



*Jack Ross Bursary*  
FELLOWSHIP





Since 1802, the Christian Brothers have changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of young men and created a proud tradition of sacrifice and service. For the last 120 years, St Joseph's Nudgee College has been a flagship organisation in the noble pursuit of the Edmund Rice legacy.

Over the years, many have benefited from the generosity of the Christian Brothers at Nudgee College; none more so than those who received financial assistance from the College enabling them to embrace a Nudgee College experience that would have otherwise been denied them. The Nudgee College Community remember most fondly those everyday boys, whose unyielding respect for their mates, and sheer determination and spirit, forged the proud traditions of the College. Their depth of character has made the Nudgee College family what it is today.

Modern education is a fiercely competitive market and Nudgee College is well placed in the field; a tour of the modern Nudgee College campus will reveal infrastructure and facilities beyond the imagination of the early Christian Brothers. Despite the corporate reality of maintaining excellence in the modern era, Nudgee College still maintains its Edmund Rice tradition in the provision of education and opportunities for all young men in today's world.

The Nudgee College Old Boys' Association (NCOBA) initiated the Jack Ross Bursary (JRB) to provide equity support for Nudgee College boys who would be revered by their peers for their ardent dedication to the College and their mates. These boys, when given just a glimmer of opportunity, enhance the traditions and experience of Nudgee College for all. They may not achieve excellence in all pursuits, but they will seize every opportunity and every moment to give their all for Nudgee College and their mates.

The NCOBA invite all members of the Nudgee College Community to support the JRB initiative and join them in their campaign to change the lives of young men in a similar way to the iconic Jack Ross who, from humble beginnings in country Queensland, became legendary in the history of Nudgee College.

# *The Jack Ross Story*

John Elliot Ross was born in Dalby on 10th April 1894, the first child and only son of Thomas and Emily (nee Elliot) Ross. Though they were not Catholics, Thomas and Emily were determined that by attending Nudgee College Jack would have the educational opportunity denied to them.

Jack arrived at Nudgee College in 1908, and would subsequently represent the College in 1st XI (1912-1915) and 1st XV (1911-1912) as well be College Rifle Champion (1911-1912) and College Champion in the 440 and 880 yards.

After completing Senior in 1913 (suggesting that he represented the College in sport after graduation) he studied law for a year, although his legal ambitions were curtailed by financial constraints. Jack successfully applied for a teaching position at Nudge College...the rest is history.

In 1934, he converted to Catholicism and was married in the Nudgee College Chapel. Nine years later, at the age of 50 and to his great joy, his daughter Mary was born.

In his sixty-four years at Nudgee College, he had 'seen out' a dozen principals and eight thousand students. Outside Nudgee College Jack was also very active in community life. He was secretary to the GPS Association from 1928-1959 and secretary of the Nudgee College Old Boys' Association for over 50 years, as well as serving as president of Brothers Rugby Union Club from 1935 to 1973. Even when he retired from teaching Jack stayed at Nudgee College and did clerical work, but even he could not go on forever. In the second term of 1972 he farewelled Nudgee College, and passed away in September the following year.

It is in honour of Jack Ross and his extraordinary contribution to the community that the Nudgee College Old Boys' Association have initiated the Jack Ross Bursary in the hope that many more young men may have the opportunity to continue his great legacy.



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# *The JRB Fellowship*

In recognition of the significance of the Jack Ross Bursary, its potential impact on the lives of the young men privileged enough to receive its assistance, and the positive influence that their collective presence will have on the enduring Nudgee College spirit, the NCOBA has established a unique organisation. The Jack Ross Bursary Fellowship, although managed and supported under the NCOBA constitution, will make provisions for all members of the Nudgee College Community to support the Jack Ross Bursary program and thereby have a continuing influence on the proud young men that Nudgee College produces.

