

# Celebrating International Women's Day at Cranbrook School



CRANBROOK  
SCHOOL



## Daisy Turnbull

Director of Coeducation  
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In celebration of International Women's Day 2024 on Friday 8 March, we are proudly profiling our female leaders at Cranbrook as part of our commitment to championing diversity and fostering inclusion in education. This year's theme, 'Count Her In: Invest in women. Accelerate progress', underscores the importance of celebrating the invaluable contributions of women in the teaching profession. By spotlighting female educators, we are sharing their inspiring stories, and showcasing the diverse perspectives they bring to the classroom, whilst instilling a sense of belonging and empowerment for us all.

### How long have you worked at Cranbrook and in what role/s?

I started at Cranbrook in 2022 as a Social Sciences teacher, and was later appointed the Director of Coeducation and the Academy. I teach Religious Studies, Year 11 and 12 Studies of Religion, and Commerce. I also run the Ethics Club one afternoon a week, which is a lot of fun.

### What do you love about your job and the School?

My favourite thing about Cranbrook is how nimble it is. During my recruitment process I mentioned wanting to continue to teach Studies of Religion, a subject the School hadn't offered before, and Mr Sampson said "yes" without hesitation. My first class completed their HSC last year and did very well, I was so amazed by how supportive the School was in trusting me to run it in my first full year here.

The move to coeducation is another example of how the School is able to adapt and change, while remaining true

to its values. I love working closely with colleagues from across the school, bringing together programmes to implement culture change, and engaging with families as they enrol their daughters.

But more than anything, I love having conversations with students about any and all topics, I love a 'yarn', unpacking a topic and understanding different perspectives.

### How has the education sector changed for women in your time in teaching?

Well, teaching is my second career, before going into teaching 12 years ago I worked in advertising. I think when I started in teaching, it was much, much more supportive of women than advertising was. And I'm certain still is!

I love being a woman, and 'girly' things. I wear a lot, some might say 'too much' pink, I'm a proud Swiftie and I crochet and knit - two crafts often maligned as being very female pursuits. I don't feel the need to hide any of that here. When I used to work in advertising, there was an

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element of wanting to be 'one of the boys'. There is not that need here, everyone can be absolutely themselves, and I love that about the culture at Cranbrook.

I don't think there have been specific changes for women, but there are changes that have impacted women. Online learning during COVID-19 made flexible work arrangements a more live conversation than it ever has been, and we need to keep that conversation ticking over, not just for women, but for all young parents, and also people caring for their parents.

**What changes do you hope to see continue to happen in the future?**

I hope women keep getting 'counted in' for leadership and seats at the table in all sectors of life. I think we need to become more aware of female experiences and the value of our input. It's not to say that guys don't always have it right, but there is benefit in more perspectives.

One of my favourite authors is Natalie Haynes, who wrote a book called *Divine Might* on the Greek goddesses. She writes why it is important to understand how man made the world, and to look at female experience and perspective in art and writing - "if we only have art created by men, we might want to have that in mind when we respond to it." There's still work to do in this area, as a school, and a society.

I want to bring that kind of voice to Cranbrook.

**What's your funniest/most memorable moment of teaching at Cranbrook?**

There are already too many to say but my favourite moments are when you get to see students excelling in areas beyond your classroom. Whether it's at Sport, or in Drama or Music. We only see a sliver of students' personalities in the classroom. I especially loved my time with my Year 7 Group, Lunar, on Cranbrook In The Field last year.

**What advice do you have for anyone starting their career in teaching?**

Observe other teachers and classes as much as you can, know how you work, and accept there will be weeks when everything else falls by the wayside because of marking and reports, but it's always worth it!