



**DUNMORE
LANG
COLLEGE**

Located on the Wallumattagal
Campus of Macquarie University
dunmorelangcollege.nsw.edu.au

Ngarra

To listen (in Dharug)

Edition 18
2026



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Acknowledgement: Dunmore Lang College acknowledges and respects the Dharug people as the traditional custodians of the land where our College is located and where our students live. We pay our respects to elders past and present as the knowledge holders and leaders in the community.

Dunmore Lang College is committed to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultural and spiritual relationship to the land, waters and seas.

Cover image:

O-Week 2026.

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papermonkey.design

Out & About

p40

"The College is at capacity, and our community continues to go from strength to strength. Every day, I am reminded of what a warm, friendly, and welcoming place Dunmore Lang College is..."

Welcome

Welcome to the 18th edition of *Ngarra*, our annual Dunmore Lang College magazine. With Dr Alasdair Murrie-West on sabbatical, I have the pleasure of writing this year's introduction. The College is at capacity, and our community continues to go from strength to strength. Every day, I am reminded of what a warm, friendly, and welcoming place Dunmore Lang College is, and I feel privileged to share this community with my family.

Over the past year, we have been working on two essential projects within the College. Firstly, our response to the National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence (National Code); and secondly, renovations to our student bathrooms. These two projects are very different in focus; both are important to fostering a prosperous residential community and reflect our ongoing commitment to supporting the wellbeing, safety, and success of our students.

National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence (National Code) (see p.11)

As of 1 January 2026, the College and Macquarie University have formalised their obligations under the National Code through the implementation of our Whole-of-Organisation Prevention and Response Plan. This reinforces our commitment to doing everything possible to prevent and minimise gender-based violence within our community.

While fostering a safe and respectful environment has been a longstanding priority for the College, this process provided a valuable opportunity to formally document the extensive preventative education, training, resources, and support systems that have been developed over many years. Our approach is focused on equipping students with the knowledge, skills, reporting pathways, and support services they need, while ensuring clear and effective responses when incidents occur.



The College remains committed to being a leader within the residential college sector. Our response is an ongoing and living document, and central to this commitment is the student voice, which continues to inform our approach, strengthen our responsiveness, and drive ongoing improvements in the prevention of gender-based violence.

Further information, including a copy of our Whole-of-Organisation Prevention and Response Plan, is available on the Dunmore Lang College website.

Renovated Bathrooms – A Summer Project (see p.34)

Following the successful replacement of the College roof in 2024, we turned our attention to the next major infrastructure project: the complete renovation of the thirteen bathrooms in the original 1970s building.

This was a significant undertaking, with just eleven weeks available to demolish and rebuild all thirteen bathrooms before students returned for the start of the academic year. My sincere thanks go to Alasdair, Selina Hiew (DLC Board Director), and the team at Maxam & Co, whose dedication and hard work ensured the project was delivered on time and to an exceptional standard. The positive response from students moving into College in February has been a testament to their efforts.

All the best,

Emily Itto
Deputy Principal



O Week 2026

One of the highlights of the year here at Dunmore Lang College is O-Week! It's an amazing week of activities, challenges and events that gives everybody a chance to meet one another and get a taste for what life is like at College.

This year the Association of Dunmore Lang College Students (ADS) planned "RetroO-Week" for the incoming students. Jam-packed with throwback music, 90s costumes and a disco dance challenge, students were able to enjoy a retro-inspired week together.

During O-Week, students took part in a range of activities designed to help them explore the College, connect with campus and discover Sydney, while building friendships and working together through team challenges and competitions.

Highlights of the week included a sunset boat cruise around Sydney Harbour, tours of the university, a beach trip to Manly, but most importantly social activities at College to get to know each other.

O-Week is the perfect time to meet new people, explore your new home at Dunmore Lang College and create lasting memories!

*Nina Smedley, 2026 ADS President,
Wiradjuri Country*



Commencement Dinner 2026

Welcoming new and returning students into the College community

The 2026 academic year at Dunmore Lang College began in tradition and celebration with our annual Commencement Dinner. An evening designed to bring together both returning and new students as they officially begin their journey at College.

The first formal dinner of the year kicked off with the presentation of awards and scholarships, recognising the academic achievement and contribution of our students.

Alongside those presented at our Valedictory Celebration, these awards bring the total number of scholarships offered for the 2026 academic year to 40+, reflecting our commitment to equity, opportunity, and diversity.

The evening also displayed the talent at Dunmore Lang College with a musical performance from scholarship holder and Resident Adviser, Lizzy Meadows, adding a warm and reflective tone to the night (read more about Lizzy's journey on page 10).

A highlight of the event was a keynote address from Dunmore Lang College alumna and Board member, Selina Hiew, who returned to share reflections on her journey since her time at College, and the lasting impact it has had on her life and career. Selina reflected on the formative role College played in her early life, from independence and community to opportunity and connection.

"Take your time here at College to decide who you want to be and what future world you want to live in. Use this time to build the confidence and courage to take those steps," Selina said.

The warmest welcome to our 2026 community and all the best for the remainder of the year.



THE COMMENCEMENT DINNER SETS THE TONE FOR THE YEAR AHEAD,
CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY,
AND WELCOMING STUDENTS INTO LIFE AT DUNMORE LANG COLLEGE

Scholarships

	RECIPIENT	LOCATION
Macquarie University Advantage Accommodation Scholarship 2026	<i>Lachlan Weir</i>	Dubbo, Wiradjuri Country
	<i>Charlie Rice</i>	Bourke, Ngemba Country
	<i>Luc Bates</i>	Scone, Wonnarua Country
	<i>Madison Rae</i>	Broken Hill, Wilyakali Country
	<i>Grace Davis</i>	Windradyne, Wiradjuri Country
Undergraduate Entrance Scholarship	<i>Juliet De Marco</i>	Griffith, Wiradjuri Country
	<i>Kate Ferguson</i>	Orange, Wiradjuri Country
Dunmore Lang College / Country Education Foundation Scholarship	<i>Sophie Kensit</i>	Dunedoo, Wiradjuri Country
	<i>Ashley Robinson</i>	Widgelli, Wiradjuri Country
Principal's Award	<i>Abbey Hall</i>	Wombat, Wiradjuri Country
	<i>Imogen Hanrahan</i>	Manly, Gayamaygal Country
	<i>Behrad Nekoufar</i>	Shiraz, Iran
	<i>Amelia Cregan</i>	Orange, Wiradjuri Country
	<i>Lily Bull</i>	Armidale, Anaiwan Country
Rotary NSW Scholarship	<i>Imogen Hanrahan</i>	Manly, Gayamaygal Country
OPTUS Indigenous Student Accommodation Scholarship	<i>Jye Brown</i>	Campbell Town, Dharawal Country
	<i>Xander Britt</i>	Backalls Park, Awabakal Country
Displaced Students Trust	<i>Kosta Topor</i>	Carlton, Gadigal Country (Originally Ukraine)
	<i>Nestor Lemza</i>	Redfern, Gadigal Country (Originally Ukraine)

Academic Excellence Awards

	RECIPIENT	LOCATION
Academic Award, Faculty of Arts	<i>Clementine Monet</i>	Tamworth, Kamilaroi Country
Academic Award, Macquarie Business School	<i>Dahlia Abbas</i>	Griffith, Wiradjuri Country
Academic Award, Faculty of Science and Engineering	<i>William Milne</i>	Oakdale, Dharawal Country
Dean Frost Memorial Prize	<i>Abbey Hall</i>	Wombat, Wiradjuri Country
Walanga Muru Second Year Academic Achievement, Session 2 2024	<i>Georja Bennett</i>	Darlington, Gadigal Country
Walanga Muru Community Engagement and Contribution Award 2025	<i>Kristen Martin</i>	Muswellbrook, Wonnarua Country

Thank you to Macquarie University, Rotary NSW, Country Education Foundation and OPTUS for your contributions and commitment to helping our students. We are always welcoming new partnerships: if you'd like to partner with Dunmore Lang College, please reach out to Deputy Principal, Emily Itto, at deputy.principal@dlc.nsw.edu.au

Imy's Story

Finding Community Through Global Experiences

The Rotary Club of North Ryde Scholarship has been a valued part of the Dunmore Lang College community since around 2010, acknowledging the long standing relationship between Dunmore Lang College and Rotary North Ryde. We have continued to grow our connection over the past 15 years, with Rotary North Ryde holding their regular meetings at the College.

Each year, the Rotary Club of North Ryde awards a scholarship to a Dunmore Lang College student who is undertaking international study as part of their degree reinforcing Rotary's focus on accessibility and global learning opportunities.

In 2026, the Scholarship was awarded to Imogen Hanrahan (Imy), a Commerce and International Studies student whose journey so far has been shaped by curiosity, independence, and a deep appreciation for global connection. From travelling and working overseas, to building a strong sense of community at Dunmore Lang College, Imy's experience reflects the spirit of international understanding that the Scholarship aims to support. Living alongside students from around the world has not only expanded her perspective, but also created lasting friendships and opportunities that continue well beyond campus life.

Here, Imy shares her story in her own words:

My Journey So Far

Over the past few years, I've been incredibly fortunate to spend a lot of time travelling and experiencing different parts of the world. I graduated high school in 2020, and completing my HSC during COVID, entirely from my bedroom, definitely left me questioning what I wanted to do and where I was going.

So instead of rushing straight into university, I took a different path. After a year of working and saving, I followed my best friend to Edinburgh, where I spent six months travelling between Europe and the UK. It was overseas where I actually ended up applying to Macquarie University, coming back to Australia only two weeks before starting my degree.

