



# Alumni News

Term 1 - April 2026



# Dear Redlanders

---

As we move through the early months of 2026, it has been a wonderful start to the year for our alumni community, with a strong sense of connection already taking shape.

My name is Olivia, and I joined Redlands in November 2025 as the Alumni and Community Relations Manager. It has been a fantastic introduction to the School, and I have already experienced the warmth and strength of the Redlands alumni network. I am passionate about fostering meaningful connections, celebrating your achievements, and creating opportunities for you to stay engaged with the School and with one another.

Term 1 has seen a vibrant calendar of alumni activity, with Redlanders reconnecting across reunion events—from interstate gatherings in Melbourne and Canberra through to our Milestone Reunion on campus. There was also a recent alumni and community catch-up in Hong Kong, further strengthening our global Redlands network. It has been fantastic to see so many of you come together to share stories, reconnect and strengthen friendships.

We have also welcomed alumni back to speak with our senior students, sharing valuable insights into their career journeys and life beyond school. It's an important way to support current students and strengthen community ties.



**Olivia Hayden**  
**Alumni and Community Relations Manager**

Looking ahead, we're excited to host our much-loved Platinum Lunch and the Alumni Awards, celebrating the achievements of our alumni community. You can read more about these events in the pages ahead.

We look forward to creating more opportunities for you to connect and engage throughout the year. If you are interested in getting involved, I would love to hear from you.

Olivia Hayden

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Olivia Hayden".

E: [ohayden@redlands.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ohayden@redlands.nsw.edu.au)

# Alumni Highlights

---

## Milestone Reunion

Classes of 1986, 1996, 2006, 2016  
and 2021

Our much-anticipated Milestone Reunion on campus was a great opportunity for our alumni community to reconnect and celebrate their shared Redlands experience.

Welcoming back the classes of 2021, 2016, 2006, 1996 and 1986, the evening brought together almost 200 attendees. Guests enjoyed a guided campus tour, revisiting familiar spaces and seeing what has changed over time, before gathering in Redlands Hall for an evening of conversation and reconnection.

It was particularly special to see friendships pick up where they left off, as well as connections being made across different year groups. Many alumni reflected on their time at Redlands and the role it has played in shaping their paths since leaving school.

The Milestone Reunion was a strong reminder of the value of staying connected, both to each other and to the School.

The full photo gallery can be viewed [here](#).



# Alumni Highlights

---

## A Global Redlands Community

### Canberra, Melbourne and Hong Kong

As well as the Milestone Reunion, there have also been gatherings held across Melbourne, Canberra and a special dinner in Hong Kong. These moments are a reminder of just how important it is to stay connected, both to each other and to the Redlands community.

Our Melbourne catch-up was a fantastic way to start the year. It was so special to spend time with **Hannah Tobin** and **Charlotte Robertson (both RL 21)**, and to hear how they are personally and professionally thriving in Melbourne, embracing new opportunities and making the most of life after Redlands.



*Charlotte Robertson and Hannah Tobin*

Our Canberra gathering was another highlight, where I had the pleasure of connecting with a number of alumni, including time spent at ANU hearing about the varied paths our Redlanders are pursuing. It was also a privilege to meet **Coralie Amos OAM (RL 64)** and hear her reflections on her time at Redlands. In recognition of her contribution and generosity, Redlands Giving has named a means-tested scholarship in her honour — a fitting tribute to her lasting impact.

Our Redlanders alumni can be found locally and globally, and in March, Principal Sean Corcoran and Head of Community Engagement Grant Birse were delighted to host a dinner in Hong Kong for alumni, current and past parents. As our second event in Hong Kong, it was wonderful to see Redlanders reconnect and to share updates on the School's plans and activities.

We look forward to connecting with our internationally based Redlanders throughout 2026, with events being explored for Seoul and Taipei in June. Details will be shared via the Alumni section of our website, and we warmly invite those in these regions to preregister their interest by contacting Olivia Hayden at [ohayden@redlands.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ohayden@redlands.nsw.edu.au).

# Alumni Highlights

---

## Redlanders at the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games

The Redlands community is incredibly proud of our alumni who represented Australia at the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics, showcasing remarkable talent, resilience, and dedication on the world stage.

**Daisy Thomas (RL 24)** earned her place on the Australian freestyle skiing team, a testament to her hard work and determination. While preparing to make her Olympic debut in the slopestyle event, Daisy suffered a knee injury during training, forcing her to withdraw from competition. Having already been managing a recent ACL injury, it was a tough setback, yet her journey to the Olympics remains an extraordinary achievement, and her resilience and support of other athletes.

