

BEHIND THE STRIPES

ST JOSEPH'S NUDGEE COLLEGE MAGAZINE



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NUD GEE COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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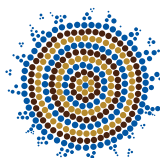


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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear St Joseph's Nudgee College community,

The 16th edition of *Behind the Stripes* brings you a fantastic collection of stories showcasing the heart and energy of our College. From the impact of our classroom culture initiative to the evolving role of AI in education, this edition explores the many ways Nudgee College continues to innovate and inspire. We also take a look back at the Performing Arts cultural tour, and celebrate our spectacular musical production *Ease on Down the Road: The Wiz*.

None of this would be possible without the incredible staff here at Nudgee College, whose hard work and dedication bring these stories to life. I hope you enjoy reading this edition as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

Mr Sid Varghese

Editor



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A very warm welcome to the first edition of *Behind the Stripes* in 2025.

2025 is shaping up to be an exciting year for our College. Each year at Nudgee is filled with wonderful opportunities for our students, with numerous community events that strengthen connections, and countless examples of staff going above and beyond to ensure we remain a beacon within the education landscape. In 2025, we will also embark on the development of our new strategic plan and direction. The intended outcome of this process is to ensure that over the next five years – a period that will see our College mark its 140th anniversary – our pursuit of excellence across all facets will be enhanced. By refining the way we do things, we hope to see young men graduate as agents of positive change in our world.

To commence this important work, during the second half of 2024, the staff at St Joseph's Nudgee College engaged in a number of collaborative activities that culminated in the



development of our 2025 Annual School Improvement Plan. The two most prominent themes to emerge were collaboration and consistency. Staff identified that greater consistency across all operations could only be achieved through deeper collaboration. Nudgee College is an immense operation; over 900 people provide services to our young men – as full-time or part-time employees, casuals, tutors, supervisors, and volunteers. We have

come a long way since our foundation in 1891, when just five Brothers were entrusted with the care and formation of 40 students.

One of the most significant areas identified by staff was the need for greater alignment among teachers in relation to class routines and expectations. This was further affirmed during bi-termly student feedback sessions known as Bodkin Chats (held in our boardroom named after the College's first Principal, Br Fursey



“By refining the way we do things, we hope to see young men graduate as agents of positive change in our world.”

Bodkin). Taking into account feedback from staff, students, and parents/carers, our Learning and Teaching and Student Formation teams developed classroom routines and expectations. These were shared with staff for consultation and refinement, then introduced to students and families at the beginning of 2025. Pleasingly, these changes – applied from Years 5 to 12 – have been well received. Surveys completed by both students and staff at the end of Term 1 indicate that classrooms are now more conducive to learning and success for all.

Whilst we are, first and foremost, an educational institution where learning is the priority, we remain anchored in our founder Brother Ambrose Treacy's simple creed of 'faith, formation and opportunity'. The beginning of 2025 has already provided numerous examples of boys thriving in all three elements of Treacy's vision for the Nudgee student.

Mr Matthew Warr, our new Dean of Mission and Identity, joined us from Ambrose Treacy College with vast experience in the field. He brings a deep desire to help students understand that Jesus Christ is the unseen, yet known, presence in their lives. Mr Warr has already built upon the strong foundations laid in the Mission and Identity space and is a gifted evangelist – someone who can transform the ordinary into a teachable moment for our boys, staff, and families. He has set ambitious goals for our community and, like all at Nudgee, seeks for our students – both current and graduated – to be genuine 'Signs of Faith' (Signum Fidei).

In co-curricular activities, as you'll read in the following pages, I'm very pleased to report that we secured two GPS Premierships in Term 1. Whilst not all students or teams can claim victory every time, what matters most is how they carry themselves – whether they win, lose, or draw. I'm proud to say our students

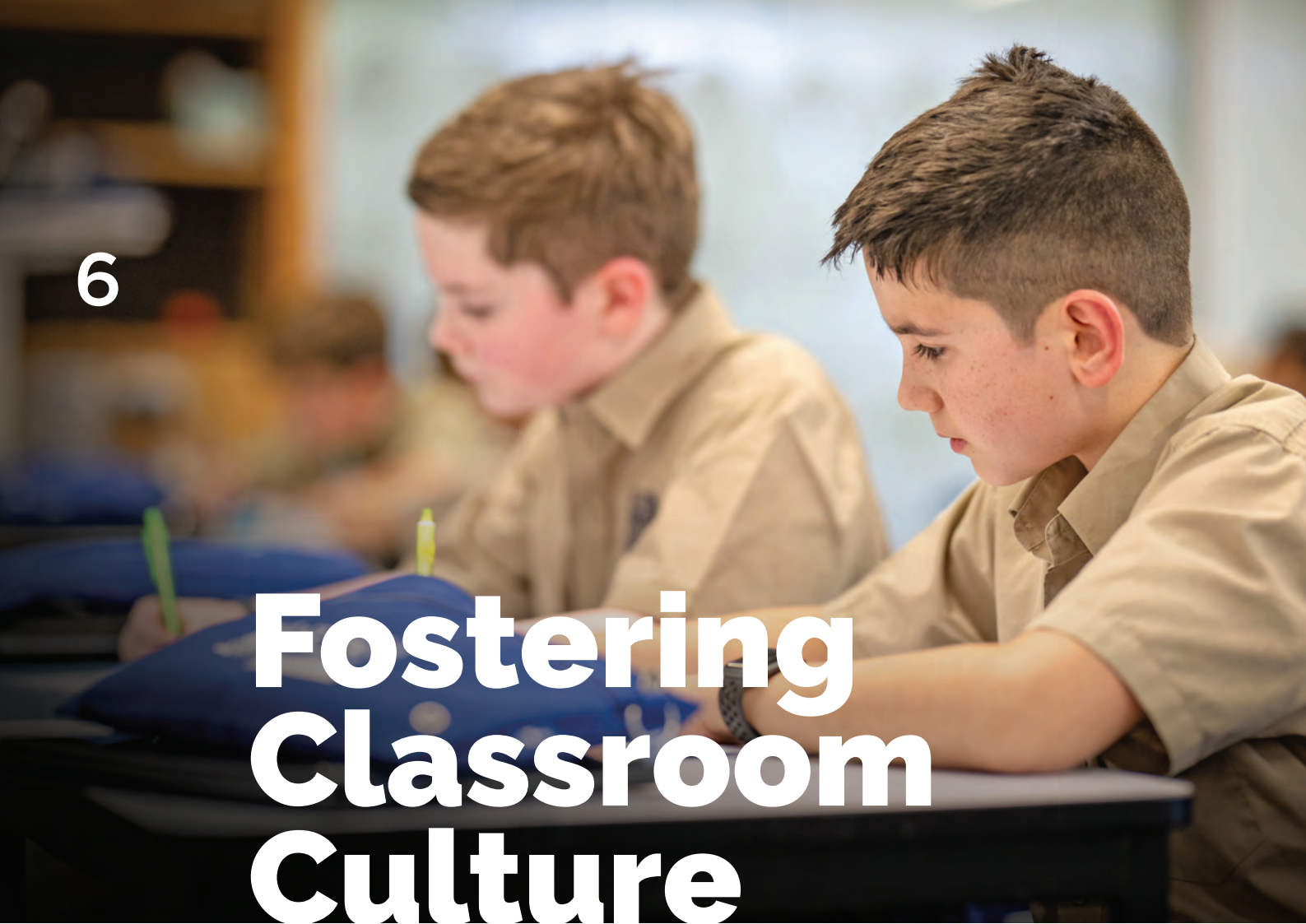
continue to embody the expectation that there is grace in both triumph and defeat. Congratulations to our swimming team, who were victorious on a memorable (cyclone-delayed) Thursday evening at Chandler, securing our 24th GPS title – and 22nd since 1992. A big congratulations also to our First VI Volleyball team, who claimed their third GPS title – a shared premiership with our brothers at St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace, in their 150th year.

Finally, before I leave you to enjoy the rest of this 16th edition of *Behind the Stripes*, I'd like to acknowledge the 150th anniversary of Edmund Rice Ministries, led by the Christian Brothers, in Queensland. Aligned with the sesquicentenary of Gregory Terrace, this is a significant milestone for the founders of our great College. A number of events will be held to mark the occasion.

Mr Scott Thomson

Principal





Fostering Classroom Culture

The media buzz around education continues to increase in volume. From nationally declining NAPLAN and PISA results, to COVID-fuelled knowledge gaps, to ATAR leagues tables and the evolving teacher shortages, the state of education in Australia remains in a state of flux.

At Nudgee College, we are acutely aware of the need to provide an educational experience that provides our students with the knowledge and skills to access the full breadth of pathways available to them beyond our College gates.

Heeding the call for change

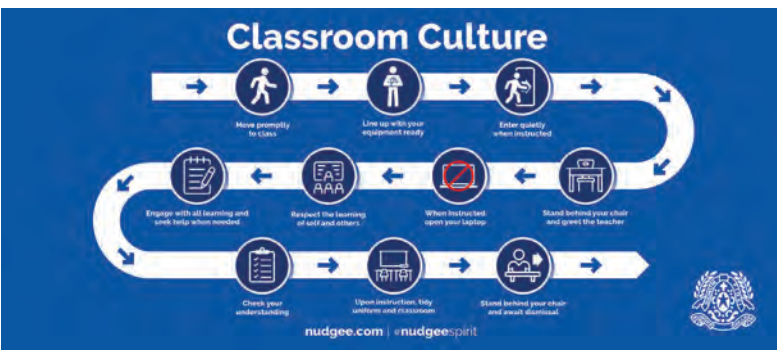
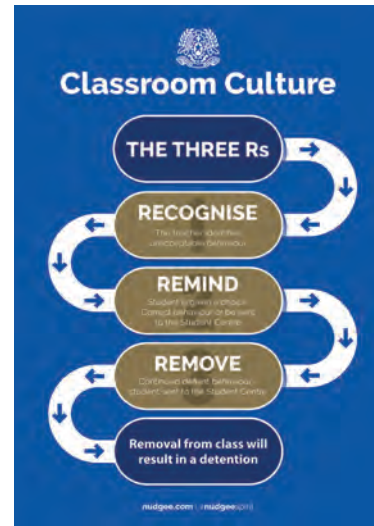
After a year of observing, collecting data, speaking with staff and students, and engaging in rigorous research, it became clear that learning and teaching at Nudgee College needed to evolve. As such, 2025 marks the beginning of bold and exciting changes to the way we approach teaching and learning, aligning our classroom practices with evidence-based research to support deeper understanding, stronger retention, and greater academic success across the College.

Developing our Classroom Culture

At the heart of our renewed approach is a commitment to aligning teaching with how the brain learns best. Research from cognitive science – particularly Cognitive Load Theory and Rosenshine's *Principles of Instruction* – shows that students learn most effectively when new information is delivered in manageable steps, with plenty of guided practice and opportunities for review. These approaches are grounded in decades of research and give teachers practical strategies to reduce unnecessary mental overload, allowing students to focus on the concepts that matter most. By employing a school-wide instructional framework and agreed-upon, evidence-based

behavioural and learning routines, we're removing unnecessary cognitive load and freeing up space in working memory for more rigorous learning to occur. This evidence-informed practice is not just about improving test scores; it's about creating confident, capable learners who can apply their knowledge in meaningful ways, both now and in the future.

These changes to learning and teaching at the College are more than just adjustments – they represent a renewed focus on high expectations, structured support, and calm, focused classrooms where all students can thrive. This classroom culture is supported by a clear and predictable behaviour management framework (referred to as the 3R's) designed to preserve optimal learning conditions for all students.



Creating classrooms where learning thrives

We introduced the 3 R's – *Recognise, Remind, Remove* – as a consistent and effective behaviour management strategy to create calm, focused classrooms where learning can thrive. Based on Tom Bennett's *Running the Room* and *The Classroom Management Handbook* by Mark Dowley and Oliver Lovell, the approach supports staff in responding to behaviour clearly and fairly. By recognising the behaviour, reminding when it persists, and removing the student when necessary, we ensure all students understand expectations and consequences. This structured process helps build respectful relationships, reduces disruption, and empowers teachers to manage their classrooms with confidence and consistency.

What are we noticing now?

This term has seen a marked improvement in classroom culture at the College. With the

introduction of the classroom procedures and The Three R's, there has been a noticeable shift toward calmer, more productive learning environments. The implementation of these new classroom culture processes – anchored in evidence-based strategies – has significantly enhanced both student engagement and teacher efficacy. Tom Bennett's *Running the Room*, puts a clear emphasis on the importance of clear routines, consistent expectations, and strong teacher presence. These foundations have enabled students to feel safe, respected, and ready to learn. Complementing this, Robert Marzano's *Classroom Management That Works* has guided our efforts to balance high expectations with positive relationships, ensuring that behaviour management is both proactive and supportive. Teachers have reported that the difference these new procedures are having on their teaching is immense, with one member of staff highlighting their ability to cover content that would have previously taken two lessons, in now only one lesson. Students are reporting an

improvement in the productivity in their classes, the positive relationship between students and teacher, and an overall calmness.

