Science and Environment

PETER STARK
KING IN A GRASS CASTLE
MARINE SCIENCE
BOARDERS REACH FOR THE STARS
NEW LOOK FOR COLLEGE PROMOTIONS
TIERNEY AUDITORIUM AWARDED
Greetings To The
St Joseph’s Nudgee College Community

For a number of years now I have wanted to rewrite the opening of the Lord’s Prayer. To me, it should read, ‘Our Father Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come on Earth as it is in heaven.’ Prayed this way there is no doubt about the real challenge that confronts us as Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition. Our key role is Kingdom work – the creation of God’s Kingdom here on earth.

This is not an easy task. Our major challenge is the task of conceptualising what God’s Kingdom might look like if it were on earth. There is no doubt that peace and justice would prevail, but what else would indicate that God would be pleased with those who inhabited the land – the stewards of His legacy?

Bringing to the conscience our students their responsibility in looking after the environment could be the first step. Recognising the responsibility implicit in this stewardship reflects our respect for not only the Trustees of the Christian Brothers who now own the land, but also for the traditional owners of the land on which we sit. Our connection to this, our Indigenous heritage is critical and is fostered at St Joseph’s Nudgee College.

The sharing of cultures is made a lot easier with those who inhabited the land – the stewards of His legacy.

As a significant symbol of our commitment to the teaching of science, we have, in the past year, refurbished the Purton Science Building, now named the Purton Science Centre. There is no doubt that we now have among the best science facilities in Australia. The reason for this was not only to expose our students to modern technology, but also to encourage them to understand that science, appropriately applied, underpins ecological balance of these areas.

We look forward to going forward, developing the environment at Nudgee College, as well as educating our young men in their role as stewards of this earth.

Sincerely,

Daryl Hanly
Principal

This allows our young men to experience land used in a variety of ways. They can see the manner in which the cattle and pigs are managed, the vineyard is maintained and the grounds in themselves are developed and landscaped as they undergo our Agricultural Science courses. Being so close to the ocean, our Marine Science courses expose students to the ecology of the rivers, creeks, ocean and foreshores thus giving them an appreciation of strategies that will help us maintain and enhance the ecological balance of these areas.

As a significant symbol of our commitment to the teaching of science, we have, in the past year, refurbished the Purton Science Building, now named the Purton Science Centre. There is no doubt that we now have among the best science facilities in Australia. The reason for this was not only to expose our students to modern technology, but also to encourage them to understand that science, appropriately applied, underpins ecological balance of these areas.

We look forward to going forward, developing the environment at Nudgee College, as well as educating our young men in their role as stewards of this earth.

Sincerely,

Daryl Hanly
Principal
With so much recent news focused on carbon trading and taxes, renewable energy trends and sustainable development, in addition to ongoing controversy over pastoral mining leases, you could be forgiven for thinking Nudgee College Old Boy Peter Stark's time has well and truly arrived.

Or put another way, Peter showed a pretty awesome ability to predict trends as his career path took shape during and after his years at Nudgee College in the mid to late 1980s.

Peter late last year embarked on a new role as Chief Executive Officer of environmental trading and services company Ecofund Queensland at the exact time when caring for our environment has become an increasingly important issue in our rapidly changing world.

Ecofund Queensland, launched in 2009, assists major corporations with their legislative requirements to counterbalance the unavoidable impact of their developments – for example, new mining projects – on the Australian landscape.

Passionate about Queensland’s environment and with impressive industry experience and a strong carbon and renewable energy background, Peter has come to the role with new ideas to help protect Australia’s natural environment.

‘When the CEO role came up with Ecofund, it not only had the renewable energy and carbon trading elements that matched my previous commercial experience but it also had the provision for environmental or land-based offsets,’ he said.

‘helping to make a more sustainable future’
A Nudgee College education was the perfect grounding for what was to come for this committed environmentalist.

Peter was a boarder from 1983–1987, following in the footsteps of not only older brothers Sean, Tim and Denis but his father, Dr Denis Stark, who boarded in the early 1950s with his brothers. Younger brother Patrick, another doctor followed Peter and boarded at Nudgee College between 1988 and 1992.

Peter always knew he would be continuing the family tradition by going to the College.

‘I always looked forward to starting at Nudgee because it had that family history and a definite aura about it, when you were growing up,’ he said. ‘I remember coming out that Sunday night in Brother Fitzgerald’s Year 8 boarding house. The memories that stand out from that were the diversity of the other boarders’ backgrounds, compared with my primary school schoolmates, and the seeming chaos of it all.’

Being a boarder left its impression, said he helped him to grow and become more independent.

‘It gave me great lessons in life that have most definitely been transferred across to my business dealings today,’ Peter said, ‘especially in recognising and respecting the differences in colleagues and how to get on with a wide variety of people from different backgrounds.’

‘This diversity, especially in the boarding environment, taught all of us lots of things about how to get on without killing each other.’

This is one of Nudgee College’s best attributes, Peter said, and, if you are fortunate, one that stays with you throughout your life.

‘It’s a real melting pot. I have friends still from school days who lived as close as Banyo, to others up the coast at Caloundra, to sheep stations at Longreach, as well as overseas, including from Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong and Indonesia.’

Peter credits the College environment for his wide-ranging and eclectic circle of friends, noting that boarding, in particular, seemed to forge a sense of strong camaraderie that continues to hold through life.

A dedicated sportsman, Nudgee College provided a home away from home when it came to competing on the rugby field. Peter made the 1st XV in 1986 and captained the side the following year – both teams reining as undefeated GPS premiers. Although he also represented the College in swimming and athletics from 1983–1987, rugby was his first love.

‘The experience of Saturday afternoon home rugby day at Nudgee was hard to beat,’ he said. ‘All of the matches in all of the grades and divisions from Ross Oval to the Flats being fought out during the day, which seemed to be generally won by Nudgee.

‘The intensity that all games seemed to be played at was very different to the club rugby I’d played previously. When the grandstand got going and the cheering echoed across Ross Oval, it was a unique place to play – especially when you were lucky enough to be in front on the old scoreboard.’

Peter paid tribute to one Nudgee College staff member in particular, Mr Mick Senior, who was a valuable mentor in the student’s senior grades. Mr Senior taught Peter in Year 10 but also coached him in the 1st XV in Years 11 and 12.

‘Mr Senior’s leadership and decency, combined with showing us the work, dedication and commitment required to achieve our goals set him apart,’ Peter said. ‘He always seemed able to grasp the essence of any situation or problem, and communicate it to us in a simple, straightforward and practical language that we definitely needed at the time.’

After Peter left Nudgee College in 1987, he attended university in Brisbane and then entered the graduate program at BHP. This led him to mining and commodity trading in the coal and energy industries, first in the Bowen Basin and then around Australia as well as projects in Asia, the United States and PNG.

His 15 years of executive management experience in the areas of commodity trading, risk management and business development stood him in good stead when he took up the reins as CEO of Ecofund Queensland in August of last year. He explained how the organisation worked.

‘On behalf of our corporate clients we source and protect land, ecosystems and habitats that have important environmental values,’ he said. ‘We try to strategically locate these environmental offsets to maximise their benefits by creating corridors that link existing protected areas or national parks.

‘A good example of this is a 21,000 hectare property we recently purchased with a corporate client’s contribution. The land buttled up against the Expedition National Park (north-west of Toowoomba) and, with the addition of the purchased land, will provide more than 235km of contiguous habitat – preserved in perpetuity – for some of Queensland’s most endangered fauna species. These include the Northern Quoll, the Powerful Owl and the Brigalow Scalyfoot.’

A 130ha nature refuge at Bellbird Homestead, 30km northwest of Nambour, is another example of a carbon offset project managed by Ecofund Queensland. About 15,000 trees, all from Sunshine Coast hinterland species, have been planted to help balance the greenhouse gas emissions of Queensland motorists. It is anticipated the nature refuge will reduce greenhouse gases by about 6,750 tonnes over 30 years.

The plantings will restore the land to how it was more than a century ago, it will also shield the West Cooroy State Forest and increase holdings of the state’s protected areas, adding biodiversity protection, carbon sequestration and habitat for the endangered Mary River Cod, and the Giant Barred Frog.

Peter said he really enjoyed his job with Ecofund Queensland, and working with such a passionate team.

‘Being CEO of Ecofund provides a great opportunity to lead a commercial enterprise that has immense potential to help protect Queensland’s great landscape,’ he said. ‘Ecofund contributes significantly to assist other commercial organisations that want a low-carbon future, it helps our customers get the right balance between the environment and their future development requirements.’

‘I like the challenge of dealing with clients from the big end of town – all the major mining houses, for example, to provide them with their required environmental offsets, as well as carbon and renewable energy products and services.

‘At the same time I like dealing directly with large land holders, mostly in the Surat and Bowen basins. These land holders are interested in long-term revenue streams for hosting carbon farming projects and environmental offset projects.’

‘It’s an unusual and great mix, which definitely keeps me truly grounded.’

Although much of his time is spent with Ecofund Queensland business, Peter still finds time to enjoy recreational pursuits with some of his College mates.

‘I am off to Brazil for surfing holiday with Tony Shadforth [Senior 1987],’ he said, ‘and we are catching up with another classmate, artist Pete Murray, who is singing in Sao Paolo on his Brazilian tour.

‘I still love rugby and it is so much easier to watch this year with the Reds playing so well.’

And some final advice for today’s students?

‘Your years at Nudgee College go in a heartbeat,’ Peter said. ‘Enjoy them as much as you can and involve yourself in all the opportunities that present themselves.’

