



## Bunbury Catholic College Alumni Inc

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# NEWSLETTER

January 2025

Welcome to our first Alumni Newsletter for 2025!

In this edition, we introduce you to the new Principal of BCC, give details of our upcoming AGM and feature two 2024 reunions. We'd love to hear your feedback on the content you want to see.

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## WELCOME TO OUR NEW PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Mr Ben Priest, who joins Bunbury Catholic College as Principal this year.

Ben is dedicated to maintaining the legacy of BCC while driving innovation and inspiring students, teachers and alumni alike. We are excited to continue strengthening the ties between our past, present and future generations. Ben, welcome to the BCC family.

After 5 years (2020 – 2024) of dedicated service and leadership we wish, Mr Michael Pepper all the best as he embarks on a new chapter of his life. Michael led BCC through the challenging times of COVID, when education rapidly responded to engaging students in very different ways. On behalf of the entire alumni community, we extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering commitment and the positive impact made on BCC students. We wish Mr Michael Pepper a retirement filled with joy, relaxation, and well-deserved adventures.

*(Mr Michael Pepper-left and Mr Ben Priest-right)*



## REUNIONS: CLASS OF 1994 and CLASS OF 2004

**CLASS OF 1994:** Alumni attending a Class of '94 Reunion last year could hardly believe that 30 years had passed since they graduated from Bunbury Catholic College!

BCC Design Technology Teacher Rino Papalia organised the reunion, along with ex-student Peter Sergi. Rino shared his excitement about the event, held at the Parade Hotel. "It was a fantastic success". Special guests included former Vice Principal and PE Teacher Les Fabre, as well as Physics Teacher Eric Douglas.

Everyone had a great time, with thanks going to classmate Rachalina Santella who generously paid for a DJ to play music and provide karaoke equipment.

Everyone is looking forward to the next gathering of the Class of '94! 🎈🎉



**CLASS OF 2004:** The first reunion for the Class of 2004 was held in October 2024 at The Prince of Wales Hotel. The organiser of event, Erika De Lima, said it was a wonderful evening. Claire Plint and Natalie Akl were the Erika's fantastic support team.

Alumni came from all over the country. Among those able to attend was Alister Brawls, who came all the way from Sydney to catch up with old mates. Alister is the keeper of "The Green Chair," which also came to the reunion. It holds great memories for all the graduates who signed it in 2004.

2004 Head girl, Catherine Down enjoyed the night, whilst Head Boy of 2004, Tristan Clemens, is now living in the US.

The grapevine tells us that many of those who came saw the sunrise next morning as they reconnected and made the most of their time back in Bunbury and enjoying each other's company.

Erika – thank you for the photos and best wishes for baby number one due next month!





## HALL OF DISTINCTION NOMINATIONS 2025

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Do you have someone from your graduating year who you think meets the criteria for our BCC Hall of Distinction?

Many Bunbury Catholic College (BCC), Marist (Xavier College) and St Joseph's alumni who have demonstrated exemplary achievement and the BCC Alumni have Inc has created the Hall of Distinction acknowledging ex-students who have demonstrated high levels of achievement and significant contributions in their chosen fields.

For more details about those who have received this award and for details on how to nominate someone you think is worthy, visit our Hall of Distinction pages. [Here is the link.](#)

**Previous inductees** include Mr John Castrilli, Alexandra Hagan, Tristan Clemons and Natalie Barr.

Keep in touch with the newsletters and social media for our 2025 Hall of Distinction recipients and watch out for celebrations to come.

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### A MESSAGE FROM BCC PRINCIPAL MR BEN PRIEST

"I am deeply honoured to be named the next Principal of Bunbury Catholic College, commencing in 2025. I am truly humbled and grateful for this opportunity to join and support the community.

A bit about myself: I currently reside in Busselton with my wife Michelle, our daughter Lucy, our son Harry, and our very friendly and slightly crazy dog, George.

Originally from Forbes, NSW, I grew up in a large family with six children. With over 24 years of experience in education, I have worked in various settings, including Sydney, London, Perth, and the Southwest. I join Bunbury Catholic College following my tenure as Principal at Kearnan College in Manjimup, a K-12 school.

I am very touched by the warm welcome I have received from everyone at Bunbury Catholic College and look forward to commencing the school year."



