Review

MAGAZINE 2023

CITIPOINTE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE ALUMNI

CONTENT

04 **Tiffany Yasaputra** Class of 2008
07 **Josh Bonnici** Class of 2003
08 **Erin Colak** Class of 2001
10 **Benjamin Windle** Class of 1999
13 **Dave McManus** Class of 2009
16 **Jess Santos** Class of 2013
19 **Sam Olivier** Class of 2022
20 **Brad Jakins** Class of 2011
22 **College Musical**
24 **Alumni Lounge**
25 **Michael Witham** Class of 1993
26 **Alumni art**
28 **Volleyball**
30 **Reunions 2024**
31 **Celebrations**

Cover: Tiffany Yasaputra (Class of 2008), Product Manager of Digital Payables and Connectivity at Westpac, and Citipointe parent, pictured with her son, Benjamin.

Citipointe Christian College

Published by CITIPOINTE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE CRICOS Provider Code 00996F
322 Wecker Road Carindale QLD 4152 I **T** 07 3555 2700
E mail@citipointe.qld.edu.au I **W** citipointe.qld.edu.au
Contact the Registrar for enrolment enquiries: registrar@citipointe.qld.edu.au
Editor Mrs Renee Wolfik
Email your alumni stories to devoffice@citipointe.qld.edu.au
Design Studio e Pty Ltd I bradley@studioe.com.au

All material published in Review Magazine is copyright by Citipointe Christian College. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, without written permission from the publisher.

Please visit the College Alumni website for further details:
citipointe.qld.edu.au/community/alumni

Welcome to Review Magazine

It is with joy and gratitude that I welcome you to this edition of our alumni magazine. As we continue to celebrate the remarkable journeys of our graduates, I am reminded of the profound impact our alumni have made, both in their individual lives and in the world around them. It is truly inspiring to witness our graduates realise their potential, make a positive impact on the world, and uphold the Christian values taught at Citipointe.

A Journey of Success

I'm delighted to highlight one alumnus featured in this magazine, Erin Colak (née Waters), whom I had the privilege of teaching as a bright Year 1 student. Today, Erin serves as the Vice Principal of an international school in Turkey, exemplifying the extraordinary paths our graduates pursue.

Giving Back and Staying Connected

Our alumni continue to maintain a strong connection to Citipointe, returning to campus to reconnect with friends and support current students at special events. It was a pleasure to chat with some of you in the Alumni Lounge at the College Musical, reminiscing about school days and discovering your remarkable life journeys.

It is inspiring to see our alumni actively contributing to our community. Whether as artists at the Meraki Senior Art Exhibition, coaches for our premiere sports teams, dedicated volunteers, inspirational speakers, or nurturing tutors, your commitment enriches College life.

A Return to Citipointe

We are particularly touched to see more and more alumni returning to Citipointe, including those entrusting the education of their own children to our College. This reaffirms the enduring impact of the values and education you received here.

Upholding Christian Values

We find inspiration in our alumni for honouring God and embracing the Christian values they learned at Citipointe. Your commitment to faith and service to others is truly commendable. Thank you for being an integral part of our community and for inspiring us all. As you continue your unique journeys, remember the encouraging words of Zephaniah 3:17: "The Lord your God is with you; His power gives you victory. The Lord will take delight in you, and in His love, He will give you new life."

God bless you.

Mrs Ruth Gravestein
Principal

Tiffany Yasaputra

Tiffany Yasaputra

Class of 2008
Product Manager of Digital Payables and Connectivity

Tiffany has established a thriving career in banking, driven by her passion for business ignited at Citipointe, and a profound commitment to service inspired by her parents' church.

For Tiffany, being part of church culture and serving others has provided a foundation for success in the workplace.

"Since I was young, ministry was just a part of my life. I just always saw my parents give their best in everything that they did. They always looked after each other and helped other people."

At work, Tiffany is always willing to spend extra time on projects for the good of the team and she has developed a reputation for being helpful, which has been key to the success and growth of her career.

"I am always willing to help. I am always willing to step out there and lead in innovation. It's about seeing that other people benefit or other people are blessed by that investment and it's made other people's lives easier."

Providing global transaction solutions

Over nine years, Tiffany has grown her skills and experience in Global Transaction Services at Westpac and has recently been promoted to Implementation Technical Project Manager.

"I look after payables and a connectivity solution that the bank provides to institutional and corporate clients. It's a payment software that is able to process all their payments and give them the responses and make their reconciliation automated in a secure manner."

"What really interests me is the increase in productivity and the automation that banks bring towards clients."

Tiffany says the most challenging part of her role is managing risk: "If something bad were to happen in the transaction space, how would we react to it, and also how would we mitigate those risks and avoid those situations from happening again?"

Tiffany describes her workplace as very supportive and has enjoyed the benefits of working with a mentor, who advised her on the dos and don'ts of her role and shared mistakes and learnings.

"In my previous team, where I spent six years of my career, we were like a family. We embraced each other in terms of weaknesses, strengths, and what we could leverage off to increase our productivity as a team."

"At the bank, they always have a development plan for you, and they always monitor your KPIs. So, every quarter there's a review just to give you feedback on what you've done well, what you can improve in the next quarter and how you're tracking."

A firm foundation

While a student at Citipointe, Tiffany enjoyed business studies, taking all the Business subjects in her senior years, and achieving an award for academic excellence.

At the University of Queensland, she completed a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in accounting and finance, and earned a graduate position at Westpac.

The graduate program allowed her to rotate through different sectors of banking including retail, commercial, private banking, equipment finance, and agricultural risk credit. She advanced quickly within the bank in roles including customer onboarding manager, sales analyst and project manager.

Beyond banking, Tiffany applies her expertise and helpfulness to her parents' small Indonesian church, ROCK Brisbane, and to small businesses run with her husband and brother.

At church, Tiffany has been involved in several roles, including secretary. She has managed different departments, run fundraising events, and hosted a 25th anniversary event this year.

"We just want to give back to our community and celebrate them and what God has done and where he's brought us to."

Tiffany and her husband run three cafés: Cups and Wells in Salisbury, Cups on Melbourne in South Brisbane, and Cups on Wellington in East Brisbane.

Tiffany looks after the finances while her husband manages the cafés full-time, with input from her brother Timothy Yasaputra (Class of 2014). This is a side project for Timothy, who is an Associate Director with Deloitte's mergers and acquisitions consulting team in Brisbane.

