

# VILLA VOICE

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## NAVIGATING THE NEW VERTICAL *House System*

INTERIORITY FOR  
YOUNG MEN

COACHING EXCELLENCE

THE RITE OF PASSAGE  
AT VILLA  
*Student Wellbeing*

Developing fine young men





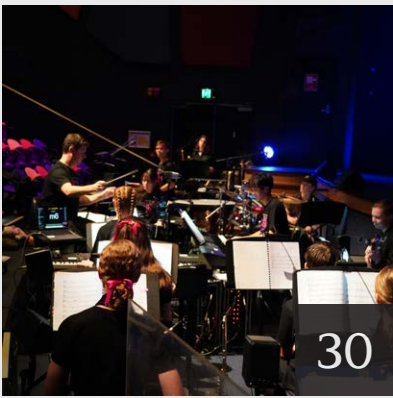
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# PRINCIPAL'S *Welcome*

MR PAUL BEGG — COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to 2024 and another milestone year for Villanova College. I trust that as you read the pages of this edition of Villa Voice you are enamoured to understand deeply our commitment and growth in the traditions of our College as a catholic school in the Augustinian tradition.

Our Senior motto this year is “Carpe Momentum” or seize each moment. We aim to embrace this concept not only through small actions but also by creating structures, opportunities, and experiences for our boys and our broader community. This encourages everyone to break down their time at Villanova into small moments, allowing us to enjoy, learn, and grow.

You will note that throughout the prevailing message is our commitment to the boys of the College and their development into young men of character, intellect and faith. The revitalization of the House System and the creation of eight houses is a key element of our commitment to that goal. This renewal in our approach to guiding and accompanying our students encourages each boy to uncover the message and story of the gospel through the eyes of key characters in the Saint Augustine story. The House System is designed to build and encourage community and the bonds of friendship while at the same time delivering a structure of accountability, responsibility and engagement in both learning and community. In that respect I certainly commend the articles of Mr Matt Levander and Mr Sean O’Neill to you for your reading and consideration.

Our Mission and Identity team, in concert with the Head of Faculty Religious Education and the Heads of House are embedding this year the ‘Rite of Passage’ program into the religious education curriculum of the College. Ms

Kate Garrone explores the program and its goals and benefits in shaping and challenging boys to move toward manhood in that critical period of adolescence that is Year 9. As a year long program it has at its core a call to maturity, a call to interiority and a call to leave behind those



“ ...to build and encourage community and the bonds of friendship...”

elements of childhood that hold us back in our learning and our relationships. This call to personal growth and accountability is so vital in a young man’s development.

The call at Villanova across the generations has been to be the best you can be and Sheridan Carey provides insight into the proactive and direct measures we are taking in engagement with our sister schools, outreach and education to open doors and in so open minds to the importance of wellbeing, mindfulness and self care. It is our goal to develop students who are healthy in mind and body and who are aware of themselves and those around them. We want to encourage kindness, compassion, empathy and love in the hearts of the boys and create an impetus in their daily life toward encouraging these positive elements of masculinity that are so important to long term success and happiness. In all of these pursuits we do of course take Christ as our guide. Our saviour who was always deeply engaged with, and walked in genuine accompaniment and love, with others. When Christ spoke of the kingdom it was a place of peace, forgiveness and harmony and his challenge was for us to create that kingdom here. Our wellbeing focus is a small part of our focus in shaping that place for our boys.

I remind all that Villanova is a place of community and welcome. As you read this Villa Voice I hope you can experience a little of the wonderful place of learning and belonging that we feel is home.





MR JOHN CHRISTIE — DEAN OF TEACHING AND LEARNING



## Artificial Intelligence – 12 months on

In January 2023, staff and students returned for the school year under a cloud of uncertainty regarding the implications of recent developments in artificial intelligence and how it might impact teaching and learning at the College. There had been a number of significant advancements made in the previous couple of months, particularly in the area of education. Platforms such as Grammarly had been in existence for quite some time, however, the release of ChatGPT added a completely new dimension to generating human-like responses once prompted.

Fast forward 12 months, and whilst ChatGPT is still a dominant artificial intelligence platform, albeit using a more updated version, artificial intelligence has been adopted by a number of software companies and is now being seen in many other areas other than language production. Microsoft has produced its own platform in 'Copilot' and Google has 'Gemini', just to name two generative language models. Others include Adobe Firefly, a platform that creates images, and SciSpace, a platform that allows individuals to find, understand and learn any research paper.

Villanova College, led by Director of E-Learning Mr Jason Lane's work in the area, has positioned itself at the front of the best use of artificial intelligence in schools.

- ▶ The School has provided significant professional development to staff in the use of artificial intelligence platforms when considering teaching and learning
- ▶ Parents have been able to hear and read about how the College is approaching the use of artificial intelligence through information evenings, and newsletters and emails.
- ▶ Students have been provided with information, both as whole cohorts and in specific classes, regarding how to best use artificial intelligence appropriately

In terms of the later, the College as developed a number of resources for staff and students to use in determining the most appropriate use of artificial intelligence.

- ▶ The first is 'VOW of Responsible AI Use' poster. The word VOW is actually an acronym and stands for:
  - ▶ Value Integrity
  - ▶ Be Objective
  - ▶ Withhold Private Info
- ▶ The second is 'Responsible and Acceptable Use of AI' poster. The poster gives a number of ways that artificial intelligence could be used responsibly and also inappropriate approaches to using artificial intelligence. A number of the responsible ways suggested are aimed at improving approaches to study and revision for examinations, and assisting with brainstorming topics and ideas for research.

The College is always looking for opportunities to use artificial intelligence platforms and applications to improve students' academic habits. The latest initiative is the formation of AI Reference Group, which involves a group of teachers meeting and collaborating on all things artificial intelligence.

**VOW OF RESPONSIBLE AI USE**

**V**  
**Value Integrity**  
Don't use AI to cheat, copy and paste text, or write beyond your knowledge and skill. Only use AI ethically and responsibly, e.g. study tutor, idea generation, alternative points of view.

**O**  
**Be Objective**  
Think! Just because AI looks authoritative, doesn't mean it is. It is often wrong. Sometimes it even "hallucinates" and goes off on its own tangent. Fact check and cross check everything, all the time.

**W**  
**Withhold Private Info**  
Never enter personal or private information. What you enter into an AI prompt is stored for future use. It may be recalled or used without your consent at any time.

**RESPONSIBLE & ACCEPTABLE USE OF AI**

- REVISING WITH PROMPTS FOR MULTI-CHOICE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**
- BRAINSTORMING FOR INTERESTING TOPICS & DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW**
- SEEKING ADVICE ON STUDY PLANS, REVISION & PRESENTATION TECHNIQUES**
- GETTING FEEDBACK ON HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR WRITING & EXPRESSION**

**UNACCEPTABLE USE OF AI**

- COPYING & PASTING FROM AI. THIS IS PLAGIARISM!**
- PRESENTING AI WRITING AS YOUR OWN WRITING. THIS IS PLAGIARISM!**
- USING AI TEXT WITHOUT FACT CHECKING AND CONFIRMING**
- USING AI TO WRITE BEYOND YOUR CURRENT ABILITIES**

## EmpowerED Program

It is widely acknowledged that successful individuals often have one thing in common: they invest time in goalsetting. Goalsetting allows individuals to harness their direction and focus, foster motivation and engagement, utilise effective planning and time management, as well as then becoming more accountable and responsible in whatever they put their mind to. Done well, individuals can then more effectively measure progress in their endeavours and are then likely to experience higher levels of success and achievement. School students would certainly benefit from a goalsetting approach. Unfortunately, we often take for granted that students can effectively goalset, when in fact many struggle with it. During Term 1, the College introduced the EmpowerED program, where students were tasked with a number of undertakings, one being drawing upon the College value of interiority to reflect on their past achievements and challenge themselves to surpass

these milestones. With the knowledge that goalsetting is a developed skill, students set not only their academic goals but personal development and wellbeing goals with the assistance of the their House Mentor.

The EmpowerED program also prepared students for the rigours of the term by listening to presentations from:

- ▶ Mrs Sheridan Carey (Director of Wellbeing and Pastoral Program) on how to get the best out of themselves across the year.
- ▶ Mr Paul Begg (College Principal) with regards to expectations of students in achieving their academic and personal bests.

Students also engaged in online modules that educated them about academic integrity and artificial intelligence, designed by Mr Jason Lane (Director of Learning) and Mrs Antonietta Neighbour (Head of Library and Information Services).

