



CAROLINE
CHISHOLM
CATHOLIC COLLEGE



ALUMNI

DECEMBER 2023

times

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From the Editor

Welcome to the December 2023 Edition of Alumni Times. We continue to create an enewsletter rather than a paper edition, in order to respond to the challenge issued by Pope Francis to protect our common home and to bring humanity together to seek a sustainable way forward. We hope you enjoy this online version as much as you would a physical one!

Thank you to all our alumni who have signed up to our new Alumnly platform. We're looking forward to building up content on the platform over the next few months, and seeing alumni reach out to one another, forging new connections and reacquainting yourselves with old ones! There's a section on page x about the new platform, and I'd highly recommend you sign up to stay connected with both the school and your fellow alumni.

We hope you enjoy this December edition of the Alumni times, and I pray you'll have a wonderful festive season!

Adelaide Morse

Marketing and Communications Coordinator

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.



Our new Waa artwork



Prayer

O God, in this season of Advent, as we await the miraculous birth of Jesus, we gather our hearts and minds in preparation. May we open ourselves to the spirit of welcome and hospitality, just as the humble stable embraced the arrival of the newborn King.

As we journey through each Sunday of Advent, lighting candles of peace, love, hope, and joy on the wreath, may these virtues illuminate our paths.

Help us embody these qualities extending warmth and kindness to all we encounter.

Grant us the grace to embrace this Christmas with open arms, embracing not only our loved ones but also strangers who cross our paths.

May we see in them reflections of the stranger Jesus, born in the simplicity of a manger, reminding us of the boundless love and compassion that unites us all.

Bless us with a safe and joyous Christmas, and may our hearts overflow with gratitude, and the spirit of this season dwell within us, fostering a deep sense of connection and understanding for ourselves and others.

Amen

From the Principal



A Year of Resilience and Achievements

As we bid farewell to another academic year, it is impossible to ignore the extraordinary challenges that set this year apart. Our community faced unprecedented obstacles, and yet, with unwavering strength, we tackled them head-on, emerging stronger and more united than ever. Reflecting on the past twelve months fills me with pride, witnessing the resilience of our community and the commitment we have made to provide a top-tier education to the students entrusted to us.

The challenges of the past years have revealed the true character of our community. In the face of adversity, we rallied together, ensuring that the education we offered remained of the highest quality. The students, too, embraced their learning journey with unprecedented dedication, achieving remarkable results that stand as a testament to their perseverance and the effectiveness of our educational strategies.

It is heartening to see the positive impact the various initiatives implemented over the past two years have had on our students. Strategies focused on holistic education, such as our Learner Mentor program, have yielded results that go beyond traditional academic measures, reinforcing our commitment to providing a well-rounded educational experience.

Looking back at the accomplishments of Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, I take pride in our ability to educate and nurture fine young men and women. The broad range of educational pursuits offered at the College contributes to our positive reputation both within and beyond the school.

The recent annual reunion night held in November brought back numerous Alumni, providing an opportunity to share stories, reconnect with old friends, and reminisce about shared experiences. Our Alumni, successful in various fields, stand as living proof of the impact Caroline Chisholm Catholic College has had on their lives and are a testament to the values that were instilled during their

time at the College.

Entering 2024, we celebrate the largest student population in the history of the College. This growth is a reflection of our well-deserved reputation, built on the foundation of understanding our families, effective educational strategies, skilled teachers, state-of-the-art facilities, impressive student outcomes, and open communication. However, perhaps the most critical element is the relationships we cultivate with our current, incoming, outgoing, and past families. These relationships, based on trust, have proven resilient, especially in challenging circumstances.

Building and maintaining a positive school culture is a complex task, but at the heart of our success lie the values of acceptance and compassion, embedded in our four pillars. These values are not mere ideals but lived out daily, fostering positive relationships within our community. Shared values and goals create a sense of purpose and direction, contributing to the overwhelmingly positive environment at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College.

In 2023, we continued our journey of progress, refurbishing the Art wing and planning a new technologies building set to commence construction in 2025. These projects ensure that our facilities remain cutting-edge, providing our students with the learning environment they deserve.

