Faith Life

FATHER JOHN BARRY
ERIN WEDGE
RETREATS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
CORPUS CHRISTI CELEBRATIONS
PHILIPPINES IMMERSION
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### St Joseph's Nudgee College Diary 2012

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<td>17 April</td>
<td>Classes resume Term 2</td>
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<td>21 April</td>
<td>GPS Football and Tennis commences</td>
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<td>Aussie Rules commences</td>
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<td>28 April</td>
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Rice education as applied to Catholic education was a series of steps taken at the national level to build a more just, tolerant and inclusive community in educating for liberation and possibility.2

M y life journey brought me in touch with the Christian Brothers during my primary and secondary education. These were men who seemed to model the lifestyle of their founder, Edmund Rice, described as a man who went to Mass daily, and who marked in his Bible passages that could have bearing on his day-to-day activities.1 Like Edmund, the Christian Brothers were bound by monastic vows and, as evidenced in the enrolment profile at St Joseph’s Nudgee College, persevered in undertaking the education of the children of the poor, among others. As the number of vocations to the Christian Brothers diminished, it was obvious that the number of Lay Principals appointed to Christian Brothers schools would increase. “The changes in society and the Church had an impact on the communities. Brothers were moving from the monastic to an apostolic spirituality.”3

In response to this trend of appointing Lay Principals, and in an attempt to retain the quintessence of the vision and legacy of Edmund Rice, a series of steps was taken at the national level. The first was the declaration of the Charter - “a proclamation of an authentic expression of Edmund Rice education as applied to Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition”.4 The nomenclature ‘Christian Brothers’ Colleges/Schools’ was to be no more. The change of title was to herald the new way forward.

At that time, the four Provincial Leaders signed off on The Charter as a “living document which will continue to evolve through review and reflection as the demands of our changing times are read and interpreted in the light of the unchanging Gospel”. The Charter was proclaimed to enable schools to authenticate their endeavours in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

It is at this time that we see clearly articulated the significance of the growth of spirituality in students and staff as integral to the role of the Faith Leader, as well as to the identity of a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition. No more do we see a bland directive, which directs adherence to the Religious Education Program approved by the Archdiocese, but strategies outlined to achieve this necessary growth in spirituality.

These include recognising that each person’s story is unique and sacred; the nurturing of spirituality in each person; evidence of faith development and religious education practices shaped by growth in spirituality; enhancing each person’s life journey through a personal understanding of and relationship with Jesus Christ; celebration of the richness and diversity of the school’s community through the Eucharist and other sacraments, as well as through sacred stories and symbols; and respecting the nature of the spirituality authentically lived by those who come from a range of religious traditions.5

Relevant to the Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition is the further clarification that critical to an understanding of spirituality is the realisation that:

- As individuals, we are part of something much larger.
- When we are with poor people we will meet a God whom we won’t meet anywhere else.
- Our engagement with the Eucharist involves more than going to Mass.
- For our world to grow in humanity we need the feminine presence and wisdom.
- We need to engage with people of other cultures and faiths.

The establishment of Edmund Rice Education Australia in 2007 was a significant development in the governance structure for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

The Vision Statement for EREA states:

Edmund Rice Education Australia, on behalf of the Catholic community, continues the mission of Jesus Christ, helping people to arrive at the fullness of Christian life through the provision of quality Catholic education. Through excellence in Catholic Education, Edmund Rice Education Australia will seek to transform the minds and hearts of young Australians to build a more just, tolerant and inclusive community in educating for liberation and possibility.6

To make manifest the goal that EREA will ensure our schools are dynamic, relevant, inclusive and authentic Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition where evangelisation is integral and excellence in education and social justice is promoted, there sits a strategy: “Ensure that our schools are offering relevant and appropriate Religious Education to students.”7 The ongoing challenge for us is the discernment of the manifestation lived in practice, for a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition, of the term, ‘relevant’ and ‘appropriate’.

Tinney reminds us that a charism is a particular lens into the Gospel story: the vision and experience of one person shedding light on the core priorities of Jesus. He clearly articulates that a charism serves the Gospel and is not a replacement for it. “It always points to the kingdom of God, always striving to the creation of a better world and deeper humanity.”8

The view through the lens becomes somewhat clearer in some of the reflections following the 2008 Chapter of the Christian Brothers in Mumbai, India. “With growing awareness we pondered the common search for the Divine in other religious traditions ... The mystery of God is deeper and more inclusive than what we had ever imagined.”9 The challenge was to make clear the necessity for a curriculum that integrates the themes of justice and peace underpinned by Catholic Social Teachings; adopts a prophetic stance in the light of Gospel values and is involved in advocacy to just causes; promotes participation in service and solidarity programs in partnership with those on the margins; provides immersion programs for students and staff; facilitates working alongside Indigenous people of Australia for reconciliation; demonstrates learning respect for the environment through its practices and teachings, working towards a sustainable future for all creation; recognising our role as being part of a global community; and nurturing a culture of critical self-reflection and prayerful discernment for justice and peace issues.

The stories that follow in this Nth Degree help share the ‘Good News’ that the Faith Life has a significant vibrancy at Nudgee College.
When Ms Erin Wedge returned to St Joseph’s Nudgee College in July 2011 as Director of Religious Education, she did not know that before the year was out she would be the new Dean of Identity and one of two women on the College Leadership Team.

**ERIN WEDGE**

by Tanya King

Erin had been the Head of Religious Education at Nudgee College in 2001 and 2002, when she introduced Study of Religion into the curriculum. Upon returning to the College after a decade’s absence, Erin has seen many changes.

“I left when Daryl Hanly was just starting his tenure at Nudgee College and I’ve seen many changes since then,” she said. “I feel there has been a cultural change, where religion and spiritual formation is now at the forefront of our thinking and planning. I also feel that the culture is more accepting of women and women in leadership roles.”

Erin began as a primary school teacher and over the course of her career has taught all year levels from Prep through to Year 12. She has worked in co-educational schools as well as Edmund Rice schools and a P–12 school.

She spent 18 months living and studying in Boston at Boston College and Harvard College (Divinity School), where she studied theology, religious education and curriculum. During her time in Boston, Erin worked with the Campus Ministry Team and joined the Jesuit Volunteers to give assistance in developing higher levels of literacy among the city’s poorest.

On her return to Brisbane, Erin spent seven years employed by Brisbane Catholic Education as an Education Officer. In her role, on behalf of the Archbishop, she worked with schools to develop their programs in faith development and liturgies, and helped link school ethos and charism with their RE programs.

More recently Erin worked for the Archdiocese of Brisbane’s Faith and Life Vicariate as a Senior Education Consultant writing curriculum for Year 11 and 12 students, and faith formation programs for adults and teenagers. She is currently completing her Masters in Biblical Studies.

Becoming the Dean of Identity, Erin says, is an achievement and one she is proud of. However, she still has many things she hopes to accomplish. “I’m keen to work with teachers and curriculum leaders to embed the Charter into all College programs and I look forward to developing the social justice, solidarity and advocacy programs to directly link what students are learning in class with the wider curriculum,” she said.

“I also hope to instil in students a deeper awareness of Edmund Rice and his values through all programs, thus heightening the religious identity and charism of the school.”

Erin is humbled by the immersion program that is run in Year 10 and believes it is Nudgee College’s greatest attribute.

“Since being back I’ve seen a big change in the immersion program. When I was here 10 years ago, the program was just a community service. Now it is much richer as we are trying to inform, form and transform our students into agents of change who will build a better world for all. All Year 10 students spend a week in a community facility, social justice program or service enrichment experience. For a school to spend their entire immersion week totally focused on social justice issues allows the students to have a taste of the work of Edmund Rice and begin to see how they can build a better world,” she said. “They help me to be present to the moment I’m in and I’m grateful for that.”

In addition to her family, Erin’s passions are in the areas of theology and scripture and she is excited to be working with the students and staff to deepen their knowledge and answer the call of Edmund Rice.

“Society in general reduces the significance and importance of religion and spiritual formation,” she said. “Sometimes religion, theology and spirituality are mocked and students can’t find the relevance in their lives. “My challenge is to work with the teachers and students to bring about awareness and the importance of religion and show students that spiritual formation is critical in their development and transformation to build a better world.”
Today the priesthood is an occupation that few Seniors aspire to. For Father John Barry, however, following this calling was something that was “always in the back of my mind.”

