



# SACA NEWSLETTER

January 2015

## The SACA Business Profile



### Jonathan McCrea (1994)

Jonathan McCrea is a multi-award winning TV and Radio broadcaster, who presents The Lie on TV3, The Science Squad on RTE and Futureproof on Newstalk 106-108fm. He is also the founder of Whipsmart Media, a science and technology communications company based in Dublin.

The Lie is TV3's brand new big-budget studio quiz show that premiered in February 2014. The Lie saw such a ratings boost for TV3 that recommissioning was announced before the third episode had aired and an extended season two of 20 episodes will begin filming in September.

In 2012, Jonathan presented the critically acclaimed series The Science Squad for RTE 1, a 6-part TV series looking at cutting-edge science in Ireland. The second series aired in November of 2013 and the third series is currently in pre-production.

Futureproof is Newstalk's flagship science programme that has travelled the globe from French Guiana to the Arctic Circle. It has been awarded the PPI National Radio Award for Best Specialist Speech Programme in 2012, won silver in 2013 and was also selected for the International Media Award. Jonathan has also been nominated for an IFTA and won a PPI award and 4 nominations for The Spin, a daytime talk show he hosted until 2013 on Spin 1038.

As part of his role as a science communicator, Jonathan has provided training and workshops for

organisations such as The British Council, Science Foundation Ireland and Teagasc. He has also fronted or produced a number of large public events for Enterprise Ireland, Sony Pictures, The Science Gallery, Electric Picnic, Midlands Science Festival, Adidas, Thesis In 3 and Famelab International, among others.

Jonathan has written on science and technology for the Irish Times and the Irish Independent among other outlets and is the resident technology expert on George Hook's prime-time programme on Newstalk, The Right Hook. Jonathan has been a columnist for Stellar Magazine, Confetti and wrote regularly for the Sunday Business Post on film.

He is currently writing two books, Where's My Flying Car? and Say that Again: The Science of Powerful Communication.



## The Latest News from David O'Caomh

"Yeeee boyyyy... Just got my motivation to get 100% better. Got an invite to the first stop of the World Cup 2015 in Australia in March! Gunna work my ass off now!

With no word of US Pro Tour happening this year. This is the biggest thing in Wakeboarding 2015! This is the the Champions League, the UFC, and or the NBA of Wakeboarding! Pumpedddd to be a part of it! Thank you IWWF !! "



It was Christmas Day when I received an email from The Garden of Eden resort in Bocas, which is in Panama, letting me know they wanted me to come and work for them on January 5th which I was really excited about. I really loved Bocas for a number of reasons. Firstly, it is just so much fun, every night of the week there is something going on and it is nearly always a good time. Secondly, you can just as easily escape to serene tranquility on one of the gorgeous little islands as you can find a good party. It's all about the water, to get anywhere you have to hop into a little boat and scoot across the sea, I love this. Everything is colourful and bright, even the tiny shacks that sit on wooden legs in the rough little neighbourhoods around the town have turquoise and bright yellow paint scratched onto them, bringing a little life to a seemingly scatty street. It's friendly, it is the first place since travelling that I feel fully confident walking into a place alone and sitting at the bar. The bar tender will be sure to give you a good chat if not a fellow lone traveler. So those are a few of the many things I loved about the place, so the thought of getting to work there in a resort on one of these islands was very appealing indeed. However, the fact that they wanted me to start on the 5th meant I wouldn't have time to go to Medellin for New Year's with my friends, who I was in Taganga with at the time. So, I had to tell them I was splitting from them to head back to Cartagena to catch the ferry back to Bocas.

I remember sitting outside in the courtyard of our hostel in Medellin, feeling very post Swedish Christmas hung-over mixed with the tail end of my chikungunya, and thinking to

# A New Year, A New Adventure!

By Natasha Murtagh (2010)

One of many blogs Natasha has been writing since she went on her travels last year.

To see more go to  
<https://thenoseyfox.wordpress.com>

myself oh shit, I'm going to be on the ferry for New Year's. I completely forgot that the ferry takes two night and three days and I was planning to catch it on the Tuesday which was the 30th. I had been in contact with my pal Lara who is currently living in Puerto Viejo in Costa Rica but was going to be in Bocas for New Year, telling her I would celebrate with her. So then began the mad planning to try and make it to Bocas on time for the countdown.

