Student Life

TOWARDS 125
MITCHELL FAMILY OUTBACK ADVENTURE
A FATHER’S FOOTSTEPS
THE CHANGING FACE OF ENROLMENTS
Greetings to The
St Joseph’s Nudgee College Community

The St Joseph’s Nudgee College Home “Sign of Faith”, was well conceived. It very subtly alludes to the Nudgee College journey and the transition and transformation that occurs during that time. When a student begins his Nudgee College journey, “there is a love (he does) not know”. At the end of his journey, there is acknowledgement that he understands the nature and value of that “love (he) did not know”. This is the “love” shared by “ten thousand brothers”, all of whom are “Signs of Faith”.

Throughout the days, weeks and years he is with us, a student learns to balance his journey, “there is a sign of faith, formation and opportunity. Brother Treacy wrote no charter, elaborated on no philosophy. He was a practical man, but one who knew the value of symbols. He built on the mound, and built in the style to suit his site.

Although much has changed physically at Nudgee College since 1893, there is a good deal that remains the same. Although 2010 was the first year in which we did not have a Christian Brother on staff, we are still blessed with the presence of many Brothers who live in the three communities on our campus. Although Brother Treacy articulated no charter, subsequently – and as a result of the wonderful work of the Christian Brothers and the students in their care – “touchstones” have emerged that help us to continue in the manner chosen by the Christian Brothers. These are:

1. Academic endeavours that will ensure, as a College:
   - four complementary elements of who we are as a College;
   - he is with us, a student learns to balance life.

2. Cultural and sporting activities that mark the date when he leaves Nudgee College, he is free to build a better world for all.

3. Engagement in pursuits that mark the day that he is with us, a student learns to balance life.

4. Social Justice activities, which help develop community belonging.

Justice and Solidarity
We are committed to justice and peace for all, grounded in a spirituality of action on the basis that all are brothers and sisters, and that we are called to work with, and walk alongside, the poor and excluded.

Liberating Education
We open our hearts and minds, through liberation, fostering right relationships and community working to the best of their ability, realising their potential and striving for equity and excellence.

Gospel Spirituality
We invite all people into the story of Jesus; and contribute to the “holism” of his life.

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We invite all people into the story of Jesus; and contribute to the “holism” of his life.

Nudgee College, we continue together to live out the charism of Edmund Rice.

Sincerely,
Daryl Hanly
Principal.

To the Nth Degree

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A parents’ view

Sue and Peter Volland

As a Catholic day and boarding school in the Edmund Rice Tradition, St Joseph’s Nudgee College’s mission and philosophy is first and foremost to educate young men and promote their formation in Christian virtue and conscience. However, in the words of a well-known African proverb, ‘It takes a whole village to raise a child,’ and educating them is no different. Although they might not sit in the classroom every day, a student’s family is as much a part of the Nudgee College community as any student.

Parents, in particular, share every step of a student’s journey. They celebrate the good results, provide encouragement when needed, spend hours at extracurricular activities and attend a variety of school events. Parents also have their own unique experience, which, although rarely expressed formally, provides a viewpoint that can be invaluable, especially to new and prospective families.

Parents Sue and Peter Volland have had a long and proud connection with Nudgee College. Sue recently became a member of the College Board and Peter is a Nudgee College Old Boy (NC 1974–78). Their sons Luke (NC 2002–06) and Sam (2005–09) have now left the College but their association continues with Anthony (Year 12) and Simon (due to start Year 5 in 2014) ensuring the Vollerts will be part of the Nudgee College family for many years to come.

Sue and Peter have seen Nudgee College undergo many changes since Luke enrolled a decade ago. Some of these include visual alterations to the College environment – both built and natural; the introduction of the Years 5–7 program; an increased focus on facilitating academic excellence for those boys who seek it; and a relaxation of some of the ‘stuffiness that came with holding on to outdated traditions, such as not using Wilkes Oval for football’.

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As parents, they said Nudgee College fulfilled all their expectations of an educational environment for their sons. Following are some of their thoughts.

There were a number of reasons we chose Nudgee College for the boys. First, we wanted them to go to a school where they could mix with students from different walks of life. Having boarders at the College makes this possible.

Second, we wanted somewhere that was more than a collection of buildings, and Nudgee College is so much more than just a school. It is a visually appealing community that provides a warm, homelike environment to day boys and boarders alike where practically everything on offer can be done onsite. This means it is a busy, bustling campus that is often as busy at 6.30am as it is at 6.30pm. This is its greatest asset. The boys can go to the dentist there and can participate in activities as diverse as extension classes, cattle club and design technology.

Third, we liked the variety offered in the curriculum and the range of extracurricular activities and clubs. At the outset, when you enrol your child, you don’t know where their strengths might lie. You want a school diverse enough to accommodate them and Nudgee College seemed to fit the bill. It is not unusual for a teacher to email you, unsolicited, to update you on your son’s progress. Teachers stop for a chat when you pass them by, and Mr Hanly spends great chunks of his week helping boys with their assignments.

Lastly, we loved the sense of tradition that comes with sending sons to the same school their dad went to and loved.

We have been absolutely thrilled with our choice of Nudgee College to school our boys and would make the same choice again if we had our time over. Nudgee College has crafted them into conscientious young men, just as Mr Hanly promised us on Orientation Day.

At the same time, however, we must admit there were occasions when we were disappointed the boys did not achieve all they had hoped for, but that is just as it should be. Life should present challenges to keep us striving to be our best.

For us as parents, we like to be involved in College activities as far as possible. Parents can play a role in College life by:

- taking a place on the College Board
- becoming House Mums
- joining groups, such as the Arts Committee
- becoming involved in sporting support groups
- helping out on the Ladies Auxiliary or tuckshop
- supporting activities for home games.

Socially, parents can participate by attending race days, Christmas Mothers’ Masses and Dinners, Easter morning teas and numerous House functions, which are quite often family affairs.

Sue said she has been more involved in parental roles than Peter has to date. I have been head House Mum for Tierney (the boys’ house) for the past six years, which has been really rewarding. I have worked with some great House Deans, and with some wonderfully generous mums. Peter has been secretary for the Football Support Group for a few years.

Sue said she has been more involved in parental roles than Peter has to date. I have been head House Mum for Tierney (the boys’ house) for the past six years, which has been really rewarding. I have worked with some great House Deans, and with some wonderfully generous mums. Peter has been secretary for the Football Support Group for a few years.

Socially, we attend all the Tierney family functions, which this year included a pool party with a dive-in movie, the House Choir evenings and Showcase. Peter also likes to attend the Old Boys dinners and I just love the Christmas Mothers’ Mass and Dinner.

It is still a long way off – 2021 I think – but I hope, by the time Simon is a Senior, Nudgee College has the same heart and soul it has now. I imagine it will become bigger and more corporatised with integrated complementary education services. Nudgee College is committed to state-of-the-art learning environments so I imagine the buildings, teaching tools and improvements will keep pace with times and things will just keep getting better.
To be reading this book at the time I was asked to write a story about Nudgee College Old Boys working at the College was rather timely. Much of what is exemplified in Lashlie’s take on maleness comes to mind when taking a closer look at a particular population of current Nudgee College employees — those who also identify as Nudgee College Old Boys.

While all Old Boys working at the College are role models for future career pathways beyond graduation, Old Boys working as boarding supervisors often take on this role while furthering their own careers in trades and/or university study.

In the case of 2009 Senior Luke Dawson (NC 2007–09), taking up a position as a boarding supervisor is a great residential option as he furthers his career in real estate at Ray White Paddington. Managing a fulltime job while meeting his supervisory commitments, Luke had a straightforward and genuine response when asked why he returned to live and work back at the school he quite recently graduated from while simultaneously working long hours as he forges his own career path.

