

Issue I AUTUMN 2025

SUNSHINE COAST GRAMMAR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Growing Together

Anna Owen

Over the past few years, Sunshine Coast Grammar School has experienced remarkable growth, not just in student numbers but in the depth of our programs, the strength of our community and the vision for our future. As I walk through the campus each morning, I see the excitement on students' faces, the energy in the classrooms and the shared sense of purpose that defines our school. It is an incredible privilege to lead a school that is growing, thriving and shaping the future of education in our region.

It comes as no surprise that Grammar has become the fastest-growing school on the Sunshine Coast, given the high demand for our quality offerings. Our commitment to academic excellence, character development and a values-driven education has attracted families from across the region who are seeking a learning environment where their children can truly flourish.

Located within the UNESCO-designated Sunshine Coast Biosphere, Grammar's unique setting fosters a deep connection to people, planet and progress. Our commitment to holistic education, combined with world-class facilities and dedicated teaching staff, has seen students excel both academically and personally.

I often reflect on my first year at Grammar, walking through the grounds and feeling the deep connection between our students, teachers and community. That sense of belonging is something we have worked hard to preserve as we continue to grow and foster excellence in the next phase in our journey. Growth for us is not just about numbers, it's about ensuring that every student and family continues to feel valued, inspired and supported.

One of the most exciting developments in our recent journey has been the unveiling of our new Stage One Primary Precinct. At the start of the 2025 academic year, we welcomed Year 1–3 students into their new learning spaces, which are bright, open and designed for collaboration and curiosity. Seeing our young learners settle into their new environment was a special moment, and I had the joy of speaking with a group of Year 1 students on their very first day in the new precinct. One student, eyes wide with excitement, told me, "It feels like an adventure park!" That sense of wonder is exactly what we hoped to create.

Building on the success of our Prep facility completed three years ago, which introduced a four-stream Prep cohort, this new precinct is another step in our commitment to growing sustainably and providing world-class learning environments. Thoughtfully designed with cutting-edge technology, open-plan classrooms and natural light, it blends innovation with the beauty of our natural surroundings.

But the best part? The learning that happens within these walls and throughout our 100-acre rainforest campus. Every day, I see students exploring, creating and asking big questions – just as they should in an environment designed to inspire them.

The Sunshine Coast is experiencing growth, and as a school, we have a responsibility to plan for the future while maintaining the exceptional standards and community that have defined us for nearly 30 years. Later this year, we will complete the final stage of the Primary Precinct redevelopment with a dedicated space for students in Years 4–6. This expansion not only enhances our facilities, but also allows us to accommodate additional classes, ensuring that we continue to meet the growing demand for places at Grammar.

Our commitment to growth is not just about buildings, it's about our people – our community, our students, our families and our staff. Every decision we make is guided by our values of People, Planet and Progress. We are not just expanding; we are evolving in a way that honours our past, strengthens our present and prepares us for the future.



Celebrating Excellence

Dr Shane Weir | Dean of Curriculum

At Grammar, we have an unwavering commitment to empowering each student to strive with distinction in all that they do. Our 2024 Scholars exemplify the power of dedication, resilience and the pursuit of excellence, demonstrating that academic success is not only the result of hard work, but also of strategic support, championing learning and an innovative curriculum. This academic achievement is a testament to years of sustained effort supported by our research-informed, contemporary teaching practices and our passion for continuous improvement.

Our curriculum is designed to equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to understand and shape their world. Through active and engaging learning opportunities, we challenge each student to be creative, aspirational and focused in learning. By adopting change, seeking different patterns of critical, creative and computational thinking, and developing problem-solving skills, our students are well-positioned to address current and future challenges.

At Grammar, we know that success is built not only on individual endeavour, but also on our positive and structured learning ecosystem. Our mentoring programs and continuous reporting systems ensure students receive timely and constructive feedback to enable them to develop their skills and make enhanced learning decisions.

Our expert teachers work closely with students, fostering each student's growth potential through individualised mentoring, evidence-based instructional strategies, and state-of-the-art emerging digital tools to "assist" in optimising each student's learning outcomes.

Our Scholars have embraced the Learning Dispositions of our school: Curiosity, Collaboration, Determination, Resilience and Reflection. Their curiosity has made them question, experiment and innovate. In collaboration, they have leveraged the power of teamwork to achieve more. Determination and Resilience have sustained them in striving with distinction, while Reflection has allowed them to improve their learning strategies throughout their schooling journey.

As our 2024 Scholars begin the next phase of their life's journey, they carry with them the values and skillsets learned at Grammar. Among them are future doctors, researchers, lawyers, artists and leaders, each equipped with the ability to adapt, lead and make a difference in the world. Our mission – to inspire our Grammar community to live with passion and purpose – ensures that every student is guided to succeed, both academically and beyond.



CONGRATULATIONS

TO ALL OUR 2024 GRAMMAR GRADUATES ON THEIR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS







Laying Foundations for Lifelong Learning

Steph Ogle | Director of Early Learning

At Sunshine Coast Grammar Early Learning Centre, our Kindy program is purposefully designed to foster a strong foundation for future learning. This year, our program has expanded to include a diverse range of teacher-initiated experiences that support the physical, cognitive and emotional development of each child.

A key enhancement to our curriculum is the integration of the Perceptual Motor Program (PMP), which now features alongside our established offerings such as Playball, Tennis, Chapel, Library, Yoga and the Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) program. These experiences are strategically selected to support developmental milestones and promote holistic growth.

The PMP is particularly valuable in early childhood education as it focuses on the development of perceptual motor skills – skills that link sensory input with physical movement. For example, when a child catches a ball, they must interpret the ball's speed and trajectory, process this information, and then coordinate their movement to catch it. This interplay between perception and action is fundamental, not only for physical tasks such as sport and dance, but also for fine motor activities including handwriting and everyday tasks like dressing or tying shoelaces.

By embedding PMP within our weekly routine, we are equipping children with essential capabilities such as balance, spatial awareness, coordination and timing. These abilities contribute significantly to a child's confidence in navigating their physical environment and provide a strong basis for academic and social success in the years to come.

Our program is further enriched by the integration of key educational philosophies, particularly those of Maria Montessori and Jean Piaget. Montessori's emphasis on independence, hands-on learning and respect for the child's natural development aligns closely with our values. Similarly, Piaget's stages of cognitive development inform our understanding of how children construct knowledge through exploration and interaction with their environment.

Together, these frameworks guide our approach, ensuring that each learning experience is intentional, developmentally appropriate and responsive to the needs and interests of our young learners.

At Grammar ELC, we remain committed to nurturing confident, capable and curious learners. Through evidence-informed practice and thoughtfully designed programming, we lay the groundwork for lifelong learning and success.



