Issue 21: October 2026

Baradene College of the SACRED HEART

Spirit in Motion

From NZ to London, our alumnae mark milestones together

Centre stage: Our dancers step into the spotlight

Preserving the past and building the future in our new Archives space



Baradene HEART

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ON THE COVER:
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BARADENE HEART

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A WORD FROM THE BOARD



Justin Luen, Parent Representative on the School Board, reflects on the meaning of "wise freedom".

The world our daughters are growing up in changes quickly. Driven by social media and a culture that pushes individualism, it can feel overwhelming. It is easy to lose direction when we are told our worth is found in comparison – that we must be better than the person next to us.

As a Board, our role extends beyond finances and property. We have a duty to help grow the heart of Baradene, supporting an environment where our young women become who they are meant to be. Grounded in our faith and traditions, this provides a powerful compass for the future.

This year, our Focus Goal is "Personal Growth in an Atmosphere of Wise Freedom". It reminds us not to grieve the talents we lack, but to rejoice in the worth of others. We want our daughters to believe in their futures, while remaining realistic. True resilience doesn't come from pretending the world is easy; it comes from confronting our limitations, acknowledging mistakes, and accepting consequences with integrity. To me, "wise freedom" is the inner strength that allows a young woman to stand tall, independent of what others think.

This aligns perfectly with *Sophie's Gift*, our Sacred Heart framework, reminding us that education empowers students to handle complexity and uncertainty. We want every student to leave ready to think independently and lead with courage.

This courage grows in an environment of care, built on a simple promise: "You come as you are and are cared for with great love." We lost a profound embodiment of this spirit with the passing of Sister Anne Maureen de Stacpoole rscJ. A comforting presence on campus, she didn't measure students by accolades; she saw them simply as uniquely valued human beings.

That spirit of active care lives on today. We see it in our students' dedication on stage, the early morning commitments of our sports teams, student-led service drives, and everyday moments of helping a classmate or bringing laughter to campus. Our hope as a Board is that when these young women walk out of Baradene's gates, they carry this balance within them: An unshakable care for humanity, paired with the practical grit to face life without losing their joy. We are grateful to our Principal, teachers, staff, and families who challenge our young women to put resilience into practice. Thank you for walking alongside our daughters on their journey toward wise freedom.



The tapestry embroidered by Saint Madeleine Sophie as a young woman. The symbolism reflects the charism of the Sacred Heart, and reminds us of God's love.



Principal Alexandra Russell reflects on her recent journey to the places where the Sacred Heart story began, the enduring values that shape a Baradene education, and the spirit that continues to move our community forward.

My recent formation trip gave me an opportunity to see some of the places connected with the beginnings of the Society of the Sacred Heart and the life of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat rscJ. It was a valuable part of my own growth as Principal, and it also gave me a chance to reflect on what Sacred Heart education means for our students today.

In Joigny, France, I visited the house where Saint Madeleine Sophie was born and grew up. One of the things that struck me most was seeing a tapestry she embroidered as a young woman (pictured at left). It is a small and very personal connection to someone whose work would eventually influence the education of thousands of girls around the world.

I also visited places associated with the early Sacred Heart schools in Paris and Rome. Saint Madeleine Sophie believed strongly in the importance of educating girls and encouraging them to be ambitious in their lives. She was courageous, innovative, and prepared to take risks. She also encouraged the women around her to develop their own strengths and take on leadership opportunities themselves.

These qualities remain relevant to the education we provide at Baradene today.

Every student who wears our school crest is connected to this history. The crest carries the symbols and beliefs of the Sacred Heart tradition. Embroidered on our blazers, it sits close to the heart for a reason. It is a reminder that our students are part of something that began more than 200 years ago and continues to flourish today.

Our responsibility is to take the values that have shaped Sacred Heart education and apply them to the world we are living in now. We want our students to be courageous, to use their particular gifts, and to develop their own potential. We want them to have the confidence to try new things, to lead, and to encourage each other to do the same.

"Saint Madeleine Sophie had the courage to follow her convictions and create something that would continue long after her."

I was reminded of this again while in London, where I attended a gathering of around 55 Baradene alumnae. They represented many generations and have had very different lives and careers, but they shared a connection through their time at Baradene. Some had left the school in the 1970s, while others were former students I had taught.

It was a wonderful reminder that being part of a Sacred Heart school does not end when a student leaves the gates. The relationships formed at Baradene continue across decades and around the world. This is one of the reasons our reunions and our connections with alumnae are so important, and why I encourage our former students to remain part of the Baradene community and to come and visit when they can. Much has changed at Baradene over the years, as our alumnae see when they return to campus, but the purpose of the education we provide remains firmly connected to our Sacred Heart tradition.

This sense of connection is also evident in the opportunities our current students have. We have much to celebrate across the College this year. Our students are achieving at a high level in sport, while others are excelling academically and receiving offers from leading universities. Forty-two of our students also became fully initiated into the Catholic Church this year, an important milestone for our Catholic and Sacred Heart community.

Our Performing Arts programme is another important part of this holistic education. The opportunities to dance, act, perform, and speak in public help students develop skills and confidence that they will take well beyond school. I am particularly grateful to everyone who supported Giving Week this year, with funds raised helping to transform Jubilee and create opportunities for dance and drama.

When I think about "Spirit in Motion", the theme of this issue of *Baradene Heart*, I think of our students continually learning, growing, and embracing new opportunities as they discover their unique gifts and strengths. At the centre of this journey is *Cor Unum et anima una in Corde Jesu* – One Heart, One Mind in the Heart of Jesus Christ – that unites us as a Baradene community. It is about moving forward with confidence and purpose while remaining connected to the values, traditions, and sense of belonging that shape who we are.

Saint Madeleine Sophie had the courage to follow her convictions and create something that would continue long after her. We are fortunate to be part of that legacy, and it is our responsibility to carry it forward.



A SPECIAL VISIT

Baradene recently welcomed visiting Society of the Sacred Heart leaders, while also pausing to remember and honour members of our community.

It was with great excitement that we hosted the Society of the Sacred Heart Superior General, Sister Claire Castaing rscJ, and General Council member Sister Sheila Smith rscJ, in New Zealand for a few days in July. Accompanying her were Sister Anne Corry rscJ, Provincial of NEANZ, and Sister Lynette Toohey rscJ, NEANZ Provincial Councillor, from Australia.

Sisters Claire and Sheila travelled from Rome as part of a wider visit to Australia and other areas of the world. During their time here, they met with Baradene's RSCJ Sisters, as well as staff and Board members. It was encouraging to hear from them about the global vision for the Sacred Heart charism and mission over the next decade.

In August, Sister Anne and Sister Lynette were back in Auckland and were able to visit the newly established Baradene Archives room, along with Sister Susan Ross rscJ, who is based in Auckland. The Sisters were impressed by this wonderful new space and resource for the College. In September, we celebrated the 105th birthday of Sister Barbara Crombie rscJ, a truly significant milestone.

In sad news, Sister Anne de Stacpoole rscJ passed away in early June, just short of her 99th birthday. Sister Anne was an energetic presence at Baradene, and she will be missed dearly. Her life was celebrated with a Rosary service and Requiem Mass in the Sophia Chapel. The Chapel was filled with family, friends, staff, and alumnae of both Baradene and Erskine College (Sacré Cœur Island Bay), where Sister Anne attended school. You can read Sister Anne's In Memoriam on page 48.

We are saddened also to acknowledge the passing of Peter Mahoney. Peter was the husband of Maryanne Mahoney, who is a longstanding Board member of the RSCJ Trust Board and Baradene College Limited.

Above, front row: *Sarah Boasman, Maryanne Mahoney, Gavin Rennie, Superior General Sister Claire Castaing rscJ, Catherine Everitt, Sister Sheila Smith rscJ, Gill Chappell, Sister Anne Corry rscJ, Catherine Ryan, Sister Lynette Toohey rscJ.* ***Back row:*** *Victoria Carter ONZM, Edmund Lawler, Richard James, Susan Hurring, and Gabrielle Smyth.*



Sister Anne Corry rscJ, Sister Lynette Toohey rscJ, and Sister Susan Ross rscJ in the new Baradene Archives space.





Sister Anne de Stacpoole rscJ

A SACRED SPACE

Catherine Everitt, Director of Mission, reflects on Sophia Chapel and its place at the centre of Baradene's community.

Our Sophia Chapel is a special place where the spirit of Cor Unum is felt most deeply. Not only is it the spiritual heart of the school through the celebration of Community Mass each week and larger school Masses throughout the year, but it is also a space for retreats, prayer, reflection, and the building of community.

Each week, two homeroom classes host our Tuesday lunchtime Community Mass. Students undertake the ministries within the Mass, including writing and reading the Prayers of the Faithful, procession of the gifts, and introduction of the theme of the readings. The responsibility of leading in these moments offers students a hands-on experience of the elements of the Mass, and their essential role as part of a faith community.

Many elements within this sacred space connect us to our mission as a Sacred Heart school. The "Creation Window" designed by Sister Annett Hanrahan rscJ is a visual focus, drawing the visitor's eye to the centrality of the Tabernacle. Its beautiful expression of the interconnectedness of all creation is a powerful symbol of who we are called to be as a school community. Pre-2002 alumnae will recognise the Stations of the Cross, light fittings, and marble altar, all from the original chapel that was upstairs in the Jubilee Building. In addition, the Colin McCahon stained glass window (moved from the Barat Building) adds to the peaceful ambience.

Sophia Chapel has been witness to communal prayer, solitary worship, the weddings of alumnae, and the farewells of much-loved Sisters of the Sacred Heart. It is a precious and reverent space in which to draw closer to the heart of Jesus.











INTRODUCING

SARAH LANE

HEAD OF SCIENCE



Head of Science Sarah Lane shares her passion for the field and the importance of Science education.

I grew up in West Auckland and was fortunate to be part of a family deeply connected to education. My mother exemplified diligence and excellence throughout her career teaching History and ESOL, while my father served in the governance of our local high school for many years. As a physician, he often brought stories and insights from hospital life to our dinner table, where conversations frequently revolved around learning, curiosity, and service. Even in retirement, my mother remains a highly respected and celebrated member of our local school community.

I studied Biomedical Science at the University of Auckland, specialising in Reproduction, Growth and Metabolism, before completing a Master of Medical Science. With both of my older sisters pursuing medicine, I often found myself translating our medical discussions for my mother, who jokingly declared that she could not face another medical professional in the family. Although I applied for medicine at the end of my degree, I now see it as divine providence that another path unfolded. My transition into education felt natural, and it quickly became clear that teaching was where my strengths and passions were best suited.

I spent the majority of my early teaching career at a large secondary school in West Auckland, where I held a number of curriculum leadership roles. These included leadership of General Science and Earth and Space Science, before becoming Head of Biology from 2019 to 2025. In 2025, I was delighted to accept the position as Head of the Science Faculty at Baradene, joining an exceptional team of colleagues and a highly supportive leadership group.

Throughout my teaching career, Science education has continuously evolved. From changes to NCEA, to teaching Cambridge International programmes, and now working with the bespoke Year 11 Baradene Certificate, there is never a dull moment. We are currently experiencing a significant period of curriculum change, including a complete redesign of junior Science programmes, and we anticipate substantial alterations to both content and pedagogy, making the collegiality, expertise, and commitment of our Science Department especially valuable during this transitional time.

"In a world where information is abundant and not always reliable, scientific literacy has never been more important."

Baradene's Science programmes are comprehensive and thoughtfully designed, covering all major strands of Science while preparing students for future developments in the curriculum. This places the College in an enviable position and reflects the professionalism and dedication of our Science staff, as well as the foresight of previous faculty leaders. Alongside academic excellence, students are encouraged to extend their learning through opportunities such as Scholarship programmes, EPro8 challenges, the NIWA Science and Technology Fair, the Rotary National Science and Technology Forum, and a wide range of educational experiences beyond the classroom.

Science continues to be a field of remarkable innovation and transformation, and in a world where information is abundant and not always reliable, scientific literacy has never been more important. The ability to think critically, evaluate evidence, and make informed decisions is an essential skill for life, and it is a privilege to help our students develop these capabilities as they prepare for the future.



SCIENCE IN ACTION

From marine reserves to poached eggs on bunsen burners, a look at what's been happening across the Science Faculty.

As part of the Year 7 Science Kaitiakitanga topic, students explored the importance of guardianship and conservation in New Zealand. Their learning included a visit to Auckland Zoo, creating dioramas showcasing a variety of New Zealand habitats, and participating in the Blake VR experience, which provided an immersive opportunity to learn about environmental issues and the importance of caring for our natural world.

In Term 1, Year 12 Biology students travelled to Goat Island Marine Reserve as part of their Ecology studies, where they investigated the intertidal zone and explored how organisms adapt to thrive in their unique ecological niches.

The Science Faculty also celebrated Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday with a special cake and a poetry reading by Mrs Gillies, in recognition of his remarkable contribution to science, conservation, and environmental education.























Year 11 Advanced Science students put their understanding of heat transfer to the test in a memorable practical investigation. While studying conduction and the latent heat of vaporisation, we braved the seemingly impossible and poached eggs in origami bowls on top of bunsen burners, demonstrating scientific principles in a fun and unexpected way.

