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Our Spirit, Our Community
In a world where brands are the material signifiers of success, material belonging and material status, it is interesting to sit and reflect on what it means to wear a brand. If I carry an iPhone, wear Nike and eat McDonalds, do I realise that I am endorsing the values of those companies? Do I promote those often materialistic desires and, sometimes unwittingly, promote ideals and beliefs such as elitism and consumerism that are not necessarily community minded?

In a contemporary song by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis entitled *Wings*, they argue that stars, such as basketball player Michael Jordan, who endorsed Nike shoes, made the singer believe that if he wore a brand of shoes he would have wings so he could fly. The singer discovers that the shoes were an empty hope, built upon the desire to follow a false idol and a fleeting star.

Stars, of the million-year-old variety, are tools of navigation. For centuries they have served as points by which the journey man may make mark his path and follow the course. They are, as Shakespeare tells us, “an ever fixed mark” and, as a result, have come to symbolise steadfastness, determination and purpose. These stars serve to unite people under the common theme of a shared direction. And from this sharing comes unity and community.

The College Crest features a five-point star – a symbol of faith. It is reminiscent of Mary, Mother of God, who brought Jesus, the Light of Life, into the world. This is the star that will exceed its celestial counterparts, for its light is eternal.

When we act in accordance with this star, we are not following a fleeting dream. We are acting in the light of God’s work. That is what it means to be a Nudgee College gentleman. The College Crest is not a brand that will make you popular and trendy. But it will give you something by which you can proudly stand for, for life.

This star, this purpose, has value. It stands by the ideals of love, compassion, inclusivity, care, humility, integrity and moral courage. It signifies the Nudgee College Spirit and embodies who we are. When we think of Nudgee College boys past and present, we think of men who endeavour to do good things. They are honest, spirited, generous and light-hearted. They believe in each other, in supporting their mates and in respecting individuality. The Nudgee College Spirit means we’re in it together, and we endeavour to do good because it is right and decent.

A star, literally, is a giant sphere of plasma that is held together by its own gravity. It is held together by the properties of itself. The concept of drawing matter together, to form one luminous body, points to the importance of the core. The core must have sufficient gravitational pull to draw all matter to it.

We have drawn to us great respect for our spirit. Members of the broader community will often praise the College for fostering this spirit. They see the students embody a sense that everyone belongs and is welcome regardless of age, colour or gender. Nudgee College Spirit is omnipresent and a powerful force that permeates everything. You can identify a student by his student number, uniform, co-curricular activity and subject choice. More importantly, you can know a Nudgee College boy by what he values and how he treats others. He does not stand alone, but is part of a great family that he serves and protects.

The people who live the Nudgee College Spirit, hold this great College together. The star, the symbol of faith, pulls us to its centre. Our luminosity – our spirit – is like the stars. It releases energy into the night sky and it becomes larger. It is not a fashion, a fly-by-night notion, a fad. It is a living spirit that will continue to shine and give the boys of St Joseph’s Nudgee College the wings upon which they can fly.

Mr Graham Leddie
Acting College Principal
Among the logic and rationality that comes with a Maths/Science background, there is a warmth and an engaging quality about Ms Elizabeth Gaber that ultimately brings out the best in her students.

In her answers for this article, Liz quoted Aristotle – “educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all” – and through her responses I really came to understand that this is her guiding truth as a teacher.

Before settling at St Joseph’s Nudgee College in 2003, Liz taught at the Cathedral College in Rockhampton and Lourdes Hill College in Hawthorne.

“I deliberately chose to leave Brisbane for my first teaching placement to gain a broader experience,” Liz said.

“I considered this my ‘country service’ but was told by the Rockhampton locals it didn’t count!

“During my first two years of teaching, I was extremely fortunate to be given classes in Senior Maths B and C and Chemistry. I had wonderful mentors and role models who gave me opportunities and great autonomy, and I think this gave me a head start in my profession.”

With a few years of teaching under her belt, Liz moved overseas to London and lived and worked abroad there before returning to Brisbane.

“I started working at Nudgee College at the beginning of the academic year in 2003,” Liz said.

“I had only just arrived back in the country after living and working in London and had sent my CV to a number of schools that I was interested in working at.

“I was very fortunate to receive a phone call from the then Deputy Principal, who was adding the final touches to the timetable and was considering employing another Maths/Science teacher.

“I came in for an interview that day, and started the next day for new staff induction.”

During her time at the College, Liz has led in roles as Head of Maths A and Pre-Voc Maths, Head of Maths B and C, and Maths Curriculum Team Leader. She is now the Director of Administration, a role she has acted in for the past two years.

“Basically this means I am responsible for the daily operational needs of the College, its staff and students, but I work most closely with the Learning and Teaching and Administration teams,” Liz said.

“This includes daily covers of lessons, management of supply teaching staff, creation and maintenance of the timetable and student subject selections and various rosters.”

Liz said when she first started in the role it was an incredibly steep learning curve, yet re-energising to be learning so much in such a short timeframe. She credits Mik Scott and Stephen Monk, who have both worked in the role previously, for helping her through those introductory stages.

“I am extremely grateful to Mik and Stephen for all the time and energy they have put into answering my unending string of questions,” she said.

While Liz loves her current role and feels...
challenged and purposeful, she said she didn’t become a teacher to sit in an office all day.

“I still love being in the classroom,” Liz said. “I chose to teach as I believe it to be one of the most honourable and rewarding professions there is.”

“What I appreciate most about the boys at Nudgee College is their honesty, wit, sense of humour, support, loyalty and how easy it is to build rapport with them.

“I don’t think a day goes by that one of them hasn’t made me laugh or made me proud. There are some days when we don’t all see eye-to-eye, but I always know, that with them, tomorrow is a new day.”

As a teacher with a true passion for her craft, Liz said she expects the absolute best from her students.

“I love seeing boys grow in their confidence and work ethic,” she said. “Nothing disappoints me more than wasted talent; but never underestimate the value of persistence and tenacity.

“I remember a student who graduated two years ago who found himself on a mid-level C at the end of Year 11 Maths B. He went on to become one of our finest mathematicians in Year 12, finishing as a top VHA student.

“He was always capable, but when he finally tapped into that winning recipe of ability, persistence and drive, his potential saw no limits. He has gone on to study Engineering at university, and has come back to speak to our current top students via the College’s Academic Mentoring Program.”

Outside of work, Liz is enrolled in a Masters of Instructional Leadership through the University of Melbourne. In her down time she loves staying active and spending time with her seven-year-old labrador retriever, Harvey.

Since being at Nudgee College, Liz has volunteered to be a year level coordinator for Rugby, and said she has watched a lot of games in that time.

“This year I particularly enjoyed the entertainment of the Opens year level; witnessing their love of their sport and their strong sense of team was incredibly fulfilling.”

Like many who have a connection with the College, Liz cites the strong sense of community as Nudgee College’s greatest attribute.

“I know how lucky I am to be given the opportunities I have been here at the College, and I know from speaking to people at other schools, or in other professions, I am lucky that I still enjoy coming to work each day,” she said.

“When you take a step back and gain perspective, this is a school with great students, great teachers, great resources and facilities.

“I love the way Nudgee College provides an education of, and for, the heart.

“When I was more heavily involved in the Maths department, I worked very closely with Lee Mazzaglia, Paul Masters, Brian Blyth and, in more recent years, Louise Nardi. All of these people have taught me something along the way about various aspects of education and I have been very fortunate to have worked with them.

“In more recent years, I have worked more closely with David Johnston and Graham Leddie. They both have been supportive and I have learnt a great deal from them.

“I am grateful that I am trusted to do the job and am extremely fortunate that I get to work most closely with the people I admire and respect, and whose opinion I value.”
THE SPIRIT OF
NUDGEE COLLEGE

ERIN WEDGE | DEAN OF IDENTITY
I am often asked, “What’s the Nudgee College Spirit – we hear a lot about it?” This is a difficult question to answer. Not because I haven’t got plenty to say about the Spirit of St Joseph’s Nudgee College, but I often find it difficult to put it into words.

How can words explain the atmosphere of a home rugby game? A funeral for an Old Boy? A Saturday afternoon wedding with family and friends gathered around the rose garden? Br Vic leading prayer before the Year 12 QSC testing? Families gathering early on a Sunday morning to raise money for the Barralong Regatta? Students working the Big BBQ van over the holiday breaks? The list is endless when it comes to talking about the Spirit of Nudgee College. So how might this spirit be explained to those not in the immediate Nudgee College community?

