The Arts
— Integral to a dynamic College culture

Holistic education, if experienced to the full, provides for the student a range of learnings that are experienced through sharpening the acuity of our senses and stimulating our imagination to enhance creativity. Alfred Lord Tennyson highlighted the beauty of the simple shell when he invited us to:

See what a lovely shell,
Small and pure as a pearl,
Lying close to my foot,
Faint, but a work divine,
Made so fairly well
With delicate spine and shell,
How exquisitely minute,
A miracle of design!

How often do we notice but do not see; listen but do not hear.

The power and significance of imagination is similarly captured by Percy Bysshe Shelley through his poetry:

Ever let the Fancy roam,
Pleasure never is at home;
At a touch sweet Pleasure melts;
Like to bubbles when rain pelteth;
Then let winged Fancy wander
Through the thought still spread beyond her;
Open wide the mind’s cage door,
She’ll dart forth, and cloudward soar.

Some time ago, I came across this allegory, which captures the essence of the demise of the Arts in education.

A Fairytale
Once upon a time, at over the world, no children went to school because schools hadn’t been invented. But children and young people still learned all they needed to become useful grown-ups in their community. They did this by listening to their elders, who told them wise stories and sang songs with them; together with the adults they danced and made music and performed the deep ceremonies and necessary lore and laws of the people; with the adults and each other they drew patterns and painted pictures and fashioned sculptures to create and communicate images and meanings; they invented stories that, although make-believe, were models of both the real world and other possible worlds — and they brought the models to life by acting them out. They learned by making artful and art-full play, and from all these experiences, where the body and senses, the brain and the emotions were all working together in constructive harmony, they made order and meaning for themselves in their personal, relational and objective worlds. Then as life for humans got more complicated, some very odd people invented a special place to learn and called it ‘school’. And the idea caught on, as it always does, and eventually most children in school, knowledge and compliance were the same thing. So they invented the Protestant Work Ethic, which divided work and play, and led to places for work called ‘classrooms’, where you learned sitting down — a good class was a quiet class, and play was left firmly outside in a special place called the playground where nothing important happened. The body and senses were ignored, and the emotions banished, and the brain was the only thing that counted. And they turned learning from a verb into a noun and called it ‘The Curriculum’ — a document in which what young people needed to know was all written down and could be carefully controlled, and what they did not need to know could be excluded.

The excluded bit included the Arts. This was because the odd grown-ups thought that music was noisy, the visual arts were messy, and that dance and drama were both noisy AND messy. If they happened at all, they were allowed to happen outside school time or on wet Friday afternoons. Their exclusion was also partly because another strange thing had happened in the world beyond schools.

Proper Art had become something only for grown-ups, and could only be created by special people who had a gift from the muse and had to have special training, which of course was available outside the schools.

(ÓToole, J, 2010)
The development of the Australian curriculum has brought to prominence once again, the importance of the Arts in educating students for the future. For students to be capable, they must have a mind of many wonders. This concept is captured in the Rationale of the Arts Framework document: “The Arts are fundamental to the learning of all young Australians. The Arts make distinct and unique contributions to each young person’s ability to perceive, imagine, create, think, feel, symbolise, communicate, understand and become confident and creative individuals. The Arts in this Australian curriculum will provide all young Australians with the opportunity to imagine and creatively engage, personally and collectively within their real and imagined worlds. Engagement in all the Arts, shapes our thought and activity, and makes a significant contribution to the broader community.

Each of the Arts assists in developing identity, confidence, social participation and inclusion. Cultural diversity and Indigenous cultural heritage are integral to all art forms.

The Arts have a special relationship with learning. In that the Arts can be learned and can be used as a tool by which to learn about something else. Fully understanding the Arts involves critical and practical study. Through critical and practical study students have the opportunity to explore, experiment, create, analyse, and critique, and ultimately discover multiple meanings in artwork.”

It has been a strategy of ours over recent years to enhance our students’ exposure to, and involvement in, a widening variety of art forms.

Our students create and share their artwork in competitions and exhibitions. Permanent exhibits hang throughout the College, the most recent of which are in the boarders’ dining room. Our annual art show, DimensionsNC, was initiated to demonstrate a critical aspect of the many facets of education at St Joseph’s Nudgee College.

Tjernoy Auditorium is a world-class venue in which our students exhibit their dramatic skills. Involvement in drama, Theatre Sports, debating and public speaking all provide for our young men an educational experience that contributes to their holistic education.

We have strategically invested in the expansion of our Music program. Large numbers of students are currently involved in learning a range of instruments which, in the near future, will feature in performances of a range of ensembles. Voice is an instrument all students covet and the public performances of our College Choir, NCVoices, stands testament to the quality that exists and will continue to emerge.

Over the past few years we have seen a number of our classically trained dancers move to Melbourne to continue their education at the Australian College of the Arts. The emergence of two significant dance groups – Hip Hop and our Indigenous Dance Group – reflect the willingness of our young men to share their stories and culture through this challenging art form.

There is no doubt that none of these experiences would be possible for our young gentlemen without the support and dedication of teachers and parents. I know the effort is worthwhile, and the College is a “richer” place for it.

I look forward to the continuing growth of our College as a place that graduates students who are extremely creative and capable because, through their exposure to, and involvement in, the Arts they must have minds of many wonders.”
a feminine INFLUENCE

The veranda outside the Language staffroom provides an oasis of calm, facing as it does the Duilig classroom block. However, this veneer of serenity belies the often frenzied action taking place inside the room.

Although Mrs Monica See had long been aware of the frenzied pace of Nudgee College life, when she was appointed Head of Senior English in 2007, she found the sheer volume of work somewhat overwhelming.

“I came to the College in June, 1986,” Mrs See said. “I taught French, English and History in the day school and it’s been very busy ever since.”

This is a typical understatement from Mrs See. Although she has had a professional association with Nudgee College for 26 years, her arrival helped mark the beginning of a new era. Newly married, she and her husband Andrew were the first married couple to be employed in the boarding school in its era where the Brothers still had a significant presence and the only lay workers were single supervisors. The couple worked with the late Mr Dave White, who was head of what would later become the Murphy Boarding House, and alongside luminaries such as Br Vincent Connors (College Principal), Br Darcy Murphy (Head of Year 12 boarders), and Br Vincent Skelly (Boarding Master).

Mrs See has fond memories of those boarding school years.

“Back then, Nudgee College was predominantly a boarding school,” she said. “Andrew and I were responsible for 90 boys, mostly from the country, though some were what we now term ‘metro boarders.’

“There was also a strong contingent from Papua New Guinea. They were wonderful students who provided a cosmopolitan dimension to boarding life.”

Then, as now, Nudgee College was equally as busy as a school day activity.

“One of my roles was to be the tutor to the boarders, helping them with their assignments,” Mrs See said. “I recall being up in Duilig, its original two levels. The classroom dividers would be drawn back and the students (most of them) would be at night study and I’d have this long line of supplicants awaiting their turn for assistance. I was kept very busy.”

Mrs See remembers this period also as where she, Sister Desley Taylor of the Health Centre and Mrs Wendy Senerio (wife of Michael Senior) were the only female members of staff on campus at night. Mr and Mrs See spent almost four years in the boarding school, leaving in 1989. While Mrs See continued teaching at Nudgee College, her husband pursued legal studies.

“Although I had involvement with Nudgee College, it was a lengthy one. Mrs See’s (and her husband’s) family history with the Christian Brothers is even longer. Her father, her husband and his family were educated by the Brothers. Mrs See’s own family is also related to the Founder of the Brothers, Edmund Rice, and Mr See’s uncle was Bill Wilkes (of Wilkes Oval fame at Nudgee College)”

Mrs See grew up in Brisbane, attending St Aloysius Primary School and St Rita’s College before completing her secondary education at the University of Queensland. She started a degree in Social Work but, in the course of her studies, she studied a literature unit and that was the end... or the beginning,” she said. Transferring courses, Mrs See graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and then gained a Diploma of Education to begin her teaching career.

Except for periods of maternity leave and being employed part-time (including job sharing with Mrs Barbara Royston, the then French teacher) when the children were small, Mrs See has been fully engaged at Nudgee College. She paid tribute to the Brothers’ vision of employment, which was flexible and geared to meeting contemporary needs in that it was so supportive when she wanted to raise a family at home while continuing to work part-time at the College.

