



# *The* Strand

News from St Bernard's College

December 2024, Volume 32, No. 2



## Principal's Message

Welcome to this edition of The Strand and it's our pleasure to share with you the vibrancy of the College from the past few months. The College has been full of energy and productivity across the full range of experiences we offer at St Bernard's. It is an absolute pleasure to see so many students and staff engaging in their passion projects both within and outside the classrooms.

We continue in our preparation and planning for the Quays Project. Architectural plans have concluded, and the business of planning for a significant build has commenced in earnest. All necessary arrangements are being made and we look forward to starting the process in the new year. This will be hugely impactful for each person in our community. It will become a hub for our students before, during and after school hours as our young men take the opportunity to work together in a structured environment but within easy reach of a nutritious meal.

The excellence of our drama and musical productions was again on show this semester. The Musical "Chicago" with St Columba's College was a truly magical event setting an even higher bar for those to follow. We await the outcome of Victorian Theatre Guild Awards as our own Cooper Marin has been nominated as Lead Performer in a Male Presenting Role having won this coveted title in 2023. We wish Cooper very well in his 2024 nomination.



Our second annual Year 9 play "Rotten Apples" performed at Resurrection House with Ave Maria College was a terrific highlight for our Year 9 students. The relationship between St Bernard's, Ave Maria and St Columba's continues to flourish and we cannot be more grateful for the involvement in both schools. The interdisciplinary days at Year 9 with Ave Maria provided a great experience for students from both schools to interact during classes and fun activities. The additional involvement of the Academy of Mary Immaculate to our Year 9 Urban Engagement Program has also been most welcome and we thank everyone at the Academy for their generosity and openness.



Cocurricular offerings continues to expand. The newly minted Essendon Football Club Academy will see students in Years 11 and 12 engaging in the business of elite football in partnership with the Essendon Football Club. We are thrilled to have this partnership which will see our young men graduate with direct entry to the Essendon Education Academy and then into RMIT to study business. Our thanks go to Mr Mark Bolton, Ms Kirsten Bull and Old Collegian Mr James Polkinghorne in the setting up of this extraordinary partnership.





## Principal's Message

The success of our Golf Academy is plain to see with huge improvements in handicaps and success at ACC level. The Basketball Academy in partnership with Melbourne United is also flourishing and our young men are certainly gaining enormously from exposure to elite levels of coaching and preparation. We are extremely excited about the inauguration of the Tennis Academy and the Motor Sport academies starting in 2025- two outstanding opportunities that have been enthusiastically embraced by so many of our students.

We continue to enjoy a strong and vibrant relationship with our old collegians through involvement in sporting clubs, the St Bernard's Old Collegians Association and the College Foundation. Recent events captured in The Strand will highlight the many opportunities we have enjoyed. Our business breakfast and lunch have been a highlight. The recent lunch featured a spellbinding presentation from distinguished old collegian Dr Ziggy Switkowski. Our community relations office has been extremely active as you will read with reunions and various lunches.



As we reach the end of 2024 we farewellled our current Year 12 cohort. The students have performed magnificently in their final year, and we were thrilled to finish with an assembly and Mass at St Monica's and a grand dinner at the showgrounds. The Mass at St Monica's was a particular highlight echoing the roots of St Bernard's as our young men walked out into society post school in the same way as those first St Bernard's students picked up their desks and walked across the road from St Monica's in 1940 to start our modern-day College.



We send you all our very best wishes from the College and commend to you this copy of The Strand.

**Dr Michael Davies**  
Principal



## Essendon Football Club Academy (EFCA)

On 16 July 2024, our College formally inaugurated the Essendon Football Club Academy (EFCA) Year 11-12 program at the NEC Hangar, marking a significant development in the intersection of academic rigour and athletic training. The event attended by over 150 parents and students, provided an informative forum to unveil the program's unique offerings and framework. Esteemed speakers Mr Mark Bolton, Chief Strategy and Growth Lead at Essendon Football Club, and Mr Francis Camenzuli, Assistant Principal of Learning, articulated the potential for this program to enhance the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) for senior students.

Scheduled for launch in 2025, the EFCA represents an innovative initiative specifically designed for students in Years 11 and 12 who are dedicated to the field of football and seek to harmonise their academic endeavours with elite sports training. This two-year program offers flexible entry points, allowing students to enrol either at Year 11 or Year 12, thereby accommodating diverse academic trajectories.