**Jarryd Hughes (RL 13)** returned to the Games for his fourth Olympic appearance in snowboard cross, highlighting his longevity and commitment to the sport. An Olympic silver medallist from PyeongChang 2018, he came back after overcoming a significant foot injury in 2025 and competed strongly in a highly competitive field, narrowly missing advancement.

**George Murphy (RL 16)** made his Olympic debut in both the men's singles and dual moguls events. A former Redlands student and Captain of Skiing, George began skiing as a toddler in Niseko, Japan, and developed his skills through the Perisher Winter Sports Club and the NSW Institute of Sport, delivering memorable performances in a highly competitive field.

The Redlands community celebrates the achievements of Daisy, Jarryd, and George, whose journeys embody determination, perseverance, and pride.

It was also wonderful to see alumni **Gianmarco Pradel and Krishan Price (both RL 2024)** in Livigno supporting their classmates, showing the strength of the Redlands community spirit on and off the slopes.



*Krishan Price, Daisy Thomas and Gianmarco Pradel*

# Alumni Spotlight

---

## Tim Elwin Brings Mental Health Stories to the Screen



Redlands alumnus **Tim Elwin (RL 1987)** is a documentary filmmaker dedicated to exploring mental health, wellbeing, and the challenges facing young Australians. His work combines lived experience, research, and storytelling to create impactful films that engage, educate, and support families.

Tim's documentary *The Definition of Happiness* has recently received a global release on Prime Video. The film explores wellbeing and mental health through everyday experiences, covering topics such as music, the ocean, social media, and nutrition. By examining how these elements influence our mental health, the film encourages reflection and conversation around what truly shapes our happiness.

Building on this work, Tim is now producing a new documentary, *Chasing Silence*, which focuses on how Australian teenagers use pain and self-harm to cope with stress. The project aims to support the 1.1 million Australians living with eating disorders, as well as the 4.4 million parents, siblings, and carers around them, by helping families recognise early warning signs before situations escalate. The project is being developed in partnership with major mental health organisations, including the Butterfly Foundation and InsideOut Institute, and seeks philanthropic and community support to maximise its impact. Eating disorders have the highest death rate of any mental illness, specifically anorexia nervosa. Yet receive the lowest research funding.

Tim hopes these films can be shared with the Redlands alumni community, parents, and families, providing vital tools and insights to support mental health awareness and early intervention.

To learn more, and view Tim's films visit <https://urbanripples.com/>.

If you or someone you know is affected by an eating disorder or mental health concerns, support is available.

### **Butterfly Foundation**

National Helpline 7 days a week, 8am-midnight (AEST/AEDT) on 1800 33 4673.

You can also [chat online](https://butterfly.org.au/get-support/chat-online) via (<https://butterfly.org.au/get-support/chat-online>) or visit the Butterfly website [butterfly.org.au](https://butterfly.org.au)

### **InsideOut Institute**

Visit [insideoutinstitute.org.au](https://insideoutinstitute.org.au)

# Alumni Giving Back

---

## Open the Doors for the Next Generation: Young Alumni Internship Program

We are pleased to introduce the Redlands Young Alumni Internship Program, an exciting new initiative designed to support our recent graduates as they take their first steps into the professional world.

This program aims to connect young alumni with the broader Redlands community, offering meaningful opportunities to gain real-world experience, develop practical skills, and build valuable industry insights. It is a wonderful way to strengthen our network while supporting the next generation of Redlanders in their career journeys.

We are currently seeking alumni who may be able to offer internship opportunities within their workplaces or businesses. Opportunities in areas such as communications, finance, journalism, project management, sales and marketing are highly valued; however we warmly welcome involvement from all industries and would love to hear about the diverse fields our alumni are part of.

If you are interested in supporting the program or would like to learn more, please contact Alumni Manager Olivia Hayden at [ohayden@redlands.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ohayden@redlands.nsw.edu.au), or register now by clicking [here](#).

## Redlands Alumni Return to Inspire Students with Career Journeys Beyond School

**Embla Bishop (RL 13)** and **Zoe Thompson (RL 16)** recently returned to Redlands School to speak with Year 11 and 12 students, sharing valuable insights into their career journeys beyond school.

Embla visited at the end of 2025, reflecting on her path in theatre and the dedication required to succeed. She also shared the exciting news of joining the West End cast of *The Phantom of the Opera* in London, encouraging students to stay true to themselves and pursue their passions despite challenges.

Zoe returned in March 2026 to speak about her journey to becoming a doctor. She spoke honestly about navigating uncertainty after Year 12, studying in Canada, and working across roles including Tamworth and Royal North Shore Hospital. Her message reassured students that career paths are not always linear.

