Trustees of Edmund Rice Education Australia trading as St Joseph’s Nudgee College
2199 Sandgate Road Boondall 4034
PO Box 130 Virginia 4014
p: +617 3865 0555
f: +617 3865 0500
w: www.nudgee.com
e: contact@nudgee.com

Editor
Tara Shipperley

Contributors
Paul Begg, Chris Cavley, Paul Daly, Daryl Hanly, Anthony Hart, Brandon Herrigan, David Johnston, Martin Kerby, Graham Leddie, Phil O’Connor, Ben Rada-Martin, Tara Shipperley, James Tuttle, Michael Wilson, Christian Zande

Many thanks to
Edward Aila, Mark Ensor, Brian O’Reilly, Jamie Pybus, Mick Scott, Luanne Wishart

Design
Elliot Creative Design Co.
e: design@elliotcreative.com

Content editor
Carol Campbell

Photography
Cover image courtesy of John Sayer
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Editorial queries, feedback and change of address
phone: 07 3865 0319
e-mail: nthdegree@nudgee.com

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NUDGEE COLLEGE OLD BOYS
Retrospect
2015 marks a significant milestone in the history of this great College. This will be marked and celebrated in a variety of ways:

• Our first cohort of Year 5 students, who commenced in 2008, will complete their eight-year journey with us.

• We will experience the largest intake of new students in the history of the College. This will include, at a minimum, 124 Year 5s, 125 in each of Years 7 and 8, as well as the normal intake in other years. I expect there will be a minimum of 425 new students – in excess of 25% of the total enrolment.

• The Year 7 cohort will be the first Year 7s to be secondary students in Queensland, as a result of the State Government’s Flying Start Initiative.

• The Australian Curriculum will continue to be introduced in Years 5-10, with expectations that there will be clarity with respect to the national roll-out of the Years 11 and 12 subjects. This will see the introduction of an opportunity for students to enrol in two English subjects, with English Literature being a new option, as well as a new Science subject – Earth Science.

• We will be taking advantage of our new and refurbished boarding facilities, as well as, hopefully, a new learning facility that will include a new library.

The impact of each of the above will demand of us strategic responses which will be necessarily of a proactive nature. There is no doubt that the presence of a cohort of students who have lived, responded to and progressed the Nudgee College Story will add a significant richness to the texture of who we are. Our Student Formation Programs as well as our pastoral approach to our students will assist in the quick “settling in” of our new 2015 students.

Ongoing professional development of staff, as well maintaining the Habits of Mind as our learning and teaching paradigm, will continue to contribute to the seamlessness of the transition of Year 7s as well as the ongoing implementation of the Australian Curriculum. Additionally, the significant planning that has led to a strategic Facilities Master Plan will ensure that we are building with foresight as we “future-proof” our facilities.

What is it, then, that can give us confidence that we will progress the “vision”, ensuring that the decisions we are taking will guarantee a productive pathway into the future?

I believe that we have a number of critical parameters and events that will assist this process. These include:

• The distinct advantage of having in our community more than 24 Christian Brothers, who join us in community for dinner weekly. Their wisdom and reflections continue to provide commentary on our journey as a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

• Our continual reference to the Touchstones and our commitment to the belief and practice that, as a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition, we will:
  • Open our hearts and minds through quality teaching and learning experiences, so that through critical reflection and engagement, each person...
• The development of the next iteration of our College Strategic Plan 2016–2020, will ensure that the risk-taking which is necessary for planning the future, will be considered and measured.

My challenge to all is that we progress as hope-filled people, confident in our ability to respect and honour our past, live the present, and vision and plan for the future, knowing that

“Yaweh, your God, goes in front of you and will be fighting on your side as you saw him fight for you in Egypt. In the wilderness, too, you saw him: how Yaweh carried you, as a man carries a child, all along the road you travelled on the way to this place.”

(Deuteronomy 1:30-31)

I invite you all to continue to be a part of our journey.

― Daryl Hickey

“There is no doubt that the presence of a cohort of students who have lived, responded to and progressed the Nudgee College Story will add a significant richness to the texture of who we are.”

will be hope-filled and free to build a better world for all;

• Ensure that our community is accepting and welcoming, fostering right relationships and commitment to the common good;

• Invite all people into the story of Jesus and strive to make His message of compassion, justice and peace a living reality within our community; and

• Commit to justice and peace for all, grounded in a spirituality of action and reflection that calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalised and the Earth itself.

• Our strategic reflection on our Strategic Strands, 2010–2015:

  • Rethinking our sustainability
  • Living and sharing the authentic stories of Nudgee College
  • Engaging in our Curriculum future
  • Forming and empowering staff to meet College goals
  • Facilitating creative opportunities for improving communication
  • Creating a culture which matches accountability with responsibility.
In 2015, St Joseph’s Nudgee College will celebrate a milestone year for more reasons than one. Not only will it be the College’s 125th year, but the first class of Year 5 students to enrol in the Junior School in 2008 will graduate senior.

In this edition as we look towards the 125th year, three of the first Year 5 students have given their perspective on what Nudgee College means to them.

by Ben Rada Martin

The Spirit Tunnel, the Grandstand, the Chapel – all places within St Joseph’s Nudgee College where visitors can be immersed in the soul of Nudgee, the spirit that unites each and every one of us. Yet fewer are lucky enough to attend the College every single day, where every morning constitutes a sense of awe and inspiration. Past, current and future alumni would support me in saying that Nudgee College is not just a school for academia, sporting or other co-curricular activities. It is also a great journey, where every boy is tested to his potential and discovers how he can be a Sign of Faith to the world.

For me, this journey is yet to come to an end. I am currently a Year 10 student and was fortunate enough to be a member of the inaugural Year 5 cohort that started at the College in 2008. Since that very first day, it has been a privilege to immerse myself in the diverse pathways offered by Nudgee College. NC Drumline, cricket, rugby and debating activities lay testament to my aim to develop a well-rounded co-curricular life. Academia, nevertheless, has always played a vital part in this balance, especially as the conclusion of my Nudgee College journey is now in sight.

Year 11 and 12 are bound to be some of the greatest tests of my life so far. I postulate that they will bring more unforgettable and remarkable memories, such as those I already have from my time at Nudgee College. I have enjoyed every day. I believe I belong here and that will stay with me for life. As the outside world draws closer, I can only reaffirm the tremendous job the College has put into developing who I am and encouraging me to be a Sign of Faith into the future.
by Brandon Herrigan

My journey at Nudgee College commenced almost six years ago, way back in 2008.

I remember my first day at the College; I was only nine years old, the only boy coming across from my primary school. I remember the daunting feeling of driving into the gates of the College for the first time as what I now could call myself, a ‘Nudgee Man’.

My mind raced as I thought of every possible excuse to try to get Mum and Dad to turn around and drive home – forgot something? Feeling sick? I knew in my mind that nothing would work – it was time to face my fears and jump into a new world.

As the day progressed we met our ‘big brothers’, House deans and teachers, all similar to any other school, but it wasn't until the last five minutes of the day that I recognised a familiar face, Jacob O'Brien.

He and I had gone to kindergarten six years earlier but had lost contact after graduating. What a relief to go home and tell Mum and Dad that I actually knew someone! Instantly, all my fears and any doubts were washed away and replaced with excitement and anticipation of the years ahead.

Some of the happiest and most memorable moments of my Nudgee College journey so far have come in Years 5–7, with the challenges of meeting new friends, forging relationships with teachers and reaching out of my comfort zone to try new things and embrace the opportunities handed to me – opportunities such as the Year 7 Armidale Rugby Tour in 2010, where our team finished third in the top division. It was great to play against, and alongside, such talent and it was great to shape new and strengthen existing friendships.

Over my six years at the College, I have, in my eyes, far exceeded any expectations I set to myself before attending this great institution. I have represented my state in swimming and athletics, achieving a medal at this level for both areas. I have also improved my level of academic achievement, being awarded eight gold, one silver and two bronze academic medals and three academic merit awards, alongside the Leonardo Da Vinci and Steven Daley awards.

I was also named Athletics Age Champion for U14 in 2012 and received the Most Outstanding Swim Award at GPS swimming in the same year. All of this never would have happened if I did not take every opportunity presented to me.

If I could offer any advice to new boys coming or thinking about coming to Nudgee College, I would undoubtedly emphasise and urge the need to grasp every chance that is presented to you. Reach out of your comfort zone, try new sports, new subjects and meet new friends; your time at Nudgee College is what you make of it! Before long it will all be over before you realise.

by Christian Zande

I am not sure who originally coined the phrase that teamwork is something greater than the sum of its individual parts but I do believe the Nudgee College experience is a wonderful personification of that concept.

