Rural Legend
Sandy Kidd

NUDGEE COLLEGE BOARDING
MARGARET O’REILLY
RURAL CAREERS
ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE
THE DELAHUNTYS
ACTIVITIES: SUMMER SEASON
WRAP UP
To the nth degree

Greetings to the Nudgee College Family

We have had a tremendous start to 2009 here at St Joseph’s Nudgee College across all areas: leadership, faith life, student life, boarding life, academic life and activities.

The 2009 Senior class has embarked on their new responsibilities with vigour. They are ably led by College Captain, Dennis O’Keefe who is a boarder, originally from Dalby. Our College Vice-Captains are Luca Mainello, Sororo Mills (Thursday Island), Ted Postal and Curtis Skinner. These fine young men, who have come together from all walks of life and with many different strengths, have already begun to stamp their unique leadership style on our community. The Senior motto is “Embrace the Call”. In Dennis’ words, spoken at Senior Investiture, “To embrace the call is to accept the challenges eagerly. To spread your arms and welcome in all that life throws at you.” I look forward to seeing our young men take up this challenge.

Mother Nature has truly thrown Mother Nature has truly thrown Mother Nature has truly thrown Mother Nature has truly thrown...
The late Archbishop Sir James Duhig described St Joseph’s Nudgee College as “The jewel in the crown of the Christian Brothers schools in Queensland.”

Nudgee College was proudly established as a Catholic Boarding School for boys in 1891 and boarding at Nudgee is considered a cornerstone of the College. At one time there were between 550 and 600 boarders, but today the College is home to over 300, with a waiting list, in a school of over 1,400 students. As such St Joseph’s Nudgee College is one of Australia’s largest and preferred boarding schools and it continues to grow, which goes against the national trend of downsizing. Why?

Nudgee College is positioned well strategically – its location, its reputation as an excellent boarding school, its academic, community and sporting excellence and its cultural diversity make it highly attractive and truly unique.

Nudgee College is a beautiful place, a place which embodies a great spirit. It is a family and home to boys from diverse backgrounds including remote and rural areas of Queensland, the north and south coasts, metropolitan Brisbane, the Northern Territory, New South Wales and other states as well as Indigenous Australia, Papua New Guinea and other overseas countries. Nudgee College boarding has a strong academic, sporting, spiritual and community focus. Boarding at Nudgee College is the metaphorical beating heart of a vibrant and dynamic institution.

Boarding at Nudgee College has a real heart too as we witnessed recently. On a very warm and humid evening over 40 boarders of all ages and backgrounds from across the four boarding houses accepted the call to roll over 300 Street Swags (see Nth Degree Volume 2 article) that were to be sent off the next morning to assist victims of the Victoria bushfire crisis. To watch it happening and to see the faces of the boys when they reached the goal was a very emotional event – each one of these boys was living the College motto – Signum Fidei – a sign of faith.

At the beginning of the new century there were five boarding houses which were rationalised to three, with 100 plus boys in each. By 2005 the three boarding houses consisted of Hodda (with all the Year 12s and half the Year 11s); O’Neill (with all the Year 10s and the other half of the Year 11s). Then there was the “Middle School House” which housed Year 8s and 9s, plus a handful of Year 7s who attended nearby St Patrick’s College. As plans were underway for a new boarding facility to be built in the future, O’Neill was converted into a new teaching facility for our Year 5, 6, 7s, so it was lost to boarding. The Murphy building, which was attached to Hodda, was refurbished to provide single rooms with high quality fixtures to match its neighbour.

Another old boarding house, Miller, was to be...
gutted and turned into new facilities in the main Treacy Building. All these changes meant the time was ripe to implement some positive change ahead of the intended move to a new boarding precinct.

The establishment of four boarding houses in 2007, combined with the change of structure to a more vertical (a mixture of year levels in one house) form that year, has greatly enhanced the culture and feel of boarding at Nudgee College. Each boarding house took in approximately 75 students, with their own identity (with house crests/colours) but which were linked both vertically and horizontally (just one year level per house).

The four boarding houses now consist of two senior houses – Hodda and Murphy in which both Year 11 and 12 boarders live.Linked to these houses, but some distance away in the main building, O’Brien and Cotter house Years 8, 9 and 10. Cotter has a small ‘pod’ of Year 6 and 7 students who are now part of Nudgee College’s new Years 5-7 cohort. The closure of the extra houses and the refurbishment of another enabled us to move more quickly with the change to vertical boarding.

There are advantages and disadvantages to both vertical and horizontal boarding. The ‘wall’ between the two senior houses, for example, is opened every day. The Year 12s and the Year 11s can mix freely with their peers.

The link between the junior and senior boarders is evident at many levels too. Although the boarding houses are vertical in nature they are also able to become horizontal at times to allow the Year levels to mix socially. The ‘wall’ between the two senior houses, for example, is opened every day. The Year 12s and the Year 11s can mix freely with their peers.

The decision to recruit female boarding staff for each boarding house to complement the work of the males and House Mothers was an excellent one. Although the College is a single sex school, it has been proactive in developing positive relationships and respect for women. This is a fundamental component of Nudgee College’s Catholic faith and recognition of Mary, mother of Jesus Christ. The boys appreciate the conversations with, and the support from, the female staff. The recruitment also complements the high percentage of female teaching and support staff in the day school.

A very important aspect of boarding at Nudgee College is an excellent boarding activities program that offers a mix of no cost, low cost and paid activities to suit the wide tastes of the 300 plus boarders.

Activities for the boarders abound. We have heated swimming pools, a gym, a full sized synthetic running track, a golf course, a small bore shooting club and a cattle club. After hours activities for the live in population of students are organised by our Boarding Recreation Co-ordinator, Mr Matt Russo (NCOB 2000).

An equally important aspect is the continually improving/evolving catering department, managed by Mr Pradip Kochhar, who is dedicated to providing the best possible menu to both the boys and the staff. Happy, well fed and satisfied boarders are productive boarders. The pay off in terms of better catering is less wasted food – the boys and staff are fed and satisfied boarders are productive boarders. The pay off in terms of better catering is less wasted food.

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Schools continually change and develop. Edmund Rice had a vision for Catholic boys. Nudgee College and similar boarding schools develop a great sense of tradition and common purpose which enable the children in their care to fulfill their potential.

The past American president, Abraham Lincoln, is credited with having said to a group of young school graduates: “Whatever you are, be a good one!”

