

Holy Family Past Students



"Where are they now?"

We always love to hear from our former Holy Family students. If you are a previous student of Holy Family and wish to update this page or add your own story, then we would love to hear from you. Tells us about your memories of Holy Family and where life has taken you since your Holy Family days. How did your time at Holy Family support you in to becoming the person you are today?

Send your message to hfpsken@lism.catholic.edu.au

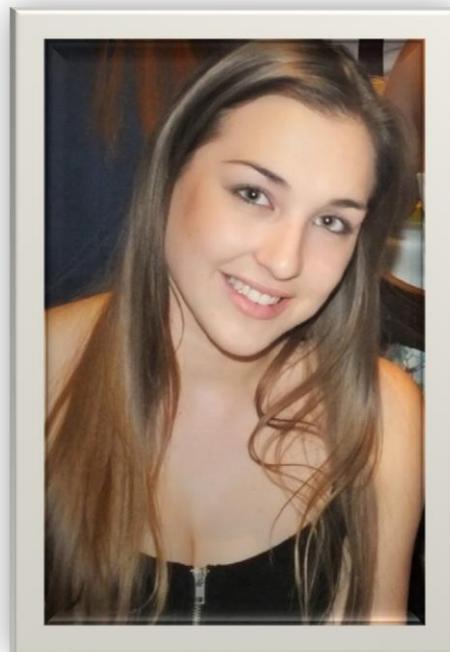
Past Students currently included in alphabetical order:

- Anika Birmingham
- Daniel Braid
- Amanda Brooker
- Erin Copeland
- Dominic Douglas
- Andrew Herrmann
- Adelle Jordan
- Amelia Lai
- Mel Shanahan
- Tayleena Sheridan

Anika Birmingham (Posted 2015)

I'm currently living in Hobart and studying a Bachelor of Psychology at the University of Tasmania. I hope to study Medicine next year and pursue a career as a doctor. Whilst moving so far away from home the year after finishing high school was a little daunting, I was excited for new experiences, and I have loved living in Hobart so far.

I think that Holy Family helped to build my confidence, independence and leadership qualities. It instilled in me the value of working hard to achieve my goals, and ignited my passion for learning. I have very fond memories of the Holy Family teachers, talent quests, sporting carnivals, Christmas concerts and excursions.



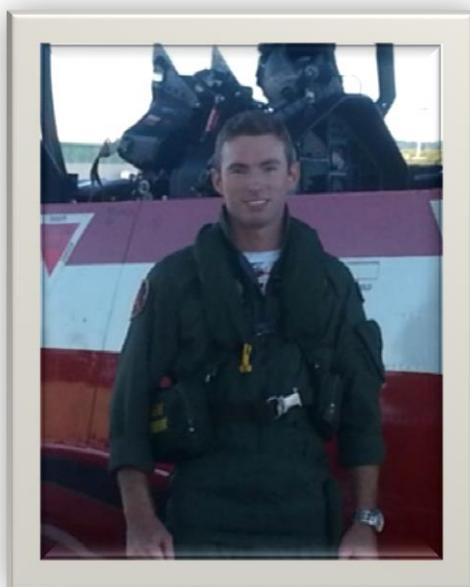
Daniel Braid (Posted 2015)

I attended Holy Family from its opening in 1997 until 2003. After graduation from Xavier Catholic College in 2009 I joined the Royal Australian Air Force and studied a Bachelor of Technology in Aviation at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra. I then conducted 18 months of flying training at Tamworth, NSW and Perth, WA where I graduated as a pilot and was awarded my wings. I was then posted to 35 Squadron in Richmond, NSW to fly the new C-27J Spartan Battlefield Airlifter.

In my current role as a Spartan pilot I conduct airborne operations with a focus on Special Forces insertion and extraction, as well as humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations in Australia and overseas.

My most treasured memories of Holy Family are of the staff and the support they provided me to grow and challenge myself. I feel very lucky to have attended this school because of the teacher's dedication to their student's development. They instilled in me a burning desire to aim high and work hard to become the best person that I could be. I also learnt to respect others in everything I do. This has served me very well through high school and my military career to date. I would like to personally thank all of the staff of Holy Family from 1997 to 2003 for all the time and effort they put into me and their contribution to the person I am today.

Flying Officer Daniel Braid.



Amanda Brooker (Posted 2015)

I am currently a third year student at the University of New South Wales, Sydney studying a combined bachelor's degree in International Relations/Law and have just returned from the adventure of a lifetime: seven months backpacking and sailing tall ships around South America and Europe.