I arrived into Cartagena on the 28th and booked into The Chill Out Hostel with Ben my friend from Australia who I first met at that same hostel three weeks ago. It's a great hostel, I highly recommend it, even if it's just to get a kiss every morning, afternoon and night from the gorgeous cleaning lady Sophie. On the 29th I went on a wild goose chase all around Cartagena and the surrounding dodgy areas in search for the ticket office for the ferry. After a solid 5 hours and far too much money spent on transport, I located a travel agency approximately two blocks away from my hostel where the wild goose chase began, where I could book a seat for the ferry.

On Tuesday the 30th, Ben and I said our goodbyes and I was officially on my own. I figured out that if I got off the ferry in Colon Panama, where it stops for 6 hours, caught a bus to Panama City and then caught another night bus up to Bocas, I would make it there for the countdown with Lara. It was going to be tight, but if everything went to plan it could be done.



Find out if Natasha made it in time for midnight and read up on all her other stories from her travels, visit her blog:

<https://thenoseyfox.wordpress.com/2015/01/13/a-new-year-a-new-adventure/>

## Class of 2009 5 Year Reunion

The Class of 2009 celebrated their 5 Year Reunion on Monday 22 December, a date chosen to suit those who had returned from all corners of the globe to celebrate Christmas with their families. What better time is there for a party?!

Over 90 past pupils attended and were in high spirits meeting Peter Fraser for the first time and catching up with their former teachers and matron! Following a reception at St Andrew's they spent the rest of the night in Powerscourt Townhouse dancing the night away.

Special mention must be made of Eoin O'Reilly and the crew who recorded an alternative version of Do They Know It's Christmas? entitled Do They Know It's Chris Minch? Copies of the song were sold on the night raising €390 for KickStart Ghana, the charity nominated by Chris who was Head Boy in 2008/09.



Stuart Loughrey, Scott Ingram and Stephen Cole



Megan Minvielle, Elaine Cuminskus, Emer Hedderman and Charlotte Assoud

## Past Pupils Flying the Flag for Ireland

Congratulations to **Andy Balbirnie (Class of 2009)** and the Ireland cricket team on their magnificent Tri Nations victory. Lots of momentum building as Andy and the Irish team prepare for the Cricket World Cup in New Zealand and Australia next month! Ireland clinched the tri-series in Dubai after their game with Scotland was abandoned without a ball bowled.



Andrew Balbirnie (right) pictured with team mate and the ICC World Cup



Gillian Pinder

Chloe Watkins

Congratulations to **Chloe Watkins (Class of 2010)** and **Gillian Pinder (Class of 2011)** who were part of the Ireland Senior Ladies Hockey squad that travelled to Spain for the Tri Nations competition. Ireland drew the series with Spain, a great result. In the first match Chloe scored the winning goal, beating Spain 2-1. And congratulations to Gillian on winning her 50th cap.



### Congratulations to Eimear McCarthy Luddy (Class of 2009)

Congratulations to Eimear who took part in the Royal Irish Academy of Music's production of Francesco Cavalli's opera Ormindo in the Samuel Beckett Theatre. Eimear graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Birmingham in

2013. She is currently studying for a Diploma in Music Teaching and Performance at the RIAM. Upcoming engagements include the part of Mistress of the Novices in Puccini's opera Suor Angelica at the Abbey Theatre on the Peacock stage from 3rd to 7th March.

Eimear attended her SAC 5 Year Reunion just before Christmas.

Past Pupil Rachel Duffy (Class of 2010) who is studying Design for Stage and Screen at IADT, was part of the Make-Up and Hair Design team working on Ormindo.

## 5X5 by Jamie Killeen (Class of 1999)

I love running – any distance will do, but in particular I find the marathon most appealing. Running continuously for 26.2 miles, you get a real feel for the limits (whether perceived or otherwise) of your body and mind. I ran my first marathon in October 2008, and between then and the start of September 2014, ran a total of 19 marathons or ultra-marathons, with a marathon personal best of 2 hours 58 mins. Myself and my wife Gemma were expecting twins in November 2014, so I knew my love affair with the marathon may take a back seat once they arrived. With that in mind, I decided to ‘front-load’ some races ahead of the birth, and signed up to do 5 marathons in 5 consecutive days in mid-September – part of an event held in Clontarf and Howth.