Tiffany and her husband, David, have known each other since Year 12, when they met at a New Year's event hosted in church. David was visiting from a church in Indonesia, and they started dating long-distance. Over the years, Tiffany and David's relationship flourished, and when David moved to Australia, they married.

"I think God's basically given us the capacity to be able to manage all that. We have to get through the work and the challenges, but not by our own strength. That's how I live my life."

Choosing Citipointe for Benjamin

Tiffany's son, Benjamin, started his schooling at Citipointe this year in Mr Eddy Wang's class.

"He's pretty excited every day. I think he settled quite well with the teachers telling the kids what to expect, what they're doing throughout the day and what to remember the next day. So, it's kind of being responsible for his own school journey.

"Benjamin's quite an interesting kid where he likes to ask a lot of questions of why and how. It never ends until he gets his final answer. But I think Mr Wang's been able to redirect him, to kind of refocus him."

A family photo of Tiffany with her husband and son, parents and brothers

Tiffany says choosing the right school environment for her son was very important and her experience of being a student at Citipointe helped with the decision.

"I felt like everyone cared when I was at Citipointe. Everyone knew the greater purpose of every kid's life, which was really special to me. There's a greater purpose than just doing schoolwork."

She said that Citipointe's values and caring environment fit with her family's values and faith.

"The family and home environment are key to how your children have developed and the characters that they have. But finding the right friends, having the right teachers, and teachings embedded through daily life is very important."

On campus, Tiffany has renewed connections with friends from her school days, joining the growing number of alumni who are choosing Citipointe for their children.

Josh Bonnici (Class of 2003)

Chief Operations Officer, Prep parent

Josh Bonnici (Class of 2003) joins his wife Tanika in celebrating their daughter Odeya's first day of Prep.

Tell us about your current role and career to date.

I have worked for my family business, Brisbane Sound Group, for the last nine years. I have worked in all areas of the business, with my current role being Chief Operations Officer.

How did a Citipointe education prepare you for life?

I probably gained more social skills than anything else during my time at Citipointe.

What are your best memories from school days?

Sports days, art class and making friends who I still have to this day.

Who is in your family and what do you like to do together?

My wife Tanika and I have two kids, Odeya (in Prep at Citipointe) and Rayne (in Citipointe Childcare). We love spending time together on weekend getaways to the beach, doing arts and crafts, and having dance parties.

Why did you choose Citipointe for your daughter?

Because of the school's strong Christian values and academic excellence.

What does she enjoy about school?

Odeya loves art activities, "Fun Fridays" and making friends.

Prep Father's Night: Dads, games, crafts, and moonlit treasure hunts.

Erin Colak (née Waters, Class of 2001) embraces adventure with her husband and twin daughters while serving as vice principal at an international school in Istanbul.

Erin Colak (née Waters)

Class of 2001
Vice Principal of an international school in Turkey, where she supports teachers and champions the needs of students from around the world.

In her role as Vice Principal, Erin looks after 50 teachers from around the world including Turkey, Korea, South African, Russia and Australia.

"I'm a problem solver" says Erin. "So, as soon as something comes up, I just want to get it fixed for them."

She says many students come from Iran, Russia, and Ukraine to escape war and personal trauma. Free from danger in Turkey, students nonetheless experience challenges when adjusting to a different culture.

"You've got to tread really carefully and try to be as understanding and supportive as possible."

Erin carries a photo on her phone which she uses as a tool to connect with students. It is a photo of herself as a Year 1 student, and her class, at Citipointe.

She says of the photo, "We're all from different cultures and we can all get along and we all have the same values and standards."

This message was taught by her Year 1 teacher, Mrs Ruth Gravestein, who is now Citipointe's Principal. Erin recalls her start at Citipointe with fondness and says she was blessed to have Mrs Gravestein as her teacher.

"She was the best introduction to school ever! It was just calm and fun in her classroom and school was so enjoyable. She welcomed everyone with open arms and valued the different cultures in the classroom."

When Erin began her career as an educator in Turkey, she says, "I saw Mrs Gravestein in the back of my mind all the time. Her example is always with me."

Erin's educational philosophy is to teach with love and empathy and to help students "fall in love" with the subject.

Native-speaking English teachers are in high demand in Turkey, and Erin was offered a teaching job at every school she visited. As an English teacher, she was promoted to English Coordinator. When the Principal moved to Keystone International School to take on the top leadership role, she invited Erin to join her as Vice Principal.

Advocating for education and opportunity

Aside from supporting staff, Erin is closely involved with Year 12 students as they earn a Canadian High School Diploma and explore their post-graduate pathways. To graduate, students must fulfil the academic requirements and secure an essential position in community service.

Erin is passionate about helping students overcome barriers to graduation and a fulfilling course of study and future career.

She advocated for one young woman who had escaped from war in Iran and was struggling to meet the requirements for graduation. Erin's tenacity and faith in a positive outcome led her to liaise extensively with the Canadian head office.

"I said, 'I believe in this student. I haven't been with her through this journey, but I can see her drive and her desperation. Canada, please'."

She prayed for God's will to be done, for strength to advocate for the student and for the student, that she would have the capacity to complete all that was required.

"Finally, they said yes. I was shocked. I believe this was a God thing because she's now able to have a future. Otherwise, I don't know where she would be."

A world of opportunities

Erin's postschool pathway has led to exciting adventures and a range of opportunities. At university, she studied human movement, majoring in nutrition, which led to working as a nutritionist and personal trainer at Fernwood Gym. She opened a personal training studio with a friend and later worked as a fitness director and assistant spa manager on a cruise ship.

She met her husband-to-be on the cruise ship, they married, and, soon after, welcomed their twin girls. The family travelled with the cruise ship as the girls grew until they reached school age. When it was time to start school, the family settled on Turkey as a place to call home, allowing Erin and her daughters to travel to meet her husband for family time during the school holidays.

"We have our daily devotion together as a family, we pray together as a family, and I'm in constant contact with my family in Australia. In Turkey we have the good support base of my husband's family and a really strong foreign community."

As for family time, Erin, her girls, and her husband love the outdoors and enjoy the beach, hiking, bike riding, picnicking and playing basketball.

"We have a beautiful forest around where we live. An old Polish settlement used to be out there during the Ottoman Empire. We go there to enjoy the culture and the farming land."

