GREETINGS TO THE
ST JOSEPH'S NUDGEE COLLEGE COMMUNITY

TO THE NTH DEGREE

As we progress through our 120th year, the question might be asked, ‘Is there anything new that we can or should be doing? Indeed is there anything new that hasn’t been already done?’

In 2010, multiculturalism is a system of beliefs and behaviours that recognises and respects the presence of all diverse groups in an organisation or society, acknowledges and values their sociocultural differences, and encourages and enables their continued contribution within an inclusive cultural context that empowers all within the organisation or society.

The Edmund Rice Charter assists today’s schools, which profess to be Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice tradition, to benchmark themselves. What can or should be doing? Indeed is there anything new that hasn’t been already done?

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Student participation in the Tony Blair ‘Face to Faith’ project, enjoying ‘real time’ conversations with students across the globe.

We celebrate the culture of our Indigenous students regularly through song, dance, music and ritual.

Our increasing Indigenous enrolments, in addition to our 92 per cent completion rate for these students, stand testament to the welcoming nature of our community.

Service of others

The school expects each member to be active in the service of others and provides opportunities for this service in both local and global communities.

Voluntary staff and Year 11 and 12 students facilitate a 52-weeks-a-year BBQ street retreat program for the inner-city homeless.

Voluntary staff and Year 10 students facilitate a 52-weeks-a-year BBQ street retreat program for itinerant residents of a suburban caravan park.

Nudgee College continues to be the main provider of labour for ‘Street Swags’, a registered not-for-profit charity for the rolling and distribution of ‘swags’ for people in need throughout Australia. Students from Years 5 to 12 and all staff are invited to participate.

Over 12,000 swags have been rolled to date.

Our Years 5–7 project with St Vincent de Paul Society includes guest speakers, visits to organisation centres, Christmas hamper and Easter and Christmas visits to aged care homes.

We have a curriculum-linked relationship with St Kizito’s, a school near Cape Town, South Africa. Staff and students are learning about social issues in South Africa and hosting BBQ fundraisers with primary pupils to help provide equipment and uniforms for students of St Kizito’s.

Being just

The curriculum and activities of the school enable students to experience and value a critical awareness of social justice issues.

We have introduced the Justice and Peace Framework draft to the College Leadership Team and senior curriculum and pastoral leaders of the school.

College policy seeks opportunities to link to the broader curriculum of justice and peace themes, as outlined above.

We have established coordinated and prompt responses to those in need. For example, we rolled 500 swag overnight for victims of the Victorian bushfires; we arranged shipping of 2000 books to schools in the Philippines; we organised for a shipping container of shoes, shirts and blankets to be sent to Samoa after that country’s recent tsunami damage.

We look forward to continued growth as a multicultural College, which is a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition. I commend this College, and this edition of the Nth Degree to you.

Sincerely,

Daryl Hanly

PRINCIPAL

WHAT’S IN A NAME?

Jack Doolan

Aurukun and Bamaga

Weaving the story of multicultural diversity

Noel Diamond

Building the Future with Spirit

TOM BOASE

Nudgee College Foundation

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

NOEL DIAMOND

Multi Faith

ART TO THE NTH DEGREE

Jim Bond

CHETAN THAPA

TOURISM AND CULTURAL EVENTS

YVONNE O’NEILL

ART TO THE NTH DEGREE

emeritus professor
dominic smith

WHAT’S IN A NAME?

Yvonne O’Neill

Nudgee College Foundation

Building the Future with Spirit

MY HOME

Nudgee College Foundation

The future of our communities

NEW TRADITIONS

The future of our communities

New Traditions

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Building the Future with Spirit

CRIME AND JUSTICE

The future of our communities

CRIME AND JUSTICE

BUILDING THE FUTURE WITH SPIRIT

Nudgee College Foundation

Building the Future with Spirit

Nudgee College Foundation

Building the Future with Spirit

Nudgee College Milestone

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At St Joseph’s Nudgee College diversity is more than a word; it is a way of life. There is a diverse curriculum, a diverse activities program that incorporates both cultural and sporting pursuits and, of course, an extremely diverse student population.

From the very beginning, Nudgee College has been a place that both welcomes and celebrates multiculturalism. Michael McKennariey, who is officially recognised as the College’s first student, was of Irish descent. The founder of the Christian Brothers, Edmund Rice, was also from Ireland.

As a non-selective, Catholic, day and boarding school in the Edmund Rice Tradition, Nudgee College has educated students from many countries and walks of life. The current College community is a mix of students from around Brisbane, the Gold and Sunshine coasts, regional Queensland, the Northern Territory, New South Wales, Papua New Guinea (PNG), and various Asian countries, to name just a few.

Such multicultural diversity presents students with the opportunity to learn about different areas, countries, cultures and customs. Nudgee College incorporates this diversity in all facets of College life, with examples constantly visible throughout the campus.

The totem pole, which was presented to Nudgee College by Old Boys from PNG in the College’s centenary year in 1991, stands proudly in Centenary Mall between Hodda and Murphy Boarding Houses while the traditional billums worn by PNG students as part of their uniform are much sought after by local students when they travel to PNG.

The mission of Nudgee College’s International Students Committee is to expand the interaction between Australian and non-Australian students. This voluntary committee is made up of eight to ten boys, each of whom have taken up a formal invitation to be involved.

The committee began in 2005 when former Dean of Students Mr David Carroll saw a need for international students to have something extra in the area of pastoral care. Today the group is coordinated by Ms Margie Wills, who enjoys dealing with the international students.

‘I have always had a good relationship with international students and would stop and ask them questions about themselves to make them feel welcome’, Ms Wills said. ‘Some activities the committee members undertake include speaking on assembly about their homeland cultures and talking about the differences between school in their home country and Australia. They also rally for changes in the school. For example, they asked that the microwaves be brought back so students can heat their lunches and that spring rolls be made available at the tuckshop on special occasions.’

Student Equity Program

By far the largest example of multicultural diversity is Nudgee College’s Student Equity Program, which began in 1993 and helps boys succeed on a day-to-day basis. Most of the boys
helped are Indigenous students who come from a wide range of remote communities on the Cape York Peninsula. Some are from areas closer to Brisbane. There are about 60 students of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent attending the College this year, most of whom are boarders.

“The Student Equity Program is very fortunate at the moment to have two different government assistance programs helping boys attend the College,” said Indigenous Program Coordinator Ms Yvonne O’Neill.

“There is the Indigenous Youth Leadership Program and the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation. Both programs are open to Indigenous students who want to board and are Aboriginal Study approved.”

Nudgee College’s Student Equity Program has a 92 per cent retention rate among students and, although most have an Indigenous background, this is not mandatory to being accepted into the program, according to Ms O’Neill.

“The Equity Program is for non-Indigenous as well as Indigenous students,” she said. “One of the program’s goals is to ensure we continue to look after students once they leave. It is our responsibility to not only give the boys an education but to also help them be successful in life beyond Nudgee College.”

With Aboriginal culture playing such a large part in Australia’s history and Nudgee College having such a high percentage of Indigenous students, non-Indigenous students can gain an even greater understanding and empathy for the Aboriginal way of life.

Core Studies, a compulsory subject for Year 8 and 9 students, has units that focus on Australia’s Indigenous heritage. In Year 8 Religion, students study Aboriginal spirituality and relate it to Catholicism as part of their ‘other religions’ unit.

Head of Year 8 Core Studies Mr Richard Stokes said: “As part of their studies, boys put together a group oral and PowerPoint presentation. The unit certainly gives them a chance to learn about a spirituality which is quite different from most.”

Head of Year 9 Core Studies Ms Corinna Hellmrich said: “Students build on the knowledge they gain in their Year 8 unit when they again study an Indigenous unit in Year 9, this time as part of their English studies.

“This year the boys studied the Stolen Generation and then composed and performed a creative monologue by taking on the voice of one of the stakeholders from this era of Australian history.”

Drama students in Year 10 continue to learn about Australian Indigenous culture as part of their studies, said teacher Mr Scott Minogue.

“The Indigenous Drama unit is a new unit that I am putting together this year for Year 10 Drama students,” he said. “The basic reason we chose to do this unit is because of the strong Indigenous population that we have at the school, and the availability of resources we could draw on. I also think that it is important for the boys to gain an understanding and appreciation of Indigenous culture.”

As part of the Drama unit, Ms O’Neill and several Year 8 Indigenous students told the Year 10s about their home community. Uncle Joe (a local elder) also came in and the students participated in Indigenous drama and dance workshops during Semester 1.

**National Sorry Day**

Nudgee College’s commitment to solidarity with the College’s Indigenous brothers and sisters extends beyond the classroom. Earlier this year, a large Rainbow Serpent was drawn on the ground and filled with messages of hope to commemorate National Sorry Day. Students and staff were then invited to sign their name, draw a symbol or write a brief message in a simple action of advocacy for peace and reconciliation.

Dean of Identity Mr Chris Ryan explained the significance of this Indigenous symbol: “The Rainbow Serpent is a key figure in the Dreaming teaching of most mainland Aboriginal peoples in Australia; he said. “It is the central creation figure of the people and...”
the land and is a most sacred symbol and story. It is possibly the oldest continuous religious symbol in human history.’

