

Issue 19: October 2025

Baradene
College of the
SACRED HEART

Pioneering Women

Meet Sister Anne
Corry RSCJ, the new
Provincial of NEANZ

Science lab to scrubs:
Alumnae making a
difference in medicine

Saint Madeleine Sophie
Barat RSCJ's legacy of
courage and confidence

Baradene

HEART



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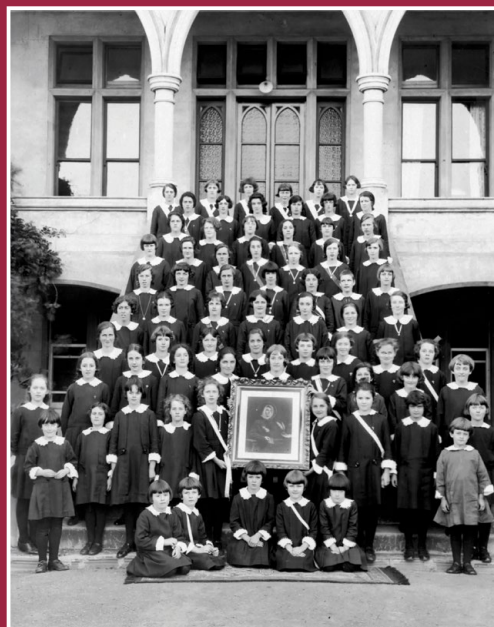
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ON THE COVER:

100 years ago, in May 2025, Baradene pupils commemorated the canonisation of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ. Posing on the front steps of the main building which is now called Duchesne, they held a portrait of the Saint. Today, that same portrait hangs in one of the corridors our students pass through on their way to Sophia Chapel (see back cover).

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BARADENE HEART

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A WORD FROM THE BOARD



A word from Gill Chappell, Chair of the School Board.

At Baradene College, the legacy of pioneering women is not confined to history – it's a living tradition that continues to shape our present and future. Whether through student achievements, staff and alumnae leadership, or the active involvement of families, the spirit of courageous, compassionate leadership is woven into every aspect of our community.

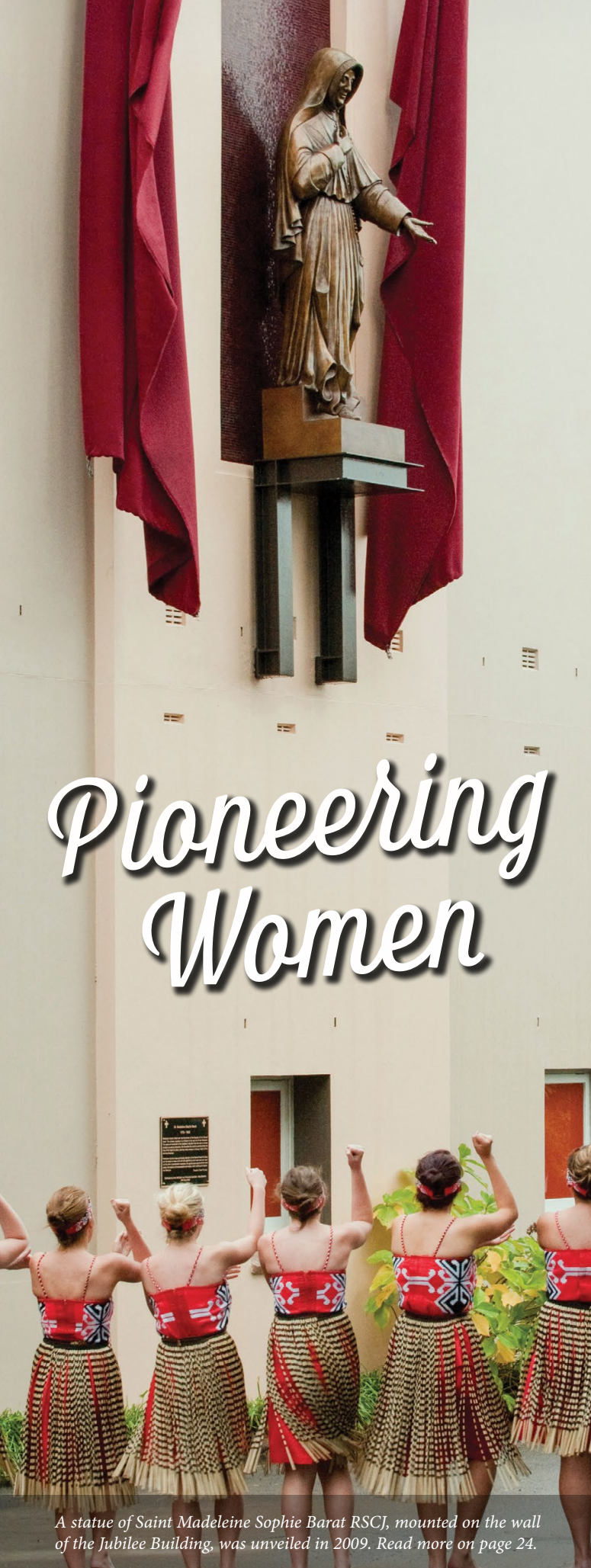
Over the years, the College has been blessed to be guided by the RSCJ Sisters, whose presence has shaped our community in profound ways. As we move forward, that responsibility is gradually being shared with lay members, who are now taking up the mantle to protect and live out the charism of the Society; a legacy that began with Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ and which continues to inspire us today.

In this issue of *Baradene Heart Magazine*, we not only celebrate our vibrant College life, we also take the opportunity to recognise those who help shape Baradene's future – our Boards: School, Baradene College Limited, RSCJ, and the Baradene College Foundation Boards. You can learn more about each Board on pages 36-37.

The current election process for parent, staff, and student representatives to the School Board reminds us of the value of diverse perspectives and inclusive representation. Through this collective wisdom, we set the strategic direction of the College, ensuring our goals reflect the needs of our community and the aspirations of our students. As the School Board, we have been privileged to work alongside dedicated trustees whose contributions have advanced these goals. Their commitment, insight, and generosity of time have strengthened the foundations of Baradene's future. To those trustees who are stepping down, I extend my thanks for your outstanding service and leadership.

A key theme emerging from the School Board's Strategic Plan consultation process is the need to embed artificial intelligence (AI) into our learning framework. Baradene is committed to integrating AI into teaching and learning in ways that are principled, purposeful, and aligned with our educational values. However, incorporating AI into education is not simply about technological fluency, it is about equipping students to engage with AI critically, ethically, and creatively. In this fast-moving space, we cannot afford to leave students or teachers behind.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of our students, we also acknowledge the enduring impact of those who guide and support them today, as well as those who pioneered the Society of the Sacred Heart. Together, we strive to lead with heart, vision, and a commitment to excellence, while building on the legacies of Baradene's Founders.



Pioneering Women

A statue of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ, mounted on the wall of the Jubilee Building, was unveiled in 2009. Read more on page 24.



Principal Alexandra Russell reflects on leadership, legacy, and the daily acts of courage and confidence that unite and inspire the Baradene community.

When I stepped into the role of Principal at the beginning of this year, I brought not only my experience in education, but also a special gift from Sister Lynette Toohey RSCJ. It sits on my desk and is inscribed with the words “Courage and confidence”, which are from a quote by Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ:

“Courage and confidence! I cannot repeat this war-cry too often. We should make it our support in our life of conflict.”

These words have become something of a touchstone for me. In moments of decision-making, change, and challenge, I find myself glancing at them and drawing strength from their simple but powerful reminder. Courage – to step forward into new challenges, to make decisions that will shape our school’s future, and lead with openness and integrity. Confidence – to trust in the values, traditions, and people that make Baradene the extraordinary place it is.

The start of any new chapter comes with its share of uncertainties and questions. As I navigated my first months as Principal, I was conscious of the legacy of leadership that has shaped Baradene over generations. I have been supported every step of the way by a team of talented and dedicated staff, by students who bring energy and curiosity to their learning, and by the wider community of parents, caregivers, alumnae, friends, and the Boards that guide and govern Baradene College.

One of the responsibilities of our School Board is to support the Principal in their leadership role while ensuring that the school remains aligned with its mission and values. We are fortunate to have individuals with a variety of skills, experiences, and perspectives serving not only on the School Board but also on other Boards that help guide and support the College. This diversity is crucial for making well-informed decisions that benefit the school community. For more information about the different Boards and the remarkable individuals who contribute their time and expertise, please refer to page 36.

As a Sacred Heart school, we walk in the footsteps of remarkable women – pioneers whose vision was grounded in education, justice, and service. In the year that commemorates the 100th anniversary of Saint Madeleine Sophie, it is fitting to reflect on how she founded the Society of the Sacred Heart in an era when women's education was far from a given. Yet she had the courage and foresight to envision a different future. Courageous RSCJ Sisters brought that vision to New Zealand, navigating unfamiliar shores and facing challenges with grace, humour, and determination. Their stories are not simply historical footnotes; they are living reminders of what is possible when we lead with conviction and hope, and their legacy encourages our young women to do the same.

In May, the Sacred Heart Conference in Brisbane brought that legacy to the forefront, as staff and students from Sacred Heart schools across the Asia-Pacific region gathered to share ideas, explore challenges, and reaffirm our shared mission. It was uplifting to witness how the spirit of our Founders remains vibrant in the actions and dreams of our students today. Whether presenting research, developing solutions to real-world problems, or simply connecting across cultures, our students demonstrate that to be a pioneering woman means knowing who you are, holding fast to your values, and embracing faith as a source of courage and purpose.



The 2025 Sacred Heart Conference, held at Stuartholme School in Brisbane, was inspiring and educational.

At this year's Careers Evening, I had the privilege of hearing several Baradene alumnae share their life and work journeys, demonstrating how they embody the values of social awareness and community service. It showed that the principles learned at Baradene are woven into the fabric of our students' lives, creating a ripple effect that influences future generations.

What continues to impress me is the way the spirit of "Cor Unum" – One Heart, One Mind, in the Heart of Jesus Christ – is lived out in the everyday moments at Baradene. I see it in the Year 7 students finding their place in a new school, the senior students embracing leadership roles, and the teachers who care for students' wellbeing as well as their academic

achievements. I see it in parents who show up in all the countless big and small ways that build community and make Baradene a place of warmth and welcome.

There are numerous examples of building community, and this issue highlights just a few, like the work of our wonderful PTA, which organises and runs events throughout the year. And on page 17, you can see how crucial the support of our parents, staff, alumnae, and students is in organising and managing an extraordinary number of netball teams!

This magazine consistently highlights not only outstanding achievements, but also the heart of the Baradene community. It is in these shared actions and collective efforts that our values are truly brought to life. As we continue through the year, may we all hold close Saint Madeleine Sophie's words. Courage and confidence are not abstract ideals; they are daily choices that require deliberate action.

I am grateful for the warmth with which I have been welcomed into this role, and for the trust placed in me. There have been countless moments of learning, laughter, and community already, and I look forward to many more. Together, we will continue to honour the legacy of the Sacred Heart, and prepare our young women to be leaders – in their own lives and in the wider world – who act with courage, confidence, and compassion.

As we follow in the footsteps of Saint Madeleine Sophie, her vision continues to guide us. Her daily prayer remains a source of unity and strength for our community.

Saint Madeleine Sophie's Daily Prayer

Sacred Heart of Jesus,
Give me a heart that is one with your own;
A humble heart that knows and loves
its nothingness;
A gentle heart that holds and calms
its own anxiety;
A loving heart that has compassion
for the suffering of others;
A pure heart that recoils
even at the appearance of evil;
A detached heart that longs for nothing
other than the goodness of heaven;
A heart detached from self-love
and embraced by the love of God,
Its attention focused on God, Its goodness
its only treasure in time and in eternity.
Amen.

Introducing Two of Our Deputy Principals



Jackie Wood

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Jackie Wood focuses on ensuring every student thrives in a curriculum that is anchored in Sacred Heart values.

This is my 15th year at Baradene, and over the years, I have held a variety of roles within the College. Originally from the UK, where I had taught in a boys' school for 11 years, I found working at a girls' school in New Zealand to be quite different. However, it was apparent from the beginning that Baradene was special, and I love working here.

My first role was as Learning Centre Co-ordinator, which developed into supporting assessment within the college, initially in the junior school but eventually as Principal's Nominee, serving as the NCEA liaison for Baradene.

I joined the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in Term 2 of 2017 as Acting Director of Student Support, a role that

“My focus is on ensuring the curriculum we provide is not only accessible to all, but is also engaging, challenging, and relevant to the world we live in today.”

became permanent later that year. Student Support is very fulfilling, and I thoroughly enjoyed working with the Deans, Counsellors, Nurse, Careers, Learning Centre, and teachers to support students with their pastoral journey.

Having held that role for a number of years, it was great to have the opportunity to move into Director of Teaching and Learning this year. There is significant overlap between all of the roles within the SLT, and we are committed to creating the best possible environment for our students and staff to thrive in. My focus is on ensuring the curriculum we provide is not only accessible to all, but is also engaging, challenging, and relevant to the world we live in today.

