

Newsletter



TERM 4 29 NOVEMBER 2024

Dear FCJ College community,

Last week we farewelled our Graduating class of 2024. It was a wonderful evening that commenced with a Valedictory Mass in St Joseph's Church and then followed by a lovely dinner at the Glasshouse. Below is a copy of my final address to the graduates of 2024, inspired by the words of our dear Sr Rosemary Crowe.

Good evening families, friends, staff and especially graduates of FCJ College 2024.

Today is a momentous occasion, a day filled with celebration, pride, and perhaps, just a touch of uncertainty. It is a day to honour your hard work, your growth, and the journey that has led you here. As I stand before you, it's hard not to think back (many years) to when I had just graduated high school and I want to share a little piece of it with you.

When I was five years old, I wanted to be a fireman. I wanted to drive the trucks, hit the sirens and run into the burning buildings. But by the time I finished high school, my dreams had shifted. I was going to be a diplomat, working for the United Nations, solving global conflicts, and making a difference on the world stage. But here I am today. Not a fireman. Not a diplomat. Instead, a teacher, a principal, here at a FCJ College, standing before you fine people as you commence the next chapter.

Across my life, and across yours, you will be asked this question—often, maybe too often: "What do you want to do when you grow up?" Or perhaps, "What are you doing next?" We hear these questions so frequently. When you finish school, when you finish university, when you finish your job, when you finish this chapter—what will you do next?

No doubt you have heard these questions, you may have been asked them this evening even. And while these questions are natural, they also have a way of overwhelming us, don't they? The constant wondering about what's next can be stressful. It can lead to worry, to comparisons, to doubts about whether you're on the "right" path. And so, this evening, I want to offer you a different perspective. I want to challenge you, as you stand at this important crossroads, to consider not answering those questions for a moment.

Instead of constantly worrying about what's next, I want you to think about blooming where you are planted.

I first heard this phrase when I was about your age, and to be honest, I didn't listen to it. I didn't want to bloom where I was planted. I wanted to be thrown somewhere else. I wanted to be someone else. I wanted to rush ahead to the next phase of life, the next adventure, the next achievement. But recently, I was reminded of this phrase again at the funeral Sr Rosemary, an FCJ sister with a strong connection to St Joseph's, FCJ and the Benalla region and her words have stayed with me.

She had shared about how her greatest joy came from being able to bloom where she was planted—how she found purpose, peace, and fulfillment in living fully in the present, not in rushing ahead to the next thing, but by embracing where she was, with all of its challenges, its joys, and its opportunities for growth.

So, what does this mean for you today, graduates? It means that you don't have to have everything figured out. You don't have to know exactly what your future will look like or where life will take you. Life is a journey, and sometimes, the most important thing is to simply live each step of that journey with intention, with purpose, and with faith.

Think about it: You are all entering a world filled with possibilities. But you will also face challenges. You will encounter moments of doubt. There will be times when you wonder if you're on the right path, or if you should be doing something else, something bigger, something more important and impressive. In those moments, remember that you don't have to be anywhere else to be of value. You don't have to wait for the "next" thing to make a difference.

You can bloom right where you are, in the midst of your circumstances, and be exactly who God has called you to be, right now.

So, graduates, as you move forward, I encourage you to take a deep breath and trust that the next step will come when it is meant to come. Right now, in this moment, bloom where you are planted. Make the most of the gifts you've been given—your talents, your faith, your kindness, your love. Let these things shape the world around you, even if it doesn't feel like you're changing the world all at once. You are planting seeds. You are making an impact. And before you know it, you'll look around and see how you've grown.

Congratulations, Class of 2024, I am so proud of each of you. Go forth with faith, with hope, and with the courage and confidence that wherever you are, you can bloom.

Go well,
Shaun Mason
 Principal

CONGRATULATIONS JOE BERRY

A huge congratulations to FCJ College student Joe Berry, who has been drafted to Port Adelaide at pick #15!