On 15th of September, I toed the line for the first race (Monday, Wednesday and Friday would be 4 laps of Howth... yes, with that hill; while Tuesday and Thursday’s events were held on the flat coastal route of Clontarf to Sutton and back... and repeat...). Each afternoon and evening during the series, I focused on stretching, eating and sleeping... while also studying ahead of an exam that coming Saturday. Feeling reasonably fresh on the first day, it was tough to stay slow and preserve my strength for the days



Jamie pictured with his family, including his twins, Adam and Sadie Killeen.



Jamie pictured with his mum, Catherine Killeen

ahead, but I got around in one piece and finished in 3 hours 55 mins. Tuesday brought a new experience – the first time I had ever run another marathon the day after completing one - but I got through in 3:58. On Wednesday, back in Howth, it was like a switch was flipped – I felt like a new man, and finished strongly in 3:32. I was still feeling good on Thursday, recording a time of 3:31, before pulling out all the stops on the final marathon on Friday and running my fastest of the week, in 3:27.

It’s hard to do justice to the amount of training, mental and physical work that goes in to preparing for and participating in an event like this in a small article, but I enjoyed almost every minute of the 131 miles or 18 hours and 24 minutes I spent running those 5 marathons. I didn’t have much recovery time, as I needed to study for an exam on the Saturday, which thankfully I passed. A mere week and a half later, our twins, Adam and Sadie were born – 5 weeks early. They are almost 4 months old now and looking after them has been an endurance event of a different kind altogether!



**Attention: Those of you living in London need to check out.....**

The Dairy Restaurant in Clapham Old Town run by Sarah Murphy (Class of 1999) and her partner Robin Gill got a great write up by Tom Parker Bowles in a recent edition of the Mail on Sunday. If you live in the area check it out, reviews have been great.

<http://the-dairy.co.uk/>

<https://twitter.com/thedairyclapham>

## Dates for your Diary

**SACA Boarder's Reunion**  
**Friday 13 February Gleeson's, Booterstown Avenue**  
From 7.30pm  
Contact: Ivan Sutton (086 383 5745)

**St Stephen's Green & Clyde Road Lunch**  
**24th April 2015 Royal St George Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire**  
From 12.30pm

**SACA Business Lunch**  
**29th April 2015 Alexander Hotel, Fenian Street**  
More details on Speakers to follow shortly

**SACA London Reunion**  
**15th May 2015 Central London - TBC**

**SACA Business Lunch**  
**16th September 2015**  
Details to follow

**SACA Golf Outing**  
**18th September 2015 Edmonstown Golf Course**

**SACA Annual Dinner**  
**9th October 2015**  
7pm: Drinks Reception at St Andrew's College  
8.30pm: Dinner at Radisson Blu St Helen's Hotel, Stillorgan Road.

**10 & 20 Year Reunion for Classes of 2005 and 1995:**  
**14th November 2015**  
7pm: Drinks Reception at St Andrew's College  
8.30pm: Dinner and Music at Dublin City Hilton, Charlemont Place, Dublin 2

More information about all these events will be available  
at a later date.

Stay up to date on day to day announcements by liking the Alumni Page on facebook or following us on twitter.

## Engagements

Andrew Casey (Class of 2000) to Karla Pires  
Shaun O'Brien (Class of 2002) to Ceira Lambert  
Robert Dunne (Class of 2000) to Jessica Dunne

## Weddings

Roisin Flinn (Class of 2004) to Phil Hosie  
Jenny McArdle (Class of 1995) to Brendan Bourke  
Margo Harbourne (Class of 2002) to Niall Roche

## Births

Debbie Taylor (Class of 1999) and Adam a daughter Chloe Louise, a sister for Theo Garrett Byrne and Sarah.

Simon Watson (Class of 1988) and Christine, a son Hugo.

Rachel Hoban (née MacManus) (Class of 1999) and Anthony, a daughter Lauren.

Keith Spencer (Class of 1998) and Kate, a son Richard.



### The Nook

Sadly The Nook sweet shop owning legend that was Mr Lysaght passed away just before Christmas. RIP Mr Lysaght - many happy alumni memories go with you!