These visits continue to strengthen connections within our community and inspire students as they consider their own pathways.

If you are an alum interested in returning to Redlands to share your journey with students, we would love to hear from you, so please get in touch with the Alumni Office to be involved.



# Upcoming Events

---

## Alumni Awards

We are delighted to share that the Redlands Alumni Awards will return on **12 June 2026**, marking the third year of this special event celebrating the achievements of our alumni community.

The Alumni Awards recognise and honour the diverse accomplishments of Redlanders across a wide range of fields, with two categories: Young Alumni and Alumni, ensuring we celebrate both emerging and established members of our community.

This ticketed event will include a sit-down dinner, beverages, and the awards ceremony itself, providing a wonderful opportunity to come together, celebrate success, and be inspired by the impact of our alumni.

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted a nomination across the wide range of categories.

Nominations remain open, and can be submitted [here](#).

Event RSVP details are available [here](#).

Nominations close on 12 May 2026.

We look forward to honouring our outstanding alumni and their achievements in a truly memorable way.



*Images from the Alumni Awards 2022 and 2023*

# Upcoming Events

---

## Platinum Luncheon

The much-loved Platinum Lunch is one of Redlands' most treasured traditions and it is fast approaching. This is a celebration of alumni who graduated 50 years ago and beyond. This special event is a wonderful opportunity to honour our longstanding community members, reflect on shared memories, and reconnect with friends across the decades.

In 2026, we are especially delighted to celebrate 50 years since the Class of 1976 and 60 years since the Class of 1966 graduated from Redlands, marking two significant milestones within our alumni community.

This year's Platinum Lunch will be held on **6 May** in Redlands Hall, where guests will gather for an afternoon of warmth, conversation and celebration. A campus tour will also be available for those who would like to revisit familiar spaces and see how the School has evolved over the years.

We look forward to welcoming our Platinum alumni back to campus for what promises to be a memorable occasion. If you haven't yet secured your place, please [here](#).



*Prefects, 1976*

# Alumni

## Q&A

---



### Dasha Sychova (RL 22)

**You had such an incredible IB score—45/45! Looking back, what Redlands experiences or activities do you think prepared you most for university life?**

What prepared me most for university was the sheer breadth of activities and experiences that Redlands offers. Continuing to participate in sport, captaincies, and club activities while studying for the IB was invaluable in teaching me how to balance and prioritise my studies, social life, and extracurricular commitments. This ability to plan and prioritise has been the most important skill in helping me succeed at university so far.

**For students who might be considering studying overseas, what was the biggest thing you gained from doing your degree in Singapore?**

Moving to Singapore for university helped me grow into adulthood beyond just being a student. Living in a new and unfamiliar country, away from family, building new friendships, and managing studies all at once taught me how to manage my time, prioritise what matters, and become the person I want to be.

Singapore's diverse, multicultural environment also broadened my worldview and deepened my appreciation of different ways of life.

**You're now working as a Software Engineer at Fieldguide in San Francisco, building AI and agents for audit and advisory. What does a typical day look like for you, and what excites you most about this work?**

I was fortunate to work full-time and study part-time for a year during my degree in Silicon Valley, which created far more learning opportunities than I would have had solely studying at university. A typical day for me revolves around coding, whether I'm working on a project I'm learning from or contributing to someone else's.

Working at a start up also means I liaise closely with product managers and, at times, customers to deliver projects that directly address their needs. Some of the most interesting work I do involves writing documents to plan large-scale changes, such as technical project plans or data migration strategies.

**For students who are interested in tech or entrepreneurship, what skills or experiences do you think are most valuable to start building now?**

Naturally, one of the most important skills to begin developing is coding. Learning how to systematically and programmatically understand a problem and map out an approach is essential for executing projects in the tech world.

A more subtle, but arguably even more important, skill is communication across technical and non-technical domains. Whether it's explaining your system to a non-technical product manager or conveying customer needs to an engineer, the ability to tailor your communication to your audience is critical. This versatility has contributed greatly to my success at university and in my work, and the strongest engineers I know are those who can clearly explain the value of their work to any audience.

# Alumni

## Q&A

---

### Philip Rennemo-Korsholm (RL 15)

**You attended Redlands for a relatively short time but were deeply involved in school life. What are your strongest memories from your time at Redlands, and how did those experiences shape you moving forward?**

Besides my mates, three of whom attended my wedding in Denmark in August, my strongest memories are from the IB. I joined Redlands with just four weeks of Year 10 remaining, so much of my time centred around the IB, though there was still plenty on offer. Arriving as a 16-year-old Dane, the Australian private school experience was completely new.