This was the second year Nudgee College has marked National Sorry Day in a formal way. In 2009, members of the College community were given an insight into some of Australia’s Indigenous traditions at the weekly assembly when then Year 8 student Lachlan McRae welcomed everyone with a didgeridoo performance. Ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people then performed a traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance of peace. Lachlan McRae welcomed everyone to Nudgee College in 2008. Ms O’Neill presented a second series of her paintings, in the shape of jigsaw pieces, to the College’s nine House Deans as a symbol of reconciliation. Each jigsaw piece included a main central circle with many smaller circles surrounding it. The middle circle represents the House Deans; the smaller ones, the members of the house.

In the lead-up to National Sorry Day this year, the College kicked off the winter sports season with a celebration of the Indigenous program at both Nudgee College and Round 1 competitor Ipswich Grammar School (IGS), who also have a large contingent of Indigenous students. The schools came together before the 1st XV match to celebrate the Indigenous population of their schools. As part of the celebrations, Nudgee College hosted 30 Indigenous guests for lunch and the match following. These guests included Auntie Julie Smith, who is an elder on the College’s Reconciliation Action Plan Committee. Guests were entertained by an Indigenous dance troupe, and a didgeridoo performance under the Ross Oval goal posts by Lachlan McRae.

Before the match, Indigenous students from both schools met on the halfway line to exchange commemorative jerseys featuring both the Nudgee College and IGS playing strips and Indigenous artwork created by Ms O’Neill.

Visiting the Philippines

Perhaps the other most obvious example of the College’s commitment to multiculturalism is the annual trip made by several Year 10 students to the Philippines. Officially called ‘Pag-Impadanay with Spirit’, which is Ilongo for ‘togetherness’, the trip is one of the options for Year 10 students as part of their immersion program. Mr Ryan explained the College’s involvement with the Filipinos: ‘Nudgee College has been supporting the great work of the Christian Brothers in the Philippines for the past four years and has a twinning relationship with five educational communities on the island of Negros.

In 2009 our primary fundraising focus was in support of Anawim (the dear little ones), which is an orphanage for deaf children. In the Philippines, these children are outcasts and do not receive adequate health care and education. The Christian Brothers are working to support these children and Nudgee College has made an ongoing financial commitment to sponsoring this important social justice work.’

Although the trip is for Year 10 students, the entire College community contributes to and participates in this important act of solidarity. In this annual event, students from both Nudgee College and Gregory Terrace wear their College colours in a free dress day before the schools meet in the weekend chess, rugby and football matches. Students make contributions for being allowed to wear free dress, with all monies raised going towards the overseas Christian Brothers project. Families have also donated books to help expand the library collections in schools on Negros.

Another fundraising event is the ‘Walk to the Philippines’, when all Year 5–9 students earn money through sponsorship to walk from Shorncliffe Pier to Nudgee College. At the same time in the Philippines, 2500 children from the five schools Nudgee College twins with ‘walk to Australia’ in a solidarity project called Paya’anihan, which is Ilongo for ‘working together to lighten the load’.

The concept behind the project is that when the 6.6km distance walked by each of the 650 Nudgee College students is added to the distance students in the Philippines walk, it is the total number of kilometres between Brisbane and the Philippines.
Damien attended Nudgee College as a day student from 1989 to 1993 (Years 8–12). Although he wasn’t particularly ‘sporty’, he was a member of the Senior A Debating team and was involved in a number of activities during his time at the College. In his final year he received the Signum Fidei award, presented to a student who displays the qualities of the College motto ‘A Sign of Faith’.

He remembers fondly the caring and committed staff and Christian Brothers at school but believes Nudgee College’s spirit is its best attribute. ‘The Nudgee College spirit is tangible and real; it’s not fake or manufactured,’ he said. ‘Everyone there is genuinely proud of the school, what it represents and what it can and does achieve. Importantly, this spirit is underpinned by faith and a commitment to service.’

Damien certainly felt the spirit at his Valedictory, which he still remembers well. ‘The Valedictory ceremony was really moving and recognised that this was the end of our Nudgee College journey,’ he said. ‘It was the closing of one chapter of our lives and the beginning of another.’

Damien went through a similar process last month when he started a new chapter in his career, moving to Germany to take up the position of Deputy Ambassador, at the Australian Embassy in Berlin.

‘I have been studying German full-time for the past eight months so I’m really looking forward to finally getting to Germany and being fully immersed in German language and culture,’ he said. ‘My job will involve working closely with the Ambassador and the rest of the team at the Embassy to advance Australia’s foreign and trade policy interests in Germany and to further strengthen Australia’s already strong bilateral relationship with Germany.’

Damien is no stranger to working overseas. In a ten-year career at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), he spent several years working in Canberra and abroad, including at the Australian High Commission in Malaysia and more recently as the Director of the Afghanistan Section at DFAT.

‘I have had many amazing experiences working with DFAT, not least the opportunity to represent Australia overseas and to visit places like Afghanistan,’ he said. ‘Although the work can be demanding and the hours long, I find it intellectually stimulating and very rewarding.’

Damien’s advice for current Nudgee College students is to ‘pursue those things in life that you are passionate about’. ‘When I was at school, I was very interested in international affairs and I always wanted to work in this area – DFAT has provided me with the opportunity to do this,’ he said. ‘But, of course, to achieve your goals you need to be determined, enthusiastic and to work hard.’

Damien visited Nudgee College earlier this year to speak with Indigenous Program Coordinator Ms Yvonne O’Neill and some of the College’s Indigenous students. He left full of praise for what Ms O’Neill and the College are doing to encourage and support Indigenous students.

‘The hard work and dedication of Yvonne and the Indigenous students is really inspiring,’ he said. ‘There were only a few Indigenous students when I was there but to see so many now is a credit to the College.’

As someone who highly values Australia’s cultural diversity, Damien is also extremely proud of Nudgee College’s commitment to multiculturalism. ‘In my recent visit to the College, I was also struck by the cultural and ethnic diversity among the students which was great to see,’ he said. ‘Not all schools have such a diverse student body. Getting to know people from other countries and cultures at school is enriching and helps, over the long term, to strengthen people-to-people connections.’
Yvonne O’Neill is a true leader whose skills and attributes have gained the respect of students and staff at St Joseph’s Nudgee College. In particular, the Indigenous communities, both within and beyond Nudgee College, see her as a strong advocate in the pursuit of better educational outcomes for Indigenous students.

Mr (Daryl) Hanly, | College Principal

Laurettta (Yvonne) O’Neill is a Nhunggabarra woman. She was born in 1975 and raised in Goodooga — Nhunggabarra country, 854 kilometres north-west of Sydney on the banks of the Bokhara River in New South Wales.

She is the youngest of five for whom her mother cared for alone after her father left to make a new life in Sydney. He has since remarried and has two more children, but the family all come together for family celebrations.

From kindergarten to Year 10 Yvonne attended Goodooga Central School, where she captained primary and high school, along with various sporting teams. It was in these formative years that Yvonne’s leadership skills emerged. I liked looking after, or thinking that I had to look after, other kids,” she said. ‘The school was big on sport, I represented Goodooga at every sport you could ever think of and often on sport. I went to the regional titles.’

Yvonne left home at 16 to finish school at Mackellar Girls High in Manly Vale, a Sydney suburb, and boarded at Biala Hostel for a year where she became the weekend recreation officer.

Yvonne still keeps in touch with her Biala house parents, who cared for up to 20 Aboriginal girls and drove them to school each day, saying they were a big part of making her who she is today.

Yvonne’s time in Sydney was not without difficulty. Like the Indigenous boys who leave home to come to school here, she said, people treated her differently because they thought she was trying to be something other than Aboriginal. She was the first in her family to finish Year 12 and says it is one of her proudest achievements. ‘I struggled in school but I knew I had to finish no matter how good or bad I was doing,’ she said.

She became interested in art at Mackellar after reconnecting with her father in Sydney and she would sit with him and watch him paint. ‘My father was Tex Skuthorpe. I knew he was a pretty good artist, but I didn’t really know to what extent,’ she said. ‘He was awarded Aboriginal Artist of the Year by NAIDOC in 1990–91. I tried to paint but I couldn’t so I did a series of photos of my hostel parents’ children playing on the beach, eating yammy sandwiches and really simple stuff. It was the ‘Year of the Family and I had two or three pieces selected to be hung at Parliament House for the year and put on postcards.’

Yvonne also had a month-long exhibition at the Manly Art Gallery for an initiative called Express Yourself.

After school Yvonne continued to immerse herself in sport, at one point playing touch football, netball, basketball and rugby league. She stayed on at Biala Hostel for a year where she became the weekend recreation officer.

After various jobs as an Aboriginal tour guide and a cocktail waitress in Darling Harbour, Yvonne then completed a certificate in building and construction. She was then accepted into the Queensland Police Service through a new initiative to encourage more Indigenous people to join the service, seeing it as a way to help her people.