Soon after Mrs See returned to full-time duties in 2004, she was appointed Head of QCS and became involved with the Queensland Studies Authority in training markers for the Short Response Test. She became Head of Senior English in 2007 and is also on the College’s Curriculum Council with the Languages portfolio.

Mrs See paid tribute to her colleagues and to her predecessors in her current position, including Head of History, Mr Gary Taylor, who retired this year.

“Gary was also a long-serving English teacher,” she said. “Thoroughly professional, he was a good friend, a great colleague and most generous with advice and wisdom.”

Former Heads of Senior English, Mr Bill Haves and before him, Mr Carr Wilkins were also remembered fondly.

“In a time of great change, both were solid anchors, providing reassurance as well as insight and vision,” she said.

Mrs See also finds her present staff, a wealth of talent and dedication to the students in their care, while other academic colleagues, such as Ms Margie Hills, “provide that outlook from becoming too narrowly focused.”

In the midst of all this academic endeavours, Mrs See has also been engaged on the extra-curricular front, including debating, oratory and, perhaps a little surprisingly, a co-manager of rugby. Pressed to expand on this revelation, she would only smile enigmatically as she recalled her memories of being at the Nudgee College coalsface. Further disclosures must await our arrival in heaven.

Mrs See notes that the current educational climate is indeed one of ‘inseparable change,’ a mixed bag of blessings, perhaps. This is reflected, she said, not least in curriculum and classroom pedagogy.

“It is imperative today to know your students as individuals and to remind them that, in a very real sense, they are in the driving seat,” she said. “They teach themselves. Our approach, though at all times professionally educational, must also be professionally pastoral. It must be holistic, recognising the diversity – all the diversity – in the classroom.”

This hard-working Head of Senior English freely acknowledges her own indebtedness to those who have gone before, but what about her own legacy?

“We must help prepare the boys for life, help the boys understand the world in which they live – and will live. She said. “I can only echo words that have remained with me: “There is nothing competitive in literature but it encourages empathy.”

“Empathy, we must teach that – though literature and also through language and literacy.”

A worthwhile legacy, thoroughly “Rican and a worthy one to build upon for the future.”

There is a time for everything under heaven, counsels the Book of Ecclesiastes.
Dancing to a new beat ...

For a school that celebrates such high levels of participation in sporting pursuits, a dance group might seem out of place at St Joseph’s Nudgee College. However, when Drama staff put the call out for students interested in joining a Hip Hop crew, the response was surprising.

Hip Hop began at Nudgee College this year and has already captured the imagination of the College community. The crew are directed by Hip Hop Coordinator and Drama teacher Ms Stephanie Spicer who has been dancing since she was four years old in the styles of ballet, tap, jazz and hip hop. Ms Spicer also holds a Bachelor of Creative Industries (Dance) and Bachelor of Education (Secondary) from QUT.

“The initial response was overwhelming with over 50 boys of varying ages and abilities turning up. From this, Ms Alison Cilly (Head of Drama) and I realised that there was a definite interest in dance and we set out to cater for this diverse range of abilities and to enhance their skills.”

In the audition process, students were asked to choreograph and perform 30 seconds of dance. Staff members were then able to identify the boys who really wanted to participate.

“The auditions were very successful as we identified some real talent within the school, not only in areas of dance but in singing, beat boxing and choreography,” Ms Spicer said.

Although Hip Hop lends itself well to the study of Drama, which focuses on creating, performing and responding, it is not a prerequisite for interested students.

“Hip Hop involves students using and showcasing their creative and performance skills, which students learn and build in the subject of Drama, but anyone who has a keen interest in dance can participate,” Ms Spicer said.

“As with the initial auditions, students need to create and perform a short audition piece to judge their suitability. There is a Senior Hip Hop crew (Years 8–12) and a Junior Hip Hop crew (Years 5–7) so any student can be involved.”

The current crew, made up of students from Years 8–12, performed for the first time at the College’s Showcase evening in May and received a ‘very positive’ response from audience members.

Ms Spicer said that although the crews do not compete against other schools, the commitment required is just as important as in any College sporting team.

“If the boys are to be a part of the crew, then they are required to attend several weekly rehearsals after school,” she said. “When a performance approaches, there are more scheduled rehearsals that are compulsory.”

Although the Hip Hop program is still in its infancy at Nudgee College, Ms Spicer has already seen the benefits for students and has firm plans for the future.

“The program also reinforces the boys’ skills in creating and performing in dance, and allows them to develop these skills through workshops and various performance opportunities,” she said. “It also increases their confidence and self-expression.”

“In the future, I plan to provide the boys with more performance opportunities and to further build on their creative skills. Currently I’m arranging breakdancing and hip hop workshops for the boys to help develop their knowledge of dance and broaden the depth of their experience.”
class of ’62

In this 50th anniversary of the class of 1962, it is opportune to reflect on the fact that it is also 50 years since the Australian government dispatched the first 30 advisers of the Australian Army training team to what was to become a bloody 10 years of warfare in Vietnam. That was my generation’s war – the war of the class of ’62.

Brigadier (retired) Paul O’Sullivan.

Paul O’Sullivan was a boarder at Nudgee College from 1959-62. He joined the Australian Regular Army in 1963 and was commissioned as an Infantry Officer from the Officer Cadet School, Fortuna in 1964. He became one of the original members of the 8th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, when it was raised in 1965 and deployed to Vietnam for its first tour of duty in June 1965.

Over the next 30 years, Paul served in Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. In his last posting he was the Chief of Staff, Land Command at Victoria Barracks in Sydney.

For leadership in command, staff and representative appointments, Paul was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1981, an Officer of the US Legion of Merit in 1996 and a Member of the Order of Australia in 1997.

He is a graduate of the Australian Army’s Command and Staff College and the Joint Services Staff College. He has a BA in English and History from the University of Queensland, an MA in History from the University of Western Sydney and an MBA from the University of New England.

Paul retired from the Army in late 1998 and took up an appointment as the Chief Executive of the Red Cross in NSW. In 2004, he was appointed the inaugural Chief Executive of the NSW Office of Transport Safety Investigations, a position he still holds today.

Paul and his wife Kay were married in the College Chapel in May 1966 prior to his deployment to Vietnam. They have three children and three grandchildren whom they see as often as travel permits.

Paul was one of 11 1962 Seniors who fought in Vietnam, only 10 returned. Following is an extract from the speech the retired Brigadier gave at this year’s Nudgee College Anzac Day ceremony. The day also acted as a reunion for the class of 1962:

Fifty years after Reg Verity was born in 1915, he was followed into this life by a Sarfert Paradise lad who was born in 1945 and destined to become a Nudgee College man of the class of 1962. John Fraser.

Fifty years after Reg Verity left Nudgee College in 1939, John Fraser joined our class in 1959. With the introduction of national service in 1959, John was conscripted but was given the chance to spend his compulsory two-year service to do a tour of duty in Vietnam with the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment.

Fifty years after Lieutenant Reg Verity was killed in action in the South of Dien Bien Phu in 1954, a young lad of 19, John Fraser was killed in action in 1965 among the gentle boulders of the Long Hai Hills in Phuoc Tuy Province of South Vietnam.

These were Nudgee College men, seasoned by generations, but united in the bond of brotherhood, unique to those who have borne arms for our country and paid the supreme sacrifice.

John Fraser was the only member of our class, the only Nudgee College man, who was killed in Vietnam, but he was not the only Nudgee College man to serve there. Nineteen Nudgee College Old Boys served in Vietnam, and, of those, 11 were members of the class of 1962.

As we pause to remember today, think of all those who have had to bear the burden of war, uniformed and civilian alike, since the end of the service war to 1966, and, in particular, remember the men and women of the Australian Defence Force who serve with honour and distinction in Afghanistan today.

When you go to the Chapel, read the names of the Nudgee College men who have served their country in war, take pride in their achievements and the fact that you share an identity with them through this great College.
In January 2012, 41 friends of St Joseph’s Nudgee College joined in a 16-day “Tassie Tour” organised by Old Boy and former teacher Mr John Wagner in conjunction with the Athletes Support Group.

