



St James College

Global Learning, Achieving Aspirations



# NEWSLETTER

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 3230 8600  
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 www.stjamescollege.qld.edu.au  
 CRICOS No: 00715J RTO No: 30526 ABN 96 372 268 340

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Turrbal and Jagera peoples, the traditional custodians of the land our College calls home. We commit to walking with their leaders towards true reconciliation.



## Dates for Your Diary

### December

11 College Office closes

### January 2021

11 College Office reopens

27 Years 7, 12 and all new students commence

Parents Morning Tea

28 All Year Levels commence

## 27 NOVEMBER 2020

## VOL. No. 37

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Friends, Staff and Students

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – 2020 has been a year of change, one of new learnings and challenges, so we hope that Christmas brings you the hope and peace of new life as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

### Pirlirppa YOS Graduates – Congratulations!

On Thursday morning we congratulated our St James Alternative Education Program Graduates located at the Salvation Army Centre next door to our main campus – these students have done very well and graduate with a range of qualifications. They are keen to pursue pathways in health and other areas. We pay tribute to our partnership with the Salvation Army and acknowledge the success of this program in offering a more flexible pathway for our students. We thank Ms Sunny Lee and Ms Heidi Chapman for their teaching prowess and guidance in making this happen along with our Salvation Army staff who do so much to ensure graduates make the finish line!



### ST JAMES COLLEGE ENROLMENT INTERVIEWS 2021 - 2022

Enrolment Interviews for 2021 through to 2022 are now taking place, with vacancies available in all Year Levels.

For all enrolment enquiries please contact Mrs Maria Young at the College on 07 3230 8600 or at MYoung@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au

Having trouble getting the College Newsletter at home? Would you like to receive it via email?

If so, please send an email to school@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au and we will add you to our mailing list.

### ABSENTEE LINE 3230 8655

Please clearly state student's name, year level, homeroom and absence reason.



Pictured above from L-R are Ms Sunny Lee, Pirlirppa YOS Graduates and Ms Heidi Chapman.

## External Review of St James College - Commendation!

Our external validating reviewers for the Non State Schools Accreditation Board Review Process (NSSAB), Toowoomba Director, Mr Jim Midgley, and Principal, Ms Cathy Galvin, were very impressed with the College.

“We congratulate the Principal, the College Review Committee and the College community for the conscientious work in preparing their submissions and in the execution of the processes they have put into place. It is obvious the College is offering a Liberating Education, based on a Gospel Spirituality, within an Inclusive Community committed to Justice and Solidarity. St James College meets, and indeed exceeds, all accreditation requirements.”



They expressed their commendation in relation to its directions, what was being achieved with a high performance culture, the learning differentiation being delivered in a diverse cultural context, the capacity of the College in upholding its commitment to the EREA Touchstones, particularly those at the margins, the care for the wellbeing of our students, student protection processes, extensive curricular and cocurricular offerings. Overall, the thoroughness of our collation of materials, the diversity and loquacious leadership of our students, the bespoke pathways for all students, the fine analysis of data, the creative and innovative approaches, the defined “crystal clear” strategic directions and growth/sustainability of the College were highlighted. Moreover, a specific endorsement of the inclusive nature of the College centred around the importance and identification of the power and commitment of staff to be on board and make this happen, was noted. We were very grateful to Mr Midgley and Ms Galvin for their generosity of time and wonderful wisdom; Mr Peter Chapman, Director Northern Region EREA, and Dr Caroline Thomson, Board Chair, for their valued input and presence. The complexity of schools is immense and today certainly evidenced this context at St James. We also extend our thanks to our student leaders, staff, parents, and community who were all involved with the process.

## Farewell and Thank You!

We pay tribute to the following staff and will welcome some new staff in the following year.

**Ms Bronwyn Doherty** – Ms Doherty has been at the College for 25 years. During this time she has had an amazing impact on many lives. She has woven the fabric for many bringing them into a space of creative arts. Her inspiring work, modelled by her own expertise as an accomplished artist, has been a benchmark to all. Overall, Ms Doherty through her welcoming and accepting manner has made students feel at home whether in an Arts class or a Religion class. Ms Doherty has made an exemplary contribution to the teaching profession and we wish her every joy in her future in the Art world and with her family. We thank her for her stamp on Jimmies and her heralding of the Jimmies spirit.

