

BEHIND THE STRIPES

ST JOSEPH'S NUDGEES COLLEGE MAGAZINE



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NUD GEE COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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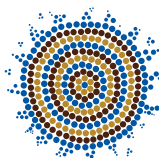


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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear St Joseph's Nudgee College community,

As 2025 comes to a close, this edition of *Behind the Stripes* captures the moments, both quiet and bold, that define life at Nudgee College. From the resilience shown in boarding after lights out, to the sparks of creativity in classrooms and the determination displayed on the sports field, these pages showcase a College alive with curiosity, compassion, and connection.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who shared their stories and helped bring this edition to life. I hope it leaves you smiling, reflecting, and proud to be a part of the Nudgee journey.

Mr Sid Varghese

Editor



ON THE COVER

The cover features Year 9 student Jayvis Woolla proudly wearing traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander attire, embodying the spirit of NAIDOC Week 2025. The image reflects cultural identity, pride, and belonging within the Nudgee College community, celebrating the wisdom of Elders, and the next generation of leaders carrying culture, knowledge, and connection into the future.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Leading with Hope

As 2025 draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the many lessons our students have taught me, and our entire community, over the course of the year.

While the role of a Principal often involves guiding, encouraging, and setting direction, the truth is that I, too, am a student of this College and strive to learn each day. We aim to produce life-long learners so setting an example is key. Each day, our young men remind our staff what resilience, joy and determination truly look like.

There have been countless moments when students have shown remarkable resilience, whether it was our First V and First XV basketball and rugby squads who fought through injuries and adversity with determination to complete outstanding seasons, our Year 12s

who balanced the pressures of their assessments with leadership responsibilities, or the quiet courage of younger students embracing the challenges of boarding life away from home. Their ability to bounce back, to support one another, and to keep striving has been a source of deep inspiration.

Equally uplifting has been the joy our students bring into daily life at Nudgee. Joy has been visible in the electric atmosphere of Inter-house events (particularly in Esports), in the pride of our musicians and performers during the Nudgee College Arts Gala, and in the energy of boys cheering on their peers at GPS competitions. I saw

it too in the small moments; friends laughing together over lunch, or a student's wide smile when grasping a new concept in class. Joy, as our boys remind us, is not only found in big wins, but in the shared spirit of belonging and celebration.

I have also been struck by the determination of our students, who approach problems and challenges not with hesitation but with a view of possibility. Our Year 9 students showed determination in spades during their various Immersion experiences. For some, encountering the marginalised and abandoned living in an Indian orphanage was the most confronting thing they have



faced in their lives, but they were determined to show love, compassion and care for their fellow human. Others had never yielded a hammer or screwdriver, but were determined to complete the house built for a needy family in Cambodia. These were just two examples of students exhibiting determination to complete difficult tasks that saw them outside of their comfort zone.

Of course, history is full of adults expressing concern about *"the youth of today."* Socrates once lamented that young people had *"bad manners"* and *"contempt for authority."* Aristotle complained that they *"think they know everything."* Even Cicero sighed, *"Children no longer obey their parents, and everyone is writing a book."* Such criticisms remind us that doubt in the next generation is not new. And yet, scripture and wisdom tell a different story. As St Paul writes: *"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity"* (1 Timothy 4:12). Nelson Mandela echoed this truth when he said, *"The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow."* Our students show us daily that these affirmations are far truer than the complaints of the past.

While staff are mentors and guides, our students also lead us. They challenge us to listen more deeply,



to adapt with humility, and to remain hopeful. The writer Khalil Gibran once observed: *"Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself... You may house their bodies but not their souls, for their soul's dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams."* These words ring true at Nudgee College, where the young men before us continually remind us to be open to tomorrow, and to learn as much as we teach.

We often say that our school community "stands on the shoulders of giants". This is true. Our students and staff draw inspiration from the graduates of this great school, what they achieved during their time in the blue and the white and what they went on to do in later life. Whilst many are not with us, the legacy of

the student they were remains with us and provides lessons and inspiration on a daily basis.

To our students: thank you for being our teachers and mentors as much as we are yours. You give us reason to lead with hope, and for that, I remain deeply grateful.

I ask that you enjoy the following pages of this fine publication. Hopefully you get a true sense that Nudgee College continues to provide for its students' faith, formation and opportunity, almost 135 years after Br Ambrose Treacy declared these lofty and essential goals. Thank you for your ongoing support and interest in our school.

Mr Scott Thomson

Principal





Celebrating Br Damien Price (Pricey)

After eight years of dedicated service, six of which he led as Chair of the Nudgee College Advisory Council, Br Damien Price has stepped down from his role, leaving behind a legacy deeply rooted in Faith, Humility, and Service.

During his time as Chair of the Nudgee College Advisory Council, Br Damien brought a depth of understanding, empathy, and authenticity that shaped both the direction and the spirit of the College. His leadership was never about authority but about accompaniment, guiding through conversation, reflection, and trust. He offered perspective in moments of challenge, encouragement in times of uncertainty, and constantly reminded those around him of the College's mission in the Edmund Rice tradition.

For those who worked alongside him, Br Damien's presence was a steady source of encouragement and perspective. Whether offering a word of support or guiding thoughtful reflection, he led with a rare combination of wisdom, compassion, and humour. Reflecting on his impact, College Principal, Scott Thomson noted how his ability to connect to everyone, regardless of their background, creed or race should not be understated sharing, *"Br Damien brings joy and growth to all his encounters. His timing is impeccable,*

he knows when to offer wisdom, when to empathise and comfort, and when to throw in a self-deprecating joke to brighten someone's day. He is the face and model of Jesus to so many, and Nudgee College has been blessed in that regard."

With a life devoted to service, pastoral care and education, Br Damien has consistently modelled the values of the Edmund Rice tradition through both action and example. Known for his warmth, humility, and deep connection to those around him,

he has championed the growth of young men who are compassionate, thoughtful and engaged with the world. Affectionately known as 'Pricey', his presence has reminded the College that authentic leadership is not about recognition, but about nurturing potential, fostering growth in others and planting seeds that will flourish long after one's tenure ends.

Recognising Br Damien's service, former Nudgee College Principal (2015-2023), Peter Fullagar described him as someone whose influence extends far beyond titles or positions, *"Br Damien is an influencer in the best possible interpretation of that word. He has a unique quality that brings out the best in us as human beings wherever we engage with him."* Peter also shares that *"his wisdom, insight and deep knowledge of Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition, of schools in general, and of young men in particular, was a gift to all who sat around him."*

Br Damien's impact is evident in the compassion and connection he has helped cultivate within the Nudgee community. Through his wisdom, humility, and unwavering belief in



the value of service, he has inspired others to lead with empathy, to listen with intent, and to act with purpose. His warmth and presence have strengthened the foundations of both Nudgee College and the Advisory Council, leaving an enduring mark on all who have worked alongside him. Colleagues recall that his leadership style was both pastoral and practical. He led with conviction but never lost sight of humour and humanity. Under his guidance, the Council's work remained firmly anchored in the values of the Gospel and the vision of Edmund Rice.

As he reflects on his time as Chair, Br Damien departs with gratitude and hope, reminding our community that

"one of the greatest things a person can do is to plant a seed that will one day grow to be a great tree that will give shade to people they have never known." Through the seeds he has planted, Br Damien's guidance and example will continue to shape lives, inspire growth and strengthen the Nudgee community for years to come.

We wish Br Damien all the best moving forward and hope his presence, in a non-Advisory Council role will remain at Nudgee College for a few years yet.

Nudgee College would like to thank former College Principal (2015-2023), Peter Fullagar for his reflection and contribution to this article.





NCOB JACK MICALIZZI

Building a Legacy

From the outside, the towering vision of MICA, a rising force in Australian property development, may seem like the outcome of strategy, hustle, and good fortune. But behind the crane is a story of persistence and resilience that shaped the man at the helm: 2013 Nudgee Old Boy, Jack Micalizzi.

At just 17, Jack returned home from a gym session to the news no teenager should ever hear. His father had been found deceased, alone in a house.

"I didn't react. I just got ready and went to school," Jack recalls. "The only time it really surfaced was weeks later, when I told my teacher. She asked who I'd lost recently, I just said, 'my dad.'"

That emotional compression would become a theme in Jack's life, a high-capacity vessel for pressure, focused instead on showing up for those who needed him.

Only a few years later, Jack's mother, who had battled breast cancer throughout his high school years, fell critically ill during a family holiday. Jack drove her home, got her into hospital, and stood alone as doctors told him she had just weeks to live. At 20, he had to make decisions that most people would never face. He shielded his older sister from the news so she could finish her overseas holiday before saying goodbye. When the time came, he and his sister, Paris, made the heart-wrenching decision to move their mother into palliative care and eventually to sedation.

Before her passing, Jack's mum left him with three requests: look after your sister, become a property developer, and finish university. Jack made three solemn promises, he would protect Paris under all circumstances, he would finish his Construction Management degree (which he did, with Honours), and he would one day build a high-rise development with her name lit up on

a crane above the city skyline. *"I don't have a dad," Jack reflects. "So, I became my own."* This is when Jack decided to take his mother's surname, Micalizzi.

That mission became the seed of MICA, the construction and property brand Jack built from the ground up. At just 26, while working full time as a Project Manager at Hutchinson Builders and studying full time at university, Jack was also renovating investment properties on weekends. But that wasn't enough. He started cold-calling architecture firms, pitching himself with a simple but confident line: *"I'm Jack Micalizzi from MICA and I'm the best new builder in town."*

Eventually, one quote turned into his first big job, a \$4 million project. It ended in a \$450,000 loss, a learning curve which did not hold him back. *"I wasn't in it for the money," he explains. "I was building a brand. When the tide came in, I stood tall, and when it went out, I was still standing."*

Jack now lives in New Farm and owns six properties, with two high-rise development sites secured. His long-term vision is more than just construction, it's legacy. Within five years, his aim is to see the MICA Group as a dominant player across multiple industries: MICA Developments, MICA Maintenance, MICA Fresh and Clean, and One Point Property Management. The name MICA won't just be on buildings, for Jack it will be a symbol of resilience and grit.

Reflecting on his school years, Jack credits Nudgee College for planting

the seeds of brotherhood and community. His fondest memory was Saturday rugby days in the grandstand with his best mates, all enjoying being young, he lamented. That tight-knit group of 15 Year 12 boys are still talking daily, 12 years later. *"Nudgee taught me you can't pick your family, but you can pick your friends,"* he says. That lesson, along with the strong sense of service and responsibility, is etched into the DNA of MICA today.

Jack also sees Nudgee as a talent pipeline and hopes to make it easier for Old Boys to connect with opportunities in his business. *"It's mostly word of mouth now, but I want MICA to become a pathway,"* he says. His team already includes several Old Boys. *"What motivates me is creating something for others, Eli's baby Bowie, Benny's wife Lucy, Sam's kids Felix and Archie."* Success is incredibly personal to him. *"I never had that kind of stability growing up. But with MICA, I'm building it."*

Outside work, Jack's passions are quiet and grounding. He surfs when he can, but "mostly work" is the honest answer. The dream isn't luxury or accolades. It's the moment when that first high-rise is built, a crane in the sky with "MICA" on its side. *"That day," Jack says, "I'll just sit on the road one evening with some takeaway and stare at it for hours."*

Until then, the MICA journey continues.

Ms Erina Hitchings
Acting Head of Philanthropy



Developing Confident Leaders

At Nudgee College, we know that confidence isn't something you are born with; it is something that requires nurturing in a safe and supportive environment.

It doesn't happen all at once; it grows quietly through encouragement, new experiences, and the relationships that surround a boy as he finds his way through the complexity of his childhood and adolescent journey.

The journey often begins in Year 5, when boys arrive at the College from more than 50 different feeder schools. It can be a daunting prospect, so many new faces, a new campus, a new way of doing things. But our Junior School transition program ensures every boy feels welcomed and supported. Within the Junior School precinct, they spend most of their time with their core teacher, giving them a strong sense of belonging, while specialist lessons in Art, Music and Physical Education begin to open doors to new passions, and allow our boys to venture

outside of the Junior School Campus, in a structured and supported manner. This balance of security and opportunity helps boys take their first confident steps as Nudgee men.

By Year 7, those steps grow surer. The move into the Senior School is made easier with a dedicated Year 7 learning precinct in the Hanley Learning Centre, where core classes are taught in House groups. This means students stay with a familiar set of peers and teachers as they learn their way around the College, reducing stress and allowing them to focus on the learning at hand, and feel confident enough to explore the plethora of new opportunities available to them as young Nudgee men.

Our curriculum is deliberately broad in the early years, encouraging boys to explore everything from Science to





The Arts, before they begin to make elective choices from Year 8. Beyond the classroom, opportunities to “give something a go” abound, whether that’s Debating, Writer’s Circle, Esports, Theatresports, the Da Vinci Decathlon, or one of the many sporting and cultural activities on offer. Every new challenge, whether successful or not, is a chance for growth, self-exploration and the development of self-belief.

What makes this journey possible are the relationships. Every morning begins in vertical Pastoral Care Groups, where older students mentor younger ones and tutors guide boys in setting and monitoring academic goals. The connection between students of all year levels doesn’t stop there, as many senior students also volunteer their time to run Homework Help sessions after school, giving younger boys a safe and supportive space to tackle homework, study, or assessments. It is through these daily interactions that boys form a sense of connection and belonging, and come to know they are seen, valued, and encouraged.

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch our *Study Like a PRO* program in 2026, a study skills initiative designed by teachers committed to extensive research on evidence-informed practices. This program will give our young men the practical tools to study effectively, while shaping the way homework and learning are approached across the College. Most importantly, it will help students build confidence in themselves as successful learners.

At Nudgee College, confidence doesn’t come from one big moment. It’s in the everyday experiences, consistent structures, targeted transition programs, the support of classroom teachers, mentors and Pastoral Care teachers, the connection with peers of all ages, and the opportunities to explore your strengths and interests in a supportive environment. And in each of these carefully crafted moments, a confident, caring and well-rounded Nudgee man is formed.

Ms Suzie Tjin

Dean of Learning & Teaching



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Faith in Focus

with Father John Gillen



Father John Gillen's journey from Scotland to Brisbane is a story of faith, dedication, and the enduring impact of education.



Born in Scotland, Father John Gillen attended a Catholic secondary school until his family moved to Brisbane during his second year. As the eldest of four children, he completed his secondary schooling at St Laurence's College in South Brisbane. Reflecting on his early life, he recalls, *"I enjoyed both humanities and science subjects, but I was drawn more to the humanities, particularly languages, literature, and history. I also loved public speaking and debating, which gave me confidence in expressing ideas and engaging with others."*

It was during his undergraduate years that Father Gillen first felt called to the priesthood. He credits the late Fr Ron Mollison and a former teacher, Br G.B. Sherriff, for inspiring and guiding him. *"I was fortunate to have mentors who shaped my faith and helped me discern my calling. I also felt a draw towards religious life, which led me to apply to the Society of Mary, the Marist Fathers."* His theological education in Sydney included studies in philosophy, theology, scripture, Biblical Hebrew, and New Testament Greek. Father Gillen was ordained by Bishop John Satterthwaite at St John's College, Lismore in 1985.

Looking back on his first year as a priest, Father Gillen describes it as both challenging and rewarding. *"It's often said that life teaches you what books can't. My first year was hectic but incredibly satisfying. I gained practical experience through Parish Mass supply work in the Diocese of Lismore and through my duties in the*



boarding school. My first Mass was a humbling experience. I felt such a privilege to be called by the Lord to minister to his people and to celebrate the Eucharist before family, friends, colleagues, and students."

Father Gillen's path led him to Nudgee College in 1992 while undertaking study leave. He initially joined the boarding staff while living with the Christian Brothers' Treacy Community and later applied to the teaching staff. *"As the Marist Fathers did not teach in Queensland, joining the College was a way for me to combine my vocation with my love for education."* Over the years, he has taught senior English and History, both Ancient and Modern, while serving as College Chaplain.

Describing his classroom experiences, Father Gillen says, *"Teaching is more than imparting knowledge, it's about engaging with young minds, inspiring*

curiosity, and sharing in their growth. Being 'at the chalk face' has been a rewarding experience, and I have always valued the camaraderie and support of my colleagues." He also treasures the moments when former students reconnect. *"It is deeply moving when Old Boys come back and invite me to share in important moments of their lives, through family celebrations or sacramental ministry. It's a reminder of the lasting connections that education and faith can create."*

For Father Gillen, living as a Signum Fidei - a 'Sign of Faith', is as important today as ever. Reflecting on Pope Paul VI's words, he says, *"The Church needs witnesses, not just teachers. To be a Signum Fidei is to live authentically in faith so that others can see who we are through our actions and relationships. In some mysterious way, through our encounters, we may both bring and receive Christ, who is our Brother and our God."* He encourages young people to embrace this calling in their own lives: *"Stand for and live by what you believe. Let your life reflect your values, and through that witness, make a positive impact on the world around you."*

Father John Gillen's story is a testament to the powerful intersection of faith, education, and community. Through decades of teaching, pastoral care, and sacramental ministry, he exemplifies the profound difference that one dedicated witness can make in the lives of students and the wider community.