He said joining the priesthood was something he considered from a young age.

“I first thought about joining the seminary when I was 11 or 12 years old,” he said. “I thought about it over the years but would change my mind. One year I’d think forestry or the priesthood. The next year would be law or the priesthood.”

Even though it was “quite common in those days” to join the priesthood, Fr Barry credits the parable of the rich young man as being influential in his ultimate decision. The parable tells the story of a wealthy man going to Jesus to ask how he could inherit eternal life. After hearing the man had followed the 10 Commandments of God all his life, Jesus tells him to give everything away and follow him. Unable to bring himself to give his wealth to the poor, the man goes away sad.

“When I read this story as a young boy, I remember thinking that this man had the chance to follow Jesus but didn’t take it,” he said. “I just had a sense that this was a turning point. It was something I thought over during the years and I decided I shouldn’t blow my chance.”

Originally from North Queensland, Fr Barry’s family moved to Nundah “late in the war”. His father Tom (NC 1913-16) attended Nudgee College before him and his brothers Tom (NC 1956-60) and Jim (NC 1960-63) followed him.

“We had a long family association with Nudgee College,” Fr Barry said. “My uncle and several cousins also attended ahead of me so it was always in the background and I was conscious of it.”

As many new students can attest, starting out on the Nudgee College journey can be daunting, especially if they are boarders who are not used to being with so many people at once.

“Until I went to Nudgee College, I went to the Nundah Convent School,” Fr Barry said. “Suddenly at Nudgee College I was in class with students from places like Dirranbandi and Proserpine. There were also names like Percy and Rosario, which had not been part of my life previously, but whatever the name we quickly became mates.”

Upon finishing school, Fr Barry watched as his classmates excitedly began their university studies. A few months later he himself entered the novitiate of the Augustinian Order in Brisbane. With no further training places for Augustinians in Australia at the time, Fr Barry went to the United States. He spent time studying philosophy at Villanova University outside Philadelphia before moving to Washington DC, where he studied theology at Augustinian College.

In an ironic twist, Fr Barry also studied physics at the Catholic University of America.

“I hated physics at Nudgee College and failed every exam in Senior except the last one,” he said. “In the US at the time students in secondary school only did two years of physics and with my four years of physics they thought I was very knowledgeable. The Augustinians in Australia needed science teachers for their new school so I reluctantly agreed to study science. Later I grew to like physics and enjoyed teaching it.”

Fr Barry was ordained in the US in 1958 and moved back to Australia in January 1959. He taught at Villanova in Brisbane until 1970 when he was the first Australian born Augustinian to be elected Provincial. Fr Barry worked in parishes in Melbourne and Brisbane before being re-appointed to the South Yarra parish.

One of Fr Barry’s proudest moments at South Yarra was seeing the former parish school become housing for the homeless.

“When St Joseph’s school, like many inner city schools, had to close, some outstanding people in the parish wanted to do something with half the empty place,” he said. “Through their outstanding efforts they were able to raise enough money to convert two large classrooms into four emergency housing units. Later they set up six more housing units and two crisis units. These places are never empty.”

Fr Barry “retired” in 2008 after more than 20 years as South Yarra’s parish priest. Even after his retirement, Fr Barry continued to lead an active role in the parish, including being an assistant priest to a former student of his who was the new parish priest.

Fr Barry last year moved to St Augustine’s Priory in Sydney, where he now is the Prior at the community seminary.
The faith life at St Joseph's Nudgee College is underpinned by the school's motto, *Signum Fidei* – Sign of Faith. At Nudgee College we aspire to be signs of faith in all our actions.

Our sense of identity as people of faith emanates from the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice and his answering the call of God to be a disciple of Jesus and serve the poor. Edmund Rice answered the call to be a sign of faith and dedicated his life to the poor and marginalised in Ireland. By establishing schools for the poor, Edmund Rice was able to give hope to the hopeless, and thus they were able to aspire to a better life. A Nudgee College student is challenged to follow in Edmund Rice's footsteps and be a gentleman of action, someone who is a sign of faith in the world and who aspires and works to build a better world for all.

Nudgee College is part of a wider Australian education and faith community of Catholic schools founded in the Edmund Rice Tradition. Last year, Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) launched its new Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition. This Charter gives those of us involved in Edmund Rice schools clear guidelines on how we teach, make decisions, interact and be followers of Jesus who walk in the footsteps of its founder Edmund Rice. The Charter gives four touchstones for us to follow: Gospel Spirituality, Justice and Solidarity, Inclusive Community and Liberating Education. This charter is embedded in all that we do at Nudgee College – through our faith and spirituality, through our curriculum, through our interactions on the sporting field, through our cultural life, our retreats and social justice initiatives. Students explore the call of the charter in their interactions at school and discover how it can guide them to be a sign of faith.

Touchstones were ancient stones used to judge the purity of precious metals. A streak left on the touchstone was compared with a streak made by the pure metal to verify if the stone was authentic. At Nudgee College we talk about using touchstones to describe the authenticity of our culture.

**Gospel Spirituality**

This touchstone invites us all to be signs of faith, share in the story of Jesus and strive to make his message of compassion, peace and justice a living reality in the community. Compassion is “suffering with” – from the Latin root, cum (with) and patior (I suffer). It does not mean pity, which implies superiority; it means standing in solidarity with our co-workers, our brothers and our sisters, and walking the journey of life with them. True compassion involves being challenged, being uncomfortable and being displaced to a point of vulnerability. We are challenged to act compassionately to all who cross our path.

The call to act justly is particularly strong in the Nudgee College community. To act justly is to love one another. Christians are called to bring justice into reality for all God’s people. Acting with justice means that we respect the inherent rights of others, treat all with dignity and respect, and recognise the love of God within each person. Treating others with justice should be an expression of our love for them. The doing of justice is the primary expectation of God. By being just and promoting justice, we are carrying out Jesus’ commission, “Love one another as I have loved you”. When we answer this call, we are carrying out our faith.

This touchstone also calls for all to be peacemakers. Peace comes from the just actions offered and the compassion shown to others. For compassion and justice to occur, peace must be in your heart. We hope our staff, parents and students emulate these characteristics of Gospel Spirituality in their lives.

**Justice and Solidarity**

This touchstone challenges all those within the Edmund Rice community to commit themselves to justice through action and reflection, and to stand in solidarity with the poor and marginalised and the earth. Jesus’ central passion was for the reign of God – justice to reign for all. Jesus’ ministry was a countersign to the sexism, racism and all other forms of oppression in his social context. He presented his life and mission by proclaiming the “Spirit of the Lord is upon me” (Luke 4:18–19). He promised satisfaction to those who worked for justice and declared peacemakers to be...
God’s own people. We should love our enemies rather than follow the doctrine of an “eye for an eye.”

Justice means not to give charity but to “do faith.” Jesus calls us to feed, clothe, quench thirst, welcome and aid others. This is doing faith; this is doing justice. Being just challenges us to actively confront our world and challenge the forces that deny justice. Edmund Rice was a man who stood against the norm of his time and took action against injustices surrounding him. He was a man of justice for whom acting justly was an integral part of his life’s calling. He transformed the lives of others through the call to treat all with dignity and justice. His schools welcomed all children; the poor were recognised and supported; justice was central to his spirituality; and the mission of each of his schools was to be a place of justice and a place for the defence of the human dignity of all.

This touchstone calls us to stand in solidarity with the earth. Caring for creation is a theme with relatively recent origins in Catholic social teaching. In the 1990 papal document *The Ecological Crisis: A Common Responsibility*, Pope John Paul II outlined new ways for Catholics to think about their responsibility for the earth. Catholic social teaching states that people are to respect and share the resources of the earth, and highlights the importance of environmentally and socially sustainable patterns of consumption and development. Church documents identify many factors that contribute to ecological degradation, and devote much attention to the importance of environmentally and socially sustainable patterns of consumption and development, pointedly warning that richer nations must find ways to simplify their lifestyles.

**INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY**

This touchstone calls each EREA school to accept all people and become a community of welcome that fosters right relationships and is committed to the common good. At Nudgee College we celebrate a diverse range of student backgrounds – both from a cultural and religious perspective. All are wanted and all are made to feel welcome. Catholic schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition provide an inclusive education to a diverse range of students. Building community among this diversity is an important part of being a sign of faith to all people. Edmund Rice had a reputation for developing positive and right relationships, and we are challenged to create a tangible sense of belonging within our community. At the heart of education within a Catholic school, each school is a ‘school for all’. At Nudgee College we strive to be signs of faith through actions that welcome and include all.