Central to the EFCA is a specialised VCE curriculum that can be pursued as either scored or non-scored in Year 12. This curriculum is structured to enable students to complete four VCE subjects alongside the EFCA component, thereby ensuring a comprehensive educational experience that marries academic achievement with athletic development.

The enthusiastic reception from the community indicates a substantial demand for such educational programs, validating our College's ongoing commitment to cultivating an environment conducive to the dual aspirations of athletic and academic success. As we embark on this innovative venture, we anticipate the positive impact the EFCA will have on our students, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in their future pursuits.

The Essendon Football Club Academy promises to redefine the educational landscape for aspiring footballers, providing a balanced platform for personal, academic, and professional growth. We look forward to further developments as this initiative unfolds, reinforcing the vital relationship between sports and educational excellence.



## City2Surf

**2 in top 20 out of 77,687!**



A contingent of our students, old collegians, and staff participated in the 2024 City2Surf event in Sydney this August. With 77,687 finishers, the event is the largest fun run ever recorded in the world.

It is with great pride that we announce the outstanding achievements of two of our students, Charles Barrett and James Cruse, who secured 14th and 19th positions, respectively. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to them for this remarkable feat.

Additionally, we commend all the participants for exemplifying the College's spirit and determination, as they successfully competed against a formidable field from across the nation.



## College Musical 'Chicago - Teen Edition'

The annual St Bernard's and St Columba's musical production of Chicago - Teen Edition was held in July, showcasing the incredible dedication and talent of our students. From the cast members on stage to those behind the scenes—band members, sound and lighting crews, hair and makeup teams—there were numerous opportunities for students to get involved and develop new skills. It was truly a team effort, with students contributing across a wide range of roles, learning valuable experience in every aspect of the production.

This year's performance was an overwhelming success, highlighted by Cooper Marin's nomination for 'Lead Performer in a Male Presenting Role' from the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria. This recognition was a testament to Cooper's exceptional talent and dedication, and we proudly congratulate him on this well-deserved achievement.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the staff who contributed to this year's musical. Their professionalism, commitment, and generosity of time and spirit were integral to the production's success. Without their dedication, the show simply would not have been possible. The impact of their hard work was felt deeply by both the students involved and the broader College community.

Overall, Chicago - Teen Edition was a resounding success, and we are grateful for everyone who contributed to making it such an unforgettable experience.



## Year 9 Play 'Rotten Apples'

In late-October, our talented Year 9 students took centre stage in a captivating performance of 'Rotten Apples,' a play that has not only showcased their exceptional abilities but also highlighted the power of collaboration. Working alongside their peers from Ave Maria College, the students brought a unique energy and creativity to the production that left audiences thoroughly entertained.

The play, a delightful blend of humour and insightful messages, captivated attendees from the very first scene. From the compelling scripts to the impressive sets and costumes, every detail was meticulously crafted, demonstrating the hard work and dedication of both our students and the supportive staff who guided them.

The teamwork between the two schools was profound, fostering a spirit of camaraderie that enriched the performance. As the curtains were drawn, it was clear that this collaboration has resulted in not just a memorable play, but also lasting friendships and shared experiences among the students.

Parents, teachers, and friends filled the theatre, their applause reflecting the pride we all felt in our young performers. The success of 'Rotten Apples' serves as a testament to the incredible talent and hard work of our Year 9 students, as well as the positive impact of collective projects between schools.

We are excited to see what the future holds for these young actors and their continued involvement in the performing arts. Congratulations to everyone involved in this outstanding production!





## Sebastian's Story

In a remarkable display of resilience and strength, Year 12 student Sebastian Khoury has not only fought a courageous battle against cancer but has also made a significant impact in his community by raising awareness for blood donation. His journey, shared alongside his mother, Natalie, culminated in the publication of their memoir, 'The Worst, Best Year,' launched this November at the College.

Sebastian's story is one of remarkable perseverance, highlighting the challenges he faced during his illness and the strength he found within himself and his family. Through his experiences, he has become a beacon of hope and inspiration, urging others to recognise the importance of blood donation and its life-saving potential.