This is an extraordinary accomplishment for Joe and a proud moment for our FCJ College community.

We can't wait to see you thrive in the AFL and represent Port Adelaide with passion and dedication. The entire FCJ College community is behind you Joe!



What's On

November

29	Student Free Day – Staff Professional Practice Day (Headstart Preparation)
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December

2	Headstart commences
10	Year 7 in 2025 Orientation Day
13	Last day for students
19	College office closes at 12pm

UNIFORM SHOP TRADING HOURS
 Mondays 8am - 12noon
 Fridays 12pm - 4pm

FCJ COLLEGE'S COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

All students enrolled, and any child visiting FCJ College, have a right to feel safe and be safe. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety.



Last week, we came together as a community to celebrate and farewell our Year 12 students with a heartfelt Valedictory Mass at St Joseph' Church. The evening was a beautiful reflection of their journey at FCJ College, filled with gratitude, hope, and blessings for their future.

Following the Mass, families, staff and students gathered for a stunning dinner at the Benalla Lakeside Community Centre. The night was filled with laughter, memories and a shared sense of pride in all they have achieved.

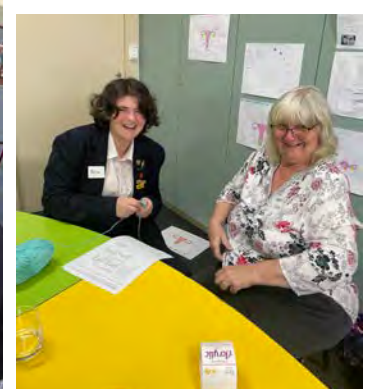
To the Class of 2024 - thank you for your contributions to FCJ College. As you take your next steps, know that you carry the spirit of courage and companionship with you. We can't wait to see what the future holds for each of you!



VET COMMUNITY SERVICES & BENALLA YARN BOMBERS PARTNERSHIP

VET Community Services students enjoyed four weeks of knitting lessons from the Benalla Yarn Bombers. The volunteers patiently taught various stitches, casting on and off, and fixing dropped stitches, all shared over tea and laughter. The students aim to create baby beanies for local hospitals, though more practice will continue into next year. The experience fostered inter-generational connections and even sparked a newfound love for knitting among many students!

Thank you to Annie, Joy, Elaine, Jill and Chris from the Yarn Bombers for visiting us, as well as Mrs Dalton for helping behind the scenes with casting on and fixing stitches, and Mrs Isaacson for demonstrating the knitting looms. Your support is greatly appreciated!



OES UNIT 2 SURF TRIP TO ANGLESEA



The Unit 2 Outdoor Education class recently embarked on an exciting three-day trip to Anglesea, along the iconic Great Ocean Road. Sixteen eager students and three staff members made the most of the coastal environment, testing their skills, exploring nature, and deepening their connection with the outdoors in a series of memorable activities.

Day one began with overcast skies and cool temperatures, but that didn't dampen the group's enthusiasm. In the afternoon, students headed down to Anglesea Beach for their first surf lesson. Despite the chilly weather, everyone was keen to get out on the water, and surf instructors quickly had the group paddling and learning the basics of riding the waves. The challenge of balancing on the board and catching their first wave made for an exciting experience, with many students showing impressive determination. The instructors emphasized safety, ocean awareness, and respect for the environment, ensuring that everyone learned valuable skills in a fun and safe setting.

Day two kicked off with another session of surfing, this time in the morning. With overcast skies still lingering, the students were eager to refine their skills from the previous day. Under the guidance of the surf instructors, many students managed to improve their technique, catching more waves and feeling more confident in the water. For those who had been a little unsure the day before, it was clear that practice was paying off.

