

VILLA VOICE

VOL 37
NO. 02

NOV 2023



Diamond Jubilee

ANNIVERSARY



**THE EVOLUTION
OF VILLA SPORT
SHAPING CHARACTER
AND EXCELLENCE
VILLA WELLBEING
VILLA COMMUNITY CARNIVAL**

Developing fine young men





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Published by:
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PRINCIPAL'S *welcome*

MR PAUL BEGG – COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

So much of our effort at Villanova College is centered on encouraging the 'Villanova Graduate.' In the pages of this edition of Villa Voice, you will see the evidence of this, along with the intentional decisions and activities taken to ensure that the young men in Green and Gold are encouraged and supported toward this ideal.

The Villanova Graduate is, in many respects, a complex and deeply considered concept. It is defined and justified with a high level of intellectual and theological rigor. Equally it can be summarised quite simply. A young man, prepared for a world of challenge. A young man with a burgeoning understanding of the transformative power of his skills and talents and how they may serve that world. A young man committed to growth through interior reflection. To truly "become who they are not now" through asking the questions of purpose, meaning and impact as they mature into the leaders of society.

Such a concept of a graduate is of course aspirational, and many may feel that it is unreachable, perhaps unthinkable. But don't forget you are a Villanovan, a graduate of this College for life. The call is to the restless search for truth and ongoing conversion. We want our young men to know that our learning never stops and in so doing should always be influenced and guided by our faith. Mr Levander touches on these final stages of the internal journey at Villanova as he explores the importance of brotherhood, belonging and friendship in the creation of the Augustinian graduate.

In an educational context, we enter the world of Artificial Intelligence and begin to consider its impacts on education and, more broadly, on the world. From the halls of Villanova, we are equally challenged to consider what it means for our students, our values, and our community. Mr. Stephen Rouhliadoff shares some of our reflections on this. In short, in an age of machine-driven ideas, what will distinguish our thought is our humanity, our kindness, our empathy, and our intent to view and understand others with passion and compassion. To use the words of New York Times columnist David Brooks, 'In the Age of AI, Major in Being Human.'



We also share with you a snapshot of our 75th Anniversary mass presided over by Archbishop Mark Coleridge, where he shared with our community the value of our motto, Vincit Veritas – Truth Conquers, and the way in which Christ's light should be used to challenge for truth and justice. Demonstrating our continuing commitment to our history and values is Mr. Christie's item detailing our teaching and learning framework. It reinforces our heritage by encouraging our teachers to plan our lessons with a focus on Connecting, Inspiring, Engaging, and Reflecting. Through these lenses, they teach with an Augustinian pedagogy that expresses care, provides support, challenges for growth, expands possibilities, and shares power.

The year 2023 continues to be a wonderful year for the Villanova College community. We hope you enjoy reading about our student experiences, our staff stories, our educational intentions, and the way in which we continue to strengthen the identity and legacy of this wonderful College.

Vincit Veritas

Paul Begg
PRINCIPAL

“ We want our young men to know that our learning never stops and in so doing should always be influenced and guided by our faith. ”

IN THE CLASSROOM and Beyond...

MR JOHN CHRISTIE — DEAN OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Teaching and Learning Framework

Across 2022, the College's teachers were involved in determining what about teaching and learning at Villanova makes what we do so important and valuable. By seeking feedback from our teachers, the College was able to develop a teaching and learning framework, which has been implemented across 2023. The Villanova College Teaching and Learning Framework provides teachers at the College a clear and consistent approach to planning, pedagogy and assessment, and teacher growth and development. Teachers at Villanova College bring their own gifts and talents to their daily work; the Teaching and Learning Framework has been developed to complement this and enhance what teachers at the College do.

The benefits of Villanova College teachers working with the Teaching and Learning Framework are:

- ▶ It helps to ensure that all students have access to the same high-quality instruction. By providing a clear and consistent approach, the framework helps to ensure that all students are exposed to the same information and that their learning is being evaluated in the same way.
- ▶ It helps to improve the quality of instruction. By providing teachers with clear guidelines and expectations, the framework helps to ensure that instruction is focused, relevant, and engaging.
- ▶ It improves communication and collaboration among teachers. By providing a common language and approach, the framework helps to facilitate communication and collaboration among teachers, which leads to more effective instruction and better student outcomes.



In developing the framework, the College determined that four (4) key areas were of greatest importance when teaching our students:

Connect

The establishment and ongoing nurturing of supportive relationships is a crucial element in the development of a positive classroom environment which in turn can promote students' success. Students are more likely to experience success if they build these relationships through connectedness with people that can play important roles in their lives (Search Institute, 2018). A focus on the value of community allows teachers to build connection with the students in their classes.

Inspire

As teachers, before we can begin to deliver a particular course, we need to be familiar with the curriculum being taught so as to write effective programs. If we invest the time in these elements, we will provide lessons, units and courses that will inspire the students at Villanova College. This is achieved through curriculum knowledge and engagement, and effective program design.

Engage

Student engagement is important at school because it is strongly linked to student success. When students are engaged in their learning, they are more likely to achieve academically and have positive attitudes towards school.

Additionally, student engagement can also lead to increased motivation and self-esteem, which can help students build the skills and confidence they need to succeed in school and in life. Classroom pedagogy and assessment (both formative and summative) are two key areas in which engagement can be fostered.

Reflect

Reflection allows individuals to gain an insight into their own strengths and weaknesses, and to identify areas that can be improved. By reflecting on past performance, individuals can gain a deeper understanding of what they did well, what they struggled with and what they need to do differently in the future. This can help them to set more realistic and effective goals, and to make more informed decisions about how to move forward. Additionally, reflecting on performance can also help individuals to build self-awareness and self-regulation skills. Reflecting on performance can also help individuals to develop a growth mindset and be more resilient in the face of challenges and setbacks. At Villanova College, all staff and students are encouraged to reflect on what they do each day when they are involved in the teaching and learning process.

New Horizons:

WELCOMING THE NEXT GENERATION OF EDUCATORS TO VILLANOVA

Each year, the College welcomes a range of new teachers to their staff as a result of staff moving on or retiring. Some new teachers come to us with significant teaching experience whilst others are only a few years into their profession. Over the past two years, the College has been fortunate to be able to employ a number of graduate teachers. They have been able to bring fresh perspectives, enthusiasm and innovation to the College and have contributed to the school culture and community by sharing their ideas and insights.

Dana Watson (Commenced in 2022)



"I completed my final practicum at Villanova at the end of 2021 and was fortunate enough to secure a teaching position at the College at the beginning of 2022. I have taught a mix of Religious Education, Study of Religion, History and HASS from Year 8 to 12.

Taking last year's Year 11 Study of Religion classes to a Buddhist temple is one of my most memorable teaching moments. They had a blast engaging with members of the temple to learn about the religion itself and associated culture! Coming back to school with their new experience, we engaged in extensive class discussions that incorporated our prior knowledge and first hand experience from the excursion. The general enjoyment and engagement from the boys made this so memorable."

Hayden Kennedy (Commenced in 2022)



I currently teach Year 11 and 12 Study of Religion, Year 11 Religion and Ethics and Years 9 and 10 Religious Education. I am now a professed lay Marist, but I was with the Marist fathers for five years, living in community and seminary. I also worked as the sacristan for the Cathedral of St Stephen in Brisbane. The last eighteen months have been learning about the Augustinian Charism and trying to start a culture base for humanities in the school: Poetry & Short Story Competitions, Philosophy Club and Debating. At Villa, young teachers find a supportive environment where experienced colleagues readily share resources and knowledge. An open culture among senior staff encourages observation and questioning. Professional relationships with school leadership create a space for staff to experiment and learn from mistakes, fostering growth.

Emma Read (Commenced in 2023)



"I completed undergraduate degrees in both Mathematics and Science (Physics) before commencing my Master of Teaching (Secondary). I started working at Villanova at the beginning of 2023 as leader of the STEM enrichment program for students in Years 6 to 9. Since the beginning of Semester 2 this year, I have been teaching Year 8 and 9 Science as well as Year 10 Physics.

The staff at Villanova College have been so incredibly welcoming and helpful during my initial period of teaching. The collaborative environment that is fostered amongst staff has made me feel so supported with numerous colleagues having reached out to offer a helping hand if, and when, I need it."

Liam Pereira (Commenced in 2022)



"I came out of high school interested in teaching due to being able to work within my subject areas. Following my experience across practicums in various schools, I began to see how the relational aspect of the job would be what kept me teaching in the long run. Coming to Villanova has been an extremely satisfying experience as everyday I'm working with students who seem to put in as much into the relationship as they can.

My faculty heads and other graduate teachers have provided me with the support that I feel comfortable in the job. This in turn allows me to give my best to the students, who then are what motivate me to come in and continue to rethink and reconsider what I can do better."

Shaping CHARACTER & EXCELLENCE

MR MATT LEVANDER – HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL



Our vision statement at Villanova College intentionally articulates our striving for excellence in boys' education as an Augustinian community, one in mind and heart on the way towards God. As an all-boys educational institution, we are a member of the International Boys' Schools Coalition (IBSC), connecting dedicated educators worldwide to discover the best learning practices for boys.

According to the IBSC, one of the important advantages of a single-sex education is the opportunity it presents to create a learning environment, literally and figuratively, that accommodates what boys and young men need.

The IBSC champions boys' education and strongly promote the following principles about schools for boys:

- 1 They understand and celebrate boys.
- 2 They seek first to build good men.
- 3 They know that boys develop and learn in different ways.
- 4 They teach in ways that boys learn best.
- 5 They help students discover and explore their full potential.
- 6 They foster brotherhood and lifelong friendships.

At Villanova College, our mission of Catholic education is underpinned by our underpinning belief in the formation of the whole person, holistically developing the intellectual, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual lives of the boys and young men in our care. This intentional choice reflects our appreciation for the intensity and complexity of the journey our students embark upon on the road to manhood.

Beyond our core business of fostering academic excellence, our formation and wellbeing program 'Be Your Best Self' provides a strong foundation for the development of character within our boys, which is shaped by our College Values of community, interiority, humility and the restless search for truth as well as our GREATS Model of the Villanova Graduate. We are explicit about virtues and values of the young man we wish to form across his Villanova Journey, a gentleman who, inspired by the

Gospel and the shining light of Jesus Christ is counter-cultural, committed to justice and is selfless in his service of others. St Thomas of Villanova's timeless quote – 'that the natural gifts and graces we receive are not for us alone, but we have received them for the benefit of all' – reflects our commitment to making our community richer by the contributions of our young stewards.