Building Character through Instrumental Music

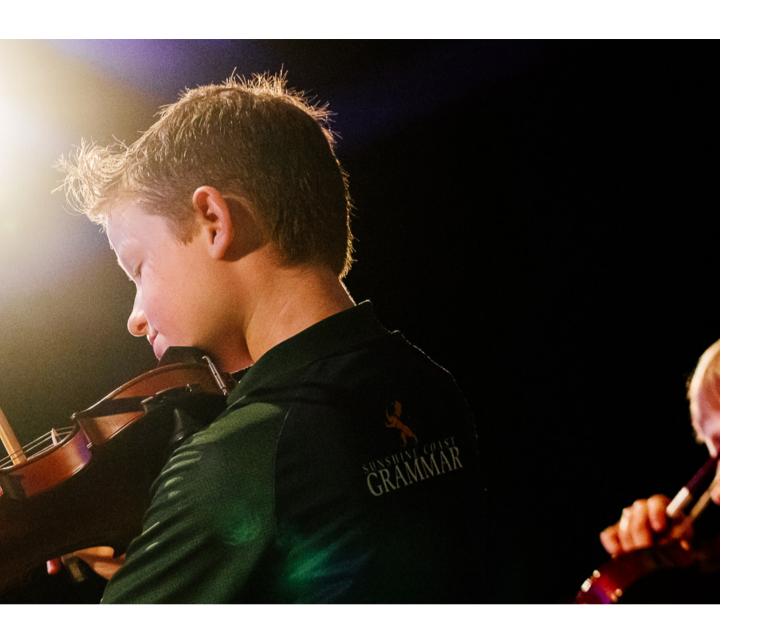
Victoria Bradbury | Director of Music Performance

Upon arriving at the Music Hangar at Sunshine Coast Grammar School, you will often be greeted by the vibrant sounds of instruments and excited students — this is the productive sound of creativity in action.

Starting with our Year 3 and Year 5 Music Curriculum Immersion Programs, we strive to provide students with an enriching music education experience led by industry experts. This immersive environment introduces students to the world of music and equips them with valuable skills that extend well beyond the classroom.

While we recognise that not every student wants to become a professional musician, we, as a department, are deeply passionate about the positive impact music education can have on the development of well-rounded, articulate and mature individuals. Through music ensemble and group playing, students learn to respect one another as individuals and work together to achieve a common goal.

Leading researcher, Dr Anita Collins from Bigger Better Brains (2025), has published literature showing how music training promotes neuroplasticity, improves cognitive abilities, and is beneficial for overall health and wellness.



Research indicates that participating in music combines intellectual rigour with physical skills to provide a form of communication and emotional release that is crucial for shaping our future.

Educators like Philip Johnston (2018) suggest that adolescents typically have a "top three" list of activities that they are deeply passionate about and want to engage in daily. While daily practice shouldn't be enforced across all activities, when music becomes a top priority, intrinsic motivation naturally drives students to practice and achieve higher creative goals.

Currently, we have 208 students from Year 1 - 6 enrolled in private lessons with our on-site music specialists at Grammar. Approximately 50% of these students continue their music studies in Year 6 after completing the immersion

program, demonstrating a strong commitment to their musical growth.

The Immersion Program offers students diverse performance opportunities, including an open rehearsal and showcase concerts. Additionally, students can participate in the Masterclass and Live @ the Hangar Concert Series, offering further opportunities to perform for a supportive audience. After completing the Immersion Programs, students can join various ensembles, including vocal and guitar groups, perform at events such as our annual Forest Fest and compete in various Queensland competitions, including MusicFest and the Sunshine Coast Junior Eisteddfod. These experiences further enrich the students' musical experiences and connect them to the wider community.



Forging Connections through Sport and Culture

Our rugby and netball teams returned from our inaugural rugby and netball UK adventure after three unforgettable weeks, which were filled with inspiring matches, rich cultural experiences and lifelong memories. Over 60 students from Years 9 to 12, supported by eight dedicated staff members, embraced the opportunity to challenge themselves on the international stage while representing Sunshine Coast Grammar School with pride.

The teams competed against some of the UK's most prestigious schools, including Strathallan School, Trent College and Millfield School. The netball teams excelled in their eight matches, displaying remarkable teamwork, strategy and determination. Similarly, the rugby team demonstrated exceptional skill and resilience across their seven fixtures.

Beyond the sporting arena, the group immersed themselves in the cultural richness of the UK and France, visiting iconic destinations such as London, Edinburgh and Paris. From exploring historical landmarks to bonding with their teammates, the tour offered a unique blend of competition and personal enrichment.

This journey embodied the values we cherish at Grammar — adaptability, teamwork, resilience and global mindedness. Students embraced the challenges presented, learning to thrive under new circumstances and forming friendships that will last a lifetime.

Scholars' Address

Teagan Van Wyk (2024)

At our Scholars' Assembly earlier this term, 2024 Alumni Teagan Van Wyk delivered an inspiring address. Teagan reflected on her time at Grammar, emphasising the importance of seizing opportunities and appreciating the support of our dedicated teachers. Teagan's words offered valuable advice to the current Year 12 students as they navigate their final year and we are proud to share Teagan's speech with our school community:

It's a little strange standing up here instead of sitting in the audience as, not too long ago, I was watching someone else deliver this very same address.

Standing here now, having finished school, I'm starting to realise how much I took my education here for granted. When you're drowning in assessment, it becomes easy to forget just how lucky you are to have this opportunity to learn, to grow and to sit in a classroom with a teacher who genuinely wants to see you succeed. Education is not something that everyone gets to experience, so don't take these next few years for granted because they are precious. Make the most of what you have here, say yes to new opportunities, get involved and don't be afraid to try something new. Trust me when I say you don't want to look back and regret all of the things you didn't do.

As you make your way through school, don't forget to appreciate the people who help you along the way. You really do have the most amazing teachers here at Grammar who deeply care about you. Their support, patience and

dedication often go unnoticed amidst the rush of exams, but they truly are incredible. They're the ones who answer your endless questions, who stay back after class to explain something just one more time, and who check in on you when you're having a hard day. So, on behalf of all of the 2024 cohort, thank you. We are truly grateful for everything you have done for all of us.

And to the current Year 12s, I know this year seems intimidating, but you are all so capable. Take things day by day, trust that you've done your very best and don't be afraid to ask for help. Most importantly, try not to let exams take over your life and make sure you enjoy your last year of school.

As Mr Archer always says, 'You can't see the forest for the trees.' Only now that I've graduated can I appreciate how right Mr Archer was. We all look forward to the end, to finishing exams, to graduation, to formal, that we forget to enjoy the now. It's the little things that make school so special: lunchtimes with friends, sports carnivals or conversations with your favourite teachers. Those are the things that I know I'm going to miss. So make sure you look after yourself, make the most of every moment and soak it all up whilst you have the chance.