Nurturing Faith-Filled, Thoughtful, and Grounded Young Men

Educationalist and founder of Gordonstoun, Kurt Hahn, once said *"Education should cultivate qualities like an enterprising curiosity, an undefeatable spirit, tenacity in pursuit, readiness for sensible self-denial and, above all, compassion"*.

At St Joseph's Nudgee College, we couldn't agree more. A Nudgee College education extends far beyond the confines of the classroom and the grades on a report. Our pastoral care program, which is carefully designed to be age and stage appropriate, shapes our students into faith-filled, thoughtful and grounded young men.

Developing emotional wellbeing is at the heart of our approach. Through the House system, we make what is a big school of over 1,700 feel small. As a result of our 'vertical' system, we provide opportunities for older boys to mentor or be a 'Big Brother' for younger boys, and vice versa. This helps the boys build stronger connections, and ensures that every boy is 'known'.

Our commitment to developing well-rounded boys is evident in the myriad of opportunities available to our students. From the opportunity to connect with St Rita's College from the middle years, the chance to join the ERA for Change committee, to the challenge of assisting their House Dean flip burgers and turn snags on a Saturday sport BBQ on the Flats, it is clear that leadership is more than a title; it's about our boys understanding the impact they can have on their peers and the wider community.

Beyond the gates of Nudgee College, our students actively engage in the community, demonstrating their commitment to making a tangible difference in the lives of others. Whether it's partaking in Orange Sky's Sudsy Challenge, supporting Epilepsy

Queensland at the Bridge to Brisbane, or contributing to the Salvation Army's Door Knock appeal, these experiences instill a deep sense of gratitude and highlight the importance of giving back. Even something as seemingly small as wearing bow ties for Stella Fella Day reinforces vital messages about respect and standing up against violence.

These experiences, while not assessed on a report card, are invaluable. They are the crucibles in which character is forged, where resilience is built through challenge, and where gratitude blossoms from service. The thoughtful, grounded young men who emerge from Nudgee College are not just academically proficient; they are compassionate, community-minded individuals ready to contribute positively to the world. They are the true testament to our belief that

education is about nurturing the whole person, preparing them not just for a career, but for a fulfilling and impactful life.

We see all these opportunities as the chance to learn and live the touchstones that guide us as a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition: Liberating Education, Gospel Spirituality, Inclusive Community and Justice & Solidarity. They're what builds character and resilience in our boys, and serving others is how they learn gratitude. What we end up with are thoughtful, community-minded young men from Nudgee College who are ready to do more than just get good grades, they're ready to make a real difference.

Ms Joanne Barrett

Acting Director of Students (Year 7-9)

Mr Tom Hughes

Acting Director of Students (Year 10-12)







Honouring Culture, Celebrating Connection

NAIDOC Week 2025 marked a milestone moment, 50 years of celebrating and elevating Indigenous voices, culture, and resilience.

This year's theme, *"The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy,"* invited our College community to honour the wisdom of Elders while empowering young people to carry forward culture, knowledge, and leadership into the future.

At Nudgee College, the spirit of this theme could be felt across the campus. The week unfolded with a sense of reflection and pride as students and staff came together through the Liberating Education Program to honour the deep cultural heritage that underpins our story as Australian's.

The week began with a photo shoot, capturing students who proudly represented their culture and identity within the Nudgee community. The photos reflected a strong sense of identity and belonging, showcasing our young men as the next custodians

of culture and connection. NAIDOC Week offered time and space to pause, to listen, to learn, and to celebrate the bright path forward, guided by values of respect, inclusion, and reconciliation that lie at the heart of Nudgee life.

Another highlight of the week was the art workshop with Wendy McNeil, a talented Aboriginal artist who generously shared her skills and stories with students. Wendy guided participants through the creative process, combining traditional symbolism with modern techniques to explore ideas of strength, unity, and heritage. Throughout the week, students and staff gathered to reflect, learn, and celebrate the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the life of our College and our nation. Activities encouraged conversation, cultural

awareness, and a deeper appreciation for the stories that connect us all.

Within our boarding community, home to boys from across the country, NAIDOC Week took on a special meaning. Cultural sharing, connection, and friendship wove together stories from every corner of Australia, reminding all that unity and respect are the true foundations of belonging.

As the College reflected on 50 years of NAIDOC, the focus remained firmly on those who will carry the flame forward, the next generation of Nudgee men. Through their curiosity, compassion, and courage, they will continue to honour the past while shaping a future defined by strength, vision, and legacy.

Liberating Education Program





Voices from the Middle

A new semester at Nudgee always brings with it a spirit of growth, discovery, and the chance to redefine what it means to be part of our community.

For our younger students, the journey often begins with the nerves and excitement of stepping into something completely new; for others, it is about building on those foundations and finding ways to step forward with confidence and purpose. In the following two pieces, we see this journey through the eyes of both Year 7 and Year 9 students. Together, these reflections remind us that every stage of school life offers new opportunities to grow, belong, and contribute to the brotherhood that defines Nudgee.

Mr Will Duffield

Writers' Circle Coordinator

Starting Fresh - The Year 7 Leap

When I first began Year 7, I felt like I was standing on a stage before the curtain rose. I was nervous, but excited to see what will happen. There were more students, more staff, more rooms, and many more responsibilities. I quickly realised just how different high school was going to be compared to primary school.

Just like how an actor meets different directors, I was suddenly learning from all different teachers who all had their own style and way of doing things. At first it felt unusual, but I soon began to enjoy this new approach to learning.

Beyond the classroom I had to navigate new friendships. I was in a new class with new people I had never met before and at first, I was struggling to get to know everyone. But once I started talking to the people around me, I soon got to know my classmates and felt connected with my peers. I also immersed myself

in different activities because Nudgee offered so much, between sport and academics, there was so much to choose from. So, I did all I could from debating, to violin ensemble, to soccer and basketball. I tried it all, making the most of all the great opportunities.

There were also some unexpected challenges like not knowing where buildings were, having to remember different uniforms, and having homework due on all different dates. These weren't major challenges but things that were obstacles I didn't see coming and made the transition that little bit harder. As the year progressed, I found my rhythm. I worked out a routine to make these things that little bit easier. Now, looking back, I am grateful for the year that was.

Freddie Orr

Year 7



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Owning the Space - Stepping up in Year 9

Starting Nudgee in Term 4 of Year 8 had its challenges. I didn't have a smooth transition and I wasn't integrated with the boys in my cohort. It took me weeks to learn the large campus and routines. I felt like a fish out of water and I was only a small fragment. However, through Boarding and by participating in various Initiatives such as Esports, debating, sport, and social justice, I began to find my way.

Now, as I complete Year 9, I know the routines, the people, and have established some key friendships alluding to the strong Nudgee bonds that are shared throughout a lifetime. This year, I have learnt a very valuable lesson: it is not about those who have been here since Year 5 but it's about the boys who include you and are willing to step up to make new boys feel welcome.

One of the most powerful messages I've learnt at Nudgee is that your voice matters and if you treat people how you want to be treated, you'll be given unlimited opportunities to grow. The idea of 'owning your space' and authentic spirit is one often spoken about in a Nudgee context. It has been passed down for generations, whether it's supporting your brothers no matter hail, rain or shine or being one in an ocean of blue and white. It is the sense of brotherhood that defines this great school.

Brotherhood to me is a personal thing. It is about stepping up within sport, performing arts and social justice and connecting with those boys in different spaces. As I move into senior school, I look forward to what lies ahead.

Jake Linde

Year 9



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MY NUDGEES HERO

SERIES 2

Following the overwhelming success of our debut podcast series *The Alma Mater Series*, it was clear that podcasting had become an essential and powerful way to connect with our community, both current and prospective. Building on this momentum, we proudly presented our second installment: *My Nudgees Hero*.

This new series took a bold step forward and it was a thrill to bring the entire production in-house, thanks to the exceptional technical expertise of Nudgees Old Boy staff members Raoul Carmody (NCOB 1999), Nicholas Flanders (NCOB 2017), and particularly Cooper Corless (NCOB 2020), who brought his own podcast flair and experience to this series. Returning as host, the ever-charismatic Wes Denning (NCOB 2000) brought his signature passion for storytelling, elevating every episode and ensuring every guest was held with care in each conversation.

It was a privilege to produce this series alongside our Nudgees College team, with heartfelt thanks to the entire Development and Communications team, led by Mark Anthony, for their contributions, and a special mention to graphic designer Paul Elliot for revitalising the visual brand of the series and Sid Varghese for his timely and proactive marketing support.

What makes *My Nudgees Hero* truly special is the voice of the students.

This time, we handed the microphone to them, giving them the opportunity to ask candid, often humorous, and sometimes deeply personal questions to their heroes. The result is a powerful and unfiltered exchange across generations, filled with insight, honesty, and unexpected moments of connection.

Across the series, listeners are treated to compelling conversations with some of our most inspiring community members:

- **Ethan Bullemor**, Old Boy NRL player and a role model in excellence and humility
- **Alex Clark**, Old Boy whose story of resilience moved our entire community and beyond
- **Catherine Clark**, current mother and a pioneer leader in sport and racing
- **Dr Mark Loane AM**, Old Boy whose extraordinary contributions to medicine and rugby are exceeded only by his humanitarian legacy
- **Christine Atchison**, past mother and current staff member, the quiet constant who safeguards our athletes on and off the field
- **Joe Burns**, Old Boy Australian Test cricketer who opens up about his career, international ambitions, and a deeply personal year

Each episode delves into the heart of what makes someone a 'Nudgees Hero', not celebrity or accolades, but integrity, purpose, and a fierce commitment to community.

As unpredictable as they are inspiring, these conversations revealed a shared truth: our heroes are human, driven not by perfection but by perseverance and passion.

We are incredibly proud to have shared this series with you, and even prouder of the students who helped bring it to life.

We're excited to announce we have just launched, *With the Principal*, this term under our Unscripted channel. This new short-form format features concise, thoughtful conversations with members of our dedicated teaching staff, led by our Principal, Mr Scott Thomson. These episodes will be released each term.

Looking ahead, watch this space for our next podcast series release.

If you haven't already, scan the QR code below to experience *My Nudgees Hero*, and hear firsthand the voices that make Nudgees College not just a school, but a community unlike any other.

Ms Erina Hitchings

Acting Head of Philanthropy



Opposite (clockwise): Ethan Bullemor, Alex Clark, Dr Mark Loane AM, Joe Burns, Christine Atchison, and Catherine Clark.

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

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LISTEN OR VIEW
UNSCRIPTED - THE NUDGEES COLLEGE PODCAST



INTER-HOUSE SNAPSHOT



In the second half of the year, students showcased their skills across Inter-house Track and Field, Debating and Esports. The Inter-house Track and Field event was held over two action packed days in August at Hendry Oval, combining friendly rivalry with spirited competition for both juniors and seniors. From long jump and javelin to sprints, relays, and vortex, students gave their all to earn points for their house. By the day's end, Magee House claimed victory, keeping the battle for the overall shield alive and fiercely contested.

The Inter-house Debating competition that followed tested wit, strategy, and eloquence, with each House taking turns defending either the affirmative or negative on a new topic each week.

As the competition progressed, the field narrowed down to the final two Houses, Magee and Riley, who faced off on the topic *'Participation awards should be removed'*.

In a tense and highly engaging debate, both sides showcased impressive argumentation and quick thinking, keeping the audience on the edge of their seats. Ultimately Magee House were crowned the winners, earning praise for their skill, teamwork and persuasive prowess.

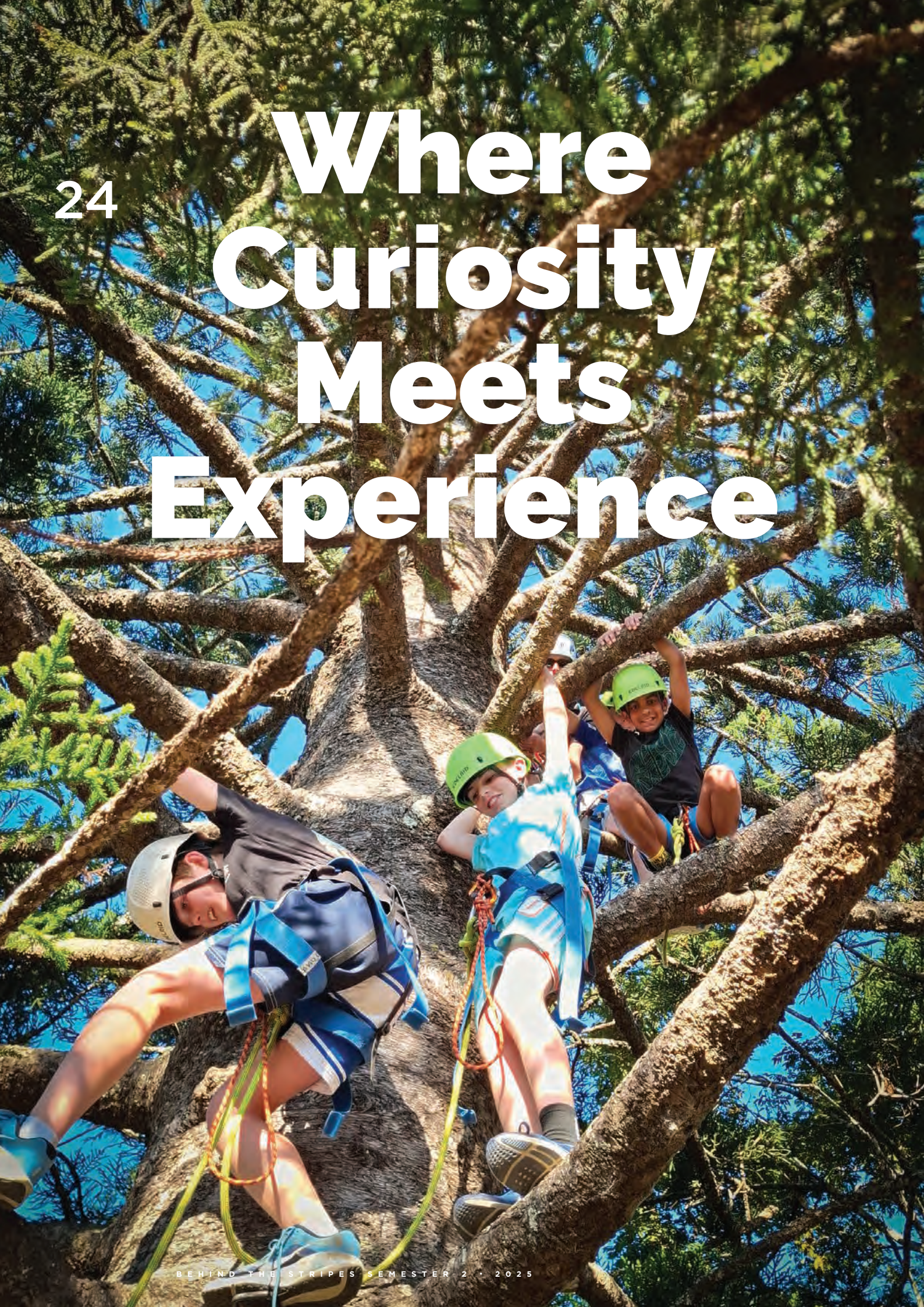
One of the highlights of Term 4 was the Inter-house Esports Competition, which packed Tierney Auditorium, with enthusiastic spectators eager to see the action unfold. Intense matches and impressive teamwork kept the energy high throughout the event. In the end, Barrett House emerged victorious, outplaying Shaw House in the final with skill and strategy.

Ultimately, the overall Br Vic Larkin Shield was awarded to Fogarty House for a third consecutive year, celebrating their consistent performances across all Inter-house events in 2025.



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Where Curiosity Meets Experience



Excursions and incursions are a vital component of the educational journey at Nudgee College, providing students with authentic opportunities for exploration, discovery, and hands-on engagement.



They extend learning beyond the classroom, enabling boys to see the practical application of concepts they encounter in their studies and to experience the world around them in meaningful ways.

These experiences connect theory with practice. Whether observing how our State Parliament works, science in action, exploring history at the Cathedral of St Stephen, or immersing themselves in how animals adapt to their environment, students gain a deeper understanding and a lasting appreciation of their learning. Such opportunities make education both meaningful and memorable.

Excursions and incursions also develop essential life skills. Faced with

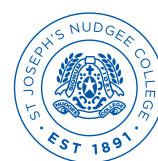
new situations, boys learn to think critically, solve problems, adapt, and collaborate, skills exemplified through our annual Year 5 and 6 Camps. Just as importantly, these experiences build enthusiasm, spark curiosity, and inspire a love of learning that extends well beyond the classroom.

In addition to their educational benefits, excursions and incursions create memorable moments that contribute to students' personal growth and wellbeing. They break routine, spark enthusiasm for learning, and build stronger connections between students, teachers, and the wider community. Ultimately, these experiences are invaluable in shaping confident, engaged, and well-rounded learners.

