

BEHIND THE STRIPES

ST JOSEPH'S NUDDGEE COLLEGE MAGAZINE





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NUD GEE COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear St Joseph's Nudgee College community,

This semester has been both exciting and rewarding for the students of Nudgee College. From Inter-house competitions, immersions to Papua New Guinea, the Catholic Schools Music Festival, sport and everything in between, the 13th edition of *Behind the Stripes* features stories from every facet of student life in Semester 2.

We hope you enjoy this edition and we wish you a safe and Merry Christmas. Happy holidays!

MS MISHKA BOATH

Editor



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MR PETER FULLAGAR

Where have the past nine years gone? In truth, I can ask the same question of the past 40 odd years as my teaching career commenced, back in 1980 at Indoeroopilly High School. I recall, with very little fondness driving to school, to the words 'hey teacher leave the kids alone', lyrics from Pink Floyd's very dark view of education in their song, *Another Brick in the Wall*. Much has changed since those days - within society, within schools and within me personally.

Schools have changed dramatically since the 1980s. They are more welcoming, vibrant and engaging places than they were. One can argue at length about whether academic standards are higher or not. However, without question in my mind, today's schools are largely places of greater connection, belonging and security for many young people in a world that is less connected and less secure.

I first started teaching in Catholic boys' schools in 1986 when I commenced as Head of Physical Education at

Iona College. I have been teaching in Catholic boys' school ever since so I feel that I can speak with an informed view about them. It is clearly evident that schools and education have continued to change over these intervening decades. From my experience, it is boys' schools that have changed the most. They are gentler, more caring and compassionate places. The presence of more females within boys' schools has been a catalyst for this shift. Boys' schools accommodate differences better. They enable boys to explore their masculinity in different ways but also for them to just be a boy, in the very best sense of that expression.

It is also true that the culture of boys' schools needs constant attention from school leaders so that the best of their natures can be harnessed. Young men make mistakes and poor choices and these are the learning moments that are critical to their development into being good people. Importantly, their passion, energy, loyalty and mateship can be harnessed to build a school

culture that enhances connection, belonging and self esteem.

I feel deeply blessed to have walked the school journey with thousands of boys. In big boys' schools such as Iona College, St Joseph's Gregory Terrace, St Edmund's College Canberra and St Joseph's Nudgee College it has been the journey of the 10 year old boy into the young man of 17 or 18 years of age. There is something of a metamorphosis that occurs over those years - the beautiful innocence of the 10 year old, who becomes the angsty 14 year old only to change again into an engaging 18 year old. Being a school leader, during an era where all men have had to learn to be more understanding and respectful of women as their equal, has been an opportunity to challenge mindsets and facilitate change in their hearts and minds.

The past nine years at Nudgee College may have passed in the literal 'blink of an eye' but they are made up of times that I will forever cherish:

- Countless school assemblies building school culture while also celebrating the successes and achievements of innumerable students.
- Countless hours on countless weekends helping to build community and connection on the sidelines or in the crowd at sport and cultural activities.
- Countless kilometres on road trips with fellow staff to North and Western Queensland to meet boarding families.
- Countless tears before, during or after some tough visits to hospital wards to witness beautiful boys and families facing the hardest of health situations.
- Countless conversations and joy filled moments, at seemingly endless community occasions, large and small.
- Countless times when a perfect stranger has pulled me aside and proceeded to proudly lay claim to their connection to the College and recount their Nudgee story.
- Countless meetings in the Bodkin Room with the College Leadership Team and the College Board or Advisory Council deliberating and discerning over difficult decisions.
- Countless too, the times when parents, staff and boys have shared their greatest trust in intimate conversations about their lives.

When combined, they make for the most special of privileges - the privilege to serve and to lead a grand



school such as St Joseph's Nudgee College. Since 2015, the school has grown and changed in many ways. We have further developed our narrative that Learning and Teaching is our main game. We have increased in size to 1,700 students having added over 200 students to enrolments while growing boarding enrolments to 310. We have increased annual turnover from \$52.7 million to \$64.2 million. We have transformed the campus through a strategic redevelopment program that has enhanced the built environment and enabled us to better enjoy its natural beauty. In doing so, we have modernised the school but we have also added to its sense of history and story.

While doing all of this and more, I believe that we have maintained our focus on our boys and young men. Their constantly evolving needs have remained central in all our strategic and operational decision making. What has occurred through all of this is the building of a special sense of community and a deepening of that unique quality we define as Nudgee Spirit.

In looking back over the past nine years there are also countless people who have made a difference to both my leadership and to me personally. Where I have made mistakes and failed others, I apologise. I remain deeply grateful for the support and kindness of those who have enabled me to be my best. I know that in my heart that I have given the best of myself every day over the past nine years. That hasn't been as hard as it may sound because I have always been inspired and blessed. Inspired by those who have gone before me. Inspired by the lives and visions of Blessed Edmund Rice and Brother Patrick Ambrose Treacy. Importantly, my leadership and life has been blessed and nurtured by my Faith, the example of Jesus Christ and the love of God.

Live Jesus in our Hearts. Forever.





THE JOURNEY TO BECOMING SIGNUM FIDEI

STUDENT FORMATION TEAM

School encompasses more than just mastering Maths and English, it's a place for cultivating a holistic individual. Nudgee College has always placed emphasis on the evolution of the 'whole boy' and ultimately developing students that live out the College motto Signum Fidei - a 'Sign of Faith'. But what does that actually mean and how do we do it?



The College's Student Formation team has incorporated important days and weeks in the calendar as part of their long term strategy to assist students in embracing the motto. Mental Wellbeing Week, Respectful Relationships Day and Stella Fella are just some of the opportunities that go beyond the curriculum to support Nudgee College men. They teach students to reflect, learn and develop better attitudes and behaviours and ensure they are going out into the world with love, respect, trust, dignity, kindness and strong social and emotional wellbeing.

Mental Wellbeing Week

1 in 5 Australians experience a mental illness in their lifetime and the onset of mental illness is typically mid to late adolescence (Black Dog Institute). From a recent survey of 13-17 year old adolescents, their most common reasons for not seeking help were related to stigma or poor mental health literacy (Health.gov).

With these statistics in mind, in 2022 the College spearheaded Mental Wellbeing Week. 2023 is the second year the College has dedicated a week entirely to putting mental health at the forefront of all students, staff and



Far left: The Edmund Rice Tree wrapped for Mental Wellbeing Week.

Left: Nudgee bear wearing a heart on his sleeve.

Below left: Hearts adorning the Spirit Tunnel.

Below: Daniel Principe (youth advocate and educator) with students.

the wider community. This week focuses on students engaging in meaningful dialogue around learning how to express feelings and understanding where their mental wellness sits on the 'Mental Health Continuum'.

The Week began when the Edmund Rice Tree was wrapped in blue and each Year 12 were assigned a blue and white heart badge to wear on their sleeve. The badge signified to students to wear their hearts on their sleeves and be open to engaging in conversations around mental wellbeing with their mates.

To give students examples of healthy avenues to decompress, our Year 12 cohort ran a morning of mental wellness activities for the rest of the student body. Yoga, colouring in, choir, meditation, dodgeball, music quizzes, learning the Nutbush, tug-o-war and touch football were just some of the activities students enjoyed to unwind.

Throughout the week, the Year 11s also had the opportunity to hear from guest speaker Nicholas Hanly who shared his personal story of resilience in the face of hardship, leaning on people closest to you and having a positive mindset. Blue and white hearts were also handed out in PC and students were encouraged to write affirmations or reflections about mental wellbeing. These were then stuck on the Spirit Tunnel and hung on the Tree for all to reflect upon.

This week, and year round, encourages Nudgee College men to check in with not only themselves but with each other and develop positive self awareness and healthy coping strategies.

Respectful Relationships Day

Throughout the year, the Student Formation team has organised a number of events that provides, not only Nudgee College students, but also young women from other schools, opportunities to build healthy relationships in a safe and structured

environment. This year, the College hosted students from Years 9 and 10 from St Rita's College for a full day of workshops and presentations on a variety of important topics.

The first two sessions of the day saw Nudgee College men listen to a presentation by Daniel Principe (youth advocate and educator) which focused on challenging the sexualisation of women and girls and helped students reimagine their own masculinity. Both schools came together at the end of the day for a workshop which focused on 'humanising' each other. Students





Nudgee College and St Rita's students in a group session on respectful relationships.

were encouraged to reach for empathy and commit to working personally and as a whole to resist harmful cultural messages and actively bring about cultural change in relation to how young men and women interact.

These opportunities are a crucial extension to the curriculum at Nudgee College as it provides students with a broader perspective of how young men and women are navigating their teenage years.

Hear from Year 9 student Harrison McIver and Year 10 student Frank Gilbert about their experience.

From Harrison:

"This was a day about rethinking masculinity and relationships. Our first two sessions were with just our cohort, exploring the stereotypes of masculinity and how men and women are viewed in the world. Additionally, we took part in many group activities to brainstorm these stereotypes and

stigmas about both genders. Once we were able to identify these unrealistic expectations, we were able to gain a further understanding on how these stereotypes affect young men and women today. Gathering a new view on these problems, our facilitator showed us some common so-called 'jokes' that were reinforcing these stereotypes and how unhealthy and damaging they can be."

From Frank:

"We discussed the powers of social media and how it can teach the wrong ideas to growing men and women. We were also exposed to the struggles that women have to go through daily such as the messages and stereotypes that social media spreads. An important message from the day was that men and women have their own struggles and hardships that they have to deal with. If we take the time to understand and communicate these issues, it can strengthen relationships and destroy stereotypes."

Stella Fella

After the COVID-19 period, the ERA for Change Committee was keen to bring back one of Nudgee College's most important social justice initiatives. In Week 8 of Term 3, students were given the opportunity to swap their College ties for bow ties in support of Stella Fella, an initiative that encourages students, staff and the wider community to make the pledge to never commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women.

The week launched at Assembly, with Year 12 students explaining to the student body the importance of Stella Fella and its purpose. Over the course of the week, bow ties were sold and the pledge was signed by staff, students and the College Leadership Team. Curated by the Committee, Stella Fella tips were also posted to social media as an avenue to help fellow students and the wider community understand that small steps and actions can make a big impact.





Left: Oliver Clancy, Tom Connellan and Fred Dows wearing their bow ties.

Below Left: Stella Fella pledge signed.

Below: Two students helping each other put on their bow ties.

The week culminated in Stella Fella Day, where all students could don their bow ties, enjoy a BBQ lunch, purchase baked goods from the Baking Brigade stalls and listen to live music. The afternoon was key to creating a community environment to shed light on this important topic.

ERA for Change and Year 12 student Tom Connellan said that "Stella Fella Day is such a vital event in the calendar because it sparks conversations amongst Nudgee men to address the ongoing issues with domestic violence in our country. One woman loses their life each week to domestic violence and it's time we, as Nudgee men, stand up and advocate for the rights of women across Australia."

With over 300 bow ties sold and close to 500 pledges signed, Stella Fella 2023 was a huge success. Social justice initiatives like these are an integral part of the Nudgee College 'curriculum' as they are key to developing young men who value dignity, respect and fairness and who can use their voice for good.



Thank you to our current and past parents, Old Boys, grandparents, staff and friends who donated so generously to the Nudgee College Building Fund and the Jack Ross Bursary in 2023. Your philanthropic support of Nudgee College enriches the lives of the young men that walk the campus today and creates a legacy for those that are to follow in generations to come.

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Are you a proud parent or relative of a Nudgee College Senior graduating in 2023, or a son, father, grandfather or relative of a Nudgee College Old Boy?

Now is the time to secure a permanent spot on the Ross Oval Grandstand – a personalised plaque permanently etched on the fabric of this College's future.

A donation of \$1,000 or more to the Nudgee College Foundation Building Fund will purchase a blue plaque, and donations of \$5,000 or above will purchase a silver plaque placed centrally on the letters 'N' or 'C.'

All donations are tax deductible and will be used to support the continued advancement of buildings and facilities for the boys of today as well as future generations of the College.

For any questions, please contact Head of Philanthropy **Ms Lindsay Khushal**.



To purchase your plaque today, scan the QR code or visit trybooking.com/YUJX



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NC AT QCMF

MS ALEXANDRA KHAFAGI

The Queensland Catholic Schools and Colleges Music Festival (QCMF) has been a fixture on the performance music calendars of educators across the state for over 30 years.



Matthew Rostron

2023 was the 32nd celebration of music hosted by Villanova College, with the event being almost continuous (except for 2020 when it was cancelled and 2021 when it was held online). This year, the festival was back to its biggest and best, kicking off after Ekka Wednesday.

The primary goal of QCMF is, 'to celebrate music and music education in Catholic Schools and Colleges by inviting teachers and students from across Queensland, Australia and internationally to come and share their music and talents with our wider Catholic community. This musical sharing is done in a safe, supportive environment where all student performances are valued and celebrated.' As such, the festival is a non-competitive performance environment where awards are presented on each participant's performance, regardless of the performances of others.

Nudgee College has participated in the QCMF for more than half of these 32 years, however 2023 was different. We sent 16 music teams across town to sing and play, over four jam-packed days.

Thursday saw a gentle start to proceedings with Concert Band and Junior Guitar Ensemble jumping on a bus as the first representatives of Nudgee College Music. Concert Band

was awarded Bronze for their most confident performance of the year and we were missing a couple of key places due to illness and injury. Junior Guitar Ensemble received our first Gold of the show, in what was only their second performance for 2023!

Friday was a big day. We took every single Year 5 student over to Villanova College to perform on instruments that they had only been playing since March this year. Our Year 5 Strings sang and played and were justifiably proud of their Gold award. Concert Band (a group of over 80 boys) also sang as well as played and received a Silver prize. We were all thrilled to have Mr Fullagar and Mr Cawley in the audience.

Later on Friday, we had Treblemakers (the Junior School Choir) sing for a Silver award, Allegro Strings play for Silver, Stage Band perform on the outside stage for Silver, and NC Brotherhood fill the church hall for Gold! Special mention must go to two students who received special awards for individual brilliance - William Walker in Year 6 and Thomas Mallet in Year 12.

Saturday was a quieter day, with only two teams involved - Drumline earned a Bronze award and Junior Concert Band, a Silver.

Left to right: Carter Thompson, Timothy Low, Ethan Dahl, Thomas Mallet, Tyler Goodall, and Junwen (Jackson) Zhou.



Wade Lucas and Wlادن Markovic

Sunday featured another six teams, with all four rock bands being joined by Chamber Strings and Symphonic Winds. Rock Band Two kicked off the day (very early to be rocking out) with a Gold, followed by Rock Band Four (also known as Rage Against the Cats) who received a Silver.

Chamber Strings hit their brief and received praise for their energy, as well as a Silver award.

