on the eve of the 2024 Euro finals. Sitting on the hot Valencian pavement, surrounded by enthusiastic Spaniards cheering, was an exciting way to celebrate their victory. This palpable passion and energy won't be easily forgotten and is what makes Spanish culture so compelling.

On our way to Barcelona, we stopped at Tarragona, the Roman capital. It was incredible to see the ruins and stunning coastal views. One of the most impressive attractions was the astounding Sagrada Família. Exiting the bustling metro, the gasping standstill crowd at the top of the steps alerted us to something special. Still, the sudden appearance of this beautiful cathedral was unparalleled!

We are so grateful for the staff and parent who made this trip possible, and we'll all be back in Spain as soon as we can!





EPIC MOVES

Baradene's new Year 7 and 8 Hip Hop troupe, Empower, has had an incredible debut year with impressive performances and victories.

The troupe, choreographed by Brodie Record (RGD Studio), received first place at both the NDC (National Dance Challenge) and the Velocity Dance Competition. They also won Overall Best Junior Troupe at NDC, taking home the trophy!

After forming earlier this year, Empower has demonstrated an extraordinary level of skill and creativity. Their performances have captivated audiences and judges alike. After the audition selection, the 10 students who made the troupe trained diligently to refine and polish their dynamic hip hop set. They are all very talented dancers who concentrate on developing and perfecting their moves. In addition to displaying impressive performance abilities, the troupe has outstanding presence on stage.

Empower continued its winning streak at the AIMS Games in early September. It was the first time a Baradene Junior Hip Hop Troupe competed at the games, and they placed third against 30 teams – an outstanding result!





Over King's Birthday Weekend, four students represented Baradene at the SGCNZ University of Otago Sheilah Winn National Shakespeare Festival.

Year 13 students Kerryn Gray, Giselle Ford, Isabel Doyle, and Kirstin Skeet travelled to Wellington with Mrs Eichstaedt to perform at the SGCNZ University of Otago Sheilah Winn National Shakespeare Festival, after winning the Best Student Directed Scene – 5 Minutes Award at the Auckland Central Regional Festival.



Upon their arrival in Wellington, our students were able to visit parts of the Toi Whakaari Campus for Drama and Dance, which proved to be an inspiring experience. On the festival's first day, they participated in acting and directing workshops led by industry professionals. These workshops were a lot of fun and imparted valuable tips that our students can apply to their future theatrical pursuits. The second festival day was dedicated to watching performances from other national finalists.

On the third day, the girls performed their winning scene from the regional competition, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, at the St James Theatre, one of New Zealand's largest and most notable theatres. It was an incredible opportunity for the actors Kirstin and Isabel (performers) and Kerryn and Giselle (directors) to experience the atmosphere in which professional performers work.

The final day was spent at Parliament, where the actors and directors received feedback on their scenes and listened to professionals from around the world discuss theatre and Shakespeare. It was an enjoyable and educational experience for everyone involved.





ASIA MUSIC TOUR

During the April school holidays, 49 music students and six staff/parents embarked on a two-week cultural and musical tour of Taiwan and Japan.

After months of planning, rehearsals, and fundraising, the tour orchestra packed 20 oversized containers of music gear and set off for Taipei. Despite the unexpected heat, the group enjoyed exploring significant historical and cultural sites in Taipei, Lukang, and Taichung. They participated in cultural activities like wearing traditional qipao dresses, and visited the Yoshan Tea Museum, a pineapple cake factory, and the Gaomei Wetlands.

In Taiwan, the orchestra performed eight times, including at a hospital and a kindergarten, and engaged in music exchanges with local high schools and orchestras. They also spent a few days at Sacred Heart High School for Girls in Taipei, attending classes and participating in Athletics Day. Baradene students were billeted with Sacred Heart families, making new friends and connections for the future.

The next leg of the journey took them to Tokyo. Highlights in Japan included a day at Tokyo Disneyland; exploring the fascinating areas of Asakusa, Ginza, and Harajuku; a kimono dressing experience; and visiting the Shinto shrine Meiji Jingu. The tour concluded with a day at Sacred Heart School Tokyo, where the orchestra performed their final concert and then spent the last night with Japanese host families.

Thank you to everyone involved in making the trip successful, especially to our Head of Music, Nino Šloser, and the staff and parents who helped organise and manage the trip.

“Our journey to Asia was truly incredible. Exploring the vibrant cultures, tasting delicious foods, performing for a wide range of audiences, making new friends, and connecting with our sister schools, made this trip unforgettable!”
~ Ashley Lin (Year 9)



“The Asia Music Tour was an inspiring and eye-opening trip I will never forget. We had the chance to listen to some spectacular music from students in Taiwan and Japan who were our age, which was a privilege to hear. The trip gave us all amazing memories to bring back to New Zealand.”
~ Sia Okach (Year 12)



GALA CONCERT

The annual Baradene College and St Peter's College Gala Concert was held in August at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell.

Set against the graceful backdrop of the Cathedral's nave, eight groups comprising more than 200 Baradene College and St Peter's College students performed to a large and appreciative audience. The concert provided these young musicians the opportunity to showcase their competitive repertoire, which they had been rehearsing since February in preparation for the 2024 KBB Music Festival. At this year's concert, the junior groups performed first, followed by the senior groups: a mix of jazz bands, concert bands, and the Combined Symphony Orchestra, while students from both schools impressed with solos on a range of instruments.

The evening was expertly hosted by Baradene's Dr Erin Atchison and Performing Arts Leader Giselle Ford, and was supported by the Baradene Friends of Music Committee, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to organise fundraising opportunities and refreshments. The concert's success was a testament to the hard work of all involved – the students, music staff, and parents.



MUSIC

"The Gala Concert is an excellent way for us to showcase our musical talents. We all worked extremely hard during rehearsals to prepare for this event, and it was worthwhile. The concert was full of enthusiasm, with family and friends supporting us in the audience."
 ~ Ashley Lin (Year 9)



KBB MUSIC FESTIVAL

Baradene's instrumental music groups achieved success at this year's KBB Music Festival, highlighted by glowing accolades and commendations.

The Baradene Concert Band and the Baradene College and St Peter's College Combined Symphony Orchestra were selected to perform at the prestigious Gala Concert, among the best bands and orchestras at the Festival. Both groups were awarded Gold and also received special awards – the Baradene Concert Band received the Chairman's Command Performance Award and Best Arranged Work Award for "Paris Montmartre", and the Combined Symphony Orchestra received the Best Soloist Award for Arutjunjan's "Trumpet Concerto".

The Symphonic Band, and the Baradene College and St Peter's College Stage Band, both impressed with their lively performances and were each awarded Bronze. The Duchesne Orchestra received high praise for their performance in the non-competitive category. Congratulations to all students, group directors, and music staff who were involved in achieving these outstanding results.

"The passion and drive were clearly evident in the Baradene and St Peter's Combined Orchestra this year – the repertoire was challenging yet rewarding, with a great sense of collaboration between both schools. A special thank you to all those who were involved: Our conductor Mr Poljanich, our manager Mr Šloser, and all the players!"



Olivia Zhu (Year 13)

GOLD AWARDS



The Baradene Concert Band and the Baradene College and St Peter's College Combined Symphony Orchestra won Gold awards.

BRONZE AWARDS



The Symphonic Band, and the Baradene College and St Peter's College Stage Band, each received Bronze awards.



PTA REPORT

Terms 2 and 3 of the school year are the busiest in the PTA calendar, with two of our main fundraising events. Baradene PTA Chair Simon Laphorne shares the highlights.

Father/Daughter Breakfasts

The annual Baradene Father/Daughter Breakfasts promote an important relationship. Research shows that girls who have a positive relationship with their fathers (or with a father figure) achieve more academically, make better relationship choices, and have more confidence. The breakfasts took place on 12 and 13 June 2024 and were attended by over 400 fathers (or father figures) and daughters. The guest speaker was Brad Smeele, a former world wakeboarding champion, who shared his inspiring story of resilience after suffering a life-changing spinal cord injury. The MC was entertainment reporter and Baradene alumna Kate Rodger. The breakfasts are a key community event and raised over \$10,000 for the school. Special thanks go to PTA members Fleur Curac, Millie Carnegie, Mike Lee, Emma Brannam, Fiona Carpenter, Myra Dolon, Kirsten Hunt, Renee Von Huben, and Paul Thompson for their help organising this event and to all the volunteers who assisted.