The group consisted of past and present teachers, students and parents of the Nudgee College community. With ages ranging from 13 to 84 years, a lasting bond was forged among everyone on the tour.

The tour party met in Hobart on 3 January for three days of local trips, including an amazing (and drenching!) Bruny Island jet-boat experience on the high seas of the Southern Ocean.

Moving up the East Coast, we toured Port Arthur and its historical surrounds, the beautiful Freycinet Peninsula and the spectacular Wineglass Bay, and then further north to the Bay of Fires where five brave tourists swam in the chilly Tasmanian waters.

Next up on the agenda was a drive into the central north where Beaconsfield Mine was inspiring and tours of Boags Brewery and the stunning Cataract Gorge were the highlights of Launceston.

Heading west, the Mole Creek Caves were unbelievable, but who would dream we’d be in snow in the middle of summer just a few hours later at scenic Cradle Mountain?

Moving on to the far north-east, after a night at the picturesque Stanley, we had an amazing adventure through the rarely passed Tarkine wilderness. The rugged nature of the trip meant we had to cover the distance very slowly, but the rewards of the Arthur River, the Pieman River and the spectacular West Coast made it all worthwhile.

The rainforest we had travelled through was in stark contrast to the barren Queenstown landscape, but there was denser vegetation to see when we made the spectacular 35km Wilderness Railway journey on the historic rack and pinion track down to Strahan – a memorable trip.

The next part of the tour took us across from west to east via Derwent Bridge and Lake St Clair to New Norfolk. One of the highlights of this area was the amazing history of the Gordon and Franklin rivers. Lake Pedder, Strathgordon and the mighty Gordon Dam provided breathtaking scenery, great walks and amazing photos.

Finally, we toured the Heritage Highway, with the historic towns of Ross, Campbell Town and Richmond providing us with more insights into our colonial history.

On the final night we celebrated the end of the tour with a wonderful dinner, during which our tour organiser John Wagner was thanked, and then coach captain Mike Walsh was applauded by all for his outstanding commentary, driving prowess and friendship which brought the whole tour together.

Note: The Athletes Support Group is the parent committee of boys who participate in cross country and track and field at Nudgee College. The same group is planning another trip in June–July 2013 to Central Australia. Again this would be open to the whole Nudgee College family on a first-in basis.
Benjamin attended Nudgee College from 2002-05. He was Proxime Accessit in his Senior year in 2005 and returned to the College in 2006 as an Academic Tutor, a role he continued to fill until last year.

“I have always enjoyed helping people out with their work,” Benjamin said. “It is both satisfying to know you are improving someone’s understanding of a topic and it helps make your understanding of a concept more concrete.”

“When Mr. John Sayer offered me the opportunity to return to Nudgee College as an Academic Tutor, it seemed like a great opportunity, and so I took it up.”

At the time Benjamin was studying a double degree at the University of Queensland in Economics/Commerce. He initially started a double degree in Commerce as well but didn’t enjoy studying law and so ended up taking an introductory course in economics in his first semester. This led to him changing his degree course in his second semester. “I didn’t study economics in high school, and I’d never really understood what economics was,” Benjamin said. “In my first semester at university, I had to take an introductory course in microeconomics.”

“I found economics very appealing because it provides you with a framework to analyse decision-making by individuals, rather than merely trying to impart information on a particular subject matter. The balance of conceptual ideas with the requirement to use technical tools from mathematics makes economics an enjoyable area for me to work in.”

Benjamin will head to New Jersey in the US in August to begin his doctoral studies in economics at Princeton University on a full scholarship.

“I decided in October last year that I wished to pursue my doctoral studies in economics, and some of the academics in the School of Economics of the University of Queensland thought I’d be able to place quite well in US programs,” Benjamin said.

“I then applied to a number of US doctoral programs. The application process is quite draining, requiring a number of academic references and statements detailing why you wish to pursue your PhD in economics. The end, the best offer I received – given my interests and conditional on receiving full funding for the five years of the program – was Princeton.”

“Given that the last few years primarily involved me carrying out my own research to complete a thesis, I think also have the opportunity to live in New York City.”

After completing his studies, Benjamin plans to become an academic in the field of economics. “The PhD is a necessary step to complete for me to be able to pursue this career,” he said. “Being a part of the US system will make this much easier as I will be working with and learning from some of the leading economists in the world.”

“This will be Benjamin’s first time away from home for an extended period of time and while he is sure he will miss his family and friends greatly, he is also excited about the experiences and opportunities that await him in the US. “I am looking forward to the new experiences I’ll have living away from home for the first time in a new country,” he said. “I’m also excited to work with and learn from some of the leading economists in the world. “It will be a great opportunity to make new friends and gain new experiences, and I plan to make the most of it during my time away.”

Looking back on his time at the College, Benjamin credits his year 12 Maths C teacher, Mr. M.A. Scott, and, since leaving, Pivato Tutor Coordinator Mr. John Sayer as the Nudgee College community members who influenced him the most.

“Mr. Scott made the topics very interesting and helped me to realise that I had a serious interest in mathematical concepts,” he said.

“Since I left, Mr. Sayer has provided me with a number of great opportunities, including being an Academic Tutor at the College. This opportunity helped me to realise that I enjoyed teaching, which influenced my decision to enter the academic profession.”

Benjamin’s advice for current Nudgee College students is to “do something that you enjoy and be open-minded to different things.”

“If you do something you enjoy, it will be much easier to find success in your career,” he said. “I was fortunate to find something I enjoyed and was good at relatively quickly but sometimes it can take some searching.”

“I’ve also found that having a good balance between work/study and leisure time is important to ensure you get the most out of both these areas of your life.”
DAMIAN ISTRIA

Introduced to the sport of gymnastics when he was just four years of age, Damian Istria would go on to be the youngest ever male gymnast to compete for Australia at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. At that time, Damian was also completing his Year 12 studies at Nudgee College, achieving sound academic results despite the enormous 25-30 hours per week commitment to his training.

Damian had been representing Australia since 1996 as a junior athlete and made his senior international debut in 1999 at the age of 16. Damian was quite literally the powerhouse of Australian gymnastics being the youngest Australian male gymnast to make a World Championships team and 1.1 years younger than the average male competitor at the Australian Olympic selection trials.

Damian has experienced the highs and lows in sport, from making the Sydney Olympics and winning silver and bronze medals at the 2002 Commonwealth Games to the heart-breaking injury of a broken wrist in 2003, which left him incapable of training for nearly 12 months and unable to even attempt to qualify for the Athens Olympics.

"At 20 years of age and in one single moment I thought my career would be over," he said.

Damian admits the injury gave him a reality check and after talking to many athletes and people within the sporting community, he decided to begin his university studies in accounting and finance to help bring some balance back into his life. Two years later, he had fought his way back into the national training squad and was part of the national team in the Australia v Great Britain Test and the 2005 World Cup in Belgium, where he won silver in the pommel horse event.

It would be the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne that Damian would make his mark on the international arena claiming individual gold in the horizontal bar, silver in the rings and silver in the overall team event. The gold medal now sits alongside his individual silver medal in the same discipline from the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

Expecting to retire from the sport after the 2010 Commonwealth Games, Damian’s retirement plans took an interesting about-turn after he was offered a three-month training contract with Cirque du Soleil in Montreal, Canada, to attend acting and clown classes.

Not knowing much about Cirque du Soleil, despite having seen just a couple of shows he joined up thinking it was only going to be for a year or two. Damian admits he became addicted to performing in front of an audience of 4000 people every night and the feeling he gets when he is looking directly into the faces of the audience smiling and laughing.

"I have the ability to allow the kids to dream, while letting their parents become kids again and forgetting all their problems for a couple of hours," he said.

Damian is a member of Cortici – an Italian word meaning "coiled" or funeral procession. It is a contemporary circus show about a clown who watches his own funeral taking place in a carnival-like atmosphere. Damian has two main acts – bouncing beds, trampolines, and trampolinchordol bar on a cube-shaped frame as well as a number of other smaller spots throughout the show.

Damian acknowledges, however, that travelling the world enjoying a Peter Pan lifestyle cannot go on forever. With this in mind, he has started making plans for a return to Brisbane later every year with his partner Michello, who also happens to be the Cirque du Soleil physiotherapist, and their two children Kai (2½ years), born in Japan, and Holly (6 months), born in France.

