



# Columba Catholic College

*Learn, Aspire & Achieve*

## PAST STUDENTS' NEWSLETTER

(Incorporating Past Students from St Columba's School,  
St Mary's College & Mt Carmel College)

NOVEMBER 2011

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**Mt Carmel Campus:** 6-8 Hackett Terrace Charters Towers  
**Website:** [www.columba.catholic.edu.au](http://www.columba.catholic.edu.au)

Dear Past Students,

Another year is fast drawing to a close and what a busy and full on year it has been! Any year that begins with Cyclone Yasi and widespread flooding is sure to be one that we remember for a long time. While we were fortunate and missed the worst of the cyclone, there was still quite a lot of vegetation damage done and many events had to be postponed or cancelled, including our Easter Carnival.

A great deal of building has occurred in recent years and continues at the moment as the new Mt Carmel Campus Library is being fashioned out of the Mackillop classrooms. In the next few weeks the Administration Block on the Mt. Carmel Campus will be gutted and refurbished/rebuilt to improve its functionality, appearance and accessibility to all. The new Language Learning Centre is now fully operational, as is the Community Visitors Centre (Edmund House). The newly refurbished Ryan Dormitory provides air conditioned, single rooms for our boys. On the St. Mary's Campus, we are in the process of moving into the new Library, covered Multi-Purpose play area and new toilet block. The Principal's house has been moved across High Street to our land there, and the old Assembly building (known to Past Students as the Recreation Hall), the Art Cottage and the Staff Room, have all been removed to make way for the new buildings. There are now 10 computer rooms available for student use across the two Campuses as we head into the new Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics, History and Science in 2012.

2012 will also see the commencement of work in the old Ridley Dorm as we upgrade and redevelop it to become a Centre for the Performing Arts. Performing Arts is fast becoming a major focus of the College. Our Agriculture and Vet Centre continues to flourish and support for the Cattle Club and Horse Club continues to grow. Marybank now has its own water supply and we are currently investigating the supply of power to our campsite on the Burdekin.

So much is happening, it's hard to decide what to tell you about in these few short words. I strongly suggest you come to see it all for yourself at next year's reunion (please refer to the back page for details).

On a personal note, I was recently married and Lynelle and I have happily made Charters Towers our home.

I enjoyed the Annual Brisbane Reunion in July and I look forward to meeting more of you at the Queen's Birthday Reunion in June 2012.

May God's blessings be on you until then.

Mike Ashton  
Principal

## A WELCOME VISIT



In October, the College was thrilled with a visit by previous Principals of Mt. Carmel College Brother Neil Langan and Brother Vince Connors. Brother Neil was on the teaching staff at Mt. Carmel College (1957-1960), Principal of Mt. Carmel (1975-1977) and was a member of the teaching staff of Columba Catholic College (1998-2002). Brother Vince was on the teaching staff (1961-1965) and Principal (1978-1979). Brother Neil and Brother Vince were accompanied by Past Student Richard Anthony (1950-1957).

## We welcome articles, photos and news on Past Students for the Past Students' Newsletter

At Columba Catholic College, we are very much aware of the rich history and the proud traditions which were passed on with the amalgamation of St Columba's, St. Mary's and Mt Carmel. We are always delighted to receive news from past students, and we are sure you would too via the Past Students' Newsletters.

Please send information by post to

**Jo-Anne Thompson**

(nee Kerle - Past Student 1973 - 1984)

**Columba Catholic College**

**PO Box 274 Charters Towers Qld 4820**

**or email: [jthompson@columba.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jthompson@columba.catholic.edu.au)**

Likewise, if you have the opportunity to visit Charters Towers, please call in and visit the College - you will see many changes!

**REUNION 2012 - QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND**  
**8, 9 & 10 June 2012**  
**DETAILS PAGE 4**



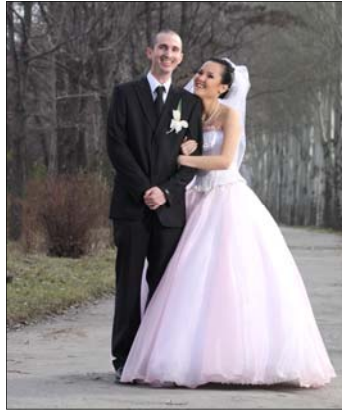
# Just Married



Sharn Rhodes (2000-2003) married Craig Smith in Townsville on the 19th September 2009. The Bridal party included past students Teighan Rhodes (2000-2004) and Carmel Hardy (2002-2003).



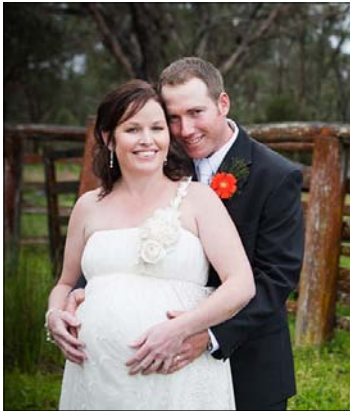
Josh Philo (1998-2002) married Michelle Rochester on Magnetic Island in June 2010.