Thank you and I wish you all the very best for this exciting year ahead.





Purposeful Learning

Year 4 - 6 Primary Philosophy

Nurturing Growth and Excellence in Years 4–6

Years 4–6 at Sunshine Coast Grammar School mark a pivotal time of growth and discovery. Students are supported by enriching programs that nurture curiosity and leadership, enabling students to embrace the world with confidence and purpose.

A Personalised Journey of Learning and Leadership

At the heart of our approach is a commitment to personalised education that enables every student to flourish. Languages, music and technology spark creativity and collaboration, while debating and leadership roles provide platforms for students to find their voice and inspire others. From Year 4, students explore Japanese or French, engage in specialist Digital Technology lessons, and pursue extension opportunities with a dedicated teacher. Music programs also enrich their journey, whether through the Strings Program in Year 3 or the Instrumental Immersion Program in Year 5.

At Grammar, we encourage our students to look outwards to others, and serve our community with passion and purpose. Through initiatives like Grammar Helping Hands, students are reminded that leadership is about making a difference, both in our school and in the broader community. Other programs such as SOAR (Strength, Opportunity, Aspire, Reach) inspire our students to think critically and act ethically. From navigating the Ethics Olympiad to creatively problem-solving in the da Vinci Decathlon, students are challenged to push their boundaries and celebrate the joy of learning.

A Community That Inspires Belonging

Central to the Grammar experience is the enduring sense of belonging and community. Through the Buddy Program, Year Level Wellbeing initiatives, and the House system, every student builds meaningful connections and grows as a member of our school community. Programs like URSTRONG nurture empathy and resilience, ensuring students not only succeed academically, but thrive as individuals who value inclusivity and kindness.

Foundations for Lifelong Purpose

Through the Setting Up for Success program, students develop essential skills for lifelong learning. Our Learning Assets – researching, thinking, collaborating, self-managing and communicating – are explicitly taught, enabling students to approach challenges with confidence. These years are a time to celebrate their growth as curious and adventurous learners with a strong sense of purpose.





Anna Owen, Principal | Anna Jackson, CEO Unitywater

Marching Forward: International Women's Day

Although our annual International Women's Day Breakfast was unfortunately cancelled due to weather conditions, the important event remains a moment of reflection and gratitude. We thank Anna Jackson, CEO of Unitywater, for her willingness to join us as our guest speaker and hope to collaborate with Anna in another context in the future. Her story is one of inspiration and resilience and reminds us of the incredible journey women undertake to lead and innovate.

This year, International Women's Day highlighted three essential themes. Firstly, to acknowledge and show gratitude for the many men, young men and boys who lift up their mothers, sisters, aunts and daughters. Their contribution reinforces the notion that progress is a collective effort.

Secondly, International Women's Day draws attention to the plight of women and girls facing adversity, those who live under the shadow of poverty, in regions marked by conflict or extremism, or within systems of repression. This important day serves as a commitment to advocate for these women, strengthen their voices and work on their behalf to ensure their struggles are not forgotten or ignored.

In an Australian context, International Women's Day is an opportunity to reflect on the progress we have achieved over the years while also recognising the ongoing challenges. It is not solely about gender, but more importantly about fostering gratitude and embracing the belief that success is abundant and accessible to all. We all have the opportunity to reach our potential and contribute without prejudice. International Women's Day is not about sexism, it is a day where difference is both valued and celebrated.

As previously mentioned, our highly anticipated breakfast had to be cancelled. While it was disappointing not to gather and celebrate the remarkable achievements of women throughout history and the ongoing plight for equality, we were proud to continue our partnership with a local distinguished business leader and creative designer, Zoe Kratzmann. As a result of Zoe's generosity, our community raised \$2,370 for The Forgotten Women, a grassroots initiative addressing the issue of homelessness among women over 55. This organisation seeks to provide secure, affordable housing for vulnerable women that enables them to age in place. This mission exemplifies the spirit of International Women's Day, to uplift those in need and foster a sense of shared responsibility. We are deeply thankful for our community's ongoing support and for rallying behind this well-deserved cause.

As we move forward, International Women's Day encourages us to envision a world where all women have equal opportunities to learn, grow and lead. Through collective effort, this vision can be realised and reminds us that progress is most meaningful when it is inclusive.

Anna Jackson, past parent and CEO of Unitywater, will now speak at our Mother Daughter Breakfast on 9 May.

Supporting Mental Health in our School Community

Jennifer Harsch | School Psychologist

The Psychology Service is a vital part of the wider wellbeing framework at Grammar and plays an integral role in supporting the academic, emotional and social development of our students. Comprising three dedicated psychologists, our team is committed to fostering a school environment where every student can thrive.

Recent research highlights the growing prevalence of mental health concerns among school-aged children, with anxiety disorders being among the most common. The National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing (ABS, 2022) reported that the prevalence of mental disorders in individuals aged 16–24 rose from 26% in 2007 to 39% in 2021, marking a drastic increase. Mental health challenges affect people across all socioeconomic levels, making these issues both common and relevant to all communities (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2023).

In response to these trends, our Psychology Service is committed to delivering evidence-based programs and interventions throughout 2025. Our initiatives aim to address the evolving mental health needs of our students, fostering resilience and promoting overall wellbeing.

Primary School Initiatives

- Small group and class programs Sessions focus on anxiety psychoeducation and emotional awareness, equipping students with strategies to manage their feelings effectively.
- Lunchtime Legends A welcoming, inclusive dropin activity designed to help students connect socially during breaks, promoting a sense of belonging.

Secondary School Initiatives

- Wellbeing presentations (Years 7–12) Tailored sessions developed in collaboration with Heads of Year to address topical concerns with relevance and impact.
- Service introduction for all year groups Informative sessions to familiarise students with the support available through the Psychology Service and how to access it

Research consistently highlights the importance of early intervention and a whole-school approach in promoting student mental health. By equipping students with the tools to manage emotions and challenges from an early age, we aim to foster resilience and create a supportive school environment. Addressing mental health within a school setting can enhance academic performance, improve peer relationships, and support overall well-being (Lawrence et al., 2015).

Our psychology team is dedicated to working collaboratively with students, staff and families to provide tailored support that enhances the educational journey of every learner. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the school community to empower every student to thrive, both academically and personally.

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The Power of Technology

Justin Pembroke | Head of Digital Innovation P - 10

In a rapidly evolving world, equipping students with digital literacy and technological proficiency is essential for their future success. Digital tools like robotics programs not only enhance learning, but also engage students in problemsolving, critical thinking and teamwork - skills that are vital in the modern workforce. By integrating technology into the curriculum, schools can ensure that students are prepared to navigate, contribute to and thrive in a technology-driven world.

