



**BUNBURY CATHOLIC COLLEGE
EX-STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
DECEMBER 2023**

50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Planning for the 50th Anniversary of BCC has been a mammoth task by a dedicated and generous committee supported by BCC Principal, Michael Pepper and his Admin staff. So how did we manage to provide an afternoon of nostalgia reconnecting with colleagues and school friends?

Having committee members with their own expertise across various fields ensured a smooth transition from the drawing board to fruition and revitalized the Association.

Kiara White, our dedicated Executive Officer, appointed this year has been the 'engine room' of communication achieving a current data base.

Margo Veen, our secretary, coming on board this year brings a wealth of expertise in Event Management. Her tireless energy in following correct procedures ensured we ticked all the boxes. Maria Trovato, Nola Jennings, Val Piggott and contributed countless hours in creating the Memorabilia displays.

Val Piggott, Anna Novel, Antonette Franco, Maria Papalia, Alexis Woolhead.... So flexible and accommodating in managing floral displays, liquor bar organization, setting up the event, front desk entry, data collection and liaising with VIP guests are some examples of a coordinated approach

As president, my role was to ensure the finishing touches met everyone's expectations and liaising with both the

committee and BCC media team of Beth Ferguson ensured we were all on the same page.

The committee would like to extend a special thankyou to Trish Kelderman, Rob George, Julie Ranson, Liz Harper, Helen Humphreys and Dianne Giesler.

The Reunion was the launchpad for the new Ex Students Instagram site, revitalisation of our Facebook page and the creation of ex-students link on the website with the aim of updating and expanding our database. All this is in preparation for developing a vibrant community for past BCC students' life after BCC.

Keep in touch with the quarterly newsletter, Hall of Distinction recipients, watch out for future reunions and celebrations to come.

To update your details, please [Click here](#) to complete the online form.

Follow us on Instagram [@bcc_ex-students](#) and Facebook [Bunbury Catholic College EX STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION | Facebook](#)

Please start following and sharing!

Malena Cahill
President of the BCC
Ex-Students' Association

PANEL MEMBERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Scott Tuia commenced at Bunbury Catholic College in 2016. He spent much of his time representing the College in various sporting events, alongside his studies. In 2021 Scott was selected as Head Boy which was a role he excelled in. Now studying in Perth, Scott is excited to return to BCC for the 50th Anniversary Reunion.

Rhiannon Shine studied at Bunbury Catholic College from 2007-2011 and credits her Year 11 and 12 Media Studies classes for setting her on the course for becoming a journalist.

Rhiannon says the friends she made at BCC remain a huge part of her life, and she has many happy memories from high school, including Outward Bound!

Following graduation from BCC, Rhiannon studied Journalism at Curtin University before joining the ABC where she has spent time working in Kalgoorlie, Hobart and Broome before returning to Perth as the WA correspondent for the ABC's flagship nightly TV current affairs program, 730.

When David Mazza looks back at his time at Bunbury Catholic College, he realises the College played a significant role in his formation. He thanks a close-knit year group and compassionate and understanding staff for his positive experience.

Following his years at BCC, David studied Primary School Teaching and he has gone on to teach in some of the most remote locations in WA and NT.

David is now back in the South West, teaching at Our Lady of Mercy College.

Pia was an inaugural BCC student, commencing in Year 9 when the college opened at Rodsted St in 1973, and graduating from Year 12 with her 24 classmates in 1976.

Pia is a highly regarded clinical psychologist and former Associate Professor of Psychology at Murdoch University.

Pia has lived a life of service to the community. She is a devoted mother to two and wife, who has balanced the demands of her vocation as an academic and mental health professional.

Joseph Caruso attended Marist Brothers St Francis Xavier College from 1957 – 1962, becoming Bunbury Catholic College in 1973.

Following his education, Joseph worked as an apprentice at VV Caruso Co Pty Ltd the family contracting business in Bunbury, evolving to management and expanding the operations nationally and internationally, and studied at the Ashridge UK London Business Leadership College.

Joseph has gone on to contribute to many medical charitable institutions fulfilling his visionary passion to make a positive contribution in making the work a global humanities family.

To view all the photos and videos from the Bunbury Catholic College 50th Anniversary Reunion, [click here](#).

BUILDING COMMUNITY BY CELEBRATING THE PAST, CONNECTING WITH THE PRESENT AND CREATING A PATHWAY TO THE FUTURE.

