

DOMMIES DIGEST

SEMESTER 1 2025



COLLEGE OPEN DAY ALUMNI TOURS

We were thrilled to welcome back around 50 of our amazing Alumni for this year's College Open Night!

After reconnecting with staff and students, our Alumni enjoyed a guided tour of the College, reminiscing about their school days and seeing how the campus has evolved. Their presence brought a wonderful sense of community and inspiration to the evening.

Thank you to all who returned, you continue to be an important part of our story!

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

- Congratulations to Luke Casserly (class of 1989) on being appointed Assistant Coach of the newly founded A-League club Auckland FC! Luke represented the Australian Socceroos at senior international level and was capped 8 times for his country. Luke also enjoyed a successful club career both in Europe and Australia before undertaking coaching. Auckland FC topped the A-League ladder after the regular season and we wish Luke all the best at his new club!
- Congratulations to Nicolas Milanovic (class of 2019) on signing with Aberdeen in the Scottish Premier League. Aberdeen are a famous club with a proud history and Nic will have the opportunity to play against big European clubs next season. Nic also won the Johnny Warren Medal this season for the A-League's best player.
- Congratulations to Willie Isa (class of 2004) on a superb professional Rugby League career. Willie recently announced his retirement from Rugby League after a handful of NRL games and over 300 games in the English Super League. Willie won 3 Super League Grand Finals and a World Club Championship at the Wigan Warriors. Willie has crossed codes to Soccer and has picked up a role with Chelsea FC working in player support and development. When he returns to Australia, Willie often comes back and visits us at the College to catch up with staff and pass on advice to our current students. We wish Willie all the best in his retirement and hope to see him back at the College next time he's back home!



- Congratulations to Ryley Smith who made his NRL debut for the Parramatta Eels against the Melbourne Storm in Round 1 of the NRL. Ryley has since played 14 more NRL games this season and continues to impress in his debut season.



ALUMNI IN FOCUS – MALAKAI WATENE-ZELEZNIAK

We are proud to celebrate the achievements of Old Boy Malakai Watene-Zelezniak (class of 2009), whose journey from professional rugby league to successful entrepreneur continues to inspire students and alumni alike. A talented athlete, Malakai played 31 games in the NRL for both the Penrith Panthers and Wests Tigers, and also represented Tonga and Poland on the international stage. Known for his determination and humility, Malakai has always remained connected to his roots at St Dominic's, often returning to speak with current students about his life beyond the classroom. Just last week he returned to St.Dom's to speak to Years 7 and 8.

Since retiring from professional sport, Malakai has channelled his passion and creativity into founding his own luxury watch brand- with his brother and fellow Old Boy Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (class of 2013). The brand W Zelezniak is rapidly growing. His transition from athlete to business owner is a testament to his drive and vision. Through his brand, he aims to inspire others to pursue excellence in all areas of life, blending style with purpose.

Malakai regularly visits the College to share his experiences with current students, offering insights into the highs and challenges of elite sport, as well as the realities of building a business from the ground up. His talks are always well-received, with students appreciating his honesty, resilience, and the practical advice he offers.

We are incredibly proud of Malakai's achievements both on and off the field and are grateful for his continued involvement in the College community. His story is a powerful reminder that with hard work and heart, our Alumni can make an impact in all areas of life.





ALUMNI NRL SCHOOLBOY CUP LUNCH

A spectacular day of League and College spirit were on full show two weeks ago when St Dom's triumphed after a hard-fought battle to take out a spectacular 14-10 win against Erindale College in Round 2 of the Peter Mulholland Cup.

The College played host to almost 100 Alumni, welcoming Old Boys back for our annual 'Back to Dom's Day'. We were incredibly fortunate to have Alumni from the original class of 1959 right up to the graduating class of 2024, enjoy the day.

College Principal, Mr Rafferty proudly accepted the Australian Schoolboy Jerseys from Old Boys Jack Attard, Jaxen Edgar and Riley Pollard, which will now be displayed with past St Dom's students who have gone on to achieve incredible sporting success, such as Nathan Cleary and Ryley Smith.

The College is incredibly grateful to Old Boy, Mav Geyer, who returned as our guest speaker to share reflections on his time at St Dom's and his journey beyond the school gates. Speaking with genuine heart, Mav captivated and entertained the audience from the outset. We also thank Mr. Ben Cummins (class of 2001), who conducted the interview - a particularly special moment, as he was one of Mav's teachers during his years at St Dom's.

Our First Grade League Team did not disappoint with their stellar performance – a nail biter that had the entire school on their feet. A huge congratulations to our Rugby League Stars who wholeheartedly deserve their incredible win and a very big thank you to our Alumni Community for coming back to the College for our annual 'Back to Dom's Day'.



ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY GOLF DAY

We are hosting our annual St Dominic's College Alumni and Community Golf Day at Leonay Golf Club on Friday, 3rd October.

Tee off will be at 7.30am with the day wrapping up after lunch. Breakfast and lunch will be provided and we will also have many great prizes on offer.

Golfers of all standards and handicaps are welcome. Sponsorship packages and player registrations will open up soon- stay tuned to our Alumni Facebook page.