With motivations like Brother Vic’s line, “put a Nudgee jersey on a boy and he’ll run a hundred miles” or Mr Hanley’s “Eagle speech” or Terry White welling up in tears of gratitude for the guidance and opportunities created for him here at this school, you can’t help but feel you are part of something great. Something that will continue to guide you and help you long after you finish your final day in Year 12.

I have so far experienced a huge range of highlights in academic, sporting and the school spirit arenas but the more basic things, such as having a great teacher and a good bunch of friends, are just as rewarding.

Over my remaining two and half years at the College, I'd like to make a great contribution as a member of the 16 boys forming this year’s Philippines immersion group and hopefully gain selection for a leadership role in 2015.

For the students who might be following me, I probably can’t offer any advice better than that a Year 11 boy once gave me: 1. Listen, 2. Participate, and 3. Try to get as much work done as possible in class and you will succeed at Nudgee College. If I can offer any more, it would be, just to look around and do your best to follow the examples already being set by others and, wherever you can, try to improve on that.

As part of the first 25 Year 5 students who started here in 2008, I will by 2015 have been part of the first group to be privileged to receive a full eight years of Nudgee College education but, in truth, the greatest wealth for every student of that year will be the benefits that flow from a 125-year teamwork experience.

ST JOSEPH’S NUDGEE COLLEGE MAGAZINE
Described as someone who brings passion to her job every day, Ms Luanne Wishart is the welcoming face for the students, parents and staff at St Joseph’s Nudgee College Junior School.

Lu started at Nudgee College in Term 2, 2011, and is the Administration Officer for the Junior School. Driven by a love and passion for supporting her own three children – Sophie, Grace and Julian – Lu said there really is no mistake that she has found herself working in a role with young people and extending her assistance to Nudgee College students, families and academic staff.

This year will mark Lu’s third year in celebrating the “Crossing of the Road” ceremony with the Year 7 students. “It is a Nudgee College ‘ritual’ that I love seeing each year,” Lu said. “In my role it’s great to be able to see the boys so excited to move onto the next chapter of their Nudgee College journey.”

As the public face of the Junior School, Lu is, quintessentially, a “people person”. Before starting at Nudgee College, Lu’s professional background was largely in two sectors: human resources/recruitment and advertising. “I worked in a fast-paced environment as an account manager with a Brisbane advertising agency, specialising in recruitment advertising,” Lu said. “Once in human resources with a global engineering firm, I covered all aspects of staffing issues and supported the Queensland Manager and 220 staff. My recruitment background has also taken me abroad to London and Dublin.”

With all that experience behind her, embarking on what was an administrative opportunity has become so much more for Lu who said “experiencing ‘Nudgee With Spirit’ is something that has slowly threaded its way into my life.”

“Last year I tested my will to try new things and participated in the Barralong Corporate Rowing Regatta,” Lu said. “Our crew’s catch-cry rowing up the Brisbane River was ‘living the dream’! It was a wonderful experience and I hope to continue to place myself in new experiences and grow both in character and in spirit. I have signed up again for 2013.”

As the Administrator for Years 5 to 7, Lu ensures the admin tasks for the Junior School calendar are seen to. From managing absentees, bus tickets, lost property and sick bay to organising annual events such as Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, End of Year Masses and the “Crossing of the Road” ceremony.

“On paper, the role itself can seem quite simplistic, yet with the complexities of dealing with children and real life family issues, it can definitely be challenging,” Lu said.

“Working with families can present many unforeseen events, and my will to demonstrate empathy, hopefully can soften the hearts of those under stress.”

Lu works with Mr Chris Cawley, the Director of Junior School. Chris, who started work at the College in 2012, said Lu’s ability to get the job done was remarkable.

“The Junior Office is full on all day, particularly at break times, and Lu handles the boys and parents in a way that is so caring,” Chris said.

“The way she can multi-task - one minute she is answering the phone, the next she is the sick bay attendant, followed up by handing out tuckshop, ringing parents with a student concern and then selling bus tickets - I often feel exhausted just watching her in action.”

“As the public face of the Junior School, Lu seems to manage this remarkable juggling act with what appears ease, and yet requires a unique personality - that of Ms Lu Wishart.

“Lu has genuine warmth for those she deals with and espouses all the values we aspire to as a college in the Edmund Rice tradition.”

After viewing Patrick Takaya Soloman’s inspirational film Finding Joe about the journey of self discovery, Lu has been contemplating the notion of following her own bliss.

“Teachers and staff at Nudgee College are inspiring, encouraging, child and family orientated,” Lu said. “From the Locker Room to Property Services to the Kitchen and all other areas of staffing on campus, I believe everyone plays a part in making Nudgee what it is.

“Their goodwill to see others do well in life is infectious and it was inevitable that through their support I have set out on a journey to further my own education.”

Like many others interviewed before, Lu cites the staff of Nudgee College its greatest attribute.

“It has been said that ‘it takes a village to raise a child’ she said, “and I am so proud to be on staff with a group of professionals who are faithful to the vision of Edmund Rice.”
“Amidst my own personal adversities, the Junior School and greater staff community have been endless in their giving and support. It can be a listening ear, a laugh and fun times, or random acts of kindness, but they are all a source of strength and kindness.

“Not your ordinary workplace, Nudgee College hosts a melting pot of individuals who act justly and with compassion, especially towards those most in need.”

Outside of these career achievements Lu cites her most meaningful role as that of being a full-time mother.

“Time spent with my children prior to them starting school was definitely a joy and a privilege and a warming milestone in my life,” Lu said.

Now as a proud working mother of three delightful children, Lu finds there are a few more balls in the air to juggle, but tries to keep it simple.

“Most importantly, I connect with my children every day. I try to have a watchful eye and catch what is right in the world and always lead with gratitude.”

Earlier this year, Lu attended the Kairos Program with a group of Year 12 students, which was facilitated by Mr Mark Ellison.

“I took away a deeper appreciation that our life stories are so very beautiful and incredibly sacred,” said Lu.

“To the young men that allowed me share in their spiritual retreat, my care will be extended to them always. Whilst one person can make a difference, on this occasion 42 young men made a difference to my life. I am forever grateful.”

Carpe Diem. ●
A critique of the role of positive education, Habits of Mind and our identity as a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition

The pastoral care, student formation and behaviour-management framework at St Joseph’s Nudgee College is based upon the principles of Ricean pastoral care and is anchored in the faith life and practice of Jesus as evidenced in the Gospels. This has always been the fundamental basis on which the College was founded and must be its future direction.

There are so many competing values in the modern educational setting, and ever-increasing pressures on life and family, that schools are increasingly being asked to move beyond classroom care and into the realm of counselling, psychology and values education. This, coupled with the challenge of ensuring the College’s sustainability and legal compliance, and fulfilling obligations to students, parents and Old Boys, means there are times when the philosophical underpinnings of what we do can be obscured.

Our challenge is to ensure that the philosophical foundations of the College are ever present and also reflect best modern educational practice. Our answer at Nudgee College has been through our focus on positive education, Habits of Mind and, of course, on the charter that makes us a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

Our daily practice and College structures draw on the research and publishing of Martin Seligman, Chris Peterson, Shelley Gable and Jonathan Haidt (in the area of positive psychology); Bill Rogers, Evelyn Field and Mark Dobson, Dr Timothy McDonald (classroom and behaviour management); Ken Rigby (bullying and harassment); Ian Lillico (boys education); Dr Tim Hawkes (boys education and leadership); and Michael Carr-Gregg and Andrew Fuller (adolescent mental health) in what is a well thought-out and comprehensive approach to student wellbeing.

In 2013 we have added a layer to this with an additional focus through the College’s learning and teaching structure of Art Costa’s Habits of Mind. What the habits have provided us with is a framework on which to focus student formation throughout and across the curriculum. Every class is an opportunity to develop values, character and habits for success. The 16 identified habits mesh beautifully with the notions of student wellbeing, character development and behaviour management.

Positive psychology: where is its place?

Seligman, Gable and Haidt, and Peterson in particular, as psychologists and social researchers, have in essence developed a faith framework for contemporary secular living termed Positive Psychology. In gospel terms, we would frame it as John 10:10: “living life to the full”. Essentially, the frameworks mean “the good life can be taught” and that happiness and fulfilment in life are not the result of luck but of strategic choices to be happy and hard-work focused on achieving “sustained happiness”.
Peterson’s most recent work (Pursuing the Good Life: 100 Reflections on Positive Psychology; 2013) acknowledges that beyond work, love and play there is another contributor to sustained happiness – service to others. Actions that improve the lives and outcomes of others make our own lives worthwhile and worth living. To live a truly meaningful and flourishing life, service to others is essential.