Panel members and keynote speaker left to right: David Mazza, Scott Tuia, Rhiannon Shine, Dr Pia Broderick, Ivan Banks, Joseph Caruso.



HALL OF DISTINCTION

The Bunbury Catholic College Hall of Distinction recognises the many outstanding achievements of past students (BCC, St Joseph's and St Francis Xavier) in the areas of Medicine and Science, Business and Professional, Arts and Entertainment, Humanitarian and Service, Sporting Achievements and Lifetime Recognition. Recipients of this prestigious award are inducted every two years, and this year there were 6 inductees.



CATHERINE GREEN

Category: Humanitarian and Service

Graduated in 1996

Catherine has worked in Social Justice since she left school with a commitment that has never faltered.

Through conducting community consultations around emergency relief and recovery Catherine has worked to relieve the trauma, suffering and loss of peoples throughout the world - from bushfire in Australia to extreme weather events across the Pacific region, to war in Europe and Africa. Some examples of her brave and courageous work has been in response to natural disasters in Australia, the Philippines and Nepal, She was the Humanitarian & Emergency Affairs Consultant in Sri Lanka, Somalia, Israel and Palestine.

Catherine has lectured widely and published papers on what she has learned from her experiences about, for example, the mental health toll on peoples who have suffered catastrophic disaster events. She is currently the Ukraine Response Director involved with Humanitarian responses. She is an

awesome example of a person living out the Gospel values of 'hunger and thirst for justice'.

We congratulate Catherine on her induction to the Hall of Distinction in the Humanitarian and Service.



JIM GIUMELLI

Category: Business and Professional

Graduated in 1962 from Marist College

Jim Giumelli is the founder of engineering and construction company Ertech. He is a Fellow Chartered Professional Engineer of Engineers Australia with over 50 years' experience in the construction industry.

In addition to founding Ertech, Jim is the founder and driving force behind Motivation Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation aiming to educate and develop life and employability skills for school students enrolled in Year 11, 12 or equivalents from diverse backgrounds. Motivation Foundation offers students the opportunity to achieve a nationally recognised Certificate II in Civil Construction and Certificate II in Resources and Infrastructure Work Preparation, through on-site training and workplace experience while still in high school.

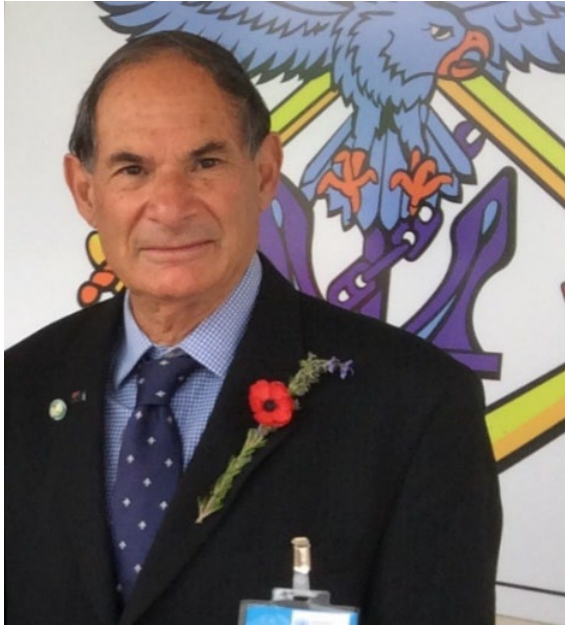
Jim was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering by the University of WA in recognition of his contribution to the Private Sector and Community Service.

Jim is also a significant patron of the National Breast Cancer Foundation, the Breast Cancer Research Centre, the Fresh Start Addiction Centre, the Perron and the Giumelli Family Foundations.

We congratulate Jim on his induction to the Hall of Distinction in the Business and Professional category.

Hall of distinction recipients are inducted every two years. The next induction will be in 2025. If you wish to nominate someone for this prestigious award, please [click here](#) to subscribe to our mailing list and keep up to date.

HALL OF DISTINCTION



JOSEPH ANTHONY CARUSO

Category: Humanitarian and Service

Attended Marist College from 1957 – 1962

Joseph has received many and varied commendations during his long working career in the earthmoving and mining field. He was given accolades when he converted an old, disused logging railway track to become known as the famous tourist 'Rainbow Trail' through the Karri Forest in Pemberton.