Paul Newman (1989-1994) and Perizat Sydygalieva were married in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in March 2010.



Jessica Arnold (2000-2004) married Trent Edwards in Townsville in May 2010. Past Students in the Bridal Party included - Hannah Arnold (2001-2005), Sammy-Jo Maclean (2006-2004), Erin Archer (1998-2004).



Skye Abbott (1994-1998) married Anthony Barker in Stanthorpe on 15 October 2010.



Rowan Lowe (1998-2002) and Jody Read were married on 12 March 2011 at St. Paul's Playhouse Charters Towers.



Cameron Brosnan (1989-1993) and his wife Shannon Fielding were married in March 2011 in Perth.



Chauntelle Bennetto (past student 1995-1999 and past teaching staff 2006-2007) married Dan Pantazacos in Brisbane in February 2011.



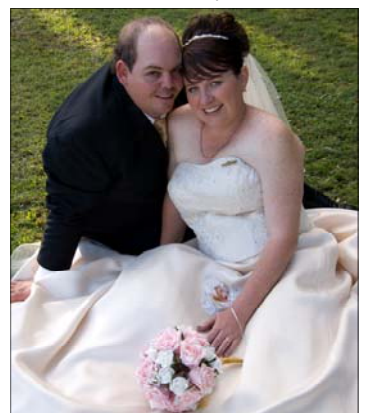
Hannah Arnold (2001-2005) married Jason Simms (2000-2004) in May at Gregory Downs. Past Students in the Bridal Party included Jessica Edwards (nee Arnold), Cristie Cockburn, Grant Keane, Kimberley Arnold, Aaron Clarke and Rachel Arnold.



Billie-Jo Riley (1995-1999) and Heath Yule were married on 16 July 2011 on Nelly Bay, Magnetic Island.



Jana Wong (1994-1996) married Marco Leung on 11 July 2011 in Hong Kong. Catherine Baxter (1995-1996) attended the wedding.



Candice Graham (1998-2004) married Donald Muller in Charters Towers, June 2011.



Cody Herrod (1998-2003) married Matt Binsted in August at Airlie Beach.



Anthea Champion (1993-2004) married Dan Hegarty in August at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Townsville.



Brooke Fox (1997-2001) married Jason Hamlyn in Townsville on 24 September 2011.



Catherine Guilfoyle (1996-1998) - first Columba Catholic College Captain) married Lance McCabe (1994-1997) on 16 September 2011.



# Where are they now?

- Paul Newman (pictured earlier in the Just Married section) and his wife Perizat have just returned to reside in Australia. Paul worked overseas for 5 years as a Supervisor Trade Trainer for Centerra Gold in Kyrgyzstan and Newmont Mining in Ghana. Paul is now employed in Queensland in the mining industry as a Maintenance Superintendent. Paul's sister Maree is now residing in Western Australia with her husband Naval Officer David Tugwell and their two children David and Macaela. Maree was a student of St Columba's School and St Mary's College from 1989 to 1994.
- Simon Bliss (1978-1980) emailed the College earlier this year. He is currently the Principal of Numinbah Valley State School behind Nerang in the Gold Coast Hinterland. Simon's daughters Isabella and Sofia Bliss were in the top 4 of Junior Master Chef Australia and Isabella won the competition. The girls have a useful fanpage on Facebook called "Isabella and Sofia" of Junior Masterchef Australia if anyone would like more information.
- Margaret Ulcickas (nee Cox 1959-1962) emailed the College in January. Margaret has been living in the United States since 1971. Margaret asks if anyone from her "era" would like to contact her, her email address is magpieNQ@cfl.rr.com.
- Irene Gillichibi is currently living in Port Moresby and is working with Erickson as the HR assistant.
- Janet Golu is working in Buka at the Hospital there. She gave birth to her first daughter in November 2010.
- Fred Gumaba was working with the Bank of South Pacific Branch in Popondetta.
- Alex Solon (1999-2001) is managing a business in Kimbe, PNG.
- Brigita Bonney (1993-1995) is currently working with Bismark Maritime Ltd as a Senior Logistics Supervisor and is married with three daughters and two sons. Brigita is happy for Past Students from her class to make contact with her via email - conconlae@bismark.com.
- Paul Parkanyi emailed the College earlier this year. Paul is currently residing in Darwin NT and is a serving Police Officer within the NT Police Force. Paul is keen to catch up with former classmates whom he has lost touch with over the years. If anyone would like to make contact with Paul they can do so via email - xsiq1971@westnet.com.au.
- Pauline Wake (1998-2000) is a doctor in her home town Alotau.
- Bridget Morris (1998-2007) is currently working as a Customer Service Specialist at the Commonwealth Bank in Charters Towers. Bridget and Andrew Moody (2003-2007) were engaged in October 2010 and are busy making arrangements for their wedding in May 2012. Bridget has recently returned from a holiday overseas in Europe.