Mother/Daughter Event

The relationship between mothers and their daughters is equally important, and the PTA is planning a mother/daughter event for the first half of 2025.

New Members

The PTA is delighted to have welcomed several new members during 2024. We meet eight times a year and would love to see some new faces. If you are interested in joining, please contact us.



*Be a part
of the PTA!*

The PTA offers a valuable link to your daughter's school and will help you to forge relationships with other parents and teachers in the community. If you would like to join the PTA or can help in any way, we would love to hear from you.

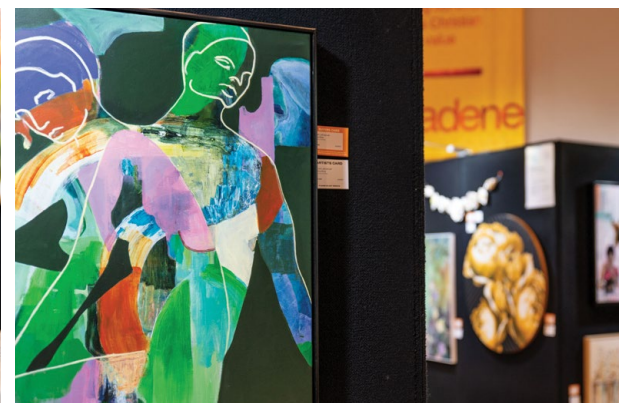
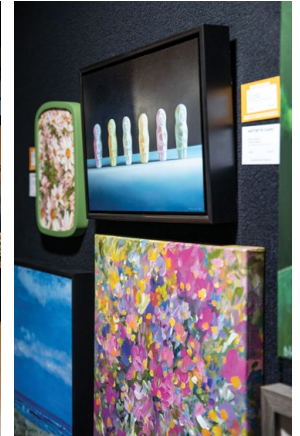
Email us at: baradenepta@baradene.school.nz



The Baradene Art Show

This year, we celebrated 35 years of the Baradene Art Show, a fantastic achievement. The Art Show took place on the weekend of 23 to 25 August and was a spectacular event, showcasing work from over 120 New Zealand artists, many of whom were exhibiting at the event for the first time. Over 400 people attended the Gala Evening, and the Show attracted a large number of visitors over the weekend. It raised over \$60,000, with the proceeds going towards equipment for the new gymnasium. The Art Show is only possible thanks to the considerable effort of the amazing parent and teacher community. Preparation starts months in advance, and once again, Kirsten Copley did a fantastic job leading the Art Show Committee.

Huge thanks to the other members of the committee who dedicated hours of their time to ensure the Show was a success: Kath Dyer, Bronwyn McDermott, Karena Davey, Fleur Curac, Carmel Wade, Kirsten Hunt, Lottie Hart, Clare McIntosh, Kelly Bulley, Ali Guise, Dave Culpán, Sabrina Tian, as well as the many volunteers.



FUTURE FOCUS



Lucy Florence, Head of Careers, reports on Baradene’s Careers Evening, held in early August.

This year’s Careers Evening was a resounding success. It offered students and their families a unique opportunity to explore a wide array of career paths. The event featured a diverse lineup of speakers, including alumnae, friends, and family members of the Baradene College community, who shared insights from such diverse and interesting fields as medicine, science, engineering, law, sport, communications, marketing, design, film, TV, and business.

The evening was well attended, with enthusiastic participation from students eager to learn about potential careers. Senior students were pivotal in the event, skilfully facilitating panel discussions and guiding conversations. Their efforts were widely acknowledged and commended, highlighting the impressive leadership qualities fostered at Baradene.

The annual Careers Evening provides a valuable platform for networking, inspiration, and informed decision-making. It allows students to gain a deeper understanding of various professions and the pathways to achieving their goals. The event’s success reflects the strong sense of community at Baradene and the school’s commitment to supporting students in their journey toward fulfilling and meaningful careers. Some of our enthusiastic alumnae speakers share their “why” for taking part in the event.

“The annual Careers Evening provides a valuable platform for networking, inspiration, and informed decision-making.”



Victoria Carter ONZM (Class of 1981) Professional Director

“Actor and activist Geena Davis says, ‘If they can see it, they can be it.’ That’s why I think it’s so important that alumnae talk, share, inspire, and tell our work and career stories so more of our Baradene students can go on and fill roles they’ve heard talked about, seen other women in, or create new jobs that weren’t options for some of us when we left school.”

Kate Rodger (Class of 1985) Entertainment Editor and Film Reviewer

“After more decades than I care to number working in the strange, challenging, and incredibly nourishing madness of the media, it feels about right I use that experience as a force for good – that ‘good’ being able to open a window for the younger generation of amazing women into what it means to choose journalism and broadcasting as a career. It’s a tough time to be a journalist, which makes journalism more important than ever. It is a privilege to have that opportunity, especially back here on Baradene home turf.”

Reina Va’ai (Class of 2008) Criminal Lawyer, Journalist, and Author

“At the Careers Evening, I shared one of the Sacred Heart principles that I carry with me to this day: ‘A Social Awareness That Impels to Action’. Being aware of the needs of my community has informed every career decision that I’ve made. I encouraged students to find the values that anchor them and to lean on these anchors whenever they need to. Hopefully these students will come back to Baradene and share their anchors and values in the future, too.”





COR UNUM

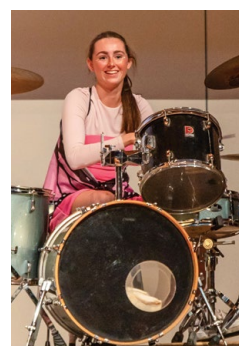
\$9,000
raised
for the SHIFT
Foundation

The celebration of the Feast of the Sacred Heart is always a highlight on our liturgical calendar.

Our day begins with the Mass, connecting us to our fellow schools of the Society of the Sacred Heart and to the Catholic Church throughout the world. La Fête follows the Mass, and the day finishes with a concert showcasing students' talents and cultures. This year's concert saw the debut of Baradene's brand-new African dance group, formed by students earlier this year.

Love, expressed in the vision of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ – "Cor Unum: One heart, One mind in the Heart of Jesus Christ" – was clearly evident in the joy, creativity, and energy of staff and students enjoying the feast day fun.

Each year, proceeds from this day are donated to the SHIFT Foundation (Sacred Heart Institute for Transformative Education), an initiative of the RSCJ in Samar, Philippines, supporting food production systems, education, and disaster relief. Our fundraising efforts totalled an outstanding \$9,000 this year. This tremendous effort is deeply appreciated by SHIFT Executive Director Sister Lydia Collado RSCJ and her community.



SEEING STARS

Māori New Year is known as Matariki, and has been observed by Māori for hundreds of years. It is a time of celebration, reflection, and planning for the future.

Formalised as a public holiday in New Zealand in 2022, at Baradene we have acknowledged and celebrated Matariki since 2010. This year, led by our Kaumatua Manuel Beazley, the Vicar for Māori for the Auckland Catholic Diocese, we held a Liturgy followed by a wonderful warming breakfast. In the early days, the celebration took place in Okea. When the numbers of attendees outgrew Okea, the Liturgy moved to the Chapel, and the breakfast is now held in the Atrium of the Auditorium.

Each Liturgy has a unique theme, and previous topics have included: "Look to our past to go forward into the future", "A new heaven and a new earth", and for this year, "The rays of Matariki are spread". We are fortunate to have Matua Manuel lead us in prayerful reflection at this special time. It is a beautiful opportunity for our community to come together and acknowledge the start of the Māori New Year. We look forward to this event for many years to come.