After the morning surf session, the group took to the Great Ocean Road to enjoy lunch in the nearby town of Lorne. The afternoon was spent exploring the lush Great Otway National Park on a bushwalk. Surrounded by towering trees and dense fern gullies, students were able to connect with nature and learn more about the local ecosystems. Along the way, they learned about sustainability practices, the importance of conservation, and the diverse wildlife that calls the park home.

On the final day of the trip, the students visited the iconic Split Point Lighthouse. Standing on the rugged cliffs with sweeping views of the coastline, the lighthouse offered a chance to learn about the area's maritime history and its role in guiding ships safely along the coast as well as the human impact on this fragile environment. The group had time to take in the breathtaking scenery before heading to the famous Torquay outlet stores. Here, the students were able to relax and explore the local shops, rounding off the trip with a bit of retail therapy.

By the end of the three days, the students had gained valuable skills, made lasting memories, and forged stronger connections with both the natural world and each other. Whether it was riding the waves or hiking through ancient forests, every experience offered lessons in resilience, teamwork, and environmental stewardship.

CLASS OF 1983: CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP AND MEMORIES!

On Saturday 10 November 2024 at the North-Eastern Hotel, the Class of 1983 celebrated their 40 year reunion. At that point in time FCJ College only went to Year 10. Of the Year 10 class of approximately 50 students, 25 travelled from far and wide as well as those from local areas. A great night was held by all!



F.C.J. COLLEGE BENALLA 10
D. Brady, R. Hauptmann, G. Barr, T. Reardon, P. Greaves, G. Peyton, J. Cooke, M. Saunders
A. Wilson, A. Putt, D. Wood, L. Poon, M. Craig, C. James, M. Aggenbach, A. Blaby, J. Dapos
C. Hanlon, L. Daniel, C. Levy, F. Worboys, C. Burns, C. Cole, H. Murray, D. Nicholson
K. McLeod, W. Millard, A. Kelly, J. Langlands, M. Sydes, M. Hickey, C. Dodemaide, R. Harper, M. Bruzses
B. Rhodes, J. Scanlon, R. Avery, L. Hogan, K. Gilbert, C. Pritchard, K. Hostyiczki, C. Said, M. Drane, C. Shan
B. Williams, L. Wellington, M. Battye, G. Woods, L. Thaus, K. Bourke, J. Byers, A. O'Connor



STUDENT LEADERS SHINE IN CANBERRA LEADERSHIP CAMP



FCJ College student leaders recently spent a few days in Canberra as part of the Leadership Camp alongside Sacred Heart Yarrowonga.

Highlights included visits to the National Museum, High Court, Parliament House, National Gallery of Australia, and the Australian Institute of Sport. This camp was an amazing opportunity for our students to deepen their understanding of Australian history, governance, and excellence in sport while building connections with fellow young leaders.



KOBI CROMIE SHINES IN LAWN BOWLS SUCCESS

Well done to Kobi Cromie for his latest accomplishment in his chosen sport - lawn bowls.