Overall, the result has been a palpable improvement in classroom climate: students are calmer, more focused, and increasingly independent in their learning. Teachers report feeling more in control and better equipped to manage challenges, leading to a more purposeful atmosphere across the school. These changes are not just theoretical; they are visible in the day-to-day rhythm of our classrooms, where learning time is maximised and students are flourishing. The synergy of these expert-informed practices has laid the groundwork for long-term cultural transformation, helping us build classrooms where every learner can thrive.

Ms Suzie Tjin

Dean of Learning & Teaching

Ms Lynsey Hale

Dean of Students (Acting)





Q+A With our Dean of Mission and Identity

MR MATT WARR

This year, we warmly welcomed Mr Matt Warr as our new Dean of Mission and Identity. With a passion for education, faith and service, Matt brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to shaping the spiritual and social journey of our students. We sat down with him for a Q&A to learn more about his path to Nudgee College, his vision for the role, and the values that drive him.

How did your career begin? How did you get to Nudgee College?

I started teaching in 2003 at Benowa State High School on the Gold Coast. However, after two years, and still being in my early twenties, I realised that I probably wasn't ready to settle down into being an entirely responsible, full-

time working adult so I took a year's leave and travelled around Europe. This soon turned into four years of work and travel before returning to Brisbane in 2009 as a pretty different person. I was employed at my alma mater, St Laurence's College where I stayed for seven years before moving to Ambrose Treacy College (ATC) (formerly known as Nudgee Junior) in 2016. I loved my nine years at ATC, and learned from some amazing educators, but felt ready for a new challenge and now feel blessed and grateful to be at the College.

A book every leader should read?

I am nowhere near the passionate reader that other members of the CLT are, but a book that I will always

remember is *The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay. To me, it uses a historical and sporting context to highlight that we can all make a difference and that our journeys are shaped by those closest to us. Peekay is a Sign of Faith as he sticks to what he believes, walks the walk, and makes us aware of the importance of common good over personal triumph.

What do you enjoy doing when you're not at school?

It may be a cliché answer at a school like Nudgee College, but I love sport. If there is a live match in Brisbane on a weekend, the chances are that I will be there - or definitely watching it. I love eating out at restaurants with my family and spending time with



friends (most of whom are my best mates from when I went to school). During the holidays, I love to travel to new destinations - be they local, interstate or international.

What College tradition are you excited to be a part of?

I was really looking forward to two things. One was being part of a boarding school. This is an experience I have not had before and something I have really enjoyed. Seeing the boys head to breakfast, lunch and dinner everyday reminds me of the extremely powerful role we have as educators to ensure a boy is looked after in all facets of their life. I have loved attending the boarding masses so far. The sense of pride and spirit that the boys have for their school is incredibly motivating for me and I want to ensure that every boy, boarding or day, feels that deep connection.

The other thing I cannot wait to get a taste of is GPS Saturday sport. I may have gotten off on the wrong foot though as my first experience was watching the 1st XI Cricketers get bowled out for 85 in less than 30 overs. I am looking forward to coaching a football team and watching rugby in Term 3.

What role do you see service learning playing in our students' formation?

I think participation in social justice activities is pivotal for young people at Catholic schools. The opportunity to work with those at the margins provides a transformational experience in the hearts and minds of our students. As Signs of Faith, we aim to educate our boys to not just be successful with their careers, but more importantly, to be people who can bring positive change through the actions they perform with their heads, hearts, hands and feet. Service learning provides encounters which can shift mindsets and perspectives.

What are some of your long-term goals in this role?

Nudgee College has a fantastic reputation for being an authentic, Faith-based community which offers wonderful opportunities for boys in the realms of social justice activities, immersions, retreats and sacred liturgies. If I am able to add to these

programs over the next five years, and become a person at Nudgee that the boys know, respect and trust, I'll be very content.

How do you balance upholding long-standing traditions with adapting to the needs of a modern student body?

I think we need to understand the context which our young men are growing up in. They face challenges which 20 years ago were not even invented. They are accessible to their peers, and adversaries, 24/7. They also live in a society which seeks to promote instant gratification. One only needs to look at the emergence of 20/20 cricket to see that modern society isn't always prepared to wait five days for something to happen. Interestingly, this provides both positives and negatives for one's faith. There is an urgent need for our boys to slow down, reflect and appreciate what they have. This is a message which Jesus proclaimed more than 2,000 years ago, and is a philosophy which is still incredibly important and valuable to the modern student body. Take your time, listen to others, reflect on your actions and motivations, talk to those you trust - and then make your move.

How important is it for students to deepen their faith?

The faith of every individual is different so I don't know if there is a generic answer to this. For me, in their time at Nudgee, I would love for every student to at least explore their faith (beliefs, values, motivations) and discover what it is that makes them the person they are. This, ultimately will give them a solid foundation of their core values, and allow them to embrace any challenge that they face. Moreover, it will allow them to understand the merits of love, kindness and respect; the virtues that our Catholic faith prioritises over everything else.

What is your interpretation of being Signum Fidei?

Being 'A Sign of Faith' means displaying through your actions what your beliefs and values are. If you believe that kindness is important, then be kind. If you believe that compassion makes the world a better place, then show compassion. To be 'A Sign of Faith' means to be an example, and a living expression, of what Catholicism teaches us; that love can overcome adversity.



10 Embracing AI in Education at Nudgee College





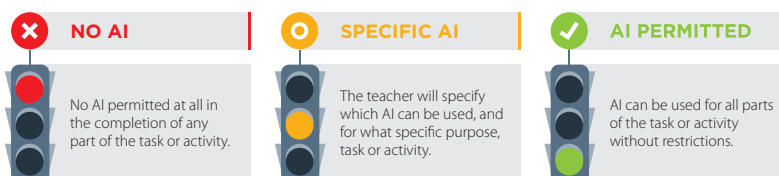
Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping the educational landscape, and at St Joseph's Nudgee College, we are committed to harnessing its potential to enrich both learning and teaching. As the College's AI Committee, we are focused on integrating AI into our educational practices to empower teachers, elevate student experiences, and ensure Nudgee remains at the forefront of innovation in education.

A core aspect of our approach is fostering collaboration and professional growth through the AI in Education Hub. This network brings together educators from a range of schools, offering a platform to exchange ideas, discuss the latest developments in AI, and explore practical ways it can be embedded in classrooms. Meeting each term, participating teachers share best practice, develop resources, and strengthen a collective commitment to the ethical and responsible use of AI in education.

Our involvement in the *CeChat Pilot*, an initiative led by Catholic Education Network (CENet), further reflects the College's commitment to ensuring AI is implemented within a secure and ethically guided framework. Through this program, we're collaborating with fellow educators to explore AI-driven pedagogical tools that support teachers, while remaining grounded in Catholic values and ethical principles.



AI Traffic Light System



To provide practical strategies and insights, committee member Mr Richard Bauer has developed *AI for Smart Teachers* – a website offering resources on AI's role in education. In addition, a dedicated Nudgee-specific platform is currently in development to offer tailored support for our teaching staff. As AI continues to influence the future of work, these resources will help ensure our students gain the skills needed to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

Beyond these structured initiatives, we continue to engage with fellow educators and share insights on emerging AI tools that enhance learning outcomes. From platforms delivering individualised feedback to applications supporting the creation of dynamic, interactive lessons, we're always seeking new ways to integrate AI meaningfully. Training sessions at Nudgee provide hands-on support, helping teachers make the most of these tools to boost student engagement and streamline teaching.

While the possibilities of AI in education are vast, we remain conscious of the challenges it brings. Ethical concerns, data privacy, AI hallucinations and bias are central to our committee discussions. By working closely with educators, industry experts and organisations such as CENet, we're committed to addressing these challenges with care – ensuring that AI is used thoughtfully and to support impactful learning. At Nudgee College, we recognise that AI is not a replacement for teachers, but a powerful tool to enhance how we educate and inspire students. By embracing AI, we are preparing our young men for the future while upholding academic integrity and the core values that define our College community.

**St Joseph's Nudgee College
AI Committee**



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SENIOR CLASS OF 2024

The Class of 2024 lived out their motto to the fullest, by honouring the important Nudgee College legacy, whilst paving their own stories throughout the year.

The cohort continued to lead the way academically, building upon the already strong academic achievements from years prior. In December, the Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks (ATAR) were released, with the 2024 cohort finishing with a median score of 85.13 and a mean of 83.69.

Seven students received an ATAR of 99 or higher and 14 students received an ATAR of 98 or higher. College Dux, Jamie Waddington (Sports Prefect and 1st XI Football Captain) received a rank

of 99.75 whilst Proxime Accessit, Oscar Roati was awarded a 99.65 rank.

In addition to such strong ATAR results, 108 students were awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications as part of their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)

In February, the College celebrated the high achievers and subject duces at an Academic Assembly. Whilst the College Dux, Jamie Waddington, couldn't be there in person, he

managed to send in some wise words of wisdom.

"The most important lesson Nudgee College taught me was that you get out what you put in."

Congratulations to Jamie, and the entire 2024 cohort on their dedication and commitment to their academics. The College looks forward to seeing where they go on to next.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the Year 12 students who achieved a Dux of Subject:



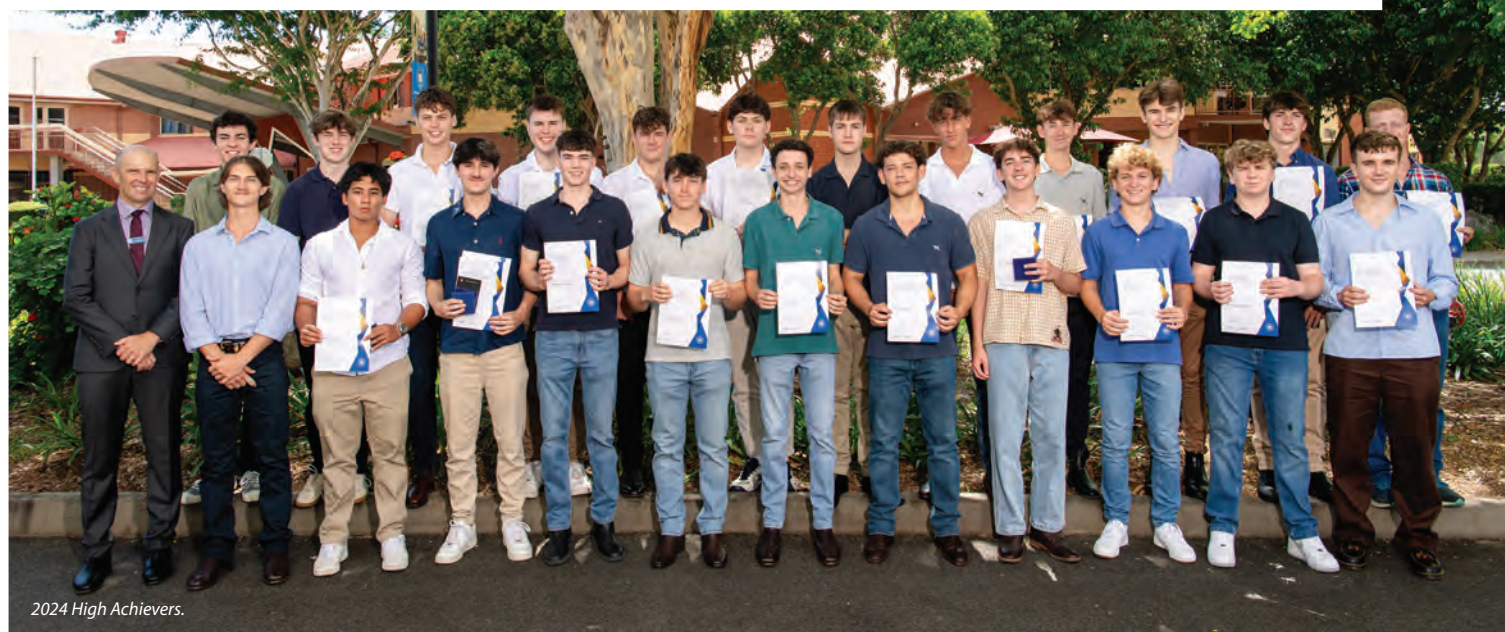
nudgee.com | [#nudgeespirit](https://twitter.com/nudgeespirit)

2024 Year 12 Dux of Subjects

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Name	Dux
Jamie Waddington	Top 10 ATAR Dux of the College Dux of Chemistry
Oscar Roati	Top 10 ATAR Year 12 Proxime Accessit Dux of Economics Dux of Specialist Mathematics
Liam Astbury	Top 10 ATAR Dux of English & Literature Extension Dux of Mathematical Methods
Benjamin Ditchburn	Dux of Mathematical Methods
Michael Malone	Top 10 ATAR Dux of Engineering Dux of Physics Dux of Religion & Ethics
Alex Patti	Top 10 ATAR Dux of Physics Dux of Study of Religion
Liam McBride	Top 10 ATAR Dux of Literature
Emerson Klitscher	Top 10 ATAR Dux of Engineering
Khy Dhawan	Top 10 ATAR
Ned Fairley	Top 10 ATAR
Lachlan Allara	Dux of Business - Diploma
Finnbarr Buglass	Dux of Aviation Remote Pilot - Cert III
Rafael Chase	Dux of Ancient History Dux of Modern History
Akira Chen	Dux of Business
Jake Christmas	Dux of General Mathematics
Karmichael Dee	Dux of General Mathematics

Name	Dux
Riley Doherty	Dux of Biological Science
Jed Elmes	Dux of General Mathematics
Robert Fitzgerald	Dux of Visual Arts in Practice
George Gillam	Dux of Accounting
Tyler Goodall	Dux of Music Extension
Charlie Hallett	Dux of Digital Solutions
Alexander Hayward	Dux of Design
Will Hick	Dux of Engineering Pathways - Cert II
Hunter Ireland	Dux of Drama
Lachlan James	Dux of Design
Austin Kasprowicz	Dux of Electrotechnology - Cert II
Joe Kenny	Dux of Construction - Cert II
Ryan Krogh	Dux of English
Jackson Lovelock	Dux of Agricultural Science Dux of Rural Operations - Cert III
Liam McBride	Dux of Industrial Technology Skills
Isaac Parker	Dux of General Mathematics
Brody Pink	Dux of Construction - Cert II
Dusty Piper	Dux of Visual Art
Dylan Roost	Dux of Fitness - Cert III
Daniel Rostron	Dux of Music Dux of Music Extension
Finn Sawley	Dux of Essential English
Henry Stuart	Dux of Legal Studies
Lawson Swain	Dux of Sport & Recreation
Matthew Walker	Dux of Physical Education
Jack Walton	Dux of Agricultural Science
Carter Welfare	Dux of Essential Mathematics
Hugo Wendt	Dux of Philosophy & Reason





NUDGEE COLLEGE

Giving Day



Giving *more* boys, infinite opportunities

This Giving Day, we called on our community to come together with strength and purpose to help us raise the funds needed to offer two deserving young men a Jack Ross Bursary, starting in 2026. An opportunity they've only dreamed of, until now.