**LIBERATING EDUCATION**

This touchstone calls for all in the Edmund Rice school community to “inform, form and transform” their students into agents of change, who work for justice for all and build a better world for all. By their very nature, Catholic schools are committed to social justice and the poor and underprivileged. This touchstone challenges all to take this commitment a step further, by becoming agents of change. Edmund Rice was a man who provided education that was intrinsically tied to reformation of society and the formation of youth. He was not acting out of a sense of charity; rather he was attempting to challenge the status quo. Education for liberation has its foundation in the life of Edmund Rice and his schools. The original aim of Edmund Rice was to liberate young people from unjust structures. This liberation is found in right relationships, and where all the community works for the team as a whole, rather than for individual egos and needs. This touchstone challenges us to put the needs of the community before our own and to make sure all who work, live and play within the community feel included and have a sense of belonging.

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The St Joseph’s Nudgee College retreat program draws on a significant pool of collected wisdom and practical experience from staff and external facilitators. The program consists of a range of experiences that continues to expand to adapt to the changing culture of the College and the needs of its students.

The retreat program is based on one of the key insights of Christianity: that God spent time as one of us. This means that human experience is sacred and that God walks with us in the apparently mundane ordinary events of life.

Some of these events are massive in their joy or sorrow for us personally, but rarely are they considered truly remarkable to the world beyond us. History or the media might find us unremarkable, but retreats give us the opportunity to marvel at what God does with, and among, us. We have an opportunity to notice those sacred moments in our lives.

The retreat program is intended to enhance our identity as a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition. This begins with the key entry points of Year 5 (Signum Fidei Retreat) and Year 8 (Galilee Day) where the respective retreats help boys understand the foundations of the College and reflect on their experiences so far.

Currently, the end of Year 7 (Journey of the Star Retreat) is thought of as a time of consolidation and transition. The retreat day for this group is designed to assist in that process. As the educational landscape changes and Year 7 becomes the beginning of secondary school, our programs will change to take this into account.

Year 6 (Answering the Call Retreat) and Year 9 (Emmaus Retreat) are about adding depth to knowledge and challenging boys to reflect more deeply than the year before. Emmaus is significant because it is the first overnight retreat and becomes a significant focus of energy for staff and students alike.

In Year 10, there is no retreat as such, but we shift the focus to a practical response to social justice issues in the community. Given that our heritage comes from Blessed Edmund Rice using education to promote social liberation, almost all retreats have an emphasis on social transformation. In their Social Justice Immersion Week, the Year 10 boys have the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of issues of injustice and have the opportunity to explore ways of responding to those injustices.

There is a shift towards leadership in the Year 11 Jerusalem Retreat when the boys spend the day with experienced retreat facilitator Michael Fitzpatrick. Michael challenges the boys to “get below the surface” when they think about themselves and their school.

The Kairos Retreat for Year 12 students is a fitting pinnacle to the retreat program. Kairos is a voluntary retreat that allows a mind shift in students as they become responsible for choosing to go on retreat themselves. The boys talk about their journey, give positive feedback to each other, reflect on their key relationships and learn that there is always more to people than meets the eye.

As Nudgee College students learn and grow, the retreat program seeks to accompany each phase with spiritual frameworks that support their development.
When Father Boland came to organise his history of St Joseph’s Nudgee College in 1991, he faced the age-old question that always confronts those who seek to record and explain the past: how to give order and continuity to what is, by its nature, disordered, incoherent and ambiguous.

It is to the historian what Everest was to Hilary – a mountain to be challenged, climbed and ultimately conquered. To fail in this challenge is to be left as little more than a diarist, offering the reader nothing more satisfying than snapshots of the past – momentary images that do not communicate a greater truth.

Unsurprisingly, Boland organised his history of the College around the headmasters, valid enough in its way, but nevertheless representing the best of a number of equally unsatisfying options. Too many headmasters stayed too short a time; too many inherited projects that were not their own; and too many left before seeing their own through to fruition.

Five headmasters in the first five years displayed a lack of stability that might, in other circumstances, have had terminal consequences for the new College. Boland tried to balance this obvious weakness by observing that the Brothers were “a community.” They are individuals, even individualists, but their spirit comes from a common idea, formation and methodology. There are continuing influences in times of most frequent change, while the individual can constantly give new impetus and varied emphasis to the common policy.

Yet the lack of an architectural consistency, a reality that the current administration has grappled with for a decade, offers concrete proof that the common membership of a community can not consistently overcome instability in leadership.

Had Boland been compelled by space restrictions to summarise the first 50 years of the College under a single chapter heading, he could have done worse than to choose “Treacy’s dream.” Yet even that designation may have proven misleading, for Brother Treacy, the true founder of Nudgee College, was no dreamer. He was a practical man but was, nevertheless, one who knew the value of symbols.

It is a fitting reflection of his place in the pantheon of Nudgee College heroes that the ‘old building’ bears Treacy’s name. For it was this structure that welcomed the first students to the College in 1891 and it is this same structure – the flagship of the modern urban renewal – that will define it for the coming century.

The positioning of the College on its present site was the result of both good fortune and Treacy’s ability to take advantage of opportunities when they arose. In 1875, Bishop Quinn deeded to the Brothers 912 acres of land between Nundah Creek and Cabbage Tree Creek. Two hundred and fifty-seven of these acres, flat and without access to water, were available for Treacy when he needed space to build a boarding school. This was later augmented by 50 acres of high ground purchased from a Presbyterian clergyman. It was here that Treacy began to build.

For all his drive, Treacy was a member of a wider organisation, one whose support he needed to garner. He made it known to the Superior General in Dublin that the planned site was on a “grand elevation with a fine view of the ocean.” He was not a man to be seduced by his own rhetoric, however, because he added: “I commence it without either the money for the building or even a promise from you of a staff of Brothers to work it. I have confidence that God will provide the means”.

Means were needed, because the cost of the land and building was in excess of £13,000. Inspired by the triumvirate of faith, formation and opportunity, Treacy made it happen. He was confident enough to predict that this new College would “occupy a prominent place among the educational buildings of Queensland” and practical enough to understand the impact of his words.

It was this mix of pragmatism and philosophy, so typical of the Brothers as an organisation, that bore fruit in the opening of the building which would come to bear his name.

If Treacy were able to attend the rededication on 1 June, it is possible that even he might be surprised at the success Nudgee College has achieved since 1891 ... but don’t bet on it!
As a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice Tradition, St Joseph’s Nudgee College celebrates diversity and considers every individual to be important. The College community actively embraces those at the margins by seeking to understand and include others, regardless of their beliefs and status.

During his time at the College, each student will be involved in social justice initiatives. Whether it is cooking a BBQ and spending time with the homeless, helping younger students with homework or rolling swags, students become Signum Fidei – Signs of Faith – through their actions.

**BIG BREKKY**

It is 6am on a Tuesday morning. Most people are in varying stages of preparing themselves for the day; showering, packing bags, eating breakfast, getting the children ready for school. For volunteer students in Year 11 and several staff, however, the day is already well underway and they are headed for Fortitude Valley.

Each Tuesday of the year, regardless of the weather, the date, or what else is happening, Nudgee College students and staff join students and staff from St Rita’s to feed the homeless as part of the Big Brekky program.

“The Big Brekky program has been running for over 10 years,” Director of Campus Ministry Mr Matt Kearney said. “While it provides a meal for the homeless, the program is really about addressing isolation in the community and making sure the people who come are treated with dignity and respect.”

The clientele who take advantage of the Big Brekky program come from various accommodation options and situations. Some might be living rough on the streets while others might sleep in boarding houses and shelters. All are in need.

While the partnership to provide breakfast is carried out in conjunction with St Rita’s, Drug Arm is usually also in attendance.

“Drug Arm works with homeless people every day,” Mr Kearney said. “By attending Big Brekky, they can have some breakfast and access services such as Centrelink, medical services and even a hairdresser. These services can sometimes be hard to access when you’re homeless.”