Being part of an all-female management team is a huge privilege. Our diverse professional and life experience assists us to identify and develop the most worthwhile opportunities for our students.

It is inspiring to see so many students strive to achieve their best in all areas of school life, while remaining grounded and humble. The founding principles of the Society of the Sacred Heart are so important, and act as a guiding light for all when there is so much ambiguous advice in the world today.

One of my favourite quotes from Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ is: “Your example, even more than your words, will be an eloquent lesson to the world.”

These words clearly express the importance of actions over words. In a world where we are constantly bombarded by various forms of media, it is what we do that shines through, not what we talk about doing.

The importance of reflection and contemplation is imperative as we all navigate the vicissitudes of life. Saint Madeleine Sophie said, “The Spirit is always speaking to us deep in our hearts, if only we listen.”

Above all, I believe a Sacred Heart education is a precious gift, and is as relevant today as it was hundreds of years ago.

DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

DIRECTOR OF ASSESSMENT

Sarah Boasman

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
DIRECTOR OF ASSESSMENT

With a passion for nurturing confidence and ethical leadership, Sarah Boasman aims to guide Baradene students and staff in growing, taking risks, and shaping the future with purpose.

My father was an Anglican vicar and my mother a teacher, so it was perhaps no surprise – statistically or otherwise – that I pursued a career in education. After spending a short time teaching in Zimbabwe and Mozambique, I settled in the northeast of England, where I taught Science and Biology in a Northumbrian high school for eight years before making the significant move to New Zealand.

After many rewarding years at my previous school in Auckland, I felt ready for a new challenge, and joined Baradene as Head of Science. Four years later, the opportunity arose for the Deputy Principal Director of Assessment position, and I felt my experience and vision would be well suited for this role. This pivotal moment led me to the fulfilling role I proudly hold today, where I contribute to shaping the academic environment and supporting both students and staff.

Throughout my career as a curriculum leader, I have developed a strong understanding of the processes and complexities of the NCEA system, as well as the International Baccalaureate and AQA (UK) programmes. My involvement with NZQA marking panels, and my experience in leading teams through curriculum change, place me in a strong position to guide and support staff as we navigate the next phase of curriculum and assessment transformation.

I understand the vital role that the Senior Leadership Team plays in supporting Heads of Faculty, particularly during periods of significant change. Building confidence and clarity within leadership teams ensures that curriculum planning and implementation are both effective and collaborative.

As Director of Assessment, my core responsibility is to ensure that all assessment data, both internal and external, is accurately recorded in the school's data systems. I liaise closely with NZQA to stay informed of updates to



“Building confidence and clarity within leadership teams ensures that curriculum planning and implementation are both effective and collaborative.”

NCEA standards, and ensure that internal assessments are administered, marked, and moderated in accordance with NZQA protocols. I foster a culture of continuous improvement in our assessment practices to enhance student learning outcomes.

At Baradene we strive to inspire future female leaders by cultivating confidence, integrity, and a sense of purpose. Confidence is nurtured by celebrating individuality and reframing failure as an opportunity for growth. Integrity is fostered through modelling ethical behaviour, embedding the values of Baradene's special character, and engaging in service that builds empathy and accountability. Developing purpose through mentorship, goal setting, and exposure to global issues ignites curiosity and ambition.

By promoting inclusive leadership, and offering meaningful opportunities to lead, we can empower young women to become resilient, principled, and visionary leaders – ready to shape a more just and equitable world.



The recent rise of student participation in Baradene's cultural groups is impressive.

Earlier this year, eight cultural groups began preparations for the ASB Polyfest: African, Fijian, Filipino, Indian, Kapa Haka, Samoan, Scottish, and Tongan. It is a significant effort not only for the performers, but also for the many helpers and supporters.

Fia Fia Night was an opportunity for the groups to showcase the culmination of their dedication and hard work. They performed in front of a packed auditorium filled with family, friends, and members of the community. It was their moment to shine, and we couldn't be prouder of the talent and effort each group brought to the stage. Live bagpipes added a magical touch to the event!

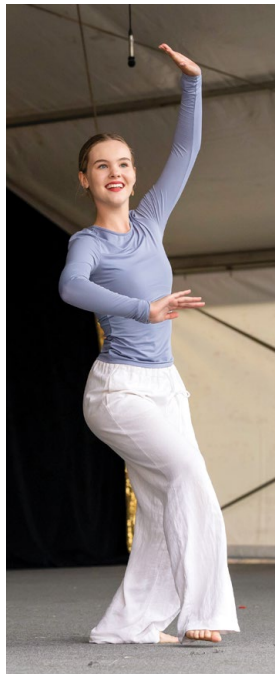
With Polyfest starting the very next day and excitement at an all-time high, the performers illuminated the stage and achieved outstanding results. Our top results were:

- **Europe Continent Award:** First – Scottish Group
- **Africa Continent Award:** First – African Fusion Group
- **Fusion Award:** First – African Fusion Group

Thank you to all the performers, helpers, and supporters. This is a tremendous team effort, and we are very proud of all participants.







FOLDING PEACE

Baradene students united to fold 1,000 paper cranes, sending a message of remembrance and hope to Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the 80th anniversary of World War II's end.

This year, the world marked 80 years since the end of World War II. For Japan, the war ended in a tragic and devastating way, with the dropping of two atomic bombs.

To commemorate this anniversary and to remember those who died in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Year 11 student Rena Ishikawa launched the 1,000 Cranes Project in April. Rena is from Fuji Sacred Heart School in Shizuoka (part of our Sacred Heart Schools Network), and is studying at Baradene this year.

The cranes are inspired by the well-known and tragic story of Sadako Sasaki from Hiroshima. Sadako was only two years old when the bomb was dropped on her city. She survived the bombing, but at age 12 she became seriously ill with leukaemia caused by radiation exposure. While in hospital, she began folding paper cranes after hearing a legend that if you fold 1,000 paper cranes, you are granted a wish. Sadako wished to get better – but sadly, she passed away before she could finish her cranes. Her small, exquisite cranes are now part of the Peace Park Museum exhibits, and a statue of Sadako stands in the Hiroshima Peace Park. Every year, thousands of people from around the world take paper cranes to her statue as a symbol of peace, hope, and remembrance.

Rena has quietly nurtured this project through numerous lunchtime sessions, where students from all year levels came together to help her create 1,000 folded paper cranes, known as orizuru. They are beautiful, wonky, colourful,

and wonderful – a celebration of all that is good. The cranes will be linked into chains with needles and thread, with the ultimate goal of taking them to Hiroshima in January 2026, to lay at Sadako's feet.

Rena reflects: *"I hope this project serves as an opportunity to understand the importance of praying for peace. I wanted to share my story so that the tragedy of the atomic bombings would never be repeated. Even 80 years later, the scars remain in the hearts and bodies of the survivors and their families."*

On 7 August, a commemorative event for the 1,000 Cranes Project was held in Baradene's Sophia Chapel. Special guests included students from Rena's school in Shizuoka, Chisato Yoshioka (National Japanese Language Advisor), Sister Elizabeth Snedden RSCJ, Sister Anne de Stacpoole RSCJ, and Sister Mieko RSCJ, who was visiting from Japan. Together, we honour the past and fold our hopes for peace into every crane we send to Japan.



From left: Chisato Yoshioka, Rena Ishikawa, International Dean Belinda Sydenham, and Principal Alexandra Russell.





UNITED IN SONG

At the end of May, Baradene hosted 52 music students from Sacred Heart School for Girls in Taipei, Taiwan, for a vibrant cultural and musical exchange.

This visit followed our tour to Taiwan in April of 2024, where our students were warmly welcomed by Sacred Heart Taipei and billeted with their families. It was a privilege to return the hospitality and continue nurturing this special relationship with one of the schools in our Sacred Heart Network through shared experiences and musical connection.

The Taiwanese students were paired with 40 Baradene families, staying in their homes for a night and attending regular classes with their host students during two school days. This immersive experience allowed them to gain a real sense of daily life at a New Zealand school while forming personal connections with our students.

“Everyone was so kind and welcoming.”

“I loved experiencing school life in a different country and making new friends.”

The visiting choir performed a traditional Taiwanese clapping song at our Junior Assembly, showcasing their musical heritage with enthusiasm and precision. A highlight of the performance was a beautiful solo Taiwanese dance presented by one of the students, which captivated the audience with its elegance and grace. In exchange, the Baradene Concert Band performed *African Symphony*, an uplifting piece that offered a glimpse of our school's musical talent.



Our Music Department received wonderful feedback from the Sacred Heart Taipei staff, who praised the warmth of the Baradene community, the hospitality of our host families, and the positive spirit of our students. They also expressed their appreciation for the chance to share their culture and music in such a supportive environment.

We are grateful to our Baradene host families for their generosity and open-heartedness in welcoming the students into their homes. Exchanges like this provide powerful opportunities for students to broaden their world views, appreciate different cultures, and form lasting international friendships. Following their time at Baradene, the group continued on a tour of New Zealand, with visits to Rotorua and Cambridge.

We hope this exchange will remain a treasured memory for both Sacred Heart Taipei and Baradene students, and we look forward to continuing this meaningful musical and cultural partnership in the years to come.

TOP NOTES

Ella Nie earned a Distinction in her ARSM Organ Performance Diploma – an outstanding achievement.

Congratulations to organ scholar Ella Nie (Year 13), who recently attained an ARSM (Associate of the Royal Schools of Music) Organ Performance Diploma with Distinction, achieving an incredible 47 marks out of a maximum of 50. Ella has been playing the organ for the past five years under the tutelage of Dr Philip Smith, Organist at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell. In addition to organ playing, she is also a pianist and violist, and currently a member of the Auckland Youth Orchestra. Ella looks forward to continuing with her music studies at university.



SMOKEFREE ROCKQUEST SUCCESS



Sunfish rocked the stage in the Smokefree Rockquest, earning top awards and recording their original music after reaching the Regional Finals.

Student rock band Sunfish competed in the Auckland Regional Smokefree Rockquest heats in May, performing an original song titled *In Vitro*. They competed against 51 other bands and were delighted to be selected as one of the top 12 bands to compete in the Regional Finals.

In June, Sunfish performed before an enthusiastic crowd at the Regional Finals of the Smokefree Rockquest, and were thrilled to receive The ZM Best Song Award, along with the APRA Lyric Award for Mischa Dalziell! The band was also presented with the opportunity to record their music and spent a day at Stebbing Studios recording three original songs, the award-winning *In Vitro*, as well as *Unresolved* and *Sailor's Grave*. It was an incredible experience for the group, offering valuable insight into transforming their ideas into a polished final product.

The band, consisting of Indie Lynch-McEwan (Year 11) on vocals and guitar, Mischa Dalziell (Year 12) on vocals and guitar, Charlotte Williamson (Year 11) on bass, and Amy Liefing (Year 12) on drums, has been playing together for two years, practicing regularly. They write their own music progressively, with each member having input into their parts, finding influence from alternative rock bands such as Muse, Green Day, and Pink Floyd. The group has a lot of fun creating their sound and is looking forward to future performance opportunities.

Follow their progress on Instagram @sunfish.band





RAISING VOICES

Baradene's flourishing choir programme is hitting new high notes, with expanded opportunities and award-winning performances for students of all ages.

Baradene's Choir Programme Expands

It has been an exciting year for choirs at Baradene. Following a surge of interest in singing during 2024, new choir director Dr Erin Atchison found herself with over 70 students in Years 9 to 13 eager to participate in group singing. This large turnout meant that the school needed a new choir! We decided to return our senior choir, Schola Cantorum, to a smaller auditioned choir of 30 to 40 singers. Additionally, we created a senior all-comers choir to provide training for new singers in a more relaxed space, allowing any student to participate in the joys of choral singing. And so, the new Baradene Chorale was formed.

With International Dean and choral singer Mrs Belinda Sydenham as conductor, a group of approximately 30 students began rehearsing in February to find its voice as an ensemble and prepare for The Big Sing Choir Festival in June. The Baradene Chorale is made up of students from across Years 9 to 13, including a strong contingent of international students, along with a group of keen Year 9s who had been key members of the Sophia Choir last year. Mrs Sydenham is committed to using student pianists, and in 2025, the choir has the pleasure of being accompanied by Year 13 student Yuhan Jennifer Chai.



The Baradene Chorale sang with members of Schola at the Feast of the Sacred Heart Mass at the end of Term 2 and will also sing at the Thanksgiving Mass in late October. Both senior choirs provide students with the opportunity to form new friendships across different year levels, while also fostering their Cor Unum spirit through participation in a dedicated ensemble that collaborates to produce beautiful music. Students also benefit from leadership opportunities – assisting the choir directors by leading sectionals, organising choir administration, and helping to nurture a positive group environment.

With our Year 7 and 8 all-comers choir, the Sophia Choir, also rehearsing weekly as a group of nearly 80 enthusiastic students, Baradene's choral programme has a bright future!