“I really enjoyed my time here as a student and, more importantly, Nudgee College was great to me, so I’d like to give something back and be here for the great group of boys coming through boarding now,” he said.

Impeccably presented on and off duty, Luke is one of many examples of Old Boys having a presence and being a steadying influence on the lives of boarders.

Honouring those who have gone before him, Director of IT/AV Services Mr Sean O’Brien (NC 1988–92) could not speak highly enough of fellow Old Boys and current colleagues when queried about his role ‘behind the scenes’ in Information Technology.

His immediate response was to praise the efforts of Old Boys who have taught and influenced students over the years via their contributions to the school curriculum. He also made special mention of the history of environmental studies in the Nudgee College curriculum.

Sean is an integral part of the IT Team at Nudgee College and is held in high esteem by his colleagues for his professional and accomplished approach. His journey from Senior student to Nudgee College employee eventuated after he spent time in the army. He was searching for gainful employment while studying, which led him to seek a part-time job that “in the interview changed to fulltime”.

Working alongside Sean in the IT/AV Office is Mr Raoul Carmody (Audio Visual and Events Manager).
Raoul attended Nudgee College as a student from 1995–99 and recalls his interest in all facets of the Audio Visual Department. In his time at the College, he spent many hours volunteering at school functions and events. He also recalls, following graduation, then principal Br Skelly rueing his absence, saying the College missed his expertise, knowledge and efficiency at College events.

Reflecting on the advances in the AV area since his days as a student, Raoul said ‘school assemblies now have a live feed that enhances the experience for the entire school community and makes this regular event more interactive and entertaining, for students in particular’.

Raoul also leads the AV Crew at the College. Previous AV Crew captains regularly return as Old Boys to volunteer their time and energy for major events. Later this year, the first AV crew member with a Certificate III in Technical Operations Theatre and Events will graduate.

To hear Raoul talk about how the AV area has progressed at Nudgee College is to witness an Old Boy passionate about his career and the contribution he continues to make to the College where it all started.

After 35 years managing his own financial planning practice Mr Paul Daly (NC 1970–74) joined the College staff in April 2010 bringing with him many years of corporate expertise and experience to his current position as Director of Development and Communications. Paul’s wife Debra has been Assistant to the Director of Activities for seven years and with two sons Miles (NC 2002–06) and Mitchell (NC 2003–07) attending Nudgee College, the family association with the College has spanned many years. Paul also serves on the College Board and is Chairman of the Nudgee College Foundation whilst also continuing his involvement with the boys through rugby referee development and rowing.

Of course teachers are an essential component of any school and Nudgee College is lucky to have two widely known Old Boy teachers on staff in Mr Peter Kropp and Mr Jeff Campbell. Peter and Jeff are passionate Old Boys who, on top of teaching, spend many out-of-school hours coaching sporting teams and being involved in extra-curricular activities.

Peter, in particular, has been involved with cross country and track and field for many years. When asked about his experiences, Peter discussed the talent of Old Boys and what they have gone on to achieve – not once probably considering the significant role he played in determining the outcomes of such boys long after they graduated as Seniors.

Director of Human Resources Mr Greg Thorne offers some insight into what these Old Boys contribute professionally to the school community.

‘Schools such as Nudgee College are highly dynamic and demanding workplaces,’ he said. ‘We are most fortunate to be in a position that we have so many Old Boys who choose to contribute their professional energy and to give back their passion to the College.

‘Their focus on improvement and leadership from within this community helps Nudgee College continue to provide the best for our students into the future. As Old Boys of the College, they are Signum Fidei within our community – setting a wonderful example for our current students to learn from.’

This unique selection of staff that spans generations and career paths are as diverse in the workforce as they were as students in the blue and white. They are teachers, groundsmen, financial advisors, tutors, boarding staff and so much more . . . they are 10,000 brothers; they are signs of faith.

OLD BOYS CURRENTLY ON STAFF

Ben Babay (NC 2002-06) – Tutor
Corey Braithwaite (NC 2003-07) – Boarding
Raoil Carmody (NC 1995-99) – Audio Visual and Events Manager
Jeff Campbell (NC 2000-04) – Teacher
John Cominos (NC 1999-03) – Tutor
Paul Daly (NC 1970-74) – Director of Development and Communications
Luke Dawson (NC 2007-09) – Boarding
Michael DeBrouwere (NC 2004-09) – Boarding
Allister Harrison (NC 2006-10) – Tutor
Ricky Hernandez (NC 2006-09) – Boarding
Matthew Karatau (NC 1995-98) – Tutor
Greg Kelly (NC 2005-09) – Tutor
Peter Kropp (NC 1975-79) – Teacher
Mitch McKellar (NC 2005-09) – Boarding
Nick McKellar (NC 2002-06) – Boarding
Sonagio Mills (NC 2005-09) – Boarding
Sean Mitrinich (NC 2006-10) – Tutor
Will Moog (NC 2006-10) – Tutor
Sean O’Brien (NC 1988-92) – Director of IT/AV Services
Danny O’Neill (NC 2002-06) – Tutor
Bob Roche (NC 2000-04) – Teacher
Rohan Pyne (NC 2002-06) – Tutor
Yondo Regioni (NC 2008-09) – Boarding
Jake Richardson (NC 2006-10) – Tutor
Peter Rodway (NC 2003-07) – Chapel Assistant / Tutor
Matt Ryall (NC 1964-88) – Counsellor
Brendon Schodel (NC 2001-04) – IT Technician
Andrew Shaw (NC 2000-04) – Boarding
Sheran Silva (NC 2001-05) – Tutor
James Slack (NC 2000-04) – Tutor
Mitch Smith (NC 2006-10) – Tutor
Luke Thomas (NC 2004-08) – Tutor
Julian Tomino (NC 2006-10) – Tutor
Jason Wells (NC 1997-99) – Greenskeeper
Ben Young (NC 2002-05) – Tutor
The Tuckshop is run by the Ladies’ Auxiliary to provide healthy food that the boys will enjoy. On home game Saturdays, the Ladies’ Auxiliary runs the Tuckshop on Ross Oval and the BBQ near the scoreboard. These activities are the Ladies’ Auxiliary main form of fundraising. Smaller fundraisers are the social activities the Ladies’ Auxiliary organise for the school – for example, the Easter Morning Tea, the Race Day and the Mothers Mass and Dinner at the end of the year.

The Tuckshop was refurbished in 2007, and now has the facilities to ensure a smooth operation. We run a self-serve tuckshop, with modern cash registers and scanners speeding up processing. Most of the funding for the refurbishment of the Tuckshop and provision of facilities in the Gallagher building came from the Ladies’ Auxiliary. Current fundraising will be put towards the Library refurbishment.

Since coming to the College, the school has introduced Years 5–7 classes. To cater for these students, we started a second tuckshop in the O’Neill Building, which we open two days a week. On the other days, orders are processed in the main tuckshop on Ross Oval. Operations like a tuckshop could not function as a fundraising venture without the help of our wonderful group of volunteers. New mums are always amazed by the amount of food we put through. We are always looking for new faces to help because our mums’ work situations constantly change. To operate efficiently, we need about 120 people in our pool of volunteers. It’s a great way to meet other parents and interact with your son and his friends. The atmosphere is always warm and friendly, and getting to watch the boys enjoy their cheering practice is a special privilege.