It is great to see someone of Peter Stark’s calibre and dedication to the environment is at the helm of an organisation like Ecofund Queensland, helping to make a more sustainable future.
As I sat in my office one Friday afternoon attempting to coax the words for this article from my laptop, my attention was drawn to a rust-encrusted piece of metal strangely at odds with the rugby blazers, College Annuals and the dozens of other items of memorabilia waiting to be moved to the College Museum. It is a souvenir from my first foray into the world of battlefield tourism, and is at once both a remnant of the then mightiest battle in history and a testament to the tolerance of a young woman who allowed her husband to carry the shell casing from a British 18-pound field gun that he had found half buried in Delville Wood in the Somme region of France, halfway across Europe during a honeymoon that swayed uneasily between battlefields and art galleries.

This unlikely souvenir reverberates to the sound of the 1st South African Infantry Brigade which had so heroically held the Wood, despite being almost annihilated during the Battle of the Somme in July 1916. It also echoes, if one listens carefully, to a few vital moments in the life of an Old Boy, and to the sound of muffled hoof beats, the crash and volley of gunfire, the high-pitched screams of wounded horses, the yells and curses of men as they drive their horses onwards – all played out against the background that is the dreadful theatre of modern war.

The world seemed a much quieter place as the 1892 academic year opened at St Joseph’s Nudgee College. One of the new students was a ‘neat, dapper, handsome little fellow’ who had been educated at Gregory Terrace the previous year. Though the author of this description chose a diminutive to describe the student, there was nothing small about the boy’s subsequent achievements. Fr Tom Boland, writing a century later, anointed Jerry Durack as a rightful claimant to the oft conferred crown of ‘Nudgee’s most distinguished Old Boy’.

Born on Thylungra Station in Western Queensland in 1877, Durack’s life reads more like an adventure story than the conventional biography of a Queensland squatter. In 1882 his family, eulogised in Mary Durack’s Kings in Grass Castles, challenged conventional wisdom by achieving the ‘impossible’ feat of driving 7,200 head of cattle across the continent from Queensland to the north-west of Western Australia. In time, as Boland observed, his fellow Old Boy would broaden his horizons to take in the world – ‘geographical, scientific and social’.

Leaving Nudgee College in 1893, he graduated from the University of Sydney with First Class Honours in Mathematics and Physics, the first time a student had achieved a double First. After working at the university, Durack travelled to Trinity College, Cambridge, courtesy of a Queen Victoria Travelling Scholarship. While in England he wrote important research papers on radiation as well as gaining a BA in Natural Sciences. In 1904 Durack was appointed lecturer in Physics at King’s College, London University, though shortly after he entered the Indian Educational Service and became Professor of Physics, and later Principal, of Muir College, Allahabad.

European civilians employed by the Indian government often belonged to the Indian Army Reserve of Officers, which Durack duly joined. He was called up in August 1914 and, for a time, escorted cavalry remounts from Bombay to Marseilles before being posted to the 34th Poona Horse, then part of the Secunderabad Cavalry Brigade, 2nd Indian Division. After the carnage on the Somme, Durack transferred to the Royal Engineers and joined the Sound Rangers section, which was formed as a result of an idea, pursued by Cambridge physicists, to do with the identification of German batteries.

After the war, Durack and his wife, a descendant of William Wentworth, returned to India, but Durack resigned his post in 1922. He made a final visit to Australia that same year before returning to England. In 1925 the now-divorced Durack retired to Ireland where he died in 1956. Boland observed that Durack had ‘blazed a trail across the educational skies which cast reflected light on Nudgee’. Yet more pragmatically, and perhaps less poetically, he also added that ‘it was Durack’s talent and spirit which took him so far, but Nudgee gave him his chance’.

Yet, for a modern community member familiar with the roll call of Old Boy achievement, it is more romantic to picture the young Durack and his family, pioneer legends of a lifestyle now consigned almost to history, moving cattle across the inhospitable terrain of northern Australia in the decades before Federation; or to conjure forth the thrilling anachronism which was the 39-year-old Durack riding with the men of the Indian cavalry as they thundered between Delville Wood and High Wood late in the afternoon of 14 May 1916 while being ‘storm’d at with shot and shell’.
When describing Nudgee College Old Boy Jerry Durack, Fr Tom Boland looked to scripture to create for his readers a sense of the symbiotic relationship that exists between teacher and student. In his history of Nudgee College (Nudgee 1891-1991), Boland offers an image of Br Treacy, the founder of the College, leading this ‘archetypal Irish Australian boy from the Bush’ to the Nudgee Mound, and showing him the ‘vision from the heights’.

Lest he be accused of overstating the influence of his alma mater, Boland adds that ‘it was Durack’s talent and spirit which took him so far, but Nudgee gave him his chance.’

Eighty years after Durack arrived at the College from Gregory Terrace, Peter Kanowski, another boy from the bush, came to a college that was at first ‘intimidating’, but which in time would challenge him to think critically and creatively about the world beyond the school fence.
Kanowski’s father had attended Nudgee College, and, when the time came for his son to travel to Brisbane, ‘there was no choice possible but Nudgee.’

There were benefits in attending Nudgee College other than academic and sporting instruction. For although others might have perceived boarding school as an insular, inward-looking environment, Kanowski was well aware of broader political trends.

“I was homesick, as most kids are when they are away from home for the first time. It was pretty easy, however, to get absorbed into what was going on, whether it be study or sport. I got on well with the Brothers, though their personalities varied, as of course they were always going to, with some being all fire and brimstone and others rather more esoteric, and then everything in between.”

While at Nudgee College, Kanowski benefited, as he would throughout his university career, from teachers who ‘challenged students to think’, and who were able to assume the role of mentors at pivotal moments in his career. Br Terry Enright, in particular, was to exert a positive influence on the teenage Kanowski.

“Running allowed me to find my niche and I put my interest and my initial success down to Br Enright, who coached me. I have always been grateful for that as it allowed me to run for Queensland and the ACT, and gained me a ‘blue’ at Oxford.”

“Running allowed me to find my niche and I put my interest and my initial success down to Br Enright, who coached me. I have always been grateful for that as it allowed me to run for Queensland and the ACT, and gained me a ‘blue’ at Oxford.”

After graduating from Nudgee College, Kanowski spent a year as an exchange student in the US state of Oregon. For an aspiring forester and an avid runner, the timber-studded mountains of Oregon and a school that treated his sport seriously proved an inspired choice. It was another important step in the broadening of horizons that had so influenced the direction of Durack’s life eight decades earlier. After returning to Australia, Kanowski studied for a year at the University of Queensland before completing his studies at the Australian National University in Canberra. The shift from suburban Brisbane to the Halls of Residence ensured the experience-hungry Kanowski moved in more diverse circles than would have been the case had he stayed in Queensland. Because ANU was one of only two Australian universities offering forestry, many of the students were, like Kanowski, from interstate, a situation heightened by the large numbers of international students at the University across all of the courses. It was, as Kanowski observed 30 years later, ‘a different world to Queensland’.

At the suggestion of his honours degree supervisor and his Head of Hall, Kanowski applied for, and in 1982 was awarded, a Rhodes Scholarship, arguably the most prestigious of its kind in the world. Had he not received this encouragement, Kanowski said he would not have even contemplated applying.

“The Rhodes Scholarship was not even on my horizon. It was the advice, the prompting and the encouragement of these two individuals who pushed me towards it. ANU had been a broader world and Oxford was broader again, and these experiences allowed me to move in successively larger circles.”

Kanowski found Oxford a ‘phenomenally diverse place with people studying every imaginable academic interest from every corner of the world’. Yet, even more profound than the experience of meeting different people from all corners of the world, it was the effect wrought on his world view that dominates Kanowski’s assessment of those years.

“I found it enormously stimulating. In a profound sense it was almost as though I saw the world in a completely different way for the first time. I came to realise that there was an enormous range in the ways that people saw, used and valued the environment. My own experience and background was still a legitimate sub-section of that, but only a very small one. I felt that the veil had been lifted from my eyes in terms of my understanding of my topic area.”

On his return to Australia from Oxford, Kanowski took up a position in the Queensland State Government. He then headed back to England for a seven-year stint lecturing in forestry at Oxford. However, the call of home was ever present, and, given his deep attachment to ANU, when the Chair of Forestry there became available, it was no surprise he returned to Canberra in 1995. Like Durack before him, Kanowski understood the value of his Nudgee College education. Also, like Durack, he would eventually travel in a world no longer, as Rupert Brooke conceived it in 1914, ‘at peace under an English heaven’. The Queensland that Kanowski saw from the Nudgee Mound was not to his liking, any more than wartime France was to Durack’s tastes. Yet each had been figuratively taken to the Mound by Treacy and his successors and shown the world and all its infinite potential.
Carolyn Liddy began her Nudgee College journey on a four-week contract in Easter 1998 when a staff member was on leave, and she has been here ever since.

Before acting for some time in her current permanent role as the Director of Learning and Teaching (Years 10–12), Carolyn was a maths teacher and then Head of Chemistry from 2001 to 2009.

Carolyn said she has a very strong memory of how friendly and welcoming the staff members were when she arrived but admitted Nudgee College was a huge culture shock at first.

‘I had worked in two girls’ schools before Nudgee College with predominantly female members of staff, she said. ‘Not only was the classroom very different but the staffroom was different, too!’

While there were many female teachers on staff, I don’t think there were any other women in my staffroom – the notorious Purton West. My colleagues were very supportive; they shared lots of their teaching resources with me and taught me a great deal of Nudgee College history.

‘At that time, some of the staff in this area had a reputation for being a bit difficult to get along with so being among them really appealed to the rebellious side of me. There were a lot of laughs and stories shared in that room.’