For those interested in learning more about Sebastian and Natalie Khoury's journey, as well as acquiring a copy of their memoir, further details can be found on their dedicated website:

[www.theworstbestyear.com](http://www.theworstbestyear.com)

Sebastian, you are a true inspiration to your peers and the wider community, embodying the strength and resilience that so many admire. Your efforts to raise awareness about blood donation will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact, encouraging others to join you in making a difference.



Picture: Jason Edwards

To discover more about blood donation and check your eligibility, please visit:

[www.lifeblood.com.au](http://www.lifeblood.com.au)

We also invite you to join the **St Bernard's College Lifeblood Team**.

## Business Lunch

We are delighted to have had the opportunity to welcome back Dr Ziggy Switkowski AO, an esteemed old collegian, as our distinguished guest for the recent business lunch.

Dr Switkowski shared invaluable insights into his illustrious career and remarkable achievements, captivating the audience with his expertise.

It was great to witness the strong engagement from our College community, with many attendees actively participating in discussions and seeking advice from Dr Switkowski during the lunch.

We are immensely grateful for the ongoing commitment from our old collegians and College community for their continued support.



# The McDonald Upton High Performance Centre

St Bernard's College is proud to announce an exciting milestone in our commitment to fostering athletic excellence and holistic wellness for our community. On Friday, 1 November 2024, we officially inaugurated the McDonald Upton High Performance Centre, a state-of-the-art facility developed in partnership with McDonald Upton Real Estate. This centre is poised to serve as a cornerstone for not only elite athletes but for the entire student body.

The opening ceremony was a momentous occasion, graced by the Hon. Ben Carroll, Deputy Premier of Victoria, Minister for Education and Minister for Medical Research, who cut the ribbon alongside College Principal, Dr Michael Davies. The presence of distinguished guests such as Mr Andrew Van Meel from the School Advisory Council, Mr Paul McDonald of McDonald Upton, and Ms Natasha Zucco, spouse of old collegian Mr Joe Zucco, added to the significance of the day.



Our partnership with McDonald Upton Real Estate, led by Mr Joe Zucco (SBOC 1994) and partner Mr Milo Rasinac, is a testament to shared values and community commitment. Serving the Essendon community for nearly 20 years, McDonald Upton has consistently engaged in local events and sports, showcasing their dedication to the area we cherish at St Bernard's College.

Joe, known for his humility and dedication to family and community, epitomises a model old collegian. A regular supporter of local sports and his children's activities, Joe is highly respected in the industry, and his name has become synonymous with sales success in Moonee Valley. His partner, Milo, is equally dedicated, known for his exceptional customer service and unwavering loyalty to community and real estate alike. An active member of the North Essendon Traders Association, Milo continually supports local retail and hospitality, maintaining strong ties with the community.



In addition to fostering athletic development, McDonald Upton is opening doors for our students aspiring to embark on careers in real estate, providing invaluable work experience opportunities. This commitment to youth engagement further illustrates our shared vision for nurturing future leaders in both athletics and business.



The McDonald Upton High Performance Centre represents a significant investment in our students' futures, enhancing our ability to provide exceptional facilities and training opportunities. As we look ahead, we are excited to witness the remarkable achievements and personal growth that will emerge from this new space. This collaboration marks the beginning of a fruitful long-term relationship, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to McDonald Upton Real Estate for making this facility a reality.



The opening of the High Performance Centre is just the beginning, and together we look forward to a bright future filled with success, health, and well-being for all members of the St Bernard's College community.



## SBOCA Grand Final Lunch

The annual St Bernard's Old Collegians Association (SBOCA) Grand Final Lunch proved to be a resounding success, bringing together fans, past players, and friends for a day filled with memorable insights, laughter, and community spirit. Held at the renowned Moonee Ponds Club, this year's event showcased the essence of what it means to be part of the old collegians family.

Hosted by the charismatic Mr Paul Madden in collaboration with SBOCA president Mr Jasper Brettell, the day unfolded with a lively atmosphere and engaging discussions. Guests were treated to an impressive lineup of speakers that included some of footy's finest. All-Australian ruckman Mr Todd Goldstein, who has left his mark with both North Melbourne and Essendon, captivated the audience with tales from his illustrious career. His reflections on the highs and lows of professional football resonated with many in attendance.