The new boarding structure at Nudgee College has assisted us greatly with this goal. However this could not have been realised without the determination and effort put in by the boarding staff at the College. These are mainly family men who live on site, ably supported by their spouses and children. The accommodation and the remuneration are very good but nothing can compensate for the hours given, often at the expense of family and personal time to ensure that each boarder is “a good one”. I call it dedication, and the way they operate is professional in the fullest sense of the word.

The careful selection of supervisors for each boarding house includes the need for these people to have excellent skills in dealing with adolescent boys and a good number of years of life experience to ensure good role modelling and expectations.

The support by the Nudgee College boarding staff, led by the Heads of Boarding Houses: Mr Stephen Meara (Hodda); Mr Greg Thorne (Murphy); Mr John Cross (O’Brien) and Mr Ken Mitchell (Cotter) for the boys in their care is outstanding. If there is excellence in boarding – it can be found at Nudgee College.

The word is out—
Nudgee College boarding is alive and well!
St Joseph’s Nudgee College recognises that our students travel great distances to join us for their schooling. The opportunities Nudgee College offers its students means that many of them return home or to other regional areas once they have finished school or further study. A sense of community is an integral part of what makes Nudgee College so great, and we try to continue to develop that sense of community by regularly travelling to areas that past, present and future students may call home.

In 2009, members of the Nudgee College staff will be travelling to catch up with the families of current students, hear the stories of past students and families, and meet families who may be considering a Nudgee College education for their son.

Visits

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<td>15th – 22nd April</td>
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<td>18th April</td>
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<td>21st – 22nd May</td>
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<td>17th – 18th July</td>
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<td>7th – 9th August</td>
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<td>13th – 14th August</td>
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<td>18th – 20th August</td>
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<td>1st – 3rd September</td>
<td>Ag Show, Toowoomba</td>
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<td>9th – 10th September</td>
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Nudgee College boarders come from all over the world. Countries include Australia, China, England, Fiji, India, Japan, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand and Vanuatu. Australian states and territories include Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Victoria and Western Australia. The yellow dots mark some of their homes.
When you ask Sandy Kidd if he considers himself a success, he tells you he is “no better than anyone else on the land”. However, for many, the knowledge Sandy has and the work he continues to do, contradict his modest self assessment.
Sandy is the fourth generation of his family to live at Mayfield, near Windorah in Queensland’s Channel Country. His knowledge of the area is so well respected that he is often the first point of call for search and rescue organisations if someone goes missing. In 1974 he was awarded the Order of the British Empire – Medal (Civil)/British Empire Medal (Civil) for service to the community in times of stress and emergency, and in 2001 he received a Centenary Medal for his service to local government, rural and remote education and to the beef industry. Sandy’s wife, Anne, also received a Centenary Medal in 2001 for distinguished service as a rural nurse.

Despite the awards and the lives he has saved over the years, Sandy maintains he is “just doing what needs to be done”.

Born James Alexander Kidd on 21st January, 1940, Sandy began his pastoralist career at a young age. His grandmother was the first white woman born in the Cooper and from the minute he could ride Sandy spent time in mustering camps.

“I had a lot of experience from a very young age,” he said. “My father and grandfather were great property managers and they passed what they knew on to me. They managed the properties well and each generation has done that little bit more to make them better.”

The Kidd family has two properties, Table Top and Our Del, where they run a cattle breeding operation. Cattle, primarily Brahmans, are bred at the Table Top property before they are moved to Our Del where they are fattened up for market. Over the years the family has also been involved with breeding highly successful stock horses and run sheep, although these activities aren’t carried out as much anymore.

Besides the land, one of Sandy’s other great loves is flying. He got his licence in 1957 and is still flying today at the age of 69.

“I was always around planes. When I was little the flying doctors stayed at our home and they’d let me sit on their knee and fly the plane when they were flying. Even when we were waiting I would stay with the engineers.”

Sandy’s memories of his early formal education are of his mother, who home schooled him until he was sent to boarding school at the age of nine.

“We were 104 miles west of Windorah, so by the time we got our lessons they were a month old. It would sometimes be six weeks or so between correspondences, depending on the mail.”

Sandy began his Nudgee College journey at Nudgee Junior. His father was a Nudgee College Old Boy and as education was important to his family, he followed in his father’s footsteps. He did however have it a bit easier than his father while making the trip to Brisbane.

“My father used to travel 200 miles to the train in Longreach and back each Christmas by horse. He would leave his horse with the common ranger and pick it up when he got back. He reckons there were food drops over the years, primarily to people stranded by flood waters.

“There was no radio back then and the preferred way to drop the goods was using TAA postings, which were white bags, as you could see them coming down. People would leave notes in the ground telling me what they wanted and I would go and get it and bring it back to them.”
always about 60 kids in Longreach heading home from school that he used to travel with, but he had to travel the last 60 miles on his own by horse.”

Luckily for Sandy, by the time he had to make the trip, he was able to be driven to Quilpie to catch the train. The Channel Country plane began operations in his later school years which would pick students up from their properties and take them to the train in Charleville.

Sandy enjoyed his time at Nudgee College, although he said it did take him a while to settle in.

“When I first arrived I had no idea what rugby was. I was okay with tennis as I had seen that at home but nothing like rugby. I also had no idea what it was like to mix with other kids. At home I only ever had to mix with five or six kids at a time so to be thrown into a situation where I had to mix with a lot of them was hard. The noise for a start was quite a shock.”

Years later, as a member of the Queensland Priority Country Area Programme (PCAP) Board, Sandy used this experience to assist other children in rural and remote areas to learn how to mix with other children.

“We used to hold a sporting day or event where kids from all over get to mix with each other. This taught them how to do it, so it wasn’t such a shock when they went away. We used to get players from the Broncos, Queensland cricket and basketball players who would come up and help run the camps so the country kids knew how to mix with other kids.”

Sandy married Anne in September 1963. The couple has five children, three daughters and two sons. Both of Sandy’s sons Thomas (NC 1979–81) and James (NC 1983–85) attended Nudgee College and have returned to the Channel Country where they run Table Top and Our Del respectively. The tradition of Kidds at Nudgee College will continue for a few years with Sandy’s grandchildren, Jack and Thomas, in Years 11 and 9 respectively and other grandson Bill to begin in 2010.

In typical pastoralist style, Sandy has no plans for retirement. He will also leave the decision about running his two properties up to his grandchildren, if they want them.

“I will continue doing what I’m doing until the health gives out or I kick it or something. I have no interest in retiring. Everyone who retires dies as they have no interests anymore. I have two properties and it will be up to the grandkids whether they take over or not. It would be nice if they did, but it’s up to them.”