"Matariki is known as the gatherer of people: Matariki Hunga Nui." ~ Ngahiwi Apanui, Chief Executive, Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori



2013



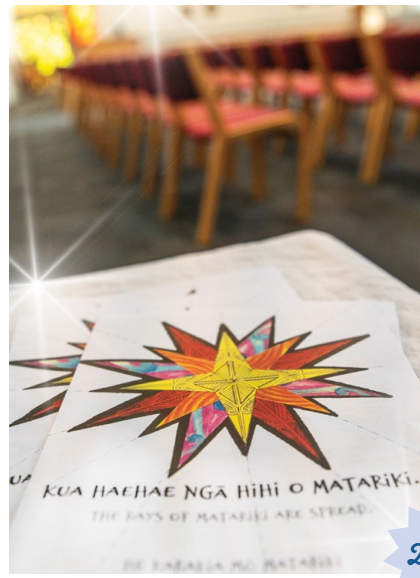
2012



2017



2014



2024





As we celebrate the opening of our new gymnasium, our Archivist Yolande van de Wetering takes us through the years of physical education at Baradene.

In the beginning, Baradene's curriculum didn't include physical education. Sports were played not so much for physical exercise, but to reward good exam results or to entertain the students (and staff). On 15 October 1909, about six weeks after the opening of the original school in Epsom, a cricket match and other sports were played in the afternoon. There were only 11 pupils at that time! In the early days, basketball and tennis were played on the outside courts once Baradene moved to our current location in Remuera.



New outside courts for netball and tennis, and a larger swimming pool, were constructed in 1961. In 1963, Mother Superior Winifred Mahar asked the RSCJ Mother House if the school could borrow money to build a gymnasium. Unfortunately, the request was not approved, as there was still money outstanding from the construction of the Jubilee Building. The need for a gym became more urgent after the school became integrated into the New Zealand education system in 1983. Finally, a gym was opened in 1987 on the site where the new Erskine Stuart Gymnasium now stands.

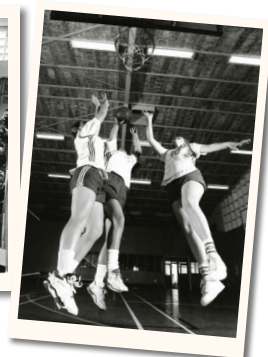
We have a teaching resource, *Physical Education for Girls*, in the Archives. Published in 1968, it covers teaching, planning, testing, reports, outdoor education, physical recreation, and competition, among other subjects. It also provides instructions on how to teach volleyball, basketball, field hockey, fencing, rhythmical gymnastics, dance, folk dance, and even ballroom dance. Physical education has come a long way at Baradene!



In Baradene's *Fees Journal*, spanning from 1919 to 1945, "Physical Culture" was charged separately at 1 pound 1 shilling per term in 1919, but in 1938, it became a compulsory subject and was included in the school fees. Later, badges were awarded for physical culture, and it was taken more seriously. Early on, there was a small swimming pool on site, as well as a jungle gym in the 1950s and 1960s. We have many photos of our students wearing the classic red and white gym uniforms!



The opening of the first gymnasium in 1987.





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New Zealand Sports Representatives

We are very proud of our Baradene sportswomen who have had the honour of representing New Zealand.

ORLA HOARE (Year 11)

Orienteering

NZ U16 European Youth
Orienteering Championship

ALICIA MCGIVERN (Year 13)

Orienteering

NZSS U18 Southern Cross Team

NIAMH HOARE (Year 11)

Orienteering

NZ U16 European Youth
Orienteering Championship

GEORGIA LINDROOS (Year 13)

Orienteering

NZSS U18 Southern Cross Team

SAFFRON MOAVENI (Year 11)

Orienteering

NZ U16 European Youth
Orienteering Championship

ESME REID (Year 10)

Football

NZ Secondary Schools U16 Team

ADDISON HARROWFIELD (Year 7)

BMX

UCI BMX World Championships

AVA SPENCER (Year 10)

Synchronised Ice Skating

Team Titanium World Junior
Synchronised Skating Championships

TALLULAH GOLDSWORTHY (Year 13)

Water Polo

NZ U18 Youth World Championships

RIAAAN BRYANT (Year 13)

Water Polo

NZ U18 Youth World Championships

ISABELLE GIBSON (Year 13)

Swimming

Junior Pan Pacific Games

MAGGIE BAUZON (Year 9)

Orienteering

NZSS U15 Southern Cross Team



AMELIA BRAY (Year 13)

Swimming

Junior Pan Pacific Games

MADELEINE HUNTER (Year 10)

BMX

UCI BMX World Championships

KEIRA EVANS (Year 12)

Water Polo

NZ U17 Australian State Championships

DAKOTA WELLS (Year 9)

Obstacle Course Racing

OCR World Championships

EMILY LYDON (Year 12)

Water Polo

NZ U16 Cadet Youth Championships

MICAYLA-JANE ELIKA (Year 10)

Football – Samoa

U16 Samoan Football Team

LEXI WU (Year 12)

Synchronised Ice Skating

Team Titanium World Junior Synchronised Skating Championships

SIA OKACH (Year 12)

Water Polo

NZ U17 Australian State Championships

VENETIA HICKEY (Year 12)

Water Polo

NZ U16 Cadet Youth Championships

JAZZ SUTHERLAND (Year 9)

Football – Samoa

U16 Samoan Football Team

TAYLOR FISHER (Year 13)

Water Polo

NZ U18 Youth World Championships

JAEDA ALA'ALATO DALE* (Year 13)

Archery

Asia-Pacific Regional Bowhunter Championships

* Jaeda is not pictured above as she was selected just as this issue of Heart went to print.

Follow Baradene Sport!

Visit our official Baradene Sports social media pages for up-to-date information, including results from the 2024 Winter Tournament and AIMS Games.

 facebook.com/baradenesport

 instagram.com/baradenesports



PITCH STARS

May was a month that 18 of our Baradene footballers will never forget!

After winning the 2023 NZSS Football title, Baradene was invited to represent New Zealand at the 2024 International School Sport Federation (ISF) Football World Cup in Dalian, China. As soon as the team stepped off the final flight in Dalian, the extraordinary experiences began. The girls embraced the Chinese way of life and adapted well to the hype of being at a World Cup event, endless media interviews, photos, international food, and, most of all, meeting new people from around the world.

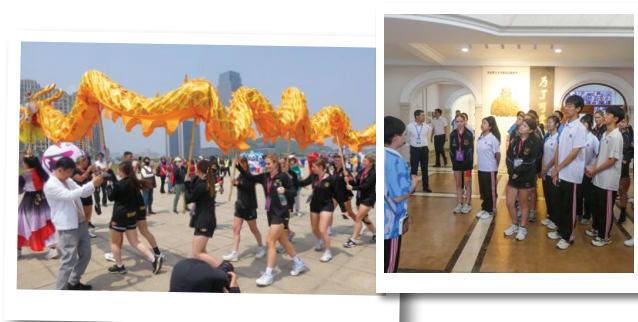


The team started with a loss against a strong China/3 team, followed by a win over Morocco 2-1 in what can only be described as their best game of the tournament, and another win against Bangladesh 3-0 in their group. The final pool play game was a challenging task facing China/1, resulting in a 6-0 loss to the 2023 ISF Champions. Playing Ukraine in the first of the playoff games, Ukraine won 4-0 against Baradene before the tournament wrapped up with a match against Nigeria. This last game was another to remember. Baradene was down 0-2 but clawed their way back to draw 2-2 in the final seconds. The dreaded penalty shootout came. However, it wasn't to be; Nigeria eventually won the shootout. The girls played with pride and heart, leaving everything out on the field, and couldn't have represented New Zealand and Baradene better!

“The girls played with pride and heart, leaving everything out on the field, and couldn't have represented New Zealand and Baradene better!”

Off the pitch, the girls visited Dalian University of Technology, equivalent to a New Zealand school with Years 1 to 13 students, which then leads on to university. The girls took part in painting Chinese fans and tie dye, and concluded their visit by performing a Waiata for the Dalian students that expressed our culture and faith. It was a very special experience which all the girls enjoyed. They also explored the Dalian Zoo, were introduced to Chinese dragon dancing, experienced kite flying, and visited Little Venice.

