

# Somerville 'old girl' donates half a million dollars to the school

The business elite continue splash cash on their Brisbane almas maters with one Somerville House 'old girl' donating half a million dollars to the school.

**CITY BEAT Glen Norris, Chris Herde**

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Somerville House All Girls School in Brisbane

Queensland born and bred, and now Singapore-based, Bethwyn Todd has not forgotten her alma mater. The Asia Pacific president of global agricultural sciences company FMC Corporation has donated \$500,000 to the Somerville House Foundation which will go towards building a clubhouse at SomerFields, a state-of-the art sporting facility at Rocklea.

The donation from the Somerville House old girl (class of 1989) has been matched by the foundation which made the announcement at a lunch on Friday at Howard Smith Wharves.

Todd grew up on a dairy farm south of Beaudesert and after leaving Somerville House studied at the University of Queensland where she graduated with a bachelor of biological sciences. After university she worked

with the Federal Department of Agriculture, then Monsanto Australia where she became managing director before joining FMC.

Her career has taken her from Canberra and Melbourne to Thailand, the USA, China and, most recently, Singapore where she established FMC Asia Pacific headquarters in 2018 which has led the growth and transformation of the business in the region.

In her role with FMC Asia Pacific, Todd oversees 17 countries across the Asia Pacific region and the business equates to around a quarter of the company's global revenue.

Todd gives credit to her parents for choosing to invest in their children's education as their highest priority. Despite being hearing-impaired since birth, she had not let her disability limit her career opportunities. In all her work, Todd also has never strayed far from her farming roots, getting most enjoyment from her interactions with farmers – from the smallholder in the Philippines to the large cotton growers in Australia.



Former Somerville House student Bethwyn Todd.