Meanwhile, Year 9 students showcased both their creativity and scientific understanding through detailed models of the digestive system as part of their "Eat Well, Excel" assessment. The models demonstrated their knowledge of the adaptations that enable the gut to function effectively.

Students have also excelled in engineering and problem-solving through inter-school science and engineering competition EPro8. Following the success of the Year 7 and 8 in-school competition last year, interest in the challenge led to the formation of a Year 9 extra-curricular team, which competed in Week 3 of Term 3 this year. Together, these experiences highlight the enthusiasm, curiosity, and achievement of our students across all areas of Science.



FUTURE FOOD FOCUS

Baradene's Food Innovation Technology students are learning directly from the industry that shapes their field.

Food Innovation Technology students in Years 11-13 are gaining invaluable real-world experience in 2026 through partnerships with leading New Zealand food industry professionals. Industry mentors have generously shared their expertise, donated specialist ingredients, and continue to provide authentic insights that challenge students to think like food innovators.

Anna Dougall, Trisha Fuimaono, and Breanna Dorman from International Flavours & Fragrances (IFF), as well as Donald Baxter and Nick Wertheim from Accolade Packaging, are working alongside Baradene's Year 13 students to explore product development and innovative packaging solutions. Will Winter, Baradene's Head of Digital Learning, Computer Science and Makerspace, has also been instrumental in supporting students with the creation of innovative packaging in Makerspace.

Year 12 students are being mentored by alumna Danielle van der Anker (Class of 2021) of Zymus International, and Karla Goodwin from Bluebells Cakery has encouraged our Year 11 students to apply science, creativity, and consumer trends to shape successful food products while participating in Bluebells Cupcake Challenge.

Guided by these experts, students are developing innovative food products that address New Zealand's nutritional and dietary needs while building valuable industry skills. These unique collaborations are connecting classroom learning with exciting career pathways and future opportunities.



















TRASH TO FASHION

Trash to Fashion is a colourful, creative way to explore sustainability through innovative thinking.

When Ava Barnett (Year 13) and the Sustainability Leaders first introduced Trash to Fashion to the Year 7 and 8 students, much of the excitement centred on the prospect of a school runway show complete with a DJ. However, as the girls began constructing their designs, they gained awareness of the importance of sustainability and reusing recycled materials.

This creative initiative challenged the juniors to transform discarded materials such as cardboard, newspaper, and bottle caps into unique, wearable fashion pieces relating to the theme of "Climate Change". The students had approximately eight weeks during Term 2 to create their designs at home. They also attended weekly progress sessions, where they could ask questions, refine their ideas, and develop the scripts that were read as they walked the runway.

As fast fashion continues to contribute heavily to global waste and pollution, events like Trash to Fashion remind us that sustainability can also be stylish. Every creation made by our talented junior students showcases that one person's trash can become another person's fashion, encouraging us to reconsider the way we view waste, and use innovative thinking to reduce our carbon footprint.









BEHIND THE MUSIC

Thirteen years on, vocal coach Leza Corban is still helping Baradene students find their voice.



This year, Leza Corban is celebrating 13 years as Baradene's contemporary vocal coach. With a background in education and psychology, she caught the performance bug as a child, singing in choirs and enjoying musical theatre. In her 20s, Leza started singing with her brother's band, then worked as a studio session singer, backing vocalist, and recorded radio and TV jingles. Leza is best known as the voice behind 1995 APRA Silver Scroll-winning song "Sweet Disorder" by New Zealand band Strawpeople, which spent 42 weeks on the charts. This success opened doors, leading to opportunities to sing at events such as Christmas in the Park, Symphony Under the Stars, America's Cup functions, and perform as a backing vocalist for international artists. Leza also started her own band in 1995 called Union, which still performs today.

Baradene's contemporary music programme was Leza's first teaching job in 2013. She now teaches more than 130 students at four schools, and gets as much pleasure and satisfaction from working with young performers as she does from being on stage with famous international artists. She loves watching her students grow and develop, and enjoys the challenge of working with a range of abilities, finding the right approach for each individual student. Her goal is to get that special something out of each student while giving them a sense of belonging, as well as the confidence and enjoyment of performing in front of an audience.

Leza organises at least three singing showcases a year for her singers, encouraging the students to collaborate and support each other. She aims to teach them about performing in real-world situations, giving them something to work towards, and often this is transferred into external competitions such as the Smokefree Rockquest and the Stand Up Stand Out events. Past Baradene students who sang with Leza and have gone on to work as performers or music teachers themselves include Zoë Vera (Class of 2016), Chloe Bagayas (Class of 2017), Ianetta Solomon Brown (Class of 2017) Molly Payton (Class of 2018), Aisling Baker (Class of 2018), and Amélia Rojas (Class of 2023).



"Leza has so much energy and knows exactly how to bring out the best in everyone. Her compassion and skill make students feel completely comfortable and confident in her classes. Her dedication and consistent effort are reflected in the growth of each girl."
~ Esther Lee (Year 11)

"Leza is genuinely one of the most amazing people in my life. She has shown me the kind of person I aspire to be, in both character and vocal talent."
~ Nicole Bowie (Year 13)

"The showcases give everyone the opportunity to perform in front of an audience, which is always nerve-wracking, but are so much fun and teach you a lot about how to perform."
~ Francesca Crichton (Year 13)



ALL THAT JAZZ

The Big Band may be Baradene's newest music group, but it's already earning accolades and awards.

Established in 2026, the Baradene Big Band is a group of 18 students focused on jazz and big band music under the mentorship of music teacher Angela Mote-Andrews. Comprising saxophones, brass, flute, drums, bass, guitars, keyboard, and vocalists, the group has spent this year mastering a mixed jazz repertoire and taking part in several events. In June, the group participated in the Auckland All Girls Jazz Festival, which consisted of workshops with guest tutors focused on improvisation and big band ensemble techniques, group rehearsals, and a public concert. The festival was inspiring for our students, allowing them to learn from established bands from other schools. In early August, the Big Band performed at the Auckland Jazz Competition alongside over 40 groups from other secondary schools. They were delighted to earn a Silver Award at the competition. The group then performed to great acclaim at the annual St Peter's College and Baradene College Gala Concert, before competing at the KBB Music Festival in August, earning a Bronze Award.

"Working with the Baradene Big Band in its first year as a girls-only ensemble has been incredibly rewarding, providing students with a sense of empowerment while offering a fun and challenging musical experience."

The group's director Angela has been teaching music since the age of 16. She studied classical performance flute at the New Zealand School of Music in Wellington, also playing and teaching the clarinet and saxophone. She enjoys working with young people, finding it rewarding and varied. As well as teaching, Angela is a regular performer, having played in orchestras, chamber groups and bands, mastering both classical and contemporary music, and jazz. She also writes music, currently collaborating on a piece for orchestra and taonga puoro, and finds that in order to have the energy and inspiration to teach, she needs to be pursuing her own creative and performance goals at the same time.

Angela loves the energy of big band music. Having come from a classical music background, she finds it exciting to learn



a new genre of music and see a group bond over the power of music. Working with the Baradene Big Band in its first year as a girls-only ensemble has been incredibly rewarding, providing students with a sense of empowerment while offering a fun and challenging musical experience. Angela has enjoyed being a part of this new project that will keep growing and developing over the coming years.





MUSICAL GLOW

Baradene's chamber musicians shone at the Candle Light Concert and the NZCT Chamber Music Contest this year.

The annual Candle Light Concert was held in late May, with fairy lights and candles creating an atmospheric setting for the performances. Now in its third year, the concert featured performances by 11 chamber music groups from Baradene College and St Peter's College, as well as visiting students from other schools. The groups performed a variety of works, from classical piano trios to more contemporary pieces for clarinets and saxophones. The concert provided an opportunity for the chamber groups to perform for friends and family as well as the wider school community ahead of the NZCT Chamber Music Contest which was held in early June.









This year, 18 Baradene students performed at the Auckland District round of the NZCT Chamber Music Contest. The competition took place over four days, with a total of 114 groups participating. We were proud to have five groups representing Baradene, including our Clarinet Ensemble, Saxophone Quartet, Clarinet Quartet, a Flute Trio, and a Piano Trio with flute and cello. Three senior students also performed with mixed groups from other schools. After months of practice, it was a rewarding experience for our young musicians to perform at the event, and an opportunity to listen to other students from the Auckland area. We are grateful for the hard work of our dedicated music tutors, including Mr Mark Hobson and Ms Agnes Harmath, who helped students prepare for the competition. We look forward to seeing more chamber music groups emerge over the coming years.



Rising Stars

From concert halls to competition stages, Baradene students are making waves in music and performing arts.

Imogen Howie (Year 13)
Imogen competed at the 2026 Smokefree Rockquest Event, making it through to the Auckland Solo/Duo Regional Finals. Imogen performed an original song called "Me" and won the Smokefree Best Vocals Award.



Imogen Howie

Yonah Chiu (Year 8)
Yonah recently sat her Grade 3 Oboe Exam, achieving Distinction with a score of 139/150. Yonah has only been learning the oboe since the start of 2025, and has made amazing progress over the last 18 months. She is now working on Grade 5 pieces.


Yonah Chiu

Sophie Gilbert (Year 12) and Simone Corballis (Year 13)
Sophie and Simone have been double cast as Heather Duke in the Stage Antics production of *Heathers: Teen Edition*.

Aleena Joseph (Year 11) and Briar Coleman (Year 12)
Aleena and Briar performed with the West City Youth Concert Band at the NZ Concert Bands Association Competition in June, with Briar on French horn and Aleena on percussion. The group won the PJ Snowling Award for an outstanding performance by a community youth band.


Sophie Gilbert and Simone Corballis

Briar Coleman (Year 12)
Briar has been invited to play French horn in the Auckland Youth Orchestra, and will be taking part in the orchestra's upcoming concert series.

Briar Coleman (Year 12), Sophie Kim (Year 12), and Stella Li (Year 13)
Briar (French horn), Sophie (cello), and Stella (bassoon) were selected to take part in the Honours Programme at the 2026 KBB Music Festival, performing a concert with the Honours Orchestra comprising 116 students from schools around Auckland.


Briar Coleman, Stella Li, and Sophie Kim


Aleena Joseph and Briar Coleman

Centre Stage



From a dazzling Dance Showcase to participating in local and national dance competitions, Baradene's dancers have taken to the stage in style.

Dance Showcase

Our 2026 Dance Showcase was a beautiful event, featuring all 13 of our Dance Academy troupes, as well as solo, duet, and trio dances, class performances, and cultural items. Performance styles included hip hop, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, Bollywood, Chinese dance, and more. Over 100 performers showcased their work, with many of the items choreographed by students. It is amazing to see how many talented dancers we have at Baradene!

Project Dance

Baradene College Hip Hop A teams competed at Project Dance for the first time this year. This event is held in Tauranga during Kings' Birthday weekend, and features top hip hop teams from schools and studios around New Zealand. We were very proud to be awarded First place for our Junior Hip Hop team "New Age", and Fourth place for our Senior Hip Hop team "Conquer".

National Dance Challenge

In June, all 13 of our Dance Academy troupes competed at the National Dance Challenge (NDC). This annual event, hosted at Westlake Girls High School, showcased 80+ teams from around New Zealand in hip hop, jazz, contemporary, and lyrical dance. NDC is a fantastic opportunity for our troupes to perform, compete, and make connections with other dancers.

Velocity Dance

Velocity Dance is an annual competition our 13 Dance Academy troupes participate in. It features dancers from North Island-based schools. The day features stage runs, workshops from industry professionals, and a competition event at night. Students from Years 7 to 13 enjoyed a fun day of dance, and came home with a wide range of trophies and awards.

Congratulations to our Year 7/8 Hip Hop A "New Age" troupe who received Bronze at AIMS

Follow @baradene artsandculture on Facebook and Instagram to keep up with the latest news!

"Watching the dancers improve and the routines grow from rehearsals to being on stage, while also getting to perform alongside my peers, has been such a special part of my time at Baradene."

~ Grace Pavarno (Year 13)

"Whether in rehearsal or backstage at competitions, being surrounded with these other incredible dancers has pushed me to become a stronger dancer and taught me so much about leadership."

~ Mia Tsai (Year 13)






















BARA

Playing Our Part

Student participation is at the heart of Baradene Sport. Our goal is to create and provide as many opportunities as possible for our students to be involved, compete, and thrive. When external competition opportunities are limited, our Sports staff step up to organise engaging intra-school and inter-school competitions, making full use of our outstanding facilities and ensuring that Baradene students continue to enjoy meaningful sporting experiences.

Badminton *Intra-School*

During Terms 2 and 3 this year, College Sport was unable to accommodate the influx of teams into their competition, so we introduced an intra-school badminton competition for our Year 9 to 13 players. This created an exciting new opportunity for students to engage in the sport in a fun and supportive environment. Matches were held every Thursday after school in the Erskine Stuart Gymnasium, making great use of our amazing facilities.

The competition was designed to accommodate the growing interest in badminton and provide students with the chance to develop their skills and build confidence on the court. It also encouraged positive connections across year levels, fostering teamwork and friendly competition.

The structure allowed students to play consistently while improving at their own pace, ensuring everyone felt included and supported. The intra-school badminton competition has been a valuable and enjoyable addition to our sports programme, promoting active participation, student engagement, and effective use of our school resources.