At Nations Night, Baradene shared a stall with Westlake Boys High School, which they decorated with Kiwiana before handing out typical Kiwi treats. The highlight of the evening was the performance, where Baradene and Westlake Boys performed a Waiata and their school Haka. Both schools represented New Zealand with a tremendous amount of mana.



Being part of the opening and closing ceremonies, with over 22,000 spectators attending, was another moment the girls will treasure forever. Thank you to Ryan Shiffman (Coach), Gina Brugh (Manager), Jacqui Foote (Staff), and our service volunteers Lisa and Jung for making this experience wonderful!

NZSS CHAMPIONSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

ORIENTEERING NATIONALS

25 Baradene orienteers competed at the New Zealand Secondary Schools Orienteering Championships in Wellington in July, excelling across all grades to achieve: Top Girls' School for both Years 9-13 and Years 7/8, Girls' Premier School, and seven Gold, four Silver and six Bronze Medals. Wellington's weather was a mixed bag, making conditions tough. All our girls made Baradene proud with their outstanding behaviour and performances. Huge thanks to our dedicated coach, Llew McGivern, and our supportive parents.



7
GOLD

4
SILVER

6
BRONZE

ORIENTEERING MEDAL WINNERS	
Sprint Event	
Year 7/8	1st – Kara Morgan, 2nd – Felicity Mortell
Junior	3rd – Emily Reeves
Intermediate	2nd – Saffron Moaveni, 3rd – Niamh Hoare
Senior	1st – Georgia Lindroos
Long Event	
Year 7/8	1st – Felicity Mortell, 2nd – Stella Tanner
Junior	3rd – Maggie Bauzon
Intermediate	2nd – Niamh Hoare, 3rd – Saffron Moaveni
Senior	1st – Georgia Lindroos
Relays	
Year 7/8	1st – Charlotte Ashcroft, Felicity Mortell, Kara Morgan 3rd – Hazel Challis, Alice Lambert, Stella Tanner
Junior	1st – Sarah Williams, Maggie Bauzon, Emily Reeves
Intermediate	1st – Saffron Moaveni, Niamh Hoare, Orla Hoare
Senior	3rd – Georgia Lindroos, Solenn Jordan, Alicia McGivern

NZSS SWIMMING



10
GOLD

1
SILVER

3
BRONZE

NZSS ROWING

The Aon Maadi Regatta is the pinnacle of secondary school rowing in New Zealand, and 31 of our students competed this year. Baradene qualified for eight A-Final races, the most the school has ever progressed to, and our U15 Coxed Octuple crew won Bronze and broke the five-year drought of medalling for Baradene at a Maadi regatta! Baradene Rowing is looking in excellent shape for the future, thanks to the dedication of our coaching team and the significant support of the Rowing parents.



BRONZE
MEDAL

Back: Grace Thomson, Mishara Fodie, Remy Kastelan, Madison Bruford, Milla Wright, Sarah Simpson (Coach). Front: Billie Burn, Madeleine Gimblett, Gabriela Fullerton-Smith, Pieta Cumming.

In July, our six swimmers had outstanding results at the New Zealand Secondary Schools Swimming Championships. Baradene won Top Girls' School, with ten gold, one silver, and three bronze medals. Amelia and Isabelle also broke nine school records between them.

NZSS SWIMMING RESULTS	
Amelia Bray (17-18 years)	GOLD – 100 IM, 100 Free, 50 Fly, 100 Fly, 50 Free SILVER – 100 Back
Isabelle Gibson (17-18 years)	GOLD – 50 Back, 100 Back, 200 Back BRONZE – 100 IM, 200 IM
Kayla Knight (15 years)	BRONZE – 100 Free
4x50 Medley Relay	GOLD – Isabelle Gibson, Amelia Bray, Sofia Bray, Isla Petherbridge
4x100 Freestyle Relay	GOLD – Isabelle Gibson, Amelia Bray, Kayla Knight, Isla Petherbridge

Sport Support Squad

At Baradene, we're blessed with a number of enthusiastic and dedicated parents who coach, manage, and provide practical help to our sports codes. Here they share the joys of parent-powered volunteering.

Basketball *Craig Nathan and Chris Burrows*

We have been coaching sport at Baradene since 2015 and have been a basketball coaching partnership since 2018. We run the Junior Basketball Programme, and with six current Year 7/8 and U15 teams, we have seen the sport grow year on year. Our aim, along with the wider Basketball coaching team, is to foster a unique culture and teach the girls to love the game. Along with this, our measure of success is seeing the girls continue to play through their school years and into the Premier team.



Four recent alumnae are playing college basketball in the USA, so we see a real pathway for Baradene basketballers and are convinced there is so much potential in the current cohort of girls to do the same.

It has been a tough few years with the pandemic, and then while we were temporarily without a gym, but with our incredible new Erskine Stuart Gymnasium, we are locked into spreading the word about Baradene Basketball.

“It is so good to see girls we have coached in Years 7 and 8 are now stars in the Premier team and also continuing to play in other grades.”

“We love the Baradene basketball whānau, especially the care and enthusiasm from the parents. Seeing younger sisters come through the programme with the same passion for the game and the school is something very special.”

1st XI Hockey and BCR *Maureen O'Carroll*

I am the team manager of the Baradene 1st XI Hockey team this year. They are an impressive group of young women who all exhibit qualities that parents want to see in our youth – they're collegial, team players, enthusiastic, encouraging, and full of fun. These are all great attributes and highlight what involvement in a team sport can provide. The culture and the Cor Unum spirit are alive and well in 1st XI Hockey! Being the manager allows me to give back to Baradene College – the community that has given our daughters a great education and environment to grow. While I am volunteering, what I get back from spending this time with my daughter and her team far outweighs the time and effort spent.

I have also had the privilege of being involved in the Baradene College Rowing (BCR) programme over the past four years. I have been involved on the committee as well as helping at camps and regattas. Rowing is not for the faint-hearted, and again, I am impressed with the Baradene Rowing Squad.

Their determination, grit, and turning up for each other day after day are so impressive to see, despite the sore bodies and sleep deprivation.

“I feel privileged to have the experience of volunteering, giving back to Baradene through sport, and having experiences with my daughter and her teammates. I encourage all parents to consider volunteering to be part of any extra-curricular activity their daughter is involved in.”



Year 7/8 Hockey

Tim Aynsley, Hamish Smith, Michael Tutty, Cameron McLean, and Tom Board

It's an absolute privilege to be involved with the Year 7/8 Hockey programme and to work with such a fantastic group of girls. Having coached a good portion of these girls since primary school, it has been really satisfying to watch them grow and develop their skills as they start to get a taste of the joy and camaraderie that competitive sport offers. The overall approach at Baradene allows all the coaches to share ideas and techniques, which has helped the group develop and compete at the highest level within the assigned grades.

Training includes two sessions a week, during which we try to introduce new skills while focussing on maintaining structure and working as a team. The satisfaction we feel in witnessing those moments of shared delight when one of the girls scores a goal, or when they can beat a player and execute a pass – or simply make a save on goal – all contribute to how rewarding it is to be a coach.

The setup at Baradene is world-class, and nothing beats turning up to the turf on a sunny (but chilly) Saturday morning to see the excitement and energy the girls bring.

“

We love the moments during game day, from the pre-game chant to the Player of the Day announcements. Win or lose, these girls continue to give 100%, so what more could a coach ask for?

”



1st XI Football *Gina Brugh*



I am currently the 1st XI Football Manager, and it's my third year in this role. My introduction as a parent helper in sports at Baradene began with managing my daughter's Year 7 Tennis and Futsal teams, which I thoroughly enjoyed. As I was there each week to watch, I figured, why not get involved and help the team and school out?

Since then, I have consistently taken on a manager role for both summer and winter sports. Over the years, I have managed Baradene's Cricket, Touch Rugby, Tennis, Futsal, and Football teams.

For the past seven years, this has been my main way of supporting the school and my daughter. I like to think of it as a way of giving back. Sports are something we enjoy as a family, so it never felt like a hard task. My role involves supporting the team and ensuring everyone turns up each week at the right place, ready to play. It also allows me to take a break from my busy week. I love spending time outside, getting to know the girls, and watching the friendships they form through sports.