Working with volunteers to fundraise for the school is a wonderful way to make a contribution and get to know people. The shared common goals of supporting the school and raising boys unite a large cross-section of women. Being a part of this wonderful community has enriched my life in many areas. The ethos of Edmund Rice provides an umbrella that is both comforting and uplifting. I get the greatest joy from seeing the smiles on the faces of the boys as they come through the Tuckshop – their enjoyment of each other, of the environment, and sometimes just because their favourite food item is still available!
n arrival at St Joseph’s Nudgee College in 2008, these were the words that met and challenged me at the first boarding staff in-service. They were words that formed the central part of Br Vic’s prayer. For me it meant more than a passing plea but a realistic challenge to lead our boys toward a life that was just, respectful, committed, faith-filled and collaborative.

For this challenge to be met, our House system and House Deans need to be vibrant and engaged and our educators committed to delivering a complete education – fostering lifelong learning that liberates, creating kingdom men, those who will ‘live life to the full’.

The future of pastoral care in the College is secure, not because of the people who lead the program – although they are great assets – but more because the philosophy is grounded in our mission and supported by our commitment to educating the whole child. We shape our pastoral approach through the College motto Signum Fidei – a sign of faith – for the world. The significance of this stands in our crest with the star at its centre.

“Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.” (Daniel 12:3)

Put simply, this is our goal for the boys – that they develop wisdom through their lessons and leadership through their interactions, and that they use these talents to liberate and lead others to a full life.

Our Dimensions of Learning pedagogical model supports our pastoral model perfectly. It challenges each teacher to design and deliver lessons in a way that develops skills for success in strategic concert with quality and challenging content – in essence, to deliver curriculum that challenges, asks questions, engages one’s humanity, requires cooperation, values relationship, has fun and encourages different ways of thinking.

“Treat every boy like he is the most important person in the world. That is your challenge.”

Brother Vic Larkin
The Dimensions of Learning model, one could argue, is a realm for the academics and the Learning and Teaching Office, but there is no real separation between the two. Our system of developing pedagogy asks our boys to identify and encourage the ‘habits of mind’, as does our approach to pastoral care: creating activities and interactions that encourage flexibility, creativity, epistemology, challenge, response, humour, fun and connectivity, the list is broad.

Our pastoral and student formation lessons are designed to give students the opportunity to develop the habits of mind and apply them in social, real world settings under the guidance of their Tutors and House Deans. Pastoral care is a little bit about ‘Who are you?’, but mostly about ‘Who do you want to be?’ The questions are there for everyone.

With a population of some 1500 boys from Years 5–12 there is a definite complexity to behaviour management. Add to this the wonderfully diverse backgrounds of our students – culturally and socially – and what results is an approach that needs to have justice as its primary motivating force. Formulaic models of the past are unproductive, unmanageable and fail to allow us to function as a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

Our approach to pastoral care provides many challenges but also delivers the heart of what is a Nudgee College education. Students are a part of a real world. They are taught to do more than simply participate in that world; they are educated to lead it. Our approach to behaviour management and discipline in the College, then, has at its core a focus to ensure just outcomes, reinforce the principles that the College is founded on and challenge boys to think carefully about their actions and outcomes. House Deans and teachers will always strive to focus on an approach to justice and discipline that ensures one’s dignity is retained, but equally valued is the acknowledgement of wrong and a commitment to both changing behaviour and restoring broken relationships.

The Student Formation program, which will run from Years 7–12 next year, is one proactive way of growing good men to be reflective thinkers and men of justice and dignity – to provide tools to help them avoid making poor decisions. Globally, the program has a strong focus on the development of social and emotional learning. Such a program in a boys school opens the door and allows students to develop emotional intelligence as a complementary facet of their education and growth. Academic intellect allows functionality and delivers skills and competence in a given setting or area; emotional intelligence allows one to operate and succeed across all settings. The combination of both gives a young man confidence and control over the journey ahead.

Our houses will always be focused on, and committed to, respect for the dignity of individuals and will be striving to develop and nurture right relationships between students, teachers and families. Partnership on the educational journey is an extremely important aspect of our pastoral system. Luckily, we have a remarkable team of Deans and Directors who understand this foundational theme. They work hard to foster the links and threads between student, teacher and home. As a community we value and aspire toward excellence.

At Nudgee College, the young men we educate are the reason we exist. To them we need to deliver:

- presence – so they know we are in their lives;
- compassion – so they know we care and;
- liberation – so they know the value of, and what to do with, their freedom.

In doing so, we deliver young men of faith, young men of justice, young men of action – men who will be Signum Fidei.
Dozens of students still wearing pyjamas, some no doubt perched precariously on window sills or balconies, would have been easily seen as they peered skyward, straining for a glimpse of some heavenly apparition. Though no one thought to describe the incident in depth, the excitement generated by this momentary phenomenon would inevitably have been accompanied by considerable noise. It was Nudgee College, after all.

The only thing that could have roused the boys at this early hour, other than a clandestine raid on the surrounding pineapple farms, was the arrival of Halley’s Comet on its 75-odd year journey. Had the boys, born headmaster, whose term, though the evolution of the Christian Brothers, for they were in vain for the ubiquitous presence of the College by the leadership of Brother O’Neill, the first full-time Australian-born headmaster, whose term, though, was drawing to a close.

Of the students, the dominant name was Terry McKenna who would spend from 1933 to 1940 at the College, before joining the RAAF and meeting an early death over the North Sea. What if our visitor had lingered near the door of a little room just off the main dormitory? He would have heard Hugh O’Dwyer and six of his friends, referred to as “The Seven Dwarfs” discussing the outbreak of war with Father Ryan.

But what if our visitor returned in September 1939? What might he have found as the College moved toward its 50th anniversary? The campus would have been different, with the Duhig building now 20 years old and the Chapel three years older again. The Main Oval had been reconstituted in 1928 and a wooden grandstand added, scene of so much raucous school spirit in the following years. Swimmers no longer had to make the trek down to the creek, for a pool had been constructed in 1935 on the site of the present staff club, which had been opened by ex-Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies two years before. He may have even lingered to say a prayer for John Treacy, a student who was murdered in the College grounds in July 1967.

Our visitor was too early, however, to see other changes, such as the first full-time female teacher who would start work at the College in the early 1970s. Other evidence of the College was still catering, numbering almost 1500, and although the Ryans, Murphys, O’Briens and O’Keeffes were still on the College roll, the community was, as commentators described the new South Africa, “a rainbow nation of all colours, creeds and ethnic groups.”

Some students even played football in preference to rugby, and – only slightly less of a blasphemy for a visitor who could recall nostalgically the mono-cultural, almost monastic existence at the turn of the century – some were even prepared to play Australian Rules! The campus was different as well, with the addition of a pool, an Olympic running track, Tierney Hall, the Gallagher Building, the McKennariey Centre, the Brosnan Building, and even an extension to the old grandstand.

What will our visitor find if he makes one final journey to the 150-year-old campus in 2041? The College, certainly, will be still enjoying the benefits of this last decade of building and renovation, but it will still be evolving. Who knows – we might even be co-ed!
Recently had the delightful privilege of accompanying St Joseph’s Nudgee College legend Mrs Maggie Shaw (staff member, 1962-98) on a walk through the Treacy Building. One does not, and should not, take such a privilege for granted. On the top floor we ran into Brother Vic Larkin, who Maggie greeted warmly with a kiss and some teasing reserved only for close family.

Maggie’s grace, wisdom and humour also came for a walk with us that afternoon. We popped into this room and then that. She stopped to look out the window to the west as the sun was setting. I commented that I could not help but think of those early days of the College in 1891, when it was first founded, and the isolation of the school back then.

“Nothing but farms, even when I came. How it has changed,” Maggie reflected. She took great delight in seeing her old friend the jacaranda tree framed by the arches from the view in what is now Principal Daryl Hanly’s office. She was delighted to hear he had commented on the tree’s beauty to me just the day before. What a connection to the rich history of Nudgee College, I thought as we wandered. Who planted the tree and how old might it be?