As we approach the holiday season, I extend my warmest wishes to all members of our extended community. May this Christmas be filled with joy, and may the New Year bring prosperity and continued success to each and every one of you.

Robert Brennan
Principal

Our 2024 College Leaders

Staff Leadership Team



Robert Brennan
Principal



Stephanie Banks
*Deputy Principal -
Student Wellbeing*



Laura Ruddick
*Deputy Principal -
Learning & Teaching*



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



Irma De Guzman
Business Manager



Kathlyn Nguyen
Director of Operations

Student Executive Committee



Mathias Sisay
College Captain



Micah Cursio
College Captain



Jessica Nguyen
*College Vice Captain
(Wellbeing)*



Josed Sawadan
*College Vice Captain
(Faith)*



Stella Nguyen
*College Vice Captain
(Community)*



Cameron Crawford
*College Vice Captain
(Learning)*

Alumnly Platform Launch

New Platform for Connecting

We are so excited to have recently launched our new Alumni Platform, Alumnly!

We already have over 1700 alumni registered, so if you haven't signed up yet, it offers you a whole host of features.

One of the most exciting features is the database directory. We had numerous alumni reach out to us, disappointed that they wouldn't be able to connect with their classmates as they couldn't come to our alumni evening, whether due to distance, health or other commitments. Since Alumnly is created exclusively for alumni, with a Caroline Chisholm Catholic College only page, you search for other alumni by name, email address, or even graduation year.

The College can also reach out via Alumnly to share information such as with this newsletter! It makes announcements about reunions, events that are open to alumni and other information much easier to access, and easier for us to make sure that you don't miss out on anything.

Alumnly has a Business Directory and Jobs board that we aspire to implement soon. Our hope is that our Alumni will make use of these to build connections within our community. We also hope that this will help us source from within our alumni network – if we need flowers, balloons or food, or a speaker for an upcoming event, we can go to that business directory first, saving us time and money, and hopefully bringing business to our alumni community.

Finally, we're hoping that Alumnly will help our students. Finding apprenticeships, mentors and just people willing to help out our students as it can be a struggle for young people today to know where to start. We aim to create a network where the younger members in our community can reach out to alumni who may have relevant skills in an area that they're looking to learn. As you can tell, we're incredibly excited about the launch of Alumnly, and we hope you are too! To find out more, head to <https://cccc.alumnly.com/>



Students Where are they now?

Tiah Hobbs-Little

Class of 2017

I had made it my mission to be a veterinarian from a very young age. I chose the subjects that I thought would help me in my studies, and when I graduated from Carleine Chisholm Catholic College in 2017, I applied for and got into my top pick, a Bachelor of Veterinary and Wildlife Science. I was thrilled to be starting this new chapter of my life, that is until I very quickly realised that the field was simply not for me.

I had never considered myself 'good' at school. I only did well in the classes I found interesting and seemed to completely lack the ability to push myself through the ones I didn't. I used to look forward to the seven years of university, it's almost like I gaslit myself into thinking I would suddenly flip a switch and be good at school. (This is foreshadowing).

After a few years of fumbling around, doing casual work, I stumbled across an apprenticeship: 'Parks and Gardens' with Brimbank City Council. I had no idea what this entailed or what to expect, but I knew that I had a deep love for nature and thought I could use it as a steppingstone to get into the conservation field. Little did I know, that applying for that apprenticeship would be the best decision I have ever made.

I had finally found something I was interested in learning. Once I started TAFE, it became so clear to me that this is the field I belong in. I went from someone who put very little effort into school, to someone who has won awards for dedication to my studies. I found my passion.

I was hired as a Qualified Horticulturist by Brimbank in early 2022 to work in HV McKay Memorial Gardens, in the role of Head Gardener. McKay Gardens are Brimbank's only heritage listed garden and are an absolute joy to see through their development and maintenance works. Which brings me to the first of three questions:



Who Left the Biggest Impression?

I think so fondly of all my past teachers, however I need to take this opportunity to personally thank someone specific.