Spirituality is a broad term that when used today encompasses a wide range of issues. The Latin root of the word “spirituality”, spiritualitas, is a word related to spiritus and spiritualis. In Paul’s letters from the New Testament, the writer and theologian, describes the spiritual person as one whose whole being and life are ordered, led or influenced by the Spirit of God (1 Cor 2:12, 14). Thus, a spiritual school, or a school with spirituality, could be seen as one that allows the life of the students to live according to the Spirit of God.

Spirituality has enjoyed a heightened status in the secular world over the past decade; from the spirituality of Oprah Winfrey, to corporations and businesses now taking their employees on spiritual retreats. Publishers and bookstores have sections dedicated to spirituality, showing that publishers realise there is a thirst from the audience to discover their spirituality. The Archdiocese of Brisbane in its 2004 publication, Let Your Light Shine, defined spirituality as one’s whole way of life.

“Spirituality involves consciously living in right and loving relationship with God.” - Thomas Groome, What Makes Us Catholic, 270

the social justice league meetings – but in essence it’s about relationships. At Nudgee College, this understanding of the spirit is prevalent in our everyday life. Our school mission is grounded in the vision of Jesus where “we are determined in our struggle to uphold, communicate and nurture the values of the Gospel”. Our goal is that each member of our community will become for the world Signum Fidei – a Sign of Faith.

Esteemed Catholic spiritual writer Ronald Rolheiser (Seeking Spirituality, 6–7) points out, “what shapes our actions is our spirituality.” At Nudgee College we hope our programs enable our students to be signs of faith and people of action. So where then do we find the Spirit of Nudgee College? Where do we see the Holy Spirit guiding our young men to be followers of Jesus? Where do we see our Nudgee College gentlemen take up the challenge of Edmund Rice and build a better world for all?

The Spirit of Nudgee College is alive in the school’s Social Justice Programs. We are challenged to live out our calling to be people who stand in solidarity with the poor and the Earth itself and thus build a better world for all. Nudgee College students have opportunities to be involved with a variety of Social Justice Programs. Each week the Big BBQ and Big Brekkie volunteers serve up a cooked breakfast and dinner.

“What shapes our actions is our spirituality.” - Ronald Rolheiser, Seeking Spirituality, 6-7

for the homeless of Brisbane City and the residents of the Aspley Alpha Caravan Park.

The Director of Justice and Peace, Mark Ellison, has also initiated, forging firm relationships with the Brisbane City Council, Mulbeam Madness, where Nudgee College students once a week play with young homeless and disenfranchised youth of the local area. More recently, Nudgee College has joined other EREA schools to establish relationships with the Refugee Centre at Pinkenba. Nudgee College students have the opportunity to stand in solidarity with the marginalised and build relations with other like-minded students.

Nudgee College staff also shine with the Nudgee Spirit. Each year, staff and parents contribute financially to the Work and Welcome program. This program, run by MDA, allows a refugee to come and work within the College, gaining English-speaking skills and work experience. This is an extremely rewarding program and allows our community to be enriched with the stories of refugees and their plights for asylum. It is through our Social Justice Programs that the Nudgee College Spirit really comes alive.

The Spirit of Nudgee College is alive in the school's faith formation programs. As people who belong to the Nudgee College community, we are challenged by the gospel and stories of Jesus Christ. We are called to be people of peace, justice and compassion and to live out the teachings of Jesus. The Spirit of Nudgee College is seen each morning in their PC groups for prayer; as well as when the whole school community gathers at the beginning of each year for the Opening Mass and the end of the Year 12 Valedictory Mass.

Our students also have a close affiliation with Christian Brother Vic Larkin, who leads the students each May and October for the rosary for the month of Mary; he also leads the students in prayers before exams and co-teaches a Year 10 RE class. The Spirit of Nudgee College is seen also among students as they show each other support and compassion when they share their stories on their yearly retreats. It is through our faith formation and spirituality programs that the Nudgee College Spirit comes alive.

The Spirit of Nudgee College is alive in our classrooms, as teachers are given the task to liberate each of our students through quality education and thus become hope-filled people who will then build a better world for all. The Nudgee College Spirit is alive in the science classroom where students work together, encouraging each other in their experiments; the Nudgee College Spirit is alive in the Philosophy classroom where students work together to think outside the box; the Nudgee College Spirit is alive in the RE classroom as students debate the Just War theory on the war in Afghanistan; the Nudgee Spirit is alive in the Geography classroom as students discuss global warming and its effect on refugees and governmental policies. As students are challenged to respond to their learning with wonderment and awe and think interdependently, the Spirit of Nudgee College is at work. It is through our challenging education program that the Nudgee College Spirit comes alive through liberation.

The Nudgee College Spirit is one that aims to provide a foundation for community members to become a Sign of Faith in the world. As a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition, the College provides an education that develops the spiritual and faith life of young men. Founded by the Christian Brothers in 1891, St Joseph’s Nudgee College challenges all in the community to answer the call of Jesus and walk in the footsteps of Edmund Rice. The Spirit of Nudgee College is one that is alive and apparent in the halls of the school, the sporting field, the music ensemble and the Big BBQ line.

Yes, the Nudgee College Spirit is certainly alive and is one that allows the life of the students to live according to the Spirit of God.
There’s a strong country spirit that runs through the hallways of St Joseph’s Nudgee College. More than 120 years ago, Christian Brother Ambrose Treacy rode the far-flung reaches of Queensland on horseback, seeking donations to build a school that could be a home-away-from-home for the sons of the bush. Named in his honour, the first College building opened in 1891 and the spirit that drove this pioneer has never dimmed.

Today, more than 1500 day and boarding students from Years 5 - 12 enjoy a life of learning and adventure, none more so than the boys involved in the Nudgee College Cattle Club.

The Cattle Club is open to all students who have an interest in working with and showing cattle. The club has been offered at the College for almost 30 years and forms part of the Nudgee College Show Team that travels to many shows throughout Queensland.

Mr Brian O’Reilly is Head of Cattle Club and works alongside Mr Alistair Woods to oversee the extra-curricular activity.

“Cattle has been a strong part of the Nudgee College tradition, we hold one of the nation’s oldest cattle brands,” Mr O’Reilly said.

“There has been cattle here since 1892, one year after the College was founded.”

With the introduction of Years 5 - 7 in 2008, Nudgee College has also welcomed a Junior Cattle Club where students work with smaller cattle to learn the basics.

“About 50 boys participate in the Cattle Club from Years 5 - 12,” Mr O’Reilly said.

“The club operates every weekday afternoon and the boys are placed on a roster to monitor feed, water and hay rations over the weekends.”

Every year, students prepare cattle for competition and tour the western show circuit in May ahead of the Brisbane Ekka. This year, the Show Team travelled to regional shows in Proston, Goondiwindi, Roma, Longreach, Charleville, Esk and Caboolture for finals preparation in August at the Brisbane Ekka.

“We generally have about 20 head of cattle in the yards for showing and start in early February and go right through to the end of October,” Mr O’Reilly said.

“We select different teams of cattle to go to various shows depending on their condition.”

The Nudgee College Cattle Club has shown Gowrie Pastoral Company cattle at dozens of regional shows over the past two years and has been delighted with the success. As well as showing on behalf of Gowrie Pastoral Company, the College also shows cattle from the Chudley Brahman Stud and have been doing so since the mid-1990s.

“We saw some great results in the ring this year, winning a number of Grand and Supreme Champion Awards at the Ekka and many regional shows,” Mr O’Reilly said.

“Three of our students also represented various regions at finals of Cattle Judging and Parading at the RNA this year.”
The 2013 season in western Queensland has been very cruel and pastoralists have felt the full effects; cost of feed is soaring, limiting their ability to feed stud cattle and tour the show circuit.

Mr O’Reilly said that this made the Nudgee College Show Team even more committed to having a presence in western Queensland and supporting communities at the heart of our country.

“As a boarding school, our hallways have seen many family generations of boys from the bush and quite few have become involved with the Cattle Club in their time at Nudgee College,” Mr O’Reilly

“I’ve also really enjoyed seeing more city kids involved too over the past seven or eight years.

“I’m proud that our Show Team stayed committed to the western circuit this year and it was humbling to know in some cases our presence was a welcome sight for the show committees.

“St Joseph’s Nudgee College was founded on the bush so it is vital that we continue to support our regional shows through both good and no so good times.”

The Cattle Club

The Cattle Club is open to all students who have an interest in working with and showing cattle. In 2014 the Show Team will for the very first time show cattle at the Royal Sydney Show at Easter and will also travel to Bell, Proston, Inglewood, Goondiwindi, St George, Mitchell, Longreach, Charleville, Maryborough, Beaudesert, and Murwillumbah Shows.

The Year 5 - 7 boys who are interested in animal care and welfare are invited to be part of the Nudgee College Junior Cattle Club. These young men will be introduced into all aspects of safety around cattle and will be instructed in “Low Stress Stock Handling”
Infinite patience, enormous stamina and, most of all, a sense of humour so you can laugh at adversity or, perhaps more importantly, at yourself.