‘From a young age I knew that I wanted to work with Indigenous kids and show them that there was a better way in life,’ she said. ‘Coming from a small community I saw a lot of families in hardship and what the kids went through and their cycle of life they could not get out of.

‘Mum really worked on us and we knew that there was a better life because she’s always told us that we could be whatever we wanted to be. We were always told to never forget difficulties in our lives but that you can’t let it hold you back from what you want to do.’

Her time at the Police Academy led Yvonne to realise that she really was more interested in seeking out a mentoring role, a career path followed today by all of her siblings who are employed by the Attorney General and Juvenile Justice Departments, the Aboriginal Housing Committee and Wellington Jail.

After illness and major knee surgery, Yvonne’s career path changed direction several times, including stints as assistant coach for Brothers Ipswich women’s rugby league team and as a security officer at Brisbane Airport.

She finally found her desired career path when she started as Indigenous Support Officer at the Aboriginal and Islander Independent Community School, known as the Murri School, on Brisbane’s south side. With over 200 students from Prep to Year 12, it was Yvonne’s task to organise camps and the purchase of new sporting equipment through specialised funding in conjunction with Sport and Recreation Queensland.

Yvonne learnt of the position on offer at Nudgee College through a friend. ‘I didn’t really know what to expect but I was told just to have a go,’ she said. ‘I knew nothing of Nudgee College, Catholic education or the north side but I went for it and have not looked back.’

Dean of Identity Chris Ryan said Yvonne had made a huge difference since arriving at the College. ‘From the first time I met Yvonne I was struck by her comfort with herself,’ he said. ‘She is a natural person who is honest, generous and humorous. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boys of Nudgee College have benefited greatly from her authenticity as an Aboriginal person, her sporting and creative abilities and passions and her capacity to build genuine relationships in the community.

‘She continues to help us connect with a wider network in Indigenous education and care and to give
generously to our school and the wider Edmund Rice community in helping us to understand and reconcile with the past while building a better future for all students who come to school at Nudgee College.

Yvonne is thoroughly enjoying her role at the College, and finds it particularly rewarding. ‘The best things about working at Nudgee College are the freedom and trust that Daryl [Hanly] has in me to do the right thing by the College for the kids and also seeing the kids actually graduate from Year 12. Last year we had 11 Indigenous kids graduate, which is quite astounding.

‘The hardest thing is seeing them go and when I have to ask kids to leave. It is a hard decision to make, especially knowing that they won’t have an opportunity like this ever again. But it’s also important to understand when this is not the right place for them.’

Yvonne has gained the respect of students, parents and staff at the College. Dean of Students Paul Begg praised her as an asset to the College. ‘Yvonne is a genuine and authentic leader. Her style promotes to the boys the need to be responsible and to be in control of their lives and that each decision they make impacts on their journey. While her focus is on our Indigenous boys, her connection with all of the students in the Equity Program is significant as well. She highlights to them that while they derive their identity significantly by their past, or the difficulties faced in their lives, it is the choices they make now that shape their future. This is not a mantra she preaches to the boys; it’s one she lives by and displays to all in our Nudgee College community.

‘Yvonne agrees that one of her proudest achievements is working at the College with the kids and knowing that she is fulfilling her ambition of changing other lives in a positive way. ‘For example, without me selecting Thomas Boase to come here, he probably wouldn’t be going to ADFA next year — those are the types of things I’m proud of — about making a difference in those circles.’

Yvonne’s other great passion is rugby league. She has done everything from being a player to being president of Australian Women’s Rugby League and is the current chairperson of Queensland Women’s Rugby League. In 1995, Yvonne was the first Aboriginal to be selected in the Australian women’s rugby league team and she was a member of the first Australian team to compete at the inaugural World Cup in 2000.

Next to completing Year 12, playing for Australia and receiving her first cap jumper from league legend Keith Holman was Yvonne’s proudest moment. ‘Getting my first jumper was very big for me and my family,’ she said.

Sure to rank highly on Yvonne’s greatest honours list, once the reality sets in, is being commissioned to paint a cross for the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop in Rome later in the year. She has also been asked to paint a personal artwork for the Pope, and is overwhelmed by the honour.

‘At the Mass in the Vatican for Mary McKillop, the procession will be led in by a cross that is made by Nudgee College and painted by me. Nudgee College will lead the rest of the world into the Vatican! I’m really overwhelmed they’ve asked me to do that. I’ve only been painting since 2004 but I suppose the works I have done, like the Christian Brothers’ cross and the cross for Nudgee College and some other significant Catholic pieces, have been seen and liked by a lot of people. ‘Mary MacKillop was largely about helping Indigenous people and every area she went to she did a lot with the Indigenous people and that is what the Mass and my artwork will be about.’

Yvonne did not always see herself as an artist, despite the talents of her great-grandfather, her father, brother and sister. Initially she found it very difficult to put brush to canvas. However, toward the end of 2004, a very good friend asked Yvonne to paint her something.

“I didn’t really want to paint because I thought I was not good enough to do the traditional paintings,” she said. ‘I can only thank my good friend for keeping me at me until I completed a painting for her, because now I love to paint.’

A few friends saw her first painting and more wanted them. Demand has since snowballed. Yvonne has painted emu eggs, boomerangs, crosses and hopes kangaroo skins will be next.

‘Painting gives me this feeling of great pride,’ she said. ‘I’m so very proud to be Aboriginal, to be a Nhunggabarra woman and to be able to express myself through my painting, and at the same time helping other people understand my culture and me.’

This painting represents how Nudgee College has made me a part of their family and how I am so proud to be part of it. It represents what Nudgee College stands for — coming together to create something special in everyone, believing in everyone, giving a young man not only the chance to grow and become better, but to become a part of the Nudgee College community.

The circle at the bottom to the left represents Ross Oval — my first real experience at Nudgee College. This rugby game was one of the best I have ever witnessed, with Nudgee College defeating Ipswich Grammar with seconds to go, and of course the staff match I played in. The circle above Ross Oval is Wilkes Oval, another focal point at Nudgee College. The circle in the middle is the first building at Nudgee College, the heart of the College where my first office was.

The vines represent the growth of the College and the young men; the leaves and fruit that fall from the vine are the learning and knowledge given to the young men of Nudgee College and also the people who work there. The Emu is my mother, who represents me. The Duck is Nudgee College. You will notice the Duck is looking up towards the Emu, welcoming the Emu into the community. The small circles with the white dots around them are the different people and different cultures that are a part of Nudgee College. Some areas are shaded with coloured dots and some are not. The shaded dots are my personal experiences here at Nudgee College so far; the unshaded areas are experiences that I will have in the future here.
Year 12 student and Fogarty House prefect Thomas ('Tom') Boase came to St Joseph’s Nudgee College as part of the College’s Student Equity Program in 2009.

The middle child of seven with three older brothers, two younger brothers and a younger sister, Tom previously lived at Woodridge. When he was growing up, Tom’s family moved around Queensland, which made the move to boarding at Nudgee College easier.

‘When I finished Year 10, I looked at my marks and they weren’t great,’ Tom said. ‘I realised I needed a big change and asked my ‘auntie’ if she knew of any scholarships to good schools that I might be able to apply for.

‘She looked into it and, within a couple of weeks, I was at Nudgee College.’

Tom is thoroughly enjoying his Nudgee College experience, particularly the boarding aspect which he says is his favourite part of being at the College.

‘Boarding is great,’ Tom said. ‘The boarding house is lots of fun and I have so many mates.’

Although he hates the cold, Tom will make the move to Duntroon, in the Australian Capital Territory, next year after being accepted into the Australian Defence Force Academy where he will study for a Bachelor of Science degree and train to become an officer.

‘The degree takes three years,’ Tom said. ‘I then have a year of officer training and four years of being an officer before I am released. After that I’ll probably stay in the Army for a while.’

Tom would also like to work in politics in the future and it is hard to imagine he won’t achieve his goal.

After being at Nudgee College only a few weeks, he was chosen to represent Queensland at the National Schools Constitutional Convention in Canberra. His selection came as a result of attending the South-East Queensland Zone School Constitutional Convention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students held at Brisbane’s Parliament House with 2009 Year 12 students Sorogo Mills, Birrigan Young and Sam Klink.

Students had to present an argument lasting no longer than three minutes on a topic that was sent out to them a few days earlier. The theme for this argument was ‘Australian Republic: to be or not to be?’

The group chose Tom to deliver the speech to their peers and other dignitaries, joining 22 other students who did the same. Students were then asked to vote for the person or persons that they felt would best represent them at the National Convention.

‘To be chosen to go to Canberra was great,’ Tom said. ‘It was a really, really good experience and I was able to get an insight into how they developed the Constitution.’

Fogarty House Dean Ms Margie Wills described Tom as a ‘delight’ and said everyone in Fogarty was proud of Tom’s achievements in being awarded the Defence Force scholarship.

‘Tom is a delightful young man whose gentle, easy manner has made him popular with staff and students alike,’ Ms Wills said.

‘More often than not, he puts the needs of others before his own. Tom has come to know the boys in Fogarty House well and, through him, they have become involved in a number of inter-house activities.

