Past, Present, Future

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The Past

Father Tom Boland, in his Nudgee 1891–1991 History, records the arrival of the first student at St Joseph’s Nudgee College thus:

On 19 January, 1891, Father Francis Dorrigan who cared for the Red Hill district drove in his buggy along the dusty track out of Brisbane towards the seaside resort of Sandgate. He was escorting young Michael McKennariey, aged 12, to his new school, St Joseph’s College, Nudgee. It was an entirely new school. Michael was a week early for opening day and his name appears first in the school register.

The buggy wound out of the hills of Nundah and across the flats of the future Virginia. The bush was thick around them. The Brothers were busily engaged in attaching strips of paper to trees to find their way to Cabbage Tree railway station, their only means of communication with the small city of Brisbane. As the travellers neared another rise, they saw a half-completed but substantial pile dominating the landscape. The wall facing them was not the Italianate façade, but the side of the southern wing.

When they turned in at the entrance they found that they were on an eminence, the Mound of Nudgee, that gave them a new outlook on their surroundings. On the mound Brother Patrick Ambrose Treacy determined to build a school that would give Queensland Catholic boys a strong ground on which to stand, an unobstructed vision and a faith to fill unbounded horizons.

The Present

One hundred and twenty-four years (and 24 Principals) later, the landscape has changed dramatically. The original property that originally spanned Sandgate Road has been halved. Since 2002, the College has been led by a lay Principal, and there are no longer Christian Brothers on the staff. However, the numbers of Christian Brothers in our community have grown to 25, with the arrival of 17 Brothers who live in the newly finished retirement complex, Viridian, originally named Holy Spirit, Boondall.

A past student from 2000 would recognise that there appear to be many refurbishments and new buildings. These include:

- the Treacy Building, Ryan Hall, the Duhig Building, the Purton Science Building and the athletics track all refurbished;
- the O’Neill Primary classrooms, the Trade Training Centre, the Tierney Auditorium and the Boarding Facility all constructed/renovated;
- NITEC upper floor refurbished and renamed the Brother Larkin Student Centre; and
- the Learning and Teaching Block soon to be constructed.

The student numbers have increased to approximately 1535, and the presence of Years 5, 6 and 7 students have added to the quality of the education offered at St Joseph’s Nudgee College.

We are no longer referred to as a Christian Brothers School. We are a...
“One hundred and twenty-four years (and 24 Principals) later, the landscape has changed dramatically.”
For most students of St Joseph’s Nudgee College their time here is fixed with the majority leaving at the end of their Senior year. Whether this is after spending one, five or eight years at the College, and regardless of whether they return later as a staff member, a student generally has an end date when they will no longer be studying at Nudgee College.

For parents, however, the time they spend at the College can be indefinite. Anna Stewart is one such example.
Anna began her association with Nudgee College in 2004 when her eldest son, Alex (NC 2004–08), began Year 8. Her younger son Ryan (NC 2007–11) joined his brother at the College three years later.

“There were many reasons we decided to send the boys to Nudgee College,” Anna said. “Primarily, I wanted them to have a well-rounded education, not only religiously but also from a social aspect. I wanted my boys to have the chance to experience as many varied educational, spiritual, artistic, musical and sporting pursuits as they chose.”

Anna has seen many changes at the College in the past decade, including to the uniform and to several buildings which, she says, “has given the campus a different feel”. However, Anna believes the attributes she saw in the College when she initially chose it are still evident.

“Nudgee College still provides boys with a firm ethical grounding and reinforces how to be capable, responsible and spiritual adults,” she said. “There many opportunities for boys to succeed, regardless of their sporting or academic ability. “My oldest son once told me that ‘there is more to Nudgee College than just getting an education’, and he’s absolutely right! Individual students may come and go, but the young Nudgee College men on campus stay the same. They stay energetic, committed and cheeky!”

Anna has held several positions during her time as a parent, and now past parent. In 2004 she was invited to sit on the College’s Building Committee which oversaw the transformation of Ryan Hall. She was also Secretary of the Ladies’ Auxiliary for three years, a Tuckshop mum and Barrett Head House Mother for several years. Today she is Vice President of the Past Mothers Association and is in her seventh year on the College Board.

“I’ve been very fortunate to have had a wonderful time at Nudgee College – and still am,” Anna said. “I’ve experienced and been actively involved with events that I would have never ever imagined and I’ve made lifelong friends.

“Nudgee College not only provided opportunities for my children; it did the same for me.”

As a member of the Nudgee College Board, Anna is playing an important role in helping steer the College into the future.

“The College has a Master Plan, which provides an outline for continual stages of development and renewal, and this takes into consideration growth and needs of the campus over the next 10–15 years,” Anna said.

“Eventually, I would like to see the Arts and Music departments in a better facility and the remainder of the last of the old English village and the current Music building demolished.

“Trying to keep up with all aspects of a very dynamic campus is a challenge for the Board but, for me, the major reward is being involved with a building project right from the conception through to completion and witnessing the positive effect a new building, open space, boarding house or whatever has on the boys.

“I’m convinced the Nudgee College built environment has a huge impact on the boys’ ability to learn, socialise and flourish.”

Anna’s favourite motto is “don’t forget to stop and smell the roses”, and it is something she tries to do, despite her many commitments.

“We’re all so busy rushing around with work, family and social commitments that I think many of us forget to stop and enjoy the simple things of life,” she said.

“Taking in the beauty of a sunrise or sunset, listening to the stories of elderly neighbours – or even just spending relaxed time with loved ones is really such a simple thing to do and is so good for your soul.”

Anna’s advice for parents who are just beginning their Nudgee College journey, and for prospective parents, is simple: “Get involved with activities you feel comfortable with.”

“Not only does that give you the chance to keep in touch with what’s going on in your son’s life, you just might have some memorable moments and laughs yourself. Hopefully, you’ll find some like-minded people to share the experience with.

“Above all, enjoy yourself! The boys’ time at high school goes by in an instant!”
BYOD
AT
ST JOSEPH’S NUDGEE COLLEGE
Background

The aim of the Digital Education Revolution (DER) was to “contribute sustainable and meaningful change to teaching and learning in Australian schools that will prepare students for further education, training and to live and work in a digital world”.

While the goal of every learning institution was the development of a one-to-one environment, we believed this was not about devices, but about access. We believed it was in our best interest to provide the students with the best access to the most current, scholarly information available.

Instead of following the status quo and implementing a traditional one-to-one program, the College chose to investigate what it really meant to transform the school into a one-to-one environment. At its core, one-to-one computing certainly means that every student or teacher is given access to a computer, the internet and software anytime and anywhere, when it is required.

Some will argue that a one-to-one environment should focus solely on the device; however, for Nudgee College, this was not the case. While selecting the right device for our school was essential, making it the focal point was not the best way to deliver it. We believed, and still do believe, the device is simply a device. We did not want it to take over our classrooms and, more importantly, did not want it replacing quality teaching.

Any devices we deployed throughout the school were there to provide students a better opportunity to share, connect and seek out information. It was imperative that the devices were not a distraction, but rather another arm of the classroom and best practice.

ONE SIZE DOES NOT, AND NEVER WILL, FIT ALL.

Nudgee College is at present involved in a modernisation program of quite staggering dimensions, including a multi-million dollar renewal of the built environment. Concurrent with this program is the development of a curriculum grounded in an integration of technological and pedagogical innovation. At the vanguard of this “future proofing” curriculum delivery and facilities management is a site-specific implementation of a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program.

It is clear that technology is evolving at a rapid pace. Students today are adept at using mobile touch-screen technologies, such as iPads and smart phones, and social media such as Facebook and Twitter. We are continually looking to incorporate these technologies and even aspects of social media in the classroom to improve student motivation and learning.

As a result of the rapid evolution of technology, current research is limited and can become outdated in a few short years as the technology changes. What is not changing is the students’ widespread use of these technologies and the use of social media on a daily basis outside of school.

Research has suggested that implementing technology to enhance and improve student learning creates a positive learning atmosphere for most students.

The aim of the BYOD program is to improve student engagement and communication. It will also enable peer interaction and will provide a means to extend the place and time of learning, not restricting learning to the classroom.