Adding to the lineup was Brownlow Medallist Mr Adam Cooney, known for his explosive talent on the field with the Western Bulldogs and Essendon. Cooney's anecdotes about memorable moments during his career provided not just humour but also inspiration to aspiring players in the room. Finally, the afternoon featured insights from dual premiership player Mr Brandon Ellis, whose journeys with Richmond and the Gold Coast reinforced the significance of teamwork and resilience in achieving success.

Beyond the captivating talks, the event incorporated the traditional auction and raffle, which added an exciting element to the day. Attendees had the chance to bid on remarkable items, including coveted Grand Final tickets and an Essendon jumper signed by the entire 2024 squad. The enthusiasm was palpable as bids were placed, all in support of the old collegians community.

The camaraderie among attendees was evident, with laughter and cheers filling the room. Old friendships were rekindled, and new connections were forged, all while celebrating the love for football and the shared experiences that bind the old collegians community together.

Thank you to the Moonee Ponds Club for their excellent hospitality, to our esteemed guest speakers for their generosity in sharing stories, and to every individual who attended. Your presence made the day a remarkable tribute to our community. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next year for another unforgettable celebration of sport, friendship, and the spirit of the game!





## Reunions Recap

This year's College reunions were a fantastic success! Alumni gathered to reconnect, share stories, and enjoy some quality time together. The festivities kicked off with a special addition—a guided tour of the Essendon campus, hosted in the new Margaret Tierney Senior Building, which has won awards for its design.

Before everyone started the tour, College Principal Dr Michael Davies took a moment to share exciting plans for the College's future. It was a great opportunity for old collegians to see how the College has evolved.

After the tour, it was wonderful to see classmates heading out together for drinks, laughter, and plenty of reminiscing. The atmosphere was filled with joy as everyone caught up and shared their experiences since leaving school.

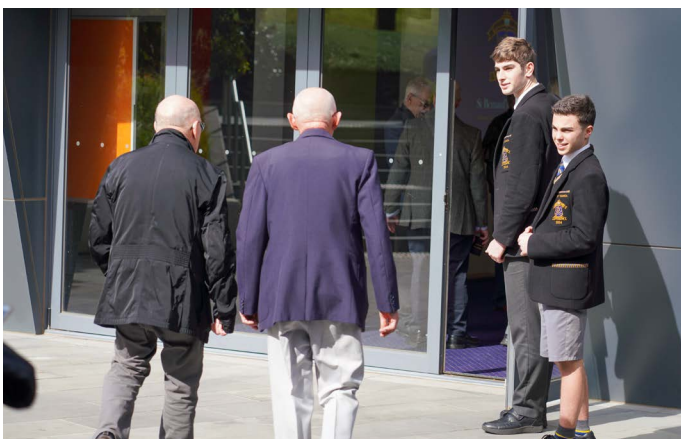
A big shout-out and thank you to all who made the trip back to campus! We hope you continue to stay connected with the College and the St Bernard's community. Here's to staying in touch and creating even more great memories in the future!



## St Bernard's Day - 50 & 60 Year Reunion

It was a joy to once again celebrate our 50 and 60-year reunions on the feast day of our patron saint, Saint Bernard of Clairvaux.

Thank you to all the old collegians who joined us as we came together as a school community for Mass, reminisced about the past, and explored the College through guided tours led by our outstanding student leaders.





## Cox Plate Luncheon

On Friday, 25 October, the St Bernard's College Foundation held its second Cox Plate Luncheon at the Moonee Ponds Club, drawing a crowd of 75 attendees. Guests enjoyed lively banter from our entertaining MC, Mr Andrew Bensley from RSN Racing and Sport, alongside notable guests Mr Denis Pagan, Mr Steve Arnold, Mr Marty Synan, and Moonee Valley Head of Racing, Ms Charlotte Mills.

The event featured an array of impressive raffle and auction items, successfully raising vital funds for the College. All the ladies in attendance were treated to lovely gift bags, and awards were presented for the best-dressed female and male, celebrating their stylish outfits.

A special highlight was old collegian Ethan Mills, who made an appearance and showcased his remarkable talent with an impromptu call of the race.

Thank you to all who joined us for a wonderful day filled with camaraderie and support for our College community, and to event partner Golden Brew Club.



The St Bernard's College Foundation was established in 2003, with the aim of providing pathways for Catholic families to attend the College via Scholarships and rewarding excellence in the form of bursaries. The Foundation has also played a part in capital works at the College, contributing to state-of-the-art facilities for our young men to thrive in.