Our goal was to raise \$200,000 to bring this vision to life. At the time of writing, we've reached just over \$150,000. We are now incredibly close to turning this dream into a powerful and life-changing reality.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our community for their generosity. We received incredible support from current parents, past parents, Old Boys, grandparents, students, staff and friends of Nudgee College. The Jack Ross Bursary relies on the support of

the community, which is why days like Giving Day are so important.

Nudgee students embraced Giving Day with incredible enthusiasm. Many brought in their own donations, some even taking on extra chores at home to contribute! The day was filled with energy, from a sausage sizzle to a spirited Tug O'War competition for the Year 5s. A number of our exceptional student leaders also volunteered their time in the Operations Room in Ryan Hall. Altogether, the student



body raised over \$4,000, a meaningful contribution toward our overall total.

Nudgee holds this value highly in its students, a focus on giving back to their community. We ensured that the students were involved, and understood the importance of helping those less fortunate than themselves.

Every dollar generously donated to the Jack Ross Bursary helps support young men whose families have faced financial hardship. Recipients are carefully selected by a committee that includes representatives from the Nudgee College Old Boys' Association,

who founded the bursary and remain deeply committed to its mission. We extend our sincere thanks to them, and to all Old Boys of the College, for their continued support.

On behalf of the Nudgee College Foundation, I would like to sincerely thank the Nudgee College community for its generous support of Giving Day. Thank you for your kindness and belief in our vision. You have truly made a difference and we are endlessly grateful.

Ms Lindsay Khushal

Head of Philanthropy



16



2025 INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL TOUR

4-15 APRIL 2025
Broadening Horizons





"A ship in a harbour is safe, but that's not what ships are built for."

Nudgee Performing Arts Tour to Paris and London

Cultural enrichment is one of life's greatest fundamentals – shaping youth into people of worldly understanding and strong character. For a group of Nudgee Performing Arts students, that journey took them far beyond Australian shores, immersing themselves in the sights, sounds, and spirit of Paris and London.

Patience was tested, new worlds were explored, and staff managed to keep their sanity intact. London's rich history came to life at iconic landmarks like the Tower of London,

Westminster Abbey, and countless museums. In Paris, students experienced the unique rhythm of life in another language, gaining fresh perspectives among the historic streets, the Eiffel Tower, and, of course, Disneyland.

While the stunning architecture and rich cultures of Paris and London left a lasting impression, it was the shared experiences – walking ancient streets, laughing over meals, and exploring new horizons together – that made the journey truly special for students and staff alike.



"Dear England and Six really engaged the audience. It really reflected the musical aspect of the trip." **Bill Deeran, Year 12 Drama Student**

"Connecting with my mates while exploring the streets of Paris and tasting all the food was a highlight..." **Harry Roche, Year 11 Art Student**



"Visiting the Paris Opera House was like stepping into another world. And seeing Notre-Dame clean, rebuilt, and magnificent was unforgettable. We had a great time together. It was incredible being part of the team that got to walk alongside the students, seeing them have so much fun." **Stephen Meara, Deputy Principal**

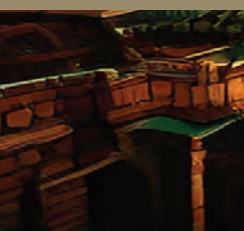
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THE

WIZ



Step into the dazzling world of *The Wiz* where music, movement and imagination collided to create an unforgettable production at Nudgee College.



From the soulful score to the dynamic performances and stunning technical effects, this year's musical was a celebration of collaboration, creativity and heart. With students from Nudgee College, St Rita's College and Mary MacKillop College coming together both on and off stage, *The Wiz* captured the spirit of Oz with flair, passion and powerful storytelling.

Excitement filled the air as we took a journey back to 1978 and into the vibrant, soulful world of *The Wiz*. My vision was to draw the audience into the magic, to create a space where they could immerse themselves in the fantastical world of Oz. Months of research were undertaken to capture the colour, vibrancy, and contemporary flair needed to entertain, inspire, and honour the spirit of the show.

Once I opened the door to research, I embarked on a wonderful journey of my own, exploring the connections between *The Wizard of Oz*, *Wicked*, and *The Wiz*. One of the greatest challenges as a director was using imagination to transform ideas into reality, to take what is written on the page and breathe life into it. The design process was both enriching and exhilarating, as I watched my vision begin to flourish through collaboration with a passionate and talented creative team. Together, we worked closely to shape what ultimately became the magic of *The Wiz*.

Over several months, the cast, band, and crew dedicated themselves to this production with unwavering

passion, skill, and creativity. It is a true credit to our talented cast, who mastered complex choreography and characterisation, and to our outstanding band, who captured the rich spirit and energy of the music with authenticity and flair.

This production would not have been possible without the incredible support of so many. We extend our sincere thanks to Mr Scott Thomson and the College Leadership Team; our dedicated staff; the parents of the cast and crew; the Nudgee College Arts Committee; the Development and Communications Department; our backstage and technical crew; the Industrial Skills and Training Department; and, most importantly, our wonderful cast from Mary MacKillop College, St Rita's College, and Nudgee College.

The Wiz is one show I will remember for a long time. I got great joy out of watching the rehearsal process transform into an exciting stage production where all the students did shine in whatever role they played from cast, to crew to backstage.

Ms Alison Kilgour

Artistic Director





The music of *The Wiz* is a vibrant fusion of rock, gospel, and soul, creating a dynamic and uplifting soundtrack that brings the Land of Oz to life. This musical reimagining of L. Frank Baum's classic *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was brought to the screen in 1978, with the legendary Quincy Jones serving as the producer and musical director. His work on the film's soundtrack is a testament to his genius, blending the rich traditions of Motown with the innovative sounds of the era. The film featured iconic performances by Diana Ross and Michael Jackson, whose renditions of songs like *Ease on Down the Road* and *Everyone Rejoice* have become timeless classics. Jones's influence is evident throughout the soundtrack, which showcases his ability to merge cinematic storytelling with musical innovation. The collaboration between Motown Records and Jones resulted in a soundtrack that not only complements the film's narrative but also stands as a significant achievement in musical history.

Following our last Musical, *Footloose*, *The Wiz* had big shoes to fill! *The Wiz* has long been on my musical bucket list since I visited Motown Records in Detroit, USA, back in 2012. This production has been a true labour of love, challenging our students to master the soulful rhythms and harmonies that define the genre. I am immensely proud of the dedication shown by the students from Nudgee College, St Rita's College, and Mary

Mackillop College, who have worked tirelessly over the past eight months to bring this vision to life. Their commitment to learning the music and embracing the Motown style has been nothing short of inspiring. A sincere thank you to the exceptional staff in the production team and the Arts Committee for their unwavering

support throughout this journey. Finally, thank you to the College Leadership Team for your continued support and encouragement of the Performing Arts at Nudgee. Without such support, a production of this nature would not be possible.

Mr Sam Smith

Music Director





Ever since I was a young boy, I have always dreamt of leading my school's main production. It wasn't my concern when or where; it's just always been a dream of mine to be at the front of the stage. It was a blessing to lead the production of *The Wiz* here at Nudgee College, playing the Tinman. I couldn't have asked for more from the production and directing crew in terms of stepping into my role filled with charisma, quirkiness and a hint of stubborn courage. The cheers of the audience, singing and dancing that all came from the show made the 6 months of preparation all worth it. Highlights such as the pre-show jitters, opening and closing night, as well as the moment the audience left

the theatre, are the memories that will be cherished forever beyond my schooling here at Nudgee. Although the months of prep seemed never-ending at certain times, it was worth every last piece of energy to receive the feeling of finishing the final show. My favourite parts about being in such a production would have to be the people and friendships made that will last a lifetime, the roar of the audience after an enjoyable line of breathtaking song, and the eye-opening opportunities discovered. That's what *The Wiz* was all about, and that's what every Nudgee production into the future will achieve as well.

Archer Robertson (Year 12)

Tinman

I have been incredibly fortunate to be part of four College musicals during my time at Nudgee. It all began back in 2019, when I was in Year 5 playing Pugsley Addams in *The Addams Family*. Now, as I finish in Year 11 playing the Lion in *The Wiz*, it feels like coming full circle. Performing Arts have been a huge part of my life for the past 14 years, from dancing to musical theatre. This passion has shaped who I am, and I'm grateful to showcase it through school activities like these musicals. *The Wiz* will hold a special place in my heart, not only because of the role I played but also because of the chance to be a role model throughout six months of rehearsals. It was incredible to interact with students from Nudgee, St Rita's College, and Mary MacKillop College, building friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. Performing on stage felt amazing, knowing we had the support of our friend's backstage, cheering us on whether we were delivering lines or hitting every note perfectly. Of course, being part of a production like this comes with challenges, long rehearsals, late nights, and plenty of learning bumps along the way. But all of that hard work fades away the moment the curtains open on Opening Night. The adrenaline and excitement make every exhausting minute worth it. My favourite time in the whole process is the few weeks leading up to Opening Night. When the sets, special effects, and lighting come together, the show truly comes to life.

Finally, none of this would have been possible without the incredible dedication of Ms Kilgour and Mr Smith. I've been lucky to work with Ms Kilgour since 2018, even before I started at Nudgee. She pushed me to try things I never thought I could and helped me break out of my shell. A simple 'thank you' hardly feels enough. Although it's bittersweet to see this chapter end, I'm excited for future Nudgee boys to step into the spotlight, to experience the joy, the exhaustion, the thrill and above all, the unforgettable memories that come with being part of these College Productions.

Athan McLeod (Year 11)

Lion



Being the drummer in the musical opened up numerous opportunities to learn new skills and meet a whole new group of people from both *The Wiz* and 2023's production of *Footloose*. *The Wiz* especially brought an entirely new perspective and experience to musicals at Nudgee.

Despite the number of hours practising and rehearsing with the band, the time spent connecting and building relationships with the people involved is something I'll cherish well beyond high school. My favourite part of the production was always building up and seeing the progress everyone made coming into the final weeks, it makes you appreciate everything you've done together. I want to thank everyone involved for giving me and the rest of the band this incredible opportunity to work on such a production. It truly has been an honour, and I wish the best of luck to Nudgee, St Rita's and Mary MacKillop College for the next musical and beyond.

Sean Reed (Year 12)

Music - Drummer

Every two years Nudgee's Technical Production and Events crew drops everything to put on a production unlike any other at the College. Each musical offers a different series of

challenges, and this year's brought onboard new production values ranging from automation used for flying various actors during the musical to full rear wall projections. The crew needed to pull off this production are all excellent operators in their own right, such as Tom Duffy making props and managing vision, Hugo Bailey and Oliver Lovell mixing sound, and myself on lighting. Notably, this year saw two external students also brought onboard into the Tech crew: Lia operating a followspot and Ruby who was the projection operator. This was an excellent chance to collaborate across the schools. Led by Raoul Carmody and Nick Flanders, this team of students managed to bring the musical to life. The Tech crew also faced an added layer of challenge due to a huge quantity of other events in close proximity, such as Inter-house Showcase and assemblies. This series of events pushed the limits of what Tech crew could manage, and the crew excelled under pressure. Lastly, it would be remiss of me to forget our stage crew colleagues behind the curtain, who faced significant challenges along with more than a few bruises, cuts, and scratches to make every scene change perfect, bringing to life the complex set for every show.

This is my third and final musical as a student. Starting as a followspot operator in 2021, I have finished my journey as Lighting Designer (LD). LD is a big role within any production as we design, build, program, and operate every aspect of lighting for a show. I first joined the musical as an opportunity to expand my lighting skill set outside of Nudgee's usual events, and it became a wonderful opportunity to put years of experience to the test in Nudgee's biggest technical event.

On a personal note, this musical became so much more for me as throughout the production I forged close personal bonds with so many people I wouldn't have otherwise, and it provided a fantastic opportunity to meet like-minded people.