The longer Carolyn worked at the College, the more she came to appreciate its strong values. She said that Nudgee College knows what it stands for, and it is articulated well in the current strategic plan by the words ‘Community, diversity and justice.’

‘I see this in action around me every day,’ she said. Carolyn has been impressed with the standards set by her Year 12 students and will see the fruits of her own soil education when he graduates from the College at the end of the year.

‘Many times at the end of the year I would thank my Year 12 students for their friendship and support and congratulate them on their achievements for the year,’ she said. ‘I would often say to my own son, Joseph, that if he grew up to be like them, I would be very proud of him. As Joseph grew older, I decided that I really did want him to be like my Senior students so I enrolled him at the College.’

With ‘Ekka week’ coming around, Carolyn paid tribute to the loss of two students, Daniel Laherty and Chris Darcy, who lost their lives to the deadly meningococcal bacteria in August 2001. She said she thought of them often during the year but particularly at this time.

‘I don’t think anyone could ever forget the tragedy surrounding the deaths of Daniel Laherty and Chris Darcy,’ she said. ‘I remember those boys and their families. They are often in my thoughts.

‘I can still picture very clearly the long line snaking around the Edmund Rice mall as we lined up for our immunisations. It was a terrible time. Of course the beautiful feeling of community was very present throughout those weeks and I hope that was of some comfort to the families.’

When asked what mark Nudgee College has left on her, Carolyn said forging a close relationship, through the College, with her son, has had an immeasurable value.

‘We share many stories as we drive to and from school in the car,’ she said. ‘Sometimes I feel sorry for my husband and daughter as they endure yet another Nudgee story at the dinner table. Joseph and I find these stories interesting but the other two aren’t convinced!’

Carolyn has also formed close relationships with colleagues. She said the person she has worked most closely with over the years has been Mr Brian Hobson, Head of Science.

‘Brian and I have taught Chemistry together for many years and spent many hours developing the new Chemistry course, which was introduced in 2004,’ she said.

‘This was a radical change in the philosophy of teaching science, and Brian was an enthusiastic agent for change. He is an outstanding teacher – so professional and still so passionate about science and teaching science.

‘I really admire the manner in which he leads the Science Department – holding regular lunchtime meetings, driving curriculum change, and being thorough and innovative.

Having her son in Mr Hobson’s class has given Carolyn an additional regard for his teaching talents.

‘Joseph has been fortunate enough to be in Brian’s classes for three years out of the five,’ she said. ‘He has also appreciated the learning experiences Brian has developed for his classes and the encouragement he has received. But neither of us likes Mr Hobson’s corny jokes!’

As a Director of Learning and Teaching, Carolyn relishes the many rewards and challenges of her position. Compared with a classroom-oriented role, she enjoys working with individual students. As such she has the opportunity to hear more personal stories and how these might be affecting students’ school work.

‘We figure out a way to get school work done, despite incredible home lives and responsibilities,’ she said. ‘We become the conduit between students and teachers to help give the boys in need some space. I see a different side to these boys when they’re by themselves – they’re decent kids trying to do the best they can.’

In her role, Carolyn enjoys the challenges she comes up against. She has had to learn to understand and handle many new issues, including compliance with the Queensland Schools Authority and devising ways to ensure students receive their Queensland Certificate of Education if they change subjects. Also a challenge for Carolyn is not being in control of her time, which she said is unlike the experience of a classroom teacher.

‘It can be exciting and invigorating but can also be frustrating, never knowing what will happen in the day,’ she said.

It is obvious that Carolyn’s passion still lies with science as she speaks about the Nudgee College Science Department and what sets it apart from other science programs. She praised the new Purton Science Centre facilities and said the College works hard to engage students in big picture themes and ideas.

‘They are wonderful facilities and the design of the labs allows for engagement,’ she said. ‘Students are closer to you, which promotes discussion and collaboration in learning – a fantastic step for the future of Science at Nudgee College.

‘We strive for students to become confident and informed enough to hear things in the media and be able to ask questions and be part of the debate politically.’ \[\]
Following his passion has worked out handsomely for Old Boy Brendan Carter, whose hard work and drive in his chosen field of winemaking has been acknowledged with the prestigious Lorenzo Galli Scholarship – a prize that will take the 21-year-old to Italy’s top vineyards.

Brendan, now living in an Adelaide suburb, began his studies at Nudgee College in 2003, leaving in 2007 to study a double degree in Business/Law at QUT, and then abandoning that two years later to follow his dreams.

His interest in the wine industry began when he was an impoverished student, working at a liquor store.

‘I was working at bottleshops while I was studying,’ he said. ‘I would try to get myself working at a pretty local bottleshop where I was working at was surprisingly slow, which gave me plenty of time. I started to read the backs of labels of the bottles all around me.

‘One thing led to another, and I found myself waking up in the morning, making coffee, going to work, and hating university. So I sold my car, and took myself, alone, to France.

‘I ended up in Champagne, and loved it. Then, a couple months later, after spending some time at Veuve Clicquot, I was told I had a knack for wine and I should study it further.

‘I was dumbfounded when I was told that my own country has one of the best programs in the world, and that saw me pack up, and head off to Adelaide.’

Although Brendan has been in the business only a few short years, winning the $10,000 Lorenzo Galli Scholarship is certainly his greatest achievement.

‘As a wine student and competing against sommeliers who’ve worked for Gordon Ramsey, Guy Grossi and Jamie Oliver, and highly skilled winemakers and wine writers, and coming out on top, was something unexpected,’ he said. ‘It’s created a whirlwind of activity in my life.

‘And it’s a life that is keeping him pretty busy, with a typical day involving anything from walking through a vineyard, tasting fruit, watching over fermenters, lots of wine-tasting – the perfect form of quality control – even the marketing side of the wine business. Brendan sees the life of a winemaker as incredibly multi-faceted, and more a way of life. While he is still at university, however, he says there are not enough hours in the day.

‘For me, personally, I’m up almost every morning around 5 o’clock to check emails and sort my day out, and, to fit everything in, I won’t be in bed until after 11,’ he said.

‘We have just finished “vintage” (harvest), which is my favourite time of year. Studying full time and working 12-hour shifts with an hour commute each way four times a week, takes dedication and good organisation. An understanding partner definitely helps!

‘One of the things Brendan likes about his job is that he doesn’t have to subscribe to the monotonous regularity of other jobs.

‘I get to work with my hands, and my head, bringing together art and science, which means I have to know both aspects of the industry intimately,’ he said. ‘Winemaking, for me, is total immersion. The assembly of components requires pain, desire and sacrifice.’

‘Brendan’s career in the wine industry today is a far cry from his student days. However, he always believed that pursuing something he was passionate about would pay off, even as a student.

‘I selected subjects I had a passion for,’ he said. ‘They may not have been OP subjects, but I very quickly accepted that without passion for what I was learning I would always turn in a sub-par performance. Fostering passion for what one does is imperative.’

‘He paid tribute to the College, the best attributes of which he feels helped make him the man he is today, and which continue to steer his life.’

‘Nudgee College instills old-world values in a new-world context,’ he said. ‘Learning about personal presentation, work ethic, mateship, brotherhood, chivalry and respect. ‘The most fascinating thing for me was that these values have become more apparent since leaving the College.

Brendan has fond recollections of the College community, and how they helped guide him as a student.

‘There aren’t too many to mention,’ he said. ‘But stand out for me include Wes Warner and Milly Scott, my PC tutors – Wes Warner, for putting a business head on my shoulders and Milly Scott for his general outlook in life and brilliant intelligence.

‘Daryl Handy showed me to speak to people in a humble yet honourable way, and Chris Ryan showed me how to respect the written word.

‘His years at Nudgee College have left him with memories which will stay with him forever – for example, shaking the hands of his mates at Senior graduation, and he holds fast to the imprint the College has left on him.

‘One small man, 10,000 brothers,’ he said. ‘I’ve learnt the meaning of those words more and more as the years go by.’

Brendan recently started his first business, Emerald Vintners, with a good mate. They plan not only to make wine but to dabble in cider production. They are developing wine-related applications for iPad and iPhone, and have set up a wine-education side of the business, catering for people who want to entertain clients, organise events or just want one-on-one wine education to improve their knowledge and palate.

And what advice does he offer current Nudgee College students?

‘Follow what you’re interested in, because that is where you’ll be great,’ he said. ‘It doesn’t matter if you end up a lawyer, doctor, chef or teacher. If you have a passion for it, you’ll be working hard without even noticing.

‘That’s when great things happen. In an ideal world, you wouldn’t be working for money; you’d be working for happiness, and your bank account would grow a little bigger every now and then.’
While thick bush has largely been replaced by major roads and residential developments, there remains a comforting balance of greenery on the College’s campus, as a result of the priority placed on landscaping in the College’s building master plan.

Deputy Principal Graham Leddie said the beautifications of the College grounds complement the College facilities. ‘We know that buildings and their surrounds have the capacity to inspire and to symbolise the beliefs and hopes of the community,’ Mr Leddie said. ‘In this way they also nurture faith.’

In 2010, the Year 12 students left behind a permanent reminder of their senior year, planting, for their Senior project, 30 Tuckeroo (Cupaniopsis anarcardioides) trees on the College flats.

The planting of a tree corridor down the middle of the flats is noted on the master plan, but Mr Leddie doubts the College would have completed this project for a number of years. ‘After we’d dug the holes, the rain filled them up so we had to bucket the water out a couple of times,’ he said. ‘We were a bit worried the plants wouldn’t make it because we had to wait so long before planting them, but they were fine.’