Rock Band Three got Silver, and Rock Band One (or Sign of Fate) played as the sun started to set, for Gold.

The final team for the weekend was Symphonic Winds, the last band to play in the biggest venue, Goold Hall. Under the baton of Ms Janelle Harding, who took control of the group in Term 2, the group played with sensitivity and musicality, to finish the festival with Gold. Thomas Mallet received his second certificate of individual recognition for his flute playing. Again, Mr Fullagar was present and delighted!

From a personal perspective, this year gave me the opportunity to

participate in four different capacities. I conducted Concert Band and Chamber Strings, in the role I am most used to. I accompanied the Year 5 Band. I was lucky enough to be part of the audience to support as many teams as possible, which is a rare treat. On Friday I was honoured to be invited to adjudicate the High School B and A section of the String Orchestra sections. As an adjudicator, we are in pairs, and each of us gives comments to provide feedback for each team, for each piece as well as some overall encouragement to improve the group. We also had to give general comments at the conclusion of a section, and present the certificates.

The presence of Nudgee College musicians was remarked upon by many at the festival, from parents and staff members of other schools. The support given by families as well as Mr Fullagar and Mr Thomson was much appreciated.

The music tutors and teachers outdid themselves with their performances and professionalism, and all are to be commended.

But the true stars are the Nudgee College musicians of 2023!





Q + A WITH OUR 26TH PRINCIPAL MR SCOTT THOMSON

What are you most excited about in your role?

Being able to continue what I have started this year, continue to get to know the community but most importantly, continue to keep the boys at the heart of it all.

First ever teaching job?

St Mary's College in Dalby as the Head of Sport. The College never had PE to begin with!

Favourite subject to teach?

I enjoy teaching all subjects but science has been really fun because of the 'eye opening' experiments. I also love teaching Religious Education and the discussion it invites.

Teaching philosophy?

Know your student and how they learn.

Favourite book?

Bridge of Clay by Markus Zusak.

Favourite song?

Let It Happen by Tame Impala aka "7 minutes of pure bliss".

Hobbies?

I like to stay fit through bike riding, tri, road riding, surfing, bird watching and getting out in nature with the family.

Something we should know about you?

I grew up within 3kms of the College and have been cycling the Sandgate and Shorncliffe route since I was 13.

What are you doing when you are not at school?

I enjoy family time and being active or in nature.

What are your passions?

I am passionate about family and faith. I am really passionate about living out gospel values and doing what I can for those on the periphery of society. I love working with passionate people and talking and hearing about people's stories.

THE OLDEST COMPETITION IN COLLEGE HISTORY - ORATORY

As the oldest competition in the College's history (the first recorded Oratory winner was in 1900), its longevity is due to the fact that it acts as a platform for students to be heard about the topics they care about.

This year, we had an unprecedented number of competitors, which shows the depth of public speaking skills throughout the student body. Students tackled a breadth of topics of their choice, from global warming to World War II to Taylor Swift.

William Duffield, our Year 12 Arts Prefect and competitor in this year's Oratory competition, said he joined because "it not only showcased my public speaking abilities but it also allowed me to delve into a topic that held profound significance for both my personal journey and the broader experience of the Nudgee community."

William delivered a speech about the "Beauty of Impermanence", a topic that allowed him to reflect on his eight year journey at the College and the appreciation of the transient nature of human experiences. "The idea of impermanence, I believe, encapsulates the essence of our collective journey at Nudgee College and serves as a poignant lens through

which to reflect on our growth, relationships, and aspirations within the school and life itself," he said.

Public speaking is an empowering skill and the Oratory program gives students the opportunity to truly enhance this ever important life skill. As Will said, "the competition has enhanced my ability to analyse complex ideas, discern underlying themes and present them in a coherent and engaging manner".

Debating Director, Ms Julianne Daunt said that Oratory is all about "the ability to organise one's thoughts into a format that engages and convinces an audience. The public nature of oratory instills confidence and a sense of achievement in the speaker."

"The skills of oratory have proven to be important in social and cultural contexts across the centuries. Orators have mobilised civilian armies to fight against all forms of inequality and have been responsible for immortalising great moments in history. For all of these reasons, the oratory competition will - and must - continue to thrive here at Nudgee."

[An excerpt from Will's speech - "In the same way, our time at Nudgee College has been a series of sunrises and sunsets - of beginnings and endings.



We've witnessed the birth of friendships that have lit up our lives like the dawn's first light, and now we're soon at a stage of bidding farewell to seniors and teachers as we embark on new journeys into the night. Each of these transitions, though tinged with the bittersweetness of impermanence, has illuminated the path we walk."

Above: Oratory Champions for 2023:

Gabe Gerry (Year 11), Roan Macnamara (Year 10), William Duffield (Year 12), Hugo Bourke (Year 7), Sidney Bates (Year 8), Stephen Mineo (Year 6), Jack Williams (Year 5). Absent: Tom Kewley (Year 9).





NUDGEE BINGO

FIVE DECADES OF FUN

Bingo, a popular game of chance where players mark off numbers on cards as they're called out by a host, is an important yet widely unknown part of Nudgee College's history. In 1974, on a Wednesday evening in Tierney, the first game of bingo was played and since then, Nudgee College has had a long association of hosting this cherished classic with OzBingo.

A history of bingo

From 1974 to 1983, the bingo program hit the ground running and by the end of 1983, its heightened popularity meant that Saturday afternoons were added to the playing roster. By 1985, enough income had been made from the bi-weekly bingo that it could assist in funding the College's swimming pool and tennis complex. Six years later, bingo was being played on Sunday afternoons and the program added Friday evenings to support the Needy Kids program.

In late 1994, the Christian Brothers Conference Centre (CBCC) became the home of bingo at Nudgee College and given the success of the program, the Christian Brothers had the opportunity to utilise some of the funds for their wider-ranging ministries (Mary Rice Respite Centre, Needy Kids Program and commitment of Brothers to Indigenous communities through Queensland and the Northern Territory, to name a few). By the early 2000's, the program had expanded beyond the walls of



19



Nudgee College to Kedron Wavell Services Club, Carina, Redcliffe and Sandgate.

From 2013 to 2020, bingo hosted over 7,300 patrons at the CBCC, however the impact of COVID saw numbers drop dramatically.

In July 2023, to meet the increased demands for the use of the CBCC for student learning and events, the College Leadership Team and College Advisory Council made the difficult decision to close bingo at the College. On Sunday 30 July, a final Mega Session of bingo was held to celebrate the long and successful association. Loyal patrons, some for over 30 years, joined in for the final session to say farewell, win prize money and enjoy each other's company.

The program wouldn't have been nearly as successful without the support and leadership of the Bingo Operations Manager Leanne Warden. Hailing from New South Wales, Leanne began her career in managing bingo programs in 2003 at the

Marrickville Bingo Hall. She was then promoted to Operations Manager for children's charity, Learning Links, running 70 bingo sessions per week and managing over 40 staff members. In 2019, she was asked whether she would be interested in running our program and almost four years later, she has seen bingo through to the end.

From ensuring sessions were compliant, organising promotions and marketing, advertising, developing and training staff members and always improving customer service, Leanne managed it all. Above all of this however, she says her favourite part about her time running the competition was getting to know the different patrons every session.

"I've always enjoyed the social aspect of bingo and getting to know the customers. Sometimes bingo is seen as an elderly person's game despite such a varied demographic. For a lot of elderly customers it is their only form of social activity, not to mention it keeps their brains active."

Having been in the bingo industry for nearly 20 years, Leanne has seen her fair share of big wins but one of her more memorable moments comes from her time at Nudgee College.

"My most memorable bingo moments over the time I have been here in Queensland, apart from the people I have met, would have to be the Mega Sessions we ran with over \$40,000 prize money and the three cars that were won."

For over 45 years, bingo has been a great contributor to charities and sporting groups and has greatly benefitted the College. There is no doubt that the bingo community is also part of our wider community.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to everyone who has been associated with the running of bingo at Nudgee College.

Top left: Bingo Mega Session.

Above: The management team including Leanne Warden (second from the right).



20 CHESS AT NUDGEE

NOT JUST A GAME
OF STRATEGY



A game of a thousand possibilities, chess is much more than just a game of strategy. It's a classroom of life lessons.

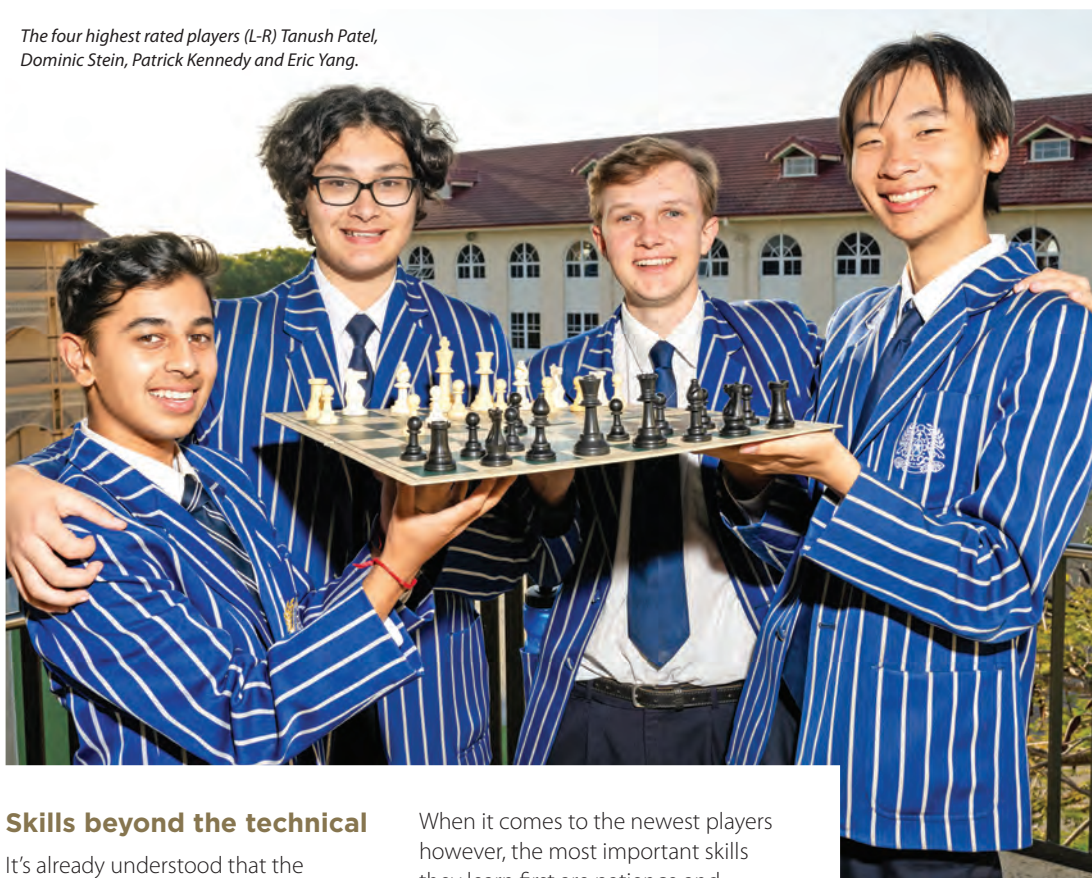
As players gather around the black and white checkerboard, they embark on a journey that goes beyond moves and captures, they delve into a world where strategic thinking, cognitive agility, problem solving, camaraderie and a pursuit of excellence is fostered.

With a long history dating back to the late 70s, chess has been an integral part of the co-curricular offering at Nudgee College. When the game was officially introduced as a GPS sport in 1993 and the College won the Premiership the same year, chess popularity began to grow as time went on. Each year, the program generally sees about 40-50 players in the GPS team; however in 2023, there's 65 players on board.

Both our Junior and Senior teams train every Tuesday and compete in the GPS competition on Friday evenings in Term 3. However, over the past few years, the teams have started running their own competitions on a Sunday, regularly getting over 150 students a Term coming to compete. Nudgee College is also lucky to host over 200 primary students in the CBCS for the North Brisbane Primary Inter-School Competition.

Spearheading the 2023 team are the four highest rated Year 12s, Tanush Patel, Eric Yang, Patrick Kennedy and Dominic Stein. With rankings between 1300 and 900 (chess is dictated by a rating system which is a numerical way to measure the skills of players), these students have put the Nudgee College team in good stead. However, with their school chess journeys coming to an end this year, the program may lose some experience. But with the existing and newer players sticking with the game and honing their craft, the College will have years of strong teams continuing the legacy behind them.

The four highest rated players (L-R) Tanush Patel, Dominic Stein, Patrick Kennedy and Eric Yang.



Skills beyond the technical

It's already understood that the benefits of chess enhance players' tactical and mathematical acumen however the skills attained by this strategic game go beyond that and rather helps players see different perspectives, build resilience and practice patience.

Chess Coordinator Martin Harmon (NCOB 2001-05) said that whilst chess is widely known for its ability to enhance mathematical skill it actually imparts highly beneficial skills "pattern recognition, spatial reasoning and critical thinking to name a few." Eric Yang, a member of our 1st IV team and the highest rated player at the College, concurs and said chess has "improved my cognitive thinking, pattern recognition and abilities in prediction and foresight."

When it comes to the newest players however, the most important skills they learn first are patience and focus. "The most common piece of advice I give to our younger players in particular is to slow down," Martin said. Spencer Leo (Year 6), one of the highest rated Junior players at Nudgee College said that slowing down has allowed him "to focus and strategise better".

Moreover, the game of strategy cultivates perspective in its players. Chess is looking beyond the immediate and seeing the world from your opponents point of view. "In a chess match, you always have to try and work out what your opponent is thinking. It goes beyond just thinking about what you want and what you hope will happen," says Martin. Tanush Patel, another member of our 1st





Chess Coordinator Mr Martin Harmon

IV team, agrees by saying "chess is a game of mentality and requires you to think about all the perspectives and intricacies associated with the game."

To a similar vein, the game of strategy has a unique ability to cultivate resilience in the face of adversity. Every match teaches young players to graciously accept defeat, learn from it and try again tomorrow. Tanush said the game has "made him a more resilient person".

Over a decade of family history

Since 2012, the Kennedy brothers have played an instrumental role in the Chess program at Nudgee College. Tom (NCOB 2009-16), Henry (NCOB 2012-19) and Patrick (NCOB 2023) have all been a part of the program since they started playing in Year 5, were members of the 1st IV and had the privilege of being Chess Captain. The Kennedy chess dynasty is coming to an end as Patrick readies himself for graduation at the end of this year.

Patrick Kennedy (also known as PK) began playing chess at Nudgee College in 2016 simply because both of his brothers were a part of the program. He began to notice that playing chess with, and against, his brothers was really enjoyable but his first foray into the chess world was a transfer tournament (two player chess). Despite his eldest brother Tom being more skilled he agreed to join PK for the tournament and the two of them managed to finish in second place. From then on, PK was motivated to get into the 1st IV and get a higher rating.

