

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

DECEMBER 2021

Past Student News



COLUMBA CATHOLIC COLLEGE
CHARTERS TOWERS

Dear Past Students,

As we reflect on the year that has been there are so many wonderful things to celebrate. As past students, you have a true appreciation of the special place that Columba is. The sense of community and pride in our history is authentically anchored in faith and are some of the characteristics that make Columba the place that it is.

In my first months here at the College I have been deeply encouraged by the dedication, commitment and enthusiasm that is expressed daily through the good works of our entire College community and it is my privilege to be leading Columba as the new College Principal. Having worked in Catholic Education for over 20 years, I fully appreciate the need for authentic partnership. One which places students at the heart of our decision making and our daily work in learning and teaching. Columba Catholic College has a rich and vibrant history; one that I am truly proud to be a part of. As past students of the College, each of you has contributed to our story in many different ways and it is because of our people that our community continues to grow in strength and in faith.

Our College Museum continues to be a place of great interest to past and present students and we are grateful for your ongoing support and contributions to our collection. Next year we will be seeking expressions of interest from past students and staff to assist in the curation of the museum and are excited to share this with those who visit us when in Charters Towers. The oral history that accompanies the treasures in this collection is what brings these items to life and we encourage you to share your stories.

We acknowledge with love and support the members of our community who are recently married, have welcomed new life into the world and we pray for those members of our community who have entered into God's care.

In 2022 we invite you to celebrate our history, tradition and story as we acknowledge with pride 140 years of Mt Carmel and 120 years of St Mary's. In the year ahead, through our celebrations may we be reminded of those who have come before us, those that walk with us and those that will accompany our students into the future.

The late Archbishop Rush who was educated at Mt Carmel for a time stated that "the measure of a Catholic School is the extent to which we place Christ at the Centre". As a Catholic Community our college is founded on the three pillars of Courage, Commitment and Compassion. May we continue to look to Jesus as our model and guide; the ultimate teacher who is ever present in our classrooms, in our community and enlivened in the spirit that is Columba.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our community and may we be blessed in our journey ahead. Thank you for continuing to be a part of our shared story and enjoy the news we share about our past students in 2021.

Many blessings,



Melissa Turner
COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

2022 CELEBRATIONS

Come & Celebrate!

3-5 JUNE 2022



140 YEARS
ANNIVERSARY



120 YEARS
ANNIVERSARY

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW!

2022celebrations@columba.catholic.edu.au

FOCUS ON CATHERINE McCABE (nee Guilfoyle 1996-1998)

The annual College Awards Night was held on Tuesday 16th November 2021. We were delighted to welcome back past student Catherine McCabe (nee Guilfoyle) as our guest speaker. Following is a copy of Catherine's address at Awards Night:



It is my absolute pleasure to be here with you tonight.

Firstly, congratulations to all on getting through another challenging year and special congratulations to this evening's award winners for your achievements.

I am an avid supporter of Columba and have lots of fond memories but here are some of the highlights:

- I was the inaugural College Captain, when the three schools St Columba's, St Mary's and Mt Carmel amalgamated in 1998;
- I enjoyed many opportunities to represent the school in various events and have countless team sporting memories;
- I also met my best friend, Stacey Eisel (nee Collinson), at Columba;
- I met my now husband, Lance, at this school;
- And on account of that, in addition to both being proud past students, we are also now both extremely proud parents of a Columba student, Lane.

So yes, I am very proud of this school, and my connection to it. But, I did not always attend Columba.

Up until the middle of Year 10 I attended Charters Towers State High, and was and still am, very proud to have attended there. I have great memories of State High too. Our netball and softball teams were undefeated premiers in Years 8, 9 and 10 and I had a lot of friends and amazing teachers that I still always love to catch up with.

But, in Year 10, some things started to change. There were a few unsettling issues going on at both school and home, that were bubbling away under the surface and, if I'm honest, cracks were beginning to show with me - behaviourally - and let's just say, they needed some addressing.

So it came to be that one day, after one of those big cracks happened, I knew something had to change. I knew something in my life had to change significantly to help me reset, so, along with my mum's support, I made a pretty drastic choice to change schools smack-bang in the middle of high school, and go to St Mary's, now Columba.