Life after the Australian Government’s Digital Education Revolution funding.
The BYOD program is in line with our Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) strategy, which includes:

1. the elimination of general computer laboratories and a reduction in specialised computing laboratories for use in specific subjects;
2. a program of infrastructure spending to ensure the College has the capacity and capability to support educational requirements of students and staff operating machines wirelessly across the College;
3. embedding of ICT into curriculum, in line with the Australian curriculum; and
4. a move to a continuous online reporting and feedback model.

All boys in Years 5–12 are expected to have a device of their own choosing with some minimum specifications provided for parents. This is a big change from our previous educational environment, and the success of such a program relies upon the cooperation and trust of parents and guardians. With this in mind, 2013 was a year of research and then information dissemination. We ensured parents and guardians were kept fully informed at all stages of the implementation process.

As we seek to make astute use of the emerging, ever more sophisticated, digital technology within our school, we are conscious that we are seeking an approach that best assists the education of the boys at Nudgee College at this stage in the school’s evolution. We recognise that, in the not too distant future, refinements are likely to be required as will future proofing the College for these refinements.

We also recognised that a truly BYOD environment would not always have a device on display in every teaching area of the school. There will always be times when lessons will be done in the absence of technology. Similarly, it was important for our school that students did not become attached (or even more attached!) to the various devices available, but understand when each device should be accessed.

This approach not only supported the continuation of a variety of delivery modes in the classroom, but also allowed staff some learning and growing time as they began to integrate the various devices into their teaching. Our goal was not to rush technology integration, but to create clear objectives and goals for each teacher.

It is also important that students understood that a device is an avenue for learning and discovery, but it cannot replace their own ability to think critically and question. The wide range of devices that now populate the College give the boys access to a wealth of information and potential answers, but it will not always give them a clear course to follow.

The underlying motivation behind our model is to provide the modes and methods of delivery that will best support and enhance our pedagogy. The BYOD model we have adopted will be flexible and adaptable to future technological and pedagogical developments, effectively future proofing our curriculum and potential delivery modes.

After one term of full implementation there is no doubt our decision to move to a truly BYOD environment has been successful and has enhanced the learning culture at the College.

The work of the IT team, led by Mr Sean O’Brien and Mr Michael Scott, can not be underestimated. The foundational work and support they have offered students, staff – and even parents – has alleviated many concerns and promoted a collegiality indicative of a learning community.

“Research has suggested that implementing technology to enhance and improve student learning creates a positive learning atmosphere for most students.”
St Joseph’s Nudgee College has a proud history of producing gentlemen who want to make a positive difference in the world they live in. When Nudgee College began operation in 1891 it was as a boarding school only. 124 years later Nudgee College also has day students but boarders are still having a positive influence on the College.

Today Nudgee College is one of Australia’s largest boarding schools, with a capacity of 332 boys from Years 5-12.

**Strong Community**

As Nudgee College boarding approaches its 125th year of operation, there is no better way to celebrate this significant milestone than with a complete redevelopment of the College’s Boarding Village, which forms the heart and soul of the College.

The new Boarding Village will combine the four Boarding Houses with a beautiful, large central courtyard space for family BBQs, movie nights and House meetings. It will be a home away from home, a place of safety and security, fun and friendship. It will be a wonderful environment for boys to learn, explore and engage with their learning setting.

**Individual Rooms**

Each boy from Years 5-12 will have his own individual room that feels like his home inside a larger house. Features inside each boy’s private room include: own window, natural light, single bed, space and quietness to study, a desk, shelving, cupboard, large lockable storage areas, task lighting, wireless internet, overhead fans, and bench seating.

The larger house will contain lounge spaces and common spaces with 6m high ceilings to provide a sense of space and openness. Bathroom spaces will open to vertical gardens offering natural air circulation and air quality. The entire Boarding village will be secured safely and all entry and exit points monitored.

Stage 1 of the Boarding Village is due for completion in July 2014, with Stage 2 being completed in December 2014. Nudgee College is very excited that its high level of academic and pastoral care support will be further enhanced with these new, state of the art facilities for boarders at the College.
Life Skills

Nudgee College boarding provides boys with valuable opportunities to develop personal qualities such as independence, resilience, confidence and respect. Boys develop life-long friendships and contacts that assist each boy develop his future. Career counsellors are on hand to assist boys open up future possibilities.

Nudgee College boarding is a vibrant, close-knit community rich in traditions. Parents are encouraged to engage, visit and support their sons as often as they can. The school sees a close partnership with parents and Heads of Boarding House as paramount for a successful individual boarding experience.

Academic Development

Nudgee College boarding currently runs an academic tutoring program four nights per week where teachers across a range of subjects tutor and assist boys with their work. This program is proving to be highly successful, with day students joining boarding to take advantage of this effective study and learning program.

High Level of Care

Our dedicated staff provides a supportive home like environment and easy contact for parents in each Boarding House. Each house has a:

- Head of Boarding House (Teacher)
- Assistant Head of Boarding House (Teacher)
- Two Senior Supervisors (Teachers)
- House Mum
- Four Supervisors

Also assisting these staff care for boarders are several external departments located on campus.

The Health Centre is staffed with highly skilled and caring nurses 24/7 and doctors and dentists are on call.

Boarding has its own fully equipped industrial Kitchen and dining room, staffed with four chefs who have previously worked in some of the finest hotels. They produce nutritional, well balanced meals for the boys.

A fully equipped Laundry where all the boy’s clothes are washed, ironed, repaired and named is situated on campus.

The Activities Coordinator provides a rich variety of activities over the weekends on top of the College’s extensive co-curricular program.

Home to Learn, Lead and Play

Boys have plenty of space to roam, run, walk and play across the campus’ 133 hectares of bushland and ovals. With Nudgee College located only 16 kilometres from Brisbane city, it is a great, safe place for country boys to orientate themselves to a large city environment. This is a big advantage as the city is where most boys will go onto further studies at university.
Above and below: Within the courtyard there are four flag poles - one to represent each house in the complex. The idea of a house flag fosters community and a sense of belonging as well as reinforcing the castle-like qualities on the exterior of the building. The flag poles also support a single communal marquee which gathers all houses in the courtyard for formal and informal events.

Left: Each boy from Years 5-12 will have his own individual room that feels like his home inside a larger house.
Sri Lanka is a long way from Nudgee College but for Old Boy Timothy O’Reilly (NC 1986-89) it is the perfect place to base himself and his business.

Tim is the managing director and owner of Taprobane Seafoods and has lived and worked in countries throughout Asia for the past 15 years.

As an operations manager with an American multi-national company, Tim spent over 10 years working and living in Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, China, and India. Five years ago, Tim and his partners set up their own seafood processing company in India and, in late 2009, expanded the business into Sri Lanka, where they have a joint venture with a Sri Lankan business partner.

In 2013 Tim was invited to speak at the Business Forum at CHOGM about the opportunities and challenges of processing and exporting seafood. Below is an extract from his speech.

To be successful in any business you need to love what you do, and most importantly love where you do it. Sri Lanka is such an amazing country with amazing potential and opportunities. Nowhere else in South East Asia can you see such diversity in climate, culture, religion, produce, and economic scales.

With Sri Lanka being so diverse our business plan also required diversity and flexibility. Seasonalities, fluctuations in fish landings and lack of infrastructure made us have to continually adapt and always look at new ways of doing our business.

Our strategies were clear; develop the north, cut out the middle men and build strong market share in all categories. After nearly three years our seafood company has grown from 6 million to projected sales of 18 million in 2013.

Taprobane Seafoods has five processing facilities in Sri Lanka – Jaffna, Killonichi, Mannar, Chillaw, and Weanapora – with over 900 direct employees. Our company prides itself as an employer that provides employment opportunities to people regardless of gender, races or religion.

Our policies include partnerships with local communities and organisations to create long-term, sustainable enterprises and local employment. Taprobane Seafoods commitment is not just about...
doing business in Sri Lanka, but bringing employment and income to the north after the civil conflict.