By Year 9, he managed to be a reserve for the 1st IV. "I ended up playing in my first match for them, which was quite a memorable experience."

The following year he had achieved a rating good enough to place him second in the entire school and he was at the point of becoming a starting 1st IV player. Moreover, he undertook the position of

Chess Captain and has held the position since then. As his "chess clock" ticks down and he faces his final opponents at school, PK acknowledges all that being a part of the Chess program at Nudgee College has given him.

"A great community, supportive coaches and I like to think, a gift for maths. Regardless of what happens for me with chess outside of school, I know that my eight years in the program has provided me with memories to last a lifetime".

From school chess to Chess Coordinator

Like all our activities, the chess team has a long history of Old Boys returning to the school to help share their expertise with the next generation and Martin Harmon is a key part of that tradition as the current Chess Coordinator.

Martin began his chess journey at the College in 2001. Joining because his best friend had already joined and because it sounded like a better fit for him over rugby, Martin started as part of the GPS Chess team as a reserve. After playing his first match, he fell in love with the game and went to coaching every single week. Under the tutelage of Max Leskiewicz, the 1997 Australian Junior Champion and Nudgee's most successful chess player, Martin practiced, improved and earned his place in the Junior As and then the Senior As.

Martin returned to the College in 2009 to be the Chess Coordinator alongside Matt Gilpin. As of this year however, he has taken on the role himself and led the chess team to various successes.

Whilst he recognises that chess enhances positive skills in the players, his ultimate hope is that those in the team make friendships that will last well beyond their time at school.

"I think the biggest impact playing GPS Chess had on my life was the friends I made. Some from the older grades and some from younger grades, I still have regular contact with to this day. It is always my hope that the boys... will find new friends the same way."



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

We sat down with a few of our talented Chess players from Year 6 to the 1st IV to learn more about their chess journey at Nudgee College.

- **Eric Yang** (1st IV and 59th highest ranked player in QLD)
- **Tanush Patel** (1st IV)
- **Dominic Stein** (1st IV)
- **Hugo Elliot** (Year 6)
- **Spencer Leo** (Year 6)

When did you start playing Chess at Nudgee?

Eric: I started playing chess back in primary school. I first started chess classes in Year 1.

Tanush: In my first year at the College in 2020 as a Year 7 student, we were led by captain James Hong and his team to a solid finish. This was

truly an eye opener and was a great immersive experience. This got me heavily invested in chess and I wanted to make a name for myself.

Dominic: I started playing chess at Nudgee in my first year here in year 7.

Hugo: I started playing chess in Year 5 because it was a good way to build friendships.

Spencer: I started playing chess when I was in Year 5.

How did you become interested in playing chess?

Eric: The feeling of improving and beating better players than me was the biggest motivation.

Tanush: It was 2021, I had settled into life at the College and we were rebuilding after losing all our 1st IV players. I saw this as a great opportunity to hone my craft. Spending timeless hours on learning the game, I began reaping success and getting to a point at which I

made so much progress that I made it to the 1st IV squad by GPS.

Dominic: I had played a bit of it in primary school. I was taught by one of my friends who happens to go to a rival GPS school now and is also in the first IV.

Hugo: I played with my Dad at home so I thought I might give it a go.

Spencer: I became interested when my parents suggested that I go to a camp so I could learn a new skill.

What do you enjoy most about chess?

Eric: Crazy chess positions and sacrifices are the most interesting part of chess.

Tanush: Having fun with people and trying to really sharpen your skills by consistently playing games.

Dominic: I enjoy learning and improving my ability at the game as well as the competition against stronger opponents as a weaker player in GPS.



Main: Chess Captain Patrick Kennedy.

Right: Hugo Elliot in action.

Below right: Highest rated Nudgee College player Eric Yang.





definitely will continue to play until I graduate.

Hugo: Yes, with the great coaching I have, the sky's the limit.

Spencer: I can see myself playing chess in the future because it is such a challenging and rewarding activity.

Chess isn't just a game of black and white, it's a game where intellectual and emotional growth is at the forefront. Our Nudgee College Chess program gives students the opportunity to foster skills beyond just that of strategy but rather builds resilience, develops higher order thinking and fuels curiosity. With 65 players dedicated to perfecting their game, the Chess program is sure to soar even higher in 2024.

Hugo: The experience of losing and seeing where I went wrong. I also enjoy the feeling of having some wins under my belt.

Spencer: I really enjoy chess because it is fun to challenge myself and compete against higher rated players.

What is your favourite chess opening and why do you prefer it? Can you share a memorable game where this opening has led to a win for you?

Eric: The king's Indian Defence is my favourite opening for black. It is a very aggressive opening that aims at checkmating the king with powerful pieces and sacrifices. I remember a game where I threw all my pieces at the enemy king. I had lost almost all my pieces, however, I managed to checkmate my opponent with my two remaining pieces. It was an interesting and exciting game.

Tanush: The Queen's Gambit Declined. Last year, I won against the second best player in Queensland with this move and I was thrilled!

Dominic: My favourite chess opening is the London / London System. I started to play it a lot after playing against a Grandmaster who was impressed with my play using the London. A memorable game is the recent round against Terrace where I managed to get a win against my opponent playing the London.

Hugo: The French Defence. I use this to block my opponents' bishops to give me the upper hand.

Spencer: I like the Queen's Gambit because it is really tactical and fun. When I played at the Nundah competition I was losing badly but used this move and won.

What skills do you think you have gained from playing chess?

Dominic: I think chess helped significantly with my pattern recognition skills as they are really important to chess.

Hugo: I have learned how to do multiple checkmates I've never heard of before. Also, I learned how to play in tournaments and how to get a rating.

Spencer: Chess has allowed me to focus and strategise better.

Do you see yourself playing chess throughout the rest of your schooling journey/ beyond school?

Eric: When I am in university, I'll probably still play chess from time to time. I might join the occasional tournament if it is convenient.

Tanush: Yes, I have really been inspired to play and I want to make sure I keep this skill intact. I've made some really cherished and fond memories so far.

Dominic: I don't see myself competing as much as I do now after school, but I





CHLOE
ARNOLD

TEACHERS IN PROFILE

The academic life of Nudgee College is shaped by enthusiastic and highly-skilled teachers who are committed to bringing out the best in all students.

Two such teachers who are helping to shape the next generation are Ms Chloe Arnold and Mr Tom Hughes.

We sat down with them both for a Q+A to learn more about their careers as teachers and their journey at the College so far.

Chloe Arnold

From the classroom to the Boarding Houses, Chloe has been an impactful addition to the College since joining us straight out of university in 2018.

Not only is she an English and History teacher, she is also an Academic Coordinator and Waterford House supervisor in the Bathersby Boarding Village.

What aspects of teaching do you find most rewarding and fulfilling?

I think there is something so special in the role you get to play in helping students see things from a new and different perspective. Specifically, subjects like English and Humanities offer an opportunity to guide students

in questioning ideas about the world they live in, providing them the skills needed to challenge stereotypes and harmful attitudes. I don't think there is a greater gift than seeing students form their own independent world views and ultimately be better humans because of it.

What do you find most challenging about teaching?

The profession is constantly evolving and changing (for the better!), but it undeniably requires a lot of work and

hours. Having all of the lockdowns hit while I was still early in my career was a challenge. Much like every other teacher, I quickly had to learn online programs, teach while wearing a mask, and find new ways to engage students without them being physically in the classroom.

Can you share a memorable teaching success story where you saw significant progress or growth in a student? Or a memorable lesson that you were particularly proud of?

A few months ago I bumped into a student who graduated just last year. I remember teaching him in Year 10 English. He started the year quiet and subdued, but as the year progressed he began reaching out more and seeking feedback. Years later he thanked me, not for improving his grades, but for helping him feel like 'he could do it.' He said that he always thought he was "bad" at English, but after that year he genuinely felt like he was capable.

For me, that moment encapsulated the beauty of teaching. Statistical data and grades are important, to an extent. But the core of the practice is holistic. Helping students realise their own potential and ability is the best thing you can do as a teacher. When a student walks away from our class - be it after a single lesson, a year, or even his school journey altogether - and they feel confident that they can do 'it', then you have done your job.

What has been a stand out moment of your time at the College?

The 2022 Rose Garden ceremony. As someone who is only five years into teaching, I would always hear stories of teachers speaking about what it feels like to see students grow up throughout the years, and how rewarding it was to see them when they finish their journey.

I taught the 2022 cohort every year, from when they were in Year 8 all the way to Year 12. I met them as loveable and (at times) boisterous boys and I got to watch them grow into empathetic and truly kind young men. The memory of them walking down to their final assembly will be one that I will treasure for years.

What's been your favourite part of being in the Boarding space?

In our Boarding team, I have two roles. My primary role is the Academic Coordinator. I help organise our tutoring program, reading program, organise trips with the boys to universities, and help run masterclasses and encourage positive habits around study skills.

Additionally, I also work as a supervisor in Waterford. Truthfully, I do a lot of study with the boys as a supervisor too. But I love the "little" moments that help build the great relationships you form with them. Whether it's teaching them how to make the perfect hot chocolate, hearing about the best and worst part of their days, or simply just laughing with them, the little moments matter the most. The boys often joke that you can always hear my laugh when I'm in the dorms, but I think that's a reflection of just how special it is; I am almost always laughing when I am there.

Boarding has completely enriched my experience as a teacher. The relationships that you build in that space - both with students and staff - are some of the most important and meaningful in all my years of teaching.

What's been your favourite part of being in the Boarding space?

I think the best thing one person can do for another is provide a safe space and a sense of belonging. Boarding provides an opportunity to play some role in creating a home for boys all across Australia. While in boarding I have seen boys at their best and at their worst. I have seen their limitless potential, and incredible creativity. Most importantly, I have seen their capacity for love and kindness, and how they come together to lift up and support each other.

Nudgee College is an undeniably big and exciting school, and Boarding manages to take something big and make it a little bit smaller. I think it's quite fitting that the village sits in the heart of the school.

What do you enjoy doing outside of teaching?

I love to run - I am not particularly fast, but I do love it a lot! I think it's a great

way to relieve any stress and something that I genuinely enjoy doing. I know I am going to have a good day when it has started with a run.

What is your favourite book and why?

To Kill a Mockingbird. Funnily enough, before I taught this novel, it wasn't a favourite of mine. Every time I have read it, I have learned something new.

Tom Hughes

Tom Hughes started his Nudgee College journey in 2018 and since then has held a variety of positions within the school. From starting out as an English, Humanities and Religion teacher to spending time as Senior Supervisor in Cotter, Hodda and O'Brien and now taking up the mantle as McKenna House Dean, Tom is one of the many teachers who is changing the lives of Nudgee College men.

What aspects of teaching do you find most rewarding and fulfilling?

The ever elusive 'a-ha!' moments have to be some of the most rewarding. As an English teacher, it's always fascinating to listen to boys debate elements of a book - was everything Macbeth's fault? Was Atticus Finch a hero, or did he have a saviour's complex? I also enjoy the units we do on persuasive speaking.

Can you share a memorable teaching success story where you saw significant progress or growth in a student? Or a memorable lesson that you were particularly proud of?

There are a few boys that jump to mind, particularly having taught Year 12 over the past few years. In each of their cases, they are boys who work tremendously hard, take on board feedback (I call it listening to understand, not to respond) and ask a lot of questions.

What has been a stand out moment of your time at the College?

In 2019, I led the Buru Immersion to Far North Queensland with Liz Todd and Jason Sepetauc. That was a very special experience, where we got to stay on-country with Kuku Yalanji





elders in Wujal Wujal, Buru, and then in Laura as well. The growth we all saw in the boys who attended was amazing, and the way they engaged with elders, and grew a bit more into themselves as Nudgee College men was special to see.

What does your role as McKenna House Dean entail?

As House Dean, a big part of my role is to walk alongside the boys of McKenna House as they walk their Nudgee College journey. Sometimes I'm a person to lean on, sometimes I'm a person giving a lecture after a silly decision has been made. The other part of my role, with the help of the Prefects of each year, is to create a House community that helps make a big school of over 1700 boys feel a bit smaller. Whether it is creating opportunities for boys to raise money for our House charity, YoungCare, who support people with significant physical disabilities to live independently, or organising a game of knockout basketball on a Thursday morning (of course with yours truly commentating to get a bit of friendly

competition going amongst PCs), this is one of the most important parts of my role.

McKenna's House motto is 'with knowledge and honour'; how do you ensure the motto is at the forefront of all House interactions?

McKenna's motto puts both living a 'good life', and trying your best together. Whether it is celebrating Academic, Principal, and Old Boy Awards, or if it is acknowledging a student who has helped out another and shown kindness, is at the centre of what we do as a House. It isn't enough to be a 'good bloke'; that term gets thrown around too much. Do you try your best? Do you leave people feeling better about themselves for having spoken or interacted with you? That's what living 'with knowledge and honour' is about.

What do you think is the most important part of your role as a House Dean? Or what do you enjoy the most?

There are so many great parts to my job. The final assembly for Year 12s is a

very special day, when we gather as a House and acknowledge each Senior. Equally, I really enjoy running the Flats BBQ on home games with McKenna volunteers. Apart from seeing boys outside the classroom, you see boys confident in the way they interact with others, work as a team (and hopefully not drop too many snags on the ground!).

What do you enjoy doing outside of teaching?

I try to keep active, I enjoy running and cycling. I love to cook as well, and have a few specialities - Spaghetti Bolognese.

What is your favourite book and why?

As an English teacher, I have a few. Of the books that I've taught, I do love *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It offers so many moments to pause and reflect on how we treat 'others' in our society, and certainly challenges our Year 10 boys who read it to think as Edmund Rice would have wanted.



2023 PLATINUM AWARDEES

MR JASON SEPETAUC

Pictured: 2023 Platinum Award winners from L-R, Anthony Mineo, Oliver Kele, Aidan Easton, Jacob Gillam, Daniel Neal, Harrison Palethorpe, Xavier Corry, Padraic Townsend, William Duffield (Jack Weaver was absent).

Annually, the College celebrates Year 12 students who have achieved sustained academic excellence with the Platinum Award. It is hard to achieve, requiring the award of consecutive semester based Gold Academic Awards (determined by grade point averages across all subjects) from Year 9 to Year 12.

This year's recipients are Xavier Corry, William Duffield, Aidan Easton, Jacob Gillam, Oliver Kele, Anthony Mineo, Daniel Neal, Harrison Palethorpe, Padraic Townsend and Jack Weaver. Dean of Learning and Teaching Mr Jason Sepetauc said their achievement encourages younger students to put their heads down and work hard in the classroom.