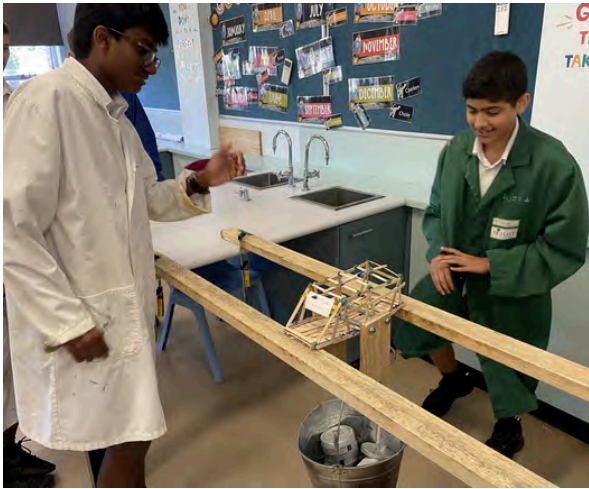
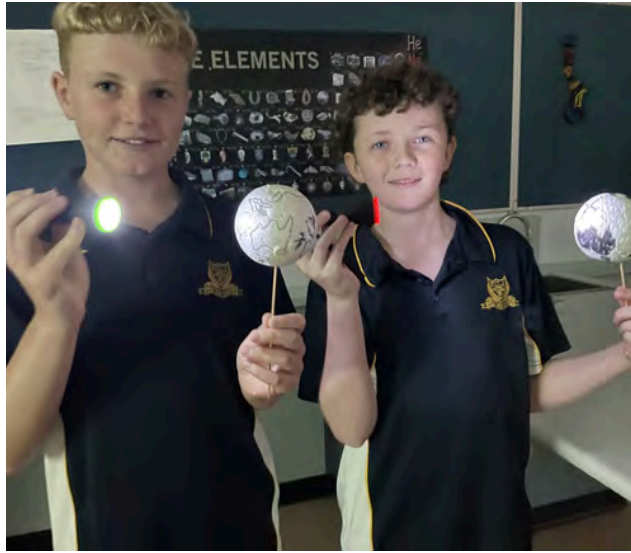


YEAR 11S WRAP UP WITH FUN AT BENALLA BOWLS CLUB

For our final activity together as a Year 11 cohort, the students and teachers made their way to the Benalla Bowls Club for an afternoon of fun. Special thanks to Ian and the team at BBC for a wonderful afternoon.



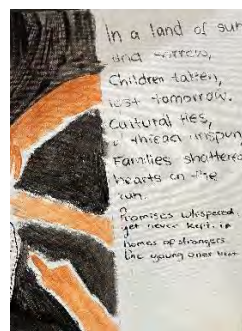
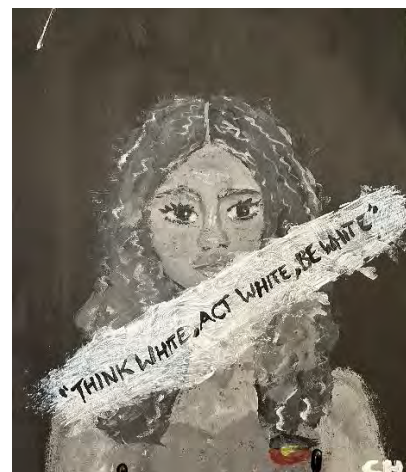
SCIENCE



Book Banter!

29th November, 2024

Some brilliant and thought-provoking art work created by our Year 9 Cohort while studying First Nations. We were lucky enough to have these on display in the library and to be able to share these with the entire school!



PROTECT

Everyone has the right to be safe and be protected from abuse.

No one should behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or afraid, including anyone in your family, anyone at school or anywhere else in the community.

Tell a teacher or any adult at your school if you feel unsafe.



It's everyone's responsibility.

Adults at school must listen and respond to concerns about child abuse.

If you suspect abuse of any child or young person, you have a responsibility to report it, even if you are not sure.

Further information & resources
www.education.vic.gov.au/protect



Looking to try a new sport?

Give baseball a go. Benalla Bandits Baseball Club is always welcoming new members and would love for you to be one of them. It's a great way to learn a new sport while making new friends and getting some exercise.

Our juniors teams range from 6 to 15 and seniors are for anyone over the age of 15.

We would love to hear from you

For more information please contact us

Phone: Ashley Cartledge - 0439662780

Email: benallabandits@gmail.com

Or message our Facebook page.

facebook



Find us on Facebook and Instagram!



SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL SHOP

Second-hand Textbooks and Uniforms

We have partnered with Sustainable School Shop to provide families access to second-hand textbooks, uniforms, calculators, musical instruments, sports gear and much more!

Sustainable School Shop have preloaded items specific to our school onto their site. This makes it super easy to list your items for sale and to buy items.