Initially, our view was that the private sector has an important role to play in post conflict recovery by not simply viewing the north as a source of cheap raw material and labour but by building social and economic capacity with producers and workers in the north.

Our realisation of this is by processing and adding value to seafood raw materials, such as crabs, fish and shrimps, by setting up processing factories in three districts, employing over 500 workers, including 450 women, injecting 6 million SLK rupees into the local economy every month in workers’ salaries and, when you include payments to the fisherman, over US$500,000 into the northern communities every month.

With 85 per cent of the workforce as women, many of whom are war widows, our company provides them with income and dignity.

I remember talking with our first group of workers in Jaffna in 2009. We had 50 women aged 18-45 and I asked who of them had ever had a job? Not one person raised their hand with heads hung low.

Earlier in the year I remember being outside the Jaffna Factory and there was a young woman with her bike who was just standing there looking at me. She looked awkward and nervous but after the translation, it turned out that she wanted to show me that after two years she finally got to buy something for herself- a new bike! Profits and sales compare nothing to that feeling, when you know that you are making a difference.

Our company provides them with income and dignity.

We would like to see a five year plan that encourages stability, equal participation from all sectors of society and encourages long term investment. Policies need to be consistent and sudden changes create uncertainty for the private sector, particularly the international private sector.

The considerable gains that have been achieved in social and economic development by the government, the private sector and others in the first four years following the end of the conflict needs to be sustained.

Policies and practices of both the government and the private sector need to reflect the need to ensure that all Sri Lankans – Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims, Malays and others – benefit from the realisation of the economic and social opportunities now open in Sri Lanka.

It’s a privilege to live and work in Sri Lanka. In 2014-15 we will invest in a new state of the art seafood processing facility. With our business we create an environment where our workers, suppliers and buyers have confidence in our ability and understand what our plans and aspirations are.

If Sri Lankan society can find a real sense of identity, they will continue to grow as a nation and there will be continued opportunities for all.
In May, 1915, Lieutenant Walter Byron Pattison of the 9th Battalion, 1st Australian Imperial Force (AIF), was admitted to the No. 1 Australian General Hospital located in the Heliopolis Palace Hotel in Cairo. He had been badly wounded on the first day of the landing at Gallipoli and, although he survived long enough to be evacuated to Egypt where doctors amputated his right leg, he succumbed to his wounds on 10 May, 1915.

By the time Pattison was buried in the war cemetery in Cairo, well over 16 000 Allied wounded had already flooded into Egypt. Though his death was unremarkable in a broader sense, given that half a million soldiers on both sides would become casualties before the campaign ended in January, 1916, for a Catholic boarding school almost 15 000 kilometres away, the death of this young man who less than a year before had been a law clerk in Rockhampton, had a tragic significance.

To Pattison belongs the unenviable distinction of being the first of 157 Old Boys of St Joseph’s Nudgee College to be killed in action, die of wounds or disease, in accidents or were executed during the various conflicts that marred the 20th century. Fifty-two of his fellow alumni would die in the course of the next four years, followed by 103 in World War II and a single death in Vietnam.

Despite being schooled in an institution that could be aggressively Irish in its outlook, more than 250 Old Boys enlisted over the course of World War I. The deaths of so many of them would have been keenly felt in any environment, but in such a tightly knit community it would have been particularly traumatic. Yet, other than the Honour Board memorial at the door of the Chapel, there is no permanent reminder on the campus of the College's contribution during the war.

It is not surprising, given that the war had hardened prejudices rather than lessened them. The sectarian animosities fanned during the bitterly contested conscription referenda created an estrangement between Catholics and the new forms of national ceremony observed on the anniversary of the first landing at Gallipoli. The Catholic Church did not participate in the post-war commemoration of Anzac Day; the College Annuals of the 1920s and 1930s are almost entirely devoid of wartime references or to an annual ceremony marking 25 April as a significant event at either a local or national level.

There was, however, a commitment to ensuring the College's contribution would not pass completely unmarked. In 1929, the newly formed Old Boys Association, almost certainly with the support of the College hierarchy, raised £187 for the school memorial, the same year in which the Catholic Church declined to participate in the ceremony marking the laying of the foundation stone at the national war memorial in Canberra.

The question of how the College Museum might mark the centenary of the outbreak of the conflict was one that, therefore, could not be guided by precedent. Inspiration needed to come from further afield, and it was to the Australian War Memorial that the College looked.
Counted among the greatest treasures of the Memorial are the World War I dioramas that were constructed in the 1920s to help Australians understand the sacrifice and suffering of its men and women. Charles Bean, the official historian and one of the Memorial’s founders, conceived of the dioramas as more than battlefield models. He saw them as being nothing less than works of art.

Using them as both inspiration and guide, the College has constructed three dioramas covering an area in excess of 15 square metres and using more than 200 figures and a dozen aircraft and vehicles.

The first diorama depicts the charge of the Australian Light Horse at Beersheba in October, 1917, when 800 troopers of the 4th and 12th Light Horse Regiments helped to defeat 4000 Turks, capture the town and set in motion events that led to the liberation of Jerusalem and the fall of the Ottoman Empire.

The second represents a trench attack by Australian troops on the Western Front in August, 1918. Between March, 1916, and November, 1918, more than 295,000 Australians served in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in France and Belgium. Of these, some 132,000 became casualties and 46,000 lost their lives, 50 of them Old Boys of the College.

The third and largest diorama depicts a German airfield under attack by three legendary Sopwith Camels. In the years after 1918, the fledgling Australian Flying Corps (soon to be the Royal Australian Air Force) would attract numerous Old Boys, including Air Chief Marshal Sir Neville MacNamara, Air Vice Marshal Sir Reginald Cassidy, Air Vice Marshal Ern Carroll, Francis Curr (Distinguished Flying Medal and Bar), and Paul Brennan (Distinguished Flying Cross and Distinguished Flying Medal).

The challenge confronting the College as it planned this commemorative project was, therefore, not in finding stories to tell, but in gathering a team of talented individuals who could collaborate on such an ambitious project. The College was fortunate to have the services of collectors such as Phil Charlwood, Bob Crombie, Elliot Crombie, John Kerby, Wayne Roberts, Glenn Smith, Brett Williams, and Margaret Baguley, who between them designed and constructed some of the most impressive community-owned dioramas in the country.

Financial support was provided by the College, the Nudgee College Foundation and a grant from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs. In addition to these sources of funding, Andy Neilson, the co-founder of King and Country, one of the largest toy soldier manufacturers in the world, generously provided a selection of his Light Horse figures as his contribution to commemorating the service of College Old Boys.

Closer to home, Brett and Gerelou Williams of the Military Workshop at Enoggera, one of the country’s leading toy soldier suppliers, also provided support and advice. The photographs accompanying this article have been kindly provided by Marc Robertson, a local collector, diorama maker and professional photographer.

In July, Andy Neilson will officially open the exhibition at the annual toy soldier collectors’ dinner, which for the first time will be held in Ryan Hall.

For further information about the exhibition, contact Dr Martin Kerby: mkerby@nudgee.qld.edu.au

Inquiries concerning the dinner should be directed to Mr Brett Williams: brett@themilitaryworkshop.com
“We walk this road together, hand in hand. And though our paths may separate. And though times may become harsh. I will always be here. Walking hand in hand with you until the very end. I will never abandon you. I will never let you go. I will be here forever. Waiting and hoping. Let’s walk together.”

Adrian Mortal
The Nudgee College Fodder Drive is our attempt to support those in need.

Some 124 years ago, Brother Patrick Ambrose Treacy, Founder of the Christian Brothers in Australia, wrote to the Superior General of the Brothers in Dublin, June 1890:

I commence it [Nudgee College] without either the money for the building or even a promise from you of a staff of Brothers to work it. I have confidence, however, that God will provide the means as heretofore and that He will move your heart to come to our assistance in a more than ordinary way towards the beginning of next year...In years to come I expect that this College will occupy a prominent place amongst the educational buildings of Queensland.

What is most significant for us at this time is that Brother Treacy chose not to be Principal of St Joseph’s Nudgee College. His task was to travel on horseback to the country areas of Queensland seeking financial assistance for the establishment of the College.