## GOVERNANCE

The Fellowship will be directed and managed by the Executive of the NCOBA and its JRB Fellowship Support Team, in consultation with the College and the Foundation (as Trustee of the Jack Ross Bursary). Despite assuming the onus of management, neither the NCOBA Executive, the JRB Fellowship Support Team, nor College and Foundation representatives will be granted a Fellowship unless they have contributed in accordance with the Fellowship guidelines.

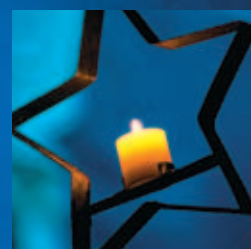
Under the requirements of the JRB Trust Deed, the JRB Committee meets regularly to review and endorse applicants and recipients of the JRB. The committee consists of the College Principal, another member of the College Leadership Team and two nominees from the NCOBA. The College Principal has the final authority on approving bursaries. Senior JRB Fellows will be given the opportunity to openly discuss any JRB matters with the College Principal and the JRB Committee at private functions hosted at the College to provide personal feedback and briefings on the JRB progress and achievements.



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# Fellowship Patron

*The JRB Fellowship  
is proud to  
introduce its  
Fellowship Patron*

## BR VINCENT CONNORS

Br Vince Connors was born in 1932 in Maryborough where he was educated by the Christian Brothers before entering the Novitiate at Minto NSW in 1950. After completing teacher's training in Strathfield NSW he began teaching in 1953. Br Connors was also awarded a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Queensland, majoring in History.

Br Connors served at Christian Brothers' Colleges in Melbourne, Adelaide, Townsville, Charters Towers, Maryborough and Brisbane. He had his first taste of the responsibilities as headmaster in his home town of Maryborough and took on the same responsibilities at St. James's (acting) and Charters Towers before taking up post as Principal at Nudgee College.

Br Connors' tenure as Nudgee College's 25th Principal began in 1980. This was a testing time; there was no budget, and in fact the school had to borrow \$20,000 to cover costs over the Christmas vacation period. Br Connors hired a business manager, established an Advisory Board and created the structures to enable the growth of Nudgee College through the late 20th Century. He saw a necessary distinction between a love of values and a shallow love of achievement. He said that 'genuine love of your College is love of what it stands for, its values, its ideals, its principles, its traditions; and, if such love and reverence exist, there will obviously be a keen desire to live out those values, ideals, principles and traditions to the best of one's ability'. He identified the need to create students who 'reflect the Catholic faith' and are a living example of the College motto '*Signum Fidei*'. He decreed that Nudgee College should focus on 'academic excellence, honourable behaviour, justice, correct

manners, discipline and moral integrity'. From these core values other achievement would follow.

His Mission Statement acknowledged the need to sensitise each student to 'the degree to which greed, selfishness, inhumanity and injustice are present in our society, and be aware of the enormous advantages he has enjoyed, compared with most of his contemporaries and therefore of his obligation to attempt to do something about it'. Br Connors saw it as the duty of those in the school community to uphold these values and to continue to live as a '*Signum Fidei*' – Sign of Faith for future generations.

During his term as the third longest serving headmaster at Nudgee College, Br Connors presided over much change. By the time he concluded in 1988, he had earned his place as one of Nudgee College's great Headmasters.

Following on from his time at Nudgee College, Br Connors directed the Christian Brothers Resource Team that led to the formation of Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA). Br Connors has also been an ardent supporter of the NCOBA over the years and received the prestigious Signum Fidei award in 2004. He believes that the diversity and openness of Nudgee College has been, and remains, one of its greatest strengths alongside its focus on Christian values. Indeed, there is none more suitable or deserving than Br Vince Connors to lead the Jack Ross Bursary Fellowship as Patron.