Renown adolescent psychologist Dr Michael Reichert, who has been a significant partner of the IBSC and who has written a number of pertinent publications including 'How to Raise a Boy: The Power of Connection to Build Good Men', maintains that boys are relational learners. Our philosophy of teaching and learning at Villanova is shaped by our belief in relational pedagogy – where the teacher-student relationship is central to the establishment of learning environments which allow our young men to flourish.

Finally, the exciting and transformative implementation of our Vertical House System, commencing in 2024, will ensure that our pastoral care processes reflect best practice in boys' education. The establishment of eight new Houses will place continuity of care and relationships at the heart of the experience our students as they journey with their Villanova brothers and House Mentor in a House Mentor group for the six years across their Middle and Senior School experience. These bonds of friendship and belonging will shape brotherhood in a profound and dynamic way.

As our students engage in the all-boys environment of Villanova College, they learn who they want to become, forge healthy relationships and are supported to reach their full potential.

“Bonds of friendship and belonging will shape brotherhood in a profound and dynamic way.”



“The natural gifts and graces we receive are not for us alone, but we have received them for the benefit of all.”



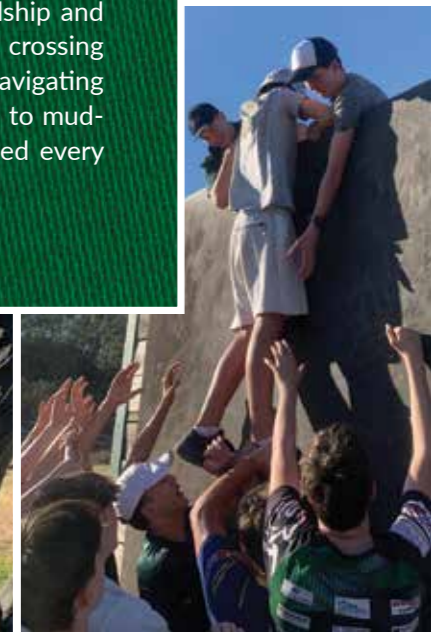
STAFF SENIOR BANQUET

In August, Staff & Senior Banquet event is a special moment where our students express their gratitude to the teachers who have guided them on their academic journey. Emotions ran high, laughter filled the air, and everyone had a fantastic time. A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated parent volunteers, incredible students, and amazing teachers for being part of this cherished Villanova tradition.



YEAR 10 CAMP

Recently, our Year 10 boys experienced unforgettable moments during their 2-day camp. While the spirit of adventure came alive, the bonds of friendship and community grew stronger. From crossing bridges to holding siege, navigating tunnels, being intrepid trackers, to mud-filled swims, they have embraced every moment with enthusiasm!





EMBRACING CHALLENGES, SPREADING KINDNESS, AND FINISHING STRONG: *A Reflective Journey in 2023*

MR SEAN O'NEILL — HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL



It has certainly been a packed calendar in 2023 where our young men have had opportunities to engage in a holistic Villanova education. All three cohorts were presented with a challenge at the start of the year and it is fitting to revisit these as we approach the latter half of 2023.

The first challenge I laid before them was to embrace the power of saying YES! Within the nurturing environment of Villanova, the array of extracurricular activities offered to our young men is boundless. It is through these activities that they can explore their interests and passions. The only factor that could potentially hinder their engagement is their reluctance to say YES. This sentiment extends to academic challenges as well. Have they chosen to confront the academic hurdles with an affirmative attitude?

The journey through school work, assignments, and examinations is intended to be demanding, yet irrespective of the difficulty, maintaining a positive outlook is the cornerstone of success. Furthermore, the challenge of fostering new friendships has been equally significant. By seizing opportunities to connect with others, the lives of our Middle School students have undoubtedly been enriched. It is my hope that throughout the course of the year, our students have embraced these opportunities with enthusiasm and an open heart.



Year 9 Camp

Our Year 9 students recently had a blast during their 4-day camp experience at Noosa North Shore! With a focus on growth, leadership, and teamwork, they enjoyed activities like rock-climbing, Stand-Up Paddle Boarding, and a beachside sleepout. We are so proud of the boys' willingness to step out of their comfort zones and embrace new challenges.

The preceding term has certainly been full with occasions that encouraged our students to respond with a resounding YES! A notable highlight was the participation of Middle School students in Trimester 2 & 3 sports, showcasing their unwavering dedication and loyalty to the College. Additionally, their involvement in QCMF through the four-day celebration of music was a testament to their commitment to the Arts. The brigade of Red Hat volunteers were great ambassadors! Another memorable opportunity was the Year 7 Twilight Session, during which our students collaborated with Loreto College for an event titled "Making Connections." This initiative provided a platform for socialisation and identity sharing, resulting in heartwarming success. The opportunities for our boys to embrace the spirit of affirmation have been abundant, and their participation has undoubtedly contributed to their personal growth.

Turning to my second challenge, I focussed it on the theme of kindness. Drawing inspiration from the novel 'Wonder' by R. J. Palacio, I referred to Mr. Tushman's address on the invaluable virtue of kindness. While quantifying growth, academic achievements, and accomplishments on the sports field is relatively straightforward, kindness defies measurement by conventional means. It transcends numerical assessments.

Kindness is reflected in how one has spent their time over the course of the year, the connections they have forged, and the impact they have made on others. The essence of success can be distilled into these acts of kindness.

A poignant quote from 'The Little White Bird' encapsulates this sentiment:

"Shall we make a new rule of life...always to try to be a little kinder than is necessary?"

It is a profound principle for our Middle School men to internalize. To exhibit kindness that surpasses expectations, lifting those around them and offering solace and encouragement to those in need. It is my aspiration that each of our Middle School students has embraced kindness and risen to the challenge of being kinder than what circumstances demand.

In conclusion, the challenges to say yes to opportunities and to embody kindness have been pivotal aspects of their journey. As we approach the culmination of the academic year, let us also reflect on the importance of finishing strong. The final stages of the year offer a chance to consolidate the lessons learned, to solidify friendships, and to make a lasting positive impact on the community. By persevering with dedication and maintaining the spirit of affirmation and kindness, our Middle School students can confidently complete this year with a profound sense of accomplishment and personal growth.



Middle School Master Chef

Culinary creativity at its finest! Our talented Middle School boys amazed us in Term 3 with their cooking prowess during Master Chef competition. The four judges were left in awe by the delicious delicacies they whipped up! From creative cupcakes to mouthwatering main courses, their culinary skills were on full display.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE OR EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

AI OR EI?

MR STEPHEN ROUHLIADEFF – HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL



What has been written into movie scripts is now the reality our young men must manage – Artificial Intelligence is here, its ability to enhance learning is real and we must seize the opportunity, yet the temptation to misuse it is also a dilemma for students. Technology continues to be opening up the possibilities for planning, learning, assessment, feedback and saving us precious minutes.

Yet can we realise that we still have the responsibility to focus on learning for the sake of precious brain patterns and neuron pathways? Will we rise to the challenge of our moral compass?

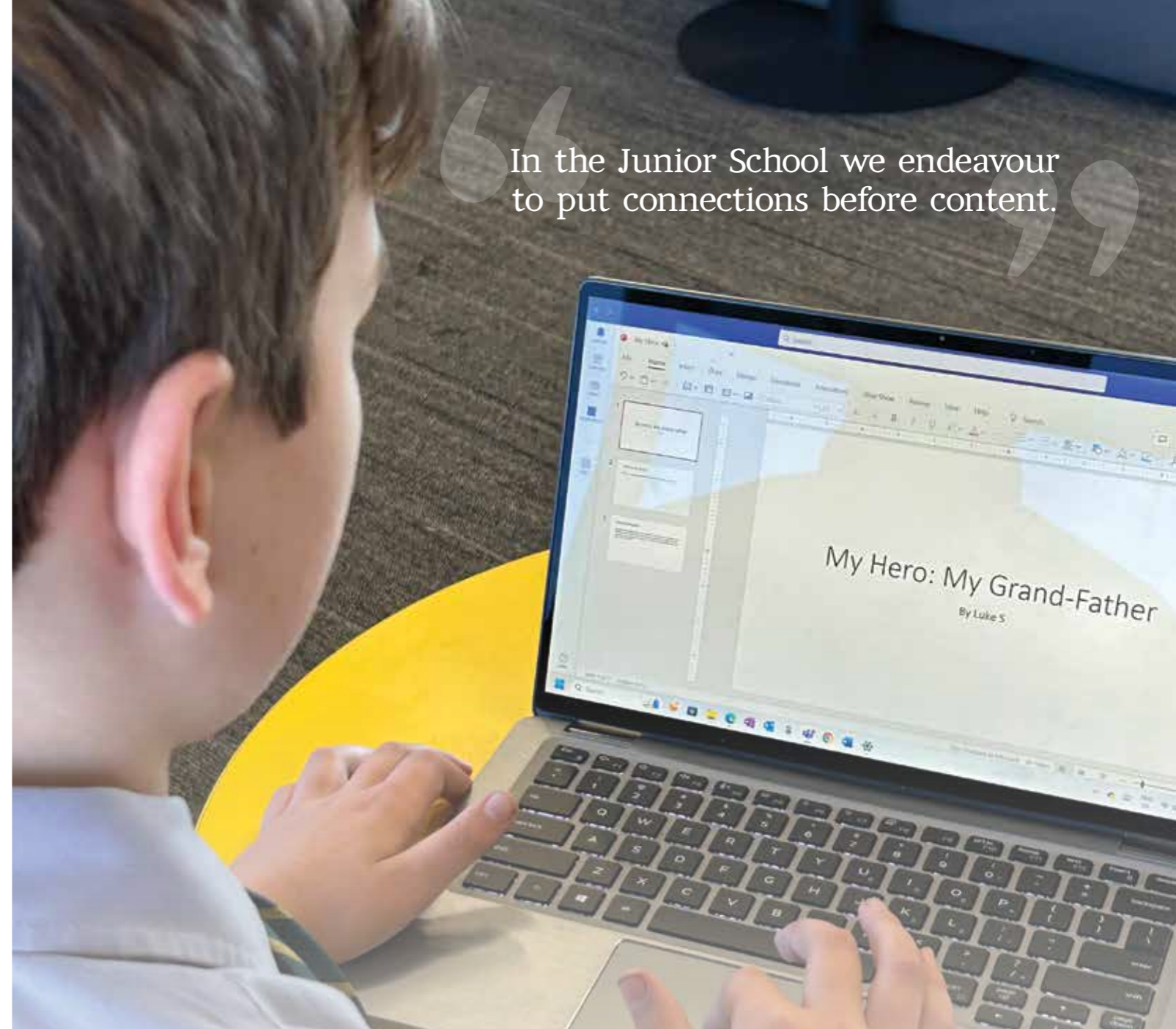
In the Junior School we endeavour to put connections before content – we treasure relationships and take pride in always working towards expressing care, challenging growth, providing support, sharing power and expanding possibilities – the Search Institute Developmental Relationships Framework | Search Institute (searchinstitute.org) is an important part of our pedagogy. So, Emotional Intelligence is part of our everyday learning through our Focus of the Week, Circle Time, Well Being, Restorative Practices and willingness to work on our sense of belonging in the classroom and playground.