In recognition and in honour of this effort, it seems appropriate we make a significant effort to support those whose forebears now need our help. There is no doubt many in our broader community are suffering from drought.

In March, close to 80 per cent of Queensland was drought-declared following a $320 million drought-assistance package announced by Prime Minister Tony Abbott. The drought now encompasses 38 council areas, four partially declared shires and 38 separate properties in another seven shires.

In April, Agriculture Minister John McVeigh said the drought had now reached record levels, and predicted it would take the industry up to three years to recover, even if drought-breaking rain fell over the coming months.

This May, as our Cattle Club Show Team heads out to support the regional show societies at upcoming community events, Nudgee College will also freight more than 60 tonnes of hay to those in and around the Longreach area.

College Captain and boarder Sam O’Neill spoke of the plight of families in outback Queensland after listening to the heartbreaking stories of those within the Nudgee College community. This is an excerpt from Sam’s College assembly address on March 25, 2014:

Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay ascended to the peak of Mt Everest in 1953 as the first men to have ever done so. A journey of incredible extremes. An almost 9000m climb which tests not only the body but the very will of man himself.

A fight against nature and all ferocity. A fight through one man’s determination to pursue his purpose.

The very people who epitomise such hard work and consistent effort are indeed our farmers. Those on the land are going through an incredibly tough and excruciating time and, for the first time in our 124 year history, we have the chance to give back to rural Australia – to lend a hand to this community who are struggling.

Nudgee College itself was built as a home for the boys from the bush and we are privileged to still have that connection with rural Australia.

As a boarder I hail from a 750 square metre property in Tannum Sands, running a total live stock of one dog. I understand how hard it can be to put into perspective just how tough those out west are doing it. So I sat down with a fellow Year 12 boarder, who is from a property just outside of Roma, and I listened to his story:

"Just a couple of years ago meat prices were approximately $3.10 per kilo; this has now plummeted to just 10 cents per kilo.

"Suicide rates among farmers tend to always sit higher than the national average; however, during incredible times of hardship, it increases to four times the Australian average."

They are truly silent battlers.
And perhaps the most heart wrenching part of all is the decision of putting down the animals – described to me “as simply closing my eyes and pulling my trigger.”

“These are the animals that you’ve worked so hard for, to care for, to feed, and put all your money into. And now you face this heart-wrenching decision for the sake of simply surviving.”

The cut-throat economy mixed with harsh conditions on the land has dealt farmers a shattering blow. The Fodder Drive gives us the opportunity to help those in need.

Pockets of rain have been falling throughout some parts of drought-stricken Queensland, but there is not nearly enough rain to keep it afloat.

“The first rain doesn’t break a drought. You need two to three good falls to get good grass on the ground and, even if we do get good rain now, it is very late in the summer. We won’t grow very much grass.”

As a self-confessed city girl, I admit to finding it difficult at first to fully understand the extreme conditions faced by those in outback Queensland. It was only when I sat down for coffee with one family and heard their story that I began to appreciate the human despair and tragedy associated with one of our worst droughts on record.

From cracks in the earth over a foot wide, to praying for rain; and when it is finally received, the animals are so weak they become stuck in the mud. There have been limited stock sales, equalling no income and high debt levels. Then there are also the social issues of depression, anxiety and isolation.

As Sam described, these farmers truly are the silent battlers. It is our hope that the Nudgee College Fodder Drive not only aids with the provision of feed, but is also successful in shining a light on the plight of these communities.

Please contribute what you can to the Nudgee College Fodder Drive, in turn supporting those most in need in outback Queensland.

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**Buy a Bale**

The best way we can support families who are suffering through severe drought, is to buy a bale of hay.

**BUY A BALE FOR $160**

This price includes the purchase of 1 large bale of hay (400kg) and fuel and transport costs for freight into Longreach, Queensland.

Payment can be made via direct debit, credit card or cheque. Details are available online at nudgee.com

For further details, please contact Ms Tara Shipperley, Development and Communications Manager, Philanthropy

Tel: 07 3865 0550
Email: tshipperley@nudgee.com

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**Should you feel the need to speak to someone, please contact:**

- **Lifeline**
  - 13 11 14
  - Lifeline.org.au

- **Beyond Blue**
  - 1300 22 46 36
  - Beyondblue.org.au

- **Kids Helpline**
  - 1800 55 1800
  - Kidshelp.com.au

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Images courtesy of Rodney Green, Queensland Country Life.
When the Junior School at Nudgee College commenced in 2008 there was one stream of each year level and amazing growth has occurred in the past seven years. Why has Year 5 grown from one class in 2008 to six classes in 2014? To me the answer is clear.

When a student enters Nudgee College in Year 5 he embarks on an eight year journey of self-discovery in a very diverse community. I have conducted numerous enrolment interviews across the past few years, and overwhelmingly the parents’ desire is that their son is given an all-round education. I assure them that Nudgee College does indeed provide that.

The Junior School, and Nudgee College as a whole, are based on a rich history and four solid foundations; Faith Life, Academic Development, Student Formation and an extensive co-curricular program. Whilst most boys tell me the sporting aspect of Nudgee College is what they are most looking forward to, they soon realise that there is more to the College.

We don’t teach content in the classroom, skills on the cricket pitch or rugby field and ‘church’ your son in the Chapel. All four pillars are intrinsically combined whereby you can’t pull one away from the other. When a Junior School student takes to the swimming pool or cricket pitch he knows the necessary skills he needs to employ. He knows he needs to acknowledge individual differences and he knows he needs to strive for accuracy and show persistence.

This year has seen the very successful introduction of Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) driven by our Dean of Learning and Teaching, Mr David Johnston. Students have learnt to engage with technology in a meaningful way that enhances their learning, and also the valuable lesson of caring for such a device.

Whilst traditional teaching methods are still employed, this initiative has certainly expanded our capacity to deliver the curriculum in a manner that excites and challenges our young men.

This term the boys have had the opportunity to participate in two full school liturgies. The spiritual development of our students is something Nudgee College takes extremely seriously. These whole school celebrations give our students the chance to understand what it means to have entered a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

On each occasion we have been blessed to have in our presence a number of Christian Brothers who are the men who have developed the rich history we all enjoy today. It is the goal of the Junior School to challenge each and every student to be the best person he can be, and most importantly to think and act for those less fortunate.

In 2014 we have mapped our Student Formation Program from Years 5–12. This integral part of your son’s education is about our holistic approach to education. We cover areas such as...
building resilience, sexuality education, study skills and organisational skills, to name a few. With boys spending the majority of time with their core teacher this program happens both formally and informally.

Our staff members are excellent practitioners in boys’ education and we are truly grateful for the expertise they bring to their classroom on a daily basis. This year we welcomed five new core teachers, Mr Corey Braithwaite (NC Old Boy), Mr Paul Cazzulino, Mrs Allana Herrod, Mr Damien Ractic, and Mrs Susan Reid.

Sporting wise, 2014 has seen students in Years 5 and 6 enter the GPS Competition for the first time since its inception in 1918. Whilst the CIC Competition served our College well this new endeavour allows the entire College to participate in sporting and cultural events across all year levels against the same school and, in some instances, at the same venue.

I know every Director of each sport and our Director of Activities (Sport & Culture), Mr Greg Thorne, will ensure our integration provides our youngest students with a competition to meet their expectations.

We have had a great start to the 2014 academic year in the Junior School and I look forward to the year ahead with great confidence that our youngest students have indeed entered a community that will attend to all aspects of their development.
For many students, especially those in the Junior School, beginning their journey at St Joseph’s Nudgee College can be daunting. It is a new school, often a lot larger in size than they’ve come from, with new teachers and new classmates. At the end of 2013, Year 5 student Connor Lennon shared his first-year experiences with incoming families in the following speech at Orientation Day.

My name is Connor Lennon and I am a Year 5 student at Nudgee College. This very time last year, I was sitting here feeling the same as you. I was wondering if I would like Nudgee College and if I would like my teachers, and if Mr Lake is as scary as he looks. I know most of you are nervous, but don’t worry. I came here with no friends and within the first day, I made lots of friends.