In Denmark, we call teachers by their first names, wear casual clothes, and rarely have detentions. I embraced this change by getting involved, becoming Football Captain and McDouall House Captain, participating in rep sport, and leading at carnivals, especially the chaotic but fun Junior Carnivals. These experiences, along with the Australian mindset, taught me a great deal about respect and discipline, values I still carry today.

Although I had conversational English from learning it since Year 3, it wasn't enough for academic study and I quickly realised two things: the language barrier would be my biggest challenge, and I needed to truly understand content rather than memorise it.

Knowing finals made up 80% of the grade gave me time to improve. The language barrier, initially my biggest obstacle, became an advantage, forcing me to study more deeply. By the end of two years, my English had improved significantly, and my strong grasp of the material helped me succeed in finals.

Overcoming this challenge and learning the importance of understanding over memorisation gave me a structured and resilient mindset I've carried since.

**After returning to Denmark, you studied law at the University of Copenhagen and are now working as an Attorney at Gorrissen Federspiel. What initially drew you to pursue a career in law, and what has surprised you most about working in the legal profession?**

I've always been a bookworm, and reading my first John Grisham novel sparked my interest in law. I also enjoy learning, and law brings together many things I value: an endless depth of knowledge, the need to argue and see multiple perspectives, and a fast-paced environment where quality and precision are essential.

What has surprised me most is how rarely there's a clear answer. In my first year, a professor said lawyers must be creative, something many students laughed at. But it's true. Most legal questions don't have straightforward answers; otherwise, clients wouldn't need a lawyer.

Our role is to protect clients' interests, which often requires creative legal thinking to form strong, useful arguments. That balance of structure and creativity is something I didn't expect but now really value.



*Maximilian Mamo (RL 15), Bella, Johanne, Philip, Oliver Glixman (RL 15), Sonia Kalcina (RL 15) and James.*

# Alumni

## Q&A

---

### Philip Rennemo-Korsholm (RL 15) (cont.)

**Having experienced both school life in Australia and university and professional life in Denmark, what advice would you give to current Redlands students who might be considering studying or building a career overseas?**

Do it.

Living abroad gives you relationships and memories that stay with you. Some may benefit your career later, but that shouldn't be the main reason, you should do it because you want to.

Going overseas builds character. It's both exciting and challenging, constantly pushing you outside your comfort zone. That experience is incredibly valuable, showing what you're capable of and making future challenges feel more manageable.

Even if not for study or work, I'd encourage students to explore life overseas. Gap years are common in Denmark, with many taking one to three years before university. Having taught at the University of Copenhagen for six years, I can often tell who has taken time off—they tend to bring more perspective. There will always be time to work hard later.

While hard work matters, careers are built on relationships. In my role working with EU law, I regularly engage with people across Europe, which requires cultural awareness. Danes are very direct, what we call honest, which can come across as rude abroad. Living in Australia has helped me better understand and adapt to different communication styles.

Experiences abroad can shape how you connect and work with others throughout your career.

So again—do it.

**Having experienced both Denmark and Australia, what's one thing from each country you would combine to create your perfect lifestyle?**

Aussie beaches and Danish welfare.

**You mentioned that three of your Redlands friends attended your wedding in Denmark—what did it mean to have that connection from Australia represented on such a special day?**

It meant the world to me. Having my mates there was incredibly special, as Australia is such an important chapter of my life. It was also wonderful for my friends and family who had heard so much about them to finally meet them.



*Philip and his brother Patrick (RL 17), on their first day at Redlands*

# Alumni Q&A

---



## Inessa Jackson (RL 93)

**Looking back on your time at Redlands, were there any teachers, subjects or experiences that helped spark your creativity or shape your path toward writing?**

I had Mr Peter Cornish (Headmaster 1981 – 2002) for 3-unit English in year 12. While studying Waiting For Godot, I complained it wasn't a proper story because it just went round and round, it had no end. I remember Mr Cornish looking at me over his glasses, then quoting Picasso. "Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist". Rule breaking?? This shocked me at the time but has proven invaluable. It's helped me feel confident adding surprising twists and turns to my story. And to take creative risks.

Editing Redelations (the school paper) with two other gifted writers was a wonderful introduction to finding good story ideas. Like PR or novel writing, the best ideas are the ones your audience will relate to. Crafting engaging articles helped me develop a writing style, although, looking back, we were probably a bit heavy on the 'creative' side (but who ever let the truth stand in the way of the good story?!!)