Year 7/8 Futsal Competition *Inter-School*

In Term 1, we trialled a Tuesday afternoon Year 7/8 inter-school futsal competition, which included six teams from Baradene, along with teams from Diocesan School for Girls, St Kentigern Girls' School, Remuera Intermediate, and Royal Oak Intermediate. With Baradene regularly entering the majority of teams in competitions over the past few years, and having the space and capacity to run a competition here at the College, we decided it was more practical to host games on site. This minimised costs and provided opportunities for our senior students to be involved in coaching, officiating, and organising.





The introduction of this competition enabled us to utilise our new gym space and equipment. With the capacity to run two courts, we maximised participation and provided a friendly and fun environment for the girls to play futsal.



Our senior futsal players took on refereeing and coaching roles that provided valuable opportunities to develop their leadership skills while contributing to this new initiative and helping with the smooth running of the competition. It was a great success, enjoyed by all, and will become a staple in Baradene's regular sporting programme.

Year 7/8 Football Competition *Inter-School*

Baradene football consistently enjoys strong participation numbers, and talented players at the Year 7/8 level. Each season, our A and B teams enter the College Sport Junior (Year 9/10) competition and prove to be highly competitive against these older players. Finding an appropriate competition for our other teams that offers a more balanced level of play, however, is difficult.

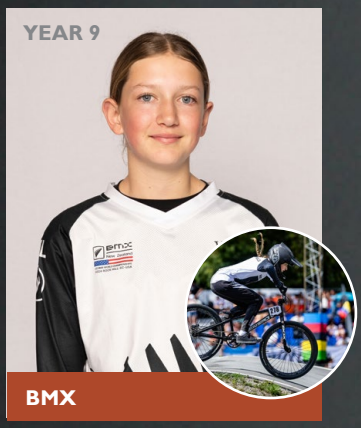
Last year, Baradene, Diocesan School for Girls, and St Kentigern Girls' School worked together to give these teams a positive experience through more evenly matched games. This year, St Cuthbert's College joined us, adding an extra team and venue. As a result, the 9-a-side competition has evolved, providing a perfect competition for this level. It has been a collaborative approach, with schools supplying the venues and management, while student and parent support has been vital to ensure that trainings and game days happen.

Our senior students take the teams during the week for trainings and assist each Monday to set up the Martyn Wilson Fields, then our parent coaches take over on game days, coaching the teams and helping to pack down the fields. The Year 7/8 teams have a relaxed experience with a developmental aspect, improving each week with meaningful games. Another successful project!

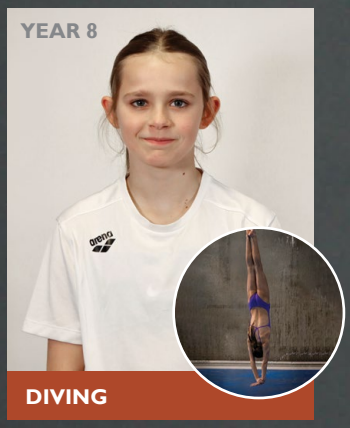




NATIONAL SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES



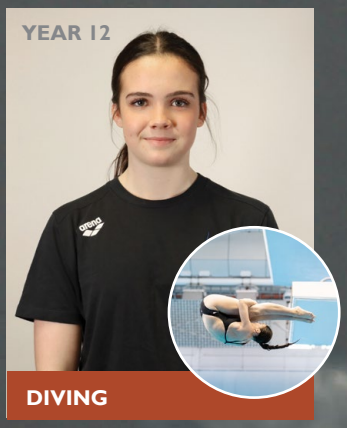
Addison Harrowfield
NZ BMX World Championships 13 Grade



Agnes Comber
Australian Age Group Championships



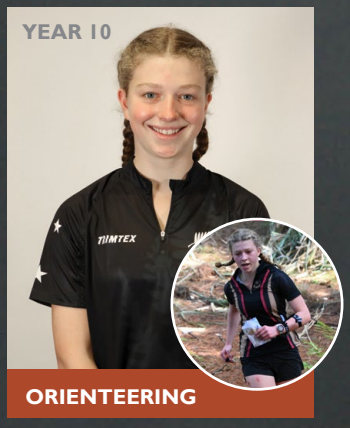
Amelia Hitchcock
NZSS U19 Football Team and NZ U17 Football Team



Beatrix Nicol
Australian Age Group Championships



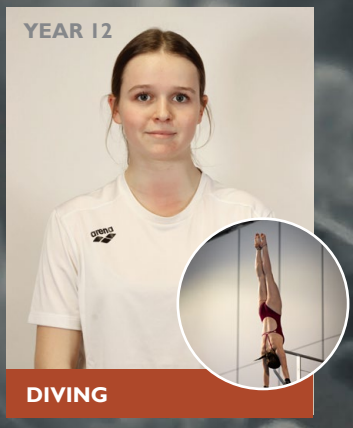
Esther Comber
Australian Age Group Championships



Felicity Mortell
Southern Cross Junior Team



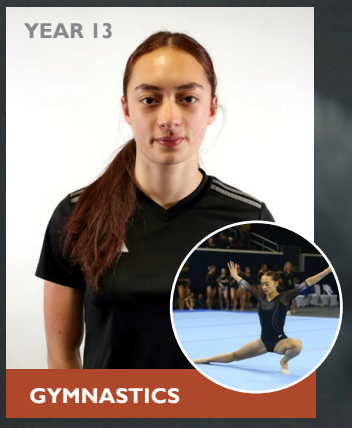
Frankie McGuinness
NZ U16 World Championships



Frida Comber
Australian Age Group Championships



Greta Hunter
NZ Athletics Oceania Championships



Kahu Barsdell
Women's Artistic Gymnastics Pharaoh Cup



Kara Morgan
Southern Cross Junior Team

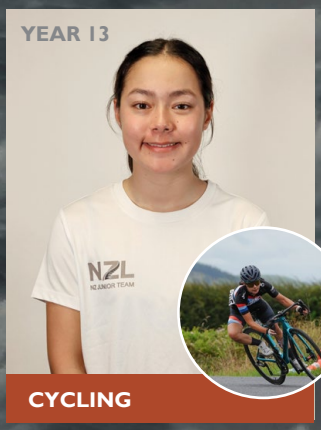


Madeleine Dwyer
NZSS U16 Football Team
NZ U16 & U17 Football team

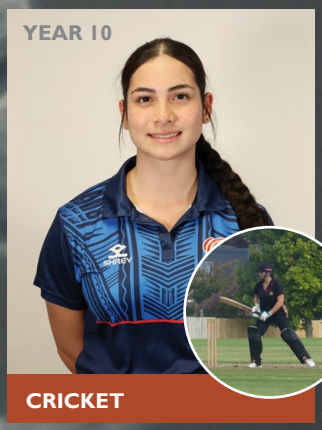
Baradene sports stars, proudly representing their nations!



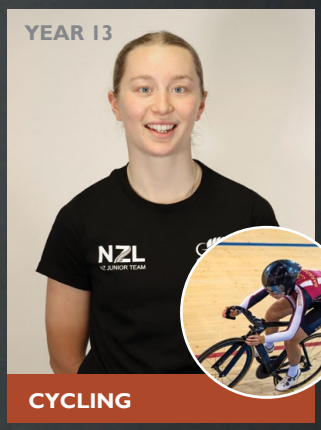
Maggie Bauzon
Southern Cross Junior Team



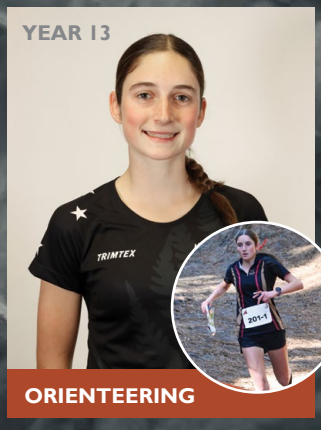
Mia Collins
UCI Road World Championships (Junior)



Mia Hedge
U19 Samoan Women's Team



Mia Pepper
Junior Track World Championships



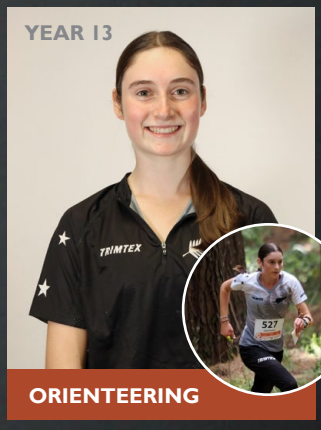
Niamh Hoare
NZ Pinestars Oceania Sprint Championships U20, W18 EYOC, Southern Cross Senior Team



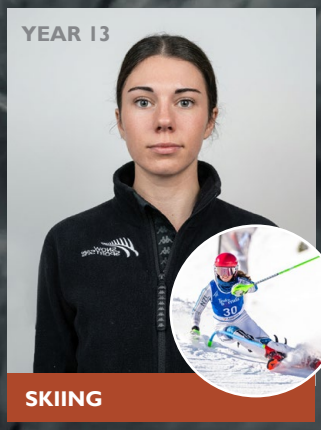
Niamh Lloyd
NZ BMX World Championships 13 Grade



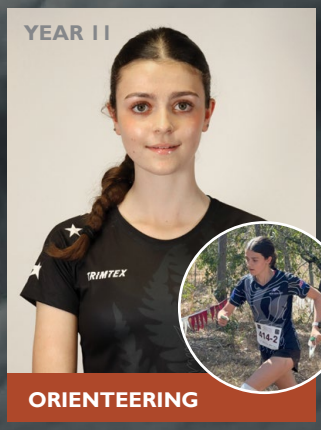
Octavia Mahoney
NZ Tri Series Team



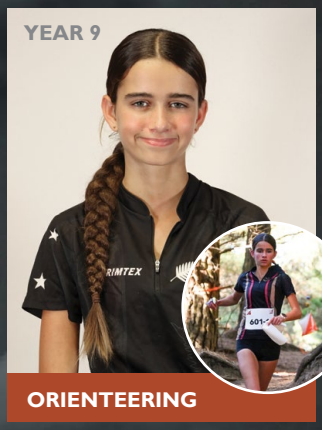
Orla Hoare
W18 EYOC, Southern Cross Senior Team



Paloma McKenzie
NZ Junior FIS Squad



Petra Slavich
Southern Cross Junior Team



Stella Tanner
Southern Cross Junior Team

As this issue went to print, four new representatives were announced:

Kait Nash (Year 11)
NZ 15&U Water Polo Team

Erin McLean (Year 11)
NZ 17&U Water Polo Team

Jazz Sutherland (Year 11)
Samoa U16 and U17 Football Team

Micayla-Jane Elika (Year 12)
Samoa U17 Football Team



FOOTBALL FOR ALL

Every player has a place in the Baradene football programme, from those just starting out to those competing at the highest level.

Baradene football has experienced success for many years across all age levels, from Years 7 and 8 through to our 1st XI team. Our football programme comprises 12 to 13 teams each year. This year, we have a record number of Year 7 and 8 students participating, with 71 girls competing in either the College Sport competition or the Monday afternoon 9-a-side competition. Having two Year 7/8 teams competing in the Year 9/10 College Sport competition illustrates the strength of Baradene's football programme.

Our quality coaches, managers, and officials are vital to the programme. Without these key people, we would not have the support needed to enable the growth and success of football. Our 1st XI Head Coach, Ryan Shiffman, has been coaching the team for nine years. Since his involvement, the team has regularly reached the APC Final (College Sport Auckland League) and placed in the top four at the NZSS Championships, including being National Champions four times. We ensure our top teams have skilled coaches who not only achieve results, but also ensure our players enjoy the experience. We are equally mindful of our next tier of teams, making sure that they also have positive experiences by providing coaches who support their development and create an encouraging environment for our students to thrive.





Baradene takes pride in providing every student with the chance to be part of a team, regardless of ability. This encourages greater participation, supports individual development, and creates further student coaching opportunities. Our Year 11 to 13 social teams are an example of how sport should be enjoyed – kicking a ball around with friends and having fun in a healthy environment. If you ever visit Point England Reserve on a Wednesday afternoon, you'll hear the laughter, encouragement, and celebrations that our social teams enjoy!

While the 1st XI achieves at a high level, our other teams also deliver outstanding results. The Junior A team has placed in the top three for the past four years in the College Sport Auckland regular season competition, as well as in the APC Finals, winning in 2023 and 2026. Our Year 7/8A team has consistently reached the finals at the Auckland Inter Zone Championships, and placed in the top four at AIMS Games over the past four years. This is especially impressive as the team has to adjust from playing 11-a-side during the regular season to 9-a-side at Zone tournaments and AIMS Games.



ON YOUR BIKES

Two decades on, Baradene's cycling programme continues to support our young women to challenge themselves and reach their potential.

Our Head Coach, Paul Leitch, has led the Baradene Cycling Club (BCC) for more than 21 years. His commitment to developing young athletes has helped establish one of New Zealand's leading school cycling programmes. Guided by the club's core values of safety, teamwork and enjoyment, BCC develops confident, resilient young women who form lasting friendships while achieving success at regional and national competitions.