Choir Competition Trifecta

We were excited to enter two choirs into The Big Sing Choir Festival this year, an annual competition for secondary school choirs around the country. Both our established senior choir, Schola Cantorum, and our newly formed choir, Baradene Chorale, participated in the Auckland and Northland Regional Festival. The event featured more than 75 choirs performing over three days at the Auckland Town Hall. The choirs competed in daytime sessions, singing three pieces



in front of an adjudicator, before returning to the Town Hall in the evening for a Gala Concert. The public concerts have a great atmosphere, allowing the students to listen to the other choirs and cheer them on enthusiastically!

The Baradene Chorale, in their debut performance, were proud to receive a Commended Award, with the adjudicator congratulating them on a “confident and well-blended performance” which was “polished and heartfelt”. The students, most of whom were new to The Big Sing, enjoyed the experience of performing in front of a large audience and soaking up the atmosphere in the Town Hall. Schola Cantorum was also delighted to receive a Highly Commended Award as well as a special Excellence Award for a Performance of a New Zealand Composition for their rendition of Sarah McCallum’s *Poem from War*. The adjudicator congratulated them for their “thoughtfully connected and engaging recital” that was “memorable and well-prepared”. The choir was grateful for the expertise of accompanist, Penny Christiansen, and the dedication and musical skills of Year 12 student Zixuan Sophia Lai, who, as well as singing in the choir, accompanied them on the piano and violin.

Schola was thrilled to be selected to take part in Cadenza, The Big Sing Upper North Island Regional Finals, in August – one of 12 choirs chosen to participate in the two-day event. The group travelled to Rotorua to take part in choral workshops, social events with the other choirs, and to perform in a competitive environment, finishing with a showcase Gala Concert for the public. They were excited to receive a Korimako (Silver) Award.

The Sophia Choir took part in The Kids Sing Choir Festival in August, an annual event for primary and secondary school choirs, with over 50 choirs from the Auckland region competing at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell. The event was a fantastic opportunity for the choir to showcase their hard work from the year and enjoy singing to an appreciative audience. They were proud to receive a Silver award for their performance.



Find us on Facebook and Instagram!

Visit our official Baradene Arts & Culture social media pages for up-to-date information and results, including our **Gold** and **Bronze Awards** at the recent **KBB Music Festival!**

 facebook.com/baradeneartsandculture

 instagram.com/baradeneartsandculture





SWAMP-SATIONAL SUCCESS

Baradene's 2025 production of *Shrek the Musical* was a delightful showcase of student talent and creativity.

Performed at Sacred Heart College Theatre from 22 to 24 May, the show was met with enthusiastic audiences and sold-out performances. It was a pleasure to work with students from Sacred Heart College on this lively, entertaining show. The ensemble's energy and commitment were evident throughout the show, with each member contributing to the whimsical world of Farquaad's kingdom and Shrek's swamp. From the fairytale creatures to the Duloc dancers, every character added depth and humour to the narrative. The four leading roles – Fiona (performed by Year 12 student Francesca Crichton), Donkey (performed by Year 12 student Evelyn Pryde), Shrek (performed by Year 13 Sacred Heart student Marcus Guerin), and Lord Farquaad (performed by Year 12 Sacred Heart student Rod Allen) – were hilarious in their adaptations of the beloved movie characters. Congratulations to all involved!





In the Spotlight

Students captivated the audience with a standout performance of *Measure for Measure* at the SGCNZ Shakespeare Festival.

Three talented Year 13 students represented Baradene at the prestigious SGCNZ University of Otago Sheilah Winn National Shakespeare Festival in Wellington. They qualified for this event following their success at the regional competition in March, where their student-directed scene was selected as one of the top entries. The scene, drawn from Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, featured powerful performances by Eloise Harvey and Zoe Dignan, under the direction of Ava Flathaug. Accompanied by Mrs Eichstaedt McComb, the students immersed themselves in the vibrant world of Shakespeare for four days. Their time in Wellington was filled with enriching experiences, including a variety of theatre workshops and live performances. These activities allowed the students to deepen their understanding of Shakespearean drama and further refine their acting and directing skills. The pinnacle of the weekend was their performance at the historic St James Theatre, a momentous opportunity for the students to showcase their talent on a national stage. Their compelling interpretation of the scene from *Measure for Measure* highlighted the strength of student-led theatrical work. Congratulations to Eloise, Zoe, and Ava for their exceptional work.



Baradene's dance teams dazzled at Velocity, bringing home four trophies and showcasing their energy, talent, and teamwork across every stage.

It was another fantastic experience for our Baradene dance troupes at the recent Velocity Dance Competition. Five teams competed, and excitingly, four of them returned home with trophies! The day also included workshops with professional dancers and fostered friendships with students from other schools. The Year 7/8 Hip Hop team secured First place in their category, maintaining a winning streak in competitions for 2025, and our Year 9 and 10 Lyrical troupe gained Second place in their category. Our three senior troupes faced a unique challenge, as three of our teams competed in the same category. Despite this, they performed admirably. The Senior Hip Hop team earned Second place, while the Contemporary troupe claimed Third. Our Jazz troupe received an honourable mention, testament to their skill and dedication. The results highlight the enormous effort and talent within the Baradene dance community. Congratulations to all the dancers and choreographers for their outstanding performance and commitment throughout the year.





COURTING CONFIDENCE

Baradene netball welcomes every player, builds community, and helps girls grow on and off the court.

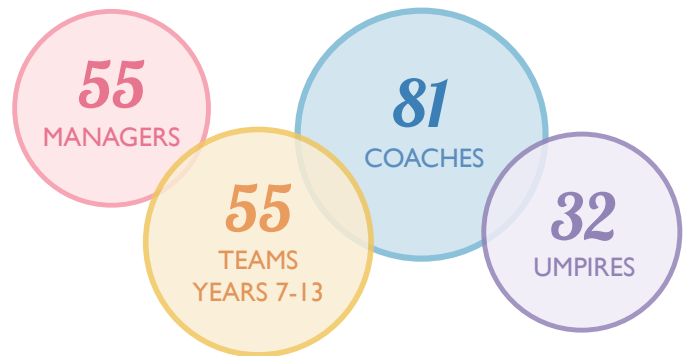
Baradene has built a reputation as one of Auckland's largest netball schools. Each season, we enter over 50 teams across a wide range of levels from Year 7 to Premier into the Auckland Netball competition. In 2025, we achieved a record 55 netball teams! This enormous volume of participation means that students of all abilities, whether playing competitively or socially, have an opportunity to get involved. Every student, regardless of experience or skill level, is welcome to give netball a go. Year 7 and 8 teams compete during the week on Tuesdays after school, while Year 9 to 13 teams take to the courts on Saturday mornings at Auckland Netball Centre.

Behind the scenes, the programme is driven by a dedicated network of parents, staff, and students who generously give their time and energy by coaching, managing, and umpiring our teams. Our coaches and managers play a pivotal role in creating safe, supportive environments where girls feel empowered to learn and grow. Many teams are also led by experienced student coaches, fostering a strong sense of mentorship and community. Coaching and umpiring provide students with a platform to grow as leaders, build confidence, and discover the value of commitment, planning, discipline, and resilience.

We are incredibly appreciative of the 71 parent volunteers who are coaching or managing a team this year. They play a vital role in the success of Baradene Netball. Equally important are the parents who cheer from the sidelines – their support and encouragement help fuel our players' passion and enjoyment of the game.

Netball is a leading code within Baradene's thriving sporting culture, and quality is maintained despite the large number of teams. With a philosophy grounded in participation, performance, and player development, netball provides an outlet for students to form friendships, be challenged, and find their niche, helping build strong, confident young women.

2025 Netball Wrapped



Catherine Hall
Class of 2021



Laura Balmer
Class of 2021

Alumnae Netball Success

Two Baradene alumnae are boldly carving out their path in Netball, competing at the highest level.

Catherine Hall

- Mystics ANZ Premiership Team
- 2025 Mystics MVP
- 2025/2026 Silver Ferns Squad

Laura Balmer

- Pulse ANZ Premiership Team
- 2025 New Zealand Under 21 Netball World Youth Cup Team



ON THE WORLD STAGE

Baradene sports stars, proud to represent New Zealand!

NAME	CODE	TEAM
ADDISON HARROWFIELD	BMX	BMX NZ Team – World Champs
AMELIA HITCHCOCK	Football	NZ Under 16 Football Team
CHARLOTTE O'NEILL	Football	NZSS Football Team
CHARLOTTE PATTERSON	Water Polo	NZ Under 16 Water Polo Team
DAKOTA WELLS	Obstacle Racing	NZ Modern Pentathlon and World Championship Development Teams
DORA SLAVICH	Orienteering	NZ U16 European Youth Orienteering Championships
EMILY REEVES	Orienteering	NZSS U15 Southern Cross Team
FRANKIE MCGUINNESS	Water Polo	NZ Under 16 Water Polo Team
HELENA DUNN	Touch	NZ Under 18 Touch Team
ISLA PARSONS	Archery	NZ Trans-Tasman Archery Team
JAEDA ALA'ALATOA-DALE	Archery	NZ Trans-Tasman Archery Team
KAHU BARSDALL	Gymsports	NZ Artistic Gymnastics team
KATE ROBINSON	Orienteering	NZSS U18 Southern Cross Team
KEIRA EVANS	Water Polo	NZ Under 20 Women's Water Polo Team
MAGGIE BAUZON	Orienteering	NZSS U15 Southern Cross Team
MAHALIA FOX	Artistic Roller Skating	NZ Artistic Roller Sports Oceania Team
MELANIE ROBERTS	Archery	NZ Trans-Tasman Archery Team
NIAMH HOARE	Orienteering	NZSS U18 Southern Cross Team and NZ Oceania Team
OCTAVIA MAHONEY	Swimming	NZ Youth Tri-Series Swim Team
ORLA HOARE	Orienteering	NZSS U18 Southern Cross Team and NZ Oceania Team
PALOMA MCKENZIE	Skiing	NZ Alpine Youth Squad
PRIYA MCMAHON	Cheerleading	NZ Junior All Girl and Coed Advance Teams
SARANG KIM	Archery	NZ Trans-Tasman Archery Team
SIA OKACH	Water Polo	NZ Under 20 Women's Water Polo Team
TESSA SIMS	Football	NZSS Football Team



ADDISON HARROWFIELD



JAEDA ALA'ALATOA-DALE



PALOMA MCKENZIE



CHARLOTTE PATTERSON



DORA SLAVICH



AMELIA HITCHCOCK



ISLA PARSONS



FRANKIE MCGUINNESS



SPORT

HELENA DUNN



KEIRA EVANS



NIAMH HOARE



KAHU BARSDSELL



TESSA SIMS



PRIYA MCMAHON



EMILY REEVES



MAHALIA FOX



MAGGIE BAUZON



CHARLOTTE O'NEILL



ORLA HOARE



KATE ROBINSON



DAKOTA WELLS



OCTAVIA MAHONEY



SARANG KIM



SIA OKACH



MELANIE ROBERTS

Meet the Game Changers

Six of the coaches behind our top winter sport codes share what led them to coaching, the experiences that inspire them, and the values they bring to Baradene sport.



Candice Marsh Open A Basketball Coach

I've always loved playing basketball. I enjoyed competing and experiencing the highs and lows of sport alongside friends. However, after high school, my love for competitive basketball waned. But when I became a teacher some years later, I felt that coaching basketball was a way I could contribute.

Coaching at Baradene has taught me a great deal, and I feel privileged to have coached some outstanding young athletes over the years. I have made wonderful memories and experienced the rollercoaster of triumphs and disappointments, and through it all, I have fallen back in love with the game.

A highlight as a coach was qualifying for Nationals in 2023. We had one final chance in our last game. I remember praying with the team before the game, and it seemed to galvanise us as a group. I had never seen our team play with such confidence and ease as I did on that day. It was an amazing feeling to have been a part of that game and that team.



Mark Hoskin 1st XI Hockey Coach

My hockey journey began at school in England, where my team became National U16 and U18 champions. I also represented England at U16 and U18 levels, then at senior club level, winning the English Hockey Cup and League, and coming Second in the European Cup. I finished my hockey career with Wales in the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester. A personal highlight was representing Oxford University, notably becoming the first university side promoted into the National League in England.

I was initially drawn to coaching after coaching my kids through the various age groups. Then, an injury stopped me from playing. When an opportunity to coach at Baradene presented itself, I took it. My inspiration has been the impact of previous coaches – notably, my former university coach, Gavin Featherstone, and my club coach at Guildford, Ian Jennings. The best is yet to come for hockey at Baradene, as we aim to get into the Premier Hockey League.



Ilew McGivern Orienteering Coach

I think exercise is essential – I have been orienteering, running, or tramping my whole life. I was five when I received my first orienteering certificate, and won 'Top Boys' School in 1989 (no coaches then!). I also have a black belt in the Japanese martial art of Aikido, and previously had a dojo in Asia.