Sean Dorney is the pacific correspondent for Australia Network and one of the ABC’s most experienced, respected and longest-serving correspondents. He is an acknowledged authority on Papua New Guinea, an accomplished author of two books on PNG affairs and one of Australia’s most highly awarded journalists.

These distinctions aside, Sean is also a St Joseph’s Nudgee College Old Boy. Sean attended Nudgee College from 1964–1968 where he completed Years 9–12 (repeating Year 12), following in the footsteps of his older brother, Kiernan, who was the first of the four Dorney boys to board at Nudgee College in 1961. Younger brothers, Stuart and Martin, followed in 1966 and 1972, respectively.

“I vividly remember my first day at Nudgee College, watching my mother drive away in a taxi,” Sean said.

“At least I had the right clothes. The decision to put Kiernan into Nudgee College three years earlier had been made very late and he had the trauma of being the only boy not dressed in khaki shorts and shirt for the period it took for those clothes to be ordered from TC Beirne.

“I think I was lucky to have an older brother precede me, although I don’t think he was all that enthusiastic about having me follow him.”

Sean recalls the best decision he made at Nudgee College was with his younger brother, Stuart.

“While not a terribly noble boast, I convinced Stuart that we share our pocket money and absolve all debts to each other,” Sean said.

“I was without a doubt the beneficiary of
this ‘best’ decision.

During senior, Sean was a high-achieving economics student, which guided his decision to study economics at university.

“My economics teacher, Mr Wagner, was one of the best teachers I ever had,” Sean said.

“However, without the discipline of Mr Wagner’s teaching methods, I had a distinct lack of success at James Cook University which prompted my mother to suggest that I quit uni and apply for a cadetship in journalism with the ABC.”

In 1971, Sean won a journalism cadetship at the ABC in Brisbane. After completing the three-year cadetship, he went to work for the ABC newsroom in Townsville. After only a few months in that posting, in 1974, Sean was asked if he wanted to go to Papua New Guinea on secondment to work for the PNG National Broadcasting Commission, which the ABC had just helped establish.

“I went and it was a great move as it not only set up the rest of my career but it also led to me meeting Pauline, a radio broadcaster from Manus in PNG, who, after a lot of pestering on my part, agreed to marry me,” Sean said.

“That time I spent working for the NBC in PNG fashioned a lot of my life since.”

During the early years in PNG, Sean continued his love of sport and played first grade rugby league in Port Moresby, and in 1975 and 1976 he was chosen to play for the PNG national representative team, the Kumuls.

“Like many Old Boys, Sean believes the loyalty that is instilled, and the school spirit that runs through the classrooms, hallways and fields of Nudgee College, is its lasting legacy on students.

“I think it helped teach me the importance of being part of a team,” Sean said.

“The terrific school spirit that led to such passionate barracking at First XV games and the GPS Athletics and Swimming carnivals is a memory that has always stayed with me.

Sean and Pauline returned to Queensland in 1976, where their two children, Jervina and Xavier, were born.

In 1979, Sean was appointed the ABC’s PNG correspondent, a role he held for 20 years, with a few years interruptions along the way.

“I was deported from PNG in 1984 after a dispute between the PNG Government and the ABC over an interview with a rebel leader from Indonesia’s province of West Papua,” Sean said.

“Since 1985, I left the ABC to work as the press secretary to the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory. But in 1987, I re-joined the ABC and returned to Port Moresby.”

He spent another 12 years as the ABC’s PNG correspondent. In that time, the PNG foreign minister who ordered his deportation in 1984 – Rabbie Namaliu – became prime minister and awarded Sean an MBE. Thus Sean has the rare distinction of having been both deported from and honoured by the country he has spent much of his career reporting on.

Sean then relocated to Brisbane to become the ABC/Radio Australia Pacific Correspondent. In 2006 he took on a new challenge as the ABC/Australia Network Pacific Correspondent, still based in Brisbane.

“1. I travel out into the Pacific on average about 10 days a month and, since 2006, I’ve not only reported the news but been my own cameraman and video editor,” Sean said.

“That can make the typical day when I’m travelling quite long.”

“1. I’d like to think this job has given me three things that are essential in my business covering news in the Pacific – infinite patience, enormous stamina and, most of all, a sense of humour so you can laugh through adversity or, perhaps more importantly, at yourself.”

Nowadays, Sean still plays social touch football two or three mornings a week with other Nudgee College Old Boys.

When asked for some parting words to the students of Nudgee College, Sean replied: “Appreciate those around you and don’t be too critical of those who may not seem to fit in. A lot of those people may surprise you later in life.”

Testament to the endearing spirit of Nudgee College, Sean’s passion and integrity for story-telling is the reason why next year he celebrates 40 years as a journalist – one of Australia’s best.
ACCOLADES

1991  Order of the British Empire, Papua New Guinea
1998  Walkley Award for his coverage of the Aitape Tsunami disaster
       PINA's Pacific Media Freedom Award
1999  Most Outstanding Contribution of Journalism Award, Queensland Branch
       of the Media Arts and Entertainment Alliance (MEAA)
2000  Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in recognition of his service to
       Australia as a foreign correspondent
       Sean’s two-hour documentary television series Paradise Imperfect was aired
2012  Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Media Award
       for his career long coverage of development issues in PNG and the Pacific

Author of two books – Papua New Guinea: People, Politics and History Since 1975
and The Sandline Affair – Politics and Mercenaries and the Bougainville Crisis
The Sword in the Stone... And the Rugby
Some years ago I succumbed to the mirage of quality, unlimited television and arranged to have Pay TV installed. It seemed like only a few years before that as a 10-year-old I had welcomed the arrival of my family’s first colour TV.

The end of the Vietnam War, the floods in Brisbane, and the sacking of the Whitlam government had been endured in black-and-white but now we would see the world, like Dorothy, in nothing but technicolour. The television might not have been the wonder of the age but our neighbours did come over for a look – well they would, wouldn’t they, the remote control was cordless. Bless those people at Rank Arena!

Pay TV was to be different. Its presence in the house was not to extend beyond three months, by which time the victorious Australian cricket team would be home from the West Indies and the appeal of re-runs of Star Trek and Get Smart would by then have well and truly worn off. While channel surfing the other day – as the three months extended to almost two decades – it shocked me, as it has many times in the interim, that it was still possible to find “nothing on”.

In desperation one afternoon, I settled on an old movie that I hadn’t seen in years – The Knights Of The Round Table, a 1953 production filmed in colour, starring Robert Taylor as Lancelot, Ava Gardner as Guinevere and Mel Ferrer as Arthur. It is one of the numerous adaptations of the story that bears no clear relationship to the reality of the late fifth-century to early sixth-century
British leader whose very existence is still a matter for scholarly and popular debate.

Yet the myth has proven remarkably resilient, for each age has reimagined the figure of Arthur, seeking to make sense of their world by adopting, altering and making him their own. It has become a foundation story that continues to exert an influence on popular culture. The Victorian Age used him as an exemplar of a new chivalry. In the years after 1939, Arthur was celebrated as the personification of heroic resistance against Germanic invaders. In the 1960s, the world he created at Camelot was co-opted to symbolise the Kennedy administration.

Later again, in 2004, Clive Owen stepped into a thinly veiled allegory of the modern political landscape in which the individual dispensed with his patriotism and acted according to the dictates of conscience in the face of an arrogant world power. If a viewer did not know better, he could be forgiven for believing that Julian Assange contributed to the screenplay while preparing his defence.

St Joseph’s Nudgee College is not without its own foundation stories, hardly surprising given that the grand old lady is now approaching her 125th year. Like the Arthurian legend, these foundation stories have evolved as they are reimagined by each generation of Nudgee College students adding their story to the canvas. The most enduring of these myths, and one repeated regularly by new students, is the Battle of the Colours. Rather than obfuscate over the questionable authenticity of the Battle of the Colours, the one major retelling of it included in the 1991 centenary rugby day booklet, actually revelled in it.

Before Nudgee existed, Terrace colours were those currently worn by Nudgee today – blue and white. A popular story, especially at Nudgee, is that when Nudgee began and had to choose its colours, there was great debate as to whether the original school, Terrace, or its extension school, Nudgee, should have the blue and white. No amount of debate could solve the dispute so that it was decided to rest the colour dispute on the first-ever Nudgee–Terrace footy match.

Nudgee College won and then Terrace chose colours diametrically opposed to those of Nudgee College. The blue became red and the white became black. There is not a great amount of evidence for this story but, then again, legends rarely emerge from the truth anyway!