From late nights behind the glow of a console to boring friends about that cue, this production is a testament to the tireless work put in by all the crew who brought it to life - without them, the musical wouldn't have been the same.

Sam Duffy (Year 11)

Technical Production





Staff in Profile

The academic life of Nudgee College is shaped by passionate and dedicated educators who strive to bring out the best in every student.

This edition, we shine a spotlight on two exceptional staff members, Dr Charles Dudley and Mr Chris Herman.

We caught up with them for a Q&A to learn more about their journeys, their roles at the College, and what drives their passion for coaching and teaching.

Dr Charles Dudley Lead Athletic Performance Coach

Joining the College in 2022, Dr Charles Dudley brings expertise and dedication to our Strength and Conditioning program, having completed his doctorate last year.

What are some key principles you emphasise when training young athletes?

The first key principle in the Nudgee gym is *earning the right*. Athlete development must follow a structured, progressive approach, ensuring students build competence before advancing. Progress isn't automatic – whether it's adding weight, attempting a more advanced movement, or increasing endurance, students must demonstrate readiness. Decisions on progression consider factors like developmental stage, training history, and season phase.

The second principle is *collaboration*. Most youth athletes don't train solely at Nudgee; they often juggle multiple sports across clubs and representative teams. To manage their workload effectively, we work closely with various stakeholders to ensure training remains balanced and sustainable.

The final principle is *embracing hard training*. Strength and conditioning come with challenges, but fostering a love for the process is crucial. As a department, we constantly discuss how to create an environment where students feel motivated to push themselves and each other toward their best.

How do you see strength and conditioning contributing to students' overall development beyond just sports performance?

The biggest advantage of strength and conditioning, beyond just sports performance, is that it instills the concept of delayed gratification. You can't cram a strength program into six weeks or even six months and expect significant results. It takes years of dedication, with small milestones along the way, to truly achieve your goals. Time and again, we see that those who consistently put in the work, embrace the grind, and remain patient often surpass athletes who try to rush the process.

What's a common misconception about strength training for school-aged athletes?

The biggest misconception about strength training for school-aged athletes is the belief that only athletes can participate. In reality, strength training offers benefits that extend far beyond the field or court. The positive impact on mental health and overall well-being is well-documented. While some may see not being an athlete as a barrier, the reality is that strength training can help students of all activity levels build confidence, improve concentration, and develop a lifelong commitment to physical fitness.

How do you balance pushing athletes to reach their potential while ensuring their long-term health and well-being?

Balancing athlete development and long-term health involves



setting the right challenges based on their stage of growth. Building strength, speed, and fitness starts with good movement, mobility, load management, and work habits. We focus on educating athletes about habits that support performance, like sleep and recovery, and encourage them to embrace discomfort as part of growth. Controlled challenges help build resilience while ensuring sustainable progress.

What has been a standout moment for you since joining Nudgee College?

My standout moment was helping a student return to the field after a severe injury. It was a complex case involving multiple stakeholders, all working together to support the student's recovery. Beyond the joy of seeing him play again, I found great professional satisfaction in developing and executing a successful plan. Sometimes, despite our best efforts, things don't go as planned – but when they do, it's incredibly rewarding.

Creating an engaging and supportive learning environment starts with helping young men feel comfortable in their own skin and encouraging them to be open to taking risks in both their learning and extra-curricular activities. I focus on understanding each student's unique "currency", what motivates and resonates with them and use that to build their confidence. Once they feel at ease, they're not just willing but eager to engage and contribute to the classroom community.

What's one lesson or activity that your students always look forward to?

My students are generally enthusiastic about most classroom activities, but if there's one thing they always look forward to, it's PE. The opportunity to be active, collaborate, and challenge themselves physically is something that excites them every time.

How do you help students develop important life skills alongside their academic learning?

I've always believed in the philosophy that "in a world where you can be anything, be kind." I use this mindset to help my students grow into men of character – confident and comfortable in themselves while also creating a supportive environment where their NC brothers feel the same. Ultimately, I believe kindness and empathy are among the most important life skills for success beyond school.

What has been a standout moment for you in your time at Nudgee College?

Two standout moments come to mind. First, after more than 20 years away, I've been amazed by how much Nudgee College still feels like home and how deeply I still love the school. Secondly, it has been incredibly special to meet and teach the sons and nephews of many NCOBs I went to school with – seeing that connection across generations has been a truly rewarding experience.

Mr Chris Herman

Junior School Teacher

Joining the College in 2025, Chris Herman is a dedicated educator making a valuable impact in our Junior School. A past student of NC from 1998 to 2002, he has returned this year as a teacher and is grateful to work alongside many of the teachers who once inspired him.

What inspired you to become a teacher, and what do you love most about working with younger students?

Education has always been a part of my world, I'm the eighth teacher in my family so teaching felt like a natural path. I first started seriously considering it while I was a student here at NC, and I credit Aaron Knott, now a current staff member, as the key influence in my decision to become a teacher. His impact on me as a student ultimately inspired me to follow this career.

How do you create an engaging and supportive learning environment in your classroom?



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The College community came together in the Christian Brothers' Conference Centre on Wednesday 5 March to begin the 40 days of Lent with an Ash Wednesday Liturgy. Students and staff received the sign of the cross in ash on their foreheads from Fr John Gillen, Senior students, and Principal Mr Scott Thomson.

NC SNAPSHOT



In Term 2, students and staff came together for a special liturgy in honour of the Feast Day of Blessed Edmund Rice. His life and legacy were woven throughout the celebration, inspiring all present to walk in his footsteps and be a Signum Fidei – a true 'Sign of Faith' to others.



As part of National Reconciliation Week, our Liberating Education students brought their mates together for damper making and a campfire at Tom's Place. A powerful afternoon of sharing culture and stories, just one of the ways Nudgee continues to foster a respectful and inclusive community.



Our Nudgee men put their faith into action to facilitate over 50 BBQs for those in need in our Brisbane community.





Congratulations to Nudgee students who competed in this year's da Vinci Decathlon at Brisbane Boys College.

NC placements: Year 5 - equal 2nd in Mathematics, Year 7 - 3rd in Cartography, Year 8 - 2nd in Ideation, Year 10 - 2nd in Science, Year 10 - equal second in Legacy, Year 11 - 2nd in Cartography, Year 11 - 1st in Mathematics, Year 11 - 2nd in Science, Year 11 - 1st in Legacy.



Well done to our amazing students, staff, and volunteer shavers for participating in the World's Greatest Shave earlier in semester one. Thanks to the efforts of our community, we raised over \$55,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation – an incredible achievement from the Nudgee College community.



When St Joseph's Nudgee College in Brisbane was founded in 1891, the Christian Brothers chose St Joseph as its patron saint as he embodies what we want of our young men: fearless, loyal and just. We celebrated St Joseph's Day in Term 1, with Father Gillen leading us in Mass.



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In Term 1, Year 5 students took part in a special retreat, filled with moments of reflection and personal growth. It was a meaningful experience, fostering connection and deepening their understanding of themselves and their journey ahead.

The Year 7 camp was an exciting opportunity for students to bond, challenge themselves, and create lasting memories. Through adventure-filled activities and teamwork, they gained valuable experiences that will stay with them throughout their journey at Nudgee College.

Year 5 students had an unforgettable three-day adventure at Apex Youth Camps on the Sunshine Coast. They embraced the beautiful weather and enthusiastically took part in a range of exciting and challenging activities.





INTER-HOUSE SNAPSHOT



2025's battle for the BrVic Larkin Shield began with the Inter-house Swimming Carnival. Every House proudly donned their colours, jumped in the pool, and swam their way to earn points. From freestyle and backstroke to breaststroke and even some cannonballs, boys from Years 5 to 12 enjoyed a fantastic day in the water. Congratulations to Duggan House for their victory.

From the pool to the wilderness, March saw students lace up their running shoes for the Inter-house Cross Country Carnival. Students navigated the picturesque College grounds in races ranging from 2km to 6km, with McKenna emerging victorious on the day.

In Term 2, students competed in our first-ever Inter-house Chess

competition. With impressive strategy, focus, and sportsmanship on display, students battled it out across the chessboard in a series of intense matches. Congratulations to all participants for their dedication, and to our winning house, Tierney, for their outstanding performance.

Also in Term 2, after weeks of rehearsal, the Houses took to the stage for the Inter-house Showcase. The performances delivered plenty of heart and hilarity, as boys of all musical and rhythmic talents had their moment in the spotlight. At the end of the day, Shaw House was crowned the winner!

The race for the Shield isn't over yet, with Inter-house Debating, Track and Field, and Esports events still to come in Semester 2.

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Donate and secure your legacy!

Purchase an everlasting spot on the Ross Oval Grandstand.

Silver and blue plaques available depending on donation level.
All proceeds go to the Nudgee College Foundation Building Fund.

A permanent personalised plaque etched into history.

To purchase your plaque, please contact Lindsay Khushal, Head of Philanthropy at foundation@nudgee.qld.edu.au or call 07 3865 0313.



Foundation
ST JOSEPH'S NUDGEE COLLEGE

ARTS GALA

VISUAL ART | LIVE MUSIC | CELEBRATION

TIERNEY AUDITORIUM | ST JOSEPH'S NUDGEES COLLEGE

29 AUGUST 2025 | 6.30PM



FEATURING COUNTRY MUSIC STAR

SARA STORER

With 22 Golden Guitars and an ARIA Award, Sara Storer is one of Australia's most acclaimed country artists. A proud Nudgees mum, she will join students on stage for a special performance at this year's Arts Gala.

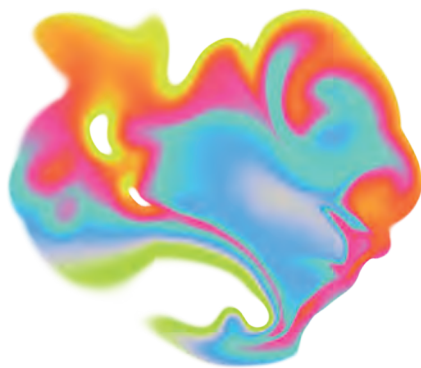


LIMITED TICKETS | ONE NIGHT ONLY

artsgala.nudgees.com

BOOK NOW





Celebrating Creativity at the Arts Gala 2025

On Friday 29 August, the Nudgee College Arts Gala will return as a standout event on the school calendar, bringing together live music, stunning visual art and community spirit in one unforgettable evening.



For students, the Gala is a much-anticipated highlight of the year. A unique opportunity to present their artistic talents alongside professional creatives and to share their passions with the wider College community.

This year's headline act is none other than ARIA Award-winning singer-songwriter Sara Storer, whose remarkable career includes 22 Golden Guitar Awards and a place among Australia's most cherished storytellers. Renowned for her lyrical depth and emotional resonance, Sara's talents extend beyond music, her visual artwork is equally captivating, offering a striking visual experience that complements her storytelling.

But Sara is more than just a special guest, she's also a proud Nudgee College mum, known to many in our community as Sara O'Hare. With two of her four sons currently boarding at the College, her connection to Nudgee adds a heartfelt and personal dimension to what promises to be an extraordinary night.

In June, Sara released her eighth studio album *"Worth Your Love"* - a much-anticipated collection of heartfelt storytelling and melodic songwriting. In a special fusion of her talents, Sara will not only perform live with her musicians but also share the stage with Nudgee students, creating a unique and memorable collaboration. Adding to the night's creativity and spirit

of giving, she has also donated an original artwork entitled *"Cyclone Nudgee"* to be auctioned during the event, a stunning piece that reflects both her artistic vision and her deep connection to our community.

Guests will enjoy a curated exhibition of over 70 works by acclaimed professional artists, alongside inspiring student artworks and performances. With canapés, drinks, and the magic of live music and art, the evening promises something truly special.

Tickets are \$45, with all proceeds supporting Arts projects at the College. Visit artsgala.nudgee.com to secure your place.

St Joseph's Nudgee College Arts Committee



Building Brotherhood

Nudgee Boarding and the Role of Leadership



Writers' Circle has had a remarkable start to the year, with students pushing boundaries, experimenting with new styles, and breaking new ground in the Performing Arts. In keeping with this year's Arts motto, *"To Strive and Thrive in 25,"* we have sought new ways to elevate our program, and Semester 1 has set the stage for an incredible year ahead. One of the most exciting aspects of our program is how storytelling connects us to the people around us. In the following piece, Bill Deeran and Chayse Marshall explore this idea, interviewing a new Boarding staff member about the vital role of Assistant Head of House in the Boarding experience.

Mr Will Duffield

Coordinator

Nudgee Boarding is the heart of the College. It is more than just a place to sleep - it is a world of brotherhood, tradition, and endless opportunities. Boarders are immersed in a unique environment that fosters lifelong friendships and personal growth. The bonds formed within the boarding community transcend year levels, backgrounds, and interests, creating a deep sense of connection among students. Whether excelling in academics, competing on the sports field, or performing in the arts, boarders support one another through every challenge and triumph.

The foundation of this experience is the dedicated staff who make boarding feel like a second home. The Heads of Boarding Houses, supervisors, House Mums, tutors, Health Centre staff, and laundry staff

all play a vital role in supporting students. They ensure that every boy is cared for, encouraged, and equipped to navigate the demands of school and life away from home. Their commitment embodies the boarding touchstones of Faith, Family, Courage, and Trust, reinforcing the values that shape a Nudgee education.