It's important to me to give back, and since I have a strong skill set in orienteering, I am happy to coach others in the sport. It's awesome to see the students learn and apply their skill sets at orienteering events. I don't think the girls realise how much they have taught me. For some, orienteering is the only sport they participate in. Keeping them in a sport, witnessing them improve, and ultimately seeing the team grow are the highlights of coaching at Baradene.



Ryan Shiffman 1st XI Football Coach

Sports were a constant theme in my household growing up. My parents had very sporty backgrounds, and that was instilled in me and my siblings. I played a wide variety of sports, but football was always the one that I stuck with.

I never received proper coaching, and although I was more athletically gifted than some of my teammates in my younger years, my lack of core skills eventually caught up with me. My motivation to coach stems from the desire for players to have the opportunity to develop the core skills necessary for their chosen level of play. Watching players develop and reach their goals, whatever those may be, fills me with satisfaction and happiness.

A particularly memorable highlight for me was coaching the Baradene 1st XI at the 2024 ISF Football World Cup. It was an incredible event, and the team outperformed everyone's expectations. It is a memory that will stick with me for a very long time.



Janelle Owen Premier Netball Coach

I have a very diverse sporting background. I played every single sport possible during high school, but specialised in Touch and Netball, where I was a representative player in both throughout the different age categories. I enjoy being active and the competitiveness that sport brings.

Helping people reach their full potential is what truly draws me to coaching.

One of the highlights for me is witnessing our training being applied on the court or field. It is incredibly rewarding to see the girls confident, having fun, and representing Baradene with pride.

Paul Leitch Cycling Coach

I have 22 years of experience in cycling, and I've been racing on both the track and road since the age of 12. I cycled competitively at club, regional, national, and international levels, including nine World Championships, two Commonwealth Games (gaining two medals), and two Olympic Games. I spent 11 years racing in Europe, dedicating between two and six months each year.

I became interested in coaching after retiring from racing at the end of 1995, as I wanted to help cyclists. My first "big gig" was as the National Track U19 coach for two years, followed by a focus on coaching riders of all ages, helping both male and female riders achieve their ambitions and goals. In 2006, I put a group of eight Bara girls through a vigorous indoor bike trainer set, and here I am 20 years later, still at Baradene, but now with 46 riders!



A highlight of Baradene Cycling is our culture. We foster a caring and supportive programme that allows the girls to express both their team and individual abilities during training and racing. This environment promotes continual improvement and opportunities for progress.

SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to our recent alumnae who signed with overseas universities in 2024 and 2025 on sports scholarships. We wish them well on this exciting journey!



LANIHEI CONNOLLY
SWIMMING

Lanihei Connolly (Class of 2023)
Bond University, Gold Coast



PHOEBE HALL
HOCKEY

Phoebe Hall (Class of 2022)
Syracuse University, New York



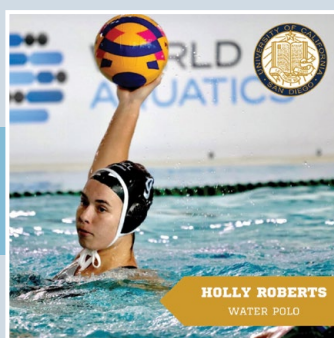
RITORIYA TAMILO
BASKETBALL

Ritoriya Tamilo (Class of 2023)
University of Hawaii



HARRIET BURRELL
ROWING

Harriet Burrell (Class of 2023)
Princeton University, New Jersey



HOLLY ROBERTS
WATER POLO

Holly Roberts (Class of 2023)
University of California, San Diego



PENNY BRILL
FOOTBALL

Penny Brill (Class of 2024)
Xavier University, Cincinnati



TAYLOR FISHER
WATER POLO

Taylor Fisher (Class of 2024)
San José State University



RIAAN BRYANT
WATER POLO

Riaan Bryant (Class of 2024)
California State University, Fresno



ANIJIA IRVINE
FOOTBALL

Anija Irvine (Class of 2023)
Regis University, Colorado



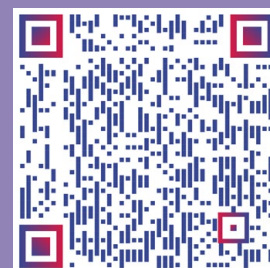
AMELIA BRAY
SWIMMING

Amelia Bray (Class of 2024)
Indiana University, Bloomington

30 years of Baradene Rowing!



From its humble beginnings in 1995, Baradene Rowing Club (BCR) has grown into one of the most respected school rowing programmes in Auckland. In the last three decades, the squad has weathered early mornings, choppy waters and fierce competition to become a force on the water – and a source of pride for the Baradene community. Scan the QR code to read more.



MARKING 100 YEARS

Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ was canonised on 24 May 1925. The Baradene community marked the centenary of her sainthood with special events held both in Auckland and across the Tasman.

On 22 May 2025, the Baradene community welcomed Bishop Stephen Lowe and Monsignor Bernard Kiely to celebrate our Feast Day Mass in honour of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ, who founded the Society of the Sacred Heart in 1800. This event provided us the opportunity to reflect on her legacy of education, faith, and service, and its impact on us all.

A few days later, on 24 May, Sacred Heart communities around the world celebrated Saint Madeleine Sophie on her official Feast Day. Alumnae from Baradene and Erskine College gathered in Baradene's Sophia Chapel for a commemorative Mass, which you can read more about on page 38.

That same day, representatives from Baradene attended a special Centenary Mass at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Randwick, Sydney, including seven students from Schola Choir. As part of a global network of Sacred Heart Schools spanning 41 countries, we were privileged to commemorate Saint Madeleine Sophie's canonisation anniversary along with our Australian counterparts: Kincoppal Rose Bay School (Sydney), Sacré Coeur School (Melbourne), and Stuartholme School (Brisbane). Our Schola Choir students sang beautifully at the Mass, and enjoyed staying at the boarding house at Kincoppal Rose Bay School, making new friends and fostering lasting connections.

Saints remind us that holiness isn't about being flawless, it's about staying connected to God and letting His love work through us. As we celebrate this centenary, we continue to be inspired by Saint Madeleine Sophie's enduring legacy and the shared bonds of our Sacred Heart family around the world.



Scholar, Visionary, Saint

Marking 100 years since her canonisation, Baradene Archivist Yolande van de Wetering reflects on the extraordinary legacy of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ.

Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ, Foundress of the Society of the Sacred Heart (Religieuses du Sacré-Cœur de Jésus), was born in 1779, only a decade before the French Revolution. She lived through a time of radical social and political change, which culminated in the overthrow of the monarchy and the establishment of a republic, marked notably by the secularisation of education. Religion was removed from schools, and the principle of separation of state and church was firmly established.

At that time, it was widely believed that girls didn't need an education. Their place was in the home, raising children and managing domestic life. Only boys were expected to go to school. Sophie, however, was fortunate. Her older brother Louis, a teacher, took it upon himself to educate her. He taught her Latin, scripture, mathematics, and history, subjects usually reserved for boys.

This access to knowledge sparked something deep in Sophie. She asked herself, "If I could learn these things, why not other girls?" Her personal experience and the injustices she observed lit a fire in her. She realised that something had to change, and she would be the one to help change it.

As she grew older, Sophie became determined to challenge society's assumptions. She focused on educating girls – not just wealthy girls, as was common in countries like England, but girls from all walks of life. She believed in equality, a core value in post-revolutionary France. She saw education not as a privilege, but a right. She believed that through education, girls could unlock their potential, influence their families, and contribute to the wider world.

At just 23 years old, Sophie became Mother Superior of the Society of the Sacred Heart. The schools established under her leadership stood out in three essential ways:

- They were for girls.
- They welcomed students from all social backgrounds.
- They were deeply grounded in faith.



Baradene students and staff welcomed a photo opportunity to mark Saint Madeleine Sophie's 100 years of sainthood.



In 2009, this bronze statue of Saint Madeleine Sophie, created by New Zealand sculptor Gael O'Leary, was unveiled in a special ceremony. The statue is mounted onto the external wall of the Jubilee Building, and now looks over the new Erskine Stuart Gymnasium complex.

~ Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ

She was a visionary, a pioneer in educational thinking, and one of the earliest champions of women's rights, even if she never used that term herself. In some ways, she was a spiritual predecessor to New Zealand's own Kate Sheppard, who fought for women's right to vote, nearly a century later. With quiet determination, Sophie built a network of schools that transforms lives.

She was an innovator, an entrepreneur, and a woman of deep faith who worked tirelessly to give girls the opportunity to learn, grow, and lead. By the time of her death in 1865, the Society had established 84 houses across France, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Austria, Spain, Poland, England, North and South America. The RSCJ arrived in Timaru, New Zealand in 1880 and Sydney, Australia in 1882.

Another visionary educator, Maria Montessori, who worked with poor children in the early 20th century, developed student-centred methods that were later adopted by Sacred Heart schools. Sophie's commitment to educating the whole person – heart, mind, and spirit – set the

foundation for the generations of students that followed. Her story is a reminder that one person can make a profound difference. Many of us care deeply about injustice or inequality, but we hesitate to act. Not Sophie. She believed in her convictions and followed through. She put her heart into her mission and became a trailblazer – someone who dared to go against the norms to create a better future.

The Society of the Sacred Heart's mission lives on: Educating in service of the Church and inspiring communities around the world.

Saint Madeleine Sophie's message is as powerful today as ever: Believe in yourself. Stand up for your ideals. Dare to dream big.

This statue of Saint Madeleine Sophie stands in front of our distinctive Duchesne Building. It welcomes visitors, prospective students, and parents as they arrive at Baradene, giving them their first glimpse of our Foundress. Commissioned by the School Board in 2014 and unveiled in 2015, it is a replica of the original located at Stuartholme School in Brisbane, and was crafted by Coates & Wood in Victoria, Australia. The statue serves as a daily reminder of Saint Madeleine Sophie's enduring legacy at the heart of our campus.



The recent coronation of the Māori Queen, Te Arikinui Kuīni Nga wai hono i te po, carries a special link to Saint Madeleine Sophie. "Sophie" was chosen for her Confirmation patron saint, symbolising a wish to unite the Waikato and Whanganui rivers, and Anglican and Catholic faiths, within Kīngitanga. This connection echoes in the Sacred Heart story across Aotearoa, from the St Madeleine Sophie Church at Parikino on the Whanganui River to Waiaua's Church of Our Lady and its iconic *Mater Admirabilis* painting, a version of which is displayed at all Sacred Heart schools worldwide, including Baradene. Nga wai hono i te po is the eighth monarch and second Queen of the Kīngitanga, after her grandmother, Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikaahu, was the first to hold the title. She continues a legacy of strong, visionary women, echoing the spirit of leadership and service embodied by her Confirmation saint.



St Madeleine Sophie Church
Parikino, Whanganui, 1982

Māori Queen
Nga wai hono i te po



PAST MEETS PRESENT

The History and Classical Studies Trip to Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, and Greece immersed Baradene students in living history.

April brought an unforgettable adventure for our History and Classical Studies students, who explored Bosnia Herzegovina and Greece alongside Mr Coutts, Mr Jenkison, Mr Holland, and Ms Florence.

The Bosnian War, with a focus on the Siege of Sarajevo and Srebrenica Massacre, is studied in Year 12 History. Underlying the focus are questions that remain relevant today: What causes genocide to take place, and why would genocide happen in Europe many years after the Holocaust?

Five days were spent in the city of Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, where the group stayed in the heart of the old Muslim area. A tour of sites from the Siege of Sarajevo, and museums dedicated to this event, made this period of history come to life for students. The War Childhood Museum in Sarajevo was particularly interesting. This year was the 30th anniversary of the Srebrenica Massacre, making the visit there more resonant. The museum at the former United Nations Headquarters was an emotionally charged visit for all. The Genocide Museum's displays helped the students to further understand how the United Nations could not save the Muslim people that they had been tasked with protecting.

While this was a history-focused visit to Bosnia, a day was set aside to visit the Gazi Husrev-beg Mosque (built in 1531), and learn about Islam. On a day trip to Mostar, students climbed the minaret of the Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque (built in 1618), and were fascinated by the Jewish Synagogue in Sarajevo (built in 1581).



Visiting Greece gave Classical Studies students an opportunity to look at museums and archaeological sites that they have studied. They visited Athens, Delphi, Olympia, Epidaurus, and Mycenae. At Olympia, students raced each other at the original stadium. Of particular interest was the Parthenon Museum and the Acropolis. A side trip to Cape Sounion at the southernmost tip of the Attica peninsula was a chance to see the Temple of Poseidon, another significant ancient Greek temple.



Students also experienced Greek Easter in Athens, joining a candlelit procession as part of celebrations that brought ancient traditions to life.

A highlight of the trip was experiencing Easter in Greece. The Greek-Orthodox Church calendar is based on the older Julian calendar, which has a difference of 13 days. This means Easter is often at a different time period than our Christian Easter. In 2025, we were lucky that the dates for Easter in the Western and Eastern Churches coincided.