**From PR at eBay to published author, your career path has evolved significantly. What advice would you give to Redlands students or alumni considering a bold career change or creative pursuit?**

Go for it! Life is extraordinarily short, you don't know when it's going to end, and it's such a waste not to follow a passion. Be brave. Think about what your 80-year-old self would encourage you to do. There's always a way to make big life changes work. And if you want to embrace your passion, I'd say start small by learning your craft, then be courageous and explore what really excites you.

The other thing I'd mention was I never got higher than 60% in any English assignment or exam. It didn't come naturally to me. I tried so hard, but it didn't happen. Now, looking back, I think it was that ambition to achieve more that's driven me towards being a published author. So much is possible if you put the work in, stay focussed when it gets hard (it always does), and want it badly enough. You have to follow your heart, then your head.



*Inessa researching her next murder mystery*

# Alumni Q&A

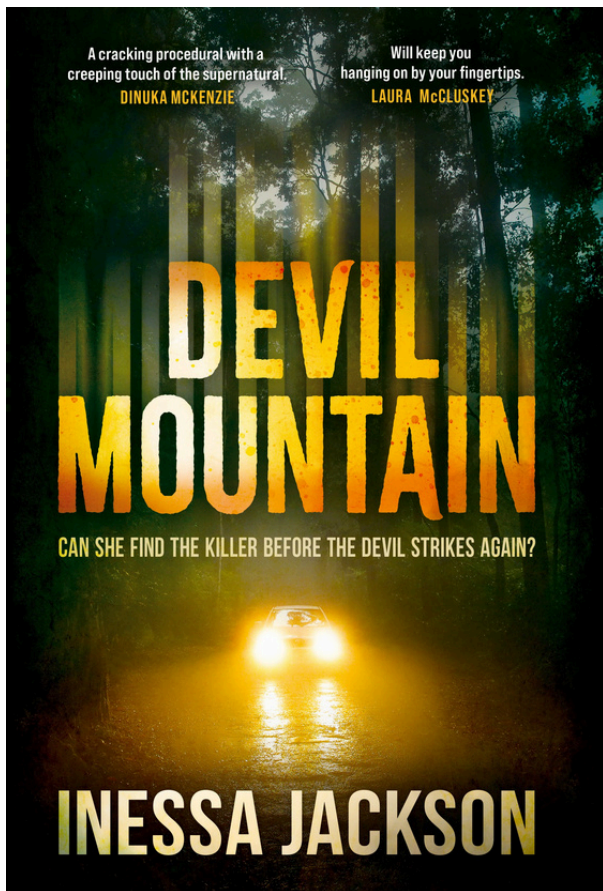
---

## Inessa Jackson (RL 93) (cont.)

**Devil Mountain explores themes of mystery, resilience, and human connection. What inspired you to write on these themes?**

I was inspired by a huge fight over the redevelopment of my kids' overcrowded primary school. Originally built for 200, there were nearly 500 kids when the government announced plans to go into the bush behind the school.

The opposition from the environmental lobby was intense. At one P&C meeting, an elderly woman with long white hair spoke about the irreversible damage to the bush, and how it would destroy the fragile connection humans have with the environment.



*The front cover of Inessa's novel, Devil Mountain*

The room fell silent, and she pointed her finger at us. "You will regret this," she whispered, then left, and a mum next to me quietly asked, "Was that a witch?"

And suddenly there it was: a heated fight over a development in a small town, the body of a murdered local, and a secret coven of witches who worship the environment on a creepy mountain ... That's all it took.

Mystery comes from the one big question in the book: who killed this popular GP and why? Then there are lots of little mysteries along the way to keep the pages turning.

Mystery is also about people in our communities who practice pagan worship, often secretly (did you know the NSW law against witchcraft was only repealed in 1969?). The book explores some of the mysteries of the spiritual world... and asks if magic maybe does exist.

And resilience is all about putting your MC through a nightmare to see what they're prepared to do to get what they want. We want heroes who won't give up, to reflect real battles in our own lives and inspire us to keep fighting.

**If you could relive one day from your school years, which would it be and why?**

I would relive the day I met one of the most wonderful people in my life. I started Redlands on a Monday, mid term in year 8 and because there wasn't an initiation program at that time, I didn't have any friends and was quite sad and lonely. But the best day of my school years was meeting Christal George on the bus home. We laughed and chatted and she took me under her wing. Suddenly I belonged. Best day ever.

# Alumni Q&A

## Sean Bayles (RL 11)



### **Looking back on your time at Redlands, were there particular subjects, teachers or experiences that helped shape your creative interests or career direction?**

Truth be told, I wasn't the most engaged student at Redlands. I wasn't disruptive, but it took until later in my education to develop discipline and focus. Over time, I found my way to enjoying learning and engaging more seriously with study.

