



# Compass *Review*

PACIFIC LUTHERAN COLLEGE | JULY 2023



**PACIFIC**  
LUTHERAN  
COLLEGE





# Table of Contents

- 4. Launching our 2023-2026 Strategic Plan
- 6. 2022 Academic Success
- 8. International Future Problem Solving and Competition
- 10. Pacific Youth Group
- 11. Building Connections Through Safe Harbour  
The Pacific Learning Hub
- 12. Leadership Opportunities at Pacific
- 14. Introduction of Pacific Alumni at Leadership Days
- 15. J Block Building Dedication and Opening
- 16. RAP Program
- 18. Our Refined Image of Child at Pacific Early Learning
- 20. Power of Music
- 22. Outdoor Education – A Positive First Experience
- 24. Four Pillars of Sport
- 28. PIPPIN – Just Plain MAGIC!
- 30. Microbits: Creating Innovative Digital Experiences
- 32. Emulating Hands: Year 10 STEM Students Excel in Bionics  
and Prosthetics Unit
- 34. A Path to Employability
- 36. Sunshine Arts Festival
- 38. Celebrating 10 Year Reunion



# Launching our 2023-2026 Strategic Plan

**Purpose, Engagement & Co-Agency**  
**Dr Bronwyn Dolling, Principal**

The need for all people to have agency to improve their lives, the lives of other people and the environment is increasingly important as we negotiate a rapidly changing complex world. As staff, students and parents each of us needs to grow as highly skilled thoughtful people, with the flexibility and capability to confidently embrace and grow through both opportunity and challenge.

To have effective agency, people need to grow across all dimensions of life. Pacific captures this richness of growth within **the Four Pillars of Learning**; Learning to Be, Learning Together, Learning to Learn and Learning to Know and Do. In *Learning to Be* we grow in our understanding of ourselves, our relationships with people, God, the universe and the environment. In *Learning Together* we grow to be able to live and work effectively with people, in *Learning to Learn* we are inspired to be curious and effective life-long learners and in *Learning to Know and Do* we become highly skilled knowledgeable confident contributors to community.

The attributes developed across each of the Four Pillars provide the grounding, flexibility and capacity to live with purpose, and engage thoughtfully with confidence to exert agency to make a difference for people and the environment. Pacific believes that all people are learners and schools provide a rich environment for students, staff and parents to act and grow together in enhancing the lives of people and the planet.

It is with excitement that we launch our **2023-2026 Strategic Plan** which has growth across the Four Pillars at its heart. This plan developed in collaboration with staff, students, and parents aims to enhance engagement and the agency of each of these stakeholder groups to contribute to rich learning experiences and growth for all members of our community. There is tremendous capability within our parents, staff, alumni and students. The strength of student voice in the formation and early implementation of this strategic plan has been a particular highlight. Staff, students and parents drew on the research of the OECD, Harvard's Project Zero team, and learnings associated with positive psychology, wellbeing and Lutheran theology in the formation of this living plan. Feedback provided through school review processes also informed thinking.

All members of our community are encouraged to engage with the common purpose of growing ourselves and each other across the Four Pillars. Within this Compass Review, we launch our 2023-2026 Strategic Plan and celebrate some of our early steps in enacting our strategic intents.



As we bring our best selves to act together, we grow in our capacity to exert agency for the greater good within and beyond our community. God has blessed us richly through the talents of the people within our community and His gracious love and guidance for us. We look forward to the adventure of engaging with common purpose as we grow understanding, discernment, capacity and agency together. We have been given a great gift.



Scan the QR code for the  
2023-2026 Strategic Plan.





*"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."*

Malcolm X (28th June 1964)



# 2022 Academic Success

**Mrs Anne-Marie Gerlach,  
Head of Learning Senior College**

**"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."  
- Malcolm X (28th June 1964)**

Education is not just about going to school and learning your ABCs, as our 2022 Seniors demonstrated. This cohort instead showcased diverse learning journeys. They highlighted a rich array of social, emotional, and spiritual development, while at the same time pursuing strong academic pathways. As Malcolm X noted, nearly sixty years ago: education plays an important role in preparing students for a world outside the safety of the classroom and schoolyard. Education is clearly more than the acquisition of knowledge, it is a transformative journey that provides access to a successful future. Malcolm X reference to a 'passport' highlights the world of possibilities that education opens up for students as they over time, develop skills and attributes that will empower them to navigate their future and seize opportunities that lie ahead.

Students within the graduating class of 2022 clearly made excellent inroads into their academic future with a number of students achieving significant academic accomplishments. In the cohort of 76 students, 82% were eligible for an ATAR and 93% were eligible to apply for a university place. Furthermore, 50% of this group achieved a rank over 80; however, most noteworthy, was that 99% of the cohort received either a VET qualification or their Queensland Certificate of Education.

Our Scholars' Assembly in Term 1 provided us with an opportunity to reflect upon and congratulate a remarkable group of individuals who exemplified academic diligence and commitment to their studies. We were delighted to have Noah Beasley, 2021 College Captain and Dux, attend and provide students with an inspirational message for academic success. Noah, in collaboration with Dr Dolling, also presented the highly esteemed 2022 Dux to Noah Winten, who was the top student in three subjects: Specialist Maths, English Literature and Extension, and Mathematical Methods. Noah

achieved an outstanding ATAR of 99.90, demonstrating exceptional dedication and mastery of his chosen subjects. Alongside Noah, Jasmin Groves was recognised as the 2022 Proxime Accessit, showcasing remarkable prowess as the highest-ranking student in four general subjects: Biology, Chemistry, English, and Music. Jasmin's academic achievements were further highlighted by her distinction as the top student in Christian Studies.

This assembly served as an opportunity to acknowledge these exceptional individuals and the significant academic success of 14 students that received ATARs over 90, the individual students that topped specific subjects, and the five 2022 graduates awarded university scholarships. Specifically, Noah Winten received the Vice Chancellor's Scholarship at the University of Queensland, Jasmin Groves and Samantha Hutton were awarded the Thompson Excellence Scholarship at University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC), Charles Box was awarded the Corporate Partners in Excellence Scholarship at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and Liam Russell secured the prestigious Sir Samuel Griffith Scholarship with Griffith University.

We were delighted that Ms Jodie Brocks from Griffith University, Ms Jamison Kehl from UniSC, Ms Carolyn Kirk from QUT, and Mr Andrew Bannerman from UQ were able to attend the assembly and present our scholarship recipients with certificates and official recognition of their remarkable achievements. We were also immensely thankful to the universities for spending time post-event, to enlighten our current Year 12 cohort about the various scholarships available to them, as well as the countless opportunities and benefits that these awards provide.

Through their academic diligence, each of the scholarship winners and the Senior students honoured, demonstrated their pursuit of learning through their perseverance, determination, and a thirst for knowledge setting a high stand of excellence.



# International Future Problem Solving and Competition

**Mrs Jo Belchamber,  
Head of Learning Middle College**

In 2022 a team of four Middle College students from Pacific Lutheran College achieved second place at the National Finals of the Future Problem Solving program in Melbourne. This success secured them an invitation to the International Conference in the United States at the University of Massachusetts in June 2023.

The PLC Future Problem Solving team, comprising of Emily Studiman (Year 10), Oliver Friend (Year 9), Isla Lendrum (Year 9) and Amy Richards (Year 8), has recently returned from a hugely enjoyable experience at the International Conference where they participated in two competitions and a wide variety of other conference workshops and activities. High achieving students from all over the world including the United States, Turkey, Singapore, China, Canada and New Zealand participated in this very prestigious academic challenge. Students competing in the Global Issues Problem Solving division were required to respond to an unseen scenario set in 2052 on the future topic of currency. In two



hours, the team needed to act collaboratively to identify challenges in this scenario, formulate an underlying problem, generate 16 solutions and select one of these to prepare an action plan. The plan needed to overcome the challenges of competing cryptocurrencies and the impact on the residents of the future global tourist resort of Trinidad and Tobago. Two accompanying Year 7 students, Fletcher Friend and William Studiman, were placed in multi-affiliate teams and completed a booklet with students from around the world in the multi-affiliate division. The following day, all six students were required to prepare a presentation of their action plan as a creative and entertaining skit in which they were also required to improvise and incorporate some quotes and props in a creative fashion.

The team wrote an outstanding booklet in which their solution incorporated establishing clean water as a sustainable reserve currency for the government's centralised cryptocurrency. They incentivised the residents of Trinidad and Tobago to favour the government's centralised cryptocurrency, as opposed to a deregulated and decentralised cryptocurrency, with tax breaks and proposed gamification to improve awareness of the benefits of a unified cryptocurrency.

The International Conference took place over four days and included many opportunities for cultural exchange. Pacific students participated in all of these activities with enthusiasm, sharing Australian souvenirs with students from other countries at the memento exchange, and participating in improvisation and project management workshops. They attended a variety show and a dance with students representing other nationalities. A community problem solving fair enabled them to see samples of international student projects developed to benefit communities from many countries.