This year, Nudgee has welcomed Mr Christensen as the new Assistant Head of O'Brien House. With his passion for student well-being and leadership, he is set to make a significant impact. In the following Q&A, we discuss his journey to Nudgee, his insights into boarding life, and his aspirations for the future of the community.

Bill Deeran (Year 12) and Chayse Marshall (Year 7)

Writers' Circle Students



**FAITH
FAMILY
COURAGE
TRUST**

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Q&A with Mr Christensen, Assistant Head of Boarding

How has your time at Nudgee been so far?

Absolutely incredible - I have loved every second of it. It has been everything I hoped it would be and more. The sense of camaraderie among the boarders and the dedication of the staff have made this experience so rewarding.

What inspired you to join the Nudgee Boarding community?

I have always admired Nudgee's strong sporting culture and reputation for excellence. When the opportunity arose to be part of this community, I didn't think twice. I knew this was where I wanted to be.

How do you support boarding students in balancing their academics, co-curricular activities, and personal well-being?

As an Assistant Head of House, I see my role as being more than just a supervisor - I am a coach, a mentor, and a guide. I work closely with students to help them find balance in their academic, sporting, and social commitments. Whether a boy is passionate about the arts, social justice, or sports, I strive to provide support and direction to help him succeed.

How would you describe the culture of the boarding community?

The Nudgee Boarding community is incredibly supportive. Every boarder is proud to be part of something bigger than himself. The shared experiences - whether challenges or triumphs - bring students together. There is always someone who understands what you're going through because they have been in your shoes.

How do you help students who are struggling emotionally and socially?

We've all been there before, whether it's homesickness, stress, or feeling out of place. The most important thing is to acknowledge those feelings and ensure students know they are not alone. By fostering open conversations and providing support networks, we create an environment where every student feels heard and valued.

How do you encourage leadership, independence, and responsibility among the boarders?

Leadership opportunities are everywhere in boarding. Whether it's through official leadership positions or simply by setting an example for younger students, we encourage boys to step up. Providing these opportunities allows students to develop confidence and take ownership of their experience.

What do you hope to bring to the boarding community in your new role?

I want to build on the incredible foundation that already exists at Nudgee. Specifically, I hope to bring greater awareness to mental health and well-being initiatives, as well as find ways to integrate charitable projects into the boarding experience. Above all, I want to share my happiness and enthusiasm with everyone who is willing to embrace it.

What advice would you give to new students joining the boarding community?

I give the same advice that I was given when I was a boarder at TSS: take every opportunity that comes your way. Boarding life goes by so quickly,



and before you know it, you'll be looking back wishing you had done even more. Nudgee has so much to offer - get involved, embrace the experience, and make the most of every moment.

Final thoughts from Mr Christensen

I want to thank everyone who has welcomed me into this incredible community. I have never been happier in my career, and I look forward to being part of the journey with the boys at Nudgee.

Nudgee Boarding is a place of growth, challenge, and deep friendships. With passionate staff like Mr Christensen leading the way, the boarding community continues to thrive. As the year unfolds, boarders can look forward to exciting opportunities, new initiatives, and a home away from home that will shape them for life.



ST JOSEPH'S NUDGEES COLLEGE

BOARDERS' BASH

OLD BOYS'
REUNION
WEEKEND

SATURDAY 13 SEPT 2025

2.15PM | 1ST XV VS GREGORY TERRACE ON ROSS OVAL

3.30PM - 7.30PM | BOARDERS' BASH IN EDMUND RICE MALL MARQUEE



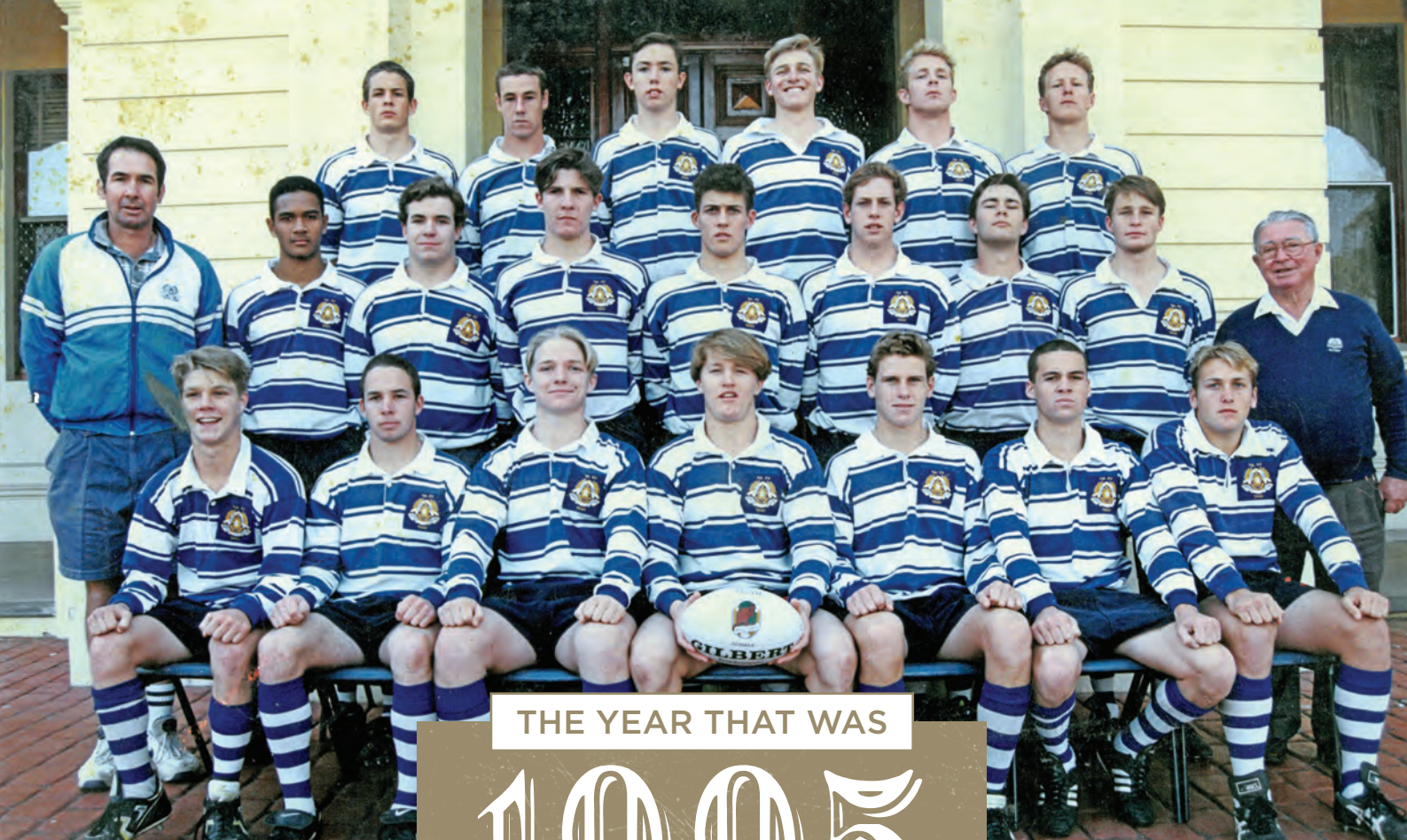
ST JOSEPH'S NUDGEES COLLEGE
**BOARDERS'
BASH**

LIVE MUSIC, BAR & FOOD TRUCKS

HOSTED BY THE BOARDING PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Join the Nudgees College Boarding community for post-game food and refreshments. All players, families and staff of both schools are welcome to attend.

nudgees.com | [#nudgeespirit](https://www.instagram.com/nudgeespirit)



THE YEAR THAT WAS

1995

509

BOARDERS

Number of Students

1,230

Principal

Br Peter Harney cfc PHD

College Captain

Tim Wright

Premierships won that year

- Rugby
- Football (nee Soccer)
- Swimming

Top: 1995 1ST XV Rugby. Back row - A Rockett, G Fowler, L Looney, P Hewatt, R Sexton, M Barwick. Middle row - Mr Tom Barker (Coach), E Aila, D Flynn, L Grant, L McKeown, M H Ostwald, M Goodman, P McPherson, Br D V Wallis (Manager). Front row - M Rogers, B Thomas, T Oberg, E Flatley (C), J Ramsay, J Ofoski, C Northcott.

Right: 1995 1ST XI Football. Back row - R Robinson, M Caffrey, M Holder, M Packer (VC), B Allen. Middle Row - Mr Gordon Arrowsmith, S Jablonski, D Browne, A Packer, R Quinn, S Lynch, L Brown, Mr Cam Wilkins. Front row - S Henderson, A Bell, B Dickens, D Rogers (C), F Lamas, D Kronk, M Stewart.



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DAY BOYS

- Retirement of Mr Jack Wagner
- Students were able to select a combination of general subjects and vocational subjects or a full vocational course.
- The O'Neill Boarding Residence opened for Years 5 to 8 boarders and Mr Paul Curran was Head of Residence.
- Years 5 to 7 boarders attended school at St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe. This was the first time for a return to primary school boarders since 1938.
- Nudgee College Adventurers Club went to Tasmania.
- Non-GPS Clubs and Activities: Adventurers' Club, Small Bore Rifle Club, Clay Target Gun Club, Canoe Club, Fishing Camp Club, Waveriders' Club, Art Workshop, Squash Club, Sailing Club, Rock Climbing and Abseiling Club



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Weathering the Storm, Together





Though it now feels like a distant memory, Cyclone Alfred was a defining moment for the Nudgee community, one that revealed the strength, unity, and resilience of our people.

As the storm swept along the Queensland coast, Nudgee College stood firm, not only in its physical foundations, but through the coordinated efforts of our Boarding, Property & Services, and Transport teams. Their extraordinary response ensured the safety and wellbeing of every student in our care.

With the Dean of Boarding, Casey Brealy, attending the ICPA conference in Katherine, NT, the on-site Boarding team, led by Wayne Stewart and our Heads of Boarding Houses, successfully secured appropriate care for all 315 boarders within 24 hours. Their calm and decisive leadership under pressure was a clear reflection of the strength of Nudgee's pastoral care. With conditions changing rapidly and hazards mounting, the decision to evacuate was both timely and wise. While several schools across Queensland experienced more severe damage, Nudgee's swift and compassionate response helped avoid major risks and ensured students were never in harm's way. Principal Scott Thomson reflected *"All EREA Principals in South East Queensland, along with fellow GPS schools, were in agreement with this decision in consultation with the QLD Premier. For Nudgee, it was about making sure our community was safe from whatever Cyclone Alfred produced"*.

The challenges didn't end once the boarders left campus. Throughout the week, staff maintained consistent communication with families, coordinated return plans, and supported boys who were unable to return promptly from regional areas. Academic staff showed great flexibility, adjusting class plans and assessments to accommodate late arrivals. The College's understanding of the impact on rural and remote families was evident in every decision made.



At the same time, the Transport team sprang into action, coordinating a complex schedule of bus runs and routes to get all students safely off campus and to their designated locations. They ensured every student travelled safely home and back again, despite heavy weather and while undergoing a Department of Transport audit. Logistics Manager Todd Denning remarked *"Despite road closures and changing conditions, the team coordinated special boarders' services to the Sunshine Coast and Goondiwindi. While one attempt was halted west of Ipswich, a successful run the following day saw 84 students safely return via Toowoomba"*.

Not to forget the Property and Services team, who were instrumental before, during, and after the storm. Their meticulous pre-cyclone preparations helped minimise damage, and their clean-up work began as soon as conditions allowed. From clearing debris to managing drainage and electrical systems, their dedication restored the campus to safe, working order with impressive speed and care.

While Cyclone Alfred brought its share of disruption, it also revealed the very best of the Nudgee spirit: resilience, compassion, and teamwork. In the face of adversity, the College rose together, each part of the community stepping up to protect, support and lead.





NC EVENTS



Commencement Mass

To celebrate the beginning of the academic school year, the College community gathered in the Christian Brothers' Conference Centre for the Commencement Mass. Throughout the Mass, each reading went back to a central theme: how the community treats and interacts with each other.

Mr Scott Thomson concluded Commencement Mass with the following words, "At Nudgee College, we sing of love in our school song and as a caring, kind and thoughtful community, love for one another, in the way that St Paul described as agape, should be ever present."





Senior Investiture

The 2025 school year began with a poignant event, our Senior Investiture. This event marks the beginning of the end of the Class of 2025 and their journey at the College.

At sunset on Thursday 30 January, the Year 12s and their families gathered in the Treacy Precinct to celebrate their roles as leaders in the community and formally commence their final year of schooling. Each Year 12 was given their Prefect, Senior and House badges, with their families pinning them on their blazers. College Captain Michael Williams formally shared their Senior motto that will guide the Year 12s for the year - 'unite as one, create authentic spirit'.

Michael summed up their motto brilliantly in his speech by saying that *"When we unite as one we are able to create authentic spirit and showcase the pure strength of Nudgee College - the strength of 10,000, not 9,999. This motto is not just for us, but for the entirety of our college and the wider community. This motto - our senior motto - is an oath we swear by to uphold our community, put our brothers first, and mentor the next generation of St Joseph's Nudgee College."*





Welcome to Nudgee

The Nudgee College Foundation hosted its annual Welcome to Nudgee evening earlier this year, an exclusive event designed to introduce our newest families to the rich history and vibrant spirit of our College community.