Nudgee College provides a wide variety of sports, so there’s something for everyone. Nobody says you have to be the best; you just have to try your best.

When I saw Terrace versus Nudgee College, it was life-changing to be a part of the grandstand crowd and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with my brothers. The sound of the cheering was like thunder and it made me proud to be a Nudgee College boy.

Nudgee College boys love handball. If you haven’t seen the handball courts, go check them out. They’re awesome. Handball is one of our favourite things to do at lunch time. If you aren’t keen on handball, there are a million other things to do, like playing on Hendry Oval, relaxing in the library or checking out the Tuckshop. It has yummy food to get you through the toughest handball competition.

One of my fondest memories is when I was at camp. The teachers must be crazy to want to take us boys away, but they seem to love it, too. My favourite activities were raft building, canoeing and rock-climbing. I’m looking forward to our trip to Whitewater World at the end of the year. I can’t believe we are lucky enough to go on a school trip like that.

A valuable lesson I’m learning this year is the importance of social justice and realising just how lucky we are to be here at Nudgee College. We have recently participated in the Walk to the Philippines to raise money for underprivileged children, and we also help make street swags for the homeless. I really like to be able to help others less fortunate than myself.

All of you in Fogarty house are the luckiest kids in the world to have Mr Lake as your House Dean. He is the best. At our annual Showcase, Mr Lake got right up on stage with the rest of us and sang and danced by our side. Fogarty won second prize and I’m looking forward to next year when you can all help us to win!

Nudgee College boys come from all different backgrounds and speak many different languages, but there is one thing that all Nudgee College boys have in common – a Nudgee College boy bleeds BLUE, WHITE, BLUE!

Welcome to Nudgee College and I hope your first year here will be as good as mine.
YEAR 12 RESULTS 2013

2013 Seniors Keegan Coomer and Liam Duggan returned to St Joseph’s Nudgee College in February as special guests at a Scholars Assembly. Keegan and Liam, along with Campbell Martin and Chetan Thapa, received OP1s last year.

Keegan is studying a Bachelor of Biomedical Science at Queensland University of Technology, while also accepting a QUT Vice Chancellor’s Academic Scholarship worth $25000, with the aim of studying postgraduate medicine.

Liam and Campbell are at University of Queensland studying dual degrees in Engineering/Commerce and Law/Arts, respectively, while Chetan has been accepted into medical school.

In 2013, Nudgee College had 186 students who were OP eligible. The remaining students received a tertiary entrance rank and/or are completing an apprenticeship or traineeship. In addition to the four OP1s, eight students received an OP 2 and seven received an OP 3 in a year where 21% of eligible students achieved an OP 1-5 and an impressive 95% received a Queensland Certificate of Education.

Vocationally, 79 students received a VET qualification, which can provide them with a pathway to further study.

SENIOR INVESTITURE

The annual Opening Mass and Commissioning of the Seniors, Prefects, College Vice Captains and College Captain was held in February. The Senior cohort has chosen as their motto for the year, “Journey with Purpose”, which fits in well with the theme for 2014 – to be people of welcome and peace. In his homily, College Captain Sam O’Neill linked the requisite leadership qualities of leaders in a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition to the Beatitudes.

“The Beatitudes are the most important of the gospel passages, as it is a compendium of Jesus’ teaching,” said Dean of Identity Ms Erin Wedge.

“The Beatitudes are as relevant today as they were in first century Palestine. Jesus challenges us that as Christians, peacemaking should be at the very core of our being. We are challenged by this teaching of Jesus, just as Edmund Rice was challenged, and we are then in turn challenged to follow in their footsteps and make peace a reality.”

“The Senior cohort has chosen as their motto for the year, “Journey with Purpose”, which fits in well with the theme for 2014 – to be people of welcome and peace.”
LIGHT THE DARK

On Sunday, 23 March, over 300 of our community joined tens of thousands of Australians all over the country taking part in Get Up’s “Light the Dark” candlelight vigil for asylum seekers. Nudgee College students, along with staff and parents from three EREA Schools, lit a candle and stood together on Ross Oval to stand in solidarity with Reza Berati, the 23 year old Iranian man who was killed in Manus Island Detention Centre, and all other asylum seekers being held in detention centres offshore.

The theme of solidarity was continued at the weekly College assembly where the importance of standing with, and taking action for, those members of our community who are suffering loneliness or injustice was discussed.

"It was terrific to see so many of our young men sending a very clear message of support and hope to those seeking protection on our shores," Ms Wedge said.

"We hope and pray that we may begin to do this better as a whole nation. Thank you to all involved."

ALL STARS T20

Ross Oval showcased a smorgasbord of cricketing talent in January to welcome the 2014 GPS Cricket season.


The game was umpired by veteran cricketers John Stackpoole and Bill Mackay with the final result a win to the All Stars, who posted a swashbuckling 221 off their 20 overs compared with the 1st XI’s 180.

Director of Cricket Mr Brody Grogan said the T20 match was a fitting way to launch the season and celebrate the start of a new school year.

"This match showcased our talented young players of the future and gave them a chance to pit their skills against proven legends of the game," Mr Grogan said.

"It was also fantastic to see so many of our cricketing greats take time out to support the College."

The game was followed by the unveiling of the first plaque in the new Walk of Fame being established alongside Ross Oval to recognise the College’s rich cricket legacy.

“The Walk of Fame pays tribute to former Nudgee College students who have gone on to play representative cricket at state, national and international levels,” Principal Mr Daryl Hanly said.

“One player will be inducted each year, starting with Nathan Hauritz in 2014 (pictured opposite with his parents)."

96FIVE BREAKFAST VISIT

Students, staff and members of the wider community gathered in the McKennariey Centre in March to watch
96five's Breakfast Show being broadcast live. Every fortnight, hosts Liam, Robbie and Ness head to a different school across Brisbane to connect with the local community.

“It’s always a massive morning with a carnival-like atmosphere and it’s a great way to bring the wider community together,” host Liam Renton said.

The event may have been forced inside due to the rain, and a visit from the Channel 7 chopper postponed, but that didn’t dampen anyone’s enthusiasm with long lines of students at the jumping castles, which included an inflatable boxing ring and the world’s biggest inflatable snow dome, first aid demonstrations, a sausage sizzle, and even indoor touch football games.

On air, listeners heard from students, Mr Brett Foster (Head of Music), Rock Band 1, Mr Mark Ellison (Director of Justice and Peace), and Mr Daryl Hanly (College Principal), who excelled at a game of Radio Scattergories.
The prized O'Connor Cup was the reward for Nudgee College's Open 1st VIII who dominated their event on the day. Nudgee College's team of James Lunney, Dominic Knottenbeld, Liam Lewers, Adam Bakker, Sean Gaffney, Nick Jeffries, Cameron Milne, Ben Bright, and Tom Deery almost flew down the course in a time of 6min 11.31sec, much to the delight of coaches John Bowes, Graham Leddie and Tom Moloney.

The 1st VIII’s victory was made all the sweeter after the College was also named Old Boys Cup winner for most overall points at the event.

“Winning two premierships in one day is a rare achievement, and the rowing community is rightfully very proud of this,” said Director of Rowing Mr Christian Oneto. “However, the season can’t be boiled down to two trophies; it is so much more than this!

“The community’s ability to fundraise so much money at the Barralong corporate regatta, to support and run two fantastic camps, and to hold an outstanding...
Nudgee College regatta are just some of the highlights not to be forgotten.

“To me, though, it will be the things that went unnoticed that will stay with me – watching older boys come down to coach Year 7 and 8s in the afternoon, seeing them patiently teaching how to de-rig and load boats. Or the occasions I was privy to coaches taking the time to sit with disappointed rowers, or having parents who were available at a moment’s notice to lend a hand to tow, cook or carry out some of the many behind the scenes tasks that are essential.

“To me it is all these moments that make a season, and while Saturday was unforgettable, and places us in the history books with our seventh premiership trophy in five years, it’s the season of memories and moments that I will cherish most!”

