



CAROLINE
CHISHOLM
CATHOLIC COLLEGE



ALUMNI

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times

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From the Editor

Welcome to the new style Alumni Times. Over my time working on this publication, I have reached out to our alumni and spent time talking to some of you regarding your time at the school and what you want from our Alumni Times publication.

It has been a pleasure to hear the wonderful stories and see you all catch up again at our alumni reunion night. Makes me think about getting together with my graduating cohort.

I hope that the new format of Alumni Times is a welcome change and sees more of what you, the reader, wants to see and read. But improvement never stops, so keep the feedback coming and we will continue to work on this publication, *YOUR* publication, in the years to come.

Amy Miller

Marketing and Communications Coordinator



Waa the crow and Bunjil the eagle

Acknowledgement of Country

Caroline Chisholm Catholic College acknowledges the Marin-Bulluk, Wurundjeri Woi wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which our school is located and where we learn, pray, and gather as a community. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past and present. Caroline Chisholm Catholic College is committed to honouring the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of the lands of Australia and their unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, skies, stars, waters, and seas as well as their rich contribution to society.



Photo by Jordan Wozniak on Unsplash

Prayer You Are With Us

God of Love,

You are with us in every transition and change,

As we end this year and enter into a new era with excitement and even some anxiety,

We recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love.

We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us.

We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment.

We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.

Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.

We ask this in your Holy Name.

Amen.

From the Principal



When I reflect on the direction education is taking and what we offer the students entrusted into our care I can't help focusing on the fact that we live in a time where education appears to be all about data and measures. Whilst I understand the importance of being data driven and trying to measure the success of our educational programs, I also believe we must ensure this focus doesn't come at a cost of the richness of all the other wonderful educational outcomes that schools such as ours offer that have no measure but are crucial in a holistic education.

So it is with much pride that I reflect on the past fifty odd years of Caroline Chisholm Catholic College educating and developing fine young men and women, achieving great academic outcomes whilst nurturing all other elements of our student learning and wellbeing. Educational programs like our Learner Mentor program, which focuses on personal skills and characteristics not always addressed in the mainstream curriculum, guarantee our students leave us as well-rounded young adults. Offering a broad range of educational pursuits is one of the reasons I believe the College currently enjoys a positive reputation both within the College and wider community.

Past students of the College have gone on to use the skills learnt and the values witnessed in their time at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College to prosper in the wider

community, whether in the business world, sporting world, performing arts or any other area in society.

It's no accident that entering 2023 we have the largest student population the College has seen. It's the sum of understanding our families, educational strategy and teacher skill sets, combined with facility improvements, student results and communication to name a few. One could argue that most importantly, it's the relationships we hold with our current, incoming, outgoing and past families. Relationships that can withstand the sometimes-difficult situations that arise in school settings, strengthening the partnership between College, family and student. The foundational element of trust that proves together, we can achieve and succeed. While cost and value are important factors in school choice, the underpinning worth of culture, tradition and values are three of the most crucial.

There are many things that go into building a positive school culture and it would be risky to limit it to a few elements however for the purpose of highlighting why we currently enjoys such a reputation I suggest the values of acceptance and compassion, which are included in our four pillars, are crucial in establishing a positive culture in the community. We work hard at establishing and fostering positive relationships with all members of our community. I believe we share similar values and goals which ensures there is a great sense of purpose and direction creating a very positive environment.

The growing trend of past students sending their sons and daughters to the College has never been stronger and is testament to the strong traditions the College has been able to establish over the past sixty years. We are blessed to share in the education that we offer here at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College that we know will provide our students with a well-rounded education looking after all their educational needs allowing them to develop into good Christians and honest citizens. An education based on faith, acceptance, compassion and excellence.

Robert Brennan
Principal



Building & Facilities Update

Blessed Benedict Daswa Hall

After a process that spanned a few years, marred with COVID delays, the College's new multi-purpose hall was blessed by Bishop Martin Ashe and officially opened Thursday, 31 March 2022.