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I came to Nudgee College in 1995 when my husband Brian started working in the Murphy boarding house. This was my first introduction to life in a boarding school. My own three children had finished their schooling so it was interesting to observe the parents and young men arriving at Nudgee College at the beginning of the school year filled with apprehension about what boarding was going to offer and how their sons were going to survive. These parents were placing their precious children in our care.
Whatever their reason for attending boarding school, the result will be the same: these boys will be away from their families for most of the year—usually for several years. Life will change for them and their families.

It wasn’t until I was appointed librarian at Nudgee College in 1998 that I became more involved in boarding life. A vocational education dormitory was set up as an experiment and while it worked reasonably well, it had a high proportion of students from rural and remote areas which meant that for the first time I could forge close connections with their parents. Brian and I were then appointed to the O’Brien Residence because the Principal, Br Peter Harney, was keen to have another husband and wife team running a boarding house.

During my time in the O’Brien Residence I travelled extensively during the holidays to visit our families, and attended various agricultural shows along with the cattle club as part of the Nudgee College marketing team. It was not unusual for us to spend up to three weeks on the road travelling up the coast to Cairns and Rockhampton and Townville we stayed with our family friends with many of them while we were on other journeys, we are still very close to three weeks on the road travelling up the coast to Cairns and Rockhampton and Townville we stayed with one of our family friends with many of them. While we were on other journeys, we are still very close. We used to call up on the UHF radio at a particular landmark on the road so we could be met at this particular family’s front gate on the highway. We duly called in and were told to keep an eye out for the family’s white 4WD parked on the side of the road. When we spotted the vehicle we would wave our Year 8 son waving to us; he was barely visible over the steering wheel. It hadn’t been for the Akubra perched on his head you wouldn’t have known anyone was in the vehicle. We were given instructions to follow him a few kilometres up to the house. This brought home to me how important these boys are to the property workforce and yet back at school we were inclined to think they knew very little. Many people in the city may not understand the hardship and tenacity that is required to run a property, particularly in the midst of a drought. We were made so welcome and quickly became part of the day’s work programme. Rooms and beds were shuffled around for us, which was very humbling. I will never forget these experiences to the communities. More recently I visited families in Hughenden and Cuba Plains near Charters Towers. I was at Cuba Plains that I had an unexpected surprise. I found out that the mum in the family was a distant cousin of mine and her son had just started at Nudgee College. On both these visits I came to appreciate the huge role the School of the Air plays in the education of children from remote areas and how difficult it can be at times for them to adjust to regular schooling.

To those families from Longreach to Cloncurry, from Arnhem Land to Augathella, from Dingo to Dirranbandi, from Boulia to Bravensford, from Darwin to Hughenden and Charters Towers to Goondiwindi: your hopes and dreams are no different from those held by the parents of city boys. While the joys and challenges have been amazing, I have shared in a few sad times as well. I am grateful that I was given the opportunity to travel to many parts of Australia and visit many wonderful families and to have a greater understanding of the hardships and sacrifices many rural and remote families experience so their children can have a quality education at Nudgee College. This partnership gave me a sense of what was going on, and because we had shared part of their journey and understood what home was like – we knew the name of the dog and the make of the motorbike or truck, the breeds of cattle, brothers’ and sisters’ names – we could bring all this familiarity into play during tough times, such as when worry or homesickness struck. Because of this I was determined to do the very best I could to make their time at Nudgee College the best it could possibly be.

There are many people at Nudgee College who are making a difference to the day-to-day lives of the boarding community. I have seen major changes in the boarding school and was associated with the implementation of the House Mothers in each of the boarding residences. The partnership between the College and the families. This partnership gave me a sense of what was going on, and because we had shared part of their journey and understood what home was like – we knew the name of the dog and the make of the motorbike or truck, the breeds of cattle, brothers’ and sisters’ names – we could bring all this familiarity into play during tough times, such as when worry or homesickness struck. Because of this I was determined to do the very best I could to make their time at Nudgee College the best it could possibly be.

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I am also involved in the Social Justice programs, such as the Big BBQ, Big Bekkly and the Street Swag appeal at Nudgee College. I am also part of a group who work in Cambodia helping the marginalised set up a horticultural business so they can earn money to send their children to school for a good education.

Recent milestones for me were being appointed Pastoral Care tutor with the Years 5—7 boys in 2008; it was a rich and rewarding experience for me. My grandson, Lachlan, started in Year 7 this year, following in the footsteps of my son Tim and son-in-law, Michael. I consider myself to be a small and very ordinary part of something great here at Nudgee College. It is something Edmund Rice and the Christian Brothers started and that makes me happy.
Four brothers, all St Joseph’s Nudgee College Old Boys, are proving that careers in rural areas are not limited to just farming. Brendan (NCOB 84), Dan (NCOB 85), Brian (NCOB 88) and Matt (NCOB 95) Ostwald run Ostwald Bros., a civil engineering and construction company based in Dalby.

“Ostwald Bros is primarily a civil construction and transport company operating within a regional area but is not heavily involved in agricultural production,” said Brendan. “Ostwald Bros Rural produces beef, olives and grain however this is not the company’s core business arm.”

Ostwald Bros. manages a modern transport fleet, with advanced satellite navigation, which operates throughout Australia providing transport and bulk haulage solutions. The company is NHVAS (National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme) accredited and all operators are required to complete a Certificate III in Transport and Logistics.

In the past the company has worked for large cotton producers completing bulk earthworks and irrigation and has completed feedlot construction, fabrication and steel yard construction, water reticulation, sewer reticulation, on-site batched concrete works and earthworks within the lot feeding industry.

The company has also benefited from the development of other industries in the Dalby region, particularly those based around power.

“Various energy companies have stepped in to meet rising demand for alternative fuel sources and the region’s abundant coal seam gas and coal supplies have resulted in the construction of coal-fired and gas-fired power stations. Ostwald Bros. has completed bulk earthworks, concrete construction and civil works for many of these projects. We were also involved in the construction of the Dalby Bio-Refinery which relies on bulk sorghum supplies, much of it grown on the Darling Downs, to produce ethanol.”

The Ostwalds are also doing their bit to give back to the College and to encourage young people to consider a rural career. They are offering a number of education scholarships to current students in a range of areas.

Outside our direct involvement in primary production there are many associated careers such as science and research, business and finance, marketing and engineering,” said Brendan.

The scholarships will be offered to students who enrol in an agreed university course or trade discipline in areas that include diesel fitting, boiler making, fitter and turners, associated tradesmen to repair and maintain its extensive fleet. We also employ civil engineers to complete major infrastructure projects such as road and bridge construction, resource sector infrastructure, pump and pipeline installation, and residential and commercial developments.”

