



Emmanuel  
College  
EST. 1911

2024  
IN REVIEW





**WATCH  
VIDEO**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Emmanuel College acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which the College is located, the people of the Turrbal nation and Jagera/Yaggera nation.

Our community lives, learns and grows together on these rich lands and waters that are, and have been, a place of gathering for thousands of years.

Emmanuel College is committed to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the lands, waters and seas, and their significant contribution to society as the oldest living civilisation in the world.

Emmanuel College endeavours to promote reconciliation through education, respect and engagement.



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# COMMUNITY

## **Our neighbourhood**

Our community at a glance

# ENGAGEMENT

## **Our connections**

Reflections from our year

Our Alumni

Alumni Spotlight

Our year at a glance



# PERFORMANCE

## **Our achievements**

A snapshot of 2024

Transforming Spaces

ICC - Inter-College Council

# IMPACT

## **Our outcomes**

Driving positive change

Charity and Fundraising

Reconciliation



## Our Purpose

To provide university students with an outstanding collegiate experience. We offer a diverse, vibrant and supportive community in which students achieve personal growth and academic success inspired by our Christian ethos.

## Our Vision

Empowering students for life through community.



# Introduction to the 2024 Year in Review

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2024 Emmanuel College Year in Review publication. We've tried to combine our usual wrap up of things which have happened throughout the year and combine it with interesting facts and impact statements to give you an even more complete view of life at college. This year has been one of remarkable success and profound accomplishments for our college and its students, with extraordinary achievements in community building, leadership development, and progress towards the recommendations of our Cultural Review. These milestones are a testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire Emmanuel College community.

Last summer's refurbishment project saw 325 bedrooms gutted, rebuilt and re-opened in time for our 2024 residents. This has not only enhanced our campus infrastructure but also provided our students with modern, comfortable living spaces that foster an environment of learning and growth. We are delighted to see the immediate impact this project has had on our students' college experience.

We have been super proud to watch our community immerse themselves in the varied programme of activities in the ICC Sporting, Cultural and Community programmes and delighted in some big wins!<sup>1</sup> These accomplishments reflect the spirit of integrity, perseverance and teamwork that is at the core of our college's values, and our vibrant community is the better for them.

As you delve into this report, I invite you to join us in celebrating the wide range of wonderful experiences that have made life at Emmanuel College in 2024 so satisfying. Take a moment to reflect on these achievements but then consider how much more can be done in the future. Your continued support and engagement are vital to our ongoing journey of excellence. Here's to another year of outstanding collegiate experiences, growth and success at Emmanuel College.

Stephen Peake  
Principal/CEO

<sup>1</sup> Don't forget the Men's Great Court Relay – Emmanuel now has 5 consecutive wins! (2019,2021,2022,2023,2024)





“This **year** has been one  
of **remarkable  
success** and profound  
accomplishments for **our  
college** and its **students**”



## Message from the Chair

As the Chair of Emmanuel College, I'm proud to introduce our 2024 Year in Review publication. Being an alumna of Emmanuel College and the first female to hold the position of Chair in our 113-year history, I am deeply honoured to serve the community that has shaped my own journey and continues to empower countless others.