As we made our way down from the top floor to the second floor, Maggie told me of a conference held at Nudgee College in the 1970s for Principals of Religious Institute Schools. She told me how Br Bolton had asked her to help him host these important guests at the school. Of course, the offices of today were the Brothers’ bedrooms of yesterday, and the gracious hosts had moved out for this occasion. Maggie organised some ‘nice touches’ to decorate the rooms – flowers and the like. Towels, toiletries and items of comfort were also organised so that all would feel welcome. “It was simple,” said Maggie, “but I think it was nice.”

Simplicity is a proudly held Christian virtue. It is hard to attain and harder to retain. The vision that Br Patrick Ambrose Treacy had for the building that now bears his name was on a grand scale but, like all quality outcomes, it is the doing of simple things extraordinarily well that stands the test of time. The Treacy Building has stood the test of time. A favourite detail of mine about Brother Treacy, who let’s face it, must have been an extraordinarily determined, persuasive and dare I say, ‘can do’ sort of man, is that he loved the garden at the front of the school. I am told he was a great contributor to its design and upkeep and, in his twilight years before moving to Gregory Terrace where he passed away in 1912, a visitor would often find him crouched on his knees tilling the earth. Maggie’s words, ‘It was simple, but I think it was nice’, come to mind.

There are not too many places in your everyday life where you stand, look about and feel history. I certainly felt this way in the Sistine Chapel. I’ve drunk in the view from the Members’ Stand at Lord’s Cricket Ground, and I’ve stood in need silence during Mass at the Church of Regina Mundi of Soweto and reflected on the violent regime of apartheid. Having spent almost half of my life at Nudgee College, I take great delight in the renewal, rebirth and recommissioning of the Treacy Building. It is a place of special meaning for me as it is for thousands of men spread throughout Brisbane, Australia and the world. It is for their mothers, fathers and sisters, too. The boys lived in this home away from home. The Christian Brothers lived there with them – some 400 of them.

Br Treacy oversaw the founding of 27 schools up and down the east coast of Australia in the last 30 years of the 19th century. In 1900, he was recalled to Ireland as an assistant to the Superior General. I am told he went willingly but was sad to be leaving Australia because it had captured his heart. He would later return to spend his last days at Nudgee College and Gregory Terrace.

It is well documented that the first expedition to Sydney by the Irish Brothers was a failure. Ambrose and his Brothers came some decades later – starting in Melbourne in 1868 and moving north and to New Zealand as well. The early years at Nudgee College were tough indeed. Moulding the early Nudgee College men (56 in 1891) was challenging, although only half of them were from remote bush areas. The early ‘Australian’ Brothers were mostly primary school teachers and found educating older students quite difficult. There were five directors or principals in the first five years, which certainly puts Principal Daryl Hanly’s 10 years’ tenure into perspective.

Despite the early instability and challenges, the Brothers, the parents and the young men of Nudgee College forged a way of living and learning that has grown into what it has become today. There are millions of stories echoing throughout the magnificent façade that is the Treacy Building. It houses the tears of leaving home, the laughter of practical jokes, the pain of cruelty, the buzz of hopeful minds, the solemnity of loss, the silence of a pat on the back and the cheers of a hard-earned victory. For some, unfortunately, it may bring to mind unpleasant memories of a place to which they will never return. There can be many reasons for this and it is important to acknowledge those experiences. For others, even though the paint is different, the furniture has changed, the Brothers have moved on and the bell no longer tolls, the Treacy Building is Nudgee College – their home away from home.

The words of Arthur Kelly, Nudgee College Old Boy 1897, perhaps capture the sentiment:

A long farewell! Dear Nudgee! Now to thee
My sluggish pen must fail to speak my mind.
Dear home of youthful days – regretfully I leave both thee and youthful days behind.
To one and all a last farewell I sing:
My thoughts to Nudgee’s mound will often roam.
The best of happiness let future bring
And Heaven hereafter be our blessed Home.

Next year, 2012, marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Edmund Rice, Founder of the Christian Brothers. It also marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Br Treacy, founder of Nudgee College. What a wonderful synchronicity of the circle of life in a community such as ours. We look forward to the official re-opening, recommissioning and new life for the Treacy Building for the next century. May it continue to stand tall and proud – a symbol of Gospel-centred education and the formation of young men who are gifts to the world. Signum Fidei, Signs of Faith.
Every story starts somewhere and this one has its beginning with family patriarch Ken Rigney. From humble beginnings as a drover, he used hard work, ingenuity and a steady nerve to create a thriving cattle and cropping operation on 60,000 acres in the Weengallon and Nindigully districts of south-west Queensland.

At 67, Ken Rigney is still hard to stop. Today he, his son Ian and grandson Angus are trucking cattle between their properties. As he slides the door on the B Double, it is only the promise of a hot cup of tea that makes him take the time to talk about his journey.

He was born in 1944, while his father Jack was still fighting in World War II. “I think I was one when Dad came home,” he said. At the time, Jack couldn’t raise the two and sixpence needed to buy his family’s property at Weengallon. So he set up the stock and station agent. “Every day, we were the local marriage bureau,” he said. “Every day, we married people.”

Ken was the second of three generations of Rigney shooters in the Weengallon and Nindigully districts of south-west Queensland. At the time, Jack couldn’t raise the two and sixpence needed to buy his family’s property at Weengallon. So he set up the stock and station agent. “Every day, we were the local marriage bureau.”

In 1981 when he sent his son, Ian, to Nudgee College, it took the family seven hours to drive the bitumen roads to Brisbane.

For Ian, Nudgee College was a revelation. “I went to Weengallon State School where there were never enough sporting teams to have any serious sporting teams. It was all about team effort.”

In 2009 it took just two hours in the Rigney’s Cessna 182 to reach Brisbane for Angus’ first day at Nudgee College. Now in Year 10, Angus is enjoying a hectic schedule, balancing school work with his involvement in the Nudgee College Cattle Club and Rodeo Team. Angus’ grandfather Ken can’t quite come to terms with the changes in the school in the last 50 years. “Back in my day, there were 411 boarders and about 20 day students. We had 900 chooks (at the College) and there were 90 cows on the other side of Sandgate Road that we drove across the road in the mornings for milking.”

He shakes his head. “Now they have 1400 students and I can’t imagine even trying to walk across Sandgate Road!”

For now Angus is making the most of what Nudgee College has to offer to create his pathway to the future. He is intent on heading north at the end of Year 12 for several years before returning home to the family operation.

“Nudgee College is helping me every step of the way,” he said. “The school organised for me to do work experience on Newcastle Waters in the Northern Territory during the September holidays. It was a great opportunity and a real eye-opener.”

The 15-year-old takes a sip of his tea and looks across the table. “I’m proud to be at Nudgee College. I really respect my dad and grandad and I can’t see any good reason to break the mould.”

Angus, Ken and Ian Rigney

On a property about 600km west of Brisbane, three Rigney men are working in the cattle yards. They are three generations of Nudgee College men, who, despite their age differences, are seemingly cast from the same mould.

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In 2015, St Joseph’s Nudgee College will celebrate its 125th year. It is also the year that the pioneering group of Year 5 students will be College Seniors. Whether this was the result of deliberate planning or a mere coincidence, there is no doubt that the 23 students who will graduate as the first group to have spent the full eight years at Nudgee College will be forever embedded in the College’s history.

On January 30, 2008, a pioneering group of 77 Years 5, 6 and 7 students began the next chapter in the Nudgee College story. Twenty-two of these students were in Year 5. By the end of the year another student had joined and by the time the group “graduated” from Year 7 last year, the number had risen to 75.