"Academically, they model the way," he said. "This is the highest number of students who've received the Platinum Award," he added. "Their achievement is an example of the continuous improvements students are making across the College in their approach to learning. It's also a testament to the hard work of teachers who set clear learning goals, establish challenging success criteria and apply effective instructional strategies to get the best out of the boys."

Whilst the award was calculated from Year 9 so as to include the traditional influx of high school boarders, six of the boys were awarded Gold medals each semester from Year 7. Incredibly, Aidan Easton and Jacob Gillam were

awarded Gold medals each semester from Year 5.

The students were presented with their awards during an Assembly in Term 3 so that the younger students could be inspired by their achievement. They were acknowledged at the College Awards Ceremony in November.

"Whilst it is wonderful to see these students awarded, they'll take with them something far more important than a medal when they graduate," Jason said. "Their consistent high academic performance is the legacy of learning habits that will sustain them through higher education and in their adult lives."



LEARNING OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

MR CHRIS CAWLEY

Excursions and incursions play a vital role in enhancing a student's learning experience by providing real-life opportunities for exploration, discovery, and hands-on engagement.



Year 6 camp



Wildlife rangers incursion at the College.

These educational activities take students beyond the confines of the classroom, allowing them to witness and participate in the practical application of concepts learned in textbooks. The value of these experiences cannot be overstated, as they offer a unique set of benefits that traditional classroom instruction alone cannot provide.

Real-life experiences gained from excursions and incursions bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. Students get the chance to see firsthand how scientific principles work in a laboratory, historical events unfold at the Cathedral of St Stephen, or how Japanese experiences are celebrated. This direct exposure stimulates their curiosity, deepens their understanding, and makes the learning process more memorable and meaningful.

Furthermore, these activities cultivate important life skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making. When students are

faced with new situations outside the classroom, they are encouraged to think on their feet, adapt to unfamiliar surroundings, and collaborate with their peers. These skills are invaluable as they prepare students not only for their academic pursuits but also for their future careers and personal lives. Our annual camp program for both Year 5 and 6 highlights these skills.

Moreover, excursions and incursions foster a sense of enthusiasm and engagement in learning. By breaking the monotony of routine classroom lessons, these experiences capture students' attention and ignite their passion for learning. The excitement of visiting Skylab here on campus or conducting science experiments with Street Science creates a positive association with learning, encouraging students to become lifelong learners.

Additionally, these activities promote social development. Students interact with classmates and teachers in new ways, fostering stronger bonds and a supportive learning environment.

Collaborative tasks during excursions and incursions encourage teamwork and communication, skills that are crucial in various aspects of life.

In conclusion, excursions and incursions are invaluable components of a student's education here at Nudgee College. They offer tangible connections between theoretical knowledge and real-world applications, foster essential life skills, enhance enthusiasm for learning, and promote social development. By stepping outside the classroom and engaging with the world around them, students derive a multitude of benefits that enrich their academic journey and prepare them for a successful future.

Below are student reflections on their experience on just a few of the excursions/incursions we offer in the Junior School.

Year 5 camp

"The Year 5 camp was a fulfilling experience and an educational one as well, for the new Nudgee College students. The team building activities helped me and many of my Nudgee brothers recognise new faces from this school. This helps build new friendships during these short days which will last a lifetime, and those who came with many friends would leave with stronger friendships than before. The trustful activities that would build friendships and save ones as well, were the mud run, crate climb, fishing, mid ropes and canoeing, where you relied on your teammates ability and your own ability to cross the finish line either figuratively or realistically. The meals that boosted everyone's energy every two hours were delightful either smoky bacon in the morning and fluffy eggs, or slow roasted chicken in the evening with a side of perfectly fried chips. The experience was a happy one where every night you could fall onto your comfortable mattress after a long night and day of activities too long to list. Our instructors and teachers helped make our camp experience as delightful as possible. With all of these wonderful memories, this made it almost impossible to leave this camp without a smile." - Beau Hogan, Year 5



Year 5 camp

Year 6 religion excursion

"The Religion excursion was an absolute enlightening journey that left us in awe of the differences between Christianity and Judaism. As we embarked on this eye-opening adventure, we were filled with anticipation and curiosity. Our first destination was the historic first cathedral in Queensland, where we were greeted by an architectural marvel that stood as a testament to the rich Christian heritage. The intricate details of the cathedral's stained glass windows, the towering spires reaching towards the sky and the peaceful ambiance within its walls evoked a sense of reverence and tranquility. We couldn't help but marvel at the devotion and artistry that went into creating such a magnificent place of worship. Next, we ventured to a nearby synagogue and the contrast in architectural style and religious symbolism was striking. The synagogue's facade exuded elegance and simplicity, yet it carried a profound significance within the Jewish faith. We were captivated by the beautifully crafted menorahs, the Torah scrolls, and the sense of community that permeated the synagogue. Witnessing the distinct practices, rituals and beliefs of Judaism

left us with a profound appreciation for the diversity and depth of religious expression. Throughout our excursion, we had the privilege of engaging with knowledgeable guides who shared their wisdom and experiences, providing us with valuable insights into the historical and cultural aspects of Christianity and Judaism. We delved into deep conversations, exploring the core tenets, traditions, and rituals of these two religions. The experience fostered a greater understanding, fostering respect and empathy for differing perspectives. Moreover, it was not only the physical spaces and artifacts that left a lasting impression on us, but also the people we encountered along the way. The warm welcomes, the stories shared and the sense of unity despite theological differences made us realise the common thread of spirituality that binds humanity together. In the end, the excursion was a truly amazing experience that expanded our horizons and enriched our understanding of faith and its various manifestations. It reminded us of the beauty and complexity inherent in religious diversity and the importance of embracing and respecting different beliefs." - Cooper Henderson, Year 6



Year 6 Religion excursion



A FAMILY LEGACY OF GIVING

MS LINDSAY KHUSHAL, HEAD OF PHILANTHROPY

Nudgee College was opened by the Brothers in 1891 with a vision of excellence. Their vision continues today and it is of a school that offers leading world-class facilities, educating and inspiring young boys to leave as outstanding young men.

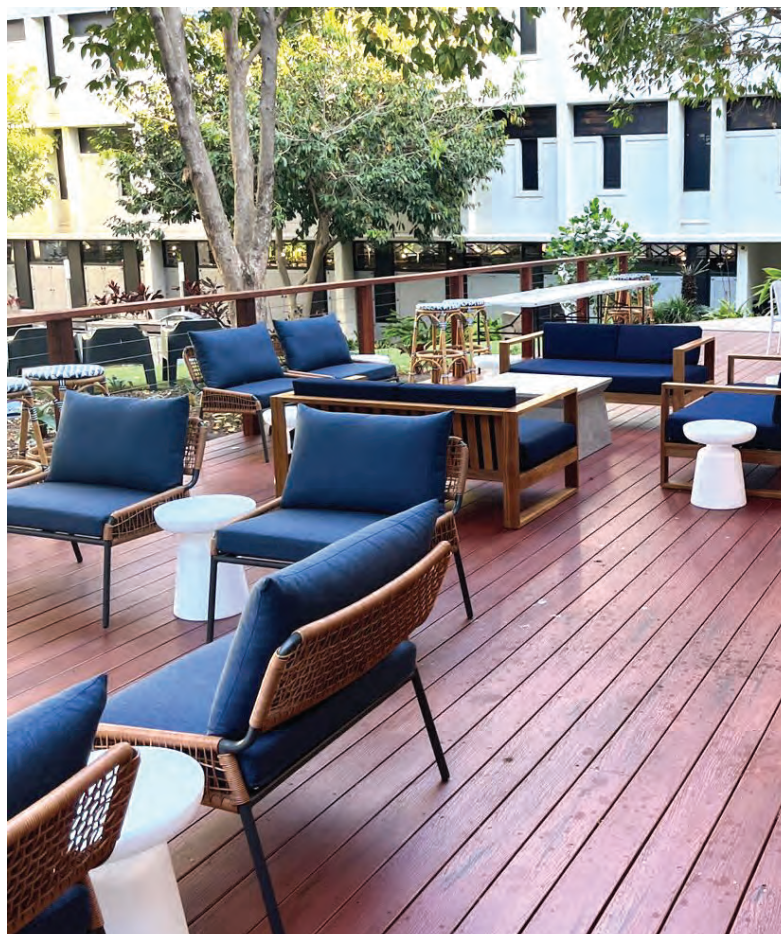
In order for us to sustain this enviable position, we rely on the support and generosity of our parents, our Old Boys and our wider community.

Brian Williams (NCOB 1960-63) is one particular Nudgee Old Boy and past boarder from Cairns who has been extremely generous in his support to the College over the years. He has a passion for the built environment and believes that this can have an enormous impact on the lives of the boarders that walk the College today, but also creates a lasting legacy for

those generations that will benefit from it in years to come.

Over the years, Brian and his beloved wife Faye have made a number of significant gifts to the Building Fund including contributing to the renovation and restoration of the Nudgee College Grandstand. In addition, we were honoured to have them as matching donors for both College Giving Days, the first raising funds for essential restoration work to Mary's Bell Tower and the second for bursaries awarded to young men whose families are in financial need.

In 2022 they decided that the time was right to direct additional help to the Bathersby Boarding Village, as a way to contribute to and improve the lives of boarders at Nudgee College both now and into the future. Due to their donation, the College was able to transform a rarely used space into a large multipurpose deck that opens out from the Cotter House common room. The deck extends out via brand new stacker doors and the boys are able to enjoy leisure time under the trees, for quiet study, or to socialise with their fellow brothers.



Brian, Faye and family joined us for the official opening of the deck which took place on Monday 2 October. Blessed by Fr Gillen, it was a wonderful community evening alongside boarding parents, as well as Principal Peter Fullagar, Mr Casey Brealy, Mr Stephen Meara and Mr Mike Silcock.

Brian and Faye expressed their delight at being able to assist the College. Their contribution follows in the footsteps of Brian's late father Sir Sydney Williams OBE, who also made a significant donation in the 1990s under Principal Br Peter Harney. The Williams family's philanthropic support of the College has also extended to the giving of time and expertise with both Brian and his brother David having served on both the Advisory Council and the Foundation. Their son, Dan Williams, is a proud Nudgee parent and generously gives his time as President of the Rugby Support Group.

Brian and Faye had a vision and that was to create an ongoing legacy for the boarding community at Nudgee College. We are humbled by their generosity and are privileged to have been able to work with them to bring this project to life.



For more information on giving at Nudgee College, please contact Head of Philanthropy, Lindsay Khushal on 07 3865 0313 or lkushal@nudgee.qld.edu.au





Sam Herbert, Charlie Kidd and Angus Coleman

THE LITTLE THINGS MATTER

OUR YEAR 5 & 6 BOARDERS

Ever heard the expression *"the little things matter"*? When it comes to Nudgee College Boarding, the phrase has never been more accurate.

There has always been a presence of younger boarders in Nudgee College's history. In 1938, Nudgee Junior College opened at Indooroopilly and all primary grades were offered boarding. Nearly 57 years later however, with the cessation of boarding at the Junior College site, in 1995, the O'Neill Residence (now the O'Neill Building) opened its doors to accommodate for all primary school boys and boarders from Years 6 to Year 11. Head of Residential Paul Curran and his partner, Joanne, who lived in the building, were responsible for the students. However, four Year 5s stayed with Mr Paul Schaumberg and his wife, Ms Kerrie Corcoran (both long term, senior members of the College teaching staff) in a house on Mary Ring Drive from Sunday nights until

Thursday morning. On the weekends they would then go on leave or join their fellow boarders in O'Neill.

Since 2010, our Boarding community has only consisted of one or two Years 5 and 6 boarders.

But in 2023 we welcomed eight primary aged students (one Year 5 student and seven Year 6 students) to the Bathersby Boarding Village and into O'Brien House.

A time of challenges and learning

School is challenging for any student but more so for an 11 or 12 year old. For some students this age they have yet to go on an overnight school camp but for our youngest boarders, they are away from home for 38 weeks of the year.

Given many of the students come from rural Queensland and beyond, the biggest challenge they face tends to be homesickness. However, the Boarding team has developed a structure that ensures an adult is always around to connect and care for those younger students as they navigate their first few years.

"Our Boarding team has a really great structure in that we have a Head of House, two Assistant Heads of House and a House Mother. There is always one of us around to ensure that boys that are experiencing homesickness have someone they can connect with and be cared for," Head of O'Brien House Jeff Campbell said.

Dean of Boarding Casey Brealy concurred, "we work closely with our Year 5s and 6s to build resilience and they actually cope with it quite well given the circumstances."

Charlie Kidd (Year 6) who joined Boarding this year from Windorah, said "I've learned how to deal with homesickness".

Despite the challenges of settling into a home away from home, the Year 5s and 6s also learn essential life skills. Sam Herbert (Year 5), hailing from the Sunshine Coast and the only Year 5 boarder in the Village, said "I have learned how to be organised and structured in everything I do."

Angus Coleman (Year 6) from Goondiwindi, said his short time in O'Brien House has encouraged him to be better with his time management, "I've learned how to manage my time better, especially when it comes to my homework".

O'Brien House Motto

Ironically, the O'Brien House motto is *"the little things matter"*. The motto encourages boarders to understand that every little thing they do, no matter how minute it seems, plays a big role in how they succeed at school.

In particular for the younger boarders, it's encouraging them to look beyond the bigger picture and get down to the nitty gritty every day. "Our motto grounds our youngest boarders and gives them something to always check back into and remember as they go about their day to day," Jeff said.

When asked what they believed the O'Brien House motto meant, Sam said "even if other people are doing the wrong thing, it shouldn't affect what choice you make. All the little things matter." Charlie said that whilst it's also about being independent, it's about "doing the right thing when nobody's watching".

From little things big things grow

Despite their age and size, these boarders not only play a big role in O'Brien House, they are an important thread in the fabric of the Village. "The presence of primary boarders softens the older boys and encourages brotherly relationships. It is so pleasing to see the older boys mentoring the youngest in our community; they truly take them under their wing," Casey said.



Seemingly the older boys have had a big impact on Charlie and Sam. "They've taught me how to deal with stuff and shown me what to do. I like that they are always there for advice," Charlie said. Sam said, "I've learned what to do in boarding just by watching them as they are role models."

Angus learned a valuable life lesson from the older boarders when he had done something wrong, "they told me not to do it again. They kept me accountable and I like that they look out for us."

Jeff plays witness to these special interactions between the younger and older boarders every day in the Village. One particular memory he shares is when the Year 6s performed in the showcase performance. "We had the boys juggle soccer balls on their feet. The Year 6 boy dropped the ball and it rolled away from him but it was amazing to see all the boys in O'Brien put their arms around him and boost his confidence. All the Seniors also got up and said to him 'it doesn't matter' and it really just shows a sense of empathy. The older boys treat our younger boys with such respect and it makes them feel like they matter."