‘We were very proud of Tom when he was awarded a Defence Force scholarship. It is fitting that his commitment and achievements have been rewarded in this way.’

When Year 11 student Noel Diamond was selected to spend time in camp with the Indigenous All Stars rugby league team earlier this year, he was yet to realise how dramatically it would impact on his life.

Originally from Doomadgee, Noel was one of four participants chosen by Beyond Billabong to attend the camp and the following match. Beyond Billabong is a state-wide life and vocational training program for disadvantaged Indigenous youth, who have limited access to mainstream resources and opportunities.

The initiative was a joint endeavour of the National Rugby League and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, and harnessed the ‘legend’ status of the Indigenous All Stars team to encourage Indigenous youth to stay in school and receive the education they need to follow their dreams.

For Noel, the initiative worked and was the driving force behind his return to school and the beginning of his Nudgee College journey.

Noel quit school at the end of Year 9 in 2006 and spent the next 18 months in Doomadgee before completing a Billabong To Beach course in April 2009. He was then placed in a supported employment model at Lawn Hill station in the state’s gulf country.

After spending time with Indigenous rugby league stars Johnathan Thurston and David Peachy and Beyond Billabong CEO and founder Boyd Curran, Noel told his Lawn Hill manager that he wanted to go back to school to learn, play sport and be there to look after his younger brother when he started school.

‘Johnathan ‘Thurston told me I needed to go back to school and do something with my life,’ said Noel.

‘Boyd also said we can do anything if we put our mind to it. I want to make something of my life and be someone.’

Mr Curran was able to secure Noel an Australian Indigenous Education Foundation scholarship, and he is now enjoying both his school work and boarding at Nudgee College.

‘I’d like to study for an OP score, study Indigenous Australian history, and make the 1st XV next year,’ Noel said. ‘I’m also thinking of training this year to get in the athletics team, and hopefully one day make the Australian sprint team.’

Mr Curran, grandson of Old Boy Sidney Rushbrook, describes Noel as ‘an exceptional person who has real presence and determination’.

‘It’s a credit to Noel that he has grasped the opportunities presented to him,’ he said. ‘Noel is no different from other Indigenous youth from remote communities, where their behaviour is often a symptom of their environment.

‘Deep down, what most children are searching for is care, love, consistent mentoring and direction from people they can trust.’

Pastoral Care tutor Mr Scott Stanford is one such person helping Noel at Nudgee College.

‘Noel has been a welcome addition to our class,’ Mr Stanford said. ‘He has slotted straight into our PC group, even managing to beat a few of our current hand ball champions.

‘It was great for other members of the class to see Noel’s interpretation of what it means to be Australian and his smiling face never fails to make those around him feel better.’

Above: Noel Diamond at Lawn Hill station
There can be no doubt that Australia has changed and developed, particularly since the end of World War II. Changes in international domestic living conditions, economics and immigration policies have seen the cultural diversity of Australia enriched during the second half of the 20th century. St Joseph’s Nudgee College is not, of course, immune to these changes.

From the relatively safe view of the 21st century, it can be easy to forget or be ignorant of the complexities of early multiculturalism in federated Australia. Nudgee College archivist and historian Mr Martin Kerby shares the stories of the Zavattoros, Cantamessas, Caligatis, Vitali, and Patane families during World War II in his volume about Nudgee College at war, Unifying Echoes. Jack Patane, who is now in Year 5 at Nudgee College, had a great-grandfather who emigrated to Australia from Italy in 1909 and in 1942 considered himself Australian. He was, however, interned in Cowra and Barmera as Australia went to war against Italy. Mr Kerby also highlights the plight at that time of several expatriate Papua New Guinean students, whose homes had been destroyed or occupied by the Japanese army.

As a recent home day, I had the pleasure of sharing lunch with two Old Boys who were Nudgee College Seniors in 1997. Both of them are passionate about their alma mater and, while regaling me with tales of what it was like to be proudly of Italian heritage at Nudgee College in the 1990s, they commented on how many different cultures they were seeing representing the College today on the football and rugby fields. While it is not new for us, as a boarding school, to accommodate young men from other countries or backgrounds, the increased diversity of Nudgee College, over the past 10 years in particular, is quite striking.

Over the past term, we at the College explored and celebrated this diversity. One of the ways we did this was through storytelling. Students from China, Taiwan, Indigenous Australia, Korea, and first-generation Filipino families shared an insight into their traditions and culture on whole school assembly. In the coming weeks we will hear from students from the Polynesian Islands, Papua New Guinea, Japan and others. The stories are wide ranging in topics from belief systems and creation stories through to festivals and favourite sports and pastimes. The common thread of the stories is how we are both the same and different. As someone who enjoys stories and appreciates history, I often think of the young men from other cultures throughout the 120 years of Nudgee College and how they paved the way for our current students. It is tempting to see a past of rainbows and lollipops but I am sure many a divide has been conquered by several unheralded multicultural heroes at Nudgee College.

With multiculturalism in the 21st century comes diversity in faith traditions. Nudgee College continues to embrace our Catholic identity and foundation. This is a rich, challenging and rewarding journey. An exciting part of that journey in the 21st century is the expanding dialogue between peoples of different faiths and traditions.

In 2010, we have a majority Catholic representation among students but we are also blessed with students from Buddhist, Greek Orthodox, Hindu, Jewish, Lutheran, Anglican, Sikh, Uniting Church, and Muslim backgrounds among others. In his most recent correspondence with our schools, the Director of Edmund Rice Education Australia, Dr Wayne Timney, posed the following to share and consider:

In Church and Catholic education around the country, we increasingly hear the question: ‘What must we do to maintain our schools as authentically Catholic?’ One response to this question has traditionally been to limit the numbers of non-Catholics who can gain entry to the schools so that a ‘critical mass’ can be maintained and thus we can say that we have truly Catholic schools. Percentages vary but most systems around the country have guidelines in this area.

It strikes me as sad that we would have to focus on excluding people in order to maintain our authenticity when our Gospel says with great clarity that authenticity demands inclusivity. Authenticity for Catholic schools will not be enhanced by excluding non-Catholics but rather by our inclusion of the poor and those at the margins. Our openness to inclusion and embracing responsibility for the other determines our capacity to be authentically Catholic schools in the Edmund Rice tradition.

In May, Edmund Rice Education Australia launched a policy framework for educating for justice and peace. This document will be used for several dialogues and processes at Nudgee College in the coming months. In many senses, this document is a ‘new skin for old wine’ in that I hope Nudgee College Old Boys from all generations will read the following and recognise this vision as deeply Gospel-centred but with great opportunities to explore diversity, multiculturalism and multi faith traditions. Our vision for our students is that they are people who:

- are engaged in service and solidarity with others, especially those at the margins
- are conscientised to the reality of the world and the root causes of injustice
- have a deep sense of the spiritual in their life
- relate to others in a compassionate way
- take ethical stances in all their endeavours
- are hopeful that a better world is possible and that they can contribute to its realisation.
In the past few years at Nudgee College, we have deliberately increased our response to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia. We now have about 60 Indigenous students at the College. A part of this response has been the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan.

The plan includes a number of elements, one of which is the recognition of the Turbul people as the traditional custodians of the land on which Nudgee College stands and the telling of the land's story as Nar (wild ducks) Dha (place of). Nudgee is the English way of saying Nardha, which is Turbul language for 'place of wild ducks'. Nudgee College sits proudly overlooking Sandgate Road, which is built on the ancient travelling paths of the Turbul people who also have a Bora Ring and other sacred sites nearby.

At the beginning of each term and at every major College gathering, including community liturgies, students or staff will acknowledge that Nudgee College stands on Turbul country and pay respect to the stewards of this beautiful place. Often, one or two of our Indigenous students will also explain where they are from, their country, their language and their totem.

On special days of meaning, such as National Sorry Day, we ensure that the occasion is appropriately marked and used to raise awareness in the school community about the importance of reconciliation with the past and present. Such events are also opportunities to raise the awareness of the need for planning for a hopeful future, one that will lead to a closing of the gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in regards to education, employment and health.

In 2009, this included the presentation to the College of a framed copy of Prime Minister Rudd’s apology and a dance performance by students from the Torres Strait. In 2010, a commemorative jersey celebrating Nudgee College and Ipswich Grammar’s commitment to reconciliation and the closing of the gap was struck and presented on College assembly. We also shared the creation story of the Rainbow Serpent. Students and staff then signed their names in the huge Rainbow Serpent drawn in Edmund Rice Mall as a symbol of the College’s commitment to peace among all peoples.

As a part of our Reconciliation Action Plan, we have also adopted the practice of inviting a local elder to be a keynote speaker at the opening of new and renovated buildings and to ‘smoke’ the buildings as is appropriate in Indigenous custom. A smoking ceremony was held for the opening of the Years 5–7 O’Neill Building (pictured left) and another will be held on the re-opening of Tierney Auditorium and the Purton Science Centre. In a smoking ceremony, an elder conducts proceedings by placing green leaves from eucalyptus trees on to a small fire. He uses the smoke generated to cover the participants’ bodies, ridding them of what is not needed. It also cleanses the area. Aboriginal belief is that this process rids the building of troubles and negative spirits and invites forward newness and good spirits. Reasons for holding the rite are then discussed. The ceremony ends with entertainment, such as dancing and singing.