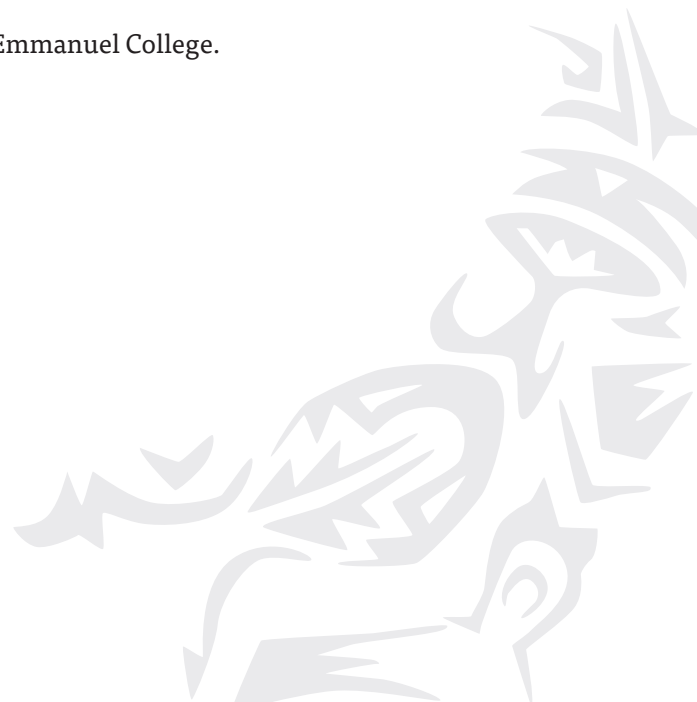
The past year has been a testament to our unwavering commitment to the College's vision of empowering students through a strong and supportive community. Our Board has steadfastly worked to align our strategies and initiatives with this vision, ensuring that every student at Emmanuel College feels valued, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the residents and staff of Emmanuel College. Their dedication, passion, and determination to build community have been instrumental in creating and striving for an environment where everyone feels safe, included, and respected. It is through your collective contributions that Emmanuel College remains a nurturing ground for future leaders and well-rounded community contributors.

Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones this year, and I am excited about the future we are building.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to Emmanuel College.

Emma Szczotko  
Board Chair, Emmanuel College





A group of people in formal attire are walking in a hallway. In the foreground, a man in a dark jacket and a red and green plaid kilt is playing bagpipes. He is wearing a black hat and glasses. Behind him, a woman in a blue and yellow sash is walking. Other people in formal wear are visible in the background.

“ I am deeply **honoured** to  
serve the **community** that has  
shaped **my own journey**  
and continues to **empower**  
countless others ”

Emma Szczotko  
Board Chair



## ECSC President's Message

After what has felt like the fastest year ever, 2024 is coming to an end. I've been thinking about some of the key moments that have defined the student cohort of 2024, and what it means to be a Blue Dog, for our newest members and for those who have been here for a while.

I'd say the biggest stand out and defining feature is our strong sense of community. It is visible here every single day, in many different ways. Maybe it's a random group of people hanging out at our coffee shop, Brew Dogs. Maybe it's a group of people staying up until 3am chatting in the hallways. Or maybe it's seeing a sea of blue walking down to a sports game in the busiest time of the year. This is what it means to be a Blue Dog, and our 2024 cohort embodied this wholeheartedly all year.

We have also been incredibly successful in our cultural, sporting and community endeavours. It's tough to narrow it down to the key highlights given the massive year of events and activities our students have been involved in, but I've picked three that are worthy of a special mention.

Our cultural highlight of the year had to be our Theatre Review. With a talented cast and crew, our students over three nights, put on an unforgettable performance of Monty Python's "Spamalot". Our community highlight was undoubtedly our inaugural Blue Dog Dash, a charity fun run which raised over \$3,000 for the Leukemia Foundation. Last but not least, our sporting highlight of the year was our boys placing first in the ICC Men's Sports Competition and winning the Old Collegians' Cup - a feat that has not been accomplished since 1972! All these experiences would not have been possible without the student executive and the wider student leadership team, and the tireless work and long hours they have put in over the year.

As I come to the end of my three years here at Emmanuel, and to the end of my time as the ECSC President, I can't help but think about all the things I am going to miss about this place. These three years have been unforgettable, and some of the most special of my life. I would like to thank the College staff, supporters of the college, and most importantly, all Blue Dogs, because without them, Emmanuel College would not be the place we all know it to be. I know that next year's executive team, wider cohort, and future first years will continue to make this place a home for so many people.

Yours in once a Blue Dog, always a Blue Dog,  
Richard "Figgy" Huelin - President 2024  
Emmanuel College Students' Club Inc.





