

MEDIA RELEASE

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From Bushfire Survivor to Student Futures: Bosco's Barn Set for Life-Changing Transformation

Galilee School seeks \$15,000 to transform historic Kambah building into hands-on training café for students facing trauma and disengagement.

A stone barn that survived Canberra's 2003 bushfires could soon help rebuild the futures of vulnerable young people.

Galilee School has launched a \$15,000 fundraising campaign through the Hands Across Canberra 2026 Canberra Day Appeal to convert Bosco's Barn at its Kambah Campus into Bosco's Café — a working training café designed to give students practical skills and real-world experience.

Bosco's Barn is one of the few structures to survive the bushfires that destroyed the newly built school more than two decades ago. Constructed by former staff and students, it has become a quiet symbol of resilience.

Today, that same resilience defines the students Galilee School supports.

The school works with young people in Years 7–12 who are at risk of disengaging from mainstream education. Many have experienced trauma, disrupted learning, and complex life challenges.

Principal Tim McNevin said Bosco's Café is about far more than just transforming a building.

"For many of our students, the idea of having a job once felt impossible," Mr McNevin said. "This café will create belief and opportunity. It will help students build confidence as they learn to prepare food, make coffee, serve customers and develop teamwork and communication skills. This real workplace experience can open pathways into employment."

Mr McNevin said the transformation of Bosco's Barn carried powerful symbolism.

"That building survived fire," he said. "Now it can help young people who have faced their own challenges rebuild and move forward. And when young people are given trust, skills and support, they thrive." This isn't just about a café and hospitality training. It's about dignity, belief and giving students a future they can see for themselves."

Galilee School is seeking community support to reach its \$15,000 target before the appeal closes on 20 March.

Donations can be made via the Canberra Day Appeal website:

<https://canberra-day-appeal-2026.raiselysite.com/o/galilee-school>

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