Year 11 students participate in Big Brekky voluntarily. Students agree to be involved and then rotate through a roster during the year. College Vice-Captain Brendan Richardson participated in Big Brekky last year and recommends others take part.

“My older brother did Big Brekky when he was here. He always came back with positive stories about it and I wanted to have the same experiences,” Brendan said.
Students help cook, serve food and help. The connection just grew from to see if there was any way he could Matt Kearney came into my church Kerswell. "The program started after Community Care founder Ms Lorraine began with a simple visit, said Hope College's social justice activities What is now an integral part of the been going for about seven years. BBQ Centre at Aspley as part of the Big Year 10 students stay in the local area, traveling to Alpha Accommodation Year 11 students but feeding them on Tuesday night is for the Year 10s. Year 11 students but feeding them morning may be the responsibility of the time but sometimes homeless people come from across the creek as well. "At times, it might be the only food that people get for three or four days. Without that BBQ, many people would go hungry." The success of programs such as the Big BBQ reflects the strength of the relationships between the various parties involved. Nudgee College has a strong relationship with Ms Kerswell and Hope Community Care, an affiliation that was celebrated in 2007 when she was presented with the College's Edmund Rice Community Award at the annual awards ceremony. Ms Kerswell said she valued the award as well as the efforts of all the students who have contributed to the Big BBQ program over the years. "Nudgee College is part of us," she said. "Boys come week after week. They could be doing much better things but they still come out. That's why I admire them all so much."

HOMWORK HELP

Most parents know how frustrating homework time can be but Nudgee College is helping to ease the load on parents through the Homework Help program. "Homework Help began in 2010 in a very basic way," Mr Kearney said. "Students and staff go to Zillmere Library every Tuesday during term time to assist other students with their homework." "Zillmere was one of the first north Brisbane libraries involved in Homework Help. Nundah Library is now also on board and there is a possibility that several others will begin the program as well." Homework Help is in conjunction with St Rita's College and Brisbane City Council. Students ideally work one-on-one with attendees, who are assisted with homework, reading, playing chess or participating in other activities.

The largest supporters of the program at Zillmere are Karen refugees from Burma. However, any student, including those whose parents battle with them to do their homework or who have different needs such as ADHD can attend. "Karen refugees have often been pushed out of Burma to Thailand, where they might have spent 10 years in refugee camps," Mr Kearney said. "Many of the students who attend Homework Help were born in the camps and spent their lives there so they didn't start school at all. People coming from overseas where English is not the dominant language often struggle with homework because parents and children are learning English at the same time. "Helping these families is at the heart of what it means to be an EREA school. We are giving them assistance to do well at school and eventually get jobs in Australia." Mr Kearney said students had been generous in their support of the Homework Help program this year, largely because "the culture is such that the boys respond." "Homework Help is another opportunity for us to engage with the community," he said. "We learn where there is a genuine need and then get in contact with experts. It isn't just about doing something but responding to real need."

STREET SWAGS

Nudgee College has a special place in the Street Swags story. Founder and inventor Jean Madden was a teacher at the College whose first experience with a swag was while on a Cattle Club trip. Several years later, Jean used her experience as inspiration for designing a product for the homeless that was lightweight and portable. A Street Swag is a bag designed for those living on the streets. There is room for extra belongings while the discrete appearance and camouflage colours offer some safety for those who need to be invisible. The super lightweight, waterproofed canvas with a high-density foam mattress also offers users a degree of comfort, warmth and protection from the weather. Street Swags can be made into double beds by placing two side by side with one upside-down, so that both cover sheets fold inwards. This is particularly helpful for mothers with small children. The Street Swags, distributed across Australia, are manufactured at both Woodford Correctional Centre in Queensland and Grafton Correctional Centre in New South Wales. This gives prisoners work-readiness skills along with tertiary qualifications, whilst being involved in meaningful work.

The swags are then transported to Nudgee College where students and staff insert the foam mattress, roll the swags and package them ready for dispatch. Every student rolls swags at some stage during his time at Nudgee College.

Other schools make hygiene packs and blankets, and groups such as Knit4charity make beanies and scarves. Students pack these extra items into the bag section of the swags while rolling them. The number of swags rolled to date is impressive. "Nudgee College students and staff have rolled 22,105 swags with more orders coming in each day," said teacher Mr Brian O'Reilly. "After the Victorian bushfires in 2009, students and staff rolled an incredible 1,000 swags that were sent urgently to those who were left homeless as a result of the fires. "Boarders roll swags most weeks and houses roll them during PC time. Parents are now also starting to roll swags alongside their sons as part of planned activities at some house functions."

"The best part was going back and seeing the same people and developing friendships with them. I would definitely recommend Big Brekky to anyone who is keen to get out there and interact with other people and see how they live."

BIG BBQ

Feeding the homeless on Tuesday morning may be the responsibility of Year 11 students but feeding them on Tuesday night is for the Year 10s. Unlike their Year 11 counterparts who travel to Fortitude Valley, the Year 10 students stay in the local area, traveling to Alpha Accommodation Centre in New South Wales. This gives prisoners work-readiness skills along with tertiary qualifications, whilst being involved in meaningful work.

The best part was going back and seeing the same people and developing friendships with them. I would definitely recommend Big Brekky to anyone who is keen to get out there and interact with other people and see how they live."

Nth Degree APRIL 2012

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Nth Degree APRIL 2012

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Australia’s National Beef Exposition, also known as Beef Week, is one of the world’s great beef cattle events. The expo attracts more than 75,000 local, interstate and international visitors who converge on the city of Rockhampton – regarded as the beef capital of Australia – for a week-long celebration every three years.

Australia’s cattlemen and women bring their top stock to compete in a staggering display of more than 4,000 cattle from over 30 breeds. A huge trade fair is the centrepiece of the expo which, in addition to seminars, property tours and displays, showcases the innovative and sustainable practices that keep Australia at the forefront of world beef production.

HISTORY
The National Beef Exposition has a history dating back to Australia’s bicentennial celebrations in 1988. So successful was the inaugural event, that it was decided that another celebration should be held in 1991. Beef Week has since been held every three years and has grown to become the cattle industry’s national exhibition, attracting more than 75,000 visitors from across Australia and around the world.

BEEF WEEK 2012
Beef Week 2012 will feature top cattle, carcass and commercial competitions, hundreds of trade displays, dozens of seminars and tours and a variety of social events.

Beef cattle genetics will take centre stage at the expo this year via an International Beef Cattle Genetics Conference and an on-site marketplace – a custom-built precinct featuring the latest genetics research and developments, a business lounge, technical displays and seminars hosted by Australian and international experts.

Showcasing to the world the best beef cattle Australia has to offer is at the heart of Beef Week. As such, the cattle competitions are the core of the program, with events including live stud cattle judging, commercial cattle classes, junior judging and parades, led steers and carcass competitions.

Although the focus will be firmly on the cattle, visitors will be kept entertained by celebrity chefs cooking up a storm in the demonstration kitchen, and with concerts, fashion shows and a gala ball.

ASSOCIATED EVENTS
Brangus Congress
The Sixth World Brangus Congress will provide Australian producers with the perfect opportunity to showcase their cattle. They will get to meet with and learn from industry leaders, and to enjoy the spectacle of the largest Brangus display ever presented in Australia.

Rockhampton Art Gallery
The Rockhampton Art Gallery will have two exciting exhibitions (especially for the ladies) on show during Beef Week 2012: Mrs Prime Minister and A Sense of Occasion: 50 Years of Party Dresses.

GALA LUNCHEON
The Heritage Grill at Beef Central 12 noon, Wednesday 9 May

The Bull Dust Gala Luncheon will bring together a range of high-profile speakers under the leadership of internationally acclaimed poet and MC Rupert McCall, who is sure to engage and entertain the many guests expected for this celebration of country life.

Few can capture the essence of our country and its heroes like Rupert McCall, whose popularity encompasses people from all demographics. Rupert is a passionate Australian and his ability to share this enthusiasm will captivate and inspire guests for years to come.

This Bull Dust Gala Luncheon also acts as the launch pad for the Nudgee College Herd, a bursary fund established to assist boys from the bush who may not otherwise benefit from a Nudgee College education. The event is open to all comers, in particular Nudgee College Old Boys, past parents, current families and friends of the wider Nudgee College community.