BCC welcomes riders from Years 7 to 13 and provides a structured coaching programme throughout Terms 2 and 3. The club's successful parent-led Learn to Ride programme introduces new riders to the bike handling and safety skills required for road cycling before they progress into training and racing. The season begins with a training camp, where riders build confidence, form friendships, and prepare for the racing calendar. Throughout the season, riders compete in the College Sport Team Time Trial Series, Points Race, Cycling New Zealand North Island Secondary School Championships (NISS), Northern Tour and, as the pinnacle of the season, the National Championships (NZSS).

Success at BCC extends beyond results. BCC received Cycling New Zealand's School Spirit Award in 2025 and 2026, with the Baradene track team receiving the same honour in 2026, recognising the respect, teamwork, sportsmanship, and positive culture consistently demonstrated by its riders.

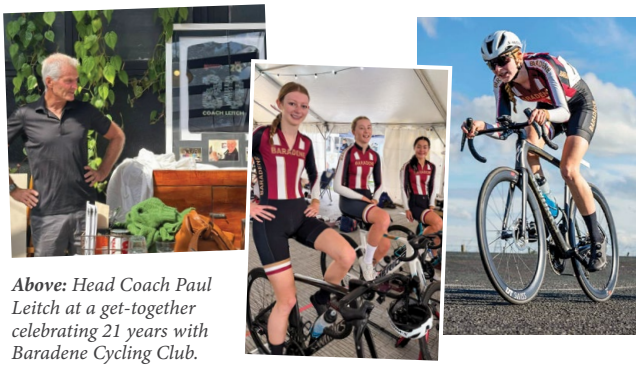
Whether students are new to cycling or striving to compete at the highest level, every rider is encouraged to learn, improve and enjoy being part of the team.

"I like cycling because the older girls are very encouraging and are always cheering me on. When I'm struggling, their encouragement pushes me to keep going."

~ Ida Wrigley (Year 7)

"Racing can be challenging, but crossing the finish line knowing you've given your best is incredibly rewarding. The club has given me confidence, kept me fit, and created memories I'll always be grateful for."

~ Meg Brew (Year 13), BCC Code Captain



Above: *Head Coach Paul Leitch at a get-together celebrating 21 years with Baradene Cycling Club.*

Cycling 2017 to 2026

43 **NATIONAL AND NISS GOLD MEDALS**
22 NZSS and 21 NISS

13 **NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVES**
Since 2017

11 **NISS TOP GIRLS' SCHOOL**
Secondary and Year 7-8

11 **NATIONAL TOP GIRLS' SCHOOL**
Secondary and Year 7-8

3 **CYCLING NZ SCHOOL SPIRIT AWARDS**
Road (2025 and 2026) and Track (2026)



PRESERVING OUR STORY

Baradene Archivist Sarah Padey reflects on a role, and a school, she knows well.

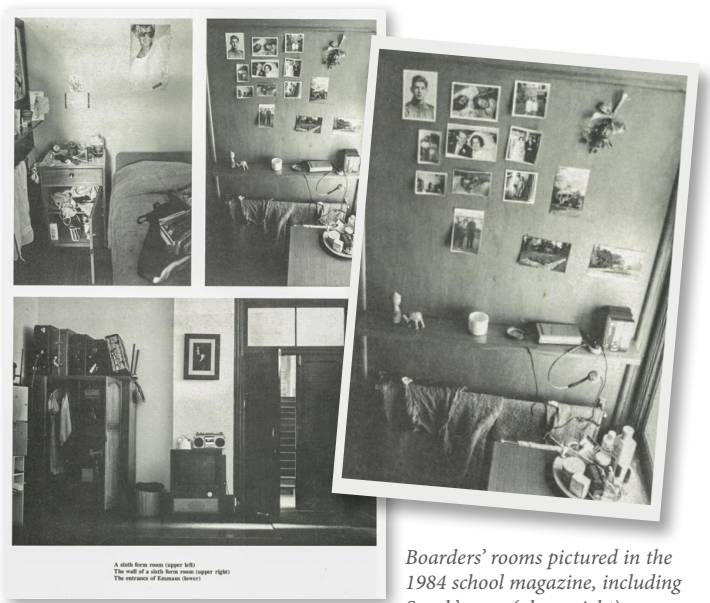
Returning to Baradene as Archivist feels very much like coming home. I was a boarder from 1981 to 1984 and spent 1985, my final year, as a day student living at the Holy Name Hostel in Arney Road with several other former boarders (we called ourselves The Arney Road Girls).

This is my third opportunity to work with the Archives, having held the role from 1997 to 2000, and again from 2013 to 2015. The Archives owes much to the foresight and care of the RSCJ Archivists who established and nurtured it. During my earlier years here, I had the privilege of learning from Sister Phyllis Goulter rscJ, Sister Gabrielle Rankin rscJ, and Sister Dot Hewlett rscJ, whose knowledge and insight continue to inspire me. Today the Archives are an integral part of Baradene College Limited's mission to preserve the College's special character and heritage.

My interest in archives began after completing a BA in History and Geography. An Assistant Archivist role at the National Archives in Auckland led to postgraduate study in Archives and Records Management at Monash University in Melbourne, and over the past 30 years, I have worked in archives and records management roles across business, local government, churches, and school organisations.

What I love most about archives is that they capture not only achievements and milestones, but also the everyday moments that bring history to life. A personal example in the Baradene collection is a photograph taken by Michael Smith, Head of the Intermediate School from 1979 to 1994. Mr Smith, always with a camera at the ready, documented countless aspects of school life, and one image from 1984 shows the wall of "my" Form 6 (Year 11) boarding cubicle. There, preserved in time, are my Walkman, mixtapes, and family photos stuck to the wall. It is a scene I would never have thought to photograph myself yet, along with Mr Smith's other photos chronicling the last years of the boarding school in the 1984 magazine, it provides a special glimpse into life at Baradene in the 1980s.

The Archives continue to grow through material transferred from the College and generous donations from alumnae, and



Boarders' rooms pictured in the 1984 school magazine, including Sarah's own (above right).

"In an increasingly digital world, archives remain a living connection between past and present."

former staff. There is much history to uncover: Baradene began in a house in Mountain Road, Mt Eden in 1909, once welcomed boys up to the age of 7, and included a primary school until the early 1960s.

In an increasingly digital world, archives remain a living connection between past and present. It is not enough simply to collect and keep records; there is research, interpretation, and storytelling to be done. Baradene's new Archives space, which opened in July, is a wonderful resource, and I hope it will help us discover, celebrate, and share the stories that continue to shape the Baradene community today. Many thanks to Will Winter from Makerspace, who created the acrylic display cases that hold precious objects and items in the Archives.

One photograph that resonates with me is from 1917, titled "New Parlour and Museum". A parlour is a place where people gather to talk, while a museum houses collections to be cared for and shared. More than a century later, that vision remains inspiring. Baradene's Archives serve the same purpose: A welcoming place where our history is on display, to be explored and connected with, now and for generations to come.



I am always delighted to hear from alumnae and former staff who may have photographs, documents, or memories to contribute, who need information, or who would like to visit.











Baradene ARCHIVES

The Baradene Archives are open Monday to Thursday. To request information or arrange an appointment to visit, please email archives@baradene.school.nz

If you are looking for information about historical items or have material you would like to donate to the Archives, we would be pleased to hear from you.

From the Archives

The Feast of the Sacred Heart has been a cherished tradition at Baradene for more than a century.

The Feast of the Sacred Heart (FOSH) has long been one of the most important celebrations in the life of the school. While no photographs are available from before 1970, school journals and magazines provide an insight into how generations of students, Sisters, staff, and alumnae have marked this special day.

One of the most significant celebrations took place on 25 June 1911, when FOSH coincided with the opening of the school's "new" building, now known as Duchesne. The day began with Mass at 7.30am. Ribbons were presented to students before His Lordship the Bishop arrived to bless the new building, give Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and confirm 24 students. A large crowd attended this historic occasion before the students departed for their holidays.

School journals reveal that traditions quickly developed around FOSH, and it became one of the most anticipated events of the year. In 1912, the first Lantern Procession was recorded, with students carrying lights through the corridors after supper in honour of the Sacred Heart. By 1914, FOSH included games, visitors, alumnae, and the evening procession. In 1919, students received a picture of the Sacred Heart on their breakfast plates, while in 1931 the dining room was decorated in gold and white. The following year saw the school sing its first Gregorian Mass.

The first known student account of the Feast of the Sacred Heart appeared in the 1932 magazine, written by Margaret Rennie. Other journal entries from 1918, 1923, 1945, and 1960 show the continuing importance of the celebration, and paint a picture of joy and community spirit. In 1960, the FOSH Mass was held for the first time in the Jubilee chapel.

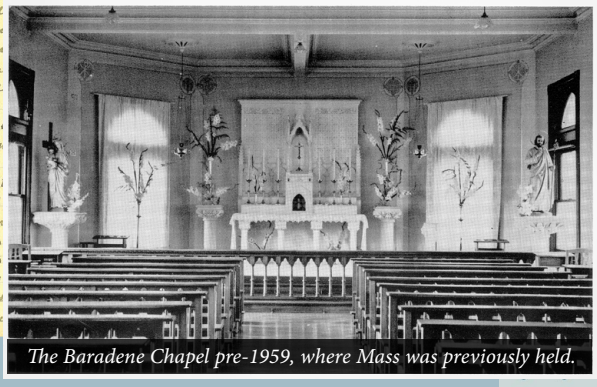
The Lantern Procession, which was held on the evening before the Feast day, remained a treasured tradition among boarders until the boarding school closed in 1984, before being revived by senior students in 1987. A further milestone came in 2001, with the introduction of La Fête.

Today, the Feast of the Sacred Heart continues to unite the school community each year with the Lantern Procession for Year 13 students and alumnae, a special Mass, La Fête, and a celebratory concert, honouring this Sacred Heart tradition.



1900s

Above: A Sacred Heart card from the Archives similar to the one students received at breakfast in 1919.



The Baradene Chapel pre-1959, where Mass was previously held.

"JUNE 20:
The Feast of the Sacred Heart with all the glowing love it always brings. High Mass at 9.30. In the afternoon His Lordship preaches in a chapel packed with friends and alumnae. At night the traditional Lantern Procession and once more through the Head of the School we dedicate ourselves to His Most Sacred Heart."
~ 1952 School Magazine





1987



Clockwise from top right: *1987 FOSH Mass in the Jubilee Chapel with Bishop Denis Browne; Sister Erica Pabst rscJ and Head Girl Louise Macdonald cutting the Feast Day cake; the Lantern Procession.*

1932

FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART — JUNE 3rd.

A sunny day in June ushered in our own special feast—that of the Sacred Heart. Although only a few days after our return, we were quite ready to sing our first Gregorian High Mass, much to the delight of the community and visitors.

Following a resounding "Agimus Tibi," we gathered in Mater to wish Reverend Mother a very happy feast, and offer her a spiritual bouquet. She was pleased to hear of our efforts during the Triduum, and thanked us for putting so many prayers to her credit in the Great Bank!

The Study Room blackboard blazoned forth in large red letters a Happy Feast to all the Mothers; while in the refectory, the festive decorations, red and gold, greeted us, the privileged children of the Sacred Heart.

A number of Old Girls came out for the grand Benediction in the afternoon. It was surprising how many babes were present, evidently they were brought to initiate them into the great feasts, their education began early!

Evening brought the meeting with Mother Henderson, who gave us our Offices of the Sacred Heart for the coming year. Many of the titles were curiously appropriate and caused amusement to the listeners, but sometimes embarrassment to the recipients.

The lantern procession which followed later in the evening, forms one of the indelible memories of school life. By its dignity and symbolic beauty it leaves a lasting impression on even the youngest mind. The solemn consecration of the school to the Sacred Heart was most inspiring and made us long to ever prove ourselves loyal children of Holy Mother Church; while the closing lines of our rousing hymn voiced the fervent prayers in all hearts that we might

"Stand in ranks *unbroken* by the
Everlasting Shore."

—MARGARET RENNIE.



From 1972 to 1974, the Feast of the Sacred Heart Mass was held off-site at St Michael's Catholic Church in Remuera.

1970s





1983



"The atmosphere created by La Fête brought the school alive and everyone involved felt the tremendous spirit it evoked among the community."

2000s

La Fête 2001

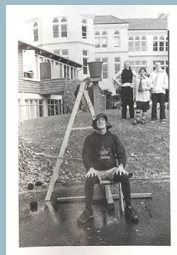
2001 has been an exciting year for Baradene in all aspects of school life. A highlight for many students this year however was "La Fête" which was held on the 20th of June as part of our Sacred Heart Week celebrations.

The Student Executive co-ordinated the event which involved each homeroom designing and running a stall or activity with every student having a chance to participate in either planning, preparing or working on the stall at some stage during the day.

Homeroom groups and their teachers all came up with original and exciting ideas, and we had an amazing array of stalls and activities to visit at "La Fête", including horse riding, a bouncy castle, cake stalls, make overs, horizontal bungy, beam fighting, karaoke, 'design your own cup-cake', and much more. The atmosphere created by La Fête brought the school alive and everyone involved felt the tremendous spirit it evoked among the community.

The funds raised by the stalls were to be donated to our sister Sacred Heart School, which is currently under construction in Uganda, and we were very pleased to be able to send a cheque for $4000 as a result of La Fête.