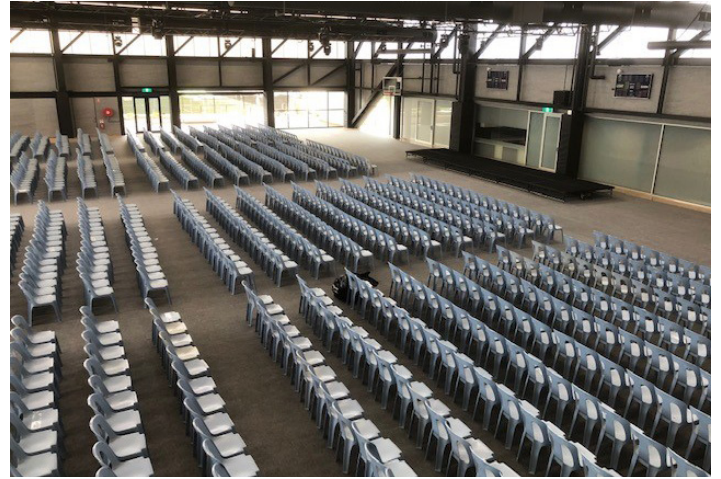
This beautiful facility has been named after an outstanding member of the Catholic tradition, Tshimangadzo Samuel Benedict Daswa.

He was a person of deep faith whose life was lived in and for the love of Jesus. He was a dedicated teacher and principal, a coach and athlete, a gardener and steward of creation, a loving husband and father, a friend of all young people and a builder of community.

With these many beautiful attributes, his name and example were seen as an ideal choice for the newly built hall. The feeling was that the gatherings and activities to be undertaken in the hall matched beautifully with how Benedict Daswa lived his life.

The intention is that the hall will be a place of community building and celebration, teaching and learning, sporting achievement and joy, and positive interactions between staff and students.

With two full-sized basketball courts, along with markings for a range of other sporting codes, the hall also provides a space for all three campuses, staff included, to gather for assembly, mass, even our annual Talent Quest.



Garema Dumont

Nestled in the native bushlands of the Brisbane Ranges is our Outdoor Education Facility, Garema Dumont. This is used every year (minus COVID times) for camps, outdoor education studies, team building, and as part of our focus on sustainability via our conservation efforts of the area. This year, the site and all our wonderful staff who manage the facility saw an exciting upgrade. New facilities including dormitories and an indoor discovery centre, along with upgrades to amenities and kitchen facility.



General purpose at CTK

Christ the King received its new science wing back in 2021, which we featured in previous editions of Alumni Times. With a bit of ingenuity, this year saw the transformation of our old and dark science rooms to open, bright and flexible new teaching spaces. Two general purpose classrooms, complete with all the technology we have come to love, sit on either side of the new break out space, furnished with movable couches to allow for a range of learning layouts.



Students Where are they now?

Kayla Grech

Class of 2016

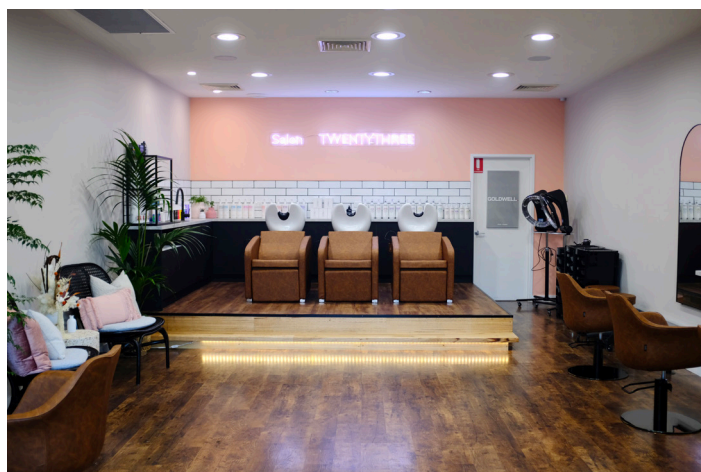
My name is Kayla Grech, and I am a past student of Caroline Chisholm Catholic Collage. I am now 24 and here to tell you my story of what lead me to opening my very own hairdressing salon.