Far from being "extras", excursions and incursions are central to a Nudgee College education. They inspire a love of learning, strengthen friendships, and prepare our young men for the challenges ahead.

Below is Ethan's reflection on the Year 5 Gold Rush excursion, followed by 6C's take on their Camp.

"The Gold Rush Excursion put my head into history at the time of the 1850s in Australia. The activities amazed me as well as the information we learned throughout the day. From panning for gold, to making our own damper, it was a lot of fun. One thing that intrigued me was when we pretended some of us were shopkeepers and some were buyers (miners technically), and we had





to barter for the sale price of the goods. I was a miner and my friend Anthony was quarreling with me for cheaper prices. In my opinion, I was very convincing.

Panning was different to most of the things I would do. Although I found nothing but gold spray-painted rock, it was a good experience. Starting off with searching for letters that formed someone's name and then panning which proved that when a miner uses a pan, it can be excruciatingly tiring and a little bit annoying when you don't find anything. Overall, the Gold Rush excursion succeeded in grabbing my attention for Australian history and helping to give me context to all the learning we had done in class. It was a fantastic day."

Year 6 Camp

From 6C Students:

"Camp was such an awesome experience! The Possum Pull really made us work as a team and challenge ourselves, while the Leap of Faith pushed us out of our comfort zones and helped us conquer our fear of heights. The food was amazing. The teachers and students got these epic breakfast burgers, we had hotdogs for lunch and were then treated with ice-cream for dessert. That was definitely a highlight. In our downtime, the shed with the pool tables and ping pong tables was so much fun. We also had access to the swimming pool that overlooked the mountains and valleys, which was

such a cool view. Plus, we got to use the tennis and basketball courts whenever we wanted. The Zip Line across the whole lake was one of the most exciting things I've ever done. I've never been on a zip line over water before, so that was pretty awesome. At night, the campfire was the perfect way to relax after a big day. Roasting marshmallows under a sky full of stars, way clearer than in the city, was just the best way to finish. Overall, camp had so many exciting activities and heaps of fun equipment to use, but the best part was just hanging out with friends and making memories together."

Mr Chris Cawley

Director of Junior School



Platinum Awardees 2025

Each year, the College recognises Year 12 students who have demonstrated consistent academic excellence with the prestigious Platinum Award. The Platinum Award stands as one of the College's highest academic honours, reserved for students in their final year of study, who have maintained outstanding results across their senior years.

To be eligible, students must earn a Gold Academic Award every semester from Year 9 through to Year 12, a testament to years of consistency, discipline, and drive.

In 2025, the award was presented to Matthew Heath and Jack Williams. Dean of Learning and Teaching, Ms Suzie Tjin, praised the recipients for their perseverance and commitment,

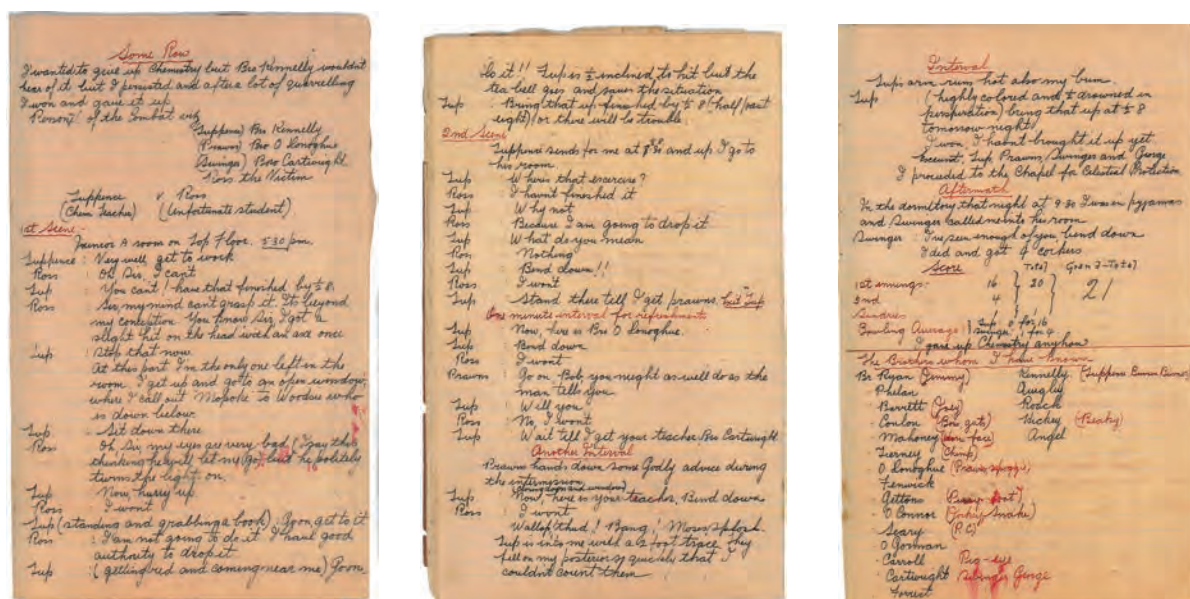
highlighting that their success reflects not just their academic ability but also their resilience, focus and a genuine passion for learning.

"Our Platinum Award recipients exemplify a commitment to learning. Their achievement reflects the way they've embraced their aspirations, built strong routines, taken responsibility for their growth, monitored their progress,

and maximised every opportunity available to them," she said.

The students received their formal recognition at a Term 3 Assembly, providing an opportunity for younger cohorts to be motivated by their achievement. They were also honoured at the College Awards Ceremony in November.





PORTAL TO THE PAST : MR JOHN SAYER

The $\frac{1}{2}$ 8 Eruptions on Wednesday Night

An excerpt from a short play written by Bob Haugh (NC 1921-23)

Bob came to Nudgee from Helidon. He loved his time at Nudgee and compiled what could be described as an almanac of Nudgee life as viewed and penned by one of its students. He played 1st IV Tennis and also was a member of the premiership 1st XIII Rugby League team of that year. (That team's photograph is proudly displayed under our Grandstand in the Gallery). He titled his collection of sports results, poetry, plays, reminiscences as "Nudgee 1921-1923 - A Book of All Sorts". In this play he summarises the personal costs for him from that evening in the mode of a cricket scoresheet.

During the early decades at the College, the Debating and Literary Society was a very significant part of our student culture. The Brothers encouraged public speaking, writing poetry, prose and plays. The Oratory championship is one of Nudgee's

longest standing and most prestigious competitions. Bush poetry recitals were a regular part of the regular Sunday evening meeting of the Debating and Literary Society.

Bob penned several plays and recorded them in his "Book of All Sorts".

Some Row

I wanted to give up Chemistry but Br Kennelly (actually Br Cornelly) wouldn't hear of it but I persisted and after a lot of quarrelling I won and gave it up.

Personnel of the Combat viz
 Tuppence (Tup) Br Kennelly
 (Prawns) Br O'Donoghue
 (Swinger) Br Cartwright
 Ross The Victim
 Tup v Ross
 (Chem teacher) Unfortunate Student

1st Scene

Junior A Room on top floor 5.30pm

Tup: Very well, get to work.
 Ross: Oh, Sir, I can't.
 Tup: You can't! Have that finished by 1/2 8.
 Ross: Sir, my mind can't grasp it. It's beyond my conception. You know Sir, I got a slight hit on the head with an axe once.
 Tup: Stop that now.
 At this part, I am the only one left in the room. I get up and go to an open window where I call out "Mopoke" to Woodsie who is down below.
 Tup: Sit down there.

Ross: Oh, Sir, my eyes are very bad (I say this thinking he will let me go) but he politely turns the lights on.

Tup: Now, hurry up.

Ross: I won't.

Tup: (Standing up and grabbing a book) Go on, get to it!

Ross: I am not going to do it. I have good authority to drop it.

Tup: (Getting red and coming near me) Go on, do it! Tup is half inclined to hit but the tea bell goes and saves the situation.

Tup: Bring that up finished by 1/2 8 or there will be trouble.

2nd Scene

Tuppence sends for me at 1/2 8 and I go up to his room.

Tup: Where's that exercise?

Ross: I haven't finished it.

Tup: Why not.

Ross: Because I am going to drop it.

Tup: What do you mean?

Ross: Nothing.

Tup: Bend down!

Ross: I won't.

Tup: Stand there till I get Prawns. (exit Tup)

Wallop! Thud! Bang! Moses, Splosh. Tup is into me with a 2-foot trace. They fell on my posterior so quickly that I couldn't count them.

Interval

Tup's arm runs hot, also my bum from the fall

Tup: (Highly coloured and 1/2 drowned in perspiration) Bring that up at 1/2 8 tomorrow night.

I won. I haven't brought it up yet.

Exeunt Tup, Prawns, Swinger and George.

I proceed to the Chapel for Celestial Protection.

Score Total Grand Total

1st Innings: 16 → 20

2nd Innings: 4 → 21

Sundries: 1 → 1

Bowling Avg: Tup 0 for 16
Swinger 1 for 4

I gave up Chemistry anyhow.

The Brothers whom I have known

Barrett J J	Joey
Phelan M A	
O'Donoghue S K	Prawns, Poggie
Fenwick J C	
Mahony J C	Horn face
Tierney O P	Chimp
Gettons J B	Pussy foot
Carroll M C	Pig-eye
Smith P M	
Smith N J	
Ryan P A	Jimmy
Quigley D D	
Seery T C	P.C.
Cartwright J R	Swinger, George
O'Gorman L M	
Conlon P A (SP)	Boss, Guts
Roche M R	
O'Donoghue S K	
Mahony J C	
Tierney O P	
Gettons J B	
Cornelly J A	Tuppence, Bunsen
Burner	
O'Connor D P	Jockey, Snake
Hickey	Beaky

One minute interval for refreshments

Tup: Now, here is Br O'Donoghue.

Tup: Bend down.

Ross: I won't.

Prawns: Go on, Bob, you might as well do as the man tells you.

Tup: Will you.

Ross: No, I won't.

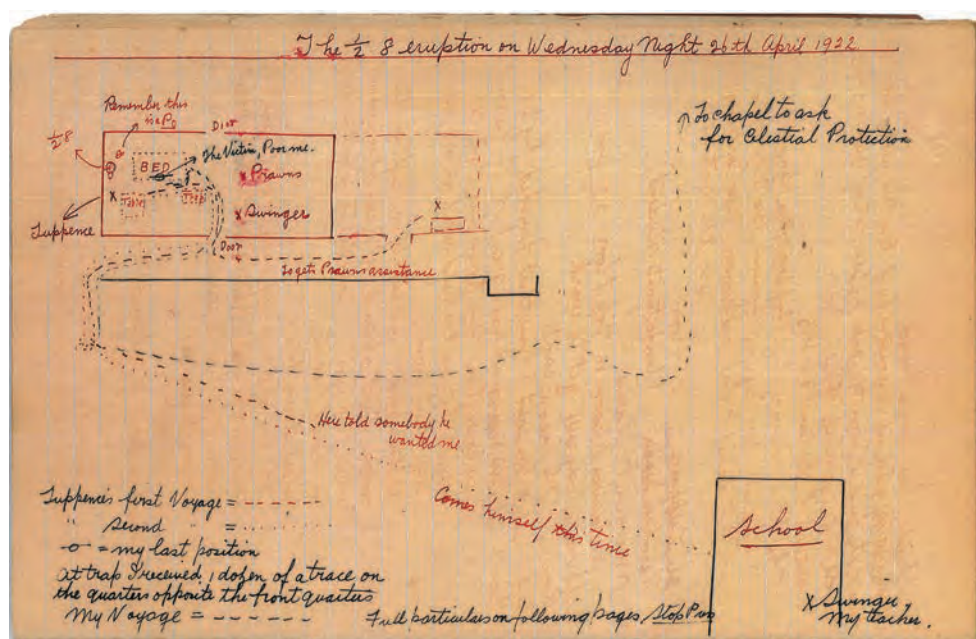
Tup: Wait till I get your teacher, Br Cartwright.

Another interval

Prawns hands down some Godly advice during the intermission.

Tup: (Closing doors and windows)
Now, here is your teacher.
Bend down.

Ross: I won't.



PROPERTY & SERVICES

The Backbone Behind the Scenes

When the Nudgee gates close each evening, the work doesn't stop. And when they open again at dawn, chances are the Property and Services (P&S) team has already been hard at work, unseen, unheard, but absolutely essential.

They are the steady hands behind the scenes, quietly ensuring that each day at the College begins smoothly and runs seamlessly. From sunrise to well after sunset, their efforts form the invisible thread that holds the fabric of Nudgee together.

Whether it's coordinating the logistics of a major College event or responding to the chaos left in the wake of Cyclone Alfred, the P&S team is always there, calm, capable, and ready. They're the ones who transform spaces overnight, who adapt at a moment's notice, and who carry the weight of each day with professionalism and pride. Their work may be practical, but its impact is profoundly emotional. They make every celebration possible, and every challenge manageable.

Every major College moment: from the buzz of Open Day to the bittersweet emotion of the Year 12 Valedictory carries the fingerprints of the P&S team. They are the first to arrive and the last to leave. Each tent put up, chair placed, bin emptied, reflects a commitment that goes far beyond duty. It's a quiet act of service, again and again. On game days, they navigate crowds, clean mud-caked paths, restore order, and somehow do it all with patience and pride, often without a single thank you, and never expecting one.

What makes the P&S team remarkable isn't just what they do, but how they do it. There's Dave Phillips, whose careful tending of our playing fields is more than groundskeeping, it's craftsmanship.

There's the maintenance crew who answer calls before problems even become visible. There's Annette Cross, coordinating several moving parts with precision. Together, they are not just a workforce. They are caretakers, craftspeople, problem-solvers and proud custodians of the Nudgee environment. Their fingerprints are on every lightbulb replaced, every patch of lawn trimmed, every classroom made ready. And though many of their names may not be known, their presence is in every moment that unfolds at Nudgee.

Despite the endless task list, the scope of responsibility, and the unpredictability of each day, the P&S team turns up with something you can't train for: heart. Their camaraderie is real. Their pride in their work is

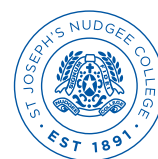


visible. And their understanding of what Nudgee means to its students, staff, and families runs deep. They don't just fix things. They preserve a feeling of care, of readiness, of welcome. And in doing so, they hold up the experience of every student and family who walks

through these gates. As the College grows and changes, one thing remains unchanged: the dedication of our P&S team. They are the quiet guardians of Nudgee's spaces and spirit, a team that works in the background so the rest of us can stand proudly in the spotlight.

This year also marked the farewell of Steve Latter (*left*), Director of Property and Services, who concluded his time at Nudgee in August after eight years of outstanding service. During his tenure, Steve oversaw numerous campus transformations and led the P&S team with steady leadership and an unwavering commitment to excellence. While his role was largely behind the scenes, the impact of his work has been anything but. Steve's care, leadership and commitment have left a lasting impression on the College and our community.

So next time you enjoy a game on a flawless field or walk through campus on a perfectly set day, take a moment. Look closer. You might not see them, but you'll see their work and behind it, a team that shows up for this community every single day.



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The Quiet Hours from Boarding Life



When the lights go out in the Bathersby Boarding Village, the day doesn't end, it simply changes tempo.

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The hum of daytime activity gives way to softer sounds, quiet laughter from a dorm, whispered stories shared under bunks, and the occasional rustle of a midnight snack being retrieved with questionable stealth. These are the moments that reveal the heart of boarding life, unguarded, authentic, and deeply human. Beyond the schedules and routines, it's in these after-hours spaces that boarders learn what it means to live alongside others, to be kind, resilient, and dependable. The friendships formed and lessons learned in these quieter moments often last well beyond school gates.

Hear our Boarding House Deans reflect on the unseen rhythms of their Houses and the unique character that emerges when the world outside goes still.

Cotter House

Co-responsibility is the quiet force that sustains the rhythm of Cotter House. It is not a policy or a line in a handbook; it is the unspoken agreement every boarder makes the moment they arrive. From that point, each young man becomes part of something larger than himself, a community built on shared effort, respect, and accountability.



This understanding allows Cotter House to function not simply as accommodation, but as a living environment where young men grow together through shared experience.

Life in Cotter is rarely a solo pursuit. It is a collective experience where everyone contributes to the tone and wellbeing of the house. Boarders eat, study, and unwind together, learning to navigate the realities of living in close quarters. Within that closeness lies co-responsibility: the awareness that one's actions affect others, and

that the success of the community depends on each individual. The house culture strengthens when every student recognises their role in shaping it.

In practice, co-responsibility takes many forms. It appears in small, everyday decisions, tidying the common room, respecting quiet hours, or supporting a peer in need. These gestures, though simple, reflect awareness of others and a commitment to shared standards. Together, they build trust, reliability, and pride that define Cotter House.

Communal living brings challenges. Differences in routine, personality, and preference are inevitable, yet these moments of friction are where growth occurs. Learning to compromise, communicate, and show empathy are lessons that extend beyond boarding, preparing young men for adult life where collaboration and understanding are essential.