My time at Holy Family is characterised by a string of positive memories and experiences that both encouraged, challenged and ultimately allowed me to develop my ideals, aspirations and passions in life. The never-ending support that I experienced from both the students and the staff throughout my time at Holy Family has provided a fundamental basis for my learning and development, which continued throughout my time at high school and into tertiary education and has had a substantial impact on how I approach not only education but also social and family life today.



Erin Copeland (Posted 2015)

I am currently in Year 12 and very excited to finish. I am in the middle of applying to universities and would love to study a Bachelor of Government and International relations, as my ultimate goal is to be working for the UN, especially working to achieve Human Rights for every man, woman and child. However I'll admit I am also applying for a Bachelor of Nutrition and study further dietary requirements for those with special needs such as allergies and intolerances as it's currently an interest of mine.

I would say the biggest thing I have Holy Family to thank for was the endless amounts of leadership roles I was given. Being a part of the Tournament of Minds team and all that came with being school captain (Chairperson) was defiantly a highlight for me and lessons I've learnt from them I still enact today. I am still very good friends with people I met in Miss Winkler's class on the first day and that just shows how amazing the school community is at Holy Family. I'm very excited to being moving away to University and starting the next chapter in my life.



Dominic Douglas (Posted 2015)

Having recently returned from Montreal and Dublin undertaking study in Transplantation Surgery and Paediatric Intensive care, I am about to complete my medical degree through UNSW. As of 2016 I will be commencing my career as a doctor in St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney. At this stage I hope to continue post-graduate training towards specialising in Retrieval and Intensive Care Medicine.

During my education there have been two particular experiences that stood out from the rest. The first was the opportunity to be an ambassador for the Lismore Diocese during World Youth Day Sydney. The second is the experience gained at McGill University, Montreal, one of the leading medical education institutes in the world.

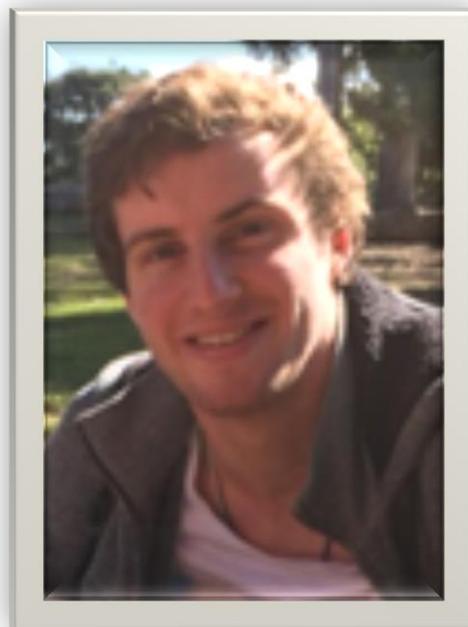
The close-knit community of Holy Family Primary School is one of the greatest memories from my time there. Having remained in contact with many of these students they have formed a strong part of my identity. Another aspect was the mentorship provided by the teachers. One of the greatest lessons I left primary school with was the appreciation of well-rounded approaches to education and learning from life experiences. The guidance from teachers around balancing priorities has continued to be significant in my ongoing education.



Andrew Herrmann (Posted 2015)

A 2006 graduate of Holy Family, I have since completed high school and am currently in my third year of study at the University of Queensland. I am near to completing a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in International Relations and Spanish, and am planning to commence Honours study next year. Residing at Emmanuel College, I am a member of the Student Executive and remain involved in theatre and various sports. Upon the completion of my degree, I hope to work in foreign affairs, diplomacy and conflict resolution.

Looking back, my experiences at Holy Family were crucial in engaging me in my education, both inside and outside of the classroom. In addition to the supportive and creative teaching I received in my years at the school, Holy Family afforded me diverse academic, sporting and artistic opportunities. Ultimately, these experiences have helped me to enjoy the ongoing process of learning; shaping the values I hold today, and forming a solid foundation for my development into a well rounded and driven individual.



Adelle Jordan (Poster 2015)

My name is Adelle, I attended Holy Family from 1998 to 2005 and am now studying Medicine at James Cook University in Cairns.

Reflecting on my time at Holy Family instils a great sense of nostalgia as I think about the many great memories and friendships it provided me with. From the school swimming carnivals to the annual times tables challenge, the talent quest, year 6 snow-trip and the famed teacher vs students Austtag matches, I remember fondly the great sense of school spirit and pride that I fostered in Holy Family.

