

FCJ COLLEGE

Benalla

Newsletter



2024



TERM 4 13 DECEMBER 2024

Dear FCJ College community,

This past fortnight has provided me with many opportunities for joy. I have enjoyed watching the incoming Year 7s settle into their new school, with their new friends, and in new spaces for them all. They have made a positive impact on our community already and we can't wait to welcome them all next year as we commence the 2025 school year.

I also had the pleasure of presenting a large number of awards at our annual Awards for Excellence evening, where our students simply shone in all their endeavours. In this weeks' newsletter, please take the time to reflect on our two Honour Roll students for 2024 – Georgia Morrison and Lily Meehan.

We also celebrated with our 2024 Year 12 students who received their VCE results over the past week. This is always an exciting time of reflection as our Year 12s take a moment to consider the 13 years of schooling that has led them to this point. We are always proud of our students, and this day is no different. We took particular pleasure in noting that 22% of our Year 12 cohort received an ATAR over 80, which will ensure they each have many doors open for them into their future. We wish each and every one of them the best for their next adventures.

And finally, we saw the arrival of our new modular classrooms being craned in from Goomalibee Street. This is an exciting development in our schools' growth and ensuring we can continue to provide first-class facilities for all our students, every day, every class.

As we look back on the wonderful year we have been blessed with in 2024, I take this opportunity to thank the amazing staff at FCJ College for constantly giving of themselves for the benefit of our students and community. We are privileged because we have an amazing community who are all looking for ways to provide opportunities for the young people in our care. I thank God everyday for these people walk alongside in our efforts to teach and learn.

May you and your families have a safe and Holy Christmas, and may you all return in 2025 feeling refreshed and ready to learn at FCJ College.

Go well,

Shaun Mason
Principal

HONOUR ROLL 2024

Georgie Morrison

Georgie Morrison has demonstrated outstanding service to the school community over the past six years and has truly exemplified the FCJ values, not only through their words but also through their consistent actions.

From her first year at FCJ College, Georgie has been a shining example of dedication, involvement, and leadership. She has embraced every aspect of school life—academics, extracurricular activities, sports, and the broader school community—with enthusiasm and a strong sense of responsibility. Whether it was excelling in her studies, participating in sporting events, or contributing to fundraising efforts, Georgie has always been there to make a positive impact. Georgie took this passion overseas on a number of occasions to Vanuatu and Fiji contributing to these communities through many social justice initiatives to improve the quality of life for those living there. More recently, Georgie took on the challenge of walking 100km for Camp Quality's 'Big Walk for Little Kids,' raising funds to support children with cancer and again, showing our community the power of individual efforts.

Her commitment to her education and her peers has been unwavering. She has contributed to school productions, initiated activities to benefit others, and continuously shown a deep care for the well-being of those around her. She showed courage and confidence when she wrote and shared a powerful personal reflection as part of our International Women's Day events. This genuine leadership, both in and out of the classroom, has inspired many students, particularly the younger ones, who look up to her as an excellent role model.

Georgie's consistent excellence across academics, the arts, sports, and leadership pursuits is a testament to her hard work and passion. Just a few weeks ago, when she received the Rotary Youth Leadership Award, her first words were, "I love FCJ." This sentiment encapsulates her devotion to this school and the community that she has been an integral part of.

In every way, Georgie has been a positive force within the FCJ community. She has not only excelled academically, also receiving the Kwong Lee Dow Scholarship to Melbourne University, but has also contributed as a school captain, and as someone who steps up to lead whenever needed. Her dedication to high standards, both for herself and her school, exemplify the FCJ characteristics that we pride ourselves on.

Georgie is thoroughly deserving of the Honour Roll for 2024. Please congratulate Georgia Morrison.

Lily Meehan

Lily has been described as a champion of FCJ College since she began here in Year 7. Of particular note have been Lily's leadership capabilities, her commitment to her academic work and her kind and inclusive attitude with her peers and the whole FCJ College community more broadly.

Across the six years of her FCJ journey, she was involved in all aspects of school life. Lily embraced every opportunity presented to her, from encouraging other St John's students to enrol here, to being a regular SRC representative, shining as a tour guide for our visitors and participating on the Philippine's immersion this year. At all times, Lily has spoken with confidence about the issues that concern her and she has always done this with a maturity beyond her years.