These students, along with the 125 boys who joined them in Year 8 at the start of this year, will celebrate many milestones as they make their way through their high school years. Many of the students who began this year will have celebrated the end of their traditional primary school era last year. The Year 7 students who were at Nudgee College were no different, with them taking part in a “crossing the road” ceremony in November 2010.

The ceremony was part of Nudgee College’s inaugural “crossing the road” week, which consisted of a range of activities. These included a chapel service, an inter-house rowing regatta and a visit to Wet n’ Wild.

The ceremony was particularly reflective for those in attendance, given the significance of the group in Nudgee College’s history.

“This was the first group to begin Year 5 so it is an apt occasion that we look back on their time so far at the College,” said teacher Mr Sian Kennedy at the ceremony.

Parent Mrs Toni Riordan also remembered the start of her son’s Nudgee College education when she spoke of Orientation Day in 2007.

“I looked around the room at the other parents’ faces and it was a relief to see they were all slightly apprehensive, like me, about how such a little boy would go in such a big place,” she said.

“I needn’t have worried as Dom (Maher), Liam’s first teacher, instantly created boy heaven. Liam has had lots of opportunities since being at Nudgee College, but it’s not what he’s done that I am most thankful for, but for what he has become.

“Liam has a quiet confidence in who he is. I am proud to see the respect he shows his grandparents and the manners he shows with his teachers and adults.”

Current Year 8 student Ben Rada Martin described his first day of Year 5 as “daunting”.

“I remember how miniscule I felt at my first assembly,” Ben said. “I was nervous and eager to start my Nudgee College journey but was daunted at how big the other students were.”

Ben’s initial sentiments were echoed, but in reverse, by Mr Matt Thornton who recalled comments from some of the Senior students at about the same time.

“We were originally in the McKennariey Centre while they finished the O’Neill Building,” he said. “One day some Seniors were lining up outside the classroom for their class. They were saying how small the Year 5–7 students were, how big their bags were compared to them, and I even overheard one student ask another if the Years 5–7 student was wearing his blazer because it was so long on him.”

The ceremony gave both the students and parents a chance to reflect on their journey so far and take a trip down memory lane looking at photos and sharing stories. The afternoon concluded with the Year 5 and 6 students forming a tunnel and congratulating the Year 7 students as they made their way to the Year 8 area for afternoon tea.

The year 2015 will be yet another milestone in the lives of these students, and in the story of Nudgee College, and plans are already under way to mark the significance of the year with a number of events. Playing a key role in the celebrations will be the original 23 Year 5 students, who will be 2015 College Seniors, something Principal Mr Daryl Hanly is looking forward to.

“Having the presence of the First XXIII – that team of intrepid young men who will have the honour of being the first students to have completed eight years at the College, as an integral part of our 125th year celebrations, is something I am looking forward to,” he said. “It will be a milestone for them and our College community.”
Outback Adventure

The Mitchell family road trip got off to a flying start on Sunday, June 26 at about 9am as we started our long journey westward into central Queensland. Some people said we were mad driving that far with four kids, but we love taking our sons away to experience the outback and, along the way, meet parents and their sons who board at St Joseph’s Nudgee College.

The trip came about as a result of an invitation from Miriam and Simon Daley, whose property La Mancha is about 90km north-west of Longreach. Their sons Macabe (Year 10) and Callan (Year 8) are both in Cotter Boarding House. The plan was to travel from La Mancha up to the Saxby Round Up, north of Julia Creek, for an authentic outback experience.

As we headed out of Toowoomba, the beauty of the land struck me and the country seemed to open up. This is a huge country and the trip had just begun. The Nudgee College boarding family is diverse and widespread.

Driving through towns like Dalby, Chinchilla, Roma, Mitchell and then on to our first overnight stop at Augathella, I thought of many a Nudgee College boy and his family. With about 750km under the belt and several hundred kangaroos behind us, we bunked down for the night at the lovely Augathella Palms Motel.

Today we planned to drive about 500km to Longreach, stopping in at three properties on the way. The first stop was Mt Macquarie to visit past parents Lindsay and Gill Russell. Their sons Braden (NC 2004-08) and Boyd (NC 2006-10) spent five years as Nudgee College boarders. I had the pleasure of looking after them on several occasions during those years. Lindsay reported they had had a good year after all the rain, which was great to hear after all the pain of recent years. Gill still reads the College newsletter and keeps in touch with friends she made while a Nudgee College parent. Our friendship goes...
back about eight years. At that early stage in my boarding career I had no idea of the tyranny of distance, which is part of the reason I like making these trips to meet families at their homes. Seeing the boys in their home environment gives boarding staff a better perspective when you see them on the land as young men with huge responsibilities.

Our next stop was Dunraven, about 30 minutes this side of Barcaldine, where we had afternoon tea with the Doneleys. Peter and Roberta’s sons Paul (NC 1998-2003) and Robert, now in Year 11, both boarded at the College. On this occasion it was shearing time and the property was abuzz with activity. It was good for my sons to see firsthand where wool comes from, but I don’t think any of them will be signing up for shearer’s school any time soon! It looked like the hardest job on earth – harder than teaching Year 9 boys!

From Dunraven, we moved on to see the Taylors on their sheep property Accord, halfway between Longreach and Barcaldine. I looked forward to seeing the Taylors on their sheep property Accord, halfway between Longreach and Barcaldine. I looked forward to seeing the Taylors on their sheep property Accord, halfway between Longreach and Barcaldine. I looked forward to seeing the Taylors on their sheep property Accord, halfway between Longreach and Barcaldine. I looked forward to seeing the Taylors on their sheep property Accord, halfway between Longreach and Barcaldine. I looked forward to seeing the Taylors on their sheep property Accord, halfway between Longreach and Barcaldine. I looked forward to seeing the Taylors on their sheep property Accord, halfway between Longreach and Barcaldine. I looked forward to seeing the Taylors on their sheep property Accord, halfway between Longreach and Barcaldine. 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In the three years the Years 5–7 program has been delivered at St Joseph’s Nudgee College, there has been an impressive growth in student numbers, advances in technological initiatives and innovations in curriculum development. The O’Neill Building has been a centre of enthusiasm and excitement these past few years, where staff and a younger generation of students have taken on the essence of Nudgee College and its wonderful traditions and given it a vibrant new outlook.

The Years 5–7 program came about in 2008 after a lengthy application process, after which Nudgee College was granted permission to offer educational opportunities to boys in Years 5, 6 and 7. Members of the foundation teaching team assembled in Term 4, 2007 to prepare for the new program. It was very much a clean slate, and these staff members used that term to work collaboratively to create a responsive and creative curriculum for each of the three year levels.

Also charged with selecting suitable classroom resources, it was a shopping spree any teacher would envy.

On the first day of the 2008 academic year, 77 fresh faces arrived at the Nudgee College gates. Younger than any boy to have previously donned the College uniform, but no less spirited, the students began...
their Nudgee College journey in classrooms created for them in the McKennariey Centre. Their permanent home remained under construction across the road. The boys were keen to become a part of Nudgee College, trying their hand at everything on offer to them. It was a year of firsts: assessments, camps, retreats, report cards, swimming and athletics carnivals, assemblies, masses, awards, excursions, and new friendships. The appointed Year 12 “Big Brothers” embraced the opportunity to work with their young charges and show them the Nudgee College way, just as they continue to do with their allocated Pastoral Care groups today.

The O’Neill Building’s doors opened in 2009. The original intention of adding gradually to the Years 5–7 student body, with an additional class each year for four years, was quickly forgotten. The demand for places was such that the intake morphed from three to nine classes in the first 12 months. Each classroom was fitted with an interactive whiteboard, data projector and six computers. A full computer lab was also made available. The building provides a purpose-built Art room and break-out space for varied learning activities, including Science facilities.

