



Alumni | Community
SPRING 2022

HARVEST REVIEW

The Growth of Life
Bethlynn Dowdle, Year 12

IN THIS EDITION

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Geoff van der Vliet | EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL

Executive Principal note

Rebounding: Bouncing Back Higher

I am sure everyone knows what happens when a ball is dropped onto a hard surface. The scientific (natural) explanation of why the ball bounces back up involves forces, momentum, inertia and energy transference. However, on its own, the ball never quite returns to its dropped height.

However, a strange thing happens when you stack other balls on top and then drop them as a group. (If you haven't done this for a while, then I suggest you check it out.) In this scenario, the top ball bounces back with an astounding multiplied effect, bouncing much higher than the original level. And the more balls stacked, the greater the effect. Once again, the explanation of how this occurs includes the same concepts, but this time the interaction *between* the balls makes a significant difference.

The principle behind this multiplying positive effect is also true in our personal lives and collective experiences in the NCC community. We have especially noticed the *rebounding higher* principle as we return from the unusual challenges of the last few years.

The *rebounding higher* principle can be explained through NCC's approach to wellbeing – striving for 'interdependence', as in the dropping of a group of balls, rather than 'independence', as in the single drop. With mutual care that comes from humility, grace and empathy, and loving repairs after ruptures, we don't just return to our previous state after difficulties – we reach a higher position of human flourishing.

Rebounding Higher has also been evidenced in special new initiatives this year that seek to further develop Character, Scholarship and Christian Community in a 'well-rounded' NCC learner. Some higher rebounds this year include;

- an expanded Junior School leadership team with P-3 and 4-6 Teaching and Learning Coordinators
- new 'Compass' (Christian Living) and 'Great Books' courses in the Middle School
- more 'Certificate III' courses for the Senior School, including a new 'Christian Ministry and Theology' course

The timeless gospel message, central to NCC, also presents the *rebounding higher* principle. In the stories involving people's humble encounters with Jesus, we see them left better than before. The tax collector confronting the deficiency of his personal greed and the Samaritan woman's futile search for meaning through intimacy are just two examples.

In 2022, the NCC theme has been linked to wisdom – the sort of wisdom that the brother of Jesus, James, wrote about in his letter. Once again, seeking and acting with 'heavenly wisdom' brings about God's purpose to put things right in the world (*rebound higher*), including more personal and collective peace and contentment.

I honour all members of the broad NCC community for your support and engagement in helping each other *rebound higher* from the challenges of recent years.

May God bless you and your family. 🙏

'The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.'

James 3:17

NCC Education

2021 Academic Awards

Nambour Christian College continues to be a community of broad opportunities and outstanding achievements for students and staff. While some students successfully focus on many subjects and activities needed to achieve their goal to enter university, others blend ATAR subjects from a vast array of vocational courses. Some also choose to concentrate on qualifications to give them a head start in the working world, with several achieving this goal during their senior years.

We are delighted with the our 2021 Academic Award Recipients -

- Dux of the College - Jessica Richards
- Runner up Dux - Ashlea Greeff
- Third place - Ella Sinclair and Alec Humphries
- Queensland Certificate of Education Pathways Merit Award - Paris Hammond

Jessica received an ATAR of 98.65 and the Sir Samuel Griffith Scholarship to Griffith University while also receiving early acceptance to other universities. In addition to Jessica, Ashlea (Queensland University of Technology), Ella (University of Queensland) and Alec (University of Queensland) all received an ATAR above 97.65. To

successfully complete Year 12, students must gain 20 credit points to achieve their Queensland Certificate of Education. Paris (University of the Sunshine Coast) successfully completed 35 credit points. We are delighted to acknowledge their achievements.

Over 35% of students eligible for an ATAR achieved a score greater than 90, with 13.5% achieving more than 95.

The graduating class also included 34 students who received Vocational Education and Training certificates awarded via the many specially designed subjects at NCC. Other students added to their school-based learning with traineeships and apprenticeship programs.

In a year, when there was uncertainty about face-to-face relational learning, which NCC deeply values, and new approaches to assessment were still fresh and evolving, these broad achievements are all the more laudable. Led and encouraged by their teachers, students from this cohort have worked hard to keep their focus and determination for progress on their chosen paths.