For more information and to book tickets, visit www.nudgee.com/beefweek.
Prayer life in the Junior School is centred on the sacred spaces situated in each classroom and in the foyer near the office. These classroom spaces allow the boys to focus each day on the importance of prayer and, most significantly, on the concept of reflection.

It is essential that as individuals we take the time to stop, hop off the merry-go-round, and ensure the direction we are taking is the best one. Nudgee College students, for example, set goals constantly in the sporting arena: “I want to shave two seconds off my 50m freestyle time”; “I need to bowl six balls up to the batsman.” We need to stop and set the same goals in our personal life.

In the Junior School we aim to give students every opportunity to put their prayer into action through the many schemes offered during the year. One such program is the ECHOES appeal, which is run throughout Years 5–7 and is based on Luke’s Gospel message, “give and it shall be given to you.” Led by Year 7 students, the boys collect Easter and Christmas decorations, which are then wrapped into about 360 parcels. The Year 7 boys then deliver the parcels to four local nursing homes. The students spend an hour or so with the residents, presenting their gifts, playing bingo and joining in sing-alongs. This contact has benefits for all concerned. The nursing home residents are given an opportunity to tell their stories and feel appreciated by the youth of today; our young men learn the important skill of listening and responding appropriately. It is a mutually beneficial experience for both parties.

Scrabble and Chat is an offshoot of this initiative. It is a voluntary program offered to Year 7 students whereby, once a week, four boys visit the Emmaus Mercy Aged Care residential home in Nudgee to spend some time with a group of residents, chatting and playing board games. Again this experience allows our younger students to reach out to people, who sometimes have no one else to hear their story. There are now many boys taking part in this program that promotes the Edmund Rice messages of inclusivity, justice and solidarity.

These programs would not be possible without the selfless dedication of Mrs Sian Kennedy, who reflects what it is to be a teacher in the Edmund Rice Tradition. Mrs Kennedy, a Year 7 teacher, gives up her own time to ensure this important part of the spiritual development of students in the Junior School is realised.

Last year, the Junior School students collected tokens for the Coles Sports for Schools campaign. They collected an incredible 45,000 tokens, which were redeemed for sporting goods. The equipment arrived at the start of this school year and, although Nudgee College kept some of the sporting goods, most were distributed to two local schools and other charitable organisations.

Finally, Nudgee College’s drive to make a difference is demonstrated in students’ commitment to the annual Project Compassion Appeal. Funds raised are distributed through Caritas, a Catholic agency that assists communities around the world. The contribution of each student, no matter how small, will help make a significant difference to a community in real need.

At the end of the first term, students will participate in the College’s inaugural Easter Fair. Although this event promises to be a day of fun, it carries the underlying message that we can all make a difference.

Nudgee College aims to graduate young men as Signum Fidei – Signs of Faith – and this starts from the very beginning of their journey in Year 5.
faith
&
fatherland

As night descends over the campus on 1 June, 2012, and the bustle and noise of a school day transforms into the less formal ritual of the boarders’ evening meal, the St Joseph’s Nudgee College community will gather to celebrate both its past and its future.

The re-dedication of the Treacy Building, named to honour one of the great Christian Brothers, will mark the high point of a decade-long campus renewal that has drawn heavily on the financial and human treasures of the College.

Yet it has been more than a mere building program, for it represents the apogee of the College’s traditional capacity to balance seemingly incompatible pressures – the pragmatic needs of a complex community and the philosophical underpinnings of our Irish Catholic heritage and the example of Edmund Rice.

The re-dedication of Andrea Stambucco’s masterpiece will also afford the assembled guests the opportunity to enjoy one of Brisbane’s great vistas. Sweeping views southward toward the sea will draw the attention of guests as they marvel at how much the College has changed, yet secretly drawing comfort from how much remains familiar.

Yet, the ghosts of the past can still walk the halls of their alma mater. Echoes of a past half forgotten, barely concealed in the masonry, can still intrude on the lives of the living. If the guests listen, they might hear the whispers of those who have trod the same path since 1891. They might hear the Brothers at prayer, the muffled footsteps of the students on some clandestine midnight jaunt or the bigger events, the Masses, the assemblies, or the cries and yells from the ovals.

The Nudgee College Annual published that year was its normally effusive self when its author observed “Silver-domed Nudgee College, the Alma Mater of so many brilliant young Queenslanders, has never formed the impressive background of a more dignified function”. Even three decades later, the author of the Jubilee Annual was moved to add further accolades by an appeal to history, for here was a feast day “celebrated with age-old pagantry and sacred rite”.

Likewise, the Nudgee College historian, Father Boland, saw the echoes of the past, describing it in tones reminiscent of a medieval fair – which in some ways it resembled. The bannetrees of the sodalities and societies lent a festive air: the Catholic Club, the Christian Brothers’ Old Boys’ Association Football Club, the Archconfraternity of the Holy Family, the Wooloowin Holy Cross Guild, the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Sacred Heart Association, all joined by the All Hallows’ and St Anne’s girls, the Sacred Heart Association, all joined by the All Hallows’ and St Anne’s girls, the Christian Brothers’ boys and the Nudgee College cadets. In this sea of colour was the green and gold of the Hibernian marshals displaying their emblems of Faith and Fatherland. The procession of 6,000 took 41 minutes to pass, quite an achievement given the logistical challenges faced by the College, like the world itself, has moved on.

Likewise, the Nudgee College Annual published that year was its normally effusive self when its author observed “Silver-domed Nudgee College, the Alma Mater of so many brilliant young Queenslanders, has never formed the impressive background of a more dignified function”. Even three decades later, the author of the Jubilee Annual was moved to add further accolades by an appeal to history, for here was a feast day “celebrated with age-old pagantry and sacred rite”.

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The College, like the world itself, has moved on from that winter’s day in 1913. Empires have come and gone, monarchies have fallen or evolved, life has altered, as inevitably it must. Yet one would hope that if Br Treacy might somehow attend the re-dedication of the building named in his honour, he would see amid the change, comforting signs that the work he began still continues. ■
For St Joseph’s Nudgee College students and staff who visit the Philippines each year, the trip is more than an immersion; it is a life-changing experience and one they will never forget.

The Philippines immersion is one of the social justice activities Year 10 students participate in during immersion week. The first Philippines immersion took place in 2007 when initial coordinator Matt Hawkins, teacher Toni Riordan and current EREA Identity Directorate Justice and Peace Office Brian Gannone travelled to the island nation with 12 Year 10 students.

“In late 2005 and early 2006, Nudgee College was keen to explore a global immersion possibility and, at the same time, the Christian Brothers had decided to begin a ministry in the Kabankalan Diocese on the island of Negros in the Philippines,” Mr Hawkins said.

“From the first moment, we were intent on ensuring that our students realised that they were not travelling to the Philippines to ‘help’ anyone. We were not the rich people looking to save the world. This was not a charity tour to the Philippines, where we handed out large novelty cheques to anyone. We simply wanted to build relationships and recognise our common humanity.”

The immersion is called Pag-Inupdanay with Spirit. Pag-Inupdanay is a local Ilonggo word meaning togetherness or solidarity, which describes perfectly what the program is about.

“The program exceeded all of our expectations over the first few years,” Mr Hawkins said.

“This was due in a large part to the work of the Christian Brothers. Their wisdom and the credibility they had gained with the locals through their gentle manner and hard work meant that we, friends of the Brothers, were immediately seen in a favourable light.

“Also, while there were some cultural barriers between our respective students – and indeed our staff members – there was also an inherent respect for one another from day one.”

Brother John Moodie, one of the four Australian Christian Brothers to initially volunteer at Kabankalan Diocese, has seen the impact the relationships have had on both the Nudgee College and Filipino students and is grateful for the approach the College took when the program began.

“The Nudgee College boys did not come to shower gifts on the Filipinos,” he said. “They came so that Nudgee College students and Filipino students could share their lives and be true companions to each other.”

During their time in the Philippines, students are involved in a number of activities including visiting schools in...
outlying areas. They also participate in local community activities and have planted trees and mangroves.

Students now also visit their buddies’ homes, which Br Moodie explained gives the Nudgee College students a better understanding of their life.

“The home conditions are so different yet the people and the families are always smiling and most welcoming,” Br Moodie said. “As one Nudgee College student said, ‘They are all seemingly alike, dressed in their school uniforms, but at their homes things are so different.’