# Building Legacies:

## NAVIGATING THE VERTICAL HOUSE PASTORAL SYSTEM

MR MATT LEVANDER – HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL



As we embark upon the brave new world of our vertical house pastoral system at the College this year, the opportunities that this new structure allows for our Senior School students is incredibly exciting. At the commencement of the year, our Senior Class coupled with our Year 11 cohort, was invited to accept the mission of embracing the power of possibilities within the House System and establishing a strong foundation for our new way of working with our boys and young men. In short, the challenge of creating a lasting legacy.

Within our re-established House Cup, we have seen renewed energy and enthusiasm for our Term One events. Congratulations to Ambrose and Augustine for being crowned respective champions of our swimming carnival and war cry competition. We also look forward to our inaugural House Choir competition that will be staged in Goold Hall on Mission Day in Term 2. The theme for this year is songs from the eighties where our Houses will perform such numbers as Down Under and Eye of the Tiger.

Underpinning these community building events, however, is the intrinsic value that we place on relationships and the power of peer mentoring that has been illuminated within our new system. Creating engagement experiences which allow our Senior School students to guide, mentor and support our Junior and Middle School students is the foundational core of the House System.

As we navigate through the first few years of our House journey, there will be strong attention directed to our development of the leadership and mentoring capacity

of our Senior School students, particularly our Year 12s who, under the guidance of our Heads of House, will be given significant voice and platform to shape the culture and tone of each house. Shaping our young men with the character and relational skillsets to successfully fulfill their roles as mentors will be an overt focus within our wellbeing and formation programs.

According to former NFL coach and pastoral leader Tony Dungy, the author of the book 'The Mentor Leader', the three key character marks of a mentor are trustworthy traits, leadership attributes and relational qualities. Trustworthy traits include integrity and authenticity; leadership attributes are courage and leading by example and relational qualities include availability, being approachable and loyalty. Our inculcation of these elements by our Heads of House and staff will enable and empower our Senior School students to make a profound and positive contribution within their House Mentor Groups in the support of their younger Villanova brothers.





# WAR CRY COMPETITION

Our recent War Cry competition was filled with incredible energy and enthusiasm that lit up the entire campus! Huge congratulations to all our houses for their outstanding performances and unwavering spirit!

Each team showcased their unique talents and dedication, truly embodying the spirit of camaraderie and brotherhood. Special congratulations to Augustine House for their exceptional performance and well-deserved victory!

Let's continue to celebrate the amazing talent and teamwork displayed by all our houses during the event!



## 2023 COLLEGE DUX *Michell Rieck*



During our recent Graduates' Celebration, we acknowledged Mitchell's exceptional results across his Senior studies by awarding him the Frank Cullen Cup as Dux of the College. In addition to being acknowledged as College Dux, Mitchell received the subject prize awards for Chemistry, Mathematical Methods, Physics and Specialist Mathematics, and the HJ Summers Literature subject prize for English. He also received the Potter Family trophy for Excellence in Mathematics and the Bobby Smart trophy for Excellence in Science. Mitchell was also recognised by the QCAA with a Certificate for Academic Commendation for 6 A's in his subjects. He also achieved 3 x 100/100's scores in his studies and received an exceptional ATAR of 99.85.

But his talents just didn't end in the classroom! Mitchell represented the College in a range of sports at the highest level – Football and Cricket to name a couple. However, it is middle and long distance running where his talents really shine. Mitchell is an outstanding track and field middle-distance runner and exemplifies what it means to excel both academically and athletically. He represented the College in AIC Track and Field, and has gone on to represent at district, state, national and international level. A highlight was running at the Oceania Championships in 2022 where he placed 2nd running for the Australian Under 20 track and field team.

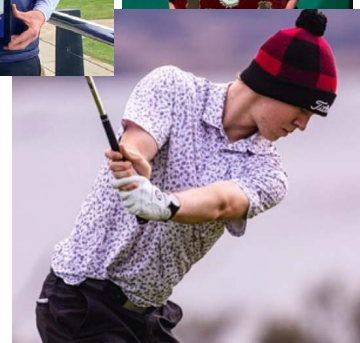
Let's keep in mind that Mitchell achieved all this as well as leading the College in 2023 as College Captain. Let's congratulate him on his incredible achievements and for setting the bar high for both current and future students. Here's to running the race of life with endurance and brilliance! We look forward to following Mitchell as he embarks on his Medical studies and also his running.

We are incredibly proud to announce that Thomas Winn has been named the Villanova College Proxime Accessit for 2023! At our recent Graduates' Celebration, we celebrated Tom's exceptional results across his Senior year. As well as being awarded the Proxime Accessit, Tom received the subject prize awards for Chemistry, Specialist Mathematics, and Study of Religion, and the QCAA Certificate of Academic Commendation for achieving 6 A's across his subjects. With an impressive ATAR of 99.80, Tom's academic excellence shines brightly.

But not only has Tom demonstrated remarkable academic achievement, his prowess on the golf course has been truly unmatched. When Tom wasn't studying, he was spending hours practicing and playing golf. He won many school and club tournaments and championships during his time as a student at Villanova College. In 2022, Tom was named in the Under 18 All Australian team.

In acknowledging Tom's sporting ability, we are incredibly proud to share that Tom has accepted a scholarship to continue his academic and sporting journey at Long Island University in the United States. This is a testament to his dedication, talent, and hard work both in the classroom and on the fairway. Tom's achievements inspire us all, and the Villanova College community can't wait to see him excel at the next level.

## 2023 PROXIME ACCESSIT *Thomas Winn*







# YEAR 12 RETREAT

In March, our Year 12 boys experienced their retreat! Group 1 soaked in the serene surroundings at QCCC Mt Tamborine, while Group 2 enjoyed the coastal charm of Glendalough Outdoor Recreation Centre, Perigian Beach. Despite the rain, they had a fantastic time filled with activities like the Pilgrims' Walk, team sports, small group discussions, and inspiring talks about making a difference and embracing life's peaks and valleys. From community connections to evening reflections under the starry sky, each moment shaped some unforgettable memories and forged some life-long friendships.



# FOSTERING COMMUNITY:

## *The Role of Houses in Villa's Culture*

MR SEAN O'NEILL – HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL



As students, one of the most important aspects of schooling is developing a sense of belonging and camaraderie. The enjoyment of walking through the school gates every morning with a sense of joy and optimism because you are connected to your peers, your house, and your school is peerless.

The implementation of the new House System has allowed for this to develop in new ways. It was a carefully considered decision to expand to eight houses, with every aspect of the change mentioned in the literature being scrutinised to ensure we were consistent with best practice in relation to boys' education.

To help achieve this, a redesigned House Cup was introduced. This multifaceted system has ensured students with different skill sets are able to shine in their life and use their gifts and talents. The House Cup is about spirit and creatively engaging the students in the fostering of community. Already this year, the swimming carnival saw a renewed sense of fun and energy, implemented by the House Captains who brought to life the vision of the Heads of House. Just one aspect of this was the inaugural War Cry competition held in Goold Hall, which saw every student in the school on stage, in their House, performing their chants. They spent the weeks leading up to this event in rehearsing, honing the lyrics, movements, and harnessing an amazing amount of energy. What resulted on competition day was an outpouring of school spirit that was truly inspirational.

Another event to be introduced this year is House Choir, where, next term, the students will perform a selected 1980s power ballad. There is a buzz in the air already!

What is great about these events is that they are not defined by winning or losing. Despite the competitive

nature of boys, the real development occurs when they are rehearsing, when they are talking about it at lunch, or discussing it over the dinner table at home. They are really just celebrating the bonds they are sharing with their peers. It allows an avenue for our senior students to role model to the middle and junior school students the characteristics of the fine young men we seek to, and are, are producing. For our newest members of the college in Year 7, it has allowed more opportunities for connection with peers. Entering a new school can be daunting but having a strong support system in the form of Heads of House, House Mentor teachers, and student leaders has made all the difference.

The other event which helped to solidify the connection to the Houses [and not only for the students but entire families] was the series of House Breakfasts that occurred mid Term. These allowed House families to come together early in the morning and meet each other, share a bacon & egg roll, a juice and a chat. The most enjoyable moments I witnessed were new incoming families being counselled by existing families on drop off zones, bus routes and lost property dramas. For along with students needing to find connection, it is just as important for our new and existing mums and dads to feel connected, to feel reassured that Villa is the place for their son and that friendships will blossom for their sons and themselves.

The House System also plays a vital role in shaping student engagement with our college values.

- ▶ **Humility** - the process is more important than the result,
- ▶ **Community** - embracing the gathering of and inclusivity of all,
- ▶ **Search for Truth** - identifying how they can use their individual gifts and talents to support the house,
- ▶ **Interiority** - knowing you put your best self forward for others to see.

It has certainly been an amazing start [and learning] to 2024 for us all.