Both Jeff and Casey hope our youngest boarders finish their first few years in the Junior Boarding House with the tools to succeed. These can be those simple habits like routine, tidiness or organisation but moreover want them to be ready for the rest of their schooling journey and other pursuits. "My goal is ensure that the boarders we are sending into the Senior dorms are ones that are resilient, know how to operate in a boarding setting, can adjust their routines and are disciplined with their academia, sporting and extracurricular pursuits," says Jeff.

"We want them to be able to successfully live alongside boys from all walks of life. Really, this is not dissimilar to what we hope for with all of our boarders," adds Casey.

2023, a year of growth

With growth once again occurring in this area, Casey attributes it mainly to positive word of mouth from the wider community and familial connections. "The good news is, we're getting out there and people are sharing their positive experiences. Often, with primary boarding, younger brothers are eager to follow in their big brother's footsteps. Once they hear about their brother's experience, it is hard to keep them at home!"

Jeff has witnessed the incredible growth of primary boarders joining the community. He attributes it to the pastoral care program that has been built by the Boarding team. "Families have seen us create a Boarding environment that goes beyond just 'feeding the boys' and 'giving them a place to sleep' but rather providing an environment of care and compassion and I believe that is why families have chosen to start sending their younger boys to the College in a Boarding capacity."

When there were only one or two Year 5s and 6s, it was hard to integrate younger boys into the existing programs but as numbers have increased, the team have been able to pivot and adjust. "As we keep building our numbers, we've been able to start tailoring our programs that aligns with the boys and their needs," Jeff said.

The little things have truly made a big impact on Nudgee College Boarding and the team are excited to welcome even more primary boarders as the years go on.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA IMMERSIONS

MR PHIL O'CONNOR

In 2023, Nudgee College reintroduced its international Immersion program, offering our students a unique opportunity to explore the vibrant culture of Papua New Guinea.

This year marked a significant change as we transitioned the Immersion program from Year 10 to Year 9, resulting in two extraordinary journeys for our students. For the first time, we had two groups embarking on life-changing experiences in the heart of Papua New Guinea, both in June and September.

Our last visit to Papua New Guinea was in 2019, making the return to the Rabaul and Wewak/Aitape communities an exciting prospect for all involved.

This immersion experience is genuinely remarkable, as it is divided into two distinct adventures: one group ventures to Rabaul, while the other explores Wewak and Aitape.

The group that travels to Rabaul is warmly hosted by Br Bernard White, a Christian Brother dedicated to running the Edmund Rice Life Training Centre in Vuvu. This initiative supports young

men from the local community, providing them with a 4-year training program, ultimately leading to work placement and ongoing employment. During their stay, our students are paired with young men from Vuvu and spend the week immersing themselves in the local culture.

The second group of students embark on a journey to Wewak and Aitape. This group is hosted by the Christian Brothers at Divine Word University in Wewak, and they collaborate with Callan Services for Disabilities. After a few nights in Wewak, the group heads to Aitape, where they dive deep into the local community hosted by the generous support of the Patrician Brothers and Presentation Sisters. Our students visit numerous local schools, gaining profound insights into the daily lives of their brothers and sisters in Papua New Guinea.

Starting in 2024, the Immersion program will be an integral part of

the Year 9 formation program.

We eagerly anticipate many years of forging meaningful connections and building lifelong friendships in Papua New Guinea.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated staff members who accompanied our boys on these transformative journeys in 2023: Ms Susan Shakespeare, Mr Ryan O'Sullivan, Mr Jamie Crawford, Mr Jamaal Sugars, Mr Stephen Meara, Ms Grace Waterman, Mr Phil O'Connor, Ms Donna Roberts, Mr Simon Lilley, Mr Ken Mitchell and Mr John Cross.

These experiences have not only broadened our students' horizons but also strengthened our bond with the incredible people of Papua New Guinea. We look forward to the continued growth of this program and the deepening of our connections with our friends in this beautiful part of the world.





Student Reflections

"The PNG Immersion was amazing overall, but meeting the local kids made the experience so memorable. Although we were a bit unsure at first, it didn't take long for us to bond with the beautiful kids down at the beach in the afternoon. We played touch footy and we all enjoyed this moment to the fullest, creating friendships with the young children. As well as connecting with the local kids, we also developed friendships with the older boys at the Edmund Rice Life Training Centre. Each student had two or more buddies, who helped us learn about the incredible culture these boys were a part of. My experience with the immersion was life changing."

Kai West (Year 9 - travelled to Vuvu)

"My group visited the small town of Aitape to meet many of the happy locals. One of the most significant interactions for me was our stay with the Presentation Sisters, being welcomed by a large crowd of excited onlookers eager to greet us along our journey. While we stayed with the sisters we were able to deeply connect with their culture and learn about their way of life. Even after returning home, we will continue to learn from these amazing people. We are truly gifted to have had this experience."

Will Reid (Year 9 - travelled to Wewak/Aitape)

"I had the privilege of meeting one boy in particular named Sinclair. Sinclair was from the 'Callan Services for Persons with Disabilities' which was located at Divine Word University, Wewak. I was able to talk to him and his grandmother about a couple of topics. One of these topics included what he wanted to be when he grew up. Sinclair wanted to become a Doctor when he was older and come back and help not only the people at the school but people everywhere. I knew this would be a challenge for him to pursue what his heart desired due to his disabilities. But all I said to him was, 'I believe in you and I believe that you can do it. Don't ever stop trying and I hope one day your dreams come true'. He then gave me a big hug which I will keep with me for the rest of my life."

Athan McLeod (Year 9 - travelled to Wewak/Aitape)

"The highlight of our trip for many and definitely myself came the following day where Brother Bernard and the Vuvu boys hosted an enjoyable party which celebrated many aspects of Papua New Guinean culture and more importantly, the sense of community and connection that we had developed throughout our time together. Great food was shared, singing and dancing occurred and many relationships were formed on what was such a special evening and one that will stay with us forever. The final following days were

spent climbing the biggest mountain in Rabaul, attending a local rugby league game and taking in every moment spent in such a beautiful country. As our time in Vuvu drew to a close, myself and all the boys began to reflect on such an extraordinary experience that left a profound impact on our lives, forever transforming the way we see the world and the diversity it holds. We are incredibly grateful for all the friendships that formed along the way, especially those with our Vuvu buddies."

Paddy Williams (Year 10 - travelled to Vuvu)



Top: (Left to right) Mr Phil O'Connor (Staff), Vincent Meraveka, Nicholas Lamprecht, Kai West, Ethan Andrews, Billy Connellan, Ronan Rowling, Aryan Shirkhedkar, Mr Simon Lilley (Staff) (Year 9 Vuvu Immersion).

Right: Tito Hamala with some of the local children (Year 10 Vuvu Immersion).

Left: (Left to right) Frank Gilbert, Henry Dennis, Daniel Georgieff, Owen Winks, Zach Boas, Paddy Williams, Harry Stoneman, Cooper Barnard-Stower (Year 10 Vuvu Immersion)



THE DA VINCI DECATHLON AT NUDGEE COLLEGE

MS NATALIE HUGHES

For the past five years, Nudgee College has been a host school for the da Vinci Decathlon. The da Vinci Decathlon is an academic competition that aims to challenge the minds of exceptional learners. An initiative of Knox Grammar School in Sydney, competitions occur at regional, state and national levels.



Above: Year 8/9 team with their 3rd place win for the Engineering discipline at Nationals at Knox Grammar School.
Left: A variety of schools were invited to the College for the Decathlon.

High achieving students from throughout Australia compete in teams of eight across the ten disciplines of: Mathematics, English, Science, Ideation, Engineering, Art and Poetry, Cartography, Code Breaking, Creative Producers and Legacy (General Knowledge). Named after one of the world's greatest scholars, Leonardo da Vinci, the competition offers students a unique opportunity to stimulate their thinking, apply their knowledge to contemporary problems and develop the '21st Century skills' of critical and creative thinking. The success of students in the competition relies not only on their academic performance but also their capacity to collaborate with one another and solve problems in short timeframes. Teams compete in three or four disciplines concurrently, meaning that students need diverse skill-sets in order to meaningfully contribute to their team's success. As an example, a single student may work on the Science paper in the first session of the day, then perform a dramatic performance in the middle session of the day and complete the

Legacy paper in the afternoon. The competition provides our students with a rare opportunity to compete with girls and boys from a variety of schools throughout Queensland. This includes other Religious Independent schools, Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE) schools and state schools.

Since 2019, Nudgee College has hosted the Queensland State competition. Each year we host 120 teams across three days for Years 5 - 6, Years 7-8 and Years 9-11. The competition is rapidly growing in popularity (to the extent that this year we filled registrations for the three days within less than one hour). This speaks to the value that schools see that this competition has for their students.

During our time as the Queensland host school, Nudgee College has needed to adapt our delivery of the competition as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the cancellation of the competition in 2021, in 2022, we delivered the da Vinci Decathlon in an online format. While it was successful, we were glad

to see the competition return to an 'in-person' format this year. The energy in the Christian Brothers Conference Centre on competition days is electric!

Selection criteria for our teams

In order to select our teams each year we employ a rigorous selection process. Nudgee College selects its highest performing students across a range of subjects and disciplines to compete in year-level teams. Selection for our teams is determined by students' subject-based outcomes, their outcomes on standardised tests (e.g. Progressive Achievement Testing, NAPLAN) and recommendations from staff who know the boys well.

Our teams train for six weeks in the lead up to the competition, working on past papers and practicing their teamwork. It involves a level of commitment, similar to competing in one of our sports teams and I would like to acknowledge all those students who have represented Nudgee College so admirably over the past five years.





Students participating in the 'Race Around Sydney' competition as part of the Decathlon weekend.



Students at the Opera House for the 'Race Around Sydney'.

Our experience at the National Competition

For the first time in 2023, Nudgee College visited Knox Grammar School in Sydney to compete in the National competition. While some of our teams have previously competed online in the National competition, it was exciting to be able to take a Year 8/9 team in person this year. Our team was made of Year 9 students: Jacob Brown, Jeremy Deakin, Andrew Emery, Tom Kewley, Max Lazzarini, Baxter Witteveen, as well as two Year 8 students, James Carroll and Santiago King-Scott. The team performed incredibly well, placing third in the Engineering discipline and I would like to congratulate them on this significant achievement.

Year 9 student, Baxter Witteveen, had this to say about his experience:

"My experience with the da Vinci Decathlon team has been a wonderful learning opportunity, full of challenge, excitement and competition. The arduous nature of the decathlon pitted us against some of the most academically gifted students from

around the country. While it was enjoyable, the wildly varying disciplines involved in the competition makes it very mentally challenging, forcing us, as participants, to get out of our comfort zones. The team was lucky enough to have Ms Hughes and Ms Spicer along with us, who guided us every step of the way, and ensured we got the most out of the trip as possible. Throughout the two competitions, I have learnt many valuable skills in teamwork, cooperation, time management and problem solving. My personal highlight of the competition was the third place in Engineering, a combined effort between several members of the team. Overall, the experience was one of learning, challenge and opportunity."

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank our school's Program Leader for Enrichment, Ms Stephanie Spicer who works tirelessly each year to bring competition to life, not only for our students at Nudgee College but for all those students across the state who compete.



Nudgee College prizes to date:

2023 QUEENSLAND STATE COMPETITION

Year Level	Place	Discipline
6	1st	English
6	2nd	Science
7	2nd	Creative Producers
9	1st	Creative Producers
9	3rd	Code Breaking
10	2nd	Engineering
11	1st	English
11	2nd	Ideation

2022 NATIONALS COMPETITION (ONLINE)

Year Level	Place	Discipline
10	1st	Art and Poetry
10	2nd	Cartography
10	3rd	Engineering

2022 QUEENSLAND STATE COMPETITION (ONLINE)

Year Level	Place	Discipline
10	1st	Overall
11	2nd	Overall
Year Level	Place	Discipline
5	2nd	Science
5	3rd	English
6	3rd	Cartography
7	3rd	Cartography
7	3rd	Code Breaking
9	2nd	Science
9	3rd	Cartography
9	3rd	Creative Producers
9	3rd	Legacy
10	1st	Cartography
10	2nd	Code Breaking
10	3rd	Ideation
10	3rd	Science
11	1st	Ideation
11	2nd	Ideation



The Drumline had a successful Ekka week in August. Roving around the Showgrounds, the Drumline spent their days performing their set pieces in front of large crowds to great applause! (Ethan Cockburn, Sidney Bates, Ryan Matthews, Sam Browne, Daniel Cross, Jack Capes, Nekoda Murphy, Troy Li, Jacob Davies and Oliver Lovell.)