In 2002, one of Joseph's companies, Simto, was engaged in the construction of three artificial islands off the coast of Dubai known as the Palm Island Project. At the time this was one of the biggest, single land-based earthworks projects in the World.

Joseph's philanthropy endeavours include: Bunbury St John of God South West Health Care Campus, Oncology and Coronary Care Suites. In 2015, Joseph was recognized for his philanthropic contribution to research into rare blood diseases and haematological disorders. This research was chosen as it is inherent in his family.

The establishment of the Caruso Family Post-Doctoral Fellowship for research at Murdoch University was unveiled.

In 2023, Joseph was awarded Life Member of United Nations Association Australia WA having served 25 years holding positions as president, past Vice President and Environmental Advisory member. Joe currently holds the position of UN International Global Representative.

We congratulate Joseph on his induction to the Hall of Distinction in the Humanitarian and Service category.



JULIE DEPIAZZI

Category: Medicine and Science

Graduated in 1960

Julie is a Senior physiotherapist at Perth Children's Hospital, She has dedicated her career in researching, and improving care for debilitating childhood respiratory diseases. In particular, Julie specialises in the treatment of Cystic Fibrosis, Asthma and Tracheobronchomalacia.

She has presented her work at international conventions focused on innovating the care of respiratory-based conditions to improve the outcomes of young patients. Much of Julie's work is about improving the lives of children and families so that they also can live and contribute actively in their own communities. As part of this, she runs clinics in the regional and remote areas of WA and has published her research on trachea broncho malacia and results from trials in aquatic high intensity training to improve aerobic capacity in adolescents with cerebral palsy.

For the last two decades, she has been active in treatment and care for every child in WA who currently lives with Cystic Fibrosis.

Julie has also participated in a wide variety of community/charity event, including The Harry Perkins Institute Walk for Women's Cancer and The Rottnest Island swim.

We congratulate Julie on her induction to the Hall of Distinction in the Medicine and Science category.

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HALL OF DISTINCTION



KYLE MINCHAM

Category: Medicine and Science

Graduated in 2007

From a very young age Kyle has had a passion that one day he would be able to rid the world of cancer and many other debilitating diseases that people face on a daily basis.

Kyle was awarded his PhD in the field of Medicine/ Science/Immunology in 2018. His passion, commitment, work ethic, strive for excellence, vision, integrity, leadership, and ability to interact collaboratively and constructively, is truly impressive. His PhD studies were innovative and targeted novel approaches for disease prevention in early life. Kyle secured a position to continue his post-doctoral research studies at the Imperial College London, a prestigious internationally recognised research centre and home to leading world experts. He has successfully obtained a highly competitive fellowship to support his research.

His work attracted significant attention from media and researchers and has provided strong rationale underpinning the framework of several large ongoing international clinical trials, and the development of new initiatives. Kyle is the author and co- author of many publications.

We congratulate Kyle on his induction to the Hall of Distinction in the Medicine and Science Category.



NATALIE BARR

Category: Business and Professional

Graduated in 1985

Natalie has demonstrated exemplary achievement and recognition in her chosen career of print, radio and television journalism. Her media career with Channel 7 spans an impressive 28 years. Prior to joining Sunrise, Natalie had a wide - ranging career as a journalist, news writer, producer, and news reader. At the start of her career, Natalie worked as a cadet reporter for the Wanneroo Times for a couple of years before moving into television reporting at the Golden West Network in Kalgoorlie.

Natalie contributes to the community by supporting and championing a wide variety of charities including as an active supporter and champion of children's charity

Telethon for more than two decades. Natalie is also an Ambassador for the Heart Foundation and regularly promotes the importance of heart health for all Australians.

Natalie contributes to the local community by supporting and promoting Bunbury and Western Australia as a tourist attraction to visit as well as a great place to live.

In many ways, Natalie's role on Sunrise has put Bunbury 'on the map' around Australia due to her regular references to Bunbury as well as many televised visits of her trips home.

We congratulate Natalie on her induction to the Hall of Distinction in the Business and Professional category.

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HALL OF DISTINCTION

Congratulations to all the 2023 Hall of Distinction inductees.

The full information and rationales for each Hall of Distinction inductee is available on the Bunbury Catholic College Website. [Click here](#) to view.

To view photos from the Hall of Distinction induction evening, [click here](#)



2023 Ex-Students' Association Committee left to right: Pauline Smith, Margo Veen, Antonette Franco, Valerie Piggot, Malena Cahill, Michael Pepper, Maria Trovato, Kiara White, Maria Papalia, Anna Novel and Nola Jennings.