# Interiority for Young Men:

## GOING WITHIN TO DISCOVER OUR POTENTIAL OUT IN THE WORLD

MR STEPHEN ROUHLIADEFF – HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL



Interiority is more than just one of our Villanova College values. It is a very important lifestyle practice – intentional and purposeful in 2024. There is so much information and busyness around us. Distractions are constant and temptations for mindless searching and scrolling detract from what is really important – the relationship we have with ourselves. There is a piece of ourselves, a place, where we can go to sit with our thoughts and ideas, where we genuinely exist – only really for us and God to ever truly know. It’s a sacred part of our identity.

For us to develop meaningful and positive relationships with others, we need to understand ourselves first. We often try to be open about receiving what others know and being receptive to how they feel, however, to identify – more importantly clarify - how we think or feel is transcendent to our own growth as a person. The best friendships, the ones that really have an impact are where our own likes and dislikes are welcomed with open arms. So, can young men articulate for themselves better after they practice interiority?

Interiority takes time, and it’s best to begin simply. It takes time to comprehend that we are worthy of this time – and for Junior School boys it can feel strange at first. They can interpret quiet time as an unusual experience, get the giggles or look around at others for reassurance that they are not the only ones trying to concentrate on their body, mind and heart. We start with explicit teaching through Daily College Notices, and we keep the terminology “within”, “look inside”, “go to yourself”, “find inside”, “take a moment” and “deep dive” as part of our everyday language. It takes creativity to bring such a concept to our boys – and so each teacher will have their own way

to share how this works. To the boys’ benefit, having multiple teachers in their learning spaces means they can see interiority working just as well with different approaches.

When prioritised, having the time to stop and reflect makes us feel important and amazing – worthy as a member of a class and community. There’s a gradual increase in our own self-worth and confidence. We build integrity. Sharing how we feel about the world around us in a genuine medium such as Circle Time, Well Being, Pastoral and Restorative Practice discussions has a positive impact developmentally on a young person’s mindset. We give the boys a chance to like who they are – because they consciously get to know themselves better.

One of the crucial realities is that “what I think” might be “different” to others. Becoming okay with that, happy with “differences” is really important for children and adults. As much as we have rules and expectations at Villanova College to be the same, we also want to celebrate the diversity of being human. So, we start small with check ins about what the boys have for breakfast, lunch or dinner; what the weekend plans are; how did your sports team go;



### Exploring Identities

Exploring Identities was a profound journey for our Junior School boys earlier this year. Engaging in activities where they colored cards with personal statements, they initiated deep conversations and strengthened bonds within their classroom community. These statements, akin to pieces of a puzzle, not only shed light on individual identities but also unveiled common experiences and dreams shared among them. Head of Junior School, Mr. Stephen Rouhliadoff, joined them in this exploration, sharing his own life and experiences, creating a beautiful moment of connection and providing a valuable opportunity for further identity exploration.



### Year 5 Camp

In March our Year 5 boys embarked on an unforgettable adventure as they set off for Camp at Mudjimba, Sunshine Coast. From crate climbing to bodyboarding, archery to beach games, the camp adventure was packed with thrilling activities and endless fun. The boys embraced every moment with enthusiasm and energy, forging bonds of brotherhood and lifelong friendships.



how was that music concert you went to; where are you going for the holidays? Boys LOVE to share their world with classmates – and even if some prefer to listen, they can still internalise their own similarities and differences privately. This is important. Every person can process information in a number of ways – and some will ponder things for a little longer, coming back to share one on one later that day or the next week.

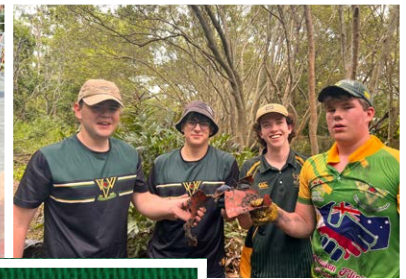
An interesting activity is always one that asks a student to create a collage of their passions – food, music, tv, movies, sport, art, fishing, travel, skateboarding – and this can be displayed in our learning spaces for us to discover over time, who we might share common interests with. This can begin a conversation at lunch breaks, in the line up to enter a classroom or during a walk up to the library or pool. Seeing another person that loves insects or cooking connects us in a way that is not always easy as we work on maths activity day to day. It can even inspire us to try to learn more or try new experiences. Staff also share their passions and hobbies too – and it can be tricky to limit the list of what to share as we get older!

Year 5 Camp is a time of great interiority for boys, parents and staff alike. Where am I comfortable – and where am I not? How does being away from home feel for me? What's it like coming home to my family and all things familiar? Camp is about resilience, adversity, fun, companionship and being brave in experiencing the unknown. It's a

perfect example of interiority as we all have moments in preparing to leave, being away and then returning home. It is the ultimate experience for finding out our own limits for taking risks and managing our belongings and selves. Looking back on the camp experience, boys will recognize their interior voices telling them a myriad of emotions all connected to the same dorms, activities and meals in a shared setting. Each one unique, each one equally valuable to grow from.

Over time, we can then shift interiority to work on bigger topics – how to best meet expectations for behaviour and work inside the classroom; how we feel about the world around us with current news topics; and how do we feel about our spiritual self – making time for social justice issues and compassion with dignity in our community. Having informed opinions and ideas about being responsible in class, doing your part in a team such as debating, recognising the significant contributions that women make in society, working on creating platforms for making a difference with the help of our Seniors each Tuesday morning – our creation of our own interiority is really being worked on all the time.

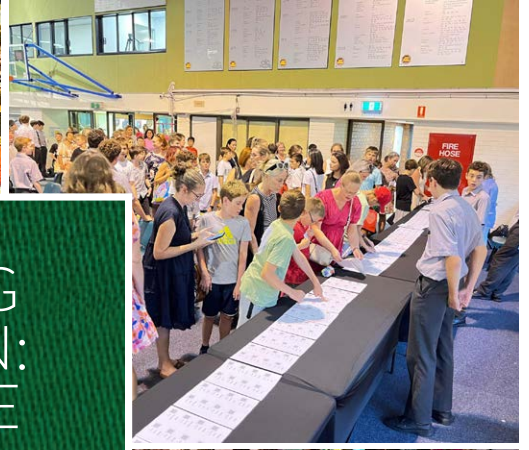
Interiority is a lifelong commitment – and we change as we move through phases such as childhood, teenager, young adult and mature adult. Our ideas and opinions change so nothing has to be certain or fixed – as our experiences increase, as the world around us changes, so will we.



# AUSTRALIA DAY CLEAN UP

Our incredible Green Team has once again shown fantastic dedication and community spirit during Australia School Clean Up Day in March. They rolled up their sleeves and made our school shine! But the clean-up didn't stop there! They also joined forces with girls from San Sisto College and Loreto College to tackle Norman Creek for Australia Clean Up Day. Together, we are making a difference.





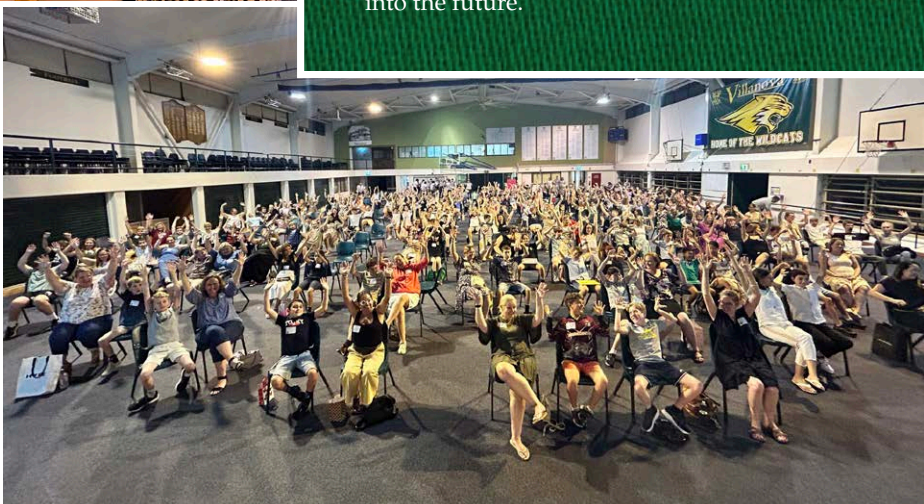
# CELEBRATING CONNECTION: TIME & SPACE YEAR 7 MOTHERS AND SONS EVENT

In the heart of Villanova College, amidst the embrace of warmth and connection, the Time & Space Year 7 Mothers and Sons event in February unfolded with resplendent success. Over 300 attendees graced the occasion, crafting an atmosphere brimming with shared experiences and familial bonds. It was a gathering where moments were cherished, conversations flowed, and connections flourished.