Declan agreed that the boys wanted to leave something that would be a part of Nudgee College permanently. ‘Planting a seed, or a small tree, and in time having it grow was symbolic of our time at the College. We’ve grown just as the trees will,’ Jay said. ‘They might only be four years old now but the Tuckeroos is a good, hardy shade tree and it is something we can come back and show our own kids in 20 or 30 years and say, “We planted those” .

Declan added: ‘I believe the most significant thing about this project was the level of independence we had in organising and planting the trees. We did the research, we ordered and bought the trees, we dug the holes, and then we planted. We hope the Nudgee College community enjoys the shade these trees will provide as they mature.’

Declan went on to explain the significance of the project to the 2010 Seniors. ‘Like Old Boys Hill, the leadership team wanted to create something physical – something that would be a part of Nudgee College permanently.’

As well as wanting to leave an enduring legacy of their time at the College, the Captains thought the planting of trees for their Senior project was ‘symbolic’.

‘Like Old Boys Hill, the leadership team wanted to create something physical – something that would be a part of Nudgee College permanently.’

The planting of this pathway is more than a project; he said. ‘It tells of young men who believe in the future of Nudgee College – one that is resplendent in nature, prosperous and evolving – growing into an even greater place of learning and faith.’

The 2010 College Captain, Declan Jones, and Vice Captains Jay Adkins, Allister Harrison, Morgan Holmes and Sean Minehan, led the project that involved about 30 fellow seniors digging the holes and planting the trees. Their cause was not helped by Mother Nature with persistent rainfall adding to the boys’ workload.

Jay said they wanted to do something that would leave the College a permanent and lasting legacy; but the rain did cause some problems. ‘After we’d dug the holes, the rain filled them up so we had to bucket the water out a couple of times,’ he said. ‘We were a bit worried the plants wouldn’t make it because we had to wait so long before planting them, but they were fine.’

Declan agreed that the boys wanted to leave something that would be a lasting memory of their time at the College. ‘Like those before us, the Seniors of 2010 sought to leave our mark on the College,’ he said. ‘Like Old Boys Hill, the leadership team wanted to create something physical – something that would be a part of Nudgee College permanently.’

The 2010 Seniors project is “Be and Become”, he said. ‘Life at Nudgee College is not about “having and getting”, but about “being and becoming”. Involving ourselves and experiencing what the College has to offer, we begin to understand what it is about: the legacies and the tradition.’

‘We begin to nurture and display the traits commonly associated with a Nudgee College gentleman: a man who is proud of his school, a man who is accepting of all no matter their background, a man whose friends become his brothers, and a man who represents a sign of faith to the world, a Signare Fidelis.’

Mr Leddie saw the planting of young trees, which will one day grow into a beautiful corridor of greenery, as a fitting tribute to the Seniors of 2010. ‘The planting of this pathway is more than a project; he said. ‘It tells of young men who believe in the future of Nudgee College – one that is resplendent in nature, prosperous and evolving – growing into an even greater place of learning and faith.’

The planting of this pathway is more than a project; he said. ‘It tells of young men who believe in the future of Nudgee College – one that is resplendent in nature, prosperous and evolving – growing into an even greater place of learning and faith.’

Declan went on to explain the significance of the project to the 2010 Seniors. ‘The planting of this pathway is more than a project; he said. ‘It tells of young men who believe in the future of Nudgee College – one that is resplendent in nature, prosperous and evolving – growing into an even greater place of learning and faith.’

The planting of trees for their Senior project was ‘symbolic’.

‘Like Old Boys Hill, the leadership team wanted to create something physical – something that would be a part of Nudgee College permanently.’

As well as wanting to leave an enduring legacy of their time at the College, the Captains thought the planting of trees for their Senior project was ‘symbolic’.

The 2010 College Captain, Declan Jones, and Vice Captains Jay Adkins, Allister Harrison, Morgan Holmes and Sean Minehan, led the project that involved about 30 fellow seniors digging the holes and planting the trees. Their cause was not helped by Mother Nature with persistent rainfall adding to the boys’ workload.

Jay said they wanted to do something that would leave the College a permanent and lasting legacy; but the rain did cause some problems. ‘After we’d dug the holes, the rain filled them up so we had to bucket the water out a couple of times,’ he said. ‘We were a bit worried the plants wouldn’t make it because we had to wait so long before planting them, but they were fine.’

Declan agreed that the boys wanted to leave something that would be a lasting memory of their time at the College. ‘Like those before us, the Seniors of 2010 sought to leave our mark on the College,’ he said. ‘Like Old Boys Hill, the leadership team wanted to create something physical – something that would be a part of Nudgee College permanently.’

As well as wanting to leave an enduring legacy of their time at the College, the Captains thought the planting of trees for their Senior project was ‘symbolic’.

The planting of this pathway is more than a project; he said. ‘It tells of young men who believe in the future of Nudgee College – one that is resplendent in nature, prosperous and evolving – growing into an even greater place of learning and faith.’

The planting of this pathway is more than a project; he said. ‘It tells of young men who believe in the future of Nudgee College – one that is resplendent in nature, prosperous and evolving – growing into an even greater place of learning and faith.’

Declan went on to explain the significance of the project to the 2010 Seniors. ‘Like Old Boys Hill, the leadership team wanted to create something physical – something that would be a part of Nudgee College permanently.’
Marine Studies

Marine Studies at Nudgee College is a dynamic curriculum offered in Years 10 to 12, which presents students with challenging theory relevant to the marine environment and an opportunity to develop practical mariner skills.

Marine Studies is one of the four science streams offered in Year 10, along with Physical Sciences (Physics/Chemistry), Biology and Rural Studies. With four classes of 24 students, Marine Science is a popular choice with nearly half the Year 10 cohort. In Years 11 and 12 it is an Authority subject that students can undertake as part of an OP pathway.

Head of Marine Studies Matt Miller is an avid advocate of the philosophies of Dr Ian Lillico, regarded widely as a guru of boys’ education. Mr Miller ascribes to the belief that the aim of boys’ education is to give them the opportunity to experience what they are being taught in the classroom – to apply that knowledge in a practical sense.

And Mr Miller said that is what Marine Studies does.

‘Australia is an island continent, and Brisbane is a coastal city’, he said. ‘Many of our boys have parents who regularly use the waterways. It’s a part of our everyday life.

‘The quality material being delivered in this subject will stay with the students long after school is finished. The boys think it’s a fun subject too.’

Units of study within the subject are wide-ranging and include dive theory and skill, dangerous marine creatures, taxonomy, marine engines, navigation, boating, oceanography, marine biology, fisheries management, marine communication and recreational fishing.

The most challenging unit for the students, Mr Miller said, is taxonomy. The boys learn how organisms are classified into similar groups with the focus on marine animals and their unique characteristics.

Students can undertake Marine Studies up to first-year university level. Those choosing the course have a general interest in the marine environment and may pursue tertiary study with a view to a career in one of the marine sciences – for example, Zoology and Taxonomy. There is a comprehensive overview of possible careers on the Australian Marine Science Association’s website (wwwamma.asn.au). Non-tertiary career paths include the University of Queensland, Australian Conservation Foundation, Australian Marine Science Authority, Town and Country Planning, and Parks and Wildlife.

Importantly, students also gain an appreciation of the marine environment and environmentally friendly practices. Mr Miller said carrying out water-quality testing in Cabbage Tree Creek is one practical experience that enriches the boys’ knowledge of their local area.

‘Locals sometimes approach the boys to find out what they are doing and what their reports are showing’, Mr Miller said. ‘They are very interested in what the boys have to say.’

A significant amount of learning takes place outside the walls of the classroom in Marine Studies. Early morning starts, called Early Birds, equate to an extra full week of class for students. Early Birds activities include free diving skills in the pool, boating from Shorncliffe or trips to Moreton Island. Early Birds take place outside the walls of the classroom in Marine Studies. Early morning starts, called Early Birds, equate to an extra full week of class for students. Early Birds activities include free diving skills in the pool, boating from Shorncliffe or trips to Moreton Island.

‘It is wonderful to be able to expose our boys to such environments’, Mr Miller said. ‘It often hear comments, such as “This is the best thing I’ve done in my life”, when they’re snorkelling the wrecks at Tangalooma on Moreton Island or motoring at 20 knots across Moreton Bay.’

He added that outings in speed boats were lessons in leadership and safety. They exposed the boys to changing environments and situations to which they need to react and communicate to their fellow crew.

‘It is fantastic to see the boys’ maturity, leadership, responsibility and communication skills in action’, Mr Miller said. ‘They get their crew to do what is required as they take control of a vessel.’

‘The boys also let their guard down with us, which is nice. As we’re explaining the shark deterrent device or about to cross the channel to the wrecks at Morton Island, a softer voice might hesitantly ask, “Are there really sharks in there?”’

Mr Miller is an avid lover of all things marine. He has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies, a Diploma of Education and a coxswain’s certificate, and over 20 years’ teaching experience. He spends much of his recreational time on or under the water – land fishing, spear fishing, diving and boating with his family and friends.

His Marine Studies staff, he said, have an enormous amount of practical experience and enthusiasm, which really benefits students.

‘Bruce Thompson, Peter Kropp, Alan Denham and Paul Curran are passionate and enthusiastic, and what they’re teaching is in their blood’, he said. ‘The Nudgee College program has an advantage over other schools because of the experienced staff we have on hand.

‘While some programs might bring in specialist people intermittently, our students have exposure to activities over a long period of time and in varied conditions because we always have staff on hand.

‘This makes for a more realistic experience for the boys because, in real life, conditions are not perfect every day.’