RURAL CAREERS:

not just farming!
Ryan Daley NC 1998-1999

Working in the beef cattle industry was a dream and passion from a very young age. I was born and raised in Inverell, New South Wales. My interest in beef cattle began when I spent weekends with several friends who were on properties in the Inverell area. In 2006, I made the decision to go overseas to the United Kingdom where I lived in Oxford, England. I spent twelve months there and I worked in the international business area for HSBC Bank providing loan and payment facilities to importers and exporters. I visited many countries in Europe which was an excellent experience. "Now, at the age of 27, I work for the Santa Gertrudis Breeders Association based in Gheebung, Brisbane. I began working for the Association in February 2008. Santa Gertrudis are a breed of beef cattle originating from the genetic make up of 70 percent Shorthorn and 30 percent Brahman. My role with the Association revolves around the promotion of the breed but it is quite varied which is something I really appreciate in a job. There is a good balance between office time and out-of-office time. While in the office, I work on stud registrations and general maintenance of the breed's stud book registry, I write reports and articles on Santa Gertrudis related issues, as well as industry related issues for our own Santa Gertrudis Australia publication released every quarter and other industry media publications. I also assist in the accounts area of the Association. When I am not based in the office, I attend Santa Gertrudis stud cattle sales, exhibitions, industry functions and events where I promote the breed. So far I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience working in the beef industry and I have met some great people. I am passionate about the Australian cattle industry and am optimistic about the future of the industry."

Ryan Daley NC 2001-2005

Since leaving Nudgee College in 2005, Will spent three years on his apprenticeship in Goondiwindi with Kennaway and Clark truck dealers. After that he moved to the mining rich town of Emerald so he could be closer to home. Will currently works for Star Crushing on quarry machinery. He says it is great to be around like-minded people. All the letters had good reputations and the majority of them still ran businesses. This gives you a lot of confidence in them as you know they know the industry.

Will Comiskey NC 2001-2005

Will Comiskey competing in bare bronc ride at Mt Isa Rodeo

At the College the most important thing I learnt was how to research and analyse ideas to make sure they would work. We were constantly analysing businesses and working out the factors for their success. On leaving Marcus Oldham my classmates obtained jobs in banks, consulting, marketing, finance and managing properties and businesses. The other popular course is a three-year farm business management which involves some practical subjects. The first and third years are on campus and the second is a prac year. I would recommend this experience to anyone wanting to gain further education in agribusiness.

Pat Herde NC 1998-2002

Pat Herde at his 2008 Marcus Oldham graduation. I grew up on a sheep, grain and cattle farm in the Goondiwindi district. After school I always intended to obtain a tertiary education, however I wanted some practical experience first. So I headed to "Auvergne Station" in the Northern Territory for a year in the stock camps then another year at "Carlton Hill" in the East Kimberly region.

Old Boy Will Comiskey (Magee House prefect and College rodeo instigator) will soon complete his diesel fitting apprenticeship and plans to enter the rodeo circuit in the USA. Will, along with Adam McKellar, is affectionately known to the rodeo and cattle club boys, says "Will has been our most successful rider on bulls, bareback and saddle bronc to date. He travelled to America in 2005 with the Australian high school rodeo team and our boys now compete for the "Will ‘Dingo’ Comiskey Trophy for Most Consistent Rider” each year. Will hopes to return to America after he has completed his apprenticeship, provided he keeps strong and fit. He had a knee reconstruction after being “hung up” on a bareback horse at the Roma rodeo over Easter in 2007. His comeback crusade was successful, with wins in the second division bareback and saddle bronc at the New Year’s Eve Upper Hordont rodeo.
Rod Hetherington
A boarder from Dirranbandi, Rod was the 2008 College Captain. Although he thought he might get close to an OP1, Rod wasn’t sure what his final result would be as he wasn’t sure if he’d done enough. “I was hoping I would get a 1 as I am the youngest of three kids and my two older sisters both got 1s. Mum was very excited to have three OP1s in the family.”

Rod will study engineering this year at UQ.

His advice for current Year 12 students is to find a balance. “There is a lot of pressure put on marks in Year 12 but I went out with my mates and played rugby (and got knocked out three times). I also mucked around with the guys in the dorm. My advice is: make sure you set aside time for work, but make the most of the Year 12 experience too.”

Johnson Xie
 Originally from Shanghai, Johnson came to Australia to study in 2006. He completed his English language course at the Nudgee International College in 2006 before starting at St Joseph’s Nudgee College as a Year 11 student in 2007. He was Dux of the College in 2008 as well as being named Dux of Chemistry, Physics, Maths B and Maths C. Johnson would like to be a civil engineer and will study in Sydney this year.

Matt Rys
Matt is a local Brisbane boy who received academic awards every semester while at Nudgee College. Matt was a member of the College tennis team throughout his years at the College and was awarded Dux of Study of Religion last year. He will be studying engineering at QUT this year.

Robert Sandona
Like Matt, Robert is a local Brisbane boy who received academic awards every semester while he was at Nudgee College. His OP1 is something he says he had been working towards ever since he started in Year 8.

“I was hoping I’d get a 1, but didn’t really know. My family and friends were excited as they didn’t think I’d get it. They were really happy for me.”

Robert will also study engineering at UQ this year. Robert’s advice for current students looking to get good marks is simple: “Put in the extra effort on your assignments and exams. It will pay off in the long run.”

Dom Shipperley
Dom came to Nudgee College in 2007. A member of the premiership winning First XV in 2008, Dom was also one of two Year 12 Proxime Accessit students. Dom is currently on contract with the Queensland Reds and will study engineering and commerce at UQ this year. Dom believes his success is due to the fact he worked hard at the most important times and, like Rod, found a balance.

“I was pretty busy but I think the key to getting good marks is to concentrate fully when you have work to do. When it is time to work, put in 100 percent effort and don’t muck around.”
Agricultural Science

Learning Rural Skills in a City Environment

Nudgee College Ag Science students about to start picking the tempranillo vines

Dan Anderson and Will Campbell, QCWT Wine Maker, as they begin the fermentation stage

The facts

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Another trip students undertake is to the Queensland College of Wine Tourism (QCWT) in Stanthorpe where they participate in the Young Winemakers Program. The program is completed over the course of a year, with students making three visits to Stanthorpe so they can see all aspects of the winemaking process. Students also spend time working in the lab with USQ lecturers so they can learn about commercial vineyards.