It's a huge part of why we have our Collaborative and Reflective Practices with our Junior School Staff – our dynamic learning spaces are about communication, critical thinking, creativity and collaboration for teachers and staff. How we learn best – it matters a great deal to us.

Artificial Intelligence brings excitement, curiosity and information at speeds never imagined. Type into ChatGPT, Eduaide.Ai and Diffit the ACARA Year Level, subject, unit topic, lesson sequence, activities, assessment tasks and study guides – up comes the dream for any teacher, parent or student in Year 5 and 6 who wants to get straight to the point of what to learn and answer ideas. It's efficient and seems like a great short cut. At what cost? Here's a few worth mentioning:

- 1 The information gathered depends on what AI has "learned". It might be right – it may not be. Anyone can make a website and create information, statistics, data, "facts", answers. So there is a risk information provided is inaccurate. You have to check that your AI suggestion is valid. AI can be like turning to a person next to you on the bus and taking their ideas as gospel truth.
- 2 AI will change constantly. What you ask this week can result in a different response next week. Be mindful that whatever is added to the internet – and get ready for those that deliberately try to sabotage the good intentions of many – can impact what is compiled for you.
- 3 Privacy is a real concern – enter a name, a school, anything personal – and AI will store it – the digital footprint starts and is never able to be erased. Protection is everything when it comes to a lifetime ahead of our young men – we need to keep them safe from accidental and incidental harm online.
- 4 Most assessment is written – so learning still has to occur to be successful in exam conditions. Copy, cut and paste, will not mean your brain retains the information it needs unless you put in time to memorize and pay attention to the criteria used for marking.

“In the Junior School we endeavour to put connections before content.”

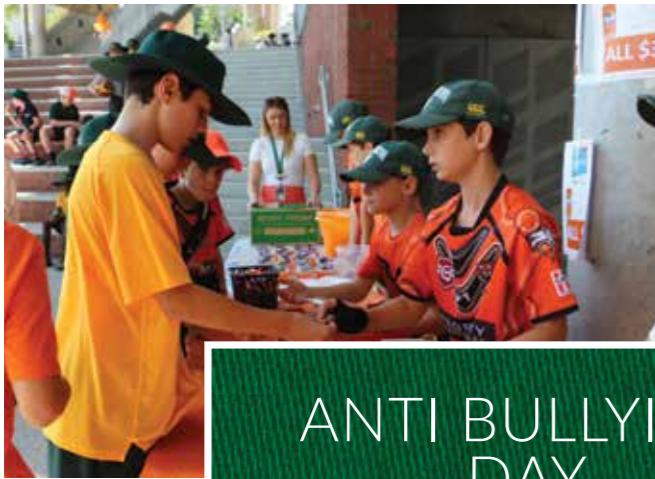


There are huge benefits – for the parents and students seeking support, extension and revision or study materials – the world of AI will provide you the level, type of revision style (multiple choice, true/false, short answer, long response and the answers). It is free, saves you so much time, and for the most part, will be just what you need to adapt to a new National Curriculum (let's face it, a world away from what the 1980s or 1990s had us doing) in seconds. So enjoy – embrace the chance to be that helping hand at home!

Just remain "emotionally intelligent". Remember that we have young people who are learning how to problem solve – that's what learning is at the very core. Solving equations, persuading an audience, learning about beliefs so they can be an informed advocate for faith, identifying the patterns in history, comparing the efforts of people across the globe for how and where they live, producing compositions and sounds that lift the souls of all who listen, sequencing movements that change a game and

bring victory to a personal best or team – this is life. Our community is our intelligence – spiritually, socially and emotionally. Resilience with our sense of belonging, actions and reactions – our place in the world – is what keeps us centred, balanced for whatever curves life throws at us. We need to identify our emotions, regulate our feelings, express ourselves and manage the actions of moving forward. Win or lose. Get what we want or miss out. Be hungry for next time. Keep moving forward. Know that we have hope in what comes next.

Artificial Intelligence has a place in our world. Emotional Intelligence will be the only answer for humanity as a civilization. Make sure that your family stays informed, aware and opts for the imperfection of success – ups, downs and the knots – because it's worth it. Let AI be a tool that helps, not dictates. You decide as an individual and together we hold onto one heart, one mind, on the way to what St Augustine wrote so often about – family with interiority, humility and restless search for truth.



ANTI BULLYING DAY

In August, our Junior School united against bullying with a burst of vibrant orange spirit! Our campus blossomed with orange balloons, while our students and teachers proudly wore orange outfits and accessories, creating a powerful visual statement against bullying. We extend heartfelt gratitude to our amazing support staff and dedicated teachers for fostering an environment of support and inclusion. Together, we stand strong against bullying, empowering our students to make positive choices. Thank you to our students for embracing this initiative and saying a resounding "NO" to bullying!



R U OK DAY

In September, our Junior school shone brightly in Yellow! For R U Ok Day, we have gone all out with yellow decorations, costumes, accessories, and even some delicious yellow treats.

A big shoutout and heartfelt thanks to our students, parents, our exceptional teachers and support staff for making today's #RUOKDay celebration a success! Your dedication to our community's wellbeing is truly appreciated.

Remember, a simple question can change a life. So let's keep the conversation going and make sure everyone around us is feeling supported and heard. Together, we can make a difference!





Celebrating 75 Years OF FAITHFULNESS AND GRACE AT VILLANOVA COLLEGE

MS KATE GARRONE — DEAN OF MISSION AND IDENTITY

August 25, 2023, was a day of great celebration at Villanova College. It marked not only the Feast Day of St. Augustine but also the 75th anniversary of our College. The day was filled with joy, reflection, and a profound sense of gratitude for our journey over the decades.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge, in his homily at Goold Hall, shared a remarkable connection with Villanova College – they were both born in the same year, 1948. As he humorously pointed out, this year also saw the birth of the state of Israel and the first Holden car. It was a year of new beginnings, emerging from the shadows of World War II, which had left the world in turmoil. Five young men, Augustinians, came across the world to respond to an invitation to begin a College for boys with a liberal and well rounded education.

Archbishop Coleridge's personal journey, like that of Villanova, has witnessed tremendous change. The world has evolved, and our College, has adapted to an ever-changing landscape.

In the midst of these shifts, one question remains vital: What have we remained faithful to through thick and thin? Our answer lies in our school motto, "Vincit veritas" – Latin for "Truth conquers". But what is this truth that prevails? The scriptures chosen for our anniversary mass gave voice to the truth that St Paul found as he wrote from prison to the early Christian communities not long before his life was taken from him about a faithfulness to the teachings of Jesus even under great pressure. This question of truth echoes through the ages. The answer, as Archbishop Coleridge beautifully expounded, can be

found in the teachings of St. Augustine, a giant whose influence has shaped Villanova College for 75 years. St. Augustine championed the concept of grace – the love of God, which is infinite and costs us nothing. It's a gift so extraordinary that we need only accept it. In a world often preoccupied with earning salvation through hard work, Augustine's message reminds us that salvation is already offered as a free gift. All we need to do is embrace it with open hearts.

This profound understanding of grace permeates every aspect of life at Villanova College. From academics to community service, from sports to the arts, all are seen as gifts.

As we celebrate 75 years of Villanova's existence, we must acknowledge that it has been a gift not just to those who have passed through our classrooms but also to the world. Our College has produced individuals who have gone on to make significant contributions in various fields. Villanova's impact extends far beyond its physical boundaries, reaching into the hearts and minds of those it has touched.

Archbishop Coleridge reminded us of the value of faithfulness, saying, "I fought the good fight, I finished the race, I have kept the faith," echoing the radical faithfulness of St. Paul. In the end, what we have been faithful to, through thick and thin, defines us. Villanova College's faithfulness to its mission and values has been unwavering for 75 years.

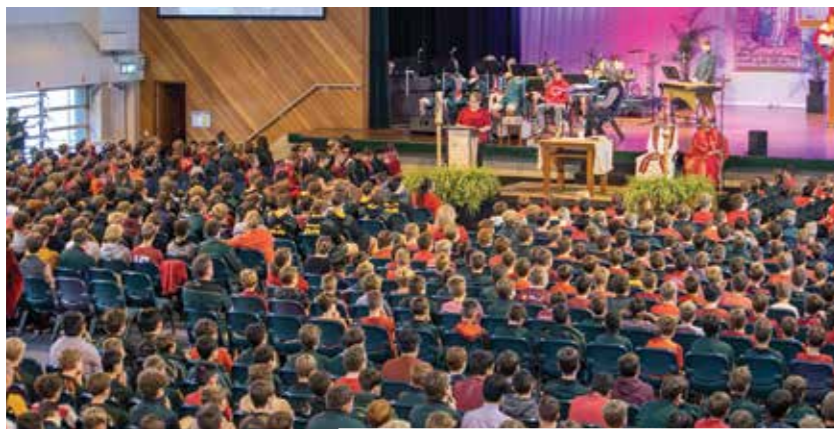


Throughout its history, Villanova College has remained faithful to its mission of nurturing young minds and fostering an environment where faithfulness, grace and truth are paramount. The teachings of St. Augustine, centered on the concept of grace, have been a guiding light for generations of students and educators.