“ I’d say the biggest **stand out** and **defining feature** is our strong sense of **community**. It is visible here **every single day**, in many different ways ”

Richard “Figgy” Huelin  
ECSC President





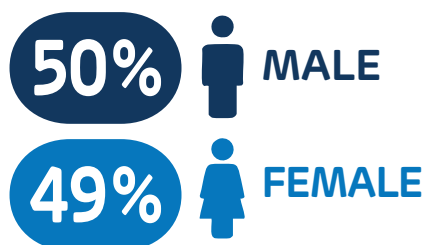


**COMMUNITY**  
Our neighbourhood



# 361

**RESIDENTS**



OTHER **1%**

## STUDENTS FROM

**QLD** **75%**

**Other states** **15%**

**Overseas** **10%**

Out of **271** students from **Queensland**

**40%** rural & regional

**60%** South East QLD



## Studying at

**UQ** ..... **271**

**QUT** ..... **60**

**Griffith** · **8**

**ACU** ..... **3**

**CQU** ..... **1**

## age

**Under 19**

**76**

**Over 19**

**285**

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

**19** with **6**



becoming full residents over the year

## YEAR breakdown

**1<sup>st</sup>** **175**

**2<sup>nd</sup>** **121**

**3<sup>rd</sup>** **43**

**4<sup>th</sup>** **4**

## POSTGRADUATES


 **18**

**3** PhD candidates

**6** Doctor of Medicine

**9** Masters by Course Work

## Student Leadership

**13%** 

of the undergraduate student cohort hold a student leadership position

**16** Emmanuel College Students' Club (ECSC)

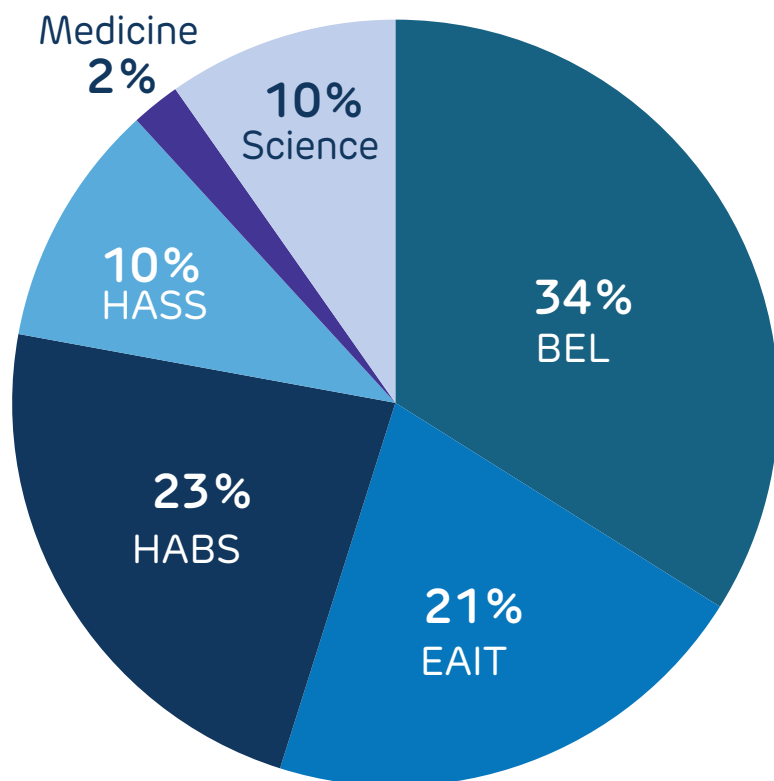
**18** Wing Leaders

**12** Office Holders

Our community at a glance



## Undergraduate Cohort by Faculty



**71** studying  
**dual**  
programs

**10** international  
students



## STUDENT / ALUMNI EMPLOYMENT

- 4** residents employed as interns
- 2** residents employed as baristas
- 4** alumni employed as casuals

## COLLEGE STAFF



Senior  
Management  
Team

**3**

Student  
Engagement  
Team

**7**

Grounds  
and Facilities

**3**

Tutors

**32**

Catering and  
Cleaning

**21**

A young woman with blonde hair, wearing a black tank top, is smiling and looking towards the right. She is in a social setting with other people in the background, some of whom are blurred. A large blue curved shape is overlaid on the top left of the image, containing white and yellow text.