My story began back in Year 10 when I decided to go into the VCAL program, which was run by Mr Bernie O'Keefe. When I made the decision to go into VCAL, I was determined to start the program having a school-based apprenticeship lined up because I wanted to make the most of what the VCAL program had to offer. Hairdressing was something I always had my heart set on. I was extremely grateful that I was supported and able complete my final years at the College, as well as working and completing my TAFE course. If it wasn't for the College and all my amazing teachers allowing me to juggle all three things from Years 10 – 12, I wouldn't have been able to become a qualified Hairdresser one year after graduating high school.

I would say all my teachers left a massive impression on me; they helped shape me into the person that I am today - Mr O'Keefe especially. I remember he would always say to us "if you wanted to live the dream, you must put in the hard work and be a doer. Things won't get handed to you. If you really wanted something, work for it with everything you have," and that's something that has stuck with me every day, it keeps me motivated to keep growing my business and I am always looking at ways I can improve it.

One thing I miss about the College and doing the VCAL program is that we weren't just peers to one another, we became a family. We could lean on one another for support and we could go to our teachers for anything.

Some advice I would like to leave to any student today and in the future is, don't put pressure on yourselves to be perfect because no one is. We will always make mistakes but that is what builds and shapes us into the people that we are and who we become. If you find something you are truly passionate about follow that dream and make it your reality. You can achieve anything that you put your mind to and don't let anyone tell you differently.



Students Where are they now?

Norman Capapas

Class of 1994

I've returned to teach at CCC after graduating 28 years ago. I started at St John's in 1988 and graduated in 1994 from what was then just referred to as Chisholm College. Back then I wanted to do everything. In VCE I studied History, Legal Studies, Psychology and Art and I wanted to be all those things. Having to choose a path once graduating, I went on to do a Degree in Professional Writing thinking that I would go on to writing the greatest novel of all time. After three years, and still no greatest ever novel, I embarked on a career in publishing, starting off with an internship at a small family run publishing house as a Publisher's Assistant. This job saw me doing a bit of everything, from typing manuscripts to getting coffee.

Two years of this made me realise I did not want to sit at a desk reading through manuscript after manuscript, so I went back to school and completed a Graduate Diploma in Education. My first teaching stint was in Tokyo, Japan as an English teacher for a strangely named preparation college called Human International. The focus of this college was to get the students ready to sit their IELTS test so they can go to universities overseas. I have kept in touch with some of my students from my time in Tokyo and am proud of what they have gone on to achieve. One works for creative development at Nissan, another is a pilot with ANA, and one is now a lecturer of International Studies at RMIT. During this time, I also worked for Japan's biggest publishing company, Benesse, as a freelance editor and writer.

Since returning from Japan, I have worked in many different educational contexts. I recently completed my Masters in Education (Policy), while working full-time. The focus of my Masters was on examining policies on diversity in schools and interrogating the way in which these policies can be underpinned by neoliberal, middle class, normative assumptions. This led me to volunteer on the Curriculum Committee of the Victorian Association for the Teachers of English, where I attempt to promote ideas around diversity and diverse text selection and sees me presenting at the annual VATE State Conference.

From where I started to where I am now, each experience, each elimination of job I might like, has been monumental to my growth and to be where I am today.

What left the biggest impression?

During my time at the College, I was busy being involved in as many activities as I could. I was on the Student Council Executive Committee, the Yearbook committee, and the committee that organised the various socials that used to be held. Being such an eager beaver, I recall that a friend of mine and myself took the initiative to start a student led newsletter. I also recall being told to see the principal due to some controversial views I had written. All these activities made me realise that schooling is more than just

a place where we learn the 3Rs. Schools are an integral part of our upbringing. It is where we learn to socialise, where we can develop our longest and most profound friendships. School is often where we experience love and loss and how to overcome adversity. For some students, school is a haven from the craziness of home life. Schools are often places where we also navigate our identities and formulate our ideals and values. This happens in classrooms, in relationships with teachers and of course with peers.

What do you miss most about the College?

Being back at the college as a teacher is like coming back to something familiar yet very different. There have been many improvements to the College. I certainly miss being a student, sitting in class and learning new things. Although I haven't kept in touch with many people from my time here, I have fond memories of connections I made here with my peers.

What advice do you have for students today?