The 75th anniversary of Villanova College is not just a milestone; it is a testament to the enduring power of grace and truth. It is a celebration of the unwavering faithfulness of this institution to its core values and mission. It is a reminder that, in a world of constant change, some things remain constant – the love of God and the profound impact of education.

Villanova College has been a light on the hill, a source of inspiration, and a wellspring of grace for all who have had the privilege to be a part of it. As we look back on these 75 years, we can only respond with overflowing gratitude, just as St. Thomas of Villanova would have wished. Archbishop Coleridge closed with the words from St Thomas' prayer, "We will not measure out our love, nor will we measure out our thanksgiving". Amen. May it continue to be our story here at Villanova College in the years ahead.





MISSION DAY

We recently celebrated an incredible inaugural Mission Day at Villanova College! Our students immersed themselves in a variety of engaging activities that brought joy, teamwork, and a deeper understanding of justice. From ball games and pipeline challenges to the exciting escape room and cup stack relay, it was non-stop fun and learning! The Justice Workshops, titled "What is essential?" and "Where justice and action meet!", sparked thought-provoking discussions and inspired our students to make a positive impact in the world around them. At the Undercroft, the competition corner was filled with laughter and excitement as students lobbed chocolates and participated in a rowing competition, accompanied by energetic music. The day kicked off with a beautiful Mass, setting the tone for a day filled with reflection, unity, and the spirit of service. And to conclude the day on a high note, our talented bands battled it out while all the students joined their voices in singing "from little things, big things grow." Mission Day 2023 was undoubtedly a resounding success, thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of our students and staff community.



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- SUSPENSION & STEERING
- ROAD WORTHY CERTIFICATE
- BRAKE REPAIRS & SERVICING
- INSURANCE REPAIRS
- ALL REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE
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“Prioritising the wellbeing of our students means we are ensuring our boys graduate as socially competent, resilient, well-adjusted and capable young men.”

VILLA Wellbeing

SHERIDAN CAREY – DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING

The same year Villanova celebrates its 75 years, the decision was made to embed a wellbeing program into the curriculum. This decision puts Villanova at the forefront of student wellbeing and is one that will benefit the boys immensely not only now, but long after they leave the school. It's easy to think of wellbeing as a buzzword or a concept that is currently 'in vogue', but prioritising the wellbeing of our students means we are ensuring our boys graduate as socially competent, resilient, well-adjusted and capable young men. The world we live in means we must do this for our boys. The decision takes into account the whole student, broader educational agenda, and will help them transition to life beyond Villa.

Growing research tells us that to be a successful learner, we must first invest in our wellbeing. It also shows students who understand how to care for and enhance their own wellbeing tend to achieve improved academic outcomes. This is evidence for what many of us would instinctively know to be true – students who are happy, optimistic and resilient are more likely to be better learners. Wellbeing, resilience and character *can* be taught, and this notion is at the very core of Positive Education.

The boys have been told many times throughout the course of the year; their wellbeing won't instantaneously improve after the half hour timeslot each week. They are being given coping strategies, skills and knowledge that will allow the students to reach their potential and 'be their best self', with the aim for these skills to become second nature. They are given a safe space where they can discuss mental health issues or any concerns they may have, and the opportunity to ask for help if needed.

Positive education is not about putting on a smile every day. It's about building and relying upon skills and personal attributes such as optimism and resilience when faced with a difficult, challenging or upsetting situation. These are just a few of the skills that the boys are learning each week.

A range of other valuable experiences have been incorporated into the program to enhance their wellbeing. They include;

- ▶ Fun, meaningful and practical activities individually, in pairs and in small groups
- ▶ Self-reflection
- ▶ Mindfulness exercises
- ▶ Guest speakers and external professionals
- ▶ Collaboration with other year levels
- ▶ Outdoor activities

Feedback has and will continue to be collected from staff and students about the wellbeing program to date. So that the program can have the best possible impact and make a real difference, the feedback will inform the changes and amendments that will be made to the program for 2024.

At Villanova, we see learning and wellbeing as inextricably linked. Be Your Best Self is not a standalone program – it's an embedded whole school commitment to promote the wellbeing of students with the aim they may become the best version of themselves. While results may not be obvious straight away, we are confident the wellbeing program will enable boys to become resilient, lifelong learners who can respond positively to their changing world and can pursue their passions with confidence.

Villanova looks forward to working in partnership with parents and caregivers to ensure our students receive the holistic support they need to achieve optimal mental, social and emotional wellbeing, thus creating a strong and caring community around them.





THE EVOLUTION OF VILLA SPORT

MR SHAUN MCLEAN – DIRECTOR OF SPORT



Sport is thriving at Villanova College. In Term 2 alone, 1077 Villanovan students were engaged in sporting activities. This is an amazing 72% of the student population. Alongside growth and participation is always the expectation of performance and success.

The evolution of Villa

Although Sport offers so much more to the development of our young men than just the result on a scoreboard, performance and competing with our fellow AIC member schools is of equal importance.

On that note, a special mention to the administrators, coaches and students involved in the Rugby Union, Basketball and Rugby League programmes in 2023. Top 3 aggregate finishes and Firsts Premierhips in Basketball and Rugby League are outstanding achievements and testament to the tireless work of many who contribute to Villa Sport.

Individually, Villanova College continues to develop national level athletes across various Sports. Our most recent addition to the Hall of Fame Honour Boards is Jackson Moloney (Year 12) who was selected in the 2023 Australia Schoolboys Rugby Union team. Jackson follows closely in the footsteps of College immortals, fellow Australian Schoolboys representatives Andrew Slack (Class of 1972) and Ben Mowen (Class of 2002).

In the background, the Villa Sports Department are continuing to evolve and advance. Below are some new,

exciting initiatives either already commenced this year or on the horizon. Thank you to the Villa Sports Club who partner with the College in making many of these dreams a reality.

- ▶ Coach welcome, induction and compliance sessions.
- ▶ Co-curricular management tool to track training attendance and results recording.
- ▶ School wide implementation of Strength & Conditioning and Speed & Agility training.
- ▶ Sport seminar series educating students and families on athlete training load & management and sports nutrition & sleep.
- ▶ Establishing links with USA College agencies.
- ▶ Coach accreditation pathways and retention programmes.
- ▶ Holiday participation camps and clinics.
- ▶ Return to domestic and international touring.

We look forward to Term 4 where the Villa Sport juggernaut continues to push forward in Track & Field, Touch Football, Esports and Water Polo.



TERM 2 & 3

Congratulations to our Terms 2 & 3 Sports Captains

Sport	Captain
Chess	Daniel Egert
Cross-Country	Joaquin Wiczorek
Football	Alex Vasiliou
Rugby Union & Rugby League	Cameron Bukowski
Basketball	Mason Honeyman
Golf	Tom Winn
Tennis	Adam Zanatta

TERM 1 AIC RESULTS

Team	Results
Chess Aggregate	Sixth
Chess First IV	Fourth
Cross-Country Juniors	Second
Cross-Country Seniors	Fifth
Football Aggregate	Sixth
Football First XI	Fourth
Rugby Union Aggregate	Third
Rugby Union First XV	Third
Basketball Aggregate	First
Basketball First V	First
Rugby League Aggregate	Third
Rugby League First XIII	First
Golf Aggregate	Fourth
Tennis Aggregate	Seventh
Tennis First IV	Fifth



AIC Premiership Winning Teams Terms 2 & 3

AIC RUGBY UNION

Team	Coaches
9A	Ben Francis and Tim McIlwain
9B	Sandy Taylor and Justin Kerr
7A	Josh Stanbury and Damien Colbert
7B	Anthony Caruso
7C	Mark McCullum
6A	Bart Ritchie and Declan Ries
6C	Hershelle Classen
5C	Sean Mahon and Paul Economidas
5D	Sheridan Carey, Xavier Wincote, Ewan McCosker, Sam Binney and Matthew Linnell

AIC BASKETBALL

Team	Coaches
1st V	Jordan Mullan, Stephen Rouhliadoff and Sam Korst
9B	Riley Richards and Lachie McGregor
9C	Riley Richards and Lachie McGregor
9D	Callum Lane and Fiachara Richards
7B	Emma Read
7C	John Holroyd
7D	Peter Green
6A	Mika Vukona
6B	Callum Hackett
6D	Thomas Peel
5A	Stephen Rouhliadoff
5B	Nichole Rouhliadoff
5C	Chloe Adams
5D	Kelson Lee

AIC RUGBY LEAGUE

Team	Coaches
1st XIII	Michael Cahill and Brayden Torpy

Term 2 & 3 Highlights

- ▶ Basketball First V, undefeated champions three seasons in a row, 2021-2023.
- ▶ Rugby League First XIII, first ever Rugby League premiership for Villanova College.
- ▶ Cross-County, Year 6 Champion school.
- ▶ Golf, Tom Winn gross winner of AIC Championship shooting a 1 under par 70.
- ▶ Rugby Union, Jackson Moloney named in the Australian Schoolboys team.

Term 2 Review

CHESS

Total Teams	9
Total Numbers	40
Total Coaches	6

CROSS-COUNTRY

Total Teams	2
Total Numbers	160
Total Coaches	5
Years 5-6 Primary	2nd
Years 7-Open Senior	5th

FOOTBALL

Total Teams	28
Total Numbers	390
Total Coaches	32

RUGBY UNION

Total Teams	28
Total Numbers	487
Total Coaches	56
Total Premierships	9

Term 3 Review

BASKETBALL

Total Teams	31
Total Numbers	304
Total Coaches	32
Total Premierships	14

RUGBY LEAGUE

Total Teams	10
Total Numbers	184
Total Coaches	15
Total Premierships	1

TENNIS

Total Teams	15
Total Numbers	73
Total Coaches	9

Bigger than Basketball

THE BROTHERHOOD ON THE HARDWOOD

Villanova boasts a rich basketball history dating back to 1976 when Charie Fisher introduced the sport at the College. Fisher led the charge, coaching many early Open teams in the TAS competition before the College joined the AIC in 1999. His vision and passion for the sport's potential impact on young Villanovans laid the foundation for nearly 50 years of basketball excellence. The inauguration of Goold Hall in 1986 marked a significant milestone, providing a unique hardwood parquet floor that holds unparalleled history and tradition in representing the Wildcats.