The International Conference was an exciting and challenging way for participants to develop leadership skills including the ability to collaboratively solve problems using creativity, innovation, research and optimism. Before and after the competition, the students all embarked on sightseeing experiences including New York City, Toronto, Vancouver, Boston and Los Angeles. The International Conference was an exciting and memorable experience for the entire team.

*"The Future Problem Solving International Conference was an extraordinary experience that had a lasting impact on the team. The knowledge we gained and the remarkable individuals we met went beyond our expectations. The Conference allowed us to engage with both like-minded peers and those with contrasting perspectives who opened our minds to new ideas and concepts. FPSI showcased the immense potential for positive change when diverse and young minds unite. Throughout the conference there were a range of fun and enriching activities and workshops as well as the competition, which allowed us to interact with people from many different countries. We also heard from people who have previously participated in Future Problem Solving as they spoke about how they have used their future problem solving skills in their life and careers. My highlight of the trip was meeting a range of different people from all over the world and creating lasting connections. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity. Our memories of this incredible event will stay with us long into the future and forever inspire us to strive to achieve our full potential."*

**- Isla Lendrum, Year 9 student**







# Building **Connections** Through Safe Harbour

**Ms Leigh Finter, Director of Students**

The introduction of Safe Harbour was capably led by the College Captains, Vice Captains and Wellbeing Action Group Captains. Safe Harbour, as a new student led, and staff supported initiative and space, is open to students in Years 6 to 12 and provides an opportunity to connect with other students across the College. The strategic vision of Safe Harbour stemmed from the 2022 Strategic Planning Day and the 2022 Courageous Conversations workshops, involving the Years 6 to 11 cohorts. These opportunities to connect provided a stage for students to utilise thinking routines and design ideation strategies. From these discussions, students identified the need for a physical space where all students could connect meaningfully and grow in their purpose and belonging.

In a short time, Safe Harbour has become an important element in the Pastoral Care culture at Pacific. Along with our successful Peer Mentoring Program, it is another vital

layer to ensuring students create and build relationships, are supported, and feel comfortable and valued as they grow in their learning at Pacific.



## **Pacific** Youth Group

**Mrs Holly Gricks, College Chaplain**

This year we have been developing our new addition to College community life, the 'Pacific Youth Group'. This group is specifically designed for students from Years 6 to 12, providing them with an opportunity to grow in community and nurture their faith.

Pacific Youth Group focuses on building connections through engaging activities and games. It is a platform for our young people to connect with peers who share similar interests, challenges and experiences. The vibrant atmosphere set by the students has created a strong sense of belonging. A special part of our connection time is when we gather to share dinner, creating opportunities for students to connect and strengthen relationships.

At each Youth Group, a message is shared by one of our Youth leaders. This year we have focused on deepening our relationship with God, exploring the Easter story, finding rest amidst life's challenges and learning how to seek God during stressful seasons.

Following our shared message, we break into smaller groups which are led by our Senior students. In these small groups, we unpack the message further and dive deeper into the discussion. These small group sessions serve as a platform for students to share their thoughts, ask questions and support one another. It is a time for genuine connection and a chance to check in on the wellbeing of others.

One of the most encouraging aspects of our Youth Group has been witnessing our Senior students take on leadership

roles, guiding and supporting their younger peers. It is heartwarming to see the older students fostering an environment of inclusion and encouragement for the younger members.

We are grateful for the continued community support as we nurture the spiritual and personal development of our students. Together, we look forward to building on the supportive and empowering environment the Pacific Youth Group provides our students to help them grow into confident, well-rounded adults.



## The **Pacific** Learning Hub

**Ms Leigh Finter, Director of Students**

The Wellbeing of our community is at the forefront of what we stand for at Pacific. This year's theme "Purpose, Engagement, Co-Agency", has placed focus on providing opportunities for students, staff, and parents to connect with external learning opportunities to boost wellbeing and strengthen relationships.

In May, we launched the Pacific Learning Hub and welcomed Dr Justin Coulson, a sought-after keynote speaker who has written many books and the co-host and parenting expert on Channel 9's "Parental Guidance", to lead off with the first of these events.

Parents and teachers enjoyed the opportunity to connect with each other and learn as they reflected on Dr Coulson's entertaining and thought-provoking presentation which focused on "Enhancing Wellbeing", directed to staff and "Building Resilience", which was presented to parents.

The feedback received from parents after the event was very positive. The College looks forward to holding similar events in the future which connect and support parent engagement through purposeful conversations and learning.



# Leadership Opportunities at Pacific

## Year 5

### GAWUN (Care) Leader

- Leadership begins in Term 4 in Year 4
- Participate in a Leadership Day in conjunction with the Year 5 Outdoor Education Program
- Lead in connection with the Pacific Way statements
- Leading connection and entry into the College with students in Prep
- Yearlong Service learning activities in conjunction with Christian Studies in Year 5
- Connecting with Foundation College through literacy programs
- Application to Kids in Action across the Sunshine Coast
- Promote the Containers for Change initiative
- Participate in student led tours at Annual PLC Open Day Tours
- Chairing assemblies and responsible for flags

## Year 6

### Year 6 Pacific Action Group Leaders

- Students elected by their peers and staff in Term 1
- Work in conjunction with the Year 12 PAG Captains
- Learn to lead others; support the Year 12 Captains and implement ideas for the benefit of the Junior and Middle College
- Attend and participate in Action Group meetings throughout the year
- Assist Year 12 PAG Captains with events
- Develop strong connections with Prep-5 students at weekly assemblies
- Implement initiatives in the Middle College space and in the Junior College relevant to their PAG
- Attend Leadership Development Day
- Participate in student led tours at Annual PLC Open Day Tours

## Year 10

### Cohort Leadership Purpose and Responsibility

- Peer Mentors to Year 7 students within Pastoral Care Groups
- Engage in a Year 10 Leadership Day, Term 4
- Attend and participate in Peer Mentor Leadership meetings twice a Term

## Year 11

### Cohort Leadership Purpose and Responsibility

- Peer Mentors to Year 8 students within Pastoral Care Groups
- Engage in Year 11 Leadership Days, Term 2 & 3
- Attend and participate in Peer Mentor Leadership meeting twice a Term
- Leadership application and interview process, starts in Term 3
- Student Leadership Executive elect, Term 3 and Term 4
- College Captains and Vice Captains elect attend Lutheran Youth Queensland Enthuse Camp at Luther Heights, Term 4



12

11

10

9

8

7

6

5

Pacific Action Groups: Years 6-12 student led committees in Academic, Cultural,

Environmental, Sport, Student Wellbeing, Spirituality and Service and Technology.  
All students are welcome to attend fortnightly Pacific Action Group meetings.

## Year 9

### Year 9 Middle College Leaders

- Students elected by their peers and staff at the end of Year 8, ready for leading in Year 9
- Leadership begins in Term 1 of Year 9 following the Installation Service
- Attend and participate in the Altitude Leadership Day in Term 2
- Focused on leading and supporting the Middle College students throughout the year
- Represent College at Sunshine Coast Ecumenical Church Service
- Encourage Year 9 cohort connections
- Run assemblies and split Chapels
- Promote and implement student-led initiatives and activities for the Middle College including Year 9 cohort activities; Middle College lunchtime events; Middle College competitions throughout the year
- Support the Year 12 House Captains to lead and build House culture
- Participate in student led tours at Annual PLC Open Day Tours
- Participate with ELC students in reading activities
- Participate deeper into Service learning in the Middle College

## Year 12

### Student Leadership Executive Team

- College Captains and Vice Captains
- Pacific Action Group Captains
  - Academic
  - Cultural
  - Environmental
  - Sport
  - Student Wellbeing
  - Spirituality and Service
  - Technology
- House Captains and Vice Captains
  - Bula
  - Buran
  - Mumba
  - Wira

### Cohort Leadership Purpose and Responsibility

- Peer Mentors to Year 9 students within Pastoral Care Groups
- Engage in Year 12 Leadership Day, Term 1
- College Captains' meetings held weekly
- Student Leadership Executive meetings held fortnightly
- Action Group meetings held fortnightly
- Peer Mentor Leadership meetings held twice a term
- Lead Years 7-12, Senior College and cohort assemblies
- Lead P-12, Middle and Senior College Chapel
- Lead student developed initiatives, Pastoral Care Group and service learning activities across the year
- Leading Foundation Council Cup in the areas of Academic, Culture and Sport across P-12
- Represent the College by leading Open Day tours, and attending special events and services
- Year 12 and 2 students engage in buddy connections held multiple times per term throughout the year
- Lead the Year 12 Retreat





## Introduction of Pacific Alumni at Leadership Days

Ms Leigh Finter, Director of Students

Pacific's strong culture of growing student leadership continues this year with an amended Leadership Development Program that speaks directly to the College's mission statement and **2023-2026 Strategic Plan** of growing and enhancing student leadership and connections to Pacific Alumni.