As a College community, we congratulate the Class of 2021 and look forward to hearing where they will go in the years ahead. 🎓

Jessica Richards

Jessica joined NCC in her last year of primary school and completed year 12 in 2021. She was awarded Dux of the College and received the Sir Samuel Griffith Scholarship. Jessica studied physics, chemistry, mathematical methods, specialist mathematics, literature and design. After being offered early acceptance to several universities, Jessica chose to study a Bachelor of Physiotherapy at Griffith University.

Part of the Griffith Honours College and Griffith Sports College, Jessica tells us, "My first goal is to graduate from university with honours and then find a job working in private practice as a musculoskeletal physiotherapist. I hope to specialise in sporting injuries and travel with the Australian Olympic team down the track, treating them prior to and at their sporting games and the Olympics." Jessica has plans to study for either a Masters or Doctorate in Physiotherapy, specialising in the rehabilitation of rodeo athlete's injuries and has some sound advice for students in senior school.

"It's important to stay on top of your work as everything is achievable if you don't let it pile up and, therefore, get overwhelmed. You should also nail the concepts in Years 10 and 11, making Year 12 a little bit easier if you know the



basics. High school is hard but can also be some of the best years of your life, so make sure you learn to balance living with study to achieve what you want but still have fun in your youth at the same time."

Ashlea Greeff

Ashlea first came to NCC in Pre-Prep. The subjects she undertook in Year 12 were biology, chemistry, mathematical methods, math specialist, japanese, and english. Ashlea achieved Runner-Up Dux, indicative of her efforts across all her subjects. She is currently studying Biomedical Science at QUT. While Ashlea is not yet sure which direction she would like her career to take, she says she hopes to study radiography in the future.

To the students going into Year 10, she encourages them that, "Although it can seem daunting heading into Years 11 and 12, especially with the new-ish ATAR system, you should try to prevent burning yourself out with massive amounts of study and stress. You should try to make time for hanging out with friends and doing things you really enjoy!"



Ella Sinclair

Ella has been a part of NCC since Prep. In Year 12, she studied math methods, literature, music, music extension, chemistry, and biology. Working hard throughout her senior years, Ella tied for third place with Alec Humphries in our academic awards for 2021.

This year she is undertaking her Bachelor of Pharmacy at the University of Queensland. Ella's goal is to be accepted into the Doctor of Medicine program at University of Queensland and specialise in Psychiatry. While working hard to achieve this goal, she would also love to continue making and performing music on the side. When it comes to future plans, Ella says she hopes she is happy wherever she is and that she is still living close to her family and able to see them whenever possible. Ella would like to remind the students heading into senior school, "Don't worry if you don't know what you want to do with your lives just yet, because you have a long time to figure that out. Just don't forget to enjoy this time in your life, stay close to friends and family and have fun throughout your journey in high school. Also, ensure you don't put too much pressure on yourself because there is a plan for you, and it will work out."



Alec Humphries

Alec spent 12 years at NCC. The subjects he undertook in Year 12 were math specialist, math methods, physics, biology, chemistry and english. His high achievements in all his subjects saw Alec tie for third place in our academic awards for 2021. He is currently completing a Bachelor of Engineering Honours and Bachelor of Mathematics at the University of Queensland. Alec's primary goal is to work for any company focusing on rockets or satellites. In ten years, he aims to work overseas as an aerospace engineer.

Alec encourages the students to, "Challenge yourself. You never know where you could end up if you just have a go. In Year 7, I was just passing my science classes. If you had told me then that I would receive third place overall in Year 12 and receive the Math Specialist Award, I would not have believed you. Through the years, I overcame small challenges, which added up to a big change. All you need to do is see where you want to be and overcome the challenges along the way."



Paris Hammond

Paris attended NCC from Prep and studied biology, physical education, general math, general english and music in her senior years. Paris was also completing a health/nursing-based TAFE course every Friday. She was the 2021 recipient of the Queensland Certificate of Education Pathways Merit Award in recognition of her achievement of the highest number of credit points (35) towards her QCE. This year, Paris is studying Nursing Science at the University of the Sunshine Coast. She aspires to become a registered nurse and midwife.

In the future, she hopes to travel the world working as a midwife and helping people in underdeveloped nations. She encourages the students to "always follow what you believe and feel passionate about. For me, schooling was hard and stressful, but communicating with people who care and build friendships alters your whole view of education. Follow your dreams and goals, stay determined and motivated, and you can achieve anything you desire."





