

# Past Student Spotlight

## Jane Riddle (1993)



My name is Jane Filan (nee Riddle) and I am a very proud past student of St George State High School.

I was born in St George, attending St Patrick's Primary until Year 7, then St George SHS from Year 8 to Year 12. My brother Adam was School Captain in 1992 and I was determined that he wouldn't outdo me, so I followed in his footsteps as School Captain (with Andrew 'Fishy' Salmon) in 1993.

I loved growing up in St George and have very fond memories of high school. My favourite subject was English and I developed a love for all things literacy. My favourite teachers were Ms Janelle Codrington and Mrs Sandy Rathmell, who nurtured my love of literature. Throughout high school my aspiration was to become a teacher. I had a little change of heart in Year 12, where I thought journalism was for me – I even went so far as applying to do a Bachelor of Journalism at university. Alas, I changed my preference at the last minute and was accepted to do a Bachelor of Education at the University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba, where I attended from 1994-1997.

Col Geiger offered me my first teaching position at St George SS. So...I came home in 1998. I had some wonderful mentors for my beginning teaching career at St George SS and still classify Col, as the best boss I have ever had. During my six years of teaching in St George I taught every year level from Year 1 to Year 6. I also got married during this time, to Seamus, who I met while he was working in St George as a wool classer. He later worked with Landmark as a stock and station agent and we moved to Mitchell at the end of 2003, for him to manage the local Landmark branch.

I have taught at Mitchell SS ever since, doing various teaching roles – secondary Home Ec, Business and English, Primary teacher, Learning support, Head of Curriculum, Literacy, Data and Pedagogy Coach and currently, Deputy Principal. I have always loved any role I have undertaken and I think the secret to this is changing it up every so often, while still remaining in the same field. I learnt from my mentors that the key element to success in the teaching field is to build a rapport with students and parents alike. This has attitude has not only helped in my teaching career but in my personal life as well.

I have two daughters, Sophie who is 19 and Millie, 16. Sophie is following in my footsteps and is currently in her second year, studying a Bachelor of Education at the University of Southern Queensland. Last year she had the opportunity to travel to the UK and France, to play netball on a junior tour. This trip ignited her passion for travel and she has big plans to travel more, once she is financial! Millie is in Year 11 at St John's School, Roma. She also loves netball as well as dancing and touch football. She has plans for a career in Health (however, nothing that involves blood!).

My words of advice for the students of St George SHS: Choose to work hard. Whatever way you put those two words together, work hard, or hard work, the message is the same – nothing of value will come without it. Choose to not give up easily. Resilience will get you everywhere. Choose to listen. As my dad always said, you have two ears and one mouth for a reason – use your ears twice as much as your mouth. You'll be surprised at how much you learn. And above all, choose to be kind. Kindness costs nothing – it's what people remember.

I still have a strong connection to St George, and even though I no longer have family living there, every time I take my family back to visit, as I'm crossing the bridge, I feel like I am coming home.

Jane Riddle