The Year 5–7 students enjoy the benefits of sharing a campus with the secondary school. For example, they are able to access the expertise of specialist teachers in the curriculum areas of Japanese, Art, Music and Physical Education. Year 5 students learn a brass or percussion instrument, and students in Years 6 and 7 participate in choir lessons. They have a chance to demonstrate their new-found skills to audiences when the Choir and Brass Ensemble perform at various College events. Students in Year 7 study Design Technology and Drama, accessing the same facilities enjoyed by the secondary students.

As a result of this early start at Nudgee College, the boys progress into the years traditionally deemed secondary schooling with added confidence and with a solid academic foundation. As a Year 8 student, they have already been instilled with the values, habits and attitudes that are commensurate with those of a Nudgee College student.

With the Queensland Government’s announcement of the move of Year 7 into secondary school from 2015, we face a new challenge in the education of our young men. Fortunately, in the context of a Years 5–12 College, this shift will not be as dramatic as it will be for some, but it will, nevertheless, be significant. The move of Year 7, along with the implementation of the new National Curriculum from 2012, will alter the nature of what is taught, when it is taught, how it is taught and by whom. Over the coming years, curriculum – and its delivery – will be under constant review, along with the pastoral care structures that support our students.

In the years ahead, our O’Neill precinct will be for Years 5 and 6, as the Year 7’s “head up the hill”. In the meantime, however, the Year 5–7 students will continue to throw themselves with gusto into all the College offers them. And Nudgee College will be all the richer for the contribution of these “little men”.

below from left: Meeting Queensland Reds players, Students dress up to celebrate Book Week, Year 5 Peoplescapes project

main photo: Broncos player Josh Maguire visits
A day in the life of . . .

My team set off for the usual lap around the oval, sweeping the morning dew with our boots as we went. I can see the football boys on the next field trying to get one past the goalie. We play Terrace this weekend. I’ve only been at Nudgee College for a short time but the Nudgee College–Terrace rivalry is already ingrained in me. We beat them in the trials so we hope to have a good game against them again.

After training I run into my “Big Brother”. He’s a Year 12 buddy from my House who is there to give us younger kids any help we might need. He helps me carry all my bags. What with training this morning, PE during the day, my trumpet for music class and my stuff for Brothers Swim Club after the day, my trumpet for music class and the exciting day ahead. I make sure my uniform looks good – blazer buttoned to the bottom but I know, that when I’m finished, my swags will be added to the pile to be shipped off somewhere to provide another less fortunate person some small measure of comfort.

“I like the feeling of being at school.” – Michael Sanders, Year 6

We have House assembly this morning. First we pause and take a few moments of stillness for a prayer led by one of the prefects. Our prayers always end with the leader saying, “Live Jesus in our hearts” and we all reply together, “Forever!” Next, our House Dean presents certificates of academic achievement to those of us who have shown consistent improvement from last term. Finally, we all get into groups to roll street swags. I find it difficult to get the foam mat all the way to the bottom but I know, that when I’m finished, my swags will be added to the pile to be shipped off somewhere to provide another less fortunate person some small measure of comfort.

“My Big Brother looks after me, helps me and tells me jokes.” – William Garrett, Year 6

My Big Brother and I go to the assembly area. The playground is alive, full of vibrant energy as the boys await our stuff for Brothers Swim Club. The playground is alive, full of vibrant energy as the boys await our stuff for Brothers Swim Club. My Big Brother is wearing black as he is a prefect. My teacher is wearing black as he is a prefect. We paint these amazing carp pictures and shared a morning tea of sushi.

“Rolling it up was the hardest, but we are doing something for the community.” – Mitchell Duncan, Year 6

Next I’m off to my classroom where my teacher has prepared a game form on the interactive whiteboard (IWB). We need to use the IWB to practise order of operations. Our teacher always has some innovative way to engage us in our learning before we hit the textbooks.

““The teachers get involved more here than other places.”” – Freddie Carlton-Smith, Year 6

After Maths and English, our Japanese and Art teachers have planned something special – Boys’ Day. It is a Japanese celebration, and we wear colours to signify what position we are in our family. I’m wearing green, which shows I’m the second-born boy. My teacher is wearing black as he is a father. We paint these amazing carp pictures and shared a morning tea of sushi.

“I have a Science presentation to give today. I’m going to dress up as a scientist and, with my partner, we will demonstrate a chemical and physical-change experiment to the class. I know the Year 6 boys have set up a crime scene in a room downstairs as part of their forensic science unit. My older brother in Year 7 has Design Technology today. He is building a wooden toy train using hand-tools and a pedestal drill.

“The final bell goes. The boarders go to the dining room for afternoon tea. Others catch the bus or train home. A few get the CityCat to Bulimba and others, like me, go off to one of the many after-school extra-curricular activities, such as chess, art workshops, golf, cattle club, tennis, public speaking, debating, swimming, tournament of minds and junior musical rehearsals.

“When we try to see the world through other people’s eyes, we open our own.” – Mr Dom Maher

The final bell goes. The boarders go to the dining room for afternoon tea. Others catch the bus or train home. A few get the CityCat to Bulimba and others, like me, go off to one of the many after-school extra-curricular activities, such as chess, art workshops, golf, cattle club, tennis, public speaking, debating, swimming, tournament of minds and junior musical rehearsals.

What an action-packed day of school. I’ll sleep well tonight. I wonder what good adventures Nudgee College has in store for me next week.
PHILOSOPHIES BEHIND

STUDENT LIFE IN ACTIVITIES

As a young man growing up in Queensland, I always felt that there was no other school in Queensland, and probably the country, that embraces the entirety of sport and culture so extensively and realises its value in influencing the future of young men more than St Joseph’s Nudgee College.

The philosophies of Nudgee College’s activities program are built on, and linked around, the College’s strategic goals: community, diversity and justice.

Activities bring a sense of community which range from parents offering their assistance by means of various support groups, and staff and Old Boys being involved in the program through coaching and mentoring, to a crowd of over a thousand “Nudgee College men” gathering in the Ross Oval grandstand on a home day to cheer and support their College.

An extensive range of cultural and sporting activities offers opportunities for participation at all levels. Justice is realised through displays of positive sportsmanship and fair play, and by ensuring activity programs are linked to a social justice theme – for example, the Barralong Corporate Regatta (rowing) and the Nudgee College Cricket Charity Day.

The activities program gives all 1500 students within the College an opportunity to express themselves in both the sporting and cultural environment. The College competes actively in the Great Public Schools (GPS) and the Combined Independent College (CIC) competitions for Year 8–12 and Year 5–7 students, respectively. While involvement is not compulsory, every student is strongly encouraged to participate in the extra-curricular activities at their level and within their areas of interest.

Research has shown that an organised extra-curricular program is invaluable in forming the character of young men. Nudgee College has always believed that an active boy is a happy boy, and, through participation in the extra-curricular program, boys learn how to set goals and work towards achieving them. Participation also allows boys to work together as a team or group, to experience the joy of winning as well as learning how to be a gracious loser. Activities are a crucial forum for young men to display their natural talents, and they are an important ingredient in forming their identity and self-esteem and enabling them to feel a sense of belonging.

Nudgee College has an envious reputation as a highly successful sporting and cultural school with a reputation stretching back to 1891. This standing is constantly being reinforced by:
- the College winning numerous GPS sports and activities premierships
- students attaining Queensland or national representative honours
- the Drum Line claiming the National Percussion Eisteddfod
- students winning state and national competitions in music, art and drama
- having Old Boys representing Australia at the Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games or representing their state and country in various sporting and cultural teams.