The Battle of the Colours is a remarkably resilient story, which was even included in F. Regis Hickey’s 2012 biography of Brother Treacy, with the same acknowledgment regarding its doubtful authenticity. Yet its longevity is not proof of a shallow glorification of athleticism. The revered place of sport, and rugby in particular, at the College is a combination of the socioeconomic conditions existing in Queensland in the decade prior to the school’s opening in 1891 and the peculiarities of the Irish migrant experience. To understand it, one must dig deep into Nudgee College’s early years.

During the early years of the College’s existence, the place of sport in the formation of its sense of self reflected two clear trends in the wider Irish Catholic experience in Australia. Irish migrants arriving to join hostile societies rent with sectarian divisions, used sport as a vehicle for social and cultural integration and assimilation. However, it was a conditional integration that the Irish sought, for they were no more ready to reject their “Irishness” than they were to maintain their status as a group over-represented in the working class.

Instead they sought to exist within a framework of an Irish-Australian identity, accepted by mainstream society.
yet retaining their distinctiveness, as is evident in the popularity of Irish handball. This was entirely consistent with the Christian Brothers’ agenda, and it does much to explain the use of sport both as an expression of a ‘tribal’ identity and as a means of engaging with society.

The Christian Brothers who staffed the College in the period either side of Federation were predominantly Irish-born, and were justifiably described in the College history as “flaming agitators for Ireland’s rights”. Many of the students had at least one Irish parent and, like the Brothers themselves, were aware “by family tradition and community attitudes, of Ireland as a spiritual Home”. They also knew their history. An article in the 1899 Annual described the English as possessing a “grim determination which conquers everything that can be conquered”. Their rule of Ireland was referred to as a “tyranny”. It was not just in Ireland, however, that they saw injustice. At the time of Nudgee College’s foundation in 1891, Roman Catholics comprised just 25 per cent of Queensland’s population. Rupert Goodman noted that over several generations there had emerged an imbalance in the make-up of the different socioeconomic groups. There were, he noted, “a greater proportion of Irish Catholics in the lower working class, especially in rural areas, a very small middle class and a very few in what might be termed the upper social class. This set a pattern for the education of the Irish, to bring the poorest classes through literacy in primary education to a point where they would be employable at a higher level”.

The Christian Brothers were aware of the imbalance and the historical reasons underpinning it. They were by temperament and training committed to offer a forward education for an upwardly mobile people. As a community they were equally ready to adopt the attitude of a minority facing daily prejudice yet, just as quickly, ready to seek out any opportunity to emphasise their success in engaging with those same forces. Sport provided a vehicle to do just that.

In 2013 the College 1st XV won its 40th GPS rugby premiership. It was, in the words of coach Anthony Connellan, “a typical Nudgee College rugby team – intelligent, disciplined with an awesome forward strength and speedy, skilful backs”. The quietly spoken and humble Connellan has left his own imprint on the team, and is quick to observe that as a playing group, the squad was humble and respectful in both defeat and victory.

In Kipling’s words, they showed the mettle to “meet with Triumph and Disaster, and treat those two impostors just the same”. For the defining moment of the season was not the wonderful victory against a much-fancied TSS at home. Even more so, it was in the days before that game, where after a defeat the previous week that may have derailed the premiership ambitions of lesser men, “the playing group ‘dug deep’ and found the resilience and confidence to learn from defeat rather than be humbled by it”.

This team is a world away socially and economically from the team that first took the field in 1891 or the one that won our first GPS premiership in 1920, or indeed the one that broke the drought in 1986. They have, nevertheless, inherited a tradition of excellence and sportsmanship, one with a foundation story that now firmly bears their imprint.

On a recent visit to Disneyland Paris, I saw a group of children lining up impatiently beneath the fairytale castle. Each in turn tried, with varying degrees of enthusiasm or resignation, to remove a sword from a stone. The story lives...
Nudgee College vs. Gregory Terrace; Ross Oval; 24/8/2013

I am at Ross Oval, Nudgee College, at 2pm on a perfect winter Saturday. Today the school is hosting fixtures against its long-ago partitioned Catholic brother, Gregory Terrace. The crowd is keen and in the thousands. The game of choice is rugby. Seated against the picket fence among the visiting side’s spectators, I enjoy one of the more ingeniously contrived sights in GPS competition; Nudgee College’s formidable, blue-blazered student mob in its home grandstand. The razor-sharp cheering from the acoustically megaphonesque structure – in the unmistakable schoolboy complexion of voices broken and otherwise – is both spine-tinglingly physical and instinctively disconcerting. It sounds and feels like imminent lightning from over here where the visitors sit.

Most schools turn out big crowds for big home games, but the difference here is qualitative; visiting teams and their supporters are subjected to Nudgee College’s crowd. Heavily subjected, in fact. This oval is known for tormenting its guests – fifty, sixty, seventy point slaughters at this highest of schoolboy levels are common enough. Visitors that do manage to win here never do so by much. For both atmosphere and sheer horticultural precision, this is also the best field in the competition, and today it will chew up the occasionally-plucky Terrace team by a laconic three or four second-half tries that look as inevitable as they are easy once a quick and organised Nudgee College backline finally decides to shift into third. The post game mood from the visiting crowd is mild and not-really-bothered. The best analogy I can think of is tossing away a lottery ticket that didn’t win.

For the underdogs from the city it all starts well. A few-hundred-strong Terrace student support base is down on one knee to usher its best onto Ross. The chosen fifteen are blessed, the prayer led by an initially innocuous senior who asks God’s grace to guide the game’s code of fairness and due. The enveloping students cross themselves, repeat the lines, and fall silent, reverent. The drama is good. At that moment, bowed and humble, the Terrace boys embody the good guys, and perhaps right will be done today, perhaps. Aside from history and present standing on the table (Nudgee College is 1st after five rounds,
Terrace in a logjam for 2nd through 5th),
the sporting truth is that you just never
know; stranger things happen regularly
in this schoolboy competition where
just about everything is theatre.

It is now all but silent over here with the
guests. Heads are still bowed. When it
seems an almost too-reflective mood
might have dulled the fifteen young
Terrace men who are about to need
to be very, very, very animated, the prayer-
leading senior stops mid-stride, gives
an awkward stage-frightened sideways
glance, and turns from preacher to boy
possessed; the pale, bookish, pimple-
pocked face washes fierce crimson and
out comes a violent and curdling squeal.
The senior bounds inhumanly along the
tunnel of pubescent lads from which
his original sermon was delivered, arms
flailing, spitting hellfire and damnation,
simply wild. It seems briefly possible
that the uniform he’s wearing will burst
spontaneously into flames. The student
mass chants and rises as an enraged
clan, the players descend onto the field,
brushing past the lonely figure of the
senior, finally expired and inconsolable,
a husk of a boy. I assume the senior is
a formidable drama student but my
hapless scepticism has nothing to feed
on here; it was beautiful and complex
performance, something more than
its parts.

I can’t make out what’s been chanted
since the exorcism, but it hardly matters.
The point has been well made; a Terrace
win would be a desperate, tooth-and-
nail, chips-falling-kindly, God-blessed
one that may or may not require
sacrifice of a serious kind. But as they
take the field, it does genuinely seem
possible. This faith will turn out to be the
highpoint for the black-and-red visitors
this afternoon, ranked just above the
first-half performance of a well-shoed
fly-half and evidence of star-quality in
an outside-centre that unfortunately
isn’t scripted into the conclusion of
enough moves in the Terrace
playbook. The crimson tide has its
share of opportunities to rise, but those
moments pass, and Terrace rightly lose.

As for the Nudgee College send-out,
I’m poorly positioned to comment
in detail. It seems more low-key and
business like, and more private. The
players appear to be paraded before the
grandstand of students and nostalgic
old-boys like thoroughbreds before
a group race. The utterly blazered
grandstand at quiet attention, looking
down upon the gifted meat. Maybe

they salute. The hosts will be fielding a
team of big boys – that much is clear
enough from the distance. The Nudgee
College constitution of country lads and
Islanders is proven stock for this game
and others. The school’s incomparable
proportion of full-time boarders is also
critical; the lives of these campus live-
ins, in order of commonality, comprise
the following activities and little else;
eating, grooming, sleeping, playing
touch or tackle football on one of the
schools many fields, and study. Today,
having absorbed the first-half pressure
of a desperate Terrace attack, it is classic
boarding-house football that puts
Nudgee College beyond reach in a
matter of minutes. Quick-hands to find
a gigantic looping inside-centre, a spoil
of overlaps made by disorganised and
overheated defenders, switcheroos, and
a set backline move in which the winger
gives himself a fifty metre run-up just
because he can. These have all been
learned by rote, shirtless and barefoot
every afternoon and weekend. Where so
often in rugby the confusion between
game plans and instincts prove terminal,
the Nudgee College boys always seem
to know how to play organically. At
least, that’s the feeling to watch them hit
full stride.