At the end of April, our Year 11 cohort engaged in the first customised Leadership Day where student activities and discussions were facilitated by past Pacific Graduates who held leadership positions during their time at College. Year 11 students, with the support of Pacific Alumni, spent time reflecting and focusing on the statement: *leadership is not a position, it is a relationship*.

Year 11 students actively engaged with past Pacific leaders as they shared their perspectives, experiences, and opportunities, past and present, on how to inspire, educate, and empower each other to become effective leaders within the College, community and beyond Pacific.

Our Year 11 cohort will participate in a second leadership day in Term 3. During this day, students will focus on cohort goals and intentions to ensure a successful final year as students at Pacific. At the completion of this Leadership program, students are invited to express their interest in the many leadership roles offered in Year 12. It is exciting to welcome Alumni to our Leadership Days and learn how these opportunities helped develop their leadership potential which they apply to their career and personal lives today.

“Year 11 students, with the support of Pacific Alumni, spent time reflecting and focusing on the statement: *leadership is not a position, it is a relationship.*”

## J Block Building Dedication and Opening

Dr Bronwyn Dolling, College Principal

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023, we were delighted to welcome the Honourable Andrew Wallace, Member for Fisher, the Honourable Jason Hunt Member for Caloundra representing the Honourable Grace Grace MP, Minister for Education, Executive Director of Lutheran Education Queensland, Mrs Tanya Crooks, local Councilor Mr Peter Cox, our architects from Bickerton Masters, Principals from Sunshine Coast Schools, College Council Members and representatives of the Friends of Pacific to join with us to celebrate the Dedication and Opening of our new Year 3 and 4 learning spaces.

It was a special moment for us as a College community to invite Dr Richard Hauser to open the building and for Bishop Dr Mark Vainikka to dedicate the new spaces. During the building dedication and opening, we expressed our appreciation to the State Government for their provision of \$1.6m with the College contributing just under \$3.7m to the project. The new building includes six general learning spaces with large adjoining withdrawal spaces that support young people to take responsibility for their learning. The new spaces connect to our existing Year 5 space and we have seen Year 3, 4 and 5 staff and students revel as they have enjoyed the opportunity to develop contemporary learning skills and ways of being and thinking as they have grown across the Four Pillars.

The two outdoor learning spaces provide opportunities for Art, Science and Inquiry Investigations. The proximity of these areas to the forest opens opportunities for exploration of environmental learning and enhancing our understanding of Kabi Kabi culture.







## RAP Program

### Mr Damian Davis, Head of Staff and Students P-5

During Term 2 we celebrated National Reconciliation Week, where communities across Australia paused to learn more about a shared history, culture and achievement and to reflect on the role each of us plays in working toward reconciliation with First Nations People.

Reconciliation is the strengthening of relationships with indigenous groups to benefit all. This year's theme of "Be a voice for generations" is a challenge for all Australians to make a concerted effort to address the unfinished business of reconciliation for greater prosperity and connection.

Reconciliation Week begins with National Sorry Day. National Sorry Day was a momentous moment for this country and modelled taking responsibility for the past actions of others. It acknowledged that policies aimed at First Nations Peoples had a detrimental and long-lasting generational impact.

As a College, Reconciliation Week provided an opportunity for reflection and how we, as individuals and community, can begin to move toward truth-telling and strengthen relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and non-Indigenous People. It allowed people to obtain a greater understanding of the rich history of this land and the intricate stories embedded within it, both new and old.

Lutheran Pastor Chad Rimmer speaks of a God that has two moves, to create and to reconcile. Beginning to understand this inherent relationship in reconciliation is essential and he writes,

"Seeing the way God reconciles Creation in Christ equips us to see God's Spirit at work restoring creation today. Faith gives us the eyes to see beauty among the broken. Faith gives us the eyes to see healing among the hurt. Faith gives us eyes to see the mutuality among the multitude of creatures, great and small."

Whilst attending the Year 4 Outdoor Education Program at Mapleton during May, I was privileged to listen to local Kabi Kabi Elder Mr Kerry Neill speak of new and old connections. The wind on your face, the sun on your back, is a connection. Some of these connections are new; others are ancient; regardless, it is a connection. With that connection comes responsibility. We all have a connection to this country and as a result, God's creation. The connected nature of creation and reconciliation is in action every day within our environment and with each other and we are asked to reflect on how we may make this creation better tomorrow than it was today.

One such tool to build a better knowledge of Reconciliation is the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). A RAP is a framework for organisations to realise their vision for engaging well with First Nations People and creating positive pathways and processes for people. To better understand the path to reconciliation in our unique context, staff and students continue constructing our own College Reconciliation Action Plan. Our hope is that as a College, we begin to understand the road to reconciliation better and what steps our community can take toward greater clarity and engagement with Indigenous knowledge.

*Our vision for reconciliation action acknowledges and honours the rich heritage, culture, and contributions of the Kabi Kabi people as the traditional custodians of the land, and we seek to promote authentic relationships built on trust, mutual respect, and shared responsibility. We recognise the importance of listening and truth-telling as we walk and work together towards reconciliation.*



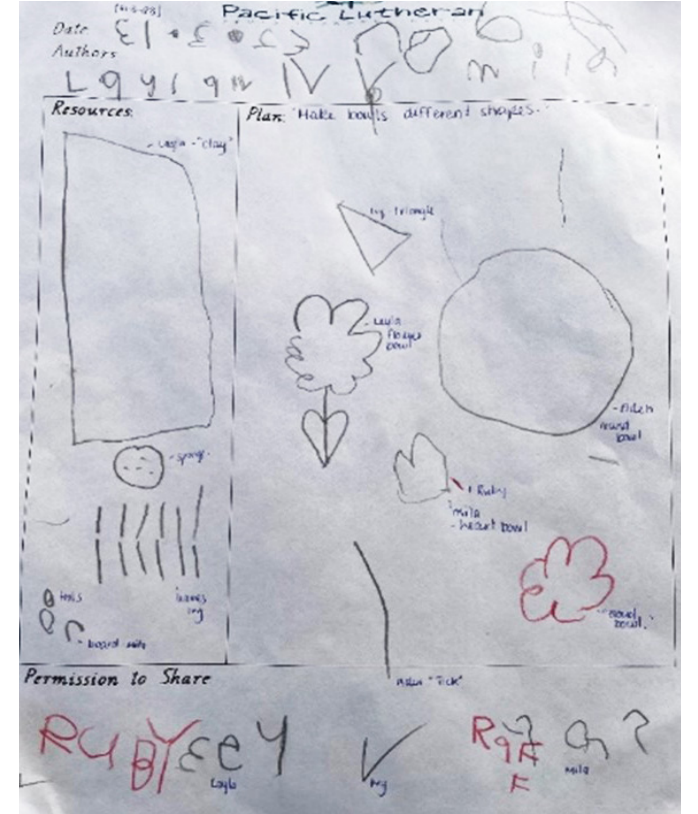
*We commit to acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land, the Kabi Kabi people. We recognise their ongoing connection to the land, their culture, and their significant contributions to our community.*





*“Children are curious and resourceful learners, with the capacity to make socially responsible choices that respect the perspective of others.”*

**- Mrs Sue Zweck**



## Our Refined Image of Child at Pacific Early Learning

**Mrs Sue Zweck, Head of Learning K-5**

One of our key mantras in our Early Learning community is upholding our shared Image of Child in everything that we do: “every day, every time, every educator and every child”. It positions children as central to all that we do and influences the decisions that are made including rituals, routines, practices and environments.

As a professional team, educators have recently done some deep reflections on our current Image of Child and have chosen to refine it to the below statement:

**Children are curious and resourceful learners, with the capacity to make socially responsible choices that respect the perspective of others.**

We regularly reflect on this statement and chosen words to see what this looks like in practice. At weekly team meetings, educators discuss the evidence that they have collected to support our vision of children as curious, respectful and resourceful learners. We also robustly discuss and identify areas where this vision may not be being upheld and strategies to create positive change.

In Studio 1, as part of our “think, say, plan, do” process the children are encouraged to share their big ideas at the morning meeting, and then work in small groups to begin recording their thinking. We have recently introduced a planning template. This planning structure encourages children to accept others into their play and to work together.

They write their own names at the top of the page to identify who is working on the big idea and plan what resources they may need to support their play. At the bottom of the page, children make a mark or write their names to show they give permission for their plan to be shared. Children can then add to other plans or revisit their own, promoting a collaborative learning environment.