Under the leadership of Justin Pembroke, Head of Digital Innovation (Prep – Year 10), Grammar has embraced cutting-edge technology to create dynamic learning opportunities that prepare students for the future. The results of this innovative approach speak for themselves, with our robotics teams achieving remarkable success on both state and national stages.

The school's Senior Robotics team, the Iron Lions (#24089), delivered an outstanding performance at the prestigious FIRST Tech Challenge National Championships in Sydney, earning second place overall and the coveted Innovate Award. Meanwhile, at the FIRST LEGO League National Championships in Gladstone, the Secondary team placed fifth overall and took home the prestigious Rising Star Award, while the Year 5 team, the Hydrogen Lions, achieved an impressive eighth-place finish.

The integration of the LEGO Education Spike Prime Robotics Program into our curriculum and the delivery of LEGO Education Academy Teacher Training courses empower our educators to be equipped to guide students in navigating the complexities of the digital world. Building digital literacy skills is a fundamental part of the Australian Curriculum and as we transition to Version 9 we are creating pathways to explore skills not only within digital technologies, but also within other parts of the curriculum. Learning how to use digital tools as well as the thinking skills associated with them allows students to be dynamic and to integrate where they see a need in the future.

As we continue to embrace innovative technology, our robotics program inspires students to dream big, collaborate and push the boundaries of innovation. With leading educators and a culture of excellence, Grammar is shaping the next generation of thinkers, makers and problem-solvers.

Co-Curricular Opportunities Beyond the Classroom











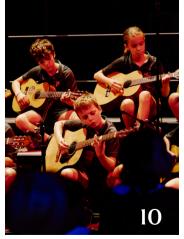












1. Year 9 Team – National Finalists da Vinci Decathlon Competition | 2. Charlie & the Chocolate Factory Musical | 3. Boys Netball Team Third Place – Vicki Wilson Cup Championship | 4. Girls Tennis Team 8th Place – Gallipoli Youth Cup, National High School Tennis Championships | 5. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 6. France Tour | 7. Rugby & Netball UK Tour | 8. Grace Brimelow – Paralympian Triathlon | 9. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 10. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 11. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 12. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 13. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 14. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 15. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 16. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 16. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 17. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival | 18. Forest Fest – Music & Art Festival



Growth through Challenge

Clint Bullock | Teacher in charge - Duke of Edinburgh

The prestigious Duke of Edinburgh's International Award continues to grow in popularity at Grammar, contributing to the development of the community and our students. With over 1,000 hours of volunteering in our second year of implementation, the program makes a tangible difference within our school and the broader Sunshine Coast community. This year, 48 students are participating across Bronze (28), Silver (14) and Gold (6) levels, spanning Year 9 to Year 12.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is an internationally recognised Framework for young people,

building their skills to equip them for life and work. By creating opportunities for young people to develop skills, get physically active, give service and experience adventure, the Duke of Ed can play a critical role in their development. The program offers three levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold and is made up of Voluntary Service, Physical Recreation, Skills and an Adventurous Journey.

Since the program's inception at Grammar in 2023, 95 students have participated. Last year, students took part in sailing and hiking adventurous journeys throughout 2024, with one student sailing from Sydney to Brisbane



for the Gold Award. Silver Award participants hiked the Conondale National Park Great Walk and the Bronze Award group explored the open ranges of the Wrattens State Forest.

The program provides a unique and individual pathway to personal discovery and growth. Through perseverance, responsibility and active engagement in community service, The Duke of Edinburgh Award empowers our students to achieve their personal best.

The success of this program is built on the support and dedication of our staff, committed students and encouraging families. Our staff have been instrumental in guiding participants through their journeys, assisting to provide invaluable opportunities for volunteering and skill development that empower our students and leave a lasting impact on our community.

Section	Hours
Volunteering	1,015
Skill	1,215
Physical Recreation	1,757
Adventurous Journeys	21 Days

Table: Summary of hours contributed by participants in 2024.



Pride and Performance

Troy Atkins | Head of Grammar Rugby Academy

Sunshine Coast Grammar School is proud to recognise several of its rugby students and alumni as they continue to achieve remarkable success on both national and international stages.

Most recently, two Year 12 students were selected for the prestigious Australian Rugby Under 16 team, competing against NSW U17 Academy in December last year. Adrian de Klerk was chosen as the starting hooker for the match, while Rohan Nichol was unable to participate due to his commitment to the recent Sunshine Coast Grammar School Rugby and Netball UK Tour.

The Australian team selection of the two Grammar Rugby players comes off the back of the remarkable achievements of other student athletes in recent years. Grammar Rugby provides a pathway for student athletes to pursue their Rugby passions and is proud to have assisted its players to advance to professional academies in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Sunshine Coast Grammar School takes immense pride in its rugby heritage and the achievements of its alumni. In 2024, Grammar Rugby had four players selected in the Australian School Rugby Squad and boasted the highest number of students from one school selected in the prestigious team. Nate Hepi, Zane Glanville and Blake Miller, along with fellow teammate Max Furniss are now playing for the Brumbies Academies in Canberra. Zac Nichol has also recently been named in the Otago U2Os squad and will relocate to Dunedin, New Zealand. Zac will play against former Grammar Rugby Captain Luke Aiken, who is in the Auckland Blues U2O squad.

Other notable Sunshine Coast Grammar Alumni who continue to excel in rugby include:

- Blake Enever Reds (2012 2014), Brumbies (2015 2020), Leinster UK (2020 2021) and Wallabies (2017)
- Tate McDermott Reds (2016 Current), Australian 7s (2017), Junior Wallabies (2018) and Wallabies (2017 Current)
- Louis Werchon Junior Wallabies (2022) and Reds (2024 – Current)
- Finn Prass Australian School and U18s (2023), Western Force U20s (2024 – Current), Under 20's Junior Wallaby squad (2025)
- Luke Aiken Australian School and U18s (2023), Auckland Blues U20s (2024 – Current)

The success of our students reflects the commitment of our staff, specialist coaches and dedicated sports programs. Sunshine Coast Grammar School has consistently nurtured talent, honed skills and instilled a sense of sportsmanship through our Rugby Academy and Roar Performance aspiring athlete program. The Sunshine Coast Grammar Rugby Academy program exemplifies the success of a school-based rugby union talent development environment, integrated within broader whole-school support, ensuring a holistic development environment for young rugby union athletes.

Head of Grammar Rugby Academy, Mr Troy Atkins, expressed his delight, "Our students' achievements exemplify the spirit of teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship that Sunshine Coast Grammar values. We wish all students every success as they represent both our school and our country."