Erin says her Christian education at Citipointe as well as youth group, church and faith-based mentoring programs influenced her character development and who she is today.

Responding to the earthquake crisis

While Erin and her school in Istanbul were far enough away to be safe from the Turkey-Syria earthquake in February, she and her community were close to the grief and shock that impacted the nation.

Compelled to help in whatever way they could, the school community filled a private jet with personal hygiene products, such as toothpaste and shampoo, to send to those affected by the earthquake.

"It's just such a blessing to see how humanity comes together during these sorts of crises. It's beautiful to watch," says Erin.

The school supported its students with counselling and education to help them deal with the impact of the earthquake. Video resources and practical demonstrations from science teachers helped students understand how earthquakes occur.

While none of the students at the school lost an immediate family member, there were Turkish students with relatives and friends beyond the capital who were affected.

Benjamin Windle

Class of 1999
Author, pastor, and speaker

Benjamin Windle pauses his US book tour to reflect on his time at Citipointe and discuss how God transforms life's challenges into human flourishing.

I still remember my last day of school at Citipointe Christian College. It was 1999. A great year. I didn't have a mobile phone, and the only online way we communicated was a long-gone app called MSN Messenger.

> **"I want readers to imagine the tide turning on their greatest challenges and problems."**

Makes me feel old!

Finishing school, we were optimistic. We looked ahead in our lives and dreamed of what we would do. We talked career paths like teaching, nursing or IT. But one of the things we didn't really give much thought to was how to

handle the imperfections of life. The storms. The losses. The pain that waited for us in our journey of life.

It's been nearly 25 years since that day, and I'm grateful to God for the mountains and valleys and everything in between. I've spent most of that time pastoring people. I'm writing this from Nashville, Tennessee, but the majority of my pastoral tenure has been local to Brisbane.

One of the most meaningful facets of pastoring for over 20 years is being able to walk alongside people during the valleys of life. It's a privilege to stand with someone in their "shadow" season.

I think when I started out pastoring, I was drawn to the visionary and leadership side of building a church community. My father was a pastor, and despite initially running from it in my teens, I embraced that path from a young age.

However, the longer I spent in the pastorate, the more I was exposed to the human experience. That's real-life community. Hospital beds. Midnight phone calls. Shocking car crashes. Funerals. Disappointments. Bankruptcy. And it's not that I found joy in sharing these experiences, but my heart was moved in a profound way to want to be able to shine a light when life turned dark.

I've also gone through my own adversity. We recently lost my older brother, Joel Windle, to a terrible cancer journey. He was legendary back in the 90s at school for his competitive basketball ability, and his sarcastic humour along with his friend group – the "hill gang". Good memories. But it has been a devastating loss I am still recovering from.

In the last year I have also lost two grandparents and gone through a major life transition.

In my church upbringing, we were good at talking about favour and goodness and breakthrough. And that narrative can start to sound like, *Put your hope in God, and your life will be blessed in a way that looks like a postcard perfect life*. A Hallmark version of life.

But, then mud gets thrown on our beautiful postcard life, and we don't know what to do with it.

Imperfections. Anxiety. Loss. A storm hits.

We need hope – but we need a hope that is robust enough to speak to real life. And cancer. And grief. And trauma. And doubt. And heartache.

I wanted to help others – and myself – discover how to unlock the force of hope in life's hardest fights. So I started asking questions like, *Does God sees our pain and imperfections? How does a Christian worldview interpret the challenges we all face? What does hope look like in real-life scenarios?*

There is a desperate need for transcendence in a world that feels dark.

In my hunt for answers, I started writing a book about a "good catastrophe". For over 10 years, I scribbled on a notepad, typed on my laptop in cafés, and opened the aperture of my perspective to see if a new picture would develop. To my surprise, it did. The path it led me down has changed my life.

After setbacks, rejections, and rewriting, a message emerged. For me personally, writing and releasing *Good Catastrophe: The Tide-Turning Power of Hope* is about more than a book. It is a blueprint for finding your way out of pain.

I want readers to imagine the tide turning on their greatest challenges and problems. In *Good Catastrophe*, I do a new and gritty treatment of the story of Job. I reveal that flourishing does not come from a life devoid of loneliness, trauma, and anxiety. It's one lived with hope engineered for adversity.

Along with Job's story, I pull from J R R Tolkien's fascinating concept of "eucatastrophe", showing that your greatest good starts at your point of deepest pain. True hope is not hype. It's not pretending that everything is fine. Hardship, not perfection, is the starting point of hope.

So if you are looking for a guide through challenges and imperfections, *Good Catastrophe* was written with you in mind!

My central thesis is this: We have to retrain ourselves on how we handle imperfections.

When I finished school, I didn't realise that how I handled adversity would define my life much more than my career path. I now have three sons, and I'm trying to instil this framework in them from a young age. Following God is not an immunity from the challenges of life. So don't build your faith on a brittle worldview that relies on perfect outcomes.

Instead know this, God takes pain and He turns it into our human flourishing.

Excerpt from *Good Catastrophe: The Tide-Turning Power of Hope,* by Benjamin Windle. In Chapter 1, Benjamin shares how he and his family recovered from the trauma of a dog attack on his young son.

God, help me.

Help my son. If someone needs to go, please take me. I'll do anything – but just save my son.

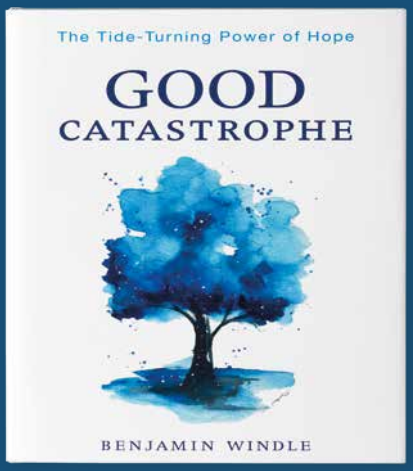
This can't be how it ends.

My mind flashes back to the faces of the first responders. It's not good when you see fear in the eyes of medical professionals. A wound of that magnitude along the neck could mean anything. And what would I know? I'm not a doctor. I just knew it was bad. Really bad. My body was in shock, and everything slowed down as stress chemicals surged through me.

As my youngest son was rushed to the hospital in the back of an ambulance, I knelt with my other two sons, held hands, and prayed that God would preserve his life. Pretty much everything else is a blur. As soon as other family members arrived, I rushed to the hospital to join my wife and son.