To Paul Barber: Any time you were giving a tour while we were out in the sticks, I was always first in line. The fact that I could point to any plant, and you could not only give me its name, but a stack of information to follow, left me in awe. I would leave those camps and rave about how I wanted to be able to do that, to have that level of knowledge. While I don't claim to be an expert, it gives me so much joy when I am giving people tours of McKay Gardens, and I can now do the same. While my interests now mainly lie with ornamental gardens, I still have a massive soft spot for natives and find myself thinking about our school camps fondly, every time I memorise a new Eucalypt.

You saw that I was keen, and you saw that I had a connection to the land, before even I did. You took the time to mentor me, and I didn't realise it at the time, but that became such a driving force for my career. So, thank-you.

What do you miss most about the College?

I'm going to piggyback off my last answer and say school camp. Any chance to be out in and learning about nature. I also absolutely loved Outdoor and Environmental Studies. How I didn't realise that I loved horticulture is beyond me!

What advice do you have for students today?

Listen to your heart. It is okay to change your mind about what direction you are going in. Have the courage to choose the path that makes you happy. Also, don't feel pressured to go to university, I feel like there is a negative connotation to the phrase 'I went to TAFE' but there really shouldn't be. I have a Cert III in Horticulture and I am extremely proud of what I have achieved with it.

Students Where are they now?

Ross Dovey Class of 1970

I was one of the first to attend St John's Regional College. It commenced in 1965, with the first classrooms being wooden prefabs plonked in a barren, unused paddock. The other building was the toilet block which was a hastily built tin shed with a septic system. The Brothers first lived in a house (formerly Housing Commission) a couple of streets away. I actually lived closer than they did – I only had a lane to go down to get to school.

I remember how exciting it was attending the first day – new subjects and funny sounding teachers. There were also topics like “all you need to know about computers” from Br Dumont. He then proceeded to use a box of matches to explain the binary system. One other thing that the Brothers introduced to us were “galoshes”, which we didn't know what they were, but became very necessary when it rained as the clay dirt turned to sticky mud. It was a great relief to finally get into the new brick building in the second year and have real toilets! It was an exciting time to see the school grow up with me.

I was into music and sport and it was when Br Cyr arrived that my desire to do percussion began and was nurtured by a great educator.

I completed form 6, but did not pass the HSC. I then went to work at the AMP Society, left there to spend more time practicing music and managed to be accepted in