Tech Meets Tackle -Smarter, Stronger, Faster

Ryan Papahatzis | Coaching Coordinator – Rugby

The integration of technology has become an essential tool for player development, performance analysis and strategic planning in rugby. At Sunshine Coast Grammar, we have embraced a forward-thinking approach that utilises video analysis, statistics and player-driven learning to create an environment that fosters both skill acquisition and game intelligence.

We capture footage of training sessions and matches using a VEO camera and iPads, which is uploaded to HUDL and shared with our team. Players are then encouraged to actively engage with their footage by tagging moments they want to review, ask questions and send clips back to coaches for further discussion. This creates a two-way conversation that enhances learning and reinforces key coaching points.

Through the self-reflection process, players identify a specific area they want to improve, devise a plan to address it and determine who can best support their progress. This approach fosters deeper learning by making players active participants in their growth, promoting accountability, problem-solving and the ability to translate theoretical knowledge into practical skill execution.

"My coaches noticed I needed to stay squarer with the defender when passing, and with the video footage, they were able to show me this and go into further detail on what I needed to adjust and work on in our training sessions." Charlie - Year 10

"Receiving video feedback has helped me a lot in being able to learn from my mistakes, as well as recognise what I have done well and should continue doing." Rohan – Year 12

From a coach's perspective, we code matches using Nacsport to generate a statistical report. Every game moment - from restarts, carries and breakdown efficiency to ruck speed and set-piece effectiveness - is tagged and linked directly to the relevant video. This process allows us to break the game down into measurable elements related to our game model, providing greater insight into overall performance. This approach ensures that our feedback is specific, aligned with our playing philosophy, evidence-based and actionable.

By integrating technology into our rugby program, we are equipping our players with tools that extend beyond the field. The ability to self-reflect, analyse performance and implement feedback is an invaluable skill that applies to all areas of life. As the game continues to evolve, our commitment to innovation ensures that our players are not only developing technically and tactically, but also becoming independent learners who take ownership of their journey.



Dynamic Duo Shoot for Goal

Sunshine Coast Grammar School's Netball Program continues to thrive under the leadership of Shannon Eagland and Layla Bahgat, who have been instrumental in its growth and success. They have worked tirelessly to enhance opportunities for our aspiring netballers and elevate the program to new heights.

Shannon Eagland, Director of Netball, has brought an incredible depth of knowledge and experience to the program. With a career spanning more than a decade as a professional athlete, including playing for Melbourne Vixens, West Coast Fever and Sunshine Coast Lightning, Shannon's journey has inspired our students. Her Advanced Netball Australia coaching qualifications, combined with an academic background in Science and Teaching, make her a dynamic leader.

Since joining Grammar, Shannon has implemented innovative strategies, fostering a strong culture of dedication, teamwork and excellence. She has also played a pivotal role in the Grammar Netball Academy, which provides students with advanced technical, tactical, and strength and conditioning training. Under her guidance, the Academy has become a leading pathway for developing talented athletes and helps students reach their full potential both on and off the court.

"I love being part of our students' journey, seeing their progress and growth over time," said Shannon. "It's been incredibly rewarding to contribute to their development and witness their achievements."

In addition to her contributions at Grammar, Shannon is the Head Coach of the Sunshine Coast Thunder U19 State Titles program, part of the Netball Queensland High Performance Pathway. Shannon is also Head Coach of the Sunshine Coast Regional 10-12yrs team.

The Grammar Netball Academy now stands as a premier program, offering students in Year 7–12 tailored development opportunities. Its focus includes:

- Advanced technical and tactical skills training.
- · Comprehensive strength and conditioning programs.
- High-intensity training sessions to build speed, agility and fitness.
- Access to top-level coaching and mentorship from elite netball athletes.

Layla Bahgat also draws from her own experiences in the Netball ACT High Performance pathway, ACT State teams, and NSW Premier League, and has enriched the program with her passion and expertise. Layla has played an integral role in mentoring players, supporting school and club teams, and contributing to the continued success of the Academy.

Additionally, Layla is involved in the Netball Queensland High Performance Pathway as Assistant Coach of the Sunshine Coast Thunder Ruby team who compete in the Netball Queensland Premier Netball League.

"Being a part of this community and seeing our program flourish has been incredibly fulfilling," Layla shared. "I'm proud to be part of a team that's so committed to helping our netballers achieve their goals."



Excellence in Action

Justin Abrahams | Director of Sport

Last year, our school reached an extraordinary milestone, with 19 students selected for international honours, marking the highest number in our 28-year history. Adding to this achievement, six staff members also achieved international recognition, three as athletes representing Australia and three as international-level coaches. Among these accomplishments, one student and staff member participated in the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games.

The breadth of talent within our school is impressive, with a total of 270 students representing the Sunshine Coast District, Region and State across 19 different sports in 2024.

We take immense pride in fostering an environment that empowers our student-athletes to reach their full potential through our dedicated ROAR Performance Program. The initiative is available to high-performing students and provides support in balancing their sporting and academic endeavours while maintaining a well-rounded and healthy lifestyle.

While our core focus remains on education, we proudly value and embrace the strengths outside of the classroom and recognise the heavy training and competition commitments of our students. Now in its third year, the signature Program offers support in four key areas – Academic Support, Athlete Development, Pathways and Personal Growth.

The high-level achievements accomplished in 2024 reflect the dedication and resilience demonstrated by our student-athletes and are an affirmation of the exceptional education, opportunities and support provided at Grammar.

At Sunshine Coast Grammar School, success in sport is measured by more than medals, elite level selections and the pursuit of excellence on a global stage. Success at Grammar is grounded in our values that inspire participation, foster integrity and nurture personal growth. Our sporting culture seeks to develop exceptional young individuals who contribute positively to our school and the broader community.

Representative Level	Number Involved	Number of Sports
District	139	15
Regional	99	19
State	32	13
National	19	11
	6 Staff	





New Horizons: Inaugural Italy Tour

Our inaugural Italy Tour for 20 enthusiastic History and Geography students from Years 10–12 promises to be an unforgettable two-week journey. During the Term 1 holiday break, students will visit some of Italy's most iconic cities and regions, including Milan, Venice, Florence, Rome and the Amalfi Coast. Each destination offers opportunities to delve into Italy's rich cultural heritage and diverse landscapes, providing students with an immersive and transformative educational experience.

This tour is designed to align closely with the Geography and Humanities curriculum, offering students the chance to witness historical sites and themes they have studied in the classroom. From exploring the Colosseum and Pompeii to admiring Florence's Duomo and Venice's canals, students will gain an understanding of the evolution and impact of Italian civilisation, from antiquity through the Renaissance and beyond. Through this immersive journey,

students will deepen their understanding of global issues while fostering critical thinking about cultural diversity and global citizenship.

In addition to exploring historical landmarks, the tour immerses students in Italy's vibrant cultural environment. By engaging with local communities and observing Italy's unique approaches to managing natural resources, agriculture and climate change, students will gain valuable insights into global challenges.