But changing high schools is, I think, kind of a big deal and quite frankly, terrifying. Maybe some of you have experienced it yourself. And it didn't come without its doubts and heightened insecurities for me.

Would I fit in? Would I be up to speed with the classroom curriculum? Would I fall behind? Would my friends at State High stay in touch? Would everyone have more money than me? Was I asking too much of my parents financially to go to a private school? And did this spell the end of our netball reign? And also how many days of the week would I

have to wear the awful day uniform??? *(They are lovely now, but any ladies out there who were at school in 1996 - you know what I mean!)*

Well, I think you know the answers to these concerns already from my introduction. It all turned out better than great in the end, and I don't think I'm overstating it when I say the choice I made to attend Columba, was a sliding doors moment for me that changed the course of my life forever. But why, and how, and why was I drawn to Columba?

Well to answer these questions, I will fast-forward to my career after school, which has been based in marketing. I've worked for a number of organisations in Queensland in various marketing positions, and most recently started my own consultancy here in Charters Towers.

Marketing is a really interesting field to work in, not the least because there are so many facets to it - one of which is branding. So when reflecting on what it was about Columba that made such a difference to me, I couldn't help but look to the school's branding and its values which, then principal Mrs Norton and I can tell you, were the subject of much discussion and deliberation in 1997 as the schools prepared to amalgamate.

You see branding, is about much more than a logo. A logo is quite simply the physical representation of a brand. Branding is in fact a process - a journey if you will - that organisations use to distil what is really at the heart of what they do - what is their purpose, why are they special, what is their promise to their customer, and even if they were to be a person, what would they be like? This is called the brand persona, and takes into account the kind of characteristics, tone of voice, and even motivations and fears of the brand. And the thinking behind it is that "like attracts like." Brands who can embody the same kind of values as the people they want to attract, are generally more successful in doing so. And not only that, but create loyal customers willing to shout amazing things about them from the rooftop.

So, when I see things like the big Columba billboard on the highway coming home from Townsville, and reflect on my own experience, it is plain as day to me why I have such an affinity with Columba. The values that Columba bring to life are exactly those I wanted in my life:

- **Courage:** Columba rewards those who are brave to overcome their fears, and step out of their comfort zone for the purpose of achieving their potential.
- **Compassion:** When I came to Columba, I was rewarded with compassion and understanding and embraced with open arms, not only by the staff but students taught to do the same. I was treated with respect, and taught to have compassion and respect for myself.
- **Commitment:** The school emphasises its commitment to consistently supporting students, to stay focused on your goals and to persevere through life's challenges.

But branding is not just for organisations and extends to individuals too, though not usually as consciously as in the business world.



FOCUS ON CATHERINE McCABE (nee Guilfoyle 1996-1998) Cont.

And as students of Columba who attend school for years, and are not just simply transactional customers like many brands have, I want you to take a moment to realise that, knowingly or not, you have now been gifted these beautiful values. They've been instilled in you, as part of everyday life at school.

Effectively, you've been branded Columba.

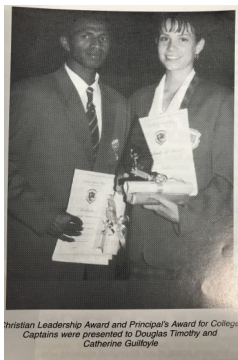
This is a blessing, but that is not where the brand journey ends for you. You have the power to choose your own brand, and take it whatever direction you want, whenever you want, and be whoever you want to be, in your own unique way that makes you special.

So, I would like to challenge you all this Christmas break, or before your next TikTok post, to take a moment to intentionally think what you want your own personal brand to be – what values are important to you, what is going to be your purpose, and promise, to yourself and others, so that you both support and attract people who share those same fundamental values into your life, and make your own brand, a roaring success.

Thank you.



Netball - Firsts (Undefeated Premiers)
Back: Marie Tito, Pauline Wake, Azura Peacock, Bessie Doyle
Front: Anna Schoa, Beryl Kerr, Miss Maryann Watson (Coach), Catherine Guilfoyle (Captain), Kristy Stainkey, Bernadette Williamson



Christian Leadership Award and Principal's Award for College Captains were presented to Douglas Timothy and Catherine Guilfoyle

Taken from the 1998 Columba Magazine - Photo left Catherine - Captain of First Netball (Undefeated Premiers 1998) and Photo right - Catherine with Co-Captain Douglas Timothy at the College Annual Awards Night 1998.