For Nudgee College, our mission actually allows us to establish and move forward with boys in the framework of positive psychology branded as “a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition.” Our secular counterparts at grammar and independent schools are not positioned to “hang their hat” on religious ideals and therefore need a positive psychology branding to deliver a values curriculum and an approach to learning that values and encourages positive behaviour, actions, interactions and outlooks. For example:

Geelong Grammar School is committed to being the world’s pioneering school when it comes to employing the science of Positive Psychology to bolster good teaching practice. We must not let critics trivialise the debate about the power of the pursuit of happiness, nor let others simply dismiss our enterprise as a ‘happy camp.’ Rather, we need to transform schools into enabling institutions (Fredrickson, 2001) that cultivate capacities such as empathy, creativity, self-efficacy and resilience. It is only where we see and act with empathy – deploying our strengths, engaging emotion, celebrating creativity, teaching self-efficacy, fostering cultures of resilience and expressing gratitude – that the path to happiness can begin.

(Curriculum Leadership, M. White, 2009)

Agreed, but at Nudgee College this has been our heritage. For 125 years the College has been termed a Christian Brothers College and is the reason why so many of our CBC schools are not only successful but have long family traditions. When Edmund Rice began to work with the youth of Waterford, the vocabulary might have been different but the goal was the same: to “cultivate capacities such as empathy, creativity, self-efficacy and resilience.”
How are we a positive education school?

Positive psychology at St Joseph’s Nudgee College is a strategic imperative today and will continue to be in the years ahead. It highlights the importance in the curriculum and community of the student formation program; the pastoral care system; House-based structures, systems and activities; camp and retreat programs; a broad-based cross-cultural and multi-dimensional sports and activities program; a service learning program; vibrant and public mental health, child protection and anti-bullying programs; and a plethora of other activities.

As a College, every activity we engage in must, as its foundational purpose, engender and encourage growth, self-belief, resilience, positivity and challenge. In doing this we allow for the growth and development of the six strands of the positive psychology character, strength and flourishing schedule:

- Positive purpose
- Positive accomplishment
- Positive relationship
- Positive emotion
- Positive engagement
- Positive engagement

How does positive education operate at Nudgee?

The principles of positive education at St Joseph’s Nudgee College are reinforced every day in the multitude of events and activities taking place. These are led by all in the College community: the Principal, the Dean of Identity, Dean of Students, House Deans, Heads of Boarding Houses, Director of Activities and Pastoral Care Tutors.

The last word

Both positive psychology and coaching psychology have much to offer schools. However, to increase sustainability, the successful integration and strategic application of both approaches is required. Clonan et al. (2004) highlight the need to customise each program to the specific needs of the school. There is a pressing need for further research on such programs and the need for expert external consultants and educators to work collaboratively with schools to create and evaluate individualised programs.

InPsych, S. Green, April 2011

Dr Green’s statement reflects what we have done and continue to do at Nudgee College. Our role is to ensure that everything we do reflects the needs and best interests of the boys in our care, their parents and the common good. We need practices that promote healthy living, positive self-concept and develop strength and resilience. This is how we guarantee not merely sustainability but excellence. Our student formation program, and team, is strong but we must maintain the focus to ensure we are always providing the best for our boys.
St Joseph’s Nudgee College - a Habits of Mind school focusing on excellence in boys’ education.

St Joseph’s Nudgee College is justly proud of its sustained commitment to providing a holistic education for our students, with our key focus on becoming a Mindful School. As we approach our 125th year, our core values remain unaltered, unlike our teaching practice, which has evolved to keep pace with the ever-changing world we live in.

For when educational thinking becomes entrenched, a school ceases to evolve and improve. The once traditional ways of doing things are celebrated, not because they represent best practice, but merely because they are traditions.

Conscious that the entire community is united in the common desire to offer our boys a first-rate education, significant time and resources have been devoted to teacher professional development in order to ensure that our pedagogy is modern, adaptive and relevant.

Connected learning to family and community is fundamental in our approach to education. To accomplish this there are certain truths we embrace to guide our practice. At the core of all we do are the touchstones that combine with the Habits of Mind to form the foundation of our mindful community. In support of this solid core, we have the education truths described:

**TRUTH 1**

We believe that every boy can and will have the opportunity to develop a love of learning.

For some, learning comes easily; and conversely, there are students for whom learning is a difficult and sometimes painful process. At Nudgee College these boys receive our most sincere dedication, patience and tenacity. Teachers believe in every boy’s ability...
to learn and work to establish a sense of self-analysis, self-efficacy and self-fulfilment.

**TRUTH 2**

*We want every boy to receive a Queensland Certificate of Education.*

No parent sends their son to Nudgee College believing he will fail in school and eventually be a dropout. Some of our students do become frustrated and dismayed, but a strength of the College is the care and dedication shown by adults who help these boys face and overcome their struggles. Ensuring that all boys have developed their Habits of Mind and a genuine love of learning is a daunting responsibility. As any educator knows, this is easier said (or written) than done. When our boys attend their Valedictory Dinner at the end of Year 12, they will have learnt important life lessons that transcend the curriculum: Persistence has its rewards; they can face their future with greater confidence because the dedicated staff cared about them and made a difference in their lives.

**TRUTH 3**

*We want all our boys to be thinkers and problem solvers.*

To make this “truth” a reality, we employ methodologies that engross our students in learning that is imaginative, exhilarating and inspiring. Habits of Mind are at the heart of these methodologies and form the foundation that allows the continued growth of our boys as they develop into adults who will make a difference in the world.

**TRUTH 4**

*We want our students to know that we care about and respect them as individuals.*

In keeping with the Edmund Rice Mission of our College, each of Nudgee College’s classrooms has a warm, trusting, empathetic climate where students can readily admit they need help. Rather than being embarrassed, we want our students to know that not only making a mistake – or not knowing an answer – is okay, it is a vital part of learning. Good students don’t approach every question confident they possess all the relevant knowledge; they are often merely the students who are best at finding the answers.

As the College community embraces the mindful school approach to education, we are also acutely aware of the importance positive relationships play in the learning process. When teachers get to know their students and make it a practice to intentionally build relationships with each individual, the students come to trust their teachers, open their minds to new learning, buy into the curriculum, develop as deep thinkers, willingly ask for teacher assistance, and embrace the idea that the teacher and the student are on the same team. We believe that all teachers at Nudgee College know their students well. The focus on relationships ensures teachers identify individual learning deficits quickly and intervene purposefully. This underpins our efforts to avoid the “one size fits all” approach to teaching our students.
TRUTH 5
We must instil in our students a love for reading.

Studies show students’ reading achievement has a direct correlation with academic success as a result of improvements in vocabulary, reading comprehension, verbal fluency and knowledge acquisition. Generally, students who read independently become better readers, score higher on achievement tests, and have greater content knowledge than those who do not. Reading is also beneficial beyond the classroom in that it promotes positive life choices, morals and well-being. It provides a method of coping with stress and anxiety, and it delivers a forum for relaxation and escape.

TRUTH 6
We understand that the key to a successful school is a strong and healthy school culture.

Recent research on school success has identified the predictors of effectiveness: high student expectations, encouraging parental involvement in the learning process, staff development, and initiatives to connect learning with student interests and career plans. The establishment of Habits of Mind provides a learning approach that involves all staff, parents and students, encompasses the key predictors of school effectiveness and can generate a healthy school culture.

This list explores some of the truths we at Nudgee College feel are most important as we strive to ensure all boys leave the College well prepared for life and ready to make a valuable contribution to society. Our challenge will always be: Think deeply about the job we do, model what it is to be a mindful example to the boys, and know what actions the truths outlined above will lead us to take as we execute the responsibility we have been given to create a positive culture conducive to learning. ●
WHEN THE CHEERING STOPS
As Brother Treacy himself observed just prior to the opening in 1891, it was stronger on vision than foundation, denied adequate staffing and hampered from the very beginning by financial constraints. Yet the results would come. One of the early stars was Jerry Durack, who was anointed by Father Tom Boland as a claimant to the oft-conferred title of Nudgee College’s most distinguished Old Boy. Though it rather overstated the case, Durack did indeed lead a colourful life that took him from outback Queensland to the world of academia in England and India, and then service during the devastating battles of 1916. Boland was on firmer ground when he argued that Durack had justified all Brother Treacy’s exertions on behalf of the College.

He had taken the archetypal Irish-Australian boy from the Bush and shown him the vision from the heights. It was Durack’s talent and spirit which took him so far, but Nudgee gave him his chance.