Since then, I've continued travelling during my university breaks, including trips to Bali, New Zealand, Japan, and back to Europe. But for me, these experiences have never just been about travel. They've been about learning how to adapt, how to connect with people from completely different backgrounds, and how to become more independent and open-minded.

One of the most impactful parts of my experience these last few years has actually been at home, in Australia, living at Dunmore Lang College. Being surrounded by students from all corners of the earth, from rural Australia to Rio de Janeiro, has shown me just how powerful this kind of community can be. One where people support each other, share perspectives, and build friendships that cross cultures.

"This opportunity will allow me to immerse myself in a completely new environment, academically, socially, and culturally..."



My Exchange in Gothenburg

Next semester, I'll be undertaking my exchange in Gothenburg, Sweden, which I'm incredibly excited about. This opportunity will allow me to immerse myself in a completely new environment, academically, socially, and culturally, and continue building a broader global perspective. I also see it as an opportunity to represent Australia, and to bring my own experiences into a new context while learning as much as I can from others.



The Rotary Club of North Ryde Scholarship

This Scholarship is incredibly meaningful to me, not only because it supports my mum and I financially, but because it represents belief in the value of education, opportunity and global connection.

Growing up with my mum and sister, I was inspired by how hard my mum worked to give us the life we have. She taught me to aim high, stay driven and make the most of every opportunity. This Scholarship reinforces my responsibility to do exactly that while embracing values that align closely with Rotary, particularly community and international understanding.

When I first started university, I was living on the Northern Beaches, working part-time and studying full-time, often feeling isolated as I moved between work and study with little sense of community. That changed when my mum and I discovered Dunmore Lang College.

Having previously balanced work, study and independent living, Dunmore Lang felt like a little bit of paradise. It gave me the stability and support to focus on my studies, continue working towards future opportunities, and feel a genuine sense of belonging. The practical support of College life made a bigger difference than I ever expected.

That support helped me thrive academically, improving from a credit average in my first semester to achieving a distinction and three high distinctions in my most recent semester.

More than anything, living at Dunmore Lang College has shown me the power of community. It has motivated me to continue growing while contributing to the communities I am part of, both here and abroad.

Looking Forward

Looking ahead, I hope to use these experiences to build a career that is internationally focused and people-oriented. More importantly, I want to continue fostering meaningful connections, contributing to communities, and sharing what I learn along the way.

I see this Scholarship as not just supporting my education but shaping the kind of person I become. Someone who is globally aware, community-minded, and committed to making a positive impact. I want to sincerely thank the Rotary Club for the support that has enabled me to continue living on campus and focus on making the most of my studies and opportunities.

"I see this Scholarship as not just supporting my education but shaping the kind of person I become."



The Rotary Club of North Ryde Scholarship is just one example of the life-changing opportunities made possible through the generosity of

our supporters. We extend our sincere thanks to the Rotary Club of North Ryde and to all donors whose contributions help students access experiences that enrich their education and broaden their horizons.

If you are interested in supporting future Dunmore Lang College students through a donation or would like to learn more about giving opportunities, please contact Emily Itto, Deputy Principal, at deputy.principal@dlc.nsw.edu.au

Life at College

First Impressions



Luc Bates

*First Year Exercise and Sports Science Student,
Scone, Wonnarua Country*

Q What made you decide to move away from home and come to Dunmore Lang College?

Home is almost a four hour drive away, so I knew I'd need to move out for university. The social side of Dunmore Lang College really stood out, it seemed like such a good place to meet people and properly get involved in uni life. I have also stayed at College twice before on university camps (Walanga Muru's Rising Stars and Camp Aspire) and thoroughly enjoyed the space and what it has to offer.

Q What was your first week at College like?

My first week was honestly so welcoming. It was pretty hectic, but everything was really well organised and there was always something going on. There was a whole range of icebreakers, like team games and trivia. This made it really easy to meet people straight away, along with other O-Week activities that were all about making you feel welcome, included, and comfortable. It was a lot of fun and felt like home way quicker than I expected.

Q Have you made any close friendships since moving in? What has that been like?

Yeah, I've made a lot of close friendships already. It's been such a good experience having people around who are going through the same thing. It just makes everything more fun and a lot easier.

Q What advice would you give to future students who are thinking about moving away from home and living at College?

Just go for it. Be open, say yes to things, and put yourself out there. It might feel a bit overwhelming at first, but it honestly settles so quickly and ends up being such a great experience.

"It's been such a good experience having people around who are going through the same thing."

Luc

"College gave me exactly what I wanted and everyone was so friendly straight away."

Brock

"Each person brings their own unique personality that makes the living experience so fun."

Tia

Q&A



Brock Crossingham

*First Year Cyber Security Student,
Hanwood, Wiradjuri Country*

Q What made you choose to move away from home and come to Dunmore Lang College?

Both of my siblings lived at DLC for most of their University degrees, they gave lots of support and assured me that DLC is one of the best places to be. I ultimately moved to gain a sense of independence and freedom.

Q What helped you settle in the most?

Honestly settling in wasn't overly difficult. College gave me exactly what I wanted and everyone was so friendly straight away.

Q How would you describe the College community so far?

I love it. It's got a good balance of involvement but also having time to yourself.

Q What has surprised you most about College life?

How much support there is. Everyone here is so nice!



Tia Davidson

*First Year Primary Education Student,
Dubbo, Wiradjuri Country*

Q How did you feel in the lead-up to moving out?

I was really excited about moving to Dunmore Lang for months before I moved. I was looking forward to meeting everybody and being a part of the great community that College has.

Q How would you describe the College community so far?

The community here is incredible. Each person brings their own unique personality that makes the living experience so fun. The committees work so hard to create fun events for us all which creates such an incredible community.

Q What advice would you give to future students thinking about moving away from home and living at College?

My biggest piece of advice is to be yourself and engage in the College community. Being yourself is what makes up College, you make so many friends that you have the most fun with. The best part about being yourself at College is there is something for everyone. The different events and committees that are offered cater to all different interests and fun!

Q How has living at Dunmore Lang College impacted your university experience so far?

My university experience has been so fun. I get to live with all of my friends while also not having the stress of needing to cater for myself and have extra responsibilities. The resources that College provides, like tutors, is a massive help to university work.

Finding Connection Through Music

Lizzy Meadows at Commencement Dinner



"People can live without a lot of things, but music connects people. It takes you back to certain moments and memories."

For Resident Adviser (RA) and Macquarie Advantage Accommodation Scholarship recipient Lizzy Meadows, music has always been a way of creating connection as much as performing.

At Dunmore Lang College's Commencement Dinner, that connection was brought to life when she performed *The Night We Met* by Lord Huron. Lizzy had been working on the piece for nearly two years after first hearing it in the television series *13 Reasons Why*. Over time, it became a song she returned to regularly.

"It's one of those songs that everyone can relate to in some way," she said. "It brings back memories of meeting people for the first time and wanting to experience those moments again."

For Lizzy, the song held particular meaning in the context of College life, reflecting the experience of arriving at Dunmore Lang College and forming instant connections.

"When I first came to DLC from Dubbo (Wiradjuri Country), I felt like I already knew people somehow," she said. "It suited commencement because it reflects those first introductions and the beginning of College life."

Although audiences saw a calm performance on the night, Lizzy admitted she still feels nervous before performing.

"I struggle with nerves sometimes," she said, "but playing piano helps because I can focus on the music and not the audience. There's a real sense of serenity when I play. It feels really personal."

That sense of serenity became even clearer during a recent visit to Circular Quay, when Lizzy stopped at a public piano overlooking the Opera House and began to play. What started as a casual moment quickly drew attention. When she finished,

she looked up to find strangers clapping, with one woman quietly recording from the crowd.

"It made me realise music really is a gift," she reflected. "People can live without a lot of things, but music connects people. It takes you back to certain moments and memories."

At College, music has also become part of how Lizzy connects with others in her role as an RA. Whether casually playing guitar or talking with residents about shared interests, it often acts as an easy starting point for conversation.

"Music gives people something to connect over," she said. "It becomes an icebreaker without you even trying."

Looking back, Lizzy says she was inspired by watching older students perform at her first Commencement Dinner.

"I remember thinking I could never do that," she reflects, "but over time I realised it's about putting yourself out there and not being too hard on yourself."

Now, she hopes younger students feel encouraged to do the same.

"No one focuses on your mistakes," Lizzy says. "People are just impressed you had the courage to do it."

A current Finance and Actuarial Studies student, Lizzy does not plan to pursue music professionally, but hopes it will remain an important part of her life, whether through orchestral performance or casual playing. Above all, she hopes her music continues to create moments of connection.

Our Commitment to Preventing Gender-Based Violence

Creating a community built on respect, inclusion and safety is central to life at Dunmore Lang College.

In 2026, the College undertook its first formal evaluation of gender-based violence (GBV) education across the student community. The survey explored students' understanding of GBV, awareness of support services and confidence in responding to concerning behaviours in a residential setting.

The results show that our education programs are making a meaningful difference.

96%

of **new students** reported a **clearer understanding of GBV** following the training.

99%

of **new students** indicated they **know how to access support services**, both internally or externally, if they or someone else experiences GBV.

100%

of **student leaders** reported **increased confidence** in recognising concerning or unsafe behaviour, including GBV.

85%

of **returner students** indicated they know **how to access support services**, both internally or externally, if they or someone else experiences GBV.

"The College remains committed to being a leader within the residential college sector. Our response is an ongoing and living document, and central to this commitment is the student voice, which continues to inform our approach, strengthen our responsiveness, and drive ongoing improvements in the prevention of gender-based violence."