I would advise students to balance their time between schoolwork and other commitments, including social commitments. Be involved in the wider community and don't be afraid to explore things outside your immediate vicinity. Get into the habit of reading widely and often. Further, you will never know how life will turn out so be fully present and emersed in whatever you choose to do after school. Most people will change jobs and careers so don't worry if you are still unsure about what you want to do. Don't be afraid of change. Take risks, embrace change, and allow for the possibility of failure. For some, school is not a positive experience and for these students I say, seek out an ally, find those who are willing to listen, and remember - it'll be okay, someday



Students Where are they now?

Claudia De Simio

Class of 2012

I graduated Caroline Chisholm Catholic College in 2012. My time at the College was one with many fond memories; establishing great friendships, getting to know many wonderful teachers, and having the opportunity to obtain an education in a safe and supportive environment.

During my senior years of secondary school, I found my strengths and passion navigate towards subjects such as Biology and Accounting. Soon realising these subjects led to vastly different careers I struggled with submitting university degree preferences to determine the direction and career pathway I should pursue. After seeking advice of the College career councillor, I found that Monash University offered a double degree in Commerce & Science. Finding out that these alternative options were available was liberating. Being accepted into this degree provided another four years to get a deeper appreciation for these industries and fields of study, along with the personal growth over that period, to then make the decision of which career path I would take. Spoiler alert, it was accounting.

By the end of my third year of university, I was leaning towards an accounting profession. To ensure I was certain, I applied for an Internship with Coles in their Finance department. Completing this work experience over my last year of university was incredibly valuable. I was given a taste of working in a finance function of a large corporation, had the opportunity to put theory into practice, increased my business acumen and obtained practical experience as I headed into the job market for a graduate position.

The following year I was lucky enough to be accepted into the NAB Finance Graduate Program. Almost six years later and I am still working at NAB, having worked in six different roles over that time, mainly in areas of Management Accounting.

I still say that I don't know what I want to be when I grow up, as being an accountant for another 40 years of my working life doesn't sound all that fun. However, all I know is how incredibly lucky I am to have had the privilege of a strong education, the opportunities, and mentors I've had along the way with the stability of my role through difficult times, so for that I am grateful and will continue to take each day as it comes.



What do you miss most about the College?

That's easy, the people! During my time at the College, I felt like I always had a strong support network around, whether it was your closest friends, other peers in the classroom or the teachers. There was always people around, encouraging you to do your best.

Being surrounded by great people really helped me become who I am today and luckily for me, many of them are still in my life today - maybe not so lucky for them.

What left the biggest impression?

The biggest impression for me was the values of the College. Reflecting on my time at school I don't think back to grades and assessments, or awards and rankings. It's how you build relationships, treat others the way you would like to be treated, respect of those around you and yourself as well as the opportunities to become whatever you would like to be.

What advice do you have for students today?

I think I have three main pieces of advice which have helped me over the years. Firstly, be grateful. Often as humans, we default to what is wrong with the situation or what should be done better. Make a conscience effort to be grateful for what you have and actively try to make the most of it.

Secondly, follow your passions and strengths. Our working lives are incredibly long. Do something you enjoy or are passionate about. If you are like me and haven't found your passion in life; follow your strengths - that has worked well for me so far.