Lily's involvement in sports and across the community more broadly have been another opportunity for her to not only participate, but to shine and represent her school with pride and distinction.

Lily has regularly been recognised at Awards Evenings for academic excellence and Spirit and leadership and was awarded the Kwong Lee Dow Scholarship from Melbourne University at the end of Year 10. Lily has represented the school at many formal occasions such as Liturgies, Masses, Subject Information Nights, Community ceremonies such as ANZAC day and has often spoken at these occasions, allowing her gift as a public speaker to shine. Lily is reliable and kind, hardworking and capable.

Along with her co-captain, Lily, was an outstanding student leader in Year 12. The Year 12 Learning Leader, Mr Durance, notes that, while he has not taught Lily in VCE as Year 12 Learning Leader it means the world to him to have a Captain who has the respect of the entire cohort and has their best interests at heart. Mr Durance notes that School Captain can be a thankless task and that Lily has had to balance the needs and wants of her classmates with the needs and expectations of the school, Lily has done this masterfully.

Lily embodies everything we hope for in an FCJ College Graduate, she is ambitious, caring, good humoured, has a commitment to service and espouses the values of our school.

Lily is thoroughly deserving of the Honour Roll for 2024. Please congratulate Lily Meehan.

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.

St Vinnies Pamper Packs

In Term 4 our Unit 2 VCE VM Personal Development Skills class worked with St Vincent de Paul to help support Benalla families.

The class formed working groups and worked together to organise a casual dress day where staff and students were encouraged to buy an outfit from St Vinnies. One of the groups contacted Benalla businesses to ask if they would be able to donate a prize for the raffle. All money raised was then used to buy items for pamper packs that the class created for St Vinnies. This project was also supported by our Year 9 students who donated soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant and other items that were included in the packs. We would like to thank them for their generous donations.

Last Friday, Maree Hanlon from St Vincent de Paul collected the pamper packs from the PDS class. A very big thank you to everyone who supported this initiative, you have assisted in helping to make Christmas a special time for families who are struggling at this time of year.



What's On

December

13	Last day for students
19	College office closes at 12pm

January

20	College Office opens
30	First Day of Term for all students



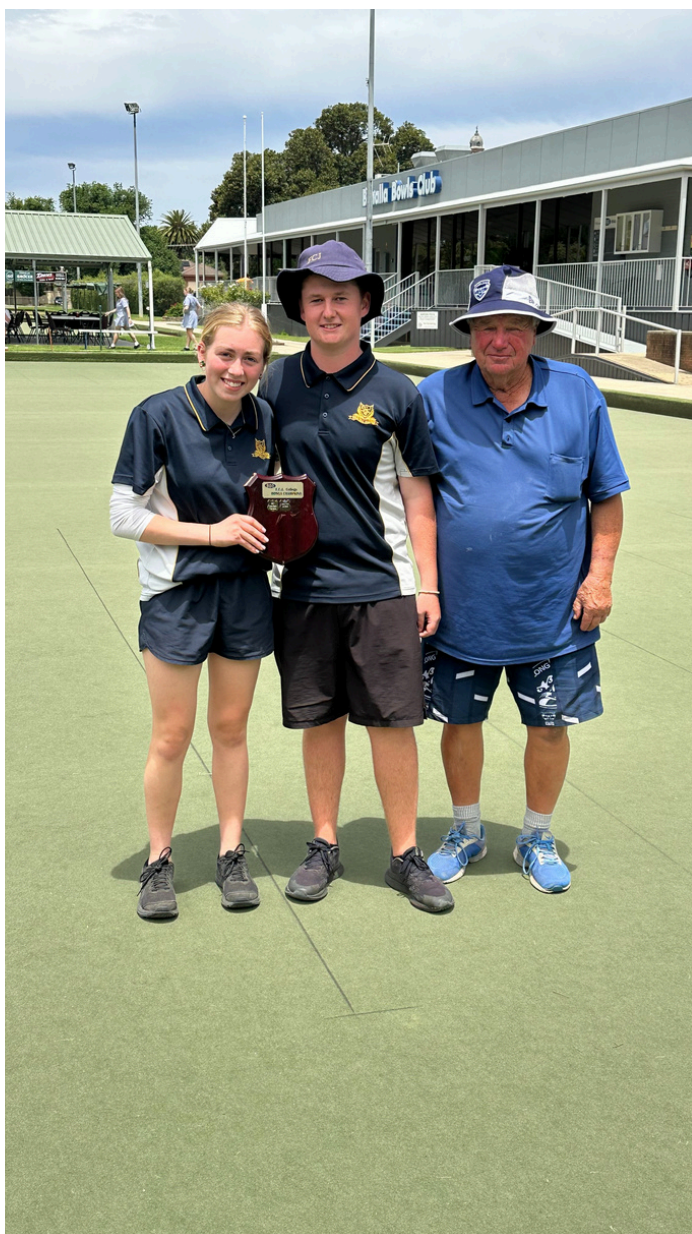
Lunchtime Lawn Bowls: A Hotly Contested Finale!