Emily Itto, Deputy Principal



Above: Resident Adviser Training 2026.



Left: GBV Harassment Contact, Angel, with RespectX noticeboard.

From Country Tracks to the World Stage

When first-year Dunmore Lang College student Hayne Dawson first watched BMX (bicycle motocross) racing on television as a young child, he immediately knew it was something he wanted to pursue.



"I saw it on TV when I was about four, and my parents told me I was obsessed. I've wanted to do it ever since," he said.

Now, more than a decade later, that childhood dream is becoming reality. In July 2026, Hayne will line up against the world's best riders at the UCI BMX Racing World Championships in Brisbane, the sport's biggest event. For a rider who first started on a bike at the age of four and began racing competitively at ten, it's a moment years in the making.

Growing up in Calala, near Tamworth, Hayne's opportunities to train were limited. While his passion for BMX was strong, there was only one local track available to ride. Moving to Sydney to study a Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science and live at Dunmore Lang College has transformed both his training opportunities and university experience.

"Back home, I only had one track available," he said. "Now I have access to eight or nine tracks across Sydney, and every one brings something different."

The move has also brought him closer to the resources needed to compete at an elite level. With access to better training facilities, specialised coaching and a wider BMX community, Hayne feels he has been able to take another step forward in his development.

His talent first became apparent when he was around 12 years old, when he qualified for a state final in New South Wales. Since then, he has competed at state and national level, winning state titles in 2025 and finishing third at the National Championships in consecutive years.

Preparation for the World Championships has required another level of commitment. Hayne trains on the track four times a week, spends three to four sessions in the gym, and works closely with his coach, who has guided him for the past five years.

The biggest challenge isn't always on the bike.

"Having people around you who are always willing to support what you're doing makes a big difference. It's been great having a community around me while pursuing my dream."

"Sometimes it's the early mornings," he said. "I start work at 6am, so some days I'm training at 4am before work."

Competing in BMX is as mentally demanding as it is physical. Races are typically over in just 30 to 40 seconds, but those seconds are packed with intensity.

"It's full contact. Riders are trying to get past each other, crashes happen, and there's a lot going through your head when you're lined up with seven other riders at the gate."

Yet when the gate drops, Hayne focuses on keeping things simple.

"I try to clear my head and think of nothing except the gate."

While training and competition often mean sacrificing social events and nights out, he sees those sacrifices as worthwhile.

"It's a good sacrifice to achieve my goals."

Settling into life in Sydney has also been made easier by the supportive community at Dunmore Lang College. Living alongside students from a wide range of backgrounds has provided both friendship and encouragement, while the College's location has helped him balance the demands of study, work and training.

"Having people around you who are always willing to support what you're doing makes a big difference," he said.

"It's been great having a community around me while pursuing my dream."

That dream will reach a major milestone when the World Championships arrive in Brisbane. With the event being held in Australia for the first time in 17 years, Hayne will have the rare opportunity to compete on home soil, surrounded by family and friends.

For him, simply earning a place on the start line is already an achievement.

"It means everything. It's what I wanted as a kid," Hayne states.

Rather than focusing on results, Hayne is determined to embrace the experience and enjoy the moment.

His long-term goal is to remain involved in BMX beyond his racing career, combining his passion for sport with his studies in Exercise and Sport Science. He hopes to work in athlete performance, coaching and biomechanics, helping future athletes reach their potential.

Reflecting on the lessons BMX has taught him, Hayne points to resilience above all else.

"You learn to keep going even when you don't feel like it. If you're having a bad day, you still show up and do the work."

And if he could speak to the four-year-old boy who first watched BMX on television and dreamed of one day competing on the world stage:

"Keep going," he said. "You're smashing it."



National Leadership Forum



Each year, the College sponsors a number of students to attend the National Leadership Forum in Canberra. The four-day programme brings together young leaders from across Australia, offering opportunities to engage with Members of Parliament, business leaders and changemakers, while exploring what leadership looks like in practice.

In 2025, Dunmore Lang College students Molly Jinks, Marcus Ryan and Nina Smedley attended the forum, returning with fresh perspectives on leadership, community and personal growth. They reflect on their experiences...

"Being surrounded by individuals with different experiences, ambitions, and perspectives challenged me to think beyond my own assumptions..."

Molly



Molly Jinks

Leura, Dharug and Gundungurra Country

Looking back on my time at the Forum, what stands out most is the people I met and the conversations we shared. Being surrounded by individuals with different experiences, ambitions, and perspectives challenged me to think beyond my own assumptions and consider new ways of approaching leadership and impact. One of the things that has stayed with me is how openly people spoke about both their successes and their struggles. It was a reminder that leadership is not about having everything figured out, but about being authentic, adaptable, and willing to keep learning in order to serve others.

In hindsight, the Forum came at a valuable time in my personal and professional development. It gave me space to reflect on what motivates me and the kind of contribution I want to make in the future. I left with a greater appreciation for the importance of listening, building meaningful relationships, and being intentional about the opportunities I pursue. More than any single session or speaker, it was the collective energy of being around people who were passionate about making a difference that has continued to influence how I think about leadership and my own future direction.

I was really thankful to College for providing me with this opportunity and it is not an experience that I will soon forget. Rather, I have carried the lessons I learned from the forums in both my professional and personal capacities.



Marcus Ryan

Calala, Kamilaroi Country

The National Leadership Forum was much more than a leadership conference; it was a week of learning about myself, my values and the kind of person I aspire to be. It challenged me to think beyond academic success and taught me skills that aren't always developed in school or university, such as the importance of genuine communication, servant leadership and intentional reflection. Taking the time to pause, consider different perspectives and think critically about my own values was one of the most valuable lessons I took away from the experience.

"You look at what you've learnt and how you've grown rather than just the things you've achieved."

Marcus

A talk that stood out the most to me was from the Not-For-Profit Organisation, RAW Impact. RAW Impact is an organisation dedicated to building schools and homes while supporting the development of a strong education system in remote parts of Cambodia, where I was fortunate enough to volunteer at in a coverage trip earlier this year. It reinforced the idea that leadership is about creating opportunities for others and making a tangible difference within communities.

What I love about the National Leadership Forum is that there are so many opportunities available after you leave. You make genuine, life-long friends and develop strong connections to amazing people and organisations doing incredible things.

Looking back, the Forum is surprisingly difficult to describe because its greatest impact isn't tied to any one speaker or activity. Before attending, I often approached school, sport and other commitments as just another box to tick before moving onto the next thing. However, the Forum teaches you how to slow down and properly reflect on experiences. Topics discussed throughout the week can consistently be revisited, and you look at what you've learnt and how you've grown rather than just the things you've achieved. That mindset has stayed with me and continues to shape how I approach new opportunities.

Nina Smedley

Orange, Wiradjuri Country

What has stayed with me most from the Forum is the people I met. Spending time with participants from a wide range of backgrounds reminded me how quickly first impressions can be challenged. Despite our different experiences and aspirations, we formed genuine connections through our shared curiosity and willingness to learn from one another. Those conversations encouraged me to look beyond my own perspective and appreciate the value of diverse ideas and experiences.

The Forum also featured an inspiring range of speakers from politics, business and sport. One presentation that particularly resonated with me was from Audette Exel, who spoke about using finance as a tool to improve maternal health outcomes around the world. Hearing how leadership and professional expertise can be used to create meaningful social impact challenged me to think more broadly about the purpose of leadership and the different ways we can contribute to our communities.

Since returning home, I have found myself reflecting more intentionally on the kind of leader I want to become. The Forum reinforced that leadership is not simply about holding a position of authority, but about serving others, building meaningful relationships and making a positive contribution wherever you can. It encouraged me to be more deliberate in how I approach opportunities and the impact I hope to have, both professionally and personally.

"The Forum reinforced that leadership is not simply about holding a position of authority, but about serving others, building meaningful relationships and making a positive contribution wherever you can."

Nina

If I had to describe the National Leadership Forum in three words, they would be engaging, different and motivational. I am incredibly grateful to Dunmore Lang College for providing me with this opportunity. It is an experience that continues to shape the way I think about leadership, community and my own future.

If you are interested in supporting future Dunmore Lang College students to pursue such opportunities, please contact Emily Itto, Deputy Principal, at deputy.principal@dlc.nsw.edu.au

From Fossils to the Future

*Sally Hurst on Representation,
Rural Access, and Reimagining STEM*

"So many of the opportunities I've had came from just asking. It's something I always tell students now: be brave enough to ask."



Dunmore Lang College alumna Sally Hurst is proving that science is about more than discovery — it's also about connection.

Now a palaeontologist and archaeologist at Macquarie University, Sally has been recognised internationally with the 2026 Zonta Women in STEM Award. This award celebrates women aged 18–35 advancing innovation and knowledge in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics), with each recipient awarded \$10,000 USD to support their work.

For Sally, the award journey began with encouragement from a friend and senior lecturer at the University of New England who recognised the impact of her work and urged her to apply — a decision that ultimately took her from local recognition to an international stage.

Beyond the title, the award will help expand something central to Sally's work: making science more accessible. Much of her outreach — from school visits to fieldwork workshops — has often been self-funded, limiting how far she can reach.

"The main aim has always been to get more people into science, particularly kids from rural and remote communities," she says. "It's about getting out there and actually talking to people."

That commitment has shaped her research approach as well. Alongside fieldwork in palaeontology, Sally has studied how field schools operate, gathering feedback from students and staff to improve how these experiences are delivered.

"A lot of scientists don't get to talk about their teaching experiences," she says. "I wanted to ask what works, what doesn't, and how we can make things better for students."