Nudgee College don’t play a perfect
game today, but there are no real
problems either. Ultimately they take
points without suffering damage,
uphold a solid defensive structure, and
by so doing preserve themselves better
to run a late scoring campaign. There’s
good players all over the park for them;
hooker, fly-half and both centres are
stand-outs but a gut-feeling tells me
the best might have been unnoticed
at the breakdown; loose-forwards, the
tradesmen. Clean ball and backline

organisation wouldn’t come for free
against a competent Terrace pack, and
Nudgee College eventually have a
motza of quality possession. There’s a
perfectly good reason why after sixty
minutes of play the blue-and-white
backline is as deep as an abyss and their
jerseys appear untouched. The system
is efficient; the forwards are rightly dirty.

As for those pre-game moments for
the eventual winners, I never find out
what really goes on over there. Amid
the desperate God-fearing theatre of
Gregory Terrace I don’t hear a single
syllable from the other side of the field. I
suspect any last-minute instructions are
brief and redundant. Something like; get
it done.

Match Day Burger (MDB): 7/10
MDB cost: $7.50 (w/ “The Lot”, i.e. egg
and bacon)
MDB service atmosphere: 9/10
Match score: Nudgee College 39 –
Gregory Terrace 15
In October, the annual St Joseph’s Nudgee College Music Tour took to the road and headed south to play for appreciative fans in northern New South Wales.

Students from Rock Bands One and Two, accompanied by Head of Music Mr Brett Foster, Mr Richard Dupuy and Mr John Hall, embarked on the week-long tour, stopping at eight primary schools between Moree, Tamworth and Tenterfield.

The bands performed popular sets that highlighted their pop/rock repertoire and which had their young audiences up dancing.

In between their rock-star moments, the boys enjoyed exploring the sights of the local communities they passed through, including Tamworth’s Golden Guitar, Thunderbolt’s Hideout and the World War II Tank Traps.

Year 12 student Jayden Peters writes about his experience in Diversions.
CROSSING OF THE YEAR 7 ROAD CEREMONY
I just watch what they do.

As parents, you have always watched what they do and as your son’s first educators your mindfulness always lends itself to balancing the now - with the future.

You taught him tenderness through a Mother’s touch.

You guided him with encouragement to take his first steps into loving and open arms.

You taught him how to count to ten, ride a bike and draw treasured pictures that just couldn’t be thrown away – stored in that special box at home.

Through a father’s love you showed him how to be adventurous and a gentle man.

This is what parents do.

Willingly share to see your child prosper.

It is with this care in mind, that we all do what we can to help your son become his best. To help him move closer to his potential.

The Crossing of the Road Ceremony is a milestone not just for the boys, but for parents as well. It highlights another footstep in your son’s passage to becoming a Nudgee College man.

In the coming years, he will call on you, perhaps not to help him find his lost hat, but to help him find his way.

May you continue to grow together and your unconditional love and faith carry you through the good times and the challenging.

Boys, take with you the fun memories of being at the Junior School. The Junior School teachers have opened your hearts and minds through their quality teaching, so each of you have become hope-filled and free to build a better world for all.

Wesley Harris, one of the leading Commissioners of the Salvation Army, writes about a story of a man with a jewel in his book *Success is in Giving*, 1998.

There is a legend about a man journeying in the mountains who found a precious stone in a stream.

He met another traveller who was hungry and had nothing to eat, so he offered to share his food. When he opened his bag the stranger saw this precious stone. He admired it, and asked if he could have the jewel.

The wanderer happily gave it to him.

The traveller continued on his way, rejoicing in the fact that he could sell the jewel for enough money to keep him content for life.

But, a few days later the traveller retraced his steps, seeking out his benefactor. When he found the wanderer he gave him back the precious jewel and he said:

“I have been thinking, and I want to return your jewel to you. I know how valuable it is, but I give it back to you in the hope that you can give me something much more precious.”

He asked, “If you can - can you give me what it is you have inside you that enabled you to give away such a precious stone?”

Be the man who holds value and worth in his character.

Be the man whose treasured connection with others is through the giving of himself.

For the precious jewel you have is within.

At Nudgee College we say in unity - ‘Be the Difference’. But to me, you already are.
Four graduating seniors of St Joseph’s Nudgee College swapped their end-of-year celebrations for a Rugby experience of a lifetime, setting off to the UK and Ireland for a once-in-four-year Grand Slam Tour.

Nudgee College 1st XV teammates James Tuttle (captain), Campbell Magnay, Maclean Jones and Alex Mafi were selected for the Australian Schoolboys team along with 26 other schoolboys from across the country.

Nudgee College’s Director of Rugby and 1st XV coach Mr Anthony Connellan was full of pride when the team was announced.

“Like anyone in my position with a vested interest in Rugby, you always hope for one student to be selected for Australian Schoolboys,” he said. “But to have four students on tour is really testament to the playing cohesiveness of this bunch; the ability to know each other’s play before it even happens.”

Earlier in the year, James, Campbell, Maclean and Alex, together with Matt Gibbon, were selected to the Australian A sides for the Schools Rugby Tri Nations Series against Fiji and New Zealand.

From this competition in September/October, the Schoolboys team to tour the UK and Ireland was selected.

Nudgee College’s Director of Activities Mr Mark Ensor was witness to the boys’ growth and success in Rugby.

“Campbell and Maclean started together at Nudgee College in Year 7, with James and Alex coming in Year 8 and Matt joining in Year ‘10,” Mr Ensor said.

“The natural talent of each player, along with the years spent together on the playing field, has been excelled by the great rugby development programs on offer at Nudgee College, enabling the boys the chance to now represent their country.”

Prior to flying out, Queensland Rugby Union hosted a function for the 11 Queensland players and their parents to farewell the boys and wish them luck.

The Australian Schoolboys play four Test matches against England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, plus an additional regional game in each country from 22 November to 17 December.

The Australian Schoolboys Tour to the UK and Ireland dates back to 1973. Occurring once every four years, the month-long, eight-game tour against UK- and Ireland-based teams is a unique and rewarding opportunity for the young Australian Rugby hopefuls.

With an endless list of Old Boys, including Elton Flatley, Rocky Elsom, Richard Brown, Hugh McMeniman, James O’Connor and Dom Shipperley, who started their international Rugby careers in the Australian Schoolboys program, there’s no doubt some of this year’s schoolboy representatives will also pull on the gold jersey in years to come.
Going to Papua New Guinea to represent St Joseph's Nudgee College in 2013 was a highlight for 24 proud PNG boys. For six weeks in the rugby season, 24 boys began training for what was to shape up to be an amazing two games.

For the past three years, Port Moresby International School, or POMIS as it is more commonly known, has hosted a rugby union grudge match, which Nudgee College has lost each year. Going into 2013, the game was constantly in the back of the boys' minds; they were all on standby, ready to train hard and play even harder.

This year the PNG boys also played St Joseph's International Catholic College – or Joeys as it is more commonly known. The boys knew exactly what they had to do and did it. A big thanks to all the boys who played and trained as they juggled their sporting and school commitments alongside the training sessions.

The first game, against Joeys, resulted in a convincing win to Nudgee College. It was a hot day and the field wasn't exactly Ross Oval; however, the boys put their heads down and played great footy. Kenneth Taviri opened the scoring with an amazing break down the wing, lighting up the game for all the boys. Amazing runs by Jim Gissua and beautiful passes from Richard Aitsi saw Nudgee College break Joeys' spirit. The game ended with Nudgee College victorious 17–5. The next game was POMIS and the boys were ready for this game.

Tension was high as they took the field. POMIS were first on the scoreboard, landing 12 points to leave the Nudgee College side reeling. Milan Maxtone-Graham (MMG) then put on points for Nudgee College as he pounced on a loose ball at the back of the scrum. It was halftime now and spirits were low. Nimbe Bonga, Dylan Au, Mission Yai Pupu, Solomon Jeram, Andrew Ligo and Jezerel Paki reignited the flame with big hard runs.

Shane Auakai and Omu Boida exhibited amazing skills as they stepped their way past defenders to bring back some inspiration. There were only seconds left and it came down to a line-out. Aytron Delacruz lifted spirits and the boys won the line-out. Play continued until they were awarded a penalty in front. Yana Yalo grabbed the ball, took a quick tap and dived over the line to bring the score to 10–12. Richard Aitsi then slotted over the kick to draw level. The final whistle blew and the boys were delighted. Although it wasn't the win they were hoping for, it was still an amazing result.

