



The background of the page is a photograph of the FCJ College entrance. A red brick wall runs across the middle ground, with a dark grey sign on it that reads 'FCJ COLLEGE' in white, all-caps, serif font. To the left, a white metal gate is partially visible. In the background, there are green trees and a clear blue sky. The text 'Alumni News' is overlaid on the image in a large, white, cursive script font. 'Alumni' is on the top line and 'News' is on the bottom line, both centered horizontally.

EDITION 2, DECEMBER 2022

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear FCJ Family,

As we race towards the end of a busy 2022, we look back over the year and can fully appreciate why we are all so exhausted. I think many of us have been accumulating an unconscious weight of dread and uncertainty connected to the pandemic, but we didn't let it stop us enjoying a full suite of academic and extra-curricular programs at FCJ College this year.

Our 2022 theme of Gentleness, a fundamental FCJ characteristic, has challenged our community this year. How can we practice gentleness in our interactions with others, and importantly, how can we treat ourselves with gentleness? It has been a wonderful theme that has led to many insightful conversations and reflections upon the quiet strength found in gentle approaches and the calm interactions we have with each other.

I take this opportunity to thank our wonderful FCJ College staff for their tireless efforts at providing a warm and encouraging environment for our students, so they can continue to push themselves to learn and grow. To Pauline Fisher and the College Council, my thanks again for the ongoing support and stewardship the Council provides. It is a blessing knowing that the governance of our school is in such safe hands.

And to our students; the reason we're here. They are the joy we find in our day, everyday, and so, my sincere thanks for turning up and having their eyes open to all that's possible. We hope at FCJ College, that we are playing a role in assisting them to develop a greater sense of themselves, a greater sense of the community and a greater appreciation of the world. Because let's be honest, the world needs some shining lights and I'm confident that the world will find them here - at FCJ College.

Go gently,



FCJ College Principal



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Benalla Historical Society conducted a history walking tour of significant buildings in Benalla township. A large group commenced at the Gardens Rotunda and walked to FCJ College under the leadership of Maree Hanlon.

The group consisted of some members of the Society plus a few locals and some people who are new to the town. Many of the group had not been past the front gates of the College let alone inside. They admired the architecture and heard the history of the old convent built in 1900. They then visited the archives where they viewed the many items and photos on display.

All were amazed at the space set aside for the archives and the wonderful memorabilia and artefacts to be viewed. After leaving, the group went onto the Parish House, St Joseph's Church, The Royal Hotel, The Bootmakers, The Old Court House, the Anglican Precinct and the Grandstand at the showgrounds.

We are fortunate to have some significant buildings in the town and should be very proud that FCJ College is part of this town's history and continues to be a prominent and admired landmark.

Lyn Towner

FCJ College Archivist



VALE

*Sr Kathleen
Mary Ride bcg*

Kathleen Mary Ride was born in Benalla September 1920 to Catherine and John Ride. She had a sister Ellen (Marge) and a brother John. The three children attended FCJ College and enjoyed a very happy childhood. Their father inherited the Ride Soft Drink Factory, a well-known industry in the town at the time. Kathleen left school at the age of 16 and worked at Rudin's Benalla, a store selling both men's and ladies' wear, for 9 years.

Kathleen became engaged to a young man, who wasn't a Catholic and in those days of bigotry the young man's family sent him away. She was devastated. She continued to love dancing, socialising and the attention of young men but gradually these things began to lose their allure. Kathleen decided to join the FCJ order February 1, 1945 and travelled to England and after five years of training returned in 1952 to teach at Genazzano and Richmond.

In 1971 till 1978, Sister Perpetua as she was then known, taught at St Joseph's Primary School Benalla. She loved Benalla and even after moving on to other ventures always returned to enjoy time with her family and friends. After becoming ill, she had to discontinue her teaching career of 29 years but was asked to establish the FCJ Australian Archive and began by setting up a Heritage Room at Richmond.



In the 1980s she travelled to Canada to set up the Canadian Province Archives and also formed a group to become the Association of Catholic Archivists Victoria. She was asked to establish more archives in USA, Ireland & England to name a few. Her attention to detail, her capacity for organisation, her thoroughness in all she did made her a successful archivist.

**Kathleen was deeply spiritual with a very strong faith and a great love of her God.
May she rest in peace (1920 -2022)**

FCJ COLLEGE ALUMNI (1979-1982)

Clare Hanlon

Professor and Susan Alberti Women in Sport Chair,
Victoria University



Growing up in Benalla has made me a better person. Coming from a country town and going to school at St Joesph's and FCJ College gave me life skills that I use every day. These included the need to be kind and have a purpose in life. This was one of the reasons why I went to university in Ballarat to then become a primary school teacher and PE coordinator in Seymour.

Teaching children was rewarding and based on my passion in sport, inspired me to return to university to complete a Masters in Applied Science. I soon learnt from the connections I gained with people in the sport industry, that there were a range of career opportunities available in sport. Upon graduation I worked with a great team on behalf of the Victorian government where I was the regional sport coordinator focused on building the professional development of primary and secondary school teachers. Lots of laughs and good fun.

Since igniting this spark I have travelled the world speaking at conferences and to key leaders, and provided evidence and advice to international through to local organisations to build community capacity that breaks down barriers and increases opportunities for women and girls as leaders and players in sport. For success, networking and collaborating with organisations is vital.

I have worked with colleagues in countries including Canada, USA, South East Asia and the Pacific. I have: pushed boundaries to enable policy changes that provide choice of sport uniforms for girls and women; co-led a national roadmap to assist organisations build capacity to embrace women and girls in sport and a national policy framework for women in sport; created a high level women in sport strategy for Sport Australia; was a member on the Victorian Ministerial Inquiry for Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation that led to the creation of the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation, the first Office of its kind in Australia; and advisor for three State/Territory Governments on infrastructure and systems to encourage women and girls in sport.