Ultimately, co-responsibility transforms Cotter House from a building into a genuine community. When every boarder takes ownership of his role, Cotter becomes more than a place to stay, it becomes a place of belonging, respect, and shared purpose.

Mr Daniel Tinsey

Head of Cotter Boarding House





Hodda House

Life at a boarding school offers more than just academic rigor, it presents unexpected lessons that shape character and resilience. One such lesson is the value of quiet times, which provide rare, peaceful moments for reflective opportunities. These are the times when our boarders learn to understand themselves, their goals, and their values.

Perhaps the most significant lesson is overcoming adversity. Whether it's homesickness, academic pressure, or social challenges, students quickly discover the importance of persistence. As the saying goes, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going," and boarding school life demands that kind of grit.

Crucial to navigating these experiences is the reliance and connection to mates. In a shared environment, friendships become

lifelines. Mates don't just offer laughter and comfort; they remind you that you're not alone. The culture often reflects the sentiment: "I'm not here to solve your problems, but I am here to help you and support you as you solve them." This support system teaches empathy, accountability, and teamwork.

Ultimately, boarding school transforms challenges into growth. It teaches that strength isn't the absence of struggle, but the ability to rise through it, together. It is this strength that gives rise to courage and bravery. I have had the pleasure to see this bravery in so many of our Hodda House Boarding students, little boys who arrive as 12-year-olds and leave as men. Perhaps, that is one of the main reasons I love being in the lives of our boys.

Mr Ken Mitchell

Head of Hodda of Boarding House

O'Brien House

Sleet, wet socks and the Spirit of Texas.

As I lay in bed, hundreds of kilometres from the controlled chaos of O'Brien House, I found myself staring up at the stars through dark clouds, momentarily mesmerised. It wasn't just the lack of screeching cars on Sandgate Road, or the thud of overdue laundry hitting the floor that made it peaceful. It was the sense of something bigger. Something grand. Something not involving that illustrious missing sock.

Because let's be honest: boarding life is basically a daily episode of CSI: Nudgee, "The Case of the Vanishing Phone Cable," "Who Stole My 3-in-1 Bodywash?" and the ever-emotional "Tearful Goodnight FaceTime." But all of that fades into the background when you're out on a family's property, surrounded by fresh air, bleating goats, and a lot of mud.

I had the pleasure of heading west to Texas (not that Texas, sorry cowboys). Through puddles, potholes, and some light vehicular mud-bathing, I found myself at a proper bush rodeo and community gathering. We were soaked. We were freezing. We were definitely wearing multiple layers, but we were there to show support, and hopefully, it mattered.

Now, this Texas crowd? Tough as nails. The rain was unrelenting, the temperature questionable, and dry ground, non-existent. Yet no one batted an eyelid. No complaints. Just mates catching up, kids running around, and that country hospitality that somehow includes both tea and steak in the same five minutes.





It hit me later that night under a sky that didn't smell like Lynx and sweaty lads. This grit, this community, this warmth despite the cold was exactly what we try to build in O'Brien House. Our boys come from everywhere, yet somehow, we've created a space full of kindness, resilience, and shared stories.

I'm proud to be part of it. To lead it. To occasionally confiscate its Bluetooth speakers. Because like that muddy rodeo in Texas, this boarding bubble sticks together when it matters most.

Mr Wayne Stewart

Head of O'Brien of Boarding House

Waterford House

As the chill of winter fades, Waterford stirs to life in a new rhythm. The sun is up earlier now, and so are the boys. Out on Wilkes ovals, clusters of determined young men chase fitness and focus, preparing their bodies and minds for next year's sporting seasons. The air carries a renewed sense of optimism, of possibilities unfolding, goals being set, and friendships strengthened through shared effort and laughter. The days feel lighter, the mood brighter, as routines settle into a familiar yet forward-looking rhythm that defines the last stretch of the year.

This is in contrast to the Year 12s who trade early mornings for late nights, heads bent over study notes as exams loom closer. Their quiet determination contrasts with the fresh energy outside, a reminder that every season brings its own form of growth and reward.

Breakfast becomes a meeting of minds, where Year 11s and 12s share advice, and the younger boys, Years 9s and 10s, listen, learn, and laugh along. In crisp summer uniforms, the boys pin photos of home beside their Term 4 goals, drawing motivation from both memory and ambition.

Each morning, they stride out the door ready to give their best; each evening they return, tired but fulfilled.

As the corridors darken and soft snores replace conversation, staff make their rounds, quietly proud of a house humming with purpose, change, and the steady promise of a new season.

Mr Tom Coupland

Head of Waterford Boarding House

Each Boarding House hums with its own personality, its own stories, laughter, and late-night wisdom, yet what binds them all is a spirit of shared life. In those quiet hours, when the world narrows to four walls and familiar faces, something remarkable happens: boys grow into young men who understand the value of empathy, responsibility, and camaraderie.

These glimpses behind the scenes remind us that the essence of boarding isn't found in routines or rules, but in the in-between, the simple, often unseen moments where community truly takes shape. They may never appear in a report or a photo album, but they leave an imprint that lasts a lifetime.





The Art and Science of Esports

NUGGEE'S DIGITAL FRONTIER

As competitive gaming becomes part of the educational conversation worldwide, schools are increasingly recognising Esports as a vehicle for 21st-century learning. At Nudgee, we are proud to be at the forefront of this movement through our evolving Esports program.



It is no secret that the digital world has entered our homes with full force. Screens have multiplied, alerts have grown louder, and the pace of new platforms can feel impossible to keep up with. Amid this digital surge, Esports has emerged as a space where identity, connection, and challenge converge. Over 87% of teenage boys engage with gaming weekly, indicating its role as a major social activity for young men. But does Esports foster real connection, or risk isolation?

Evolving with Purpose

Nudgee Esports, grounded in values of Respect, Fairness, and Safety, provides guardrails that transform gaming into purposeful participation. Students from Years 5 to 12 now participate in bi-weekly training, inter-school competitions, and inter-house tournaments in our Cleary Building Computer Labs. Supported by our NC Esports Policy, the program sets clear expectations and has been recognised as a finalist for Best School Esports Program in Australia. This year, we also hosted our first inter-school

competition with Queensland Esports & Gaming, providing an exciting milestone for students to showcase their skills.

The Science of Competitive Gaming

Research from the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study suggests video games enhance executive functioning, working memory, and spatial reasoning. Games like Rocket League and League of Legends require rapid decision-making, strategic foresight,



and problem-solving under pressure - skills increasingly recognised in both academic and professional contexts. Our Semester 2 masterclasses have further refined students' gameplay, communication, and strategic thinking.

Beyond Gameplay: Creativity and Digital Wellbeing

Beyond gameplay, Nudgee Esports promotes creativity, leadership, and wellbeing. Participation in QUT

competitions extends learning into production, broadcasting, and storytelling, while workshops from Kids Helpline and FUSE reinforce healthy screen habits and online interaction. These frameworks ensure Esports functions as a bridge to resilience, connection, and growth, rather than withdrawal.

Looking Forward: A Digital Future

We know that many parents feel overwhelmed by the speed of change in the digital space. You are not alone.

We encourage you to reach out if you have questions or would like to understand more about how our program supports students.

The digital frontier is not going away - but with the right guidance, it can become a place where our young men thrive. By championing structure, purpose, and creativity in the digital space, we are preparing our students to participate in the digital world, and to lead authentically within it.

Mr Will Duffield

Esports Coordinator



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Grace in the Grind

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In a world where high-performing junior athletes often tend to sacrifice the classroom for sport, Year 11 student Pratik Navin is doing both and doing it brilliantly. Recognised as one of the strongest tennis talents to emerge from Nudgee College in recent years, for Pratik, it is not just about chasing rankings or success on the court, but balancing his tennis dream with a full academic load.

This year, Pratik took part in the UTR Pro Tour Tournament, hosted by Nudgee College. His wildcard entry placed him among professional players, including top seed Blake Ellis, who holds an ATP world ranking of 291. For a schoolboy, it was a rare and prestigious opportunity, one that spoke to both his talent and tenacity.

Director of Tennis, Brett Page, says the wildcard was a fitting reward for Pratik's dedication. *"It was very exciting for Nudgee Tennis to host the event and a great recognition of all Pratik's hard work over the past several years,"* he explains. *"For a Year 11 student-athlete to get a chance to compete against next-generation tour professionals and win two matches, was an incredible opportunity."*

Pratik's journey isn't defined by milestones, it's also defined by moments. Moments like his straight-sets win over the world-ranked 113 junior from BBC, ending a three-year undefeated GPS streak. Or the time he flew overnight from a Darwin ITF final, running on just an hour of sleep, and still led Nudgee to a 7–1 victory over Churchie.

His Year 11 Economics teacher, Ken Mitchell, explains how he has remained disciplined despite the demands of elite sport: *"He has never let his tennis get in the way of learning, which has been so nice to see. He's achieved high grades in economics and has a great work ethic."* Director of Pathways Paul Doneley echoes a similar sentiment, *"Pratik is on an ATAR pathway and achieving above-average grades. His ability to balance academic rigour with tennis is a testament to his self-discipline."*

"I envision myself playing in professional tennis circuits and participating in Grand Slam tournaments. I want to show that it's possible to achieve high-level performance as an athlete without compromising on my educational goals."

For Pratik, the dream extends beyond tennis courts or tournament brackets. *"My academic aspirations involve attending a top 10 Division 1 college where I can compete in tennis while pursuing a dual Master's degree in Marine Biology and Business or Economics,"* he says.

While much of Pratik's success can be credited to his own discipline and drive, the unwavering support from his family has been instrumental in helping him navigate the dual demands of sport and education. His parents recall that the choice to enrol him at Nudgee in 2020 was *"an instantaneous decision"* after hearing a radio advert and meeting with the College's Deputy Principal. *"We thought we made one of the best decisions to enrol Pratik at Nudgee,"* they reflect, *"The College has been exceptional in supporting, accommodating Pratik's tennis schedule with some innovative programs."*

That support, they say, has extended well beyond the court. *"Our way of encouragement to Pratik is simple, with education as the main primary element for holistic growth and success,"* they explain. But what makes them proudest isn't just the trophies or success, it's the mindset. *"Pratik takes his losses as lessons to improve,"* they say, *"He wants to achieve success through continuous learning."*

Beyond academics and sport, Pratik also hopes to be a leader who uplifts others. *"What drives me is the opportunity to create a positive impact, especially by encouraging others to believe in themselves and grow through challenges."*

In the end, Pratik's story so far is a reflection of how Nudgee supports and shapes our students into well-rounded individuals, not just athletes or scholars, but men of character and ambition.



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Thank you to our current and past parents, Old Boys, grandparents, staff and friends who donated so generously to the Nudgee College Building Fund and the Jack Ross Bursary in 2025. Your philanthropic support of Nudgee College enriches the lives of the young men that walk the campus today and creates a legacy for those that are to follow in generations to come.

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We are pleased to introduce Erina Hitchings as the Acting Head of Philanthropy. Erina has been a valued member of the College community for the past ten years in her role as Alumni and Community Manager, where she has built strong relationships across our network. In her new role, she will continue this important work and will now be your key point of contact for all philanthropy enquiries. Email: foundation@nudgee.qld.edu.au



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 ST JOSEPH'S NUDGEE COLLEGE



A Journey of Growth

Year 9 Immersion Experience

The 2025 Nudgee College Immersion Program once again provided our students with the opportunity to live out our Edmund Rice values through service, cultural exchange, and personal growth.

Across a range of local, national, and international experiences, our boys were challenged to step outside their comfort zones, open their hearts to others, and see the world through new eyes. Whether it was serving in the villages of Fiji, working alongside children in India, connecting with Traditional Owners in Central Australia, or building friendships in Papua New Guinea, each immersion offered a profound journey of learning and reflection. Students experienced firsthand the beauty of different cultures, the importance of community, and the power of compassion and gratitude.

These immersions are at the heart of what it means to be a Nudgee man, grounded in faith, committed to service, and inspired to make a difference.

Fiji

Stepping beyond the familiar, the Year 9 Fiji Immersion challenged students to engage with new cultures, environments, and communities. Over seven days in Momi Bay, 47 students and six staff immersed themselves in local life, guided by the warmth and hospitality of the Fijian people.

Students participated in hands-on service activities, including building a concrete pathway in Bavu Village, preparing meals and running a "kids' club" at a women's refuge, farming at a pineapple plantation, and cleaning Sigatoka Sand Dunes. These physically demanding tasks offered a deeper understanding of Fijian culture while fostering teamwork and resilience, often capped with friendly volleyball or touch football games with local children.

The immersion also allowed students to explore Fiji's natural and cultural highlights: snorkeling at Castaway Island, soaking on Sabeto hot springs, visiting traditional markets in Sigatoka, trekking to a highland village with a waterfall swim, and enjoying sunsets over Momi Battery Historical Park.

Beyond the activities, the warmth and hospitality of the Fijian people left a lasting impression on everyone.

Mr John Cross

Fiji Immersion Staff Member

students from Vuvu Education Centre, a boys' school in the Edmund Rice tradition. They were warmly welcomed by Brother Bernard and the Vuvu community, beginning a week of connection, learning, and shared experiences.

Students joined in traditional dances, hiked to the rim of Rabaul's active volcano, and worked alongside the Vuvu boys in their daily routines. Leisure moments included swimming with dolphins and beach games with



Papua New Guinea (PNG)

A lucky group of Year 9 boys embarked on an unforgettable immersion to Rabaul, PNG, exploring its rich culture, stunning landscapes, history, and forming lasting friendships.

After an overnight stop in Port Moresby, the group travelled to Rabaul to spend the week with

local children. They also explored Rabaul's WWII history, visiting the Australian War Cemetery, Japanese bunker, and local museum.

A highlight was celebrating PNG's 50th Independence Day, witnessing the pride and unity of its people.

A quote from Pat McKeown (Year 9) upon reflection from his experience perfectly captures how students felt, "We all come from diverse paths of life. Some are more sunny and some darker





than others. As Nudgee students, we must do our best to forge a future where all walks of life cross, where we unite as one."

Mr Jamie Crawford

PNG Immersion Staff Member

India

The 2025 India Immersion saw 13 students and three staff travel to Delhi and Chennai on a cultural, spiritual, and service pilgrimage. The week-long program was full of sightseeing, taste testing, and heartfelt encounters. We are proud of how the young men of Nudgee embraced every challenge and made a difference to those we served.

In Delhi, students explored mosques and temples, rode buses, tuk-tuks, and rickshaws, and experienced the sights, sounds, and smells of a city of 32 million people. They appreciated the contrasts between Old and New Delhi, bargained in markets, and enjoyed traditional dishes like tandoori, butter chicken, dahl, and naan.

In Chennai, the service element came to the fore. Students visited a Commonwealth War Cemetery,

attended Don Bosco School, and engaged in lessons, assemblies, and sporting contests. They then served at Prema Vasam, an orphanage for children with disabilities, bringing laughter through games and activities. The immersion concluded with visits to an abandoned babies' home and the Cathedral of St Thomas, providing reflection, gratitude, and perspective.

Nudgee's inaugural India Immersion was a resounding success, showcasing courage, initiative, and respect.

Mr Matt Warr

India Immersion Staff Member

Cambodia

From the moment the group departed Brisbane to their first glimpses of Phnom Penh, the journey through Cambodia was transformative. Upon arrival, participants were warmly welcomed by Infuse Travel program leaders at the new airport. The 45-minute trip to base stretched to three hours as thousands gathered to see the airport's grand opening. Visits to the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and the Killing Fields offered sobering insights

into Cambodia's past, while the Royal Palace highlighted its resilience and vibrancy.

In Kampong Cham, participants dedicated several days to building a wooden home for a local family, an experience that was both demanding and deeply rewarding, ending with a moving handover ceremony. The adventure concluded in Siem Reap, where the group explored Angkor's magnificent temples, lively night markets, and the inspiring Cambodian Circus. Reflection sessions encouraged participants to process their experiences, leaving Cambodia with lasting memories, new friendships, and a deep appreciation of its people's resilience and warmth.

Mr Sam Bray

Cambodia Immersion Staff Member

Central Australia

The 2025 Central Australia On Country Immersion was an awe-inspiring journey for 11 students, as they travelled through the heart of the Northern Territory. Supported by Infuse Travel, students experienced the breathtaking beauty of the outback, the warmth of its people, and the deep cultural connections that define this remarkable landscape.

Each night was spent camping beneath a canopy of stars, sharing stories and laughter around the campfire. A highlight was Kings Creek Station, a working camel station that offered genuine Territory hospitality and a glimpse into authentic outback life. In the East MacDonnell Ranges, students were welcomed by Traditional Owners, learning about bush tucker, carving boomerangs, and





creating traditional artworks while contributing to local service projects.

Unforgettable moments included the Kings Canyon Rim Walk, a camel ride at sunset near Uluru, and a final walk through Kata Tjuta, a journey of reflection, connection, and gratitude.