Seeing the team work hard each week, give their all, have fun, and enjoy the games is incredibly satisfying, and I have a tremendous amount of respect for them all.

“

I am very proud of the 1st XI Football team, which includes girls from Years 10 to 13, and I feel privileged to be involved with them each week. Being a parent helper in sports at Baradene is a fantastic way to engage with the school, have fun, give back, and take pride in the team's efforts and achievements. I will miss it!

”

Long Distance Running and BCC *Jane Brew*

When I offered to help the Baradene Sports Department, I was unsure how I could be useful, but volunteers are greatly appreciated and much needed, providing invaluable support to the coaching staff and athletes. Because I work early mornings, I have free time in the afternoons to help. I have two roles: Long Distance Running Van Driver/Assistant Coach, and Baradene Cycling Club (BCC) Secretary.

Keeping up with the girls gets increasingly difficult, but I get enormous satisfaction from watching friendships develop across all year groups, hearing the laughter and chat, and getting to know the girls. My role as BCC Secretary felt daunting before I started, but BCC is a well-organised and supportive club, so it has proved to be surprisingly easy.



I grew up in the country and went to an all-girls' school where sport was a big part of my life, so I wanted to give back to school sports. Through sport, our athletes stay healthy, learn discipline and resilience, form friendships, and learn to play hard but fair. Being part of that process has been incredibly rewarding.



Tennis and Netball *Erica Tse*

Erica Tse

Managing and supporting the Baradene sports teams in Tennis and Netball over the last eight years has been an absolute pleasure. I started with the Tennis team during the summer, and later added Netball in winter.

I have managed various teams at different levels, from Senior Premiers to Junior Cs, and I have found that the same approach applies to all our sporting teams. Providing encouragement, guidance, sportsmanship, and a supportive team environment helps our girls become confident and resilient athletes.

When asked why I help, I would say, why not? I feel extremely blessed to be part of an amazing school community enriched by dedicated teachers and supportive parents. The Baradene Sports Department works tirelessly to ensure our athletes are well represented across all sporting codes, whether for fun at a social level or competing for success at regional and national levels.



It is incredibly rewarding to play a small role in seeing our athletes work hard and strive to excel in their sporting disciplines. I hope all our Baradene athletes continue to utilise and maximise the sporting opportunities available through college sport, and I wish everyone the utmost success. Go Bara!



INTRODUCING
**BELINDA
 SYDENHAM**
 INTERNATIONAL DEAN

Belinda Sydenham has recently returned to Baradene, taking up the position of International Dean and teaching ESOL. Here she shares her joy at coming back to our inspiring educational environment.

When I taught at Baradene seven years ago, I worked in the Languages Department teaching Japanese and French, and a bit of ESOL. I am happy to be back in the role of International Dean, teaching all ESOL now.

On a personal note, family is very important to me, and I am married with three adult daughters. My eldest daughter is a teacher and an artist, and my youngest is still studying. My middle daughter is an actress and a yoga teacher, and we are both inspired by a yoga symbol that represents “breathe in, breathe out”. This symbol and its meaning reminds us all not to take this simple act for granted – each moment of our lives is important, but thinking about breathing in and breathing out keeps us calm, even when things are super busy.

Over the past seven-and-a-half years, I have worked at the University of Auckland (Uniservices – Tui Tuia) and at the Ministry of Education. At Tui Tuia I offered professional learning and development to teachers of languages around Aotearoa, based on research using the work of many of the university academics to inform programmes for teachers. It was a huge privilege to visit hundreds of schools throughout the country over my six years in the role.

At the Ministry of Education, I worked for 18 months as a NIF (NCEA Implementation Facilitator), with a focus on languages and the NCEA change package – from the new standards, to the implementation of the new Literacy and Numeracy co-requisites, Mana ōrite mō te Mātauranga Māori, and much more. It was incredibly interesting to work within the MOE and find out how policy and processes are



developed and implemented. Again, I had the privilege of working with knowledgeable educators, who had a great deal of mana and guided us in so many aspects of best practice.

Both of those roles allowed me to gain a great understanding of pedagogy, and see the “big picture” of education through a very different lens.

As International Dean, I hope that my own experiences as a second language learner and visitor to many other countries can give me empathy with our students as they navigate new school and home lives in a second or third language. The bravery of leaving one’s home, often venturing halfway around the world, and keeping on going day after day is inspiring.

I love getting to know international students – their passions, aspirations, wealth of experiences in their home countries, and growing knowledge and understanding of being a Kiwi. I aim to make their time at Baradene everything they would wish it to be – full of learning, extra-curricular involvement, lifelong friends, and memories.

For students thinking of coming to Baradene, I would say: This is a wonderful school. There are so many opportunities, and the learning is rich. Being a Sacred Heart student puts you in the heart of a worldwide community to which you will always belong. The strong Cor Unum values that our school imbues in its students are a great recipe for life.

Home Away from Home

We are fortunate to have a community of nurturing, caring families who provide homes for our international students while they are studying at Baradene.

Homestay host Amy Hanson shares her experiences looking after a delightful Japanese international student, Haruka.

The Baradene Homestay Family Programme exceeded our expectations while we were hosting an international student. We had no experience hosting and were a little nervous about what to expect. However, we needn't have worried, as Homestay Coordinator Dianne Storer's knowledge, experience, and expertise created a wonderful match for our family.

From day one, it was a blur of fun and laughter when we picked up lovely 15-year-old Haruka, who came from Japan. My nine-year-old daughter was over the moon at having a big sister, and quickly had her swimming in the pool that afternoon. Swimming was swiftly followed by new firsts for our student,

boating and fishing on the Hauraki Gulf, cooking on a Kiwi BBQ, kayaking, and even joining us on a family holiday for a leisurely 24km cycle down the Karangahake Gorge!

In return, we were exposed to Japanese culture, ate delicious Japanese meals that our student kindly cooked for us, and enjoyed some delicious parting sake! Haruka is a talented rugby player and hip hop dancer. My husband was delighted to watch the games on Thursday night at the local rugby club, and my daughter spent hours dancing with Haruka in her room and doing skincare and makeup.

Tears were shed when Haruka left. Now part of our family, we have remained in contact with her and look forward to continuing this newfound friendship as the kids grow older.



Homestay host Faith Munapeyi and her family have been hosting international students for eight years, and they love the exchange of cultures that everyone experiences.

We really enjoy learning about the different cultures, languages, and food that our international students share with us. For our family, the most rewarding thing is seeing these girls come with little knowledge about Kiwi culture, then observing their transformation and watching them grow. We have had an opportunity to look after one student who stayed with us for three-and-a-half years, from mid-Year 10 until she finished Year 13, and our relationship grew so much that we are still in touch with her even now that she is at university.

We have home-cooked dinners together as a family each night, giving everyone, including our international students, an opportunity to talk about their day. We have found that it has been rewarding for our students and our own kids to share their experiences, and we often all learn new words, phrases, games, etc around the dinner table, as it is such an interactive time for the whole family.

For our family, the most rewarding thing is seeing these girls come with little knowledge about Kiwi culture, then observing their transformation and watching them grow.





LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

Sagiri Suzuki (née Takahashi) came from Japan to attend Baradene between 1992 and 1995, and recently her daughter Eme visited here for four weeks, following in her mother's footsteps to experience student life. Sagiri shares memories of her own student days, as well as her daughter's time at Baradene.

At the time I was a student at Baradene for Forms 4 to 7, there were no other Japanese students here. I studied English for three years in Japan when I was in junior high school, but unfortunately, it didn't help me much when I arrived in New Zealand! My first three months at Baradene were very tough, but many of my peers helped me a lot, and tried to understand what I wanted to say. Their kindness showed me that the Baradene community is one with very warm people.

community for the four weeks she attended. When I visited the school during Eme's time, I noticed how much the campus has changed since I was a Baradene girl 30 years ago. The tuck shop is bigger, and there are many more buildings. There are also many more subjects to choose from, such as Food and Technology. There are more facilities for sports and music, too. But some places were still the same, such as Duchesne.