INTERGENERATIONAL ALUMNI- 'THE DOMMIES FAMILY'

We love finding our three generation Dom's families and we have two more to celebrate.

Firstly, we have the Samoluk family who have a long and proud association with the College.

In the photo we have Bogdan Samoluk (1966), his son Stephen Samoluk (1992) and his grandsons Ryan Samoluk (2014) and William Samoluk (2023) all proudly wearing their Old Boy ties.

Bogdan's other son Paul Samoluk (who took this photo) is also an Old Boy (1995) who returned to the College as a teacher from 2005 to 2018 further adding to the Samoluk family's strong connection to the College!

Secondly, we have the Jerzyna family. It was a great moment at our NRL Schoolboy Cup Alumni Lunch when the Jerzyna men all attended our Alumni Lunch together here at the College!

In the photo we have George Jerzyna (1959-62), Lucas Jerzyna (1994-97) and Ryder Jerzyna (2020-23).



DOM'S BOYS GIVING BACK- NOEL MCLAUGHLIN

We were honoured to welcome back esteemed College Alumni, Noel McLaughlin - student number 47 from St Dominic's very first enrolment - during last week's Alumni Lunch.

Noel generously shared his time and incredible insights with our Year 12 Modern History and Year 10 History Enrichment class, offering firsthand reflections on the Vietnam War and the broader Conflicts in Indochina. His personal experiences brought history to life in a way that no textbook ever could.

Thank you, Noel, for continuing to inspire and educate future generations of St Dominic's Students!



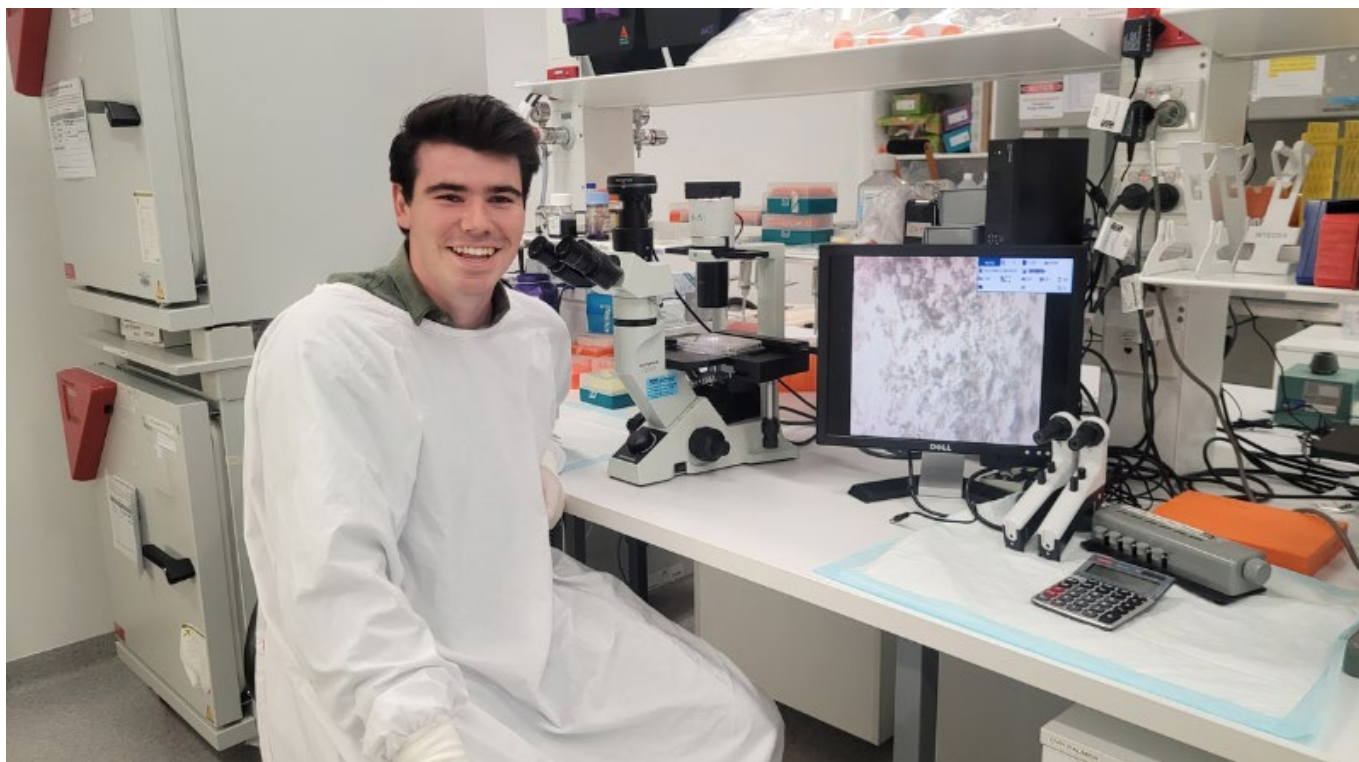


ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Old Boy Wade Bocking (class of 2018) a Research Assistant at the Centre for Immunology and Allergy Research at the The Westmead Institute for Medical Research, who has been awarded a 2025 Research and Education Network (REN) Kickstarter Grant.