To enhance his employment opportunities upon their return, Damian is studying for his Bachelor of Business majoring in applied finance. Before then, the family must pack their nine bags as the Cirque du Soleil rolls out the blue-and-yellow Grand Chapiteau (Big top) in Antwerp, Belgium, through August then on to Zurich, Switzerland, in September, followed by Dusseldorf, Berlin and Hamburg in January until the end of January, 2013.

Let the show begin!
There is quite a musical renaissance taking place at Nudgee College this year with the appointment of a new team of talented teacher-musicians.
ew staff members bring new
different perspectives in
their specialty area, a plethora
of new skills and a diverse range of
musical experience. Combining these
skills with the historical knowledge and
experience of existing Music staff and the
stage is set for a new and shared vision
for Music at Nudgee College.

The development of a quality Music
program is a long-term project that may
take a few years to be fully realised, but
what better place to start than the year
groups that will be with us the longest –
Years 5–7. Change has already begun in
these year groups, and we are excited by
the momentum that has begun to build.

You might ask, what are the changes
that will be introduced to
Junior Music education at Nudgee
College? First, early Music education is
vital to the development of the young
mind. Current research into the brain
clearly demonstrates that learning
music is a powerful tool for developing
the young intellect. This is because
the acquisition of musical skills requires
the synchronised use of both sides of
the brain. To achieve this, the body must
build a greater number of linkages
between the two brain hemispheres.

The left side of the brain is in charge
of the right-hand side of the body and
controls sequential, analytical and
mathematical thought. The right side
of the brain controls the left-hand side
of the body and provides creative, spatial
and emotional thought. Musicians need
both sides of their ‘physical’ body to play
music. They also need both sides of the
brain to achieve this: the left for counting
and subdividing time, analysing and
reading notes; and the right for putting
the bigger picture, visualising space between
keys and sounds, judging the
amount of movement of the muscles
and the emotional connection to give the
music feeling. The connections set
up to achieve this are working towards
improving overall cognitive ability.

Additional studies also conclude
that learning a musical instrument, as
well as learning sports, helps
students to develop ‘muscle memory’,
hand-eye coordination and the ability
to synthesise, as well as isolate, key
groups of muscles. As a key stakeholder in Arts
Education, we also teach and encourage
creative thinking and problem-solving.
This is why Arts education is a
compulsory part of the curriculum.

The pending implementation of the
new Australian Curriculum Arts syllabus
in the next few years, has allowed us to
review some of our organisation in
the Year 5–6 programs with a view to
the future. This rethink is also important
in the light of the major organisational
changes taking place with the College’s transition
of Year 7 to the senior school in
2013 and beyond. We are moving away
from the theory-driven music model of the past
and a more holistic approach in line with
the other Arts. Our model is designed to be
driven by experience, with music not just
learning about music. Through listening,
creating and presenting music, students
will gain greater knowledge of it. To
facilitate this development, each year
school has been allocated the study of a
music-performance area. Students will
use the practical music skills they learn as
a vehicle to engaging with music.

Year 5 students will focus on
the tools needed for making music: the
musical instruments (including the
voice). Through this program, they
will each learn a wind, woodwind, brass or
percussion instrument. The College
provides instruments and tuition for this
program free of charge, with students
attending music tutorial lessons in
groups of 3–5 for 30 minutes per week
with specialist instrument teachers.

This tuition takes place in tutorial
groups throughout the week, but for one
music lesson per week the boys come
together to learn about the ‘language’
of music – music notation, the various
types of musical instruments and sound,
and the way in which musical ideas are
organised. From mid-to-late Term 2,
these classroom lessons transfer into class
bund lessons, where all the boys in a
class come together with their different
instruments to form a classroom
concert band. Through playing together
in the class band, they will experience
making and creating music first-hand,
and will learn teamwork dynamics
as well. Hopefully, such a program
will encourage them to consider
a continuing music tuition in their chosen
instrument. We hope this may also
lead to the development of an honour-style
Concert Band for the Junior school.

Year 6 Music will in turn focus on
the use of the voice as an instrument.
By listening to different types of voices,
students learn about the voice and
the different ways in which voice can
be combined in vocal groups. This will
be combined with the development
of performance skills in which they
will learn basic singing and breathing
techniques. Small vocal groups will
be created and eventually lead to
some ‘choral singing’ in class. Suitably
advanced voices will be encouraged to
join our NC Junior Voices group as an
extracurricular pursuit.

The transition of Year 7 into the
senior school has already begun
informally at Nudgee College. This
year, the Year 7 cohort has been taking
an introductory music course in the
senior school. The study of music in
the senior school is a slightly more
academic nature than that of the Junior
school, but the focus is still very much
on the development of performance
(presenting), composition (creating)
and knowledge about music.

For this Year 7 group, their
engagement with musical skills will
be via tuition on the keyboard and/or
the guitar. Their study focus is on
the elements of music and how they
can be combined or manipulated to
make different styles of music. The boys
will experience many different styles of
music and learn why each sounds so
different as a result of the composer’s manipulation
of different musical elements.

From Year 8 through to Year 12,
the study of music is no longer compulsory.
Students have the opportunity to elect
to take Music as one of their subject
options. In these year levels, the boys
begin to engage more regularly with
music technology. To support this,
we have recently re-equipped our Music
lab and installed professional
music software packages, such as
Sibelius, Garage Band and Pro Tools. These
software programs allow the boys to
mix, compose and create music at
an industry standard. Boys who are also
being privately tutored on an instrument
are strongly encouraged to take Music
through to Year 12.

To support the growth of music,
the College has recently engaged
nine new specialist instrumental music
tutors to provide private or group tuition to
the boys wanting to study Music at
the College. Combined, the tutors
provide tuition in all major orchestral
and contemporary musical instruments,
and as well in the study of accredited
musicianship and theory courses through
external bodies (AMEB, ANZCA and
TCL). Many of these tutors also assist
with extra-curricular groups.

To further extend our able musicians,
the College has also revamped its
repetoire and line-up of our existing
musical groups and added some
exciting new ones. As the number of
boys learning instruments and voice
increase, we hope to one day expand
and add a full concert band, a show choir
or barbershop quartet, a string ensemble
(or even an orchestra) to our selections.
We have the following groups operating
this year:

- Stage Band
- Rock Bands 1–4
- NC Voices
- NC Junior Voices
- NC DrumLine
- Percussion Ensemble
- Liturgy Band (including strings)
- Junior School Band (coming in Semester 2)
- Guitar Ensemble (coming in Semester 2)
- Year 5 Honours Band (coming in Semester 2)

This year we also had our largest
group of musicians ever involved in the
Senior GPS Music Showcase and the
NC Junior Band. The growth of the
department will, of course, depend on
the men of Nudgee College and their
willingness to take up the challenge
to learn music or to be counted as
a musician.

The renaissance of music at Nudgee
College has begun, but no transition
is ever as smooth as we would like. So we
ask for College families to bear with us
while we bring these changes to fruition,
and we thank those who have been
so supportive.

For Nudgee College Music, the
planned changes taking place this year
are just the tip of the iceberg. With
the continued support of the College
Leadership Team and the building
enthusiasm for music from the young
men of Nudgee College, we hope to
build on our musical dreams.

Viva La Musica!!
Into the Valley of the Shadow

Ye, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

On 23 July 1916, Chaplain Edward Sarfield Barry, Old Boy of Nudgee College and alumnus of All Hallows in Dublin, disembarked in France amidst the enormous activity generated by the Battle of the Somme, now entering its fourth week. Just three days before, the Australian troops had endured their baptism of fire on the Western Front, an experience that cost the 5th Division $500 casualties in a single day's fighting. Before he would return to a French port to begin his journey home to Australia in August 1918, Barry would spend more time in the frontline than any other chaplain in the AIF.

Service as a chaplain those times was still relatively new in both conception and design. Chaplains were attached to naval and army units prior to 1901 with some seeing service during the Boxer Rebellion in China. The issue of Protestant and Catholic Chaplains ministering to the needs of the fledgling Australian military was raised in Federal Government circles in August 1911. Within a year the first appointments were made and, within three, the nations' youth were calling on them across the battlefields of the Middle East and Europe. During the course of World War I, 170 Catholic priests would minister to the 1st AIF and in the process 14 would be decorated for gallantry.

