



NEWSLETTER

July 2025

Welcome to our second Alumni Newsletter for 2025!
We'd love to hear your feedback on the content you want to see.

Hall Of Distinction Nominations 2025

Thank you to our Alumni who have sent nominations for our BCC Hall of Distinction 2025. Presentations for this will be held on December 1st.



Many Bunbury Catholic College (BCC), Marist (Xavier College) and St Joseph's alumni who have demonstrated exemplary achievement in their chosen fields, have been nominated for the Hall of Distinction.

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

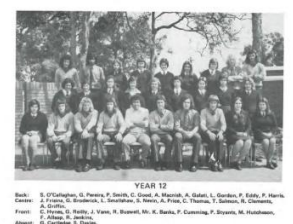
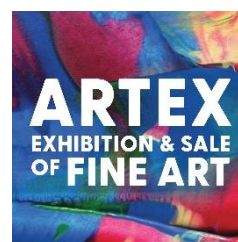
For more details about past recipients, visit our Hall of Distinction pages.

Click the link to Nominate [Here is the link.](#)

Significant Dates

BCC Alumni Committee Meeting	Tue 29 July at the Tom Hall Meeting Room, BCC
Art Extraordinaire.	Opens 24 October to Sun 26 Oct
Award night for Hall of Distinction on same night at BCC Presentation Night	Monday 1 December 2025
BCC Alumni AGM	Feb 2026 DTBC

In this edition





Footy Alumni

Our proud tradition of producing Sporting Champions continues with two ex-students debuting in the WAFLW senior women's competition.

The two players were important contributors in the College's very successful Country Week AFL girls' teams over the past three years, when we won A-grade two years in a row and were runner up last year.

Keep kicking those goals!



*Brooke Edwards,
graduated 2023. Now
with East Perth.*



*Melinda Bobby,
graduated 2024. Now
with South Fremantle*

Principal's Message

As we approach the halfway mark of my first year as Principal, I am filled with appreciation for the warm welcome and support that I have received from the entire BCC community.

We continue to build on the strong foundation of excellence that defines BCC. Our commitment to innovation and the holistic development of our students remains unwavering.

Our alumni play a crucial role in our ongoing journey. Your achievements and contributions serve as inspiration for our current students. Together, we are strengthening the ties between our past, present and future generations, ensuring that the legacy of BCC continues to thrive.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. I look forward to many more opportunities to connect with you and celebrate our shared successes.

Ben Priest
Principal

Left: Principal Ben Priest welcomed Bishop George Kolodziej to the College for the Champagnat Day Mass (June 6) for the first time since he became The Fifth Bishop of Bunbury in March..





Full circle: family, community and the power of home

Thank you, ladies. It was a great pleasure catching up and meeting all of your beautiful babes.



Four of our alumni recently caught up over a morning coffee to chat life, family and why Bunbury has become home again.

Their ages span a decade, yet banter flowed openly and warmly. It was easy to see the women were alike in their vibrancy and values.

“My big Italian family and network of friends play a huge role in the lives of my daughters. It was always going to be Bunbury where I raised them. Plus it offers such an affordable, relaxed lifestyle here. My husband and I love it” proud mother of two girls, Emily Barnes (nee Franco) said.

“I didn’t ever think I would come back but something changed when I found out I was pregnant. We really appreciate the sense of community here. It’s a place where neighbours know each other, the beach is across the road and family and friends are around the corner” said Jessica Giles (nee Smith), who had Angus in August this year.

Bec Veen (Griffin) with little 12-week-old Patrick in her arms also agreed. “We are so lucky to have access to a coastal, healthy lifestyle with plenty of business opportunities. There is so much room for growth.

Eleisha O’Dea (Lucas) added “we love that Bunbury is the gateway to off-road south west adventures but still offers inner-city living. Hudson loves watching his dad surf.”

For all four women, BCC was also on the radar for their children’s future because their own experience at the school was so positive. The women have all gone on to forge successful careers in marketing, physiotherapy, hairdressing and early childhood education.