In recognition of creating change, it was an honour to be inducted into the Victorian Women's Honour Roll (2018), recognised as a Change our Game role model by the Victorian Minister for Sport (2016), and a chapter was dedicated to me in the book Oceania inspirational women: Making a difference in physical education, sport and dance (2016).

Currently I am a Director on the Oceania Gymnastics Union; Co-Chair the inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Council of Auscycling; and Co-Founder Musical Moments Trust in support with Challenge to help children with cancer. To assist with a work/life balance, in the last couple of years I stood down from my roles as Director of Gymnastics Australia and Chair of the Australian Women in Sport Advisory Group.

Through my experience I have learnt that we are all different and need to be proud of what we can offer. You can be what you want to be, there is no direct path in life and challenges exist - enjoy the ride and be kind to others.

Clare Hanlon





VALE

Sr Celine Nolan fcJ

Sister Celine Nolan fcJ was born 24/02/1939 in East Melbourne. She was the first of seven children to Doris & John Nolan. The family moved to Wangaratta and in 1950 to Glenrowan. She attended FCJ College Benalla as a boarder for three years of her secondary schooling as it was considered too far to travel each day to Wangaratta by bus. Celine completed her secondary schooling in 1955 and on 2 February 1956 she entered the convent. She was 16 years old. Her siblings remember her more as a nun than as a sister. She was someone they visited annually, had great afternoon teas and who they wrote to once a month. It was only in the latter years when circumstances changed that they got to know her more as a sister. Celine was also an Essendon supporter. The family forgave her for somethings - this being one of them!

She began her life as a nun and a teacher from 1956 to 1973. She taught in schools in Melbourne and then in America at St Philomena's, Port Smith Rhode Island. On her return to Australia in 1970, she continued to teach at Sacred Heart Kew and Our Lady of Good Counsel Deepdene.

In 1973 Celine spent time nursing with the Little Sisters of the Poor in Northcote. This was a life changing experience as the records state she began her nursing training at Sacred Heart Hospital Moreland and in 1977 became a State Registered nurse.

At the conclusion of her nurses training, Celine chose a third year of spiritual study and this took her to the UK. On returning to Australia, she returned to Sacred Heart Hospital and then to St Raphael's nursing home.

Celine was an excellent cook, and every Christmas made many Christmas cakes for family, friends and her community. She was also a wonderful knitter and her needlework was exemplary. In 1992 Celine was missioned back to Richmond and nursed at St Catherine's Balwyn and then in 1998, Celine began her life as a Pastoral Associate working with new immigrants, running sacramental programs and overseeing bereavement teams. She was particularly loved by those from East Timor.

Celine also loved her feline friends, Trixie, Tommie and Millie. Celine arrived back in Benalla in 2007 and became part of the parish of St Joseph's. This period in Benalla could be seen as a preparation for God's final plan for her. She met her dear friend Margaret Brough who became such a great support to her. She also returned to where she encountered the FCJs as a boarder and was able to renew and catch up with her old friends from her school days. This was one thing about Celine, if you became her friend, you were a friend for life. Her loyalty knew no bounds.

Celine became a familiar sight at FCJ College. She could be seen walking across to the College Chapel to set up for Mass. She was devoted to this duty for many years whilst her body would carry her. Altar linen was always pristine and beautifully ironed. All would be in readiness for the celebrant and the students.

As Faithful Companions of Jesus

"We dedicate ourselves unreservedly for the greater service and glory of God". Celine lived each day knowing how through our foundress Marie Madeline -

"We bear the name of Jesus and unceasingly seek, in the spirit of our foundress, to make known and loved the name of Jesus, his Spirit, his Heart and his Mother"

Sr Celine fcJ - God called her home on 26 August 2022 as his good and faithful servant.



FAREWELL MARK MCDONALD



At the end of 2022, we congratulated and thanked Mark McDonald for 22 years of loyal service to FCJ College Benalla in his role as Business Manager. During his time at FCJ College, Mark oversaw many changes to the College and many different building programs! It is true what they say about Mark, he was the beating heart of FCJ College and it will certainly be a very different place without him. As a Business Manager, Mark had a very public face but also did a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes. Mark's skill in finance held our community in very safe hands for 22 years and we are thankful for his wonderful stewardship. In serving our community, Mark always led with a compassionate heart and a sense of doing what is right for our students and our families.

But Mark also had another special role. He had a reputation of being something of a gourmet sausage chef. In fact, on average Mark cooked 4 sausage sizzles a year, averaging 200 sausages each, plus one for Founder's Day (whole school community, so say 400), over 22 years - that equates to 26,400 sausages that were turned, burned, and provided to 1000s of students and staff over the years!

We want to take this opportunity to wish Mark and his wife Wendy all the very best as they embark on retirement and the next adventure. We are forever grateful to Mark for his tireless work and his wonderful sense of humour and positivity throughout the years.

Good bye and good luck!





CLASS OF 2012 REUNION

It was great to see so many students from our Class of 2012 return to FCJ College for their 10 Year Reunion. The group took part in a tour of the facilities, (many things had changed in 10 years) as well as a visit to our Archives Room with our Archivist Lyn Tanner.

If you have a reunion coming up and would like to revisit FCJ College, please contact Kristy Hanrahan or Lyn Tanner at FCJ College.







**If you have suggestions for news articles within this publication
or to organise a reunion, please contact
Kristy Hanrahan - Community Engagement Officer.**

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Embracing hope for a better world FCJ College Benalla promotes the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children and young people