**Learning environments are vibrant and flexible spaces that are responsive to the interests and abilities of each child. They cater for different learning capacities and learning styles and invite children to contribute ideas, interests and questions.**

With this in mind, we have introduced forest play to the Senior studio. Each Monday, weather permitting, Studio 2 ventures across to the College to explore the forest environment and its surrounds. This includes the forest, labyrinth and College oval. The thinking and learning that support forest play includes a look at animals and plants of the forest, and concepts such as habitats, decomposition, pollution and what it means to be socially responsible. Forest play supports many Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) and Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline (KLG) outcomes, including supporting children's strong sense of identity, connecting children with their world, helping them develop a strong sense of physical and emotional wellbeing, encouraging confident and involved learning and facilitating both verbal and non-verbal communication.





*“Music created by Pacific students so far this year has made a powerful impact across our community.”*

**- Mrs Helen Williams**

# Power of Music

## Mrs Helen Williams, Head of Instrumental Music

The Pacific Music program has a powerful impact on students' cognitive, emotional, and social development. Learning music has proven to enhance academic performance, foster creativity, promote cultural appreciation and instill valuable life skills. Pacific Music teachers, tutors and support staff encourage students to nurture their artistic talents and establish a lifelong appreciation and engagement with music.

Sixty Pacific Senior Music students began the year collaborating at the Senior Ensembles Music Camp in Dakain. The weekend was spent working creatively with peers across Pacific's eighteen ensemble groups to explore and compose music for the year ahead. It was a great opportunity for students to listen to each other through music and voice and prioritise their learning goals for each term.

Music created by Pacific students so far this year has made a powerful impact across our community. Pacific Music has been an integral part of the Caloundra ANZAC Day March, the Pacific Senior Musical Production, 'Pippin', which showcased our students' exceptional instrumental and vocal talent and to the AR component of the inaugural Sunshine Arts Fest Installation display at the Sunshine Plaza. The students

also wowed a large parent, staff and student audience with a professional and high-quality display of music at the ensembles concert in June.

In addition, Mr Paul Cusick, Acting Head of Music, has been working with many dedicated Music students to ensure a band is available to perform at Chapel each week with the emphasis on extending the repertoire and personnel so that any music students can step in to play or sing. This has been a welcome change and a huge success!

During the June break, thirty seven Pacific Music students and staff travelled to New Zealand on their long-awaited International Music Tour. The enriching experience combined visits to two music schools where students had the opportunity to engage in traditional music styles, four public performances and venues where students were exposed to many cultural experiences unique to New Zealand.

Music students worked on a wide range of repertoire and shared a piece of PLC music culture through their performances at host schools on the NZ Tour. The careful planning of the tour provided a memorable experience for students which we hope further inspires our musicians to pursue learning through the power of music.





# Outdoor Education – A Positive First Experience

## Mr Paul Brace, Head of Outdoor Education

At Pacific, we value the opportunity to engage in learning while immersed in natural environments. Our rich and rewarding Outdoor Education Program has always been a critical element of Pacific's learning philosophy, a compulsory component of the Years 3-9 curriculum. Last year the program was extended to include Year 2 where, through nature play students learnt about themselves, acquired skills to work with others and developed environmental awareness.

Following the success of the Year 2 Outdoor Education experience to Chambers Island, this year, in Term 1, Year 1 were presented with the opportunity to engage in their very first outdoor learning experience at Pacific.

Across three days in March, our Year 1 students, in their respective classes, participated in an Outdoor Learning Day which connected their constructed and natural environment curriculum with our local environment through an authentic learning experience at Buderim Forest Park.

Connected to nature and presented with experiential learning opportunities, the students explored their natural

surroundings to build shelters using tree branches, participated in a scavenger hunt, hiked to the Buderim Waterfall and jumped across the river rocks. By being exposed to the natural world, students developed a greater appreciation and understanding of the environment and experienced a positive first Outdoor Education Program at Pacific.

"We loved that we got to play in the waterfall, we got to climb over the rocks on the hike, we got to see so much incredible wildlife, we got to play tag with our friends, we got to write in our journals, we got to roast marshmallows, we got to ride in the bus, and we got to build a shelter. We also loved that we could feel, hear, see and smell all the amazing things in the great outdoors."

The Outdoor Education Program is tailored and delivered each year to enable our young people to engage in increased levels of challenges suited to their cognitive and emotional development and needs. The Year 1 Outdoor Learning Day has laid a solid foundation for further development and appreciation of our natural environments which will be explored throughout Junior and Middle College



*"We also loved that we could feel, hear, see and smell all the amazing things in the great outdoors"*





# Four Pillars of Sport

## Mr Cameron West McInnes, Head of Sport

Pacific Lutheran College provides excellent sporting opportunities for students, offering a wide range of sports.

One of the top pillar sports at Pacific Lutheran College is Basketball. The Basketball Performance Program is aligned with the Basketball Australia National Player Development Curriculum and is led by Head Coach, Mr Brad Burdon, who brings over 20 years of elite level coaching experience through which he has won numerous State and National Championships.

The Pacific Basketball Program with the additional impact and success of the PLC Basketball Academy, is one of the best on the Coast, with coaches and players setting high performance and participation goals for the upcoming Friday night School Basketball Competition and State Championships across all divisions.

*“The PLC Basketball program promotes a strong ‘family’ culture.”*

The Basketball Academy was established to train and develop the next generation of Basketball talent at Pacific. Our student athletes are trained in line with Basketball Australia COE and aims to maximise athletes’ prospects for further elite level talent identification and selection. Our Basketball athletes focus on fundamental skills, gameplay, and how to optimise their physical and mental preparation.

The PLC Basketball program promotes a strong ‘family’ culture and follows a non-negotiable acronym, ‘RESPECT’ - Respect, Empathy, Service, Persistence, Enthusiasm, Collaboration and Trust.

*“The program is exceptional under Coach Mr Burdon as he shares his knowledge and wisdom of the game each week. The Academy has enhanced my basketball skills while instilling in me the values of hard work and self-discipline. In addition, the training quality, and the environment, characterised by the hardworking coaches’ and players’ personalities, have made attending College more enjoyable, turning it into a highlight of my week. The games played by our Academy team consist of extraordinary chemistry and teamwork and having a great time, elevating the overall experience and enjoyment of the game.” - Ryhs Veizer, PLC Year 11 Basketball Academy student.*



# Four Pillars of Sport

## Mr Cameron West McInnes, Head of Sport

PLC Kayaking, led by Mr Gary Graves, is striving to build on its strong legacy of being one of the most successful kayaking programs on the Sunshine Coast.

During Term 2, the team of enthusiastic kayakers received 12 new Pacific branded kayaks with paddles. The addition of our new equipment places the PLC Kayak program in a very healthy position for upcoming training and competition. The program is well-supported and resourced, amassing an impressive fleet of over 80 kayaks. The new equipment now allows students to represent the College in doubles, singles and K4 events over 200, 500 and 1000m and compete in the new K1, C1 and C2 boats.

Our kayakers train at a world class venue at Kawana and are coached by Mr Gary Graves, PLC Kayaking Coordinator along with Mr Mark Rantel, Specialist Technique Coach. Mark was a world-class kayaker in both doubles and singles competitions, winning Australian K2 Marathon titles and representing Australia at the World Marathon Championships on two occasions. Student Kayakers and coaches have worked hard to prepare for the School Marathon Competition at the end of Term 2 where PLC was named the Champion School. Training now continues for the School Sprint Competition in Term 4, in which students have performed exceptionally well in previous years.

PLC Kayaking is an excellent place for students to develop new skills and improve their fitness levels. The unique pillar sport offers strong support and encouragement for athletes of all skill levels, ranging from individuals who have been kayaking for multiple years to students new to the sport.

*“I enjoy the PLC Kayaking program as it provides me with excellent opportunities alongside high-level training that is engaging and meaningful. Thanks to our coaches and dedicated teachers who make each training session an enjoyable and rewarding experience.” - Daniel Howard, PLC Year 12 student.*

*“Our kayakers train at a world class venue at Kawana and are coached by Mr Gary Graves.”*





# Four Pillars of Sport

Mr Cameron West McInnes,  
Head of Sport

Rugby Union is available all year round at Pacific Lutheran College, offering skill-based training and competition for beginners to advanced players with opportunities to participate in regional and interstate tours.

Mr Josh Cummins has led the PLC Rugby Program to many highs throughout the season so far and continues to grow the program each year. There is a strong focus on building the girl's program to the level at which the boys compete. This year, for the first time, a PLC girl's team competed in the Armidale Rugby Tournament. It was a solid first experience where the girls finished in the middle of their field.

Preparations have begun for next Semester's Sunshine Coast Rugby 7's and Schools Rugby 7's Competition. The message instilled at training is to play for others, give your all for the team, be reliable, play with heart and intent, and respect others in all aspects of the game. The future is bright for the PLC Rugby program with plans of an overseas tour which will provide students with the opportunity to develop game knowledge and skill whilst experiencing an international level of competition.

***This year, for the first time, a PLC girl's team competed in the Armidale Rugby Tournament.***

*"Playing Rugby 7's team for Pacific is surreal and exciting. The atmosphere when playing at the Sunshine Coast Stadium alongside teammates and with the support of the College community, especially during the big game moments, is a breathtaking experience. I am grateful to play a sport I enjoy with my friends whilst representing the College."* - Kade Herbert, PLC Year 11 student.