Since 2008, through the generous support of the St Bernard's College community, the Foundation has been able to provide over \$800,000 of financial support to the College and community.

All this has been made possible through the outstanding generosity of the St Bernard's community.

We invite you to support this mission by making a donation to the St Bernard's College Foundation.

Every donation over \$2 is tax-deductible, making it a meaningful way to contribute to the future of our students and the College community.

Thank you for considering supporting the St Bernard's College Foundation. Every contribution makes a difference!



[www.trybooking.com/au/donate/foundation](http://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/foundation)



# Echoes From The Archives

## "BENDIGO—ST BERNARDS 150"

Eighteen students and two teachers this year decided to carry on the tradition of the past two years and stage yet another epic journey in the "Bendigo-St Bernards 150". Proceeds of \$3200 this year went to the Australian Olympic Appeal Fund for disabled athletes and the cancer research society.

Led by Michael Nadalin, the organisation of the runathon was handled admirably, with everyone helping to collect sponsorships and donations, and making signs and flags to highlight our journey down the Lancefield road.

We were welcomed at Bendigo on the eve of the event by the Mayor who, whilst being interviewed on T.V., presented us with a memento to commemorate our efforts.

That night it was off to stock up on energy-boosting carbohydrates (which did not work) at the local pizza shop and McDonalds Restaurant before using any surplus energy we had at the indoor swimming centre.

A few hours rest and at 5.00 a.m. on Friday 23rd March, equipped with monogrammed singlets donated by Deakin Sports Centre, Paul Hamilton began what was to be another tortuous runathon. We had to overcome hills, blistering sun, traffic, abuse and insults from fellow runners (plus a little encouragement in the form of orange peels).

We arrived at St Bernard's at 3.00 p.m. and were met by the body of students and teachers from the school and the Deputy Mayor of Essendon, Councillor Blair, who congratulated us on our efforts.

Special thanks must go to the runners, teachers and officials—

Michael Nadalin, Paul Hamilton, Pierre Werden, Mark Daffey, Craig Rayner, John Turnille, Kevin Dineen, Kieran Sexton, Patrick Senserrick, David Johnston, Shaun Grech, David Sims, Patrick Saundry, Andrew Seddon, Steven Rando, Leon Savola, Ashley Naylor, Julian Sharma, Mr Gerard Donnelly, Mr Bruno Spiller, Mr Stephen Leahy, Mr Kevin Culliver and Br Cunneen.

Mark Daffey



Departure from Bendigo at 5am

~ Extracts from College 'Clairvaux' 1984 ~

## FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

St Bernard's has been a traditional source of supply of ready made footballers for the Essendon Football Club and 1984 followed this tradition. It was appropriate therefore that Kevin Sheedy, fresh from the fame of coaching Essendon to its first Premiership for 19 years, visited the College to present a Premiership shield to St. Bernard's. This followed success in an Essendon Football Club sponsored interschool competition. Kevin also presented trophies at the College Assembly to other winners of football and athletic trophies.



Leigh Tudor, Captain of the Premiership Team.



David Johnston - Under 16 Athletics Champion



Mark Daffey - Winner of Bro. Cregan 800m Memorial Trophy



Paul Goetz - Under 17 Athletics Champion



Bruno Spiller signs up for Essendon for 1985 .... For the Cheersquad.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AT ST BERNARD'S

Information Technology is a broad term that encompasses many forms of equipment, software and resources that are available to the school community. Many of these essential items have been upgraded and improved on throughout 2004.

Mr Kevin Futter has joined us this year and has put a lot of time and effort into developing the schools new and improved website as well as the introduction of many online information services. These will continue to develop throughout the coming months bringing valuable information to the school community online.

Investment has been made with new computers being deployed in The Strand and school library along with new software that is being used widely with LOTE and music classes.

Next year sees further development of online resources for students and staff bringing St Bernard's further ahead with online learning.

Jason Blakey  
Information Services Manager

This year in Information Technology we have consolidated many of our courses. We welcomed into the department three new staff members in Steve Catanzariti, Lee Morton and Dallas Simpson. The three of them worked across different year levels and brought individual expertise and experience.