“ The **people I have met**  
at Emman have become a **second**  
**family** to me. There’s always a  
**friendly face** ready for a chat ”

Eva Briggs  
1st Year Emmanuel  
College Resident





# ENGAGEMENT

Our connections

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE SURVEY

# 60%

chose Emmanuel on recommendation

### Top 4 factors for their decision

1. Co-educational community
2. Academic support
3. Cultural program
4. Sporting opportunities

# 97%



feel safe & supported at Emmanuel

# 80%

know the pathways for support for sexual misconduct and assault

## RESIDENTS RETURN BECAUSE OF FRIENDS & THE COMMUNITY

143 alumni attended **Alumni Connect** in Brisbane and London and 39 joined us at **Bannockburn Dinner**

# 80+

female students and alumnae celebrated at **EmpowerHER**

Launched inaugural **ALUMNI EXCELLENCE AWARDS**



# 600+

guests visited on

# OPEN DAY

### What students love most about Emmanuel

- ★ Strong sense of community & support
- ★ Campus events & traditions
- ★ Wing culture

Over **100** staff, alumni and students

participated in culture review and brand strategy workshops

## SOCIAL MEDIA INSIGHTS



**3,020** followers

From 2023

**7↑%**



**2,427** followers

From 2023

**23↑%**



**712** followers

From 2023

**162↑%**



**694** followers

From 2023

**30↑%**

Reflections from our year







## Our Alumni

2024 has been a successful year for Emmanuel College's alumni engagement.

It was a year for developing some key alumni initiatives. A total of 235 alumni attended designated alumni events, showcasing strong community involvement. Successful Alumni Connect events in London and Brisbane fostered global connections and the Brisbane EmpowerHER initiative raised over \$5,000 for the Young Women Leaders Scholarship, empowering female alumni.

The College also held its inaugural Alumni Excellence Awards at our annual Bannockburn Dinner, recognising the outstanding achievements of our alumni body. This year's award winners are:

**Alumni Excellence Award:** Dental professional and forensic scientist, Associate Professor Alexander Forrest AO. His remarkable contributions include playing a vital role in Disaster Victim Identification operations following significant global tragedies, including the Bali Bombings (2002), the South Asian Tsunami (2004), the Samoan Tsunami, and the Victorian Bushfires (2009).

**Outstanding Young Alumni Award:** Public Servant, Thomas Cullen who has made significant contributions to the implementation of the Government's 5-year National Cultural Policy: Revive: A place for every story, a story for every place.

Other outstanding achievements from our alumni body include UQ graduate University Medallist and Rhodes Scholar, Matisse Reed, and UQ Distinguished Young Alumni Award recipient and Founder of Red Earth, Arthur Alla. Patrick Donovan was also announced as a UQ graduate University Medallist.

Mary Brown  
Alumni Relationships and Engagement Lead



**WATCH  
VIDEO**





# Alumni Spotlight

## Sophie Kalkowski-Pope (EMC 2019-2020)

**Bachelor of Science / Bachelor of Arts, Marine Biology and Geography**

**UQ Valedictorian**

**2023 Australasian Scholar of the Our World Underwater Scholarship Society**



An avid science communicator, diver, and marine conservationist, The University of Queensland, and Emmanuel College alumna Sophie Kalkowski-Pope has had a passion for the marine world from a young age. Growing up in Cairns, with the Great Barrier Reef as her backyard, the UQ Valedictorian, with majors in Marine Science and Geography, witnessed the 2017 mass coral bleaching events on her local reef at 16 years of age, and records it as being a pivotal moment in her life. This experience was a foundational moment in terms of realising her passion for science communication, and the initiative required to take action as a young leader.