Mr Daniel Tinsey

Cambodia Immersion Staff Member

Wildlife

The Wildlife Immersion offered students an unforgettable opportunity to connect with Australia's native animals and learn from those dedicated to protecting them. Over three days at the home of wildlife carer Dr Trish Lee Hong, students cared for echidnas, eagles, kangaroos, and koalas, cleared firebreaks, and built a run for a baby emu separated from her mother. A highlight was releasing a rehabilitated koala back into the wild, an inspiring moment that revealed the dedication and hard work behind wildlife rescue.

The group then travelled to the Sunshine Coast for an exploration of conservation in action. At Australia Zoo, students toured the Wildlife Hospital, observing a sea snake operation and joeys being hand-fed, before visiting Sea Life Mooloolaba and donning wetsuits for a private whale-watching cruise. Tracking pods of whales, including a playful mother and calf, was a magical experience.

Students left with a greater understanding and appreciation of the world around us and the lesson that everyone plays a vital role in protecting our environment.

Ms Emma Gardner

Wildlife Immersion Staff Member

As the 2025 Immersion Program comes to a close, it is clear that each student returned home with far more than souvenirs, they came back with perspective, empathy, and memories that will last a lifetime. From the laughter shared with new friends to the lessons learned through hard work and cultural connection, these experiences will continue to shape the men they are becoming. The courage and humility shown by our boys reflect the true spirit of Signum Fidei, as they continue

to serve others with respect and integrity. None of these opportunities would be possible without the dedication and generosity of our staff who give their time, energy, and care to make each immersion a success. Together, these journeys remind us that education at Nudgee extends far beyond the classroom, it's about forming hearts, building community, and walking together in faith.

Mr Simon Martin

Immersion Program Coordinator





The Courage to Write

There is nothing simple about asking a child to write.

It may seem straightforward - a task to complete, a paragraph to construct, a story to invent - but behind every sentence is a brave decision: to imagine, to express, to take a risk.

In today's world of instant answers, autocorrect, voice notes, and TikTok trends, the idea of pausing to create something original - something vulnerable and uniquely your own - is becoming increasingly rare. And yet, this semester, 128 boys in Years 5 and 6 sat with a blank page and said, "Yes." They chose to be still, to think deeply, and to give shape to their ideas using only their words.

Their stories were many things - strange, clever, funny, dark, hopeful. There were mysterious maps, alien encounters, and portals through

time. But beyond the twists and cliffhangers, what these young writers showed was a willingness to wonder. A capacity to hold two ideas in tension. A boldness to experiment. In a world that rewards speed and certainty, our boys chose imagination and ambiguity.

The inaugural Junior Writing Competition was not about who could spell the best or craft the most flawless prose. It was about encouraging our youngest learners to see writing not as a subject, but as a way of thinking. A practice

in empathy, communication, and creativity. Because in a future shaped by AI, rapid communication, and an ever-changing job market, we know this to be true: the ability to express yourself clearly, persuasively, and creatively will always matter. Programs like Writers' Circle are not just nice extras. They are essential. They build the kind of thinkers and leaders the world is crying out for.

As our Director of Junior School, Chris Cawley reflected, *"The entries revealed a depth of thought and a willingness to explore the world*

through new perspectives, whether through humour, adventure, or heartfelt reflection. Through this competition, we were reminded that our young people have powerful stories to tell and the ability to shape a more thoughtful, compassionate future."

Congratulations to our finalists: Jack Cooper (1st Place), James Lee (2nd Place), and Lochlan Warhurst (3rd Place). We were also fortunate to welcome the Hon. Leanne Linard MP to the College for the announcement of our winners.

Jack Cooper's story, *The Mystery Package*, was also selected as the 2nd place winner in the prestigious Year 5-6 Short Story category of the

2025 Literary Competition. His story stood out not only for its imaginative premise and elegant structure but for the emotional depth and originality of its voice. In *The Mystery Package*, Jack crafts a hopeful tale of love, loss, and the mysterious arrival of a snow globe that may or may not hold magic. That such a sophisticated and moving piece came from a Year 6 student is remarkable. It's a story that stayed with the judges long after reading, and one that perfectly captured the ethos of this writing initiative.

Jack described writing as "a way to express my creativity. My parents said I have always been creative, so it's a way to share my ideas, thoughts and imagination." Jack further explains

that he enjoys "spreading ideas, putting it into words," and finds the process "fun, relaxing and a way to de-stress." Reflecting on the experience, he shared, "At first I was surprised and just did it for a bit of fun but when I saw the results, I was on top of the world." As for what he took away from the story itself, Jack said, "It taught me to live in the moment, appreciate the small things in life, tell those who you love how you feel and anything can happen."

With voices like Jack's leading the way, the future of storytelling at our College is bright. The pen, it seems, is already in good hands.

Mr Will Duffield

Writers' Circle Coordinator

The Mystery Package



Evelyn had never ordered anything online. At the age of seventy-three, she distrusted technology and preferred her routines – morning tea at 6:30, crossword at 7, birdwatching from her porch until 9. So when the box appeared on her doorstep one foggy Thursday morning, she stared at it like it was ticking.

No label. No address, nothing. Just her name, scrawled in neat block letters.

Suspicious but curious, she brought it inside and opened it with the caution of a bomb technician. Inside was... a snow globe. Delicate, intricate. A tiny cabin sat inside, surrounded by pine trees and glinting snow. When she shook it, a swirl of flakes danced around, revealing something even stranger – a figure in the window of the cabin, waving.

She dropped it. Not out of fear. Out of recognition.

It was her husband.

Her late husband.

Evelyn blinked hard. She hadn't seen Walter's face in six years. Not since he'd passed quietly in his sleep. But there he

was – his thick glasses, his favorite plaid shirt, his lopsided grin.

It had to be a trick. Some strange coincidence. A cruel joke?

She searched the box again. No note. No clue.

The snow globe pulsed faintly with a warm light. Hesitantly, she touched the glass.

The world changed.

The chill of mountain air swept over her skin. Pine needles crunched underfoot. She was standing in front of the cabin from the globe, exactly as it had looked. She reached out, trembling, and knocked on the door.

It opened.

Walter smiled at her like she'd just returned from the store. "Took you long enough," he said, stepping aside to let her in.

She stared. "You... You're real?"

He kissed her hand. "Real enough."

They spent the day together. Talking. Laughing. Catching up on a lifetime of things unsaid.

At dusk, he walked her to the edge of the clearing.

"You can stay," he said. "But you don't have to. You still have time."

She hesitated. The woods whispered around her. She could stay.

She wanted to.

But then she thought of the bird feeder she hadn't filled, the neighbor boy she always waved to, the half-finished letter to her niece.

"I think I'll be back," she said.

He nodded. "Then I'll wait."

The world shimmered.

Evelyn blinked and found herself back in her kitchen, the snow globe resting on the table.

The tiny figure in the cabin's window was still waving.

But perhaps, finally, she believed in a little bit of magic.

Jack Cooper

Year 6 Student





SOCIAL JUSTICE IN 2025



Giving Back, Moving Forward



500+
BOW TIES

Sold for Stella Fella
in support of
Small Steps 4 Hannah

OVER
300
STUDENTS
INVOLVED

**Approximately \$20,000 raised
through BBQ Committee
and fundraising initiatives**

was donated to charities such as
Caritas Project Compassion, the Butterfly
Foundation, Small Steps 4 Hannah,
Emmanuel City Mission, etc.



40x
5.00AM
STARTS



2,000
HOURS

OF SERVICE
TO THE
LOCAL
COMMUNITY

OVER
10,000
SAUSAGES

served through
BBQ Committee



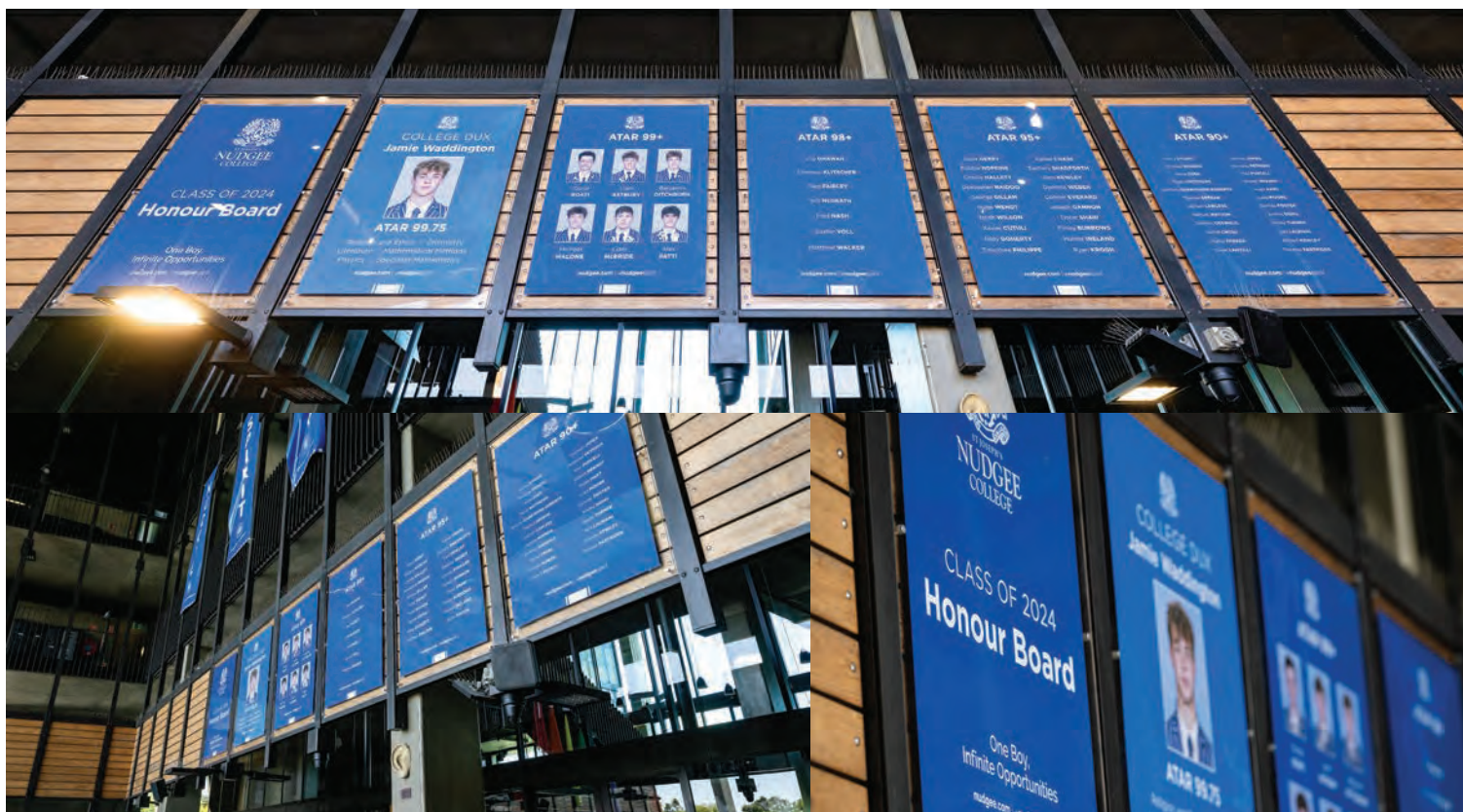
**Over 3,000
bacon and egg
burgers served**

to the local community
through Big Brekkie

40+
STAFF
INVOLVED

Celebrating Academic Excellence

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In Term 3, St Joseph's Nudgee College proudly unveiled its new Honour Wall, a permanent installation celebrating the remarkable academic achievements of our graduating students.

Positioned prominently in front of the Learning Centre, this initiative recognises the top performers of the Class of 2024 and establishes a new tradition that will continue each year. Beyond a simple list of names, the Honour Wall serves as a visible testament to what can be achieved through dedication, perseverance, and a genuine love of learning.

More than a celebration of results, the Honour Wall reflects the mindset, growth, and resilience that underpin true academic success. It enhances Nudgee's broader academic culture, where effort is acknowledged, curiosity is nurtured, and a passion for knowledge is shared. While the College proudly supports excellence across sports, performing arts, and community service, the Honour Wall

specifically highlights those students who have demonstrated outstanding discipline, humility, and commitment to their studies. It recognises achievement in a meaningful and lasting way while inspiring all learners to pursue their own academic potential. For younger students walking past, it stands as a subtle yet powerful source of motivation, encouraging them to embrace their learning journey with dedication and confidence.

Dean of Learning and Teaching, Suzie Tjin, captured this sentiment perfectly: *"The Honour Wall is a celebration of achievement, but behind every name is the story of persistence, determination, routine and resilience. Our focus is on equipping all students with these learner attributes so that they can flourish both*

at Nudgee and in whatever career path they desire."

The display will be updated annually to feature the accomplishments of each new graduating cohort. In this way, it not only honours the Class of 2024 but also serves as a guiding light for future Nudgee graduates aspiring to leave their own mark. While the Honour Wall spotlights exceptional academic performance, it also reminds the community that success takes many forms. Every graduate's hard work, perseverance, and personal growth remain deeply valued, even if not all names appear on the wall.

At Nudgee College, academic excellence is not merely recognised, it is an integral part of the College culture, motivating students to reach their fullest potential.



Nudgee College Arts Committee Revamps Music Room into Studio Space



Thanks to the generous support of the Nudgee College Arts Committee, one of our music classrooms has undergone an exciting transformation into a creative and inspiring rehearsal space. A small stage has been built and equipped with the essential gear and stage settings needed to support our students' artistic expression. This initiative reflects Nudgee College's ongoing commitment to nurturing the arts and ensuring our students have access to spaces that match their talent and ambition. The new rehearsal room not only provides practical benefits but also creates an atmosphere where imagination and performance can flourish.

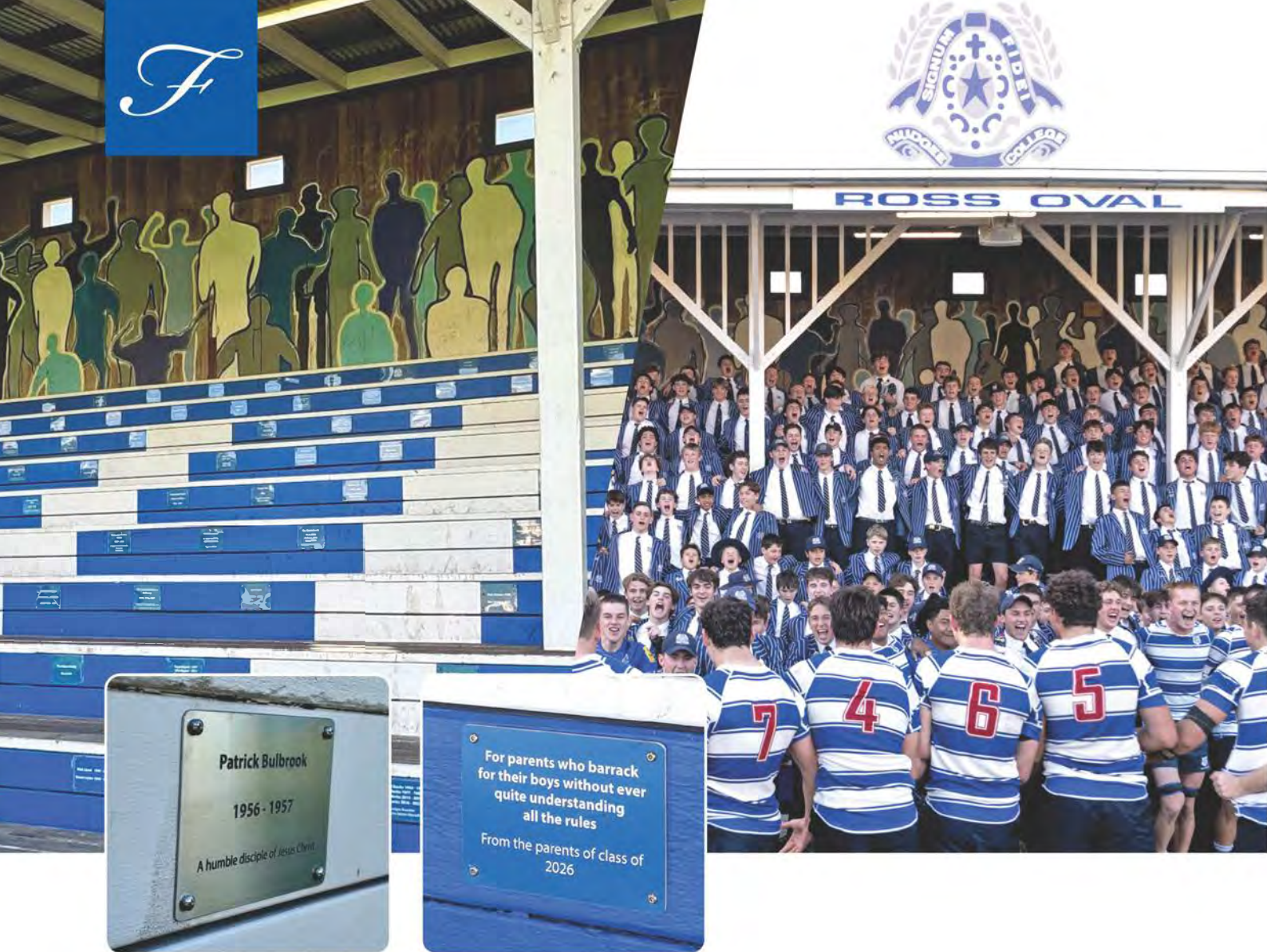


The upgraded space now feels more like a professional studio, a place where students can rehearse, perform, and freely explore their creativity. It's a vibrant environment designed to inspire confidence, collaboration, and growth in the performing arts.