Brad Elliott | HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

Head of Senior School note

Disruption 2020-2022!

Over these last three years, the word disruption has come to mind ever so easily. We have all had to make the necessary changes to push through disruption in all aspects of our lives.

2022 sees the third cohort of Year 12 students complete their education, receiving an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) instead of an Overall Position (OP). This in itself was a substantial disruption to the way we have always done things. The years preceding 2020 saw our teachers working very hard for this imminent change, as we collectively worked towards being in the best possible position for our students, not only for that year but for the years to come.

No one could have predicted what we were about to enter into as the news of Covid-19 began to sweep the world.

As these last three years began to unfold before us, in the senior school, we needed to adapt quickly to the space that our education system found itself in, while supporting our students and staff along the way. It wasn't long before the Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority (QCAA) made appropriate adjustments that we responded to accordingly.

Simultaneously, it was essential to look at our year-level co-ordinator structure and evaluate if there was a better way to support our students. As a result, the senior school leaders began to review the structure and then set about creating a platform for changes to come into effect from the beginning of 2022.

It was important the review looked at myriad aspects of senior schooling in general, whilst also looking at the

pastoral care and well-being aspects of this role. We had identified the disruption we were in was negatively impacting to the well-being of our students and it was necessary to respond.

It wasn't long before we settled on a model that introduced a male and a female year level co-ordinator. Now that 2022 is drawing to a close, we are very excited by these changes as we look ahead to 2023. The significant role that our year level co-ordinators play in the lives of our students is not to be underestimated.

The Action For Happiness website has been an excellent resource to our senior school community during this time also, as we have all worked together to support the changing needs of our students. It is from this resource that we are reminded of the following:

“Prioritising happiness and kindness influences how we approach everything – including personal lives, families, communities, schools and workplaces. It also shapes our views on public policy and helps us to consider the well-being of future generations too”.

As we continue to work together through these disrupted times, it is my prayer that the lessons we learn about life in the senior school, will place us in good stead for many years to come. 🕊️



Class of 2017

Brady Foxley-Conolly



Music has been a long-time passion for Brady Foxley-Conolly, who joined NCC in Year 5 alongside older brother Aidan (2012 graduate) specifically for the Instrumental Music program. He was given a trombone as part of the program and never looked back! After graduating in 2017, Brady was accepted into the Southbank Campus of the Conservatorium of Brisbane, where he has spent the past four years completing his Bachelor of Music in Bass Trombone/Performance. Currently living in Southbank, Brady returned to the 'Con' as a full-time student this year to undertake a Graduate Certificate of Music Studies.

When asked what shaped his choice of music as a career, Brady responded,

"A love of music and performing, and allowing people to enjoy listening to music. NCC gave me the opportunity to play in several school bands (Stage Band, Wind Symphony and musicals) and gave me the confidence to continue with my music career. A memory that will always stand out for me is the Instrumental Music Trip to Hawaii in 2013. It was here that I saw the older American boys playing their double rotor bass trombones (at the time, I was using a very old NCC single rotor trombone) and I knew that I wanted one, that this was definitely the instrument for me."

As well as performing in many orchestras, ensembles and bands at the Conservatorium, for the past two years Brady has been the Principal Bass Trombonist for the Queensland Youth Symphony Orchestra. This year he also earned the chair of Principal Bass Trombonist for the Australian Youth Symphony Orchestra, which involves rehearsals three times a year. In April, he travelled to Melbourne to participate in a ten-day Easter Camp. The winter season (July) saw the Orchestra rehearse in Sydney, then fly to Melbourne, Brisbane and back to Sydney for concerts. The summer season (December) involves many rehearsals and concerts once again in Melbourne. These sessions are very intense, with rehearsals and tutorials taking place from 9 am until 9.30 pm every day for two weeks. Brady says, "I enjoy the challenge and I'm amazed at how quickly we can turn around both classic and modern compositions and perform them to such a high standard." While Brady plans to continue his musical studies overseas, his long-term career goal is to be employed as a member of a symphony orchestra. 🎵

Class of 2012

Jessica Young

After moving to Australia from Zimbabwe, Jessica Young (then in Year 5) and her older sister, Roxanna Hayden (2009 graduate), began attending NCC. After graduating in 2012, Jessica went straight to the University of the Sunshine Coast to complete her Bachelor of Nutrition with a Major in Psychology. She says that while she's always loved food, her "passion for healthy eating was sparked while studying Food Technology in Year 9 and Home Economics in her senior years."