With the dedicated efforts of 23 volunteers and the exceptional leadership of Rachel Dunstan, the event blossomed into a memorable occasion.

The feedback from students and mothers alike has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the event's role in fostering a safe space for expression and reconnection during the transition to high school.

This gathering was a testament to the power of openness and willingness to connect. As we reflect on its impact, let's carry forward the spirit of meaningful conversations and connections into the future.



# Embracing the Journey:

## THE RITE OF PASSAGE AT VILLANOVA COLLEGE

MS KATE GARRONE — DEAN OF MISSION AND IDENTITY



At Villanova College, we are committed to providing our students with not just an education, but a transformative journey that shapes them into well-rounded individuals ready to navigate the complexities of life. This year, we are thrilled to introduce a special program in Year 9 Religious Education known as The Rite Journey.

### What is The Rite Journey?

The Rite Journey is more than just a curriculum; it is a series of meaningful experiences crafted to guide our students through a memorable rite of passage into Year 10. Through engaging RE lessons led by our House Leaders and experienced teachers, students will delve into conversations that explore their sense of purpose, direction, and meaning in life. The Rite Journey recognises the pivotal role of parents and mentors in helping our boys in their growth towards manhood.

### Reasons for Introducing The Rite Journey

**Holistic Integration:** The Rite Journey allows various aspects of our College to synergise, creating a comprehensive Year 9 program that integrates our RE curriculum with our wellbeing and service learning programs, Augustinian values, and the new House System. Rooted in St. Augustine's belief that true fulfillment is found in God, this program seeks to nurture each student's restless heart towards a deeper understanding of their faith and identity.

**Relational Pedagogy:** The Year 9 RE classroom serves as a space for truly relational pedagogy, where learning is infused with the joy of the Gospel and a commitment to serving the community. By linking classroom education directly with our Catholic Christian faith and service ethos, we aim to inspire our students to live out their beliefs authentically.

**Critical Age for Development:** Research indicates that Year 9 is a crucial stage for adolescent development, presenting a unique opportunity for significant rites of passage. Endorsed by experts like Steve Biddulph, The

Rite Journey harnesses the rebellious spirit of teenage boys to foster personal growth and character development. Through mentorship, gratitude practices, and community service, each student undergoes a transformative journey with proven benefits.

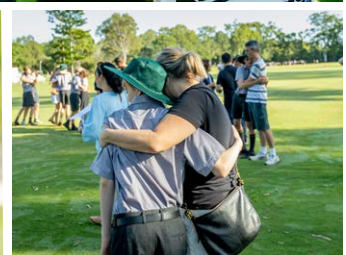
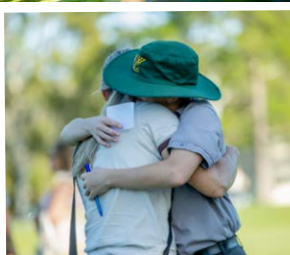
### Join Us on the Journey

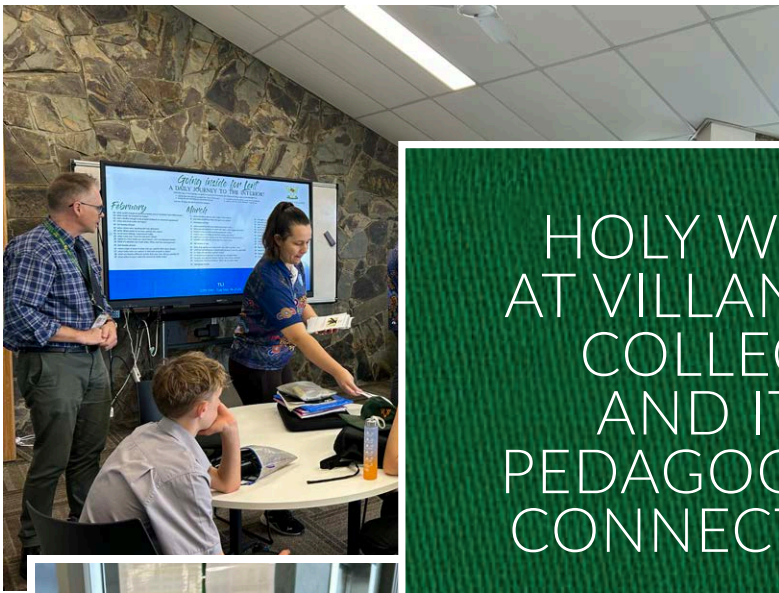
A highlight of Term 1 was a dawn gathering with students, their parents, and Rite Journey teachers. Together we explored what it means to be departing boyhood and entering onto the journey of being a young man. These transitions often go unmarked, and all who parent know that our teenage boys need very different support from us as they navigate these years than they required as a young child. Some of what occurs is held in secret, so that it will be a gift to those yet to experience it, but the photos tell a million words! Next term, the circle widens, as we include mentors for our Year 9 students. We invite you, our Villanova College community, to join us on this journey of growth, discovery, and transformation. Together, let us support and empower our young men as they navigate the path towards adulthood with courage, resilience, and a sense of purpose.

As we embark on this journey together, let us remember that The Rite Journey is not just about reaching a destination, but about embracing the process of growth, self-discovery, and contributing within and beyond our community. May this program continue to inspire and uplift generations of Villanovans for years to come. Welcome to The Rite of Passage at Villanova College – where every step is a celebration of the journey.







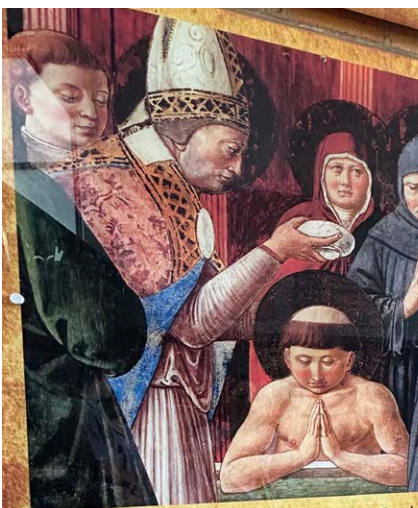


# HOLY WEEK AT VILLANOVA COLLEGE AND ITS PEDAGOGICAL CONNECTION

“What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.” – St. Augustine.

In this year's Holy Week, the RE department, under the guidance of John Holroyd and Lachlan Dent, invited classes to immerse themselves in the Stations of the Cross, to be the hands that help others within our own Villanovan community and locally in Brisbane, to those who are often overlooked and silenced: the homeless. Strengthening our connection with Emmanuel City Mission, students were immersed in a 'homeless village' and challenged on their perceptions of homelessness and the vulnerability faced. Students also created crosses, sharing a burden they need help carrying and offering to take a burden from a fellow Villanovan.

In education, “much is gained from learning processes that allow young people to reflect positively on who they are, where they live, and how they might bring changes to the world around them” (Cammarota, 2011; p. 829). It is experiences like this, within a relational pedagogy focus, that help our students gain awareness of how they can be change-makers for the most vulnerable around us. Relational pedagogy focuses on the values, knowledge, qualities, and skills necessary for the development of relationships and the promotion of social justice (Hanlon, 2024). Connecting this use of pedagogy with our Augustinian values, these experiences help students realise their own efficacy to transform their, and others', experiences for the better and to develop the confidence to handle the challenges faced as they venture through their schooling and into their adult lives. Allowing students to see the plight of those in our community builds their sense of social justice to help them be the hands, eyes, and ears for all those needing love in our world.



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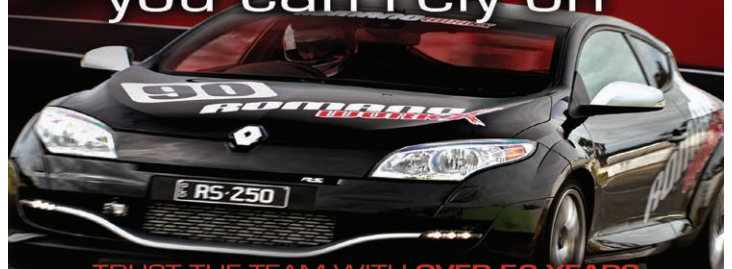
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# VILLA Wellbeing

SHERIDAN CAREY – DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING AND PASTORAL PROGRAMMING

We know a lot about the mental health of young Australians. We know it is declining. Three in ten indicated they had high psychological distress, a quarter felt lonely all or most of the time, and more than half said they needed support with their mental health. We know compared to international peers, Australian students have shown a decline in wellbeing over the last decade. That could be attributed to the fact there has been a 49% increase in youth depression and anxiety since 2004 and that 1 in 2 mental health problems develop before 14. We know suicide is the leading cause of death in young Australians. And finally, we know most young people don't ask for help.

