



Christ Church
Grammar School
PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

As I look back on my 44-year connection with Christ Church Grammar School, starting when I was in Year 1, I feel it is time to share my own story about the incredible generosity of our very special school community.

The death of both my parents, Mum when I was 11 years old and Dad when I was 13 years old, was devastating. No relatives were able to care for us. Therefore, foster care, and the chance that my brother and sister and I would be separated, was a very real possibility.

Then something incredible happened. Tony Hill, the Headmaster of Christ Church at the time and his wife Elsa, within a matter of weeks took us in as part of their own family and became our guardians. Although the grief was there, the ability to stay on at Christ Church, living onsite with my new blended family in the Headmasters Residence, meant I was able to maintain friendships, the connection with my siblings and the routine of school life. My school mates' families were also incredible and to this day we are blessed to be part of a very big extended 'family' who have watched over me, and now my own family, all this time.

When I completed my Arts degree from UWA I set off to travel and spend time with Tony and Elsa who now live in the USA. It was Tony who helped guide me towards teaching, knowing how passionate I was about history and how much I would enjoy teaching and mentoring young people.

I started teaching in Karratha and, as my own family started to grow, I looked for opportunities back in Perth. Then in 2002 came the chance to teach Humanities at Christ Church. Being a teacher within our school community, including 13 years as Head of Queenslea House, is very special to me.

Long ago my ability to continue as a student at Christ Church was made possible only by the financial support of a bursary – something for which I am very grateful. I have great memories of my time as a Christ Church boy and enjoyed everything the School offered. I continue to enjoy my connection with the Old Boys' Association and the incredible team of people I work with every day at this great school.

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I know this year I will be donating to support scholarships that will ensure boys, like my brother and I, can be given the opportunity of a Christ Church education regardless of family circumstances. As we see again this year with our students and their 'The Students' Scholarship', a donation of as little as \$20.00 can deliver an incredible opportunity for a deserving young man.

I ask you to please consider joining me and make your own gift to help change a boy's life — just like so many people did for me all those years ago.

Yours sincerely

Digby Gibson

Digby Gibson ('88)

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