On Good Friday, the students and teachers attended Mass at the Catholic Cathedral, which was standing-room only. Then they all participated in the Epitaphios procession. Carrying beeswax candles, they walked around the neighbourhood together with the parishioners, following the Catholic priests and the pallbearers who carried a holy bier topped with a life-sized statue of Christ.

Easter Saturday's ceremonies represent the victory of light over darkness. They began with the transfer of the flame of the Resurrection from the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem to Athens. After arriving in Athens by plane, the flame is dispatched to churches across the country. A group of our students attended a Greek Orthodox Church near the hotel for this church service, getting their candles lit by this flame during the service. Afterwards, they enjoyed the fireworks above the church. It was a deeply meaningful experience, allowing students to witness and participate in traditions that have connected communities for centuries.





PTA UPDATE

Simon Lapthorne, Chairperson of the PTA, provides insight into the vital role Baradene's parent community plays in our school.



The value of community is well known, and a community's values, traditions, and opportunities can positively shape a person's development and success.

Father/Daughter Breakfasts

The PTA organises several events each year to bring the Baradene community together, and the annual Father/Daughter Breakfasts are a cherished tradition in the PTA calendar. Nearly 800 fathers (or father figures) and daughters attended the events on 11 and 12 June.

We were thrilled to welcome Anna Willcox-Silfverberg, a TV presenter and former Olympic freestyle skier, as our guest speaker. She delivered an inspiring talk, sharing invaluable insights that resonated with the audience. The event was expertly hosted by actor and radio/TV personality Jono Pryor. His entertaining presence ensured everything ran smoothly, and we are very grateful to him for sharing his time.

Special thanks to Milli Carnegie, Fleur Curac, Emma Brannam, Mike Lee, Karl Blakie, and John Phillips, who did a fantastic job organising this event. We also extend our gratitude to Myra Dolon, Cecilia Ruiz-Acosta, Lottie Hart, Clare McIntosh, Suzanne Christie, Caroline Yoon, Craig Patton, Renee Von Huben, and the student volunteers who assisted on the day. See photos of this event on page 29.

Pre-loved Uniform Sale

The Pre-loved Uniform Sale takes place twice a year and is a key PTA fundraiser. Carol MacDonald has organised this event for several years, and Carol and her team of volunteers do an excellent job. They deserve huge recognition for their hard work.

Mother/Daughter Event

Get ready for a delightful afternoon! This year, we're excited to announce our very first Mother/Daughter Event on Sunday 12 October. We are certain that this event will be well supported, and we hope to make it a regular feature in the PTA calendar.



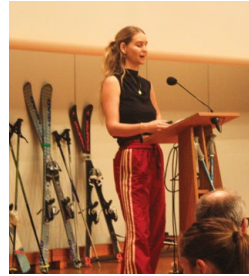
Our PTA committee and team of helpers are essential to organising and hosting events that foster community and fundraise for the College. We are exceptionally fortunate to have such a dedicated community willing to give of their time and expertise.

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 be a Friend of the PTA, we would love to hear from you.

Email us at: baradenepta@baradene.school.nz



VISUAL FEAST

Now in its 36th year, the Baradene Art Show brought together artists, alumnae, and the school community for a celebration of creativity.

The Baradene Art Show is a vibrant community event that showcases a diverse range of talented New Zealand artists, including several Baradene alumnae artists, across various mediums. The auditorium transforms into a spectacular art gallery for three days!

Over 400 people attended the Gala Evening on August 23, and the free-entry Art Show, held over the weekend of August 23-24, attracted a large number of visitors. Many people stopped by to browse, buy, and take a moment to enjoy some food and drink from the Art Show Café. As the PTA's most significant annual fundraiser, it brought in over \$45,000 with the proceeds helping to fund Scholarships, Bursaries, and School TV (an online platform that provides valuable wellbeing resources).

Thank you to Carmel Wade, who expertly organised the Show. Thanks also go to regular Art Show contributors Karena Davey, Kath Dyer, Fleur Curac, Kirsten Hunt, Lottie Hart, Clare McIntosh, Kelly Bully, Ali Guise, and Dave Culpán, who did a spectacular job. We are also grateful to the new Year 7 parents who made a significant contribution: Siobhan Wilson, Shayna Burrett, and Steve Walker. It takes a large team to organise an event like this. If you are interested in being part of the Baradene Art Show team for 2026, please reach out on pta@baradene.school.nz

Over
\$45,000
raised!

**BARA
DENE
36th ART
SHOW**



GROWING HEART NEWS

The Baradene College Foundation, known as Growing Heart, supports the College through many important initiatives.

In this centenary year of the canonisation of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, we acknowledge the RSCJ, the Baradene Boards, staff, and families who have worked tirelessly over the last 115 years to continue her legacy.

For nearly 10 years, Growing Heart has played its part, providing financial support to assist Baradene to continue delivering Saint Madeleine Sophie's unique educational philosophy and vision – an exceptional education for young women, with every student able to participate fully in college life.

Growing Heart has paid or committed \$1 million in grants and scholarships!

With the generous support of the community, Growing Heart is having a significant impact on the opportunities available to Baradene students – providing grants for facilities and resources that the students would not otherwise enjoy, grants to assist staff with professional development, scholarships and awards for deserving students, and grants to support the special character of Baradene.

Thank you for supporting Growing Heart's Giving Week (16-23 May 2025)

Our thanks to the many alumnae, past and present parents and staff, and friends of Growing Heart who contributed to this special campaign, to raise funds for the Sister Elizabeth Snedden Scholarship. We truly appreciate your caring concern for the students in our community who, for financial reasons, may be unable to attend Baradene, remain at the College, or make the most of the opportunities available while they are here.

With \$42,500 raised, this scholarship will make a real difference to the fortunate recipient or recipients. As there will be an ongoing need, we have chosen to keep the Sister Elizabeth Snedden Scholarship open for donations. Please see page 33 for further information on how to donate.

Unveiling a special new artwork: Te Piki Whetū (The Rising Star) 2025

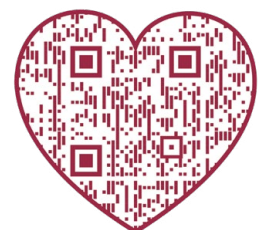
This stunning artwork, created by New Zealand artist (and former Baradene parent) Peata Larkin, was blessed by Matua Manuel Beasley and Monsignor Bernard Kiely on the morning of Thursday, 19 June 2025, at a special celebration following Baradene's Matariki Liturgy. The artwork acknowledges the "Leave a Legacy" donors and, indeed, all in the community who contributed in some way to the fit out of the new gym complex.

Te Piki Whetū is a celebration of connection, community and empowerment, symbolising the collective support that uplifts wāhine toa – strong women – as they flourish in a nurturing environment.

"As my ideas and drawings evolved, I realised that I was creating a constellation of whetu or stars that formed one beautiful large whetū. This, in turn, expresses "He waka eke noa – we're all in this together." A constellation of whetu from all cultures honouring Tangata Whenua of Aotearoa. The concept of Matariki as part of this Kaupapa seemed a natural progression, as Matariki is a time to celebrate new beginnings, but also to commemorate our loved ones who have passed. I love that the whetū, or star, is made up of past and present wāhine and whānau connected to Baradene. The community or constellation of stars are rising in unison as a whole star." ~ Peata Larkin, Artist

A huge thank you to Peata, who so generously gifted this taonga to Baradene. Our thanks also to Will Winter and the Baradene Makerspace team for creating the individual donor tiles, and to Baradene College Limited for supporting this project. *Te Piki Whetū* is now a striking and uplifting presence in the Erskine Stuart Gymnasium. For photos and to read more about *Te Piki Whetū*, see page 32.

Hover over the QR code to read more about Peata and the *Te Piki Whetū* story.



Te Piki Whetū

A reflection by a Baradene College Ltd Board member

"I spent time with Peata Larkin to understand more fully the creation of her work Te Piki Whetū. She said it is more than an artwork, it is a living expression of our charism as a Sacred Heart school – to reveal God's love in the heart of the world, to educate the whole person, and to form young women who will shine in their own unique way."

Like the Society of the Sacred Heart itself, Peata begins with listening. Before touching materials or sketching designs, she listens for the kaupapa – the purpose, the heartbeat of the work. That starting point is very much in the spirit of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ, who believed education begins with knowing and loving each individual.

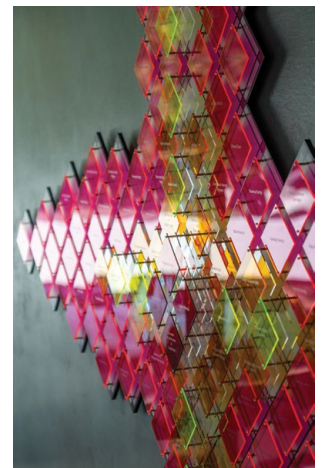
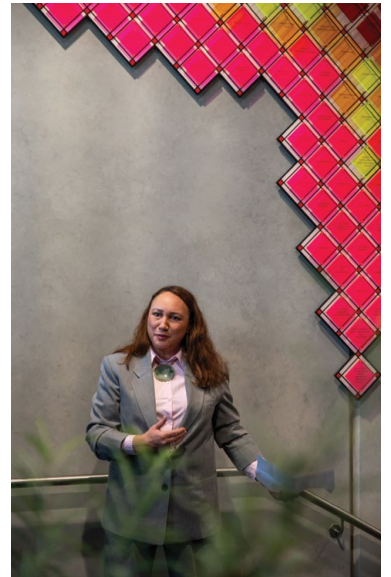
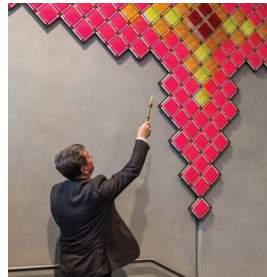
Light, layers, and meaning: *The cross at the centre anchors us in our Christian foundation – our faith, our hope, and our call to service. The layers that radiate outwards recall our growth as a community, tier upon tier. They give depth, much like the formation we seek for our students – intellectual, emotional, spiritual.*

The choice of perspex, allowing light to shine through, reminds us of Saint Madeleine Sophie's belief that each child carries the light of Christ within them – and that our task is to help that light be seen.

Even the colour tells a story. Peata began with yellow, her favourite colour, but the piece chose pink – a gentle, unexpected grace. In the life of faith, too, God's invitations often come in colours we didn't anticipate.

Unity – Unum: *At the heart of our school motto lies Unum – One Heart. This work embodies that oneness: Unity between cultures. Unity between light and structure. Unity between faith and meaning. Unity between the seen and unseen.*

In a world that so often fragments, the artwork becomes a quiet but bold statement: Here, we choose to stand together."



Empowering young talent: Growing Heart Grant supports students at the SGCNZ Shakespeare Festival

A Growing Heart grant assisted three Year 13 students, accompanied by Mrs Nicole Eichstaedt McComb, to attend the SGCNZ University of Otago Sheilah Winn National Shakespeare Festival in Wellington during King's Birthday Weekend, after being selected as a top student-directed scene at the regional competition in March. The students directed and performed a scene from *Measure for Measure*, attended workshops, theatre performances, and experienced the world of Shakespeare. You can read more about this trip on page 16.



"The highlight was performing on the stage of the St James Theatre. Congratulations to all involved on an outstanding performance. A special thank you to Growing Heart for supporting the Drama Department towards this trip."

~ Mrs Nicole Eichstaedt McComb
Head of Performing Arts

"A gift from your heart to ours": Making a bequest for Baradene's future

We are very grateful to those alumnae who have either made a bequest or indicated their intention to do so. These alumnae tell us that they value their association with Baradene, and see a bequest as an opportunity to support Baradene "in its endeavour to deliver the best education possible to young women", "to ensure Baradene can continue to offer the very special Sacred Heart education to future generations", and to "reach out to future generations and give others the same opportunity to attend Baradene" that they had.

If you are considering making a bequest, we are here to help you. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if this is something we can assist you with, or to request a Bequest Brochure.



Thank you to the Growing Heart Trustees

It is timely to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of the Trustees of Growing Heart, Edmund Lawler (until February 2025), Richard James, Maryanne Mahoney, Gavin Rennie, Mary Anne Shanahan, and past Trustee Anne Wight. Each has generously contributed their time and expertise, balancing other Baradene Board and work commitments, often for many years after their daughters have graduated from Baradene. We know that Growing Heart would not be where it is today without them, and their contribution to Growing Heart and to Baradene is immeasurable.

Thank you to our generous community for supporting Growing Heart

Thank you to all who have contributed to Growing Heart – your support is testament to what is so special about Baradene and its community.

Growing Heart contact details:

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



**GROWING
HEART**

The Baradene College
Foundation

How to donate to Growing Heart

If you are looking for a way to give back to Baradene, it is easy to donate to Growing Heart, simply 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.





RSCJ NEWS

Susan Willis-Hirst, Executive Officer for the Society of the Sacred Heart in New Zealand, tells us what her role entails and shares the latest news from our RSCJ community.