Mr Miller has plans to cement greater links with industry sources to ensure the subject remains practical, relevant and is up-to-date with trade needs and standards. Industry contacts include the University of Queensland marine program, water police, and parks and wildlife and town-planning authorities.
The St Joseph’s Nudgee College grounds are considered one of the larger areas of natural and semi-natural open spaces in coastal South East Queensland, and in conjunction with the adjoining Boondall Wetlands Reserve form one of the most important remaining areas of coastal lowlands vegetation in the region.

The area forms part of a habitat complex on Holocene (last 10,000 years of the earth’s history) sediments extending for 4km from the beach ridges to eucalypt forest where the land rises at Nudgee College hill. The Boondall Wetlands and Nudgee College each have unique vegetation types, making the complex of greater significance than the individual landholdings that form it. In a wider sense, they form an interpretive part of the Boondall Wetlands, which, as well as being of regional significance, have been recognised internationally as a World Heritage listed area under the Ramsar Convention.

The Federal Government in 1997 recognised the importance of this area in the form of a grant from its Natural Heritage Trust Funding to Nudgee College.

Wetlands

Wetlands are among the most important life-support systems on earth. Yet half of Australia’s wetlands have been destroyed since European settlement. Those that remain are some of our most threatened natural areas.
The aim of the project was to identify the Nudgee College wetlands area’s various values and put in place strategies that would allow the College to continue its commitment to manage and protect the area for future generations. We started by developing a Proposed Environmental Vision Statement that was in line with the College’s mission statement. This, the group strongly believed, would provide the focus to meet the strategies of the environmental plan.

A step was taken back from the wetlands area to identify the total campus as part of this overall environmental vision, in the process ascertaining the various activities that occur on a daily basis on site. They became part of the zone system that encompassed the many current, and potentially future, uses of the site.

The conservation area extends along approximately 5 km of waterways and flood plains — from Zillman Waterholes, near Sandgate Road in the west, and along Nundah Creek (at the junction of Downfall Creek) to the Brisbane City Council-owned areas of Boondall Wetlands Reserve to the east. The third major waterway, Downfall Creek, flows into Nundah Creek, marking the end of the waterholes section. The conservation area contains many meanders and ox-bow billabongs of both fresh and brackish water.

The major vegetation is broadleafed paperbark tea tree (Melaleuca quinquenervia) dominated open forest, grading into woodland in the northern and western parts of the Zillman Waterholes section of the site. This is the area that is most contaminated with escaped domestic plants. Weeds from both the waterways and the floodplains are removed annually.

The infestation of Singapore daisy over the past few years has been the most difficult to control. An experiment has been proposed whereby a mosaic pattern of eradication is to be conducted, along with planting of jape miller, as a temporary ground cover while something more permanent is established. Although some clearing was carried out, the area had been left open for too long and the ensuing infestation was prolific. By removing large stands of lantana, the Singapore daisy was able to spread to dominate the landscape.

Although there are many aquatic weeds in the ox-bow billabongs on Zillman Waterholes, they have been controlled and isolated to one area. This is similar to the Singapore daisy infestation, and the project team is confident that, with current practice, they will be able to keep the areas isolated and the weed will not escape to the Boondall Wetlands Reserve.

Community groups, including ATCV (Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers) and Green Corps along with Nudgee College students, have helped to establish corridor plantings, assisting the many native birds and small animals in the area to move safely around. At the eastern end of the site, there is a tidal wetland area, dominated by the Grey Mangrove (Avicennia marina) and the River Mangrove (Avicennia cordifolia). Between this area and the waterholes to the west, lie patches of Melaleuca woodland. The conservation area is generally in good ecological condition, although, as in the case with most waterway areas, the site has suffered from weed invasion.

Additionally, the eastern section of the property has been damaged by cattle grazing. Despite these disturbances, however, the waterways and associated vegetation are typical of lie-lowing creek systems that were once extensive in coastal parts of South East Queensland.

What has become evident with the removal of cattle grazing from designated areas is the rapid increase in weeds. This is to be monitored over the next few years to measure and compare the impact of cattle grazing on the waterways system against possible weed infestations. This was not part of the original conservation plan but has now become an important factor in the site management.

Nudgee College students have been involved in the flora survey and helped in putting together the database of the site’s plant species. Although this step has been time-consuming, it is well worth the effort. These plants will be added to our Wetlands web page and then collated in a database that will provide identification material for students and the public in the future.

The fauna survey has been difficult to bring to conclusion. There have been sightings of many animal and bird species, and traps were purchased to help monitor and identify the fauna on site. The project was not as successful as first hoped but studies have now been completed. There is a diverse variety of fauna in the area. Many of the animals inhabiting wetlands are highly evolved in order to cope with the slightly acidic conditions produced by the discharge of the tannins from tea trees, and are often unable to relocate into other environments if the wetland is destroyed.

Surveys of the nearby BCC owned Boondall Wetlands and some studies carried out by interested public at Nudgee College have revealed a wide variety of bird life there, including migratory waders that travel from as far as Siberia and Alaska, water fowl, raptors and honey eaters.

There are a small number of foxes in the wetlands causing the project team some frustration. They have certainly contributed to the decline of the mammal population. Three species of small glider (sugar, squirrel, and feathertail) have been sighted, together with several native rodents, such as the swamp rat. Over recent months, small wallabies have been seen travelling through open woodland.

Surveys of the fauna and flora have now been completed and are available for students and teachers to access for future students of environmental studies.

Why conserve wetlands? At Nudgee College it is recognised that wetlands are not only among the world’s most productive environments but, in the developing world, they are essential to support human populations. Their continuing loss or deterioration is a global concern. The filter system of the Nudgee Wetland area goes a long way in protecting habitats in and around Moreton Bay. We are giving our students the opportunity to be part of building a sustainable global community which at times involves tension between the important values of diversity and harmony. It questions the exercise of freedom and the common good, short-term objectives with long term goals. Nudgee College recognises its partnership with Government, the Community to ensure the effective governance of these wetlands for future generations. ■
An exciting collaborative initiative has started this year between Director of Boarding Mr Ken Mitchell and Dean of Learning and Teaching Mr David Johnston. Nudgee College boarding staff are passionate about providing an environment that is conducive to study and learning—how they have the opportunity, in partnership with day school teachers, to provide a higher and more useful level of academic support to the boarding students.

As part of the program, day school academic staff have been asked to come into the boarding houses, computer labs, library and classrooms in the evening to help boarders with their homework and study.

Mr Mitchell says evening study has always been considered a valuable time for boarders.

‘We acknowledge the boys will obviously have to do their part, and this is not a single answer to their success, but it will go a long way to giving them the best opportunity and help we can manage,’ he said.

‘I’m very excited about this initiative and will be working hard to make sure it is a success. I’m proud to say we have more than 35 teachers involved in the Reach for the Stars program.

‘We are not attempting to do the work for the boys,’ Mr Mitchell said. ‘We are encouraging and supporting them to achieve on their own through good old-fashioned hard work. We want this program to complement the boys’ talents and their efforts.

‘Through their effort and our help, we hope the boys will do their best and achieve their potential. We can’t do it for them, but we are providing the environment and support. Our goal is simply to help boys be their best.’

In Semester 1, the program provided a teacher presence in each boarding house to allow boys access to extra help and support. Towards the end of each term, when workload started to build up, specific focus sessions were run with the assistance of Heads of Subjects to help the boys with their exams and assessments.

Year 12 Murphy House student Tom Davidson said he appreciated the support. ‘It’s been great having day teachers in the dorms giving the boarders an extra helping hand,’ he said. ‘Each dorm has a number of teachers who visit on a regular basis and provide students with extra learning support in their areas of expertise as well as in other areas.

‘Having these teachers, particularly when preparing for exams, has helped to give study in the dorms more direction, and students also get the chance to get another opinion on their assessment work. The teachers help to break down the workload of each student and, by giving each dorm a number of different staff, we can mix up work from different subject areas. It’s easier to stay focused that way.’

Tom added he would find it hard to return to the days when the teaching staff in the boarding house were occupied largely with boarding duties.

‘They couldn’t focus wholeheartedly on the students and their schoolwork,’ he said. ‘I think it would be safe to say that all the boys are very appreciative of the initiative, even if they do not verbalise their thanks.’

The program has been particularly beneficial, too, to younger boarders just starting life at the College. Year 8 O’Brien House student Jack Wallis said he had gotten a lot out of the scheme.

‘The teachers have helped me to understand homework and assignments,’ he said. ‘It’s very helpful because I don’t have to go to my teachers after school — they come to the boarding house and we get to spend one-on-one time with them. We are very lucky to have these teachers helping us in our own time.’

The Reach for the Stars program has been rated a huge success, and she was delighted to have been involved in supporting the boarding staff who do such a wonderful job already.

‘The students have responded so enthusiastically,’ she said. ‘The rewards are flowing through to the classroom with the boarders more organised, prepared and confident with their work and assignments.

‘While it is wonderful to experience life in the boarding house, the most rewarding aspect is the gratitude that the boys have. They are always polite and thankful and this is demonstrated in the efforts they put into their studies.’

The Head of QCS, Mrs Louise Gale, praised the program, saying she had gained as much as the students.

‘It’s comforting to know that one of my class teachers is nearby and ready to help with assignments and homework,’ she said. ‘I’ve noticed a significant improvement in my grades, particularly in Maths, as a result of the program. It’s great to have somebody you can take your homework to for a little extra help.’

Mr Mitchell said that, all in all, the program has been an unqualified success from the viewpoints of both participating teachers and boarders.