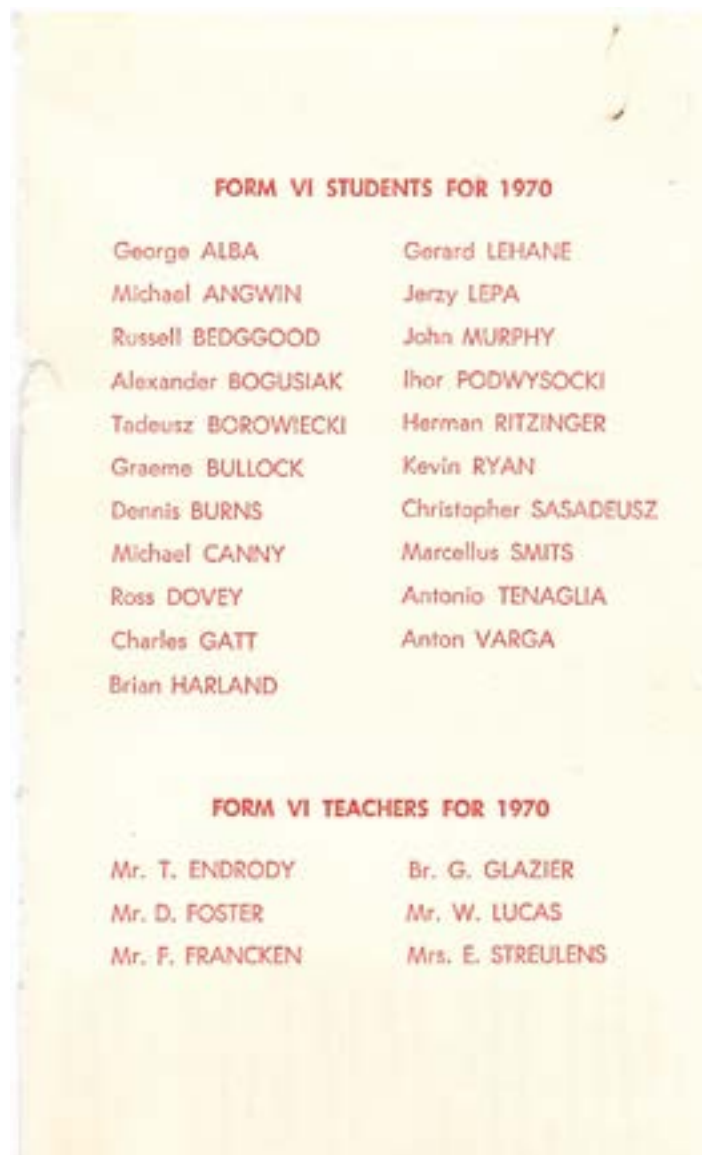


The Victorian College of the Arts, where I was the first percussionist to graduate. I have been involved in music for over 40 years, as performer, educator, percussion repairer and percussion mallet manufacturer.

In 1978, I auditioned and obtained the Principal Percussion position with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and remained with them until 1989.

In 1990, I moved to teaching full-time at a private school and then with Education Queensland, where I taught percussion and multi instrumental music, as well as conducting bands. I retired from Education Queensland in 2014 and divide my time between performing, studio teaching, mallet manufacturing and percussion repair.

I think it is important to pursue things that you are passionate about and to continually strive to be in a relationship with God and to ask for guidance for each step in ones life. Always try to give your best effort. As we are at a Catholic school, we should strive to live our life and contribute to society in-step with God desire for each of us.



St John's Form 6 Students and Teachers



St John's

St John's band



St John's Form 6

Staff Where are they now?

Maria Vella Class of 1990

Many of my peers would probably remember me as the introverted girl with the two thick plaits, who always had her head buried in her books. However, my closest friends and I reminisce about the cheeky shenanigans we got up to on the back staircase at CTK and the strong lifelong bonds that were formed which have helped us navigate through our adult lives. My favourite memories include the "Man of Steel" Superman musical and winning the interschool volleyball tournament. We remember the teachers who inspired and encouraged us to strive for excellence and the opportunities we were given to prepare us for the real world.

I thought my pathway was going to be a straight line that started and ended with my love of numbers in an accounting career. I completed an accounting degree and became a management accountant for manufacturing companies. My career blessed me with a lot of experience and the opportunity to travel around Australia. After ten successful years, I put my career on pause to enjoy motherhood to my three children.

Throughout the journey of parenthood, I had time to reflect and discover my true purpose and passion for helping those who, like me, struggled through their early years of primary. Hence my new career in education support, where I worked with and advocated for, primary school students whose voice wasn't quite heard and who needed further explanation and a nurturing experience.

My love for learning and appreciation for diversity took me on a tangled and twisted path which led me right back to Caroline Chisholm Catholic College. I have been an Education Support person here for 7 years now. I love our community and the feeling of belonging to a massive team that aims to provide individualised support for all students, caregivers and staff. They even convinced me to challenge myself and lead by example ... 30 years after my initial degree, I am back at university studying to be a teacher. My passage of unexpected detours and speedbumps has armed me with the ability to encourage my students to focus on the scenery encountered during their journey, not the destination, as no one knows what their last stop will be. Keep happy, be curious and believe in yourself.





Alumni Reunion Night



What a night!

Thank you to all our wonderful Alumni who came out for our Reunion evening on Friday 10th November 2023. It was a wonderful evening, and great to see everyone reconnect and recognise one another after so many years. It was heart-warming to see people speak so fondly of their memories at our College.

There was a lot of laughter, and the warm evening really lent itself to a few drinks with old friends. We hope you enjoy this photo montage, and look forward to seeing the classes of 1974, 1984, 1994, 2004, and 2014 in 2024. We will also be extending the invitation to our alumni from 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 who missed out on their reunion due to COVID!



Current Events Wrap-up

Afternoon of Excellence

Thursday, 23rd November

The Afternoon of Excellence is an opportunity for the school to recognise students who have made significant academic achievements each year. This year was no difference, with an impressive number of students receiving academic achievements awards with up to 5 subjects, as well as scholarships from our sponsors.