**Dr Shannon O’Gorman** – Dr O’Gorman has made an enormous contribution to St James College in her role as Director of Counselling and generally as a staff member to the College community. Dr Shannon O’Gorman is an exceptional counsellor - with a social work and music therapist background, Shannon leads the way in being proactive in her role. In particular, Dr O’Gorman has done outstanding work in leading family therapy, trauma informed practice, and reengaging students who have refused to go to school. She has done this by working with all parties involved instead of just trying to work with the students. The depth of Shannon’s work in the College has had a huge impact on many lives - we thank her very much and will miss her greatly. Shannon has been appointed to a new position entailing Education Policy.

**Ms Tanya Yates** – we thank Tanya for her contribution over the last 6 months and wish her the best in her new position. During her time with us, Tanya made a strong contribution in her role as a Maths, Religion teacher, and with her lead in a gospel choir, and nurturing of talents amongst our students.

**Ms Lisa O’Donahue** – Lisa has worked as a teacher aide at the College for three years. Always, Lisa has been conscientious in her approach enabling students to achieve their best. We congratulate Lisa who has finished her studies in becoming a teacher and has been appointed to St Brigid’s Catholic Primary School Emerald. Thank you Lisa!

**Mr Daniel Ramirez** - has worked as a teacher for Semester 2. Daniel’s contribution in class and across the College in sport has been highly appreciated. His passion to engage our students in a range of sporting teams was evidenced through his encouraging coaching in the Rugby 7’s Carnival. We thank Daniel and wish him the best in his new position in Regional Queensland.

*Mr George Hornsby* - has been assisting in the Library and has been working with our students to help in researching and technology. George has always been encouraging and taken time to be helpful to others. We thank George for embracing the Jimmies spirit and wish him the best in his future journey.

### Parents and Friends Meeting

Our Parents and Friends group met on Wednesday evening – they were taken by the details of our Review as we shared it with them. Overall, their feedback was highly valued and I thank them for their help in all we do and their support in making the College a relationship community. I particularly thank Andrew and Sharon Stapleton as their parent role at the College comes to an end with Gabe's graduation, and all of the other parents in a similar situation. We would invite you always in the Friends capacity to join us any time!

### Student Achievements

Congratulations to Year 11 student Max Stanes who passed the following University subject – *MZB125 Introductory to Engineering Mathematics at Queensland University of Technology* under the QUT Start Programme.

### Rotary Brisbane High-Rise Breakfast Meeting

This morning Wilson Kisebo (Year 11 student) and I were invited to attend the Brisbane High-Rise Breakfast Meeting held at the United Services Club, Spring Hill. Wilson recently received a National Youth Science Forum sponsorship from Rotary Brisbane High-Rise. The guest speaker at the meeting was Ms Leanne Harvey, QUT Vice President Administration and University Registrar. Leanne spoke to the importance of education and noted that the fourth largest export in Australia is education. For every \$1 sees a \$5 return to the Gross Domestic Product. The growth in domestic applications has been 19% overall – 11% for non-Year 12 and 30% for Year 12. In 2020 QUT has given out 22,000 frozen meals and \$900,000 in emergency funding to its students. The university is hoping their international students will return soon. There has been a 17% growth in science and engineering enrolments, 23% in education and 26% in health. The importance of continuing to place Australia as a Knowledge Economy was reiterated. I am very appreciative of the wonderful support and assistance given by Rotary Brisbane High-Rise to St James College.



*Pictured from L-R: Ms Margot Baillie, Wilson Kisebo, Ms Rosemary Meadows and Ms Ann Rebgetz.*

### Enrolments

The College welcomes enrolments for 2021, 2022 and 2023. Please contact Ms Maria Young, Enrolments Officer, on 07 3230 8600 or at [maria.young@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au](mailto:maria.young@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au). Tours of the College are always available Monday to Friday between 9am and 2.30pm.

### Coming Events

- Soccer Carnival Gold Coast International Cup, Friday 27–Sunday 29 November.
- **STOP PRESS** – Congratulations to our St James Senior 7's Team who won the Gold Coast International Cup in the Open Men's Division on Sunday. Special congratulations to Jacques Musabwa (Year 11) who was named Player of the Tournament by the referees.



- YOS & Pirlirra Graduation, Thursday 3 December.
- College Office Reopens, Monday 11 January, 2021
- Years 7, 12 and all new students commence / new parents morning tea Wednesday 27 January, 2021
- All Year levels commence Thursday 28 January, 2021.