Lawn bowls is played at lunchtime with interested students in a round-robin competition, supported by the wonderful volunteers from BBC. The volunteers provide coaching and support to our students while they play and sometimes even join the game if a student is absent.

This year, the trophy was hotly contested, with eight pairs competing for a spot in the grand final, which was held on Monday 9 December. The final featured two Year 9 students Angus Richardson and Jackson Walker playing against our champion bowler, Koby Cromie, and Jade Rau. Throughout the competition, Koby was challenged to bowl right-handed (opposite hand), but in the final, he was permitted by the opposition to bowl two bowls left-handed and two bowls right-handed.

The final showcased exceptional skills, with Koby and Jade bowling superbly to secure the shield.

A big thank you to all the students who participated and to the volunteers from BBC for their invaluable support.



YEAR 9 FOOD CELEBRATES WITH AN ASIAN BANQUET FEAST!

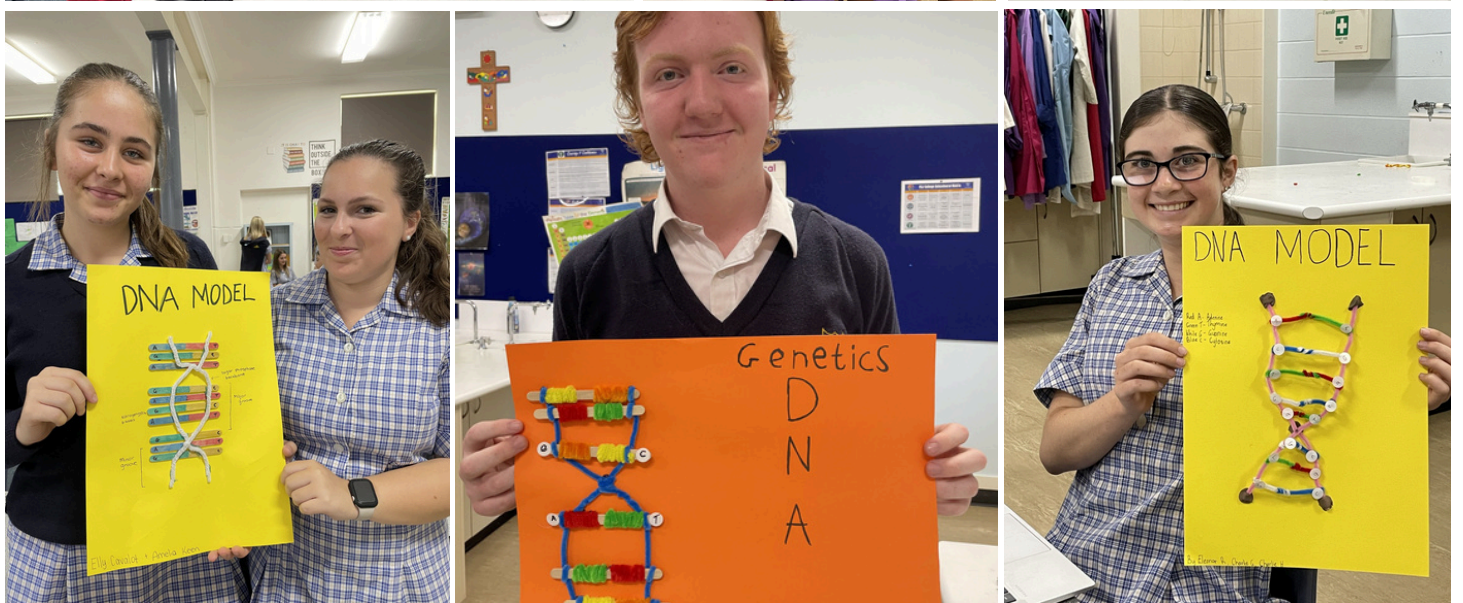


Year 9 food concluded the semester with an Asian banquet. After exploring the influences on Australian cuisine, including Indigenous, European, Mediterranean, and Asian contributions, students researched the Mediterranean influence and created a recipe book. They then focused on the Asian influence, selecting recipes to share with their peers during the final banquet.

Well done to the students, teachers, and Mrs Dalton for creating an amazing feast!



SCIENCE



Book Banter

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

13th December 2024

As the year draws to a close I would like to thank all the students and staff of FCJ College for making the year such a joyful and colourful one. Hopefully we have learned a bit more, enjoyed ourselves and taken stock about how lucky we are to be surrounded by people who care about our wellbeing. Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous 2025. Mrs Keady.



This year's
Christmas display
in the library! Do
you think Santa
will fit down this
chimney?
Merry Christmas!



BENALLA BRIDGE CLUB

Information Evening

Wednesday 15 January @ 6pm
Benalla Senior Citizens - Fawckner Drive

We invite you and your friends to come along to this free information session about the game of **BRIDGE**. Tea, coffee and snacks provided.

Topics to be covered include:

- a brief overview of the game of Bridge
- playing Bridge at a Club, or around the kitchentable
- benefits of playing Bridge
- how do I get to learn how to play Bridge?
- should I learn with my partner, or with a friend?
- a little about Bridge in Australia

CONTACTS: benallabridgeclub@gmail.com