Head of the River winning crews:

**Year 10 8th Quad** – Liam Egan, Liam Miles, Isaac Deery, Will Tyquin, Jacob Abraham; coached by Geoff Hatch and Michael Hambleton

**Year 10 5th Quad** – Zach Warren, Hamish Rogerson, Josh Hatch, Finn Diggles, Lochlan Wills; coached by Andrew Coombs and Josh Rigg

**Year 10 3rd Quad** – Jack Yeaton, Edwyn Francis, Hamish Lindsay, Andrew Deshon, Mat Ready; coached by Andrew Price

**Year 11 4th VIII** – Jonas Pascoe, Campbell McCoy, Will Connolly, Zane Heveldt, Tom Barter, Alex Gastaldon, Hamish Braithwaite, Peter Tennant, Tim Hauff; coached by Aran Hawthorne, Michael Hambleton and Geoff Hatch

**Year 11 3rd VIII** – Nathan Trethewy, Thomas Kelly, Matt Jamieson, Forbes Saurels, Jack Goschlan, Eamon Moore, Hugh Harvey, Josh Reardon, Alex Walmsley; coached by Robin Bakker, Terry Gaffney and Mitch Schultz

**Year 11 1st VIII** – Charlie Deshon, Liam Stewart-Smith, Jordan Jameison, Royden Skeet, Bill Peereboom, Bill Kidd, Justin Greenhalgh, Bryson Green, Ewan Van Rensburg; coached by Peer Richards and Mitch Fordyce

**Open 4th VIII** – Luke Meacle, Daniel Chui-Clark, Robert McLean, Hugh Hunt, Dakatoa Hollistair, Tane Smith, Max Graham-Shoar, Rhys Gladal, Lawson Saurels; coached by Elias Power and Mitch Freearson

**Open 3rd VIII** – Isaac Schmidt, Miles Edmondson-Clark, David Cullen, Bede Kingsey, Angus Tully, Nick Stormonth, Harry Creswick, Jackson Smith, George Karadimitris Kalimbassieris; coached by Ross Schamburg and David Steyn

**Open 1st VIII** – James Lunney, Dominic Knottenbeld, Liam Lewers, Adam Bakker, Sean Gaffney, Nick Jeffries, Cameron Milne, Ben Bright, Tom Deery; coached by John Bowes, Graham Leddie and Tom Moloney
Nudgee College continues to boast one of the largest schoolboy cricket programs in Queensland with 37 cricket teams and over 400 boys from Years 5 – 12 taking the field in 2014. Whilst the GPS Cricket Season consists of eight rounds of competition plus a ‘Bye’, the opportunities for all boys playing cricket at Nudgee College are plentiful with development programs being offered in Terms 3 and 4, and throughout the Christmas holidays.

Throughout the year the Nudgee College Cricket program has been fortunate to engage coaching expertise from players past and present such as; Stuart Law, Wade Seccombe, Andy Bichel, Jimmy Maher, Nathan Hauritz, Luke Feldman, Gavin Fitness, and Brian McFadyen. Having input from these coaches across all year levels has proven to be an invaluable addition to the program, and one I know the boys have enjoyed.

In December 2013, Nudgee College entered a development team into the Southern Skies Cricket Challenge consisting of Year 8, 9 and 10 students. The experience of playing six games in five days, coupled with the challenge of playing against 16 and 17 year olds proved to be invaluable. Nudgee College finished the week with two wins and a couple of narrow losses against some strong opposition from all over Australia.

Following a couple of weeks rest over Christmas, Nudgee College yet again hosted the 37th Christian Brothers Cricket Week. Blessed with sunshine, 29 teams from throughout New Zealand and Australia played across three divisions of competition. Nudgee College fielded a team in the Shield and Cup divisions, and two teams in the Plate division.

In Round 1 of GPS Cricket, Nudgee College had the bye which provided the 1st XI with a solid hit out against Downlands College, while every other team in the school played internal trials. It is pleasing to report that throughout the 2014 GPS competition, Nudgee College either improved or maintained its success rate against every school, lifting the winning percentage to 57% for teams from Years 5-12. Given the havoc caused by rain over the past couple of seasons, it was refreshing to see some sunshine throughout the term, right up until the final round which was washed out.

The 1st XI had a mixed season from a results perspective, but one that has shown plenty of promise moving forward. Finishing in 7th place, with wins over Brisbane State High School and Gregory Terrace, there could have been a couple more wins to add to the tally, but it wasn’t meant to be. The team was led very well by Nick Smith and were certainly competitive throughout the season.

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RODEO TEAM

The Rodeo Team kicked off their 2014 rodeo year competing at the Eaton’s Hill Wildcard Series Rodeo in the U16 Junior Bull and Open Junior Bull events. Hall Contract Rodeo Stock supplied the stock for the nights’ events and our boys were certainly up for the challenge on some really strong bulls.

Our new team members Salathia Wasui, Dylan Gracie and Wade O’Sullivan performed well and Issac Westerhuis was a very deserving first place winner, with a score of 78 points, on a great first “Open Junior Bull” ride. Issac competed against 17 riders in this event, including team mate, Frank Poi Poi and Nudgee College Old Boys James Lingard and Adam Gatt.

The team was disappointed when our final rodeo of the term, Toogoolawah Rodeo, was postponed due to the wet weather. We look forward to competing at this rodeo when a new date has been set.

Fitness and riding technique is always the basis of our weekly training afternoons. To build on that, this year saw us also start a weekly gym session. Every Thursday morning the boys do an hour of strength and conditioning to enhance their core strength, balance and overall strength. We would like to thank Jake Winwood and Michael Green for all their instruction and encouragement throughout these sessions.

Foxfire Industries Pty Ltd is a locally owned family business who have, for a number of years, supplied and maintained the College’s Security Access System and Cameras. Last year, Mr Alex Christie (owner), donated money towards the team and this year has kindly done so again. The Foxfire Industries Incentive Award will be awarded at the end of each term, to a team member who has not only shown commitment to training and improving his riding skills, but also a commitment to improving his academic studies. Congratulations to our Term 1 award winner, Isaac Westerhuis.

In Term 2, the team will compete at the Dayboro Rodeo, Beaudesert Rodeo, Casino Beef Week Rodeo, Caboolture Junior Rodeo, and Caboolture Show Rodeo.

GPS SWIMMING

2014 was a historic year for GPS Swimming as this was the first time Years 5-7 were included in the GPS competition. Due to this fact, some of the competition was unknown. First day time trials for new students lead into a provisional squad being announced early in the short six week season.

All boys trained hard across the training sessions each week and also the Friday afternoon lead-up meets. Behaviour from the boys throughout the season was exemplary and I would like to congratulate all those students involved for their behaviour.

On 7 March the swimming squad
headed out to Chandler for the first Years 5-7 Junior GPS Swimming Carnival. Some solid results throughout the day were achieved and, sitting in third place heading into the relays, hopes were high for a top three finish. Unfortunately it wasn’t to be but the boys should be proud of the way they persevered throughout the season and dealt with the challenges of this new format.

With a proud history of 18 championship wins and five runner-up positions over the past 23 years, some may have been disappointed with our 6th place finish at the end of the GPS Championship however, we are confident that through perseverance and recognition of our successes we can continue to grow as a group.

There were many amazing results across the night at the Senior Carnival. College Swim Team Co-Captain, Clyde Lewis, started the meet off with a huge win in the all-ages 200m Individual Medley (IM). He then followed that up with another win in near GPS record time in the Open 100m Backstroke; the winning 15 year Freestyle relay team of Jesse Cilliers, Brodie Woodward, Charlie Cox, Joe Herbert, Lachlan Green and Brenton Woolf; and a close 2nd place finish in the Open Freestyle that broke the Nudgee College record by a tenth of a second for Dan Parker, Declan McMillan, James Lindsay, Jorden Smith, Clyde Lewis and our other Co-Captain Josh Elmslie.

Overall we had a massive 35 PB’s from 50 relay swims, and 15 PB’s from 32 individual swims. Well done boys!