While Villanova basketball has consistently exceeded expectations, producing talents like Damien Andersen (1991), Mark Mackenroth (2004), and Ash Minchin (2009), the last decade under the guidance of stalwarts Mr. Greg O'Neill (1995), Mr. Sean O'Neill (1999), and Mr. Stephen Rouhliadoff has transformed Villanova basketball into more than just a sport. It has become a brotherhood founded on principles of accountability, responsibility, and the understanding that donning a Villanova Wildcats First V Basketball jersey entails commitment to a greater cause. This dedication and passion have led the College to clinch the AIC Aggregate Champions title a record eight times, including the most recent six years consecutively. It has also nurtured talents like Andre Ugrinic (2013), Alec Accol and Sam Korst (2017), Harry Rouhliadoff and Will Mahoney (2021), Joey Wilson and Jacob Nugus (2022).

For these young men, the sense of responsibility and accountability doesn't conclude upon graduation. As Villanova Old Boys, those who have played First V basketball understand that their duty is to prepare the next generation for the challenge ahead. Every week, numerous Villanova Old Boys return to Goold Hall to play, train, mentor, and hold the current First V Basketball team accountable, ensuring that the relentless pursuit of excellence continues. Many of these young men go even further, taking on coaching roles within the program and, most importantly, offering unwavering support to their younger brothers when it's time for tip-off.

This brotherhood has propelled Villanova First V Basketball to win four of the last five AIC Premierhips, boasting a remarkable win-loss record of 31-1. This year, they made history by achieving Villanova's first-ever AIC Undeclared 'Three-peat' at the Firsts level.

If you were among the 500 spectators who either tuned in to watch via live stream or gathered in Goold Hall on Saturday, September 9th, you witnessed the driving force behind this year's First V Basketball team – the brotherhood.

The atmosphere was electric, with more than 500 spectators, including an enthusiastic student support group, Old Boys, parents, and friends, filling Goold Hall to witness the boys face off against St. Peter's Lutheran College, led by two Australian representatives. Despite the odds favoring St. Peter's, the Villanova crowd never wavered, even when St. Peter's took an early first-quarter lead.

The Villanova First V Wildcats embraced the challenge ahead of them. Climbing the mountain to win a premiership is demanding but sustaining that success year after year while fending off opponents keen on toppling you is even tougher. This year's team approached the season with a clear mission – to chase history not for the sake of glory, but as a testament to the unwavering support from their fellow Villanovans, both past and present, and the sacrifices made by their families and friends. They felt accountable and responsible for the Villanova legacy.

Watching the passion, vision, and belief unfold within the entire school community was an incredible experience for all involved. Saturday marked the culmination of collective effort from every member of the squad. While it may not have always looked pretty, it was a reflection of the young men in green and gold fully immersed in the process, working together both on and off the floor for the sake of the brotherhood.



“Climbing the mountain to win a premiership is demanding but sustaining that success year after year while fending off opponents keen on toppling you is even tougher.”



From the Podium

MR MICHAEL JONES — DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



Villanova College is in a unique position. Yes, geographically we sit atop a hill with an impressive vista of what is (at least to me personally) one of the great cities in the world. We are fortunate to be in a place where want refers more to comforts than needs for most of us. We afford amazing opportunities for our students, and we are very well resourced in comparison to most schools in our state, possibly country. This was not always the case. From a small group of Irish

priests with a vision and conviction strong enough to guide the initiation and development of our community, we have been the beneficiaries of the passion and continued toil of those that have come before.

Upon reflection, I am aware of the many iterations that music has taken across our history. In my time here, I have had sages of our community wax lyrical of Fife and drum corps associated with our Cadets, 'project' groups from earlier this century, and symphony orchestras. I have learned of teaching spaces moving from an old Queenslander of questionable 'soundness', to teaching in what was part of the College library, through to the wonderful resource we have now in the Augustine Centre. Our music program here at Villanova has experienced much change and development.

From humble beginnings through to a program that boasts around 1/3 school population involvement, we are blessed to have a healthy and growing music program in our school.

None of our current experience would be possible without a clear vision, and many people working to make that vision a reality. History, albeit relayed anecdotally to me, shares that it was our past Deputy Principal Keith Druery who had a strong conviction of the well-rounded Villanova student – school bag on the back, sports bag over one shoulder, instrument under the arm. A young man

with a well-rounded world view – engaged intellectually, physically active, and refined by immersion in The Arts. With the support of College leadership and an active Music Support Group, the creation of the Villanova College music immersion program became a reality.

Whilst I am not sure of Mr Druery's teaching specialty, I believe he was a visionary when it came to supporting The Arts in Catholic Schools. Another anecdote (or perhaps legend) shared with me relates to the inspiration for what we now know as the Queensland Catholic Schools' and Colleges' Music Festival. Legend has it that as he was returning to school with a bus load of Villanova students after an AIC track and field meet, Mr Druery mused on why something similar was not offered to musicians. Another vision, supported by community, realised the first QCMF in 1991. 12 schools and 43 ensembles – our first event was convened in Goold Hall for a day and a half on one weekend; a far cry from today's multi-venue, multi-day event.

This year, we experienced our first full-sized post-pandemic festival. After a limited offering in 2022 to assist in regenerating QCMF, in 2023 we returned to offering all sections as they appeared prior to the pandemic. With over 14,000 student performances, in excess of 590 ensembles, representing over 100 Catholic schools from Eastern Australia, this year's QCMF ranked in size with our largest (2019 – pre-pandemic) and most celebrated. The joy experienced on campus as thousands of students moved across Villanova and St James' grounds, the amazing music shared by our young musicians, the community shared and celebrated – it was a truly edifying experience seeing the event come together.

None of this would have been possible without over 500 volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure the festival realised its trademark sense of community. I would like to thank the army of parents, Old Boys, staff, and friends that worked across the months leading up, and weekend of, in realising this event for our many visitors. I would also like to take a moment to thank our students who not only performed incredibly well; they were gracious hosts and volunteers as well. I have received numerous positive communications regarding the calibre and quality of our students as fine young men. It is opportunities like this, for us to live our charism with others, that we share what and who Villanova is. Thank you all.

We have had many inspirational leaders and educators work within our program over time. On behalf of our current musicians and their families, I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to them all for their contribution to our shared history. I would also like to thank the many members of our music community who have studied here at the College. Some have continued on with their practice; some have become advocates for music education; some are working toward enthusing the next generation of young musicians and advocates to ensure continued support for The Arts.

As we move forward in a changing world, it is our foundation and the vision of our predecessors that ensure the quality of our outcome into the future. On behalf of our current musicians and families, I extend my gratitude to those who have come before and look forward with anticipation as to what may be achieved into the future.



FROM THE

FOUNDATION

MR JORDAN MULLAN — COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FOUNDATION MANAGER

One College, One Community for 75 years

Villanova College's 75th year has been marked by events that celebrate the rich history of our community and the opportunities for the continued growth of the College. Through the strong support of our community, the Foundation organises events and fundraising campaigns to support students and the development of the College.

The Foundation currently manages over \$900K in funds raised through generous donations to the Terry Hendle Bursary, the Wieneke Family Music Bursary and the College Building Fund. (See the College website for further details on these funds, including the Foundation Impact Report 2023.)

Giving Day

For the first time in the history of the College, we hosted an annual Giving Day. This special day brought together our community to rally behind the development of a new multi-purpose sports hall and a cutting-edge Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics ('STEM') building.

The Giving Day achieved resounding success, raising nearly \$185,000, which will be directly invested in laying the foundation for the sports and STEM building. The overwhelming support from current and past students, families and friends, whether through volunteering, spreading the word, or making donations, played an integral role in this achievement.

Business & Mentoring Series

This year, we expanded our Business & Mentoring Breakfast to offer a series of events focusing on specific industries. Over 200 students and mentors participated in the events across various industries such as Business and Professional Services, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Health and Medical Services.

The growth of this event into a series provides valuable opportunities for our students to broaden their horizons and connect with business leaders in their chosen fields. These events also create a platform for past students and current and past parents to give back to the next generation of Villanovans by offering mentorship as our students transition to life after graduation. If you're interested in becoming a mentor or sponsoring one of these events, please contact foundation@vnc.qld.edu.au.

STEM and Sports Hall

The proposed new STEM and Sports building is set to break ground in late 2024! This marks an exciting milestone for our College, providing a space to accommodate all Villanovan students as One College, One Community. If you would like to learn more about how you can support this project, please visit the College website or contact the Foundation for further information on 07 3394 5665.

Thank you to all our donors, partners, volunteers, and supporters. Your continued generosity provides financial assistance to students in need and enables the College to enhance the learning environments for current and future Villanovans.

Paula Hocter
Chair of Villanova College Foundation
Deputy Chair of the Villanova College Board
Proud Parent & Donor

Jordan Mullan
Community Engagement and Foundation Manager

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous community of donors for their invaluable support of our college. To view the complete list of donors, please visit our website at www.vnc.qld.edu.au/our-donors



BUSINESS AND MENTORING

Events

These free events are a great way to meet other like-minded industry experts, professionals and Old Boys who share an interest in developing the next generation of Villanovans.

Upcoming Events:

- ▶ STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths)
- ▶ Financial Services
- ▶ Business Management & Marketing
- ▶ Health & Medical
- ▶ Trade & Construction

To inquire or register your interest to give back to the future generation of Villanovan graduates, please contact Mr Jordan Mullan at foundation@vnc.qld.edu.au.



TERRY HENDLE BURSARY



The Terry Hendle Bursary was established to support a young man and his family who may not otherwise be able to afford a Villanova education due to financial hardship.

Applications for future students are open, apply now for the Terry Hendle Bursary.



FROM THE *archives*



Archbishop & Augustinians, on the way to raise the flag



Invitation card

Blessing and Opening of Augustinian Priory and Villanova College, Whinstanes

Sunday 25th January 1948

Fr Jim Larkin OSA, Prepared and established the College

THE FOUNDING COMMUNITY:

- Fr Ben O'Donnell OSA, Rector and Prior
- Fr John Louis Hanrahan OSA
- Fr Brian Mahony OSA
- Fr Denis K. O'Shea OSA
- Fr Tom Woods, OSA
- Br Gregory Fitzgerald OSA

Thanks to novice cameraman, Fr Denis O'Shea, parts of the event were recorded or rare colour film.