“These visits give the Nudgee College students a better appreciation of what they have at home.”

Preparation for students who visit the Philippines begins long before departure and participate in a rigorous preparation program.

“Cross-cultural sensitivity, team dynamics, health and safety, language lessons and spiritual formation are all carefully planned and executed,” said former Dean of Identity Mr Chris Ryan.

“We have taken 50 Nudgee College students to a remote minority world area without incident across a five-year period, which is testament to our planning, reflection and support of one another.”

Relationships are obviously a key element to the Philippines immersion experience with Mr Ryan describing sincere ones as “very important.”

“The primary dynamic of the relationship must be one of mutuality. That principle has been guarded and developed magnificently over the years,” Mr Ryan said. “Witnessing the growth in the capacity of our Filipino partners to share leadership and ownership has been a great pleasure.

“The other aspect is the quality of the friendships between the Nudgee College participants – both students and staff. They are lasting friendships borne of the shift in heart shared through the program.”

Mr Hawkins agreed, saying the program “is relationships.” He also paid tribute to the Brothers whom he described as being “key” to the program’s success.

“The Brothers have contributed to the structure and style of the program,” he said. “It is truly mutually owned and therefore mutually beneficial. Nudgee College is not in charge; the Filipinos are not in charge; the Filipinos are not in charge; the Filipinos are not in charge; the Filipinos are not in charge; the Filipinos are not in charge.

“We work towards a common goal, and we work together to lighten the load. The Filipinos have a word for this, which is now the name of the mutual walk that happens in both places annually – Bayanihan.”

Bayanihan, or Walk to the Philippines, began in late 2007 when students who had been on the Philippines immersion wanted to respond in a meaningful way and tell the story of the plight of their Filipino friends. They also wanted to raise awareness and funds to improve the resources in the schools they had visited.

The concept was simple: boys would walk from Shorncliffe Pier back to Nudgee College. If all Years 5–9 students participated, the distance they covered would be equivalent to the distance between Australia and the Philippines. Students would carry Filipino flags and banners of support and would seek sponsorship.

“When we ran this idea past our Filipino colleagues they decided to have a ‘Walk to Australia’ on the very same day,” Mr Hawkins said. “In 2007, we began small and raised about $5,000, which was sent to the Christian Brothers in Negros.

“In 2008, we expanded the concept and raised in the vicinity of $25,000. The walk has now raised over $100,000 in total. Still today, on the same day and at the exact same time as the Nudgee College students walk, in an act of solidarity, over 1,500 Filipino students and staff do the ‘Bayanihan Walk’.

The Philippines immersion has been a great success. It has helped mould the character of several key student leaders at Nudgee College and has contributed to greater confidence and organisational skills for those in the Philippines.

Ensuring the program continues to build on the partnerships that are already in place is something that Year 10 Immersion Coordinator Ms Michelle Kinnane is very aware of.

“The plans for 2012 and beyond,” she said, “are to continue to build on the great relationships we have made with the Brothers in Kabankalan and work more with Fr Dom Nolan, a Columban priest who is our guide in Malate and who generously opens up his sustainable garden project to us.

“Each year we continue to see how much ownership the staff members of the local schools take of the program. Next year, the local boys will join the Nudgee College students in sharing their stories with the students of St Columbans Academy.”

Nudgee College will make its ninth visit to the Philippines in 2015, the College’s 125th year. The faces may have changed by then but the spirit of togetherness and partnership already fostered will still be going strong. There is no doubt that the program will continue to grow and will further develop students, in both Australia and the Philippines, to be Signum Fidei. ■
For Year 11 student Sam Tully this was the experience of a lifetime. Sam spent six months, from August 2011 to January 2012, on a student exchange in Sterling, a small mid-western town in the US. His host family, the Ericksons, are your traditional family. Dad is a farmer and mum is a nurse at the local hospital. They have two sons and a daughter and live about six kilometres out of town.

Sam described his new environment as being a world apart from farm life in Charleville.

“The house is surrounded by crops and they have a pig farm and some cows,” he said. “It was strange because I’m used to sheep but not cattle or pigs. I don’t even know if they have pig farms like that in Australia.”

Sam organised his exchange through the EF Foundation, an organisation providing semester and year-long high-school placements in 11 countries. He had been thinking about it since seeing a poster advertising the exchange program when he was in Year 8.

“I wanted to go to France then,” he said, “but I found out you needed to have six months of language lessons and I’d only done about three. Then last year I thought about it again and ended up seeing Mr Sayer (Student Counsellor) who said I should apply.”

Sam had meetings and interviews with staff at EF Foundation before being accepted. He credits being a boarder as one of the reasons he was selected. “I think the fact I board really helped me,” he said. “The foundation staff are worried about students who get there and then want to come home because they’re homesick. They asked me how I would go being away from home for six months and I said I thought it would be fine as I don’t really spend that much time at home now anyway.”

Before moving in with his host family, Sam spent two weeks at a camp near Boston, which he said he really enjoyed. “The camp was probably the best bit because we met other students from around the world,” he said. “There were people from Germany, Sweden and even Russia. Students who didn’t have English as their first language spent longer in camp. Then we joined them for the last two weeks and went rollerblading and sightseeing, which was fun.”

Sam was one of 21 Australians on exchange with the EF Foundation last year. One of three exchange students in Sterling, he was the first Australian student to have lived in the region. This resulted in endless questions about Steve Irwin, kangaroos, kookaburras, boomerangs and Aborigines but also resulted in endless questions about sheep but not cattle or pigs. I don’t even know if they have pig farms like that in Australia.”

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“The people in Sterling are very religious,” he said. “We went to church every Sunday. Everyone does. It’s just what they do. I was in a Lutheran town. The only other Catholic in the whole town was a Science teacher. People kept asking me what it was like being a Catholic in Australia. I told them it was just normal.”

Sam attended the local school where, as he does at Nudgee College, he involved himself in as many activities as possible. Although he was only in Year 10 when he arrived, Sam was enrolled in Year 11 subjects, which is paying dividends now that he is in Year 11.

“The Americans don’t select subjects like we do,” Sam said. “Students are given a timetable at the start of the year showing what subjects are on in each lesson and they select which ones they want to attend from that.

“Although he was only in Year 10 when he arrived, Sam was enrolled in Year 11 subjects, which is paying dividends now that he is in Year 11.”

“All the extra-curricular activities form part of their lessons. This was the same for everything except sport, so I did band and gym as part of my subjects.”

“The other thing that was different was their curriculum. For example, in Maths they study Algebra in Year 9 — which is the first year of high school for them — Geometry in Year 10, Algebra 2 in Year 11 and Trigonometry in Year 12. Now I’m doing Algebra 2, which is good because it is stuff that I’ve already done.”

Sam played basketball and ‘football’ (gridiron) while he was in Sterling and definitely noticed the difference in training expectations.

“They are really serious about their sport,” he said. “If you decide to do something, you really have to commit to it. Here we train two times a week but over there we were training every day. For football, we’d train every weekday and have the weekends off.”

“I played a running back in football, which I found I was quite good at, probably because I play rugby. When you play rugby you have 15 guys trying to tackle you but in football, because of the blockers, you only have one or two, and if you can outstep them it’s fine.”

“In one game I sprained my hand in the first three places and kept playing so they all think we’re tough as nails now.”
Academic success
The 2011 OP1 students returned to the College in February to be congratulated at the first Scholars Assembly of the year.
Alex Tracey, Anthony Vollert, Keiran Storch and Darcy Bermingham received congratulations from students and staff but also gave some inspiration to current students.
Of the 211 OP eligible students in 2011, 22.3% (47) achieved an OP 1–5, 50.7% (107) achieved an OP 1–10 and 81% (171) achieved an OP 1–15.

Clowning around
In February, Years 5 and 6 students put down their books and pens and picked up juggling balls, spinning plates and diabolos, as part of the Up And Active health promotion program conducted by touring group Circus Challenge.
Students were involved in circus workshop classes and assisted the visiting performers in the presentation of their juggling show. The aim of this active school activity was not simply to clown around but to provide students with a unique and creative way to engage in physical activities.
Students also had the opportunity to learn a wide range of circus skills that required teamwork, goal-setting and persistence.