“Nudgee College is one of the nine original Gateway to Wine Tourism schools and has very strong connections with the QCWT. The students learn about viticulture and wine science which they then put to good use in the College vineyard, which is run as a business.”

As part of their studies students are involved in all areas of the winemaking process from tending to the vines and picking the grapes right up to bottling the finished product. The oathing they can’t do is taste it, as they’re under 18.

Currently, picked grapes are sent to Warrego Wines for the process to be completed, however the College has received funding of $30,000 to use to buy wine making equipment.

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According to Ms Miller, the hands on research skills students acquire during the Ag Science course can ultimately lead to a rewarding career path, with students encouraged to study an Agribusiness degree at university.

“There is a lot of potential for students who study Ag Science at school. A lot of people think agriculture isn’t a very good industry to enter because we hear so much about the drought, but that is only really affecting the property side of things. If students get into agribusiness, particularly the research and chemistry aspects, there is an enormous amount of potential career wise. It is a very hands-on industry and there are plenty of opportunities out there.”

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The students learn with hands on experience. They assist in the management of the steer program, commercial cattle breeding, Brahman and Limousin stud cattle, as well as the vineyard and nursery. Students also participate in excursions to UQ’s Gatton campus and the QCWT at Stanthorpe where they work closely with industry members.

The wine produced by Ag Science students is available for purchase. Bottles are still available from the award winning 2006 vintage and from 2007 and 2008. Orders are processed by the students as part of the business, with students receiving the order, packing the bottles and arranging delivery just as they would in a real business.

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Exactly one hundred years ago, Eddie Breslin (NC 1895—1904) became Nudgee College’s first member of parliament. Born in 1882, Breslin began studying medicine at the University of Sydney after graduating from Nudgee College. He did not finish the course, but instead returned to Gladstone to assist in his father’s business. Despite a lack of working class credentials, he became a member of the Worker’s Political Organisation.

In 1909, at the comparatively young age of 27, he became the Labor member for the electoral district of Port Curtis, which was renamed Gladstone in 1992. Breslin was fortunate to benefit from a split Conservative vote, but at the next election in 1912 he was not so lucky. Despite winning at the ballot box (1,052 votes to 950), there were allegations of ballot rigging in at least one booth. After an enquiry, the poll was declared void, and in the return bout against J H Kessell in December 1912 he was defeated by 97 votes. Breslin then became a member of the first Gladstone Harbour Board (1914), but exactly what happened after this is unclear.

In Gladstone: City that Waited, Lyn McDonald hinted at an unhappy love affair before his death “in tragic circumstances”. Breslin died on 26th August, 1914 at the age of 32. It was not an auspicious start for Nudgee College in a political context, but Breslin retains his spot as the first of many Nudgee College men to achieve success in this arena, albeit one whose star shone briefly.
In an unseasonably wet January in 1891, central Queensland teetered on the edge of civil war as shearsers and armed troops clashed in one of Australia’s oldest and most important industrial disputes. Though the shearsers’ strike would be broken, it helped spawn the Australian Labor Party and gave the Australian people their unofficial anthem: “Waltzing Matilda”.

Hundreds of kilometres away, almost immune from the strife, a twelve-year-old boy named Michael McKennariey climbed into a buggy driven by Father Francis Dorrigan. Though their journey would end a mere ten miles from the centre of Brisbane, it must have seemed considerably further to the two travellers as they made their way carefully through thick bush. They travelled first across Nundah and then through the flats of what would one day be the suburb of Virginia. There is no record of whether the travellers engaged in conversation or whether they sat in a companionable silence. What is certain, however, is that close to their journey’s end the trees parted, revealing a half-completed structure—Demonstrations and the cries from the nearby game played on the courts at Nudgee College which were demolished in the early 1970s (so different from the dense scrub, dozens of young Nudgee College men mill around the NTEC building before the beginning of the school day. Though they share the same educational heritage as their forebears, evident in their proximity to the southern wing which McKennariey had seen all those years ago, the world they inhabit is vastly different. Above the din of morning greetings and the cries from the nearby handball courts (so different from the game played on the courts at Nudgee College which were demolished in the early 1970s) there is a veritable Tower of Babel. Aboriginal English, dialects from the New Guinea Highlands, the guttural South African accent, the soft tones of the New Zealanders disputing a point of Rugby honour, the quiet, careful English of Sudanese students—there is no record of whether the travellers engaged in conversation or whether they sat in a companionable silence. What is certain, however, is that close to their journey’s end the trees parted, revealing a half-completed structure.
ROCKHAMPTON

Population...
60,000

Location...
Rockhampton is located on the east coast of Australia, 633 kilometres north of Brisbane, on the Tropic of Capricorn.

About the name...
It was named by Queensland’s first Land Commissioner, Mr W. Wiseman, who was inspired by the rocks in Queensland’s largest river, the Fitzroy, which runs through what is now the middle of the city.

Famous for...
Rockhampton is known as the ‘Beef Capital of Australia’. In a normal season, the region’s cattle population reaches 3,500,000 head, made up mainly of tropical beef breeds – Brahman, Braford and Belmont Red. Rockhampton now hosts “Beef Australia” every three years.

History...
Rockhampton was founded in 1855. A mini gold rush at Canoona – 48 kilometres to the north – accelerated the establishment of the city. Gold discoveries at nearby Bouldercombe, Mount Wheeler and Mount Morgan ensured the continued economic growth of the region. Grazing, mining, farming and meat processing quickly became the primary industries of this resource-rich area and Rockhampton thrived as the service centre.

A famous Nudgee tale...
Current and past students have been involved in some great events in Rockhampton over the years. Rockhampton was a host city for Beef 2009, the boys are hoping for great success, and as we are busily preparing for our students to show cattle against Brahmans. Beef Australia is an opportunity rather than including them with Grey Brahman which has a separate Red Brahman class.

Check out...
Approximately one million tourists visit Rockhampton and the surrounding district every year. The region offers a diverse range of attractions rich in culture, heritage and adventure. Visitors can relax at one of the many beaches along the Capricorn Coast, or enjoy pampering and activities at the world-class resorts. The region’s climate is ideal for an outdoor lifestyle with an average of over 300 days of sunshine each year.

To capture the city’s history, the Heritage Village Museum has been established and provides a snapshot of 100 years of the area’s development.

The Rockhampton botanical gardens have recently been heritage listed. At 130 years old, they are considered as one of the best provincial gardens in Australia. The Rockhampton zoo is located within the botanical gardens and is open to the public between 8am and 5pm with feeding time at 3pm daily.