Guests enjoyed a unique and interactive experience as they moved through key locations such as the Treacy Heritage Precinct, the Chapel, Old Boys' Mall, and the College Museum. At each stop, talented students delivered captivating performances and presentations,

sharing fascinating stories and insights into Nudgee's proud heritage.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the parents who embraced the evening with such enthusiasm and congratulations to the students who showcased their talents so brilliantly.



Lads and Dads

In March, our Year 12 students shared a memorable evening with their fathers or significant male role models at our annual Lads and Dads event.

We were honoured to welcome Alex Roati, father of 2024 College Captain Oscar, as the evening's special guest. Alex delivered an inspiring speech on the vital role fathers play, both during and beyond their time at Nudgee, saying, *"There is no better environment for a father-son relationship to flourish than here at Nudgee College."*



Boarding Formal Dinner

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Our boarders, staff and special guests came together for the Boarding Formal Dinner earlier this year.

Zane Hilton (NCOB 1998) joined us from the Queensland Reds to talk to the boys about courage and his time as a boarder at the College. It was also an opportunity for our newest boarders to be officially welcomed to the family by receiving their boarding badges.

The night was topped off by an incredible performance by our Boarders Band!



Ladies Auxiliary Welcome Event

Our Ladies' Auxiliary hosted their annual welcome event on Saturday 22 March. The Edmund Rice Mall Marquee was set up with a 'Palm Springs' theme to welcome hundreds of past mothers, current mothers, caregivers, and mother-like figures. Guests enjoyed drinks, canapés, prizes, and wonderful company in this much loved College event.





Anzac Day

Nudgee College gathered in solemn reflection on Ross Oval to commemorate Anzac Day, an occasion of deep significance to our community. Students, staff, Old Boys, past and current parents, and members of the wider community came together to honour the service and sacrifice of those who have served.

The ceremony commenced with the Drumline leading a procession of special guests, including former servicemen, onto the Oval. The Anzac flame was lit, poppies were laid, and wreaths were placed by representatives from across the College to pay tribute to the fallen.

During the First World War, more than 250 Nudgee College Old Boys enlisted

for service; 55 of these men made the ultimate sacrifice and did not return home. Their legacy endures in the spirit of the College today.

We were privileged to welcome Mr Paul McPherson MG as the special guest speaker. A distinguished Old Boy (1993), Mr McPherson served 18 years in the Australian Army, including 15 years with the Special Air Service Regiment. Over the course of his career, he completed six combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and was awarded the Medal for Gallantry in 2015 in recognition of his outstanding courage.

Mr McPherson delivered a moving address, reflecting on the themes of resilience, brotherhood, and service. His words resonated deeply with all present, reminding us of the profound debt we owe to those who have served and continue to serve.

We extend our sincere thanks to Mr McPherson, and to the tens of thousands of men and women who have sacrificed so much to secure the freedoms we enjoy today.

Lest we forget.





Mother and Son Luncheon

On Sunday 4 May, the cherished tradition of the Year 12 Mother and Son Luncheon brought together hundreds of senior students and their mothers for a day of celebration and connection. The occasion began with a beautiful Mass at the Cathedral of St Stephen, before guests made their way to Brisbane City Hall for a memorable afternoon. College Captain Michael Williams offered a heartfelt address to all mothers in attendance, reflecting, *"Our mums have never needed a cape or superpowers, just love, patience and a strength that never wavered."* His mother, Ms Janet Williams, also shared a few words, warmly remarking, *"Isn't that the joy of being a mum, to reminisce and laugh about all the little moments that made our children who they are?"* She continued, *"Every day, they grow into someone amazing. We just hope they carry with them the truth that they are already more than enough."*





National Boarding Week

National Boarding Week lit up our campus with energy and joy as we embraced the 2025 theme, *"Threads of Connection"*, from ABSA. It beautifully reflected the close-knit bonds that define Nudgee Boarding. The week was packed with highlights, from the buzzing whole-village BBQ and Bathersby Cup rivalry to Rock Around the Clock and heartwarming afternoon teas by our House Mums. Social media was alive with content celebrating our community spirit.

We proudly honoured our boarders' roots with our photo comp, won by Kevin Hyatt from Nhulunbuy. His stunning beach shot captured the essence of connection, with runners-up from Tangalooma and Goondiwindi adding to the story. Evening on the Green brought it all together, with families gathering for food, fun, and fierce Touch footy – congrats Hodda House! (Though Waterford took the Bathersby Cup sack race win earlier – rivalry alive and well!)

Our Prefects represented us at the ABSA Boarding Leaders Forum, sharing the Nudgee spirit with leaders across Queensland. Above all, this week reminded us that boarding is the heartbeat of Nudgee. National Boarding Week is a celebration that reaches far beyond our boarders, it brings together students, families, staff, and Old Boys alike. It's a reminder that everyone connected to Nudgee College is part of the boarding story.



Evening on The Green

Our Evening on the Green is a much-anticipated event that brings together the entire Nudgee College community in a spirit of connection and celebration. Held under the stars on our beautiful campus grounds, the evening provides a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere for families, staff, and students to engage beyond the classroom. We are deeply grateful to the many wonderful families, both local and from across the country, who continue to place their trust in Nudgee College, choosing it as a second home for their sons. Events like these reflect the strong sense of belonging and shared values that define our community and make Nudgee such a special place.



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Open Day

On Saturday 17 May, hundreds of prospective Nudgee College families gathered for Open Day. The event was packed with engaging activities, including interactive displays, special Boarding preview, live music performances, musical rehearsals and set tours, children's games and an exciting round of GPS Football and Tennis against BBC. Students served as tour guides, offering families a genuine glimpse into the Nudgee College experience from a student's perspective. The day also featured two welcome sessions with the Principal, College Leadership Team, and College Captain.



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N C S P R T



Volleyball

The GPS Volleyball season began with great momentum, as Nudgee claimed 16 wins from 24 matches against BSHS. The 1st VI set the tone early with a commanding 3-0 victory, while all A teams swept their opponents in a show of depth and consistency. That momentum continued into Round 2, with the 1st VI again delivering a dominant 3-0 win over IGS, and the 6As showing impressive grit to rally from a set down.

Round after round, the strength of the program was on full display. Against BBC, Nudgee notched 19 wins from 24 fixtures, a highlight being the 11Es' first win of the season and Tom Waddell's unstoppable service streak. The 1st VI battled hard in a tense match, ultimately coming away with a 3-1 win to keep their title hopes alive.

The match-up against ACGS proved to be another defining round. Nudgee secured 5 out of 8 A-team victories, with the 1st VI remaining undefeated thanks to a gutsy 3-1 win. Charles Dallimore's clutch 9-point service run in the fourth set sealed the victory, showcasing the composure and character of the side.

In Round 8, Nudgee swept all A-team fixtures against TGS, with the 1st VI continuing their unbeaten streak in a polished 3-0 performance. With

anticipation building, all eyes turned to the final round, a premiership-deciding clash with Terrace.

Round 9 was one for the history books as over 1,000 supporters filled the McKennarney Centre in one of the most well-attended school volleyball matches from recent memory. The energy and passion on display created an unforgettable atmosphere, uniting students, staff, and families in support of their teams. Nudgee recorded 24 wins from 31 matches on the day, including 18 out of 19 from Years 5 to 9, with several

younger teams earning their first wins of the season.

In the main event, both 1st VI teams gave everything in a high-stakes contest. Terrace ultimately came away with a 3-0 win, resulting in a shared GPS Premiership, a fitting outcome for two outstanding teams who gave their all across the season.

Congratulations to all players and coaches for a phenomenal campaign. The skill, spirit, and sportsmanship displayed week after week reflected everything great about Nudgee Volleyball.





Cricket

Nudgee Cricket kicked off the 2025 season with strong performances and exciting matches. The first round against Brisbane State High set the tone, with Nudgee winning 21 of 31 games, highlighted by Carter Thompson's unbeaten 101* and solid contributions from Harry Stoneman and Sidney Bates. Throughout the GPS rounds, the 1st XI demonstrated resilience, earning a bonus point win against Ipswich Grammar School thanks to captain Hayden Hamilton's 70 runs and effective bowling from Will Neubecker and Spencer Green.

Round 3 brought further success with a dominant showing against Brisbane Boys' College, winning 16 of 19 matches. The 1st XI chased down a target at Oakman Oval with eight balls to spare, with Charlie Henderson's calm 47* playing a crucial role. The 2nd XI maintained their unbeaten run, powered by standout innings from Lachlan Mills and Jovan Singh.

Nudgee also hosted TSS with strong wins across various teams, including the 5A, 6A, 8A, 10A, and 2nd XI squads. Carter Thompson continued to shine with a remarkable 160* in the 9A game at TSS. Round 8 featured a dominant bowling display from the

1st XI, bowling out TGS for just 112 runs, with spin bowlers Hamilton, Connellan, and Green leading the attack. Thompson's third century in six innings (123*) and Patrick Ganley's unbeaten 110 added to the highlights.

As the season drew to a close, Nudgee's 32 cricket teams showed great growth and commitment despite wet weather disrupting the final round. The season was marked by memorable victories, strong teamwork, and impressive individual achievements, setting a high standard for the 2025 campaign. Coaches and players alike have plenty to be proud of heading into the next season.





Cross Country

The GPS Cross Country Championships at Limestone Park marked the peak of a season built on resilience, discipline, and team spirit. Throughout the term, Nudgee's runners committed themselves to early mornings, tough training sessions, and the pursuit of continuous improvement, all culminating in a strong showing at the final event.

On a demanding course, our athletes displayed grit and determination, with the Senior team finishing 3rd overall, a testament to their consistency and hard work against strong opposition.

Highlights included Matthew Turner's commanding 1st place in the 15 Years, and a spirited performance from the 13 Years team led by Sam

Wells (4th) and Fletcher Andrews (5th) who placed 3rd. The Open team also impressed with a 2nd place finish, bolstered by podium performances from Will Curran (2nd) and Ned Curran (5th).

The Junior Championship brought exciting glimpses of future talent, with the 10 Years team placing 4th. Jack Donaghue (8th), Hugo Witteveen (12th), and Louis McEwan (17th) led the way in a tight field.

Congratulations to all our runners on a committed and inspiring season. Sincere thanks to Nick Toohey and the coaching team for their tireless efforts, and to the Nudgee community, whose support from the hill lifted our boys every step of the way. The spirit and pride on display truly captured what it means to run for the blue and white.





Cattle Club

Term 1 marked an exciting start to the year for the Cattle Club, with the arrival of new cattle, students, and engaged community members. Our first outing was to the Bell Show in March, a valuable opportunity to reconnect with the Club's foundations and introduce both new and returning members to the season ahead. Students performed strongly on the day, earning third place in both the junior and senior Paraders competitions. Our steers also achieved pleasing results, placing second in

the under 350kg class and third in the under 450kg division.

Later in the term, the Club travelled to the Warwick Show, with 23 students and 15 head of cattle representing the school. The students demonstrated excellent conduct throughout the event, and our cattle secured several ribbons. Highlights included 2nd and 3rd place finishes for our Braford's in the under 12-month class, and a 2nd place in the over 16-month category. Judges provided encouraging feedback, and it was wonderful to have so many parents and supporters present on the day.



Rowing

The 2025 rowing season was a challenging yet memorable journey for our rowers, culminating in the annual Head of the River regatta at Lake Wyaralong.

In February, the team competed in a series of GPS regattas, showcasing determination and progress. The Year 9 3rd Quad celebrated a standout victory early in the season, while the Year 11 2nd Quad impressed with a strong win in their division. Our Year 10 crews continued to push forward, finishing competitively in their races.

Despite signs of fatigue in the final lead-up events, the rowers remained committed to performing at their best for the season finale. The Head of the River proved to be a tough day, with the 1st VIII finishing towards the back of the field and the overall points score placing the team sixth. While the results were not as hoped, the resilience and perseverance shown by the boys throughout the season deserve recognition.

Following the GPS season, 19 Nudgee athletes travelled to Lake Barrington for the 2025 Australian Rowing Championships. Over a week of intense racing and study, the boys competed in 22 events and brought home silver and bronze medals. Their discipline and commitment on and off the water were exceptional.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our dedicated staff and supporters for their hard work and encouragement throughout the season.





Swimming

After a six-day delay, GPS Swimming 2025 officially kicked off on March 13, and it was worth the wait. The day began with the Junior Carnival, where our young swimmers finished a close 5th overall in a tightly contested field, with just a narrow margin separating the top teams. Their strong effort was the result of months of hard work, consistent improvement, and dedication to the training program. Of the 40 boys selected for the GPS Championship Team, an outstanding 31 achieved personal bests on the day, a reflection of the culture of growth and commitment within the team.

The Senior competition later that night was electric, with Nudgee College rising to the occasion in one of the closest battles in recent memory. In a stunning reversal from 2024, Nudgee turned a 40-point deficit into a 7.5-point win over Brisbane Grammar School, finishing with 318.5 points to Grammar's 311.

It was a powerful reminder of what can be achieved through belief, preparation, and teamwork.