Shortly after graduating from University, Jessica commenced work at a company that delivers training in nutrition and fitness. While there, she wrote Australia's first nationally accredited Certificate IV in Nutrition. Upon its launch, Jessica became the course's assessor and assisted hundreds of online students undertaking the certificate. It was not long before Jessica was promoted to the head of the department, overseeing a team of nine nutrition professionals, as well as updating the course content and ensuring a seamless journey for students.

Jessica recently celebrated the launch of her own online business, Jessica Young Nutritionist.

"I have always felt passionate about helping people to live out their full God-given potential. Adequate nutrition is just one part of the puzzle regarding what contributes to an individual's well-being, but it is incredibly significant. The role nutrition plays in our mental health can greatly hinder or help us live at our highest standard. My role is to make healthy eating easy for the everyday person so that they can put their best foot forward."

A heart for helping others is visible not only in Jessica's chosen career path but also when she reflects on special memories from NCC. "The most significant thing that my time at NCC taught me was the importance of caring and giving to others less fortunate. I was fortunate enough to go on both the Malawi and Fiji mission trips and have



never lost what I learned from each: that we can ALWAYS do something, no matter how big or small, to bless those around us and show them the love of Jesus."

There is another, slightly more adventurous moment that Jessica will never forget from NCC; "I think it goes without saying that the time I rolled the buggy on Year 12 camp, sliced my knee open, and had to get stitches will always take first place as a special memory!"

Jessica and her husband Joey (who met when they were just sixteen) have been married for five years. In 2019 they purchased their first home in Buderim and are still residing on the beautiful Sunshine Coast with their fur-baby Sadie, a Border-Collie x Kelpie who Jessica says "very much knows she's an only child!" She has many plans and goals for her new business, which Jessica prays is also a ministry, and she and Joey aim to do a lot more travel in the coming years. 🐾



Chris Spencer | HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

Head of Middle School note

Re-evaluate and Re-affirm

The last few years of limitations both in and out of the College, have allowed for time to re-evaluate some of the key goals for our Middle School and how we might achieve them. I am delighted to be a part of the NCC community as we now re-affirm our core values and express these through traditional activities as well as new endeavours.

The “House renovations” implemented at the start of 2022 have yielded stronger and more enthusiastic participation and competition between our four Houses. The inaugural Heads of Houses have fostered this spirited sense of rivalry in numerous ways, not the least being their own competitiveness! And while this energy, in many ways, is its reward, more importantly, it does encourage a sense of belonging, which is sorely lacking in our society. Elevating the importance of belonging to a House also encourages engagement in other domains as well. We have launched our Storm the Show initiative, in which Middle School students are encouraged to participate in the Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show by entering home-grown produce, cakes, biscuits, artwork and even Lego with points being awarded by their House for any prizes won. A number of our students took up the challenge to learn recipes from Grandma, bringing extended family into the co-curricular activity of school. After two years of significantly reduced connection to friends, family and the broader community, our students have relished the opportunity to bring all these together in friendly competition!

Along with the invigorating the House structure, new opportunities for student leadership in the Middle School

have been created, with greater responsibilities being on our House Captains and Vice Captains, as well as Middle School leaders. Additionally, our student Chapel team have worked hard to add their character and style to how our chapel services are run.

NCC’s very long history of participation in service learning trips is also enjoying renewal. Our annual trip to Normanton to serve Gulf Christian College and the local community managed to survive lockdowns and continue unhindered for the last few years. This year a shorter, sharper and tougher program was embraced admirably by our students. Their reports of the hardships of early mornings, cold nights and long days of cleaning heavily used toilets in-between were characterised by enthusiasm. “Whatever you do, make sure you sign up for Normanton!” was how one student summed up their experience to the younger year groups.

I am also delighted to announce we will introduce a new service opportunity for Year 8 students for 2023. This trip is a significant and challenging one as we go to Nakasi, Fiji to work at St Christopher’s Home. This adventure is designed for Year 8 students and provides a genuine opportunity to serve in a context very different to our own. I would emphasise that this very much includes “learning”; the lessons about character, virtue and what is important in this world are very powerful. I have taken students of this age to St Christopher’s Home from other schools for many years now, and I am very excited to present this opportunity to the students of NCC. 🌿

Class of 2011

Anna Lindbeck (nee Beaden)

Anna, a graduate from the class of 2011, provided a quick update after the recent 10 year reunion. "First of all, I was inspired by my amazing NCC teachers (shout out to Mr Tyler, Mrs English, Mrs Grinan-Paterson, Mrs Hudson, Mr Chamberlain and Mrs Allen-Ankins!), so I too have become a teacher."