After a night in the emergency ward, we finally got a report from the doctors. They look for three kinds of damage with a wound like this. Tendons. Nerves. Arteries. The discovery? This attack miraculously missed all three. Yes, there's a scar and trauma, but the teeth were a millimetre off something infinitely more devasting.

For your copy of Good Catastrophe: The Tide-Turning Power of Hope, visit www.benjaminwindle.com



Alvin Chye (Citipointe parent), Grace Bennett (Alumnus – Class 2007)

Offering a complete range of services for the whole family in a caring environment including:

- braces
- wisdom teeth removal
- sleep dentistry for nervous patients
- implants

Bastow & Chye
CompleteDental

Find out more at
www.completedentalwynnum.com.au
Preferred providers for
BUPA, MBP, CBHS, TUH, Westfund

Two locations Wynnum West & Lota
Call us today (07) 3396 4094

Dave McManus (Class of 2009) is the managing director of a thriving new business

Dave McManus

Class of 2009
Lawyer, small business owner

A new and thriving business venture is helping lawyer Dave McManus to create a work-life balance for his family and clients.

Dave says he enjoys growing his small business and finds it rewarding to invest his time and talents in a venture where his family profits from his efforts.

"The only time you get the opportunity do to this is if you're in your own business."

Before starting in small business, Dave enjoyed a successful career in law. He completed a Bachelor of Laws with Honours at QUT, took his legal practice course, and was admitted to the Supreme Court as a solicitor in 2015.

As a solicitor, he worked for Shine Lawyers for several years before joining

Dave with wife Teshani and daughter Mya

Suncorp as a Senior Risk Advisor and Senior Dispute Resolution Officer. He defended Suncorp on matters before the Financial Ombudsman and provided risk advice to the personal injuries division of the business.

However, the long hours left Dave feeling burnt out, and he saw some of his colleagues and fellow lawyers struggling to maintain their personal relationships. The importance of work-life balance began to emerge for him.

Dave started his business, Just About Cleaning, in late 2022 and within 10 weeks he was managing eight to ten cleaners and had served 250 clients. At the time of writing, Dave has turned over more than $350,000 in 10 months and has an estimated turnover of $1m+ for the current financial year.

"It just went from zero to 1,000 overnight ... and it's continued that way and doesn't really show signs of slowing down."

The business began with one valuable cleaner, Deb, who was hired to clean Dave's own home. Pretty soon Dave was referring her to neighbours and friends, who referred her to their contacts, and, before long, she scarcely had time to clean his home. Deb worked with Dave for the first part of his business journey and, while now retired, she continues to serve a handful of clients.

Dave saw the demand and considered his skillset before deciding to explore the opportunity. He says his strengths include people management, interpersonal communication skills, and multitasking.

"All our team is very, very experienced. I just bring the management side of the business, managing all the inquiries, managing all the marketing."

He has spent less than $5,000 in paid marketing; with most leads coming from Facebook community pages, referrals, insurers and real estate agents.

Dave says his business has been successful due to quality communication, reliability, and responsiveness.

"We had one client who sadly had their building flood over Christmas – a pipe burst and unfortunately a lot was damaged. It was the day after Christmas when they called me, and we had a team out there straight away."

He says his business has also thrived by thinking laterally and offering commercial cleaning, lawn mowing and other household services to domestic clients.

"Two of our commercial contracts are owned by clients who also have small businesses and need someone to clean their homes."

Dave helps clients simplify their home care by offering additional cleaning services such as lawn services, pest control, steam cleaning and basic handyman services.

"It's win-win. The clients are happy. They don't have to get

two tradies in and it just works."

Dave grew his business management skills with his wife, Teshani, as they developed their first small business, launched in 2019. Luna + Sun is an ethical slow fashion label for women, made in Brisbane.

By choosing to run his own business, Dave feels that he has more control over his work-life balance.

Guided by biblical principles

When it comes to his business practice and growth, Dave remembers the verse in Proverbs 23: "Labour not to be rich".

For Dave, family comes before his business, and he is driven to create balance, so his business serves his family, not the other way around.

He is mindful of God's power in Ephesians 20, and that God is "able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think".

"When we do any business for Him, He will outdo Himself every time. He reveals the ideas, and gives us the tools, talents, abilities, and resources needed to receive abundance from Heaven.

"God never intended for us to be able to handle life on our own but designed it in such a way that we must depend on Him."

At Citipointe, Dave learned to give God praise in everything, because He is the true reason for success, not luck.

When reflecting on success, Dave says, "We couldn't have done this all on our own. Someone has been there looking after us to make sure this has gone okay. There has to be some greater force driving this forward and allowing us to be successful."

Another principle he saw modelled at Citipointe was to treat others with dignity and respect and he applies this principle when relating to staff and clients.

Lessons learned at Citipointe

A simple money-management principle, learned on the last day of high school, set Dave on a path of wealth creation.

Mr Nathan Wheeley, who was the Secondary Coordinator of Learning Areas, introduced the idea of interest rates in savings accounts. For Dave, who had been saving financial gifts from his father throughout his schooling, this was a fascinating revelation. He checked the interest rate on his bank account and found he could do better, moved his money and received $200 interest a month.

"I thought at the time, 'Oh, my goodness, this is incredible. I'm doing nothing for this. I should be getting this the whole time'."

Dave says this principle, learned as a Year 12 student, has helped him and his wife to generate a level of wealth.

Dave values other memories from school including hanging out with friends, leading to long-lasting friendships, and school sports, especially soccer and beach volleyball.

Just About Cleaning

Dave has big plans for the growth of the business, which has expanded to include over 18 cleaners, two lawn specialists and one handyman who serves clients on the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, Ipswich and Gold Coast.

He also has a heart for offering opportunities and training to refugees and has connected with the Multicultural Community Centre, Newmarket, which supports migrants and humanitarian entrants to set up life and find work in Australia.

In 2024, Dave will focus on the provision of services for clients in veterans care, aged care and disability care, as well as his commercial portfolio. Dave and his team currently clean many offices, warehouses, childcare centres and gyms each week.

Special offer for readers! Mention this article to receive a FREE office clean or $20 off your first domestic home clean or lawn service.

For more information, call Dave on 0450 093 371 or visit www.justaboutcleaning.com.au.

Where's Mr Wheeley now?