This year saw the team improve across the board, from 8 event wins in 2024 to 12 in 2025, and from 297 total points to 318.5. A massive 53 personal bests were recorded, and Nudgee finished in the top 3 in 34 of the 42 events. Perhaps most memorable was the relay, a 14-point loss last year turned into a 1-point victory this year, a symbolic and emotional highlight that captured the spirit of the team.

The campaign was led by outstanding captains Oliver Linde, Paddy Williams, and Jack Plowman, whose leadership set the tone for an inspiring season. Thanks also to our cheer squad, whose energy and pride helped lift our swimmers in key moments. Congratulations to every member of the team, and thank you to the coaches, staff, and families who supported the journey. GPS Swimming 2025 will be remembered not just for the victory, but for the spirit and effort behind it.





Tennis

TBS.



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Football
TBS.





NC PERFORMING ARTS

Chess

The Nudgee Chess team started the year with impressive momentum, competing in several Term 1 tournaments while maintaining their weekly coaching schedule. In an exceptionally busy week, students participated in three competitions over just seven days.

The season's first major event, the Somerville House Invitational, saw Charlie Rienstra dominate the Novice Division, securing victory with 6.5 wins out of 7. Finn Carton, Hugo Elliot, and Ethan Cockburn also delivered strong performances, earning merit ribbons in their respective divisions.

A few days later, our secondary teams traveled to St Patrick's for the North Brisbane Secondary Inter-School Chess Competition. The team of Griffin Thomas, Carl Sherman, James Brown, and Isaiah Omany had an outstanding tournament, finishing second in their division. Ethan Johannes also impressed, winning five out of seven games and receiving a merit prize.

Next, it was our Primary students' turn at the North Brisbane Primary Competition. Myles Griffin was a standout performer, winning 4.5 out of 6 games and earning a merit award. After a short break, the team returned for the Term 1 Nudgee



Chess Competition, held on the final weekend of term. A total of 188 students from across South East Queensland gathered in the Conference Centre for an exciting day of competition. Seventeen Nudgee students participated, with many of our newest Year 5 and Year 7 players experiencing their first tournament on home ground. Griffin Thomas placed 7th out of 77 competitors in his division, while Niki Bhumbhar also claimed a merit prize.

With GPS Chess on the horizon in Term 3, the team's dedication and focus will only continue to grow throughout Term 2.





Debating

The Nudgee College Debating program has kicked off 2025 with enthusiasm and success, as students from Years 5 to 12 showcase their critical thinking, teamwork, and oratory prowess in both GPS and QDU competitions. This thriving program is driven by a passionate community of debaters, dedicated student and Old Boy coaches, committed coordinators, and parents, who all contribute to its growth.

Thank you to our 2025 Team: Grace Waterman (Junior Coordinator), Tanush Patel, Tejas Ashok, Sejin Lee, Tom Eichinski (Year 7 Coordinator), Dom Weber, Libby Arrowsmith (Year 8 Coordinator), Ben Ditchburn, Xander Eyles, Eliza Landles and Laura Danby (Year 9 Coordinators), Jacob Gillam, Marie-Rose Burton (Year 10 Coordinator), Anthony Mineo, Robyn Mann (Year 11 Coordinator), Rio Lethbridge, Mr Michael Bishop (Year 12 Coordinator), Will McGrath, Dom Carroll (Senior A Coordinator and Director of Coaching), Isaac Roati, Will Duffield (2IC, Debating Coordinator: 5-9), and Julianne Daunt (Debating Director).

To commence the year, we had a well-attended Development Day led by our Coaching Director, Dom Carroll.

This ensured our boys were well prepared for the GPS season. We also had the privilege of welcoming Raiika Bolandian (UQ Law Student & Legal Assistant) for a masterclass on Law & Justice for our boys.

GPS Debating

Throughout the season, Nudgee teams have secured victories in several rounds:

- **Round 1 Wins:** 10.2, 12.1
- **Round 3 Wins:** 8.1, 8.2, 9.2, 10.1, 12.1
- **Round 4 Wins:** 6.2, 7.2, 8.1, 11.1
- **Round 5 Wins:** 5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 7.2, 8.1, 8.2, 10.2, Senior A
- **Round 7 Wins:** 5.2, 7.1, 7.2, 8.1, 8.2, 10.2
- **Round 8 Wins:** 6.1, 7.1, 8.1, 9.1, 10.1, 11.1
- **Round 9 Wins:** 5.1, 5.2, 6.2, 7.2, 8.2, 9.2, 11.1, Senior A

Congratulations to our 7.2 Team who remained undefeated throughout the season and to our Senior A for coming 6th in the premiership. A highlight of the GPS season was Round 9 against Terrace in Tierney Auditorium. The Nudgee boys filled the auditorium with support and cheers for our boys which ultimately led to our Senior A victory.

QDU Debating

In the Queensland Debating Union (QDU) competition, Nudgee debaters have continued their success, with Year 7, Year 8, Year 10, and Senior A achieving impressive results. We look forward to watching the rest of the competition unfold.

Thank you to our parent supporters, led by Rosemary Mineo, who have generously assisted with catering, transport, and encouragement at our home debates, as well as Sam Smith (Director of Performing Arts) and Robyn Bowley (Administration) for their support of our program.





Writers' Circle

Now in its third year, Writers' Circle had 68 students embrace the program this Semester. We are pleased to see students push boundaries, experiment with new styles, and break new ground in the performing arts. In keeping with this year's Arts motto, "To strive and thrive in 25," we sought ways to elevate our program, and Semester 1 has set the stage for an incredible year ahead.

We welcomed Melissa Bates (former CEO of the Brisbane Writers' Festival) alongside authors Amelia Mellor and Will Kostakis, who shared invaluable insights into storytelling, writing, and publishing. Collaborating with our Visual Art Team, we held a

Photography Competition, with Jake Linde's submission earning a place on the cover of our Term 1 Booklet for his interpretation of *The Power of Secrets*. Additionally, we entered numerous writing competitions, including the CYA Hatchlings, QWC Youth Writing, Whitlam Institute, and Furphy Literary Awards. We also introduced the Junior Short Story Writers Competition as a way of fostering literacy development in our junior years. Congratulations to Jack Cooper (1st), James Lee (2nd), and Lochlan Warhurst (3rd).

Community engagement remained at the heart of our program. Our partnership with Viridian continues to provide a wonderful setting for our students to engage with the local community and share their stories



with residents. Well done to Chayse Marshall (Year 7) and Bill Deeran (Year 12) for completing the second edition of our "From the Writers' Circle Desk" in our Behind the Stripes magazine.

Thank you to our senior mentors - Will Condon, Bill Deeran, Gage Dittmann, Tristan Duane, Xander Eyles, Roan McNamara, and Tanush Patel - for assisting us throughout various points this semester. We look forward to seeing what the rest of the year will bring.

Esports

The Esports program at Nudgee College continues to grow in leaps and bounds, providing students with opportunities to collaborate, compete, and excel. The successes of this semester augur well for an exciting and successful 2025.

With a strong student leadership team at the helm, we have cemented our place as a leading school in the Esports space, built on the foundations of Respect, Integrity, and Fairness. Special thanks to Xander Eyles (Captain), Ryan Matthews (Vice Captain), and Bill Deeran (Vice Captain) - we look forward to seeing their leadership continue to shape the program throughout the year.

This semester, we expanded our offerings to meet the growing interest in Esports, with a weekly Monday lunchtime session, Tuesday afternoon session (Years 8-12), and Wednesday afternoon session (Years 5-7). In Term 1, we competed in the FUSE competition, securing





impressive results: 3rd Place (Juniors) and 5th Place (Middle Years). A major highlight of the semester was hosting the inaugural NC Esports Open in partnership with Queensland Esports & Gaming. Nudgee College performed extremely well, achieving a podium finish in each title: EAFC25 (1st), NBA2K25 (1st), Minecraft (2nd), Rocket League (3rd), and Brawlhalla (3rd). We also engaged in various QUT competitions and held internal competitions in the Junior School!

A huge thank you to our wonderful staff for their continued support this semester. We are excited to build on this momentum and take Nudgee Esports to even greater heights in the months ahead!

GPS Music Showcase

The 2025 GPS Music Showcase was a night to remember, bringing together over 350 talented students from the nine GPS schools for a spectacular evening of music. Hosted at Brisbane Boys' College, the event featured performances from the massed Choir, Big Band, Concert Band, and Symphony Orchestra, highlighting the incredible dedication and skill of the students involved.

Nudgee College was proudly represented by our talented musicians, who took the stage alongside their peers in a display of musical excellence and collaboration. Multiple Nudgee boys were featured on the night, performing impressive

solos within their selected ensembles. The Showcase provided a unique opportunity for students to perform at a high level, refine their craft, and connect with fellow musicians from across the GPS community.

A special mention to Mr Sam Smith, Chairperson for GPS Music, a member of the Directors of Sport and Activities GPS committee, and Nudgee College's Director of Performing Arts, who played a pivotal role in making the 2025 Showcase a success.



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Nudgee College Alma Mater

The Nudgee College Alma Mater (NCAM) has continued to strengthen its connection with the broader Nudgee College community throughout Semester 1, 2025, fostering engagement and a sense of belonging. Established in 2023, the NCAM was born from the collective desire of our community to stay meaningfully connected with the College well beyond the school years. Open to all past members of the community – including past staff, students, their partners, parents, carers, grandparents, and siblings – the NCAM serves as a welcoming space for everyone to stay involved.

We kicked off the year with our cherished Past Staff Event – a morning of reminiscing and reconnecting with past staff members from almost every decade, dating back to the 1980s.

Despite being postponed due to ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, the Business Series Event went ahead in April and proved to be a truly engaging experience. It explored the timely and thought-provoking topic, *The Future of the Workforce: Redefining Jobs and Business in the Automation Age*. This event not only provided valuable insights but also created a platform for members of the NCAM and Business



Directory communities to share ideas and grow their professional networks.

These events, along with many other engagement opportunities, reflect the NCAM's commitment to offering meaningful, relevant, and purposeful experiences for the community. None of these successes would be possible without the dedication of our 2025 committee members: including Principal Scott Thomson, Deputy Principal Stephen Meara, Mark Anthony (Director of Development and Communications), David Kelly (Past Father, Current Staff), Andrew McNamara (NCOB President, Current Parent), Jo Curran (President, Past Mothers' Association), Catherine Jones (Past Mothers' Association), Brian O'Reilly (Past Father, Past Staff), Ben Casado (NCOB 2006), and Freddie

Carlton-Smith (NCOB 2017), whose ongoing passion and commitment continue to propel the NCAM forward.

As we look ahead to the rest of the year, we are honoured to continue supporting our community through collaborative initiatives with the Nudgee College Old Boys' Association, the Past Mothers' Association, and the wider Nudgee College family. The NCAM remains steadfast in its mission to create spaces where connections thrive and the Nudgee Spirit endures.

To find out more about upcoming events and how you can get involved, please join our community via the QR code.

Ms Erina Hitchings
Alumni and Community Manager



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP
TO THE NUDGEE COLLEGE
ALMA MATER

#NCAM

Past Mothers' Association

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This year marks a very special occasion for the Past Mothers' Association: the 40th anniversary of building a community grounded in love, service, and support. As we come together to honour this milestone, we reflect on the strength, dedication, and lasting impact that mothers have had over the years in the lives of their sons and the wider Nudgee community. It is a year of celebration, connection, and remembrance, as we cherish the memories and friendships built through decades of shared experiences.

On 29 March, the Past Mothers gathered in the Callan Centre for a festive high tea to celebrate, reminisce, and appreciate the lasting friendships and contributions that have shaped our collective journey, while celebrating the legacy of past mothers. No flood nor rain could wash away the spirit of our incredible Past Mothers' Association as we celebrated 40 wonderful years since its inception.

Over 60 Past Mothers came together for a beautiful high tea, reconnecting, reminiscing, and making new memories. Highlights of the day included a heartfelt Grace by Principal Scott Thomson, an inspiring speech from our longest-serving Past Mothers' President, Toni Lutteral, and a very successful raffle raising funds for the College Immersion Program.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us – it truly was a special celebration of friendship, dedication, and the lasting impact of our Past Mothers' Association.

This year also brings with it exciting events that further unite us with the Alma Mater and the current Nudgee community.

On Saturday 14 June, we had our annual Winter Warmer event, the NCOBA & Past Mothers' Race Day in October, and our annual Ladies' Auxiliary and Past Mothers' Mass and Dinner on Saturday 8 November.

As we reflect on 40 years of this extraordinary community, it is impossible not to remember the treasured souls who have left a lasting mark on our hearts. One such individual is Maggie Shaw,



whose spirit, dedication, grace, and unwavering support of all things Nudgee continue to resonate deeply within our community.

In her memory, we share the words she requested be read at her funeral – a final message that speaks to the love, care, and legacy that Maggie embodied.

TogetherNESS

Death is nothing at all: I have only slipped away into the next room. Whatever we were to each other, we are that still.

Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the familiar way in which you always used.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together.

Pray, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be the household word it always was – let it be spoken without effort. Life means all that it ever was; there is absolute unbroken continuity.

Why should I be out of your mind because I'm out of your sight?

I am but waiting for you in an interval somewhere very near, just around the corner.

All is well, nothing is past, nothing is lost.

One brief moment and all will be as it was before – only better; infinitely happier and forever we will be one together with Christ.