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N C S N A P S H T

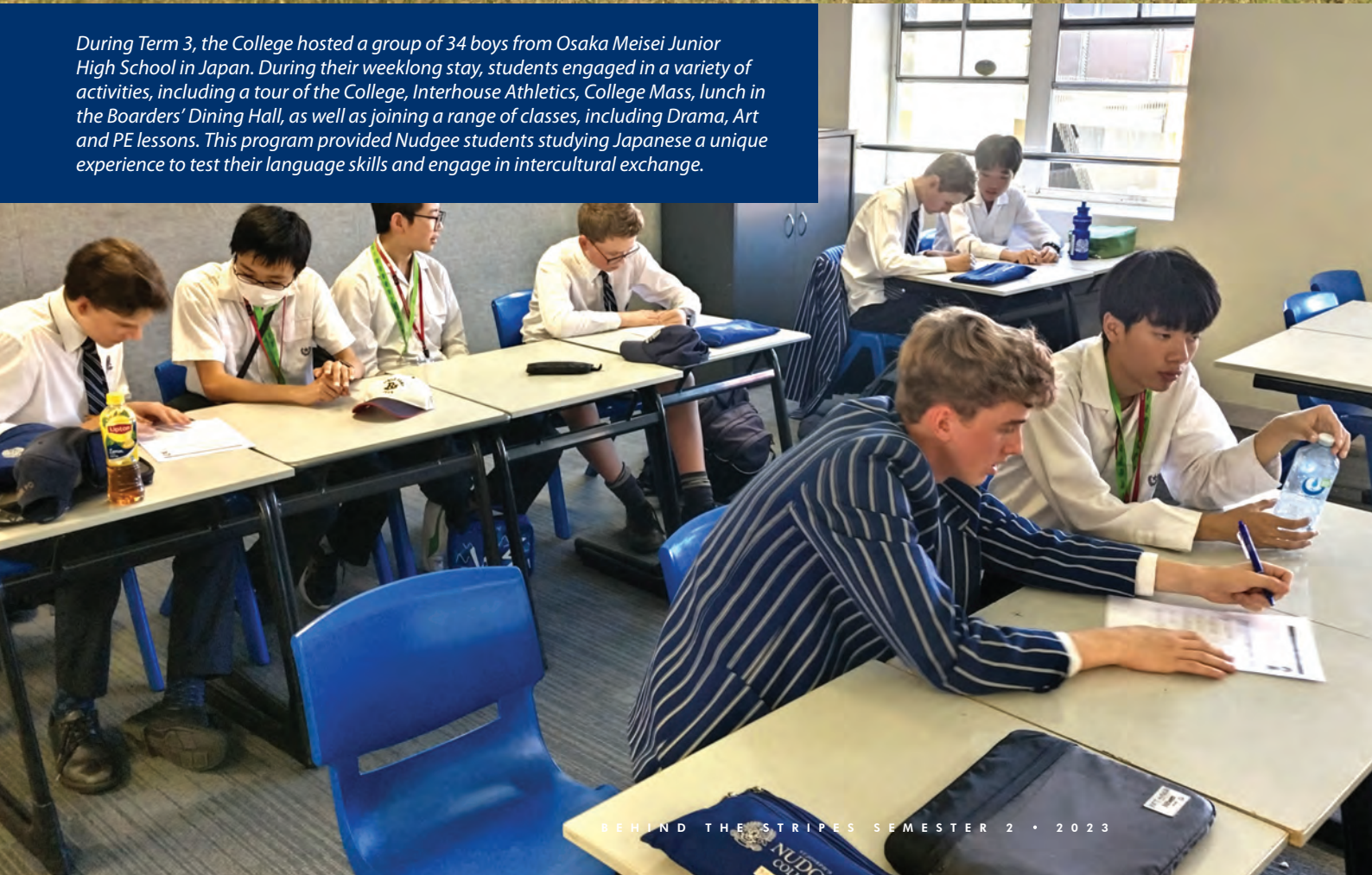


In Semester 2, the Year 11 cohort completes a series of rituals in preparation for their roles as student leaders for the following year. This includes a leadership retreat in August, when the students reflect on their journey so far, set goals for their Senior year and determine the legacy they wish to leave behind. The process of naming a Captain, Vice Captains and Prefects for the following year is also part of this journey. Congratulations to 2024 Captain Oscar Roati and Vice Captains Charlie Bell and Grady Turner and our accomplished House Prefects who will take the reins next year.

#nudgeespirit



During Term 3, the College hosted a group of 34 boys from Osaka Meisei Junior High School in Japan. During their weeklong stay, students engaged in a variety of activities, including a tour of the College, Interhouse Athletics, College Mass, lunch in the Boarders' Dining Hall, as well as joining a range of classes, including Drama, Art and PE lessons. This program provided Nudgee students studying Japanese a unique experience to test their language skills and engage in intercultural exchange.





Pieter Beckers, James Carroll, Tobias Grant, Liam Hughes, Harvey Kasprovicz, Ryan Khatmi, Santiago King-Scott, Troy Li, Edward McDonnell and Kinnon McLean took part in the annual Write a Book in a Day competition in conjunction with the Kids' Cancer Project. On Wednesday 23 August, the students planned, wrote, edited and illustrated an entertaining book entitled 'Monkey Mayhem' in response to the issued parameters from 8.00 am - 8.30 pm. The completed book will be donated to a sick child in hospital suffering from cancer. Participating students also managed to raise over \$2,000 to raise awareness and much needed funds for the Kids' Cancer Project.



The Bye round turned into a jam-packed day with 54 U11 teams playing Rugby on The Flats against a variety of GPS teams. Our youngest Rugby players spent the day practicing their skills in round robin style matches and enjoyed having the QLD Reds and our Senior players watching on from the sidelines!

Above: Will Gower

Left: U11s with Reds mascot, Rusty.



Our talented writers, both from the Writers' Circle and Write a Book in a Day, crafted heartwarming stories during Term 3 and had the privilege of sharing them with residents of Viridian Aged Care Centre during their recent visit. The residents were captivated by the tales spun by our budding young writers and their smiles made this experience truly special.





The Royal Australian Navy visited the College in August to talk to our students about potential careers in the Navy. NCOB 2021 Luke Darbyshire-Roberts and NCOB 2020 Isaac Babao were in attendance as representatives and the students enjoyed asking them all about their time in the Navy. They also got the opportunity to use VR to explore the inside of a Navy ship.



On the Thursday 31 August we celebrated Father's Day early at the Junior School. Fathers and father figures spent the morning enjoying coffee and pastries with their sons.



Congratulations to Year 11 student Tyler Goodall who performed in 'Algorithm' by Daniel Evans for the QLD Theatre Youth Ensemble showcase in the September holidays.

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Thomas Mallet, Wade Lucas and Henry Geise represented the College at the Australian Honours Ensemble Program held at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. Each student was seated in first position for their instrument and they all did a brilliant job performing in the top Wind ensemble.



Congratulations to Year 11 student and 2024 Vice Captain, Charlie Bell who graduated from the Ozanam Leadership Program run by the St Vincent de Paul Society. Charlie is the first Nudgee College student to ever complete this program.



Ten of our Debating students travelled to The Southport School to take part in the Model United Nations. They had the opportunity to act as delegates for different countries and debated topical issues such as global health. In particular, Anthony, Sam Duffy, Tejas Ashok and Tanush Patel all spoke in front of the General Assembly and offered impressive insights on the topic. Anthony also received an Honourable Mention for his work as the delegate from Iran.





Nudgee College celebrated National Tree Day by spending three lunchtimes planting native trees into our rehabilitation garden. Over 110 students participated in planting 50 trees as well as 'refreshing' the garden from last year's planting. This included weeding, mulching, removing old tree guards and watering.



28 Year 12s graduated with their Business Diploma in Term 3. The Diploma is delivered in partnership with external provider Barrington College.





INTER-HOUSE SNAPSHOT



It was a hotly contested end to the year for Inter-house competitions and a close race to see who would win the overall Br Vic Larkin Shield. The Inter-house Track and Field in August was a fun filled yet competitive day out on Hendry Oval. Long jump, Vortex, relays, sprints and javelin were just some of the events the boys participated in to try and accumulate as many points for their House. The end of the day saw Fogarty emerge victorious but the race was still on for the Shield.

The Inter-house Debating competition that followed was a battle of intellect where each House was assigned affirmative or negative on a topic each week. Down to the final two, McKenna and Tierney, the Houses argued on the topic 'that schools should not give out participation awards'. After a tense debate, McKenna were declared winners.

In the same month, the Inter-house Esport Competition was a showdown

of controllers and tactical gameplay. Shaw and Riley made it to the final where they needed to play two games of Rocket League. The total number of goals or points scored from both of these matches were added to determine an overall winner. Shaw outplayed Riley and came away with the win.

However, congratulations to the overarching winner of the Br Vic Larkin Shield, Fogarty House.



The crowd celebrates as Shaw is victorious in Esports.



Patrick Kennedy as second speaker for Tierney House in the Inter-house debate.





The Year 12s singing the school song in the Chapel.



NC EVENTS

Farewell to Fullagar

As the year came to a close, the Farewell to Fullagar event was the perfect opportunity to celebrate the end of Mr Peter Fullagar's tenure at the College. The evening began with a Mass in the Chapel and then Old Boys, current and past parents and staff were invited to the Edmund Rice Mall to enjoy food, drinks, to reminisce and thank Peter for his service the past nine years.



Valedictory

Just like that, the Year 12s gathered in the Ross Oval grandstand one last time for their Valedictory. The day began with a Mass which was celebrated by the College's Chaplain in Residence, Reverend Fr John Gillen SM. Following the Mass, the Seniors were presented with their Certificates of Graduation by House Deans and Heads of Boarding Houses. College Captain Jacob Gillam delivered an inspiring address with his father Mr Tony Gillam delivering an address in response. Mr Peter Fullagar gave these parting words of wisdom to

the class of 2023 "Nudgee College will always be your school. So, as your time as a student of St Joseph's Nudgee College comes to a close, leave here knowing that we are very proud of you and that you will always be a part of the Nudgee College story and that the College will always be a part of your story."

Congratulations to our graduating class for their "courage to live the spirit" (Senior motto). We wish them all the best as they embark on their next chapter.



Jack Mail



Rose Garden ceremony



The Haka before the guard of honour.



Ramon Latumahina



Jasper Innes

Senior Farewell Day

On Wednesday 18 October, the Year 12 students celebrated their final day of school before they embarked on their exams. A day of goodbyes began with House Assemblies where each House got together to celebrate their Seniors, sign shirts and enjoy breakfast together. Following this, the Year 12s had a private liturgy in the Chapel, sang the school song with pride and then gathered in front of the Treacy

Building for morning tea with their families and joined in prayer around the rose garden.

A select few students performed a special Haka and then each Year 12 headed down to their final College Assembly in the Christian Brothers' Conference Centre through a guard of honour, lined with their fellow brothers from Years 5 to 11.



Oliver Kele



Luke Cowley



Carter Corless

Awards Ceremony

Every year, the College celebrates the achievements of students at the annual Awards Ceremony in the Christian Brothers' Conference Centre.

Congratulations to the following award winners:

- *Junior Sportsman of the Year:* **Angus Irwin, William Zillman**
- *Year 10 Ladies' Auxiliary Award for Conduct, Study and Co-curricular:* **Charles Dallimore, Hayden Hamilton, Levi Slater, Michael Williams, Paddy Williams, Harry Stoneman**
- *Year 10 RJH Elliott Bursary for Social Justice and Community Service:* **Harry Stoneman**
- *Year 11 Past Mothers' Association Sign of Faith Award:* **Robert Hopkins, William Kewley, Hamish McCourt, Samuel McDonnell, Hugo Wendt**
- *Sam Sciacca Memorial Award for Character and Citizenship:* **William Duffield**
- *Shirley Agnew Memorial Award for Outstanding Participation:* **Alex Pattison**
- *Liberating Education Award for Leadership and Service to the Liberating Education Program:* **Benedict Mills**
- *Ampol All Rounder Award for Study, Activities and Service:* **Mladen Markovic**
- *W A Collins Memorial Award for Conduct, Study and Co-curricular:* **Thomas Hansson**

- *Lawrie Cusack Signum Fidei Award:* **Luke Cowley**
- *Award for Outstanding Contribution to Nudgee College Sustainability:* **Mr Ken Mitchell**
- *The Kelleher Family Award for Consistent, Unrecognised Achievement:* **Christopher Hernik**
- *James J Delahunty Sportsman of the Year Award:* **Jacob Johnson**
- *Excellence in Sport Award for Outstanding Achievement in a GPS Sport:* **Bennett Armistead, Oliver Barrett, Rylan Brownlie, Nicholas Conway, Macarius Pereira, Liam Robinson, Chad Willett**
- *W Carlton-Smith Memorial Award for Leadership, Study and Co-curricular:* **Aidan Easton**

- *Br J G Hodda Memorial Award for Leadership and Diligence as a College Captain:* **Jacob Gillam**
- *Br J G Hodda Memorial Award for Leadership and Diligence as a College Vice Captain:* **Harrison Palethorpe**
- *The Arts Committee Creative Arts Award for Excellence in the Arts:* **Thomas Mallet**
- *The Old Boys' Award for Outstanding Service to the College:* **Jacob Gillam**
- *John Francis Treacy Memorial Award for Service to the Boarding Community:* **Luke Cowley**

The Dux of the College will be announced at the first Academic Assembly in 2024.



Year 6 award winners.





Senior Formal



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Formal and Semi Formal

The Senior Formal was the perfect way for the Year 12 students to mark the halfway point of their final year of schooling. Held on Sunday 9 July at the Royal International Convention Centre, the Seniors and their partners enjoyed an evening of dinner, dancing and fun before commencing a busy Term 3. The Year 11s also had the opportunity to swap their blue blazer for a suit, celebrating their Semi Formal on Thursday 17 August at Victoria Park Marquee.



Year 11's Semi Formal

Arts Festival

On Friday 13 October, the Arts Festival was officially opened with a gala evening in Tierney Auditorium. It was the first opportunity for parents, staff, students and the wider community to view artwork by our talented Junior and Senior Visual Art students. Guests marvelled at the incredible art on display, enjoyed music from our Senior musicians and guests Javier Spicer Jazz Trio and were also able to purchase artwork from our Senior artists.

The following day, families were invited back to the College to enjoy a fun filled day of Arts festivities. Throughout the day, there were free DJ, acting and street art workshops for students to participate in as well as drama demonstrations, food trucks and performances.



Tom Sands (NCOB 2017-22) with a student leading the street art workshop.



Boarders' Bash and Reunion Weekend

Our Nudgee College and St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace communities descended upon the grounds for an afternoon of sport, food and festivities. The afternoon began with a series of basketball and rugby matches, culminating in a scintillating 1st XV game with Nudgee College winning the St Joseph's Cup, 29-3.

Post-match, the crowd headed to the Edmund Rice Mall to enjoy food trucks, drinks and live music. It was also great to welcome our Boarding families and Old Boys to the College to gather, reconnect, reminisce and mingle.

Above: Guests enjoying drinks and food in Edmund Rice Mall.

Left: 1st XV Captain Macarius Pereira celebrating with the St Joseph's Cup.



Long Lunch

'Country chic' was the dress code of the day for almost 1,500 guests who gathered on Wilkes Oval for the highly anticipated Long Lunch on Sunday 13 August. It was great to see the community come together and enjoy an afternoon of sunshine, grazing platters, live music and dancing!



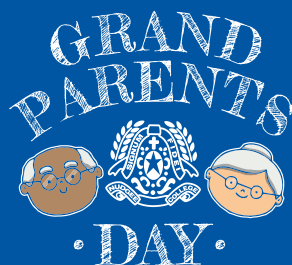
Long Lunch guests on Wilkes Oval.



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Grandparents Day

On Saturday 22 July, more than 200 grandparents were welcomed onto campus for Grandparents Day. Our grandparents enjoyed a morning tea of fresh pastries with their grandsons and toured the College afterwards. Coinciding with a home round against Ipswich Grammar School, many boys also had the opportunity to play basketball or rugby with their grandparents cheering from the sidelines.



Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross

The College commemorated the Feast Day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop with a Mass in the Christian Brothers Conference Centre on Tuesday 8 August. As the Patron Saint of Australia, Mary MacKillop is an iconic figure in Catholicism, who spoke of walking with those who were struggling in life and needed hope and encouragement. The event was an opportunity for communion or a prayer of blessing as well as a celebration for staff members celebrating 20 or more years of service in Catholic education.





Cattle Club

Semester 2 was a busy one for our Cattle Club and Show Team.

In August, the majority of the Show Team had their time filled by the Ekka. Multiple boys were on hand to assist with showing select cattle to Ekka guests in the 'Large Animal Pavilion'. They spent their afternoons giving guests the opportunity to brush the cattle, take photos and spoke to them about the Cattle Club. Moreover, the Show Team had great success in certain categories. In Junior Judges, Braxton Tocchini placed first and Harry Orr came away with second.