Invitation letter

Before the school year began there was a grand official opening on Sunday 25th January 1948. The ceremony, framed in the fresh beauty of the gardens surrounding Villanova, was a brilliant spectacle.



Archbishop blessing school building & Augustinians



The school building



Hoisting of flag at Whinstanes by His Grace, Archbishop Duhig. Also in the photo are: Fathers Denis O'Shea, Tom Woods, Louis Hanrahan, Pat Doyle (Sub-Prior), and Ben O'Donnell (Rector)

The Archbishop blessed the Priory and the school buildings at midday. Hundreds of seats were provided in a specially erected marquee and in the cool shade of the shrubs and trees on the lawn in front of the main building, where many dignitaries from government, university and church assembled, including priests from the Cairns Diocese who had travelled 900 miles to be there. The speakers assembled on the priory verandah for the opening ceremony at 3.30pm, and the orchestra from All Hallows Convent presented a musical programme.

Fr. Larkin OSA, who had been entrusted with arrangements for the Opening Ceremony, extended a welcome to the official party and the large concourse of people, said he hoped that the day would come when they would all recall, with pleasure and with pride, their attendance at the formal opening of the first Augustinian educational establishment in Australia.

The Chancellor of the University, Dr. W. Forgan Smith, sounded a note of warning about the spread of materialism which, he believed, was largely responsible for the disturbed state of the world today. The Chancellor then, accompanied by the Archbishop, proceeded to the flagstaff, where he hoisted the school colours and declared Villanova College open.

The Rector of the College, Fr. Ben O'Donnell OSA, said "Villanova College is the first educational institute of its kind in Australia to be entrusted to the Spiritual Sons of Saint Augustine. Our coming is not to compete with or lessen attendance at other schools but to cooperate in the education of those who are to be the future men of the State and Nation. We shall cooperate willingly, and I hope successfully, with the University of Queensland in preparing students for the various professions, and other callings in life which require men of learning and integrity. More than that we cannot say at present for we are entering on the probation time of every new and untried educational institute. We can only promise to make the best of what we regard as a golden opportunity."

His Grace, Archbishop James Duhig, in a magnificent address on Catholic Education, heartily welcomed the Augustinian Fathers to Brisbane: "I welcome the advent of this new Order of teachers because our boys' schools

are everywhere overcrowded, and our teaching staff are overworked. The Augustinians are starting here in a modest way. As spiritual sons of St. Augustine, they have behind them a fine educational tradition, but they realise that they are not here to live on past glories or on the reputation of their predecessors. They are here to make, by hard work, a worthwhile contribution to education in Queensland. The cultural tradition which is theirs is itself very valuable in an age when there is the temptation to confine education to purely materialistic ends."

In an impressive address supporting the Archbishop, the Diocesan Director of Education, Fr. P. McGoldrick OSA, confidently expressed the hope that Villanova would produce results in keeping with the great Augustinian traditions of character and leaning. "We feel," he said, "that it will train its boys to be true Christian gentlemen – a credit to their College, to their Church, and to their Country. Today we wish Father O'Donnell and his colleagues of Villanova good luck and God's blessing on their enterprise. They are setting out to train the young boys of Brisbane, not merely in the paths of learning but also in the ways of holiness and sanctity. May the Fathers of Villanova bring wisdom, courtesy and grace to the young souls entrusted to them, following worthily in the footsteps of their illustrious spiritual ancestor, Saint Augustine."

Fr. J. Hogan OSA, Vicar Provincial, concluded the afternoon's speeches by paying an eloquent tribute to Archbishop Duhig's generosity and expressed modest hopes for the future. "By his invitation, which made this school possible, His Grace has brought us before the public, given us a new standing, and added immeasurably to our prestige. Soon our College will open its doors to the boys who wish to avail themselves of its facilities. Thereafter, by its fruit you will know its value. With the help of God, nothing will be left undone to ensure that its achievements keep step with and, if possible, outstep the promises that have been made for it. I request your prayers that the God by Whose Divine Providence this work was begun, may bring it to fullness and fruition, and that from the halls of Villanova may go out young men learned in the liberal way, and holy in every way, able to face and to overcome the challenge of the modern world."

REFERENCES – Opening of Villanova College' in The Catholic Leader, No. 946, 29/01/1948. One Mind, One Heart: Villanova – Its Story and Traditions, 1998. The Villanovan, 1956.



50th Anniversary

Jubilee 1948-1998

The finished 'Villanova 50 Years'

JUBILEE PICNIC IN THE PARK

Sunday 22nd February
Villa Park, Tingalpa

The Picnic in the Park was the first official event of the Jubilee Year celebration calendar. Over one thousand members of our community gathered at Villanova Park, many of whom lined up to spell Villanova 50 Years to mark the occasion. This was followed by the blessing and raising of the Villanova flag, marking a return to traditions of the past. Lost for many years, the original design was reproduced by professional flag makers.

RAISING THE FLAG

Monday 23rd February
Tolentine Tower

The rediscovered green and gold Villanova flag, one of the three blessed at the Jubilee Picnic in the Park, was proudly raised over Villanova College. This flag is a replica of the flag raised on the first day when the College was located at Whinstanes, and now remains as our official college flag.



Raising the flag - first day of school 2nd February 1948

DRAMA PERFORMANCE, VILLA VOICE

Thursday 19th March

Year 12 Drama students presented their group-devised show, Villa Voice, celebrating the male student voice of Villanova. The boys demonstrated, through the theatrical medium, the Villa spirit, the sense of community, friendship, sporting prowess and Villanova's 50-year-old traditions. The audience appreciated the energy and enthusiasm that the boys displayed on stage, and it was praised as a fitting tribute to the milestone of the College's Jubilee Year. Director of the production was Ms Sue Lawson, Head of Department, Arts.



Year 12 Drama students and Ms Sue Lawson

WHINSTANES GATHERING

Sunday 22nd March
Villanova Pool

Twenty-six of the students from Whinstanes (1948-53) gathered with their wives and other family members for an enjoyable evening by the pool. The highlight of the event was the presence of Fr Denis K. O'Shea OSA one of the Augustinians who founded the College and in 1998 was the only member of the group still alive. The evening was greatly enhanced by a display of photos and rolls organised by Graeme George (College Archivist) and his helpers Glynne Liddy and Lenore Girard. The Old Boys were taken on a tour of the school by the 1998 student leaders and Hospitality students cooked for the gathering.



Whinstanes Old Boys and Fr Morahan (right)

FEB

MAY

TERM 4

JUBILEE MASS

Sunday 17th May
Chandler

The Jubilee Mass Eucharist was a collective effort led by Rector Fr. Michael Morahan OSA, engaging various community talents, from music and drama groups to the choir and visual artists. Augustinian Provincial and past Rector, Fr. Laurie Mooney OSA, delivered the homily. This event united the entire Villanova community, past, present, and future, resonating with the Jubilee year theme:

"We remember, We celebrate, We believe." The Mass concluded with Deputy Principal Charlie Fisher presenting Fr. Mooney with an Augustine-embroidered stole and the Jubilee logo as a token of gratitude for the Augustinians' fifty years of service and the enduring gift of the Augustinian Charism to the College.



Charlie Fisher presents the commemorative stole (Fr Paul Dempey looks on)

SPORTS DINNER

Friday 30th May
Goold Hall

All in attendance at the Villanova Jubilee Year Sports Dinner enjoyed a high-quality night with guest speakers Andrew Slack, Charlie Earp, Ian Brusaco, Chilla Wilson and Trevor Hohns. The dinner was hosted by ABC Grandstand personality, Gerry Collins, with all funds raised being put towards the acquisition of equipment and upgrading of facilities for sport at the College.



FRONT: Ian Brusasco, Chilla Wilson, Brian Smith, Charlie Earp
BACK: Trevor Hohns, Andrew Slack (Old Boy 1972), Ray Nines (Parent), Paul Gillespie (Old Boy 1975), Gerry Collins, Glen Cronan (Old Boy 1979)

GALA JUBILEE BALL

Saturday 18th July
Convention Centre

At the Brisbane Convention Centre on Saturday 18 July more than 500 present and past parents, Old Boys, staff, and friends gathered in the ballroom to celebrate Villanova's 50th anniversary. The event was organised by the Jubilee Ball Committee, led by Noelene Owen. Guests were welcomed by the sound of the Villanova String Quartet, followed by the Villanova Jazz Ensemble under the expert direction of Darryl Williams. As midnight arrived Keith Druery and Darryl Williams let the entire gathering in a rousing rendition of the Villanova Anthem.



Guests at the Gala Jubilee Ball

OLD BOYS' JUBILEE DINNER

Friday 7th August
Goold Hall

The Annual Dinner was held in Goold Hall at the College for the first time, and the attendance figure of 456 was a record. There were several family groups in attendance, the largest being the Wall family with five brothers plus a second-generation member (Robert 1965, Kevin 1967, Peter 1970, Noel 1975, Mark 1978, and David 1994). Keeping with tradition, Charlie Fisher read the Roll Call. The Master of Ceremonies was James Watson (Class of '76). After the College Anthem was sung, with Keith Druery as lead vocalist, the sound of the War Cry resounded in the Hall ably led by those in attendance from the Class of 1997.

FRONT: Phil Carlson, John Maguire, Geoff Foley and Michael Kasprovic
BACK: Stephen Nance (1978), Keith Druery, Roland Adeney (1978), Martin Burns (1978) and Keith McCoola (1967)



AUG

JUBILEE WALL

Term 4
Primary Building

For the 50th Jubilee the Primary School, led by Mr Ronald Camilleri, the Primary Art Teacher, undertook the task of having every member of the Primary School community make a ceramic tile which could be identified as their own. Thus leaving a permanent memorial of their part in the fiftieth-year celebrations. The 374 tiles were then mounted in the entry foyer of the double storey primary building (now "Lecceto"), which was blessed by Fr Michael Morahan near the end of the school year, drawing the Jubilee year to a close.

Fr Michael Morahan blessing the Primary School Jubilee Wall, with Mr Charlie Fisher (Deputy Principal) and Mr Keith Druery (Head of Primary)



VILLANOVA JUBILEE TOUR

28th November - 18th December
Italy and Israel

On 28 November a group of 20 people connected with the Augustinian communities in Brisbane or Sydney left on the Jubilee Tour to Italy and Israel. Fr Michael Morahan proved to be a very knowledgeable guide as they explored St Peter's basilica, the Vatican museum and the Sistine chapel, the Catacombs, the Colosseum, the Forum and San Clemente church.