Teaching at a high school in Melbourne, Anna teaches religion, drama and sport and absolutely loves it! With hobbies including rock climbing, surfing, reading and writing music, Anna brings a broad range of experiences to share with her students.

Married to Mitch, the couple enjoy spending time with family and friends and Anna had the privilege of exploring the world after school through travel and is grateful for the adventures and life experiences she has had including the inevitable highs and lows.

Reflecting on the years after school and where she is now, Anna is grateful for the Sunshine Coast upbringing and declares, "It is one of the best places in the world." Anna shares a few further thoughts of wisdom, "1. Life is short, time is fast - live it to the full. 2. God is faithful through it all. 3. Always assume the best." Anna's enthusiastic passion for life, teaching and God is evident and is a wonderful testimony to the staff at NCC. 🙌





Class of 2006

Lauren Jones

Lauren Jones spent most of her school years at NCC, having started when she was in Year 2. Her brothers, Tim (2004 graduate) and Sam (2009 graduate), also attended the College, as too, in fact, did her husband, Ryan (2006 graduate). For Lauren, art and painting have always been her focus and passion. She is grateful to her family for always supporting this love and encouraging her to pursue her creative dreams.

After graduating from NCC in 2006, Lauren undertook a Bachelor of Arts at the University of the Sunshine Coast for three years, followed by a Bachelor of Fine Art from Monash University for an additional three years. When asked how her time at NCC prepared her for life in her career, Lauren reflected on how her spare lessons, and many lunch times, were spent in the art room creating and working on various pieces. She says, "I had wonderful, supportive, and incredibly creative friends during senior school, and we're still friends to this day."

Lauren is a full-time artist, and Ryan also works in the arts industry. The couple currently live in Cooran with their beautiful two-year-old daughter. While art may be her passion, for Lauren, being a mum is the most important role she does. "Playing, reading, and exploring with her, fills my days when I'm not painting in the studio," she remarks.

As she loves painting portraiture, it is a dream of Lauren's to exhibit in the Archibald (an Australian portraiture art competition for painting that is generally seen as the most prestigious portrait prize in the country). To exhibit internationally is also a goal Lauren would like to achieve one day. 🌱



Class of 1994

Kassandra Morrison

After attending six different primary schools, Kassandra joined NCC in 1989 and stayed until her graduation in 1994. Her husband, Rob (1984 graduate) and his sisters attended NCC and were part of the original cohort when the school started. After graduating high school, Kassandra undertook a Bachelor of Commerce (Business Law and Accounting) followed by a Graduate Diploma of Teaching, which she finished in 2012. Kassandra is currently completing her Bachelor of Teaching and Learning (Secondary) and says it is likely that she will continue studying after this degree!

In 2003, Kassandra worked as an Accountant/Auditor in Mount Isa. In 2006 and 2008, she became the Finance Controller for Mount Isa Christian College and Gulf Christian College, respectively. 2009 provided a bit of an unexpected adventure for Kassandra. After a school in Normanton lost their only teacher aide and had just one teacher left, Kassandra and her two sons at the time, Tim and Ben, flew to Normanton to cover administration and the teacher aide role for what she thought would be only a couple of weeks. However, the major flood of 2009 cut the town off for almost two and a half months! Unable to find a candidate to fill the position, and having no accommodation, Kassandra and her boys lived in the school's photocopy room for six months before the College could receive extra support. During this time, Rob was driving from Mount Isa each fortnight to visit (when the flood level dropped) between shifts at the Mount Isa Mines.

Kassandra and her family moved to Chinchilla in 2010. After volunteering to teach crochet during lunchtime at

Chinchilla State High School, Kassandra was offered a job as a teacher aide in 2012. Although she was apprehensive about working in learning support, this was where she discovered her love of teaching. She says she felt like "I had finally worked out what I wanted to do when I grew up." She credits NCC with showing her that "teaching is about building relationships and having a love of learning and sharing it with your friends."