See all the second-hand uniform items for sale here:
<https://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au/stocktake/fcj-college>

See all the second-hand textbooks for sale here:
<https://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au/booklist/fcj-college>

So jump onto the site, register and list your items for sale, you will be:

- reusing items rather than adding to landfill
- making money on items you sell
- saving money on items you buy
- providing another family in our school with cheaper items
- helping to create a culture of contact amongst our school community families!

Login or Register here: <https://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au>



WANGARATTA DISTRICT
SPECIALIST SCHOOL
PRESENTS

POST-SCHOOL EXPO

THURSDAY
THE 12TH OF
DECEMBER
2024

ARE YOU A PARENT OR CARER OF A CHILD WHO IS NEURODIVERGENT OR HAS A DISABILITY AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OPTIONS POST-SCHOOL?

Come along to the second WDSS Post-School Expo!

WANGARATTA
DISTRICT
SPECIALIST SCHOOL
139 - 145 APPIN
STREET,
WANGARATTA

3.45PM
TO
5.30PM

REGISTER YOUR
INTEREST USING
QR CODE



Get up to \$500 for education costs

Achieve a savings goal for 10 months, and ANZ will match it up to \$500.

To be eligible, you need to meet these requirements:

- 18+
18 years or older
- \$
A regular income (you or your partner)
- Attend free online financial education workshops
- Are studying yourself or have a child at school, or starting next year
- Current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card

Saverplus.org.au
1300 610 355



Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in partnership with The Smith Family and Berry Street. It is funded by ANZ and Department of Social Services.

Youth Outreach Recovery Support (YORS)

What is Youth Outreach Recovery Support (YORS)?

Youth Outreach Recovery Support (YORS) is a Mental Health Community Support Service (MHCSS) for young people aged 16-25 years who are experiencing mental health symptoms or significant psychological distress. It will be delivered by existing Youth Residential Recovery (YRR) service providers across Victoria.

YORS is funded by the Department of Health to provide young people with short to medium term flexible outreach wellbeing support to help them to better manage their mental health, develop practical life skills for independent living and self-care, engage in community life, access other health and social support services they need, and make the journey towards recovery and the life they want.

Who will benefit from YORS?

YORS is for young people aged 16-25 years in Victoria, who are experiencing mental health symptoms or significant psychological distress.

It will complement, but not duplicate, case management supports the young person may be receiving from other service providers (e.g. area mental health services, youth justice, out of home care and homelessness providers) by providing a psychosocial therapeutic response tailored to the needs of the young person. This includes providing young people with some access to the YRR group programs and activities on a day basis. This support can also be provided before or after a YRR bed-based placement.

How do you refer to YORS?

Young people can self-refer to YORS. With the young person's consent, referrals can also be made by family members or carers, schools, youth services, GPs, private and public mental health clinicians, headspace, Prevention and Recovery Care Services (PARCS), as well as health and social support services such as those related to: homelessness, justice, out of home care, and substance use or addiction.

Referrals through ACSO Intake

Phone: 1300 022 760 E-mail: mhcss@acso.org.au W: www.acso.org.au

If you would like more information, please contact:

YORS Co-ordinator
Kerry Osborne
M: 0456 748 806
E: kerry.osborne@mindaustrialia.org.au

YORS Co-ordinator Peer Practitioner
Rachel Lawrowicz
M: 0456 742 144
E: rachel.lawrowicz@mindaustrialia.org.au

Areas covered:



Youth Outreach Recovery Support
5/8-10 London Road
Wodonga VIC 3680
p 1300 256 463
e mindconnect@mindaustrialia.org.au
w mindaustrialia.org.au

Mind Connect
1300 286 463
Carer Helpline
1300 554 660



WANTED

Stalls & Buskers

For our
**CHRISTMAS
MARKET IN THE HALL.**
ST. PATRICK'S HALL, WANGARATTA
SAT DEC 7TH 9-1

E: marketsinthehall@outlook.com

F/Book: Market in the Hall