We're also excited to share that the next phase of development

will include enhanced lighting and additional storage, further supporting our students in their creative journeys. We look forward to seeing the incredible music, performances, and creative projects that will come to life in this space for years to come.

Nudgee College Arts Committee



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 Erina Hitchings, Acting Head of Philanthropy at foundation@nudgee.qld.edu.au or call 07 3865 0313.



NC EVENTS



Formal and Semi Formal

Our Year 12s looked dapper in their bow ties and suits as they gathered for a memorable evening of dinner, dancing and fun with their partners, marking a special milestone before commencing their final full Term at the College. The night was filled with

laughter, heartfelt moments and plenty of time on the dance floor.

The Year 11s also embraced the chance to dress up and celebrate their Semi Formal in style, enjoying an evening that brought friends together to create lasting memories.





Long Lunch

The much-loved Long Lunch brought together over 1,400 guests for an afternoon filled with sunshine, delicious grazing platters, live music and plenty of dancing. Laughter and conversation flowed as friends reconnected and new connections were made. It was wonderful to see current and past families, old boys and staff come together to share in one of the College's most cherished events, creating memories that will be fondly remembered for years to come.





Arts Gala

The Arts Gala opened in Tierney Auditorium with an evening that celebrated creativity and community. Parents, staff, students and guests from the wider community were invited to admire an impressive display of works by our talented Junior and Senior Visual Art students, alongside an inspiring collection from professional artists including Ms Mandy Beebe, Ms Noreen Flood, Mr Brody Grogan, Mr Owen Hutchinson, Ms Caroline Penny, Ms Rosy Russ and Ms Sara Storer.

As guests explored the vibrant exhibition, they enjoyed live music from our Senior musicians and had the unique opportunity to watch artists create their work in real time. The elegant evening featured over 70 striking professional artworks, captivating student pieces, live student performances, and an intimate concert by ARIA Award-winning singer-songwriter Sara Storer, one of Australia's most celebrated country artists and a proud Nudgee mum.



Boarders' Formal Dinner

Boarders' Formal Dinner was a truly special evening. Students and staff came together to celebrate and enjoy each other's company. Laughter, conversation, and memories filled the night, making it even more meaningful as the final formal dinner for our Year 12 students. It was a wonderful way to connect as a boarding family.





Boarders' Bash/Reunion Weekend

Boarders' Bash and Reunion Weekend is always a highlight, and this year did not disappoint. Students, families, old boys and our longtime rivals and brother school St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace came together for an afternoon filled with sport, music, and fun across McKennariey Centre, Ross Oval and Edmund Rice Mall. The Clearly Jazz Ensemble set a

lively soundtrack for our community, creating the perfect backdrop as alumni reconnected and celebrated their memories from College.

The sporting arena came alive with Nudgee's First V edging out a thrilling 82-72 win, followed by the First XV powering to a dominant 65-4 triumph on Ross Oval. Spectators then headed

to Edmund Rice Mall to enjoy food trucks, drinks, live music, and the presentation of caps to the 1st XV debutants.

It was an incredible day of community, celebration, and camaraderie, bringing our families, Old Boys along with our friendly rivals, to share in the spirit of Nudgee College.



Senior Farewell Day

On Monday 20 October, our Year 12 students marked a memorable farewell to Nudgee College as they prepared to begin their exams. The day began with a special breakfast with their House groups, where students shared stories, signed shirts, and celebrated their journey together. They then came together for a private liturgy in the Chapel, raised their voices in the school song, and spent precious moments in the Rose Garden with family, exchanging hugs, congratulations and prayers.

The day culminated with a guard of honour formed by their fellow students, a fitting send-off to mark the end of their time at the College.







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Memorial Mass

Our community gathered for this year's Memorial Mass to remember and pay tribute to the cherished members of the Nudgee College community we have lost. It was a moving ceremony that showcased the deep bonds and enduring spirit of our community.



Ladies Auxiliary & Past Mothers' Christmas Dinner & Annual Mothers' Mass

In Term 4, we came together for the annual Ladies' Auxiliary & Past Mothers' Christmas Dinner & Annual Mothers' Mass, celebrating the incredible women who support and inspire Nudgee College men. It was a wonderful evening filled with laughter, conversation, and a strong sense of community. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to connect, share stories and celebrate the season together in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.





College Awards

Each year, the College community gathers to celebrate the achievements and dedication of our students in academics, sports, arts, and leadership. These awards recognise their hard work, commitment, and excellence throughout the year.

Congratulations to the following award winners:

- *Junior Sportsman of the Year:*
Josh Pereira
- *Year 10 Ladies' Auxiliary Award for Conduct, Study and Co-curricular:*
Sidney Bates, Tobias Grant, Kai Istria, Jeremiah Kaniku, Harvey Kasprowicz, Kinon McLean, Lachlan Pattison, William Scheibel
- *Year 10 RJH Elliott Bursary for Social Justice and Community Service:*
James Neubecker
- *Year 11 Past Mothers' Association Sign of Faith Award:*
Ethan Cockburn, Lachlan Cook, Reuben Freeland, Harrison McIver, Max Molloy, Tallis Moloney
- *Sam Sciacca Memorial Award for Character and Citizenship:*
Archer Robertson
- *Shirley Agnew Memorial Award for Outstanding Participation:*
Nicholas Franklin
- *Liberating Education Award for Leadership and Service to the Liberating Education Program:*
Simmie Loban
- *W A Collins Memorial Award for Conduct, Study and Co-curricular:*
Will Neubecker
- *Lawrie Cusack Signum Fidei Award:*
Cooper Barnard-Stower
- *Award for Outstanding Contribution to Nudgee College Sustainability:*
Edward O'Brien
- *The Kelleher Family Award for Consistent, Unrecognised Achievement:*
Joseph Costigan
- *James J Delahunty Sportsman of the Year Award:*
Declan McGuire
- *W Carlton-Smith Memorial Award for Leadership, Study and Co-curricular:*
Alex Smith
- *Br J G Hodda Memorial Award for Leadership and Diligence as a College Captain:*
Michael Williams
- *Br J G Hodda Memorial Award for Leadership and Diligence as a College Vice Captain:*
Frank Gilbert & Paddy Williams
- *The Arts Committee Creative Arts Award for Excellence in the Arts:*
Tanush Patel
- *The Old Boys' Award for Outstanding Service to the College:*
Xander Eyles
- *John Francis Treacy Memorial Award for Service to the Boarding Community:*
Paddy Williams
- *Excellence in Sport Award for Outstanding Achievement in a GPS Sports:*
Bennett Armistead, Denver Bradford, William Dallimore, Tito Hamala, Isaiah Jorgenson, Ollie Linde, Archie Mesritz, Jackson O'Reilly, Charlie Parkin, Isaac Rauluni, Oliver Schouten, Levi Slater, Rhys Williams

The Dux of the College will be announced at the first Academic Assembly in 2026.





Valedictory

Our Class of 2025 came together for one final time on Ross Oval to celebrate their Valedictory, marking the culmination of their journey at Nudgee College. The morning commenced with a Mass celebrated by our Chaplain in Residence, Reverend Fr John Gillen SM. Following the Mass, seniors received their Certificates of Graduation from their House Deans and Heads of Boarding Houses, recognising their dedication and achievements. College Captain, Michael Williams, and his father, delivered heartfelt and inspiring addresses.

The ceremony continued with the cherished tradition of Year 12 students wearing their Old Boys ties, carefully tied by their fathers, symbolising the official close of their time as Nudgee College students.

We congratulate the Class of 2025 for leaving a lasting legacy that will inspire our younger students for years to come. The College community is immensely proud of their achievements and eagerly anticipates the positive impact they will make beyond the Nudgee gates.









N C S P R T

Cattle Club

It was a busy Semester 2 in the Cattle Club world! Our students have been hands-on across all aspects of cattle care and showing. Our Droughtmaster cows birthed four calves, one cow gave us triplets, though sadly one passed within 24 hours. The second premature calf was bottle-fed by our dedicated students and has since reunited with her mum, who is now nursing twins.

The Royal National Agricultural Show of Brisbane was an exciting and rewarding experience. Our Brafordts took home Senior Champion Bull, our Angus placed second in his class, and our junior Braford bulls also performed well, showing promise for next year. We proudly won Champion Speckle Park Steer, a highly coveted achievement.

We supported Meat and Livestock Australia's *QLD Beef Up Close* display by providing bulls and student

handlers, engaging over 7,000 visitors. Our students' professionalism and resilience were outstanding.

At the Lismore Show (North Coast National), our Droughtmaster bull placed Reserve Champion, our heifer won her class, and the Brafordts secured strong placings. By this stage, students worked seamlessly, presenting our cattle in the National Young Judges Competition and reaching finalist level, a remarkable honour.



Rugby

The 2025 GPS Rugby season kicked off with plenty of excitement, with Nudgee teams showing skill, resilience, and team spirit across all age groups. The opening round featured 3rds and 4th in tour fixtures against Kings School (UK), while Brisbane State High School (BSHS) hosted us across 20 fixtures and Toowoomba Grammar School welcomed five matches. All U11 teams competed at the Gala Day in Tennyson, giving our newest rugby members their first taste of GPS competition. The First XV secured a strong 46-22 win over a determined BSHS side, while our 16C, 16D, 15C,

66







15D White, and 13D White squads came away with four wins from five fixtures in Toowoomba, showcasing depth and talent across the program.

Our first home round saw perfect weather and pristine fields as Nudgee hosted 30 fixtures against Ipswich Grammar School (IGS), Downlands College, Brisbane Boys College and Toowoomba Grammar School. Teams faced challenging match-ups, yet there were strong performances across the board. Highlights included the U11Bs avenging a heavy defeat earlier in the season with a dominant 28-0 win over IGS 11A, and the 13Bs overturning a 7-19 deficit to claim a 21-19 victory. The 14As thrilled with

a match-winning try by Lachlan Moore, while debutants Aiden Luke and Curtis Lambert made immediate impact in a convincing 49-10 First XV win.

Subsequent rounds featured tightly contested fixtures across multiple venues, with our squads consistently demonstrating determination and skill. Round 5 included last-minute finishes from 16D Blue and clutch plays from Chilli Smith in the 16A match, while the 11As staged a full-length try to snatch victory. Round 6 saw come-from-behind wins for the 14Bs and a dominant performance by the First XV, who stormed past Brisbane Grammar School 66-3.

Round 7 brought one of the season's most intense contests as the First XV faced Churchie. Despite trailing 17-7 at one stage, the team dug deep, with front rowers Levi Slater, Tito Hamala, and Isaac Raulini powering through, while Oliver Patterson, Archie Mesritz and Declan McGuire all delivered in decisive moments, ultimately securing a 40-27 comeback victory.

Round 8 was a history-making weekend for Nudgee Rugby as the First XV secured the GPS premiership outright with one round to play, our fourth consecutive title and fifth in six seasons. Debutants Finn Curran and Jack Burton impressed in their first run

for the First XV. The 11As also upset the previously unbeaten St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace (GT) side in a gritty team performance, that set up a much-anticipated rematch in the final round. The atmosphere on the TGS Hill was outstanding, with strong support from the Nudgee community lifting all teams.

Round 9 was a fitting finale as our Year 12 boys ran out for the last time on a magnificent Ross Oval, with one of the biggest crowds in a decade creating an electric atmosphere. The First XV delivered a record-breaking 65-points in the win over Gregory Terrace, securing Nudgee's 46th GPS Rugby Premiership, the second consecutive undefeated season and the highest-scoring First XV in GPS history with 416 points.

Success was shared across the program, with many teams finishing on top, including the undefeated 13A, 14A, 15A, 16A, 2nd XV, and 1st XV. A special post-match moment saw our Year 5 boys meeting their First XV heroes, collecting autographs and boots.

Thank you to the coaches, staff, families, and supporters whose efforts made this extraordinary season possible.



Basketball

The NC Basketball season started with plenty of excitement, showcasing skill, determination and team spirit across all age groups. The first round saw Year 6 teams dominate with a clean sweep, while the 5Cs kicked off with a big win over Brisbane Grammar School (BGS). The 10Ds kept spectators on the edge of their seats with a thrilling last-minute victory, and the 11Bs staged an impressive comeback from a 20-point deficit before narrowly falling short. The First V opened strongly, defeating Brisbane State High School 92-79, led by Nick Fernandes-Pembroke's defensive pressure and Tion Townsend's impact off the bench.

As the season progressed into the early home games, the 3rd V pulled off a last-minute win over Ipswich Grammar School, while Vincent Moore starred for the 5As in a tight

contest. Families brought energy to the sideline and BBQs, creating a wonderful atmosphere. The First V faced a tough 66-101 loss, showing promise despite the challenge of a physical and high-pressure match.

Subsequent rounds saw impressive teamwork and sportsmanship across the board. The 2nds and 4ths celebrated their first wins, and Year 8 teams swept their fixtures against Brisbane Boys College. Even in challenging circumstances, such as sickness in opposing teams, the Nudgee 5Cs displayed remarkable sportsmanship, swapping jerseys to ensure everyone could play. The First V fought hard but were edged out 72-79, showing growth and resilience with every possession.

Mid-season highlights included buzzer-beater victories, first wins for the 11As, and continued unbeaten streaks for the 6As. The First V

impressed with a dominant 106-79 win over BGS, being highly effective on the offensive and defensive ends. In round 7, 11As secured a narrow one-point win remaining composed under pressure while the 11Ds fought back from an early deficit to earn a hard-fought draw. The First V played their most complete defensive game of the season, holding a talented Churchie side to just 80 points. Archie Stay was outstanding, coming up with big plays on both ends of the floor. Despite falling 75-80, the team's grit, communication, and effort throughout all 40 minutes stood out.

Round 8 saw some excellent results across the program. The 2nd V impressed with strong team play, led by Taylor Carlisle's standout defense. The 11Bs rallied after halftime to secure a 42-35 win, while the 9C, 10C, and 11C teams all claimed victories in Toowoomba. The 8As and 8Bs continued their strong form





with dominant wins at home. The First V battled hard to overcome Toowoomba Grammar School 75-61, combining sharp shooting. Defensive intensity, and fast-break play. It was a true team performance, with contributions across the court highlighting the progress made throughout the season.

Round 9 capped off the season with strong performances across the program. The First V came out firing against Gregory Terrace, racing to a 26-12 first-quarter lead. Despite a late fightback from Terrace, Nudgee's composure shone through, with leaders Nick Fernandes-Pembroke and Tom Murphy steadying the side

to close out an 82-72 win. The result secured a balanced 4-4 season and a 4th-place finish on the ladder, marked by growth, resilience, and moments of brilliance.

There were more highlights across the day, with the 4ths staging a late 31-29 comeback victory and the 9Cs edging out the 9Ds in a spirited 48-45 contest. Beyond the scores, the season was defined by teamwork, sportsmanship, and energy from players, coaches, and supporters. From Year 5 debuts to senior leadership, Nudgee Basketball enjoyed a season of progress, camaraderie, and memorable moments.

Track and Field

The Nudgee College Track and Field (T&F) squad launched their season in impressive fashion, with an excellent turnout of around 100 students at the first Friday night meet. The evening saw plenty of strong performances and numerous personal bests across the squad.

Momentum continued to build at the next QSAC meet, where athletes once again delivered some outstanding results. The high jump group showed consistency and steady improvement while the junior shot-put competitors impressed with early season personal bests and great potential. It was fantastic to see many personal bests and the depth developing across all event groups. The success continued over the next couple of meets where the squad demonstrated dedication and commitment despite a busy schedule.

On a perfect day for competition at QSAC, the GPS T&F Championships provided a fitting showcase of the team's hard work and determination, with Nudgee College securing 3rd place in the Junior competition and 5th in the Senior competition. Students represented the College with pride and character throughout the day, as the Junior team delivered several Division 1 victories to claim an impressive third overall, while the Senior team displayed courage, class, and determination to finish a close fifth in a highly competitive field.

The season stands as a testament to the hard work, commitment, and team spirit that define Nudgee Track and Field, and it promises even greater things ahead.