Rockhampton was a host city for Beef Australia every three years. For a week in May, accommodation in Rockhampton is booked out by people involved in the beef industry across Australia and the globe, as they spend time learning about the current trends in the beef industry.

The Capricorn Coast produces 250,000 tonnes of pineapples each season as well as pawpaws, bananas, custard apples and other fruit and vegetables for southern markets. The coast has large pine forests that produce timber for local mills. Grain, cotton, fodder crops, citrus and grapes are grown in areas near Rockhampton to the Central Highlands at Emerald, and in the Dawson and Callide Valleys to the south west of Rockhampton.

Rockhampton plays a significant role in providing services to the mining industry. Coal from nearby Bowen and Surat Basin coalfields makes up the majority of mining activity, producing products for the world’s steel making plants and for power production. The open-cut and underground operations have estimated deposits in excess of 10,000 million tonnes. Magnesite, limestone and salt are mined and processed in large quantities near Rockhampton.

The majesty of Rockhampton’s historical architecture has captured the imagination of visitors for decades. Many of the buildings in the city have considerable historical value. If you walk along the riverfront, Quay Street will be your backdrop. This part of the city is listed as an “Historic streetscape” which is unique in Australia. Heritage-listed buildings and structures with their unchanged character and historic charm are plentiful and worth a visit. They include customs house, the post office, cathedrals, banks, business houses and homes.

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Handy things to know...
The region is also rich in history and heritage which can be experienced in attractions such as the Dreamtime Cultural Centre, Heritage Village Museum and Archer Park railway station. Other major attractions include the gem fields, caves, botanical gardens and zoo, art gallery, tropical rainforests and national parks and adventures in the real outback.
The Delahunty's

Right: 1962 GPS Football Representatives
Front Row: G. Hose, P. Cleary, J. O'Brien
Back Row: D. McCarthy, J. Delahunty, M. Purcell, G. Hose
Far Right: 3rd XI Football 1923, undefeated premiers scoring 191 points to 0
Front Row: J. Schwenke
2nd Row: J. Luddy, V. Byrne, T. Lynch (Captain), V. Brady, P. Jackson
3rd Row: J. Delahunty, R. Murphy, P. Johnstone, T. Conroy
Back Row: D. O’Connor, R. Roberts, A. McMahon

James Delahunty circa 1940

In this case, the origins of success lie in the conscious¬ness of the College community, an achievement marked by a win at only the second attempt at the Head of the River in 2002 and again a few weeks later. It is a fact that overnight success can often be years in the making. In this case, the origins of success lie in the journey to Australia in 1880 of a brave young Irish woman.

Margaret Joyce arrived in Australia having sailed from Ireland at her brothers’ request; they were then working at Mount Morgan. The ticket they bought had been intended for her older sister Elinor, but she forsook it and got involved in the Commercial Rowing Club just down the road from the Grosvenor Hotel. He was President of the Club which was near the present site of the Nudgee College Rowing Shed, of which I am very proud. He was also Chairman of the Queensland Rowing Council and by rotation he was President of Australian Rowing for three years.

The second shop in Queen Street, Brisbane, the Queensland Trustees and then got involved in the Commonwealth Rowing Club just down the road from the Grosvenor Hotel.

When her employer was in New South Wales, Margaret found work as a housemaid for her older sister Elinor, but she was tempted by the prospect of having a young woman become part of the Irish diaspora, and in doing so set in motion events that would lead to that moment in 2002 when the dream of Nudgee College rowing became a reality.

“One of the great motivators was a desire to fulfill dad’s wish of having rowing at Nudgee, and with people like Porky Morgan and Graham Liddie we got it going. As a sport it teaches nutrition and organisation. More than that, the discipline of rowing makes a better man.”

Five years before Nudgee College opened, a young woman became part of the Irish diaspora, and in doing so set in motion events that would lead to that moment in 2002 when the dream of Nudgee College rowing became a reality.

For my father

By Martin Kerby

On 29th August, 1998 the first boat crested by Nudgee College students was slipped hopefully into the water, heralding the end of a decade and a half of effort by a band of committed supporters. For a school so conscious of its traditions, the entry into the GPS competition well over a century after the College welcomed its first student was always going to be a turbulent affair. Yet in ten short years, rowing has entered the consciousness of the College community, an achievement marked by a win at only the second attempt at the Head of the River in 2002 and again a few weeks later. Yet it is a fact that overnight success can often be years in the making. In this case, the origins of success lie in the journey to Australia in 1880 of a brave young Irish woman.

Margaret Joyce arrived in Australia having sailed from Ireland at her brothers’ request; they were then working at Mount Morgan. The ticket they bought had been intended for her older sister Elinor, but she decided to elope to the United States instead. Travelling in her sister’s place, Margaret found work as a servant for the mine manager. Her grandson, James Delahunty (NC 1951—1961) recalled that she was a devout Catholic.

“When her employer was in Brisbane on Parliamentary duties, my grandmother stayed with him at Clelmer, and on Sundays she went to Mass at St Stephens, which meant a four-hour journey each way on foot. When he died he left her 1,000 shares in the mine, which were worth £15 each. This enabled her to marry my grandfather, John Murphy, and they later owned pubs – the first half-way between Rockhampton and Mount Morgan then one in Rockhampton itself, followed by the Victoria in South Brisbane and finally the Grosvenor, which they kept for 51 years. Every time they sold a hotel they returned to Ireland, which meant that my mother Kathleen was educated in that country for a total of three years.”

Kathleen Murphy and her two younger sisters were educated at Leichhardt Street in Brisbane. Given his affection for Nudgee College, it was a very closed one. Among other things, Hoddia tried to change the way the school ran which up until then had the Brothers administering and teaching, while the Seniors ran the school. There were very few mis-fits in this system. Life in the boarding house was a very public one. I had boarded at Nudgee Junior in Grade One when my parents did the Grand Tour of Europe, so I knew the life well. For some who did the bank and tried to run away home, it must have been very daunting. It wasn’t the most academic of environments, but once you got out of Nudgee you realised just how competitive you were. Other guys seemed content to take their time, while Nudgee boys wanted to get on with life.”