2023 Hall of Distinction Inductees left to right: Joseph Caruso, Mary Green on behalf of her daughter Catherine Green, Jim Giumelli, Kylie Vittiglia on behalf of her friend Natalie Barr, Brendon Mincham on behalf of his son Kyle Mincham, Julie Depiazzi.

ROVING REPORTERS

Ex-students were not the only people who attended the 50th Anniversary Reunion. Three current students were keen to be amongst the reminiscing and memorabilia and acted as roving reporters under the watchful eye of BCC's marketing and liaison officer, Beth Ferguson. Beautiful connections were made between student reporters and ex-students at the 50th Anniversary Reunion. Here is what they wrote about their conversations.

Pia Mangano in Year 10

Half a century worth of graduates gathered with great anticipation on the 14th of October 2023, for Bunbury Catholic College's Ex-student's 50th reunion, which I also had the honour of attending. BCC's Gym was filled with laughter and live music as crowds of people, young and old, talked with old school friends, looked at the many displays of BCC over the years and helped themselves to the array of bites to eat and refreshing drinks. Joyful chatter was heard throughout the day and BCC offered many ways for guests to reminisce about their time at the College, through countless displays and a presentation given by a panel of ex-students. Interestingly, a time-capsule was presented to the Principal Deborah Garbutt, to be filled with memorable items for 2048. I was invited to interview the guests about not only their impression of the reunion but memories of their time spent at school and highlights of their education at BCC.

Graduating in the year 2000, the first ex-student I interviewed was Leah Mackay, the present Head of Mathematics at BCC. Leah described her year-group as close-knit and diverse. Her goal as a child was always to become a teacher and after setting her mind to it, she achieved her goal. Finally, she highlighted Outward Bound as one of her most memorable experiences.

Margaret Doyle was a valued guest at the gathering as she shared with me that she rarely goes to reunions, and luckily, she approved of the day, particularly enjoying the panel of guests. Margaret started school in 1946 and graduated after nine years of schooling in 1957. She highlighted the "comradeship of the school" and shared her love for the school orchestra.

Finally, I interviewed Jason Frisina, one of the Physical Education teachers at BCC. Jason has always been very involved with sport and thus has worked in sport and health related careers such as owning and managing the Zenith Health and Fitness Club and working in exercise physiologist. Graduating from BCC in 1987, Jason described his year group as good fun and 'scallywags' commenting on how the community and kindness of Bunbury Catholic College was a highlight.

Matthew Gragasin in Year 8

Julie Ranson was a student in the College from 1973 to 1977. She recalls when Brother Bernard built the first computer at the school in 1976. She told me how he used the computer to teach Science and Mathematics to students in Grade 11 and 12. Only four or five of them were allowed to interact with the computer. It was about four metres wide and 6 metres long.

Margaret Vinci Nee Hynes was a student in St Joseph's Convent from 1959 to 1966. She recalls a music room that she was fascinated by. She described it as a passage in the middle with window doors leading to rooms which contained a piano each. A student would be playing the piano and a teacher would be in the passage, making sure the students were doing what they were told to.

Peter Stanicic was a Marist student from 1958 to 1963. He recalls riding with his friends on bikes all the way to Hungry Hollow for a swim. They also had to ride to the old St Patrick's Cathedral to attend Friday Mass.

Felix Woods in Year 8

Mark Price was in Year 11 in 1973, and said that some students were part-time gardeners planting grass on Albert Oval. He liked sport. There were 55 people in a class. Mark also said that the change to co-ed was interesting. He's a life member of the Marist Hockey Club. He lives in Australind.

Jan Hynes attended the St Joseph's Convent from 1947 to 1956, she remembers at 11:45am every day, all the girls would go into another class and sing. They all were taught by nuns, and she said the nuns were good at teaching embroidery. She currently lives in Eaton.

Wynne Tucker attended the St Joseph's Convent from 1956 to 1957. She recalls going to the Cathedral with the sisters and wearing gloves and berets. She also recalls two girls, called Betty Scoulas and Marie Travis, and they used to go into the Hall where there was a piano and play duets together. There was one boy, named Gerald, who was doing his Leaving and he played the double bass in the school orchestra, and she remembers going to the Rose Hotel with another girl to get the double bass and they'd walk it back to the Convent. She currently lives in Dunsborough.