This inaugural tour reflects our dedication to holistic education, preparing students to appreciate the connections between cultures and societies while inspiring them to make meaningful contributions within and beyond their own communities.

Spotlight on Kelly Somerville

Director of Operations

Sunshine Coast Grammar School is delighted to welcome Kelly Somerville, as our new Director of Operations.

With extensive experience in large educational settings, Mrs Somerville brings a strong background in developing effective support systems and processes. Her move to our growing school community presents an exciting opportunity to further enrich and enhance our educational environment.

A passionate advocate for high-quality teaching and learning, Mrs Somerville is dedicated to supporting both students and educators. She was particularly drawn to Grammar's vision, Where Passion Meets Purpose, as it aligns with her values of fostering strong relationships and achieving meaningful outcomes.

Sharing her excitement for her new role, Mrs Somerville spoke about the joy of engaging with students and witnessing their enthusiasm for the extensive experiences and opportunities available at Grammar.

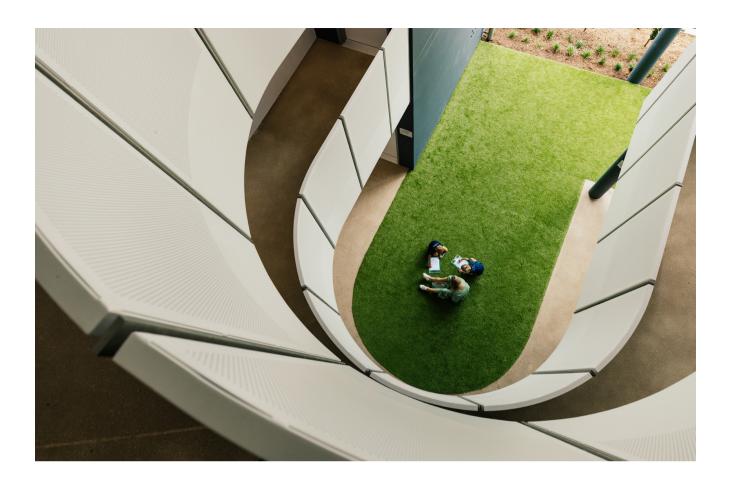
"What I love most about this community is seeing our wonderful students, staff and parents step out of their cars each morning, smiling, greeting each other, and fully embracing their 'Grammarfied' life."

Having spent over 20 years living abroad, primarily in Asia, Mrs Somerville brings a global perspective that adds depth to her approach to education and community engagement. Although her children are Australian, they are new to experiencing life in their home country. For Mrs Somerville, family is a top priority, and she looks forward to spending quality time with them while exploring the Sunshine Coast's stunning landscapes – something she has long awaited.

With her wealth of experience, deep passion for education and commitment to strengthening community connections, Mrs Somerville is set to make a lasting impact on the Grammar community.







Unveiling our State-of-the-Art Primary Precinct

At the start of the year, we proudly opened the doors to our newly completed Primary Precinct building and welcomed Year 1-3 students into their purpose-built learning spaces. The unveiling of this second phase, which is part of the school's carefully planned refurbishments, represents a significant milestone in our ongoing pursuit of excellence in education and facilities.

Our Primary Precinct redevelopment demonstrates our school's commitment to creating state-of-the-art facilities while preserving the strong sense of community that defines Sunshine Coast Grammar. The final stage of the redevelopment is set for completion later in the year and will introduce a dedicated space for Year 4–6 students.

Reflecting on the school's expansion, our Principal, Mrs Anna Owen, highlighted the importance of addressing the Sunshine Coast's growing population while maintaining the school's high standard of educational excellence.

"The Sunshine Coast is experiencing remarkable growth and our new Primary Precinct positions Sunshine Coast Grammar School as a leader in world-class education while honouring and stewarding our local community values," Mrs Owen said.

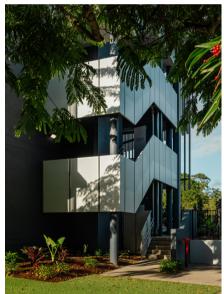
"This milestone marks an exciting new chapter for our school — ensuring we grow sustainably while preserving our strong sense of community and commitment to excellence."

Building on the success of the Prep facility completed three years ago, which introduced a four-stream Prep cohort, this latest development strengthens the school's strategic vision.

Thoughtfully designed to inspire creativity and collaboration, the new learning spaces feature cutting-edge technology and open-plan environments, creating a dynamic setting where students can thrive. The precinct seamlessly integrates innovative educational principles with the natural beauty of its surroundings, reinforcing the school's dedication to sustainability.

Our school's investment in state-of-the-art facilities underscores its forward-thinking approach to education and its dedication to nurturing future generations of inspired learners.











A Legacy for the Future

The 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games are fast approaching, with the Sunshine Coast set to reap the benefits and advancements in tourism, business, arts and inclusive transport systems. The Sunshine Coast Council has been proactive in creating a vision for the Games, identifying legacy opportunities and establishing the Sunshine Coast 2032 Legacy Plan Community Reference Group (the Group), in which two Sunshine Coast Grammar School members play a key role.

We are proud to acknowledge Mark Henricks, Dean of Co-Curriculum and Noah Hanson, Year 12 student and 2025 School Vice Captain, as members of the Group that aims to ensure the Games leave a lasting, positive impact on the region.

Mr Henricks is serving as the Sport and Active Recreation representative and has shared his enthusiasm for the Group's mission. Reflecting on the application process, Mr Henricks explained it required detailing his lifelong connection to the Sunshine Coast, his experience in sports and his dedication to the community.

"As a resident, I'm heavily invested in achieving some great legacy outcomes and I feel extremely grateful to be a member of the Group," shared Mr Henricks.

In his role, Mr Henricks advocates for inclusive opportunities, spanning from grassroots to elite sports and developing participation and active communities as well as world-class, accessible and multi-purpose sporting facilities.

As a representative of the youth voice, Noah echoed Mr Henricks' optimism and excitement to be involved in the once-in-a-generation opportunity to make a difference for young people and the broader community.

"My role is to represent young people on the Sunshine Coast, giving the council insight into how the 2032 Olympics might impact us and ensuring it's a positive experience," Noah explained.

Noahvalues the opportunity to engage with representatives from diverse communities, which he believes will help him grow as a leader. Noah is also passionate about sports and in 2024, coached multiple Sunshine Coast Grammar School AFL teams to further develop his leadership skills.

Both see potential for school students to shine, with Mr Henricks highlighting his excitement at the thought of current Grammar students competing in the 2032 Games.

"I know many who are working hard to make their dreams a reality and it is exciting to watch," said Mr Henricks.