Queensland Reds
Queensland Reds took time out of their busy pre-season training schedule to visit St Joseph’s Nudgee College in January.
Wallabies and Queensland Reds players Will Genia and Quade Cooper, Queensland Reds players Eddie Quirk and Chris F’Sautia and staff spent lunchtime giving out posters and stickers, signing autographs and posing for photographs for fans in Years 5–7.

Backbone Youth Arts
Year 9 Drama students embraced their inner clown during Term 1 when a performer from Backbone Youth Arts visited the College.
The students will put the lessons learnt during the introduction to comedy workshop into practice when they perform a comedy routine as part of their assessment.

Ash Wednesday
Students and staff marked the start of the Lenten season in February in House groups.
Led by the House Deans, students spent time in prayer and reflection. Each was marked with ashes on their foreheads, hearing the words, “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel” to which they responded, “Amen.” This ritual of ashes is a sign that we acknowledge that being true disciples of Jesus takes hard work and is not an easy task. The ashes on our foreheads reminds us that we will sometimes fail, but we continue to strive to make the good news of Jesus part of our daily lives.

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The 2011 Seniors return coincided with the presentation of academic medals to high-achieving Years 5–11 students in Semester 2 of 2011. A total of 297 gold, silver and bronze medals were presented.

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Students also had the opportunity to learn a wide range of circus skills that required teamwork, goal-setting and persistence.
Nudgee College Chess players joined students on holidays from schools throughout Brisbane at the College’s inaugural chess camp.

Head coach Mr Matt Gilpin was impressed by the solid turnout.

“The camp was open to students from all over Brisbane and we had a great turnout with 54 students taking part over two days. Students from Prep to Year 9 received coaching and took part in tournaments and activities, such as playing on the College’s giant chess board,” he said.

“Coaches Tyron Walker, Patrick Byrom and I provided a variety of lessons designed to help students of varying skills, from students learning how to play chess to students competing in the Premier Level of GPS Chess. “Advanced students were lucky to receive coaching from International Master Moulthun Ly, who is the second-highest ranked chess player in Queensland and the 11th highest in Australia.

“Nudgee College students did particularly well in the tournaments with Clint Thirakam (Year 9) winning the tournament on both days, Tyler Bailey (Year 5) winning the under 1000 rating prize on the first day and Jacob Wakerley (Year 7) winning the same prize on the second day.”

Nudgee College rowers had a very successful regatta at Grafton in December. Crews did exceptionally well, obtaining many podium finishes. The success of the regatta continued into the annual training and selection camp in January where all crews made incredible progress and improved significantly.

Nudgee College went into GPS Head of the River in March as current holders of both the Old Boys Cup (overall champions) and the O’Connor Cup (Open 1st VIII winners). On a fantastic day for racing, all Nudgee College crews performed to their potential. Head of the River Champion crews on the day were the Year 10 2nd, 4th and 5th Quads, the Year 11 1st VIII and the Open 3rd VIII. Heading into the 1st VII race, Nudgee College was two points behind TSS. A great effort by the 1st VII, who finished 2nd to Churchie, secured the Old Boys Cup (in a tie with TSS) for the second year in a row.

Director of Coaching Mr Gary Merritt said at the presentation dinner, “while we tied the Old Boys Cup with TSS this year, there is only one school next year that can win it three times in a row.”

For the 1st VIII, the season did not finish at Head of the River. They will participate in the Maadi International Rowing Championships in New Zealand from March 24 - April 2. This international competition, supported and funded by the boys’ parents, will afford four of the crew the chance to continue their journey to selection in the Australian Junior Team to contest the World Championships later this year. The team will be accompanied by Mr John Bowes and Mr Christian Oneto, as well as a group of parents.

In February, Year 11 boarder Tyronne Hussey spent a week in camp with the Queensland Muri U16 Rugby League team. The team played the curtain raiser to the Indigenous All Stars v NRL All Stars game at Skilled Park on the Gold Coast. Queensland played the NSW Kooris and had a 16-12 draw.

2011 Senior Sean McMahon followed in the footsteps of other 1st XV players such as James O’Connor, Dominic Shippeley and Kimami Situati when he debuted for the Australian Sevens side at the inaugural Gold Coast Sevens tournament in December. Sean was a key member of Nudgee College’s 2011 Premiership winning 1st XV and, as a second-year player, was the dominant No. 8 of the competition. His efforts were rewarded with selection in the Queensland 1 Schoolboys side where he won a national championship. He was then selected for the Australian Schoolboys and played a leading role in both Tests against England and New Zealand.

Along with his selection in the Australian Sevens team, Sean enjoyed a fantastic 2011 by winning the Ian McMillan Trophy (Best Queensland School Player of the Year), Dr Sugerman Award (Best Team Man at the Australian championships), the Merv and Iris Allen Award (for Overall Contribution to the Australian squad), and Nudgee College’s 1st XV Best Forward award.

During the Christmas holidays, four Nudgee College athletes competed at the Australian Schoolboys Track and Field Championships held at the University of Queensland. Coach Ms Maureen Toohey said Nudgee College’s 2011 team co-Captain Anthony Collins did particularly well.

“Anthony won a gold medal in the U18 years 110m Hurdles. Later the same day, he placed sixth in the final of the U18 100m and was a member of Queensland’s winning U18 4x100m relay team.

“Shemaiah James also had a huge meet, taking a bronze medal in U16 Triple Jump before returning the next day to win the U16 High jump in a PB-equalling jump.

“Nudgee College’s two other athletes at this meet, Garrick Harding-Smith (U18 Javelin) and James Lingard (U16 800m) also performed in fine style.”

Following the Australian Championships, several athletes competed in the national final of Athletics Australia’s 2011 Schools Knockout, which was also held at the University of Queensland. The senior team finished third, the intermediate team finished second while the junior team won their division.

Preparation for the GPS Volleyball season started in Term 4 last year, when the College held trials and prepared for the annual trip to Melbourne for the Australian Schools Cup. Nudgee College took three teams away: two Year 11 teams and a Year 10 team. The teams finished 10th, 15th and 17th, respectively, with all teams gaining valuable experience from the trip.

Year 12 student Callum Smith recently participated in the Under 18 Men’s Water Polo State Club championships where he was awarded Most Valuable Player of the Tournament. He then trialled successfully for the Under 17 Metropolitan North Schoolboys team, and represented Nudgee College in Toowoomba in February.

Callum achieved further success when he travelled to Sydney as a member of the Under 17 Australian Schoolboys team where they defeated New Zealand 3-nil. He was also selected in the Under 20 Queensland team to play in Adelaide in the national championships. He had an outstanding tournament and was the second-highest goal scorer for Queensland.
CRICKET

Christian Brothers Cricket Week
Nudgee College again hosted the annual Christian Brothers Cricket Week carnival in January. This year 21 schools and 30 teams from Australia and New Zealand competed at the carnival. Unfortunately, the weather caused the final two days to be washed out but some good cricket was played in the lead-up rounds.

Nudgee College entered three teams in the carnival, which resulted in some outstanding individual performances along with the all-important team success.
The Shield side won three matches before losing a close contest to eventual joint winners St Peters Auckland. The Cup side won four games, while the Plate side won three and were declared joint winners after the final day’s play and finals day was washed out. As always, the boys played with spirit and determination in every race, a feat that is difficult without great depth in each age group,” he said.

Eddy Rice Camps Fundraiser
In what has now become an annual event, Nudgee College cricketers held a charity fundraiser where players were sponsored for their performances. Both CIC and GPS cricketers participated in the initiative. Players could be sponsored for the number of runs scored, wickets taken, catches or wins during the Round 6 matches against IGS (GPS) and Terrace (CIC).

Almost $1,000 was raised in total. This money will be sent to Eddy Rice Camps for Street Swags was received from CIC and GPS for the U19 World Cup in August/September.

Nudgee College Cricket Luncheon
The annual Nudgee College Cricket Luncheon was held recently at the Queensland Cricketers Club at the Gabba. Former Bulls wicket-keeping star Wade Secombe and good mate Queensland and Australian fast-bowling legend Michael Kasprowicz were special guests.

Impressionist and Old Boy Danny McMaster (NC 1967–69) provided the entertainment. Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon was noted sports journalist Robert “Crash” Craddock.

Auction items and raffle prizes were available on the day with all proceeds going towards Nudgee College cricketers.

Old Boys
Congratulations and best wishes are extended to several Nudgee College Old Boys who are achieving in various levels of the game.