Jillian Panizza was in Year 8 when the College became co-ed and she remembers the first classrooms were demountables and being able to paint the walls of the art classroom. She remembers the teachers being late because they came from the St Joseph's Convent, so the first 10 minutes were just the students being silly, and there used to be a kid who would look out for the teacher and warn them when the teacher was coming. Jillian came from a school in Donnybrook with five people in her school, then came to BCC and there were 108.



Roving reports left to right: Felix Woods, Pia Mangano and Matthew Gragasin

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Callout to new committee members

Why not join the committee in shaping its future. Your contribution can help us develop the 'vibrant BCC Ex student community' together.

Your commitment is 4 meetings a year, (1 per term) and biennial Hall of Distinction Awards night.

Contact Malena Cahill malena.cahill@outlook.com or Margo Veen margoveen1@gmail.com.

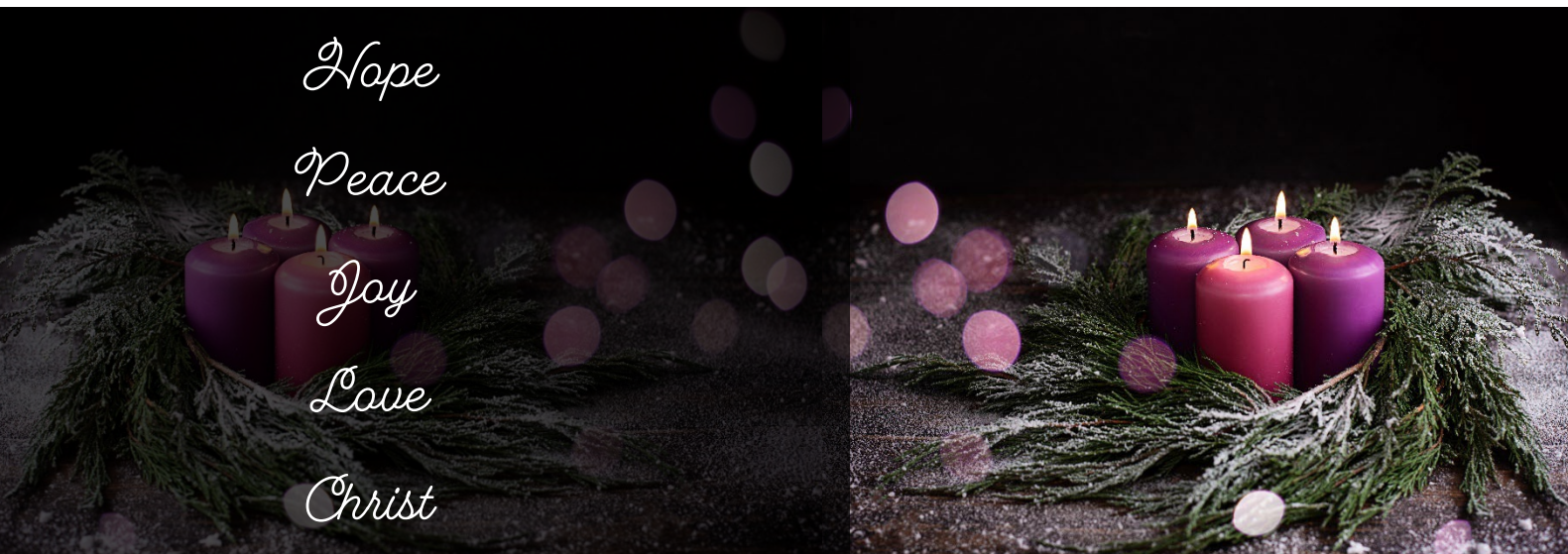
2023 has been a year of celebration for Bunbury Catholic College Ex-Students' Association. The reunion was the

finale to a series of events being held at the College this year to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of opening in 1973.

In addition to the milestone of 50 years, many classmates celebrated their respective reunions at various times throughout the year, with 2013 commemorating 10 years on the 18 November.

As a committee, we look forward to celebrating many more milestones in the years to come.

As we look towards the end of 2023, we would like to extend our best wishes to all the BCC community for a safe, joyful and blessed Christmas.



2023 Ex-Students' Association Committee left to right: Maria Trovato, Margo Veen, Malena Cahill, Antonette Franco, Nola Jennings, Valerie Piggott, Maria Papalia, Anna Novel, Alexis Woolhead.