Her public engagement work has also grown organically. What began as sharing research online evolved into a wider platform, helping her connect with audiences beyond academia and leading to her involvement in the Superstars of STEM Program.

"I realised I was my own target audience," she reflects. "I didn't have people come to my school and talk about these careers. Now I want to be that person for someone else."



Sally's latest achievement is her recently released book: *Found a Fossil: Digs, Discoveries & Australia's Deep Past*

QuickFireQuestions

Q What is the coolest thing you have ever found on a dig?

The skull of a Hadrosaur next to a Tyrannosaur tooth.

Q What piece of advice would you give to current students hoping to be successful in their fields?

So many of the opportunities I've had came from just asking. Sending an email, putting myself out there. It's something I always tell students now: be brave enough to ask.

Q Looking back, how did Dunmore Lang College help shape your journey?

Living at College gave me a real sense of community. It made such a difference being surrounded by people, making friends, and feeling supported.

A former Dunmore Lang College resident, Sally credits her time at College with helping her build the confidence and connections that supported her academic journey — values she continues to carry into her work today.

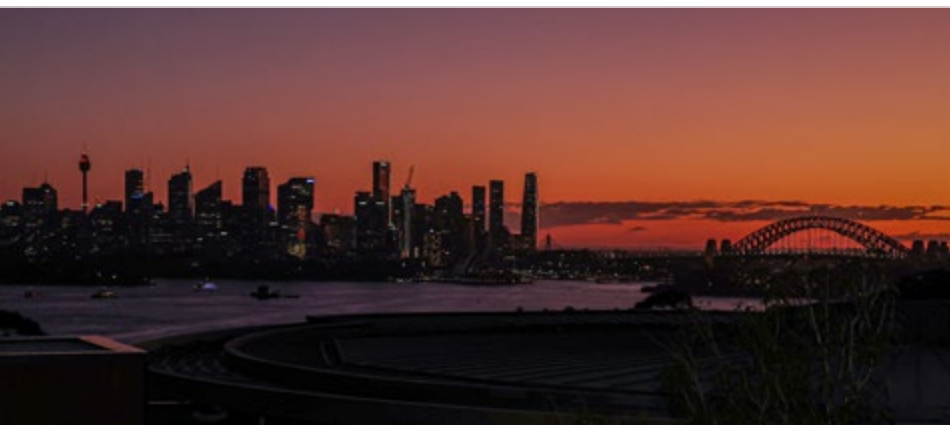
With the support of the Zonta Award, she hopes to expand her outreach to smaller rural communities, where access to STEM experiences can be limited.

"I'd love to go to small towns, places with 20 students, and run workshops, talk dinosaurs, and spark that curiosity," she says.

For Sally, the goal isn't necessarily producing future palaeontologists, but opening doors.

"It's about showing people you can do this too — especially students from rural and regional areas who might not always see university or STEM as an option."





2025 DLC Ball

The 2025 Ball took place at Taronga Zoo and was an unforgettable evening set against one of Sydney's most iconic locations. Students arrived with excitement as they took in the unique setting overlooking the harbour, with the Zoo providing a stunning and memorable backdrop for the night.

The celebration began with a two-course meal, followed by the much-anticipated awards ceremony, acknowledging our community and those that contribute deeply to making it so special. The atmosphere built throughout the evening, with plenty of laughter, speeches, and recognition of student achievements.

As the formalities wrapped up, the energy lifted even further with a DJ set that kept everyone celebrating late into the night.

The Ball continues to be one of the most meaningful events on the College calendar, offering a chance to dress up, celebrate friendships, and reflect on the strong sense of community built throughout College life.

We would like to thank all staff and students who helped make the evening possible, whether through organisation, support, or simply bringing great energy on the night. It was an honour to be part of such a special event.

*Lucy Hill (Gundungurra Country) &
Phoebe Wessell (Wiradjuri Country)*



Vancouver to Sydney

Finding a Home Away From Home at Dunmore Lang College



For exchange student Nicola Sidhu, coming to Australia was the chance to experience something completely different.

Originally from Vancouver, Canada, Nicola studies History and Anthropology at the University of British Columbia and hopes to pursue a career in the museum industry. While Australia had long been a dream destination, it was the opportunity to swap Canada's cold climate for Australia's warmer weather that first inspired her to apply for exchange.

"I've lived in a cold climate my whole life, so I wanted to experience the warm weather Australia is famous for," she said. "Australia has always been a dream destination of mine, and going on exchange was the best way to experience it."

When researching accommodation options, Dunmore Lang College immediately stood out.

"I chose DLC because it seemed like such a supportive place just from looking at the website. My expectations were exceeded — I love it here!"

Throughout her time at College, the strong sense of community has been a highlight. Among her favourite memories are the annual *Hottest 100* celebrations counting down the top music icons as voted by the residents and the regular TV nights in the floor lounge bingeing the latest drama series.

While adapting to Australian life was relatively easy, one aspect of local culture took some getting used to.

"What surprised me most was how much Australians shorten words," she laughed. "Dino', 'Maccas' and 'arvo' are just a few examples. At first I had to ask what they meant, but now I'm guilty of using them too."

Reflecting on her exchange experience, she says the College has been at the centre of it all.

"DLC has become the heart of my exchange experience. I've done so much here because I'm happy to participate in anything. I've felt so supported by my friends, Resident Advisers and staff when it comes to homesickness."

For students considering studying abroad, she believes the College's community makes all the difference.

"DLC is an amazing place to socialise and make friends, which really helps combat the loneliness that can come with moving to a new country. There are so many other exchange students going through the same experience and willing to support one another."

Her advice is simple: "Definitely come here, you'll love it."

National Reconciliation Week 2026

Between 27 May and 3 June, Dunmore Lang College marked National Reconciliation Week 2026. The theme for 2026, 'All In', makes clear that reconciliation is not a 'spectator sport' — it calls on everyone to step away from the sidelines and take responsibility for meaningful action.

At Dunmore Lang College, the week provided an opportunity for students to engage with and learn from Indigenous cultures, while reflecting on how they can actively contribute to our ongoing journey of reconciliation in Australia. Throughout the week, students participated in a range of educational and community-focused events.

A Community Installation Crafternoon

Utilising great resources from Reconciliation Australia, students completed "All In for a Reconciled Australia" cards and contributed to a shared community installation exploring how the College can continue to progress meaningful reconciliation. Suggestions included incorporating more Indigenous authors and texts within the College Library and continuing to support Indigenous businesses. As part of this initiative, the College will aim to implement and highlight one student commitment each month, encouraging ongoing action and engagement beyond Reconciliation Week itself.

Attending the 'All In' for Reconciliation Event at Macquarie University

Students also attended Macquarie University's 'All In' for Reconciliation event, emceed by Dunmore Lang College student Annalise Hanger of the Yorta Yorta Nation. The event featured a range of Indigenous and non-Indigenous speakers who provided insights into what being 'All In' for reconciliation means.

Dunmore Lang College students at our reconciliation dinner.

At Dunmore
Lang College
we are 'All In' for
reconciliation



Alumnus and proud Gomeroi man, Tyren Ah-See, speaking at our reconciliation dinner.

Reconciliation Week Dinner

Dunmore Lang's kitchen staff embraced the opportunity to showcase the flavours of Indigenous Australia, preparing a special menu featuring native ingredients for students to enjoy. Dishes included:

- Pepperberry Spiced Crocodile with Saltbush and Wild Rosemary Potatoes
- Lemon Myrtle Crusted Chicken Breast with Crushed Bush Tomatoes and Wild Rosemary Potatoes
- Quandong and Finger Lime Coconut Cake with Cream

The evening also featured guest speaker and Dunmore Lang College alumna Tyren Ah-See, a proud Gomeroi man from Darkinjung Country. Tyren works with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people within the youth justice system, supporting improved social outcomes and reducing reoffending.

Together with the care taken by the kitchen staff in preparing the cuisine and Tyren's thoughtful address, the evening was not only memorable but deeply meaningful.

Movie Night

The week concluded with a screening of *Top End Wedding*, a feel good drama showcasing the beauty of many aspects of Australia. The film is directed by Indigenous filmmaker Wayne Blair, a Batjala, Woppaburra and Cobble Cobble man. The evening was catered by Kallico Catering, who supplied a selection of Indigenous-inspired desserts for students to enjoy.

Background artwork by Annalise Hanger, Yorta Yorta woman, see page 22.



From Country to Canvas

Annalise Hanger's Artistic Journey

Annalise Hanger, a second-year Dunmore Lang College student from the Yorta Yorta Nation, didn't begin her artistic journey with a grand plan, just a love of drawing. As a child, she spent time sketching nature, from trees to flowers, drawn to the details of the land around her. Over time, particularly through high school, this interest evolved as she began exploring Aboriginal art and learning the meanings behind symbols, stories and visual traditions. What began as a hobby has since grown into something much deeper.

Today, Annalise uses her art to explore identity, culture and connection. Her growing portfolio spans murals, digital design and College collaborations, reflecting both where she comes from and where she is heading.

For Annalise, art has also become a way to reconnect with culture. With her Aboriginal heritage on her mother's side, and the impacts of the Stolen Generation shaping her family's connection to ancestry, art has become a way of rebuilding those ties.

"I didn't grow up with a lot of cultural connection," she shares, "but through my art, I've been able to learn more about my mob and feel more connected. My mum is the biggest supporter of my work."

Through research and community guidance, she has developed a strong understanding of cultural protocols, often seeking advice to ensure her work respects appropriate stories and symbols.