That said, I gained a lot from the music and art department, and I feel I was given the tools to engage deeply when I was ready. Looking back, there are things I learned in Year 8 or 9 in Mr Byrne's art class that I still return to in my creative process. The two ideas that stayed with me were "taking your idea and putting it on steroids" and recognising that truly original ideas are rare, so it's important to understand how others have approached similar concepts or materials. Mr Harpley was also very influential, and I'm grateful to have had him as a teacher from Year 6 through to HSC Art in Year 12. He helped shape my ability to think critically about art and engage with more challenging conceptual work. While supportive, he was also quite no-nonsense, which I really respected.

### **What was the transition like for you after finishing school? How did you navigate those early decisions about study, work or pursuing film?**

I moved to Vermont to study at UVM after finishing at Redlands with an open mind about the future. I began a liberal arts degree with no declared major, and early encouragement from art instructors pushed me to work harder and think bigger creatively.

I eventually settled into a visual arts major with philosophy and music minors (missing an art history minor by one class). I later found my way into the clay studio, where I became fully engaged artistically. I spent countless hours at the pottery wheel and firing kilns, and eventually worked as a lab tech after graduating. Hoyt Barringer had a significant impact on how I think about form and function.

It wasn't until years later, during COVID, that I began experimenting with animation. With a strong sculptural background, it was largely a matter of transferring mediums. I was drawn to it as an art form that didn't require much space or specialised equipment. I developed photography skills over time, initially using my phone to capture animations.

I started by making clips for music I was creating, then moved into music videos for other artists. I had considered making a short film for a while but never got past the planning stages—something I later learned is quite common. The deadline for the Tropfest submission finally pushed me to complete something and put it out there.

# Alumni

## Q&A

---

### Sean Bayles (RL 11) (cont.)

**Winning the Tropfest 2026 Tropicana Award is an incredible achievement — what does this moment represent for you in your career journey so far?**

Winning the Tropicana Award feels great and a little surreal. I've been working on stop-motion animation for the past five years, developing my craft, honing my skills and finding my voice. I typically work on music videos for other artists and am often guided by the content or vibe of the track.

The End was the first time I was fully responsible for all aspects of the creative output, which was a valuable learning experience. The tight time constraints were also helpful, pushing me toward something simple but effective. Many stylistic choices were made to minimise production time while still delivering a few minutes of animation.

Overall, the project felt like a culmination of my previous work, distilled into a tight, refined piece. I've always had confidence in my work and been proud of the output, but this is the first time it's been recognised in this way, which is incredibly validating and encouraging. I'm hoping it marks the start of an upward trajectory, allowing me to expand budgets and timelines for more ambitious work.

**What does your work look like currently, and what projects or ideas are you most excited about right now?**

At the moment, I'm looking to build on this success by securing larger-scale projects where I can expand creatively. I've generally worked within tight timelines and budgets, which has helped develop my skills as an animator. Creative problem-solving under pressure often leads to strong artistic outcomes. Having developed my skill set, I now feel ready to take on larger productions and achieve more satisfying results. I have several short film ideas and am exploring ways to secure funding for them.

The project I'm most excited about is a film centred on conspiratorial thinking and cult behaviour. I've been developing this idea for some time, and it feels increasingly relevant. Positive feedback on *The End* has been strong motivation to finally bring it to life.

I'd also love to return to recording music and creating my own music videos. I really enjoyed my earlier work—it was quite zany and character-driven—and I'd be interested in revisiting that style with a higher level of craft.



*Still image from Sean's 'The End' animation*

**What's something you love doing just for yourself — no deadlines, no projects, just pure fun?**

I enjoy running and cooking in my spare time. Running is a fairly new hobby, and I'm still surprised I've gotten into it. I now enjoy longer distances and improving my speed—it's a great way to clear my head, and I feel better when I'm running a couple of times a week. I'm hoping to crack a four-hour marathon, maybe Sydney 2027 if I can get in.

I also enjoy tackling a complicated cook. I love food, and it's even more satisfying after a few hours in the kitchen. I particularly enjoy baking and now eat almost exclusively homemade sourdough, and I'm exploring Indian cuisine for more savoury cooking. The two hobbies pair well together, which is a bonus.