One hundred years after Durack left the College for the final time, a young boy arrived at a College much changed in the intervening years. Edward Aila’s experience at the College and the years that followed his graduation showed that education is not just about being shown the vision from the heights. It is equally about developing a capacity to look inward or, in Aila’s words, to ‘dig deep’, to ‘change the game up’ and to have the courage to acknowledge fault and to strive “to do things differently”. It is about helping the boy become a man.

As many hundreds of students have done in the course of Nudgee College’s history, Aila came to the College in 1992 because of a family connection. Tom and Joseph Atu attended the College in the 1980s, a familial link with Brisbane further developed when the Aila family relocated to Brisbane for a year in 1988. It was, nevertheless, still a daunting prospect for a 13-year-old. He said:

Nudgee was very scary. On the first night I think everyone was crying. Mum came to Brisbane and stayed for the first week, which was comforting. We stopped crying... after a few terms... and by Year 10, I had started to feel really comfortable at the College, learnt my way around Brisbane and was enjoying the sport.

Although Aila initially gravitated toward the few students he had known in PNG, eventually his network of friends became as diverse as the boarding community itself.

We were all in the same boat and although I initially tended to mix with a couple of students I knew in PNG – we could speak the same lingo – sport really broke those barriers down. We mingled with other students – the country boys, students from around the world, the sportsmen, the academics. The PNG boys were tight, but the whole boarding school was fairly tight.

Like generations of Nudgee College students before him, the 13-year-old Aila sat in the grandstand cheering on the 1st XV and dared to dream that his time would come. Success in the classroom and on the rugby field soon followed. Leading try scorer in the Under 15 State Championships at Kawana and selection for the Queensland Open Schoolboys in Year 11 was followed by the honour of being chosen captain of the College 1st XV in 1996. After graduation, leaving the boarding school seemed even more challenging than the shift to Brisbane. He said:

Nudgee becomes your family and I’d been away from PNG, so ending my schooling was a bit confronting. I actually had two scholarships – one from the Queensland Reds and an AusAID scholarship to study at university. That just seemed to add to

With the approach of St Joseph’s Nudgee College’s 125th year, it is natural that attention is once again turned to the very early years of the College and the founding vision that sustained it through the difficult years.
the confusion as I was unsure of what course to enrol in. Should I go legal or business? And on top of all that, you are a young adult – nightclubs, girls, freedom. There was no Nudgee to guide you. I got into a bit of trouble, got injured, put on some weight and drifted away from rugby.

Although his rugby career stalled, Aila was able to pursue a double degree in Economics and Banking/Finance at QUT. He also began playing rugby league with the East Tigers and Wynnum Manly Seagulls. Despite the doubts that had crept in since 1996, he was selected in the PNG squad for the 2000 Rugby League World Cup played in Great Britain, Ireland and France.

He debuted for the Kumuls at Charlety Stadium in Paris against France in a game won 23–20 and played all Tests on that tour – South Africa (16–0), Tonga (30–22) and a quarter-final loss to Wales (8–22). He would represent his country in a further three Tests in PNG against France and Australia before retiring.

It was an awesome experience. After an intense four- to six-week lead-up, I debuted as a 21-year-old. I was packing it, but to some extent you don’t think about failure. In that first half of the game against France, we just started losing. At halftime, Adrian Larm, Marcus Bai and Gene Stanley just gave it to us. Early in the second half, Andrew Norman does the kamikaze tackle and that fired us up. We chanted “Kill them” in pigeon and we came back and just hammered away at them.

Returning to Australia, Aila had to be supported by his parents through his final few university subjects with the AusAID scholarship being the cost of attending the World Cup. Three further Test matches, some club rugby league, a return to rugby, more injuries and a dissatisfaction with his subsequent career in banking and finance left Aila at another crossroad. Fatherhood – a baby daughter in 2002 and twin boys in 2005 – and the purchase of a home unit did little to assuage this sense of aimlessness.

I hit my mid-life crisis quite early. There were a few family issues in PNG, I was in a new relationship, rugby fell apart and I was not enjoying my career. I was very depressed. But through it all, I knew I was better than that. I came to understand that I had to dig very deep and challenge myself the way I had at Nudgee. I knew there had to be something bigger and better out there. It was a process of self-discovery. My mindset was a product of my time in PNG. The same issues I was confronting were evident throughout the country. I have now chosen a more spiritual path and work as a business consultant, helping people to empower themselves through a positive mindset.

Although Kipling might not have been on the Nudgee College curriculum in 1996, Aila would have well understood what this apostle of Empire meant when he wrote:

“If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same...
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build ‘em up with worn-out tools . . .
Yours is the Earth and everything that’s in it,
And – which is more – you’ll be a Man,
your son.”

(If, Kiping, 1895)
Not just another footy field
For me that oval has always held memories as the location of the first game of rugby I ever watched. Newly arrived in 1964 in Year 6 at Terrace from league-playing Papua and New Guinea, my father – a Nudgee Old Boy – took me to see the Terrace-Nudgee First XV match at his old college. A dark, cold Saturday afternoon, I yelled myself hoarse in suit, tie, hat, standing shoulder to shoulder amid the grey morass of Terrace supporters.

Across the field was the impossibly small northern stand with the full complement of Nudgee students in their prison-issue khaki: a point source of volume far in excess of numbers. The white picket fence (a couple of years later painted the night before the big match in red and black stripes by Terrace supporters – regarded as vandalism today – and hastily painted over in white by match time) gave the impression of a circus ring. I dreamed that day of playing in such a game.

My subsequent years at Terrace saw the to and fro of Terrace and Nudgee hosting the game. Tennyson oozed intimidation in 1965 when what is now the Phil Carmichael Oval was used for the First XV (the Internationals Oval was not yet constructed). Terrace manned the eastern touchline in a thick grey band – the match at your feet, the combatants within reach, intoxicating in its violent excitement. In 1967, the wide expanses of Internationals Oval hosted its first Terrace-Nudgee game: a sad substitute with the warriors too far away for spectators to feel and engage in the heat of battle.

Homer, when reporting the Trojan War, lapses into literary languidness when describing the Greek Ajax's victory over the Trojans' Hector on the open Trojan Plain, although it was the war's defining moment and would seal ultimate Greek victory; the wooden horse was never actually needed after Ajax. But for the final Greek assault on Troy's eastern gate, Homer's page pulsates with the excitement of the close-quarter fighting as the war's precipitator, Paris, lover and abductor of Helen, lined up with the women, old men and children (with a name like Paris what could you expect?) in their positions above the Greeks running the gauntlet below, and fires the fatal arrow into Achilles' heel in a futile last stand.

Nudgee's main oval, with the khaki-clad northern stand's noise driving local fauna into hiding and the southern embankment of Terrace supporters hemming in the combatants, exudes all the excitement that Homer chronicled at Troy's eastern gate.

The intensity of Terrace-Nudgee clashes defies the history of the place. A tribal clash of "Micks" that no other GPS school has any hope of understanding. But the bond is one of close siblings, ever eager to prove superiority but undeniably protective of each other.

In 1939, when Terrace and Southport were vying for the premiership and played their match at Victoria Park, Nudgee had a bye so my father and all of Nudgee's seniors caught the train to the match to yell for Terrace, who were cruelly cheated out of the game 13–11 by a last-gasp Southport try by their winger who ran a full yard into touch. However, the Southport touch judge's flag stayed down, despite the intimidation of the Nudgee boys surrounding him and threatening significant bodily harm.

My era continued those close associations. My father's generation came from the country and boarded at Nudgee but, after the war, settled in Brisbane and sent their sons to Terrace – ensuring divided households one day of the year. But it meant that I felt at home at Nudgee. On match day I would visit Nudgee's hall with its honour boards and look up at my father's accomplishments. Nudgee could never intimidate after that; by my heritage I was part of the place.

Our 1970 First XV started the season badly. As the official Terrace Annual record relates, three of the previous year's First XV failed to return for their senior year. This significant talent loss
was never going to be replaced, but others of us wore their jerseys. A false dawn saw trial match wins over Villa and St Columbarrí, and narrow losses to southern tourists Waverly and Knox Grammar buoyed us.

A nine-all draw against BGS in the first match of the season fanned the flicker of hope but, from there, our season turned south. Losses in the next five matches effectively extinguished the flame. Well almost, for we were playing Nudgee at Nudgee in the penultimate contest of the season. Unconstrained by playing for a place on the ladder, we were playing Nudgee for honour: a far superior motivator. It did not matter that Nudgee had a premiership side and had overwhelmed opponents all year. With the fervour of the newly converted, we believed we could beat them, and in their own back yard.