In 2023, at the age of 22, Sophie was awarded the Australasian Scholarship of the *Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society® (OWUSS)*. The scholarship is an opportunity offered to only three recipients worldwide each year, to provide firsthand experiences in underwater-related disciplines to young people considering careers in the underwater world. As the OWUSS Australasian Scholar, Sophie spent the past year travelling to 13 countries, undertook 150 dives, and spent 30 days at sea, upskilling her research skills and diving capabilities. From ice diving in Finland, to analysing marine e-DNA in Japan and freedive training with world champions in Taiwan, Sophie says the experiences were transformative.

“This year has catalysed my career, and I have accomplished skills and qualifications in just 12 months that would have otherwise taken years to achieve. Throughout this journey I’ve made incredible connections all over the world, met eye-opening characters, professional mentors, and made lifelong friends,” Sophie said.

A keen photographer and videographer, Sophie documented her journey on film, titled “Under Pressure”, which she showed at the 50th Anniversary OWUSS Awards Ceremony in New York in June earlier this year.

“This is a documentation of my travels and training this year, reflecting the pressure on our bodies when we dive, the pressures I have placed on myself during this year, but most importantly, the pressures our planet is facing moving forward in the future.”

As for her future, Sophie said she would like to further her scientific diving and undertake some practical work in industry, film, or the not-for-profit sector, and continue her advocacy for our oceans, while inspiring people to protect our natural world.

“Ultimately, I’ll likely return to study to complete an honours or master’s degree, with the long-term goal of working in management or policy roles where I can have broadscale impacts.”



“ This year has catalysed my career,  
and I have accomplished **skills and  
qualifications** in just  
**12 months** that would have otherwise  
taken years to achieve ”

Sophie Kalkowski-Pope  
(EMC 2019-2020)



**WATCH  
VIDEO**



# OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE



**FEB Move In Day**  
152 new students  
welcomed

**FEB Convocation  
Service and Dinner**  
Chapel service  
followed by dinner  
under a marquee  
for 490 guests



**FEB O-Week**



**MAR Academic  
Awards Dinner**  
261 attendees  
celebrated 28  
academic  
award winners



**MAR Alumni  
Connect  
Brisbane**  
121 alumni  
connected  
at Babylon,  
Brisbane CBD



**MAR Careers Expo**  
Industry panel presentation  
and 15 organisations where  
residents explored career  
pathways and internships

**MAY  
Emmanuel  
College Ball**

## **AUG EmpowerHER**

Raised over \$5,000 for a Young Women Leaders Scholarship for 2025



## **AUG Open Day**

50 student ambassadors led tours for 6 hours for over 600 guests



## **JUL Alumni Connect London**

22 alumni met up at BrewDog Waterloo, London



## **AUG Blue Dog Dash**

Students ran 5, 10 or 21 km to raise over \$3,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation



**WATCH VIDEO**



## **SEPT Emmanuel Appreciates**

Alumni, parents and residents celebrated Founders' Day in the quad



## **JUN National Reconciliation Week**

A series of Indigenous focussed events and activities

## **OCT Valedictory Service and Dinner**

We farewelled 45 valedicts

## **OCT Bannockburn Dinner**

Marking 40 years! We announced our inaugural Alumni Excellence Award winners



## **OCT ICC Awards**

After 52 years Emmanuel students won the ICC Old Collegians' Cup







# PERFORMANCE

Our achievements



# 953

student applications for **325** resident places

CURRENT STUDENTS RETURNING

# 190

**49%** of residents played in **ICC sports**

**90** males played in **13** sports  
**87** females played in **12** sports



**21** academic **PRIZES**

to returning **STUDENTS** (from 2023 grades) with a

**GPA over 6.25**

**STUDENT** achievements

**29% GPA 6.00+**

**70% GPA 5.00+**

**20** student prizes, medals & bursary awards presented at Bannockburn Dinner



**42 residents** participated as cast and crew staging *Spamalot* for **Theatre Review**

# 73

of students on **ACADEMIC Wellbeing Plans** improved their academic performance



**ACADEMIC RECOGNITION AWARDS**

# 40%

**residents**

participated in the ICC cultural competition including in 7 performing arts events, 7 debating rounds and a one-day chess tournament