Fr Peter Wieneke, Carmen Miners, Lenore Girard, Val Dalton and Fr Michael Morahan enjoy a picnic lunch among the ruins of Ostia Antica.

At Ostia Antica, among the ruins of the ancient Roman shipping port the story of Augustine's arrival in Italy, his struggle to find God, his conversion and his departure from Ostia to return to Africa came alive.

The highlight of the tour was the time spent in the seven hundred year old Augustinian monastery in San Gimignano. The trip to the ancient Augustinian hermitage in Lecceto was exciting as they trekked through the forest in 4 degree temperatures and learnt of the origins of the Augustinian order.

The tour participants all agreed it was a success primarily because of the Augustinian spirit among the group. They were as Augustine said "Of one mind and one Heart". As Recalled by Trish McGrath, The Villanovan 1998

BOOK LAUNCH AND OPENING OF ARCHIVAL DISPLAY

Friday 12th June
Goold Hall

On Friday, 12 June, 'One Mind, One Heart', the book which records the story of the first fifty years of Augustinian presence at Villanova, was launched in Goold Hall. A display of film, photographs and other memorabilia was also opened. One highlight of the evening was a rare screening of the film taken at the opening of the College in 1948 at Whinstanes. Archbishop John Bathersby officially launched the book. In his address, the Archbishop noted the excellent and interesting nature of the book, he expressed his delight in seeing what had been achieved in the past fifty years.



Rector, Fr Michael Morahan and College Archivist Graeme George with Archbishop

JUNE

OLD BOYS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we come to the end of our 75th year at Villa, I wanted to take some time to reflect on the value of our Old Boys community.

As you may know, our committee's primary focus is to organize events that strengthen connections and foster camaraderie within our ranks. Over the past few years, our event calendar has expanded significantly, allowing us to connect with a broader range of Old Boys. Hopefully, you've had the opportunity to attend one of our events or have plans to get involved in the future.

I want to emphasize that if events aren't your cup of tea, and you find yourself in need for any reason, there are hundreds of Old Boys who would gladly step up to help a potential mate, even if you haven't crossed paths yet. I'm fortunate to have many opportunities, both within and outside the Old Boys, to meet men in times of need, and we all have the chance to support one another.

Relationships break up, jobs finish, businesses fail, mortgage payments go up, health declines, people get lonely - life happens. Regardless of what you're going through, it's likely that there are other people in our community who have faced similar situations and would welcome the opportunity to assist in any way.

If that's the case, please feel free to reach out to us through our social media channels, and we'll spread the word within our networks. If you ever find yourself in a position where you'd like to give back and support our community in any way, we'd also love to hear from you.

This year, the school was fortunate to receive the largest ever individual donation to the Terry Hendle Bursary Foundation, which will assist Villa families in the future. With 75 years of boys maturing into men at Villa, we also maintain a strong connection to our past. While financial contributions are valuable, so is your time. If you'd like to support our community in this way, we'd be thrilled to hear from you.

The way we can continue to build stronger bonds in the future is by providing more value as a community as soon as possible. That may be through events, but it could also mean that ten blokes over the next year simply catch up for a coffee or a beer with another Old Boy during a time of need. That would be a significant win for our network, so please let us know if there's any way we can assist.

No matter what you're carrying, you don't need to bear the burden alone. We're here to help if you take the first step by reaching out to us.

All the best for rest of the year and onwards and upwards in 2024.



Chris Andersen (2003)
President

No matter what you're carrying, you don't need to bear the burden alone.

VILLANOVA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

President Chris Andersen (2003)	Vice Presidents Luke Moloney (2004) Simon Healy (1997)	Treasurer Paul Green (1982)	Secretary Peter Geraghty (1967)
Committee Members:	Dylan Crouch (2020)	Sean O'Neill (1999)	John Walsh (1976)

Calling All Old Boys to Celebrate Their Anniversary Years

Dear Old Boys

Join us in celebrating your milestone anniversary by having as many as possible from your class at the Old Boys Dinner' on Friday 2 August, 2024.

Help us contact your former classmates to organise this important catch-up. Unfortunately, there are many incomplete/outdated contact details for Old Boys records. If you are in touch with anyone from the class who may not be on our system, please contact the Foundation (foundation@vnc.qld.edu.au) or update your details using the QR code. Any assistance you may be able to give us would be greatly appreciated!



If you are an Old Boy from any of the following years, we invite you to attend the annual Old Boys' Dinner.

Graduation Year	2024 Anniversary
1954	70-year
1959	65-year
1964	60-year
1969	55-year
1974	50-year
1979	45-year
1984	40-year

Graduation Year	2024 Anniversary
1989	35-year
1994	30-year
1999	25-year
2004	20-year
2009	15-year
2014	10-year
2019	5-year

OLD BOYS Dinner
Friday 2 August 2024
6:00pm - 10:00pm

Purchase tickets at
oldboysdinner.vnc.qld.edu.au



From Humble Beginnings To Hollywood

An interview with Dan Feuerriegel – Actor

You wouldn't know it by speaking to him, but the boy from Brisbane graces our screens every day on one of television's longest-running shows in the world. It is humility that has kept his feet firmly planted on the ground while riding the highs and lows of pursuing a career in acting, but it wasn't initially where he thought he might turn his attention.

Q After graduating from Villanova in 1998, what did you want to become?

I enrolled in Veterinary Science at QUT, and after six months of study, I realised it wasn't what I wanted to do, so I decided to take six months off. Shortly after, I auditioned for the acting school at the Kelvin Grove campus of QUT and managed to get in.

From there, it was a whirlwind of opportunities and roles. I moved to Sydney and auditioned for a role on the show Spartacus, which took me between New Zealand and Sydney for filming.

Dan's humility shone through when we interviewed him because he failed to mention his roles on prominent Australian television shows, including McLeod's Daughters, All Saints, and of course, Home and Away.

His successful roles in these shows encouraged him to make the move to Los Angeles to pursue what every actor aspires to do at some stage - make it in Hollywood. In 2013, he decided to chase that dream after finishing filming Spartacus.

A series of smaller roles would lead to that opportunity with appearances on Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D., Chicago Fire and NCIS: Los Angeles would eventually give Dan his big break 3 years ago – a main role on Days of Our Lives.

Q Having started at Villanova in Year 5, what are some of your fondest memories from your time at the College?

The highlight would definitely be the camaraderie, the friends I made – such a great bunch of guys. Playing sports was such a great memory for me, and

obviously, the muster and the international festival gave me so many memories. It was mainly the friendships that you developed, the relationships you had with your teachers - those would have to be some of the fondest memories.

Q How have the values of Villanova served in developing you into the actor you are today?

They have definitely served me greatly because if you want to get good at something, you always have to go inwards, be better at communicating, and work on yourself or whatever you are doing, whether it be building and improving friendships or relationships. Ask yourself questions. Specifically, with acting, regardless of whether you achieve the goal you want or the level you want to be at, as humans, we are always in pursuit of something, and we should always aim for something and find purpose.

Q As a Hollywood Actor, what role does humility play in an industry and career that is so externally focused?

There's outer and internal humility; Hollywood absolutely humbles you because it is so competitive, and there are so many people just like you that you are competing against. You will do one hundred auditions in one year and can get a no every single time, and then sometimes you don't get any answer whatsoever. And that humbles you and brings you back to the pack. When it comes to humility for myself, I find myself being humble in victory. It is a big thing for me because I have struggled, and I know where

I have come from and what it is like. I will celebrate the victors; I will be grateful for the victories and be humble in the victories because I know that other people are struggling as well, and that is very important to me. I am very shy, but also proud of what I can do and have accomplished when I look back on stuff. There is always going to be someone above you or more successful.

Q What caused you to move from wanting to become a VET to becoming an actor, what advice would you give to the current students?

I had a light bulb moment when I was watching a movie, and suddenly, I just started to get goosebumps and was inspired by what I was watching. It kind of reminded me of what I was passionate about. I summed up my courage and went for it. It wasn't anything more than following what you are passionate about and having the courage to pursue it. My advice for the current students would be to not stress too much if you don't know what you want to do right now. If you have a pipe dream, go for it! If you can do something that you absolutely love, if it gives you that feeling of excitement, then go for it and don't put too much pressure on yourself.

Q What do you value/miss of the community of Villanova?

When you go to school, you are almost forced, in a way, into developing friendships because you are with a group of people all going through the same or similar thing to you. You will have certain circles that you associate with. My advice would be to hold onto that, develop it, nourish it, keep it going, because you never know when it will help and support you. I would love to have that regular contact with the same community, but at times I have been a nomad travelling the world, and I would lose track of friends. But those people have a way of keeping you grounded and supporting you. Value the time you have with those people, cherish it, enjoy it, hold onto it. I value the mateship with those boys, the strength that comes with being part of the Villa community, relying on each other, and don't be afraid to go to one another if something is bothering you. Everyone is going through something; don't be afraid to ask for help from your friends because they are likely going through something similar.

There's outer and internal humility; Hollywood absolutely humbles you because it is so competitive, and there are so many people just like you that you are competing against.



Breaking The Mould of the automotive and technology space

An interview with Brendan McGrath
Chief Executive Officer Dyme PSI



Brendan McGrath graduated from Villanova in 2001 with a strong ambition to explore, drive change, and innovate. Currently based in Chino, a small town in California, Los Angeles, Brendan continues to push the boundaries in rapidly expanding global industries such as automotive, industrial, construction, mining, aerospace, and electric vehicles.

Q Could you share with us the journey that took you to Chino, California, after your graduation from Villanova in 2001?

After achieving an OP8, I pursued mechanical engineering, although it wasn't as hands-on as I had hoped. During my time at Villanova College, I became involved in manual arts and workshop classes, and my interest was piqued by the industrial design courses offered by the college. Following my graduation from Villanova, I enrolled in a four-year program at QUT, where I participated in the SAE Program (now known as QUT Motorsport). During this program, we built a race car, and my role included designing the seat, bodywork, and cockpit, involving a substantial amount of model making and part production.

Upon completing my studies at QUT, I joined EGR, a company located in Salisbury, where I focused on right-hand drive conversions for American cars. EGR is a tier-one plastic supplier in Australia, and I was heavily involved in right-hand drive conversions. Later, I moved to Detroit and managed a project for EGR for three months. In 2018, I obtained a green card and started my own company, focusing on mechanical engineering and industrial design. I even patented a housing toolkit.