Eme also found many differences between Japan and New Zealand in terms of school life. Eme made good friends at Baradene, some of whom came back to Tokyo to visit her after she returned home. She also regularly chats with them online. Eme hopes to keep in touch with her Baradene friends, and would love to come back to Auckland to study there again in the future.



Sagiri and Catherina Chang at the 1995 School Ball.



Sagiri in her 1994 class photo.



When my daughter Eme expressed an interest in studying abroad, my first choice was Baradene. Although Eme is only 15 years old, we felt she would be in good hands. I believe Baradene is the best school I could have sent her to, and I had confidence she would be happy to study there. Eme says she really enjoyed being a part of the Baradene

Above: Sagiri's daughter Eme with her friends from Baradene.



ALUMNAE NEWS

Alumnae Association Centenary celebration group photo.

The Baradene Alumnae Association proudly celebrated a century of connection, community, and tradition this year. President Karla Brennan shares her thoughts on this milestone.

On 19 May, almost 200 alumnae returned to Baradene to mark this momentous occasion. It was wonderful to welcome alumnae from the 1940s right through to the 2010s to this event. The day was filled with a deep sense of nostalgia and pride as former students came together to honour the enduring legacy of their former college.

The celebrations began with a beautiful Mass in the Sophia Chapel, which coincided with the Feast of Pentecost. Monsignor Bernard Kiely led us in an engaging and thoughtful Mass. The Chapel was filled with the heartfelt prayers and hymns of alumnae, a touching reminder of the spiritual foundation that continues to unite Baradene women across generations.

Following the Mass, a lively afternoon tea provided the perfect opportunity for reconnection. Old friends embraced, shared stories, and reminisced about their school days while enjoying delicious refreshments. A special highlight was the display of treasured photos and memorabilia from our Archives, which brought back fond memories of days gone by. Tours of the school were also available, run by current Year 13 students, offering alumnae a chance to see how Baradene has grown and changed over the years. The students loved guiding the tours and hearing alumnae stories, and as soon-to-be alumnae themselves, this was a special experience for them.



Our lovely Year 13 student tour guides.

The event came to an end with a screening of the film *With the Heart of an Educator: Stories from the Religious of the Sacred Heart, Baradene Convent* in the Conservatoire de Musique. A sincere thank you to the Alumnae Committee members, Baradene staff, students, and all alumnae in attendance who made this day special.

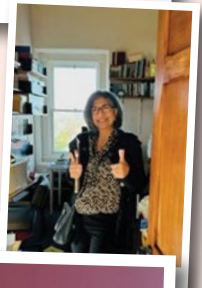
In June, the Barat Wing was the venue for the class of 2019's Five-Year Reunion. This event was a testament to the strong bonds formed during their time at Baradene. The reunion was filled with laughter and camaraderie as classmates reconnected and reflected on their journeys since graduation. See reunion photos on page 40.

The Alumnae Association held a successful AGM in August. The meeting was an opportunity to reflect on the past year's achievements and to plan for the future. It was also a time to express gratitude to the Committee members whose hard work and dedication have been instrumental in the Association's success. Special thanks were extended to Sarah Stone (Class of 1985) and Nicola Judd (Class of 1981), who are stepping down after 12 years of remarkable service. Their contributions have left a lasting impact, and their presence will be sorely missed. As we celebrate 100 years of the Baradene Alumnae Association, we look forward to many more years of connection, support, and shared memories.

2024 Cor Unum Alumnae Meritae Award and High Tea

Keep an eye on alumnae emails, as well as the Baradene alumnae website, Baradene Connect, and social media for the latest information on the 2024 Meritae Award and High Tea celebration.

- baradene.school.nz/alumnae
- facebook.com/baradene.alumnae
- baradeneconnect.co.nz



FIVE-YEAR REUNION CLASS OF 2019



MICHELLE KENNEDY

Her education at Baradene, university studies, and career in urban planning have seen Michelle Kennedy (Class of 2006) become a force for good, championing community-based climate action.

Michelle comes from a family of competitive sailors and grew up looking out towards Rangitoto Island and sailing the Hauraki Gulf, building a deep love for the land and sea. As a student at Baradene, Michelle travelled internationally to represent New Zealand in the 420-dinghy class and to compete in sailing regattas. At age 16, after sailing at a World Championship regatta in South Korea, Michelle became ill from polluted water and realised how important it is that we take care of the world around us.

The Sacred Heart education Michelle received instilled strong values based around caring for others and acting as stewards of the earth. She credits her Geography teacher, Mrs Berry, with sparking her deep curiosity and interest in the world around her, embedding in her a respect for Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Te Ao Māori world view including the principles of kaitiakitanga (stewardship) and taonga (treasure). These concepts greatly influenced Michelle's approach to urban planning, climate action, and the legacy we leave.

After graduating from Baradene in 2006, Michelle obtained conjoint Bachelor of Arts and Commerce degrees from the University of Auckland, majoring in Human and Physical Geography and Business and Strategy. In 2013, Michelle returned to complete her Master of Urban Planning, graduating with First Class Honours.

In her career as a strategic urban planner, Michelle has worked in various roles assisting in the design of cities around the world. Having lived in Sweden, Melbourne, New York, and London, she now calls Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland home.

In 2020, Michelle worked as a programme lead at the London Climate Action Week. Soon after, the impact of the global pandemic prompted her return to New Zealand, and in 2021, Michelle founded Six Generations Limited, a social enterprise from which she spearheaded the successful launch and development of the Auckland Climate Festival, a month-long event celebrating, generating, and accelerating climate action. Over time the festival expanded

“The Sacred Heart education Michelle received at Baradene instilled strong values based around caring for others and acting as stewards of the earth.”

and in 2023 it comprised 150 events, after Michelle successfully collaborated with over 300 leading businesses, community groups, iwi, advocacy groups, philanthropists, and government entities.

In 2024, Michelle co-founded Co-Aotearoa, a not-for-profit organisation that will build on the purpose and vision of previous Auckland Climate Festivals and extend climate action initiatives into the rest of New Zealand.

Michelle has also recently been appointed to a new role as Strategic Project Manager – Corporate Responsibility and Strategic Planning for Eke Panuku Development Auckland, an Auckland City Council organisation that delivers urban regeneration in Tāmaki Makaurau. Her role will combine her climate expertise with her strategic planning skills to test and advance the design of urban projects in harmony with nature. Michelle will be working in the climate space to embed climate initiatives and to report against the new mandatory disclosures, and in the strategic planning space on urban regeneration projects.



Through her passion for climate action, Michelle strives to bring a message of hope to Aucklanders and Aotearoa: That we can all foster meaningful climate change by looking at what can be embraced or regenerated.

Ones to Watch!



Catherine Hall (Class of 2021)

Studying for a degree in medicine hasn't stopped Catherine playing top-level sport. Catherine is a defender for the Northern Mystics and received her first full contract with the ANZ Premiership title winners this year. She was a member of the Northern Marvels last year, and her call-up came after impressing as a training partner for the Mystics during the season. In August, Catherine was named as a triallist for the Silver Ferns ahead of the Cadbury Netball Series against England and the Constellation Cup against the Australian Diamonds. Catherine was Dux at Baradene in 2021, and is now in her third year at the University of Auckland studying medicine. Combining full-time study with her netball career makes for a very full and busy life but Catherine says she has great support for both her study and netball and living at home in Auckland definitely helps. She is considering combining her two interests by specialising in sports medicine.



Ruby Nathan (Class of 2023)

Ruby is following her footballing dreams. In 2023, she secured her first professional contract, playing for Canberra United in the Liberty A-League in Australia. Ruby was also called up for her first Senior National tour with the Football Ferns, travelling to Colombia where she made her Football Ferns debut. Since then, Ruby has attended several Football Ferns camps in Samoa and Christchurch, and she also took part in a pre-Olympic camp in Auckland. In July, Ruby was selected for the NZ U20 team to attend the FIFA U20 World Cup in Colombia in September. Ruby's longer-term goals include playing top level football in the UK or European leagues, and playing for New Zealand at the Olympics and the Women's Football World Cup. Alongside her footballing ambitions, Ruby is studying for Law and Commerce degrees through the Auckland University of Technology.