## Spirit of Christmas



Our Christmas Liturgy on Thursday saw our choir perform many joyful songs, with a terrific solo by Vahayliah Seumanutafa, accompanied by our band – it was tremendous to see how many students were involved and the quality of their output. This was followed by their “Splash Day “ outing with a final finish to their school year! We look forward to their return and welcome Year 10 students in their new senior uniform (although allowing a year of both uniforms being acceptable for the transition).

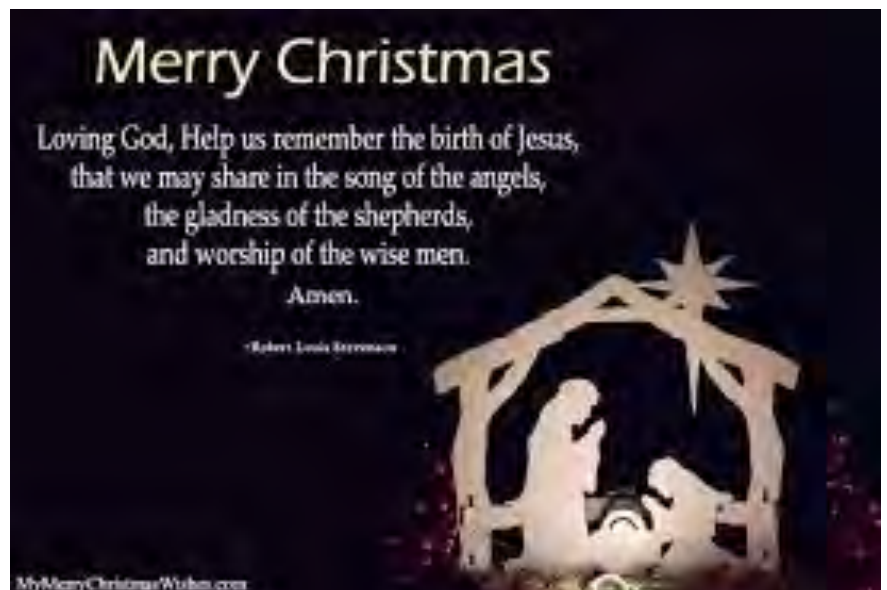
Our Heritage listed administration building is undergoing renovation and we hope that it will be finished by the commencement of the next school year!

I would express my sincere thanks to all of our staff, EREA, and to all in our community for your support and guidance over the year. I hope that the holiday season provides new energy, calm and joyful times of sharing for everyone.

Enjoy the festive season and peace and blessings to all!



*Ann*  
**Ann Rebgetz**  
Principal



## Deputy Principal

Mr Martin Wiseman

### End of Year Splash Day

My thanks to all staff for being with the students on the traditional last day of the year at Newmarket Pool. Particularly, Mr Scott Prickett who was captain for the day. The students were excellently behaved and had a great time, so it was a fitting finale to the year.

### Orientation Day

My thanks to Ms Jess Whelan, the College Leadership Team, House Deans, Ms Yolanda Cano and the Student Leaders who assisted in the orientation of our new students for 2021. The new families were given a thorough introduction to the College and the House communities. We very much look forward to these new families joining our community next year.

### Merry Christmas

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all Jimmies families a very Merry Christmas and a successful new year. We very much live in hope that 2021 will provide us with more appropriate and reasonable challenges but we do give thanks for the tumult of this year specifically for showing us what we can achieve when we are faced with adversity. I very much hope this holiday time is utilised to reconnect with your families and revel in each other's company.