Q What led to the inception of your company?

I believe I've always excelled at identifying solutions to problems and being resourceful. This trait dates to my time at Villanova, where I navigated teachers to grant me opportunities to study fields and areas of interest.

Q What role do teamwork and service play in your current role within your organisation?

In my current role, it's essential to be adaptable and work effectively with diverse groups of people. While specialization has its merits, versatility is crucial. This ability to collaborate and adapt, which I honed at Villanova, allows me to navigate various personalities and work well with colleagues in any situation.

Q What were the lessons you learned during your time at Villanova?

One of my earliest friends at Villanova, Fidel, taught me the value of offering and receiving help when needed. I also learned that it's essential never to be the smartest person in the room. Surrounding yourself with individuals who can elevate you in a positive manner is crucial. In my career, I've gained knowledge from different sources, such as injection molds, machining, and the hose and fitting business, all of which culminated in developing innovative ideas.

Q Your work primarily involves sports performance cars. What's the next big thing for your company?

Our company focuses on designing and selling parts to other companies in the engineering sector. However, we also aspire to develop a distinct brand identity, allowing us to utilize our own designs and ideas. We have a robust network and ample opportunities in the Los Angeles car market, which is known as the car mecca. Our reputation for assisting local businesses has greatly contributed to our success in the region. Continuous learning and adaptability are essential in our industry, as we constantly seek opportunities to improve and embrace change.



One of our company's pillars involves incorporating AI technology to assist in generating content and imagery for marketing our business, as we aim to adapt to new opportunities efficiently.

Recognised by SEMA (the Specialty Equipment Marketing Association) as the Gen-III Innovator of the Year for his development of "an industry world first product and has the opportunity to play a role in the disruption of supplying this multi-billion-dollar commodity around the world in every industry, including medical, food, aerospace, oil/gas and, of course, automotive." Brendan is embarking on the next stage of his journey for the restless search for truth in areas of everyday life that will leave a mark for generations to come.

“ I believe I've always excelled at identifying solutions to problems and being resourceful. ”

To follow and find out more about Brendan and his journey visit [DYME Performance Systems Incorporated](#)
– Dyme PSI | Hose assembly made easy



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OLD BOYS



CLASS OF
1973

Old Boys' Dinner 2023

To celebrate our 75th anniversary, nearly 200 Villanova Old Boys gathered at the prestigious Victoria Park on Friday, August 4th, for the annual Villanova Old Boys' Dinner.

The gentlemen were welcomed and led by Villanovan Jimmy Watson (1976) who had the cohort in stitches sharing his own memories of Villanova. Old Boys from various anniversary years had the opportunity to reconnect and reminisce with fellow Villanova brothers during the evening. We thank the College for their support in delivering the annual event and look forward to welcoming all Old Boys to next year's event on Friday 2nd August 2024.



CLASS OF
1978



CLASS OF
1983



CLASS OF
1993



CLASS OF
2003



CLASS OF
2013

Old Boys' Events 2024

OLD BOYS' DINNER

Friday 2nd August
oldboysdinner.vnc.qld.edu.au

DECEASED VILLANOVANS MASS

Sunday 8th September

GOLF DAY

Friday 25th October
golfday.vnc.qld.edu.au

OLD BOYS' ROUNDS

Rd 5 v St Laurence's College
 (Football and Rugby) at Villa Park
 25th May

COLLEGE & COMMUNITY EVENTS ON PAGE 46

In Remembrance

Michael Miley

Attended Villanova from 1961 (Yr 9) to 1964 (Senior). Was a Prefect and member of the First XV Rugby team. Michael's two brothers Frank (deceased) (1958) and John (1968) attended Villanova.



Ronald Gaynor

Attended Villanova from 1963 (Yr 4) to 1971 (Senior). His three brothers also attended Villanova, Paul (1973), Gregory (1975), Philip (1977). A beloved son of Geoff (d) and Gloria and companion to Val.



Gerard Liddy



Attended Villanova from 1951 (Yr 9) to mid-year 1953 (Yr 11). The Liddy family are synonymous with Villanova with Gerard's brother Paul Liddy (1955), nephews Michael (1982), Chris (1985), Gerard (1989). Whilst Melissa is one of the loved teachers in the junior school. Passed on 17 January 2023.

Mark Bolam



Passed in June at the young age of 41. Mark attended Villanova from 1991 (Yr 5) to 1997 (Yr 11), and is from the class of 1998. He is survived by parents Dennis & Cheryl, two sisters, wife (Tanya) and a son and daughter. His father, Dennis Bolam, was a teacher at Villanova between 1973-2006.

Robin Franklin

Father of Sean (1998) & Tim (2000) Franklin, loved husband of Roslyn. Passed away peacefully on 26 May 2023, his service was held in St Oliver Plunkett Catholic Church.

Giordano Scaini

Father of Paul (1982/1983) & David (1986), passed away in May this year.

Monica Woodward

Mother of Joe (1969), John (1970), Michael (1973) Woodward and Mary. Mother-in-law of Tony MacPherson (Teacher at Villanova from 1984-2010), her service was held at St James Catholic Parish in May, she passed peacefully on Mother's Day this year.

Old Boy Ed McMahon

WRITTEN BY GERARD 'GED' McMAHON (CLASS OF 1989)

Dad was an extremely proud father and grandfather, and a long-standing member of the Villanova community. He had two sons, Tim (born in 1980) and Gerard (born in 1989), as well as four grandsons who attended Villanova between 1973 and 2017. However, his history with the College started even earlier with the design and construction of many parts of the school, beginning in 1970. Mum and Dad moved to Coorparoo in the mid-1960s, and with Dad's incredible passion for architecture, he built a portfolio that demonstrates a long history of designing many schools and churches across Brisbane. This includes John Paul College, Frawley College, and, of course, Villanova College. The buildings he can stamp his name on include Mendel Hall (and the pool area), Cascia, Good Counsel, the old primary school, the library (Tolle Lege), the priory, and the legendary Goold Hall, which he always said was one of his top three achievements in his career. He took pride in the unique details that would normally go unnoticed, such as the world-class parquetry basketball flooring and underlay, and the subtle rear-to-front gradient on the main stage so that people sitting at ground level would have an improved view.



Interestingly, when Ed and his wife, Cec, were invited to the official opening of Tolle Lege in April 1972, Cec was four months pregnant with me. So, I can now probably claim to be the first Villanova student to enter the new library, designed by my Dad. Fifty years later, the same home studio that Ed used to design the building is now occupied by my sons, Joshua and Matthew.

Ed and his two sons visited Villanova in April 2022, where he shared many stories of his time as the school architect. He was a man who could always tell a good yarn and recalled the construction of each building with incredibly sharp detail and levity. Sadly, Ed passed away five months later. In reminiscing about his old plans and photos, the family uncovered a series of photographs taken by him during those construction years, which are now shared with the school and kept in archives.

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UPCOMING *Community Events*

GIVING DAY
Thursday 6 June 2024

GOLF DAY
golfday.vnc.qld.edu.au

P&F Association

MOTHERS' NIGHT
mothersnight.vnc.qld.edu.au
Friday 10 May 2024

VILLANOVA CARNIVAL
carnival.vnc.qld.edu.au

FATHERS' NIGHT
fathersnight.vnc.qld.edu.au

Villanova Old Boys' Association

BBQ & BEERS

VINCIT VERITAS VETERANS' LUNCH
veteranslunch.vnc.qld.edu.au

OLD BOYS' DINNER
oldboysdinner.vnc.qld.edu.au
Friday 2 August 2024

OLD BOYS' REUNIONS

Sports Club

SPORTS LUNCH
sportslunch.vnc.qld.edu.au
Friday 17 May 2024

DERBY DAY FOR LADIES
derbyday.vnc.qld.edu.au
Saturday 2 November 2024

Music Support Group

QCMF
qcmf.com.au
Thursday 15 – Sunday 18 August



Villa Community Carnival

EMMA-JANE HARRISON, CARNIVAL CONVENOR

After two years without a carnival, a new committee came together in 2022 with a single mission – to establish an event to bring the Villanova Community together to have a fun, social experience. In 2022, with a very short lead time, a group of dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly to produce an event that served that purpose. In 2023, we welcomed back both some experienced committee members and stall convenors, as well as some newcomers. The community came together after countless hours of planning and hard work. On the event day, we set up stalls, assembled marquees, and welcomed volunteers for a fun social gathering. The community baked, donated chocolate, supported their musicians to rehearse and volunteered to work on stalls. On the day, as the countdown to 4pm ticked loudly and the rides were bumped in, the aromas from the Greek, Latin, BBQ and Pulled Pork stalls wafted through, the half a tonne of donated chocolate was moved from storage to lob-a-choc, the sweets and cakes were assembled, and we were ready! The rides were spinning, the bands were playing, the stalls were serving, and it was a fun and social event! New friendships were made, old connections were renewed, tastebuds were delighted! An amazing profit of \$65,000 was generated, and all funds will be contributed to the refurbishment of the middle school playground.

But to me, the Villa Community Carnival is so much more than a school carnival. It's more than the rides, more than the prizes, more than the hot chips, more than the chocolate. It's the coming together of a community. It's an amazing group of volunteers working hard towards a shared goal; it's the building of excitement for the whole school; it's the connecting with friends and the making of new friendships; it's the generosity of a community; it's bumping in the enormous rides' trucks. It is also walking through the school grounds watching the sun rise as volunteers arrive and maintenance staff assemble equipment and knowing there are only hours until it all begins; it's the smiles of the stall holders; the giddiness of the kids as they line up for rides; the teachers walking around and chatting with the community; the parents watching their student musicians perform. It's the offers of help to clean up. It's hearing a year six boy saying 'the carnival was the best night of my life!'. It's Father Pete telling me how much he appreciates students coming up to him and introducing their families and their girlfriends. It's a year 12 boy telling me that after the Covid years it is 'so good to finally have fun at school – that don't involve work!' On the Sunday after the carnival, as we thanked the last of the volunteers who gave their time and as I watched the last of the rides bump out, I thought how lucky I am to be a part of this community and how much I am looking forward to next year's carnival – with bigger rides, more live music and more engagement!





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