



● St Margaret's ignite

igniting the entrepreneurial
spirit within

Date: Thursday 8 August 2019

Time: 6:00pm

Venue: Arts Centre Foyer

Light refreshments and nibbles provided.

Three successful entrepreneurs share
their stories, their successes and lessons
from their failures.

Parents and students welcome.

RSVP to mstein@stmargarets.qld.edu.au
by Tuesday 16 July 2019 (first day back term3)

St Margaret's





Shining a light on pathways

By definition, the word entrepreneurship means the activity of making money by starting or running a business, especially when this involves taking financial risks, and having the ability to do this.

For Mathew Stein, Head of Faculty – Global Studies, who together with Hetal Raniga and Emily Labinsky teaches across the Economics and Entrepreneurial Studies (Years 9 and 10), it's the spirit behind entrepreneurship which is one of the most important life lessons to instil.

“Not everyone is going to be an entrepreneur or run a business, but we can all be in the business of making things happen, and it's this way of thinking – the ability to problem solve, to think creatively about solutions, to take calculated risks, and to act on ideas – that will stand all our students in good stead, no matter what their career path.

“These are important 21st century skills; skills in fact that will be sought after in most workplaces.

“The skills of entrepreneurship encourage our students to believe that they can make things happen, and that they have the power to create change.



“Our aim is to provide them with the tools and some inspiration from others to shine a light on the possible pathways they can create for themselves.”

Mathew said his belief in having students hear from other people about how they have created businesses and shaped their lives through entrepreneurial thinking was behind the recent ‘Ignite’ evening, where three very different and successful entrepreneurs shared their stories, their successes and lessons from their failures.

The first speaker, Tracy Fullwood, was an industrial designer turned entrepreneur of 20 years. Her mindset has always been, “if I've needed it, let's do this. If I need a book – in this case a children's book – let's write it”. She said product design was the art of problem solving, creativity and originality, and thinking outside the box.

Tracy is currently studying a masters degree to gain the knowledge to advance one of her business ideas.

In contrast, the next speaker, Dimitris Limnatis, revealed he had no formal education – in fact, originally from Cyprus, he does not even write English. However, this has not stopped him from teaching himself everything he knows to run a string of successful businesses.

One of his key messages was for students to be prepared to learn everything from the ground up.

“If you want to be a chef, learn how to wash the dishes first.”

Dimitris has had plenty of setbacks; his family had lost everything twice when they migrated to Sydney from Cyprus.

“We had \$4000 between the six of us, but on the second day in Australia we all had jobs, and none of us could speak English.”

The third speaker, Clarissa Rayward, runs her own law firm and also said there was always a way to push yourself through setbacks.

“Self-belief will be your saving. You will be forever challenged but no matter what's happening just believe that you can get through this. This is essential in business and in life.”

She said everyone fails along the way but that's how you succeed.

“If you're not failing, you're probably not doing anything,” she said.

The Year 9s and 10s have been undertaking projects which have encouraged this enquiring mind. Working in teams, they have been asked to think of what problems they or others might be encountering and come up with a solution and see if there is a market for the ideas.

The Year 9s pitched their business idea to other students in a forum, before developing a presentation to a panel of St Margaret's parents who are in business.

The Year 10s held a trade fair where they had to gauge the interest for their product and reflect upon any feedback and what changes might be required, then consider how they could make their idea happen.

Mathew Stein said everyone has ideas, but you have to believe you can make them happen – that you have the power to create and by doing so create change.

“Giving our students the tools and belief that they have this power lies at the heart of one of the school's strategic intents: ‘Empowering Young Women.’