# Four Pillars of Sport

Mr Cameron West McInnes,  
Head of Sport

Pacific Lutheran College offers a strong and successful Netball program for students in Years 4 to 12. Students are led by highly skilled and experienced coaches and are provided with the opportunity to take part in skill-based training sessions and many competitions throughout the year.

***Students are involved in competitions offered at regional and state levels.***

PLC Netball teams are supported by experienced and skilled coaches, that includes many current representative or ex-representative netball players. Ms Michelle Dufty, a former International player and coach, leads a strong Netball program across the Junior and Senior College and has built the program to new heights over her time. Students are involved in competitions offered at regional and state levels.

This year, Pacific had our greatest number of Netball teams entered in the Sunshine Coast Secondary Schools Competition. Pacific has continued to have a number of teams competing at the finals. This year we celebrate our Senior A Girls team, as they competed together for their final year and played well to reach the semi-finals in Division 1. Seven of the students have played together under Michelle Dufty's leadership since Year 8.

Students are in training all year round preparing for several competitions - Queensland Netball Competitions, Sunshine Coast Secondary Schools Netball, Queensland Vicki Wilson, Queensland Indoor Netball, Queensland Primary School Cup, SCISSA Years 4-6 Gala Days and the Sunshine Coast Lightning Cup Years 5-6. Training and preparation consist of morning netball skill sessions, netball trials, coach sessions and game analysis discussions.

*"Being a part of the Netball program with Michelle has been very enjoyable. Michelle is an adamant coach but always pushes us to show our best on the court. The netball program at PLC has something for everyone, whether it is playing socially with your friends or playing to win premierships in the A Division. It will be great to see what our netballers do in the years to come."* Gabby Gorham, PLC Year 12 student.



*"There was 'Magic to Do' and Pacific Lutheran College's 'Pippin' did it with style!"*

**- Mrs Janine Daleny**



## PIPPIN – Just Plain **MAGIC!**

**Mrs Janine Daleny, Director**

Sell-out crowds flocked to The Events Centre on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> May to witness the 'Magic' of Pacific Lutheran College's Senior Production of the Broadway hit Musical 'Pippin'.

Audiences were amazed by the visual spectacle of the inspiring, heartwarming and wonderfully humorous story of a young man called 'Pippin' searching for the 'Extraordinary' in his life. It was a beautiful tale of discovery and delighted audience members of all ages.

The stage was alive with colourful sets and eclectic, individually styled costumes, brilliantly polished song and dance, circus tricks, tumbling acrobats, weird and wonderful characterizations, romance..... and a puppy!

Student choreographer, Lillian Atkinson enthusiastically trained the talented cast in authentic 'Bob Fosse' Broadway-style choreography and creatively added to Pippin's story with exciting dance numbers.

Director, Janine Delaney said that this musical "Has it all – warmth, humour, and theatricality like no other. To be able to direct this incredible show has been so rewarding and it has been on my bucket list for a number of years".

Our professional Band Members delighted in the intricate and diverse range of musical styles in the show and our inspired cast showcased their passion for the music with the energy they injected into every moment on the stage. The

melodies of Pippin stay with you long after the show is over!

"Evy Gover and Kai Sorbello in the Leading Roles of 'Leading Player' and 'Pippin' enthralled the audience with their engaging personalities, their interaction with each other and their beautiful vocals. The added combination of other Leading Roles and our 'Players' Ensemble made for an unforgettable theatrical experience" Mrs. Delaney said.

There was 'Magic to Do' and Pacific Lutheran College's 'Pippin' did it with style!







# Micro:bits

## Creating Innovative Digital Experiences

**Mrs Janine Stone, Head of Information Technology**  
**Mrs Nicole Schirripa, Teacher Information Technology**

This year, students in Year 8 had the opportunity to engage with the latest micro:bits and kitronik cars to learn fundamental programming techniques and life-long skills in developing and creating innovative digital solutions. The culminating activity was to produce a remote-control bumper buggy system that incorporated several techniques to adhere to game rules. This included the use of wireless communication to remotely control buggies, recognising and responding to a playing arena using a colour sensor, and recognising and responding to other buggies using electrical circuits, lights, sound, and a scoring system.

As these pocket-sized computers continue to develop at a fast pace, a range of new accessories become available, enabling students to engage in the development of a broad range of creative solutions that incorporate the use of sensors, motors, lights, and wireless communication. It is hoped that continued engagement with these micro-computers will help students develop a range of in-demand digital skills as reported by the National Skills Commission (2021), including but not limited to artificial intelligence (AI), IT Automation, Internet of Things (IoT), Application Programming

Interfaces (API), big data, and increased capabilities and confidence in the use of computers and a range of software applications.

Due to increased student interest in the micro:bits, Pacific recently purchased the Sparkfun Micro:climate kit which encapsulates a DIY weather station. This kit provides students with an opportunity to extend their learning and understanding of how digital solutions can be applied in a real-world situation. The kit allows the measurement of temperature, humidity, pressure, light, soil moisture/temperature, wind direction/speed, and rain. Furthermore, the additional use of a microSD card will allow for the collection of this data, which can then be transported and prepared for further analysis and interpretation using graphs.

Students have chosen to participate with this new technology during lunchbreaks, with the hope of collecting data to gain a better understanding of the weather patterns experienced in our local environment. We are excited to see students contribute and collaborate during this enriching learning opportunity and continue to look forward to other prospects that align with student interests and real-world applications of digital solutions.



*National Skills Commission (2021). State of Australia's Skills 2021: now and into the future – Digital Skills in Australia and internationally.*



# Emulating Hands

## Year 10 STEM Students Excel in Bionics and Prosthetics Unit

**Mr Wesley Warner, Head of Innovation, Entrepreneurialism and Business**

Pacific Lutheran College continues to foster an environment of innovation and excellence in STEM education. In line with our commitment to providing authentic learning experiences, this year our Year 10 STEM students embarked on an exciting journey to enhance their understanding of bionics and prosthetics.

As part of their capstone unit, titled “Emulating Hands,” students explored the integration of life science with robotics while developing crucial 21st century technical skills. Through this immersive activity, students gained a deeper appreciation for the combination of science and technology to reflect the mechanics of the human body.

The “Emulating Hands” activity aimed to integrate various disciplines, including life science, robotics, data science, software engineering, and mechanical and electrical engineering. By bringing together these diverse fields, students were able to develop a holistic understanding of bionics and prosthetics.

To begin their exploration, students built a sensor-enabled glove that measured flexion and extension, emulating the movement of a human finger. This glove was connected to an Arduino Uno microcontroller, which served as the interface between the glove and a customised Excel workbook. The students leveraged the graphics capabilities in Excel to visualise and analyse the real-time data input from the sensor-enabled glove.

By running trials with the sensor-enabled glove and a robotic hand, students generated ideas to improve the range of tasks the robotic hand could accomplish. The customised Excel workbook provided a dynamic platform for data analysis, allowing students to analyse the collected data on the fly. This integration of technology and data science empowered students to refine their designs and make informed decisions about enhancing the functionality of the prosthetic hand.

By connecting their sensor-enabled glove to an Arduino Uno microcontroller and a customised Excel workbook, students gained a comprehensive understanding of the constructive collaboration between the three outcomes. The Excel

workbook allowed them to explore the potential of utilising data visualisation and real-time analysis to improve the performance and adaptability of their prosthetic devices.

Through hands-on experience with the Arduino Uno microcontroller and an Excel workbook, students developed technical proficiency in sensor integration, data collection, and data analysis. Also, they acquired practical skills in programming, data visualisation, and utilising software tools to drive innovation in bionics and prosthetics.

The activity allowed our students to run trials and analyse real-time data. This in turn enabled our students to think critically and innovatively about improving the range of tasks the robotic hand could perform. They learned to identify patterns, make data-driven decisions, and propose creative solutions to enhance the functionality of prosthetic devices.

The collaborative nature of the project fostered effective teamwork and communication among students. They worked together to troubleshoot technical challenges, share insights, and exchange ideas, fostering essential skills for future collaborative endeavors.