There are other changes that James has noted since he left Nudgee College for a career in pharmacy which grew into what the Courier Mail described as a small empire of seven stores and an online pharmaceutical business. When his classmates finished exams, which were staggered, they removed their Nudgee College tie for the last time, packed their bags and caught a taxi to the airport. Forty five years later he still feels that it was a sad way to finish, and when his sons Brendan (NC 1997 – 2000) and Seamus (NC 2002-2003) graduated from Nudgee College, he was pleased that the occasion was marked by a Valedictory Dinner. Both his sons (a third, Daniel, attended Gregory Terrace) won representative honours in Rugby, continuing a family tradition begun by James Senior and his brother, Bernard de Sales Delahunty (NC 1925—26), who later became a Christian Brother and Superior of Balmain. This period also saw the fruition of his desire to see Nudgee College compete in rowing.

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### April

**ANZAC Day Ceremony**
- **Date:** 24th April
- **Location:** Ross Oval

**Family and Friends of Nudgee Rugby Dinner**
- **Date:** 24th April

**Nudgee College Music Tour**
- **Date:** 24th – 26th April
- **Details:** See page 38 for details

### May

**Beef Week**
- **Dates:** 4th – 9th May
- **Location:** Rockhampton

**Bull Dust Luncheon and Nudgee College Community Get Together**
- **Date:** 6th May

**Music Tour**
- **Dates:** 24th – 26th May
- **Details:** See page 38 for details

### June

**Open Day and Grandparents Day**
- **Date:** 13th June

**Nudgee Adventurers Club Cape York Safari**
- **Date:** 20th June

### July

**Boarders Bash**
- **Date:** 25th July

**Old Boy reunion dates**
- **Date:** 17th and 24th July
- **Details:** See page 41

**Rural Visit dates**
- **Date:** See page 9

### August

**Nth Degree Volume 4 released**
- **Details:** The Arts
- **Note:** Keep your details up to date via nthdegree@nudgee.com

Visit www.nudgee.com for more events and details.
**Activities**

Nudgee College wins Cricket Premiership

The St Joseph’s Nudgee College 1st XI has helped Nudgee College achieve a rare sporting trifecta by winning this year’s cricket premiership. The College also won this year’s swimming and rowing championships, something that hasn’t been achieved since 1963.

The College is fast developing a reputation as a strong cricket College with both current students and Old Boys making representative teams.

Three Year 12 students—Corey Barsby, Tim Gregory and Jason Tibbits—were selected for the Queensland U17 cricket team. The boys travelled to Perth in January to represent the state at the National U17 Championships. Team captain and opening batsman, Corey Barsby, said he was excited to make the team and even more excited to be captain.

Also making junior state and national teams were Year 11 students Josh McClelland and Mitch Swepson who both represented Queensland in U15—McClelland as opening bowler and Swepson a legspin bowler. McClelland was the only Queenslander to be selected for the National U15 team that will tour to India in September. Both boys have been strong contributors in the 1st XI for the past two years.

At senior level, Nathan Hauritz (NCOB 1998) is currently touring South Africa with the Australian squad and Brendan Nash (NCOB 1995) is playing for the West Indies. Nash has been a professional cricketer for almost 15 years. After Nudgee College, he played for the Queensland Bulls for a number of years, and scored a massive century against England on an Ashes tour. Nash moved to Jamaica where his father was born and raised with the ambition of playing test cricket. He made his debut with the West Indies in New Zealand last summer and very recently made his maiden test century for the West Indies versus England in the Caribbean.

Adding to Nudgee College’s representation at national championship level is Old Boy Chris Lynn. The 2007 Senior captain the Queensland U19 team at the U19 National Championships held in Newcastle in December. He was recently named Queensland Youth Player of the Year at the Queensland Bulls end of season dinner and was the only Queenslander named in the Australian U19 team.

Golden Medal

A team of Nudgee College basketball players won a gold medal in the Junior Division of the National Schools Basketball Tournament held in Newcastle in December 2008.

Congratulations to Nudgee College Player of the Tournament Patrick Moore, who averaged over 25 points a game, and to our star point guard Thomas Dunmore who, at 14, played well above his age competing against the much older 16-year-olds in the opposition teams.

Other outstanding play came from Dan Affleck and Mitchell Swepson who showed that great defence wins games, and tournaments.

Sailing to the World Championships

College Vice Captain Curtis Skinner has been selected for the Australian Youth Sailing Team and will represent Australia at the World Championships in Brazil in July. Skinner made the team after winning the Laser Radial Class race at the Australian Youth Championships held in Western Australia during the Christmas holidays.

NUDGEE ACTIVITIES | SPORTING AND CULTURAL | SUMMER SEASON WRAP UP

**Rowing**

Nudgee College wins O’Connor Cup

Head of the River 2009 will be a day not easily forgotten at Nudgee College. Both the Open 1st and 2nd VIII’s won and the club finished third in the Open Boys Cup overall tally. The College finished a mere three points behind BGS—an outstanding improvement on the previous best position of sixth.

Nudgee College also won the Open 1st VIII O’Connor Cup a second time in its eighth attempt, coming a generous boat length ahead of Terrace and BGS. Five of last year’s Open 1st VIII, who finished third, returned this year to ensure the boat dominated the season.

The Open 2nd VIII also celebrated victory when they clinched victory—winning 10 out of 12 for the season. Both boats handled the pressure of going into the races as favourite. They will be the source of a great deal of motivation for future generations of Nudgee College rowers.

Additional inspiration for the College’s rowers comes from 2005 Old Boy Brenton Canning, who made the Queensland King’s Cup crew recently. He is the first Nudgee College Old Boy ever to make a King’s Cup team.

In March, the Queensland team competed at the 2009 Australian Rowing Championships held at Lake Barrington, Tasmania and finished fifth.

**Sailing**

Old boy skates into national youth team

Eric Sewell (NCOB 2008) has been selected in the Australian National Youth Ice Hockey team who recently competed at the World Championships in Taipei, Australia. Australia won its division and has now been promoted to Division II for the 2010 Championships. Eric is following in the footsteps of 2007 Old Boy Alex Hall who was a member of the team for the past two years.
Nudgee College wins 16th GPS swimming championship

March 6th saw the re-emergence of Nudgee College as the GPS Champion School for the first time since 2006. In a closely fought battle, the incumbents, The Southport School, maintained the lead until event 36 of 42 when Nudgee College snatched the lead and fought hard to keep the position until the last relay. The final result was Nudgee College: 290, TSS: 280 and BGS: 258. This year’s premier-ship winning score of just under 300 was the first in living memory and underlines the spread of results amongst more schools and the new threat of Brisbane Grammar.

Under 15 swimmer, Zac Whenuaroa had an exceptional night. He came first in the 50m freestyle, 50m backstroke and 50m butterfly, making record times for Nudgee College and was named Swimmer of the Meet. His times in the backstroke and butterfly also broke GPS records.