Barry came back from Europe to the life of a parish priest, as well as serving for a time as the Head of the Nudgee College Old Boys’ Association. He was followed in World War II by Father Tim Sullivan, who served in the British Army with the Commandos and landed at Normandy four days after D-Day. During the Battle of Britain, he was called upon to give last rites to a dying German airman as his plane burned around him. He recalled that “between the smell and the fear, I was pretty glad the amputation was over and I went away and vomited”.

Without fanfare, a decorated army chaplain with a devotion to the men (and now women) in uniform similar to that which animated Barry and Sullivan, has joined the community at Nudgee College where he regularly says the Boarders Mass. Yet to confine his interests to the title of “chaplain” is far too narrow a title and does little justice to the breadth of his achievements.

Father Morgan Barr was born in Brisbane and was educated at St Columban’s College, Albion. After school he worked successively as a deck hand in the Queensland Government, a cattle herder, silver service waiter and a chairman-surveyor for the railways. Yet the high-church character of his early employment is deceptive, for it was a period spent in service, culminating in his work with homeless youth on the Gold Coast. Barr was also regularly able to display his capacity for leadership, as evidenced in the award of the Queensland Government Youth Ambassador to Japan, the YMCA Youth Leadership Prize, Japanese Government Youth Award and the Australian Rotary Youth Award.

After a suggestion from a priest and with the support and encouragement of his then girlfriend, Barr entered the seminary in 1985. Although confirmed by the academic rigours of study after a five-year break from the classroom, Barr nevertheless graduated and was ordained in November 1991. In keeping with the variety that came to characterise the pursuit of his vocation, he spent only a few years in parishes, a stint at Bayro Seminary, the state spiritual advisor for the St Vincent de Paul Society and then finally relocated to Tasmania. If ever the validity of the adage that contemplates the hour, contemplates the man is disputed, Barr’s arrival in Port Arthur at the parish priest in 1995 should put that to rest. The massacre the following year is seared into the nation’s psyche.

“My whole first communion class was executed that day, it lost a few parishioners and it was a very tough time,” Barr said.

Offered the opportunity to leave in the wake of the carnage, Barr declined.

“I needed to stay with the people. I believe very much in parish communities. That's what priests are about — people. Being with the people was extremely important.

“A number flew in to help, but the people wanted their priest, their ministers – the Salvation Army, the Uniting Church, the Anglicans... we became great mates. We really ministered to the people.”

Able in time to forgive the gunman, Barr, immersed in a religious framework that is underpinned by the death and the resurrection, well understood that the presence of God, the presence of hope is extremely important.

After a further two years in Tasmania, Barr studied overseas, and despite the five-year hiatus between school and entering the seminary during which he did “not pick up a pen or read a book”, he achieved the remarkable feat of earning 13 university qualifications.

In 2002, Barr enlisted in the Army Reserve as chaplain. His first posting was to the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment, Brisbane. Later, as a regular, he served in Darwin with the 1st Armoured Regiment, 5th Royal Australian Regiment (RAR), and the Warrant Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer Academy – Northern Territory Wing. He has served on two deployments: Australian Special Operations Forces Timor Leste 2006 and Overseas Battle Group 3 (West) Iraq 2007. During his time in Iraq he worked closely with the Americans and was the first Australian Army chaplain to be awarded the US Army Commendation Medal.

“The Army is a grand life that suited me and my temperament. I just loved being with the blokes,” he said. “On deployment, I’m not there to fight a war; I’m there to help young men and women to make sense of the war, of its place in their life.

“They start to ask the big questions. Every chaplain needs credibility. The soldiers meet the man before they meet the priest. I did everything they did; I would have lived a camp and I did the 15-mile march. Once they realise the ‘pate is with us’, they open up.”

In between this life of extraordinary activity and selfless service, he finds time to be an accomplished mountaineer and has ambitions to climb the highest peak in every country and territory in the world. He has climbed Aconcagua in Argentina, Volcan Chimborazo in Ecuador, Tavan Bogd Uul in Mongolia and Mount Stanley in Uganda, as well as peaks in many other countries.

“While climbing Everest, I was able to celebrate the highest Mass in the world,” he said. “Mountains are the place where Heaven and Earth meet. They have always been sacred to humanity... Jesus Christ preached on a mountain, he prayed on a mountain, he was crucified on a mountain and finally ascended from a mountain.”

Barr was recalled to his duties in 2010 where he is now the Vocations Director of the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Director of Discernment Camil House and chaplain to the University of Queensland.

Though he has walked battlegrounds, both foreign and domestic, he is not a man to linger in the valley. He is a man who has stood on the high ground, both literally and figuratively, and, having seen the best and the worst, chooses to “lift up mine eyes unto the mountains” (Psalm 121:1).
Dimensions NC

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Dimensions NC has been going in its current form since 2008. Although its format is still relatively new, Nudgee College has been holding exhibitions that showcase the school’s cultural side for about three decades. In the original format, only professional artists displayed and sold their work. This changed about 16 years ago when student artworks began to be showcased as well as professional artists.

The event has taken many forms over the years, including an art competition for school students from around Brisbane. The focus has always remained the same, however; to showcase the arts at Nudgee College.

Head of Visual Art Mr Greg Elliott believes one of the benefits of Dimensions NC is that it gives students the opportunity to exhibit and sell their work alongside professional artists.

“All artists remember selling their first piece of work,” Mr Elliott said. “It’s the biggest compliment an artist receives when someone is willing to pay money for their work.”

All students who wish to submit artworks go through a selection process prior to the event. When selected, the student works with staff members to determine a value for their piece.

“Students make real world connections through the exhibition and commission is not charged on any of their work,” Mr Elliott said. “That means 100% of the money paid for a piece goes back to the student.”

The 2012 Dimensions NC Art Festival, to be held during the second week of August – Queensland Exhibition week – will include displays from students in all year levels:

- Year 5 – Soft sculpture food and pastel drawings of bugs
- Year 6 – Lino prints and surrealism drawings
- Year 7 – Surrealist dioramas and pop art
- Year 8 – Etchings
- Year 9 – Paintings and skateboard art
- Year 10 – Stencil street art and mixed media painting

Works from Year 11 and 12 students will be displayed across various categories of the exhibition because their pieces are generally larger.

While Dimensions NC is primarily an art festival, this year’s five-day festival will also include the traditional Opening Night Celebration Gala, Years 8–12 Grandparents’ Day Family Picnic Day, Old Boys Reunion weekend and Open Day.

This year’s feature artist is Karen Atkins. Originally from Melbourne, Ms Atkins is now a Sydney-based artist whose paintings are drenched in colour and light for her portrayal of outback Australia, city life and her passion for cricket.

Ms Atkins has painted and drawn all her life and regularly exhibits in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Her wealth of experience includes time spent on sheep and wheat farms in remote Victoria and artist-in-residences at several Sydney schools. She has a broad range of interests, which include AFL and cricket and is currently creating a series of paintings especially for the Dimensions NC Art Exhibition.

Each August members of the wider St Joseph’s Nudgee College community come together for a cultural celebration – the annual Dimensions NC Art Festival – showcasing the artistic and creative talent of members of the student body and the local community.

Nth Degree AUGUST 2012

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Nth Degree AUGUST 2012

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ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FROM WITHIN

Each year, more than 5000 students across the country participate in the Australian Council for Education Research's (ACER) scholarship programs, which includes the Co-operative Scholarship Test Program (CSTP) for students entering Years 8, 9, 10 and 11.

About 150 independent schools across Australia use the CSTP to select academically gifted students for bursaries each year.

Interested candidates register with ACER, which is responsible for producing the tests, delivering to and collecting tests from participating schools, marking all test papers, and reporting results to the schools nominated by candidates. Individual schools then offer bursary places to those successful candidates.

Like most schools, St Joseph's Nudgee College offers bursaries for students entering the school from Years 8-11. Those students should exhibit qualities commensurate with the College's motto, Signum Fidei - Sign of Faith.

Last year, the College Leadership Team recognised it was equally important to reward academic excellence within its existing cohort. As a result, it invited 10 Year 6 and 10 Year 8 students from 2011 to undertake these prestigious tests in February 2012, with the registration costs to be covered by the College.