Lilly Parke (Class of 2021)

Lilly made her New Zealand debut in July playing two games for the Tall Ferns on their tour of Japan. She is currently studying at Fairleigh Dickinson University and playing at Division 1 level for the FDU Knights Basketball team. Based at the FDU Metropolitan Campus in Teaneck, New Jersey, Lilly is in her Junior (third) year of university, having transferred from Auburn University in Montgomery, Alabama after her first year. Lilly plans to complete her four-year Bachelor in Psychology degree at FDU while playing for the Knights. After university, Lilly plans to continue playing basketball by pursuing professional opportunities overseas. When time allows, she is also keen to complete a Master's in Psychology, with a view to working in the field of sports psychology.

These six recent Baradene alumnae are making names for themselves in the national and international sporting world.

Molly Penfold (Class of 2019)

Molly is a promising bowler and over the last few years, she has become a fixture in the White Ferns squad. She has been representing New Zealand since 2021 in both One Day International and T20 teams, and has been selected for several overseas tours. As one of the fastest bowlers in New Zealand women's cricket, Molly can dominate the opposition's top order with her power and pace. In March, Molly showed her class finishing as New Zealand's second-highest wicket taker against the touring England A side. Most recently, Molly has been taking part in the White Ferns tour of England. When not playing international cricket, she plays for the Auckland Hearts team alongside fellow Baradene alumnae – her White Ferns teammate Fran Jonas (Class of 2021), her sister Josie Penfold (Class of 2017), and Prue Catton (Class of 2021).



Laura Balmer (Class of 2021)

Laura was recently selected for the New Zealand U21 squad, which is preparing for the Netball World Youth Cup in Gibraltar in September 2025. In early August, the squad attended a training camp following which Laura was selected for the Rising Stars: Fiji U21 tour later that month. Laura plays netball for the Southern Blast team in the Synergy Hair National Netball League, and made her debut in the ANZ Premiership playing for the Southern Steel team this season. Laura is currently in her third year at Otago University studying a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery, and enjoys the challenge of combining her medical studies with playing netball. While studying, she is keen to take every opportunity she can to keep playing netball at a senior level.



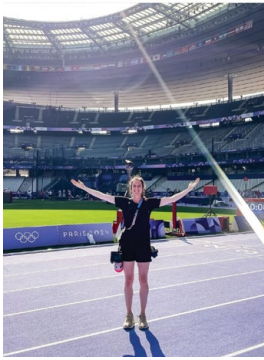
Stella Bilger (Class of 2022)

In May 2023, Stella won the women's SailGP Inspire Waszp title at the season finale in San Francisco. She qualified for the grand final by winning the Waszp Inspire class at the SailGP event in Christchurch. Stella's prize was an internship with the NZL SailGP team in Bermuda, where she sailed on the F50 foiling catamaran. Recently, she has competed at the 2024 IQFoil U23 World Championships in Silvaplana, Switzerland. Stella dreams of one day competing in the IQFoil windsurfer class at the Olympics. Earlier this year, she competed in some Olympic-class regattas in Europe and an Olympic test event in Hyeres, France. Stella also trained alongside Veerle ten Have, the New Zealand IQFoil representative for the Paris Olympics, at the Olympic venue in Marseille. Stella is in her second year of a Bachelor in Commerce degree, majoring in Accounting and Marketing at the University of Auckland.



Alumnae Milestones

Share with us in celebrating Baradene alumnae and the significant moments in their lives.



Official Olympic sports photographer **Alisha Lovrich (Class of 2011)** captured incredible moments in Paris. On Instagram @alishalovrich posted many amazing photographs, including our gold medal-winning Black Ferns Sevens team, Simone Biles, and the Nadal v Djokovic match. As team photographer for Athletics New Zealand, Alisha

was up close to all the action at Stade de France, including Hamish Kerr's gold medal-winning high jump.

In April, **Alina Chen (Class of 2023)**, accepted a place in the Bachelor of Music programme at The Juilliard School, New York. Alina received several Scholarships to assist with her tuition, and she also received place and scholarship offers from three other major music institutions that she auditioned for in the USA. Alina took up her place at Juilliard in August and is studying a four-year Bachelor's degree in the studio of Grammy-nominated flautist Carol Wincenc. She will graduate in 2028. Alina credits the opportunities and resources she enjoyed at Baradene with her development as a musician. She believes the encouragement and confidence she was given, from both her teachers and fellow students, assisted her to obtain a place at Juilliard, her dream school.



In May, **Aisling Baker (Class of 2018)** graduated from Tisch School of the Arts, part of New York University, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts majoring in Drama. It was a two-day event; the commencement ceremony for New York University was at Yankee Stadium with 30,000 students and family in attendance, and Tisch's commencement was held the next day

at Radio City Music Hall, with an inspiring speech from alumnus Billy Crystal. Aisling was fortunate to spend the final two years of her degree at the Lee Strasberg Institute of Film and Theatre. In October, Aisling moves to London to begin her Masters in Acting at East 15 Acting School.

Phoebe Hall (Class of 2022), has received a scholarship to attend Syracuse University in New York to play Hockey. Phoebe will live on campus and study computer science in the university's College of Engineering and Computer Science. Her degree will take three years, and she plans to complete postgraduate study in her fourth year.



In April, the **Class of 1982** held an informal reunion at Non Solo Pizza in Parnell. The class would like to hold another reunion with more of their classmates soon, so if you are keen, please let your old classmates know!



Ally Wollaston (Class of 2018) was on the podium twice at the 2024 Paris Olympics, winning silver and bronze medals in track cycling. Ally was part of the Women's Pursuit Team, which won Silver. The team made history as New Zealand's first ever Women's Pursuit Team to medal, and by producing New Zealand's best finish in team pursuit by men or women. Ally also won Bronze in the Omnium, an endurance event made up of four disciplines: The Scratch Race, Tempo Race, Elimination Race, and Points Race. Incredibly, Ally twice lapped the field in the final event, the Points Race, which secured her the Bronze medal.



Ally started cycling at Baradene, following her sister Nina into the sport at a young age. Ally showed great promise on the track and after three years at Baradene, she moved to Cambridge to further her cycling with easy access to the nearby velodrome. Ally's sisters were also involved with cycling. **Nina Wollaston (Class of 2014)** was a professional cyclist and **Claudia Wollaston (Class of 2015)** was for a time a performance analyst intern at Cycling New Zealand. The Class of 2018 will no doubt have been very excited to follow their old classmate's progress and cheer as she stepped onto the podium to receive her silver and bronze medals at the Olympics! Congratulations Ally, you have given us all such a thrill at Baradene.

Our cricketing duo **Fran Jonas (Class of 2021)** and **Molly Penfold (Class of 2019)** were named in the White Ferns ODI and T20I Squads to tour England in June and July. On 17 July, Fran made history bowling her career-best figures of 4-22-4 (4 overs, 22 runs, 4 wickets) in the 5th T20I against England at Lords. Her figures were the best bowling figures in a women's T20I at Lords, and she is the first woman to take a T20I four wicket haul at "the home of cricket". Fran has now played over 50 matches for the White Ferns, an amazing achievement for the 20-year-old. Read more about Molly as "One to Watch" on page 43.



In May **Havana Hopman (Class of 2021)** won Bronze at the Rhythmic Oceania Continental Championships held in Budapest, Hungary, an Olympic-qualifying competition held in conjunction with the 40th European Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships.

Lanihei Connolly (Class of 2023) was selected to represent the Cook Islands in swimming at the Paris Olympics 2024. Lanihei was a flagbearer at the opening ceremony, which must have been an incredible experience. Lanihei competed in the Women's 100m breaststroke event, finishing with a personal best time.

