

Sacred Heart College, Surf Coast Calisthenics mourns sudden death of teacher Belinda Matthews

An outpouring of heartfelt tributes have flooded social media after Belinda Matthews' death, including those from past colleagues and students from her time at Newcomb Secondary College.

Georgia Holloway

2 min read February 1, 2022 - 12:26PM **Geelong Advertiser**

Tributes have flowed from around Geelong and the Surf Coast for Belinda Matthews after her death last week.

Friends, family and colleagues have posted to social media with their memories of the Sacred Heart College teacher, including past students and staff who previously worked alongside her at Newcomb Secondary College.

Addy reader Glenn Maxwell, who worked with Ms Matthews at Newcomb Secondary College, said the late teacher was "a gentle soul who will be greatly missed".

"Wonderful memories of Belinda from her days at Newcomb Secondary College and her time in the humanities staff room. Belinda was a great teacher, a generous colleague and a lovely person," Mr Maxwell said.

Ms Matthews' impact on the lives she touched was obvious in tributes posted on the Addy's Facebook page.

Bri Osborne said: "Absolutely devastating news. What a huge loss for the sacred heart community. Deepest condolences to family and friends" while Vonnie Cook her girls were "so upset".

"Our Hearts go out to the beautiful family," she said.

Rebecca Chalmers said: "Beautiful inside and out - deepest sympathy to all of her family....I hope they get some comfort seeing how much Belinda touched the lives of so many. RIP Belinda. XX". Ms Matthews' influence outside the classroom was also a common theme of the tributes, including one from Kristie Walters.

"Such a beautiful person, a beautiful calisthenics teacher to 2 of my girls and a teacher at their school. Thinking of family, friends and colleagues," Ms Walters said.

Sacred Heart College mourns Belinda Matthews

The Sacred Heart College community is mourning the sudden death of much-loved teacher Belinda Matthews.

Ms Matthews died from a brain aneurysm on Friday leaving behind her partner and two sons. She taught at the college for 14 years and has been remembered by many for her friendship and contributions to the college.

Sacred Heart College principal Anna Negro said she was deeply saddened by the news.

"Belinda was a valued friend, colleague and teacher who taught VCE geography and humanities," she said.

"During her 14 years at Sacred Heart College, Belinda co-ordinated the SOAR program and recently took on the role of Learning Design Coach.

"Belinda is now in God's care. Our prayers and thoughts are with her family, Dave, Belinda's husband and her sons Max and Sam, her extended family and all her friends."

In a tribute online, Ms Matthews son Max wrote, "R. I. P to the greatest woman to step foot on this planet. Love you now and always".

Ms Matthews will also be remembered as the founder of Surf Coast Calisthenics and beloved coach too many.

In a post to Facebook, the group said her death was the "saddest of news."

"Belinda was adored by all in our community and was an inspiring role model to hundreds of girls who have attended Surf Coast Calisthenics throughout our 17 years," the tribute read.

"Rest peacefully beautiful Belinda. Gone too soon, but forever cherished in our hearts and memories.

"Your legacy will live on through the many lives you touched."