At the heart of her practice is Country. Much of her work draws on land and natural elements, including native plants such as wattle, valued for its medicinal and cultural significance.

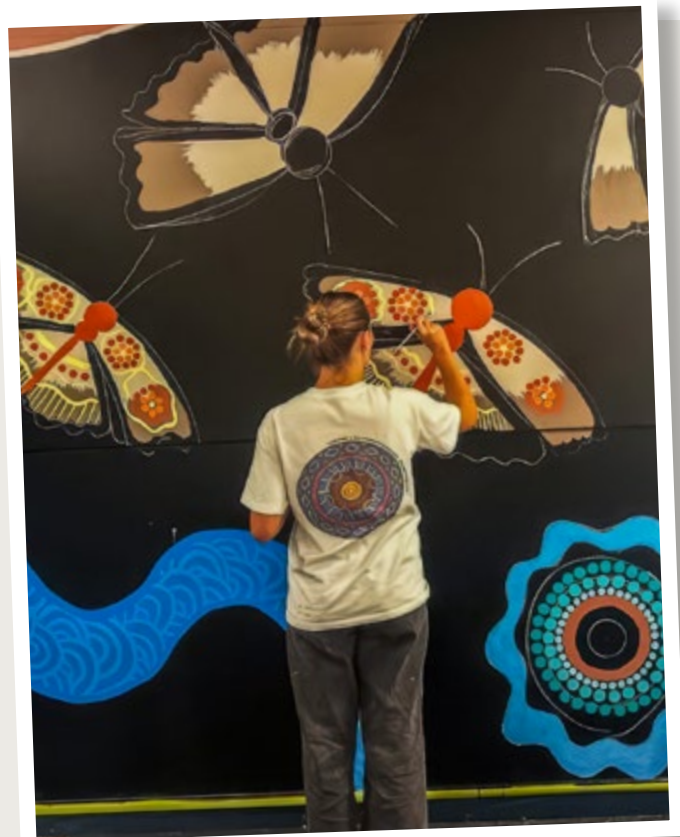
"I try to focus on land because it's such a big part of everything," she explains. Her work reflects the deep relationship between people, place and story, translating cultural knowledge into visual form.



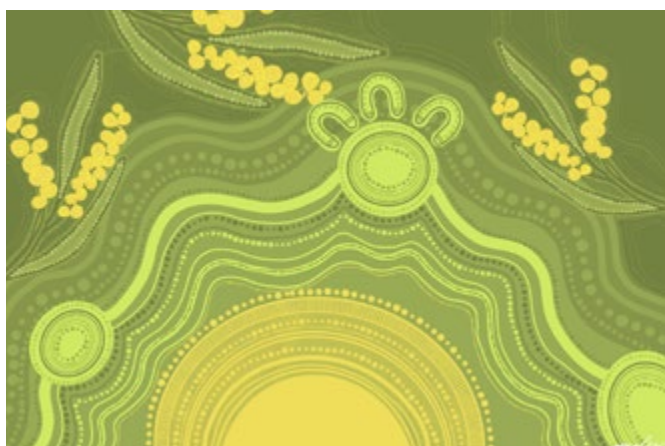
Yapaneyepuk

(Yorta Yorta translation for together)

This artwork represents the coming together as one. Each of us carries a story that guides us forward and encourages growth and change. The transitional periods of our lives are reflected in this drawing, capturing movement, connection, and transformation.



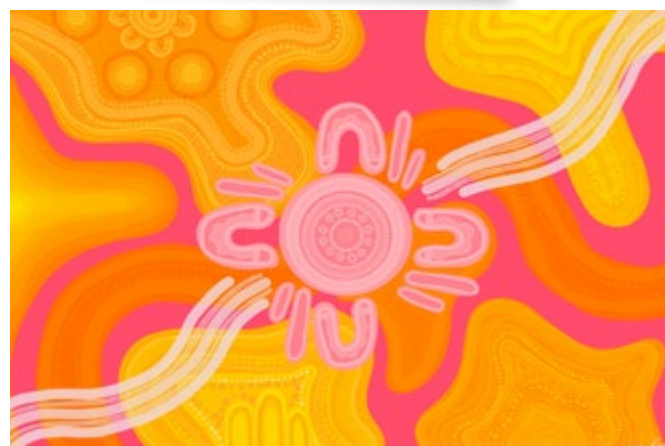
"Through my art, I've been able to learn more about my mob and feel more connected."



Ngurra

(Dharug translation for Country)

This image reflects gratitude for Dharug Ngurra, which we are privileged to stand upon. We must honour the old people of this land for their protection, teachings, and guidance, as we move forward with gentle footsteps and open hearts.



Mugudjina

(Yorta Yorta translation for tracks)

We have each travelled our own paths to call this place home, leaving tracks along the way. This image represents the many journeys that brought us here, and the many ways we will continue forward together.

This foundation has led to growing opportunities. In 2024, Annalise contributed a piece to the NSW Department of Education's Schools Spectacular and worked with the NRL School to Work Program, supporting workshops and a large-scale mural project. Each experience has allowed her to share Aboriginal art with wider audiences and help others engage with culture in accessible ways.

At Dunmore Lang College, her work is becoming a visible part of student life. From designing birthday cards to contributing to merchandise, her art is helping embed Aboriginal art into everyday College spaces. Her birthday card designs reflect a central idea: the different journeys that bring students together.

"Everyone comes from somewhere different, and every place has its own story," she says. "I wanted to show how we all ended up calling this one place home."

Living at College has also shaped her creative practice. Being on Dharug Country has introduced her to new stories, language and cultural perspectives that influence her work, while connections with other Aboriginal students and staff have been empowering. "Living around friends inspires me to keep going," she reflects.

Despite her growing recognition, Annalise remains grounded about how quickly things have developed. "It all happened pretty quickly," she says. "I was just doing it privately, and now it's out there."

Looking ahead, she hopes to sell prints, take on commissions and continue new projects, while studying law alongside her creative practice.

For Annalise, Aboriginal art is about more than visuals; it's about storytelling, education, and cultural continuity.

"Sometimes Aboriginal art can be hard to understand if you don't know the meaning behind it," she explains, "but even just having a word or a story can help people connect."

Her advice to others wanting to explore their culture or express themselves through art is grounded in initiative and openness.

"Really go looking for it," she says. "Reach out to as many people as you can. It's daunting, but once you find that bit of knowledge, run with it."

For students unsure where to begin, she highlights the value of school-based opportunities and initiatives like the NRL School to Work Program, which connect Indigenous young people with mentors and workshops.

Each of her artworks carries a story — from rivers she has walked beside, to native plants rich in meaning, to shared journeys of those around her. Through her art, she hopes people take something lasting: a deeper understanding of culture, Country and connection.

Alumni Spotlight: London Law

A Q&A with Elinor Bowman

Dunmore Lang College alumna Elinor (2018–2019) recently made the move to London to pursue her legal career. A former member of the Association of Dunmore Lang Students (ADS), which oversees student committees and College events, Elinor reflects on the pathway to London, the challenges and opportunities of relocating overseas, and the role College played in shaping her journey.

FastFive

- 1 Current city:
London
- 2 Degree:
Law
- 3 DLC years:
2018–2019
- 4 Favourite London activity:
Jumping on the Eurostar for a weekend away in Europe.
- 5 Advice in one sentence:
Stay open to opportunities — you never know where they might lead.



Q&A

Q *When did you start considering a move to London, and what motivated that decision?*

The idea of working overseas had been on my radar quite early in my legal career. In Sydney, I worked alongside lawyers who had built careers in places such as London, New York, Singapore, Hong Kong, Dubai and even Bermuda. Seeing those opportunities made me realise how valuable an international experience could be, both professionally and personally.

London stood out as a particularly attractive option because of the similarities between the Australian and UK legal systems. The ability to make the move without needing to requalify made it feel like a natural next step.

Q *What did the pathway from Australia to securing a role in London look like?*

I spent time speaking with recruiters to better understand the UK legal market, including the timing of hiring cycles and the types of roles best suited to my experience. I also waited until I had reached two years post-admission, which aligned my experience level with that of a newly qualified lawyer in the UK.

Within a week of reaching that milestone, I secured an interview. After several rounds of interviews, I was fortunate to receive an offer.

Q *Were there any particular steps that made the biggest difference in helping you achieve that goal?*

One of the most valuable things I did was being open with my colleagues about my goal of moving overseas. They were incredibly supportive throughout the process, connecting me with contacts, helping me prepare for interviews and sharing insights from their own experiences.

Having that support network not only helped me secure a role but also made the transition feel much more positive when the time came to leave.

Q *What has been the most challenging part of transitioning to life and work in London?*

Adjusting to my first winter was probably the biggest challenge. I'd heard plenty of warnings about the darkness and the rain, but the reality still took some getting used to.

That said, London in December is incredibly special. The city feels magical at Christmas, and after a long winter, the arrival of summer feels even more rewarding.

Q *What has been your favourite part about living and working in London so far?*

As an avid traveller, the Eurostar has easily been my favourite part of living in London. There's something surreal about finishing work, hopping on a train and finding yourself in another country just a few hours later.

The fact that you can sometimes find tickets for as little as £35 makes spontaneous European travel surprisingly accessible.



Elinor with 2019 ADS team.

Q *What advice would you give to current students hoping to work overseas after graduation?*

Talk to as many people as possible who have done what you hope to do and learn from their experiences. Career pathways can vary significantly, even within the same profession, so it's important to seek advice from people working in your specific area of interest.

And don't be afraid to reach out to people on LinkedIn. You'd be surprised how willing people are to share their time and offer guidance.