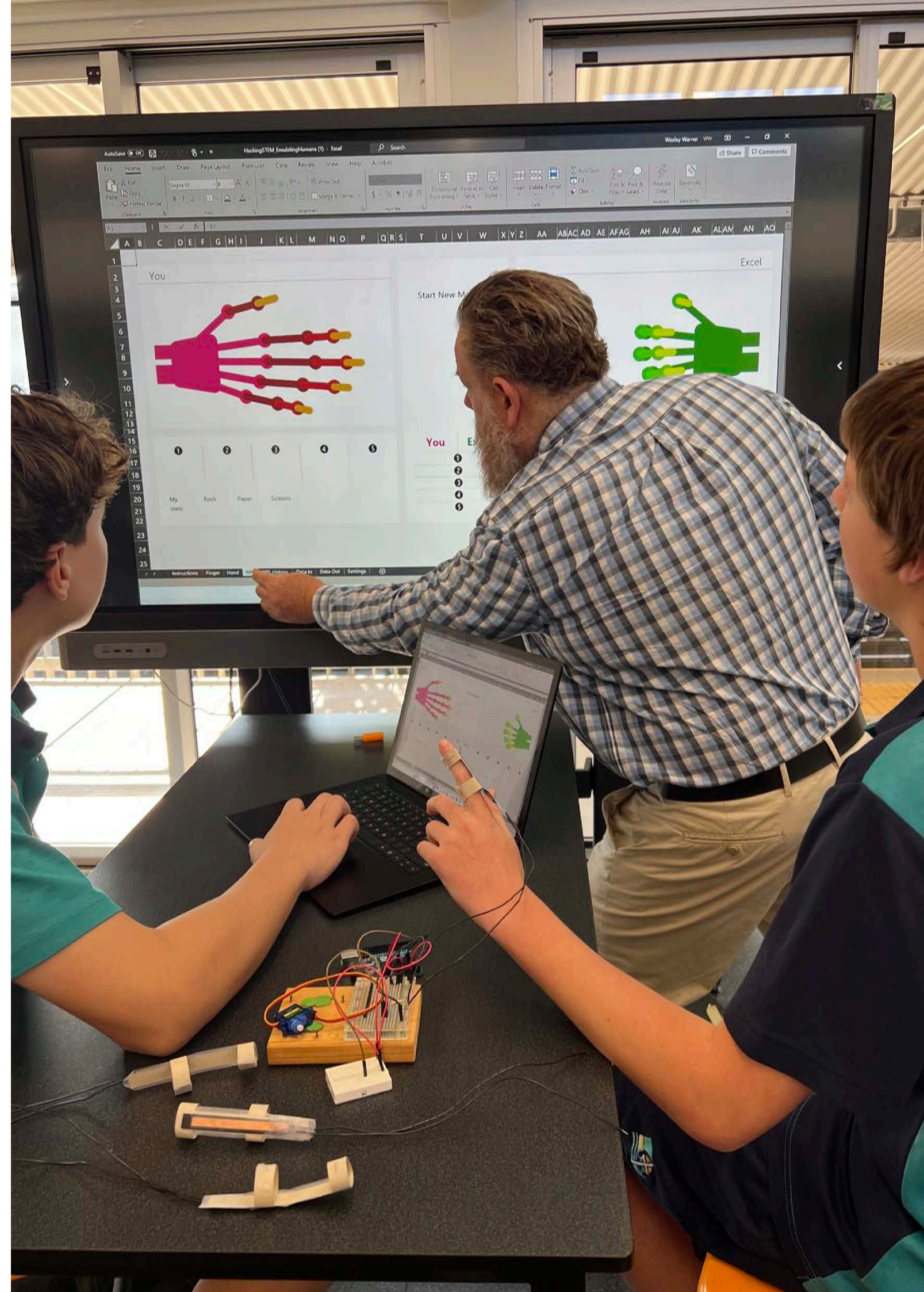
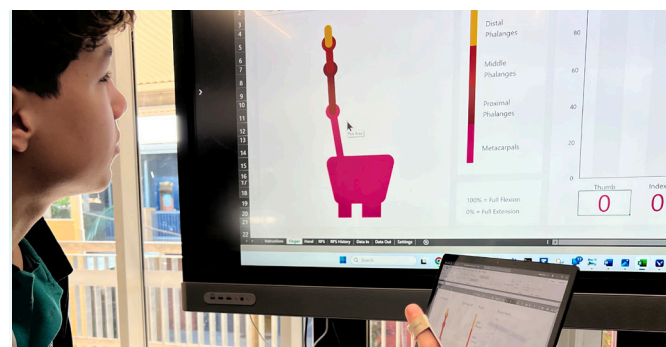
The “Emulating Hands” capstone unit displayed the dedication and enthusiasm of our Year 10 STEM students at Pacific Lutheran College. Through their commitment to integrating life science with robotics and data analysis, students embarked on a journey of discovery, enhancing their understanding of bionics and prosthetics. By developing essential technical skills and nurturing a passion for STEM, our students are well-equipped for future challenges and opportunities.

At Pacific Lutheran College, we remain committed to providing a nurturing environment that encourages innovation and excellence in STEM education. The “Emulating Hands” activity exemplifies our dedication to fostering authentic learning experiences that prepare our students for a world driven by science and technology. We are proud of the achievements of our Year 10 STEM students and look forward to continuing our journey of exploration and discovery together.

### Learning Outcomes:

The “Emulating Hands” activity provided students with numerous learning outcomes, empowering them with essential skills for their future academic and professional endeavours. Some key outcomes include:

- Integration of Life Science
- Robotics
- Data Analysis





*"Beyond Pacific aims to enhance students' confidence and sense of agency."*

**Mrs Wanda Hayes**

# A Path to **Employability**

**Mrs Wanda Hayes, Head of Career Development**



Upon graduation our students enter a complex and ever-changing world where their success will depend on their ability to articulate their strengths, talents and interests; as well as their ability to identify opportunities and position themselves to take advantage of those opportunities. We want our graduates to be well prepared for this world.

Beyond Pacific is an innovative new program developed by Pacific Lutheran College. It provides a structure that supports and encourages students to seek and capitalise upon opportunities to develop their employability. It does so by helping students not only actively select and engage with extra-curricular activities aligned with their strengths and interests, but also recognise the connections between those activities and their development of important transferable skills.

## **Real benefits for students**

Students who participate in Beyond Pacific get access to a dashboard that shows details of their activities, and their reflections on their learnings from those activities. They can refer to this information and their Awards: in their resumé, job applications and scholarship applications for life beyond school.

Beyond Pacific helps students see and understand the many ways they can benefit from their engagement with the range of extra-curricular activities on offer at Pacific Lutheran College. It also provides a framework that helps them plan their own personal development by targeting transferable skills and capabilities they will carry through to life after graduation.

Beyond Pacific aims to enhance students' confidence and sense of agency, as well as develop their ability to achieve success and make a positive contribution to their community both at and beyond Pacific Lutheran College.



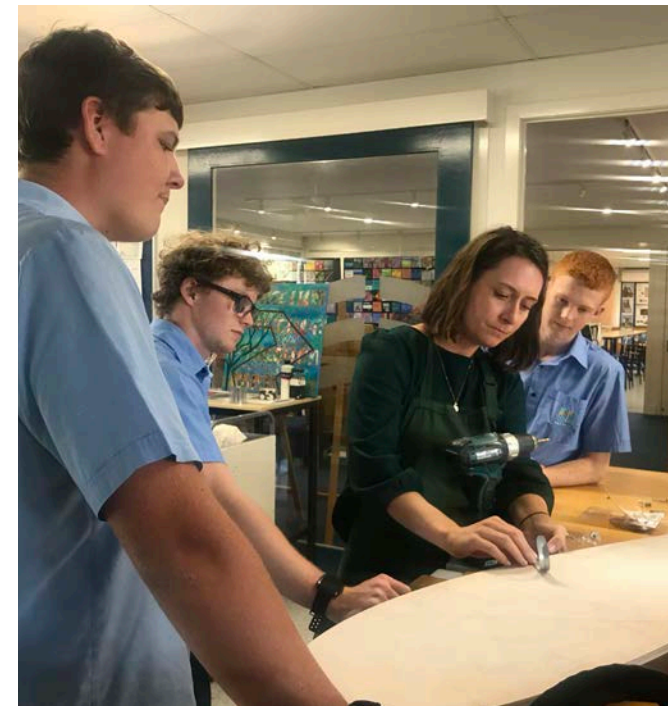
## **How it works**

Students earn points by reflecting on their participation in a wide range of extra-curricular activities, grouped into four categories that are all directly related to employability:

- Character
- Leadership
- Community
- Work Readiness

When they reach benchmarks for both quantum and diversity of their activities, students may apply for Beyond Pacific Employability Awards at 3 levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. In their application, students are asked to make connections between the activities they have participated in, and their development of core transferable skills that are valued in the workplace.





# Sunshine Arts Festival

**Mrs Marnie Whittaker, Teacher – Design and Visual Art**

Pacific Lutheran College was selected from eighteen applications to be one of six participating schools in the inaugural Sunshine Arts Fest facilitated by Sunshine Plaza held in June 2023. This high school competition was an opportunity for creative minds to connect to our local community through visual art installations with the use of augmented reality (AR). Sixteen Pacific students nominated themselves to collaborate on the project, utilising our College's strengths in Visual Arts, Design, Media, Film, Manufacturing and Music.