“Some of my closest mates are from school. That’s a twenty year friendship already, which I know will last a lifetime” Jess said. “We’re all friends at the college.”

“We say that too!!”

Bec and Eleisha laughed. For them, it was the great relationships they had with teachers and adventures offered like outward bound, taking boards to the beach, mountain biking, and swimming which made school so memorable.

Em was very confident that putting her girls in BCC would mean they were in safe hands to discover their future pathways, supported by values-orientated teachers, parents and students.





SAVE THE DATE

You're invited to the Bunbury Catholic College ART EXTRAORDINAIRE Fundraiser!

Opening Night (18+ event): Friday, 24 October 2025 | 7 PM

Join us in the College Hall for an exciting evening where you'll have the chance to explore incredible artwork up close and even secure your favourite piece before anyone else! The night features a lively auction hosted by a professional auctioneer and drinks, alongside a tasty selection of local wines, beers, and finger food.

Exhibition Continues

Saturday, 25 October & Sunday, 26 October | 10am-4pm

Entry: Adults \$5 | Pensioners \$3 | Children Free

Now in its 43rd year, Art Extraordinaire has grown into a renowned celebration of visual arts in the Southwest. Your support helps fund vital Mental Health Programs at the College, including the Teen Mental Health First Aid program and The Resilience Project.

Follow our socials for continued updates : <https://www.facebook.com/bccartex/> and <https://www.instagram.com/bccartex/>



Zonta Breakfast 2025

Seven students represented the College at this year's International Women's Day Breakfast at the Sanctuary Golf Resort, hosted, and organised by the Zonta Club of Bunbury.

The BCC Alumni supported these students by paying for tickets to the annual breakfast, an acknowledgement of their leadership attributes and contributions to the BCC community.

Recognition and scholarships were presented to local women for their contributions to the community and the progress of women in industry and the arts."

BCC Students gained insights into the exceptional career of Dr Kim Farrington, specialist in improving care for those who have experienced sexual assault, currently focusing on care in rural and mining areas.



Indie Rock Group 'Littlefair' features two Alumni

WA indie-folk rock musicians 'Littlefair', featuring ex-students Jess and Kira Depiazzi, are busy playing gigs after releasing their debut EP 'Forever Is a Long Time'.

The sisters, Jess - Class of 2012 and Kira - Class of 2015, have teamed up with their cousin Mary Depiazzi and Littlefair members Jaik Rushan, Joseph Buckle and Jess' husband Gareth Peach.

A keen follower of the band is BCC Technologies Teacher Bernie Depiazzi, who is proud of his daughters' achievements: Jess is a scientist and Kira is a doctor but they've never stopped creating music.



Littlefair will be next playing at the Fremantle Winter Music Festival on June 21. Find more information on their socials (handle littlefair.music <http://linktr.ee/littlefair>).

1975 Class Reunion



YEAR 12

Back: S. O'Callaghan, G. Pereira, P. Smith, C. Good, A. Macnish, A. Galati, L. Gordon, P. Eddy, P. Harris.
Centre: J. Frisina, G. Broderick, L. Smallshaw, S. Nevin, A. Price, C. Thomas, T. Salmon, R. Clements, A. Griffin.
Front: C. Hynes, G. Reilly, J. Vann, R. Buswell, Mr. K. Banks, P. Cumming, P. Styants, M. Hutcheson.
Absent: G. Cartledge, S. Davies.

The Class of 1975 is coming together for a 50th reunion in August in Perth.

The event is open to everyone who went to Bunbury Catholic College with the class at any year level.

Sue Nevin was one of the Year 12 graduates in 1975, as part of a cohort that was in Year 10 when St Joseph's Convent (Sisters of Mercy) girls and St Francis Xavier College (Marist Brother's) boys combined to form Bunbury Catholic College in 1973.

Sue says everyone had a lot of fun at the 40th reunion and decided to have the

50th reunion in Perth, which she is organising even though she now lives in Melbourne.