Q *Looking back, how did your time at Dunmore Lang College shape your university experience?*

Dunmore Lang College played a significant role in shaping my university experience. It made the transition to university life much smoother, introduced me to lifelong friends and provided leadership opportunities that I still discuss in interviews today.

The network I built through College became especially valuable later in my degree when classes moved online and opportunities to connect with classmates became more limited.

Q *How did living in a college environment influence your personal and professional development?*

Living at College made it easy to connect with students from a range of backgrounds and disciplines, including those studying law at different stages of their degree.

Those relationships gave me the opportunity to learn from the experiences of others, seek advice and gain perspectives that I may not have encountered within my own cohort.

Q *If you could give your final-year self one piece of advice, what would it be?*

Plans are fluid. Be willing to say yes to opportunities, even when they feel slightly outside your comfort zone. Often, those experiences open doors and create pathways you never expected.

Full Circle

Phoebe Mathews Returns to Former High School to Share Stories about Life at College

"Moving from high school to university can be scary and uncertain, but having a place as supportive and welcoming as DLC makes it much easier."



Phoebe Mathews, Kamilaroi Country, with fellow expo rep, Zoe Grogan, and Calrossy Careers Adviser, Charles Impey.

Returning to Calrossy Anglican School on Kamilaroi Country, Phoebe Mathews found herself reflecting on how far her journey from regional New South Wales had taken her since arriving at Dunmore Lang College in 2025.

Now studying Security Studies at Macquarie University, Phoebe recently returned to her former high school as part of an expo showcasing university pathways and student life in Sydney. The visit gave her the opportunity to reconnect with staff and speak to students considering their next steps after school.

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to talk to current students about the experience I've had while living at DLC," she says. "One of the highlights has been the amazing variety of people I've met and connected with that I would never have had the chance to meet otherwise."

For Phoebe, the College has played an important role in her transition to university life, particularly through its sense of community and range of opportunities outside the classroom.

"The social life that DLC offers is something students would be interested in because of the unique events and activities available," she says. "Whether it's spending time with friends

in the tutor flat, getting involved in College events, or joining a social sport team, there's something for everyone."

Returning to her former school also prompted reflection on the adjustment from high school to university and moving away from home.

"Moving from high school to university can be scary and uncertain, but having a place as supportive and welcoming as DLC makes it much easier," she says. "My advice would be to trust the process, get involved, and take every opportunity you can."

Looking back on her return to Calrossy, Phoebe says the experience reinforced how much she has grown since finishing school, and she hopes her journey encourages other students to take the leap into university and College life with confidence.

"DLC has been a great way for me to become independent while still having an amazing support system around me," she says. "It made moving away from home much easier."



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diverse community

Located on the Wallumattagal
Campus of Macquarie University



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"Strong community,
life-long friends."
3rd year student,
Newcastle NSW

Located on the Wallumattagal
Campus of Macquarie University



Dunmore Lang College has a long-standing connection with the Tamworth community, with many students from the region calling the College home while undertaking their studies at Macquarie University.

The College always looks forward to welcoming prospective students from Tamworth and the surrounding region to campus each year. The annual dinner provides an opportunity for students and teachers to experience College life firsthand, meet current residents and staff, and gain a sense of the vibrant and supportive community that awaits them.

The College values its enduring relationship with the Tamworth community and looks forward to continuing this strong connection for many years to come, welcoming future generations of students to Dunmore Lang College.

Carving Out a Place

Lachy Rice's Journey from Canowindra to College



Woodchopping has been part of Lachy Rice's life since childhood. Now a Dunmore Lang College student studying Chiropractic Science at Macquarie University, he continues to compete in the sport while balancing university life in Sydney.

Raised in Canowindra on Wiradjuri Country in Central West NSW, Lachy grew up around woodchopping, introduced to the sport by his father and continuing it alongside his brother.

"When my brother and I were younger, our dad got us into woodchopping and we've done it ever since," he says.

Woodchopping is a sport that tests strength, technique and precision, and Lachy has gone on to compete at major events across the country, including the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Recently, he placed second in Royal Easter Show's Open Handicap Underhand event, where competitors stand on a log and use specialised axes to chop down through it in a timed race of strength and accuracy.

Now living in Sydney for university, Lachy says adjusting to city life has been made easier by routine and structure.

"Being such a short walk to classes and having meals provided makes a huge difference in how I can manage my time," he says. Dunmore Lang College has been the constant, warm support he needed to be able to succeed both academically and professionally.

While university has been a new experience, woodchopping remains a constant, with training and competition continuing alongside his studies. He says the discipline required for his sport has helped him adapt to university life and manage competing demands.

As he continues through his first year, Lachy is focused on building on his recent results and developing further in both study and sport. Woodchopping remains a constant in his routine — a family tradition he continues to carry forward while forging his own path in the sport.

Bridging the City to Country Divide Through Film

A Q&A with alumna Louisa Gilmour



Alumna Louisa Gilmour (2021–2023) is passionate about telling authentic Australian stories. Now working as a post-production assistant at Spectrum Films International and pursuing a career in film, Louisa was recently named the 2026 ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman. The prestigious programme recognises emerging leaders from rural and regional communities and provides opportunities for advocacy, public speaking and community engagement.

What does being named the 2026 ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman mean to you?

It is an incredible honour and one I never expected. The role provides a platform to connect with rural communities, promote the creative arts and encourage people to tell their own stories in their own voices. I'm excited to travel throughout NSW, meet new communities and represent the region that shaped me.

Can you tell us about your background and connection to rural communities?

I grew up on a property near Wialda, Kamilaroi Country, in a close-knit community where everyone looked after one another. While I once considered studying medicine, I realised I could contribute to rural communities in another way — through storytelling. Film helps us share experiences and bridge the gap between regional and metropolitan Australia.

What inspired your passion for advocating for rural voices?

Very few people from my community worked in film, so moving into the industry felt quite daunting. Now that I'm here, I feel a responsibility to create opportunities for others navigating the same challenges.

I also believe authentic Australian stories matter. There are so many parts of Australian life beyond our cities and beaches that remain unseen by wider audiences. Storytelling has the power to bridge that divide between our country and city cousins and remind us that we're not all that different.

What are your goals for the next 12 months?

I hope to develop a filmmaking programme for rural and regional students, helping young people build confidence in their own voices and stories. I also look forward to connecting with communities across NSW and documenting more about the people and places that make regional Australia unique.

As a Dunmore Lang College alumna, how did your time at College shape your journey?

Dunmore Lang College played a significant role in my personal and professional growth. It was where I built lifelong friendships and gained the confidence to pursue my passion for filmmaking. Most importantly, it taught me the value of being unapologetically yourself and backing your own abilities.

Looking ahead, what impact do you hope to make?

I want to help ensure rural stories are seen, heard and valued. Whether through filmmaking, education or mentorship, my goal is to create opportunities for regional communities to share their stories and help build a creative industry where rural voices are not just included, but actively leading the conversation.

Q&A

Graduations 2025/26

Warm congratulations to all of the students who have graduated at the end of 2025 and beginning of 2026. All of the students listed were a part of the Dunmore Lang College community for some or all of their degree — we wish you every success in the future and look forward to seeing what comes next!



Yasmin Titheradge
Bachelor of Commerce
and Bachelor of Laws

Graduates 2025/26



Isaiah Ah See
Bachelor of Arts



Serminaz Bandali
Master of Media and Communications



William Bridge
Bachelor of Ancient History



Euan Oliver
Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education (Primary)



Emma Fryer
Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)



Jodi Haseler
Bachelor of Environment



Micheline Chen
Bachelor of Arts

Marcus Ryan
Bachelor of Commerce



Claire McGuirk
Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science



Bree Todd
Bachelor of Ancient History
Isaiah Ah See
Bachelor of Arts



Vivica Turnbull
Bachelor of Science



Rami Zod
Bachelor of Marketing and Media

Graduations 2025/26

Isaiah Ah See

Bachelor of Arts

Gregorio III Alano

Bachelor of Commerce

Alice Aldersey

*Bachelor of Cognitive and Brain Sciences
and Bachelor of Psychology*

Amish Bhindi

*Bachelor of Applied Finance and
Bachelor of Actuarial Studies*

Liam Blanch

Bachelor of Commerce

Edward Boydell

Bachelor of Commerce

William Bridge

Bachelor of Ancient History

Annabelle Bucknell

*Bachelor of Commerce and
Bachelor of Laws (Honours)*

Matthew Burke

Bachelor of Security Studies

Micheline Chen

Bachelor of Arts

Thomas Croake

Bachelor of Commerce

Heath Crossingham

Bachelor of Clinical Science

Ashli Fryer

Bachelor of Archaeology

Emma Fryer

Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)

Oliver George

Bachelor of Security Studies

Lachlan Grogan

Bachelor of Cyber Security

Bryson Hartle

*Bachelor of Cognitive and Brain Sciences
and Bachelor of Psychology*

Jodi Haseler

Bachelor of Environment

Patrick Hyde

*Bachelor of Arts and
Bachelor of Education (Primary)*

Derwin Kim

Bachelor of Security Studies

Lucas Kloosterhof

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)

Juan Carlo Limjuco

Bachelor of Arts

Grace Lynch

*Bachelor of Arts and
Bachelor of Education (Primary)*

Jorja McCoy

Bachelor of Marketing and Media

Claire McGuirk

Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science

Caitlin Modra

Bachelor of Arts

Lachlan Moore

Bachelor of Psychology

Ruby Murphy

*Bachelor of Psychology and
Bachelor of Laws*

Viet Khai Nguyen

Bachelor of Business

Euan Oliver

*Bachelor of Arts and
Bachelor of Education (Primary)*

Eloise Oliver

*Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of
Biodiversity and Conservation*