The Executive would love to see La Fête installed as a permanent tradition in Baradene life as it was a brilliant event, which fostered school spirit and community by giving every student the opportunity to have a part in the day, and by bringing the school together in great Sacred Heart Spirit, for a common cause. The day was a fantastic success and we hope that this wonderful event can continue and be even more exciting in years to come!





















*Above: The inaugural La Fête in 2001 included activities such as horse riding, a bouncy castle, karaoke, design your own cupcake, and more. **Right:** FOSH in 2013, 2003, and 2017.*

FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART

This year's FOSH celebrations at Baradene reminded us of God's abundant love, and our part in sharing it.

As the name of this occasion suggests, the celebration of the Feast of the Sacred Heart draws our attention to the heart of God's Son. Not only was He one to experience our human life, Jesus was also the one who shows us God's endless love, compassion, and mercy. We see in one movement the love of God, through Jesus, flowing out to the world, and Jesus opening Himself to the concerns of each of us.

Our Feast Day celebrations mirror this understanding. The Mass joins our gratitude and prayers to those of the worldwide Church. La Fête is an act of joy and service, raising funds in support of justice initiatives through the Society of the Sacred Heart. The FOSH Concert highlights the gifts and talents of our students and staff.

This special day reminds us to be aware of God's abundant love for us, and to be people who are prepared to share that same love with others.











This year we had a record 42 students celebrate their full initiation into the Catholic Church at the Feast of the Sacred Heart Mass.




10 MDX
Self-Care
RAFFLE


FOSH 2026





































PTA UPDATE

As she takes on the role of Chair of the PTA, Siobhan Wilson shares what's ahead.

I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Chairperson of the Baradene College PTA. As a parent, I value the strong sense of community at Baradene and look forward to supporting the work of the PTA in the years ahead.

I would like to thank Simon Lapthorne for his time, energy and leadership as PTA Chair. Simon has made a significant contribution to the PTA and the wider school community, and I am grateful to be building on the foundations he has helped establish.

The PTA plays an important role in bringing parents together in support of our daughters and the College. While fundraising is an important part of what we do, the PTA also helps strengthen connections across the parent community and supports events that enhance school life.

We have already had a positive start to the year with the Mother and Daughter Afternoon Tea on Sunday 17 May. It was a well-attended event, with guest speaker Dayna Pomare and MC Jono Pryor contributing to its success. Thank you to Fleur Curac, Craig Patton, Karl Blakie, Scott Wilson, Lydie Faure, Vali Purgel, Michelle Klosser, Leo Liu, Mike Lee, Carola Hidalgo, Milli Carnegie, and all the other volunteers who gave their time to help make the event happen.

Another key event on the PTA calendar is the Baradene Art Show, our major annual fundraiser and an important occasion for both the school and wider Auckland community. Now in its 37th year, the Art Show continues to showcase an impressive range of work and reflects the considerable effort of volunteers, artists, sponsors, and supporters. A special thank you to Carmel Wade and her committee, who worked tirelessly over many months to deliver another successful event, and who continue to build its reputation as a significant milestone on the school calendar.

As this magazine went to print, the community was looking forward to the annual Father and Daughter Breakfasts on 15 and 16 September, another cherished Baradene tradition that brings families together. Readers can look forward to an update on this special event in the May 2027 issue of *Heart*. None of these events happen without the support of parents who give their time, ideas, and energy.

This year, we are also farewelling some long-standing parent volunteers who have contributed across a range of PTA activities, often behind the scenes as well as on the day. A special thanks to each and every one of you – your contribution has been invaluable.


New PTA Chair Siobhan Wilson

The PTA is always looking for new members, and I encourage parents to get involved. You do not need any special experience, just a willingness to help where you can. Joining the PTA is a practical way to support the school and a good opportunity to meet other parents, share ideas and feel more connected to your daughter's time at Baradene. Whether you can help at one event, offer a skill, bring a fresh perspective or attend meetings during the year, your contribution will be appreciated.

I look forward to working alongside the PTA team, the school and our parent community as we continue to support Baradene and contribute to the spirit of Cor Unum – One Heart, One Mind, in the Heart of Jesus Christ.

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.

Email us at: **baradenepta@baradene.school.nz**

If you would like to join the PTA or be a Friend of the PTA, we would love to hear from you.


MOTHER DAUGHTER AFTERNOON Tea
WELCOME
Enjoy your afternoon with your daughter xx




NZSTUNTSCHOOL.COM


























MOTHER DAUGHTER AFTERNOON Tea
THANK YOU
FPC


BARRDENE
MOTHER DAUGHTER AFTERNOON Tea
- SUNDAY MAY 17TH 2026 -
www.InstaboothNZ.com





GROWING HEART NEWS

Reflecting on 10 Years of Growing Heart

As we mark 10 years of Growing Heart, we acknowledge the many people in our Baradene community who are at the "heart" of our story:

- First and foremost, the Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ), whose leadership, guidance, and presence have embodied Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat rscJ's educational philosophy at Baradene for nearly 120 years;
- Those who have worked so hard to ensure Baradene is able to continue to deliver an outstanding education: Board members and staff of the RSCJ Trust Board, the Society of the Sacred Heart Trust Board, Baradene College Limited, the Baradene School Board, and the Principals, teachers, and staff;
- The wider Baradene community of parents, grandparents, and alumnae.

Since Baradene was founded in 1909, each generation has contributed to shaping the College. The opportunities our students enjoy today are the result of the vision, dedication, and extraordinary generosity of those who came before them – from the Jubilee Building in the 1950s, the school pool in the 1960s, and the Auditorium in the early 2000s to, more recently, the fit out of the Makerspace, the Conservatoire de Musique and Hockey turf, and the new Erskine Stuart Gymnasium complex.

United by a shared appreciation for the value of a Sacred Heart education and a commitment to Baradene's future, our community has provided much-needed additional funding, enabling the College to continue delivering an outstanding education in the RSCJ tradition. Growing Heart represents the next chapter in this proud tradition of philanthropy.

Giving Week 15-22 May 2026

Thank you to the many families, past parents, alumnae, and staff who generously contributed to our Giving Week this year, raising $40,600 to go towards equipment to upgrade Jubilee 1 and 2 (previously the school hall). The support for this project is greatly appreciated. We look forward to when this modern, flexible theatre and teaching space will be available to students.

You can still donate to the Jubilee Theatre campaign and help bring this exciting project to life. Simply scan the QR code to make a donation.



Sister Elizabeth Snedden Scholarship

We are delighted to report that the first Sister Elizabeth Snedden Scholarship has been awarded to a very deserving recipient who will start at Baradene in 2027. Thanks to this special Scholarship, this student will be able to make the most of the opportunities available at Baradene.

We are grateful for ongoing donations to the Sister Elizabeth Snedden Scholarship Fund, to enable further scholarships to be awarded in the future. In particular, our thanks to the representatives of the former Erskine Alumnae Association (no longer in existence), who chose to donate its remaining monies, and to a generous parent of a past Baradene student, who is making regular donations to the Fund.

For those who would like to contribute to the Sister Elizabeth Snedden Scholarship Fund, please scan the QR code.

A gift for the future

Earlier this year, Baradene was the very fortunate recipient of a generous bequest from the estate of a past grandparent John Jackson, who had nine granddaughters attend the College.

In June, we welcomed three of his granddaughters, Grace Havill (née Barclay, Class of 2004), Kate Barclay (Class of 2010), and Emma Clayton (Class of 2012), along with their mothers, Diane Barclay and Susan Clayton, to a morning tea with Principal Alexandra Russell. It was a lovely occasion, providing an opportunity to acknowledge Mr Jackson's special gift to Baradene and his continuing support for the College.

His generosity will have a lasting impact, helping to create opportunities for future generations of students, honouring Mr Jackson's legacy in a meaningful way.



Further screenings of the film *With the Heart of an Educator: Stories from the Religious of the Sacred Heart, Baradene Convent*

We are planning further screenings of this special film, in which the RSCJ Sisters living at Baradene in 2019 tell their stories of life as Sisters of the Sacred Heart. It is both heartwarming and informative, serving as a window into the lives of these remarkable women who have had such an impact on Baradene. We will advise further details in due course.

Gratitude for our Growing Heart Trustees

Thank you again to the wonderful Growing Heart Trustees (including past Trustees) Richard James, Gavin Rennie, Mary Anne Shanahan, Edmund Lawler, Anne Wight, and Maryanne Mahoney for the commitment, wisdom, and insight provided to Growing Heart over the last 10 years.

We welcome new Trustees, Richard Turnbull (past parent and current director of Baradene College Limited) and alumnae Alison Guise (née Howard, Class of 1990) and Victoria Carter ONZM (née Davies-Booth, Class of 1981), and thank them for undertaking this important role.

Thank you to our community for supporting Growing Heart

We are privileged to be part of the Baradene community and the wider Society of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) family. We are inspired by the legacy of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat rscJ, the Sisters, and all who have contributed to making Baradene the outstanding and unique school it is today, and we are committed to building on this legacy.





Growing Heart contact details:
Anna Stone (Class of 1978), Foundation Manager
Email: development@baradene.school.nz
Phone: 09 524 6019 extension 865

GROWING HEART
The Baradene College Foundation

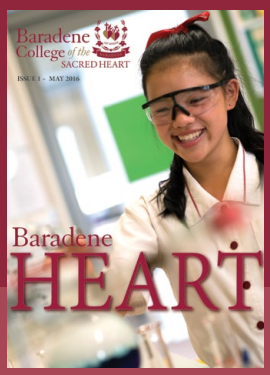
How to donate to Growing Heart

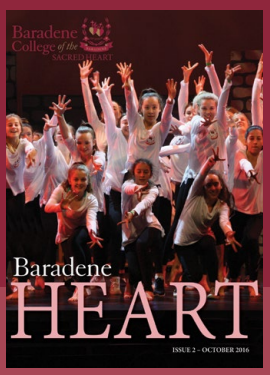
If you are looking for a way to give back to Baradene, it is easy to donate to Growing Heart! Simply visit **baradene.school.nz/our-community/growing-heart** to donate. Growing Heart supports Baradene by raising funds for the Student Scholarship and Support Fund, the Staff Support Fund, the College Facilities Fund, and through a Trustees Discretionary Fund to maintain Baradene's special character.



A Decade of Baradene Stories

As we celebrate 10 years of *Baradene Heart*, we are proud to mark a decade of sharing the stories, achievements, and milestones that make our community special. Published twice yearly, the magazine highlights College news, inspiring alumnae journeys, and the many events and accomplishments that shape life at Baradene. We aim to bring our readers a magazine that reflects the vibrant spirit, shared values, and sense of belonging at the heart of the Baradene College community.





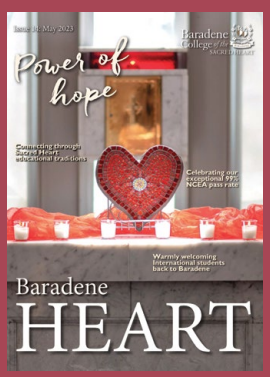






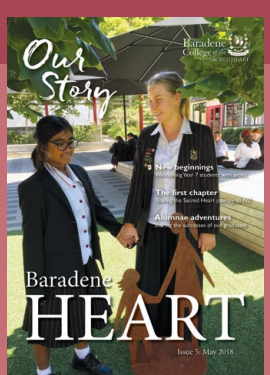














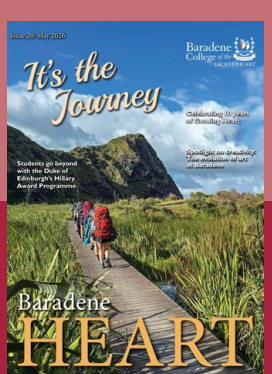


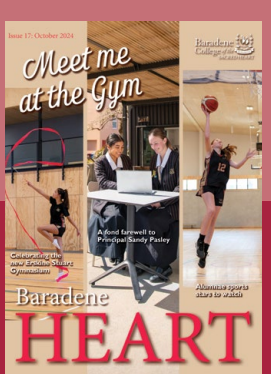


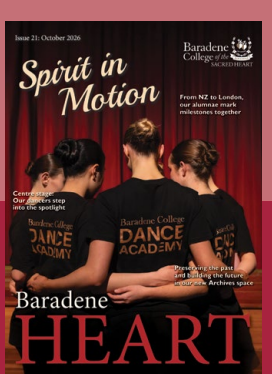












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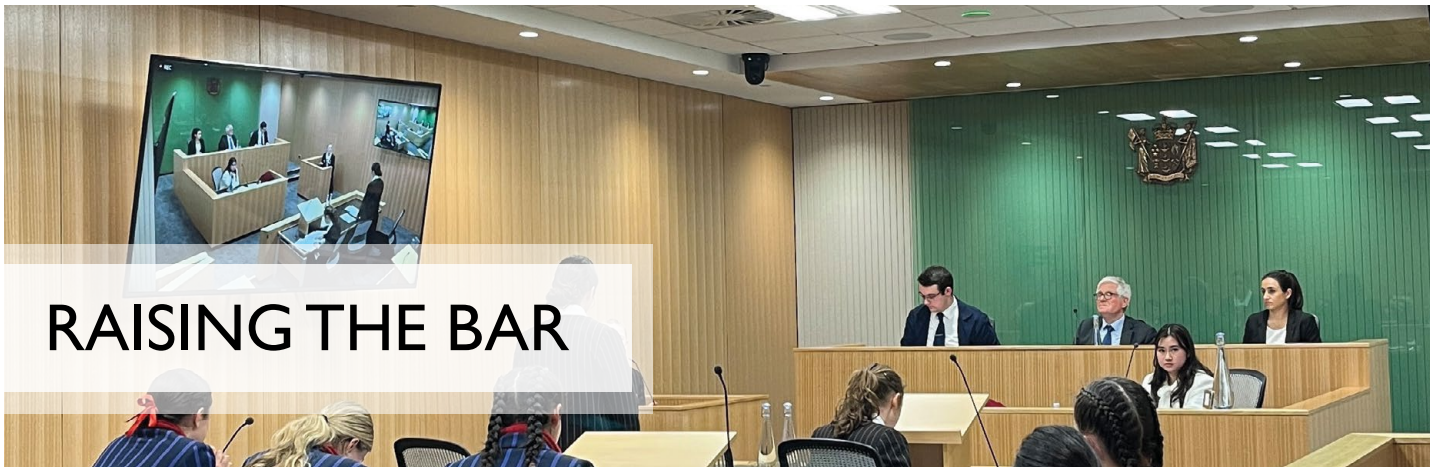
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RAISING THE BAR

Mooting continues to provide students with a valuable opportunity to develop skills in critical thinking, advocacy, public speaking, and teamwork.