For many of the College’s young men, participation in sport or culture is the foundation of a career. Skills learnt put them in good stead for a professional vocation. This is achieved by having balanced, structured and organised programs led by highly qualified staff. The active involvement of staff in the College’s activities program is quite extraordinary and is the major reason for the success of so many of our teams, musical groups, clubs and individuals. Without such strong support, we could not offer the variety and quality of activities that currently exist.

While Nudgee College has a grasp at the elite level of the spectrum, it also has an understanding that, for the vast majority of boys, the activities program is a vehicle for personal growth. The extra-curricular program is an integral part of a boy’s development and participation should be encouraged and made enjoyable. The activities program strives to provide the best opportunities and coaching for boys of all levels and abilities.

These opportunities are provided in two ways: by the scope of teams and groups, and by the ever-increasing variety of activities offered. There truly is an activity for everyone. The College is represented in 12 GPS sports and activities, eight CIC sports and activities, multiple non-GPS and CIC sports, various clubs – for example the Cattle Club, various public-speaking competitions, art shows, drama productions and music – either through rock or stage bands, or the choir.

Whether it be in five, 10 or 100 years’ time, I am sure that Nudgee College will continue to attract a high rate of student participation in its activities programs, and that it will maintain a strong emphasis on, and help foster, a sense of sportsmanship, fair play, teamwork, leadership and pride in performance. These traits are essential to the goal of providing a balanced education and developing the whole person.

I know the incredible phenomenon that all Old Boys and current students speak highly of – the Nudgee College Spirit – will forever continue to thrive. It has been, and will continue to be, a privilege to help so many young men develop and attain their sporting and cultural potential, which is sure to serve them a lifetime in whatever career they choose and in whatever contribution they make to society.
Nudgee College events wrap

Museum Preview

As a prelude to the 1st XV's final round match in July, St Joseph's Nudgee College welcomed more than 90 special guests to an exclusive preview of the College Museum’s Rugby Room. The room forms part of the overall Nudgee College Museum which will be officially opened, along with the refurbished Treacy Building, in 2012.

The exclusive preview was to recognise those who contributed to the rugby room. Special guests included past Wallabies Sullivan, Purcell, Freney, McLean, Hall, D’Arcy, Panoho and Hardman while family and friends of deceased Wallabies and Kangaroos included the Deignans, Fogartys and Doneleys.

The display is considered one of the largest collections of rugby memorabilia in the country and was made possible as a result of the Nudgee College Foundation, financial support of Nudgee College, and the generous assistance of cabinetmaker David Walsh.

DimensionsNC Art Festival

Terney Auditorium was transformed into an art gallery in August, showcasing the outstanding talent of Visual Art students at the annual DimensionsNC Art Festival. The DimensionsNC Art Festival is a celebration of Nudgee College’s outstanding cultural accomplishments and an opportunity to showcase the talent of students and the local community.

The festival began with an opening night celebration during which four of the Ten Tenors entertained the 200 guests present. Guests also enjoyed the dedicated efforts of students from Art, Music and Hospitality and performances by Rock Bands 1, 2 and 3.

The exhibition continued for several days and featured 380 artworks by the College’s Visual Arts students from Years 5–12. These were exhibited alongside 200 works by contemporary artists. This platform gave the students the opportunity not only to demonstrate their talent but to sell their work. Impressively, about 50 pieces were sold, with students sharing in $4000 worth of sales and prizes as well as receiving commendations and recognition.

Family Picnic Day

Nudgee College hosted its second annual Family Picnic Day on August 14. All members of the Nudgee College community were invited to join in the fun on Ross and Wilkes Ovals. The day began with a mass in the Chapel followed by a complimentary morning tea in Ryan Hall. Outside, the entertainment continued with rides for the whole family, live music and the opportunity to tour the Trade Training Centre and the Rugby Room in the College Museum. The day was voted a huge success with many families taking the opportunity to get together with other members of the Nudgee College community.

College Awards Day

This year Nudgee College began a new tradition, with the annual Awards Presentations returning from the Boondall Entertainment Centre to the College’s Christian Brothers Conference Centre (Bingo Hall).

The Years 5–9 presentations were a morning event while the Years 10–12 presentations were held in the evening.

Mr Hanly invited all members of the College community to attend. The audience enjoyed a diverse range of entertainment from various areas of College life. Student and staff awards were presented for outstanding achievement across the year in cultural, sporting, academic, faith and community-based pursuits.

The College Dux for 2011 was named during proceedings, with this year’s award going to Darcy Birmingham.

PNG Visit

Mr Ken Mitchell (Director of Boarding) and Mr Paul Daly (Director of Development and Communications), representing the College on a cultural and promotional tour, joined Nudgee College PNG boarders when they returned home for the September school holidays.

First up, the 20 Nudgee College PNG students enjoyed a cultural exchange with Koroboena International Primary School before playing a friendly rugby match against the Port Moresby International School (POMIS).

Many of the PNG students had attended Koroboena International Primary School in Port Moresby prior to their enrolling at Nudgee College, and they were excited about representing the College at the school assembly and sharing stories of their journey to an Australian boarding school and their aspirations for the future. A game of touch footy on the oval at morning tea followed, which was a highlight for the younger students.

The Nudgee College boys then travelled to Port Moresby to visit the War Memorial, which recognises the Australian soldiers who lost their lives during the battle of Kokoda.

That afternoon, the Nudgee College PNG team assembled for a friendly rugby match against POMIS, who only weeks earlier had celebrated a premiership-winning season. Watched by some 700 students, families and friends, the POMIS team proved too strong, winning 14–10 in a match that was played in the spirit it was intended.

After the match, the students presented their opposing players with gifts from Nudgee College and then enjoyed a BBQ to finish a very successful celebration of community spirit.

During their visit to Port Moresby, and later Lae and Mt Hagen, Mr Mitchell and Mr Daly presented information sessions about Nudgee College to interested members of the public. Boarding life in Australia for both boys and girls was discussed and covered information about selecting schools, how boarders are cared for, managing expectations, cyber bullying and many other aspects of boarding life. All sessions were well attended and generated many enrolment enquiries – even for girls!

The College also used the opportunity to donate sporting uniforms and equipment to local clubs. The success of the trip was such the College looks forward to this format being a regular event each year. Certainly, the very proud PNG students of Nudgee College are keen to have greater community involvement on their next visit.
Nudgee College is proud of its history, its commitment to providing continued excellence in teaching and its social justice program. Add to this an environment of learning in the Edmund Rice Tradition, a distinguished record in both cultural and sporting pursuits and the famed Nudgee College Spirit, and it is no wonder the College is attracting an unprecedented level of enquiry.

The College environment, with its robust building program, enhancements to the expansive natural surrounds and world class sporting facilities, adds to the considerable appeal. But while the physical environment is important, it is the people who make the real difference.

Teaching staff know learning requires tenacity, patience and strength of will, and they embrace the concept of a learning-centred school. Through hard work, determination, open minds, energised and forward-thinking teachers, the boys have a model of how to be successful and lifelong learners.

Nudgee College boys not only believe that their teachers expect them to learn; they are taught to believe in their ability to learn.

The College offers a job-embedded staff development program to support teachers in reaching their professional goals and in living the school belief that everyone is a learner in a learning-centred environment. Additionally, teachers are encouraged to build relationships with their students because it has been shown that students with a level of trust in their teachers open their minds to new learning, buy into the curriculum, ask for teacher assistance, and embrace the notion that the teacher and the student are on the same team.

That same spirit of partnership extends to the College parent body through increased one-to-one conferences and frequent communication to ensure student motivation and learning remains on track.

