

# DOMMIES DIGEST

SEMESTER 1 2026



## ALUMNI NRL SCHOOLBOY CUP LUNCH

### **BACK TO DOM'S DAY ALUMNI LUNCHEON CELEBRATES CONNECTION, COMMUNITY AND SCHOOLBOY CUP TRADITION**

St Dominic's College was delighted to welcome Alumni from across the decades for our annual 'Back to Dom's' Day NRL Schoolboy Cup Alumni Luncheon, held on the 10<sup>th</sup> June at the College.

Representing graduating classes from the original Class of 1959 through to the Class of 2025, an impressive gathering of Old Boys returned to reconnect with friends, share memories, and enjoy a fantastic day of football and community spirit.

A highlight of the event was welcoming former student and Parramatta Eels First Grade player Ryley Smith as our guest of honour. Ryley reflected on his time at St Dominic's and shared insights into his journey from the College to professional rugby league. We are incredibly grateful for Ryley's ongoing support of our Rugby League Program and the positive influence he continues to have on our students.

We also extend our sincere thanks to Murray Conallin (Class of 2003) and Ben Cummins (class of 2001) for hosting the event. Murray has built an outstanding career in the media industry and currently serves as Senior Multimedia Producer for Channel 9's Wide World of Sports whilst Ben is a current staff member of the College.

The NRL Schoolboy Cup clash provided plenty of excitement, with St Dominic's narrowly defeated 22–20 by Hunter Sports High in a thrilling contest. After trailing at halftime, our First Grade side showed tremendous determination and resilience to fight their way back into the match, earning the admiration of all in attendance.

Our Back to Dom's Day continues to be a great celebration of the strong bonds that unite generations, both on and off the field.



## ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

### PETER TRACEY

Congratulations to Old Boy Peter Tracey (class of 1987) who has been appointed to the Board of the Penrith Panthers as a Director. Peter was the College Vice Captain in 1987. [Click here](#) to read the Western Weekender article



### BERNIE FEHON

Old Boy Bernie Fehon (class of 1981) brought business leaders together for a special Leadership Lunch in Penrith last month. This unique event connected CEOs, business owners and emerging leaders from across Western Sydney to share ideas, build relationships and shape the region's future. [Click here](#) to read the Western Weekender article.



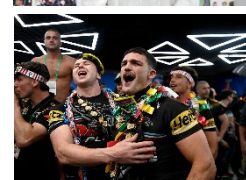
### RYLEY SMITH

A great article on Old Boy Ryley Smith and his return to St Dom's last month as special guest at our Alumni lunch! [Click here](#) to read the Western Weekender article.



### NATHAN CLEARY

Congratulations to Old Boy Nathan Cleary (class of 2015) on his 200th NRL game in Round 6 vs the Bulldogs! Unfortunately, the Panthers went down 32-16 on his big night. Click here to read the Western Weekender article. [Click here](#) to read the Western Weekender article.



### LIAM PHILLIPS

St Dominic's College Alumni Liam Phillips (Class of 2023) recently featured in the Western Weekender and Nepean News for playing College Basketball in the USA. The article details his journey and early career in Australia. Congratulations and all the best with your basketball career in the US Liam!



### LUKE ROONEY

Congratulations to Old Boy Luke Rooney (class of 2001) on being recently inducted as a Penrith Panthers Legend! Fellow Old Boy Peter Graham who is the Club Chairman of the Panthers called him to inform him of his award. Luke enjoyed a stellar career winning a premiership with the Panthers in 2003 as well as representing both NSW and Australia. Luke joins another Dom's Old Boy Greg Alexander as a Panthers Legend!



### LUKE HANSON

Congratulations to Old Boy Luke Hanson (class of 2021) who made his NRL debut for the New Zealand Warriors against the Knights in Round 3. Luke scored a try on debut and played a key role in the Warriors 38-12 win.



### COBY CARRUTHERS

Congratulations to Old Boy Coby Carruthers (class of 2022) on officially earning his PGA Australasian Tour card in Golf for the 2026/27 season! We look forward to seeing his success on the tour!





## ALUMNI IN FOCUS – STUART AYRES (CLASS OF 1996)

St Dominic's College has a proud tradition of producing graduates who make significant contributions to their communities, industries, and public life. Among those alumni is Stuart Ayres (class of 1996), whose career has spanned sport, business, government and community leadership.

Before entering politics, Stuart established a successful career in sport administration, marketing, and business development. His work with sporting organisations and educational institutions gave him valuable experience in stakeholder engagement, strategic planning, and community development.