Mr Nathan Wheeley was the Secondary Coordinator of Learning Areas and had a great impact on students while he was a teacher at Citipointe.

Today, Mr Wheeley and his wife Pip work for a Christian ministry in the Philippines, the Gentle Hands Orphanage. The couple first travelled to the orphanage to meet their son, the eldest of their three boys. Later the family relocated to the Philippines, where Nathan and Pip took up roles at the orphanage, leading and overseeing education and curriculum. Today Nathan and Pip are international ambassadors and fundraising coordinators for the orphanage. In these roles, they fulfil their mission to serve disadvantaged children and form partnerships with people and organisations to support the ministry.

Jess Santos (née Prior)

Class of 2013
Social media and community manager

Before turning 25, Jess Santos travelled to over 25 countries, purchased her own home, and established a flourishing career in the travel industry, even in the face of a global pandemic.

Jess's story is a shining example of how setbacks can be stepping stones to success. Despite facing obstacles, including two redundancies and a cancelled university course, Jess has navigated the challenges and achieved her goals.

Building on the success and valuable experiences gained from her school-based traineeships, Jess made a pivotal decision to enroll in a TAFE training course. This qualification equipped her for a rewarding and exciting career in the travel industry.

From school to a successful career

While a student at Citipointe, Jess completed three certificates in business administration in her parents' financial brokerage business, Priority Funding.

"I'm a nerd and love numbers," says Jess. "I'm very much an organised person, which the traineeship definitely helped develop. The workload might seem like it's a lot on top of school, but it does put you ahead. Even if some of the skills might seem basic, having that on paper and having experience in it, goes miles."

After graduation, Jess was accepted into a business course at Griffith University. For Jess, it was the perfect time to defer tertiary studies for a gap year, so she moved to the United Kingdom to work as an au pair.

When she returned to Australia, her university course was no longer available. Eager to start her studies, she enrolled in TAFE, where she completed a dual diploma in events management and tourism.

Her plan was to use this qualification as a stepping-stone to university, but the world of work beckoned, and this qualification helped her land a job at Flight Centre in retail, leading to a role in wholesale and education.

This gave her a ticket to explore the world as a travel agent, to learn about destinations, and to experience travel offerings to share with clients. She also planned and coordinated trips for other travel agents.

> "I had amazing opportunities to travel in my sales role, so was very blessed."

30 countries before 30

Jess's job has taken her to Disneyland, Disney World, Canada, and Fiji, where she has explored top attractions free of charge. These are some of her most exciting professional travel adventures, and she was awarded these opportunities in recognition of her outstanding sales achievements.

Working in the travel industry has also opened the door for plenty of personal travel experiences.

"When I was younger, I probably did the country tick and the sightsee tick."

In 2020, when Singapore had early cases of COVID-19, Jess was on her way back from a trip to the Philippines for a friend's wedding.

Jess has explored nearly 30 countries for both work and play.

With just 36 hours in Singapore and five photo spots on her list, Jess quickly moved from one location to another, snapping photos. Later that night, she set out to explore, relax, and experience life in the city.

"I always say, don't do late nights and early mornings or, if you do, don't do them consecutively. Maybe 19-year-old Jess could do it, but not anymore."

Jess met her goal of visiting 25 countries by the age of 25, and with her travel plans for next year, she is well on her way to visiting 30 countries by the age of 30.

Next year, Jess and her new husband are planning a trip to his home country of Brazil and hope to visit Europe too. Jess met her husband on the Christian dating app, Salt, and they married at Boulevard Gardens in June this year and honeymooned in Bali.

Rebounding from redundancy

The effects of the global pandemic were keenly felt in the travel industry. Educational trips were cancelled, and Jess's role was made redundant after she was stood down from her position for months.

"Obviously, this was heartbreaking. I studied tourism and it was what I wanted to do."

Looking for an opportunity where she could use her sales and planning skills, Jess took a job in a removalist booking business as a consultant and, within three months, was promoted to a management role. Working with the company for over three years, Jess saw it grow from a start-up with four salespeople to a team of 20.

"I was running the training and writing the training manual for new staff and it was pretty exciting."

Unfortunately, her role was made redundant once again, this time due to a restructure.

"The redundancy was going to be a payout, but with my mortgage, I couldn't afford to drop to a consultant wage, so had to make the decision to leave. I had just come back from my three days of leave and that one was pretty shocking."

Eager to re-enter the travel industry, Jess accepted a sales role in corporate group travel at Flight Centre as a stepping stone. Then a new role was created in the post-pandemic climate: Social Media Manager for Flight Centre Australia.

In this role, Jess has expanded her responsibilities from managing social media engagement and maintaining the company's tone of voice to developing processes that can be adopted company-wide.

Her work has led to a promotion and Jess is now the Global Experience Manager, responsible for building a new online chatbot and managing social media and community experience globally.

A homeowner at 25

Jess' secret to achieving her goals is simple but effective: determination and consistent effort.

"I like to set big goals and I know how good it feels to hit them."

After securing her first job at Flight Centre at age 19, she started saving for her first home. She diligently saved for six years until there was a brief downturn in the market, which allowed her to buy her own unit in Sunnybank Hills.

"I had a little account where I put a small amount aside every single week."

Reflecting on her experience during the COVID-19 pandemic, Jess shared another key to her success. While many of her colleagues at Flight Centre chose to take the JobKeeper allowance and stop working, Jess chose to continue working. This allowed her to save her earnings and cover her rent. She is thankful for her fortunate circumstances, of being able to live at home, which reduced her accommodation expenses.

Jess reached her goal of becoming a homeowner by age 25.

Secrets to success

Throughout her career, Jess has excelled in sales roles and chased performance incentives, earning prestigious company rewards to destinations around the world.

"Probably the biggest thing is knowing what the goal is. Then I figured out how to get there. We had to track our sales, so I made a document so tracking them was easy."

Jess attributes her success to her skill in building a strong rapport with colleagues and nurturing relationships with clients.

"It's taking that extra little bit of time to build a connection and then there's trust there for them to come back to you in future. It's not just a quick transaction."

Jess recommends building rapport by asking about someone's weekend or their family and making the effort to remember details from past conversations.

"For example, I know that a case manager has two kids in Years 7 and 9 by asking quick little questions in passing. You just tuck them away for later and ask, 'How's your daughter doing?'"

These simple yet thoughtful gestures can help establish strong connections with others and lay the foundation for positive engagement in the future.