# Transforming Spaces

Discussion kicked off mid-2023 to align the College facilities with its strategic priority of "Community and Wellbeing", and to modernise the ageing infrastructure to meet contemporary student expectations. It would be hard to argue that the refurbishment of the living facilities at Emmanuel, some of which were approaching 70 years of age, was well overdue.

During the summer of 2023-24 the College embarked on one of the largest facilities projects in recent history, by refurbishing 325 individual bedrooms.

The refurbishment now sets a standard that leads our sector, included modernising the rooms with more storage, double beds for standard rooms, improved lighting, and electrical upgrades.

New state of the art locks/readers for each room and wing were also installed as the project progressed. The project was completed within 55 working days, ready in time for the new 2024 cohort to move in, in February.



**REFURB**  
of **325**  
**bedrooms**

across **8** wings  
in **55** days

**1950** power sockets

**1300** drawers

**700m** of desking

**650** USB outlets





A young man with dark hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and light blue jeans, is leaning over a pool table. He is smiling and looking down at the cue ball. He is holding a pool cue. The pool table has a blue felt top and a wooden frame. A yellow and white cue ball is on the table. In the background, there is a dark wooden cabinet with several trophies on it. The scene is indoors, likely in a recreation room or a community center.

“ 2024 at Emman has been all  
about the **friendships** and  
**connections** I never expected.  
Being part of this community  
**feels like home**, where every  
moment is shared and every day is a  
**new adventure together ”**

Haanbie Lee  
1st Year Emmanuel  
College Resident





## Inter-College Council (ICC)

### Sport and Cultural Results 2024

ICC Sport Male		
Old Collegians' Cup		Emmanuel College 1st Position (overall)
ICC Sportsman of the Year		Matthew Bennett – Emmanuel College
Swimming: 2nd place	Rowing: 3rd place	Rugby Union: 2nd place
Hockey: 5th place	AFL: 1st place	Basketball: 1st place
Volleyball: 1st place	Touch Football: 3rd place	Athletics: 1st place
Table Tennis: 4th place	Soccer: 2nd place	
Cricket: 4th place	Badminton: 6th place	

ICC Sports Female		
ICC Sports Shield		Emmanuel College 4th Position (overall)
ICC Sportswoman of the Year		Annie Hill – Emmanuel College
Swimming: 3rd place	Table Tennis: 5th place	Rugby 7s: 3rd place
Hockey: 5th place	Rowing: 4th place	Netball: 5th place
Volleyball: 1st place	Touch Football: 4th place	Basketball: 1st place
Tennis: 5th place	Soccer: 4th place	Athletics: 3rd place

ICC Cultural		
Emmanuel 3rd Position (overall)		
College Idol: 4th place	Choralfest: 2nd place	Bandfest: DNP
Chess: 1st place	Debating: 4th place	Oratory: 4th place
Art Show: 10th place	One Act Play: 4th place	Dancefest: 5th place



“What I’ve **enjoyed most** about Emman this year is being part of a **supportive and empowering** sporting **community** that has helped me build and strengthen **meaningful friendships**”

Jemima Bennett  
1st Year Emmanuel  
College Resident





# IMPACT

Our outcomes





# CULTURE REVIEW

## Recommendations

4 completed  
and ongoing  
9 in-progress  
3 not yet  
commenced

**62** residents  
received  
financial  
support

**\$161,000**

awarded in  
scholarships  
and bursaries

## RECONCILIATION

**20** RAP activities  
delivered over NRW  
and NAIDOC Week

**6** students mentored  
**45** Indigenous high  
school students at EPIC  
Pathways Program Day

**\$14k** raised for  
CHARITY

**3 out of 4**

**Wednesdays** had a  
focus on academic, social,  
emotional, cultural, sexual,  
physical & community  
wellbeing ♥♥♥♥

Installed new key-card room  
access system to improve  
access and security

**343** mobile phone  
enabled keys



**294,840**  
**MEALS**  
**served**

our favourite meal  
was Chicken Parma!