We moved to industry standard software tools in the Macromedia Suite. Year 9's enjoyed working with Flash while all year levels, including VCE enjoyed working with Dreamweaver in putting together some outstanding web pages.

At the Unit 3 & 4 levels students undertook projects using Visual Basic for Information Systems and Fireworks. Excel and Dreamweaver for Information Processing and Management.

We look forward to working towards solid results and fostering the outstanding talents that exist within the school.

Mrs Kylie Di Santo

~ Extract from College 'Clairvaux' 2004 ~



## Old Collegians Shine

We are proud to share the exciting news that two of our remarkable old collegians, Mr Jesse Moors and Mr Nicholas Quinn, have been awarded the prestigious Finance Young Entrepreneur of the Year award. This accolade, convened by an independent panel nominated by Business News Australia, recognises their outstanding contributions and entrepreneurial spirit in the competitive finance sector.

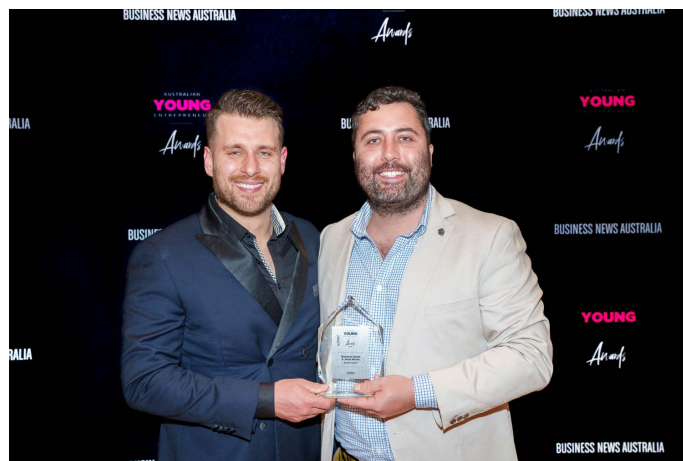
Reflecting on their journey, our old collegians humbly attribute their latest achievement to winning the Fund Manager of the Year award earlier this year. This peer-nominated and awarded recognition not only established their reputation among their finance peers but also played a pivotal role in elevating their success in a saturated and mature field like Funds Management.

During the awards night, they graciously acknowledged the many individuals who have supported them throughout their journey. With heartfelt gratitude, they thanked their friends and family, the Advisory Board—highlighting the significant contributions of Mr Peter Hogan, a fellow old collegian—and the broader community that has been with them since the inception of their business.

In a light-hearted moment, they shared a humorous take on the saying that “it takes a village to raise a child,” joking that it requires three times that many to build a thriving business in the Funds Management space. This reflects the camaraderie and collaborative spirit that has characterised their journey from school to the corporate world.

As alumni of the College, their success serves as an inspiration to current students and fellow old collegians alike. It is a testament to the power of hard work, dedication, and the support of a strong community.

Congratulations to our old collegians on this well-deserved recognition! We look forward to seeing how they continue to excel and inspire future generations of entrepreneurs from our College community.



## Our New Digital Home

On 11 October 2024, St Bernard's College proudly launched its brand new website, marking a significant milestone in enhancing the online presence of the institution. The new platform is designed with the intention of providing an engaging and user-friendly experience for students, parents, staff, and the wider community.

The website boasts a modern and intuitive design that simplifies access to crucial information about the College. Visitors can easily explore details about academic programs, extracurricular activities, and upcoming events, making it a comprehensive resource for all community members.

Among the standout features of the new website is the enhanced multimedia content. The site includes vibrant photo galleries, videos, and interactive elements that vividly showcase the lively community at St Bernard's College. Whether highlighting memorable school events or celebrating student accomplishments, the website offers a dynamic glimpse into the St Bernard's experience.

The College invites everyone to discover the new website and explore the expansive offerings of St Bernard's. As the institution continues to grow and evolve, the website will act as a central hub for all things St Bernard's, regularly updated with the latest news, announcements, and essential information, ensuring it remains a valuable resource for all.



Join us in celebrating this exciting new chapter by visiting our fresh online platform and staying connected with everything St Bernard's College has to offer!



[www.sbc.vic.edu.au](http://www.sbc.vic.edu.au)



# Vale

## DALMIRO (DAL) BELLIO (CLASS OF 1968)

Passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side on 19 June 2024.