Save the Date

14 Saturday 2nd August; 11 Herdsman Lake Tavern 33 Herdsman Parade, Wembley
14 11.30am-3.30pm RSVP on Facebook <https://fb.me/1VTudlzCyXOFGnT>
RSVP email on BCC.Classof75@gmail.com



GOOD Mates Reconnect



**Sat 10th May 2025, Parade Hotel
Bunbury, Organised by Fred Tarbotton**

This gang of mates recently reunited, when Fred popped over from Queensland where he is now living.

The group first met at St Joseph's Primary School and then continued to Bunbury Catholic College in 1976. So this was a mini 50th reunion from the time they were in Year 7 together.

There were quite a few who couldn't make it but still keep in touch. No doubt about Fred: lives the furthest away and yet pulls this reunion together every year!

Pictured

Bernard Panizza, Brendan Mincham, Kevin Bertelli, Fred Tarbotton, Sari Mincham (Gordon), James Davies, Lucia Buoro.

Alumni in Action: Mentorship in Sport Education

Camille Wilson writes to the BCC Alumni:

"It was nice to connect in the workplace environment with a fellow ex-student, Scott Tuia, who lived in the same area and went to the same high school as a teenager.

"Scott and I were able to connect over shared memories, acquaintances and experiences throughout years at BCC.

"Before Scott came to do his placement with me at Kolbe Catholic College, it felt like we already knew each other.

"I am currently a House Coordinator and Health and PE teacher at Kolbe Catholic College, as well as running all aspects of Netball within the College."

Pictured: Camille Wilson and Scott Tuia.





Message From Our Chairperson Malena Cahill



Welcome to our latest edition of the Bunbury Catholic College Alumni Newsletter.

As the Chairperson of this Group, I'd like to take a moment to encourage you to consider nominating an amazing Alumni who's making positive impact on others.

The Hall of Distinction initiative recognises and celebrates the BCC Alumni who are making a difference to the lives of many. It also becomes a forum whereby our BCC students may aspire to consider career paths which reflect our Christian values.

The Hall of Distinction showcases Alumni who may have not been in the public eye but deserve to have their contribution to the global society recognised and valued.

How proud are we to have such amazing people who have been educated at Bunbury Catholic College!

On another note, at our recent BCC Alumni Committee meeting we agreed to increase the amount offered for two bursaries that the BCC Alumni sponsor each year.

The Marist and Mercy bursaries are offered to two current Bunbury Catholic students entering Year 12 in the following year.

The bursaries are for students who have achieved success with their studies and who always strive to do their best in all fields, including in the extra-curricular life of the College (for example, sporting teams, choir, school productions or other College endeavours).

Personal qualities including respect and / caring attitudes are also important for the chosen recipients.

The BCC Alumni bursaries for 2026 have increased from \$500 to \$750 per year.

Callout For New Committee Members!

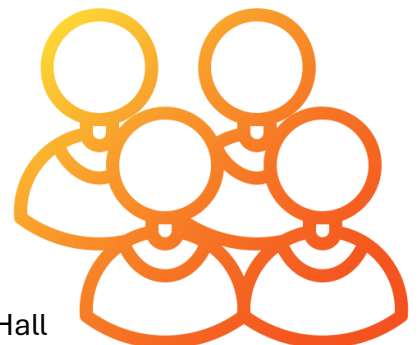
Your contribution can help us develop a vibrant BCC Alumni community together.

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.





How to Stay Connected

Stay connected with the newsletters which are emailed to you. Keep track of our amazing achievers through our Hall of Distinction Awards. Read stories on our website and announcements of future events through our socials.

Share with us via email: contact@bcc-alumni.com, or via our socials.

And we would love to hear from you. Share your stories about yourself and how life has been since you left Bunbury Catholic College.

BCC WEBSITE LINK TO UPDATE YOUR DETAILS:

Please [connect with us by clicking 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)

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.



REUNIONS

**Are you from the Year of 1985?
1995? 2005? 2015?**

It's your REUNION YEAR!

Do you have a reunion coming up?
Would you like help finding people?

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

We can see if we have details for anyone in your year group and share reunion information with them.