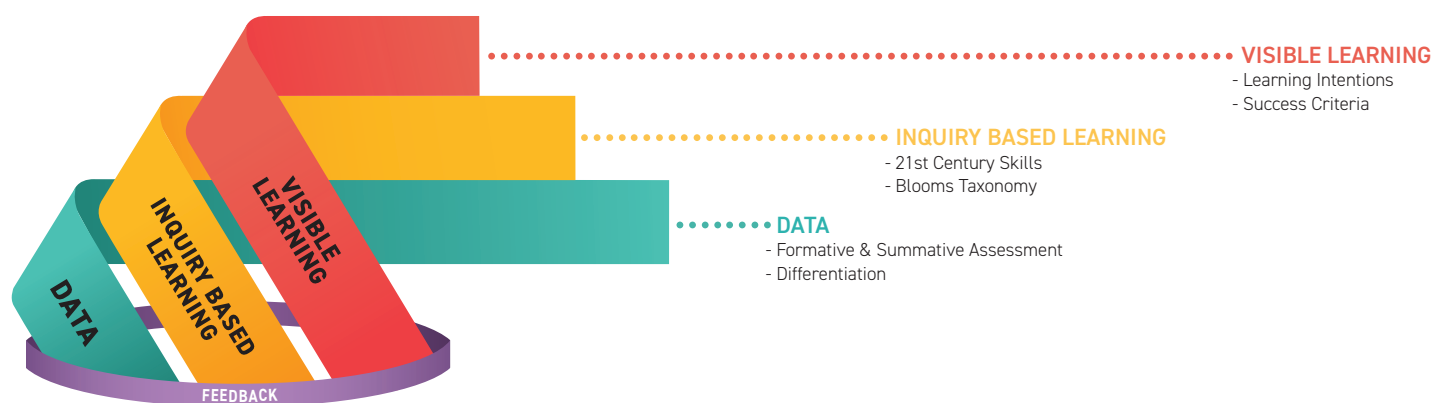
Last but not least, surround yourself with good people. Spend your time with those who make you happy, where you can share experiences, learnings, and perspectives and most of all make you a better person. Finding your network is incredibly rewarding, but most of all makes life fun.



Education Evolution at CCCC

Education is an everchanging space to be in. It is constantly evolving with new literature, new teaching models and the evolution of using data to inform teachers of the students in front of them. With so much educational research and many differing opinions, one consistent message comes through and that is the importance of knowing the learner; knowing the student sitting in front of you. What do they like? What do they know? Where are the gaps in their learning? How do they like to learn? What are the barriers in their lives that may impact their ability to learn?

The staff have developed a new Pedagogical Framework at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College for 2022 and beyond. This model is built on three main ribbons: Visible Learning, Inquiry Based Learning and Data. All of which are underpinned by feedback.



Preparing students for the real world, no matter what pathway they are interested in, is at the forefront of what we are doing. Embedding the 21st Century skills needed in any workplace, industry, or occupation such as organisation, problem solving, emotional intelligence and teamwork are crucial across the curriculum. Not to mention the ability to give and receive feedback and apply feedback regularly.

Technology is another rapidly changing space in education. We now integrate many more digital support resources such as Edrolo, Education Perfect and Stile into lessons. These become an excellent source of formative assessment and a great data gathering tool to check student understanding. The global COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of schools, and this meant that teachers had to convert their educational content overnight into a digital format that could be accessed remotely. Remote learning created unique opportunities for students to interact with study materials, and teachers had to allow students access to a variety of different mediums – such as video assisted learning, podcasts, live chats and more. The focus now is finding the balance of digital support and hands on learning, and deciding how to use these newfound platforms in a way that brings out the best in our students.

Education is an exciting and evolving space. Each year brings new challenges, new ideas, new tools and strategies. The College is working towards innovation in learning and teaching and remains committed to delivering engaging curriculum in an environment where every single student has a voice in their learning. Watch this space.

Laura Ruddick

Deputy Principal – Learning & Teaching

Staff Where are they now?

Sarah Mollison

On our staff, we have an abundance of talented teachers, many of whom bring with them a range of skills and life experiences. One of these is Sarah Mollison.

Sarah is a World Champion and five-time World Cup lacrosse player. In 2005 Australia won gold defeating the US 14-7. She was a co-vice captain in 2017 and has played in two World Games with Australia winning bronze medals behind USA and Canada. Sarah is currently a teacher in the Health, Physical Education and Outdoor Environmental Studies.

Along with two fellow teachers, Sarah supported a group of junior students to train and become a team. These Year 7 & 8 students represented the College in the SSV State Junior Championships round robin competition, providing these students with professional lessons and an opportunity to experience a sporting code they may not have previously thought about.



Staff Where are they now?

Paola De Simio

My name is Paola De Simio and I have been teaching at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College since 1987. During this time, I have had the opportunity to grow professionally by teaching Mathematics at different year levels and I have held several different leadership positions.

Many students I have taught are now teaching at the College and it brings me so much joy seeing them working and contributing to the spirit of our college community. My own daughter, Claudia De Simio is a graduate of the College and this year she celebrates 10 years since her graduation!!!!

