



CAROLINE
CHISHOLM
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

ALUMNI

DECEMBER 2024

times

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From the Editor

Welcome to the December 2024 Edition of the Alumni times!

This year has been one of change and reflection for Caroline Chisholm Catholic College.

Having lost our beloved Principal, Robert Brennan, staff and students have worked hard to ensure his vision for the College continues to live on. We, like you, look forward to Christmas and the message of hope and renewal that it brings.

We have farewelled our Class of 2024, who have made a lasting impression on the College through their hard work, determination and kind hearts. We wish you all well as you transition from students to Alumni, and hope to continue seeing you at various events throughout the years, including your own reunions.

Our Alumnly platform has continued to grow this year, with more registrations coming in every day. If you've not yet accessed the platform let us know, and we can send you a registration link. We release tickets in advance to a number of events, as well as posting photos updating you all with the latest Caroline Chisholm News!

Looking towards 2025, we will be introducing a Christ the King tour for Alumni who may be interested, as well as working towards the next Alumni event.

Finally, we wish you all a wonderful festive season. Merry Christmas!

Adelaide Morse
Marketing and Communications Coordinator



"Protectors of the Land" artwork by Simone Thompson, which is displayed at our 204 campus student entrance

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 College 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.

From the Principal

Dear Alumni,

As Advent ushers us into a season of hope, reflection, and preparation, it also invites us to consider the blessings and challenges of the year gone by. This moment is particularly poignant for me as I finish my time as Acting Principal, reflecting on a year of growth, resilience, and collaboration at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College.

The journey of 2024 has been both challenging and rewarding. Without Rob at the helm, we have faced new terrains together, continuing to honour his vision of providing the best education for our students. Education, as we know, is the cornerstone of a successful future, and I am proud of how we have upheld this mission. His leadership has left an indelible mark, shaping a culture of high expectations, innovation, and care. Rob's dedication to fostering opportunities for every student to succeed, both academically and personally, has created a legacy that continues to guide us. This year, as we strived to honour his vision in his absence, we were reminded of the profound influence of his leadership and the strong foundation he has built for our College's future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Alumni for your support throughout the year. Seeing so many of you at the reunion was a wonderful reminder of how significant a part our College has played in your lives, and hearing your stories and sharing your memories was wonderful.

As 1 Thessalonians 5:18 reminds us, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Let us carry this spirit of gratitude into the Christmas season, cherishing our families, friendships, and faith.

May the holiday season bring you joy, peace, and the warmth of community. Wishing you all a restful and blessed Christmas.

Warm regards,

Laura Ruddick
Acting Principal

Prayer The Joy of Christmas

The joy of discovery
that moment when hope and expectation
were gloriously met
by the illumination of one bright star.
We cannot imagine
what words were spoken by visitors
or if first impressions
left them somewhat confused.

Messiah, Saviour, Emmanuel, a King
born in the simplest of palaces.
Yet they saw and fell down
on their knees in adoration.
As we meet around table, crib
tree, candle or advent wreath
draw us into that encounter with you,

Our God who is with us.

In the quiet moments of prayer
this Christmas, that brief reprieve
from the bustle of the world
and the distractions around us,
bring alive to our senses
the smell of the hay
the sound of the animals
the cry of a baby.

Draw us close to our Saviour
Messiah and King as we bring
not Gold, Myrrh or Frankincense
but the gift of our lives and our love
the only offering we can bring,

and lay it before the one,

who has given his life in love of us,

so that we might exclaim

"Alleluia, peace on Earth, good news to all."

Amen.

Our 2024 College Leaders

Staff Leadership Team



Laura Ruddick
Acting Principal



Tristan O'Brien
*Deputy Principal -
Faith and Mission*



Stephanie Banks
*Deputy Principal -
Student Wellbeing*



Kathelyn Nguyen
Director of Operations



Lauren Markovic
*Acting Deputy Principal -
Learning and Teaching*



Allan Thompson
Business Manager

Student Executive Committee



Micah Cursio
College Captain



Mathias Sisay
College Captain



Jessica (Mimi) Nguyen
*College Vice Captain
(Wellbeing)*



Josed Sawadan
*College Vice Captain
(Faith)*



Stella Nguyen
*College Vice Captain
(Community)*



Cameron Crawford
*College Vice Captain
(Learning)*

The Father Karmel Borg Scholarship Fund

Dear Alumni,

As we approach the Christmas season, I hope you are well and looking forward to this season of joy, reflection, and giving with your friends and family.

We are reaching out to you, as a valued member of our Caroline Chisholm Catholic College community, with an opportunity to help continue a legacy of compassion and generosity that lies at the heart of our College's educative mission.

The Fr Karmel Borg Scholarship Fund was established to provide financial assistance to students and families who face financial challenges in accessing education. Named in honour of Fr Borg who was devoted to providing opportunities to all students, especially in his role as parish priest of St Peter Chanel, Deer Park one of our associated Catholic primary schools. The fund ensures that the gift of education is available to all families who wish to join our College community. Your support will make a direct impact on students, empowering them to grow in knowledge, faith, sense of their own dignity and feelings of belonging to this community.