Other notable swims included Ethan Robbins creating two massive PB’s in the 13 year 50m Freestyle and Breaststroke; Joe O’Brien in the 16 year boys 50m Backstroke; a huge effort from Bailey Clough in the 16 year 50m Butterfly; the winning 15 year Freestyle relay team of Jesse Cilliers, Brodie Woodward, Charlie Cox, Joe Herbert, Lachlan Green and Brenton Woolf; and a close 2nd place finish in the Open Freestyle that broke the Nudgee College record by a tenth of a second for Dan Parker, Declan McMillan, James Lindsay, Jorden Smith, Clyde Lewis and our other Co-Captain Josh Elmslie.

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VOLLEYBALL

2014 saw an enjoyable season of volleyball in which Nudgee College had particularly successful days against Toowoomba, Brisbane Boys College and Brisbane State High School.

The Year 8s showed a lot of promise in their first season of volleyball and the Year 10s had a terrific season across the board. The Year 9s and Year 11s generally struggled except for a few notable highlights.

Unfortunately the 1st VI were unable to turn some promising situations into wins but the group continued to work hard and be positive despite enduring a tough season. The 1st VI were on a steep learning curve during the season with only one player having been involved in the previous years 1st VI team. This should stand a young group in good stead for 2015.

Clyde had some great support from new Year 8 swimmer Hayden Cotter. Hayden started the night off with a 2nd place in the 13 year 100m Freestyle, followed by a 3rd place in the 50m Butterfly and then a come from behind win in the 13 year 200m Freestyle. A great start to his Nudgee College swimming career.
Our aims, which were clearly articulated in our business plan, stem from our constitutional objectives of creating a bond of friendship among the Old Boys of Nudgee College, and supporting the College and its interests. We pursued a strategy comprising of Effective Communication, Member Engagement, College Presence, and the Jack Ross Bursary Fellowship.

For some years now, communication with our members has been difficult and expensive using traditional means and our database has been maintained diligently through the laborious efforts of Lawrie Cusack on a single PC. The successful establishment of the NCOBA Potentiality platform as our Association’s communication and database interface has significantly enhanced our ability to manage our activities and engage with our members.

This initiative was realised through the tireless work of Doug Carrigan and Andrew McNamara and is now being championed by the College’s newly appointed Alumni Officer, Luanne Wishart. Lu has brought a vibrancy and continuity to our communications program that will assist in consolidating and developing our network. I wish to thank the Deputy Principal, Graham Leddie, for his strong support of our program and the engagement of an Alumni Officer to enable further advancement.

The activation of this new web-based system has also facilitated the establishment of an online business directory for our members. With Lu’s assistance we hope to expand this business directory to include the whole Nudgee College community by the end of this year. In addition to this, we would like to capitalise on the capabilities of our platform to establish a career-mentoring program for current students.

In the deliberate and relentless pursuit of our business plan, 2013 involved the largest mobilisation of our Association for some time.

We continued to combine our efforts with the College’s wherever possible, and we co-hosted events at Longreach, Goondiwindi, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, and Papua New Guinea. We also sent representatives to Sydney and Melbourne for NCOBA reunions in those centres. Our annual reunion weekend was hosted in August, combined with our Business Breakfast, and saw one of the widest gatherings of Nudgee College cohorts at the College in recent times.

The annual CBD gathering in July was again well patronised and has become a signature event for our Association. Tony Gleeson must be acknowledged for his tenacity in establishing this event’s status and coordinating a large slice of the reunion calendar. A 60 year reunion was also well attended in October; and the Annual Memorial Mass in November welcomed a near-record crowd. I must thank Lawrie Cusack once again and the College’s Erin Wedge for their continuing stewardship of this significant event.

For those who have taken the time to familiarise themselves with our business plan or read any article published by us in recent times, it would be evident that a key strategic element of our future is the continuing support and management of the Jack Ross Bursary Fellowship. I would hope that the majority of our Old Boy community are well aware of the program by now and will make it part of their philanthropic habit.
In 2013, predominantly through the generosity of our Jack Ross Bursary Fellows, the program assisted seven boys to attend Nudgee College. Four of these boys earned recognition for their efforts in academic arenas and all were active in numerous other activities. It is most pleasing for us to see the recipients making the most of the significant opportunity that has been made available to them.

The NCOBA are extremely proud of our involvement in the Jack Ross Bursary program and will continue to promote its merits as part of our strategy. I extend my sincere thanks to Simon Carter for his contributions in developing and managing the Jack Ross Bursary program and the Fellowship. I also acknowledge the vision and determination of Hugh Hamilton in making the inaugural Jack Ross Gala in 2014 a reality. I am sure that this will also become another flagship event for the NCOBA in support of the Jack Ross Bursary. The recent appointment of Tara Shipperley as the College’s Philanthropy Manager has already added momentum to our Jack Ross Bursary activities for 2014.

As Treasurer, Doug Carrigan has provided invaluable assistance in streamlining and managing our accounts. He has indeed brought an enviable level of clarity and efficiency to our operation. His Treasury report will provide more detail.

The business plan for 2014 is available on our website and, unsurprisingly, is based on the same strategy of Communication, Engagement, Presence and Philanthropy that has seen our program emerge to be a vibrant and meaningful part of the Nudgee College calendar, benefiting our members and the wider College community. All of our activities are outlined in the business plan and will be promoted on the website throughout the year.

This new year provides us with the opportunity to build on the hard work of the last few years with some exciting new initiatives and growing support. Some of the forthcoming highlights are:

- The NCOBA and the College will be co-hosting visits at shows in Goondiwindi, Longreach and Roma. We will also host an event in Toowoomba after the NC v TGS game.
- The inaugural Jack Ross Gala will be held on Saturday, 31 May, and will be preceded by our annual appeal for support of the Jack Ross Bursary.
- The annual CBD function will be held on Friday, 4 July, and the Business Breakfast will follow that with a date to be advised in due course.
- The annual Reunion Weekend will be held on the NC v TSS home rugby day on 23 August.

By measure against our stated goals, 2013 was a successful year, but the momentum and support must be continued to ensure that we advance to a point where Old Boys innately sustain our proud position in the wider Nudgee College community. I would like to thank all the Old Boys who supported the activities the NCOBA provided in 2013 and trust that they will continue to enjoy these opportunities with renewed vigour in 2014, as we continue to strive to be *Signum Fidei* to all.

**Mr Anthony Hart**
President Nudgee College Old Boys’ Association & Associate Fellow Jack Ross Bursary Fellowship
OLD BOYS ROW ON

During the last week of March, nine Nudgee College Old Boys competed in the Australian Rowing championships at the Sydney International Regatta Centre.

It is a testament to the Nudgee College rowing program that, across all competition categories, every Old Boy competing came away with a medal.

Nudgee College rowing began competing at GPS level only 13 years ago and rowers have already won five Open 1st VIII Head of the River championships, three aggregate wins for the shed and produced seven Australian representatives. Current Nudgee College rowers have also experienced unprecedented success in Under 17 and schoolboy events.

The NCOBA acknowledges the success of the Nudgee College rowing program and, in particular, Graham Leddie, John Bowes and Christian Oneto for their contributions to the coaching and development of the Nudgee College Shed.

The NCOBA congratulates the following Old Boys on their success at the Australian championships:

- Adam Kachyckij (NC 2002–06) – gold in the inter-state Qld Lightweight Four, silver in the Open Men’s Lightweight Coxless Four
- Connor Austin (NC 2011–13) – gold in the Under 19 Men’s Coxed Eight, gold in the Under 19 Men’s Coxless Four, silver in the Under 19 Men’s Coxless Pair
- Alex King (2010–13) – silver in the Under 23 Men’s Coxed Eight, silver in the Under 21 Men’s Youth Cup Coxed Eight
- Tom McLellan (NC 2009–13) – silver in the Under 23 Men’s Coxed Eight, silver in the Under 21 Men’s Youth Cup Coxed Eight
- James Hart (NC 2009–13) – gold in the Under 19 Men’s Coxed Eight

Current Nudgee College rowers also had an impressive week, winning one gold, five silver and two bronze medals. In addition, half the field in the finals for the Schoolboy Scull title were from Nudgee College with Adam Bakker claiming the silver.