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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 18th July.

Thanks to the effort and hard work of Carmel Brougham, this year's gathering presented a great opportunity for past students and staff to hear how the College is building on the past proud traditions and rich history in preparing present students for the future.



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Maddelyn Ruddle (2007-2013) married Matthew Hansson on 23rd January 2021



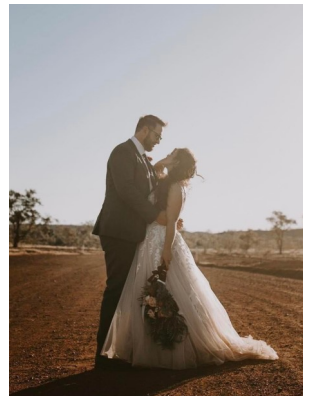
Sam Goodwin (1998-2006) married Libby Twine in Charters Towers on 16th April 2021.



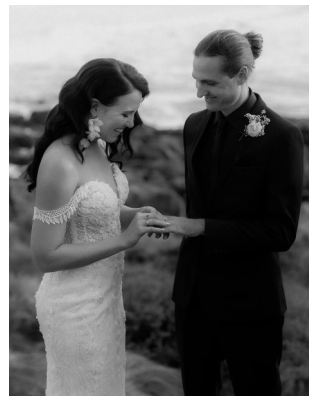
Catherine Collins (1995-2007) married Paul Spence in Brisbane on 1st May 2021.



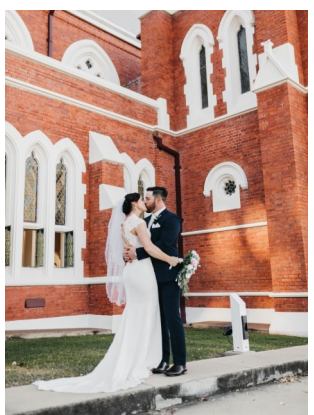
Madison McColl (2015-2016) married Billy Hill on 17th July 2021.



Luke Norton (2005-2007) married Sophie Haines on 24th July 2021.



Chrissy Moody (2003-2010) married Trevor Henry on 22nd July 2021 at Bruny Island off the coast of Hobart, Tasmania.



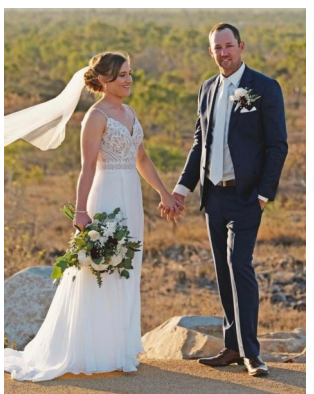
Hannah Goodwin (1998-2004) married Mark Neilsen on 30th July 2021.



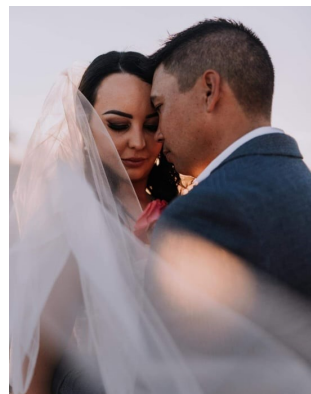
Kruze Clarke (2003-2011) married Madeline Beatty on 31st July 2021.



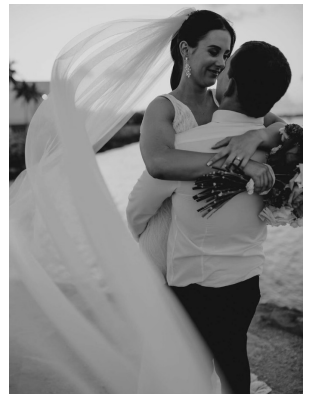
2013 College Captain, Benjamin Terry (2007-2013) married Amy Meehan (2007-2011) on 28th August 2021.