Dal was the loved husband of Clare, cherished brother to Livia. Adored and loving father of his three children Alessandra (Luke), David (Emily) and Andrew (Georgia). He was a beloved and adored nonno to Leo, Evie, Ruby and Ella.

Dal was a **gentleman** and a **gentle man** to all, and will always be remembered as such.

Rest In Peace Dal.

## EDWARD CHARLES JOSEPH CALNAN (TED)

(CLASS OF 1955) 15/8/1935- 21/10/2023

Ted passed away peacefully on 21 October 2023 at the age of 88.

Loved husband of Carol. Loved dad of Bronwyn, Jonathan (SBC 1980), Peter (SBC 1982)(decd), Lisa and Michael (SBC 1987).

Treasured father in law of Caroline, Nick and Tracey.

Cherished pa of Ashleigh, Madison, Mikaylah, Riley (SBC 2021), Ruby and Lachlan.

To the world he was but one, to us he was the world.

Rest In Peace.

## FABIO CICCONE (CLASS OF 1989)

Rest In Peace.

## GUISEPPE 'JOE' GIARRUSSO (CLASS OF 1964)

We wish to honour the memory of our dear friend Joe, one of five medical practitioners from our year. Joe was a well-known member of our group, frequently attending our gatherings over the past decade. He served our community as a highly respected GP, leaving a lasting impact on those around him.

Joe will be remembered not only for his professional achievements but also for his remarkable athleticism. He earned a bronze medal in the half-mile at the ACC meet for St Bernards at Olympic Park in 1964, showcasing his dedication and talent.

Joe was a close friend to many of us and is truly missed. In memory of a wonderful man and beloved friend, may he rest in peace.

## PAUL HOGAN (CLASS OF 1980)

Paul had a significant impact during his time as Principal at OLMC Primary School in Sunbury and later at St. Mary's in Ascot Vale, where he served for seven years before retiring in 2022.

The Hogan family is well known within our community, with Paul's brother Peter and nephew Ben also playing important roles at the College and the old collegian's football club.

We remember Paul for his commitment to education and his contributions to the community. Loved husband of Rosie. Loved dad of Jack, Sam, and Ned.

May he rest in peace.



## DAVID IRELAND (CLASS OF 1946)

David was a member of the original St Bernard's College class of 1940 and he died aged 97 on 17 October 2024 at Dousta Galla Aged Services, which coincidentally is located on the site of the original St Bernard's College on The Stand Moonee Ponds. David was Secretary of the Parents and Friends Association in the 1970s and was father of Paul Ireland (1976) and grandfather of David Ireland (2008 College Captain) and Andrew Ireland (2010 College Vice Captain).

Rest In Peace.

## JENNIFER (WILLIAM) JACOMB (CLASS OF 1982)

Jennifer was secretary of the St Bernard's Old Collegians Association for a number of years when they reformed in the 1990's.

Rest In Peace.

## PETER ANTHONY JESS (CLASS OF 1965)

Passed away on 27 July 2023 aged 75.

Rest In Peace.

## MARY KENNEDY

Mother of Gerard ('70), Paul ('74), Martin ('80) and Joseph ('82), died at age 96 on 25 September. Paul is author of 'Murphy's Lore, A History of St Bernard's College As Told By Those Who Were There' (Penfolk Publishing 2010); 'Ad Altiora: 125 Years of St Aloysius College' (Penfolk Publishing, 2012); 'The First Fifty Years: Keilor-St Bernard's Athletics Club 1965-2015' (Clarity in Design Publishing, 2016); and 'The Moonee Ponds Club: Celebrating One Hundred and Twenty Five Years' (Clarity in Design Publishing, 2022).

Rest In Peace.

## JOSEPH JOHN LICCIARDO (CLASS OF 1968)

Attended the College (1963 - 1968), born 6 April 1950, and passed away peacefully Into Eternal Life after a short illness, 10 May 2024, aged 74 years.

Father of three children and grandfather to seven. Father to Michael Licciardo, Year '08 as well as Uncle to Robert Licciardo, Year '92 and also to Michael John Licciardo, Year '98.

Forever in our Hearts for his love of Family and welcoming smile.

Rest In Peace.

## CHRIS MEEHAN (CLASS OF 1965)

Passed away on 11 October 2024.

Rest In Peace.