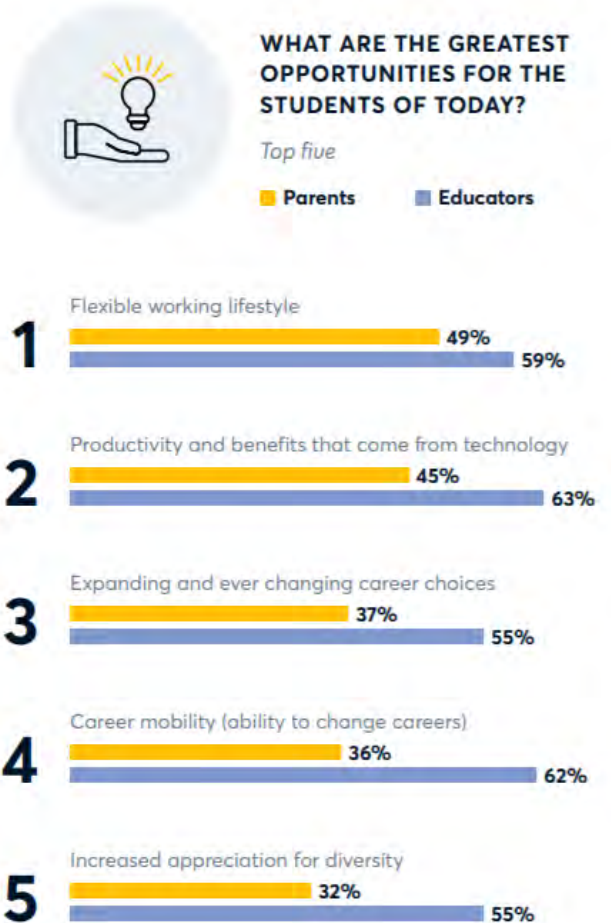
## Assistant Principal Learning, Innovation & Pathways

Ms Kristina Dolejs

Whilst there is a sigh of relief that the school year is over, we will certainly miss being engaged with our students over the next few weeks – the energy they bring to our every day is a blessing. We are **very proud of the results many of the students have achieved over this last Semester**, particularly given for some they were trialling new subjects and extending themselves in their learning. A big **congratulations, particularly to our Year 11 students who have completed their first year of Senior Schooling**. For some it was steep learning curve and they should be proud of their successes across all of their learning areas. We are particularly proud of our Year 7 students, who all finalised all of their assessment before the end of term.

A **reminder to all year 10 students, your subjects for 2021 were chosen at SET Planning** several months ago and the timetable is being built to accommodate this. The goal for all students graduating from St James is to have the minimum of one Certificate III to assist in their post school pathway options – regardless of whether it is to university, the workforce, a traineeship/ apprenticeship or other study.

With this in mind, St James strategically ensures we are committed to ensuring the best opportunities are available for students with variety in subject choices – Certificate, Applied, General, Elective. A recent study showed that both parents and educators believe **the greatest opportunities for students today are centred around the new world of work, with career mobility being a significant opportunity** that we must prepare our students for – micro credentials in the form of certificate completion as well as units of competency is vital in giving students the edge. **“To futureproof students in a time when career pathways are increasingly adaptable and fluid, there is often a focus on students' core competencies and character qualities.”** (Renton, 2020)



If you are still unsure of your subject choices and need assistance in choosing, please email me asap [kdolejs@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au](mailto:kdolejs@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au)

We look forward to welcoming all students back at the beginning of the 2021 Academic year and wish you all a very safe and happy holiday.

## Campus Minister

Ms Rachel Pelsler

### Brekky Van Holiday Roster

Expressions of interest are sought for our Jimmies Brekky Van Program over the Christmas holidays from volunteers, students and family members within our College community. The holiday program commences on Wednesday 9 December, 2020 and goes through to Wednesday 20 January, 2021. Those rostered on need to arrive at St James at 6am and will be finished by 7.30am. For those new to the program, breakfast is cooked for the homeless and served at Kemp Place. Please contact Rachel Pelsler at [RPelsler@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au](mailto:RPelsler@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au) or on 0422 674 878.

## Assistant Principal Identity & Global Advocacy

Mr Isikeli Kubunameca

The last week of 2020 and what a year it has been! With social distancing, self-isolations, quarantining, zoom meetings and border closes, we have definitely been pushed apart. But as we move into the season of Advent, it is great to see that the spirit of giving, even at this time and with the year that we have had, is still abundantly flowing amongst the Jimmies community. On Thursday 26 November we celebrated our end of year and College Christmas liturgy. In this last week we put out the call to the College for food donations for Wesley Mission Queensland, who have been operational, even during the COVID pandemic shut down. It was amazing to see the generosity of students and staff as they gave to this organisation who will be helping families over the Christmas break with food insecurities.



Even though we move into our breaks, the work to help and serve those on the margins do not stop. If you would like to help over the Christmas break there are a couple of options that are available to you:

- Cooking food for the Brekkie Van at Kemp place from 6-7:30am. Please contact the College on (07) 3230 8600 and ask to speak to either Ms Pelsler or Mr Kubunameca on how you can get involved.
- Drop groceries to Wesley Mission, 316 St Pauls Terrace, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006. You can also call 1800 448 448. Please call ahead if you are dropping groceries.
- Drop groceries or volunteer at Emmanuel City Mission. Contact them at 9 Merivale Street, South Brisbane QLD 4101 or on 0468 393 136. Please call ahead if you are dropping groceries.