Indigenous Program Coordinator Yvonne O’Neill says these initiatives help the boys to feel that it is not so bad to leave home and be here. ‘It gives them a sense of pride to be Indigenous within Nudgee College,’ she said. ‘The boys have sometimes struggled to find their place but the College has really changed in the last few years. Being part of ceremonies and seeing their flag flying makes them feel proud.

It makes me feel proud to be part of Nudgee College and having them support who we are.’
### August

- **Cattle Club**
  - 1 – 8
  - The Nudgee College Cattle Club at the Beef Cattle Pavilion at the Brisbane Exhibition. Students lead the cattle around the ring in competition with some of the best from around the state.

- **ICPA Federal Conference**
  - 4–5
  - Art Festival – commemoration of the College’s 120-year history
    - Opening night cocktail party – 7pm Saturday, 7 August
    - Arts & Cultural Festival and 120-year Celebration – 10am–5pm Sunday, 8 August
    - Art Festival – 10am–2pm Monday and Tuesday, 9–10 August

### September

- **Ladies Auxiliary Race Day**
  - 15
  - Day out for all the family at the Ladies Auxiliary Race Day, Sunshine Coast Turf Club.

- **Immersion Week**
  - 16–20
  - Year 10 Community Assistance and Social Justice program, when Nudgee College students are challenged physically, emotionally and spiritually in their work with people from various walks of life.

### October

- **AgQuip**
  - 17–19
  - Gunnedah

### November

- **Awards Night**
  - 4
  - Held at the Entertainment Centre, Boondall, recognising the achievements of students, staff and our wider community across all aspects of Nudgee College life.

- **Enrichment Week**
  - 8–12
  - Encourages excellence in learning. Students learn the valuable skills of creation, original thought and vision. Enrichment Week is a showcase of the skills and the projects the students have developed in a week of celebration and fun.

- **Mass and Christmas Dinner**
  - 12
  - Annual Ladies Auxiliary event to celebrate the conclusion of the school year, and the start of the festive season.

### December

- **NCOBA Memorial Mass**
  - 27
  - Annual Mass to recognise those of the Nudgee College community who have passed away over the course of the previous 12 months.
For the past 120 years, St Joseph’s Nudgee College has committed to building the future for boys in their care — academically, culturally, physically and spiritually. Current families can thank the pioneering spirit of the custodians of Nudgee College, the Christian Brothers, who laid the foundation in 1891 for the magnificent 136 hectare campus we enjoy today.

The goal of the Nudgee College Foundation is to help maintain the buildings and facilities initially constructed by the Christian Brothers, as well as to continue to ensure the College’s classrooms remain modern and up-to-date. Any building requires a sound foundation and the Nudgee College Foundation continues to provide this in its support for the school, as students grow into young men in a learning environment as in touch with the future as it is our illustrious past.

Old Boys who have gone before. They gave what they could, in good times and in bad, to continue to build the legacy we enjoy today.

Many generations have contributed to the outstanding facilities we now enjoy. Their vision saw the College plan and contribute to a future that must have seemed a distant dream when they or their sons trod these grounds.

Current students and those of the last century share a sacred bond. They share the spirit that binds them in brotherhood and makes generations of Nudgee College families and Old Boys proud to contribute to all the school can offer students of today and tomorrow.

Help us build it

The Foundation is relying on the generosity of donors to the College Building Fund to complete its 2010–15 strategic directions plan, which will provide new and upgraded facilities for students. Many projects have been completed recently or are in the planning phase, so any donation to the building fund will make a very real difference.

Nudgee College has set an ambitious but achievable goal of being one of the leading Catholic boys schools in Australia for academic, cultural, spiritual, sporting and vocational achievement, and one that is recognised as a school of first choice by students, parents, teachers and staff.

The recently completed $8.6m Purton Science Centre has firmly cemented Nudgee College’s position as a premier place of learning. The $5.5m refurbishment of the Tierney Auditorium into a 400-seat performance and lecture venue with dedicated drama rooms ensures students have every opportunity to excel in cultural pursuits, and our sporting facilities have already been acknowledged as second-to-none.

Spirit of giving

Like generations before, you can share our vision and help us build the future of Nudgee College for those who will enjoy this legacy. Building the future with spirit is about contributing what you can, and gifts small and large, are all received with gratitude.

Contributions to the Nudgee College Foundation and the College Building Fund are fully tax-deductible. Below are just some of the ways you can contribute to the Nudgee College Foundation.

Building fund pledge

Quite simply, family donations to the College Building Fund are the lifeblood of our fundraising activities. These contributions enable us to maintain our regular schedule of works and ensure our boys continue to enjoy first-rate academic facilities.

Capital campaigns

As major building projects get under way at the College, the Foundation will periodically conduct dedicated capital campaigns to help realise their completion. These capital appeals rely on donations from our parents, Old Boys and the wider community. Every donation counts; every amount makes a difference.

Bequest program

Over the years, the College has been fortunate to be remembered in the wills of generous past students and community members. You may be interested in leaving a gift of money, property or other items from your estate in your will to benefit future generations of Nudgee College. The Foundation Manager would be happy to assist you to arrange your bequest.

Above: Artists impressions of the exterior and interior of the Performing Arts Complex. Right: Students in the completed Purton Science Centre.
Chetan Thapa

Nudgee College is famous for its multicultural environment. Boys come from all over the world to be a part of the famed ‘Nudgee College spirit.’

One such student is Chetan Thapa, a Year 9 boarder in O’Brien Boarding House, who came from India last year to start Year 8 at Nudgee College.

Born in Nepal, Chetan and his family moved to Delhi in India, where they currently live. Delhi, says Chetan, is ‘quite overpopulated, but the people are generally friendly’. Chetan’s parents both speak English but their language of choice is Nepalese.

The weather in the booming city of Delhi is quite extreme, with temperatures ranging from just 2 degrees Celsius in winter to over 40 degrees in summer, and a monsoonal period between each season.

Prior to coming to Australia, Chetan attended an international school in India. He says, that apart from being a lot smaller, the major difference in the schools lies in the facilities more than the standard of education. ‘My school in India had similar subjects, but there are much better facilities here,’ he said.

According to Mr John Cross, Head of O’Brien Boarding House, Chetan is a hardworking, intelligent boy who always puts in 100 per cent effort. This is demonstrated by his subject choices and application to his extra-curricular commitments.

Chetan has undertaken a diverse range of subjects in his second year at Nudgee College. Studying Science, Delta Maths (an extension Maths program), Graphics and Horizons (an Enrichment program) in addition to the core subjects of English and Religion, he is taking full advantage of the wide selection of subjects on offer.

Chetan is uncertain what his future holds. ‘I’m not really sure what I want to do after school whether I’ll go home or stay in Australia, but I think I’d prefer to stay here’

It is fortunate that Chetan likes Australia, because he doesn’t get to go home often except for the long holidays.

During the school terms, it’s heads down, but that’s not to say he doesn’t find time for other things. Chetan enjoys taking part in the wide range of activities on offer at the College.

He has found a balance between work and play, representing the school in volleyball during the summer, and football in the winter. And he doesn’t just think of himself; Chetan also rolls street swags for the homeless.

Despite all of these positive aspects, the move to Australia was by no means easy. The obvious contrasts between India and Australia, not to mention the fact that he was moving thousands of kilometres from his family and friends, made the move a little difficult for him, but he hasn’t looked back.

Chetan came to Nudgee College originally because his father had taken up a posting in East Timor. When his family moved back to India, he had to choose whether to move back to India or stay at Nudgee College. He chose the latter and has not regretted his decision.

His time in Australia and at Nudgee College — and the lessons he learns, the people he meets and the experiences he shares — will assist this young man along the path to a very bright future.

Nick Kelly

Nudgee College boarders come from all over the world. Surprisingly, they tell stories about their homes as if they are nothing out of the ordinary. Some of our readers may well relate to them because they had similar experiences themselves, but most of us will naturally find these unique stories breathtaking and stirring.

In ‘My Home’ Nick Kelly writes about how the young boys of Nudgee College unassumingly become young men when they face the challenges of their responsibilities at home.

Nick Kelly is a Year 12 boarder at Nudgee College. At school, Nick studies Legal Studies, Philosophy and Reason and ITS and enjoys English. After school, he aspires to be a journalist and is writing for the Nth Degree to gain experience in this field and to help get the stories of these boarders out into the community.
Aurukun

Population
Aurukun is one of the largest Indigenous settlements in North Queensland, with a population of about 1200 people.

Location
Situated in the Western region of Cape York, about 2400 kilometres north of Brisbane, Aurukun lies just a few kilometres off the coast of the Arafura Sea in the Gulf of Carpentaria. The nearest major town is Weipa, about 100 kilometres north.

About the name
Aurukun was originally called the Marluna River, and not the Archer River.