### GOOD NEWS: NEW BISHOP FOR BUNBURY DIOCESE

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Father George Kolodziej SDS

Father George Kolodziej SDS has been appointed as the next Bishop of Bunbury. Among other responsibilities, Father George is the chaplain for Catholic Education WA, based at Leederville. Father (now bishop-elect) Kolodziej has spent his priestly life in Australia, knows the West very well, and has post-graduate qualifications in Theology and in Psychotherapy/Counselling.

The new bishop-elect brings a wealth of experience and a rich spirituality to the role of Bishop of Bunbury Diocese. His ordination as Bishop will take place in March.

## 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – NOTICE TO ALL ALUMNI

*The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Bunbury Catholic College Alumni Inc. (BCCAI) will be held on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025**, 4.15 pm at the Tom Hall Board Room, Bunbury Catholic College.*

*All are welcome to join us, share a glass of wine and nibbles, and welcome the new BCC principal.*

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### MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON – MALENA CAHILL

We are excited to announce that the Bunbury Catholic College Alumni Inc. was recognized by Consumer Protection on October 9, 2024, with a revised constitution, aligned with the guidelines set by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Margo Veen, our dedicated secretary, for her outstanding commitment, dedication, and negotiation skills in working with Consumer Protection and the Department to finalize our new constitution and complete the name change for the association.

Special appreciation also goes to our committee members, whose time and commitment were invaluable in helping us achieve our goals. This milestone reflects our collective effort and determination, and we look forward to continuing our work in support of our alumni community.

**Our 2025 Focus:** The BCC Alumni is committed to actively engaging new members, promoting future reunions, and networking opportunities. We have invested considerable effort into maintaining a comprehensive database to facilitate these connections. Our alumni include past students who not only provide mentorship but also share their experiences through speaking engagements at the college.

*Best wishes*

*Malena Cahill*

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### KEEPING IN TOUCH

Join Our New Alumni Facebook Group! **Bunbury Catholic College Alumni Inc** – look for the logo!

This exclusive online community is designed to help you:

**Reconnect** with old classmates and forge new connections with fellow alumni.

**Stay Informed** about alumni news, events, and updates from Bunbury Catholic College

**Engage** in meaningful discussions, share memories and celebrate milestones.



Whether you graduated decades ago or just last year, this group is your space to stay connected with the vibrant Bunbury Catholic College Alumni network.

## CALLOUT FOR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

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Your contribution can help us develop a vibrant BCC Alumni community together.

How? Join us on the committee! Perhaps you're good at sharing news on our socials, or you have new ideas to share, or simply want to support the committee to build the BCC Alumni in a different way.

Your commitment will be four meetings a year, (1 per term) and biennial Hall of Distinction Awards night preparation. Please contact Malena or Margo for further information or join us at our next meeting.

### CONTACT

Malena Cahil [malena.cahill@outlook.com](mailto:malena.cahill@outlook.com)

Margo Veen [margoveen1@gmail.com](mailto:margoveen1@gmail.com)

Alumni: [contact@bcc-alumni.com](mailto:contact@bcc-alumni.com)

### NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

AGM: | 4:15PM, Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025, @BCC | Tom Hall Meeting Room (BCC Admin)

### STAY CONNECTED

Stay connected with the newsletters, Hall of Distinction Awards. Watch out for future reunions and celebrations.

Share with us via email:

[contact@bcc-alumni.com](mailto:contact@bcc-alumni.com)

Please let us know about yourself and how life has been since you left Bunbury Catholic College. You may like to share some info about yourself and your life since being at BCC.

### BCC WEBSITE LINK TO UPDATE YOUR DETAILS:

Please [connect with us here](#) to complete the online form and keep up to date. Share with your BCC friends and family.



[@bcc\\_ex-students](#)



BUNBURY CATHOLIC  
COLLEGE ALUMNI GROUP



[contact@bcc-alumni.com](mailto:contact@bcc-alumni.com)

### AND FINALLY.....

Are you a parent or family of a BCC Alumni?

*We thank you for your past contributions to Bunbury Catholic College. Perhaps you have received this because your email was used as the connect point for your child ( now adult) Please share this newsletter, invite your family to register online and give us their preferred email contact.*

Let's continue to strengthen the bond we share as proud BCC Alumni. Together, we can celebrate the legacy of Bunbury Catholic College and build an even brighter future.

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