Faith is a central part of Jess's life and shapes her daily actions and choices.

"Serving in church is a huge part of my life, and my husband's life, and that was instilled from a young age by my parents."

Jess is a member of the worship team at Citipointe Church, and her life is enriched by a love of music, nurtured at school where she led praise and worship at chapel services. Together, Jess and her husband share daily devotions, praying together for their family, friends and future.

Diving - World Junior Champion

Sam Olivier (Class of 2022) achieved something remarkable at the FINA World Junior Diving Championships in Canada last December.

Sam Olivier (Class of 2022), on the right, won gold with her diving partner at the World Junior Diving Championships.

Image Source: FINA/Antoine Saito

Sam represented Australia in both the individual and synchronised platform diving events and, alongside her diving partner Charli Petrov, won the gold medal in the girls' synchronised 10m platform event. This outstanding victory earned them the prestigious title of World Junior Champions.

As a world-class athlete, Sam is passionate about her sport. She says, "I personally love flipping through the air and always trying to improve my dives to get better and better. We do a lot of training on the trampoline too which is always fun."

Her talent, determination and resilience have been key factors in her success.

"I stay motivated by keeping my eyes on the goal, and knowing that some days are easier than others, but what's important is focusing on the vision."

Sam says her faith in God has been a driving force behind her accomplishments.

"I think elite sport, like anything, can be worship to God if you allow it to be. And I've loved trying to make it that. I am honestly grateful to Jesus for opening doors for me to go to Junior Worlds and win the synchro event. All the glory goes to Him."

Sam says the support she received from Citipointe allowed her to train and compete as she pursued her goals in sport.

"Citipointe was extremely good at helping me balance the stresses of being an elite athlete whilst being a student. The staff cared not just for my schooling achievements but about my sporting and wellbeing and helped me do my best in all these areas."

After graduation, Sam is taking a gap year and studying a subject at Christian Heritage College in preparation for her Ministry studies next year. Alongside her studies, she's been working part-time with a small non-profit organisation and finding the work highly rewarding. It's clear that working with purpose means a lot to her.

Sam's decision to retire from diving and pursue a pathway in ministry reflects her unwavering commitment to her faith and the desire to make a meaningful difference in the world. Sam's journey is a testament to her dedication and faith, and we can't wait to see the impact she'll make in her chosen field.

Brad Jakins Class of 2011

Real Estate Agent

Brad Jakins (Class of 2011) is earning five-star reviews, pursuing excellence, and working for a real estate agency that values people.

Brad's start in real estate was unconventional, but his potential was clear to local real estate agency director, Will Torres. Brad's humour, energy and conversational skills were outstanding, along with his can-do attitude and desire to achieve the best results.

At the time of their meeting, Brad was working for a printing company, Allclear Print, and was on-site, installing a sign for Torres Property.

"One day I was installing a signboard out the front of a house and this real estate agent pulled up in his Maserati, looking like a million bucks in his nice suit. He stopped and actually took the time to have a chat with me, even though I was all dirty and scruffy in my workwear. This is something that the other agents from different agencies I had met over the years didn't do. Turns out it was the director, Will Torres. From there I decided that I was going to give real estate a go and I was going to work for him."

Brad completed his course, gained work experience, and is now a lead agent at Torres Property.

"We work six to seven days a week and have to be 'on' all the time, but I love a challenge. That's why I push myself and continue to do it. It's also incredibly rewarding. You're dealing with people's biggest and most important asset. When you can help people achieve a great result and literally change their lives with that result, it's awesome."

Brad has applied the College motto, "I press towards the goal", to his career.

"Having the school motto of pressing towards the goal embedded into me growing up has really pushed me and steered me in the right direction and motivated me to do my best."

Brad Jakins (Class of 2011) shares the joy of a successful house sale with a happy client.

Brad has earned nothing short of five-star reviews on realestate.com. One seller in Tingalpa said of Brad, "He was meticulous, polite, conscious of our needs, and overall, a great bloke to deal with! What separates him from other agents we dealt with was his passion and drive."

Another seller in Greenslopes said, "Brad is a highly competent, honest, and professional agent. He maintains solid industry connections through involvement in the local community on both a professional and personal level. He has the background and expertise to guide you through the process of finding and securing your home buyer."

Brad has helped members of the Citipointe community with their real estate needs including appraisals, house-hunting, and buying and selling.

"I've recently sold a property for a past Citipointe student, who was my best friend growing up. These ones are the most rewarding, although they're the hardest because you really push and strive for the best result and then some more."

Brad is inspired to succeed by the people around him – his real estate mentors at Torres Property, and his mum and dad who support him in whatever he chooses to do.

Brad's tips for buying and selling

Thinking of selling?

1. Choose the right agent, this is imperative for achieving the best result. You want an agent who is going to walk the walk, not just talk the talk.
2. Time your sale carefully. You want to put your property on the market in isolation, not in competition with other properties.

Thinking of buying?

1. Do your research. Go to as many open homes and ask as many questions as you can.
2. Don't hesitate. Once you are confident in your research and find the property you like, make an offer. We see so many buyers in the market who could have bought a property for $300k less a couple of years ago but they hesitated and are now paying the price.

Connect with Brad by phone at 0410 596 018.

Alumni bring their talents to the College Musical

This year's College Musical, *The Little Mermaid*, was made possible by the hard work and dedication of our students and staff but also by the invaluable support of our alumni volunteers.

Our dedicated alumni played a crucial role, contributing expertise in areas such as vocals, set design, props, and makeup. Our heartfelt congratulations and appreciation go to everyone involved, especially our incredible alumni volunteers who continue to make a meaningful impact on our College community.

Thea Terblanche

Nicholas Lim

Luchél Oegema

Madison Dowie

Dexter Lim

Gabrielle Parkin

Madison Dowie, Choreographer

Class of 2020

As a student, I loved participating in musicals. Tuesday and Thursday afternoon rehearsals became the norm for me, and I loved every moment. So, when the opportunity came up for me to participate again, how could I say no?

There is great satisfaction in showcasing nine months of hard work, but the part I enjoy the most is the process, those moments when the show starts to come together and the cast finds their character. All the laughter, the tears, the late nights – these moments are pure gold.