## MESSAGE FROM BR VINCENT CONNORS

*It is for me a real privilege to be invited to endorse the launch of this effort by the Nudgee College Old Boys' Association to enable boys who could not otherwise afford to attend Nudgee College to do so. I understand that this initiative has nothing to do with either outstanding academic or sporting ability but simply to provide the opportunity to worthy boys, who would profit greatly by a Nudgee College education, would have the potential to significantly enhance the College community and had a genuine financial need for assistance.*

*I think it is wonderful to see a group of men who have such a love for their old school, who consider themselves to have profited greatly from their time there and enjoyed the experience who are enthusiastic about helping others to enjoy the same experience.*

*This plan is entirely in harmony with the founding spirit of both the founder of the Christian Brothers, Blessed Edmund Rice, who spent his considerable fortune in this very work of helping those who were less well-off financially and Br Ambrose Treacy who brought the first Brothers to Australia, purchased the present*

*Nudgee College property and built and started this great old establishment in 1891. They would both agree wholeheartedly that no boy should be denied the opportunity of a Nudgee College education simply because he lacked the necessary means.*

*I am in a position to be aware of and to know personally many men who would never have enjoyed what Nudgee College gave him but for the generosity of both the Brothers and many other benefactors. So many of these made great contributions to Nudgee College through the young men they were and the people they became and grew to be wonderful examples of Nudgee College's motto of 'Signum Fidei' – Sign of Faith.*

*As I said it is for me a great privilege to add my enthusiastic support to such a wonderful project and to ask you, whether you, like me, have had the great privilege of being a part of the Nudgee College Family, or would simply like to assist future young men to do so to contribute as generously as you are able.*

**Br Vince Connors cfc**

Nudgee Principal January 1980 – March 1988



*So many of these young men grew to be wonderful examples of Nudgee College's motto 'Signum Fidei' – Sign of Faith*



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OPPORTUNITIES

All members of the Nudgee College community are invited to support and continue the legacy of Edmund Rice by joining the Jack Ross Bursary Fellowship in providing life changing opportunities for young men in need. You can help the fallen branches to become our Signum Fidei.



Opportunities for fellowship are available in the following categories:

- Ambassador Fellow
- Principal Fellow
- Associate Fellow
- Fellowship Member
- Fellowship Supporter

Since the Jack Ross Bursary enjoys Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status with the Australian Tax Office, all Fellowship contributions are fully tax-deductable.



PRIVILEGES						
FELLOWSHIP STATUS	All contributions the Jack Ross Bursary are fully tax deductible and can be spread over 5 years	Invitation to represent the NCOBA on the Jack Ross Bursary Committee	Personal Induction Ceremony hosted by Nudgee College Principal	Group Induction Ceremony hosted by Nudgee College Principal	Private Functions hosted twice annually to review JRB progress and discuss relevant matters with Nudgee College Principal*	General Functions hosted annually exclusively for JRB Contributors*
Ambassador Fellow	\$250,000	●	●		●	●
Principal Fellow	\$100,000		●		●	●
Associate Fellow	\$ 50,000			●		●
Fellowship Member	\$ 10,000					\$ Invited at cost
Fellowship Supporter	Other					\$ Invited at cost

PRIVILEGES					
FELLOWSHIP STATUS	Fellows are offered VIP status and seating at all Nudgee College hosted GPS events including rugby, football and rowing*	Fellows will be given public recognition on JRB publications, JRB website and Nudgee College Foundation Honour Boards	Custom designed hand-crafted JRB Fellowship lapel pins are awarded*	Custom designed JRB Fellowship silk neck tie exclusively for JRB contributors	Fellowship Certificate
Ambassador Fellow	●	●	Diamond	●	●
Principal Fellow	●	●	Gold	●	●
Associate Fellow	●	●	Silver	●	●
Fellowship Member			Bronze	●	●
Fellowship Supporter				\$ available at cost	●

\*Ambassador, Principal and Associate Fellowships granted to corporate and family entities are entitled to one invitation and lapel pin per Fellowship. Additional persons can be awarded Fellowship under the same entity at the equivalent level for an additional 20% contribution per entitlement. These additional Fellows will receive individual invitations to entitled events, a lapel pin and a tie.