One of my favourite events on the College calendar is the Alumni reunion night. It is a night fun of laughter and lots of "do you remember..." moments. It is wonderful to catch up with ex students and discuss their life journey after graduating.

Caroline Chisholm Catholic College has been more than just a workplace, it is a supportive, caring, inclusive community at which I am proud to be a part.



2022 Reunion Night





Sports is back on the Agenda

Physical activity and sport are fundamental elements of education. The benefits are more than just physical health; it is mental, cognitive and social.

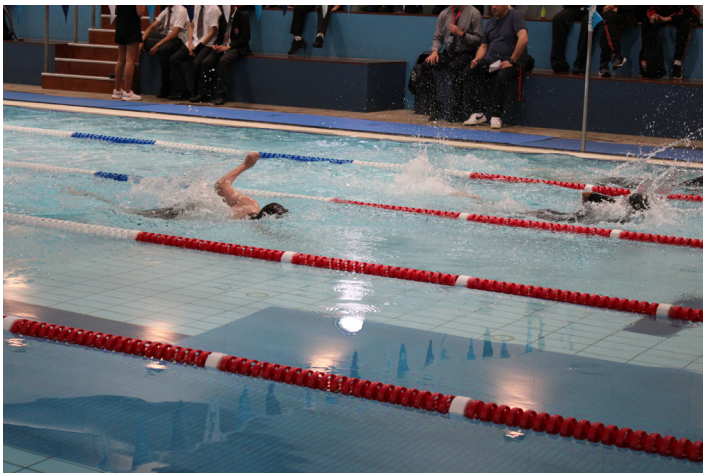
The sports program at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College has always aimed to promote participation across a range of sporting codes, giving students the chance to either try something new and discover a passion, or excel at their favoured sport.

New to the team this year, Aaron Ayre joined us as Director of Sports. With a background in professional cricket as well as owning and managing a gym, he has brought to the College a passion for and focus on sports. Throughout this year, our students have managed to win 9+ championships within the SACCSS Competition including our first ever division one title which came in the Senior Boys Volleyball. All sports have been seeing improvements in not only results but also participation. CCCC was one of only two colleges to enter two senior hockey teams, and we welcomed our first junior girls AFL team.

By providing an extensive sports program we are aiming to actively promote a healthy lifestyle along with a nice balance between schoolwork and physical activity. This is imperative for the wellbeing of some of our students who thrive on the sports field a little more than they do in the classroom.

Training sessions and games are played within school hours or shortly after school, enabling students to continue their association with external sporting clubs. This allows for students to actively pursue their own individual sporting goals and opportunities outside of their College life.

Our 2022 focus has been to provide our students with opportunities that will aid them in becoming well rounded people who are able to juggle school commitments as well as sporting, or hobby, passions. We aim to provide a way for every student in the school to participate in sport across the year to not only promote a healthy lifestyle but also help build our school spirit.



College News

25th Anniversary College Musical

Can you believe that it has been 25 years of College productions as Caroline Chisholm Catholic College! The 2022 production team did current and past students and staff proud! They performed what has been said time and time again a “professional and seamless” show.

Little Shop of Horrors told a strange and wonderful story about an alien plant trying to take over the world, and of course mixed in was a love story between Seymour and Audrey.



Celebrating Family

Introduced in 2021, but ramped up this without the limits of restrictions, our inaugural events of Mother's and Father's Day Mass and Breakfast have both been well received. It is in these small events and subtle moments we ensure we keep our community connected.



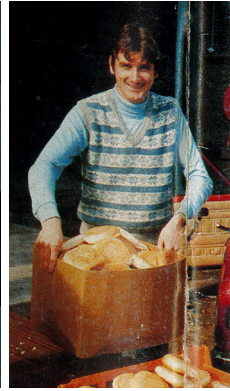
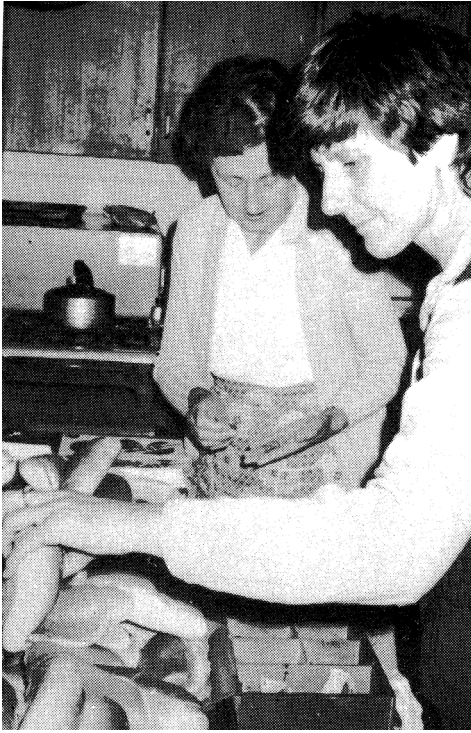
House Spirit Events