At Villanova College, we are doing something to combat these national trends. We know student wellbeing programs work. The latest research tells us they not only improve academic outcomes, but also that wellbeing approaches that schools implement can make a difference to students' mental health. At Villanova, we have the following to address the wellbeing of our students:

- ▶ A targeted Wellbeing Program, 'Be Your Best Self,' that is specifically tailored to the needs of boys.
- ▶ Regular data collection that is used to inform and amend the program and guide decision-making.
- ▶ Professional support is offered to the students through psychologists and counsellors.
- ▶ Empowering Parenting Workshops are a new initiative in 2024 and consist of a series of sessions run by expert professionals about issues that directly relate to and impact our young men, aligning with the content in the wellbeing program. This ensures a multifaceted approach to a child's wellbeing and strengthens the

partnership between families, the community, and Villanova.

Though still in the early stages, 'Be Your Best Self' has now entered its second year and will deliver new activities, opportunities, and experiences for the boys. At the end of 2023, students were asked for their feedback on the program, and their responses were honest and articulate. Boys reiterated what they had learned, gave suggestions, and spoke freely. Reading their responses was reaffirming that the program is reaching them – they understand the need for it, believe that it can help them, and they provided some valuable and significant ways on how to improve the program and make it relate to them. It has been listened to, and in many cases, has been incorporated.

2024 is about building on the work done in its inaugural year and strengthening the program that is so incredibly important for our young men.

For more information about our Be Your Best Self program, visit <https://www.vnc.qld.edu.au/wellbeing-program/>



“ Villanova’s Wellbeing Program empowers boys to be their best selves. ”



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# Sports



## COACHING EXCELLENCE AND RETENTION: *The keys to success*

MR SHAUN MCLEAN — DIRECTOR OF SPORT



Success in adolescent sporting programmes can be very objective. Wins, losses, scores and results often define seasons, and in most cases, this supersedes acknowledgement of growth, improvement and participation. At the end of this report, you will see those objective numbers in our summary of results, noting premiership teams and placings, because the students, coaches and community want to know if we were successful. But are these measures a true reflection of success?

With the ever-changing landscape of schoolboy sport, focus areas and key performance indicators will ebb and flow from year to year and from sport to sport. The holistic approach across all fourteen AIC Sports at Villanova College is to provide an enjoyable experience for all students, regardless of their level of participation, interests or inherent talents. This notion of improving the ‘experience for all’ shapes the overarching philosophy of our Sports Department and allows a deeper dive into the foundations of success; one integral component being how we develop and retain experienced and quality coaches.

In 2023, Villanova College engaged the services of over 260 coaches, from staff to Old Boys, parents to external professionals. Moving forward, it is the College’s intention to provide more focused opportunities for our sports

coaches to develop through excellence programmes, gaining access to higher accreditations and professional development opportunities, alignment through internal workshops and education sessions and improvements in pay scales and entitlements.

Through this refined approach, we hope to retain more of our coaches for longer periods of time, thus improving the consistency and professionalism within our various coaching teams. In essence, developing coaches who understand our systems, support our philosophy and know our students. If we can strive to achieve this, surely we will be successful in our endeavours to improve the ‘experience for all’ Villanovan students; no matter what the results on the scoreboards tell us from year to year.





# TRIMESTER 1

Congratulations to our Trimester 1 Sports Captains

Sport	Captain
AFL	Oscar Tanks
Cricket	Finn Thallon
Swimming	Daniel Walding
Volleyball	Luke Caffery

## AIC Results Trimester 1

Team	Results
AFL Aggregate	3 <sup>rd</sup>
AFL First XVIII	4 <sup>th</sup>
Cricket Aggregate	4 <sup>th</sup>
Cricket First XI	4 <sup>th</sup>
Swimming Juniors	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Swimming Seniors	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Volleyball Aggregate	6 <sup>th</sup>
Volleyball First VI	2 <sup>nd</sup>

## AIC Premiership Winning Teams Trimester 1

### AIC AFL

Team	Coaches
8A	Greg Greenwood and James House
6C	Lachlan Ebrington and Matthew Politch

### AIC Cricket

Team	Coaches
10A	Michael Dann and Warren Dillon
6A	Cam Bukowski, Connor Moloney and Ben Thallon





## Trimester 1 Participation Numbers:

### AFL

Total Teams	14
Total Numbers	290
Total Coaches	26
Total Premierships	2

### Cricket

Total Teams	26
Total Numbers	309
Total Coaches	38
Total Premierships	2

### Volleyball

Total Teams	21
Total Numbers	195
Total Coaches	23

### Swimming

Total Teams	2
Total Numbers	112
Total Coaches	7
Years 5-6 Primary	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Years 7-Open Senior	3 <sup>rd</sup>

### Total teams

All Trimester 1 Sports: 63

### Total players

All Trimester 1 Sports: 906

## Trimester 1, 2024 Highlights

- ▶ 906 Villanovan students were engaged in Trimester 1 Sports.
- ▶ First VI Volleyball team placed Second.
- ▶ Senior and Junior Swimming teams both placed Third at the AIC Championships.
- ▶ AFL Aggregate placed Third.
- ▶ 64 students attended the inaugural Speed & Agility programme in Term 1.
- ▶ 96 Trimester 2 Coaches attended the Sports Induction evening in March.

# ON THE HORIZON FOR VILLANOVA SPORT

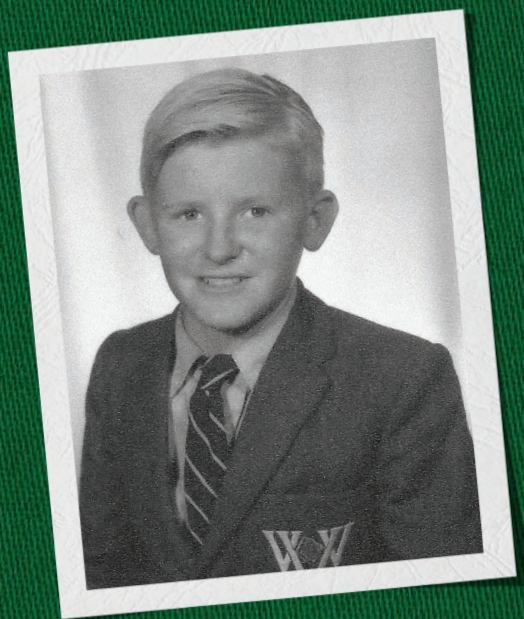
One of the Associated Independent Colleges (AIC) Missions is to “foster participant engagement”. Following an extensive review in 2023 of our existing programmes, participant numbers and team nominations, Villanova College is excited to announce an alternative for Sports participation in 2024.

Due to the restrictions on team nominations for Term 3 Sports, Basketball, Rugby League and Tennis, students who are unsuccessful in AIC team selections will be offered an alternative through an ‘internal’ Basketball competition.

Funded by the Sports Club, the internal competition will operate in Term 3, with internal matches and games versus two other AIC schools. Sessions will be held in the evenings with coaching and officiating provided by the College. The programme will be at no cost to the students involved.



## 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.





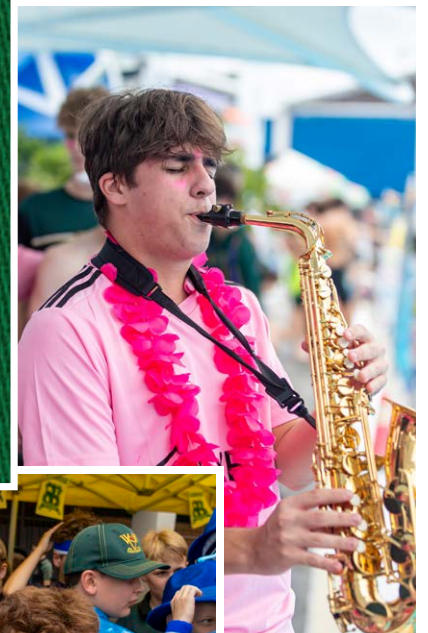
# INTERHOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Interhouse Swimming Carnival at Villanova College was an absolute blast!

First, for our Junior school. The pool was alive with energy as our 8 houses rallied together, cheering on their teammates with boundless enthusiasm. From thrilling races to contagious team spirit, it was a day filled with fun and excitement for everyone involved. Huge congratulations to all our junior swimmers for their incredible efforts and sportsmanship!

But the excitement didn't stop there. Our middle and senior schools came together next for a day of unforgettable fun! From thrilling races to enthusiastic cheers, the pool was alive with excitement, fun, and incredible sporting spirit. Congratulations to all participants for showcasing their talent and determination.