Regina Rogers

Bachelor of Arts

Marcus Ryan

Bachelor of Commerce

Beau Smith

Bachelor of Science

Shannon Spencer

Bachelor of Planning

Yasmin Titheradge

*Bachelor of Commerce and
Bachelor of Laws*

Bree Todd

Bachelor of Ancient History

Edward Toole

*Bachelor of Media and Communications
and Bachelor of Laws*

Claudia Torresan

Bachelor of Psychology

Ryan Turnbull

Bachelor of Business

Vivica Turnbull

Bachelor of Science

Harry Watson

*Bachelor of Economics and
Bachelor of Applied Finance*

Anna Williams

*Bachelor of Environment and
Bachelor of Laws*

Campbell Wilson

Bachelor of Commerce

Julian Zhou

Bachelor of Medical Sciences

Rami Zod

Bachelor of Marketing and Media

Serminaz Bandali

Master of Media and Communications

Benjamin Campey

*Master of Counter Terrorism and
Master of Intelligence*

Yu-Ting Chen

Master of Clinical Audiology

Gabrielle Coles

Master of Chiropractic

Georgienne De Montemas

Master of Counter Terrorism

Anja Ella Linnea Magnusson

Master of Media and Communications

Bridie Martin

Master of Chiropractic

Tina Rabiee

Master of Business Analytics

Md Zahidul Hasan Rafi

Master of Business Analytics

Zhi Yi Saw

*Master of Creative Writing and
Master of Media and Communications*

Taylor-Jai McAlister

Doctor of Philosophy



Recently graduated?

Scan the QR Code to join our Alumni Network and find out about future events.

From Exchange Student to Resident Adviser

How a Semester Abroad Shaped Jasmine's Leadership Journey

For Jasmine El Hanafy, a semester abroad in the United Kingdom was more than a change of scenery. It became an opportunity to build independence and confidence, shaping the way she now approaches her role as a Resident Adviser (RA) at Dunmore Lang College.



Last semester, Jasmine travelled to Leeds as part of her exchange programme, marking her first time leaving Australia. Although already in her second year at College, she found herself navigating many of the same challenges as a first-year student - adjusting to a new university, a new city and a different way of life.

One of her standout moments was seeing snow for the first time.

"It was so cool and something I'd always wanted to experience!" she exclaimed.

Alongside study life in Leeds, Jasmine also had the chance to travel across Europe, including a visit to France's Christmas markets, and the opportunity to meet students from a wide range of backgrounds.

"Meeting people from so many different countries was one of the best parts," she said. "It really broadened my perspective."

While these experiences were memorable, she says the biggest shift came from learning to live independently in a new environment. Without the familiar support networks of home

or College, she found herself adapting quickly and becoming more aware of how she supported those around her.

"The exchange made me more independent, but it also helped me build confidence in looking after other people," she said.

Returning to Dunmore Lang College after her semester abroad felt like a natural transition. While she valued her time overseas, she was also glad to reconnect with a community she had come to appreciate during her earlier years at College.

Now as an RA, Jasmine draws on her exchange experience when supporting new residents as they settle into College life — particularly the feeling of being somewhere new and unfamiliar.

Looking back, she sees exchange as something that didn't just expand her horizons, but strengthened how she shows up in her role today.

Her time abroad left her with lasting memories and friendships, as well as a clearer sense of responsibility within the College community.

A Fresh Start

College Bathrooms Receive a Modern Makeover

After more than five decades of service, the College's original 1972 bathrooms have officially been transformed, marking the completion of a major \$2 million redevelopment project that has delivered modern, comfortable, and student-focused facilities.

The project was born from extensive feedback gathered from Board members, staff, students, and alumni, who agreed that the time had come for a significant upgrade. Rather than simply renovating the existing spaces, the College sought to create bathrooms that reflected the needs and expectations of today's students.

Working alongside Maxam & Co, the College undertook a redevelopment that balanced functionality, comfort, and contemporary design. The vision was simple: to create bathrooms that felt less like institutional facilities and more like the kind of spaces country students would be proud to have in their own homes.

The result is a dramatic transformation. Bright, modern finishes, improved amenities, and thoughtfully designed spaces have replaced the ageing facilities of the past. Perhaps most celebrated by students is the long-awaited retirement of the notorious shower curtains, which had become a familiar feature of College life over the years.

Delivering a project of this scale within a tight timeframe required dedication and collaboration from many people. The College extends its sincere thanks to the students who contributed valuable feedback throughout the consultation process, helping to shape a facility that truly meets their needs.

Special thanks also go to Maxam & Co for their commitment and hard work in delivering the project on schedule, and to Board member and alumna Selina Hiew for her ongoing consultation, guidance, and support throughout the redevelopment.

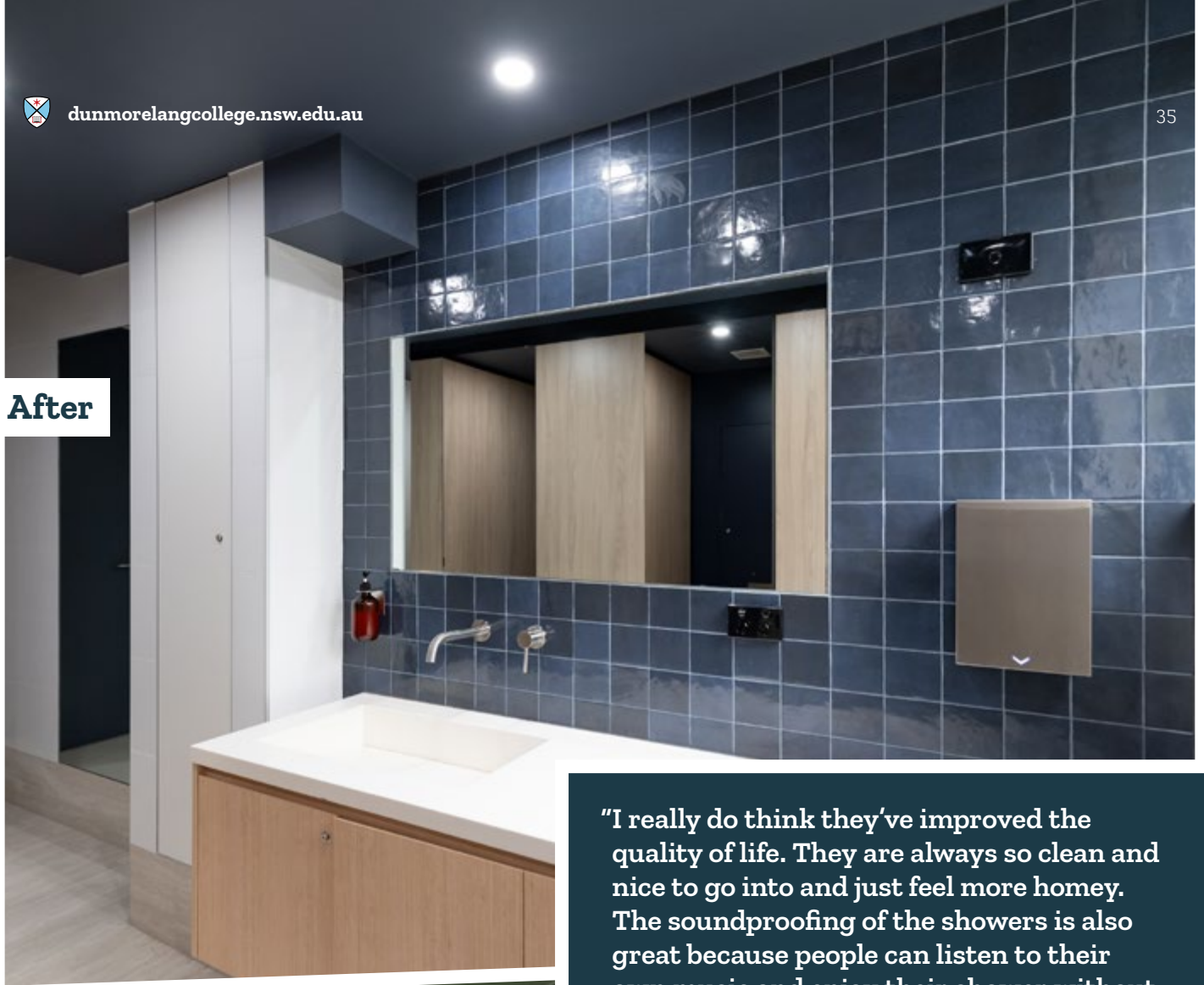
As students settle into the new facilities, the project reflects what can be achieved when a community works together to improve everyday student life. While the original bathrooms served generations of students well, the new facilities are designed to support many more generations to come.

Before





After



"I really do think they've improved the quality of life. They are always so clean and nice to go into and just feel more homey. The soundproofing of the showers is also great because people can listen to their own music and enjoy their shower without worrying about annoying other people."

Phoebe Wessell, third year student.



Valedictory Celebration 2025

As another academic year came to a close, the Dunmore Lang College community gathered to celebrate the people, memories, and achievements that shaped 2025 at the annual Valedictory Celebration.

The evening recognised graduating students and Valedictorians for their academic achievements, leadership, and contributions to College life. Awards and acknowledgements were presented during a formal celebration shared with staff, Board members, and members of the wider Macquarie University community, before festivities continued with a Sydney Harbour cruise.

The celebration also marked an exciting transition into the year ahead, officially welcoming the incoming Resident Advisers, and Association of Dunmore Lang College Students (ADS) executive. Student speakers reflected on the friendships, challenges, opportunities, and experiences that had defined their time at college, while encouraging future leaders to make the most of everything the community has to offer.