With a change to our Learner Mentor (aka homegroup, form, *insert your cohorts title*), our House Coordinators had to think outside the box of how to build House spirit.

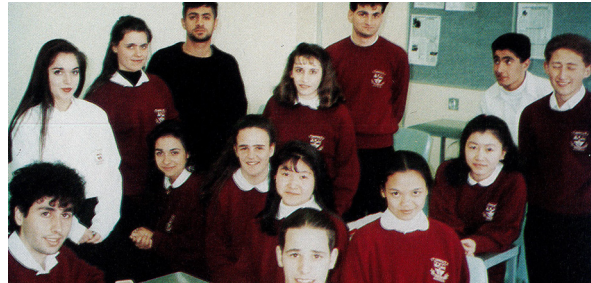
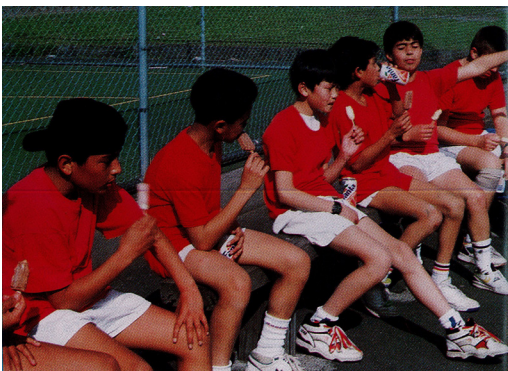
Lunchtime sporting competitions on Kinder Smith oval were a feature during the warmer months (hello tug-of-war). Athletics Day brought out everyone's competitive nature, with Ambrose taking the win for 2022. And more deliciously recently, in conjunction with our Faith in Action team, we hosted a week-long House Charity Food Drive. The week consisted of cupcakes, sushi, sausage sizzle, and pizza!



From the Archives



1982



1992

From the Archives



The Last Word

Where are YOU now?

We would love to hear what you've been up to since leaving the College. Share your memories and photos from your time at school and your journey to the present day.

Email alumni@cccc.vic.edu.au to express your interest in our *Where are they now?* section.

Tell us what you think

This edition of Alumni Times saw an overhaul to the content included. This was with thanks to and help of our alumni and their feedback. But we can always improve. Alumni Times celebrates Caroline Chisholm Catholic College's past, present and future.

We would love to hear your feedback about this edition and your ideas for future ones via alumni@cccc.vic.edu.au.

Year 7 2025 Enrolments

Applications will open Friday, 27 January 2023 for our Year 7 2025 cohort.

Visit our website, www.cccc.vic.edu.au, to book a tour, request a prospectus or for further information.



Alumni Notices

WE ARE GOING PAPERLESS!

Life changes, so do our details – along with our delivery of messages. Moving forward, we will be adopting paperless communication with our Alumni. If you would like to keep in touch, and we really want you to, update your email address with us via:

Email - alumni@cccc.vic.edu.au

Online - www.cccc.vic.edu.au – via our online registration form

Our publications will continue to be available on our website, and stories shared on our social media sites.

Volunteers and Mentors Welcome

We always welcome the support of our alumni for a range of College events, including Open Days, Reunion Nights and performing arts shows. This can be a once off or on going, depending on your circumstances.




We also welcome and appreciate volunteers who can act as mentors for our Year 12 students as they enter their next chapter, whether it be at university, in a trade or full-time work.

If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please email alumni@cccc.vic.edu.au.



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