A special shoutout went to our Principal, Mr. Begg, and all our dedicated teachers who not only showcased their support but also embodied team spirit by jumping into the races alongside our students. Let's continue to embrace the joy of sports and teamwork together!





# LEGALLY BLOND: THE MUSICAL

In February, Villanova College and Loretto College students joined forces to bring the magic of "Legally Blonde: The Musical" to life on stage. The talented cast of Villa boys, alongside their counterparts from Loretto College, captivated audiences with their outstanding performances. From energetic musical numbers to heartwarming scenes, the production was a delightful experience for both the cast and all attendees.





# FROM THE *Podium*

MR MICHAEL JONES – DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



With the commencement of 2024, we welcomed another new year of enthusiasm and optimism within the music community here at Villanova. The Co-Curricular Music program here at the College continues to go from strength to strength with a 15% increase of enrolment beyond expected projections. We may be welcoming the final waning of the COVID era; we may also be witnessing a rejuvenation of sorts with the uptake of music in our younger year levels. This development is positive for both our program and our school community more broadly.

As with every year, we experience the changing of the guard; this year possibly more keenly. After over 20 years of service, we farewelled Mrs Justine Silk to a new role at Holy Spirit College. Justine will be taking on an opportunity as the foundation music coordinator where she will be building the music program from its inception – a role I know she is quite passionate about and one that she will excel at no doubt! Along with the fringe benefit of being closer to home for family, this is an exciting opportunity and we wish Justine all the best, knowing that we will see her again every August! We also farewelled our Head of Brass, Mr Carl Harvoe, after 3 years of service. Carl has taken up an opportunity to study his Masters of Education full-time whilst caring for his infant son. We wish him all the best with this exciting opportunity and look forward to learning more of his career over time.

As we lose some staff, we gain some more. This year we welcomed Mrs Sharon Casey into our music curriculum team, joining us from North Queensland. Sharon has brought a fresh, practical approach to curriculum delivery

in the Junior and Middle School which the students are responding positively to. We also were glad to welcome Mr Dan Quigley, taking on our Brass Leader role. Dan brings a wealth of international performing experience, and a formidable pedagogical leadership foundation through his stewardship of the Jazz Music Institute, a leading tertiary education provider in Brisbane. We are looking forward to the leadership Dan will bring to our Brass and Jazz departments here at Villanova.

2024 being an 'even number' year, activities were undertaken in earnest through January and February to put the finishing touches on our biannual musical with Loreto College, *Legally Blonde*. Hosted and coordinated by Loreto College this year, we bore witness to the development of the show from inception through to what was a very high quality production. Congratulations must go to all staff and students involved; I would particularly like to extend my thanks to our colleagues in Loreto for their guidance and leadership of this year's show.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the students of Villanova involved in musical for 2024:

Emmett Forrest	William Hohnke
Warner Huntington III	William Godwin
Professor Callahan	Jesse Wheaton
Sundee Padamadan & Reporter	Luke Phillips
Winthrop & Mr Woods	Daniel Gyte
Lowell & Nikos Argitakos	Samuel Chiplin
Pforzheimer & Dewey	Aengus Donovan
Carlos	Tomas Gava
Grandmaster Chad	Tiernan O'Neill Noah Scoglio Damian Ellis Ethan Webster
Flute	Sammy Landmann
Guitar	Demitri James
Keys	Ronan Flaherty
Drumkit	George Audet
Percussion	Bailey Pih
Crew	Conor O'Mara Eli Dunstan Jayden Rowland Zac Henry Archer Slee William Keene Jonah Nicolaou Patrick Campbell Henry Manning

Term 1 concluded with our Debut Concert series on 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March, with our Jazz and Rock bands taking to Cassiacum Gardens on the afternoon and evening of the 12<sup>th</sup>. Having not convened a performance on this side of the school for some time, it was a fantastic outlook with some great live music, and the sun setting behind the lights and cityscape of Brisbane. We will most definitely be making the most of this venue again! The remainder of the evening was convened inside Hanrahan Theatre where some of our Senior Bands, String Orchestras, and Chamber Ensembles shared their music with the audience. The evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> celebrated our Choral, Percussion, Guitar, and Middle and Junior school bands and string orchestras shared their music with a packed house. Both concerts were well attended and well received. We look forward to the great opportunities we have prepared for Term 2!

For the last few months, our band students have diligently been preparing for our ANZAC March participation in Coorparoo. The students are meeting twice a week, learning to move whilst playing and reading from a lyre, all while maintaining ranks and remembering which foot is the 'LEFT!' Our Year 5 students were excitedly preparing for 'Jump Start Day' during the final week of term. This day was one of THE biggest in our musical calendar, with students joining together in an incredibly sized band, and another equally large string orchestra. They spent the afternoon learning about the idiosyncrasies and etiquette of ensemble, and performed beautifully to their families.



# FROM THE FOUNDATION

MR KUSH SAMI – CHAIR, VILLANOVA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

## Warm Welcome

As newly appointed Chair, I warmly welcome you all to the philanthropic arm of the College. Our primary goal is to support the College in providing our community with access to a Villanovan education, complete with leading-edge facilities for both current and future students.

Last year marked a significant milestone as we celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In honour of our rich history, we hosted a series of events, including Villanova Giving Day, Business & Mentoring Breakfasts, and our Charity Gala Ball. We are sincerely grateful for your support during our 2023 initiatives and eagerly anticipate your continued support throughout 2024.

## Events

This year, the Foundation Committee is working on hosting a range of events. Some of these will include:

- ▶ Annual Giving Day
- ▶ Villanova Foundation Golf Day
- ▶ Networking Events

We're focused on hosting events through the year that create a sense of community and promote ongoing conversations. We welcome any feedback or ideas from you all around events and engagements that you would like to see from the Foundation. Please feel free to reach out to Kush Sami or Samantha Bailey.

## STEM & Sports Hall

The proposed new STEM and Sports Building is set to break ground later this year! This marks an exciting milestone and one that will deliver to accommodate all students as One College, One Community. Thank you to all our donors, partners, volunteers, and supporters for your continued

generosity that is enabling our College to enhance the learning experience for our current and future Villanovans.

## 2024 Committee

With the new year, we are grateful to maintain the commitment of our existing members being Christian Burke (Deputy Chair), Nicola Molloy, Alan Scott, Paul Green, Matt Lavender, Fr Saldie Resolado and Chris Andersen. However, joining us this year are new members Steven Bremner, and Nick Dore. We are also pleased to announce the appointment of Samantha Bailey who has joined us as the new Community Engagement and Foundation Manager. We have included their friendly faces below for you to familiarise yourself and reach out to them to know more about our initiatives for 2024.

We would also like to thank Paula Hctor, outgoing Chair of the Villanova Foundation Management Committee for her commitment, contribution, guidance, and leadership over the last five years. She has set up an incredible foundation for the committee to build upon and deliver value back to the community. Paula is not lost to the Villanova community, as she is continuing as Deputy Chair of the Villanova College Board.

### Kush Sami

CHAIR – VILLANOVA COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION  
*PROUD OLD BOY – 2011*





SAMANTHA BAILEY

# WELCOME

We recently welcomed Samantha Bailey, who joined us in February as Community Engagement and Foundation Manager. We asked her to share a little more about herself and her journey:

Growing up, I always knew that I wanted to make a difference in people's lives. Attending an independent co-ed school in the Fraser Coast taught me the value of community from an early age. As a member of our school's Interact Club (Rotary), I was introduced to the world of fundraising, which ignited my passion for helping others.

After school, I initially considered pursuing a career in healthcare, but I soon realised that there are many ways to serve communities. Determined to equip myself for this path, I pursued a Master's in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies at QUT. I vividly remember feeling a sense of purpose after my first orientation session; I knew I was on the right track.

Over the past decade, I've had the privilege of working with various nonprofit organizations, both in Brisbane and the UK. Living through the COVID-19 pandemic reinforced the importance of family and

community for me, prompting my decision to return to Brisbane late last year.

In my first few months at Villa, I've been struck by the incredible sense of community that surrounds the school. I'm passionate about promoting equity, and I'm thrilled to be part of Villanova's mission to develop fine young men while ensuring accessibility to a Villanova education. I hope to inspire these young men to give back and ensure that Villanova College continues to thrive for generations to come.

I am excited to join at a time when we are launching the capital campaign for our new STEM & Sports Hall building. I look forward to collaborating with our supporters, donors, Old Boys, Parents, Friends, support groups and committees, as well as the Foundation Management Committee and the college. Thank you to everyone involved.