‘The teachers have been enjoying a part of boarding house life — seeing the boarders in their environment and how they function together as a community and, more importantly, understanding the challenges the boys face,’ he said. ‘The teachers now look at boarding in a completely different light and with a better understanding of how the system works.

The students love that their teachers are there to support them. Year 12 Hooda House student Damien Stedman said the program had helped him in all aspects of his study.

‘It’s comforting to know that one of my class teachers is nearby and ready to help with assignments and homework,’ he said. ‘It’s noticed a significant improvement in my grades, particularly in Maths, as a result of the program. It’s great to have somebody you can take your homework to for a little extra help.’

Mr Mitchell is looking forward to more positive results from the program in the future.

‘I’m extremely happy with how it’s gone so far and look forward to refining it further so it continues to be a positive for the academic progress of our boys,’ he said.
Sandy Kidd | Rural Sector

Sandy is a well-known pastoralist who lives 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 when 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 received a Centenary Medal for service to local government, rural and remote education and to the beef industry. Sandy is one of four generations of his family who have attended Nudgee College: his father, two sons and several grandsons have attended, or are currently attending, the College.

‘What I enjoyed most about Nudgee College was learning things that I didn’t know before,’ Sandy said. ‘I 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 you had to mix with a lot of them was hard. Boarding school taught me to think for myself, to mix well with others and to stand on my own two feet.’

‘I am still in contact with a lot of my old mates from Nudgee College. You never know when a bloke you haven’t heard from in years is going to call and leave a message or drop by, which is great.’

Steele Luscombe | Construction

Steele Luscombe is the youngest Old Boy featured in the campaign and is a perfect example of many recent graduates combining vocational qualifications with an academic pathway. He is currently an apprentice builder with Hutchinson Builders, a position he secured as a result of Nudgee College’s partnership with the building company. Steele’s decision to combine a trade qualification with an OP result was a result of advice he received while at Nudgee College and his interest in both building and architecture.

“When I was at the school I was having a lot of difficulty deciding if I wanted to do architecture or a trade,’ Steele said. ‘I always loved building stuff growing up and had a very hands-on sort of attitude. As much as I enjoyed architecture, I was told that even if I did a trade I could always go back and do architecture and I’d have such a better understanding by doing the hands-on side of it first. That was all planned by the construction program here and they guided me through it.’

Outside the classroom Steele was involved in a wide variety of extracurricular activities, including cricket, debating, multi-media club, rowing, rugby and the Waveriders Club.

‘Nudgee College has a lot to offer, as many people know,’ Steele said. ‘And the best decision I made was to jump right in and get involved in everything going.’
Even before being featured in the new ads, Dr Steven Cook’s reputation as a leader at Nudgee College was assured. He was College Captain in 1990 and won the W. Carlton-Smith Award for leadership, character and sport.

The Steven Cook award, which is awarded to five worthy Year 9 students each term who display compassion, integrity and commitment, is also named after him.

Originally from Gympie, Steven credits both his family and Nudgee College with his decision to study medicine.

‘My dad was a country GP so he was a heavy influence in my decision to go into medicine, but I also got a lot of encouragement here at school,’ Steven said. ‘From Year 9, as soon as I expressed an interest in medicine, I got pushed hard in Science, Maths and Physics and hence there was a group of five of us from my year who all became doctors. We all worked hard, we all did well, and we all got there.’

Steven began his medical studies at the University of Queensland before being awarded a scholarship to the Royal Australian Air Force. He spent four years in the Air Force, including lengthy stints in East Timor, where he developed an interest in critical-care management, specifically evacuation and resuscitation, which ultimately led to his career in anaesthetics.

Nudgee College is appreciative of the assistance provided by Sandy Kidd (rural sector), Steele Luscombe (construction), Dr Steven Cook (medicine) and Tim Dobinson (solicitor) in putting these ads together. As with all Nudgee College Old Boys, each of their stories is unique. They each attended the College at different times in history and took different academic and extra-curricular pathways – both at school and upon leaving. However, all agree that what they gained during their time as a student at Nudgee College helped lay the platform for their life today.
Successful students require

A house divided against itself cannot stand.

It says a good deal about the degree of American cultural dominance that a speech given by a long-dead president would still resonate so deeply over a century and a half later.

A

Abraham Lincoln’s ‘House Divided’ speech, delivered in 1858 in Springfield, Illinois, a place name also deeply engrained in our psyche – courtesy of TV family The Simpsons – gave to the language an unforgettable image of an America faced with the deep divisions over the existence of slavery in the land of the free. Yet there was nothing new in the use of a house as a metaphor for a people; indeed Lincoln drew inspiration from the Gospel of Matthew in which the author observed that ‘Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand’.

‘Divided against itself cannot stand’.

‘Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand’.

Although it might be dangerous to see Nudgee College as a kingdom, it is a community well aware of the power of symbol. Throughout the College, symbols evoke our connection with the past, our efforts in the present, and our aspirations for the future. One of the most pervasive of these symbols is, in fact, the home. Constant references to the House System, House Patrons and Boarding Houses inculcate in the entire community a sense that the campus is indeed a home.

Dean of Students Paul Begg and Dean of Learning and Teaching David Johnston are well aware of the dangers of a house divided. Their respective departments are at the vanguard of the College’s efforts to deliver a modern education imbued with the spirit of Edmund Rice. They are fully cognisant of the need for authentic collaboration between their departments and of the danger posed by the compartmentalisation of curriculum and pastoral care. A house divided in such a manner would be the antithesis of the vision of the College’s founder, Br Treacy, and the hundreds of educators who have given so much of themselves since 1891.

David, a relative newcomer to Nudgee College, begins his second year determined to continue the cross-departmental collaboration instigated last year.

‘Both Paul and I are acutely aware of the need for the Student Office (pastoral) and Learning and Teaching (academic) to work closely together and ensure we are pushing the same agenda,’ he said. ‘We must work closely together to ensure that our students do not play the ‘if dad says no, maybe mum will say yes’ game – a divide-and-conquer mentality our boys love to try! In the past year, the departments have made a conscious effort to ensure a consistency in approach and a shared vision.

‘We both believe in the importance of a well-rounded education. Having the pastoral and academic teams working together ensures a Nudgee College education will build character. That is why our teachers emphasise self-discipline, hard work and doing one’s best in all aspects of College life.

‘Students who understand themselves, learn to manage their emotions and get along well with others will be best placed to succeed in life. This is where pastoral care plays such a vital complementary role in the delivery of the complete curriculum offering at Nudgee College.

Paul is equally committed to this collaboration and, like David, is well aware that it is not merely a philosophical commitment, but one with a grass-roots relevance. This collaboration must, in his view, be authentic if it is to permeate the day-to-day running of a large and complex organisation.

‘Simple things like cross-departmental representation on various committees have been a great initiative,’ he said. ‘Having a House Dean present at Curriculum Council ensures a pastoral view is on hand when we look to make decisions about the curriculum direction the College may be taking, and the same applies to House Deans meetings, where a member of the curriculum team is on hand to share his or her ideas.’

This shared vision is grounded in the belief that a Nudgee College education must ensure that students leave school well-prepared for their future. David is confident that ‘our educational programs are designed to give each student the opportunity to achieve their academic potential, but equally, we are aiming to produce men equipped for the challenges of the 21st century’. Paul shares David’s awareness that ‘our boys need to leave the College with a balanced education that necessarily includes the pastoral foundations that are embedded throughout the curriculum and indeed College life’.

Yet it is not merely a relationship between departments that fuels this collaboration. Like all elements of an authentic education, it is about people. Indeed, it is as much about the quality of the professional relationship between two very experienced educators as it is about good management practices. David sees the value of this cross-departmental collaboration as personally enriching.

‘As I am deeply involved in the implementation of the Digital Education Revolution,’ he said, ‘working with Paul keeps me equally focused on the human element which is, of course, our core business.’

Paul is also reminded that the quality of the curriculum has immediate ramifications at a pastoral level.

‘It becomes not so much a question of should the two departments work closely together, but an awareness that there is, truly, no other option,’ he said.

David and Paul agree that the team approach to curriculum development allows them to fill the College’s core aim of developing boys who have a strong sense of being part of a community, pointing out that ‘this begins with a feeling of belonging to the school community and later to the wider community. We strive to instil in them a sense of service, responsibility to others and above all, a strong faith in God’.

Perhaps it is not Lincoln’s image of a house divided that best describes the collaboration between the two departments. The Rubik’s Cube is definitely the better symbol – whatever change is instituted on one side of the puzzle has immediate ramifications elsewhere. To solve the Hungarian inventor’s puzzle, one must accept the basic tenet that all things are related.
A year after completion, the refurbished St Joseph’s Nudgee College Tierney Auditorium continues to be celebrated, winning the G.H.M. Addison Award for Interior Architecture at the State Architecture. The Australian Institute of Architects conducts the awards each year.

According to the jury, ‘the architects (of the Tierney Auditorium) have pushed the boundaries of their artistic expression with the creation of the internal three-dimensional mirrored and fibre optic lighting concepts to the walls in the auditorium and the plaster ceiling form at the entry’.

‘The renovation of this building has produced an exceptionally good result for the client on a number of levels: it is a refurbishment – making use of an existing facility rather than demolishing and rebuilding; it is functional and flexible; and it is an iconic and memorable interior that creates a new language in theatre design.

‘The adaptive reuse of this former sports building has ... delivered a significant cultural change on a campus.’

The project now goes forward to be in contention for the national awards in Tasmania at the end of October.

Tierney Auditorium, which was designed by m3architecture, was nominated for the state awards after receiving a regional commendation at the Brisbane Architecture Awards earlier in the year. There were 22 interior submissions at the Brisbane Awards, and only three regional commendations were given.