Jarrod Lowe - (1998-2005) pictured left, graduated from James Cook University in April 2011 with a Bachelor Information Technology – Multimedia Games Development. He works in Townsville for "Onboard IT" as a networks systems engineer.

## CAUGHT ON CAMPUS IN 2011



Visitors to the College in 2011 were Past Student and Past Staff Member - Gavin Milton and his wife Evelina. Gavin and Evelina are travelling overseas in November.



Visitors to the College in 2011 were L to R Melissa Burton (nee Carrington 1995—1999) and Leontay Hookey (2003-2006). Melissa works at Cowboys Rugby League and spoke to our Year 12 Indigenous students regarding the Learn, Earn, Legend program. Leontay is currently working at MMG Century Mine in Administration and spoke to our students recently about employment opportunities for students from the Gulf Region.



Pictured left - L to R: Donald Daley (2006-2007) and Neil Barrett (2003-2007) visited the College in October. Both Neil and Donald are working as care-workers in Mount Isa.

## BRISBANE GATHERING

The tradition by past students in the Brisbane area to attend Mass at St. Patrick's Church in Fortitude Valley, followed by morning tea took place again this year on Sunday 17 July. Thanks to the efforts of people like Noel Tunny, this year's gathering presented a great opportunity for past students and staff in attendance to hear from the Principal, Mr Mike Ashton how the College is building on the past proud traditions and rich history in preparing present students for the future.



# Proposed Programme Reunion Queen's Birthday Weekend 8, 9 & 10 June 2012

**St. Columba's School**  
**1876 - 2012**  
**Celebrating 136 years**

**St. Mary's College**  
**1882 - 2012**  
**Celebrating 130 years**

**Mt. Carmel College**  
**1902 - 2012**  
**Celebrating 110 years**

**Columba Catholic College**  
**1998 - present**  
**Celebrating 15 years**

**Friday 8 June 2012**  
Meet & Greet 7.00 pm  
RSL - 8 Prior Street, Charters Towers

**Saturday 9 June 2012**  
Tour of the College  
Morning Tea - St. Mary's Campus  
BBQ Lunch - Mt. Carmel Campus  
Interscholar Rugby League  
Reunion Dinner - Mt. Carmel Campus

**Sunday 10 June 2012**  
Parish Mass  
Brunch - Mt. Carmel Campus

A registration form to attend the Reunion with costs and further details will be mailed out towards the end of February 2012. This form will also be available on the College website to download and return to the College. Please pass this information on to any Past Student you may know.

**Find us on Facebook:**  
**2012 Reunion**

CHECK OUT THE COLLEGE WEBSITE

[www.columba.catholic.edu.au](http://www.columba.catholic.edu.au)

An electronic copy of this  
Past Student's Newsletter can be downloaded.

## ACCOMMODATION IN CHARTERS TOWERS

### Motels

Affordable Gold City Motel .... Lynd Highway.....	4787 2187
Cattleman's Rest Motor Inn ... 1 Bridge Street .....	4787 3555
Heritage Lodge..... Dr George Ellis Drive.....	4787 4088
Charters Towers Motel..... 95 Hackett Terrace.....	4787 1366
Country Road Motel..... Flinders Highway.....	4787 2422
Hillview Motel..... Hackett Terrace .....	4787 1973
Park Motel/Restaurant..... 1 Mosman Street.....	4787 1022

### Hotels/Motels

Enterprise Hotel Motel..... Cnr Gill Steet & Enterprise Rd....	4787 2404
Rix Hotel Motel..... 69 Mosman Street.....	4787 1605
Irish Molly's Bar & Grill..... 120 Gill Street.....	4787 1187

### Hotels

Commercial Hotel..... 151 Mosman Street .....	4787 1391
Royal Private Hotel..... 100 Mosman Street .....	4787 8688
Waverley Hotel..... Cnr Mosman & Jane Street.....	4787 2591
Crown Hotel..... Cnr Mosman & Jackson Street...	4787 2471

### Caravan Parks

Aussie Outback Oasis	
Cabin & Van Village..... 76 Dr George Ellis Drive .....	4787 8722
Charters Towers Top	
Tourist Park..... 37 Mt. Leyshon Road.....	4787 7944
Dalrymple Tourist Van Park..... Gregory Development Road.....	4787 1121

**Charters Towers State High School will be holding their  
100 year celebration this weekend also.**

**A great chance to catch-up with plenty of friends on the  
weekend - therefore, we encourage you to get in early  
and book accommodation for the weekend.**

## With Sympathy

**Bernard Doherty**  
**(1954)**  
**Passed away 28 June 2010**

**Andrew Crossley**  
**(1992-1994)**  
**Passed away 2010**

**Regina Downes**  
**(1991-1995)**  
**Passed away 3 April 2011**

**Christine Heidenreich (nee Alford)**  
**(1970-1973)**  
**Passed away 1 July 2011**

**Margaret Brooker (nee Carr)**  
**(Early 1920's)**  
**Passed away 2011**