Match day, 25 July 1970, and my usual routine of adorning the lamp post. Then to the warm-up on No.2 field – big mistake then to run from there up on to the main oval. Memo to the Terrace mob on the southern slopes.

Normal pre-match tension is topped up by pure excitement as you luxuriate in what you have looked forward to for years. The Elysian Fields where the gods lie the calm of the halcyon days when the oceans are stillled while the kingfisher nests. No contact pains; exhaustion doesn't register; every minute a lifetime's memories.

The result – Nudgee beat us 26 to nil. The defeat sounds worse than memory unfortunately allows. Close-quarter fighting most of the match with a handful of Nudgee breaks leading to long-range tries. Simply outpaced and out gunned. Despite the accumulating score, willing full time not to come in the certain knowledge that the magic of the moment will never likely be repeated, no matter how long you live. Full time. The scoreboard halts. But the adrenalin takes days to dissipate.

A young lady of some acquaintance, who has come to watch the match, asks after the game how I feel. My reply of "fantastic" is queried by her with a reminder of the score. No soul. Never see her again.

When the day arrives for the good Lord to tap me on the shoulder and say my time is up, I hope only that he says I can have another game of footy before I go. "Easy, Lord," I will reply, "For Terrace. Against Nudgee. At Nudgee. And you can take me on the final whistle."

Ross Oval – not just another footy field. And beware of the archers in the northern stand.

Terrace-winning kick from the sideline with your last dollar: just ask Michael Broad – you do not miss them on this day of days.

The northern stand's vitriol is felt at close quarters, the Terrace roar opposite penetrating the din. In this cacophony lies the calm of the halcyon days when the oceans are stillled while the kingfisher nests. No contact pains; exhaustion doesn't register; every minute a lifetime's memories.

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Ross Oval – not just another footy field. And beware of the archers in the northern stand.

Author Biography

Dr Michael Wilson attended Terrace from 1964 to 1970. In his final senior year he was a member of the 1st XV rugby, 2nd XI cricket, a prefect and received the Brendan Higgins Memorial Prize for Study and Sport. In 1976 he was awarded the Rhodes Scholarship for Queensland completing a doctorate in Engineering Science at Oxford University in 1979. After leaving Terrace Michael continued his rugby with the Queensland University Club while he did undertook his civil engineering degree and also played with the Engineers in Sub-Districts rugby representing Queensland Sub-Districts against NSW in 1974. In 1975, Michael played rugby with Warwick in the Darling Downs competition and at Oxford Michael played in the Oxford college rugby competition from 1976 to 1979. Michael changed careers from engineering and is a barrister at the Queensland private bar. He is married to Cheryl-Ann and they have four children Edward (18), James (15) and twin daughters Alexandra and Caitlin (13).

Michael’s father, Frank Wilson, was born in Gladstone in 1922 attending Nudgee College for years 11 and 12 in 1938-39 representing the College in tennis, cricket and rugby. At the Senior Public Examination in 1939, Frank was awarded an Open Scholarship to the University of Queensland for finishing in the top 10 students in Queensland. However World War II intervened and Frank enlisted in the RAAF for the duration of the war. Because of his academic background, in the early years of the war Frank was assigned to designing and installing radar facilities at strategic airfields in the region. Later in the war Frank transferred to being a fighter pilot and was serving as such when the war ended. After the war, Frank finally took up his Open Scholarship and completed his engineering degree then worked as a civil engineer in Queensland and Papua New Guinea. Frank was appointed the inaugural General Manager of the Port of Brisbane Authority in 1972 and retired from this position in 1985. Frank passed away in 1996.
For the first time in ten years, St Joseph’s Nudgee College’s First XI won a shared GPS Football premiership with The Southport School. Over the GPS season, the First XI won six games, drew one and lost one. The squad also played eight pre-season trial games and won them all.

The strength of Nudgee College’s Football program has grown in the last few years since GPS split the rugby and football competitions into consecutive playing terms.

“Last year we increased the number of teams from 12 to 20 at GPS level in the space of a single season,” Director of Activities Mr Mark Ensor said.

“We grew to 22 regular GPS teams this year and anticipate pushing well past 30 teams in 2014 with the new Years 5 – 12 GPS calendar.”

The College last won a Football premiership in 2003 and took out second place in 2012.

“The College has predominantly finished in the top three teams in the past 10 years or so,” Mr Ensor said, “however we have seen a definite improvement in the depth of our Football program with an increasing amount of games won this season.

“In 2012, the College appointed Mr Jamie Pybus as Head of Football. Since then we have seen the growth of the sport, and not only within our immediate GPS competition. More boys are playing representative football, which includes four players selected for the Under 17 Australian Training Camp.”

Football only became a GPS sport in 1991 but the first Nudgee College v Gregory Terrace game was actually in 1978.
“All GPS schools have seen huge growth in the popularity of the sport over recent years,” Mr Pybus said. “Top GPS players also playing top-level club and representative football.”

In a season where the program achieved a 1st XI premiership, record-playing numbers and strong team results, Mr Pybus said it was icing on the cake to have a number of players selected in representative squads.

“This year I’m proud to say we’ve had four Queensland representatives, five students play for U15 Metropolitan North, four U17s called-up for the Australian Joeys camp, and four players offered Queensland Academy of Sport scholarships,” he said.

“In August, Year 10 students Nick Panetta and Jamie Dimitroff were selected as part of a 20-player Joeys squad for the ASEAN Football Federation U16 Championship held throughout Asia.”

Joeys Head Coach Tony Vidmar selected the squad after a number of training camps over the past three months at the Australian Institute of Sport. The championship in Myanmar will be an opportunity to experience a different playing environment before the squad begins its preparations for the qualification campaign towards the 2015 FIFA U17 World Cup in Chile.

“With international experience like this in the teams, the 2014 GPS Football season is definitely something to look forward to,” Mr Pybus said.

“Not only will we see an influx of Years 5 – 7 players in the junior GPS calendar, the season will be lifted again with the start of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil in June.”

“Although football still has a long way to go to be the most popular sport in Australia, I would encourage Nudgee College boys to give it a try, and try out all sports to find which one, or more, gives them the most enjoyment.”

“There definitely is something special about wearing the blue and white alongside your teammates.”
SOUTH AFRICA IMMERSION

PHIL O’CONNOR
During the Easter holidays this year, I had the privilege of being part of an Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) immersion in South Africa. Led by Brian Garrone and his wife Kate, a group of nine educators from a range of Edmund Rice schools across Australia embarked on this incredible, life-changing journey.

Since my return, and upon reflection of my experience, I realise I have been changed by the connections I have made with people and the stories I have had the privilege of listening to. The feeling of hope, and the clear evidence of spirit in many of the inspirational South African people we met, made this journey not one of despair and hopelessness, as I had expected, but one in which we could see the light of humanity shining through and lifting up the people of this beautiful land.

Our journey took us through Johannesburg, Soweto, Cape Town, Stellenbosch and surrounding areas, where we met some remarkable people and learnt about the political history and many of the social issues that have arisen as a result. The concept of apartheid and the significant influence that political systems can have on every individual I found confronting, something I had never really considered. Learning of the atrocities that were inflicted on South Africans in recent history was troubling, to say the least. These challenges, however, have developed a people who are resilient, hope-filled and have a real understanding of equality.

This Rainbow Nation celebrates diversity in a way I had never experienced first-hand. All of these people – black, white and coloured – have been affected in some way by the former apartheid government. However, most inspiring is that, today, all these people see themselves as South Africans. They stand together in solidarity, striving to create their nation as one of equality and justice and working towards better outcomes for all.

Additionally, we had the privilege of meeting people who were dedicated to addressing some of the problems within South African society. Many of these citizens had endured significant personal hardships and were willing to share their stories with us. We visited schools, such as Veritas College, and saw how children were being educated about social issues. We visited orphanages and other organisations set up to assist people struggling with poverty and disease.

In Cape Town, we worked alongside some of the Catholic Welfare Development programs and experienced some of the inspiring work done by this group in the shanty towns, such as developing early childcare programs, young adult recreational programs, soup kitchens and adult education courses aimed at providing skills for work. All of these opportunities broadened our perspective on the remarkable programs that were being developed and delivered in these struggling communities.

There were stories of heartache and of devastating poverty, and there are millions of people suffering from the crippling effects of HIV/AIDS, but rarely did we hear anyone complain. There were so many people working towards solutions, who wanted to learn about the knowledge we had and to share their own stories about their lives. There was acceptance that HIV/AIDS, apartheid and poverty were part of their story, and that denying their existence didn’t allow them to move on. As an Australian, this acceptance and recognition of their problems was thought-provoking. It made me consider our history and the problems facing our nation, particularly that of reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous people.