Currently residing in Normanton, Kassandra is a Learning Enrichment Teaching Assistant/Teacher in Design & Technology and Mathematics at Gulf Christian College (GCC). Rob also works as a casual bus driver for the school and is a stay-at-home dad to their two youngest children. They have been married 26 years and have four children - Tim (24), Benjamin (21), Abigail (8) and Andrew (4) - and a granddaughter Octavia, with another grandbaby due in October.

Looking toward the future, Kassandra plans to finish her degree, continue teaching at GCC, and work in learning enrichment. Eventually, she and her family would like to travel remotely with her fulfilling itinerant long service and maternity contracts within schools. When asked her favourite scripture, Kassandra responded,

"Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." 🙏



Andrea Morrison, Fiona Morrison (Cato), Rob Morrison, Catriona Morrison



Fiona Morrison (Cato), Kerrissa Morrison, Andrea Morrison, Rob Morrison, Catriona Morrison



Class of 2002

Hamish & Carly Landreth (nee Thomson)

For Carly Landreth, the years she and her husband Hamish spent at NCC are some of their most treasured memories. After finishing school at NCC, Hamish studied at the University of Queensland, from which he graduated in 2006. The couple then planned to spend just five years in Brisbane before moving back to the Sunshine Coast. However, after many exciting achievements in Hamish's career, it just never happened – Brisbane is still home!

Carly and Hamish celebrated their 16th wedding anniversary this year and have two young boys, William (9) and Oliver (6) they deeply cherish. Carly says they "drive us crazy and make us endlessly happy – probably in equal amounts!" They both attend Calvary Christian College, which Carly claims is the "closest school we could find to NCC, which was hard to replicate!"

While she has had a few career endeavours over the years, mostly in senior administrative work, and even ran an online business for a few years after the boys arrived, Carly is now focused on keeping their busy family going and supporting Hamish in his stressful job. Hamish is a Senior Director, having worked his way up through the ranks at Prosperity Advisors, a financial planning and accounting business. This means many long hours and trips to their interstate offices, but he loves the work and the team he is a part of, making it all worthwhile.

In their downtime, the family loves to go camping. Carly says they have been taking the boys out into nature ever since they were little, so they are pros now! The family especially loves to find places off the beaten track with good views, and they try to get out as often as possible. William and Oliver are also active in their local mountain-biking club, which they thoroughly enjoy and often take advantage of the forest full of great riding tracks conveniently located very close to home. ➡





At NCC, we provide our alumni students the opportunity to host 1, 5, 10, 15, 20+ reunions with funds and venue options. In November 2021, the class of 2011 returned to NCC for a memorable afternoon of reminiscing.

Class of 2011

Alumni Reunion

It's been ten years since the class of 2011 reunited on familiar territory, but it felt like no time had passed as everyone greeted each other enthusiastically as old friends who grew up together and shared many experiences.

Held in the Whipbird Restaurant, alumni, partners, children, past staff members and Mr van der Vliet were delighted to catch up and look through the archives from the schooling years. Walking around the College, seeing new class spaces and improved facilities, and reminiscing on events such as Year 12 camp, graduation, teachers and subjects, there were many laughs and joy.

Following the school tour, the event continued at the Waterfront Hotel with a casual cocktail-style dinner with many stories and memory sharing.

"We also played a slideshow of attendee's favourite school photos/videos and updates on their current lives; it was a wonderful time," said Ben Hawthorne, 2011 College Captain and event organizer.





At the reunion, we asked our alumni, "What have you learnt over the past 10 years?" here is what they said,

"Adulting is hard; houses require a lot of cleaning and coffee is very expensive."

"Leave people better than you found them. You will always be happy knowing you've done your best to be a good human being."

"There is no problem or challenge too big, define the issue and start working towards the solution and you will succeed. If all else fails - life goes on and you will be more prepared for the next problem that arrives."

"God is the most important thing. Only he can get you through the tough times and bring you into the joyous ones!"

"God loves us a lot, and no one else cares that much what you do with your life, so the stakes aren't as high as you think. Basically, you should have a go at what you fear and find out what you were afraid of!"

"Never take life too seriously. You can't please everyone. Everything happens for a reason. There is no point worrying about something you have don't control over."

"In the last ten years of business and relationships, I've learned to do what you LOVE and do it with the people you love! Grow, learn and surround yourself with people who challenge you and champion you beyond anything you could have dreamed."