While you may be familiar with the RSCJ Trust, which is the owner of the school land and shareholder of the Proprietor of the school, Baradene College Limited (BCL), there is another important entity connecting our RSCJ Sisters in New Zealand to the newly formed NEANZ (North East Asia, Australia, and New Zealand) Province and, in turn, to the worldwide Society of the Sacred Heart.

The Society of the Sacred Heart Trust is focused on supporting the RSCJ Sisters and the mission of the Society of the Sacred Heart in New Zealand – and beyond. My role as Executive Officer involves assisting the NEANZ Province Leadership Team and the RSCJ Sisters with the planning and administration of the financial and property assets of the Society, in order to advance its mission. I'm involved in facilitating the governance of the Society in New Zealand, as well as overseeing finance, convent property and administration, human resources, and legal matters.

I hold both a Commerce degree and a Master's degree in Theological Studies, and have worked in marketing, general management, and property. I have also been involved in the governance of a Christian international development organisation, both as a Board member and Chairperson. My career experience and education combine well for my role as Executive Officer, and my personal values align with the mission of the Society. I love the legacy the RSCJ Sisters have established at Baradene, and am honoured to be part of this next chapter in the Society.

I most enjoy the broad and varied scope of my role. I was fortunate to attend the final meeting of the ANZ Province in

August 2024, and meet many of the RSCJ Sisters from Australia as well as a few from Korea and Japan. I love hearing the stories of the many adventures our pioneering Sisters have had as they have carried out their mission in different parts of the world. I have also enjoyed meeting staff from the four Sacred Heart schools in Australia and New Zealand, and getting an understanding of how the Cor Unum spirit is expressed in different contexts.

On 31 August, after 145 years, the ANZ Province came to an end, and Sister Lynette Toohey RSCJ stepped down after nine years serving as Provincial. There have been enormous changes in the Province under Sister Lynette's leadership, and her dedication and hard work have been greatly appreciated. She has made many trips across the Tasman, and has been a great supporter of Baradene.

On 1 September, the new NEANZ Province was inaugurated. This represents New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Chinese Sisters. The new Provincial, Sister Anne Corry RSCJ, who is a New Zealander and Baradene alumna, will be leading the new Province with around 175 Sisters across its five member countries. You can read more about Sister Anne and her new role on page 35.

We currently have five Sisters as part of our Baradene Convent community. In July we celebrated Sister Anne de Stacpoole's 98th birthday, and in September we celebrated Sister Barbara Crombie's 104th birthday.

At the Baradene Convent, from November 2024 to July 2025, we were under wrap as the Mitchelson House roof was replaced after many years of service. We also have undertaken some internal renovation of parts of the Baradene Convent, and will be continuing with further upgrades over the next year or two.

During the remainder of 2025, the Society of the Sacred Heart in New Zealand is hosting several RSCJ Sisters from around the world, including Korea, Japan, England, and Australia. Our overseas visitors appreciate our peaceful space in the heart of Baradene. Please welcome the Sisters when you see them on campus!

Introducing Sister Anne Corry RSCJ

Sister Anne Corry RSCJ (Class of 1968) reflects on her time at Baradene and shares her vision as the first Provincial of NEANZ.

When Sister Anne Corry RSCJ looks back on her years at Baradene College, she remembers a time of transformation, both for herself and for her school. The spirit of the Sacred Heart, grounded in friendship, enquiry, and a quiet but determined care for others, shaped her then and continues to shape her leadership now, as she steps into the significant new role of Provincial of NEANZ: The North East Asia, Australia, and New Zealand Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart.

NEANZ is a new Province that spans New Zealand, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and includes Chinese Sisters. Sister Anne leads a team with representatives from each part of the new Province, drawing on their varied perspectives and strengths. “My role is to oversee the work of our mission and the care of our Sisters in these countries. I will be based in Sydney and will travel annually to the different parts of the Province,” she explains. “I will also serve on the newly established Advisory Council for the Society of the Sacred Heart, which consists of the eight new Provincials and the five members of the General Council. This arrangement will ensure that all parts of the Society have access to leadership at the central level.”

Baradene’s impact on Sister Anne’s journey is unmistakable. Her student days in the 1960s were influenced by the Sisters, her Baradene friends, and her family, and guided by the high standards set by leaders like Mother Winifred Maher RSCJ, Principal of Baradene at the time Sister Anne attended. “Mother Maher was a rather imposing yet extremely caring figure in the school. That sense of care somehow rubbed off on us,” Sister Anne recalls. Lessons in courtesy, loyalty, and friendship, alongside a deep love of literature inspired by her English teacher Sister Anne O’Rourke RSCJ, gave her an enduring sense of the Sacred Heart values. “Some of those school friendships have lasted a lifetime, teaching me about loyalty, faithfulness, and what it means to be part of a family over the long haul,” she says.

Those values have become even more vital in her new role. In August 2024, the Society of the Sacred Heart underwent its most significant reorganisation in decades. “A major change, unanimously endorsed at the 2024 General Chapter, consolidated 27 worldwide provinces into eight,” Sister Anne explains. “This has come about partly because the number of Sisters was declining, but mainly because the mission of the Society is growing from strength to strength. This reorganisation is helping us to cross cultural boundaries and to ensure that our life and mission remain strong. Sister Anne’s work as Provincial



“We are called to be open to the new, and to keep discovering and making known God’s love in our world.”

involves not just oversight, but frequent travel and constant dialogue – “getting to know our Sisters in each country, learning about their hopes, their challenges, and the unique ways the Sacred Heart mission is expressed in each place.” A major focus is encouraging and collaborating with lay mission colleagues who share in leadership and ministry.

NEANZ has four guiding “apostolic priorities”: Education, justice and peace, spirituality, and formation. “Through each of these, we are called to pay special attention to youth,” Sister Anne says. “Each country brings its own cultural gifts, and we are called to seek what unites us rather than what divides.”

Sister Anne’s leadership is informed by her international experience and her New Zealand roots. “Being from a small country teaches you humility and helps you listen,” she reflects. “In this new Province, the future won’t be decided by one leader. It’s a process of discernment, together, inspired by the Holy Spirit.”

As the world changes rapidly – with technology, AI, and global communications reshaping every aspect of life – Sister Anne sees her role as helping the Sacred Heart family adapt while remaining rooted in their charism. “We are called to be open to the new, and to keep discovering and making known God’s love in our world.”

Her message to the Baradene community is clear: The Sacred Heart vision is needed now more than ever. “If this vision is communicated in a form that reaches people, especially young people, in the way that they need, then we are living our mission. As one of our great RSCJ leaders, Janet Erskine Stuart, said: ‘It is always here and now, always the present moment to do the best we can!’”

The Boards of Baradene

Baradene College of the Sacred Heart is shaped by a robust governance structure designed to uphold its mission, values, and strategic goals. This structure is made up of three distinct Boards, each with its own purpose, responsibilities, and membership, working in partnership to support the College's Catholic character and long-term success in educating girls.

RSCJ Trust Board

The RSCJ (Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus) Trust Board is the property owner of Baradene College, and the sole shareholder of Baradene College Limited (BCL). The RSCJ Trust's role is to oversee BCL's responsibilities of upholding the Special Character of the school, maintaining the relationship with the Crown, caring for the property and finances, and any other strategic considerations concerning the college's future. The Board is composed of five Trustees with long-standing and deep connections to Baradene. As of 2025, Edmund Lawler is the Chair of the RSCJ Trust Board.

Baradene College Limited (BCL)

BCL is the proprietor of the College under its Integration Agreement with the Government. It is responsible for the stewardship of both integrated and non-integrated land and buildings, as well as preserving the College's special Catholic character and maintaining the overall relationship with the Crown. BCL supports religious education, oversees major capital projects and campus development, manages the maintenance of the convent and school buildings, and provides funding for bursaries and scholarships. The Board comprises nine Directors, including alumnae, former parents, and members of the Society of the Sacred Heart, bringing professional expertise in law, finance, education, media, and government. BCL works with the RSCJ Trust Board as its shareholder, with major decisions made jointly. As of 2025, Justine Williams serves as Chair of the BCL Board.

School Board

The School Board is set up by law to govern the day-to-day running of the College in line with Ministry of Education requirements. Its responsibilities include student achievement, financial oversight, staff employment, and the strategic direction of the College. The 12-member Board is made up of elected parents, a staff representative, the Principal, a student representative, and four representatives from BCL. Its members bring diverse expertise in areas such as law, education, HR, and religious life, and volunteer their time to support the delivery of quality Catholic education. Voting for new Board members' three-year term was completed in September 2025. Gill Chappell is the current Chair of the School Board.

How the Boards are connected

Some representatives serve on multiple Boards, strengthening collaboration across the College's governance structures:

- Four BCL representatives are appointed to the School Board, operating as ordinary Board members with full responsibilities.
- The Chair of the School Board also serves as a Director on the BCL Board. This dual role enables monthly reporting and alignment between the work of the two Boards.
- Two Directors from the BCL Board also sit on the **Baradene College Foundation Board (known as Growing Heart)**, which raises funds to enable Baradene to continue to deliver an outstanding education to young women.
- Baradene's Principal sits on the School Board and attends BCL meetings.



BCL



School Board



Growing Heart



Reuben O'Neill

Remembering the former Chair of BCL, the School Board, and the RSCJ Trust

Appointed Chair of Baradene College Limited (BCL) in 1986, Reuben O'Neill brought his engineering expertise to the College's major building projects and his financial acumen to its governance. He served with distinction until his retirement in July 2022. Under Reuben's guidance, Baradene's roll more than doubled, and the campus was transformed through several major developments including the renovation of Duchesne (1990), the Auditorium and Chapel Wing (2003), the Barat Science and Technology Building (2010), and the Hockey Turf and Conservatoire de Musique (2019). Reuben also served for many years on the RSCJ Trust Board, helping safeguard the spiritual and educational mission of the RSCJ in New Zealand, as well as on the School Board. In honour of his legacy of service and leadership, the atrium of the Barat Block has been named The O'Neill Gallery. He passed away peacefully in April 2025, preceded by his wife of 62 years, Alice, who died in January 2025.

“The sort of people who are working on our Boards here in Auckland are ‘salt of the earth’. They are God-touched; their hearts are in the right place. There is a real hope for the future of the School in their hands.”

GOVERNANCE

~ Sister Elizabeth Snedden RSCJ



Justine Williams

Chair of BCL

Justine Williams (née Sullivan, Class of 1990) has recently been appointed Chair of the BCL Board, following a year of service as a Director. An alumna of Baradene and mother to two recent graduates, Augustine (Class of 2022) and Louella (Class of 2023), Justine brings a unique and deeply personal perspective to her leadership role.

After studying fashion design, Justine began a career in styling and costuming across film, TV, and advertising. Moving into publishing, she was Fashion and Beauty Editor and later Editor of some of New Zealand's best-loved magazines. Alongside her professional commitments, she raised her daughters and remained actively involved in the Baradene community, co-leading the Baradene Art Show for four years.

As BCL Chair, Justine emphasises the importance of collaboration and shared vision among the College's key leadership groups. “The strong relationship between BCL, the School Board, the RSCJ Trust, and the Principal are critical to the success of Baradene,” she explains. “I'm incredibly fortunate to have been appointed at a time when there is such strength and cohesion across all of these partnerships.”

As the first alumna and the first female Chair of BCL, Justine's leadership draws strength and inspiration from the faith and pioneering spirit of women like Janet Erskine Stuart RSCJ and Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ, who said, “Education is not meant to turn the children out small and finished, but seriously begun on a wide basis.” A reminder that the role of Catholic education is to set down expansive, enduring foundations for a life of purpose and possibility.

“Between my years as a student, a parent, my work on the Art Show, and now my role on the Board, I know just how special this school is,” she says. Justine's belief in service and community has long been part of her Baradene journey. “A social awareness that impels to action is one of the many gifts bestowed on a Bara girl,” she reflects.



Edmund Lawler

Chair of RSCJ Trust, former Chair of BCL and the School Board

In May 2025, Edmund Lawler concluded his tenure as Chair of BCL, bringing to a close a remarkable chapter of service. Yet his connection to the College remains strong. Now serving as Chair of the RSCJ Trust Board, Edmund continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Sacred Heart education in Aotearoa.

Edmund's relationship with Baradene began through his wife, Adrienne (née Downey, Class of 1979), and their three daughters, all alumnae of the College. He joined the School Board in 1998, serving for nearly 25 years, including as Chair from 2010 to 2017, stepping down at the end of 2021. In 2009, he was appointed a director of BCL and served as Chair from 2016 to 2025. He was also a founding Trustee of the Baradene College Foundation, from which he stepped down earlier this year.

A highly respected lawyer, Edmund brought strategic insight and a deep sense of mission to every role. He oversaw several significant capital developments at the College, including the Barat Block, Auditorium, Centennial Block, Conservatoire de Musique, the Hockey turf and, most recently, the new Erskine Stuart Gymnasium complex. His leadership was marked not only by visionary planning, but also by generosity of time and intellect, offering invaluable support to the Principal, staff, and governance teams. He played a key role in maintaining strong and collaborative relationships between boards and the wider Baradene community.