The installation included several concept iterations thinking about the Sunshine Arts Fest theme 'Let the Sunshine In'. Art students and creative leaders enjoyed the opportunity to learn from local Artist and Ambassador of the Sunshine Coast Arts Fest, Sarah Scully, who hosted two workshops to provide guidance through the creative process. Students were excited about the visual impact of camouflaging a donated and decommissioned piano into their installation to support their ideas of wellbeing, nature, music and sustainability. In the AR component, students included two digital layers, both film and animation to enhance interaction and audience engagement. Students encouraged viewers to reflect and dialogue about taking time outside to recharge in nature.

The Sunshine Coast community were invited and encouraged to view each participating school's art installation and vote for a 'People's Choice Award', with every vote supporting \$1 towards Headspace Maroochydore's Local Youth Art Programs.

## Artist Statement

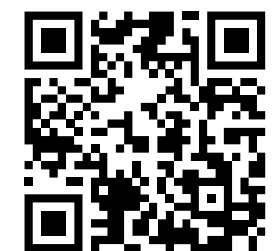
Nature and music support our wellbeing and powerfully impact our inner selves. They can motivate, excite, and relax us, illuminating our lives. The rhythm of nature sustains our

energy, just like our favourite songs, acting as a conduit to flourish. Our iconic Sunshine Coast land formations, winding trails, meandering coastlines, and glistening river systems offer us diverse experiences to absorb nature. As we step outside, we're encouraged to let the sunshine in and allow nature to be our music, nourishing our wellbeing.

**We congratulate the creative minds of the Pacific installation design -**

**Leaders:** Mrs Marnie Whittaker, Mrs Denise McMahon, Mrs Lara Masselos and Mr Paul Cusick

**Students:** Olivia Boland, Mya Boyall, Ava Brand, Cooper Darlington, Hudson Horne, Erin Lacey, Mya Masson, Samantha McVicar, Hanna Meager, Trisha Nugent, Dion Owen, Eva Pressland, Samuel Roberts, Frank Smith, Meckenzie Stanieg, Roze Stockwell, Brooke Williams and Eden Willaims



Scan the QR code to learn more.



# Celebrating 10 Year Reunion

Carl Jonsson, 2013 Graduate - College Captain

**Can you share your study and career accomplishments since graduating from Pacific Lutheran College ten years ago?**

Following graduation from PLC, I moved to Sydney and studied a Bachelor of Engineering (Materials Science and Engineering) at UNSW. During this degree, I was fortunate to complete a year-long exchange at Luleå University of Technology in Sweden, just south of the Arctic Circle. After completing my bachelor's degree, I began working as a Graduate Metallurgist in Sydney. I found this work fascinating, designing, and developing new metal alloys with improved properties for various applications.

*Reflecting on my time at Pacific, I'm most proud of how I applied myself during my years at PLC.*

However, after two years in this role, I began thinking about how many of the procedures and processes were lagging and could be drastically improved by integrating new technologies. Whilst exploring some of these alternatives, I had a fortuitous meeting with my now supervisor. I decided to head back to university and moved to Melbourne to pursue a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Melbourne.

I have now successfully defended my thesis on the "Computational Design of

Alternate Binders for Tungsten Carbide Hardmetals", where I developed a design methodology which uses multi-objective optimisation with reduced order models and evolutionary algorithms to reduce the number of experimental trials needed in new alloy development.

**What are you most proud of from your Pacific Lutheran College experience?**

Reflecting on my time at Pacific, I'm most proud of how I applied myself during my years at PLC. I was busy (sometimes even to my own detriment). Often there was barely a lunch break left where I could squeeze in some handball. But I can honestly say I extracted as much as possible from the diverse opportunities presented throughout my PLC years. From musicals and bands to kayaking and whitewater rafting in New Zealand, even Travelling to South Africa as part of a National Youth Science Forum, the breadth of experiences were vast.

**What advice do you have for Pacific students as they prepare for Semester 2?**

All the current students have already shown how incredibly dexterous and adaptable young people are. My encouragement (as I still feel too young at heart to be giving advice) for students would be to take the plunge and try something new or re-engage with an activity that may have fallen by the wayside. Engaging remotely is more accepted and accessible than ever. However, what will distinguish your journey in the years ahead are the personal connections you have made and the communities you have contributed to. But even more so, the ones you are willing to engage with in the future.

# UNSW



## Graduation 2018







# Celebrating 10 Year Reunion

## Sinead Anderson, 2013 Graduate - College Captain

**Can you share your study and career accomplishments since graduating from Pacific Lutheran College ten years ago?**

After leaving Pacific, I was determined to pursue a career in the field of mental healthcare. I embarked on my journey by enrolling in a Bachelor of Psychology program. After two years of studying, I decided to take a gap year to study theology and leadership to deepen my understanding of my Christian faith. This gap year also gave me the valuable opportunity to reflect on my choices and contemplate my future direction. It allowed me to explore various aspects of my life beyond academia, including engaging in meaningful volunteer work for remarkable organisations like Red Frogs, undertaking pastoral care roles within my local church community, and participating in a medicine and science delegation in China. These experiences expanded my perspective on mental health and wellbeing within a community context and broadened my understanding of wellbeing beyond a clinical setting. I completed my Honours degree in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, whilst completing an internship in the Grants and Sponsorships arm of the Community Services Department in local government and found the time to plan a wedding to my now husband, James. Following the completion of my degree, I began to work for The Banyans Healthcare, a rehabilitation facility offering both residential and out-patient programs that deliver therapy for those experiencing mental ill-health, dependency, stress, and burn out. I now work for The Banyans' parent company, Sana Health Group, and am incredibly proud to be part of an organisation that has a commitment to providing high quality behavioural healthcare, education around wellbeing, addiction, and mental health, and reducing barriers to receiving quality care. I'm incredibly grateful for the range of experiences

and opportunities I have had so far and deeply appreciate how they have contributed to my holistic understanding of wellbeing and mental healthcare and have shaped me as a person.

**What are you most proud of from your Pacific Lutheran College experience?**

Some of my fondest memories of Pacific revolve around the range of extra curricular opportunities that were available to us. The ability to attend Concert Band practice before the start of the school day, engage in enriching learning experiences throughout the day, and participate in netball games or musical rehearsals after school was truly a privilege. These experiences not only fostered a holistic approach to education but also embedded a passion for learning in all aspects of my life.

**What advice do you have for Pacific students as they prepare for Semester 2?**

I encourage you to cultivate a life of character, compassion, and curiosity. Embracing a life of character and integrity will not only guide your learning, development, and career growth, but also enable you to make decisions that align with your principles and positively impact your community. Showing compassion towards yourself and others fosters spaces for meaningful relationships where growth, kindness and grace thrives. Approaching your studies and experiences with curiosity by seeking learning opportunities, taking time to listen to others, asking questions, and embracing experiences out of your comfort zone, will broaden your horizons and provide opportunities you may not have considered.

# Celebrating 10 Year Reunion

## Meg Hickey, 2013 Graduate

**Can you share your study and career accomplishments since graduating from Pacific Lutheran College ten years ago?**

10 years! To sum it up simply, after 10 years of gathering ingredients, cooking, failing and tweaking the recipe, I have found myself living a relatively sustainable life as a performing artist.

After graduating in 2013, I jumped straight into studying a Bachelor of Music Theatre at the Con in Brisbane. Thanks to a cheeky accommodation scholarship and a summer's worth of income. Learned as much singing, dancing and acting as they could cram into a 3 year course while still giving us at least 6 hours sleep and uni break. Learned even more about myself and how I cope under pressure. The next four years I spent landing one solid gig or two a year and spending the rest of the year waiting tables and wondering why I had decided to pursue theatre. Eventually I found myself a consistent gig in a small speakeasy theatre in Melbourne where I could develop myself as a cabaret artist and earn a living. I've remained performing at this theatre whilst floating away on an occasional show here and there. Recent highlights include being a part of Brisbane's longest running theatre production 'A Midnight Visit', which ran for 6 months in the back end of COVID in 2021-22. At the same time, I was writing and performing my own one-woman show in the Melbourne Fringe Festival 2022. My greatest career accomplishment thus far is finally falling into a healthy work life balance. Spending large periods of my life working three days a week means I have time to cook, sometimes grow

healthy meals, clean and take care of my surroundings in an environmentally sustainable way. I am also able to spend time going slowly and enjoying the things that don't cost us and the earth as much. That is where the gold is.

**What are you most proud of from your Pacific Lutheran College experience?**

I am most proud of when we embarked on our Year 10 solo camp out in the bush. 24 hours solo in nature at that age had a positive psychological impact, cultivating seeds of trust and sovereignty. The length and intensity of the camps allowed us to develop strong connection to our bodies and the nature around us. I also appreciate and cherish playing in the school bands as well as the beautifully rich stage productions we were able to be a part of.