Once the test results were returned, the high-performing students were recognised with the Principals' Academic ACER Award to encourage them to maintain their academic efforts and successes.

Two current Year 7 students, Logan Edwards and Connor Webb, were among 4075 students, nationally, participating in Level 1 CSTP for entry into Year 8 in 2013. Both boys achieved outstanding results, reflected in their top 5% ranking.

Logan began his Nudgee College journey in Year 5 from Our Lady Help of Christians, Hendra. He enjoys the welcoming and close family environment here at Nudgee College and looks forward to the wider range of subjects on offer upon entering Year 8. Logan is keen to try all year round – in the classroom it is Art and Maths when not out on the oval it is cricket and rugby, and at home a good action book and skateboarding are his favourite pastimes.

Connor joined Nudgee College in Year 6 from Student High School and looks forward to the fun and experience of Year 8 next year. Connor enjoys the positive energy within the College and the feeling of support everyone gives. English and Maths rank as his favourite subjects while cricket, rugby and track and field occupy his time after school.

Meanwhile, Year 9 student Alexander He was among 450 students, nationally, participating in Level 2 CSTP for entry into Year 10 in 2013. He also achieved outstanding results, nationally, in the top 3% ranking. This is on the back of his top 1% ranking in 2010 for entry into Year 8 in 2011.

Originally from Boondall State School, Alexander was impressed by the social values demonstrated at Nudgee College when he first arrived. While committed to all his studies, he really enjoys Japanese and Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Outside the classroom, Alexander likes debating for the Year 9A team, reading a good book and balancing his outdoor activities with a few computer games.

Dean of Learning and Teaching Mr David Johnston said the College was committed to continuing to reward the academic excellence of its students.

“This has been an important step in further recognising and rewarding academic achievement among our current student body, and we will continue to build on our recognition programs for students across multiple curriculum and year groups as we look towards 2014,” he said.
Mother’s Day

Years 5–7 students purchased gifts from a Mother’s Day stall and hosted their mums for afternoon tea in the lead up to Mother’s Day. The stall was organised by Year 6 parent Mrs Barbara Mark, who purchased and wrapped more than 200 items for students to buy. The gifts were priced at $5 and $10 with the gap between the cost and purchase amount being donated to the College.

Drama workshops

Years 11 and 12 Drama students participated in workshops with visiting artists during Term 2. Homunculus Theatre Co ran a comedy workshop with the Year 11 students while Year 12 students participated in a physical theatre and Breacklan workshop run by Zen Zen Zo.

GPS Music Day of Excellence

In May, Nudgee College hosted the GPS Music Showcase at the Brisbane Powerhouse, where talented staff and students from all nine GPS schools came together for a day-long event.

The musicians spent the day rehearsing in three Brisbane venues before performing in the evening in front of a 500-strong audience. This year, Nudgee College had 12 boys representing the College, the highest number since the inaugural GPS Music Showcase 3 years ago.

Billabong speaker

Billabong Global CEO Derek O’Neill visited the College in May to speak with students from Year 9 Business Studies, Year 10 Business Enterprise, Year 11 Business IT, Year 11 Economics and Year 11 Business Management. Mr O’Neill discussed a wide range of topics, including the Billabong company itself, associated brands, marketing and the challenges of running a business.

Beau Robinson

On 17 May, Queensland Reds player Beau Robinson visited Nudgee College to talk to Hodda and Murphy boarders. He spoke about the reality of being a professional athlete and how determination and persistence were more important qualities in being successful than talent. Beau also answered a large number of questions from the boys both during and after the presentation and was the subject of many photos taken on the day.

Anzac Day

In April, staff took about a hundred boarders to Sandgate to participate in the dawn service and march to honour the spirit of the Anzacs. Sam Tully, from the NC Drum Line, led the boys who volunteered to march alongside a large number of ex-servicemen from Sandgate beach to the village where the ceremony was held.

Later in the day, the NC Drum Line led the 53rd group in the Brisbane City Anzac march through the streets of the CBD.

Inter-house showcase

The annual Inter-house showcase was held during Term 2, with Magee House taking out this year’s honours. The showcase is a compulsory event for all students, who perform and sing songs in their House groups. The event aims to encourage and develop critical, creative and self-regulated thinking by setting boys challenges beyond the classroom that will broaden their experiences and better prepare them for life.
Activities

CROSS COUNTRY

Both the GPS and CIC Cross Country Championships were held during Term 2, with Nudgee College finishing third and third, respectively.

The 13-year-olds’ team performed exceptionally well at the GPS Championships to come away with their age group premiership. The other year levels also acquitted themselves well to finish third (15 years), fourth (14 years) and fifth (Seniors).

FOOTBALL

This year was always going to be a big season for Nudgee College Football. Sign-up exploded in Term 2 with numbers up 50% from 2011. The numbers were so strong that the Year 8s were able to field A-F teams throughout the season – more than any other GPS school.

The 1st XI kicked off on Ross Oval with a spectacular 8-3 victory over Brisbane Boys College who, before that game, were unbeaten in the previous two years. The team were always at, or close to, the top of the table, but a blow against Toowoomba in wet weather meant the premiership was dependent on results of other games going into the final day. The 1st XI boys went out and, in typical fashion, started off 2-0 down away to Brisbane Grammar only to recover and win 5-3. However, a victory for Southport gave them the title and Nudgee College finished with an honourable second place.

Across the board, teams performed admirably with that famous Nudgee College Spirit always on show.

RUGBY UNION

Although a change to the GPS calendar now sees GPS Rugby played in Term 3, CIC Rugby (Years 5-7) continues to be played during Term 2.

The CIC teams finished their season in great fashion, playing extremely well in their last games. All boys participated to the best of their ability and continued to grow the spirit of Nudgee College.

In a testament to their talent and the tireless commitment of their coaches, the Year 7A and 7C teams finished exceptionally well, remaining undefeated all season.

During the recent school holidays, Year 12 students Francois Postal, Dylan Sigmund and Jack Tutt played for Queensland at the National Championships in Bulgaria in mid-August.

All will be joined in Bulgaria by Old Boy Matthew Hert (NC 2007-11) who has been selected in the Australian U23 rugby team.

Ben Walsh, Harley Moore and Tom McLellan were selected to join the Australia A rowing tour of New Zealand in early June, where they competed against the New Zealand Junior team.

ROWING

On the back of a successful 1st VIII rowing tour to New Zealand to compete in the national championships, rowers Alex King, Harley Moore, Tommy McLellan and Ben Walsh were selected in national sides.

Alex was named in the Australian Junior coxed IV team and participated in two 10-day camps at the AIS as well as a 10-day tour to Verace, Northern Italy. In late July, he will also compete at the Junior World Championships in Bulgaria mid-August.

Alex will be joined in Bulgaria by Old Boy Matthew Hert (NC 2007-11) who has been selected in the Australian U23 rowing team.

In Old Boy news, Joseph Tamane (NC 2006-07) became Nudgee College’s 23rd Wallaby after being selected to play against Scotland in June. Tomare was ruled out of the following match against Wales after twisting his ankle at training just four hours after being named in the run-on side.

OLYMPIC GAMES

When the 2012 Olympic Games begin in November, members of the wider Nudgee College community were among the competitors.

Leaping the way was Old Boy Brenton Rickard and Nudgee Brothers Swim Club members Emily Sebohnn and Brittany Emslie. They were joined at the pool by coach Matt Brown.

Brenton (NC 1996-2000) who swam in the Nudgee Brothers swim program under the guidance of Vince Raleigh for nine years swam the 100m and 200m Breaststroke and the 4x100m Medley relay.

Emily has been swimming in the Nudgee Brothers swim program since she was eight. Older brother Tom attended Nudgee College from 2001-05 and younger brother Will is a current student. Emily swam the 100m Backstroke and 4x100m Medley relay.

Brittany, whose younger brother Josh is a current student, made her Olympic debut when she swam in the 4x100m and 4x200m Freestyle relays.

Matt has been Nudgee College’s Director of Swimming for the past 10 years and coaches Emily and Brittany on the Australian Olympic Team.