Over nearly three decades, Edmund's people-focused and principled leadership has impacted Baradene far beyond physical infrastructure. His decision-making consistently reflected integrity, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to the Sacred Heart mission. Though his roles have evolved, Edmund's dedication to Baradene endures. As Chair of the RSCJ Trust Board, he continues to guide the long-term vision of Sacred Heart education, ensuring the values and spirit of the RSCJ remain central to the lives of future generations.



Karla Brennan, President of the Baradene Alumnae Association, reflects on recent gatherings that highlight the enduring strength and connection of our Sacred Heart Network.

On Saturday 24 May, we welcomed alumnae back to Baradene to celebrate the centenary of the canonisation of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ. We began with a beautiful Mass in the Sophia Chapel, followed by refreshments and conversation in the Atrium. Around 70 alumnae attended, ranging from the 1950s to the 2000s. We were also delighted to welcome Erskine College alumnae, highlighting the strong ties across our Sacred Heart Network. For many, it was their first time back on campus in years. The joy of returning, sharing memories, and reconnecting with old friends made for a wonderful experience.

Just two weeks later, on Friday 6 June, the Class of 2020 returned for their 5-Year Reunion. Having faced the challenges of their final school year during the COVID-19 pandemic, this group embraced the opportunity to reconnect and celebrate how far they've come. The atmosphere was lively, filled with laughter and nostalgia as old photos sparked memories and brought smiles.

Both events reminded me of the strength and warmth of our alumnae community. Whether honouring Saint Madeleine Sophie's legacy or reminiscing over pizza and photo boards, the sense of belonging was unmistakable.

We also welcomed new committee members at our Annual General Meeting in August: Bernadette Jackson (Class of 2008), Brigit Timpson (Class of 1978), and Angela Ward (Erskine College, Class of 1963). It is exciting to see our community continue to evolve while remaining connected to the values we all share. We are grateful for the support of the committee members and the wider Baradene alumnae network.

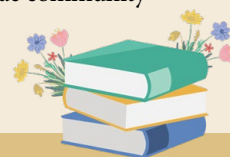
A highlight of the Alumnae Association calendar is our annual Cor Unum Alumnae Meritae Award and High Tea event. This Award recognises an alumna who has made an outstanding contribution in their chosen field, a substantial

contribution to the community, and embraced the philosophy of the Sacred Heart in their everyday life.

We are proud to announce Elizabeth Jones (Class of 1975) as the recipient of the 2025 Cor Unum Alumnae Meritae Award.

Elizabeth was the Winner of the Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal in 2024. Until recently she was the Director of Literacy and Learning at the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, where she was responsible for leading the library's nationwide services to school communities, supporting reading engagement and library development, and strengthening initiatives and partnerships that help to grow a nation of readers. Elizabeth is a passionate advocate for the importance of reading for pleasure and its positive impact on the wellbeing of children and young people.

We look forward to sharing more about Elizabeth and celebrating with our alumnae community at this year's annual Cor Unum Alumnae Meritae Award and High Tea event.



2025 Cor Unum Alumnae Meritae Award and High Tea

Keep an eye on alumnae emails, the Baradene alumnae website, Baradene Connect, and social media for further details on this event.

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

*Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ
Canonisation Centenary Alumnae Mass*



*Class of 2020
5-Year
Reunion*



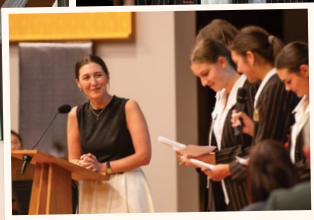
FLYING HIGH IN FASHION

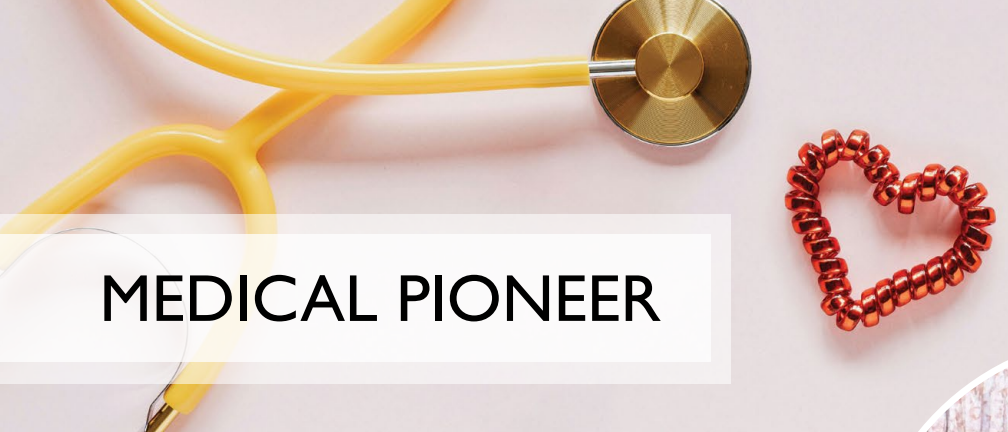
In April 2025, on the last day on Term 1, Baradene proudly welcomed alumna and international fashion designer Emilia Wickstead (Class of 2001) to speak to senior students at a special assembly.

In 2023, Emilia was chosen from a large number of talented New Zealand designers to take on the coveted role of dressing 5,000 customer-facing Air New Zealand staff, and on the day of her visit to Baradene, her uniform designs were revealed to the public.

It was lovely to welcome back former Baradene Principal Sandy Pasley, who introduced Emilia at the assembly. Emilia shared insights about her journey in the fashion industry, the inspiration behind the new uniforms, and many happy memories from her time at Baradene. Students also participated in a question-and-answer session, gaining further knowledge and inspiration from Emilia's experiences.

As a thank you, Emilia was presented with a marble artwork by fellow alumna and artist Mary-Louise Browne (Class of 1975). The marble from which the artwork is made is a relic from the stairs of the Baradene Jubilee Wing Chapel. It was an uplifting way to end the term for both students and staff.





MEDICAL PIONEER

From Baradene to Beirut, Dr Maureen Bassili (née O'Brien, Class of 1956) has lived a life defined by courage, commitment, and care for others.

Maureen Bassili (née O'Brien) was a pupil at Baradene from 1945 to 1956. "It was a warm and nurturing environment," she recalls. When her father died in World War II, the nuns cared for both her and her mother, who was employed as a nurse in the school infirmary. With her family unable to afford the school fees, Maureen's academic promise earned her a scholarship to attend Baradene – an opportunity that would open doors and shape her future.

Baradene provided Maureen with a broad and challenging education, from English, History, French, German, and Latin, to Maths, Science, Art History, and Classical Studies. She had dreamed of entering the foreign service, but opportunities for women in that field were scarce. Instead, inspired by her father's profession, she set her sights on medicine. In her final year at Baradene, she took extra tutoring in Chemistry and Physics to improve her chances of entering medical school.

While she resists the "pioneer" label, Maureen entered a medical profession that was far from gender-equal. Her class of 120 students included just 12 women. "There was an unspoken belief that we were taking the place of a male student," she recalls. "We felt we had to do doubly well to be accepted."

The confidence and determination instilled by her Sacred Heart education became vital. "Baradene gave me the self-confidence that I could perform as well as anyone," Maureen says. Her skill and dedication were recognised by surgeons who, she says, "liked my work and could trust me."

After two years as a House Surgeon in New Zealand, Maureen moved to London for further training, then to Beirut for a position at the American University Hospital. It proved to be both a professional and personal turning point. Immersed in the rich culture and history of the Middle East, Maureen also met and married her husband. They began raising their three daughters there, all of whom would later attend Baradene, when civil war erupted.

Many doctors and nurses emigrated during the conflict, but Maureen chose to stay in Beirut. "We were very short-staffed and short of supplies and had to improvise with what we had," she recalls. As an anaesthetist, she would manage four operating



"Baradene gave me the self-confidence that I could perform as well as anyone."

theatres simultaneously, supported by medical students under her close supervision. The work was exhausting and often dangerous, with political factions sometimes interfering in medical care. Life outside the hospital was equally challenging: No running water, no cooking gas, no heating. The family cooked over an open fire, drew water from their well, and lived, as she says, "one day at a time, not thinking too far ahead."

Maureen's resilience and commitment to serving others through medicine were forged in those years. She describes her career not as a prestigious profession but as a vocation – one that is "extremely rewarding" for those motivated by service, especially in poorer or underdeveloped countries.

Her reflections on the changes in medicine are thoughtful. While she welcomes advances that have transformed patient care, she is conscious of the rising costs and the strain on healthcare systems. Maureen also notes how work-life balance is rightly valued today. "I had very little free time for myself. Today, mental health is considered important." Now a grandmother, with one of her grandchildren a current student at Baradene, Maureen remains deeply connected to the school that shaped her. She continues to believe in the value of a Sacred Heart education in fostering confidence, resilience, and service to others.

Her advice for young people considering medicine is clear: Be prepared to work hard, but make time for rest and reflection. Above all, remember that medicine is about people. "It is a great opportunity for service," Maureen says. "Helping others is the most rewarding part of all."

Alumnae in Medicine

From experienced doctors to soon-to-be graduates and new medical students, Baradene alumnae continue to reflect the values and purpose gained during their time here.

Class of
1974



Dr Kathy McKay
General Practitioner

I have a fulfilling and rewarding career as a full-time general practitioner. My years at Baradene instilled in me the values of service, care for others, and responsibility that have shaped my professional life. I will always be grateful to the RSCJ Sisters and teachers who were wonderful role models, generously and expertly sharing their love of learning and inspiring students to explore the world and reach their full potential. Of course, it wasn't all study and hard work. Baradene was also a place of fun and friendship. Many of the girls who were my schoolmates all those years ago are still my friends today.

Class of
1977



Dr Sarah Buckley
General Practitioner & Researcher

I chose medicine partly because I loved my biology classes at Baradene (thank you, Miss Crosher!). Studying medicine and my years as a GP provided me with practical knowledge, incredible life experiences, and the privilege of supporting people and families in their lives and life events. Medicine has also been a platform for me to branch into a second career, researching oxytocin in childbirth for my PhD. Studying medicine is a big investment in time and energy, but it offers rich experiences and many career opportunities.

Class of
2017



Dr Meg Swan
Junior Doctor

As a second-year junior doctor at Christchurch Hospital, I am contemplating my next steps and am interested in a career in general practice. It is a privilege to work with people when they are at their most vulnerable, alongside colleagues who are all striving to do their best for their patients. Medicine is a fascinating career with a wide range of options, all of which involve continuous lifelong learning – which Baradene taught me the importance of. It is a commitment, but it is also exciting. I am learning how important it is to strive for balance and not to forget about the things I enjoy doing outside of medicine!

Class of
1997



Dr Annaliese Blincoe
Paediatric Immunologist & Allergist

Baradene instilled in me a deep belief that the sky is no longer the limit, and to seize every opportunity, not only in building a career but also in finding ways to care for others. Medicine has provided me with enriching work experiences around the world, a highlight being a two-year fellowship with my family in Montreal, Canada, where I developed a particular interest in disorders of immune dysregulation. I now work at Starship Children's Hospital and in private practice. I'm also a busy mum to two wonderful daughters, one of whom is now in Year 8 at Baradene.

Class of
1998



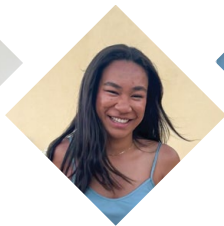
Dr Lupe Taumoepeau *Vascular Surgeon*

My inspiration to become a surgeon came from my grandfather, an ophthalmologist in Tonga. I knew I wanted to follow in his footsteps from a young age. Growing up as a Tongan New Zealander, I saw how Pasifika and Māori people face higher risks for vascular diseases, and I want to make the health system less daunting for them. Baradene gave me so many chances to build confidence, and I left never doubting I could achieve whatever I wanted to. Medicine is an incredibly rewarding career. As New Zealand's first female vascular surgeon and the only Pacific Island female vascular surgeon in Australasia, I'm proud to help raise the profile of women in surgery and to support the next generation of wāhine leaders.

Several Baradene alumnae from the Class of 2019 began their journeys in medical school. Now, six years later, they are preparing to graduate and step into careers as the next generation of doctors and leaders.

ALUMNAE

Class of
2019



Cecilia Koloamatangi

I am currently in my sixth and final year of medical school, and will be graduating in December 2025. Next year I'll be a house officer (junior doctor), a role I'll hold for a couple of years until I decide to step into my chosen training programme, which is currently undecided. My career is still in its early days, but I have truly enjoyed paediatrics, rural medicine, and general practice, so I expect I'll end up in one of those three specialties when the time comes.