Often described as legal debating, mooting requires students to represent opposing clients in a mock court proceeding. Participants research a fictional case, analyse relevant laws and legal principles, and prepare legal arguments before presenting submissions, examining witnesses, and responding to challenges before judges. They also have the opportunity to deliver that famous courtroom phrase: "Objection, Your Honour!"

Beyond the competition itself, mooting develops skills that are highly valuable for future study and careers. Students learn to think critically, communicate persuasively, work collaboratively, and perform confidently under pressure. While it provides an excellent introduction to legal practice for aspiring lawyers, it also develops transferable skills relevant to a wide range of professions.

In 2026, students once again embraced the challenge of the Auckland Schools Legal Mooting (ASLM) competition. As New Zealand's largest secondary school mooting competition, it offers students an authentic introduction to legal advocacy. Baradene has participated in ASLM for the past six years, and during that time, the competition has grown significantly, with more than 90 teams across the Junior and Senior Divisions. This year, five Baradene teams took part, dedicating many hours to researching case materials, analysing legislation, developing legal arguments, and practising courtroom presentations.

A senior team, comprising Maya Fletcher, Magna Rose, Abigail Lord, and Savannah Finnegan, progressed to the semi-finals after demonstrating strong legal reasoning, persuasive advocacy, and resilience under pressure. Magna Rose was also recognised with the MinterEllisonRuddWatts Best Cross Examiner Award, acknowledging excellence in witness questioning, strategic thinking, and the ability to respond effectively in a fast-paced courtroom environment.

A particular strength of the programme is its supportive culture. Experienced mooters regularly mentor younger students, helping them build confidence and develop their advocacy skills. This year, Baradene was pleased to host the ASLM Mooting Workshops for students from schools across Auckland. Led by members of the ASLM committee, the workshops introduced participants to the fundamentals of mooting, including courtroom procedure, legal argumentation, and the roles of Barrister and Examiner.

As participation in mooting continues to grow, students remain enthusiastic about the opportunity to challenge themselves and gain valuable real-world experience. We congratulate all participants on their commitment, perseverance, and growth, and look forward to seeing future students continue to thrive through mooting.



Above: *Year 12 student Magna Rose was awarded the MinterEllisonRuddWatts Best Cross Examiner Award* ***Below:*** *2026 Mooting Workshop*



CAREERS EVENING

Alumnae and industry professionals returned to Baradene to help students picture what comes next.

Baradene's annual Careers Evening was once again a highly successful and inspiring event, providing students and their families with the opportunity to explore a wide range of career pathways and gain valuable insights from experienced professionals.

A particular highlight of the evening was the strong presence of Baradene alumnae, who returned to share their educational journeys, career experiences, and professional advice. Alongside other members of the wider Baradene community, they offered students an authentic and relatable perspective on life beyond school, demonstrating the many pathways that can lead to rewarding careers.

This year's event featured a diverse range of panels, including Design, Medicine, Health Science, STEM, Community Services, Business, Banking and Finance, Property, and Marketing and Media Communications. Students were able to hear directly from professionals working in these fields, learning about their daily work, industry trends, tertiary study options, and the skills required for success.

The evening attracted strong attendance from students across a range of year levels, all eager to learn more about potential future careers. Through engaging panel discussions and question-and-answer sessions, students explored different professions, gathered practical advice, and gained a deeper understanding of the opportunities available to them. Personal stories shared by the speakers were particularly valuable, and the alumnae panel members offered inspiring examples of how interests developed during their time at Baradene evolved into successful careers. Their openness in discussing both challenges and achievements encouraged students to think confidently about their own future aspirations.



"Through engaging panel discussions and question-and-answer sessions, students explored different professions, gathered practical advice, and gained a deeper understanding of the opportunities available to them."



The Marketing and Media Communications panel featured alumnae Genevieve O'Halloran (Class of 1999), Katherine Yovich (Class of 2022), Eva Perese-Wood (Class of 2024), and Nadia Tolich (Class of 1999).



The STEM Panel featured Nicola Johnstone (Engineer and Patent Attorney), Greg Davies (Structural Engineer), Tui Georgeson (Land Surveyor), Annalise Zapata (Class of 2021, Design and Development Graduate), and Emilie Kendall (Class of 2023, Pilot).

The Careers Evening also provided an excellent opportunity for networking and meaningful conversations between students and professionals. These interactions helped students gain real-world perspectives and valuable guidance as they begin making important educational and career decisions.

We extend our sincere thanks to all the speakers who generously contributed their time and expertise. The success of the evening reflects Baradene's strong community spirit and ongoing commitment to supporting students as they prepare for fulfilling and meaningful futures.



INTRODUCING

STEFANIE NGATA

COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER

Our new Community Relations Manager Stefanie Ngata (née Mahon, Class of 1991) shares how she's working to keep the alumnae community close.

Tēnā koutou katoa. As a proud alumna, I feel incredibly privileged to have joined Baradene as Community Relations Manager. I look back very fondly on my seven years at Baradene, particularly my time in Schola, the house parades, school camp, and the many experiences that made school life so rich and rewarding. The Sacred Heart character of a Baradene education, driven by our RSCJ, provided a strong foundation that has guided me throughout my life and career. Most treasured of all are the lifelong friendships I formed at Baradene. The connections, values, and sense of community I gained as a student remain an important part of who I am today.

With a background in human capital consulting, learning and development, and operations, I have worked alongside people and teams in corporate and government to create environments where people feel connected, valued, and able to flourish while driving meaningful impact.

The purpose of the Development Office is to support the College in its mission of providing a loving community of learning in the ethos and spirit of the Society of the Sacred Heart. As Community Relations Manager, my role is to strengthen connections across the Baradene community by growing engagement, building meaningful relationships, and creating opportunities for alumnae and supporters to stay involved with the College. In these ways, we help ensure that Baradene's special character, spirit, and sense of community continue to thrive for future generations.

We've had some wonderful year-group and international reunions recently, and they've been a real highlight. Seeing alumnae reconnect, reminisce, and build new connections after many years has been incredibly rewarding. These gatherings remind us of the strength of our alumnae network, and we'd love to see more of them. If you're interested in organising a reunion, please reach out to us. We're always happy to help make it happen!

Looking ahead, our wonderful Alumnae Association also has some exciting events planned. Keep an eye on our alumnae social media pages and communications channels for upcoming announcements and opportunities to get involved.

We would love to hear your news and help you stay connected with Baradene and one another. Whether you have career updates, family milestones, community involvement, reunions, or simply have a story to share, we'd be delighted to hear from you – please get in touch at alumnae@baradene.school.nz

Looking for ways to stay connected and give back?

Whether you're interested in mentoring, joining the Alumnae Business Directory, or reconnecting with former classmates, Baradene Connect is the place to start. Join our growing online community at **baradeneconnect.co.nz** You can also keep up to date with the latest alumnae news, events, and opportunities on **facebook.com/baradene.alumnae**. We look forward to reconnecting with familiar faces and welcoming new connections along the way.

Baradene CONNECT



ALUMNAE NEWS

Karla Brennan, President of the Alumnae Association, celebrates alumnae returning for the Boarders and Friends Reunion and announces the 2026 Cor Unum Alumnae Meritae Award recipient.

Our annual May alumnae celebration welcomed almost 100 alumnae back to Baradene for the much-anticipated Boarders and Friends Reunion. It has been over 40 years since boarding ended, and this gathering was an opportunity to celebrate the unique bonds formed through shared years of living and learning together. We were also delighted to welcome Erskine College alumnae and day girls from the boarding era, whose presence added to the occasion as we acknowledged this chapter in our history.

The event commenced with Mass in the Sophia Chapel, celebrated by Monsignor Bernard Kiely. Following the service, alumnae gathered for a traditional group photo on the iconic Duchesne Steps to commemorate the occasion. We then made our way to the Atrium, where guests were treated to a delicious array of refreshments catered by Alumnae Association Committee member Alenka Catton (Class of 1988). Archivist and alumna Sarah Padey (Class of 1985), whom you can read more about on page 22, curated a wonderful display of archives from the boarding era, including uniforms, magazines, photographs, and special objects.

We were very pleased to have Year 12 students volunteer as guides for the afternoon tours. This is always a highlight of these reunions, as it creates a wonderful opportunity for connection between current students and alumnae. Students are fascinated to hear how school life has evolved over the years, while alumnae enjoy sharing their memories and experiences. The tours are filled with laughter and lively conversation as stories are exchanged and memories are revisited throughout the corridors and classrooms. It was inspiring to see so many alumnae return for the occasion. It reminds us that Baradene is not simply a place we attended, but a community that continues to shape and support us throughout our lives.

In August, we held our Alumnae Annual General Meeting, where we reflected on the last year and looked ahead to 2027. This year we had the privilege of hosting our meeting in the original Mitchelson House Parlour, and had the opportunity to visit the new Archives space following the meeting. I extend my sincere thanks to the Alumnae Committee and to the many volunteers whose dedication and commitment continue to support our alumnae community. The following pages showcase recent reunions and events, highlighting the strength of our alumnae community and the enduring spirit of Cor Unum.

Looking ahead, we are delighted to be preparing for the Cor Unum Alumnae Meritae Award and High Tea on Sunday 18 October, an event that celebrates outstanding alumnae and their contributions to the wider community. It is with great pleasure that I announce the recipient of the 2026 award, **Michele Wilkinson-Smith (Class of 1988).**

2026 Cor Unum Alumnae Meritae Award



Michele Wilkinson-Smith (née Wilkinson) attended Baradene from 1982 to 1987, completing her final year at Woodford House. She remembers her years at Baradene with great fondness, particularly House Parades at swimming sports.

After graduating from the University of Auckland with an LLB (Hons) in 1993, Michele established a distinguished career in criminal law. She practised as both a defence barrister and Crown prosecutor, while also contributing extensively to the legal profession through leadership and advisory roles. In 2016, she was appointed Crown Solicitor for Whanganui and established a legal practice there with her husband, Chris Wilkinson-Smith. Respected for her expertise in both prosecution and defence work, Michele appeared in numerous significant cases and appellate courts. In January 2024, she was appointed a Judge of the High Court of New Zealand, recognising her outstanding contribution to the law.


BOARDERS
AND
FRIENDS
REUNION
3 MAY
2026
Welcome








BOARDERS
AND
FRIENDS
REUNION
3 MAY
2026


















Baradene Alumnae
'bringing alumnae together'



FOND MEMORIES

While visiting New Zealand in May, alumnae sisters Vian and Avari D. Chung stopped by Baradene for a walk down memory lane. Here, they share their thoughts on returning to the College 20 years later.

On 20 May, a day blessed with beautiful sunshine, we had the great pleasure of visiting Baradene after being away for more than 20 years. Although we attended Baradene separately and our time as students did not overlap, we each have fond memories of our Baradene days.

The day we visited, the halls were filled with lively students, and one even offered to take a photo for us as we were walking around, which was very kind of her. It was lovely to see how the curriculum at Baradene, with a foundation in our Catholic faith, continues to foster bright and caring young women to this day.



Vian



Avari

Walking through the Duchesne building was especially meaningful, as it is just as beautiful as we remembered. We were especially excited to see our old homerooms and classrooms. The architecture and interior of Duchesne remain as elegant as our memories recall, and it felt like slipping straight back in time. We were also surprised and delighted to still be able to ride the vintage lift! It is clear that a great deal of work must have been put into keeping it in working order. This speaks volumes about the school's heartfelt commitment to carefully preserving such historical features.

It was also wonderful to see the newly built Erskine Stuart Gymnasium, which gave us a little glimpse into the vibrant school life students experience today. The blend of cherished tradition and modern facilities made our visit both nostalgic and inspiring.