The Brahman bulls placed first in the Bull Under 12 Months category whilst our Braford bulls all placed in their classes. Our oldest Braford took home the Champion Bull as well as



Daniel O'Sullivan interviewing for Channel 7.



the Braford Champion Exhibit. Our Braford Heifer 'Gracey' came home with Reserve Champion Heifer.

The Cattle Club and Show Team have had a successful year and their wins don't go unnoticed. They also had the opportunity to be featured on 7NEWS in the lead up to the Ekka, with a select number of boys being interviewed about the program.

In Term 4, 25 boys went to Lismore to show cattle in what was their last show of 2023. The team exhibited in two different rings with the Braford, Brahman, Droughtmaster and Shorthorn cattle on show. Most notably, the Senior Braford Bull placed as Reserve Champion.

2024 is surely to be another successful year for our Cattle Club and Show Team.

Left: Braxton Tocchini and Harry Orr with their wins for the Junior Judges.

Basketball

Amidst a rollercoaster of victories and defeats, this season unfolded as one filled with growth, hard-fought lessons and evolving resilience and determination.

The 1st V kicked off with a big win versus a tough Ipswich Grammar School (IGS) side. Mladen Markovic, Captain Joaquin Tulloch and Rylan Carlisle were standouts of the game. The 2nd V squad also pulled off a solid win in the same round.

Round 3 against St Joseph's College Gregory Terrace (GT) saw a mixed bag of outcomes. The Junior teams played well and there were some fantastic wins for the Blue and White. Unfortunately, the 1st V were outmatched by a strong GT outfit. Isaiah Jorgensen (the youngest player in the team - Year 8!) played a strong game with an array of consecutive three-pointers. Round 4 saw the 1st V lose to a talented Brisbane State High School (BSHS) team, although there were well deserved wins from the 2nd V and the 5As. Another tough round for the 1st V came in Round 5 against Brisbane Grammar School (BGS). Though, some notable wins did occur for the 2nds, 3rds and 4th V, with the Junior terms also enjoying drawn matches.



4th V celebrating a win versus TSS.

Round 6 was a turning point for the 1st V against Brisbane Boys College (BBC). Despite losing their Captain in the first quarter, the boys rallied and it turned into a match down to the wire. In the final quarter, with a score drawn 70-70, the team nailed their final baskets and emerged victorious, 76-70. With a tough loss in Round 7 and 8, the players went up against Premiers TSS side in the final round. It was a hard fought match, but the team played till the final buzzer. The 2nds and 4ths came away with good wins in Round 9.

The basketball program is looking forward to another jam-packed 2024.



Rylan Carlisle



Captain of the 1st V, Joaquin Tulloch



Justin Sternes

Cricket

With pre-season underway for 2024, the 1st XI team are lucky to have an experienced coaching staff on board.

Mr Justin Sternes will take the reins as Head Coach for the upcoming season. With over 20 years of coaching experience and as Assistant Coach for the Queensland Bulls and Brisbane Heat Men's teams, he will surely put the 1st XI in good stead. Sternes will be supported by our very own, Mr Sean Toovey, who comes with a Level 3 Coaching accreditation and over 15 years of Premier cricket coaching experience. Mr Nathan Reardon joins the Assistant coaching staff. Reardon has not only played over 150 matches for the various Big Bash teams and T20 International cricket, he has 10 years of experience in particular with school cricket programs.

The Cricket program is off to a great start coming into the 2024 season!



Nathan Reardon



Jordan Wendt

Rugby

Perfect winter weather greeted the teams for their first competitive fixtures of the 2023 season. It was a clean sweep day, with all teams winning every fixture against IGS. The 1st XV had a tough first half however with Noah Raulini, Jacob Johnson and Captain Macarius Pereira working their magic, the team were able to secure a win 35-17.

Round 3, the infamous Terrace Round, saw 33 teams battle it out for the St Joseph's Cup. It was a day that went in our favour with 27 wins, four draws and two losses. The 6th XV to the 1st XV went undefeated. After being down 3-0 at halftime, the 1st XV scored 27 unanswered points to finish 27-3 in front of the biggest crowd on Ross Oval since Round 9 against TSS in 2018.

The good luck continued for the majority of the teams for Round 4 against BSHS. Unfortunately, the 1st XV failed to execute a number of try scoring chances towards the end of the first half and BSHS took advantage to win 18-17. Round 5 was a mixture of hard fought wins and losses against BGS. The highlight was Nick Conway, on debut for the 1st XV, scoring four tries. It was Round 6 against BBC where the 1st XV's defensive line shone. Hugo Hart, Noah and the backline had a strong, successful game leading the team to a 24-10 win against a solid BBC outfit.

With no undefeated sides in the competition for the last three rounds,

the 1st XV were equal in the race for the Premiership with TSS, TGS and ACGS. Ironically, the last three rounds of opponents. Round 7 against ACGS was a nail-biter but with less than 10 minutes remaining, the team took home the win with a score of 17-12. In a down to the wire match, Nudgee College emerged victorious in Round 8, 28 - 21 against a very dominant TGS side.

Round 9 saw 25 out of 27 teams win against TSS but the highlight of the day was when the 1st XV secured the College's 44th GPS Premiership after winning 37-7. Remarkably, among other teams, the 11As, 12As, 13As, 14As and 15As went through the season undefeated as well.



Jasper Alipayo













Track and Field

It's been a big year for the Track and Field athletes. With regular training every week and meets at the Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre (QSAC), the team worked hard in the lead up to the GPS Championships. Championships were held at QSAC on 20 October and students came out in droves to support those competing.

Highlights included:

- Sean Putra Susilo ran in the U15 100m Hurdles to claim GPS, College and QLD records (12.85). Sean was presented the Alex Clark Award for Best Performance by a Hurdler.
- Ned Curran fell over in the U16 800m, ending up 20m behind the pack in last place and then fighting his way back to finish second.

Left: Billy Campbell

Top: Tristan Jones.

Top right: Alex Wain, Michael Williams, Matthew Turner, Jaxon Cameron.

Right: William Curran.

Bottom right: Vice Captains James Swao and Alex Pattison holding the trophy.



To keep up to date on all our sport and activities news, follow

@ncactivities



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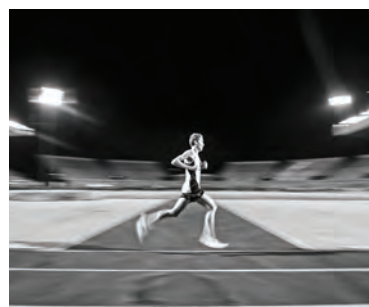
- Alex Pattison injured his shoulder in the warm up but he pushed through and finished second in the Discus.
- James Swao's unbelievable 400m (48.93) to beat IGS.
- Dylan Manley claimed the U13 100/200 metre double (11.99 / 24.27).
- Lachlan Wong won the U15 High Jump (1.83m).
- Max Molloy came out to win the U15 Discus (54.41m).
- The All-Age Relay team of Matthew Turner, Alexander Wain, Jaxon Cameron and Michael Williams ran a brilliant race.
- Nixon Pasese claimed wins in the U16 Shot Put and Discus (14.48m / 48.29m)

Unfortunately, down to a very small point margin, our Juniors lost out to BGS by 1.5 points. However, our

Senior team ended the day with an incredible win, just nudging out IGS. Congratulations to all competitors.

Throughout the year, students also competed at the Met North Championships which saw the team come away with 20 Gold, eight Silver and seven Bronze medals. Ethan Grimshaw, Lachlan Cox and Sean Putra-Susilo broke Met North records in their respective events.

Overall, a very successful year for Track and Field.





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NCAM Business Series event.

It has been a full year for the Nudgee College Alma Mater (NCAM) with plenty of engagement opportunities for our past students, their partners, parents/carers and past staff. We have kept the tradition of many NCOBA events, plus expanded the calendar for the Past Mothers' Association, all while growing our wider Alma Mater community. Highlights were the first quarterly newsletter, the Mentoring Breakfast which saw 13 incredible and diverse mentors offering advice to our current Year 11 students and our NCAM Business Series event. Thank you to our Committee members, Mr Peter Fullagar, Ms Hannah Kilburn, Mr Brian O'Reilly, Mr Dave Kelly, Ms Margie Wills and Freddie Carlton-Smith for offering their time, advice and support as we launched and delivered the first year of the NCAM. If you wish to be involved in the committee or any of the 2024 activities please contact me on ehitchings@nudgee.qld.edu.au.

Ms Erina Hitchings

Alumni and Community Manager

NCOBA President's Message

The Nudgee College Old Boys' Association (NCOBA) had a very busy Semester 2, with involvement in many events on and off campus ranging from the Reunion Weekend, the Mentoring Breakfast, Blue and White Race Day, which we co-hosted with the Past Mothers' Association for the first time, plus many more including the successful launch of our first Rugby tipping competition. We always end the year with our Golf Day, which is the longest running NCOBA event, and of course, the Memorial Mass, which is always an important gathering for our whole community. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those on the NCOBA Committee, who have given up their time to keep the wheels moving, and to all the Old Boys who are part of the NCOBA who support us every year.

Mr Andrew McNamara

NCOBA President

NCPMA President's Message

The Past Mothers' Association Committee has had a very busy Semester. We successfully hosted our inaugural Winter Warm-Up Event beneath the iconic Story Bridge in July. We were delighted by the turnout and the opportunity to reconnect with everyone. The event brought together multiple generations and witnessing this diverse group of attendees was truly heartwarming. We also hosted our Pimms afternoon again at The Story Bridge Hotel, and co-hosted the Blue and White Race Day with the NCOBA, all within a few weeks of each other! Needless to say there have been plenty of opportunities for Past Mothers to reconnect with each other and the wider community. We were thrilled to end the year with another Christmas Mass with the Ladies Auxiliary and look forward to all that is ahead in 2024! We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those on the Past Mothers' Committee for their tireless work throughout the year, and all those who attended our events.

Simone Watson

NCPMA President



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Signum Fidei Award winners Mr James Teh and Mr Vince Rao.

Past Mothers' Association Winter Warm Up

On Saturday 22 July the Past Mothers' Association held their Winter Warm Up Lunch at The Story Bridge Hotel (a NCOB owned venue). It was a wonderful relaxed day with a wide range of Past Mothers spanning many decades of time at Nudgee College.

Reunion Weekend

It was a fantastic weekend culminating in reunion gatherings on Saturday 29 July for our five, 10, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 year reunion groups and many in between! Nothing brings a crowd of Old Boys back to the school like a rugby day against Gregory Terrace. That was certainly the case when we hosted the Terricians. A heaving Old Boys Hill was treated to a tense first half before we ran away with the match in the second half. Celebrations were swiftly under way with a great number of Old Boys from a range of different years enjoying the wonderful hospitality of the school at the Boarders Bash in Edmund Rice Mall. One of the most pleasing aspects was

seeing a number of groups whose reunions were affected by COVID finally being able to catch up. Many groups then ventured off to their specific year group events across the city at Nudgee-owned establishments such as The Normanby Hotel and The Story Bridge Hotel.

Nudgee's Shout

On Thursday 3 August at UQ St Lucia we launched our first Nudgee's Shout hosted by NCAM Committee member, Mr Freddie Carlton-Smith. The purpose is to gather Old Boys

and community members together as a social and networking opportunity. We hosted a second Nudgee's Shout for the five and six year reunion groups on Saturday 26 August. We are looking to grow this concept with more university and community gatherings, so watch this space!

Year 11 Mentoring Breakfast

We hosted 13 exceptional mentors for our current Year 11 students on Friday 25 August in Ryan Hall. We had



Reunion Weekend.





Old Boys reuniting at the Borders Bash.

industry professionals ranging from law with Ms Chelsea Salter from McInnes-Willson Lawyers to agriculture with Old Boy Mr Leyton Rodrigues (NCOB 2010-17) from Nutrien Ag Solutions and entertainment industries with Old Boy Mr Wes Denning (NCOB 1996-00) from Eureka Productions.

NCOBA Toowoomba Reunion

A nice size crowd, spanning three generations of Nudgee families attended the NCOBA Toowoomba Reunion at The Spotted Cow Hotel on Saturday 2 September. The community gathered following another fantastic day of rugby at Toowoomba Grammar School and ended in a victory for our 1st XV defeating TGS 28-21.



2023 Mentors



Past Mothers' Pimms Afternoon

Past Mothers' Pimms Afternoon

Almost 50 past mothers gathered at The Story Bridge Hotel on Saturday 23 September. It was a wonderful afternoon of laughter, sharing stories, and raising \$680 via a raffle to help fund Immersion programs for students and their families in financial hardship.

Past NCOBA and Past Mothers' Blue and White Race Day

This year's Blue and White Race Day was the first year the NCOBA and Past Mothers' joined together to co-host this social event. It was held at Eagle



Past Mothers' Christmas Mass and Dinner

Farm Race Course on 7 October and was a huge success with over 160 attendees.

NCAM End of Year Meeting - Open Community Event

On Monday 9 October, we held our last NCAM meeting for the year and invited the community to join us. It was a chance to celebrate all the achievements of our first year and look to 2024 as an opportunity to grow and create more opportunities for engagement that are relevant, purposeful, and inclusive. Thank you to the 2023 committee and those who attended.

Young Alumni Welcome

On Tuesday 17 October, we held our traditional Young Alumni Welcome event where our Seniors are welcomed into the Old Boys' Association and the Nudgee College Alma Mater. It was a festive afternoon of music and burgers in Tierney Green followed by presentations by the NCOBA, Alma Mater and the College's Head of Philanthropy, Ms Lindsay

Khushal. It was an opportunity to introduce our newest Old Boys to the many ways they can stay engaged with the College long after they leave the gates. They are reminded that they will always be a valued part of this community and will always have a place here.

Signum Fidei Awards

On Friday 3 November Principal Peter Fullagar, and the NCOBA Executive, hosted a Signum Fidei Award Lunch at the College. It is the highest honour bestowed upon a Nudgee College Old Boy. Congratulations to Mr Vince Rao (NCOB 1955-56) who was nominated for his volunteer contribution and dedication to the NCOBA, and his pharmacy career. His award was presented to him by NCOBA Secretary, Mr Tony Gleeson. Fellow recipient, Mr James Teh (NCOB 1997-01), was presented his award by Dean of Mission and Identity, Mr Stephen Meara, for his outstanding contribution to society for the screen reader he co-created to ensure free accessibility to the online world for vision-impaired people.