(Let us know you are coming!)

PRESIDENT: Peter Holmes - 0438 625 638

Programs to support physical and mental health



2025 PROGRAMS

- Youth Day (8-12 yrs)
Tuesday 21 January
- Boys' Day (8-12 yrs)
Wednesday 22 January
- Teen Day (13 -16 yrs)
Thursday 23 January
- Women's Festival
14-16 February
- Men's Weekend
28-30 March



@ Mt Buller
mindbodybike.com.au



the man cave MOVEMBER[®] SPEAKEASY

MON 24 FEB

6PM – 8PM

LEARN TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER



REGISTER TODAY



MOVEMBER[®] SPEAKEASY

THE GEAR WE NEED TO LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER

WHAT IS MOVEMBER SPEAKEASY?

Run by expert facilitators, a Movember SpeakEasy is an engaging 90-minute interactive and experiential session where you'll learn about the power of authentic conversations and how to have them.

Being there for the people we work with or care about can be easier said than done. No matter who you are, everyone faces challenges.

SpeakEasy normalises the challenges we all face and walks us through proven practices that help us connect with and support the people around us.

If you are interested in learning how to better support the people in your life, book or come along to one of our SpeakEasy events.

DUTY OF CARE

Movember SpeakEasy is an early intervention program focused on improving social connection by normalising everyday challenges and encouraging us all to be more open to dealing with these things that come up in our lives.

If 'stuff' comes up, the facilitators are able to support participants with empathy and compassion while also recommending appropriate follow-up resources to continue the conversations.

WHAT DO WE OFFER?

The Movember SpeakEasy program offers a 90-minute men's mental health workshop designed to support men and supporters of men.

SpeakEasy is a prevention and early intervention program with a vision to equip attendees across the globe with the tools and capabilities to reach out to others for support when they need it and be better equipped to provide that support to their peers, friends and colleagues, with the aim of improved mental wellbeing.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Build a sense of community and connection amongst your team.
- Equip attendees with skills to have more open conversations, to improve connection and wellbeing.
- Helps to create or reinforce a culture of openness and inclusivity.
- Demonstrates that team wellbeing is a priority via proactive and mental health supportive leadership.

WHO IS IT FOR?

A SpeakEasy session is gender neutral and gives all attendees the secret sauce to having better conversations.