Throughout the evening, there was a strong sense of gratitude and pride for the supportive environment that continues to connect students from diverse backgrounds and help them grow, both personally and academically.

Reflecting on the impact graduating students have had on the college community, Principal Dr Alasdair Murrie-West said:

"We thank you for your contribution to the College community as residents, senior leaders, RAs, ADS and committee members, and as the College's older siblings and sources of guidance. You have anchored the community through your care, inclusivity, selflessness, and sense of fun, leaving a legacy that will continue well beyond your time at Dunmore Lang College."

The 2025 Valedictory Celebration served as a fitting conclusion to another memorable year at Dunmore Lang College, honouring the lasting impact students have had on the community and the exciting paths that now lie ahead.

"You have anchored the community through your care, inclusivity, selflessness, and sense of fun, leaving a legacy that will continue well beyond your time at Dunmore Lang College."

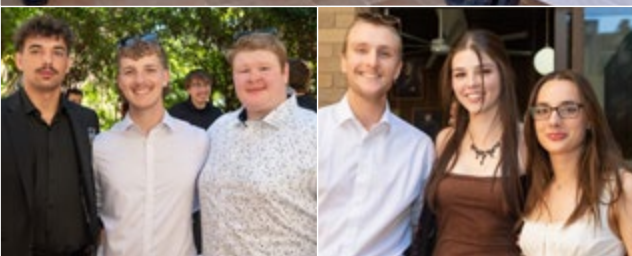
Principal Dr Alasdair Murrie-West





Congratulations to all our Valedictorians and Award winners of 2025

	RECIPIENT	LOCATION
Dorothy Knox Bursaries	<i>William Milne</i> <i>Jake Calabria</i> <i>George Conin</i> <i>Srishti Namoa</i> <i>Indigo Fardell</i>	Oakdale, Dharawal Country Griffith, Wiradjuri Country Borenore, Wiradjuri Country Devonport, Tommeginne Country Dyers Crossing, Worimi Country
Margaret Saville Prize	<i>Ayva O'Meara</i>	Broken Hill, Wilyakali Country
Dr Hugh McCredie Sports Award	<i>Claire McGuirk</i> <i>Jack Marshall</i>	Gunnedah, Kamilaroi Country Duri, Kamilaroi Country
Margot Doust Prize	<i>Kate Holmes</i>	Mumbil, Wiradjuri Country
John Dunmore Lang Senior Scholar Award	<i>Benjamin Campey</i>	Ingliston, Wadawurrung Country
ADS President's Award	<i>Jessica Vernon</i>	Bondi, Gadigal Country
Future Leaders Award	<i>Keely Behan</i> <i>Michael Murimbechi</i>	Llanarth, Wiradjuri Country Llanarth, Wiradjuri Country
Tutor of the Year Award	<i>Claudia Torresan</i>	Yoogali, Wiradjuri Country
Valedictorians	<i>Bethany Field</i> <i>Clementine Monet</i> <i>Gerry Yanata</i> <i>Harry Watson</i> <i>Havi Francis</i> <i>Isabel Aveyard</i> <i>Kora Iansa</i> <i>Lachlan Murray</i> <i>Michael Murimbechi</i> <i>Molly Jinks</i> <i>Nate Burke</i> <i>Owen Williams</i> <i>Vince Ng</i>	Leura, Dharug and Gundungurra Country Tamworth, Kamilaroi Country Medan, Indonesia Armidale, Anaiwan Country Kangaloon, Dharawal Country Trundle, Wiradjuri Country Brisbane, Yuggera Country Warral, Kamilaroi Country Llanarth, Wiradjuri Country Leura, Dharug and Gundungurra Country Helensburgh, Dharawal Country East Maitland, Wonnarua Country Auckland, New Zealand



We are always welcoming new partnerships at Dunmore Lang College, if you'd like to make a donation to our awards and scholarship funds please reach out to Deputy Principal, Emily Itto, at deputy.principal@dlc.nsw.edu.au

Honouring Legacy Through Excellence

Abbey Hall Awarded the Dean Frost Memorial Prize



Dunmore Lang College congratulates Abbey Hall on receiving the Dean Frost Memorial Prize, an award recognising her outstanding academic achievement in 2025 whilst also demonstrating meaningful contributions to College life.

Established in 1985 by residents of Dunmore Lang College, the prize honours the memory of Dean Frost, a former student whose life was tragically cut short by leukaemia. Dean was deeply involved in college life through the Association of Dunmore Lang College Students (ADS) Executive, and the award continues his legacy by recognising a student who achieves the highest overall Weighted Average Mark while actively contributing to the College community.

For Abbey, receiving the award came as a complete surprise.

"Emily [our Deputy Principal] panned her head to me before announcing the recipient and I was so confused," she laughed. "I wasn't expecting it at all."

While she describes herself as someone who does not obsess over grades, she takes pride in always being prepared and giving her best effort. Winning the Prize was especially meaningful because it reflected the consistency, discipline, and perseverance she had developed throughout the year.

"I've learnt how to study for myself through a lot of trial and error," she said. "I try not to put too much pressure on myself, but I always want to give 110%."

Her approach to study is practical and highly visual. She relies heavily on her iPad for organisation, colour-codes notes, and uses diagrams and practice quizzes to reinforce learning.

"Don't underestimate the power of asking for help," she said.

"Ask lecturers questions, bounce ideas off other students, and take breaks when you need them. You don't need to be studying 24/7 to do well."

Alongside her academic achievements, Abbey says some of her proudest moments in the College have come through her involvement in the ADS and supporting students during O-Week.

"It's been really rewarding to help other students the way older students helped me in first year," she said. "The ADS team always brings each other up, and it's nice feeling like you can be a role model for others."

Passionate about her degree in Chiropractic Science and future career, she has already taken initiative beyond the classroom, completing supervising shifts back home in Young, and gaining practical insight into the profession she hopes to enter.

Abbey plans to invest her prize directly back into her studies, helping pay for fees and study materials as she continues working towards her future career.

"It was awarded for academics," she said, "so I want to put it back into academics."

Congratulations again to Abbey on this well-deserved recognition and thank you to our 1985 alumni who generously established this award.

A Promise in Progress

Jett Floyer-Kell's Half Ironman Journey

When second-year Dunmore Lang College student Jett Floyer-Kell crossed the finish line of his first Half Ironman, months of early mornings, training blocks and discipline came together in a single moment. Covering 113 kilometres across a 1.9km swim, 90km bike ride and 21.1km run, the event is one of endurance sport's most demanding challenges.

For Jett, however, the race was about far more than athletic achievement.

During a phone call with his father, Jett shared his ambition to complete a full Ironman before graduating from university. Just days later, his father passed away.

"That conversation became something I wanted to honour," Jett says, "completing a Half Ironman was the first step towards that goal."

Training required early mornings, careful planning and consistency across a busy university schedule.

"It was probably more mentally challenging than physically challenging," he says. "There were mornings when it was 5am, pouring rain, and I still had to get sessions done."

He credits his support network — including his mum, brother, coach, Dunmore Lang College friends and fellow athletes — for helping him through the six-month training block.

"People were incredibly supportive. So many reached out after hearing my story."

After six months of training, it all came down to race day. Standing on the start line, Jett recalls a mix of nerves and excitement.

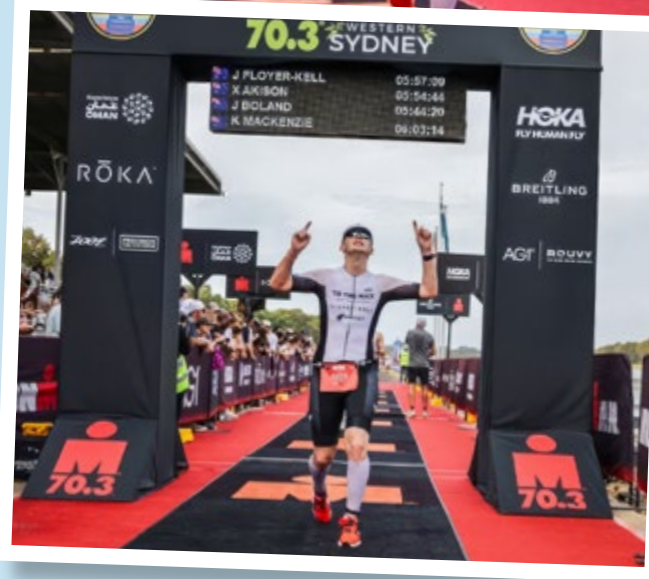
"There was so much nervous energy, but the atmosphere was incredible."

Once the race began, focus shifted to execution. As fatigue set in during the bike and run, he broke the challenge down into manageable goals — reaching the next aid station, then the next.

"It became about getting through it, one step at a time."

Midway through the course, Jett realised his target time of under six hours was still within reach, after initially thinking it had slipped away.

"That gave me a second wind," he said.



With renewed focus, he pushed through the final kilometres and crossed the finish line in under six hours.

"It was such a relief. I was really happy to achieve the goal I'd set for myself."

Looking back, Jett says the experience reinforced lessons about discipline, consistency and what can be achieved with commitment.

"It showed me what I'm capable of when I commit to something."

Having completed his first Half Ironman, Jett is already looking ahead and the original goal remains unchanged.

"The end goal is a full Ironman one day."

For now, though, he is focused on a promise in progress, and the knowledge that every step so far has been building towards something much bigger.





Out & About

Snapshots
of College life
from the last
12 months.







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