What is it about South African people that have enabled them to more or less accept these issues and move forward as a nation? Why can’t Australians seem to do this effectively and why isn’t this a priority? Why don’t we celebrate our first peoples and properly recognise their contribution to this great land in which we all live?

My immersion in South African life has provoked many questions for me, particularly through meeting the beautiful people and hearing their incredible stories and the positive things coming out of their communities. Now, more than ever, I feel obliged to make a difference, particularly through education. Opening the minds of young people through knowledge is the first step in opening their hearts and enabling the next generation to make a difference in the world.
St Joseph’s Nudgee College’s proud rugby tradition was enhanced even further this year when the College was chosen to represent Australia at an elite worldwide youth competition in Japan.

On April 25, 27 students, some on their first overseas trip, and five staff headed to Japan’s Global Arena, the venue of the 14th Sanix World Youth Invitational Tournament. The competition is played in the same format as a mini World Cup. Eight strong rugby schools from all over Japan made up the first half of the draw, with teams from Canada, England, France, Korea, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa and Australia making up the second-half draw.

Sanix Company president Mr Munemasa holds rugby close to his heart. It was through this love and passion that he contributed over $80 million of his own wealth to set up the amazing infrastructure for this tournament. His goal for the tournament is to not only improve the standard of Japanese rugby, but to improve international relations and build stronger connections worldwide.

All 16 teams lived in Global Arena for the duration of the tournament, which gave players and coaches opportunities to interact with people from all over the world who share the same love of rugby. The Arena provided outstanding facilities, which benefited all the teams.

Sanix organisers provided the meals and the boys enjoyed tasting food from a different culture. Some of the more talented boys on the team tried using the traditional chopsticks, while the rest of us stuck to the trusty old knife and fork.

Sanix also organised group tours, which gave the staff and students the chance to visit some of Japan’s most well-known sites, including Kumamoto Castle, the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Miyajima Island – one of the country’s most scenic spots. Visiting both the Nagasaki and Hiroshima museums was a real eye-opener as it afforded a first-hand experience into the tragedy of war, and how the destruction of two cities has an ongoing effect on society today.

The tournament provided tough competition for all teams and was a great way for us to begin preparations for the upcoming GPS season. We made it through our three pool games and our quarter-final without dropping a game. Then we came up against an extremely well-drilled Kiwi team in our semi-final. St Kentigern College, from New Zealand’s North Island, proved too strong for us and went on to beat England’s Hartpury College in the final.

We played off on the final day against a tough side from South Africa (Daniel Pienaar Technical High School) and emerged victors, which saw us secure third place for the tournament. This placing was a great result for the College on an international stage, but what was more pleasing for the coaching staff was how the team represented the College throughout the tournament.

Through interactions with the Japanese people, the team was pleasantly surprised by the respect, generosity and humility shown by not only the general public, but also the players from the Japanese teams. It is hoped that the boys took a leaf out of their book because it is qualities such as these that make us Nudgee College men.

A big thank you goes out to Mr Graham Leddie, Mr Anthony Connellan, Mr Gerard Alexander, Mr Mark Ensor and Nudgee College Old Boy Mr Jack Tuttle, who organised and accompanied the team on the tour. Without their hard work and dedication, the trip would not have been as successful and enjoyable.

Further thanks to all the parents who gave their sons the opportunity to embark on such a tour – a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many. Congratulations to all the boys in the squad. The eagerness they showed to learn about a different culture was remarkable and the sportsmanship and behaviour they showed on and off the field was second to none.
At the end of Term 2, St Joseph’s Nudgee College Junior School students took time away from the books to enjoy a great adventure on their year level camps.

Year 5 students headed off excitedly to Tuchekoi Outdoor Education Centre for three days of physical challenges and team building experiences. With great weather, the boys and staff enjoyed rock wall climbing, canoeing, raft-building, sugar-gliding, word orienteering and adventures in peace-making.

Year 6 students travelled to Alex Park, Mooloolaba where they participated in archery, rock wall climbing, high ropes, team challenges and games. The camp program also provided the opportunity for the boys to reflect on themselves as a person and develop new friendships.

“Outdoor education camps allow students to step outside of their comfort zone so they can learn more about themselves,” Director of Junior School Mr Chris Cawley said.

“By being challenged in a safe environment with a diverse range of activities, the students feel supported as they overcome any fears they may have. And more importantly, time away from their familiar school surroundings helps to facilitate bonding and friendship formation within the year group.”

“Year 5 camp would have to be the most enjoyable part of my first semester at Nudgee College. There were many fun activities including canoeing, rafting, orienteering and everyone’s favourite activity the mud run! As well as the fun activities, the food that was provided was well appreciated by all the students. Thank you to all the staff who came on this amazing adventure.”

Benji Bowker, 5R
“In June all Year 6 students travelled to Alex Park for camp. We all participated in a variety of activities including Dangle Duo, going to the beach, mountain bike riding, rock climbing, archery, team challenges, survival skills and orienteering. The boys all worked well together as a team and they always kept going, no matter what. Most boys pushed themselves outside their comfort zone and tried new things. Camp was a great experience for everyone.”

Oscar Scarcia, 6H

“It was the best two nights and three days I have ever had. Every group I saw were laughing and there were smiles all around. Everybody joined in and had fun with all the activities. I learned lots of things and made lots of friends.”

Cooper Tamer, 5R

“The Year 6 camp was the best camp I’ve been to. For me the highlight of the camp was the survival skills training when we searched for resources to build ourselves a shelter. Archery was also good, but extremely hard. The food at camp was good. The breakfasts were my favourite meal.”

Sam Jordan, 6T
More than 50 music students from St Joseph’s Nudgee College and Stuartholme School teamed up in Term 2 to perform with James Morrison at the Brisbane International Airport.

The occasion was the launch of the 2013 Queensland Music Festival.

The flashmob-style event was an exclusive invitation to work with QMF Artistic Director and internationally renowned musician James Morrison to promote the July festival, and included two official Guinness World Record™ challenges – the World’s Biggest Orchestra and the Largest Trumpet Ensemble.

Nudgee College’s Head of Music, Mr Brett Foster, said he felt honoured to be given this opportunity for his students.

“It’s not every day that you get the chance to play alongside a music legend like James Morrison,” Mr Foster said.

“His enthusiasm and passion is really quite infectious. This experience has certainly reignited our students’ love for music and for learning. It was such a privilege to be involved.”

In the six weeks lead-up to the June 5 performance, students learnt and mastered the official World’s Biggest Orchestra medley of much-loved pieces – Waltzing Matilda, Ode to Joy and We Will Rock You.

The student ensembles practised separately and had only one full rehearsal together the week prior to the BAC performance. Stuartholme School students and James Morrison visited Nudgee College for the early morning rehearsal where James did more than just conduct, and showed why he is one of Australia’s best musical talents.

Throughout rehearsal, Mr Morrison was ever-inspiring and took the time to answer questions and explain why conductors use batons, and the importance of “warming up” your instrument. He also spoke about when he first started in music.

“James was very endearing,” Mr Foster said. “I know it’s an experience the students will always treasure as budding young musicians.”

Year 12 violist Harry Hoyland led the orchestra during the BAC performance. The students came together in front of Mr Morrison when he entered the arrivals lounge, trumpet in tow, before taking the podium to start conducting.

“It was a great feeling as we waited for James to exit out of the customs doors,” Harry said. “I was so excited to be there and be part of this amazing experience.”

The morning crowds at Brisbane Airport were most appreciative of the uplifting music provided by the Stuartholme School and Nudgee College ensemble, and Mr Morrison was more than happy to be able to share his love of music.

“Music is something fundamental to the human experience, he said. “It speaks directly to our very being without the need for translation, without regard for age, gender, race or status. Music can just ‘move’ you.

“Being a musician is a privilege and I’m very focused on having everybody share the experience.”

World Record Attempt

Queensland Music Festival Artistic Director and internationally renowned musician James Morrison led 7,224 musicians in the World’s Biggest Orchestra beating the previous GUINNESS WORLD RECORD™ attempt of 6,452 set by Vancouver Symphony in 2000. The group also broke the record for the Largest Clarinet Ensemble in the World. The official challenge marked the start of the 2013 Queensland Music Festival.