Mr Henricks and Noah's contributions to the Legacy Plan reflect our school's commitment to leadership and community involvement. Both are excited about the opportunities this initiative will bring to the Sunshine Coast and hope it will leave a lasting legacy beyond the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



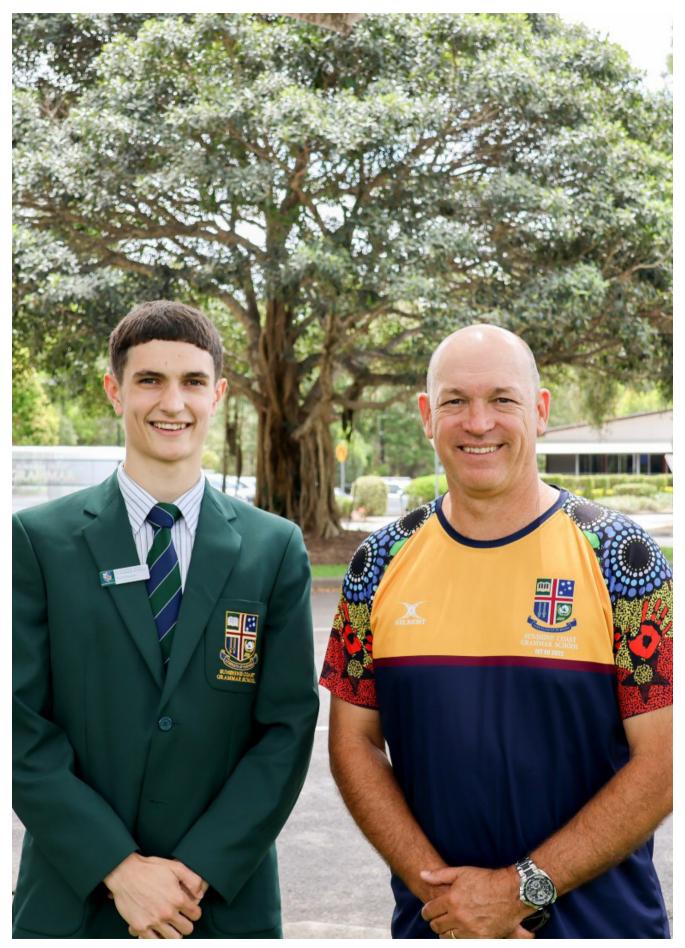
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Sustainability in Action

Ben Princehorn | Director of Community and Service

Since its establishment in 2009, Grammar Helping Hands has been the flagship service program at Sunshine Coast Grammar. The program focuses on nurturing civic-minded young individuals who dedicate their time to supporting those in need within the community. As the program has grown, so has its breadth and depth of engagement. In 2024, Grammar's service programs witnessed active participation from across the entire school community—from the youngest learners at the Grammar Early Learning Centre through to Year 12 students.

Grammar has built strong partnerships with 18 local and international charities, including Bloomhill Cancer Care, Team Adem, The Shack Community Centre Nambour, Youturn Youth Services and The Salvation Army. Beyond local initiatives, we actively support education and health projects in Timor Leste, Zambia and Vanuatu. From car washes and garden makeovers for Bloomhill clients to fundraising events, environmental workshops, beach clean-ups and donation drives, the Grammar community continues to extend its reach far and wide.

The impact of our service programs in 2024 was truly extraordinary:

- 900kg of food donations were collected to support homelessness.
- 150 local students from disadvantaged backgrounds received essential resources to start the school year.
- Over 120kg of waste was removed from local beaches to support environmental conservation.
- A new English Learning Centre in Timor Leste was established, enrolling 30 young Timorese.
- 1200 books donated to the Libraries for Vanuatu project, contributing to the creation of new community libraries.

These accomplishments are a result of the dedication of our staff and students. Over 55% of Grammar's Primary and Secondary students played pivotal roles in organising and delivering these projects, fostering enduring relationships with local and international organisations. Through our service teams, students consistently demonstrate compassion, leadership and organisational skills that inspire and unite the community.

As a school, we proudly align our community efforts with the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which provide a framework for meaningful local and global impact.

Looking Ahead

In 2025, Grammar Helping Hands continues its mission with new initiatives, including ambassadorship roles for Secondary students, the creation of the Junior Service Squad and developing connections with aged care facilities. A highlight of the year is the upcoming tour to Timor Leste, where 30 students will engage with ongoing projects and contribute to over a decade of service work in the region.

This is the fifth tour where our servant leaders have supported the local communities in Timor Leste and this year's tour welcomes a special guest - Grammar Alumni and former School Captain, Jessica Simpson (Class of 2016). Jessica, now a medical professional, requested to join the group, inspired by the positive impact of her own tour experience during her time at Grammar. Her commitment to community service has continued since graduating from Grammar and she will serve as a mentor for our participating students. Jessica's expertise and passion will undoubtedly inspire the group as they deepen their understanding of global citizenship and community support.

We recognise the valuable role our school community plays in supporting those in need, locally and internationally, and remain committed to building servant leaders who are willing to make the world a better place.





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Inspiring the Next Generation

Blake Enever (2008)

From the classroom to the rugby fields, Blake Enever (Class of 2008) shared his inspiring journey and reflected on the pivotal moments and values instilled during his time at Grammar that continue to shape his life and career.

After graduating in 2008, Blake took a gap year to work and prepare for university. In 2009, he began studying Marine Biology at the University of Queensland while adapting to life in Brisbane.

Rugby remained his passion, however, and his dedication to the sport led him to opportunities within the Queensland Reds pathway system.

"Grammar provided me with the initial exposure to the sport and I was determined to reach my potential."

This dedication led Blake to pursue rugby professionally, with career highlights including representing Australia at the 2011 U20 World Cup in Italy, playing for the Queensland Reds and ACT Brumbies, earning two Wallabies caps in 2017, and concluding his playing career with the Leicester Tigers in 2021.

"The values that rugby provides both on and off the field are immense. It's about teamwork, discipline and resilience. These are qualities that Grammar instilled in me."

Blake's journey came full circle when he secured his first coaching opportunity at Grammar alongside his former mentor, Dan Robotham, whom he describes as instrumental to his rugby success and shaping his values.

Today, Blake balances two careers, one in construction recruitment and the other running a successful rugby coaching business on the Sunshine Coast, which aims to inspire young athletes to achieve greatness locally without relocating to Brisbane.

"My ultimate goal is to show that it's possible to reach rugby heights here on the Coast."

Blake's favourite moments at Grammar were the 2007 Japan Rugby Tour, where he formed lifelong bonds with his teammates. He also fondly recalls athletic carnivals and hopes his children will experience the joy of participation and camaraderie, perhaps even helping Sturt House achieve greatness.