In addition to the competitors and coach, brothers were also represented in the torch relay in the lead up to the games when another of their coaches, Suki Brownson, carried the Olympic torch in London on Saturday 7th July.

Suki was a triple Olympian for Great Britain and is the mother of Old Boy Buster Sykes (NC 2008-10).

Nudgee College also had a connection in the hockey arena as Hockeyswimmers Captain Madonna Blyth is the daughter of current staff member Mr Brian Blyth. Madonna has played over 200 international matches for Australia and made her Olympic debut at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games where Australia finished 4th. She has been captain of the Hockeyswimmers since 2009.
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE
... coming to life

As one stands at the front gates of St Joseph's Nudgee College, facing the magnificent view that is the Treacy Building, with the Chapel to one side, the rose garden, statues of St Joseph, St Patrick, St Francis Xavier and a glimpse of Mary in the bell tower, one can only wonder what wonderful story will unfold as they enter the main entrance of this historical building, recently returned to its original glory after a painstaking 12-month, $5 million refurbishment.

With the official recommissioning of the building set to take place in Term 4 this year, the Treacy Building is coming to life and developing a personality of its own. This personality incorporates the stories of Blessed Edmund Rice, the Christian Brothers, Catholic education, the Indigenous story, the College's history, and student life, both historical and contemporary.

Throughout the refurbishment, it was important to keep to the plan developed for the whole building, with an overarching framework for the internal decorating of the entrance, hallways, waiting rooms, meeting rooms and offices across all three floors, as well as the staircase with a continuous display of key messages, themes and stories that would unfold moving through the rooms.

There needed to be consideration given to any symbols, artwork and icons used to ensure they tell the past, present and future story of Nudgee College.

As one enters the main foyer, the story immediately unfolds with recognition of country through Indigenous art, the Blessed Edmund Rice Icon, a Celtic Cross and a framed portrait of Brother Patrick Ambrose Treacy, the founder of Nudgee College and after whom the building is named.

Moving through the antique doors into the hallway one can only admire the beautiful marble-coloured floor that spans the length of the hallway in both directions. A pictorial and literal history of the 29 Principals of Nudgee College from 1891 to the present day line the corridor walls, which have been painted in the original colours. Down the hallway, the Christian Brothers study room – subsequently renamed the Macrossan Room – has been returned to its original glory with antique bookcase, tables and furniture.

The brilliance of the colourful artwork Nudgee College Under the Stars covers the back wall while the four pillars in the room display symbolic icons representing the four touchstones of EREAs new charter.

Beyond the Boardroom is the new Nudgee College Museum and Rugby Room housing over a century's worth of memorabilia from the playing fields and regional and outback Australia, the trenches of the Western Front, the skies over war-torn Europe, and in politics and law.

The workroom in the cabinet is outstanding and the spacious room lends itself to being an exciting place of learning and reflection on the proud history of the College.

Returning through the boardroom take a glimpse through the Principal's office door and you'll see beautiful artwork acquired at various DimensionsNC Art Shows and the marble fireplace at the far end of the room. In the Principal's meeting room you'll see Indigenous art and photos of recent Old Boys – having come from diverse backgrounds who have gone on to achieve success in their chosen fields.

Climbing the remaining stairs to Level 2, the theme changes to that of Nudgee College life today, with a large aerial photo of the College and prints of significant buildings, statues and events lining the hallway and offices.

An exit out to the front verandah reveals views to the city and across Sandgate Road to Clear Mountain and Samford Valley while the view from the Chapel end of Ross Oval and out to Sandgate is breathtaking.

Beginning the descent of the six flights and 64 stairs, one espies a very narrow staircase climbing up into the tower but a sign prevents any investigation. It is surmised the famous Jack Ross and other Christian Brothers lived and studied in the room above and there are plans afoot to once again open up Mary's Tower to be surrounded by a viewing platform that will provide 360 degree views out to Moreton Bay, Brisbane City, Mt Coot-tha, Samford Valley, Pine Rivers, Redcliffe and beyond.

Upon leaving the building one can only reflect on what Mr Treacy, the Principals and Christian Brothers, whose names have been honoured throughout the building, would have thought. It suggests: Nudgee College, you have done us proud!
Beef Week

Students and staff attended Beef Week, held in Rockhampton from 7–12 May. Several staff members spoke with past, current and prospective families, as well as Old Boys, at the College’s pavilion stand while members of the Cattle Club did the school proud yet again in the ring. Nineteen Cattle Club students represented the College with distinction and brought back several awards for their hard work, including the broad ribbon for Calf Champion.

Mother and Son Lunch

The annual Mother and Year 12 student luncheon in May was voted a huge success.

“There was a lovely sense of companionship and friendship throughout the day. As these mothers shared stories and camaraderie as mothers of young men, about to enter another phase of their lives as young adults,” said Dean of Identity Ms Erin Wedge.

“As M’s of the event, and a mother of young children myself, I stand in awe of these women who have watched their boys develop through the terrible two and potty training to learning to read and write, to riding their bikes, playing their first game of football or cricket, completing primary school, surviving the adolescent years and embarking on life beyond the walls of Nudgee College.

“It is fortuitous that we celebrate the Mother and Son Lunch in May because, during this month, Catholics around the world join in honouring and praying to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. It is also during this month that we honour mothers and their relationship with their children.”

Beef Week

Students and staff attended Beef Week, held in Rockhampton from 7–12 May. Several staff members spoke with past, current and prospective families, as well as Old Boys, at the College’s pavilion stand while members of the Cattle Club did the school proud yet again in the ring. Nineteen Cattle Club students represented the College with distinction and brought back several awards for their hard work, including the broad ribbon for Calf Champion.

250th Anniversary Mass

The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane, joined the Nudgee College community for a celebration mass on Friday 1 June, commemorating to the day the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice.

Blessed Edmund Rice was the founder of the Christian Brothers, under which Nudgee College was established in 1891 by Brother Patrick Ambrose Treacy as a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge, in his homily, reflected on Edmund’s birth in Arklow and as a time when Catholics faced oppression under Penal Laws enforced by the British authorities. He also shared with the 1600 students, staff and guests the story of how Edmund forged a successful career in banking before devoting his life to the education and service of the poor.

The mass had a distinctly Irish flavour, celebrating Edmund’s heritage and creating an atmosphere and sense of reverence reflecting the significant milestone of Blessed Edmund Rice’s journey and that of the Christian Brothers.

The mass opened with a Recognition of Country by two Indigenous student leaders and closed with Archbishop Mark Coleridge being presented with a copy of Indigenous artwork painted by Head of Indigenous Education Ms Yvonne O’Neill and a series of books reflecting the long and proud history of Nudgee College.

Above: Archdiocese Coleridge with Principal Mr Daryl Harry, Dean of Identity Ms Erin Wedge and the 2012 College Captains.
FROM EQUITY TO LEADERSHIP

St Joseph’s Nudgee College has a long and proud history of catering for the educational needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The College’s approach to this endeavour was formalised in 1993 with the establishment of the Indigenous Education Program, the Indigenous Student Support Team and associated programs specifically targeted at ensuring the best possible outcomes for its Indigenous students.

Since formalising the Indigenous Education Program, more than 430 Indigenous students have benefited from a quality education in the environment offered by Nudgee College. Currently more than 70 Indigenous students attend the College in Years 7–12, 52 of whom are boarders. The College has a proven track record in Indigenous education with its 92% retention and completion rate one of the highest in Australia.

Collaborative partners – the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation, the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation and the Arthur Earle Foundation – are the cornerstones of the success of the Indigenous Education Program. Their financial support underpins the College’s ability to provide the resources needed to ensure the program is sustainable over the longer term. There are no rigid rules governing the selection and enrolment of students in the Indigenous Education Program. Each applicant is judged independently and accepted on individual merit. This non-selective policy in some instances adversely impacts on our funding arrangements; however, because the College is passionate about the diversity of cultures and traditions our Indigenous students bring from different areas across Australia, it will continue to embrace these students, regardless of funding criteria.

The Nah-diha Indigenous Bursary Fund derives its name from the Aboriginal word for Nudgee and is an initiative of the Nudgee College Foundation and Indigenous Education Program. This fund supports disadvantaged Indigenous Australians and helps them obtain a first-class education that might not otherwise be available to them.