Past Mothers' and Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Mass

Hosted by our Ladies' Auxiliary and Past Mothers' Association, the ever popular Christmas Mass and Dinner was held on Saturday 4 November. Almost 500 guests enjoyed an evening of Mass, mingling, dinner and music and it was a fantastic opportunity for the community to celebrate the year that was. It was touching to hear Principal Peter Fullagar address the mothers in the room and acknowledge they are the heart of the school. Equally moving was Ms Nicole Cantero, President of the Ladies' Auxiliary, thanking both Peter and his wife Fiona, for their support of the Ladies' Auxiliary and service to the College. This was shortly followed by a warm welcome to Mr Scott Thomson and his wife Janita, wishing them all the best for 2024 and beyond.



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70 SNAPSHOT



Cameron Caldwell **1992-96 Old Boy**

Congratulations to Nudgee College Old Boy, Cameron Caldwell (NCOB 1992-96), who was elected in July as the Member for Fadden in the Australian House of Representatives. Cameron joins fellow Liberal National Party representative and Old Boy, Ted O'Brien (NCOB 1987-91), who is the Member for Fairfax and Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy.

Mitch Doyle **2014-21 Old Boy**

Mitch Doyle (NCOB 2014-21), AKA DJ Emmjay!, is in with the chance to perform at one of the biggest electronic music festivals overseas, after winning the Brisbane Your Shot competition in August this year. Mitch could join the likes of world-renowned DJ, Tigerlily, to take out the top spot in the national Your Shot competition. Good luck Mitch!

Gladys Akhurst **Past Mother**

"She's an Angel in Scrubs" was the headline article about Past Mother Gladys Akhurst, published in the Courier Mail on 23 August 2023. Gladys had two sons come through Nudgee College, Mr Graham Akhurst (NCOB 1995-99) and Mr Robert Akhurst (NCOB 1996-01). Since the 80s, while raising her sons, Gladys has worked as a theatre nurse at The Prince Charles Hospital in Brisbane. Gladys will retire next year, after 30 years of overall service, and is Queensland's longest-serving

Indigenous nurse. Her legacy will continue as the hospital has announced her position will only ever be filled by an indigenous nurse. Gladys is looking forward to rest and volunteering when she hangs up her scrubs next year. A life and career of service - well done to Gladys, we wish her all the best for her well-earned retirement.

Kieran McCarthy **1979-83 Old Boy**

Old Boy Kieran McCarthy (NCOB 1979-83) BA (Hons) LLB, was appointed to EREA Council on 1 July 2023. Brisbane-based, Kieran is an Accredited Specialist in Family Law and Director of Naughton McCarthy Family Lawyers. He is a Deputy Chair of Mercy Partners, which has ministerial responsibility for education, health, aged care, and community service ministries in Queensland and New South Wales. Kieran is





Keshav and Simon on the expedition in India

the Mercy Partners delegate to the Association of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons (AMPJP). He has remained involved with the College for several years as a Boarding Supervisor and running the boarders' tuck shop. His family is steeped in the Christian Brothers values and traditions, with his father, uncles, father-in-law, and siblings educated at Christian Brothers schools. Our community celebrates his worthy appointment.

Old Boys Keshav Kukar and Simon Crilly

Congratulations to Old Boys Mr Keshav Kumar (NCOB 2016) and Mr Simon Crilly (NCOB 2016) who embarked on a volunteer expedition to the Himalayas to install solar water heaters for a village in July this year. They trekked through numerous mountain passes, meditated with monks in ancient monasteries, and installed solar water heaters for 15 homes in a remote village in Ladakh, India. By providing a clean alternative to heating water where



Mr Kieran McCarthy

temperatures in the winter drop well below -20 degrees, they removed more than 126 tons of carbon from the air. Keshav organised this expedition in partnership with Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE), who have been globally recognised for their work in empowering the most remote communities on Earth through expeditions such as theirs.

To find out more or get involved in the next expedition visit the QR code at right.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND
OUT MORE ABOUT THE
GLOBAL HIMALAYAN EXPEDITION



Memorial Mass

The Memorial Mass is perhaps the most important ritual for our wider community. It is the time we take a moment to remember those we have lost in the past year from Christian Brothers, Old Boys, family members, and staff. On Saturday 28 October, our College Chaplain, Fr John Gillen SM, led a reflective Mass with the help of organist Ms Liz Ridgway and musician Mr Murray Browne (NCOB 1963-65). The 2024 College Captains read out the names of the deceased, NCOBA President Mr Andrew McNamara gave a heartening opening welcome, and Principal Peter Fullagar gave his last College Address for this Mass. A poignant moment for our community.



Memorial Mass



Ms Margarethe Riese

VALE

Ms Margarethe Riese

On Sunday 16 July at 11.00 am in the Lady Help of Christians Chapel, both the young and the seasoned, gathered to honour and celebrate the life of a treasured member of our community, Mrs Margarethe Riese. Margarethe passed away on Thursday 29 June 2023 at the age of 89. The number of Nudgee College Old Boys, plus past and present staff

in attendance, was testament to the legacy of her character. Margarethe was both a past mother and past staff member and the loss of her presence in our community is greatly felt. Margarethe worked in the previous uniform shop in the 80s and 90s and meticulously crafted the alter cloths, embroidered with french lace (tatting) which she continued to provide for the alter in the Lady Help of Christians Chapel until just before her passing. Many current staff were blessed with the gift of her embroidery, either in the form of a cloth cross hanging or a doily or two. Margarethe's sons (Ralph Riese NCOB 1976 and Mark Riese NCOB 1982) and grandchildren, plus Old Boy Kieran McCarthy (NCOB 1979-81), all spoke at her memorial service. Their words were a wonderful testament to the humble yet extraordinary life of service that she led. Kieran touched on the impact her warmth had on the Nudgee community, along with the many other mothers who guided the boys through their formative years, with both generosity and kindness. Margarethe will be forever remembered by both her family and friends, as well as her Nudgee family.

Mr Kevin Byrne

Mr Kevin Byrne (NCOB 1961-66) attended Nudgee College as a day boy and passed away on Thursday 21 September at the age of 74. After leaving school, Mr Byrne built an impressive career and was a former Cairns Regional Council mayor, twice, serving for 11 years between 1992 to 2008. He was also a Vietnam veteran and is renowned for transforming Cairns into a world-class tourist destination.

Sir Kostas George Constantinou OBE

Sir Kostas Constantinou OBE (NCOB 1971-74) was a prominent business figure in Papua New Guinea and held a number of high-level public sector and private sector appointments. He passed away peacefully on Saturday 17 June 2023, leaving behind a lasting impact through his philanthropic endeavours. NCOBA Past President Dr Simon Carter (NCOB 1974-78) recalled that Kostas was a "generous and kind man" who was a significant donor in establishing the Jack Ross Bursary. "He spearheaded the early fundraising efforts for the trust. May his generous soul rest in



peace" added NCOBA Past President Anthony Hart (NCOB 1985-87). Sir Kostas, 65, passed away in Brisbane and was laid to rest at The Church of the Twelve Apostles, Jindalee, on Friday 30 June. He will be fondly remembered by the Nudgee community for his impressive achievements and consistent generosity.

Mr John Fraser

John (Johnny) Fraser (NCOB 1959-61 & 1963 (TSS 1962)) was employed as a cadet with the Australian Estates Co. Ltd when he was called up for national service on 29 September 1965. In October 1967 he was transferred to the 3rd Battalion, R.A.R. as commander of 'C' Company's No.9 Platoon. The following year, John was sadly killed in action.

2023 marks 60 years since the arrival of the Australian Army Training team (ATTV) in South Vietnam (SVN) on 3 August 1962 and 50 years since the withdrawal of combat troops in 1972. Viet Nam veterans around Australia gather on this date at the graves of their fallen comrades. On 3 August 2023, our Dean of Mission and Identity, Stephen Meara, along with students, Cooper Barnard-Stower, Daniel Georgieff, Harry Stoneman, Frank Gilbert, Tito Hamala, Paddy Williams, Ryan Stewart and Thomas Duffield, members of John's former unit, C Company 3 RAR and students of The Southport School, attended the Memorial held at Allambee Memorial Park on the Gold Coast to honour John.

Surname	Name	Nudgee Years	Date Of Death
Atkinson	Ronald Ian	1961-65	22/11/2022
Benson	Kevin Ronald	1950-51	14/12/2022
Brown	Lee Fransen	1993-95	26/10/2022
Burke	Richard (Dick) James	1947-48	8/2/2023
Bright	Simon Phillip John	1983-85	23/10/2023
Byrne	Kevin Michael	1961-66	21/9/2023
Constantinou	Sir Kostas George OBE	1971-74	17/6/2023
Cavanagh	Trevor Joseph	1951-54	20/5/2023
Dockery	James Patrick	1952-53	28/1/2023
Dwyer	Edmond Thomas John	1955-58	2/4/2023
Foley	Anthony Rohan	1968-72	9/3/2023
Frederick	John	1950-53	24/1/2023
Gerard	Michael	1969	3/11/2023
Graham	Justin Raymond	1954-58	24/3/2023
Gregg	Robert	2006-10	15/3/2023
Hack	Lawrence Stephen	1958-62	29/11/2022
Hale	Peter Francis	1953-56	23/10/2023
Hoey	Bernard Richard	1948-51	21/2/2023
Hourigan	John Alexander	1951-52	23/9/2023
Howard	Joseph Roland Graham	1952-55	09/10/2022
Jack	Desmond George	1941-44	6/8/2022
Joyce	Denis S	1951-54	28/10/2022
Keyes	Dr Richard John	1966	11/2/2023
Loane	Michale Gerard	1969	3/11/2023
Lepp	Peter John	1952-55	24/2/2023
Louis	Robert (Bob) Donald	1955-58	11/6/2023
Luk	Gilbert Donald	1966-71	05/5/2023
Marshall <i>AM, AE, KC*SG</i>	Dr Ian William Anthony	1948-56	23/3/2023
McBain	Layton Maurice	1945-50	27/9/2022
McNamara	John Allan	1956-58	14/11/2022
Murphy	Martin Francis	1976-77	8/7/2023
O'Sullivan	Dr Brian Michael	1950-52	25/10/2022
Parker	Dr Sam	2002-06	29/10/2023
Pocock	Richard Roy John	1958-59	26/6/2023
Richardson	Carl James	1956-57	20/11/2022
Ryan	William (Bill) Patrick	1960-61	28/5/2023
Stapleton	Brian	1939-23	15/10/2023
Sullivan	Michael (Mick)	1951-55	28/9/2022
Thorley	Peter Francis	1949-53	7/5/2023
Thomas	Dr Ian Bryce	1950-53	20/4/2023
Tynan	Fr Patrick Joseph	1951-54	27/9/2023
Quinlan	Laurence Thomas	1945-48	28/6/2022
Ware	Matthew George	1956-58	15/2/2023
Warren	Maxwell Richard	1951-53	5/6/2023

OLD BOY FEATURES ON AUSTRALIAN STORY

MS ERINA HITCHINGS

Australian Story on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation has well and truly established itself as the voice of everyday Australians leading extraordinary lives.

One such Australian who was featured on the award-winning television series earlier this year was Mr James Teh (NCOB 1997-01). The interview was titled "The Blind Leading the Blind" and told the story of Jamie and his longtime friend, Mick Curran, and the screen reader they created together to ensure free accessibility to the online world for vision-impaired people. They themselves are vision-impaired and were well aware of the expense of the screen readers available at the time, which put them out of reach for some of the people who needed them most. Their free software, NonVisual Desktop Access (NVDA), has now been translated into 50 languages and is accessible in 175 countries and used by around 250,000 people, a legacy Jamie is rightfully very proud of. Jamie recalled it felt "amazing and a sign of how far they have come" to be asked to appear on Australian Story.

Jamie has since left his day job at NV Access, the company he co-founded with Mick in 2006, but has retained his position as a Director. He is now the Firefox Accessibility Tech Lead at Mozilla and has been since 2017. This relationship with Mozilla began when it was one of the first companies that helped sponsor and propel NVDA in its infancy. Jamie lamented on the incredible nostalgia the Australian Story interview evoked and how the software they created and tended to for so long has grown beyond what they themselves

thought it would. He said it was always meant to be a community project and he was humbled by how many people rallied around the project. NVDA has received coding and translation contributions from more than 200 people all over the world. The outcome of this NVDA technology has directly changed the lives of vision-impaired people by increasing employment opportunities and aiding in access to knowledge and education.

The community aspect of this project is what is perhaps the most compelling. Jamie uses the term "force multiplier" where one user contributes a "fix", and that helps a number of other users. Then someone else contributes another fix and that helps another group of users and it multiplies outwards. "I think the fascinating thing about software, and particularly open source software, with a really solid community around it, is that it's not just one company doing all the work and then they're the bottleneck, the sky is really the limit," Jamie said. "If people want to dive in there and do something, they can take the power into their own hands and this project was a vehicle for that." He continued. Jamie explained that it is a really powerful story, to inspire others to take things into their own hands. If you want to achieve something, you don't necessarily have to wait until someone else can do it.

You can always find some way to empower yourself. "And I think that's really important because I think as a group that's a minority, it is really easy to believe that you don't have any power," he said.

One of the privileges of working at a school is seeing (to quote Principal Peter Fullagar) "fine young boys grow and develop into outstanding young gentlemen". Jamie has come a long way since he started his journey at Nudgee College in 1997 when he commenced high school in Year 8. He is the only totally blind student to attend the College and has left a lasting impact such as braille signage doors that exist across the campus, more railings, and tactile indicators. Being the first to walk that path must have been a daunting undertaking for any young person. Jamie strikes me as someone who has always had a quiet strong resolve. He always had a love of music and technology and that affinity started early. He recalls his fondest memory of Nudgee College was performing in the Music Tours to regional areas and how that made him feel a part of something. He found his community at Nudgee College through music. Music is also how he found his friendship with Mick, as they met at a music camp together. They now live in the same semi-rural leafy town in the City of Moreton Bay, South East Queensland, and have children who attend the same primary school. Jamie creates

"If you want to achieve something, you don't necessarily have to wait until someone else can do it. You can always find some way to empower yourself."

his own music which can be found on Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube under the name Electronight Alchemy. Jamie is continuing to push the boundaries with both technology and music. In his day job with Mozilla, he is able to influence the accessibility of their services and truly understands the impact of technology in leveling the playing field for people with disabilities. However, the advancement in technology also brings more barriers for minority groups, particularly the rise in the popularity of touchscreen devices. There is oftentimes a lack of thought about the impact of new technologies on people with disabilities. Jamie acknowledges there is more awareness but we still have a long way to go. Perhaps the world needs more people like Jamie and Mick, who are empowering themselves to break down any new barriers as they are presented.

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If you want to know more about NVDA please visit the website
www.nvaccess.org
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To watch the full Australian Story episode featuring James Teh visit
www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-05/blind-leading-the-blind/102422464
.....



BEHIND THE STRIPES

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