We left feeling grateful for the chance to reconnect with Baradene, and are already looking forward to the next opportunity to return. We also hope to be able to participate in future alumnae events both locally and internationally.

Class of 2006



Class of 2006 20-Year Reunion

It was a joy to welcome the Class of 2006 back to Baradene on 14 June to celebrate their 20-year reunion. Staff members Brent Coutts, Sheryll McLaren, and Tanya Price, who taught this cohort and are still at the school today, joined for the occasion as well. The group then met for a meal, drinks, and continued conversation.

If you are thinking of hosting a reunion and would like to include a school tour as part of the day, please get in touch with us at **development@baradene.school.nz**

FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Earlier this year, alumna Mary Lynch (Third Form Class of 1965) travelled to Wanaka with a group of Baradene alumnae to celebrate their 75th birthdays. She shares her memories of the event, and a special reflection from the daughter of a fellow alumna.

Our group of Baradene alumnae from the Third Form Class of 1965 reconnected in 2002, when five of us celebrated our 50th birthdays by doing the Akaroa Walk. Since then, our group has grown to 10 alumnae, including two boarders and eight day girls, and we regularly keep in touch.

We recently got together in Wanaka to celebrate our 75th birthdays, travelling from near and far. Anne Quinn came from London, Rosemary Stone (née Garvey) from Sydney, and Clare Kirk (née Donovan) from Waikanae. We are a diverse group with many achievements between us – a PhD and academic, multiple degrees and other qualifications, a businesswoman with a CBE, a nurse turned lawyer, an artist and extreme kayaker, a top sportswoman, teachers, a photographer, a mountain biker in the Andes. How special we all are in our own ways!

While we were together, it was International Women's Day, and as we reminisced about our days at Baradene and our lives beyond, Rosemary's daughter in Australia posted a special message on social media. Here is an edited extract:

The photo I'm sharing is of my mum and six of her school friends, one taken when they were 14 years old, and another taken more than 60 years later, as they reunited again.

Between them are lives that have taken very different paths. They've lived in different countries and followed very different journeys. Along the way they've supported one another through the many turns life can take, including early loss, separation and other challenges, while celebrating each other's successes too. Yet through all of it, they've stayed connected.

As a mum raising three teenage daughters, and watching them navigate the sometimes tricky world of friendships, I can't think of a more powerful reminder of what really matters. Genuine friendships – the ones built on loyalty, shared history and showing up for each other – are the relationships that carry us through life.

Sixty years on, these women still make the time to be together. To laugh, reminisce and simply enjoy each other's company. To me, that's a beautiful reflection of the strength, resilience and enduring connection between women.

We all felt that this message truly summed up our group, and the friendships and connections we made at Baradene have stayed with us all our lives.





Seven alumnae from the Class of 1965 recreated a photo from their Baradene days, posing in the same order now as back then. ***Both photos above, back row:*** *Virginia Mills (née Thomsen), Rosemary Stone (née Garvey), Judy O'Brien (née Farrell), and Janet Dalton (née Donald).* ***Front Row:*** *Cathy O'Connell, Mary Lynch (née Rothery), and Anne Quinn.*



The group has grown to 10 friends who remain in touch and get together to celebrate life's milestones. ***Back row:*** *Virginia Mills (née Thomsen), Rosemary Stone (née Garvey), Jenny McLaughlin (née Snedden), Judy O'Brien (née Farrell), and Clare Kirk (née Donovan).* ***Front row:*** *Cathy O'Connell, Sally Irving (née Molloy), Janet Dalton (née Donald), Anne Quinn, and Mary Lynch (née Rothery).*

London and Sydney Alumnae Gatherings

In June and August, Principal Alexandra Russell met with alumnae abroad in London and Sydney. Both events were well attended, and it was lovely to see the connection across generations. As alumna Mary Beasley (née Simmons, Class of 1970) reflected after the London event, "What a great group of girls at the reunion, lots in common, despite the years between. We all have a love of Baradene, which unites us."























Dance Alumnae

With talent, resilience, and dedication, these young alumnae are making their mark in dance and beyond with confidence.



Jessica Kendrick-Jones

Jessica Kendrick-Jones (Class of 2025) is currently a full-time Performing Arts student at Dynamite Studios in the Gold Coast, Queensland. Jessica says, "Making the decision to move to Australia for Performing Arts would not have been possible without the support of my teachers at Baradene. Performing arts is so much more than an art form. It is a language that allows us to express ourselves and feel confident. And I am so glad that I listened to all of my amazing role models at Baradene."



Ruby Jack

Ruby Jack (Class of 2026) is in her second year at The Australian Ballet School in Melbourne, training six days a week and embracing every opportunity to grow as a dancer. Recently, she was selected to represent the school at ARTS8 in Sydney, participating in a workshop with students from other Performing Arts disciplines. Ruby achieved an excellence award in Anatomy studies, recognising her dedication and academic achievements. She continues to perform in theatres across Australia, and next year, she will tour with The Australian Ballet, marking another exciting milestone in her dance career.



Jadyn Bagayas

Jadyn Bagayas (Class of 2020) is a professional dancer and choreographer working as a freelance artist. After training in New York with Ballet Academy East and dancing with Ballet Rhode Island, she went on to perform with Ballet Cymru in Wales. Jadyn is now building her freelance career, with upcoming projects including performing in a UK touring opera production with Mahogany Opera. Alongside her performance work, she is developing her choreographic voice, drawing on Filipino traditions to create contemporary work. She hopes to inspire and connect with audiences through dance and choreography.



Samara Saunders

Samara Saunders (Class of 2025) has been passionate about dance from a young age and has developed into a versatile performer, with experience in a wide range of styles, including hip hop, contemporary, jazz, lyrical, ballet, and musical theatre. Samara is currently working professionally in the dancing and acting industry while continuing her training at Patrick School of the Arts in Melbourne, Australia. She says, "I think the Performing Arts industry is so important as it provides a way for people to express themselves when words aren't enough."

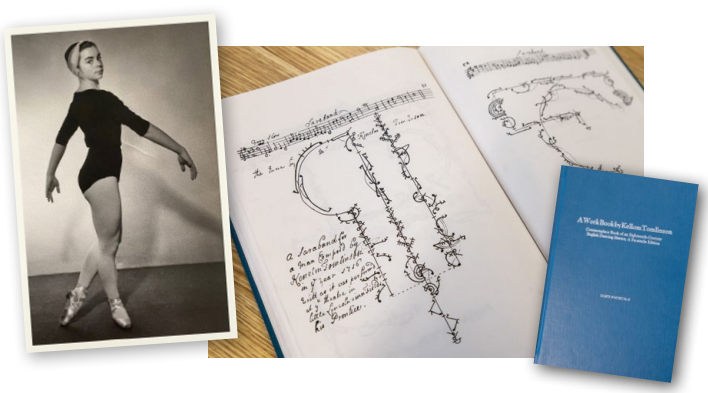


A LIFE IN DANCE

Jennifer Shennan (Class of 1962) shares the steps that led her into a life of dance.

For Jennifer Shennan, Baradene was very much a family affair, as she followed her sisters Heather (Class of 1957) and Carol (Class of 1960) through the school gates as day pupils. Her memories of Baradene stretch back to 1951, the year she made her First Holy Communion. As part of the occasion, Mother McGivern took Jennifer and her fellow First Communicants into the garden to plant a tree, a jacaranda that still stands on the west side of the driveway, now cathedral-height and smothered each spring in purple-blue blossom.

Jennifer recalls school life vividly: The school donkeys Mitz and Pooki; the monthly "25ths", when a special activity was organised for the Junior School in honour of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat rscJ; and the Easter when her mother brought a carful of Autumn Glory flowers for the nuns to decorate the Chapel. Another memorable occasion was the Feast of Christ the King, officiated by Bishop James Liston on the King's Lawn. Jennifer served as one of the flower girls in the procession, wearing their First Communion dresses and scattering rose petals as they walked backwards then forwards at the signal of a bell. She remembers the Eucharistic Host being carried around the school, the monstrance held aloft by the Bishop beneath a fine embroidered canopy. Every Monday at lunchtime, students queued in the assembly hall for Weekly Notes, where Mother Mahar and Reverend Mother Kennedy handed out coloured cards indicating how each girl had fared the previous week: Pale blue-green for "very good", dark blue for "good", beige for "fair", and yellow for "unsatisfactory". "If you were rated No Mention (for something unmentionable), you walked back to your seat in the shame of temporary excommunication," Jennifer recalls.



Left: *Jennifer in 1962 in her last year of Baradene, and as a pupil at Nettleton-Edwards-Kerr School of Ballet (photo: Rykenberg Studio).*
Right: *Jennifer recently visited Baradene to donate a collection of dance resource books to the College, among them a published workbook containing 18th-century dance notations by English Dance Master Kellon Tomlinson.*

Among her teachers, Jennifer speaks warmly of Mother Betty Amputch rscJ, an Indian nun who had taught School Certificate in Jennifer's Fifth Form. Their paths crossed again decades later, in 1985, when Jennifer, following studies in Baroque dance in New York on a Fulbright Fellowship, travelled home via India to study Kathakali dance theatre. She stayed with Mother Amputch, by then known as Ambuja (Lotus), Principal of Sophia College at Mumbai University. Jennifer spent long evenings with her and the other nuns discussing the intricacies of Baroque dance and also of Kathakali traditions. She now considers Ambuja to be one of the great influences of her life.

Dance was never simply a career for Jennifer. It was a way of life, one that took her from performing and choreographing to teaching and writing. She credits Polish dance anthropologist Professor Roderyk Lange as her most significant teacher, saying, "As well as dance history, he taught me dance notation, which proved an essential tool in my subsequent anthropological studies of world dance traditions." She also speaks with pride about preparing a facsimile edition of an 18th-century Baroque dance manuscript, brought to New Zealand in 1853. The book (pictured at left) was subsequently published by Pendragon Press in New York, "thus giving back to the world a beautiful set of dances that had lain silent on a bookshelf for 300 years," Jennifer says.

In 1970, Jennifer returned to Baradene, this time as a teacher, when the Principal, Mother Anne O'Rourke rscJ, invited her to bring dance into the general curriculum. Mother O'Rourke led the national Curriculum Development Unit at the time, and was the seminal figure in paving the way to integrate dance into secondary as well as tertiary studies in New Zealand.

Jennifer's late husband, musicologist Allan Thomas, passed away in 2010. Jennifer and Allan had two daughters, and there are now three grandchildren. Her family are the most important part of Jennifer's life, and she says, "Everything and everyone else fits in and around them."

Her advice for current students considering a path in the arts is characteristically direct: "Stay frugal, question what doesn't make sense, and only pursue what you truly believe in. There are other currencies more important than a bank balance. Honour your father and your mother. Look after your family. Plant a tree."

Alumnae Milestones

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



Alexia Gribble (Class of 2023) was presented with AUT's School of Communication Studies inaugural Bob King Award. Alexia is in her final year of a Bachelor of Communication majoring in Advertising and Brand Creativity, minoring in Digital Communications, and this award recognises the commitment, curiosity, and academic excellence she has demonstrated throughout the course of her degree. Named after AUT digital education pioneer Bob King, the award honours students who embody innovation and engagement, recognising future leaders in digital communication.

Pictured above: *Alexia with Justin Matthews, Senior Lecturer AUT, and Robert King, son of Bob King.*



In August, **Dame Rosanne Meo DNZM OBE (née O'Loghlen, Class of 1963)** received one of New Zealand's highest business honours when she was inducted into the New Zealand Business Hall of Fame as a 2026 Laureate. The Hall of Fame recognises individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to New Zealand's economic and social development. The moment was made even more special when Rosanne was introduced by Baradene Young Enterprise student Vesta Rowe (Year 12).



Sarah Chopping (Class of 1991) was awarded 2026 Volunteer of the Year for the Ashfield-Leichhardt State Emergency Service (SES) Unit in Sydney, just 18 months after joining. The award, presented at the annual Inner West SES Recognition Awards Night, recognises her outstanding commitment to emergency services and community support. SES volunteers are Australia's primary responders to storms, floods, and tsunamis, and there are approximately 11,000 volunteers nationwide. Sarah's Unit Commander praised her dedication, operational achievements, and willingness to help with everyday unit tasks, describing her as a practical, inclusive, and valued team member who strengthens the unit's culture.

Eva Perese-Wood (Class of 2023) recently took part in AUT's collaboration with TVNZ *Breakfast*, producing and presenting a national news story on proposed amendments to the Crimes Act. Working alongside fellow journalism students, she helped secure an interview with the Minister of Justice and later appeared live in the *Breakfast* studio.



Eva (fourth from left) in the TVNZ studio.

Karen Fistonich (Class of 1980) is Executive Director of Čuvar Winery, the latest venture from the Fistonich family. At the helm of the business, Karen is carrying forward her family's proud winemaking legacy, with a commitment to producing world-class wines.

In May, **Amy Mason (Class of 2024)** was part of Auckland Council's Sounds of Tāmaki Makaurau Festival, participating in the Emerging Artists Showcase. This part of the festival brought together alumnae of the *Stand Up Stand Out* competition, in which Amy took part in 2024.

Second-year medical school student and artist **Maddy Meredith (Class of 2024)** exhibited at the Baradene Art Show for the first time this year. Awarded an Outstanding Scholarship in Painting in Year 13, Maddy continues to nurture her artistic practice alongside pursuing her passion for medicine.