A special thanks to Mr Mark Beeney, Mr Logan Hawkins and Mr Paul Daly who helped organise the tour and accompanied the boys in PNG.
Over the past few years, Barralong Corporate Regatta has provided substantially to the social justice initiatives at St Joseph’s Nudgee College. The vision of the Nudgee College Rowing Parents Support Group has seen great financial support in helping those who are in most need in our society.

Barralong was one of the first groups to donate into a fund which saw the purchase of a 12 seater van that now serves those in need throughout Brisbane through Nudgee College's Big Brekke and Big BBQ programs.

Money raised from the 2013 Barralong Corporate Regatta has been placed towards the outfit of the long awaited Ed’s Shed, which Barralong has been a major contributor to for the past few years.

Dean of Identity Ms Erin Wedge is looking forward to Ed's Shed being a home for the College's Social Justice initiatives.

“Ed’s Shed will be able to house the College's Big BBQ Van, Street Swags Program and be a place of meeting for social justice groups,” Ms Wedge said.

“We hope Ed's Shed will become a hub of social justice activities and gatherings for many years to come.”

Rowing Support Groups Presidents, Dean and Adina D’Alessandro coordinated Barralong Corporate Regatta with Director of Rowing, Mr Christian Oneto.

“The 2013 Barralong Corporate Regatta was our biggest yet and, with an inspirational community effort, it was one of our most enjoyable and successful as well,” Mrs D’Alessandro said.

“We are proud to announce we raised over $50,000 to support the College’s Social Justice Programs and assist in the acquisition of equipment for the College’s Rowing Program.

“This would not have been achievable if not for our unique rowing community coming together and working so well as a team.”

Barralong Corporate Regatta is a four week rowing program that coaches novice crews two mornings a week. All crews (quads and eights) then race at the weekend regatta where their training and new skills are put to the test. Barralong is a wonderful showcase of the Nudgee College spirit at work, where individuals and corporate teams show their support in giving back to the community.

For anyone who would like to participate or sponsor the event next year, please register your expression of interest with Adina D’Alessandro on touchbase@bigpond.com.
St Joseph’s Nudgee College Year 10 students put their young minds to the test recently at the Science and Engineering Challenge National Championship in Lismore. The opportunity to compete as a national finalist was awarded to Nudgee College after winning the state finals of the Science and Engineering Challenge in September at James Cook University, Townsville.

Twenty-two Nudgee College science students took part in the national final in October with 250 other students from around the country, where they competed in projects designed to challenge their problem solving and engineering abilities.

Year 10 student Royden Skeet said he enjoyed trying out his practical skills in activities such as Gold Fever, where students built a small bridge from paddle pop sticks, tape and pins.

“We had to use science and maths during the challenge but it was also really hands-on and practical,” Royden said.

Although the students didn’t take any podium finishes on the day, Nudgee College science teacher Mr Jim Jeffrey said their ability to work together on difficult projects under pressure was a great outcome in itself.

“Their real strength is that they all got involved and worked as a team; each making a contribution in each challenge,” Mr Jeffrey said.

The Science and Engineering Challenge is a nationwide outreach program lead by the University of Newcastle in conjunction with various partners and sponsors. The Challenge is aimed to inspire students to study science and engineering at a senior level.

The challenge is designed to give the almost 500 participating students, who are in Year 10, a more realistic view of what a career in science, engineering and technology would involve.

“Nudgee College has entered this competition for the past five years and while the teams have often won individual sections,” Mr Jeffrey said “this was the first time the College had been invited to move onto the next level.

“And that’s something to be very proud of.”

“NATIONAL FINALISTS
Science & Engineering Challenge National Championships

Their real strength is that they all got involved and worked as a team; each making a contribution in each challenge.”
GOLF
St Joseph’s Nudgee College Golf team contested the ‘unofficial’ GPS Golf Premiership. Six of the nine GPS schools competed on the day. Congratulations to both Nudgee College teams on winning their respective divisions. Team 1 won the main trophy (Gross); Jackson Evans, Kyle Testa, Sam Durward, Zac Sheehan and Tom Gooch. All team members played exceptionally well and improved on their handicaps. Team 2 won the Team Nett event; Liam Murphy, Tristan Knibbs, Harry Stevenson, Stephen Carpenter and Dylan Brown.

A special mention to Stephen Carpenter for finishing runner up in the individual event and Jackson Evans on winning the longest drive.

Congratulations to Year 11 student James Macklin who won the Gary Player Classic Golf Tournament winning by six shots for the U16 and U17 age groups.

RODEO
This year, St Joseph’s Nudgee College Rodeo Team competed in several regional shows with some great results. A highlight for the team was competing at St Brendan’s College annual rodeo in Yeppoon, with riders converging from all over Australia and New Zealand. In front of a crowd of more than 2000 people, Nudgee College and St Brendan’s battled it out for the hotly contested school challenge. This year, St Brendan’s won the overall competition.

A new event was introduced at this year’s competition – the Bullzye Interschool Challenge – and Nudgee College Year 12 student, Adam Gatt was awarded the Champion trophy for the inaugural Bullzye Junior Bull Shootout event.

Rodeo Coordinator, Ms Cindy Abbey worked with the team and developed their skills throughout the year.

“I would like to congratulate all the team for a really great year of rodeo,” Ms Abbey said.

“Special thanks to our 2013 team captain, Damon McCoy, for the knowledge, commitment and support he has shown and provided to each and every team member.”

ORATORY
One hundred and fourteen years ago, Nudgee College held its first Oratory Competition, an event which still attracts strong interest at the College. With the support, assistance and expert adjudication of our dedicated teachers Ms Kennedy, Ms Spicer, Ms Neill, Ms Crilly, Ms Liddy, Ms Mann, Ms Hallmond, Ms Hellmrich, Mr Thomas and Mr Cawley, competing students were able to present entertaining and thought-provoking speeches.

Congratulations to the 2013 winners:

Year 5  Ben Weber
Year 6  Marcus Cutuli
Year 7  Tom Clark
Year 8  McKinley Anderson-Brown
Year 9  Finau Kaituu

Year 10  Xannel Mangahas
Year 11  Declan See

Oratory Coordinator, Mrs Monica See, commended all students for their efforts and extended special congratulations a very deserving winner of the Senior Oratory Competition and the Br O’Brien Memorial Trophy for 2013, Jack Hardy, who enlightened his audience on “The Art of Procrastination”.

NC ACTIVITIES WRAP-UP
ROWING

Nudgee College had its best ever result at the Queensland Schools State Championship Regatta in September, winning 12 gold medals, three silver and a bronze; claiming position as the number one rowing school in Queensland.

Congratulations to Harley Moore (seven gold), Alex King (six gold), Adam Bakker (six gold), Jack Armitage (five gold, one silver), Dominic Knottenbeld (four gold), Sean Gaffney (three gold), Nick Jeffries (one gold), Hugh Fordyce (two gold), Jordan Jamieson (one gold, two silver), Royden Skeet (one gold, one silver), Declan Comeford (one gold), Bill Peereboom (one gold), Justin Greenhalgh (one silver), Charlie Deshon (three gold), Cody Ross (two gold, one bronze).

Well done to Miles Edmonds-Clark, Nic Wilkinson and Byrons Green who also attended State Championships and represented the College with distinction.
RUGBY

St Joseph’s Nudgee College 1st XV finished their season strongly taking out the 2013 GPS rugby premiership, making it the College’s 40th GPS rugby premiership.

“A full grandstand on Ross Oval with a blue-and-white clad ‘Nudgee College Army’ saw a perfect day for rugby and some entertaining matches across all age groups,” said Director of Rugby Mr Anthony Connellan.

“The Nudgee College teams demonstrated clear intent to use their speed and skill attacking at every opportunity. This proved to be very successful with the College winning 20 of the 22 matches played.

“The 1st XV played a great game to cap off the season,” said Mr Connellan. “A nervous start saw a few uncharacteristic errors however they quickly settled down displaying some great attacking rugby.

“Leading 26-10 at half-time, the team was very much aware there was still plenty to do. With some excellent defense and our trademark attacking flair saw another four tries in the second half to win 50-17.”

Although Nudgee College is well-known for the strength and depth of its rugby program, Mr Connellan was very impressed with the humility of the team on their win.

“As they have been all season, the team was extremely humble with their victory and respectful towards the opposition, choosing to celebrate the College’s 40th rugby premiership in the stand with the boys who support them each week,” Mr Connellan said.

“Congratulations to all involved and a special thank you to our Major Sponsor, Mercedes Benz Brisbane, for their ongoing support.”
ST JOSEPH’S NUDGEE COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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TRACK AND FIELD

St Joseph’s Nudgee College celebrated its fifth GPS title for 2013 sealing the win at the Track and Field Championship for the Sir John Goodwin Cup at QSAC Stadium.