Sarah Bahoo

This year I swapped the wards for the lab, completing an honours research year in ear, nose, and throat surgery on treatments for chronic rhinosinusitis. Medical school has taken me from year-long placements in Waikato and Whangārei to a plastic surgery placement in London and public health work in India, teaching me so much about healthcare worldwide. My advice to fellow and future students: With medicine being such a long degree, enjoy every moment, because the journey is just as important as the destination.

Sophie Everitt

When I was a Year 8 student at Baradene, I wrote about what I would like to do as a career, and becoming a doctor was my goal. After studying in Queensland for the last five years, I will graduate this year, ready to begin work as a junior doctor. Sometimes the path you imagined when you were younger might be the very one that's right for you. Always a Kiwi at heart, I still look forward to New Zealand summers!

Leilani Roberts-Nonu

I am currently finishing my final year of medical school at Waikato Hospital, and will be graduating later this year. I am excited to pursue my passion for orthopaedic surgery, a field in which more and more women, especially Pasifika women, are making their mark. Medicine is a long yet rewarding journey. My advice is to hold on to your passion, stay grounded, and surround yourself with people who uplift you.

Macy Jolly

I studied medicine at the University of Otago, spending three years in Ōtepoti Dunedin and three in Ōtautahi Christchurch, with placement stints in Nelson and Blenheim. I've absolutely loved my time at Otago, with Dunedin's vibrant student culture I have made friends and memories for life. I graduate this year, and I hope to work in Auckland, as I have an interest in paediatrics. My advice: Prioritise a life outside medicine and enjoy the journey – it goes quickly.

Ruby Hosking

After six incredible years, I'll be graduating from the University of Otago Medical School. It's been a privilege to study medicine, and the time has flown by. My advice to future students is to find your "why" and let it drive you. I've been honoured to work with patients at Dunedin Hospital and look forward to continuing to serve Aotearoa, hopefully as a future emergency medicine specialist.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023 alumnae who were accepted into medical school this year.

Ava Robertson
University of Otago

Grace Carston
University of Auckland

Amelia Scrymgeour
University of Auckland

This information in this feature is based on updates we've received directly or which is available on Baradene Connect and LinkedIn. With so many medical graduates out there, we rely on alumnae to keep us informed. If you're a recent graduate or working in medicine, we'd love to hear from you. Please email your news to alumnae@baradene.school.nz

Alumnae Milestones

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

In August, **Catherine Hall (Class of 2021)** was selected for the 2025/2026 Silver Ferns Squad. Catherine was also named the Northern Mystics 2025 MVP, an award for the player who has consistently performed for the team at a level that contributes significantly to the team's success. We look forward to following Catherine's Netball career.



In April 2025, **Nadia Tolich (Class of 1999)** was appointed Chief News and Content Officer for TVNZ, a role she will take up in October. Nadia will lead the delivery of New Zealand's most-watched news, sport, and entertainment, and accelerate the broadcaster's digital content transformation. Her daughter Violet is currently in Year 7 at Baradene.



In November 2024, **Cecilia Koloamatangi (Class of 2019)** was awarded the Dr Leopino Foliaki University of Auckland Scholarship, which is awarded by the Pasifika Medical Association (PMA). The PMA Pacific Health Education Scholarships help support the next generation of Pacific health professionals with tuition and study-related costs. You can read more about Cecilia on page 43.

A fabulous welcome awaited **Judy McHardy (Class of 1978)** when she landed in Rarotonga in May to begin a yearlong assignment with Volunteer Service Abroad. Judy is volunteering with the Cook Islands Child Welfare Association. Formed in 1933, it is one of the oldest non-government organisations in the region. The focus of Judy's assignment is to support the development of Child Welfare as a community service. This work will draw on Judy's experience as a registered nurse working in the community, and her interest in health service delivery.

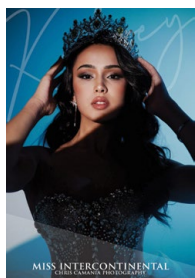


Judy pictured centre, adorned with flower ei upon her arrival in Rarotonga.

In September 2024, **Kate Pender (Class of 1995)** was appointed CEO of Fair4All Finance, a not-for-profit organisation whose mission is "to increase the financial resilience and wellbeing of people in vulnerable circumstances by increasing the availability of fair and accessible financial products and services" across the United Kingdom. Kate says, "I'm looking forward to continuing our work to tackle financial exclusion across the country, a cause that I'm very passionate about."



Gabrielle Jackson (née Lawler, Class of 2005) and her husband Grant welcomed a son, Oscar Edmund Jackson, on 14 July 2024. Her wedding photos, taken at Baradene, were featured in Issue 15 (October 2023) of *Baradene Heart*.



Kelsey Turner (Class of 2021) was a finalist for Miss New Zealand 2025, ultimately placing in the top three and being crowned Miss Intercontinental New Zealand 2025. This annual competition empowers young women to make a difference in their communities, and the values instilled during Kelsey's years at Baradene continue to influence her today.

She will represent New Zealand at Miss Intercontinental 2025 in Egypt later this year.

Bernadette Jackson (née Lawler, Class of 2008) welcomed a daughter, Frances, on 6 July 2024. Bernadette's daughter Norah is very much enjoying being a big sister, as you can see on the right!



Mollie James (Class of 2012) welcomed a daughter, Margot Angela James Thomas, on 8 April 2025 at Northern Beaches Hospital in Sydney. Her family has longstanding connections to Baradene, which you can read more about in Issue 16 (May 2024) of *Baradene Heart*.



August in Brazil!

Havana Hopman (Class of 2021) represented New Zealand at the 2025 FIG World Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Alumnae **Riaan Bryant (Class of 2024)**, **Taylor Fisher (Class of 2024)**, and **Holly Roberts (Class of 2023)**, represented New Zealand at the 2025 World Aquatics Women's U20 Water Polo Championships in Salvador, Brazil.



In July 2025, **Lucy Burrell (Class of 2020)** graduated from Stanford University in California, where she completed a Bachelor of Science majoring in Science, Technology and Society under a full scholarship as part of the Women's Rowing Team. What she loved most about Stanford was the chance to grow in all areas of life. Being around ambitious people challenged Lucy, and she treasures the friendships and experiences that made Stanford feel like home. On the water, Lucy was a key member of the Stanford women's rowing team. She helped them win four conference titles and two National Championships, plus

two runner-up finishes at Nationals. Over summer breaks, she represented New Zealand at the U23 World Rowing Championships, winning silver medals in the coxed four (Bulgaria, 2023) and the coxless four (Canada, 2024). Looking ahead, Lucy plans to keep rowing, with hopes of one day competing at the Olympics. She's also keen to continue her education through graduate school.

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

Whether it's a significant career milestone, achievement, community recognition, graduation, award, birth, or marriage.

Email: development@baradene.school.nz

In Memoriam

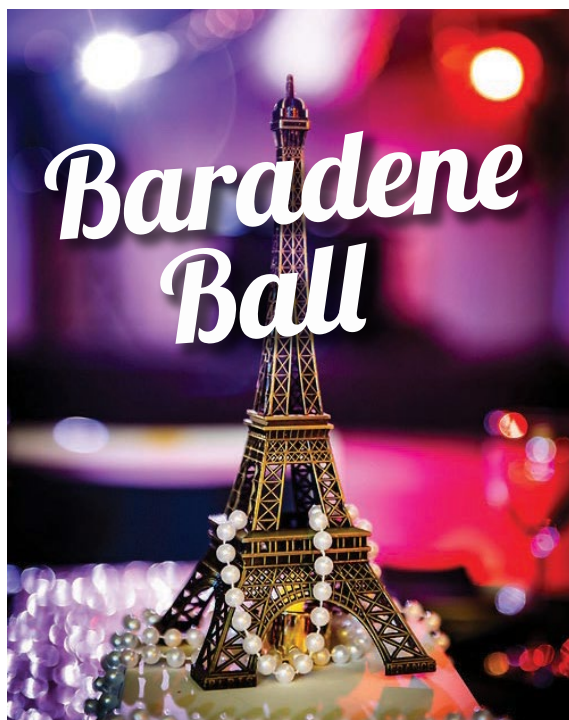
We remember all alumnae and members of the Baradene community who have recently passed.

Djuanne Walker (née Oldham, Class of 1953) passed away on 20 March 2025. Her connection to Baradene was longstanding – as well as being an alumna, she taught speech and drama at the College, and her daughters Carren (Class of 1980), Acushla (Class of 1981), and Sonya (Class of 1984), as well as her granddaughters Mia (Class of 2008), Bella (Class of 2011), and Ashley (Class of 2013) also attended. Djuanne was a dedicated member of the Baradene alumnae community, and served as President of the Baradene Alumnae Association from 1992 to 1995. She was an active member of The World Association of Alumni of the Sacred Heart (AMASC), and in 2014, she was awarded AMASC Emerita Membership in recognition of her service and commitment to the organisation. She is remembered as a passionate and encouraging educator and mentor who touched the lives of many students and colleagues.



Clockwise from top left: Djuanne with her daughters; receiving her AMASC Emerita Membership; as a young girl approximately 10 years old; age 17 at the Baradene Debutante Ball in 1953 (front left).

Lady Joan Gillies (née Kennedy), a loyal alumna of the Convent of the Sacred Heart Island Bay (later called Erskine College), passed away on 16 April 2025. Joan and her sister Angela were pupils during the 1940s. Joan married Sir Alexander Gillies, a renowned orthopaedic surgeon and one of the founders of the New Zealand Crippled Children Society, now known as CCS Disability Action. Sir Alexander died in 1982, but Joan took up his mantle of service as an advocate for disabled people and their families. For over 40 years she was the patron of CCS, and an active supporter of many other charities. In 2023, she attended the Wellington showing of *With the Heart of an Educator: Stories from the Religious of the Sacred Heart, Baradene Convent*. May she rest in peace.



On 3 May, the Ellerslie Event Centre was transformed for Baradene's Year 13 Ball. With lights strung and tables set, the venue embraced this year's enchanting theme: "Midnight in Paris". The evening came alive with dancing, singing, and unforgettable memories, making it a night the Year 13 students will cherish forever. The event was a true reflection of all the hard work and dedication that went into its planning.

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FAREWELL FROM OUR 2025 STUDENT LEADERS

Nicole Nobre **Deputy Head Girl 2025**

I will take away from Baradene:

I cannot thank the Baradene community enough for the love and support they have provided me over the past seven years. I am so lucky to have been surrounded by the most incredible group of people, and I will always cherish the fun, laughter, and friendship we've had together. I'm incredibly thankful for the can-do attitude Baradene has instilled in me and for teaching the importance of seizing every opportunity.

The future:

I look forward to continuing to grow intellectually and personally. I'm interested in pursuing a career in science but haven't yet decided on a specific role: Clinical, research, teaching, or all three. Combining my love of sciences with improving the quality of life of others is the ultimate goal, and I'm excited for what the future holds.

A funny moment:

During our social football game, I was the goalie for a penalty kick. Not only did I have no clue about the rules, I also couldn't see anything as I had taken my glasses off. The funniest part was when I went to retrieve the ball and got tangled in the net, unable to get out! It's a moment my friends and I still laugh about to this day.

Orla O'Carroll **Head Girl 2025**

I will take away from Baradene:

I feel immensely grateful for the amazing people I have been surrounded by and the countless opportunities I have been blessed to experience. I am inspired by the legacy of ambition and perseverance from the many women I follow who strive for social justice. From their example, I have gained a well-rounded education and uplifting sisterhood, providing me with memories I will cherish for the rest of my life.

The future:

I am excited for the future, as I prepare to study Health Sciences at The University of Auckland, with the ultimate goal of pursuing a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery. I have always had a curious mind and a genuine passion for connecting with different people. I hope to make a meaningful impact by caring for less fortunate or vulnerable people as a doctor.

A funny moment:

On our recent Year 13 Biology trip to the zoo, we made our way to the seal enclosure. There was a sign that read: "Dangerous debris in tank." One of my friends, however, misread the sign and assumed "Debris" was the name of the seal. She called out, "Here, Debris! Aww, look at Debris go!" The rest of us burst into laughter and joined in calling out for our seal friend, Debris.

Kate Hunter **Deputy Head Girl 2025**

I will take away from Baradene:

Baradene has provided me with the values and understanding that you can pursue anything you want as long as you set your mind to it. I have found this particularly empowering when thinking about the future, knowing that if I carry the lessons I have learned at Baradene and the Cor Unum values with me, I can reach my goals.

The future:

I plan to study at the University of Otago to pursue a science degree, and would love to be in a position where I can make a difference and continue to learn on the job. Although it is bittersweet leaving Baradene, I am looking forward to the next chapter.

A funny moment:

When I was in Year 7, I had packed my morning tea in a reused yoghurt container; however, once I got to school, I realised I had grabbed the wrong container and ended up having a whole tub of yoghurt instead of my morning tea!



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The same portrait that our students held on the steps of the Duchesne Building 100 years ago is now displayed on a wall in a busy corridor of the College. In the portrait, Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat RSCJ is depicted as a scholar with a book and feather quill, and a halo to signify her sainthood.



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