In 2010, Stuart Ayres entered the New South Wales Parliament as the Member for Penrith following a historic by-election victory. His win represented one of the largest swings against a sitting government in NSW political history and marked the beginning of a significant parliamentary career.

Over the next thirteen years, Stuart became one of the most prominent representatives of Western Sydney in state politics. He quickly rose through the parliamentary ranks, initially serving as Deputy Government Whip before taking on a range of ministerial responsibilities.

Throughout his time in government, Stuart held several important ministerial portfolios, including: Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Premier on Western Sydney, Minister for Sport, Minister for Recreation, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for WestConnex, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade

Stuart was also a strong advocate for Western Sydney, supporting major infrastructure initiatives, economic development opportunities, and investment projects designed to improve employment, transport, and community outcomes across the region.

Throughout his parliamentary career, Stuart remained closely connected to the Penrith electorate. He consistently championed local infrastructure projects, sporting facilities, educational opportunities, and economic development initiatives.

His strong advocacy for Western Sydney reflected his belief in the region's potential and his desire to see local communities receive the investment and recognition they deserved. This commitment helped establish him as one of the most influential political voices for the area during his time in office.

After serving as the Member for Penrith from 2010 until 2023, Stuart concluded his parliamentary career following the 2023 NSW election. His departure marked the end of more than a decade of public service in the NSW Parliament.

Today, Stuart Ayres continues to contribute to the future development of New South Wales through leadership roles in key industries.

In 2024, he was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) NSW, the state's leading development industry body. In this role, he works closely with government, industry, and community stakeholders to address housing supply, urban development, infrastructure planning, and the creation of vibrant communities across NSW.

In 2025, he was also appointed Independent Chair of the NSW Tourism Association, bringing his extensive experience in tourism, major events, and economic development to support one of the state's most important industries.

Stuart Ayres' journey from the classrooms of St Dominic's College to senior leadership roles in government, sport, tourism, and urban development demonstrates the impact that dedication, service, and ambition can have on a community.

As a proud Old Boy, he has regularly returned to the College for Awards Evenings and Assemblies over the past few years. Stuart's career reflects the values of leadership and commitment that continue to inspire current students and fellow Alumni. His achievements across multiple sectors serve as a reminder of the diverse pathways available to St Dominic's graduates and the positive difference they can make in society.

The St Dominic's College community is proud to recognise Stuart Ayres as one of its distinguished Alumni and wishes him continued success in his ongoing contributions to New South Wales and the wider Australian community.







## COLLEGE OPEN DAY ALUMNI TOURS

Our College was delighted to welcome a number of former students back through our gates during this year's College Open Night for a special Alumni Tour.

The evening provided a wonderful opportunity for past students to reconnect with their alma mater, revisit familiar spaces, and see firsthand how the College has grown and evolved since their graduation. Alumni were guided through the campus, exploring new facilities, learning about current programs, and sharing memories of their time at the College.

A highlight of the evening was hearing stories from our former students as they reflected on their experiences, achievements, and the lasting impact the College has had on their lives. Their journeys since leaving school served as an inspiration to prospective families and current students alike.

The Alumni Tour also reinforced the strong sense of community that exists within our College. It was wonderful to see friendships rekindled, former teachers reconnect with past students, and multiple generations of families sharing in the College experience.

We thank all of our alumni who attended and contributed to making the evening such a special occasion. Your continued connection to the College is greatly valued, and we look forward to welcoming many more former students back to future events.

## 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, 2nd 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'

At the beginning of the year we welcomed the newest addition to our three generation Dom's families - the Vella family!

On the left we have Luke Vella (graduated 2003), his son Braith who just started Year 7 and their Dad/Grandad Charlie Vella (graduated 1980).

A very proud Dom's family!





## DOM'S BOYS GIVING BACK- ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

### Cooper Hill

St Dominic's College proudly celebrates Old Boy and 2020 College Captain, Cooper Hill, on his graduation as a Doctor of Medicine.

Cooper's journey is one of perseverance, humility and purpose. From his days as a student leader at the College to now walking the corridors of a hospital as Dr Cooper Hill, his story is a powerful reminder of what is possible through hard work, resilience and the support of community.

A proud Wiradjuri man, Cooper has spoken openly of the importance of family, culture, friendship and representation in shaping his path. Raised in Western Sydney by a single mother, Cooper embodies the belief that "you can't be what you can't see" - and now stands as a role model for future generations of young people, particularly Indigenous students.