This win adds to Nudgee College’s great achievements for the year in sport – GPS Premiers for Rowing, Football, Tennis, Rugby and now Track and Field; runners up in Swimming and Cross Country. Nudgee College also took out the non-GPS titles for Golf and AFL.

Track and Field Coordinator Mr Peter Kropp said the championship meet was witness to over 40 personal bests or season best performances from the Nudgee College ‘Big N’ team.

“From this excellent team effort emerged 16 first placings, 10 seconds, and 14 thirds, as well as a new GPS record from Shem James in the U16 Triple Jump with a jump of 14.99m, eclipsing David Eri’s (NCOB02) record by 42cm,” Mr Kropp said.

“All schools are to be congratulated for the spirited rivalry displayed both on the track, in the field and in the stands, as schools put wind into the sails of their athletes.

“The Nudgee College stand was particularly appreciative of IGS team’s fine gesture of walking to the front of the Nudgee College crowd and giving a resounding three cheers.”
Queensland Rugby chairman Rod McCall believes the Hall of Fame will create a lasting legacy for the game in Queensland.

“This group of inaugural inductees, spanning the 130-year history of the code, are 11 of the greatest players Queensland has produced,” Mr McCall said.

“These players served Queensland with distinction, both on and off the field, while making an indelible mark on rugby at an International level as well.”

The 11 Hall of Fame Inductees were selected by a panel of rugby experts from a shortlist of 52. The inductees are:

• Arthur Hickson, 1880–1890s
• Phil Carmichael, 1900s
• Jimmy Flynn, 1910s
• Tom Lawton Sr, 1920–1930s
• Eddie Bonis, 1920s
• Des Connor, 1950–1960s
• Mark Loane, 1970–1980s
• Paul McLean, 1970–1980s
• Michael Lynagh, 1980–1990s
• Tim Horan, 1990s
• John Eales, 1990–2000s

The following profiles of the Nudgee College inductees are excerpts from Dr Martin Kerby’s book *Of Great and Good Men*.

**Mark Loane**
1969–1971

Sports journalists and author Jack Pollard describe Mark Loane as ‘one of the most distinguished footballers Australian rugby has known, a dogmatic defiant man of immense physical strength, with a profound knowledge of the game’s tactics, and a keen feeling for its ethics…In defence, his tackling was heavy enough to subdue all but the biggest-hearted. In attack, he could be devastating, repeatedly crashing over from 20 or 30 yards out, with opponents clinging to his huge frame’.

Although Ipswich born, Loane came to Nudgee College from Mackay, as Dallas O’Neill had done 10 years before. Had the war not intervened, his father, Ted, might have represented Australia. Before coming to Nudgee College, Loane attended Gympie Christian Brothers and, like so many new students to Nudgee College, he experienced his first introduction to rugby union. The College found in Loane a ready convert, for there was a ‘fanaticism about the
game at Nudgee College that similarly enthralled the young Loane. In his final year at Nudgee College, he played in the premiership-winning team of 1971 along with great contemporary Paul McLean.

The first year after graduation, Loane represented Queensland at Under-19 level, and was elevated to the senior team in 1973. Debuting against NSW in Sydney, he impressed the national selectors sufficiently to win selection in the Australian team to play Tonga. Still three weeks short of his 19th birthday, Loane was the youngest debutant in over 40 years. He played both Tests, but lost his place in the fallout from the humiliating 11–16 loss.

Reinstated to play against New Zealand in 1974, Loane was to later distinguish himself during the 2–0 defeat of the touring Englishmen. His subsequent form on the 1975–76 tour of England saw him rated by many critics as one of the world's best locks.

Sports writer Bret Harris argued that Loane was "the closest thing to a folk hero Queensland has ever had, the symbol of Queensland's new found virility on the rugby field, and the man who personified the state's triumphant rise in the 1970s".

Loane had the honour of captaining Australia in the victory over New Zealand in July 1979, claiming the Bledisloe Cup for the first time in 45 years. He later spent a year in South Africa, captaining Natal and the South African Barbarians against the British Lions. In 1981, Loane was named captain of a World XV, and remains one of three Old Boys to captain Australia.

**Paul McLean**

1971

Given that six other members of this family played international rugby, it is not surprising that Paul McLean inherited prodigious football talent. Coming to Nudgee College for just one year in 1971 to repeat his senior year in order to attend university, he nevertheless achieve a great deal on the sports field.

He was a member of the premiership 1st XV, as well as representing the College in cricket’s 1st XI and GPS athletics. McLean debuted for Queensland in 1973, and eventually scored 1000 points for his state.

Making his Test debut in 1974 against New Zealand, McLean also toured Britain (1975, 1981), France and Italy (1976), New Zealand (1978), Argentina (1979), and Fiji (1980), for which he was captain. McLean was a natural five-eighth, although he was often called on to play on the wing or at fullback by selectors intent on using his goal-kicking talent. He would not always experience good fortune at the hands of the selectors but, nevertheless, would play 30 Tests for the then Australian record of 263 points. Sports writer Bret Harris was fulsome in his praise of McLean’s talents.

Of all the Maroons, McLean was the most naturally gifted. His powers were subtle and precise. He controlled a football with the same magical expertise a Harlem Globetrotter manipulates a basketball... He is unflappable under pressure. His icy-cool exterior is legendary and he rarely makes a mistake. He possesses a ruthless eye for opposition weaknesses and is able to read a game better than any of his contemporaries.

For all his contribution to Queensland and Australian rugby, both as a player and administrator, as much as anything else his kick to win the 1971 GPS premiership ensures his place in the pantheon of Nudgee College sporting heroes.
Reaching Our Potential

In July this year the NCOBA launched its new online database and communications platform. The system is called ‘Potentiality’, and all Old Boys can now register online to gain access to a range of new features. Registered members can search the database to find and send messages to fellow Old Boys through a secure site. All of the Association’s functions are now managed through this system, including the provision of an payment gateway for functions and donations to our philanthropic activities.

The system hosts a business directory and also enables members to participate in mentoring current students and new Old Boys. Employment opportunities can be posted or requested on the site; in fact, there have been a few recent connections through the site that have resulted in employment opportunities for young Old Boys. To explore the benefits and capabilities of our new system, go to http://ncoba.com.au/ and register. The system is growing with us, so please provide feedback to help us shape our interface.

Jack Ross Bursary Fellowship

Why do we give?

I have spent the last three years trying to convince our Old Boy community that we need to support the Jack Ross Bursary (JRB) Trust. We (the NCOBA) have established the Jack Ross Bursary Fellowship to recognise those who contribute to our cause. We have certificates, ties, lapel pins and special privileges for various levels of benefactors. But this is just ‘window dressing’ compared to the real joy experienced knowing that we are changing the lives of young men through the gift of a Nudgee College education... and it feels tremendous! That is why we do it.

We can’t tell you who they are. But I can tell you that the boys we support have a range of stories that stir the Edmund Rice spirit in us all; including sons of disabled parents, sons of veterans, sons of immigrants, boys from the city and from the country. Like the majority of Nudgee College boys, you are most likely to see them in the grandstands supporting others rather than running on with the 1st XV. These boys are not at Nudgee College for a recognised talent, but rather so that they may find theirs in the opportunity that Nudgee College offers them.

It is indeed a remarkable concept that Edmund Rice began centuries ago. He was ahead of his time in recognising that education was the ticket beyond the hopelessness that impoverished many. The same is just as true today.

The harsh reality is that conducting a meaningful program like the Jack Ross Bursary is financially demanding, and sustainability will only be achieved through widespread support. We have been fortunate enough to begin the program with substantial contributions from just a few generous Nudgee College Old Boys and Parents. The donations from these Jack Ross Bursary Fellows have been assisted by modest contributions from others in our community. However, of our approximately 8000 current membership, less than 100 Nudgee College Old Boys have made financial contributions to the Jack Ross Bursary Trust Fund since it began in 2007. In fact, if we were to not include the top six benefactors, the total contributions from Nudgee College Old Boys has been less than $20,000.

Our challenge in 2014, is to reach out to every Old Boy in our community and ask them how much they valued their Nudgee College experience and what the legacy of Edmund Rice has done for them in their lives. Following from that emphatic realisation, I would hope that we can collectively support the continuation of that legacy, remembering that the Jack Ross Bursaries are for the boys who Edmund and his Christian Brothers would have chosen.

To continue the program in a sustainable fashion, the Jack Ross Bursary Trust needs $100,000 a year. This seems like a lot of money but really it is just $100 from 1000 Old Boys (from 8000 members) or $1000 from just 100 Old Boys every year. All contributions are tax deductible and 100% of the contributions go directly to the awarded bursaries in accordance with the trust deed.