Nudgee College has a lot to offer, not least to those in regional areas. The boarding program strives to offer boys a real sense of family while they are away from home. It’s one of Nudgee College’s strengths. The boarding staff genuinely care for the boys and take particular interest in their happiness and safety. The academic support program, tracking of their academic, behavioural and pastoral needs, and regular contact with parents through house newsletters, telephone and emails ensures the best possible outcomes for boarders.

Students come from diverse backgrounds and have different learning styles, learn at different rates, have different interests and different levels of readiness as they approach new learning. Nudgee College recognises this and offers boys choices and different career pathways – for example, the Vocational and Educational Training program in Construction and Engineering – which sees boys sought by a diverse range of industry sectors.

The introduction of Years 5–7 has expanded the Nudgee College community, which has had a positive impact on the famous Nudgee College Spirit. The younger students experience this from an earlier age as they link up with their ‘Big Brother’, enjoy leadership opportunities at assemblies and participate in various sporting and cultural activities. The new mix of old and new students in Year 8 makes adjusting to life in high school much easier for those starting out.

The introduction of Year 7 to high school in 2015 will also see a further shift in the continuously changing face of enrolments. Strong interest in Years 5–7 and the emergence of waiting lists could see the College reach its target of 1650 students.

The aim of Nudgee College is to be recognised as one of the leading Catholic boys’ schools in Australia, noted for its academic, cultural, vocational, spiritual and sporting excellence, and to be considered as a school of first choice by parents, students, teachers and staff.
Museum receives $150,000
St Joseph's Nudgee College has over a century's worth of traditions – from the classrooms, to the playing fields and regional and outbound Australia, and to the trenches of the Western Front, the skies over war-torn Europe, and in politics and the law. Even the music from television series Dr Who has a Nudgee College connection.

The Nudgee College Museum, to be located on the first floor of the newly refurbished Treacy Building, seeks to be a living reminder of that history and to communicate it past, present and future of those who have come before and those who will follow.

The first phase was completed in July with the opening of the Rugby Room, which documents the achievements of the 31 Old Boys who have represented Australia in rugby union and rugby league. The magnificent cabinetry in this room now houses one of the largest privately owned collections of Australia rugby blazers in the country.

The main museum will include items as diverse as the boat that won Nudgee College's inaugural Head of the River title, military uniforms (including those belonging to Air Chief Marshal Sir Neville McNamara and Air Vice Marshal those belonging to Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Cosgrove), items as diverse as the boat that won Stuartholme Girls' School, woodford Correctional Centre and the Brekky, Big Barbie, Street Swags and the community outreach activities of Big Brekky.

Cooking more than 50,000 meals through the Big Brekky program and rolling 20,000 street swags for people in need, locally and throughout Australia, is compelling evidence to suggest that goal is being achieved. This effort has now been recognised by the NAB Schools First program, which recently awarded the College a $50,000 grant for having demonstrated success in establishing effective school–community partnerships. The grant will help ensure the program’s sustainability as it builds stronger ties with community and its partners, which include Street Swags Australia, Woodford Correctional Centre and Stuartholme Girls' School.

The grant will be used to help fund a new shed, to be affectionately known as Ed's Shed for Blessed Edmund Rice who actively embraced those at the margin. 'Ed's Shed' is in keeping with the College Master Plan and helps fulfil a strong element of the Identity Program and school charter. It provides a dedicated venue and hub for the community outreach activities of Big Brekky, Big Barbie, Street Swags and the school, which will result in an increased visual presence of programs within the College and wider community.

To make this happen, we still need to raise considerable funds. Although we greatly appreciate the efforts of the Barralong Corporate Regatta ($10,000) and various support groups within the College who have committed to this project, we still need to raise more. The Nudgee College Foundation has set the challenge by agreeing to match every dollar raised up to $25,000 for Ed’s Shed. Achieving this target will go a long way to having this project come to fruition earlier.

Nudgee College Indigenous Bursary Fund will be launched at a Leaders Forum at the College in Term 1 2012 and seeks the support of the private and corporate sector to achieve its ambitious goal of being able to support the tuition fees of up to 20 students every year.

If you are able to assist the bursary fund directly or by way of referral to key decision makers within the corporate sectors, please contact the Foundation Chairman, Mr Paul Daly, by phone on 3865 0550 or by email pdaly@nudgee.com. The bursary fund also seeks the support of those who might wish to take an active role on the Advisory Board, be an ambassador for the program or be involved at a committee level as we endeavour to improve the educational outcomes of our Indigenous students, and add value to the richness of our culture by their sharing and presence.

Nudgee College Herd
During Ekka Week in August, families from the bush, corporate owners and key centres of influence joined representatives of the Nudgee College Cattle Club and Jack Ross Bursary Committee at the RNA Showgrounds in Brisbane for the launch of the Nudgee College Herd.

The Nudgee College Cattle Club seeks the support of cattle owners across the country to donate a heifer or cow to the Nudgee College Herd, retained on their property, with the sale proceeds of any progeny going direct to the Jack Ross Bursary – Country Boarding Bursary Program. The bursary program provides financial support for families from the bush whose son(s) might not otherwise have the opportunity to benefit from a Nudgee College education.

All gifts to the Nudgee College Foundation, Nudgee College Herd, St Joseph’s Nudgee College Indigenous Bursary Fund and Ed’s Shed are tax deductible under their Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status held with the Australian Tax Office.

All new students who are boarding students will receive support from the DGR status. We would like to make sure every dollar raised is eligible for a tax deduction.

All gifts to the Nudgee College Foundation, Nudgee College Herd, St Joseph’s Nudgee College Indigenous Bursary Fund and Ed’s Shed are tax deductible under their Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status held with the Australian Tax Office.
Throughout their St Joseph’s Nudgee College journey, students learn skills to equip them to be true Signs of Faith for the rest of their lives.

The College and all who have been exposed to it have benefited from the legacy of the Christian Brothers and Blessed Edmund Rice himself.

The Old Boys Association is exploring ways we can assist the College to source leadership and mentoring programs to further extend the great start Nudgee College offers our boys in these important areas. These targeted programs take young men and teach them what it means to be a man and leader in today’s society. We are proud to be able to play a part in this important phase of the transformation of students from boys to our newest Old Boys.

Another initiative for the Association this year is the Old Boys Business Breakfast Series. The aims of these monthly breakfast meetings are to foster a bond of friendship between Old Boy businessmen, to provide business leads and to provide a forum where businessmen can be updated with relevant College information. Each meeting features a guest speaker and is fully catered. Keep your eye on our website (www.ncoba.com.au) and your email inbox for further details.

The biggest challenge faced by the Association is communicating news and invitations to Old Boys. We can not tell you what is going on if we can not find you. Many of our current postal addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers are out of date. Much work is underway updating and refining our membership database to streamline communication but we can only ever be as accurate as the data we have. Please go to our website and follow the link to update your details today. While you are there, subscribe to our RSS feed and you will automatically be notified of new entries to the site.

His Grace Archbishop John Bathersby will be saying the mass.

In his final stages as Archbishop of Brisbane we were fortunate to have His Grace visit the College for two more significant Old Boy events in September. He joined a school assembly to present Signum Fidei Awards to Lawrie Cusack and Jim Gray – full details are at www.ncoba.com.au. He also presided over a mass of celebration hosted by the class of 1954 in the College chapel followed by lunch in Ryan Hall.

In closing, I welcome new members to the Management Committee of the Association – Nicholas Morrison, David Purcell and Paul Burstow. With this added enthusiastic help we will be able to continue to be increasingly involved in activities benefiting all Old Boys and the College.
2011 Nudgee College Dux Darcy Bermingham

Showing remarkable commitment to his academic endeavours Darcy achieved nine gold academic medals in nine semesters and was awarded Dux of his year level every year he attended the College.