Earlier in the day a small group of Nudgee College trumpeters lead by Mr Scott Brown and Mr Forster also took part in the Largest Trumpet Ensemble challenge in King George Square. While the group did not break the world record for this event, they did break the Australian record.
FOOTBALL
For the first time in 10 years, St Joseph’s Nudgee College’s 1st XI won a shared GPS Football premiership. The Southport School were the other winning side. Over the GPS season, the First XI won six games, drew one and lost one.
The College won their last Football premiership in 2003, and claimed second place in 2012.
The program is also excited about the recent success of two Year 10 students, Jamie Dimitroff and Nick Panetta.
Jamie and Nick were selected as part of a 20-player Joeys squad which toured Asia. Both boys also captained the squad on tour.
Congratulations to all boys involved with the football program this season. It has been a very enjoyable and successful season.
• Record number of boys playing football in 2013
• Record number of games played involving Football teams in 2013
• Only three red cards over 162 GPS games, 42 CIC games and 13 supplementary games
• Percentage of games lost by Nudgee College in GPS games down by 12% in 2013. Win/Draw percentage up 12% to 58% in 2013
• 1st XI Premiers 2013

CROSS COUNTRY
GPS Cross Country honours were fought neck and neck throughout the season and is one of the hardest premierships to win. With a record team of 89 boys, and three full age groups, the Nudgee College squad timed their peak performance perfectly, with most boys running their best races of the season on the day, and to be placed second to Gregory Terrace, by one point on a count-back.
The GPS Cross Country premiership is based on team depth, with the top six runners in each year level competing. In the last five years, Nudgee College has placed in the top three positions.
“The boys had run terrifically all day and the championship came down to the Open,” Head of Cross Country Ms Maureen Toohey said. “And what an exciting race it was.”

“Churchie entered the race undefeated winning the last four years, but were pipped by Terrace, and our boys tied for third place with TSS.”

“The day was won on a count back, with Terrace’s narrow win placing them on 40 points, ahead of us on 39.”

Ten Nudgee College boys represented Met North recently at the State Championships in Bundaberg. At the end of the Championship, Nelson Biorgi was named in the Queensland team along with our Queensland Schools Team representative members: David Lean, Jordan Pizzica, Harry O’Sullivan, Joseph Hijara- Stockwell, Jack Donovan and Conor Goodchild.
TENNIS

Nudgee College Open Tennis won their second GPS premiership in three years, sharing the spoils with Brisbane Boys’ College and Brisbane Grammar School, in an indication of the strength and progression of the College’s Tennis program.

“There is good depth coming up from Years 10 and 11, with both A teams producing strong wins in the season,” Mr Ensor said.

“The Term 2 sport seasons have seen outstanding results in CIC Rugby, CIC and GPS Football, AFL, GPS tennis and both GPS and CIC Cross Country.”

“I would like to publicly acknowledge the vision and determination of our dedicated team of sports directors, masters and coaches.”

“Our growing success in all CIC and GPS sports has not come about as a result of chance or a few good players or athletes. Rather, it is the result of years of planning, honest evaluation, a culture of accountability, vision, strategy and a desire to be the very best in all we attempt.”

“The depth of skill and talent, combined with a strong work ethic among the boys, will continue to see Nudgee College excelling in all sporting endeavours in years to come.”

AFL

On Friday May 24, Nudgee College AFL teams contested two of the three grand finals at AFLQ Headquarters, Yeronga. Our Year 10 team, after being a number of goals behind for much of the match, came storming home to be pipped by just a few points.

Brisbane Lions player Daniel Rich addressed the 1st XVIII team before the game. His words of advice obviously had an impact, as we immediately assumed the lead which we never relinquished. Congratulations to Josh Elmslie, who won the medal for best on ground for his dominant performance at ruck. Final scores were Nudgee College 8-12-60 to Anglican Church Grammar School 1-2-8.

MUSIC

While many students were enjoying the last few days of their holidays relaxing, a dedicated group of Nudgee College students made the journey into Suncorp Stadium on Saturday 13 July to participate in a history making event.

Queensland Music Festival Artistic Director and internationally renowned musician James Morrison led 7224 musicians in the World’s Biggest Orchestra beating the previous world record of 6452 set by Vancouver Symphony in 2000. The group also broke the record for the Largest Clarinet Ensemble in the world.

The official Guinness World Records challenge marked the start of the 2013 Queensland Music Festival.

“It was a great opportunity for 45 of our College musicians to showcase their playing and help contribute to this once in a lifetime world record event,” Head of Music Mr Brett Foster said.

“We were even joined at the event by a small but enthusiastic contingent of parents, who played as well.”

“Earlier in the day a small group of trumpeters led by me and Mr Scott Brown also took part in the Largest Trumpet Ensemble Challenge in King George Square. Although we did not break the world record for this event, we did break the Australian record.”
ROWING

Nudgee College rowing duo Alex King and Harley Moore travelled to Lithuania in August for the 2013 World Rowing Junior Championships. Competing in the pairs event, Alex and Harley won the C final which ranked them 13th out of 27 crews.

Director of Rowing Mr Christian Oneto said: “Their time in the final would have ranked them 10th overall. This was a great result given the pairs is the most hotly contested event at the junior world champs.”

The five-day competition served as the main opportunity for performance-based qualifications to compete in the 2014 Youth Olympic Games.

CIC

This is the last year of CIC competition with Years 5, 6 and 7 competing under the GPS banner from 2014. The CIC Football and Rugby season was played out in Term 2 and saw some great games from the junior teams.

The Cross Country team headed out to Villanova Park for the CIC Championships at the end of May. The team performed extremely well, finishing a commendable fifth in the aggregate and second in the percentage trophies out of the 14 participating schools.

“This wonderful performance is a testament to the team’s efforts throughout the season as well as the outstanding job done by all the coaches,” CIC Coordinator Mr Jamie Pybus said.

“The junior cross country program continues to grow in strength and we look forward to competing in the Junior GPS competition for the first time next year.”
Jack Ross Gala

hosted by
Nudgee College Old Boys’ Association
in support of the Jack Ross Bursary Trust

Saturday May 31, 2014
6pm
Victoria Park Golf Complex
Ballroom & Marble Bar

Join your fellow Old Boys for the inaugural Jack Ross Gala and enjoy a night of great food, drinks and entertainment.

Tickets
$300 per person
($100 tax deductible donation per ticket)
Limited 200 tickets available

RSVP
Hugh Hamilton
ncoba@mwrecruitment.com.au
07 3009 6400

Black tie
In late May the Nudgee College Foundation launched their Pave the way to Ed’s Shed campaign to over 12,000 Old Boys, current and past parents, staff, students and members of the wider St Joseph’s Nudgee College community.

The campaign is designed to raise funds for the construction of a new facility to be affectionately known as Ed’s Shed – for blessed Edmund Rice who actively embraced those on the margins. Ed’s Shed will provide a dedicated venue and hub for the community outreach activities of Big Brekky, Big BBQ, Street Swags, Jabiru Kids, Mulbeam Madness, in addition to a number of other solidarity programs.

The Nudgee College community has been invited to help Pave the way to Ed’s Shed by ordering their named paver, which will be included in the paved walkway leading to Ed’s Shed. As such, their contribution to this community facility will be recognised by future generations of young Nudgee men and their families.

Foundation chairman Mr Paul Daly discussed the ongoing value of Ed’s Shed to Nudgee College students and how it would help promote the College’s philosophy of helping those less fortunate.

"Unlike other projects, this is not about building a facility for Nudgee College," Mr Daly said. "It’s about building a facility that houses the community projects the College’s students and staff provide to the local community and those in need.

“This project engages all levels of our school community and ensures the sustainability of those activities, and the impact they have in shaping our young men to realise their role is to support those at the margin.”

The goal is to have this project completed in 2013 so support of the Pave the way to Ed’s Shed campaign will help complete this project in a timely manner. Download the campaign material, order forms and track progress via the website www.nudgee.com/edshed.

The campaign continues through Term 3 and will close with a celebration and recognition function in early October when we expect to “turn the soil” for this significant endeavor.

Friends of Ed’s Shed

Staff and students have also been invited to support our Friends of Ed’s Shed campaign to help raise the additional funds required to fit out the facility. They can do this by inviting an additional family member or friend to buy a paver to be included in the Friends of Ed’s Shed walkway. Each staff member or student who sells an additional paver receives a limited edition Ed’s Shed T-shirt and a chance to win one of three Apple iPads.

Staff and students are then encouraged to email their hero photo to foundation@nudgee.com for
inclusion on our Facebook wall and to be commemorated in a full wall montage in Ed’s Shed. Examples of hero photos we are looking can be found on facebook.com/FoundationEdsShed or at www.nudgee.com/edshed.

**Campaign helps support Valedictory Gift Program**

The Nudgee College Foundation established the Valedictory Gift Program in 2013 to provide the departing Year 12 boys with the opportunity to deliver a valuable resource to the College for the benefit of those that follow in their footsteps.

Some 20 Year 12 students gave up their mornings, lunchtimes and afternoons over a two-week period to help place more than 60,000 items into 12,000 envelopes, and then seal and sort them ready for postage.