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

@ncactivities



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Junior Championship Highlights

- 10 Years Discus Div 1
- 11 Years High Jump Div 1
- 12 Years 4x100m Relay - Div 1

Kash Martin (23.65m)
Jasper Black (1.38m)
**Kingston Massingale, Joshua Lenz,
 Joshua Pereira, Ari Tjin** (52.04s)

Senior Championship Highlights

- 14 Years High Jump
- 13 Years Javelin
- Open 800m
- 14 Years 200m
- 14 Years Long Jump
- 15 Years 200m
- U13 1500m
- U13 800m
- U15 1500m
- All Ages 4x400m Relay

Finn Oliver (1.73m)
Ochre Stanley (41.92m)
Alex Smith (1:56.21)
Flynn Lane (22.84)
Tyler Komarzynski (6.16m)
Dylan Manley (22.66)
Samuel Wells (4:20.34)
Samuel Wells (2:09.03)
Matthew Turner (4:09.45)
**Samuel Wells, Hunter Read, Matthew
 Turner, Alexander Wain** (3:40.79)





NC PERFORMING ARTS



Chess

The 2026 GPS Chess season began with a challenging first round against Brisbane State High School. Despite missing several top players, our new competitors stepped up with maturity and focus. Special congratulations to our first-time GPS players, all of whom gained invaluable experience. Notably Oliver Hadwen, promoted from Open B to the Senior Team, secured a remarkable win against a player rated 1,145, nearly double his own rating. Bill Currin also recorded an early win for Open E.

Round 3 saw Nudgee travel to Ipswich Grammar School, where illness forced several top players to move up in the lineup. First IV reserve, Archie Spurr stepped in while recovering from surgery. The senior team claimed a 3-1 win with victories from Ryan Matthews, Kai Istria, and Mitchell Kewley, while Open C won 3-1 and Open D drew 2-2, thanks to standout performances from Myles Thomas, James Brown, Bill Currin, Rami Sedour, and Cary Clifford. Close contests in Open A, B, and E saw many players achieve draws or wins against higher-rated opponents.

In the following rounds, we faced a mix of strong GPS opponents. The Junior and Open H teams both enjoyed team wins, while several Open teams secured draws

against higher-rated opposition. Key highlights included Ethan Jillela's first GPS victory, impressive performances by Oliver Hadwen and Nilay Shirolkar against top-ranked players, and the determination of Hugo Elliot in his first First IV appearance.

Round 6 and 7 presented tougher challenges against Brisbane Grammar School and Churchie. Despite early deficits and tight time controls, the players demonstrated strategic skill, securing several individual and team points. The Junior and Open teams continued to gain momentum, achieving crucial victories and draws, while players like Nilay, Oliver, and Hugo showed promising growth for the season ahead.

The trip to Toowoomba Grammar School was always going to be a challenge, but our First IV rose to the occasion to secure a 2-2 draw. Wins from Ethan Cockburn and Tejas Ashok over higher-rated opponents were the standouts while Tanush Patel came agonisingly close to forcing a team victory before running out of time. There were strong results across the Opens, with the Bs edging to a 2.5-1.5 win, the Cs drawing 2-2, and the Ds claiming a 3-1 victory. Notable performances also came from Oliver Clancy in Open G, along with steady draws from Nilay in the junior team and Ryan in the senior team.

Round 9 brought the season to a close with Nudgee hosting over 400 students from all GPS schools in the





Conference Centre. It was a competitive afternoon against Gregory Terrace, with six team wins and three losses. The First IV went down 1-3, highlighted by Ethan's victory on Board 3, while the Senior and Junior teams both drew 2-2 thanks to wins from Ryan and Nilay, and solid draws from Lucas Black, Oliver, Hugo, and Mason Hunter.

The Open Bs secured a strong 3-1 win, led by Carl Sherman, Cormac Byrne, and Myles Thomas, with Cormac producing one of the fastest finishes of the day.

It was a season marked by determination, growth, and promising performances across all levels. Congratulations to all players on their efforts this season.



Theatresports

It has been an outstanding season for our Junior and Senior Theatresports teams, who showcased incredible creativity, teamwork, and quick wit throughout the 2025 Queensland Youth Theatresports Competition.

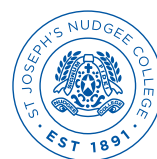
Both teams impressed at their semifinals, securing spots in the State Finals at La Boite Theatre on Sunday, 12 October, a remarkable achievement and possibly a first for the College, with brothers Paddy and Jack Williams representing both the Junior and Senior teams.

At the Finals, both teams delivered exceptional performances,

demonstrating the strength of our Theatresports program. A heartfelt thank you goes to Ms Alison Kilgour, Theatresports Coordinator and coach of the Senior Team, along with Old Boys, Tyler Goodall and Robbie Fitzgerald for their coaching and support of the Juniors.

We also extend our gratitude to all who came along to cheer on the teams, especially our boarders, whose energy and encouragement lifted the performers on the night.

Congratulations to all involved on a brilliant season, we look forward to another exciting year of Theatresports in 2026!





Writers' Circle

Writers' Circle continues to flourish as a creative hub for students passionate about storytelling, imagination, and community engagement. Semester 2 has been another outstanding chapter in the program's journey, marked by inspiring guest authors, meaningful partnerships, and exceptional student achievement.

We were fortunate to welcome acclaimed authors Tristan Bancks, Maya Linnell, and Annaleise Byrd, each sharing their wisdom and creative insights with our students. Tristan's talk on *Two Wolves* offered a powerful look at character motivation and storytelling craft, while Maya inspired students to find their unique writing

voice. Annaleise's "How to Write a Story" workshop encouraged creativity through interactive activities, reinforcing structure, character, and conflict.

Our students also excelled in writing competitions. Jack Cooper (Year 6) was awarded 2nd place in the prestigious 2025 Literary Competition (IEU-QNT & ETAQ) for his short story *The Mystery Package*, selected from over 1,500 entries; a remarkable achievement.

Our Junior Write a Book in a Day team once again showcased creativity and compassion, writing and illustrating an original story, *A Wild Adventure*, in just seven hours while raising an incredible \$3,287 for The Kids' Cancer Project.



This year also marked the introduction of the Maggie Shaw Creative Writing Competition, honouring Maggie's decades of service to Nudgee College. Students explored the theme *When Time Stopped*, with Jack Williams (Year 7) receiving the inaugural award at our Annual Awards Ceremony.

Community engagement continues to be at the heart of our program. Our partnership with Viridian Aged Care remains a highlight for students and residents alike. These visits continue to strengthen intergenerational connection and remind us of the power of storytelling to unite people across time and experience.

Congratulations also to Xander Eyles (Year 12), whose article on youth voice and social advocacy was published in Village Voices newspaper, reflecting his commitment to using writing as a tool for change.

Esports

The Nudgee College Esports Program continues to go from strength to strength, with Semester 2 marking another exciting period of growth, achievement, and innovation. Built on the core values of Respect, Integrity, and Fairness, the program continues to provide students with a platform to collaborate, compete, and develop their strategic and digital literacy skills.

A major highlight this semester was Nudgee College placing Second for Best Australian School Esports Program at the 2025 Australian School Esports Awards. We are also incredibly proud that our program coordinator,



Will Duffield, was awarded the Australian Rising Star in Esports Education. This national recognition reflects the vision, teamwork, and commitment of our students and staff who have shaped the program into a model of excellence.

Our students continued to perform strongly in FUSE Cup competitions, advancing to the Top 8 in the Rocket League division. Students also participated in digital well-being workshops led by Kids Helpline and the eSafety Commissioner, reinforcing our focus on creating safe, responsible, and balanced online communities.

Peer-led learning was another focus this semester, with Jake Linde, Darcy Livet, and Tom Stanford delivering

a masterclass on Rocket League communication and strategy. In Term 4, we extended this initiative further, welcoming Darcy Franklin (NCOB 2023) back to run a Junior Masterclass on Super Smash Bros and Mario Kart. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn from an alumnus and former Esports leader.

The Inter-House Esports Competition brought energy and enthusiasm across the College. Congratulations to Barrett House on taking home first place in this hotly contested event.

Finally, we congratulate our newly appointed 2026 Esports Leadership Team: Charles Eats (Captain), Ben Somers (Vice Captain), and Jacob Webb (Vice Captain).





Music

Nudgee musicians shone at this year's Queensland Catholic Schools and Colleges Music Festival (QCMF), proudly bringing home a series of outstanding results.

Across a range of ensembles, from the Year 5 Immersion Concert Band and Choir, to Symphonic Winds, Rock Bands, Strings, Drumline, Brotherhood and Chamber Strings, our boys showcased their passion, talent, and hard work on stage.

The results speak volumes:

- 43% of ensembles achieved Gold Awards
- 36% achieved Silver Awards
- 21% achieved Bronze Awards

We also congratulate our Individual Music Excellence Award winners:

- *Stage Band* **Kinnon McLean**
- *Stage Band* **Sam Duffy**
- *Rock Band* **Hugh Thomson**
- *Rock Band* **Sean Reed**
- *Rock Band* **Marcus Grehan**
- *Rock Band* **Nate Mawer**
- *Junior Concert Band* **Ethan Hughes**

These achievements reflect the dedication of our students, supported by an incredible team of staff and tutors: Janelle Harding, Belinda Dolan, Sam Smith, Richard Dupuy, Walter Stapf, Jodie Davis, Javier Spicer, Cameron Fuller, Daniel Tagiev, Mika





Atkinson, Tom Mallet, Alex Lord, Connor Dinneen, Andrea Sparks, Jennifer Wakeling, Dan Rostron and Sam Brown (Old Boy Rock Band Tutors), and Robyn Bowley for her exceptional organisation and support.

A special thank you also goes to our Junior School staff for their ongoing encouragement and assistance.

Together, these efforts highlight the strength of Nudgee's Music program and the community spirit that underpins it.

Debating

Hard work and perseverance resulted in a crescendo of rhetoric and logic in the final round to earn the Senior A a win against Nudgee's oldest rival. The road to this Terrace victory started nine weeks earlier with a very young, extended Senior A squad. The boys pulled together immediately and worked to lift each other. They weren't granted as many wins as they had hoped, but the resilience of these men meant, where other teams would have crumbled, their performance bore diamonds when the pressure was the highest. With three debates in seven days, week 5 was a crucible that let the team shine. Here they negated All Hallows' pragmatic case to offer amnesty to despots and overcome a TSS hoodoo that had befallen previous Senior A to convince the panel of the true motives of tech giants. All to solidify their path to an unforgettable final debate.

Tejas Ashok's leadership was critical to the team's successes. Calm, humble, and attentive, we spoke often about

how we would ensure the growth of all team members. Speaking with purpose, he was a reliable and impactful first and reply speaker.

Tanush Patel and Sejin Lee brought depth of knowledge to the team and embodied the tenant of 'giving back'. Whether it was coaching younger grades or sharing the profound impact the game has had on them with prospective debaters, they made sure their time in the Senior A benefited all members of our community.

Ben Sands, Tom Kewley and Troy Li brought youthful vigor to the team.

Ben was our enforcer at 3rd.

By learning to pair his attacking nature with a mindful manner, his rebuttal gained even greater depth. Tom consistently knew the mission of the team and was the presence that coalesced the case from the four bright minds. These instincts and ability to set up at first meant he was an invaluable speaker. Finally, Troy, the youngest, brought the ability to see the debate at the pivotal 2nd speaker position. He earned praise from some of the top adjudicators for his vision of the game and his ability to execute.







ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, GREGORY TERRACE

150 Years of Gospel Dreaming

In 2025, the St Joseph's Nudgee College community proudly celebrated our city brothers and their remarkable 150-year journey.

They say blood is thicker than water, and the bond between Nudgee and Terrace runs deep with respect and brotherhood.

Both Nudgee and Terrace are born from the Gospel of Jesus and from the dream of an Irish merchant, Blessed Edmund Rice, to liberate young boys trapped in poverty. Both schools were born from the discernment of a small community of Brothers in Spring Hill. In 1890, at Spring Hill, there were 274 students enrolled of whom 89 were boarders. So the discernment led to the decision to build a "branch school" on the extensive land "in the bush" at Nudgee College.

The schools were created from deep trust in providence by Br Patrick Ambrose Treacy. He began Terrace, unsure of its success and unsure if he had the Brothers to staff it and the funds to build it. In 1889, Br Treacy went further into debt, purchasing an additional 50 acres of land, the higher land upon which the Chapel, main building and Ross Oval stand, for some two thousand five hundred pounds. The Terrace building was mortgaged to secure the loan to purchase the very land that this year's First XV match was played on.



One of the early pioneering Brothers, Br Dominic Fursey Bodkin took "thirty of the younger boarders" out to the Nudgee site and began the "branch school" on 26 January 1891, while the older boarders remained for some time at Spring Hill. So began the wonderful 134-year-old rich history, brotherhood and bond that two of Australia's finest Catholic schools share.

Our two histories will be forever intimately linked. Many of the Terrace community have been involved in

the life of Nudgee, and many of the Nudgee community have been involved in the life of Terrace. Br Ambrose Treacy lived and worked at Nudgee and then retired to Terrace.

The Nudgee College community is grateful for the friendship we share with St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace, and we look forward to continuing Edmund Rice's Gospel dream for all the world to see.

Br Damien Price

Nudgee College Advisory Council Chair



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Nudgee College Alma Mater

The Nudgee College Alma Mater (NCAM) community continued to strengthen its presence across the College in the second half of 2025, bringing Old Boys, past parents, past staff, and friends of Nudgee back to campus through a series of well attended and memorable events. Semester Two highlighted just how deeply the Nudgee Spirit endures and how the Alma Mater network continues to evolve as a dynamic and inclusive community.

A particular highlight was the growing number of Old Boy events held on campus. The Mentoring Breakfast again demonstrated the generosity and expertise of our alumni, who shared their professional insights with senior students preparing for life beyond the College gates. This gathering continued to bridge classroom learning with real world experience and reinforced the value of intergenerational connection at Nudgee.

Reunion season brought one of the largest gatherings of Old Boys to campus in recent memory, with a record number of reunion groups returning for the annual Reunion Weekend. The atmosphere across the grounds was one of genuine joy and shared history, made even

more special by a historic First XV victory which added to the sense of celebration. The Senior Reunion was another standout, offering a meaningful moment of reflection and reconnection for those marking significant Nudgee milestones. Across each event, the common thread was the enduring pride and camaraderie that defines the Nudgee community.

The second Alma Mater Business Series event for 2025 also drew strong interest, this time exploring the Countdown to 2032 and the opportunities and transformations ahead for Brisbane. Attendees engaged in a forward-looking conversation about the city's future and the region's evolving commercial landscape. The calibre of discussion and networking again demonstrated how committed our community is to shared professional learning and collaboration.

Semester Two also marked a continued rise in NCAM's digital reach. The *My Nudgee Hero* podcast retained strong engagement, spotlighting stories of leadership, contribution, and achievement from across the extended community. These digital offerings are extending the Alma Mater's reach well beyond the campus, giving Old Boys and families

across Australia and overseas new ways to stay connected.

The Past Mothers' Christmas Dinner & Annual Mothers' Mass in November celebration, hosted in partnership with the LAX, brought warmth, reflection, and festive spirit to the close of the year. The Blue and White Race Day, jointly coordinated by the NCOBA and the Past Mothers community, was another highlight, bringing together generations of supporters for a spirited day of connection and celebration.

As we look to 2026, the Alma Mater is poised for another year of growth and renewed energy under the leadership of Acting Alumni and Community Manager, Ms Penny Roost. Penny, a past mother of two Old Boys and long-standing member of the Nudgee community, brings a deep understanding of our culture and an enthusiasm for strengthening engagement across all groups.

It has been my privilege to steward this work over the past ten years, and I remain deeply grateful for every interaction and relationship formed with this remarkable community. Although I now step into a new role, I look forward to staying connected and continuing to support the spirit that makes Nudgee so distinctive.



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

#NCAM



Past Mothers' Association

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Semester Two has seen the Past Mothers' gather at various events to continue to build our community and wider Nudgee connections.

The Winter Warmer event brought together a fabulous group of Past Mothers' for a cozy gathering. It was an excellent chance to gather, connect and chat over a winter's afternoon. We would like to express our appreciation to Richard Deery (NCOB 1979) from the Story Bridge Hotel for his support of our events. His contribution has been invaluable in helping us create memorable events in a central and familiar location.

We were also excited to support and attend the Old Boys' and Past Mothers' Blue and White Race Day. It was another wonderful event in our calendar where we not only join with our Alma Mater friends but also our current Nudgee community. It was, for some, a double event day with the Pete Murray concert held at the Eatons Hill Hotel. A fun night for all.

It is always an honour to support and attend the Annual Mothers' Mass, this year at the earlier time of 5.00pm, and dinner with the Ladies Auxiliary and to see so many wonderful generations of Nudgee College mothers in the room, sharing a meal, stories and even the dance floor together. This is certainly a highlight in our calendar of wonderful Nudgee events. We took a moment before Toni Lutteral said grace, to remember and honour Maggie Shaw by lighting a candle at her table and sharing some photos and memories of Maggie and her delightful stories and delivery of grace at our annual dinner.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the College Leadership Team for their ongoing support of the Past Mothers Community. We would also like to acknowledge the dedication and invaluable support we receive from Erina Hitchings and we wish her well in her new role as Acting Head of Philanthropy. We welcome Penny Roost into her new role as Acting Alumni and Community Manager and look forward to working with her to continue to grow, support and connect our 10,000 Mothers. We would also like to thank and acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Mark Anthony and the Dev Comm team, Raoul Carmody and the AV crew, Annette Cross and the Property and Services team and Steve Latter and Alfonso Navarro and the catering team who are dedicated and professional and always go over and above to make the Past Mothers feel welcome and cared for. Thanks also to Brody Grogan for always making us look fabulous and capturing such special moments, like the beautiful photo of Maggie Shaw at her last Nudgee event, the 2024 LAX and Past Mothers' Christmas Dinner & Annual Mothers' Mass.