The Nah-diha Indigenous Bursary Fund was not established to provide financial support to the College but to help bring about significant change to Indigenous educational outcomes in Australia and contribute towards closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

In terms of Indigenous education, Nudgee College is at the forefront of providing opportunities for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and, as a community, is making a difference not only in these young men’s lives but in the lives of their families and communities.

What Nudgee College gives them on their journey will be with them forever. It is extremely important that we work together as a community and provide these young men with the tools to be successful in life, enabling our Indigenous men to ‘walk in two worlds’.

The leadership and governing body of Nudgee College is thoroughly committed to the Indigenous Education Program, and the Nudgee College Foundation seeks to partner with leading Australian companies, foundations and individuals who share a vision to create tangible, measurable and authentic change to address Indigenous disadvantage through education.

To learn more about the Nah-diha Indigenous Bursary Fund, how to donate or be involved contact:
- Director of Fundraising
  phone 07 3865 0425 or email foundation@nudgee.com OR
- Head of Indigenous Education
  phone 07 3865 0425 or email leanell@nudgee.com

Program wins Premier’s Reconciliation Award

The 2012 Queensland Reconciliation Awards recognise and award businesses, community organisations, educational institutions and partnership projects for their commitment to turning reconciliation into real action.

Nudgee College’s Indigenous Education Program was one of four finalists in the Education sector for government and non-government schools, universities or TAFEs that have programs and or initiatives in place to promote reconciliation.

At the gala event held at the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art, Premier Campbell Newman MP congratulated Nudgee College on its Highly Commended award and the significant contribution it makes to Indigenous education in Australia and bringing about true reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

A key outcome of the Indigenous Education Program has been the acknowledgement and acceptance of Indigenous cultures and traditions within the Nudgee College school and community environment.
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Nudgee College Old Boys community stands tall as contributors to all aspects of society. Although it is not the nature of Nudgee College men to trumpet their achievements, you don’t have to go far to see the lives of many in the community transformed by their efforts.

The Nudgee College Old Boys Association continues to work hard to maintain a link between our Old Boys and to facilitate ongoing connections between Old Boys and the College.

I recently attended the annual Edmund Rice Foundation Dinner. There was great representation in the room from both the College and Old Boys communities. During the dinner, the Wallabies team of all-time from Christian Brothers schools in Queensland was named. Nudgee College was well represented with Mark Louse named at No. 8 and vice-captain, Paul McLean at 10 pushing Michael Lysaght to 12. Eton Elstern at outside centre, James O’Connor at the wing and John O’Neill at fullback. Tony Darcy, Dallas O’Neill and Rocky Elson were named in the reserves.

We were fortunate to have Brother Dunstan Price give the keynote address at the dinner. He told the story of two Nudgee College Old Boys – Joe Faut and Reg Vlamadre. These were ordinary Nudgee College men from Prospectine who achieved extraordinary things for their country at war. They taught us that being part of a brotherhood was all about standing beside those in need. Joe was a proud member of the 4th XV in 1933 – coached by Jack Ross. His jersey (pictured left) will soon be proudly displayed in the College Museum.

On 24 April we gathered at the College for the 97th commemoration of Anzac Day. We were particularly honoured to be joined by a healthy contingent from the Senior class of 1961, celebrating their 50th reunion year. Brigadier (ret’d) Paul O’Sullivan was a member of that class and he delivered the address. He spoke of several Old Boys who landed at Gallipoli that first day including Reg Verry, Hector De Tissney, Samuel Divets, Milo Morrison, Walter Parton, and William Watters. He paid tribute to all of the men who did not return from conflicts, including Year 11 student, Nudgee College’s oldest soldier lost in Vietnam.

It’s full speech can be found on the Association website www.ncoba.com.au.

To continue the momentum of the work we are doing with Old Boys and the College, the Old Boys Association is proud to announce two new initiatives: our Business Breakfasts and our ‘Raggasics’ program for Years 5-7.

Business Breakfasts

We will hold our first Business Breakfast at the Queens Arms Hotel in James Street, Fortitude Valley, on 16 August. The breakfast will feature guest speakers Michael Pascou and Paul McLean. There will be great opportunities for Old Boys to make business contacts as well as register for our new Business Contacts database to help find fellow Old Boys by profession or trade. We will also seek expressions of interest to help with the College’s various careers programs and school-based apprenticeships to give the current students their best start. Check the Association website for more details.

Raggasics for Years 5-7

We are also excited to support the introduction of the ‘Raggasics’ program for Years 5, 6 and 7 in association with Simon Owens (NC 1985-89). This program will be conducted before school and offers all boys the opportunity to increase their fitness and ball skills as they work through a series of stations. It will benefit everyone, not just those interested in rugby, and will be particularly for those in the lower year levels where improvement in fitness and skills will lead to more enjoyment of their chosen activities. We are hopeful the program will be expanded to other age groups.

Dr Simon Carter
President NCoba

BEEF WEEK

On 9 May, Nudgee College hosted the Beef Week Gala Lunch on April 12th to celebrate the launch of the Nudgee College Beef Week program. I attended on behalf of the NCBA and was pleased to catch up with Old Boys and Nudgee College families from all over Australia.

Rocky local, Old Boy and one of the Nudgee College Beef’s first and strongest supporters, Corinne Fanning (NC 1984-85) addressed the 100-strong group. Fittingly, Corinne was one of the founding members of the Farm Committee in 1984, which went on to become the Cattle Club, now a Nudgee College tradition. For more details on the Nudgee College Cattle Club and the Beef Week program go to www.nudgee.com.au/public/cultural/cattle/club.

All proceeds from the Nudgee College Beef go to the Jack Ross Bursary Trust. The Beef Week program provides much-needed funds to support the tuition costs of elite students in the community who would otherwise not be able to attend the College. It is the NCBA’s humble attempt to honour the legacy of St Edmund Rice and all the Christian Brothers who have devoted their lives to educating young men in need.
SYDNEY REUNION

Nudgee College Old Boys from around the globe joined their Sydney counterparts for the annual Old Boys Sydney reunion at the Local Taphouse in Darlinghurst on Saturday 23 June. The event was also a prelude to the Qantas Wallabies v Wales rugby union test at Allianz Stadium that afternoon.

There has always been a great love of the game of rugby at Nudgee College and this was evidenced by the number of local and interstate Old Boys who not only attended the reunion but who had supported the Australian Schoolboys Rugby lunchcheon the previous day at the Four Seasons Hotel.

The many Old Boys who gathered at the Sydney reunion were hosted by representatives of the Old Boys Executive Committee and Nudgee College in a special reserved area of the hotel, enjoying each other’s company and sharing their many stories before taking the short walk to Allianz Stadium or staying on at the hotel watching the game on the big screen.

A special note of thanks to Geoff McNamara (NC 1983–87) and Luke Gedon (NC 1985–89) for once again facilitating this successful reunion of Nudgee College Old Boys.

UPDATE FROM AN OLD BOY

When Old Boy Peter Geary (NC 1983–87) recently married his partner Kyle Hogan in the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Toowoomba, he was flanked by three praesidens, all fellow Nudgee College Old Boys and all sporting Nudgee College corporate ties.

Peter’s Nudgee College journey started in Year 4 at Nudgee Junior Indoropoli in 1979. He joined the 40-odd boarders in proceeding to Nudgee College when he started Year 8 in 1983, finishing Year 12 in 1987.

After leaving Nudgee College, Peter began a cadetship as a Quantity Surveyor and attended QUT on a part-time basis. The following year he enrolled in a Bachelor of Property Studies at Gatton College and suggests he “stumbled” through the course, graduating in 1993.

Peter moved to Emerald in 1998 as an Assistant Valuer but was constantly on the move, spending four years in Rockhampton, then to Darwin, and later to Townsville. Last year, Peter made a career change and moved to Air as a Technical Officer in local government and returned to external studies at university. Peter and Kyle now live in a small house set amid cane fields about 8km east of the township.

Peter has fond memories of his days at Nudgee College and treasures the friendships he made. He has met a number of Old Boys in his travels over the years and rekindles some old friendships. Peter hopes that one day he might be able to reconnect with the College again, but this time as a parent.
Nudgee College Museum 1905

The new College Museum and Rugby Room are now open in the Treacy Building