In this season of giving, we invite you to consider a donation to the Fr Karmel Borg Scholarship Fund. Any contribution, no matter the size, will help a student in need to experience the full and formative education offered at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, helping them to reach their potential and inspire others.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. To make a donation please follow the steps below:

1. Transfer a donation to the College at Account Name: Fr Borg Scholarship Fund BSB:083 347 and Account Number: 171456520
2. Include your full name and "Borg Donation" in the reference
3. Email a copy of your transfer receipt to accounts@ccc.vic.edu.au
4. A tax receipt will be returned to you once the donation has been received

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our young people. We wish you and your family a joyful and blessed Christmas.



Students / Employees

Where are they now?

Each year, Caroline Chisholm Catholic College employs a number of students from the previous years graduating class.

This is done in a variety of ways. We have students who come back to work with our AV department on a casual basis, who started learning the ropes when they were in Year 12, we have students who come back in a full time capacity for a first 'proper' job, and we have students who return as part of different traineeship programs.

In this edition of the Alumni times, we're focusing on our employees who have returned from the class of 2023 to work with us this year, and share their thoughts and experiences from 'the other side'.



Marc Buelo Class of 2023

I was given the opportunity to be employed at the College near the end of Year 12, when I was not set on what I wanted to do after finishing high school.

I took the leap and applied, and just the year after I had graduated, I found myself coming back as an employed trainee at the same school I had just left a few months before.

It has been an eye opening experience that has given me an invaluable glimpse into the workforce that I otherwise would not have been exposed to if I went straight to university. It has given me the chance to assess where I wanted to go post the gap year and it was the best decision I could have chosen in November last year. The community has been nothing short of supportive in recognising that I was still quite directionless and they have done their best to encourage me to deeply consider what pathway to take.

The same people who had been my teachers for up to six years had now become my colleagues and they had done exceptionally well in helping me reach my potential as a student, and now as a coworker who was struggling with uncertainty. I cannot thank them all enough for their endless support as I found my way through this year. While I knew that the role was only for a year, I have made the most of it and taken on every opportunity that presented itself.

The College has been a healthy and nurturing environment that allowed me the avenues to work outside my set role and explore areas in sports and academics in a school environment. These opportunities have facilitated my skill development through hands-on experience that heightens my employability in other industries.

The College has been home since I first walked through the doors as a Year 7 in 2018, and it still had that same feel on my first day in late January as I left. No place else will welcome diversity and community support better than Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, and I will always be grateful knowing that it is much more than just a place for learning, it is a place of faith, acceptance, compassion and excellence. Now as I prepare to go to University next year, I know I owe it to the College that I am making the right decision; through all the support and encouragement, the guidance and direction. It has been a fruitful year of experience and opportunity.

Students Where are they now?

Viktoria Grzybowicz Class of 2023

After graduating from high school, I never imagined I would return to Caroline Chisholm Catholic College as an employee, but life has a way of surprising you. The opportunity to come back to my high school as an administrative staff member happened unexpectedly when I bumped into one of my former teachers while leaving my job at Coles. We started chatting, and before I knew it, she offered me a position at the College. It felt like the perfect fit, and I jumped at the chance to give back to the community that played such a significant role in shaping who I am today.

Now, as a member of the administrative team, my day-to-day tasks are varied and dynamic. I assist students with their needs, from helping them navigate their schedules to providing first aid. One of my primary responsibilities is assisting in the print room, ensuring that staff members have all the materials they need for their classes. Whether it's printing assignments or preparing resources for lessons, it's a busy and important part of the school's operations. It's rewarding to be the behind-the-scenes support that helps everything run smoothly. What I love most about working at the College is the sense of community. Despite the usual chaos of a busy school environment, it truly feels like a big family here. Of course, like any family, we have our moments of dysfunction, but it's those moments that make the experience feel genuine and real. There's a level of camaraderie and collaboration that makes coming to work every day enjoyable. I feel like I'm part of something bigger, and that's incredibly fulfilling.

One of the biggest surprises I've encountered in my role is just how much work actually goes into running a school. As a student, it's easy to take for granted how much goes on behind the scenes—administrative staff work tirelessly to ensure everything operates smoothly. Whether it's coordinating schedules, managing resources, or supporting students, the amount of organisation required to keep everything running is remarkable. I've gained a deeper appreciation for the complexities of the educational system and how much coordination is needed to create an effective learning environment.

This role has also taught me a great deal about patience and resilience. In a fast-paced environment where there are constant demands and new challenges every day, staying calm and patient has been crucial. I've learned to manage competing priorities and handle multiple tasks simultaneously. These skills will undoubtedly help me in future employment, as being able to stay organized, focused, and patient is key in any professional setting. Overall, this experience has provided me with valuable life lessons and has equipped me with skills that will be essential as I move forward in my career.

Returning to the College has been an incredible experience. Not only have I had the opportunity to give back, but I've also learned so much about the inner workings of an educational institution. It's been a rewarding journey, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue being part of this wonderful community.