Each year at the annual College Awards evening the Past Mothers' Association has the honour of presenting the Year 11 Sign of Faith Award. It is always a privilege to present this award, recognising an outstanding contribution to the College.

As we mark this significant 40th anniversary of our Past Mothers' Association, 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 Semester and indeed this year serve as a reminder of the power of connection, tradition and continuing efforts to gather and contribute to our wonderful College and wider Nudgee community.

Ms Jo Curran

President, Past Mothers' Association

2025 & 2026 Committee Members

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| • <i>President</i> | Jo Curran |
| • <i>Vice President</i> | Simone Watson |
| • <i>Treasurer</i> | Judy Hatch |
| • <i>Secretary</i> | Catherine Jones |
| • <i>Committee Members</i> | Angela Martin, Merryl Bennett, Keeley Mancini |

We extend our sincere thanks to our dedicated committee members, volunteers, contributors, and participants who made Semester Two such a successful period for the Alma Mater. Their commitment continues to enrich the lives of past and present members of the Nudgee community.

Special acknowledgement to our 2025 Alma Mater Committee members, Nudgee College Principal Mr Scott Thomson, Director of Development & Communications Mr Mark Anthony, current staff member and past father, Mr David Kelly, past staff member and past father, Mr Brian O'Reilly, past and current father and NCOBA President, Mr Andrew McNamara, past mother and President of the Past Mothers' Association, Ms Jo Curran, past mother and Secretary of the Past Mothers' Association, Ms Catherine Jones, Old Boys Mr Freddie Carlton-Smith and Mr Ben Casado.

We invite all Old Boys, past families, staff and friends to remain involved as we step into 2026. Further information and ways to stay connected can be found through the QR code.

Ms Erina Hitchings

Acting Head of Philanthropy



SCAN THE CODE TO FOLLOW THE
PAST MOTHERS' FACEBOOK PAGE



NC Old Boys' Association



NCOBA President's Message

Following a successful Semester One for the Nudgee College Old Boys' Association (NCOBA), the latter half of 2025 was defined by a series of significant gatherings that highlighted the strength and continuity of the Nudgee College Old Boys community.

August began with the Mentoring breakfast, where Year 11 students engaged with Old Boy mentors for guidance on study, work, and life beyond school. The event once again highlighted the NCOBA's commitment to building genuine and enduring connections between current students and Old Boys. Later in the month, we welcomed back Old Boys who graduated fifty or more years ago for the Senior Reunion. A wonderful crowd returned to campus for Mass, lunch, a tour of the College and the opportunity to support the First XV.

Early September saw immediate past president Hugh Hamilton (NCOB 1983) host a warm and well-

attended gathering in Toowoomba, bringing local Old Boys and families together in a relaxed regional setting. This was followed by the Annual Reunion Weekend on campus. Coinciding with the final-round fixture against Terrace, which resulted in another Nudgee premiership. The occasion provided a spirited backdrop for what became the most successful reunion weekend in the association's history.

October offered an equally full calendar. The Blue and White Race Day drew an energetic mix of recent graduates, Old Boys, and current and past staff and parents, all contributing to a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere. Shortly after, the Young Old Boys Welcome recognised the graduating Year 12 class of 2025 as they prepare to formally join the NCOBA.

In November, the Annual Memorial Mass provided a solemn and meaningful opportunity for Old Boys, families, and friends to honour

and remember members of our community who have passed. The occasion, followed by a shared breakfast, remains one of the most significant and reflective gatherings in the association's year.

We extend sincere congratulations to our 2025 Signum Fidei Award recipients, Bob Ingham-Myers (1962) and Young Old Boy Will Howard (2023). This distinguished honour recognises those who exemplify the values and spirit of Nudgee as a true "Sign of Faith."

The association remains grateful for the continued support of Principal Mr Scott Thomson and the College, and we acknowledge the commitment of our committee members, whose energy and dedication underpin the strength of the Old Boys' network.

Mr Andrew McNamara

NCOBA President



SCAN THE CODE TO FOLLOW
THE NCOBA ON LINKEDIN



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Class of 1962.

NCOBA SNAPSHOT



Class of 1962 Toowoomba Reunion

The Class of 1962 Toowoomba Reunion brought together former Nudgee boys for a joyful gathering in May, filled with laughter, memories, and camaraderie. The event welcomed a fantastic turnout, including Old Boys who began their Nudgee journey as far back as 1951 at Nudgee Junior. Special recognition went to James Delahunty and Robert Durrington, two of the longest-serving members of their cohort, with 10 and 11 years at the College respectively. Thanks are extended to everyone who helped make the day memorable, particularly reunion coordinator John Howard. The Nudgee War Cry once again captured the unbeatable spirit and fellowship of the Class of 1962.

Class of 1966 Reunion

The Class of 1966 Reunion was held in August at The Norman, with 16 attendees enjoying a wonderful lunch and a perfect opportunity to reconnect and share memories.

Class of 1959 Reunion

Held at The Normanby Hotel on 29 October. It was a truly joyous occasion with Old Boys, their wives, and the College Foundation Chair, Luke Ingham-Myers (NCOB 1988) and Erina Hitchings (Acting Head of Philanthropy) in attendance as invited guests.



Class of 1959.



Class of 1966.

Gordon Arrowsmith Day

On Saturday 31 May, Old Boys from across generations, along with current and former staff, gathered to celebrate Gordon Arrowsmith Day, honouring the former Director of Football and recognising the enduring impact of his leadership, mentorship and legacy within Nudgee Football.

Robert Toia NCOB 2022

Robert earned selection for the Queensland Maroons in the State of Origin series, an extraordinary achievement at this early stage of his career and a testament to his talent, discipline and rapid development as an elite athlete.



Gordon Arrowsmith.



Robert Toia.

Fraser Masin NCOB 2018

Fraser selected as the first overall pick by the Calgary Stampeders in the Canadian Football League Global Draft, an exceptional achievement that reflects his rapid rise on the international stage. His trajectory continues to accelerate and there is every expectation that he will make his way to the NFL in the near future.

Jacob Elordi NCOB 2015

Jacob continues to build an impressive career in 2025, having starred as Frankenstein's monster in Guillermo del Toro's Netflix horror film *Frankenstein*, an interpretation widely lauded as one of the most remarkable portrayals of "The Creature" to date. He also played the lead role in the miniseries adaptation of *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* and is set to appear in Ridley Scott's science fiction project *The Dog Stars* plus *Wuthering Heights*, alongside fellow Australian Margot Robbie. An actor of extraordinary promise, his trajectory in film and television is already exceptional.

Ted O'Brien MP NCOB 1991

The former College Captain, has been elected Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, marking a significant milestone in his political career and reflecting his longstanding leadership and commitment to public service.

Luke O'Sullivan NCOB 2021

Luke was awarded the inaugural Skykelpie Scholarship, an honour recognising his strong commitment to the agricultural industry and his potential as a future leader in the sector. The scholarship, founded by Luke Chaplain NCOB 2007 through his innovative agri-tech company Skykelpie, supports young professionals who are advancing modern livestock and agricultural practices.

Br Phil Joyner NCOB 1979

Br Phil has been appointed to the Oceania Leadership Team of the Christian Brothers, a recognition of his enduring commitment, leadership, and service within the congregation across the region.

Fr John Sherman NCOB 1954

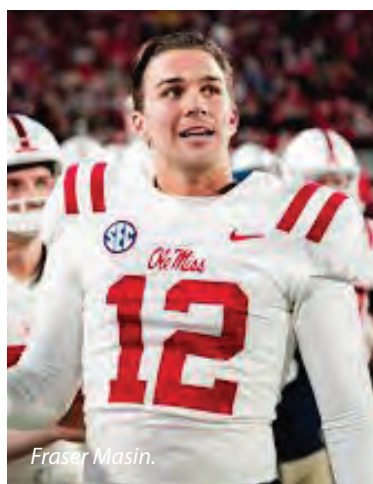
The Assumption Mass on Friday 15 August celebrated Fr John Sherman and his 60th Anniversary of Ordination.



Jacob Elordi.

Photo courtesy Frank Ockenfels - Netflix © 2025





Fraser Masin.

Liam Greinke NCOB 2010

Liam appeared in the feature film *Dangerous Animals*, showcasing his talent on the big screen.

Will Duffield NCOB 2023

Nudgee College celebrates Will Duffield, Esports Coordinator, who has been awarded the Australian "Rising Star in Esports Education", recognising his dedication to developing the College's Esports program and his potential as a leader in the field. Nudgee Esports was also named a finalist for "Best School Esports Program" from more than 300 national nominations, affirming the College's position as one of Australia's leading Esports educators. The award was presented by Lachlan McKellar (NCOB 2012), with judging led by Nick Vanzetti, Senior Vice President of ECL Facit Group.



Br Phil Joyner.

The Honourable Tim Carmody AC NCOB 1975

The former Chief Justice of Queensland, and his wife, Robyn Carmody, a distinguished Stuartholme Alumnae and legal professional, returned as a couple to speak at our Nudgee and Stuartholme Boarding "Christmas in July" event. They shared the story of meeting during their senior year, reflecting on decades of leadership, resilience, and commitment to justice, and offered personal insights into how their boarding school experiences shaped their professional and personal lives. Their visit was a powerful reminder of the lifelong influence of a boarding education and the enduring strength of the St Joseph's Nudgee College and Stuartholme School communities.



Will Duffield & Lachlan McKellar.



Liam Greinke.



Tim Carmody.



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NCOB Harrison Turner Makes History

15-Year National Record Broken

In a remarkable display of strength and precision, Harrison Turner (NCOB 2021) claimed bronze in the 200 metre Butterfly final at the World Championships in Singapore.



Competing against the world's elite, Harrison not only secured a place on the podium but broke a longstanding national milestone, smashing the Australian men's record for the event that had stood since 2009. At just 21, and in his international long course debut, he rewrote history with a performance that captured national attention.

The final, broadcast live on 30 July 2025, showcased Harrison's trademark back-end surge, powering through the last 50 metres with relentless

determination honed over years of disciplined training. His achievement instantly cemented his place in both the record books and in the hearts of supporters across the country.

Harrison's rise to the world stage has been strongly shaped by the mentorship of Nudgee College Swimming Director, Shaun Crow, whose guidance helped transform him from a promising schoolboy athlete into a world class contender.

A proud Nudgee College Old Boy, Harrison's accomplishment represents

far more than a medal. It stands as a testament to perseverance, self-belief, and the quiet resilience that defines many of Australia's great athletes.

On Saturday 15 November, Australian Swimming held its 2025 Awards Night on the Gold Coast, where Harrison Turner was named AIS Discovery of the Year, following his World Championship bronze medal and Australian record-breaking swim.

Watch this space. Harrison Turner is only just getting started.

Nudgee and Terrace on the Western Front

An Eternal Pilgrimage

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Kieran McCarthy, a proud Nudgee College Old Boy (NCOB 1983), carries the values formed during his years at the College into his current service as a member of the Trustees of Edmund Rice Education Australia (TEREA), the body responsible for the governance and stewardship of EREA. With deep family connections to Christian Brothers schools and a longstanding bond with Nudgee College, he continues to embody the spirit of Edmund Rice in both his professional work and his governance roles. His recent visit to the graves of fallen Old Boy soldiers reflects that same commitment to honouring the story, sacrifice and legacy that shaped him.

With 2025 marking 150 years of the Christian Brothers coming to Queensland, and the sesquicentenary of St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace, Old Boy solicitor and regular traveller to the Western Front, Kieran McCarthy (NCOB 1983) felt it an appropriate time to visit the graves of and memorials to the fallen of both Colleges. Kieran was accompanied in the endeavour by his wife Kristin Devitt; and John (GTOB 1985) and Kate Naughton (nee McKeering, daughter of Leonard, NCOB 1962).

Starting in Paris, the eight-day journey took the group from Compiègne in the south to Boezinge in the north

and west to Rouen. In between, the group visited 31 cemeteries, seven national memorials, and six memorials to the missing, including the Australian National Memorial at Villers Bretonneux and the Menin Gate in Ieper (Ypres) Belgium. The group visited graves of, and memorials to, 22 Terrace and 20 Nudgee boys. With the imprimatur of both Colleges, those commemorations included a wreath laying at the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Villers-Bretonneux by John (for Terrace) and Kate (on Nudgee's behalf) and another at the Menin Gate Last Post ceremony two days later, John and Kieran doing the respective honours.

Three of the dead attended both Colleges: Second Lt Thomas Real O'Sullivan (NCOB 1907), wool classer and son of a Supreme Court judge of Toowong; Gunner "Jock" Horstmann (NCOB 1917), who saved three people from a rip on Stradbroke Island, before the war, as a teenager and won a Royal Humane Society Medal, also of Toowong; and Lt Charles Collin, public servant of Brisbane. All died in 1918 and are buried within a thirty-minute drive of each other.

Two of Kieran's long anticipated visitations were achieved on this tour. Two Nudgee Old Boys lie side by side at Doullens Communal Cemetery:



Pvt John Patrick Cleary (NCOB 1908), holder of the Military Medal and a grazier from Gayndah; and Pvt John Edward MacDonnell (NCOB 1914), an analyst from Toowong. Both died on the same day, 5 April 1918, as the Australians were defending a line from Dernancourt to Villers-Bretonneux.

Another Old Boy grave on Kieran's wish list was that of Pvt William Joseph O'Brien (NCOB 1909) who fell in April 1917 in the fighting near Bullecourt and is buried at Vaulx Australian Field Ambulance Cemetery. William was a member of the O'Brien family synonymous with Defiance Flour, and a forebear of Deputy Federal Opposition Leader, Ted O'Brien (NCOB 1991).

Kieran is planning another pilgrimage for 2027, his ambition being to visit the graves of the remaining twelve of 38 Nudgee Old Boys who fell on the Western Front whom he has yet to pay respects to. Anyone who has similar motivations can contact Kieran through the Alma Mater network.



In Memoriam

Surname	Name	Nudgee Years	Date of Death
Aldenton	Roger Anthony	1961-1962	16/12/2024
Arnell FMS	Br Ralph Thomas	1960-1963	9/1/2025
Boldeman	David T	1959-1962	6/1/2025
Brasch	Ronald Owen	1939	4/5/2025
Butt	Joseph Henry	1951	25/11/2024
Burns	Dominic Arthur	1998-2002	18/2/2024
Carlton-Smith	Brian Morris	1952-1954	14/4/2025
Cartwright	Peter Raymond	1959-1962	14/9/2025
Clark	Peter Anthony	1959-1960	18/12/2024
Collins	Ross	1961-1962	17/10/2025
Comerford	Michael Patrick	1955-1959	13/11/2024
D'Arcy	Lionel "Ted"	1942-1944	22/8/2025
Daly	Bernard John	1972-1976	16/5/2025
Duffy	Reginald Joseph	1950-1951	3/9/2025
Garland	Phillip Jonathan	1984-1985	30/9/2025
Graham	Neville Raymond	1946-1953	1/11/2024
Hartigan	Stephen John	1965-1969	17/4/2025
Hasted	John Louis	1961-1965	3/10/2025
Howe	Keith Francis	1944	3/9/2025
Igiman	Bernard	1997-1999	17/3/2025

Surname	Name	Nudgee Years	Date of Death
Kelly	Kevin J	1941-1946	4/9/2025
King	Robert George	1955-1956	10/4/2025
Luteral	John Patrick Francis	1957-60	10/11/25
Malouf	Roger James	1971-1973	16/9/2025
McAuliffe	Michael Anthony	1965-1965	30/7/2025
McBain	Ian Furgeson	1952-1953	26/12/2024
McGahan	James Walter	1956	3/7/2025
Mora	Joe	1997-1999	26/10/2024
Nugent	Paul Francis	1972-1976	14/9/2025
O'Hagan	Kevin Peter	1950-51	02/03/25
Rao	Rosario	1949-1952	22/12/2024
Riddle	Peter Michael	1967 -1970	29/11/2024
Roche	Denis Michael	1954-1956	5/6/2025
Ryan	Liam Douglas	1999-2003	15/7/2025
Ryan	Thomas George	1975-1976	8/6/2025
Scott	Gerard "Gerry"	1959-1961	15/4/25
Sleba	Rodney Arthur	1958-1959	15/1/2025
Shearer	Dr Alexander Broadman	1942-1946	10/3/2025
Vallati	Dr Astrid Michele Stefano	1962-1966	22/6/2025
Van Slooten	Adriaan (Arch)	1966-1968	6/5/2025



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