Gemma Busiko (1995-2007) married Riley West (2004-2007) on 24th September 2021. Gemma and Riley were married in the Columcille Gardens and the reception was held in the Iona Centre on the Mt. Carmel Campus.



Cassandra Easton (2010-2012) married Reuben Johnston on 25th September 2021.



Katie O'Keefe (2006-2010) married Adam Shaw on 9th October 2021 in Townsville.

LATEST NEWS

- Our prayers are offered to Vincent Doyle (1995-2000) who was recently diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. Vincent is currently residing in Mt. Isa and if you would like to offer assistance to Vincent and his family, please contact Past Student Kathryn (Bessie) Doyle (1994-1998) katdoyle4@gmail.com
- Rosalind Guazzo (nee Barra) emailed the College earlier this year. The class of SMC Junior Class 1970/Senior Class 1972 are planning to celebrate their class reunion of 50 years at the 2022 Celebrations in June.
- Mr Patrick Dawkins sent a lovely letter and pictures taken in 1957 and 1958.
- Congratulations to Mr Norman Charles Shrubsole (1954-1958) on receiving the Medal (OAM) of the order of Australia in the General Division for service to the community through a range of roles including:
 - * Brisbane Bardon Lions Club
 - * Member, since 1976
 - * Former President
 - * Former Treasurer
 - * Lions District 201Q3
 - * Former Zone Chairman
 - * Jubilee Catholic Parish
 - * Chairman, Pastoral Council, since 2009
 - * Awards and recognition include:
 - * District Governor Awards, Lions Club International, 1999, 2003, 2004 and 2016
 - * Lion of the Year, 1986-1987
 - * Life Member, Lions Club International.

WITH SYMPATHY

Lyn Burbridge (nee Ahern) (1963 – 1964) passed away in 2020.

Jeffery Phelan (1961-1964) sadly passed away in 2020.

Anne Poole (nee Parry - Year 12 1962) passed away earlier in 2021.

Rodger Plant (1999-2004) passed away on 25th July 2021.

Myles Joseph Lyons (1953-1956) passed away 19th September 2021.

Brother Cusack cfc (Mt. Carmel 1963-1967) passed away 8th October 2021.



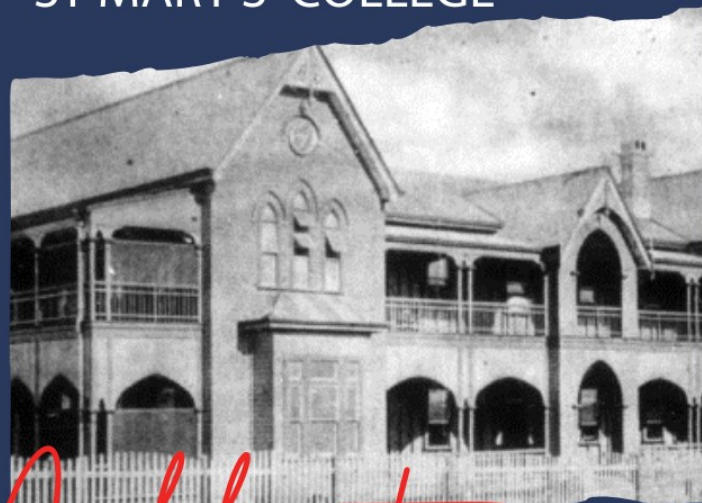
140 YEARS

ST MARY'S COLLEGE



120 YEARS

MT CARMEL COLLEGE



Come & Celebrate!

Friday 3 June 2022

- Celebration Mass
- Meet and Greet
BBQ & Bar, Iona Centre

Saturday 4 June 2022

- Heritage Trail around Charters Towers
- High Tea at St Mary's Campus followed by Campus Tours
- Football - 1sts vs ASSG
- Netball - 1st vs ASSG
- Formal Dinner & Roll Call

Sunday 5 June 2022

- Parish Mass at St Columba's Parish
- Brunch at St Mary's Campus
- Farewell

2022 CELEBRATIONS

Save the Date

3 - 5 JUNE 2022

To keep up to date with information regarding the Celebrations,
please visit the College Website:

<https://www.columba.catholic.edu.au/news/2022-celebrations/>

Register your interest at 2022Celebrations@columba.catholic.edu.au.