Alumni Reunion Night



We were thrilled to welcome back so many of our Alumni for our 2024 Reunion Evening.

Students from the classes of 1971, 1974, 1981, 1984, 1991, 1994, 2001, 2004, 2011 and 2014 returned to Caroline Chisholm Catholic College on the evening of the 8th of November to reconnect with one another share stories of the past , and see the school as it is now!

A highlight of the evening is always the tours we run, as generally each graduating class goes together. This year we heard stories about detentions spent running laps of the playing fields, where classrooms used to be and first memories of performing on what was then a very different stage!

Our new Blessed Daswa Hall received a lot of commentary, as did the Quin Auditorium, as Alumni compared what had been versus what is now and it brings us so much joy to be able to have shared with so many of you what your College can now provide new students.

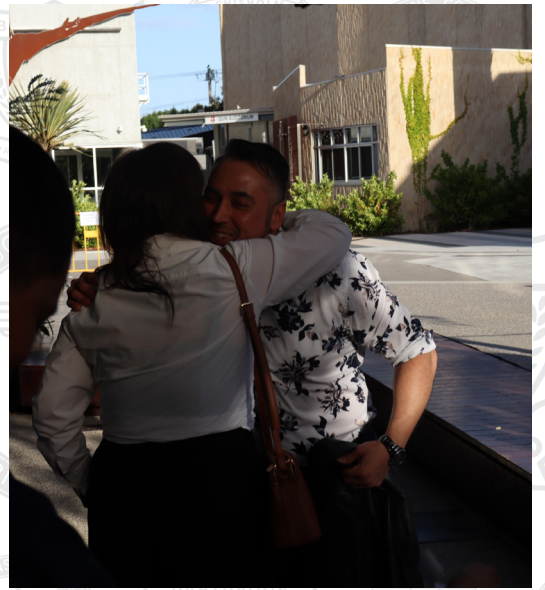
Yearbooks also proved popular with our Alumni. While some kindly bought their own, others enjoyed reading through the ones we provided. Seeing our Alumni find themselves (and in some cases, their partners!) in the Yearbooks is so heartwarming, as we see the memories come flooding back.

We hope we will see the classes of 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005 and 2015 next year on Friday 7 November for our next reunion!







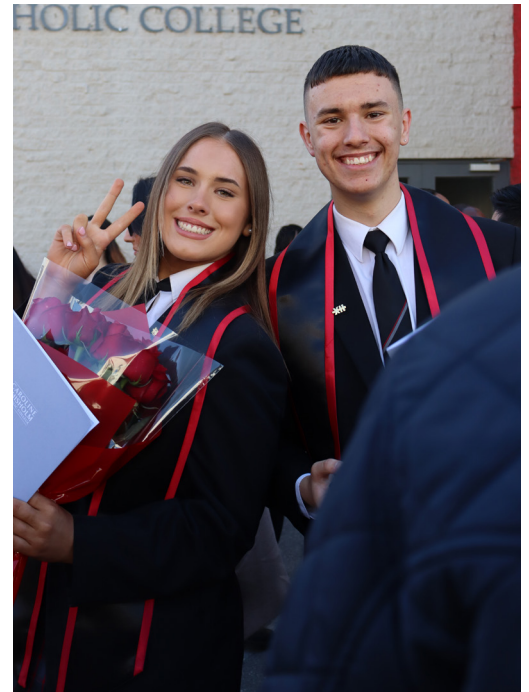


Current Events Wrap-up

College Musical - The Wizard of Oz

Friday 9 August and Saturday 10 August

Our College Musical is always a highlight of the school Calendar, with students for 2024 singing, dancing and acting their way through the beloved classic, The Wizard of Oz. As always, they did an incredible job, and we loved every minute of the two shows!



Year 12 Farewells

Thursday 24 and Friday 25 October

Farewelling our Year 12 students is always bittersweet. On the one hand, we're so excited to see those we've nurtured go out into their lives as alumni, but we will also miss their presence around our school.

We wish all our wonderful, now Alumni, class of 2024 all the best, and look forward to seeing you all in the future at reunions, school events and special occasions!

Summer Music Concert

Tuesday 19 November

Our Summer Music Concert is always a special moment here at 4Cs, with incredible musical talent on display, and many of our Year 12 students who have already graduated return for a final hurrah!

This year we moved for the first time out onto our playing Green, in a picnic style setting. This option proved popular, with lots of lawn chairs and picnic blankets set up, and an ever successful sausage sizzle!



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 4Cs 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

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

Book a Tour

If you have a child, grandchild, or other student who will soon be entering Grade 5, don't forget to book in a tour to see our facilities and hear about our school!

You can book a tour for enrolling a student into 2027 from the beginning of next year at this link: <https://www.cccc.vic.edu.au/news-events/school-tours>



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 - [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, Career Events and performing arts shows. This can be a once off or on going support, 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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Caroline Chisholm Catholic College
T: 03 9296 5311
E: alumni@cccc.vic.edu.au
cccc.vic.edu.au

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