# Alumni Q&A

---

Tom Wightwick (RL 20)



**Thinking back to your time at Redlands, what subjects did you enjoy most, and are there any memories that still stand out to you?**

When I look back at my time at Redlands, I mostly remember my involvement in the Music and Drama departments, both through classes and a wide range of extracurricular activities. Anything creative was where I felt most at home, and my time in the production club after school gave me a strong foundation to step into a professional career while I was still a student. I always loved helping out with the musicals, gala arts, and the drama and music soirées behind the scenes.



Tom's work at Vivid, Sydney

**What did the first 12 months after finishing school look like for you? Did you always know what you wanted to do next?**

I had already started freelancing and working casually in the industry from age 15, so the first 12 months after leaving school were incredibly busy. I travelled to Adelaide to work as a lighting operator at the Adelaide Fringe before returning to Sydney to continue freelancing. During that time, I worked at the Sydney Opera House, on the Sydney Harbour Bridge, across multiple music festivals, and on a range of other live events. In November 2021, I joined Mandylights, Australia's leading lighting and production design firm, as part of their creative team.

**What does your career look like today, and what are you most enjoying or excited about in your work at the moment?**

I'm still with Mandylights and now lead the design of projects globally. Most notably, I'm one of the key creatives behind the lighting of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Circular Quay for Vivid Sydney each year. I've also worked on major events such as Sydney WorldPride and the BBC Proms, and toured with artists including JADE, Sienna Spiro, Simone Biles, Empire of the Sun, RAYE and PNAU.

At the moment, I'm looking forward to a month at home before heading back to the UK for my next tour with Sienna Spiro. In the meantime, I'll be working on this year's Vivid festival, lighting a production of A Chorus Line, and lighting up the Opera House for Apple's 50th anniversary.

# Redlanders Alumni Committee

(Formerly Alumni Advisory Committee)

---

The Redlanders Alumni Committee (RAC) held its first meeting for the year on 17 February.

The RAC brings together Alumni and School representatives, working collaboratively to strengthen connections across the Redlands community and create meaningful opportunities for engagement.

In 2026, the Committee is focused on the introduction of the Young Alumni Internship Program, delivering the Alumni Awards, and supporting the Redlands Parents and Friends Association with the Spring Fair, with a strong emphasis on encouraging community participation.

In the latest *Impact of Giving* report, Committee member **Jennifer Farrell (RL 62)** reflects the spirit of lifelong connection that underpins the RAC's work. A dedicated alumna, former staff member and parent, her ongoing involvement highlights the strength of the Redlands community and the value of giving back.

You can read more about Jennifer's story in the latest edition of the *Impact of Giving* Report—[click here](#).

We are also excited to introduce a new member to the Committee – **Kieran Patel**. Kieran graduated from Redlands in 2019. He began in Redlands House in primary school, spent a few years at Mosman High during the early years of high school, but missed Redlands too much and returned for his final years. Kieran now works in finance and is very proud to be a Redlander. We look forward to welcoming him and benefiting from his fresh perspective and ideas.

We're always looking to grow our Committee and bring in new voices. If you're a Redlander and interested in getting involved, we'd love to hear from you – please reach out to join.

The RAC values broad representation from across the Alumni community and welcomes new members at any time.



*Kieran Patel*

# Impact of Giving

## Stuart Plenderleith (RL 16)

Redlands Giving recently published the *Impact of Giving Report* for 2025. It features alumnus Stuart Plenderleith. Below is a short summary of his story. To read the full article and explore the complete report, [click here](#).

Stuart was awarded the Lucy Hill Scholarship, enabling him the opportunity of a Redlands education, where he found a place to grow in confidence and curiosity. With the support of dedicated teachers and a broad, flexible curriculum, he explored his interests across academics, leadership and school life, forming strong friendships and a lasting sense of belonging.

During this time, Stuart developed a passion for science and medicine. The International Baccalaureate fostered critical thinking and a global outlook, shaping his ambition and resilience.

After graduating, Stuart completed a Bachelor of Biomedicine with Honours at the University of Melbourne, including research in neurodegenerative disease. He is now in his final year of Medicine and plans to pursue a surgical pathway.

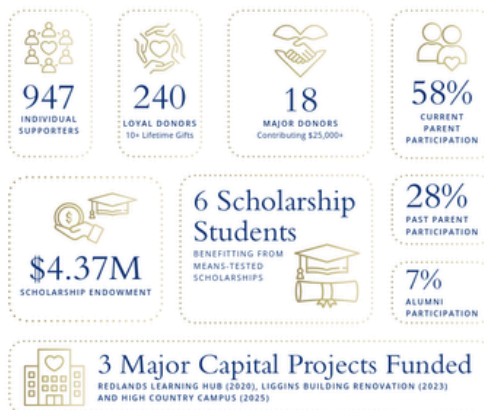


### 2020-2025 Giving IN ACTION

The period from 2020 to 2025 marks an important chapter in the evolution of philanthropy at Redlands. Growth in giving, strengthened engagement and an expanding scholarship endowment have laid strong foundations for the years ahead. The Top 10 Progress Highlights that follow reflect the tangible results of this momentum.