Jean Loomis (née McGreal, Class of 1960) was celebrated in her retrospective exhibition, *1964-2026 and Still Going*, at Tairāwhiti Museum in Gisborne, which ran from February to May this year. The exhibition showcased her exploration of culture, history, environment, and community through painting and screen printing. A lifelong educator, Jean balanced teaching with major exhibitions that reflected the places, people, and issues that shaped her life and work.



Source: The Gisborne Herald

In Memoriam

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

John Wilson passed away on 29 September 2025, aged 91. John attended Baradene's primary school from 1939 to 1942, during the years when the school also educated boys. He was part of a family connected to Baradene across many generations. His mother, Jessie Wilson (née Ferguson), and aunt Dorothy MacDonald (née Ferguson) attended the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Remuera, while his sister Ann and many descendants and relatives also became Baradene students. John's connection to Baradene lived on through his daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. His life was celebrated with a Rosary service and Requiem Mass at St Pius X Church in Glen Innes.





Left: John in his later years. ***Right:*** *John and his cousins Tony and Alec as children at Baradene with the school pony, Lassie.*



Dame Helene Quilter DNZM QSO (née Syben, Class of 1971) passed away on 23 July 2026. Helene was a highly respected leader whose lifelong dedication to public service, the arts, and the advancement of women in the workplace made a significant contribution to New Zealand society. As a student at Baradene, Helene was taught to care for people, be compassionate, have empathy, be courageous, and strive for excellence. These values remained with Helene throughout her life, and were instrumental in her entering public service. Throughout her distinguished career, she demonstrated exceptional leadership and a strong commitment to community, while championing the visual and performing arts through roles including Deputy Chair of the New Zealand School of Dance. Honoured with the titles of Dame and Companion of the Queen's Service Order, Helene embodied the Cor Unum spirit through her ability to connect people, inspire collective action, and create a lasting positive impact. In recognition of her leadership and service to the community, Dame Helene received the Baradene Cor Unum Alumnae Meritae Award in 2023. A funeral service was held for Helene at the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul. You can read more about Dame Helene in Issue 15 of *Baradene Heart*.



Mary Aitken (née Larsen, Class of 1956) passed away peacefully on 28 June 2026, aged 85. Mary spent four years at Baradene, and in her final year received the fifth Blue Ribbon as a day scholar. Sacred Heart connections run deep through the Larsen family. Her mother Kathleen Gilbert was a student in the early days of Baradene. Her sisters Anne (Class of 1958) and Gabrielle (Class of 1960) also attended Baradene, while her sister Susan attended Erskine College in Wellington. Mary's daughters, Anne-Marie Percy (née Aitken, Class of 1990) and Nicola Aitken (Class of 1991), attended Baradene, as well as Susan's daughter Philippa Larsen (Class of 2001) whose daughter is set to continue the family's proud fourth-generation connection from 2027. A Requiem Mass was held for Mary at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Epsom.



Michael Smith, known as "Mr Smith" to many alumnae, passed away in July 2026. Michael was a dedicated Baradene teacher and Head of the Intermediate School for 15 years, from 1979 to 1994. He was known for his creative and adventurous approach to learning, both inside and outside the classroom. He led outdoor maths and poetry lessons, school camps and tramping expeditions. His talent for photography was also greatly valued, and he became the school's resident photographer, capturing the spirit of daily school life. Many of his photographs were published in Baradene's annual magazines, leaving a lasting record of the College community. Michael held a deep appreciation for the goals of a Sacred Heart education, and after his 15 years of service, he was given a fond farewell from students and staff with a special assembly. Here is an excerpt about the occasion from the 1994 magazine: *"The staff and students sang a song at the end, while Mrs Scandle conducted a musical group. As Mrs Trotman said in her speech, the assembly would be a sad and a happy one. I think everyone felt sad, because Mr Smith was leaving, and happy because he left them with happy memories."* Beyond teaching, Michael remained connected to Baradene as a Director of the Baradene College Limited Board from 2003-2018, and also played a key role in organising and managing the College's Centennial Celebration in 2009.





Left: *Mr Smith's first class group in 1979.* ***Right:*** *Snapped with his camera in 1984.*



Baradene Ball

On 2 May, our Year 13 students enjoyed a memorable Masquerade Ball, an evening filled with connection, celebration, and lasting memories. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for students to come together and enjoy a special night with their peers. Highlights included the popular photo booths, an energetic atmosphere on the dance floor, and the announcement of the ball sash winners. The Masquerade Ball was a fantastic success and will undoubtedly be remembered as a highlight of this year's Year 13 calendar.



























FAREWELL FROM OUR 2026 STUDENT LEADERS



Mary, Grace, and Jordi

Grace Hunt Head Girl 2026

What I will take away from Baradene:
Baradene has provided me with endless laughs, learning, and lasting memories. I feel so grateful for the community that Baradene has given me for the last seven years. It has been such a big part of my life, and has changed me in many ways. My journey here has taught me resilience and leadership, and has fostered my lifelong curiosity and love of learning.

The future:
As I look into the future, I am excited to step into a new chapter. I hope to use my love of innovation, creativity, and physics to pursue a career in engineering. I will continue to embrace every challenge and opportunity that comes my way, something I learned from my time at Baradene.

A funny moment:
Earlier this year, I took part in the Year 13 vs teachers multisport game. I was sitting on the bench, waiting for my turn, when a frisbee hit me straight in the face! It's a moment that makes me laugh to this day.

Mary Meredith Deputy Head Girl 2026

What I will take away from Baradene:
The greatest gift I will take away from Baradene is the sense of sisterhood. The kindness, encouragement, and unwavering support within this community have given me the confidence to grow into the person I am today. I will always treasure the lifelong friendships, unforgettable memories, and unshakable values I have gained here. Baradene has truly become a community that will forever hold a special place in my heart.

In the future:
Next year, I plan to study Engineering at the University of Auckland, where I can continue challenging myself, developing my problem-solving skills, and pursuing my passion for learning. I aspire to use these skills to make a meaningful contribution to society in the future. Alongside my studies, I plan to continue dancing, as the dance community in New Zealand has always been such an important part of my life.

Funny moment:
In Year 10 English, my friends and I were creating a podcast about Gen Z slang when we stopped to chat with the late Sister Anne de Stacpoole rscJ, who was sitting on the bench outside Mitchelson House. We taught her phrases like "slay" and "queen." Listening to her enthusiastically try them out had us all in fits of laughter, and made the assignment even more memorable.

Jordi Cline Deputy Head Girl 2026

What I will take away from Baradene:
I am fortunate to have spent the last seven years growing in an environment filled with support and love. I am grateful for the way Baradene has challenged me to think more deeply, grow kinder, and embrace every opportunity with confidence. I've been guided by the knowledge of my teachers and the openness of my friends. I feel prepared to take on challenges given beyond Baradene, and thank everyone who made my journey here so special.

The future:
I'm super excited to see what the future holds and am open to any opportunities that come my way. Next year, I plan to start a Bachelor of Nursing. Nursing has always been a life plan, as it enables me to combine my love for helping people with a career dedicated to meaningful human connections.

Funny moment:
During a Year 8 Science lesson, my teacher asked a question, and I put my hand up to answer. My answer turned into an explanation of how to eat raw fish. Halfway through, I realised it had absolutely nothing to do with the question. The whole class burst out laughing. Later, at parent-teacher interviews, my teacher asked my mum where I learned it. My mum's reply: "She doesn't even like fish!"



Sister Anne de Stacpoole rscJ

31 July 1927 - 6 June 2026

When Sister Anne de Stacpoole rscJ wrote her memoirs, she chose to begin with a question from Mary Oliver: "And tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

It is difficult to imagine a more fitting question for a woman who lived hers with such purpose, curiosity, and sheer force of personality.

Sister Anne died peacefully on 7 June 2026, just short of her 99th birthday. She leaves behind a life that reached far beyond the places she called home – from a sheep station in Hawke's Bay to Baradene, Australia, Uganda, Kiribati, and Orewa – and touched generations of students, colleagues, parishioners, fellow Religious of the Sacred Heart, and friends.

Sister Anne entered the Society of the Sacred Heart in 1948, bringing with her an adventurous spirit and a strong sense that life was meant to be lived fully. Her early years in religious life took her through teaching and practical work in Australia and New Zealand, before she was given the opportunity she had long dreamed of: Missionary work overseas.

In 1962, she travelled to Uganda, arriving at Nkozi Teacher Training College mere months before the country gained independence. She stayed for four-and-a-half years, working through uncertainty, unreliable infrastructure, and the challenges of equatorial life, until illness forced her return to New Zealand.

It was not, however, the end of Sister Anne's missionary story. After recovering, she spent eleven-and-a-half years in Kiribati, working alongside Bishop Paul Mea. With limited resources and seemingly endless practical problems, Sister Anne became a remarkably resourceful bursar, administrator, and problem-solver. She negotiated for everything, from cement to refrigerators, managed aid applications, and supported the life of a diocese with very little money and even fewer roads.

Anne eventually returned to New Zealand, spending 19 years at Orewa before moving back to Baradene, where she continued to contribute her considerable energy, intelligence, and creativity to College life. At Orewa, she had developed spiritual booklets for parishioners and retreatants; later, these grew into the booklets she gifted to Baradene students each year.

Sister Anne was, in many ways, an unlikely combination: Spiritual but not unnecessarily solemn, direct but deeply caring, independent but intensely interested in people. She loved flowers, tennis, good conversation, and a good glass of something. She remained curious all of her life, learning to use Skype in her later years so she could support young novices across Asia with their English. She took a genuine interest in Baradene students and staff, followed Baradene rowing with enthusiasm, and continued to find ways to be useful right to the end of her life.

Sister Anne understood that she was not always easy. She described her own "uppish character and strident actions" with characteristic honesty. But beneath the sharpness was an extraordinary generosity of spirit and an abiding desire to make a difference. She answered Mary Oliver's question not with a single grand gesture, but through a lifetime of saying yes to people, to places, to challenges, to service, and to the unexpected.

Sister Anne de Stacpoole rscJ lived her one wild and precious life with courage, curiosity, humour, and an extraordinary generosity of spirit – generously giving much of it away to others in the process. She will be deeply missed.





Left: ***Sister*** *Anne with Reverend Mother McGuinness before leaving for Uganda.* ***Right:*** *With the U18-eight rowers after winning the Head of Harbour Regatta in the rowboat named* Sister Anne *in her honour.*

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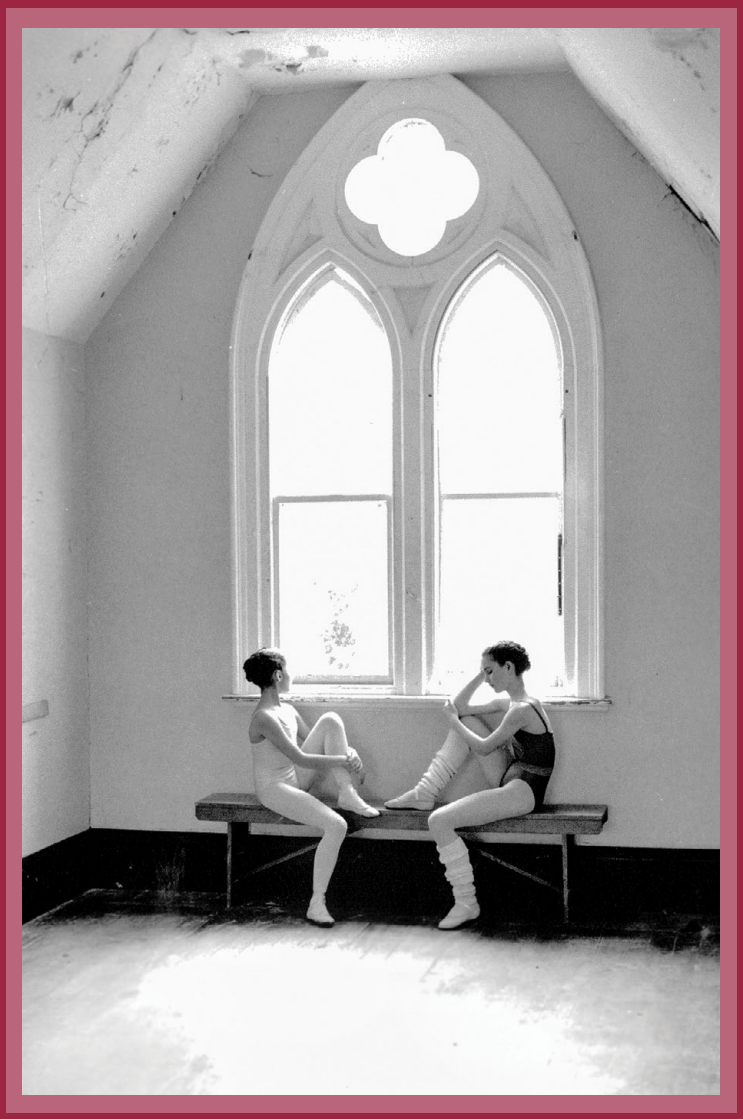
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Dance students in the former boarding rooms of Duchesne, photographed by Mr Michael Smith in 1987.

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