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## *The JRB at Work*

*Recipients of Jack  
Ross Bursaries are  
expected to strive in  
all aspects of Nudgee  
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Applications for the Jack Ross Bursary will be sought or received from various sources in the community. These may come from recommendations or applications proposed by the NCOBA, parishes, community organisations, or individuals within the Nudgee College community.

Completed applications will include information on the candidate and his family background or history; it will also be accompanied by any financial data available to verify that the individual has a bonafide eligibility for equity support. It is one of the central tenets of a bursary in the Edmund Rice tradition that there be a demonstrable candidate need.

From the candidates who meet the criteria to be eligible for a Jack Ross Bursary scholarship, a shortlist of recommendations will be tabled at the Jack Ross Bursary Committee meeting. The committee will select and endorse its preferred recipients. Under the Bursary's Trust Deed, the College Principal is the final authority for the approval of its scholarships.

After the selection and approval of successful candidates, Ambassador and Principal Fellows will be convened for a private function where the College Principal will provide a briefing and host discussion on the activities of the Jack Ross Bursary, including the status and progress of existing recipients as well as outlining non-confidential information on new recipients. At these functions, Ambassador and Principal Fellows will have the opportunity to engage and discuss matters with the Patron, College Principal and Committee members.

Recipients of Jack Ross Bursaries are expected to strive in all aspects of Nudgee College life to become for the world a 'Signum Fidei' – Sign of Faith. Parents and guardians of recipients will also be expected to participate fully in the support of their son and the College. Bursaries are offered in a spirit of mutual trust and shared responsibility. Recipients will be monitored regularly for compliance with the terms of their bursaries.





#### MESSAGE FROM DARYL HANLY

It is with great pride that we call ourselves at St Joseph's Nudgee College, a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition. Edmund's life was marked by a spirituality that was strong and practical: he was forever caring for the poor in the wretched circumstances of their lives, for he believed there was a great need 'to give to the poor in handfuls'. Many people, both men and women, from many cultures, young and old were helped and given hope and purpose and a new footing in life. He and his Brothers even cared for the inmates of the jails of Waterford. Edmund was privileged to comfort and accompany many a condemned man to the gallows. The poor never forgot his love for them and saw Edmund as 'a man raised up by God'.

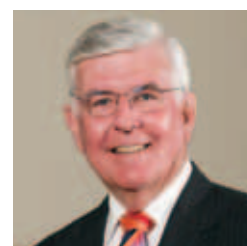
As we continue living out Edmund Rice Charism at St Joseph's Nudgee College, we are afforded the opportunity to provide a whole range of young men a chance to achieve in life that was they could not achieve unless they were given the chance to attend this wonderful College. Throughout my time as Principal, I have had the opportunity to observe a number of wonderful young men taking advantage of this opportunity. These students come to us from a range of backgrounds for many different reasons.

We have been fortunate to receive students referred to us through the Department of Children's Services. It is not only education that is integral to their well-being, but scaffolding through significant support — counselling, pastoral care strategies, homestay, mentoring. There are some boys for whom St Joseph's Nudgee College is their only home. They have come here because their parents are unable to look after them or perhaps one parent is in jail and another parent is no longer interested. There are those who are orphans, for whom St Joseph's Nudgee College provides family as well as home.

There is no certainty in the financial lives of families who depend upon the vagaries of the weather or the economy to provide them with the financial stability to afford fees at Nudgee College. In the event of a financial challenge, it is always incumbent on us, in the Edmund Rice Tradition, to focus on the education of the student firstly, and the repayment of the fees later, if at all.

While we have continued to build such support into our budgeting processes, we look to the Nudgee College Old Boys Association to provide even more opportunities for these chances through fiscal support of the Jack Ross Scholarship Fund.

Your support will ensure that we can continue to 'give to the poor in handfuls'.



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