We also remember the vision of the first group of 1985 Nudgee mums who wanted to continue their connection to, and contribution towards, the College. John Sayer, our wonderful College Archivist, was able to source our origins:

1985 Committee Members:

- Judy Mills (President)
- Shirley Greatrex
- Gail Punter
- Margaret Kubler
- Bruna Gruenberger
- Margarethe Riese
- Robyn Robertson
- June Thompson
- Barbara Ziser
- Margot Kirby

On such a special occasion, we also honour and thank Toni Lutteral and Barbara Devine, who held the roles of President and Vice President for 20 years, ensuring the Past Mothers' legacy continued to contribute to Nudgee. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and willingness to keep building connections is admirable and deeply appreciated.

Each year, the Past Mothers lay a wreath at the very moving ANZAC Day ceremony the College holds. We also present and sponsor awards at the annual College Awards Night. In recent years, the Past Mothers have donated funds to support College initiatives such as the Nudgee Year 9 Immersion Program, sponsoring a student who may not have otherwise had access to this formative experience.

As we mark this significant 40th anniversary, we celebrate not only the Past Mothers who have shaped this community, but also the future that we continue to build together. The events of this year serve as a reminder of the power of connection, tradition, and ongoing contributions to our wonderful College and wider Nudgee community.

Ms Jo Curran

President, Past Mothers' Association



SCAN THE CODE TO FOLLOW THE
PAST MOTHERS' FACEBOOK PAGE

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Unscripted

The Nudgee College Podcast

A remarkable highlight of Semester 1 was the launch of *Unscripted – The Nudgee College Podcast* – a first in the College's history. This exciting new platform was created to capture, celebrate, and share the rich stories of the Nudgee community, providing a deeper connection to its past, present, and future.

The inaugural season, *The Alma Mater Series*, focused on the extraordinary journeys of past students, parents, and staff. From high-profile media personalities to elite athletes and influential figures, each guest offered a unique perspective, reflecting on career milestones, personal growth, and the enduring influence of their Nudgee experience.

The response was extraordinary. In its very first week, *Unscripted* ranked in the top 8% of podcasts globally and debuted at #46 in the Education Podcast category – an outstanding achievement and a testament to the strength of our community and the power of its stories.

The Alma Mater Series was brought to life by host Wes Denning – Old Boy and College Captain of 2000. A skilled interviewer and award-winning

TV producer, Wes's media journey began on *Big Brother* and *Totally Wild*, and now spans over two decades. Currently, Head of Global Formats for Eureka Productions, Wes has helped develop and produce acclaimed shows such as *Australian Idol*, *Holey Moley*, and *The Floor*.

We extend our deepest thanks to the inspiring guests who shared their stories:

- **David "Luttsy" Lutteral** (NCOB 1993), radio legend
- **Pete Murray** (NCOB 1987), chart-topping singer-songwriter
- **Margie Wills**, beloved past staff member and mental health advocate
- **Karin Van Wirdum**, swimming gold medallist and current staff member
- **Alysia Bridger**, past mother and events extraordinaire
- **James O'Connor** (NCOB 2007), Wallaby and rugby star

Each episode offered compelling insight into the lives of those shaped by Nudgee – and who, in turn, have helped shape our legacy. These

candid conversations explored triumphs, challenges, and defining moments that resonated far beyond the College gates.

Behind the scenes, the success of *Unscripted* was made possible by the creativity and commitment of the Nudgee College Development and Communications team, our recording partner The Podcast Boss, and of course, our host Wes Denning. Their collaboration ensured each episode was professionally produced and deeply engaging.

With such a strong debut, the future of *Unscripted – The Nudgee College Podcast* is full of possibility. As new series and themes are developed, this platform will continue to offer a space for powerful storytelling and connection, reinforcing the deep bonds of the Nudgee College community.

If you haven't tuned in yet, now is the perfect time. *Unscripted* is more than a podcast – it's a celebration of the stories that make Nudgee truly special.

We hope you enjoy it.

Ms Erina Hitchings

Alumni and Community Manager



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OR VIEW **UNSCRIPTED -**
THE NUDGE COLLEGE PODCAST



NC Old Boys' Association



NCOBA President's Message

The Nudgee College Old Boys' Association (NCOBA) was formed in 1922 and continues to provide a lasting community of 10,000 brothers and a strong network for past students of the College. The Association was established to foster a strong bond of friendship among Old Boys and support the ongoing development of the College.

The NCOBA calendar kicked off for 2025 with our annual Friday Night Drinks on Friday 21 March. This popular event gave us the opportunity to welcome the 2024 graduates to their first NCOBA event and offered our newest Old Boys the chance to network with older generations of the community.

Our AGM was held on Tuesday 8 April, with the 2025 Committee voted in as:

- **President** Andrew McNamara
- **Vice President** Brendan Williams
- **Secretary** Tony Gleeson
- **Treasurer** Doug Carrigan

Our activities calendar peaks in Term 3, so keep an eye out for the following events:

- Old Boys' Senior Reunion on Saturday 30 August. This is a wonderful opportunity for Old Boys who graduated more than 50 years ago to return to the College, attend Mass, share a meal, and watch some Nudgee sport.
- Toowoomba Reunion on Saturday 6 September will see the NCOBA combine with the Boarders Support Group to host drinks at The Spotted Cow following the Round 8 clash with Toowoomba Grammar.

- Old Boys' Reunion Weekend on Saturday 13 September is the date not to be missed. With a record number of reunion groups on campus in 2024, we're set to increase that number in 2025, as the Rugby and Basketball Reunion home games fall on the Terrace round for the second year in a row – a first in recent GPS history.

If you haven't yet explored our newly revamped website – featuring an Historical Timeline, Hall of Fame, and digital access to the College Annuals – be sure to visit and sign up to the NCOBA online community via the QR code.

Mr Andrew McNamara
NCOBA President



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO VISIT THE **NUDGEЕ COLLEGE**
OLD BOYS' WEBSITE



NCOBA SNAPSHOT



Tom's Place

An incredibly moving memorial was held on Sunday 23 March to officially open 'Tom's Place', in honour of Tom Venturin (NCOB 2021). The afternoon included close friends, family, staff, and community members who shared a connection with Tom. The memorial space was created in his honour and fully funded through donations from the Nudgee community. It was also entirely completed by the time, effort, and care of Old Boys, past staff, and current boarders. This special area will always hold deep meaning for our community – a place for reflection and connection, to be used by both staff and students for years to come.

QUT Outstanding Alumni Award

At the end of 2024, Mr Michael Pini (NCOB 1981), was awarded the QUT (Queensland University of

Technology) Outstanding Alumni Award for his contributions as a disability advocate and career achievements.

Mr Pini has had an inspiring journey as a disability advocate and former Assistant Commissioner, Tax Counsel Network, Australian Tax Office.

Born with cerebral palsy, he first joined Nudgee College in Year 8, quickly becoming known for his unwavering Nudgee Spirit.

Throughout his career, he has been a trailblazer for people with disabilities, dedicating himself to advocacy and education.





Martin Shaw.

Ipswich Citizen of the Year

A huge congratulations to Martin Shaw (NCOB 1980) for being named Citizen of the Year at the Ipswich Australia Day Awards.

Martin's deep connection to Nudgee College spans generations – his father, Robert Shaw, attended in 1944-45, and his uncle, Br John Muhldorf, is honored through the Br Muhldorf Trophy, which Martin proudly sponsors each year for the NC v GT game.

Beyond his ties to Nudgee, Martin has made a significant impact as President of Wounded Heroes Australia, supporting veterans and their families. His dedication to service and community leadership truly embodies the Nudgee spirit. Congratulations, Martin, on this well-deserved recognition.

International Company Powered by Five Nudgee Old Boys

Five Nudgee Old Boys have played a significant role in shaping the success of Yakr, an international talent provider and migration agency specialising in sourcing overseas candidates for Australian businesses. Brendan Williams (NCOB 1992), a Non-Executive Director, and Freddie

Carlton-Smith (NCOB 2017), Head of Operations, are leading the charge at Yakr.

The company has a strong tradition of bringing Old Boys into its fold, with Leo De Clara (NCOB 2021), Declan Henry (NCOB 2020), and Hugh Smith (NCOB 2022) also contributing to Yakr's journey.

It's heartening to see so many Old Boys making their mark in one company, highlighting the depth and strength of the Nudgee Old Boy network.



Yakr Brendan Williams

Australian Cricketer Nathan McSweeney is All Class

We're incredibly proud of Nathan McSweeney (NCOB 2016), whose journey through the ranks of Australian cricket has been defined by talent, leadership, and humility. Now 26, Nathan is widely respected for his strong technique and natural leadership, both on and off the field.

Earlier this term, he generously gave up his time to work with the 1st XI squad, sharing valuable insights, practical training tips, and inspiring stories from his career. His visit left a lasting impression on the boys.

Even after the disappointment of missing out on national selection last summer, Nathan demonstrated his trademark resilience and professionalism – letting his performances do the talking and earning his way back through sheer determination.

Nathan continues to represent the College with distinction, and we're confident this is only the beginning of an exciting journey ahead.

Classic Wallabies Rumble

It is fabulous to see so many Old Boy rugby legends come together for the Classic Wallabies Rumble in the Region game held in Toowoomba on 1 March. A lot of familiar faces in this team.



Yakr Freddie-Carlton Smith.





Nudgee College Business Directory

Since its launch in July last year, the Nudgee College Business Directory has become a powerful tool for fostering connections, collaboration, and community support. While this support has always happened organically, the directory has taken it to the next level – offering a centralised, accessible platform where families, Old Boys, staff, and sponsors can support one another in business.

Now home to almost 300 listings across a wide range of industries – including retail, beauty, professional services, home maintenance, tourism and more – the directory continues to grow and evolve. It offers exclusive deals and discounts, and acts as a go-to hub for community members seeking trusted local services or unique offerings with a Nudgee connection.

We'd love to see even more of our community get involved. If you haven't yet registered your business, or if you're simply looking to explore what the network has to offer, now is the perfect time to get on board and be part of this meaningful initiative.

To join the directory or make an enquiry, please contact Erina Hitchings at sponsorships@nudgee.com.au.

Check out the directory via the QR code.



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO VISIT THE **NUDGE COLLEGE**
BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Luke O'Sullivan

Winner of the inaugural SkyKelpie Scholarship

"I believe I can still reach the same target of being productive and contributing to the agricultural industry despite my injury – it will just take a different form."

SkyKelpie, in partnership with Ability Agriculture, announced earlier in the year that Old Boy Luke O'Sullivan was the recipient of the inaugural SkyKelpie Scholarship. SkyKelpie's Founder is Luke Chaplain (NCOB 2007), a Nudgee boarder from the country like O'Sullivan. Chaplain hails from Cloncurry and is a fourth-generation grazier from North Queensland.

Luke O'Sullivan, 20, lives and works on his family's 57,000-acre cattle station near Collinsville, Queensland. He comes from a proud Nudgee family, with his brothers Wade (NCOB 2016) and Daniel (NCOB 2023) also attending the College. O'Sullivan was an impressive athlete during his time at Nudgee, playing in the 1st XV Rugby team in his senior year.

Two years ago, O'Sullivan sustained a spinal cord injury in a car accident that left him a quadriplegic. Despite this life-altering event, he remains deeply committed to the agricultural industry and is determined to contribute meaningfully to his family business.

The SkyKelpie Scholarship is an innovative initiative designed to support individuals passionate about agriculture and innovation. The program includes a drone credit of up to \$3,000 or a CASA-accredited Remote Pilot Licence (RePL), access to the SkyKelpie Aerial Stockmanship Course, the SkyKelpie Simulator, a ticket to evokeAG 2025, and 12 months of mentorship with the SkyKelpie team.

O'Sullivan's passion for agriculture is driven by a desire to overcome barriers and explore new ways to adapt his skills and knowledge. "I believe I can still reach the same target of being productive and contributing to the agricultural industry despite my injury – it will



just take a different form," he explains. "This scholarship will help me gain a new skill set to further contribute to the family business and explore innovative methods to perform tasks on the property."

SkyKelpie's partnership with Ability Agriculture highlights a shared vision of fostering inclusivity within the agricultural sector. The scholarship program was inspired by SkyKelpie founder Luke Chaplain after he was awarded the Minister's Emerging Leader Award at the Queensland Agriculture Awards. Instead of keeping the \$3,000 prize, Chaplain chose to invest it back into the community.

Reflecting on the initiative, which he plans to make an annual occurrence, Chaplain stated:

"I'm really excited to work with Luke towards achieving some of his goals. His hard work and determination will undoubtedly inspire many others in similar positions."

Luke O'Sullivan's story exemplifies resilience, determination, and innovation, making him a fitting recipient of the SkyKelpie Scholarship. As the inaugural recipient, he sets a powerful example of how barriers can be transformed into opportunities through passion, adaptability, and the right support.



A Night on the Hill with **SAT 11.10.25**

PETE MURRAY

**Eatons
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HOTEL



Nudgee College is thrilled to announce one of Australia's most awarded and celebrated musicians and Nudgee Old Boy Class of '87, Pete Murray, will perform a fundraising concert for his beloved Nudgee on Saturday, 11 October 2025.

nudgee.com | [#nudgeespirit](https://twitter.com/nudgeespirit)

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO GET
UP-CLOSE TO PETE IN THE VIP SECTION
AT THE RENOWNED EATONS HILL HOTEL
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