Famous for
As one of far north Queensland’s largest Indigenous settlements, Aurukun receives a great deal of attention from the Government and the media. The region has a very rich reserve of bauxite, which is mined in some parts.

Connection to Nudgee College
Nudgee College is home to three Indigenous students from Aurukun: Blair Walmbeng in Year 12 and Garret and Antonio Marpoondin in Years 9 and 10, respectively.

History
Aurukun was established in 1904 as the Archer River Mission Station. There are current residents of the shire who remember their time there well. The State Government attempted to take control of the Shire in 1976, however, after negotiations, a 50-year lease was granted to the Aurukun Shire Council, making it the only Aboriginal community in Queensland recognised as a duly constituted local authority.

Handy things to know
The region is rich in bauxite, an aluminium ore. Aurukun State School caters for students from Prep to Year 10. There is also a TAFE college that teaches courses in mechanics and small engines, sewing and cooking.

Visitors must gain permission from the Aurukun Shire Council prior to entering the shire.

Throughout the year, the weather in Aurukun subjects residents to daily temperatures usually exceeding 30°C and annual rainfall generally in excess of 1800mm.

Aurukun has a number of security cameras observed from Cairns, making it one of the most closely monitored communities in Australia. Queensland Health provides a medical service, with visits from the Royal Flying Doctor Service three times a week.

Bamaga

Population
Bamaga is a popular tourist destination, particularly with four-wheel drive tourists crossing the peninsula. The region is also known for its fabulous beaches, camping and its centrality to administration for the Northern Peninsula Area.

Famous for
Bamaga was originally settled in an area known as Muttee Heads, about 20 kilometres south of the town today. Residents of Saibai Island established the original site after World War II, when abnormally high tides devastated their homeland. A Saibai Island elder Bamaga Ginau, after whom the town is named, led this resettlement. The town moved to its current location in 1947 because the growing population needed more fresh water.

History
Bamaga is often referred to as the gateway to the Torres Straits, and is the closest town to Thursday Island.

About the name
Bamaga is named after the founder of the original location of the town at Muttee Heads.

Handy things to know
The tropical location means Bamaga experiences constant temperatures year round, averaging maximums of 31°C and minimums of 24°C. The annual rainfall in the area is usually about 1800 millimetres.

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Popular tourist activities include fishing, bird hunting and bird watching. Wreckages from World War II aircraft are also scattered around the area, and a visit to the top of Australia is just a short drive north.

Comprehensive medical services are available in Bamaga and on nearby Thursday Island. Food shopping is quite limited; however, an air-freight service delivers groceries from Cairns, and fresh fruit and vegetables are delivered by boat twice weekly.

Clean water is available throughout the town and is of a good standard, thanks to a new treatment plant. Rubbish is collected twice a week and the area is serviced by a public sewerage system.
I was born in Kuching, Malaysia, and migrated to New Zealand with my family when I was three months old and Brisbane when I was about four. My family chose for me to go to St Joseph’s Nudgee College because of its prestige and culture, and its reputation in educational circles.

I began my Nudgee College journey in 2003, which included being introduced to Shaw House. For a young 13-year-old, Nudgee College was quite daunting at first in the sense of its size and vast number of people. As time went on, however, I found I made many friends but also, importantly, I was encouraged to strive to attain my goals.

There were staff members who really inspired me and provided me with great support throughout my journey, especially during my Senior years. People such as Chris Ryan and Marty Wiseman were there to make sure that I stayed true to myself while striving to be an effective leader and role model. My academic teachers (Emel Corley, Margie Willis, Lee Mazzaiglia and Rhonda Neill) provided me with the skills and tools needed to succeed and helped me mentally tough.

The biggest challenge I faced at Nudgee College was finding balance in my life. It is important to not overstress, which I sometimes did with my studies. Throughout my time at the College, we were told that each of us would leave our mark. I aimed to make my mark as a friendly, approachable person who was an honest and humble College captain. I wanted to get to know people and to understand their personalities. I wanted to be that bridge that allowed everyone to connect and see that we all have some common ground.

Nudgee College prides itself on its cultural diversity, which has been celebrated on Founder’s Day in the past. Variety is the spice of life and at Nudgee College people from all walks of life can come together and share a bit of themselves with each other. I am now in my final year of a science degree at the University of Queensland but am working to be accepted into a medical program. As they say, the world is your oyster and you have to grab every opportunity you can get. My time at Nudgee College really did teach me that anything is possible.
Jack Doolan in Nudgee College’s Ist XV, 1944
Back Row: F Logan, E Byrne, O Raftery, J Fogarty
Second Row: K Hobbs, J Doolan, G Marshall, K ONeill, J Walters, B Shaw
Front Row: P Harvey, J Beebe, J O’Brien, J McNulty, L Lent

If one is christened Jack Doolan and subsequently leads the life of a maverick, it is perhaps inevitable that the author of a biography, even one as brief as this, will begin with a reference to the Wild Colonial Boy. First published in the early 1880s, this traditional Irish-Australian ballad is an obvious starting point in a discussion of the life of John Kevin Raphael Doolan, born in 1927 and student at St Joseph’s Nudgee College from 1941 to 1944. Yet it does not do justice to the life of this impassioned advocate for Aboriginal Australians. A better literary connection would be Robert Frost’s iconic poem The Road Not Taken, for Doolan was an unconventional figure as ever graced the College grounds. If the American poet is too genteel a reference, perhaps a dash of Humphrey Bogart from the movie adaptation of CS Forester’s The African Queen will complete the picture.

Little is known of Doolan’s time at Nudgee College, but, at the end of his schooling, he joined the Royal Australian Navy and served in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific. In 1948 he arrived in the Northern Territory, where he worked as a cadet patrol officer with the Native Affairs Branch (NAB). He made a number of lengthy patrols throughout Arnhem Land, helping a veteran patrol officer — Syd Kyle-Little — establish a trading station at Maningrida to slow the drift of people from the region to Darwin. As the NAB did not have the funds to establish the post, Doolan and his companion repaired an old boat and,rogan-like, limped along the coast and later through the waterways of a frontier land. With little other than some basic stores and a thousand rounds of 303 ammunition, the pair shot crocodiles and sold the skins as a revenue stream.

In Doolan’s opinion, the Aboriginal people of Maningrida had benefitted from having had little or no contact with European Australians. As a result, they had not been contaminated by European attempts to turn first-class black people into second-class white people. He found them to be ‘proud people who stood up straight and looked you in the eye when they spoke … They were generous, kind and forgiving’.

It was an adventurous life, far from any institutional support, and, in the course of it, Doolan established a rapport with the Aboriginal people that would continue until his death in 1995. Although the outpost was relatively successful, a new administration was less sympathetic and closed the operation down. Doolan resigned and, after a few years in the trucking business, he joined the Army and served in Japan and Korea. From 1957 to 1960 he worked on the Aboriginal Reserve at Palm Island. Doolan then rejoined the NAB and returned to the Northern Territory as a patrol officer, working in various capacities at Snake Bay, Port Keats, Daly River and Western Arnhem Land, where he eventually became the district welfare officer.

In 1966, the Gurindji people, known to Doolan when he was first in the Northern Territory in the late 1940s, went on strike from Wave Hill Cattle Station. Although it later influenced the battle for Native Title, the strike was in the first instance inspired by the region’s ‘horrible poverty and exploitation which then existed on northern cattle stations where the Aboriginal people worked as stockmen, station hands and domestics’. After a change of government, some of the Gurindji traditional lands were returned to the people in 1975 as part of the enactment of Northern Territory land rights legislation in 1974 and 1976. Doolan provided strong support to the Gurindji people who settled at Daguragui, and was involved in the walk-offs from Victoria Bight.

Doolan became the Labor Member for the electorate of Victoria River in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly from 13 August 1977 until 3 December 1981. In that time, he held the shadow portfolios of Aboriginal Affairs and Primary Industry. His political career came to an end when he lost pre-selection because of increasing problems with alcohol. Yet, in a eulogy delivered in the Northern Territory Parliament, he was praised as a ‘pure Renaissance man’, ‘a true Territorian’ and one of the Territory’s ‘giants’. On a more personal level, Doolan was remembered as a ‘thoughtful man’ who ‘had frailties himself and acknowledged the frailties in others’.

The story of this ‘wild colonial boy’ is very different from the ballad. Doolan certainly was a maverick, but, more importantly, he was a humanitarian. He recognized the humanity in others and sought to right any injustice.