Chris Lynn (NC 2003-07) and Joe Burns (NC 2002-06) both played in the Sheffield Shield Final at the Gabba. Both are still young and have a future ahead of them. Corey Barbsy (NC 2007-09) is also in the Bulls squad on a Rookie contract.

Josh McClelland (NC 2006-10) has been selected in an extended Australian U19 side in preparation for the U19 World Cup in August/September.

SWIMMING

Nudgee College’s swimmers achieved a memorable fourth consecutive and 19th overall GPS Championship recently.

According to Head of Swimming Mr Jeff Campbell, the key to winning GPS Swimming is not to try to win key events. “As a team, you need to achieve consistent top-four results in every race, a feat that is difficult without great depth in each age group,” he said.

“For many years this has been Nudgee College’s key to victory, with multiple reserves in each age group who have ‘pushed’ every swimmer to the limit in order to make the team as strong as possible.”

“This year, although down on the number of race victories from previous years, we managed to secure 21 top-four finishes out of a possible 42 events, a great result!”

Individual victories at the championships went to Jeremy Mathews in the Open 200m Individual Medley and 100m Breaststroke, Douglas Oliver in the Under 16 50m Backstroke and Breaststroke events, and Jack McLoughlin in the Open 200m Freestyle.

The final results saw Nudgee College finish sixth, and third in overall percentage. The winning Nudgee College Plate team was played with spirit and determination and 30 teams from Australia and New Zealand competed at the carnival. Unfortunately, the weather caused the final two days to be washed out but some good cricket was played in the lead-up rounds.

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Senior Investiture

Members of the St Joseph’s Nudgee College community gathered in the Christian Brothers Conference Hall in February for the opening Mass and commissioning and investiture of Senior students.

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ather John Gillen conducted the Mass, which began with an acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of the land by Year 12 student Tyrone Turaga.

With this year’s Senior motto, ‘Build through Beginnings’, in mind Fr Gillen spoke of the College’s history and the legacy that has been left for today’s students.

“This morning we have heard much talk about the beginning and beginnings,” Fr Gillen said. “It couldn’t be otherwise as we are creatures of time and not space.

“It is important that we be very much aware of what has gone before because what has gone before has decided who we are now. Here at Nudgee College, surely we stand astounded to think those first Christian Brothers took that great leap of faith and started off this College against a backdrop, a background, of economic calamity.

“There were no feasibility studies as we understand them. It was God's will that there be in this place an institution for the education of those needy students, and so it was that this place came to be.

College Captain for 2012 Jack Tuttle also spoke of the legacy left by those who have gone before when introducing the year’s Senior motto and symbol.

“2012 will be a defining year in Nudgee College’s history with the 100th anniversary of the death of Brother Treacy, the 250th anniversary of the birth of Edmund Rice, a new charter and a new sporting calendar,” he said.

“In many ways this is a year of new beginnings. It is our responsibility as leaders of this school to steer Nudgee College in a direction we can look back on in 10 years and be proud to say ‘I was a part of that’.

“The Senior motto for 2012, ‘Build through Beginnings’, encourages us to build a legacy that respects those who have gone before us. Edmund Rice, who gave to the poor in handshuls, and his Christian Brothers, who delivered an education that liberates. The tradesmen, the doctors, the farmers, the lawyers, the priests, the brothers, the soldiers, the husbands, and the fathers who, by wearing the blue and white, are Signum Fides.”

Jack went on to discuss the meaning behind the chosen Senior symbol for the year.

“The symbol for 2012 is the ship’s wheel,” he said. “The wheel is a symbol of leadership, trust and direction, all of which are qualities this year’s Seniors hope to offer the entire Nudgee College community.

“The shape of the circle also holds importance as it shows that as Nudgee College evolves, or turns, the true essence of this school will never change.”

College Principal Mr Daryl Hardy congratulated the Seniors on their choice of symbol and the “wisdom” of their motto.

“Wisdom is something that comes rarely to young people,” Mr Hardy said. “Sometimes young people decide they want to leave a legacy. That legacy is something you can see. That particular direction is fraught with danger because if the legacy is not achieved there is a feeling of disappointment.

“How wise it was for these leaders and these Year 12s to choose a legacy that will not reach fruition until the future. As Jack indicated, they will come back in five to 10 years and they will see their legacy.

“These boys are modelling that they are leading back through tradition, through Christ, through Edmund, through Treacy, through the Christian Brothers, through the priests, through the Old Boys, and through the mothers and grandmothers who supported those Old Boys while they were here.”

Trade Training Centre Opening

The Br Vince Connors Regional Trade Training Centre was officially opened by Deputy Prime Minister, Treasurer and Federal Member for Lilley the Hon Wayne Swan MP on 2 March.

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he ceremony, which was also attended by other invited guests, students and College staff, included performances by NC Voices, blessing of the buildings by Fr John Gillen SM, an address by Mr Swan and a smoking ceremony conducted by local Indigenous elder Uncle Joe Kirk.

“Today’s ceremony is a timely reminder of education and training as a power for good, not just in our individual lives but in the nation,” Mr Swan said. “The Br Vince Connors Regional Trade Training Centre is state of the art. It is the biggest and best trade training centre I have seen anywhere in Australia.

“These facilities do more than provide opportunities for the students. They are for the people who will build our nation in the years ahead.”

Principal Mr Daryl Hanly thanked all who were involved in the project and fabrication open work space, two engineering workshops – including 24 welding bays and 12 grinding bays – as well as a general learning area. Each workshop is fully equipped with the latest technological equipment and machinery, setting a new standard for construction facilities within the education sector.

Br Connors said he was “delighted, honoured and grateful for the unnecessary honour” of having the centre named after him.

“This facility started in such small ways,” he said. “It was originally a hobby subject because we had no qualified teacher and it was run out of school hours.

“After a while it became a school subject and we turned what was the laundry into the manual arts centre. Now look at it,” he said.

The opening ceremony

Above: The Honourable Wayne Swan, Br Connors and Mr Daryl Hanly at the ceremony

Above: Uncle Joe Kirk performs the smoking ceremony

Above: 2012 College Captain Jack Tuttle with Vice Captains Paddy James, Daniel Mastromanni, Brandon Richardson, Eddie Tutlas, Zac Whetuana and Mr Daryl Hanly

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Ten Thousand Brothers ... gathering together

One of the great things about being a Nudgee College Old Boy is the knowledge that the friendships you make at the College are lifelong.

The Old Boys Association works hard to facilitate gatherings of Old Boys to help maintain the link between our Ten Thousand Brothers and the College. An excellent way to keep in touch with each other and with developments at the College is by participating in the annual Old Boys reunion weekend from Friday, 10 August to Sunday, 12 August 2012.

The schedule of events is centered on Festival Week at Nudgee College and includes the marquee rugby fixture against Brisbane State High School. This association and the College assist significant year groups in coordinating their individual reunion events for Saturday, 11 August, while all Old Boys, family and friends are invited to participate in a range of activities over the reunion weekend.

For full details, schedule of events, significant year group coordinator information, class listings and to register your interest for these events, visit www.ncoba.com.au

A brief overview of events includes:

- Friday 10 August: Old Boys Corporate Golf Day and ‘Legends and Young Guns’ reunion dinner (guests welcome)
- Saturday 11 August: Morning Tea, Ryan Hall; College tours, BBQ lunch and drinks, Nudgee College Golf Club; 1st XV rugby, Ross Oval, individual year group reunions (package options available)
- Sunday 12 August: Family Day Mass; Nudgee College Family Picnic Day; DimensionsNC Art Exhibition
- Regional visits this year include:
  - Rockhampton, Wednesday 9 May: Bull Dust Gala Luncheon with Rupert McCall for Beef Week 2012
  - Sydney, Saturday 23 June: Royal Hotel, Paddington, before Wallabies v Wales Test Match at Sydney Football Stadium
  - Toowoomba, Saturday 1 September: Spotted Cow Hotel following 1st XV v TGS rugby match
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We are looking forward to increased involvement of Old Boys at all levels so remember to update your contact details at www.ncoba.com.au so we can keep you informed of upcoming events.

The legacy of John (Jack) Elliot Ross is recorded throughout the College. It is etched in the memory of those who have passed through the gates and those he served through his beloved Old Boys Association, GPS Association and Brothers Rugby Union Club.

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