From Year 1 to Year 12, Citipointe was and still is my safe place. It has been an honour to have been asked to return and create something magical and God-honouring with my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Citipointe musicals: *Singing in the Rain, Annie, The Little Mermaid*

Nicholas Lim, Backing vocals

Class of 2001

I enjoy having the best seat in the room, which is right in the middle of the orchestral pit, and being fully immersed in the sound of the beautiful musical score. It makes you feel that you are a part of their world, under the sea.

It is a really enjoyable process to see how such a large scale project can involve so many people with unique and far-ranging abilities. It is very team and community building.

Citipointe musicals: *Annie, Matilda the Musical, The Little Mermaid*

Luchél Oegema, Hair and makeup

Class of 2019

I loved being a part of the very talented backstage team and having the honour of doing the beautiful Ariel's makeup!

Being back at Citipointe has reminded me of the amazing community the teaching staff who have always made me feel so loved and welcomed. The whole team has gone above and beyond, using everyone's talents and putting incredible detail into this show.

Citipointe musicals: Annie, The Little Mermaid

Dexter Lim, Set Construction

Class of 1997

The College musicals have always impressed me, and I wanted to be a part of it.

I'm fascinated by the logistical organisation of the whole production. It's amazing to see how students and teachers, who are doing very different things, work together to produce a cohesive piece of work.

Citipointe musicals: *The Little Mermaid*

Gabrielle Parkin, Backing Vocals

Class of 2015

When I was a student at Citipointe, the school musicals were always the absolute highlight of my year! I was lucky enough to be a cast member of The Wiz (I played Dorothy) and Peter Pan (I played Mrs Darling).

Getting to watch the incredible students in their element doing what they love, outside of the everyday classroom, brings me so much joy! Each student brings their own unique skills, talents and abilities to the rehearsal room.

It is truly a privilege to be back at Citipointe, both teaching and being a part of The Little Mermaid. Getting to be a part of supporting students through the same enriching experiences I was fortunate enough to have when I was a student here, is a dream come true.

Citipointe musicals: *The Wiz, Peter Pan, The Little Mermaid*

Thea Terblanche, Props Construction

Class of 2022

I have worked with the teachers and students to make or source the props the cast uses throughout the show. Once this part of the project is complete, we facilitate the organisation of all the set pieces and props, which means a lot of checking everything is in the right place at the right time to make sure the show runs as smoothly as possible.

I volunteered for this project because I love the positive culture in the Arts Department at Citipointe. The whole team is so passionate and committed to the project and that attitude is infectious. It feels really good to be a part of a team like this and I couldn't pass up that opportunity.

It has been such a joy to come back to somewhere I know so well. I've especially enjoyed seeing so many familiar faces and catching up with teachers and younger students.

Citipointe musicals: *Matilda the Musical, The Little Mermaid*

Alumni Lounge at the College Musical

The Alumni Lounge provided the perfect setting for a casual evening of catching up with friends and connecting with fellow alumni. Thank you to our alumni who attended to support the College's musical production of *The Little Mermaid*.

Special thanks to the classes who joined us:

Class of 1985, 1987, 1991, 1993, 2006, 2009, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Your presence made the evening special, and we look forward to more alumni events in the future as we continue to connect and celebrate our shared history.

Michael Witham (class of 1993)

Operations Planning Team Lead, Citipointe Parent

Michael and Caleb Witham

Tell us about your current role and career journey.

I currently work in a management role for the global energy company Santos. I'm back in our Brisbane office after working Fly-in Fly-out (FIFO) roles. Prior to this, I worked for Rio Tino Iron Ore Western Australia.

How has a Citipointe education prepared you for life?

Aside from a good education and lifelong friends, I believe Citipointe, in harmony with my local church and youth group, has set me up to live by solid faith-based values which I try to apply in my workplace.

What are your favourite memories from school days?

It would have to be part of the school basketball program, holiday training camps, and most of all the Friday night basketball games. I remember one particular game more than 20 years ago where we played at Nudgee College. A small car blocked our bus exit and our coach said, "Right boys, let's move this thing." We dragged it out of the way and may have left it between two trees for them to negotiate.

Who is in your family?

I have two boys, Caleb in Prep O and Theo at Citipointe Childcare, and I am married to Merryn, who is a clinical psychologist.

Why did you choose Citipointe for your son?

For me, it's a combination of solid faith-based values and good education surrounded by loving staff.

What does your son enjoy about school?

Bike Day has been a big hit all year and in class he enjoys rotations and cooking.

Alumni art at Meraki Senior Art Exhibition

Artworks by our talented alumni were featured at the Meraki Senior Art Exhibition, along with art by senior students, staff and parents. Many attended opening night to be inspired by creativity, meet the artists and enjoy a community arts event.

Congratulations to our alumni whose works were included in the show. Enjoy examples of their art and discover the inspiration behind their work on these pages.

Thanks to everyone from our alumni community who came along to the opening night to support our artists, catch up with friends from school and connect with fellow alumni.

Explore the exhibition online. Scan the QR code to view the catalogue.

Artist Statements

Alumni reflect on their artwork in the Meraki Senior Art Exhibition.

Emma West-Newman, Class of 2020

"As life changes, I paint to immortalise beautiful everyday moments. This artwork is my perspective of an afternoon Tara Windley and I sat for hours, working on our creative projects."

Tara Windley, Class of 2020

"To me, koi embody elegance and peace, so I wanted to contrast the fluid nature of koi with the rigid nature of timber to capture the duality of nature."

Tracey Passmore, Class of 1990

"I love the Ibis! It plays an important ecological role in pest management. This, in turn, helps to maintain biodiversity of plants and animals in Australia."

Julia Jang, Class of 2019

Jang expresses her idea of perspectives, values, personalities and beliefs by carefully depicting specific places, time and memories of landscape.

Ella Wang, Class of 2020

"I turn full circle round and round. Come grab my hand for solid ground."

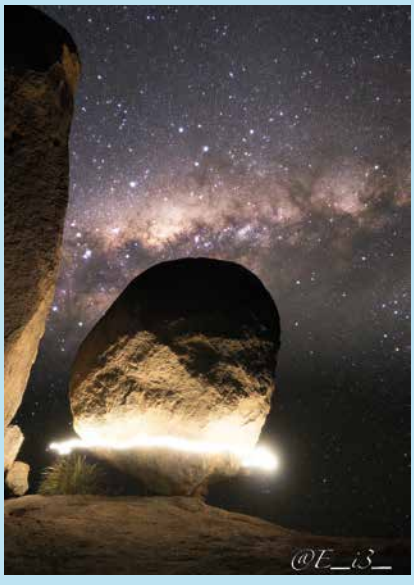
Lauren Oduko, Class of 2006

"Willow, my curly-haired middle child, is a cheeky two-year-old who exudes life, love and laughter. This portrait is my attempt to capture the essence of Willow in this sweet little moment of her life."