"Always think about what it feels like from their perspective. Empathy is one of the greatest traits that will keep you

grounded and living/loving well. God loves YOU!"

"It's impossible to explain the journey you have been on in the last 10 years. Achieving, making milestones, changing for the better, staying true to yourself, travelling, being a friend, finding love, starting a family, working hard, struggling, succeeding, failing and learning, studying, investing in yourself, moving cities or countries, starting a new life, living in the moment, being present, being honest, these are all things to be proud of."

Ben & Nikki Hawthorne

Since we first started dating on our graduation day in 2011, God has blessed our life together and we are happier than ever. We got married in 2014 and still live on the Sunshine Coast with our two beautiful children, Penelope and Eli. I (Ben) am a Protein Biochemist for a biopharmaceutical company (Servatus Ltd) on the Coast, enjoying researching protein-based medicines and live microbial biotherapeutics for the treatment of inflammatory and autoimmune conditions. Nikki is enjoying life as a full-time Mum, cherishing the moments of having little ones at home before they start school and grow up all too quickly. We are also so excited that Penelope is enrolled to go to school at NCC - she said, "I want to go to your school because both you and Mummy went here." It's nice to think that our children get to grow up learning in the school where we met and shared so many sweet memories.

"We are so happy and forever thankful to God for such a wonderful life filled with the richness, adventures and blessings of family and each other each day. "





Kylie Baker | HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

Head of Junior School note

A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Proverbs 17:22

Renowned scientist and author Paul Lutus once stated 'the most successful people are those who accept and adapt to constant change. This adaptability requires a degree of flexibility and humility most people can't manage.' Why is change so hard? We know that change does not discriminate and that it is difficult for both adults and children alike, yet change is an inevitable part of life. As educators, we need to help our young children learn to manage change effectively, and the past few 'covid-affected' years have provided our staff and students with many opportunities to do this: in a climate of constant change, together, we learned to develop resilience, perseverance, and determination as we navigated each new challenge that we encountered.

Research indicates that having a positive outlook and being able to approach and manage change positively and constructively is critical to success in life. This should not come as a surprise as we read in the book of Proverbs that a joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones (Prov 17:22). Positive emotions promote increased mental flexibility and lowered reactivity, improving and broadening coping skills and counteracting psychological effects of negative emotions. Armed with this information, the Junior School looked for ways that we could reframe our circumstances and discover ways we could do things differently.

The availability of technology proved to be one of our greatest assets and most unlikely allies. There were many

online platforms that enabled us to continue teaching whilst also maintaining the critical element of connection: loss of connection being one of the most profound challenges that both families and staff encountered. How did we prioritise 'relationships' within this new virtual world? During the lockdowns, teachers would meet daily with their students via Zoom to mark the roll and set the students up for success. The Seesaw platform enabled teachers to record videos of themselves teaching and explaining the content and provide ongoing feedback to their students. The entire Junior School joined forces to provide our students with entertaining videos of us completing fitness circuits, choir performances and mystery reader challenges, all with the desire to make the most of the circumstances we were in.

Were there challenges that we struggled to overcome? Yes, on many occasions. Did we get it all right at every turn? No, we did not. Are we richer for the experience, stronger after the battles and better equipped to face whatever tomorrow might hold? Resoundingly yes, we are. In the book of Proverbs we are reminded that a man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps (Prov 16:9) and so it is with great excitement and anticipation that we look to the future and all that God will do in and through us. 🙏

God bless.

NCC Past Students Association - Reunions

NCC past students are an integral part of our community and we welcome their continued involvement in, and support of, College life. All former students are automatically life members of our Past Students Association, and we encourage them to not only keep us up to date with their contact details, but also to inform us of any items of interest that can be shared with the College community.

Past students can email us at: alumni@ncc.qld.edu.au

We offer 1, 5, 10, 15, 20 + year reunions. Do you want to organise a reunion for your year level? Let us know as we can assist with contact details, venue and costs.



Stay in Contact

NCC Alumni Facebook Page

This is a group for all previous students of Nambour Christian College, created to connect NCC Alumni with the College community. College events and annual reunions will also be advertised here.

Please invite your fellow Alumni to join this page, and stay up to date with College news. Alumni are welcome to post their achievements, news, information and school photos on this page. Please join Nambour Christian College Alumni - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/112455619398611>



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www.ncc.qld.edu.au



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what
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