## MICHAEL O'KEEFE (CLASS OF 1958)

Rest In Peace.

## STEFAN ROMANIW OAM (CLASS OF 1973)

Esteemed old collegian and Hall of Fame inductee, Stefan made significant contributions as co-chair of the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations and served as the First Vice President of the Ukrainian World Congress.

His remarkable achievements earned him numerous accolades, including the Order of Australia Medal, recognising his dedication to education and language learning for individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Stefan's legacy is particularly highlighted by his unwavering advocacy for Ukraine's independence.

A passionate supporter of human rights, social justice, and democracy, Stefan was a cherished friend to many in our community. His loss is felt not only locally but around the world.

Rest in peace, Stefan. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends.



## Submitting a Vale Notice

Honouring our old collegians is important to the College. If you would like to submit a Vale notice for inclusion in The Strand magazine, please send the notice via email to [development@sbc.vic.edu.au](mailto:development@sbc.vic.edu.au)



## Join Now - New Alumni Network Platform

We are excited to share that as part of our ongoing efforts to enhance and strengthen our alumni community, we have embarked on a transformative journey. We are delighted to announce the launch of our new alumni platform, Alumnly, designed to offer you improved engagement opportunities and a more enriching experience.

Our new platform opens up a world of possibilities for you to connect, engage, and stay informed. Whether you're browsing through photos from cherished moments, exploring job opportunities, seeking support, or staying updated on upcoming events and reunions, our platform is here to cater to your needs. Additionally, it provides an avenue for you to share your own achievements and stories, fostering deeper connections within our vibrant community.

With our new platform, the login process is now smoother and more convenient than ever — just a simple click of a button. Upon logging in for the first time, we kindly ask you to review and update your contact and relevant details to ensure we can stay connected.

We have some fantastic events planned for our alumni throughout the year, including reunions, St Bernard's Foundation events, and St Bernard's Old Collegians Association events. Alumnly will help you stay updated on all of them.

We firmly believe that our new alumni platform will significantly enhance our community and contribute to its growth and strength. Together, we have the power to make our alumni community better and stronger than ever before.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. We're truly excited about the positive impact we can create together.



SBC  
Alumni  
Network



[www.sbc.vic.edu.au/community/sboca-alumni](http://www.sbc.vic.edu.au/community/sboca-alumni)

## Stay Connected

Stay up to date with the latest news and events - visit the 'Latest News' section on our new College website and follow the College on social media using the QR codes provided.



[SBCEssendon](#)



[sbv.vic.edu.au](http://sbv.vic.edu.au) (Latest News)



[sbc1942](#)



[school/stbernardscollege](#)



## Thank You



**McDonald Upton**  
boutique is better


Proudly providing excellence in customer experience

Real Estate Sales  
Property Management  
Leasing  
Commercial and Residential

**Milo Rasinac**  
0418 379 374  
milo@mcdonaldupton.com.au

**Joe Zucco**  
0414 557 895  
joe@mcdonaldupton.com.au

1112 Mt Alexander Road, Essendon  
9375 9375  
mcdonaldupton.com.au



MELBOURNE'S  
NEXT GENERATION

**mng LAWYERS**

Business Consulting  
Property Law  
Litigation  
Conveyancing  
Estate Planning  
Family Law  
Commercial  
Wills & Probate  
Criminal Law

Phillip Barravecchio ('89)  
03 8371 1600  
phillip@mnglawyers.com.au  
**mnglawyers.com.au**

**Keilor East**  
**Community Bank® Branch**



**Bendigo Bank**

**Proud Supporters of**  
**St Bernard's College**

**Contact Details**  
53 Wyong Street,  
Keilor East VIC 3033  
(03) 9331 5811

**Banking that benefits  
your local community.**



GET AHEAD,  
GET APPROVED,  
GET SETTLED!  
with  
RG Finance Group!




NEED A PRE-APPROVAL?  
SCAN BELOW!



**Robert 0408 288 546**



**St Bernard's College**

41 Rosehill Road  
Essendon VIC 3040

[sbc.vic.edu.au](http://sbc.vic.edu.au)

P (+61 3) 9289 1000

 /SBCEssendon

 /sbc1942

 /stbernardscollegeessendon

 /school/stbernardscollege

ABN 95 064 042 702



Achieving Excellence By Learning and Doing