It was always, and remains to be, such a welcoming school to visit; aided by its supportive pastoral care, active parental involvement and of course; selfless and caring staff.

The guidance that Holy Family provided helped instil in me the values of integrity, hard work and commitment, all of which have shaped my life since then.



Amelia Lai (Posted 2015)

Holy Family was a small family when I attended in the years between 1997 and 2000 and I am sure there have been many changes since this time. In saying this, I am happy to hear that the message of living life to the fullest and having a strong sense of community remains. Memories of friendships formed at Holy Family remain some of the lasting memories of have of primary school.

Since then, I have pursued a wide range of endeavours. After completing a Science degree at the University of Queensland, I worked for a short time, travelled mainly through Asia, America and Europe and have since begun a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery.

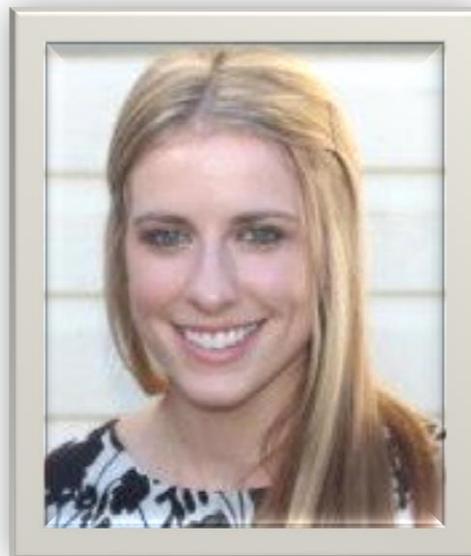
I believe formative years in the Northern Rivers fostered a sense of curiosity and confidence in the journey to understand my place in the world.



Mel Shanahan (Posted 2015)

Eleven years has passed since 1998 when I was enrolled in Holy Family. To this day I look back upon my primary school years with countless fond memories. Many of the teachers that taught me remain at Holy Family, being a testament to the fact that the school does live up to its name; it is a family, a school community where teachers are dedicated and passionate about student growth and development.

Since leaving Holy Family I have completed secondary and tertiary education, graduating with a Bachelor of Laws (with honors). I studied at Bond University and internationally at the University of Texas at Austin in the United States. I currently work in a graduate role in a law firm in Brisbane, with the anticipation of soon being admitted to the Supreme Court of Queensland in October 2015.



Tayleena Sheridan (Posted 2015)

My name is Tayleena Sheridan and I attended Holy Family from 2000-2006. I created so many friends and memories from my time at Holy Family due to the supportive and creative teachers leading me through primary school. Our principal, Mr. Cronin played a significant role in my time at Holy Family as he filled our primary school days with laughter; either through funny assemblies or random messages over the loudspeakers such as telling us there were kangaroos on the oval! Also the yearly swimming carnivals, athletics carnivals, cross-country runs, bush dances, talent quests, book parades were fantastic events I can still remember. I have very fond memories of my time at Holy Family; I really think that it is the teachers and staff whom all contributed in making my time there so memorable and fun!

Since leaving Holy Family I attended St John's College Woodlawn from 2007-2012, completed my HSC and was accepted into Griffith University for a Bachelor of Commerce. Although after 13 years of schooling I needed a break from studying and decided to take a gap year and travel around Europe and South Africa. My idea to work and travel was by far the best decision I have ever made as it helped me shape my current goals and gave me perspective on how I wanted to live my life; work hard and travel a lot.

After my year off I was much more motivated and goal driven than I was at the end of year 12 to complete my university degree and I'm pleased to say I have done better than I could have ever imagined! In my degree I am majoring in Accounting and Finance and loving it! I have received mostly high distinctions and distinctions in all my courses. I also recently accepted two internships over summer with two of the top four accounting firms in the country, Ernst & Young & PricewaterhouseCoopers which was a major accomplishment for me.

Another thing I have grown passionate about is volunteering in the community and at university. I am planning on returning to South Africa in February to volunteer teaching children in schools, which I cannot wait to do! In high school I was the president of St Vincent De Paul at Woodlawn in year 12 and often worked in the Lismore soup kitchen before school. At University I now volunteer at open days, orientation and am hoping to head over to Borneo in July next year with my peers as part of the University volunteer program.

I feel Holy Family played a huge role in shaping the person I am today and I am so grateful for all the memories and experiences I have taken away from it!

