

## **KENNA Michael (Mick)**

**Years at SPC :** 1964 - 1970

**Status at SPC :** Day Student

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**Family Situation :** I was married to Maree Searle in January 1977.

We had 3 children, Matthew, Deanne and Justin.

I also have 3 grandchildren, Abbie, Kobe and Tyler.

I am in regular contact with all of them. They are all healthy and well.

Maree and I parted ways 2 years ago after nearly 45 years together. We still maintain contact. All's good.

**Current Occupation:** Retired from Education

### **Post Secondary Education :**

After St Pat's in 1970, I went to Melbourne Uni to do Arts/Economics. I struggled and left at the end of 1971. Then I worked at McEwans in the city. In 1972 I went into the Seminary at Werribee (the last year it was in Werribee) with Brian McDermott. I became quite unwell and retired from the priesthood.

1973 went to Melbourne Teachers College and finished in 1974.

### **Career:**

1975 my first school was Bacchus Marsh Primary School. I really enjoyed this experience.

1976 was transferred to Jordanville PS and then to Blackburn South PS (1979)

1978 we moved to Bendigo and I was appointed head teacher at Costerfield PS just out of Heathcote. I had 19 kids from Prep to Grade 6. Great times there.

In 1979 I changed to the Catholic system and went to St Liborius in Eaglehawk. I really enjoyed my time and the relationships that are still strong today.

From 1981 – 1995 I was Principal at Elmore, Kerang and Echuca.

I developed some health issues in 1995 namely, Ross River and Rheumatoid Arthritis.

So I journeyed down the road to Rochester as Deputy Principal until 2007.

Gave it away at 55 for awhile. When the Chaplaincy Program (Welfare) came in, I worked in 2 schools (Tongala and Echuca South PS) for the next 10 years.

Really enjoyed working with and supporting these children and their families.

**Personal History :**

I live alone with, until recently, my little dog 'Tex', who sadly passed away. He was a beagle cavalier cross and was my mate.

I have many interests including:

- . reading biographies
- . collecting pens and coins
- . a big collection of Olympic Games, Cricket and AFL memorabilia - that's why I can't leave here!!

I don't mind gardening and watch very little TV.

I'm no good with technology and no urge to learn.

Mainly a radio person.

**Best Memory of St Pat's :**

First day- 'small fish in a big pond' - having come from St. James in Sebastopol. Excited and apprehensive at the same time.

- Making new friends
- Jerks on handball courts
- Huge cream buns from the tuckshop
- Uniform inspections
- Wearing a cap. Failure to do so meant Saturday morning detention. I got it once when the Brothers didn't believe that a magpie pinched it off my head while riding bike home near Bray Raceway. I was a bit upset but took my medicine.
- Br Ollie Wynne was great. I remember him introducing us to the "gat" (strap) on an A4 piece of paper. The sound made us all jump and the marks on the paper are memorable. I have used this technique over my teaching years. It certainly makes one a bit wary.
- Feast of Christ the King Ceremony on the oval.
- Assemblies and Masses
- ½ day St Pat's Day holiday
- All the sporting opportunities
- The choir I really enjoyed and gained confidence. Teamwork was essential – that led to great success and satisfaction.

There weren't too many days that I didn't want to go to school. It took me a while to gain confidence. I was a bit young I think.

My Years 11 and 12 were great. Peter Morris was a big influence on me and my learning. His encouragement and enthusiasm was exceptional. I thank him and the other teachers for their dedication and support.

Just a few more thoughts:

- “War Cry” on the grandstand on footy Wednesday afternoons.
- Br Bill O’Malley – Latin author. All of us fronting him one at a time with “gat” in hand. Funny times.

Overall I would have to say that St Pat’s played a big role in moulding me from a young immature kid into the person I became. Thanks to all. I have great memories and am proud to be an old boy of St Pat’s.

### **Effects of Covid :**

Have done some mentoring with students (Secondary) in Echuca. Delivering soup in these times of Covid.

**Overall:** I really enjoyed my education. The good things have outweighed the challenges and doubts for me.

I have been truly fortunate.

I do some work at the Echuca Football Club – on the gate for the home games. Very quiet this year sadly.

Am a member of most of the clubs in Echuca/Moama.

Keeping busy enough. Great friends keep an eye on me.

I’m lucky really!