It was most impressive to see the Old Boys and current Nudgee College rowers supporting each other in their respective events. As always, the Nudgee College parents, past and present, were “noisy” and parochial in support of all competitors with blue and white blood.

JACOB GEARY (NC 2006–10)

During your schooling years, the comradeship shared by the men of Nudgee College is one of endless durability. This comradeship not only applies to the mates you’ve shared your journey with. Once you’ve completed your journey, you become part of a much larger Nudgee College community: a community that transcends the immediate camaraderie...
you’ve forged, but one that relies upon and expands the same intangible bond.

This community has provided countless Old Boys with fantastic career opportunities. One such example is Jacob Geary, and his relationship with fellow Old Boy Tony Roche (NC 1986–87), of Roche Constructions.

Having just left school, Jacob was looking to complete a carpentry apprenticeship. With the help of the father of a boy he had rowed with, Jacob was put in contact with Tony Roche.

When Mr Roche learnt that Jacob was also an Old Boy, he had no hesitation in offering him a trial period of labouring work. After Jacob had excelled in his trial period, he was formally offered a full four-year carpentry apprenticeship. Jacob committed to his apprenticeship and is currently working hard to complete his final year.

This is just one of countless examples that illustrate the limitless potential of the Old Boys community, a community that one can easily tap into once their schooling journey has concluded.

**SAM JEFFERIES (NC 2005–09)**

*From 2nd XV to Super Rugby*

The level of perseverance shown by Old Boy Sam Jeffries is one that both current Nudgee College men and recent Old Boys can look up, and aspire, too.

Imbued with the principles and ethics instilled by the Nudgee College tradition, as well as his own sense of enormous determination, Sam has gone from the College’s 2nd XV to the Melbourne Rebels squad in less than five years.

This may be a surprising turn of events to some; pursuing a career in rugby was not Sam’s main ambition at school. His main avenue of sporting success at the College was when he captained the GPS swim team to victory in his final year.

However, his future turned towards rugby soon after graduating. Sam had been representing Brothers Rugby Club for 12 months when former Nudgee College Director of Rugby and Head Coach Todd Dammers contacted him about representing Sydney University – a university that possesses one of Australia’s most prestigious and historic rugby clubs. Sam took up the offer and moved to Sydney on his own at the tender age of 18.

He was busy balancing his rugby and educational commitments when he was called up to the Australian Under-20s side in 2012. It was at this level he was scouted by a number of Super 15 franchises. Sam eventually committed to the Melbourne Rebels and now lives in Melbourne.

Achieving a successful sporting career is not Sam’s only focus. He is simultaneously pursuing a degree in law whilst striving towards his Super Rugby debut.

**Australia Day Honours**

Congratulations to the following Old Boys who received Australia Day Honours:

Douglas Andrew ADAM, OAM (NC 1957–60)
For service to the community of Taroom

Eric Ronald CARRIGAN, OAM (NC 1956–62)
For service to the community, particularly to people with a disability

Andrew Stewart HEGH, OAM (NC 1956–60)
For service to the community, and to the community of Mount Isa

Dr Peter Thomas MYERS, AM (NC 1967–71)
For significant service to sports medicine and orthopaedic surgery

Dr Michael Anthony NUGENT, AM (NC 1951–54)
For significant service to dentistry as an orthodontic surgeon, mentor and consultant, and to international dental programs

**Open Schoolboy Quad (Gold)** – Coach John Bowes, Adam Bakker, Cameron Milne, Cody Ross, Sean Gaffney, Dominic Knottebeld.

**U17 Schoolboy Quad (Silver)** – Cody Ross, Liam Stewart-Smith, Justin Greenhalgh, Declan Comeford, Ewan Van Rensburg.

Sam Jeffries.
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

NCOBA

OLD BOYS CREATE – BROTHERS RUGBY CLUB SUNSHINE COAST

Several Nudgee College Old Boys have banded together to help establish Brothers Rugby Club Sunshine Coast.

“It’s great to see the blue and white now on the Sunshine Coast,” said QRU board member and Old Boy Mark “Sticky’s” Thompson (NC 1982–86).

Brothers Rugby Club Sunshine Coast, which is strategically located in the Stockland Park, Kawana, sporting precinct, is one of the fastest-growing rugby clubs in Queensland. Despite being in operation for only three years, the club has 175 junior players and is becoming a powerhouse of the Sunshine Coast local rugby competition.

Brothers SC chairman and co-founder Clayton Williams (NC 1984–88) said the old Kawana Rugby was “struggling”.

“We had to make a change. We needed a better brand and state-of-the-art facilities because the tent beside the tree wasn’t cutting the mustard,” he said.

Brothers SC rattled the tin and came up with state and local grants. They then linked with Tony Shadforth (NC 1983–87) and his building firm Shadforth Lythgo to build a state-of-the-art clubhouse that now sits proudly just off Nicklin Way.

“Building with Clayto is always interesting, given his hotelier background and view on business,” Tony said. “We were happy to help Brothers Rugby Sunshine Coast establish a great base for the club to grow from.”

Clayton said the new building was a great addition to the community.

“Tony’s building company has delivered a great resource for the local community and boys to grow into,” he said.

“With U6 to U18 sides at present, the club is in great shape. We have a real Nudgee College feel with Jason Fenton (NC 2009–12), Bernie Massingham (NC 1985–86), Paul Battle (NC 1974), James Charlesworth (NC 1990–91), Scott Kennedy (NC 1981–86), Ray Shadforth (NC 1988–92), and many more involved.”

Clayton added they were lucky having the support of Old Boys, such as Peter Nolan (NC 1966–69) and Jerry O’Reilly (NC 1964–68).

“There are also a couple of boys heading down to Nudgee College to start boarding in a few years so we hope to strengthen our links and maybe unearth another Sunshine Coast product like Rocky Elsom soon,” he said.

Any Old Boys or families wanting to get involved can email Clayton at Claytonw@rawgroup.com.au

NCOBA Brisbane CBD professionals networking group held their inaugural event on Thursday 13 March at the Exchange Hotel. The event was well attended by Old Boys from a good cross-section of year groups, from 1986 through to 2012. Plenty of drinks and stories were swapped among the Old Boys, and, of course, a few business cards as well.

The group gives Nudgee College Old Boys working in the city an opportunity to build their contact base with like-minded Old Boy professionals in an informal, social setting.

With few opportunities for Old Boys from different year groups working in the city to come together, it is hoped this new initiative will grow over time and become a regular event to expand Old Boys’ networks beyond the school gates. Whether you are an entrepreneur, company director, lawyer, accountant, stockbroker, property developer, journalist or parliamentarian, a strong network goes a long way in any profession.

What better way to increase your network than connecting with fellow Nudgee College Old Boys over a beer. University students are also encouraged to attend.

The NCOBA Brisbane CBD professionals meet on a quarterly basis. The best way to stay up-to-date is to join the NCOBA LinkedIn page, or to “Like” the NCOBA Facebook page.

If you would like more information on the event, or would like to be involved in its organisation, please contact the group’s coordinator, Saxon Mew, on 0433 236 730.
The Nudgee College Old Boys’ Association
proudly presents Nudgee College Community gatherings

GOONDIWINDI
Friday 2 May 2014
Goondiwindi Showgrounds
5.30pm to 7.30pm
Drinks & Nibbles Provided

ROMA
Friday 9 May 2014
Royal Hotel Roma
Arrive for 6.00pm
Meals Available For Purchase - Cash Bar
NICK & SAM INGHAM-MYERS
GENEROUSLY PROVIDING NIBBLES

LONGREACH
Friday 16 May 2014
Longreach Showgrounds
Arrive from 5.00pm
Drinks & Nibbles Provided

Charleville-RSL Memorial Club
You’re Welcome!

CHARLEVILLE
Friday 16 May 2014
Charleville RSL Memorial Club
Arrive 6.30pm - Last Meal Order 8.30pm
Meals Available For Purchase - Cash Bar

www.ncoba.com.au
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NUDGEE COLLEGE ROWING SHED

WINNERS OF THE O’CONNOR CUP AND THE OLD BOYS CUP AT HEAD OF THE RIVER