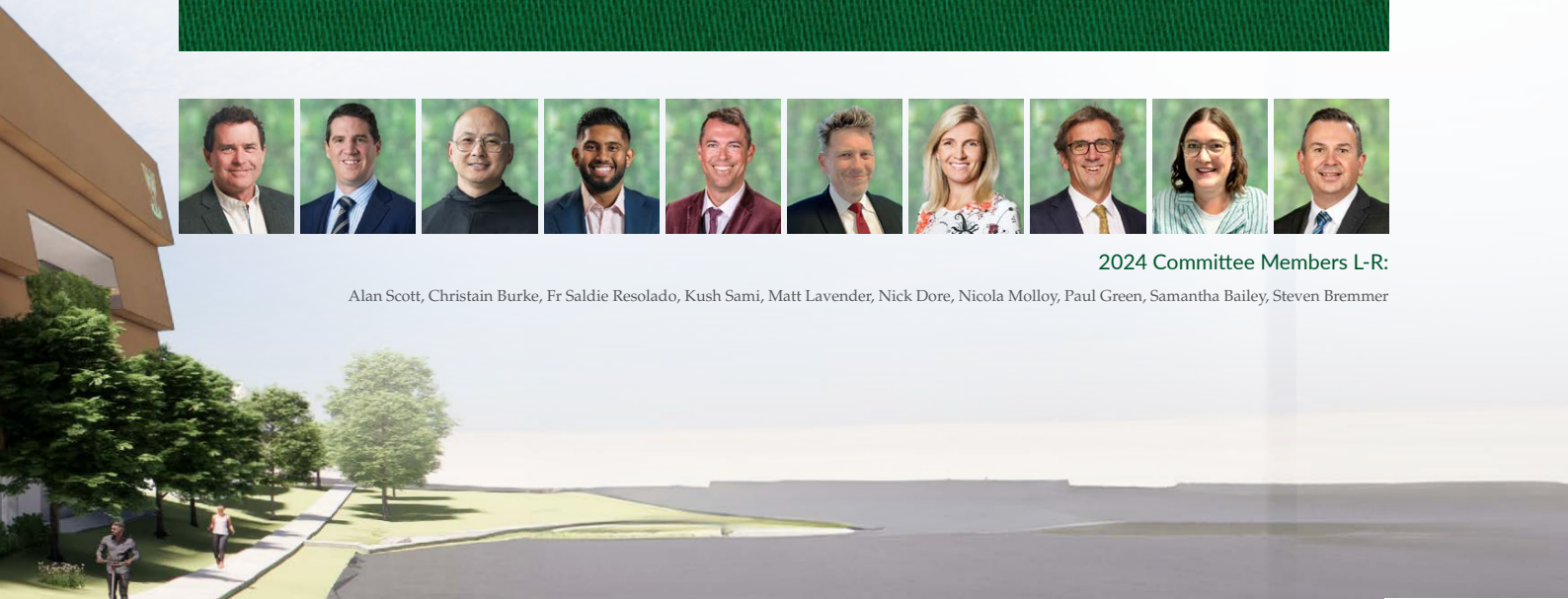
**Samantha Bailey**  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND  
FOUNDATION MANAGER

I've been struck by the incredible sense of community that surrounds the school



2024 Committee Members L-R:

Alan Scott, Christain Burke, Fr Saldie Resolado, Kush Sami, Matt Lavender, Nick Dore, Nicola Molloy, Paul Green, Samantha Bailey, Steven Bremmer



# A Villanovan Man

## A Reflection from Old Boy Craig Neville

Craig Neville, a proud graduate of Villanova College from the Class of 1997, is now thriving in Sydney with his partner Catherine, Coben 5 and Carter 8. Reflecting on his journey since leaving Villa, Craig shares insights into how his time at Villa shaped him and influenced his values, career, and family life.

**Q What are some of your fondest memories from your time at Villa?**

A All my memories revolve around people, especially my school friends and mates. Villa provided a strong sense of community, which I cherished. Despite moving interstate, I still feel connected to Villa, and whenever I meet someone who attended Villa, there's an instant bond and friendship.

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

A My journey at Villa began in Grade 5 and continued through Grade 12, playing a significant role in shaping my character. Adolescence is a time of self-discovery, and Villa instilled in me two fundamental values: humility and community. I firmly believe in treating others with kindness and respect, adhering to the principle of doing the right thing and executing tasks with grace.

These values have become integral to my daily life, guiding my interactions and decisions. Just as Villa emphasised the importance of presenting oneself with pride through our uniform standards and following the path of the great men that preceded us, I also prioritise representing myself with integrity and upholding the legacy of excellence that Villa instilled in me.

**Q What advice would you give to current Villa students?**

A It's essential to treat others with kindness and respect while maintaining good manners. In life, it's easy to overlook these values, but they play a crucial role in building meaningful connections. Remember, nobody knows everything, so cultivating a curious mind and asking the right questions is key to growth and learning.

Also, the importance of perseverance: just keep trying! I recall a time during an athletics carnival when things didn't go as planned, and I didn't give my best effort. A teacher's pep talk stuck with me.



On that day, this teacher told me: “The truth is, if you don’t try, then you should expect that others will do better. However, if you gave it your best, you should be very happy with your efforts”. This reminded me that success isn’t always about winning but about giving your best effort. This lesson has stayed with me and influenced my approach to challenges. I encourage my boys to embrace this mindset, reminding them that success comes from giving their all, regardless of the outcome. So, have fun, give it your best shot, and remember that effort and determination are what truly matter in the end.

**Q Tell us about your current role and your family.**

A After completing my studies at QUT in business, I relocated to Sydney 18 years ago. There, I embarked on a career journey with Toyota Finance, a global car manufacturing business. Contributing to the company’s growth, I was later recruited by their major competitor, Angle Auto Finance, where I now serve as the Chief Commercial Officer. In this role, I oversee sales, car manufacturing, product development, customer experience, and digital operations.

Outside of work, I reside on Sydney’s northern beaches with my partner Catherine and our two boys, Carter and Coben, aged 8 and 5. Despite the demands of my career, I remain passionate about Aussie Rules, while Catherine indulges her love for surfing. Weekends are dedicated to family time outdoors, often spent enjoying the beautiful beaches that Sydney has to offer.

“ Villa instilled in me two fundamental values: humility and community. ”



**Q How do you prioritise amidst busy work and family commitments?**

A Balancing life’s demands can be challenging, especially with frequent travel and a hectic schedule, as I’ve experienced over the past year. Regrettably, this has led to missing out on some important moments with my children. To address this, I’ve now taken proactive steps to prioritise my family time. I’ve cleared my calendar to ensure that essential events in my children’s lives, such as coaching Coben’s footy team and attending

Friday afternoon Auskick sessions, are non-negotiable commitments. While achieving perfect balance remains a work in progress, this year, I’ve made an effort to prioritise my family.

**Q Are there any books, podcasts, or resources that have significantly influenced your life?**

A “The 4-Hour Workweek” by Tim Ferriss has hit the mark for me. It emphasises efficiency and achieving a work-life balance.

# Chasing Experience, *not just dreams*

An interview with Old Boy Krishn Latchan, *Head of Strategy in Dubai*

Graduating from Villanova College in 2011, Krishn Latchan harbored aspirations of becoming a CEO or business executive leader. However, he quickly learned that achieving these dreams wasn't solely about pursuing his ideal job but rather embracing opportunities, even in roles others may overlook. We recently caught up with Krishn to delve into his journey since leaving Villa.

**Q So where has life taken you since graduating from Villa in 2011?**

**A** Three months post-graduation, I relocated to Melbourne to commence my studies while simultaneously landing a job at a Mercedes Benz call center. Although this role wasn't glamorous, it provided invaluable learning experiences and propelled my career forward. Subsequently, I transitioned to Sydney, got married to my beautiful wife, and two years ago, my family and I embarked on a new chapter in Dubai, where I now lead strategy for financial services at Al-Futtaim Finance.



**Q How have the values of Villa served you in developing into the person you are today?**

A Two of the values that were deeply instilled in us were integrity and our motto, Vincit Veritas - Latin for "Truth Conquers". I believe these values have played a significant role in shaping who I am today, both in my career and in life in general. Upholding integrity, even when no one is watching, has been a guiding principle for me. In today's world, where integrity is often tested, having such values proves to be invaluable.

Reflecting on my time at Villa, I recall participating in a survival school camp during Year 9, where we were awakened by loud noises and challenged with obstacle courses. This experience taught me the importance of camaraderie. It instilled in me the skills needed to be a part of a team, to contribute effectively, and even to lead as a team member. This sense of camaraderie has been instrumental, especially in my interactions within large multinational corporations. Often, I've encountered individuals solely focused on their personal success. However, understanding the power of teamwork has allowed me to appreciate collective achievements. While progress may sometimes seem slow, the feeling of everyone around you also succeeding is immensely gratifying. On an organisational level, this collective success is even more impactful, as it signifies multiple individuals excelling in various aspects, ultimately making a significant difference.