By saving the Foundation over $2500 in mail-house fees, the Year 12 students earned valuable funds to be put towards their Valedictory Gift Program and build on their earlier gift of a new Yamaha digital piano for the College Chapel.
Reunions and events

We have already attended reunions and events, in conjunction with the College, at the Sunshine Coast, Goondiwindi, Longreach and Papua New Guinea. It is indeed very pleasing to have made appearances in these locations where the Association has been absent in recent years. Again, thanks must go to our new executive members, Hugh Hamilton and Andrew McNamara, for championing these bush events on our behalf. I must also acknowledge the great work of Tony Behm and Simon Carter, who travelled to and coordinated a series of engagements in the PNG Nudgee College community.

Our intention is to grow these types of gatherings in key regional locations into larger celebrations over the coming years as we coordinate our calendar with the College’s Development and Communications team to connect Old Boys with each other and with the wider Nudgee College Community. Thanks to the Dev Comm team for supporting us in this endeavour and a special thanks to Brian O’Reilly for keeping Nudgee College’s rural connections so vibrant through his work with the Cattle Club.

In Longreach, we were fortunate enough to meet many of the local Old Boys and families of the College, some of whom had travelled from as far afield as Richmond to get their “blue and white” fix. At the risk of not recognising all who attended, I am pleased to send our NCOBA acknowledgements to McCos (from Richmond, now in their fourth generation at Nudgee College), Matthew Dore, Nick Cook, the Jahnos, the Smiths, and the Delahuntys (of Hughenden). Thanks especially to Mike McCoy for assisting Brian and the boys in getting going again after a breakdown on the journey.

Our annual CBD Friday Night Drinks were held on July 5, and the Sydney contingent hosted a reunion on July 6. Both of these events were well patronised and are growing every year. Thanks to Tony Gleeson, Luke Gordon and Geoff McNamara for fostering these successful events.

Anzac Day

Also on the home front, it was great to see a strong attendance for the Anzac Day Memorial service. For the first time in recent years, the weather permitted this important ceremony to be held on Ross Oval, and it was a moving experience for all concerned. White crosses and red poppies commemorating the many men and women who sacrificed their lives in various theatres of war were placed on the oval, and wreaths were laid at the flame by representatives of the College community. I was privileged to lay a wreath on behalf of the Nudgee College Old Boys’ Association Inc.

Thanks to the relentless effort of our executive team, we are on track for a game-changing year in the NCOBA’s history.
Vietnam veteran Mr Dermott O’Moore, who for the past 28 years has been an accounting teacher at the College, delivered the address that reflected the courage, the determination and the bravery of our Australian conscripts. The ceremony was attended by many ex-service men and women and friends of the College. Among Old Boys who attended were former presidents Lawrie Cusack and Tony Behm, David Williams, the Hon Tom McVeigh, Peter Lee and Tom Nugent. Ill-health prevented regular attenders Bill Whiting, Ned O’Connor and Paul Bolger from attending.

In memoriam
Sadly, Old Boy Bill Whiting, died on Monday, 13 May, at BallyCara, Scarborough. Thanks to Lawrie Cusack for providing the following short bio on Bill:

Bill was born on May 23, 1916, and at the time of his death was Nudgee College’s oldest Old Boy. He came to Nudgee College at age 13 in 1929 and completed his Senior year in 1936. He had a reputation as a quick learner and, as a boarding student for eight years from age 13, it is little wonder that he was known by many Nudgee Old Boy contemporaries as “Pro”, because he was said by many to have all the answers. He was an active and popular participant in all of the sports at the College and was known to be always gracious – win or lose.

In 1937 Bill enlisted in the RAAF as a cadet pilot. He was the second Old Boy to enlist in the RAAF (Air Marshall Reg Cassidy, Dux of Nudgee College in 1909 and 1910, was the first). Following initial training he was told he wasn’t suitable for pilot training and instead joined the AIF and saw service in the Middle East. While on leave he re-enlisted in the RAAF and flew 38 operations as a navigator with No.1 Squadron in Malaysia during the Malaysian Emergency. After the war, Bill remained in the RAAF and retired with the rank of Wing Commander after a distinguished career.

In 1951 Bill was posted to Pearce, in West Australia, to set up RAAF National Service training unit. He was appointed as Patron of the National Service Branch of the RAAF Association Qld in 2000. A large contingent of ex-RAAF personnel formed a Guard of Honour at his funeral on 17 May.

Jack Ross Bursary Fellowship
The Jack Ross Bursary continues to support several boys attending the College. The Old Boys’ Association is taking the lead role in promoting the Jack Ross Bursary Fellowship as the best way to support boys, who might otherwise fall through the cracks, and provide them with the benefits of a Nudgee College education. Later in the year, Fellowship Patron Brother Vince Connors and the Jack Ross Bursary Fellows will meet with the Christian Brothers based at the College for dinner to brief them on the great progress being made and the plans for the future.

The next significant structural development within the Bursary will be a new online payment gateway for donations. It will be available later this year. Thanks to Associate Fellow Simon Carter for his efforts on this front. Full details are available at jrob.ncoba.com.au.

Holy Spirit Boondall, which was completed late last year (and is situated immediately adjacent to Hendry Oval) is now home to the largest community of Christian Brothers in the Oceania Province. Quite a few Old Boys are also lucky enough to enjoy this facility; namely Br Denis Sullivan, Humphry Cramond, Peter Lee and Tom Nugent.

Congratulations
The NCOBA would like to extend our congratulations to the Nudgee College’s 1st VIII Rowing Crew, the 1st XI Football Team, the 1st IV Tennis Team and the 1st XV Rugby Team on taking out their respective GPS Premierships this year.

Reaching our potential
The NCOBA have been transitioning to our online database and communications platform – “Potentiality”. If not already, you will soon be asked to update your details in this system. Once initiated, you will be able to search for your old classmates, add photos from your era, and even search a specific location anywhere in the world to see if you can hook up with Old Boys for business or pleasure. It is a powerful tool for our organisation and can provide real value to the wider Nudgee College community as it matures.
Jamie Wilson NCOB86

Old Boy Jamie Wilson attended Nudgee College from 1982 to 1986 and in his senior year was a proud member of the famed drought-breaking 1st XV, a team who won Nudgee College’s twenty-sixth GPS rugby premiership, a remarkable fifteen years after the 1971 premiership glory. In the same year, Jamie was also part of the College’s GPS premiership track and field team.

Jamie now works as Channel Seven’s News Cameraman and Chief of Staff.

When the time came for Jamie and his wife to make the decision on where to send their son Patrick for school, there was no more obvious choice than Nudgee College.

As the College heads towards its 125th year, Jamie offers this personal retrospect from his days as a student to now as a parent.

What do you believe to be the best attribute of Nudgee College?

I would have to say there are two things that come to mind – the student diversity as well as the educational opportunities available. Nudgee College has something to offer every student and fosters an environment where each student and their talents are recognised.

Since graduating, I’ve also discovered the true ‘reach’ the boarding house element has. You can travel just about anywhere in the world and you will run into someone who either went to Nudgee College or has some association to the school. The support that comes with the ‘Nudgee College Network’ is not only local, but global.

When I hear Signum Fidei, I think of?

How we as individuals can make a difference.

The imprint Nudgee College left on me was?

Christian values and mateship.

Why did you choose Nudgee College for your son?

Several of Patrick’s relatives have attended Nudgee College so there is a strong family connection to this place. I wanted him to have the opportunity to experience great mates and a great education as I did.

What is different from your time as a student, to now as a parent?

The amount of activities and programs the boys have on offer now is enormous; there is really something for everyone. One thing that is different to when I went through is the ‘Blue Angels’, this used to be the track and field 4x100m relay team. I think it may belong to swimming now.

What has remained the same?

Undoubtedly school spirit. The boys are always supporting each other through thick and thin.

Is there a past-time of yours that Patrick now enjoys?

We both enjoy all codes of football – rugby, league and AFL – as well as horse racing.

Many family generations have been through Nudgee College since its establishment in 1891. As the College looks towards celebrating its 125th year, Old Boys are invited to share their stories of time spent as a student compared life now as a Nudgee College parent.
SHARE YOUR STORY

Have you graduated from university recently? Finished your apprenticeship? Been promoted? Travelled the world? Volunteered for charity? Represented a sporting team?

Nudgee College Old Boys have gone onto achieve many successes in life. Whether it’s on the sporting field, in the research lab, studying abroad, working overseas or anything that falls in between.

We are proud of what you have achieved and would love to share your story.

Please contact the Editor to share your story.

Email nthdegree@nudgee.com