Year 9 Graduation

Friday, 1st December

Along with our Year 12 students graduating, we recognise our Year 9 students graduating from their respective campuses' to join together at Sacred Heart.

It's a beautiful opportunity for the school to recognise the leaders of each campus, as well as wishing well the students as they move to their senior schooling.



College Musical

Wednesday, 09 August and
Thursday, 10 August

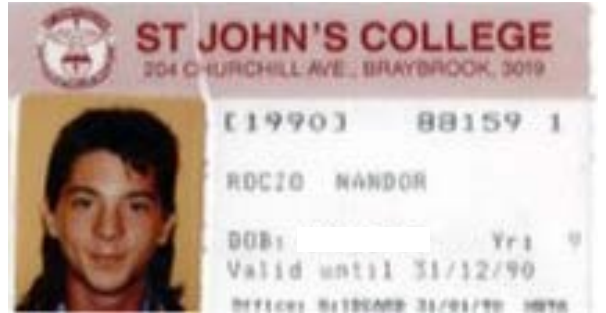
Our College Musical this year was an unmitigated success. Taking on Chicago – High School Edition, our students did an incredible job singing and dancing their way through some challenging musical numbers. Congratulations to the staff and students involved in this incredible production, and we encourage you to consider coming to next years musical!



From the Archives



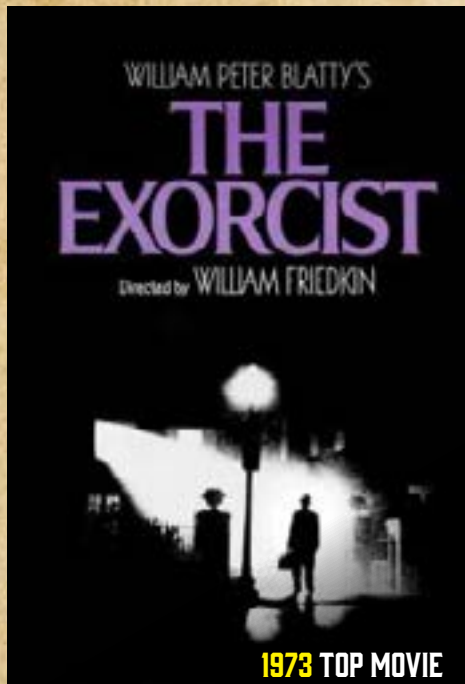
From the Archives



2003



From the Archives



**TIME
CHANGES
EVERYTHING**



Coming Up

Careers Expo 2024

Each year our students get the opportunity to see where their education could take them. Whether you work in a trade, in an office or as a public servant, we'd love to hear from you! If you would be interested in coming along, please reach out to us and let us know!

**SAVE THE DATE:
THURSDAY, 2 MAY 2024**

College Open Day

The school is Open!
Come along for our official Open Day, and hear about what we've changed, and what we're looking forward to! There will be tours on the evening, with the opportunity to hear in detail how curriculum and teaching has changed, and all that we're proud of at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College

**SAVE THE DATE:
SUNDAY, 19 MAY 2024**

Winter Concert

Come along and see some of the best musical talent our school has to offer! The Winter Concert is always incredible, and will also host the One year reunion for students who graduated this year!

**SAVE THE DATE:
TUESDAY, 11 JUNE 2024**

Alumni Reunion Night 2024

**Graduating classes of '74, '84, '94, '04 and '14
plus the graduating classes of '71, '81, '91, '01, and '11!**

**SAVE THE DATE:
FRIDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2024
6:30pm – 10pm**

Official invitations to go out via email soon, so make sure you have signed up to our new database to get the official invitation!

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 2026 Enrolments

Enrolments for our Year 7, 2026 cohort are now open. Applications are now online, with the closing date being Friday, 16 August 2024.

Contact our College Registrar registrar@cccc.vic.edu.au for further information.



Alumni Notices

WE HAVE GONE 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, log in to our new Alumny platform or update your email address with us via:

Email - alumni@cccc.vic.edu.au

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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