Emma West-Newman

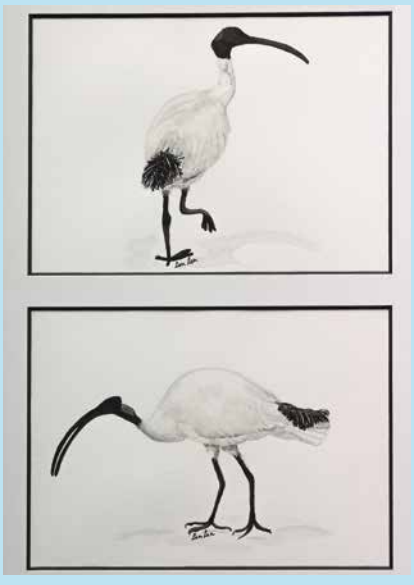
Julia Jang

Lauren Oduko



Ella Wang

Tara Windley



Tracey Passmore

Volleyball: Alumni play First VI teams

Alumni Vs Students Volleyball

Volleyball players spanning the past eight years, from the Class of 2015 to the Class of 2022, made a return to the campus in March. Their mission: to bestow invaluable match wisdom upon our First VI boys and girls volleyball teams. College Hall buzzed with intense competition, yet camaraderie and Citipointe spirit prevailed. Many of our alumni have transitioned into roles as volleyball coaches, and we appreciate their enduring commitment to our volleyball program, as well as their dedication to fostering the sport and our students' growth.

Volleyball is a focus sport at Citipointe, with a specialised training program designed to nurture our students' sporting potential. This program shapes young athletes into stars who shine not only in local contests but also at national and international competitions.

Among our notable alumni, Jamie Fouché and Xander van Driel, both graduates of the Class of 2022, played pivotal roles in last year's senior boys volleyball team. Today, they stand as the youngest contenders in the prestigious Australian Volleyball Super League. Jamie represents the Queensland Pirates, while Xander, the Canberra Heat. Their journey continues to inspire all of us as they perform with excellence in the world of volleyball.

Jamie Fouché and Xander van Driel (Class of 2022) play in the Australian Volleyball Super League

Need help finding the right loan?

Loan Market

$200 donation to Citipointe when you settle a loan with Evelyn at Loan Market.*

I have been in the industry for 5 years and service the area of Carindale, Carina, Murarrie, Cannon Hill, Belmont, Wynnum, Gumdale and Wakerley. My focus is always on making sure I deliver a service tailored to you.

As part of the Citipointe Christian College community for the past 15 years, I would love the opportunity to give back.

*Conditions Apply. Minimum loan amount $250,000. Must be financed through Loan Market Evelyn Cook.

Make the call.

Evelyn Cook
Mortgage Broker
0448 770 377
evelyn.cook@loanmarket.com.au
loanmarket.com.au/loan-market-evolve

Loan Market Pty Ltd | Australian Credit Licence 390222

Reunions 2024

It's time to celebrate your milestone reunions

- Class of 2014 – 10 Year Reunion
- Class of 2004 – 20 Year Reunion
- Class of 1994 – 30 Year Reunion

Don't miss this special opportunity to catch up with school friends and reconnect with classmates.

Citipointe is looking for someone – or a group of volunteers – to plan a reunion for your class. It doesn't have to be a daunting task and we can help! Check out the steps below and consider volunteering to plan your school reunion.

Class of 2014

Class of 1994

Class of 2004

How to plan your reunion

So, you have a class reunion coming up and you're inspired to take on the role of the planner? Fantastic! Someone – or a small group – from every class must step up to the plate to plan their reunion. Remember, Citipointe is here to help you.

Step 1: Volunteer to organise your reunion

Register your reunion by sending an email to Citipointe.

Step 2: Start a Facebook group for your reunion

Begin by setting up a poll in your Facebook group to determine the most convenient date for everyone involved. This will help in selecting a date that suits most people.

Step 3: Pick a venue

Recent reunions have been held at the Story Bridge Hotel, the Osborne Hotel, and the Fiction Bar & Restaurant.

Step 4: Promote the event

Turn to Facebook regularly to ask the group of attendees their opinion on different food, drinks, and activities for the reunion. Once more and more people are liking and sharing your social media posts, more people will RSVP to the reunion.

Step 5: Enjoy your school reunion!

This is a time to reconnect with old friends and rekindle relationships. At the reunion, gather everyone for a group photo for the next alumni magazine.

Ask Citipointe to promote your reunion via the Alumni Facebook page.

So, We can help!

Scan the QR code to:

- Register your reunion
- Email classmates
- Pay a venue deposit
- Promote your reunion
- Email a group photo

Celebrations

Congratulations to Jayden Tunny and Merion Knoetze (both Class of 2018) on their engagement, with a wedding date set for 10 December

Congratulations to Jessica (née Prior, Class of 2013) and Bruno Santos who celebrated their marriage at Boulevard Gardens, Indooroopilly, in June

Share your special moments with us! Email news of engagements, weddings, and babies to:
devoffice@citipointe.qld.edu.au

VISIT US INSIDE WESTFIELD CARINDALE

(Near Westfield Buss Interchange & opposite the Reject Shop)

Dedicated & caring team of GPs, nurses & receptionists.

General GP needs, all immunisations including school catch up appointments, skin checks, health checks, injuries, workplace medicals.

IV iron and vitamin infusions.

COVID19 immunisations.

Speech Pathology for speech, language & literacy difficulties.

Dietician & diabetes services.

HEALTHCARE PLUS Medical Centre

Ph 07 3135 9898
healthcareplusmedical.com.au

Corporate Alliances – exclusive benefits for the Citipointe Community.

Citipointe Christian College

322 Wecker Road Carindale
Brisbane Queensland 4152 Australia
Phone +61 7 3555 2700
email: mail@citipointe.qld.edu.au
Web: citipointe.qld.edu.au

ABN 15 072 238 554
CRICOS Provider Code: 00996F

Connect with us
facebook.com/citipointeccb