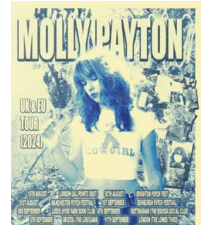


Earlier this year, **Elizabeth Jones (Class of 1975)** was awarded the Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal for 2024. The award is presented annually to recognise the recipient's lifetime achievement and significant contribution to the field of children's and young adult literature and literacy. The award was presented at the annual Margaret Mahy National Awards Day on 7 April, at which Elizabeth presented the Storylines Margaret Mahy lecture. Elizabeth is the Director of Literacy and Learning at the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, and is responsible for nationwide services supporting literacy, learning, and library development. Elizabeth is a passionate advocate for the importance of reading for pleasure and wellbeing for children and young people. Read more about Elizabeth's many achievements in this field at storylines.org.nz/search-profiles/elizabeth-jones-2/profiles



Erskine alumna **Ginette McDonald**, an actor, writer, and TV producer famous for her "Lynn of Tawa" character, has been honoured with a new anthology. NZ On Screen's *Ginette McDonald Collection* celebrates Ginette's varied career with videos of her timeless comedy, production work, and historic interviews: nzonscreen.com/collection/ginette-mcdonald

Singer, songwriter, and musician **Molly Payton (Class of 2018)** released her debut full-length album *YOYOTTA* on 30 August. Molly's favourite track is the final one on the album, "Get Back to You". She spent August and September touring the UK and Europe.



In Memoriam

We remember the alumnae and members of the Baradene community who have recently passed.

The Baradene community was saddened by the news that alumna **Patricia (Trish) McKay (née Wyatt, Class of 1973)** passed away suddenly on 2 July while overseas. Her funeral was held at St Patrick's cathedral on 19 July. We send our sincerest sympathy to Trish's husband Doug McKay and to her family and friends on the tragic loss of their loved one.

Hilma Jane Frances (Jane) Finnegan (née Strevens, Class of 1960) passed away on 2 June 2024. Jane was a proud alumna and was President of the Baradene Alumnae Association from 1985 to 1987. She maintained a strong connection to Baradene over the years by attending many alumnae functions, most recently the High Tea in October last year. Her daughters **Susan Fontana Ros (née Finnegan, Class of 1992)** and **Karen Finnegan (Class of 1994)** also attended Baradene, as did many family members from the extended Strevens, Finnegan, and McGillivray families. Jane's funeral was held in Baradene's Sophia Chapel.

Share your milestones with your fellow alumnae in the next issue of *Baradene Heart*!

Tell us about your milestone, whether it's a significant career milestone, achievement, community recognition, graduation, birth, marriage, death, or award. To share your milestones, email: alumnae@baradene.school.nz

Baradene Ball



At the Ellerslie racecourse on 4 May, candles were lit and chandeliers were hung for Baradene's Year 13 Ball. This year's theme was a "Royal Soiree." Adorned in their finest attire, guests gathered in the luxuriously decorated venue to dance and sing the night away, making memories they will never forget. The hard work and organisation that went into the event culminated in an evening that everyone enjoyed.



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2024

FAREWELL FROM OUR STUDENT LEADERS

Amy Mason Deputy Head Girl 2024

I will take away from Baradene:

Baradene has provided me with many opportunities and ways to grow these past seven years. Through these experiences, I have been pushed out of my comfort zone many times. Baradene has taught me to always find the positives in every situation while remaining open-minded. Along the way, I have also made many close connections with my peers and teachers that I will forever cherish.

The future:

I plan to pursue a conjoint degree of a Bachelor of Law and a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Criminology and Psychology at the University of Auckland. I feel very prepared to step into the world of law and see where this takes me in the future (especially having seen *Criminal Minds* and *Legally Blonde* multiple times... Just kidding, but they are entertaining!). I also plan on continuing to write and produce music on the side.

A funny moment:

This year, a group of my friends and I started a social football team. Our very first game was one of the funniest moments of our football season. We had never played together before, but showed up with high spirits, ready to play, only to lose to a team of Year 9 students. Our egos may have been a little bruised, but I don't think I've ever laughed so much!

Talia Uluinayau Head Girl 2024

I will take away from Baradene:

One of the most important things I'll take away from my time at Baradene is a strong sense of social justice and advocating for those who don't have a voice. Even though it may not always be the popular choice, we know the right thing to do, and our school values guide us well. It's important to stay true to those values and make the most of every opportunity. I've achieved goals that I didn't think were possible, and I attribute that to just giving it a go, putting myself out there, and relying on the close-knit community and sisterhood I've formed during my time at Baradene.

The future:

I'm excited about my future and am keeping my options open. I have applied to a few universities and have already been accepted into Marketing and International Business degrees, which look really interesting! I'm waiting to hear back from a few more before I decide which programme I will attend.

A funny moment:

There have been countless funny moments, but the best one was the "Just gimme my money" TikTok prank on Ms Marsh at the end of one of our recent basketball trainings. We all went around saying it one by one, clapping and cheering enthusiastically, and then when it was Ms Marsh's turn... Crickets. Needless to say, her reaction was priceless!

Maddy Meredith Deputy Head Girl 2024

I will take away from Baradene:

I am so lucky to have been surrounded by the kindest community at Baradene, and I will be forever grateful for the special friendships fostered throughout my time here. The immense support has instilled confidence in my abilities and potential, inspiring me to always be courageous in my endeavours. My time at Baradene is filled with wholesome, humorous, and proud memories that I will always hold close to my heart.

The future:

I am excited to continue growing intellectually and personally after graduating and aim to study a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. It has always been an ambition of mine to become a doctor, particularly a surgeon, as I believe it is a great opportunity to apply both my love for the sciences and the creativity and precision learned through painting – all while serving for the greater good of others!

A funny moment:

At the opening ceremony for the new Erskine Stuart Gymnasium, Amy and I assisted Monsignor Bernard Kiely in blessing the rooms. As we were walking along the balcony above the gym floor, he sprayed holy water over the balcony and showered all the officials standing below – including Mrs Pasley and David Seymour!

Baradene Connect

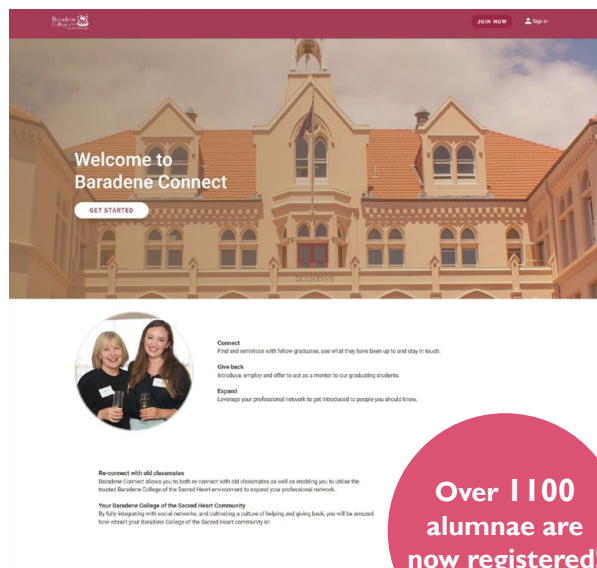
A DEDICATED ONLINE COMMUNITY FOR BARADENE ALUMNAE



Baradene Connect enables alumnae to connect wherever they are in the world, and to foster personal, professional, and mentoring relationships.

BARADENE CONNECT brings our alumnae together by providing:

- A running feed of alumnae news, photos, and events.
- A directory of alumnae, allowing you to search and connect with alumnae around the world, including by geographic location, year group, occupation, interests, and more.
- The opportunity to be mentored by or offer mentorship to fellow alumnae.
- A jobs board for alumnae to post employment opportunities.
- A business directory to promote your business to fellow alumnae.
- Groups for alumnae to engage with each other (e.g. class of, location, or industry).



REGISTER NOW!

Visit www.baradeneconnect.co.nz on any device to register and start connecting.

SPREAD THE WORD

Please share Baradene Connect with other Baradene alumnae so we can continue to build a vibrant online community. Erskine alumnae are also welcome to join!

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Altar gifts at the Alumnae Association Centenary celebration Mass in May: A Baradene straw hat from the 1990s, an archive copy of the alumnae magazine Concordia, a cup and saucer from the boarding school, and a pink ribbon which was presented to select students at the annual prizegiving ceremonies between 1912 and 1966.

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baradene.school.nz