Wade's research hopes to provide a new therapeutic option for those with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, particularly those who do not respond, or have adverse reactions to current treatment options.

Congratulations and good luck Wade!



VALE BARRY WALSH

It is with deep sadness that we inform our community of the passing of our former Deputy Principal, colleague, and cherished friend, Mr Barry Walsh.

Barry passed away peacefully last month, following a courageous and dignified battle with illness. Our hearts go out to his wife, Jen, and their children, Hayden and Emily, as they face this time of great sorrow.

Barry's passing represents a significant loss to the entire Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) Community. He was a man of integrity and heart, who gave of himself fully in the service of others - students, staff, and families alike.

During his time as Deputy Principal at St Dominic's College, Barry made an indelible mark on the culture and fabric of the school. His leadership was characterised by quiet strength, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the wellbeing and development of every student. Barry was instrumental in shaping a culture of respect, academic excellence, and pastoral care. He worked tirelessly to support staff, mentor young leaders, and ensure the College remained true to its mission. Whether in the classroom, on the sporting field, or in the corridors of leadership, Barry led with authenticity, humility, and a deep sense of purpose.

Beyond his role, Barry was a passionate educator, a dedicated Rugby League coach, and a steady, supportive presence to all who knew him. His calm wisdom, sharp wit, and generous spirit left a lasting impression on our community.



DOMMIES DIGEST

The enduring values of Blessed Edmund Rice - compassion, service, and justice - were not just ideals to Barry; they were the foundations of his daily work and life. He lived out these principles with quiet conviction, making a profound difference in the lives of many.

As we remember Barry and the tremendous legacy he leaves behind, we unite in prayer and support for Jen, Hayden, and Emily.

May they find comfort in the love of the community and the knowledge that Barry's impact will be felt for generations to come.

Rest in peace, Barry. You will be dearly missed but never forgotten.



VALE HUGH MCCANN

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the recent passing of Mr. Hugh McCann, a long serving teacher at St. Dom's during the 1970's, 80's and 90's.

Mr. McCann is fondly remembered by many of our current and former staff and our Alumni.





CLASS REUNIONS – SAVE THE DATE

1975 4TH FORM CLASS REUNION

Date: 22 November 2025

Where: Penrith (TBC)

Time: 6pm

Partners welcome!

Welcoming Old Boys who completed 4th Form schooling in 1975 (people that continued onto Fifth and Sixth Form are also welcome)

If you know anyone from this year group, please inform them as we would love to have as many as we can attend the evening.

For further information contact Geoff Spice- geoffspice@hotmail.com

Reunion updates will be posted on the Dommies' Alumni Facebook page.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you Old Boys on the evening!

6TH FORM CLASS OF 1968/ 4TH FORM CLASS OF 1966 CLASS REUNION

In May, the 6th Form class of 1968/ 4th form class of 1966 had a class reunion at Panthers. It was the first time many of them had seen each other in almost 60 years. They had a great turn out and shared many a story from their days at Dom's!

1972 CLASS REUNION

Recently the Class of '72 had a great luncheon in Canberra on Election Day at the historic Kurrajong Hotel, followed by a wreath laying ceremony and Last Post at the Australian War Memorial, arranged by Old Boy Colonel Michael Goodyer (Retd.).

ALUMNI MERCHANDISE

We are pleased to announce that we are now ready to sell our first range of Alumni Merchandise. We have:

- Alumni Coffee Mugs- \$25
- Alumni Drink Bottles- \$25
- Alumni Polo Shirts- \$50
- Alumni Jerseys- \$100

We will be selling our merchandise at our Alumni events. We will also look to open up sales here at the College on select days in the lead up to days like Father's Day and Christmas.





ALUMNI BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The College will soon be launching an Alumni Business Directory, a new initiative designed to connect and support our Alumni and the wider College community.

This online directory will showcase businesses owned and operated by St Dominic's Alumni, making it easy for families, staff, and fellow Alumni to discover and support trusted services and enterprises. From trades and professional services to creative ventures and hospitality, the directory will highlight the diverse talents and achievements of our Alumni.

The initiative aims to strengthen community ties, encourage collaboration, and celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit of our graduates. It's also a great way for current students to see the many paths available after school.

We will soon be inviting Alumni to submit their business details and be part of this growing network. The directory will be accessible via the College website and updated regularly. More information coming soon!

ALUMNI FACEBOOK PAGE AND REGISTRATION

We are currently in the process of building an Alumni database with the aim of having up to date contact details so we can keep people connected to the College through Alumni events, newsletters, updates etc.

If you have a spare 5 minutes please fill in the below Alumni registration form:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=OQS6ucAo9kit7cK24xMvU5vmeEpDaS1JtX_qID0yJ-VUMklHNkhKVEk5UTZGQVU2UEhUR0czR0tJNy4u

Please also give our Alumni Facebook page a like and a follow. It will keep you up to date with all Alumni news and events: www.facebook.com/stdominicscollegekingwoodalumni

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

If you would like to share any Alumni news with us please send us an email at alumni@stdominics.nsw.edu.au