**Q What advice would you give to the current students at Villa?**

A If I was to go back and give myself advice, I would say 'do more, try harder'. Once you leave school, you won't get the chance to do it again. Recognise the privilege of your education and maximize it. Embrace challenges with vigour, knowing that effort, not just outcome, defines success.



**Q What do you value or miss about the Villa community?**

A The emphasis on faith and gratitude remains a cherished aspect of my Villa experience. Taking time for reflection and understanding across different faiths nurtured a deeper sense of spirituality. Even if you are not very religious, the process of going through and taking time aside to give to yourself and humbling yourself to a higher power is really important. This gives you an opportunity for gratitude. Of course, the camaraderie and shared experiences with classmates always also evoke fond memories.

**Q What is your fondest memory of your time at Villa?**

A Graduation day stands out as an emotional culmination of our Villa journey. The collective realisation that our time together was drawing to a close left an indelible mark, highlighting the profound bond shared among classmates.

**Q Do you connect much with the people you went to Villa with?**

A Despite geographical distances - I lived in Melbourne, Sydney, and now on the other side of the world, I try my best to maintain connections with Villa Old Boys. While physical reunions are sporadic, attending weddings and milestone events allows for meaningful catch-ups. I look forward to potentially reconnecting at future Old Boys gatherings. The next one that I have in mind to attend is our 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversary Old Boys Dinner.

The emphasis on faith and gratitude remains a cherished aspect of my Villa experience.

# In Remembrance

## Francis Curran

OLD BOY: Attended Villanova in 1954 (Gr 9) (1957 Alumni) His brother, Kenneth, attended Villanova 1955 (Gr 8) (1959 Alumni)

## Andrew Davis



OLD BOY: Attended Villanova from 1990 (Yr 6) – 1996 (Senior) Dan Braithwaite (also class of 1996) wrote: “My very best mate – and from my Villa days – sadly passed away last year from cancer aged only 43. He was truly universally loved during those years!”

## Brian Kassulke

PAST PARENT: Brian was President of the Men’s Association from 1973–75 & 1977–79. Brian and his wife, Morna, had a long association with Villanova. He was father of: Justin (1975), David (1977), and Matthew (1985). Grandfather of Karl (2021) and Alexander (2022).



Men’s Committee Executive in 1973: Kev Harvey, Brian Kassulke, Lance Drury

## Lenore Girard

PAST PARENT: Mother of Tim (1986) and Bernard (1992). Grandmother of Tim Girard (2017).

Lenore was part of the Villanova Arts Festivals (ran from 1976-1995) as a committee member and worker. She was a committee member and Treasurer of the Ladies’ Association for many years.

Lenore was also a great supporter of Villa music and continued to attend Villa music events long after the boys left school and the past mothers’ evenings. Lenore was a loyal supporter of the Augustinians and Villa. She was also involved in the Villanova Players and a lifelong attendee at their productions.



Ladies’ Association in 1989: Lila Carson, Lita Perrier, Paula Cochran, Lenore Girard, Mary Howell & Therese Cannon

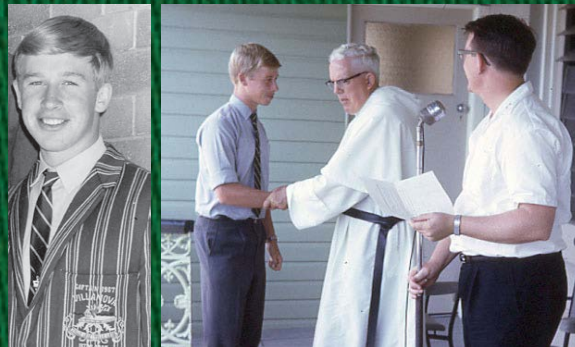
## Mina Soliman

OLD BOY: Attended Villanova from 1992 (Yr 10) – 1993 (Yr 11) (1994 Alumni). Passed away early this year in Sydney. Mina is survived by his wife, Lidia, and two sons, Jeremy and Joshua.

## Noel Hackett

OLD BOY & TEACHER: Attended Villanova 1963 (Gr 8) – 1967 (Senior). His brothers are also old boys: Peter (1970) & Kevin (1974). As a student Noel was highly involved in college life, playing in the Cricket First XI, which he captained in 1967, the Rugby First XV. He was College Captain and President of the Young Christian Student’s Movement.

He joined the Augustinian priesthood and as Father Noel Hackett OSA taught at Villanova (1975, 1978-82) and St Augustine’s (1976-77). He taught a wide range of Humanities subjects, including Religion, English, Film & Television. Other past staff fondly recall Noel on many tours and camps, especially presiding over camp masses. After leaving the priesthood, he had a career as a social worker in Sydney. Following a long battle with Alzheimer’s, Noel Hackett passed away on 8 December 2023.



Top Left: Noel Hackett in his College Captain blazer, 1966

Top Right: Noel Hackett shaking hands with Fr. Tom Hunt, Rector Fr Kevin Burman looks on, Langlands, 1967



Top Right: Fr Noel Hackett leading a camp Mass, 1981

“...fostering teamwork, collaboration, and communication skills among students of all abilities.”

# Col Grant

## TEACHER 1975 - 2021



Col Grant was not just a teacher; he was a visionary who guided Villanova students for nearly five decades. His passion for nature and the environment was unmatched, but more importantly, he instilled in his students a deep sense of responsibility towards caring for our planet.

Throughout his tenure, Col advocated tirelessly for environmental science and stewardship, constantly emphasizing the importance of experiential learning. He believed in giving students hands-on experiences to truly understand and appreciate the world around them.

One of Col's remarkable contributions was the establishment of the garden beside the priory, a project that began over 20 years ago with his science elective students. Together, they transformed a patch of land into a thriving garden where students not only learned about agriculture but also explored concepts of soil science, nutrition, sustainability, and organic production. This initiative not only nourished bodies but also minds, fostering teamwork, collaboration, and communication skills among students of all abilities.

For Col, education went beyond textbooks; it was about creating meaningful learning experiences that embodied the Augustinian values of teamwork and community. He was a humble yet innovative teacher who constantly sought unique ways to engage his students and accompany them on their educational journey.

Col's legacy extends far beyond the classroom. He embodied the core Christian values of stewardship for the earth, inspiring generations of students to become ecologically aware and proactive agents of change.

As we remember Col Grant, let us carry forward his passion and commitment to environmental stewardship, ensuring that his legacy continues to inspire future generations of Villanova students.



# GIVING DAY

Thursday 6 June

One College One Community

Your donation, if made by Thursday 6 June, will be doubled thanks to a group of passionate donors and supporters matching all contributions dollar-for-dollar.

Find out how you can help.  
Email [foundation@vnc.qld.edu.au](mailto:foundation@vnc.qld.edu.au)



Get Involved!



Listen to Your Heart

## BE PART OF OUR AUGUSTINIAN STORY

*If you want to know more about the Augustinian way of life contact us and join our discernment program*

The Augustinian Vocation Office



[www.osa.org.au](http://www.osa.org.au) [f augustinianvocation.australasia](https://www.facebook.com/augustinianvocation.australasia) [0407686069](tel:0407686069)

# OLD BOYS Dinner

Friday 2 August

More details to come

Purchase tickets at [oldboysdinner.vnc.qld.edu.au](http://oldboysdinner.vnc.qld.edu.au)





# UPCOMING *Community Events*

Villanova College Events



Vincit Veritas Veterans Lunch  
Sunday 19th May

Giving Day  
Thursday 6th June

Deceased Old Boys & Staff Mass  
Sunday 8th September

Charlie Fisher Golf Day  
Friday 25th October

P&F Association  
Mothers Night  
Friday 10th May  
  
Villanova Carnival  
Saturday 20th July

Villanova Old Boys' Association

Old Boys Dinner  
Friday 2nd August

Sports Club

Sports Lunch  
Friday 17th May

Derby Day for Ladies  
Saturday 2nd November

Music Support Group

QCMF  
Thursday 15th – Sunday 18th August

# Villanova Community **CARNIVAL** SWEETS FOOD RIDES GAMES & MORE

Brought to you by the Parents & Friends Association

[carnival.vnc.qld.edu.au](http://carnival.vnc.qld.edu.au)



**Saturday  
20 July**  
4pm – 10pm

The Villanova Carnival is back in 2024, looking to be better and bigger than ever. Organised by the Parents & Friends Association, we are putting the call out to our community to help through sponsorship or providing event donations. We are also looking for volunteers to join the committee to help organise the event or provide their time on the day. If you would like to know more, simply go online or email [foundation@vnc.qld.edu.au](mailto:foundation@vnc.qld.edu.au)



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