The 2013 Seniors’ motto was “Be the Difference”. It called on each of them to be men of action and not assume that being a ‘Sign of Faith’ was someone else’s job. These young men are now our newest Old Boys and we can certainly learn from their wise words. It is up to all of us to ‘be the difference’ and make the
Jack Ross Bursary the living legacy of our proud Association.

Joining us in Fellowship is easier than ever now. You can "be the difference" and continue the legacy by making a donation at [http://ncoba.com.au/](http://ncoba.com.au/) or if you would like to enjoy the benefits of becoming a Jack Ross Bursary Fellow, contact Simon Carter on 0417 634 268 or carts64@optusnet.com.au.

Anthony Hart
NCOBA President & Jack Ross Bursary Associate Fellow

Signum Fidei Awards

The Award of Signum Fidei was instituted by the Christian Brothers to commemorate the Centenary of St Joseph’s Nudgee College in 1991. It is the highest honour that can be awarded to a Nudgee College Old Boy. First recipients of the award were Old Boys Archbishop John Alexius Bathersby (1954) and Paul Edward McLean (1971).

The Nudgee College Old Boys’ Association was invited by the College each year to nominate Old Boys of the College – usually two – upon whom the award might be conferred. A nominee can be from any field of endeavour – for example, Religious, Commercial, Trade, Professional, Rural, Music and Arts, and should exhibit:

"Success in his chosen field of endeavour, his support of Nudgee College and of the Nudgee College Old Boys’ Association Inc. and by his example a Sign of Faith."

At a College Assembly on 31 October, the 2013 Signum Fidei Award was conferred on Thomas Leowen McDonnell and Neville James Sinclair Clifford.

Thomas Leowen McDonnell

Born on 21 September, 1935, Tom McDonnell attended Nudgee College as a boarder from Dalby from 1950–54. He had a distinguished career at Nudgee College as a student and sportsman and in 1954 was awarded the Collins Cup in recognition of his character, leadership and proficiency in studies and sport. Tom was College Captain, Athletics Open Champion and 1st XV Premiership Captain. After his graduation, Tom operated a successful pharmacy in Sandgate and exhibited the highest level of professional competence. Without fanfare, he generously provided medicinal aid to Catholic Missions through the St Vincent de Paul Society. Throughout his life, Tom has set a high example as a Sign of Faith.

Neville James Sinclair Clifford

Born on 5 February, 1941, Nev attended Nudgee College as a boarder from Gayndah from 1956–57. His father, Cornelius (Con), was a Nudgee College Old Boy (1923–27), his brothers Fr Ellis (1957–60) and Tim (1959–61) are Old Boys, as is his son Michael (1976–80). Leaving Nudgee College after Junior, Nev embarked on a career in banking. His innate ability to treat everybody with equal respect, and his honesty and business acumen ensured his advancement through the bank.

After distinguished success as manager in numerous cities and towns throughout Queensland, Nev returned to Brisbane as manager. He accepted nomination as treasurer of the Nudgee College Old Boys’ Association and served in that position for seven years. Throughout his life Nev has been a practical example of a Sign of Faith.

Lawrie Cusack
Registrar NCOBA

Events

DIAMOND JUBILEE REUNION

A good representation of the 1953 Nudgee College Cohort enjoyed a 60-year reunion at the College on Saturday, 26 October.

Father Bill O’Shea, Dux of the College in 1953, celebrated the Mass in the College Chapel at 9am. There followed morning tea in Ryan Hall, a tour of Treacy Building and the Museum, and a minibus tour of...
the Auditorium, Trade Training Centre, Science Centre and Boarding House. A buffet lunch was served in Ryan Hall. The reunion proved an undoubted success and a tribute to the many months of time and effort devoted by Peter Weightman, Rupert Lee and Gary Lillicrap, who followed up lists of names and contact details of Old Boys who attended the College on scholarship 1949, Sub Junior 1950, Junior 1951, Sub Senior 1952 and Senior 1953.

The day was a delightful occasion, where old acquaintances met and narrated the many joys and woes of Nudgee College days with laughter, forgiveness, humour and happiness.

The Jubilarians welcomed the presence of Bursary Patron Jack Ross and Br Vince Connors, and the Old Boys’ Association was represented by President Anthony Hart. A number of invited older Old Boys also shared in the enjoyment of the reunion.

MEMORIAL MASS
The 2013 Memorial Mass, sponsored by the Nudgee College Old Boys’ Association, was celebrated in the College Chapel early on Saturday morning, 30 November. The Mass, celebrated annually since 1922, celebrates the lives of deceased Christian Brothers, Nudgee College Old Boys and members of the Nudgee College family.

The Mass was celebrated by Old Boy Priest Fr James O’Donoghue (1978), son of Owen O’Donoghue (1949) who died on 24 August. The 90 names of the deceased, whose deaths were recorded during the past year, were read out by 2014 Student Leaders of the College.

Following Mass, Old Boys and relatives of the deceased shared breakfast in the College dining room.

Lawrie Cusack
Registrar NCOBA

RECENT REUNION ACTIVITY
Old boys enjoyed another big reunion weekend 23-25 August 2013, centred around the Nudgee College v Terrace game on Ross Oval (NC winning 39-15). The weekend started with the NCOBA Business Breakfast on the Friday (Guest Speakers: Qld Chief Scientist Geoff Garrett & Dan Flynn of Thankyou Water), and throughout the weekend the many class year reunions had good turnouts, utilising the function rooms of the Story Bridge Hotel, Alliance Hotel and many other locations.

The activity organised at the College was also greatly appreciated by Old Boys who had not been back to the College for a while. The 1993 class 20 year reunion held the record for an approximate 80% attendance rate, and all other classes enjoyed a great weekend. The recent Gold Coast and Melbourne NCOBA reunions were also well attended, and we enjoyed the company of a comfortable number of Old Boys at our End of Year Dinner at the Story Bridge to round out a busy year.

Tony Gleeson
NCOBA Secretary

NCOBA ON THE GOLD COAST
On the 10 August 2013, the Old Boys Association hosted an event after the away rugby fixture against TSS at the Kurrawa Surf Club inviting all Old Boys, parents, staff and supporters to gather and celebrate all things Nudgee College. We were honoured by the attendance of Daryl Hanly and Graham Leddie as well as 1944 alumni Keith McGown who is a former NCOBA secretary. The event was widely supported and marks an extension of our plans to broaden the appeal of Old Boy events to the wider Nudgee College community. Watch out for a continuation of events at Mooloolaba after the Nudgee College Rowing Regatta and in Toowoomba after the away Rugby fixture in 2014.

Simon Carter
NCOBA Past President & Jack Ross Bursary Associate Fellow

The Warwick Races was the venue for a small number of Old Boys from 1980 to gather. At the invitation of the Hines brothers, local newsagents in town, Paul Tully hot on the heels of his horse winning the Birdsville Cup 2013 got together the group to have a winning day at the track.

Pictured (left to right): Phil Zappala, Terry Dunn, Tim Kelly, David Hines, Paul Tully, John Ellis, Mikel Lewis, Michael Tony, Paul Hines, Michael Bowers, Bryan Leahy.
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
When I was first introduced to St Joseph’s Nudgee College, I was captivated by the term “spirit.” Despite Nudgee College’s fantastic facilities, the size of the school population and its excellence in sporting, cultural and academic pursuits, it was only this “spirit” that I truly felt I wanted to boast about to my friends at neighbouring schools. However, I found it very difficult to describe what the Nudgee College “spirit” was. How do you explain to an outsider what 10,000 Brothers is? How do you explain being a part of a community that wants to cheer on and support each person? All I knew was that when I was among a blue-and-white army, cheering from a sideline or grandstand, I felt a pride I had never felt before. It was this “spirit,” this sense of brotherhood, community and mateship.

Each year I have appreciated the Nudgee College spirit with greater enthusiasm. I was fortunate enough this year to meet a leader in Sydney from an Edmund Rice school similar to Nudgee College. We were having a conversation when he asked, “You guys are pretty good with spirit at Nudgee College, aren’t you?” To which I replied, “Yeah, sure. We all try to support our mates and cheer them on.” He then said, “I’ve seen a few of your spirit videos on YouTube; we use them at our Leadership retreats to try to enhance our school spirit.”

It was at this point that I began to understand. The spirit instilled within this College doesn’t just run throughout Brisbane, but throughout the whole country. It comes from us all – from our brothers in PNG, New Zealand, Samoa and Fiji; and our brothers from the northern hemisphere, and northern Australia, west, east and south.

We each have our own story and our own culture – we bring these together to form a community of not one, but many. That is our spirit, our community. •

“For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body” and “Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.” - 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
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
A boys’ day and boarding Catholic school in the Edumund Rice tradition

www.nudgee.com