**11,200**  
**coffees**  
**prepared**



by student baristas at  
**Brew Dogs** coffee bar

**200 hours** of  
e-learning modules



Recycled **9 shipping containers**  
of bedroom furniture in our  
refurbishment project diverting  
**307 cm³** from landfill and saving  
**29 tonnes** of greenhouse gases

**152kg**

of donated clothing  
and **20kg of linen**  
re-deployed to  
partner charities

**OVER 500 BATTERIES**  
**SENT TO ACCREDITED**  
**RECYCLING FACILITY**



Students collected  
containers saving **8766**  
**1.19 tonnes** of **waste**  
and **2.05 tonnes** of  
**greenhouse gas**

Driving positive change



# Charity and Fundraising

The ECSC’s dedication to supporting local and national charities reflects the core values of our community. Our students’ strong sense of social responsibility has helped build closer connections and create a shared purpose. Through their efforts, they raised nearly \$14,000 for causes that matter to them.

The residents hosted events to raise funds for causes such as youth suicide prevention, spinal cord research, mental health, and brain cancer research. They also saved up to 12 lives by donating blood to the Red Cross Lifeblood collection. This year Blue Dog Week, where College wings connected through healthy competitions, and the Blue Dog Dash were introduced to support Share the Dignity and the Leukaemia Foundation.

The College was also able to support a number of local charities with a large quantity of apparel, manchester and some furniture including UQ Union, GIVIT and organisations who support the homeless, women experiencing domestic violence, animals in care and high school students who have challenges attending their formal. This yearly initiative supports the circular economy of textiles while diverting the recycled material from landfill and exportation to overseas countries where it is creating a significant environmental issue.



“ Being **a leader** at Emmanuel challenges you to **be at your best self** and reminds you of the importance of **care, support and respect** ”

Jack Thatcher (right)  
2nd Year Emmanuel College Resident  
Drewe Wing Leader







## Reconciliation

Emmanuel College is committed to reconciliation through our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Our RAP is a key part of our journey towards closing the gap and ensuring First Nations peoples have equal opportunities for learning and success in Australia.

This year, during Reconciliation Week, we welcomed Dreamtime Artistry for a weaving and didgeridoo workshop. We also hosted a Lunch and Learn Yarn with Red Dust and attended the Indigenous NRL Round (Broncos vs. Titans), as well as the St John's College National Reconciliation Week Luncheon. For NAIDOC Week, we produced a video celebrating this year's theme, *Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud!*, honoring the strength and spirit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

# Board and Management

## Board

**Chair**, Uniting Church Appointee - Emma Szczotko, BLaws(Hons) BA GAICD

**Deputy Chair**, Uniting Church Appointee - Nicholas Young, BIntStudies

**UQ Senate Representative** - Rowan Salt, BAppSc MBus MBA GAICD

**Board Appointee** - Cathy Grant, BA BEcon MBA GAICD

**Uniting Church Appointee** - Marc Orchard, BBus(Man)

**Principal/CEO** - Stephen Peake, BA, GradCertBA

## Senior Management Team

### Stephen Peake

Principal/CEO

BA, GradCertBA

### Paterson Boyd

Director of College Life (Deputy Principal)

BExSS, MBus

### Louise Hallo

Director of Wellbeing

BSocWk, GradDipAdolHlthWelb,

Churchill Fellow



## **Emmanuel College**

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**Emmanuel  
College**  
EST. 1911