The last word is perhaps best left to Doolan himself: ‘I have always considered myself extremely fortunate to have lived amongst these people of Arnhem Land, who naturally possess many of the qualities of people with whom our society finds so admirable and often tries hard to achieve’.
Toward the end of Semester 1, Year 10 students were busily engaged in a unit of work on the poetry of war. I passed one preparing to print a copy of The Soldier, written by that quintessential English poet Rupert Brooke just prior to his death in 1915. Its unforgettable opening — ‘If I should die, think only this of me: that there’s some corner of a foreign field that is forever England’ — came to personify the generation who enlisted immediately at the outbreak of war in 1914. That this student chose to discuss this poem in connection with Australian military history and then to adorn his title page with Joe Rosenhain’s iconic photograph of the raising of the American flag over Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima in February 1945, says much for the pervasiveness of American and British culture. It also shows how images, phrases and words alter in significance over time. Phrases such as ‘nitty gritty’ with its corrosive undertones, and ‘chunder’, linked to a character in The Soldier, were more simply, who were O’Brien, Cotter, Hodda and Murphy? Unlike headmasters the likes of Ryan and Magee, Brother O’Brien is far more likely to be remembered in the context of his contribution to the Christian Brothers College in Wakefield Street, Adelaide. For in the pantheon of its headmasters, he is unquestionably the best beloved and most revered. Others were greater scholars, stronger headmasters, more enlightened educationalists, more competent administrators ... but none left behind such warm affection, genuine esteem and happy memories. Yet even this, seemingly, was not enough for one biographer, for, in his view, ‘few men have been so successful in instilling their spirit and ideals into a school, and fewer still have created a tradition that so long outlived them.’

Born in Ennistymon, County Clare, in the far west of Ireland, O’Brien entered the Novitiate in 1862 but did not reach Adelaide until 1879. In 1892 he was transferred to Nudgee College, where most of the property, except for an area around the original building, was still covered in forest and dense scrub. His health did not let him participate fully in the heavy labour required in such conditions, and he was transferred to Balmain after having served only the single year. He completed two further stints at Nudgee College, making his mark by organising art classes and overseeing the College journal and the Literary Society. After travel to Ireland and a period at Gregory Terrace, he retired to Nudgee College in 1922 and passed away late 1927.

Like O’Brien, Br Laurence George Cotter is often overshadowed by men such as Ryan and Magee. Yet in some respects he is the true founder of Nudgee College. He was the first headmaster to serve a long term and, by virtue of his energy and vision, brought stability to a College in danger of floundering. Born into ‘good old Catholic stock’ in Carrigavaney, County Cork, in 1859, Cotter was not yet 30 when he was ordained to Australia in 1888, first to Ballarat and then, because of health problems, to Queensland where ‘his name and fame as an able teacher were spoken of in the most laudatory terms’. After some years in Maryborough, he was sent to Nudgee College in 1889 where he was vocal in his support of the rights of parents to take out government scholarships at Catholic schools. He died of cancer—related illness on April 30, 1906, shortly after his departure from the College.

Hodda is a name that has almost ceased to denote the man, but rather has come to symbolise one of Nudgee College’s greatest building programs. His contribution to the College was the product of a capacity to perceive great objectives, a consuming energy which caught up all his team in reaching the goal. His achievements were such that it is astonishing that it was all completed in six years. Another writer saw in his drive something of a ‘Napoleonic bent’ but one mixed with ‘the down to earth character of an exceptionally true Christian Brother ... one who invoked admiration, praise, criticism, opposition, and sometimes mirth’.

As a Christian Brother, Hodda seemed a natural for ‘the big time’, a view supported by his terms at Aquinas, St Patrick’s Strathfield, St Joseph’s Gregory Terrace and Nudgee College. He arrived at the College in 1916 to face the ‘stitches of courage, faith and a smile. Soft spoken, keen eyed, competent, he strode over the Mound of Nudgee, renewing the material and moral fabric of the Trecy edifice. Some of the changes were not as grand as complete buildings, but were just as necessary — a new car, a modern telephone system, dressing-rooms under the grandstand, new furniture in the dining room, as well as painting and plumbing improvements, all of which were part of his campaign for civility. Yet without doubt his magnum opus was the million pound project, which gave the College a complete Senior School, accommodation, classrooms and science laboratories. The official opening was on 21 May 1967, and Hodda’s triumph was capped by the presence of an impressive list of dignitaries, including former prime minister Sir Robert Menzies. Hodda’s Nudgee College sojourn proved to be the high point in a long career, and, perhaps inevitably, there is a sense of anticlimax pervading his subsequent appointments. Hodda died on 21 July 1998 and is buried in Nudgee Cemetery, near Br Patrick Ambrose Trecy.

The difficulty of writing a short biography of a Christian Brother for an audience well acquainted with his strengths and weaknesses is particularly evident in Br Purcell’s summary of Br Darcy Fidelis Murphy. For Murphy was ‘like an uncut diamond — hard, brilliant, transparent and quite sharp. He made no attempt to be accommodating or to gain popularity; there was no room for compromise’. Yet, just as equally, he was ‘a larger than life character, he lived life at a hectic pace, and he seemed to put every ounce of effort into every day’.

Murphy was born in the Sydney suburb of Bondi on 21 June 1933 and, at 14 years of age, began a four-year stint at St Edna’s Juniorate, and then went on to Minto for the Novitiate. In January 1954 he joined the community at St Joseph’s Gregory Terrace and, after a series of postings, he arrived at Nudgee College in 1969. He left in 1972 and did not return until 1983 when he immersed himself in the work of the Nudgee College Foundation, helped in preparations for the College’s centenary year, and produced the Old Boys’ newsletter Signum Fidei as well as writing the College’s sporting history. After being diagnosed with cancer, Murphy returned to Sydney to be nursed by his sisters until his death in 1995.

Here we have four men — two Australian born and two natives of Ireland — who have made an impact on Nudgee College over its 120 year history. If their names eventually come to mean something different to a different generation, it can happen to us all.

On a visit to France some years ago, I arranged to interview Pat Donovan, arguably one of Nudgee College’s greatest ever scholars. In my letter of introduction I wrote that I would be ‘sothe to miss the opportunity of speaking with him. His letter of acceptance was annotated with the suggestion that I check Fowler’s Dictionary of Modern Usage for my use of ‘sothe’. Apparently it means ‘dissolute’; the ‘sothe’ I was after means ‘unwilling or reluctant to do something’.

I can hear my students laughing!
Pope Benedict XVI declared June 2009–2010 as a Year for Priests. 2010 marked his 83rd birthday (16 April) and the fifth anniversary of his election as Pope (19 April). In an address to the people of Malakon 18 April the Holy Father said, ‘This Year for Priests, I ask you to be open to the possibility that the Lord may be calling some of you to give yourselves totally to the service of His people in the priesthood or consecrated life.

Priesthood has been a calling for many men of St Joseph’s Nudgee College. Today there are 127 Old Boys recorded on the College Honour Board for their service to the priesthood.

The following priests have all played a part in College life, past and present.

**Reverend Father Thomas Nolan**

Thomas Nolan, originally of Ipswich, was the first student of Nudgee College to be ordained as a Priest. In November 1891–1892 Dr Tom Boland, a Nudgee College Old Boy (NC 1942–43) and Priest ordained in 1953, wrote that, ‘The boys or men of ‘91–92 did Nudgee justice in their future careers. Forty years on, the Nudgee Annual tried to track them down ... Tom Nolan, the man with the golden boot in 1892, was Parish Priest of Dalby.’ Unfortunately there is little other information recorded about Fr Nolan in the College archives.

**Reverend Father Rod Ward**

The most recent Old Boy to be ordained was Fr Rod Ward. Originally from Gympie, Fr Ward was a boarder from 1957–59. After school Rod studied medicine at the University of Queensland and worked as a government medical officer and medical superintendent in regional hospitals. He settled into private practice in Townsville and also served in the Army Reserve while being heavily involved in Townsville’s and North Queensland rugby league.

Rod began his journey to the priesthood at the seminary in Brisbane where he completed a Bachelor of Theology and was ordained in Townsville in 2006. Fr Ward is currently the assistant priest of Cranbrook Parish with pastoral care of Wulguru Parish and Chaplain to Ignatius Park College. He is heavily involved in various committees and councils and is part-time padre in the Army Reserve, posted to a regular Army unit at Lavarrack Barracks in Townsville.

**Archbishop John Bathersby**

Perhaps the College’s most famous Priest is Archbishop John Bathersby. Originally from Stanthorpe, he boarded at Nudgee College from 1951–54. After school he entered Pius XII Seminary, Banyo, to begin his training for the priesthood. He was ordained in his home Parish of Stanthorpe in 1961.

His first seven years as a Priest were spent as an Associate Pastor and Administrator at Goondiwindi before being sent to Rome for further studies. He was then appointed to Pius XII Seminary where he served as Spiritual Director for seven years before returning to Rome for a Doctorate in Theology/Spirituality. He returned to the Seminary until he was appointed Bishop of Cairns in 1992. In 1992 Dr Bathersby succeeded Archbishop Rush as Archbishop of Brisbane.

**Reverend Father John Gillen**

Nudgee College is one of the few Catholic Colleges to benefit from the services of a resident priest — Fr John Gillen — who also teaches in the day school. Fr Gillen is a Marist Father and a former student of St Laurence’s College.

This year Fr Gillen celebrates his Silver Jubilee — 25 years as a priest. Fr Gillen started at Nudgee College in 1992 and since that time has supported the College community in many ways. He has taught Study of Religion, Religious Studies, History and English, and in 1995 he joined Fogarty House as the tutor of FO4. On several occasions he has acted as Fogarty House Dean and has prepared and celebrated many of the House Masses.