**\$4.03M**

TOTAL PHILANTHROPIC INCOME



# Vale



## Judith Day (née Chaffer) (RL 1951)

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Judith (Judy) Chaffer, who attended SCEGGS Redlands from 1949 to 1951. During her time at Redlands, Judy was awarded Dux of the School and received the Science Prize in her final year. Mrs Humphery, who wrote a reference for Judy, described her as “a girl of high ideals with a fine sense of responsibility”, noting she had “a high regard for her character and abilities”. In 1961, Judy’s mother wrote to advise that Judy had completed her PhD, possibly the first Redlands student to do so. Mrs Humphery warmly congratulated her, stating, “It is pleasing for us that she is one of our Old Girls.”

Judy was born on 10 June 1934 in Waverley, NSW, the only daughter of Arthur and Nelly Chaffer. She studied Geology, with a minor in Botany, at the University of Sydney, graduating

with Honours in 1955, followed by a Master of Science in 1957 and a PhD in 1962. She met Alan Day in the Geology Department tearoom in 1957, and they married in 1958.

They built a full and happy life together in Sydney and raised four children: Virginia, Lindsay, Margot and Gordon, later welcoming grandchildren Lucy, Josie and Freddy. Judy was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, deeply proud of her family and the life they built together.

Judy worked as Secretary of the Royal Society of NSW, but her curiosity and creativity extended well beyond her professional life. She and Alan dedicated many years to researching their family history, travelling to England and Scotland to trace their ancestry.

Her creative pursuits were wide-ranging and lifelong. She was a passionate quilter, gardener, photographer and lover of the natural world. Her quilts gained international recognition, with works held in the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, Kentucky.

Judy is remembered for her intellect, warmth, creativity and quiet determination. She lived a life of achievement and purpose, leaving a lasting legacy through her family, her work and her artistry.



*Judy's Redlands school photos 1950*

# Vale

---



## Janice Craven (née Ferris) (RL 1963)

Janice was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2021. With her characteristic determination, grit and positivity, she lived with and fought the disease before passing away peacefully at home on 28 November 2025, with her sister Sandra and husband Steve present. She is greatly missed by all who were fortunate to know her.

Janice commenced at Redlands in 5C (Year 7 today) in 1959. She had an easy-going, friendly nature and stood out for her athleticism, excelling in tennis, basketball, track and field and physical culture, representing the school at interschool carnivals. In 6A, she was Cowper House Captain and led her house to victory.

Many of Janice's classmates have enjoyed reunions and luncheons together, thanks largely to her organisation. Every 5 or 10 years she tracked down Old Girls of the Class of 63 to ensure everyone attended and shared memories over the past 60 years. She is remembered for her warmth, humour and vibrant nature.

After leaving school, Janice attended Miss Hales Business College and worked as a secretary at organisations including the Building Industry Congress and Weldons. She met Stephen in 1964 and they became lifelong partners, marrying in 1968. In 1971 she fulfilled her dream of travel. Steve and Jan worked in London intermittently throughout 1971-72 and spent four months travelling through Europe in their Land Rover, reaching the North Cape and travelling through Sweden, Finland, Russia and Eastern Bloc countries. They returned to Australia to start their family of Ben, Luke and Sarah. Janice was a devoted mother and grandmother of six, deeply loved by all.

Janice's energy, enthusiasm and caring nature were evident in everything she did. She volunteered for 18 years with the Scouting Movement and 15 years with Shalom Nursing Home. Her warmth and ability to connect with people was especially evident in her role with Venturer Scouts, where she was not only Mother Scout but also a friend. She also enjoyed a lifelong love of the outdoors, including abseiling, canyoning, caving, white water rafting, hiking and skiing.

Janice will be remembered as a fine example of our motto, her light continues to shine in the hearts of those who knew her.

REDLANDS  
LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



# Alumni News

Term 1 - April 2026

We would love to hear your news.  
Please stay in touch!

Email: [alumni@redlands.nsw.edu.au](mailto:alumni@redlands.nsw.edu.au)

Facebook: [redlandsschoolau](https://www.facebook.com/redlandsschoolau)

Instagram: [@redlands\\_alumni](https://www.instagram.com/redlands_alumni)

Update your contact details here:

<https://www.redlands.nsw.edu.au/community/your-details/>