**What advice do you have for Pacific students as they prepare for Semester 2?**

Be kind, eat healthy food, push yourself a little bit harder than you think you can go and lean softly into the things that make you feel afraid or uncomfortable. If things are feeling good, keep finessing the things that are challenging to you; and if things are feeling too much and overwhelming, go and be alone in nature. There is always a way, your creativity will get you there and nature is our greatest connection to that source of creativity. Feel all your feelings and let them guide you. Your heart and your ability to love and take pleasure in what you do is the greatest magnet to attracting what you want and need.





# Celebrating 10 Year Reunion

## Callum De Jonk, 2013 Graduate

### Can you share your study and career accomplishments since graduating from Pacific Lutheran College ten years ago?

After graduating from PLC in 2013, I started my tertiary studies the following year at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Gardens Point Campus. I enrolled into a dual degree; a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering with Honours and a Bachelor of Business, majoring in Economics, a mouthful I know.

One of my early career goals was to be involved with companies who are changing the world we live in and fortunately, in my penultimate year of my university studies, I was offered a job with UGL Limited. I graduated at the end of 2019 after six years of study and started my first full time job with UGL as a Graduate Engineer in 2020.

Since graduating, I have been involved in large projects which have provided me with a wealth of knowledge. Most notably having worked on the Cross River Rail in Brisbane and a 330km Transmission Line Project in South Australia.

Fast forward to today and I am the lead Project Electrical Engineer for a substation we are designing and constructing in Far North Queensland. This substation will connect the new pumped hydro in Kidston, Queensland to the National Electricity Grid. This will ensure that current and future generations have access to clean, reliable, and cost-effective energy.

I am very pleased to be a part of this transformative space and for the projects that lie ahead, but mainly for how these projects will influence and support the community in the years to come.

My study ambitions have not stopped yet though. I am looking at doing my

Masters in Business Administration (MBA) to help further progress one of my career goals of becoming a Project Manager.

Aside from my work and career, my other major accomplishments include my engagement to my beautiful fiancé Bella in 2021, as well as moving into our brand new house with our two little dogs, Ralph and Apollo, on the Sunshine Coast earlier this year.

### What are you most proud of from your Pacific Lutheran College experience?

I started at PLC in Grade 5 in 2006 and got to be a part of several events, social activities, and opportunities. These included various sporting events, school camps and the breadth of education that was on offer. These all had a great impact on my PLC experience. But the proudest outcome from my journey at PLC would be the amazing friendships that were formed. These people are very close to me to this very day and I'm very thankful for that.

### What advice do you have for Pacific students as they prepare for Semester 2?

My advice to the current students as cliché as it may sound, would be to always stay curious and to not be afraid to ask someone for help, advice, or guidance. It is perfectly okay to not know everything all at once. I also encourage students not to dwell upon mistakes for too long. To this very day I am still asking the 'silly' questions and making errors. I take these outcomes, learn from them as time goes on because without doing so, I would not be who I am today.

And lastly, enjoy and have fun while you are still at school. School life does not last forever so take on every opportunity, big or small, create long lasting memories and be present in the moment.



*“The proudest outcome from my journey at PLC would be the amazing friendships that were formed.”*

**Callum De Jonk**





# Celebrating 10 Year Reunion

## Drew Russell, 2013 Graduate

**Can you share your study and career accomplishments since graduating from Pacific Lutheran College ten years ago?**

Ever since I graduated from Pacific Lutheran College in 2013, I have been on a journey to fulfill my filmmaking dreams. Since a young child at school, I had this dream and knew that it would be something I could achieve through my love for storytelling. In 2017 I graduated JMC Academy with a Bachelor Degree in Film and Television, and have since made four short films, one of which received awards nationally and internationally and one which I was able to screen at the Majestic Theatre in Nambour.

I have also been very much dedicated to helping people within the disability community. I currently work for Equity Works and Parent to Parent and am involved in numerous projects on the Sunshine Coast. One project is about presenting a new way of employment called 'Customised Employment', which I feel will have a big impact on job opportunities on the Sunshine Coast.

A fun little video of mine in 2016 received an incredible number of views on Youtube. It was called 'My Joker Performance', which was a video of me performing a monologue of Heath Ledger's Joker. The video became rather famous for the line "I'm the Joker Baby" which has had a huge impact across the globe in terms of internet memes. Fans of mine made many tributes to my performance, which then went on to feature

in a parody film called "The People's Joker" released this year for which I was invited to the Premiere by the director herself.

**What are you most proud of from your Pacific Lutheran College experience?**

The proudest thing about my time at Pacific was interacting with people and my courage to be outgoing enough to try so many different things.

I like to think I helped make a positive difference on the people I was around during my 12 years at College. I have made some mistakes, but I have learned from them and I understand that sometimes things do not go the way you plan, and you are always able to give things another go.

**What advice do you have for Pacific students as they prepare for Semester 2?**

Be outgoing, you are special in your own way. Take chances and demand the best of yourself, don't push yourself too hard but figure out what you really want in life and dedicate time to being involved in it.

Don't get bogged down by the sad, bad, and mad days. See them as a lesson for your own personal story. These days will play a big factor in who you will become. Know that you are not an Island, there are times it will feel like it, but you are never truly alone in this world. Also never stop asking for help.

# Celebrating 10 Year Reunion

## James Milligan, 2013 Graduate

**Can you share your study and career accomplishments since graduating from Pacific Lutheran College ten years ago?**

I moved to Melbourne in 2014 to study a Law and Arts Degree at Deakin University.

I enjoyed studying but spent most of my time at uni involving myself with student activism. I became active in the various social movements campaigning for marriage equality, workers' rights and climate justice. In 2017, I was elected to a leadership role in the Deakin Student Union and worked with students across Australia to advocate for accessible and affordable university education.

When I graduated in 2019, I was offered a job in Hobart, Tasmania with the United Workers Union - the union who represent cleaners, security guards and early childhood educators. This work involved representing these groups of workers in court and tribunals with disputes that had arisen with their employer.

I remained in Tasmania when COVID hit in early 2020 and started working as the in-house lawyer for the Health and Community Services Union. My greatest professional achievement has been working with the Tasmanian Health

Care workers who struggled for dignity and justice during the sharpest points of the pandemic.

Outside of work, I act as the secretary of the Tenants Union of Tasmania, a community legal centre dedicated to renter's rights and housing advocacy. I also run an events collective in Hobart called 'Pleasure Party' which hosts events in novel spaces around the city with International and local artists.

**What are you most proud of from your Pacific Lutheran College experience?**

I was fortunate to travel to Cambodia in 2012 with Pastor Paul Smith and Karen Schultz. It was so formative and inspiring to be a part of the PLC community doing such interesting and important work overseas.

I owe a great gratitude to David Simpfendorfer who instilled in me a love of complex chords and compound rhythms.

**What advice do you have for Pacific students as they prepare for Semester 2?**

There can be a lot of pressure at school to choose a career or a degree. I think if you proactively and committedly do things that you care about, then the career question will answer itself.





# Celebrating 10 Year Reunion

Michelle Kerr, 2013 Graduate

**Can you share your study and career accomplishments since graduating from Pacific Lutheran College ten years ago?**

I began my Pacific learning Journey in Year 2. Over my 10 years at Pacific Lutheran College, I had many different ideas of what I wanted to be beyond PLC. When I decided that I wanted to be a Lawyer I was met with a few hurdles, one hurdle being my selection of subjects was not aligned to Law, which would make it more challenging to settle into further study. I assumed that it would be impossible for me to become a Lawyer, however received encouragement from trusted teachers to give it a go anyway.

After graduating from Pacific in 2013, I began my studies the following year

***My time at Pacific was filled with many special moments. I am most proud of the amazing musical and drama performances that I was fortunate to be involved in along with the many cultural experiences offered.***

at the University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC) where I studied a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Development Studies and Justice Studies. It wasn't long after, I transferred into a Bachelor of Law. In 2020, following a gap year and movement throughout Queensland, I graduated from James Cook University in Cairns with a Bachelor of Law and an Associate Degree in General Studies from UniSC. I am now living in Brisbane and working in my dream career as a Lawyer.

The last 10 years have gone by in a flash and it's crazy to think that if I had listened to that little nagging voice in my head and not the encouraging voices of those around me, I would not be where I am today, where I work hard to make this world a better place.

**What are you most proud of from your Pacific Lutheran College experience?**

My time at Pacific was filled with many special moments. I am most proud of the amazing musical and drama performances that I was fortunate to be involved in along with the many cultural experiences offered. I am proud to have been present in these moments as opportunities to engage in new learning experiences only come around once.

**What advice do you have for Pacific students as they prepare for Semester 2?**

Enjoy school and don't worry too much about the future! The best lesson I learnt while at Pacific was to trust my instincts, work hard and remain calm in the busy periods. It will all work out.







Woodlands Blvd, Meridan Plains QLD 4551 **W:** [pacificlutheran.qld.edu.au](http://pacificlutheran.qld.edu.au) **P:** 07 5436 7300 **F:** 07 5436 7301