Architect Michael Banney said he was very pleased to have the project recognised.

‘A large part of this recognition is due to the leadership and enthusiasm for positive change from the College’s Building Project Team,’ Mr Banney said.

‘While this is an architectural award, it is proven time and again how integral clients are to the success of projects. Tierney Auditorium is testimony to the commitment Nudgee College has to providing opportunities for people to “perform”.

‘We have very much enjoyed the opportunities afforded us, performing our duty as architects for the school community.’

Refurbishment of Tierney Hall into a 400-seat auditorium was completed in June 2010. The rejuvenated auditorium is capable of being split into two 200-seat areas to facilitate smaller groups and meetings as well as lectures by visiting speakers. Dedicated drama rooms and training facilities for hospitality students complete the makeover.

The refurbishments were made possible with funding from the College, the Nudgee College Foundation and with two grants from the Federal Government.

Below Tierney Auditorium from the stage

Right Auditorium entrance

Images courtesy of Jon Linkins
The 2011 GPS Swimming season was a team effort that resulted in Nudgee College winning their 18th GPS Swimming Championship, 55 points ahead of second-placed Churchie. Swimming co-captains Buster Sykes and Jared Gilliland (pictured below) and vice-captain Tom Lambert swam as part of an Open team who performed exceptionally well to dominate the championships, with their strong relay performances ensuring Nudgee College’s success.

Other highlights included swims by Jared O’Hanlon, who broke the Nudgee College record in the 15 years 200m relay in GPS Whenuaroa and Isaac Freeman who won the 15 years 50m breaststroke, and the Nudgee College record in the 15 years 50m backstroke, a team effort that resulted in Nudgee College’s success. Buster and Jared were also among several Nudgee College students who competed at the National Age Championships in April. Individual medal winners were Buster (gold, silver and bronze), Jared (gold and bronze), Zac Whenuaroa (silver and two bronze), Jack McLaughlin (bronze), and Josh Zuill (silver and bronze).

Relay medallists were Doug Oliver, Jared, Zac and Jack (gold in the 16 Year Boys 4x100 medley and bronze in the 16 Year Boys 4x100 freestyle) and Jack and Buster (silver as part of the 18 Years + Under 4x200 freestyle relay).

Nudgee Brothers Swimming Club finished second at both the National Age Championships and the Queensland State Championships, which is a great team effort and an improvement on previous years.

The Nudgee College Cricket Club finished first in the GPS competition and 14 CIC teams, making it one of the largest cricket programs in the state. This equated to about 400 boys competing week in, week out for the blue and white. In a testament to the quality of cricketers at the school, we had a winning percentage of close to 60 per cent.

The season usually begins with the annual Christian Brothers Cricket Week. However, because of the dramatic floods in Brisbane, this carnival was cancelled for only the second time in its 35-year history.

In a season heavily affected by weather, a remarkable seven Nudgee College bowlers achieved hat-tricks: Nick Delnam and Callum Forrest (Year 1C), Josh O’Denham (Year 9B), Josh Griffiths (Year 10C), Oscar Keith (Year 10D), James Healy (Year 11A), and John Ryan (Year 11D).

During the season all teams took part in a special charity fundraising event to support Edmund Rice Camps and the St Vincent de Paul’s Flood Appeal. ‘The boys were sponsored for their individual performances,’ said Head of Cricket Sean Toovey.

‘The number of runs scored, wickets taken, catches or wins were all options that could be sponsored, with money raised being split between the charities. In total, $3000 was raised thanks to the boys and a contribution from the Cricket Support Group.’

Several Nudgee College Old Boys are also excelling in their cricketing careers. Cricket Captain in 2009 Corey Banbury (NC 2007–09) played his first game for the Queensland Bulls where he joined fellow Old Boys Joe Burns (NC 2002–06) and Chris Lynn (NC 2003–07). Burns scored 100 on debut for the Bulls during the season while Lynn signed an IPL contract, came second at the Allan Border Medal for Most Promising Cricketer in Australia and has been named in the Australia A One Day team who travel to Zimbabwe on a month-long tour late June.

Students and parents from Years 5–7 attended the recent launch of the My Golf program at the Nudgee College Golf Club.

‘All Year 5 students will begin the My Golf program during PE classes in Term 3’, said Nudgee College Golf Club Professional Craig Goodall.

‘The My Golf program not only gets students interested in golf at a young age but also teaches them hand-eye coordination and helps develop motor skills. My Golf is a national skills challenge and awards program run by Golf Queensland and is endorsed by Golf Australia and the Australian Sports Commission.

The program also provides successful participants with a handicap, which is recognised nationally and will allow them to play in competitions anywhere. This can also have benefits in the Senior Curriculum.’

‘Year 11 and 12 HPE students study golf as part of the curriculum,’ said Mr Goodall. ‘If students already have golfing experience, their skills will be better which will translate into better results. It will also mean a stronger school team.’

Year 11 student Harrison Baker has been rewarded for his outstanding performance at the Under 16 National Youth Baseball Championships by being named as second baseman in the Australian All Star team.

‘Harrison had an outstanding tournament and played every game – the only Queensland player to do so – at short stop or second base,’ said his father, Mark.

‘He hit three home runs with a batting average of .263. In the field he had 41 chances with one error, which is outstanding for a pivot in baseball.’

Harrison also played in the State Open Schoolboys baseball

‘The boys were sponsored for their individual performances,’ said Head of Cricket Sean Toovey.

‘The number of runs scored, wickets taken, catches or wins were all options that could be sponsored, with money raised being split between the charities. In total, $3000 was raised thanks to the boys and a contribution from the Cricket Support Group.’

Several Nudgee College Old Boys are also excelling in their cricketing careers. Cricket Captain in 2009 Corey Banbury (NC 2007–09) played his first game for the Queensland Bulls where he joined fellow Old Boys Joe Burns (NC 2002–06) and Chris Lynn (NC 2003–07). Burns scored 100 on debut for the Bulls during the season while Lynn signed an IPL contract, came second at the Allan Border Medal for Most Promising Cricketer in Australia and has been named in the Australia A One Day team who travel to Zimbabwe on a month-long tour late June.

Students and parents from Years 5–7 attended the recent launch of the My Golf program at the Nudgee College Golf Club.

‘All Year 5 students will begin the My Golf program during PE classes in Term 3’, said Nudgee College Golf Club Professional Craig Goodall.

‘The My Golf program not only gets students interested in golf at a young age but also teaches them hand-eye coordination and helps develop motor skills. My Golf is a national skills challenge and awards program run by Golf Queensland and is endorsed by Golf Australia and the Australian Sports Commission.

The program also provides successful participants with a handicap, which is recognised nationally and will allow them to play in competitions anywhere. This can also have benefits in the Senior Curriculum.’

‘Year 11 and 12 HPE students study golf as part of the curriculum,’ said Mr Goodall. ‘If students already have golfing experience, their skills will be better which will translate into better results. It will also mean a stronger school team.’

Year 11 student Harrison Baker has been rewarded for his outstanding performance at the Under 16 National Youth Baseball Championships by being named as second baseman in the Australian All Star team.

‘Harrison had an outstanding tournament and played every game – the only Queensland player to do so – at short stop or second base,’ said his father, Mark.

‘He hit three home runs with a batting average of .263. In the field he had 41 chances with one error, which is outstanding for a pivot in baseball.’

Harrison also played in the State Open Schoolboys baseball
tournament and made the Queensland Open Schoolboys team. He now travels to Cairns to compete. Fellow Year 11 Nudgee College student Sam Beattie made the team as a shadow player.

Rounding out a successful few weeks, Harrison has been offered, and has accepted, a scholarship to the 2011 Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program. The scholarship means he has a chance to make the Australian AA team to compete at the world championships to be held in Mexico.

Above Trent, James and Harrison Baker
Harrison comes from a family rich in baseball talent. His eldest brother Trent was a pro baseballer who signed with Cleveland Indians. He now plays for the Brisbane Bandits in ABL while his next eldest brother James (NC 2006–10) has been the target of pro scouts.

RUGBY UNION
The 2011 CIC and GPS Rugby seasons kicked off in April and May respectively, with 43 teams competing in the CIC and GPS competitions and 75 coaches involved.

The GPS season began with a home game against Churchie where Nudgee College won 21 out of 24 games on the day. Unfortunately the 1st XV wasn’t one of these, with the team going down 24–22 after Churchie scored late to snatch victory.

Round 2 saw the players head south to TSS. It was another successful day for the Nudgee College rugby teams, winning 16 of 21 matches. The 1st XV bounced back with a tough 14–10 win, reclaiming back the Centenary Trophy for the first time since 2008. Against State High in round 3, the 1st XV had a pleasing 41–21 victory. Nudgee College moved the much bigger State High side around the park and successfully used width and speed to score some very good tries.

Overall, Nudgee College won 11 of the 13 matches contested. In round 4, Nudgee College met fellow Christian Brothers school Gregory Terrace for the much-anticipated clash at Nudgee College. Both schools matched up in every grade, the only time during the season where the opposition school plays the College in every game. It was a great day for the young men in blue and white, winning 25 of the 28 games played. All games were fiercely contested, played in fine spirit and matched the competitive history between the two schools. The day finished with the 1st XV triumphing 79–6.

Continuing their rugby success are Old Boys JP Pradaud (NC 2006–08), Ted Postal (NC 2005–09), Kimami Sitauti (NC 2008–09) and Dom Shipperley (NC 2007–08) who were all named in the Australian Under 20 team to contest the Junior World Championships in Italy in June. Dom has withdrawn from the team to help boost the Queensland Reds in their run to the Super Rugby finals.