Fr Gillen is a close and generous friend to many. Over the years he has presided at weddings, christened children and supported many through difficult times and helped deal with grief. Fr Gillen’s pastoral care has not been restricted to staff; there are countless students who have benefited from his knowledge, wisdom and vigilance.

**Margie Wills**

**Fogarty House Dean**

**Reverend Father John Kilinko**

Fr John celebrates the main liturgies at the College, including Senior Investiture and Valedictory, and provides weekly House Masses. Fr Kilinko is known for his preaching skills and his ability to make each homily relevant to today’s world, important for the boys’ benefit.

Fr Kilinko attended Marist Brothers Ashgrove and was ordained in 1979 after studying at Banyo Seminary. His first appointment was to St William’s at Grovely, then to Maryborough, Hendra, Hamilton, Corinda, and Beenleigh. After a Sabbatical overseas, Fr Kilinko returned to Rockcliffe, the Gold Coast and finally Zillmere in August 1996. Zillmere is the Parish in which Nudgee College is situated and Fr Kilinko is the College’s Parish Priest.

Nudgee College is blessed to have the history and services of the dedicated individuals mentioned above, as well as many more, and it is timely that we recognise their contribution at the conclusion of this Year for Priests.
During the June–July school holidays, 29 students and five staff members jetted off to England and France for Nudgee College’s first international cricket tour. The three-week trip comprised many and varied highlights.

The group spent time in London, Bristol, Bath, Oakham, Stratford, and Denstone and concluded with a night in Paris before flying home. The group also visited the home of cricket — Lord’s — twice during the tour. The first visit was for a training session on 18 June, and the second was to watch Australia take on England in a One-Day International on 3 July.

Cricket Program Manager Mr Mark Ensor said the tour had provided a great opportunity for students to hone their skills. ‘The touring party gained valuable experience with six tough matches against very proud English cricket schools, not dissimilar to Nudgee College,’ he said. ‘The games represented a change dissimilar to Nudgee College, ‘ he said. ‘The team had a challenging season, going up against some tough competition from other GPS schools around Brisbane and debating a variety of topics,’ she said. ‘The boys worked incredibly well together this year, always putting in a lot of effort and being supportive of one another. ‘Throughout the season they were often complimented on their excellent speaking skills, both by adjudicators and members of the audience. Congratulations to all boys who put a lot of work into their debates each week. They showed a great deal of improvement throughout the season.’

The Nudgee College Senior A team also completed the night with a win, which earned them second place for the Queensland GPS season.

Nudgee College wound up the GPS Debating season with a contest against St Joseph’s Gregory Terrace in which all teams won by a margin of one or two points. The debates brought this year’s competition to an end for Year 8, 9 and 10 students.

Head of Debating Ms Rhonda Neil said students had performed well throughout the GPS competition. ‘The team had a challenging season, going up against some tough competition from other GPS schools around Brisbane and debating a variety of topics,’ she said. ‘The team had a challenging season, going up against some tough competition from other GPS schools around Brisbane and debating a variety of topics.’

In a major boost for Nudgee College, Brothers Swim Club and the College have been named as a Swimming Australia Centre of Excellence (COE). In gaining selection as a Swimming Australia COE, programs had to satisfy a number of criteria, including high-performance coaching credibility, coherence with the State Institute/ Academy programs, adequate access to lane space, the ability to identify and recruit talent, and having the appropriate age-group and national-level development programs in place.

Once the criteria were met, Swimming Australia looked at individual programs to highlight areas where financial assistance and support could further enhance them. Nudgee College, encompassing the Brothers Swim Club — home to Olympic relay gold medallist Emily Seebohm and her coach Mr Matt Brown — was the only new Queensland centre named, the others being in Victoria and South Australia.

Principal Mr Daryl Hanly was delighted the College had been recognised at such an elite level. ‘Nudgee College has a strong swimming record and is proud to become a Swimming Australia Centre of Excellence,’ he said. ‘The College pool has been the training ground for several swimmers who have gone on to become members of the Australian Swim Team and have competed on the international stage.

‘Through the connection with Brothers Swim Club, whose members train in the College pool, Nudgee College is able to offer first-class training facilities and coaches for both males and females and is helping to produce the next generation of Australian swimmers.

‘Nudgee College looks forward to working with Swimming Australia as a COE and is excited by the opportunities this will offer current and future Nudgee College students and members of the Brothers Swim Club.’

Continuing to excel in the pool are Old Boys Kyle Richardson, Brenton Rickard and Leith Brodie who all competed at the Australian Short Course Championships at Chandler in July.

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Year 12 student Jacob Guymer recently competed in the World Youth Volleyball championships. It has been a busy 12 months of volleyball success for Jacob, who was one of two College students invited to trial for the Australian youth team after competing in last year’s Australian Schools Volleyball Cup.

Jacob was later chosen in the Australian youth team squad and was invited to attend the Queensland Academy of Sport Elite Development training program.

Jacob also missed his Year 12 Formal to compete in Perth during the June-July school holidays. His team, Queensland under 19 Maroons, were victorious in Perth winning the Gold Medal and being named National Champions. Jacob was named in the All Star 7 team which is the best players over the tournament. He then went on to attend a training camp in Perth where, even though only 17, he was invited to trial for the Junior Australian team (under 21).
Legends of Nudgee Sport Gala Luncheon raises $40,000 for College Museum

Approximately 200 Old Boys, parents and friends of St Joseph’s Nudgee College came together on Friday 16 July to help celebrate 120 years of the College’s finest sporting moments and its contribution to community sport.

The gala luncheon was held at Brisbane’s new function venue for Queensland rugby — The Strand at Rugby Quay — and brought together a range of Nudgee College’s sporting legends from across the decades and from different sports to celebrate 120 years of the College. The occasion was the perfect launch pad for Martin Kenby’s Nudgee College rugby history, entitled Of Great and Good Men.

Proceeds from this function and the sale of the book have added the general fit-out of the new College Museum above Ryan Hall and assisted with the purchase of cabinets to house a nationally significant collection of rugby memorabilia.

Although the rugby display promises to be impressive, the museum will celebrate the full spectrum of the achievements of Old Boys, both as students and in their later careers. Accomplishments in the sciences, arts, culture, the military, politics, and as pioneers in a variety of fields will be commemorated in a dedicated and highly appropriate space.

When I became the 39th president of the Nudgee College Old Boys Association at the AGM last March, I felt a great sense of pride, humility and commitment. When I looked back at the list of presidents before me, including my dad Harry (president 1986–88), I saw many great men and recalled their many great contributions to both St Joseph’s Nudgee College and to society in general. The association has evolved greatly since its inception in 1923 when Monsignor Leo Carlton was the inaugural president and the legendary Jack Ross was inaugural secretary.

I would like to thank and acknowledge Tony Behm, my immediate past president for honouring this legacy and leaving the association poised to continue its growth.

Thanks must also go to Daryl Hanly for his unwavering support of the association throughout his term as principal. I look forward to continuing to work closely with Daryl towards our common goals.

It strikes me that if our association is to remain an integral part of the changing landscape that is Nudgee College, we must continue to move forward in our relationships, policies and actions. I call it Renewal with Respect — always knowing where you have come from, always respecting the experiences of others, but also looking to refresh our approach to embrace new opportunities and objectives.

As part of this process, we have some new faces on our executive this year. Anthony Hart (NC 1985–87) comes in as treasurer and vice-president. Tony Gleeson (NC 1985–89) remains as secretary. Simon Owens (NC 1985–89), Saxon Mew (NC 1998–02) and John Cotter (NC 1994–98) also join the committee. Lawrie Cusack (NC 1947–50), Jim Gray (NC 1949–52) and Tony Behm (NC 1961–64) as immediate past presidents also remain. This is a great mix of youth and experience and I thank them all for their commitment and passion.

As an association, we will continue to do the things we have always done well including reunions, the Memorial Mass, the Old Boys Dinner and Signum Fides — both online and a print edition.

The association launched the Jack Ross Bursary in 2008 to provide funding for fee assistance for students in need as well as to support cultural and academic excellence. Later in the year, in conjunction with the College, we are planning an appeal in support of the bursary.

We see, as a priority, renewing the way we communicate with Old Boys and facilitating how Old Boys communicate with each other. To that end, we are overhauling our website www.ncoba.com.au and our database of member details. I urge all Old Boys to visit the website and update their contact details via the link. It is particularly important that we have your current mobile telephone number because we intend to use group SMS increasingly to alert Old Boys to upcoming events. There will also soon be a NCOBA presence on Facebook as a further means to stay in touch.

Increased opportunities for Old Boys to network are also on the horizon. There is a Friday night get-together in Brisbane City coming up, and a family friendly weekend event is being planned.

Further ahead is the setting up of a support service called ‘Brothers in Arms’ for Old Boys and Nudgee College family members in need, as well as a renewal of the Old Boys Employment Network, involving mentoring, awards and so on.

There is much work to be done so I challenge all Old Boys to re-invigorate their connection with the association, with each other and with the College. Together we will renew with respect.
My Dreaming at Nudgee by Ms Yvonne O’Neill tells the Nudgee College story.