Under 16 swimmer Buster Sykes competed in the Open age group and won the 100m breaststroke with an outstanding swim.

Nudgee wins bronze at Australian Volleyball Schools Cup

Nudgee College travelled to Melbourne for the fourth time to compete in the Australian Volleyball Schools Cup at the end of 2008. The five-day tournament saw exceptional volleyball and the results for the College were fantastic. The highlight of the week was when the College’s U14 team won the bronze medal in a very close three-set final match. At the time of writing we still have two GPS games remaining. So far Nudgee College has won 37 games in GPS. This equates to a 55 percent plus winning ratio which is fantastic for the College’s volleyball. Nudgee College has won 100 sets and lost 94 which shows just how close and competitive the games are. At the moment, we have two undefeated teams: 8C and 11A.

Way out West

Way Out West (Legends and Larrikins: A Travelling Federation Show) celebrates a uniquely Queensland perspective. “Way Out West combinesusable and true stories – the funny, gutsy and moving stories the people of rural Queensland have shared with the playwrights. With music, dance and a big dose of humour, this show celebrates and satirises the Australian character. The show is uniquely Australian in flavour – a joyous community celebration that represents the best that Queensland has to offer in contemporary Australian theatre”. Peter Beattie, M.P. Ex-Premier and Minister for Trade

The 2009 Nudgee College Production will be ‘Way Out West’ by Marginy Force and Michael Forde. This production is unique in that it will be performed in a tent with pre-show entertainment and a cocktail party followed by our students presenting the play. It will be a night of wonderful entertainment with a carnival feel. Performances will be on Friday July 17th and Friday July 24th. Keep an eye on the College webpage and newsletters for updates and the dates when tickets go on sale.

Nudgee College music set for bush tour

Later this month, twelve Year 11 and 12 boys will take the Nudgee College rock bands on a rural tour. Performances will be held on:

- 27th April, Roma
St John’s School and Roma State College
- 28th April, Blackall
St Joseph’s Catholic School
- 28th April, Longreach
Our Lady’s College and Longreach State School
- 29th April, Longreach
Longreach School of Distance Education
- 30th April, Emerald
St Patrick’s School, Emerald State High School, Emerald North State College
- 1st May, Biloela
St Joseph’s School and Biloela State School

Old boy hits a home run to the Toronto Blue Jays

Nick Bidois (NCOB, Year 11 2008) has officially signed with the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team. A middle infielder, Bidois represented Queensland in recent years and is now the 6th Pine Hills junior player to be offered a professional contract. Bidois will report to extended spring training in Florida with the Blue Jays next month, before attending the MLB academy later this year.

May 2009
The CIC competition involves fourteen teams from independent Colleges in Brisbane and the Gold Coast who have middle/primary school year levels. It is completely independent of the GPS competition which Nudgee College students compete in one they reach Year 8.

Nudgee College CIC Coordinator, Mr Matt Thornton, said that the main focus in the first year of CIC competition was participation.

“Participation rates so far this year have been great. We have 12 cricket and 70 swimmers which means a participation rate of about 70 percent. That is just fantastic,” he said.

Sports that are able to participate in are:

- Term 1 – cricket and swimming
- Term 2 – cross country, football and rugby
- Term 3 – basketball, tennis and track and field

Unlike the GPS competition, the only championships contested in the CIC competition are in swimming, track and field and cross country. This is because the other sports are run in two cycles over two years.

Colleges play seven rounds of a given sport per term each year (even though there are 14 teams altogether in the CIC) to make up cycle 1. Teams that aren’t played one year are played the following year as part of cycle 2.

In 2009 Nudgee College will compete against Brisbane Boys College, Moreton Bay Boys College, St Lawrence’s College, Brisbane Grammar School, St Patrick’s College, Villanova College and Iona College.

Schools that are part of cycle 2 in 2010 are Anglican Church Grammar School, The Southport School, St Joseph’s Gregory Terrace, Padua College, Marist College Ashgrove, and Nudgee Junior College.

“The CIC is arguably the premier primary sports competition in the state for private schools with junior year levels,” said Mr Thornton.

“Several boys have already commented on the competitive nature of the CIC competition compared to what they have been used to before.”

In 2008 Nudgee College competed in the Bramble Bay Sports Competition which saw sports played on a Friday afternoon. This practice will continue in 2009, however, there will be a slightly different focus. Instead of competing against other schools in the Bramble Bay competition, these games have been replaced with training time for CIC sports.

“The reason for continuing with sports time on a Friday afternoon is twofold. Training during school hours minimises the impact on families and, more importantly, allows time for specialist coaches to work with the boys. Sometimes the specialist coaches will be well known sporting identities while other times it will be coaches from other Nudgee College sports teams such as the First XV.”

In addition to providing new students with the opportunity to try new sports and make some solid friendships, Mr Thornton also believes that playing against some of the other GPS schools enables the boys to feel the famous Nudgee College spirit early in their Nudgee College journey.

“The boys feel as though they are actually representing Nudgee College each week and develop a sense of pride in the blue and white that they will feel for years to come.”

T
o say that the first quarter of 2009 has been tumultuous would be an understatement. Fortunately for us, however, there is one constant in our lives that can provide us all with reassurance and that is we belong to the Nudgee College Old Boys’ Association. In times of trouble, as we saw in the Melbourne bushfires and the floods in North Queensland, Australians rally to the cause extremely well and help others in hardship.

No doubt there are Old Boys within our Association who are doing it tough! Some are concealing their worries, others are working even harder to overcome obstacles in their lives. Each one of us can do something to help – a simple phone call, catching up for a beer or even better, attending their class reunion.

Are we each making the effort? That is my challenge to each and every Old Boy. Have you checked with a mate that he is doing okay? Is he struggling at work? Has he lost his job? How is he being affected? Just making contact could be the incentive for your mate to feel the famous Nudgee College boys’ chain is strong!

Our annual class reunions provide an ideal opportunity for many Old Boys to renew friendships and make sure class mates are okay.

The 2009 reunion and event dates and contact details are listed below.

The home games for rugby and football also present an opportunity for Old Boys from any year level to reconnect. And there is always a crowd on Old Boys’ Day at each of the games.

In such an unpredictable year, it would be great to report that attendances at Nudgee College reunions have been the best ever, because Nudgee College Old Boys’ look after their mates. A prayer to St Joseph might also be in order.

With best wishes,
A P (Tony) Behm President

Group Captain Tony Behm
2009 COLLEGE ARTS PRODUCTION
“Way Out West: Legends and Larrikins”
July 17th and 24th