FOOTBALL
Nudgee College Football’s first round of GPS competition in 2011 saw the College field 19 teams across Years 5–12. The day was hugely successful without a single defeat in all A-grade teams and the 1st XI playing out a 2–2 all draw. Overall, Nudgee College recorded six victories, two draws and four losses in the GPS games and five victories and two losses in the CIC games.

Buoyed by a great fight-back in their first round, the 1st XI worked hard in the lead-up to the round 2 game against TSS and took to the field feeling quietly confident. The match was a hard-fought contest but Nudgee College had more clear-cut chances, eventually in a solid 3–0 victory. Other results saw the College record four wins, two draws and five losses.

Unlike in previous weeks where teams had fared well in many of the games, against State High in round 3 Nudgee College were outmatched in most of their contests, winning two, drawing one and losing nine. The 1st XI had a 1–all draw in their match.

Nudgee College bounced back in round 4 to dominate Gregory Terrace in the A grade contests with four wins and a draw. The 1st XI recorded a 2–0 victory in front of a packed stand and a vocal Spirit Committee on a must-win occasion. Overall, the day ended with four victories, two draws and six losses in the GPS competition and three victories, one draw and three losses playing Nudgee Senior in the CIC competition.

CIC
As the end of Semester 1 approaches, the Year 5–7 students have experienced a wide range of sports and activities.

Term 1 cricket again was extremely popular, with 14 CIC teams representing Nudgee College. The CIC Swimming program was the highlight in Term 1, with our team achieving an outstanding third place overall at the CIC Championships. The activities program started with a number of students choosing to participate in Chess and Junior Cattle Club.

Term 2 shaped up to be a very busy period for the Year 5–7 students. The CIC sports of rugby, football and cross country are well underway along with our activities, which include debating, public speaking, the Tournament of Minds, chess tournaments, art workshops and Junior Cattle Club. The scope to which Year 5–7 students experience and enjoy the program is very pleasing.

TRACK AND FIELD
Year 12 student Anthony Collins heads to the Isle of Man in September to compete at the 2011 Commonwealth Youth Games after being chosen to represent Australia in the 110m Hurdles. Anthony finished the recent National Track and Field titles with two silver medals with seconds in the 110m Hurdles and 4x100m relay. He also finished sixth in the 100m final in a time of 10.74sec, which was a personal best.

RUGBY LEAGUE
Former Nudgee College student Hymel Hunt (NC 2006–10) has been selected in the Queensland U18 rugby league team, which will play New South Wales U18s in a curtain-raiser to the third State of Origin match in Brisbane on 6 July.
The forces of nature put Nudgee College Rowing to the test when the rowing shed and pontoons were devastated by the floods earlier in the year. They were forced to evacuate all equipment at the final hour then sit and wait to witness the destructive force—the waters of the Brisbane River. Upon returning to the shed, a thick layer of black smelly silt covered every nook and cranny. Without being asked, an army of students, parents and members of the community began the back-breaking task of cleaning up.

The most significant connection to the forces of nature that had placed the Nudgee College Rowing community in this predicament—water—is the most striking of all. Each morning bought with it opportunity and the training conditions that are sought after by still-water rowers around the world. On water as smooth as glass without the threat of wind, large tidal changes or other boating traffic, the coaches witnessed their athletes refine their technical skills in the perfect training environment.

Against all odds, the athletes, coaches and supporters reached the pinnacle of schoolboy rowing—Head of the River champions and 1st VIII champions.

The discovery of Mr and Mrs Fopp’s vacant paddock on the banks of the Pine River suddenly seemed an attractive option for a standby and very makeshift rowing shed. As pictured, the boys were close to nature: the boats housed among the trees and the oars stored amid a herd of lively sheep. I recall the very morning I had a moment of clarity and asked myself, ‘Are we really doing this?’ The students had left the paddock for the morning, bound for their day at school and I was completing the final pack-up tasks. Loading some oars onto the trailer (the temporary oar storage rack), with my back to the paddock, I suddenly heard the weirdest noise, what sounded to me like a herd of elephants bounding down a hill. Scared and with some mild concern for my life, I spun around to see what was about to attack me—a flock of unassuming sheep just out for their morning run-about.

The most significant connection to the forces of nature that had placed the Nudgee College Rowing community in this predicament—water—is the most striking of all. Each morning bought with it opportunity and the training conditions that are sought after by still-water rowers around the world. On water as smooth as glass without the threat of wind, large tidal changes or other boating traffic, the coaches witnessed their athletes refine their technical skills in the perfect training environment.

Against all odds, the athletes, coaches and supporters reached the pinnacle of schoolboy rowing—Head of the River champions and 1st VIII champions.

The discovery of Mr and Mrs Fopp’s vacant paddock on the banks of the Pine River suddenly seemed an attractive option for a standby and very makeshift rowing shed. As pictured, the boys were close to nature: the boats housed among the trees and the oars stored amid a herd of lively sheep. I recall the very morning I had a moment of clarity and asked myself, ‘Are we really doing this?’ The students had left the paddock for the morning, bound for their day at school and I was completing the final pack-up tasks. Loading some oars onto the trailer (the temporary oar storage rack), with my back to the paddock, I suddenly heard the weirdest noise, what sounded to me like a herd of elephants bounding down a hill. Scared and with some mild concern for my life, I spun around to see what was about to attack me—a flock of unassuming sheep just out for their morning run-about.

The most significant connection to the forces of nature that had placed the Nudgee College Rowing community in this predicament—water—is the most striking of all. Each morning bought with it opportunity and the training conditions that are sought after by still-water rowers around the world. On water as smooth as glass without the threat of wind, large tidal changes or other boating traffic, the coaches witnessed their athletes refine their technical skills in the perfect training environment.

Against all odds, the athletes, coaches and supporters reached the pinnacle of schoolboy rowing—Head of the River champions and 1st VIII champions.
At St Joseph’s Nudgee College we understand the importance of our students being able to travel to and from Nudgee College in a safe and timely manner, particularly for our younger students in Years 5–7.

The $1m investment in a further three buses brings the total fleet to nine buses (1 x 59 Seats; 3 x 57 Seats; 1 x 31 Seats; 2 x 21 Seats and 2 x 12 Seats) whilst the 12 seater Big Brekky Van is retained exclusively for our Big Brekky, Street Swags and community work programs.

The fleet is dispersed across eight Bus Runs every morning and afternoon whilst also transporting over 100 boys each day to and from the local train station at Boondall. New bus runs to Northlakes, Redcliffe, Aspley, Gregory Terrace, Wilston, Bardon and The Gap, whilst some existing runs have been extended to include Scarborough and across the river to Bulimba and Hawthorne.

Whilst acquisition of the new buses was a big financial commitment the return on investment is very high generating increased enrolments and a market presence through its innovative branding reflecting student life at Nudgee College. The branding alone is worth over $750,000 per annum in ‘marketing spend’ whilst the ability to market specific events like Open Day and DimensionsNC Art Show on the rear is invaluable. Having access to our own fleet of buses and skilled drivers has also reduced our need for external bus hire and with a sound maintenance program in place the life expectancy, reliability and ultimate resale value of our fleet is significantly enhanced.

Nudgee College is the only private school in Brisbane that owns its bus fleet and the distinct branding certainly is making its presence felt in the Brisbane and metropolitan areas from which it draws a high percentage of its enrolments. Currently 30 per cent of day students use this service on a regular basis whilst on other occasions and weekends many of the buses are used to transport students to debating, cricket, swimming, tennis, rugby, football, track and field, cattle club, school camps, community centres...the list goes on.

We know it is an enormous comfort to many parents that their sons are safe in their travels to and from Nudgee College each day and often saving significant travel time and costs. This is one of the many things that makes Nudgee College what it is today and we will continue to ensure boys in our care can feel safe not only when they enter the gates of Nudgee College but also from the time they leave home in the morning and arrive safely back of an afternoon.

The new Chris D’Arcy Memorial Rotunda overlooking both Ross and Wilkes ovals has become the heart of catering on those very busy rugby and football home-game days.

The new BBQ area was funded by the Chris D’Arcy Rugby Bursary Fund with the support of Nudgee College and its Property and Services team. Foundation Chairman Mr Paul Daly highlighted the significant contribution the Chris D’Arcy Rugby Bursary Fund has made to Nudgee College over the past five years in supporting rugby development tours to South Africa and the United Kingdom, purchasing training equipment, supporting students with rugby apparel, and funding education training programs for coaches.

‘We have never really set aside an area or structure that was dedicated to the memory of Christopher D’Arcy, despite all the good work the bursary has continued to do,’ Mr Daly said. ‘This project created an ideal opportunity to commemorate Christopher’s short but wonderful life and is somewhat fitting that this facility overlooks where his father Tony D’Arcy’s achievements of 10 Wallaby caps is recognised with a plaque beside our other Nudgee College Rugby International’s in the Wallaby Walk of Fame.’

The Chris D’Arcy Rugby Bursary was also a major contributor to the publication of Dr Martin Kerby’s book Of Great & Good Men celebrating 120 years of Nudgee College’s 1st XV, and will also be a major contributor to the fit-out of the rugby section of the College Museum above Ryan Hall in the newly renovated Treacy Building, due to be opened later in the year.

With recent trials and scheduled home games against Churchie, Gregory Terrace, TGS and BBC in 2011 the new BBQ area will serve more than 10,000 students, parents and visitors to Nudgee College this year. The facility will also serve as the ideal venue for House functions, fundraising and other social events.
Nudgee College Spirit Bear cub has his first outing at Blue and White Day 2011