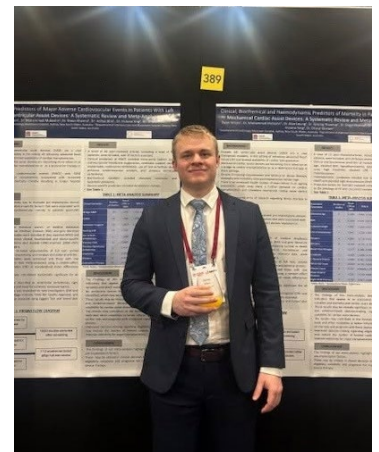
The St Dominic's College community congratulates Cooper on this remarkable achievement and wishes him every success as he begins this next chapter of service, leadership and impact in medicine. We are incredibly proud of you, Dr Hill



### Dylan Wilson

Old Boy Dylan Wilson (College Captain 2021) is currently in his final year studying Medicine at Western Sydney University. Recently, he attended the 73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand in Brisbane, where he presented co-authored review research into cardiac health. The abstracts of the research were subsequently published in the Heart, Lung and Circulation journal which publishes academic articles integrating research and clinical activities in the fields of basic cardiovascular science, clinical cardiology and cardiac surgery, with a focus on emerging issues in cardiovascular disease. Following the publication, Dylan was invited to present his findings at the 2025 European Society of Cardiology Congress in Madrid, Spain.

Dylan's efforts while at St Dominic's were admirable. He made significant contributions to College life academically and in co-curricular activities and then faced the challenge of the protracted lockdown impacting his HSC. His focus and pursuit of excellence has continued in his medical studies and we wish Dylan all the very best as he completes his Medical degree later this year.



### Joshua Haydon

The achievements of our Alumni in the medical fields keep coming!

In the Nepean Blue Mountains Health awards for 2025, Old Boy Joshua Haydon (class of 2019) was awarded the Allied Health Early Career Award for providing high-quality, safe and compassionate healthcare across all stages of life.

This week Josh was named a finalist in the NSW Health Excellence in Allied Health Awards for 2026. In his role as a hospital physiotherapist, Josh has worked across ICU, the orthopaedic fracture clinic, hydrotherapy, and geriatrics. We wish Josh all the best for the NSW Health Awards in March







## ALUMNI TO WATCH IN THE NRL

With NRL season 2026 well underway now we thought we'd give you a list of St.Dom's Alumni who are in NRL squads that you can follow closely this season:

Penrith Panthers - Nathan Cleary, Jaxon Edgar

Wests Tigers- Mavrik Geyer, Jack Attard

NZ Warriors- Jett Cleary, Luke Hanson, Dallin Watene-Zelezniak

Cronulla Sharks- Liam Ison, Riley Pollard

Melbourne Storm- Shaun Blore, Joe Chan, Keagan Russell-Smith

Parramatta Eels- Ryley Smith

Brisbane Broncos- Mason Teague

... and of course you can listen to Old Boys Brad Fittler and Greg Alexander on Channel 9 and Fox Sports respectively!



## CLASS REUNIONS – SAVE THE DATE

### DOMMIES' EARLY YEARS REUNION – SAVE THE DATE!

Were you part of the first decade of students at St Dominic's College? We're inviting our early Dommies community to reconnect at the Early Years Reunion on 8 August 2026.

This special event will bring together the first ten cohorts of students, from those who attended between 1959 and the class that completed the 1973 HSC and 1971 School Certificate. No matter when you started or finished at Dommies during these years, you are warmly invited to attend.

The reunion will be held at Penrith Paceway, with the opportunity to return to the College for a tour and see how much the campus has grown since opening in 1961.

If you're interested in attending or would like more information, please email [SDCReunion26@gmail.com](mailto:SDCReunion26@gmail.com).

Please help us spread the word by sharing this with former classmates, friends and family from those early Dommies years.



**YOU ARE INVITED**  
**EARLY YEARS' REUNION**  
**8 AUGUST 2026**

For all enquiries, please email [SDCReunion26@gmail.com](mailto:SDCReunion26@gmail.com)



## 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 Footballs \$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 by [clicking here](#).

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/stdominicscollegekingswoodalumni](https://www.facebook.com/stdominicscollegekingswoodalumni)

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

If you would like to share any Alumni news with us please send us an email at [alumni@stdominics.nsw.edu.au](mailto:alumni@stdominics.nsw.edu.au)