As a Life Long Learner, Blake credits Grammar and his teachers for instilling the drive, direction and support to achieve his goals. Now as a parent, he is excited to see his son embark on his own Grammar journey.

Navigating Success

Myfanwy Austin-Eames (2008)

From her early days at Grammar to an inspiring career that has spanned service, community engagement and event coordination, Myfanwy Austin-Eames' (Class of 2008) story is one of resilience, ambition and commitment.

Upon graduating, Myfanwy embarked on an impressive career in the Royal Australian Navy as a Maritime Warfare Officer. Myfanwy's naval career was decorated with achievements, including graduation from the Royal Australian Naval College, completing a Bachelor of Arts in History and Politics at the Australian Defence Force Academy, earning Navigation and Harbour Watchkeeping certifications and being promoted to Sub-Lieutenant. Her time in the Navy was rich with experiences, from an exchange with the Singaporean Defence Force to conducting hydrographic surveys and delivering aid relief in Papua New Guinea.

"Being part of the first-of-class flight trials for the MRH-90 helicopter in 2009 was unforgettable. It showcased the power of teamwork and innovation."

Transitioning to civilian life in 2015, Myfanwy moved into event planning, completing a Diploma of Event Management while still in the Navy. She then worked as the Events and Community Engagement Coordinator at St Andrew's Cathedral School in Sydney, managing events and fundraising campaigns.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Myfanwy and her family faced unexpected challenges while living in regional Victoria. Despite the uncertainty, Myfawny adapted by volunteering and taking on a role as Youth Engagement Officer with Local Area Health.

"It was a difficult time, but being able to help plan youth outreach activities gave me a sense of purpose. It reminded me of the importance of community."

Currently, Myfanwy is part of the Sydney Grammar School community team, focusing on alumni relations, publications, event planning and fostering connections within the school community.

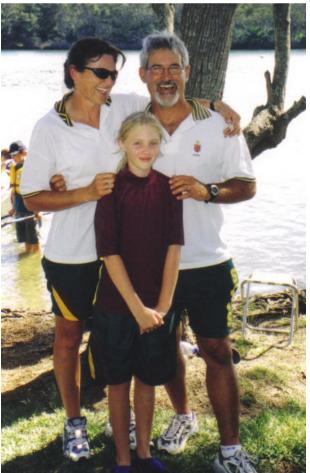
Looking back on her time at Grammar, Myfanwy shared that her favourite memory was the traditional Walk of Honour after the Graduation Assembly and her kayaking success where she represented Grammar at regional, state and national competitions.

Myfanwy's memories of her time at Grammar go beyond sports and ceremonies. She credits her Year 4 teacher, Mr Brendan Smith, for making her feel so welcome and her Senior Maths teacher, Mr Martin, for shaping her path to the Navv.

"His guidance and belief in me were instrumental in securing my Navy acceptance."

As for the future, Myfanwy aims to continue balancing her professional growth with her family life and hopes to return to planning large-scale events.







Academic Distinction

James Luu (2024)

Excellence in academics is celebrated with pride and each year, the prestigious title of School Dux is awarded to a student who exemplifies exceptional academic achievements, resilience and dedication. We are thrilled to recognise James Luu as our 2024 School Dux and celebrate his passion for learning and the inspiring future ahead of him.

We recently met with James, and he told us about his plans to become a doctor and dedicate his career to making a positive impact.

"I'm looking forward to gaining in-depth knowledge of human biology, disease, treatments and medical advances in Al. Working collaboratively with other health professionals excites me as I aim to contribute to the field of medicine," James shared.

His decision to pursue a career in medicine stems from a diagnosis of staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome at six years old and being inspired by his father's dedication as a doctor.

Reflecting on his time at Grammar, James attributes perseverance and goal setting as keys to his academic success. His strategies included taking breaks, listening to his teachers' advice and focusing on self-improvement rather than comparison.

Despite the challenges of balancing assessments and exams, as well as his physical and mental well-being, James remains determined to follow his passions.

"The key is to start early and don't leave things to the last minute. Have regular breaks and take on a side hobby to relax; it's important to take care of yourself both mentally and physically."

In the coming years, James envisions completing his medical studies and applying his knowledge to practise as a doctor who makes a real difference in people's lives. James's journey is a testament to the values that Sunshine Coast Grammar School nurtures — resilience, curiosity and a drive for excellence.

James's story is an inspiration to all students striving for success. His advice? "Don't lose sight of your goals. All your hard work will be worth it in the end."

We congratulate James on this well-deserved recognition and wish him every success in his future endeavours.



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The Power of Giving

"Giving is not just about making a donation—it's about making a difference. Through generosity, we create opportunities, inspire change and leave a lasting impact on others."

At Sunshine Coast Grammar School, the spirit of generosity continues to shape our future, thanks to the incredible support of our community. Through the kindness of an anonymous donor, our students are already reaping the benefits of a brand-new outdoor netball training precinct, which officially opened at the start of the 2025 school year. This additional space provides our academy, school and club teams with greater opportunities to refine their skills before and after school, strengthening our commitment to sporting excellence.

Remarkably, the same donor also funded the development of our fire trail upgrade, an essential addition that enhances the safety of and accessibility to our campus. These gifts made quietly and without expectation of recognition, reflect a deep belief in the value of education and student wellbeing.

In 2025, another significant philanthropic gift was received in the form of the Rembrandt Scholarship, awarded to our 2024 Dux, James Luu, to support his tertiary studies in Medicine at the University of the Sunshine Coast. The scholarship, which will support James throughout his studies, enables him to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor. Reflecting on his future, James shared:

"My future plan is to become a doctor who makes a positive impact. I'm looking forward to gaining in-depth knowledge of human biology, disease, treatments and medical advances in AI, and to working collaboratively with other health professionals."

Our Grammar Parents and Friends Association (P&F) has also played a pivotal role in shaping the school's future. In 2024, the P&F contributed funding towards a digital screen at the new Rainforest Cafeteria, ensuring our facilities continue to meet the needs of our students. Additionally, they supported the installation of new bike racks, encouraging active and sustainable transport.

Looking ahead, the Long Lunch events in both 2024 and 2025 will contribute to the acquisition of additional co-

curricular buses. These new buses will build on the success of the inaugural 2023 Long Lunch, which funded a 12-seater and 25-seater bus that have been well received by the community. These vehicles have already expanded opportunities for students to travel to co-curricular activities such as chess and robotics competitions, netball, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, as well as subject-related excursions. The addition of more buses will further enhance accessibility to these enriching experiences.

The impact of these philanthropic contributions extends far beyond the physical enhancements they provide. They represent a shared commitment to our school's vision, a commitment to excellence, opportunity and community. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our P&F and the ongoing support of our families. Together, we are building a future where every student at Sunshine Coast Grammar School can thrive.







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