Doing the good work does not take a holiday.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

**Matthew 25: 35-36 (NIV)**

Wishing you all a safe and rejuvenating holiday. May it be blessed with family, friends, food and fun times.

## Director of Learning, Innovation & Pathways

Ms Jessica Whelan

### Year 9 Pathway Planning

Our Year 9 students recently participated in a Your Future Career Education session with a group of guest speakers from QUT. Students learnt about the wide variety of occupations, learning and work opportunities available to them in the future. Student Ambassadors shared personal stories about the importance of their first jobs and responsible use of social media, as well as their top tips for our students. A Career Educator took the students through some activities and gave everyone a resume. The Your Future Career Educators at QUT are available to provide free advice about work and learning opportunities to all students and parents in our local community. Call 3138 8766 to make an appointment or visit [www.facebook.com/yourfuturecareer](http://www.facebook.com/yourfuturecareer).

## Teacher

Mr Andrew Ebrington

On Tuesday this week two of the Year 10 Science classes journeyed into outer space, well into the virtual outer space. Fifty students were led on a visual voyage through our solar system and far reaching galaxies at the Brisbane Planetarium Mt Coo-tha. For many students it was the first time to see the Brisbane night sky in all its glory as it was projected onto the unique dome ceiling of the observatory. This was a fantastic way of finishing this term's fun and interesting studies of the Universe.



Sharoti Lubunga, Selam Berhane Belye with Ms Finch.



Lydia Bissett.

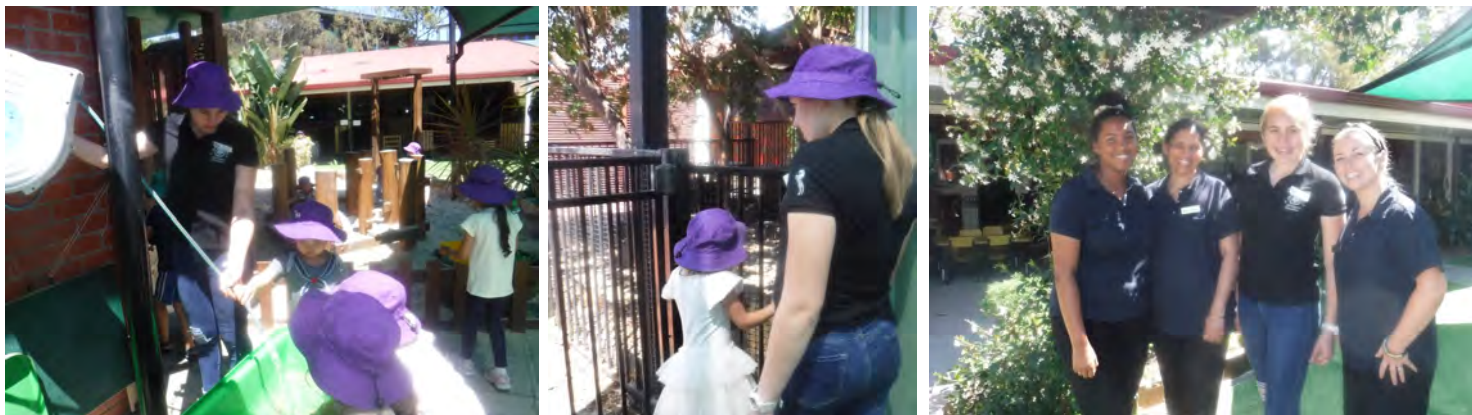
## VET & Trade Skills

Ms Margaret Beddows

As the last week of the school year draws to a close, we see most students completing their work experience placements for 2020.

Year 10 student **Nerique Gerber** has been with Indooroopilly Montessori Children's House (IMCH) this term. IMCH is an early childhood Montessori education centre in the tradition of Edmund Rice. It has been a wonderful experience for Nerique who absolutely adores working with children. Each Wednesday Nerique is assigned to one of the rooms and works with children from 6 weeks to Pre-Prep (school entry age).

Nerique hopes to study towards a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care next year and is seeking opportunities for a school-based traineeship. If any of our school community has networks who may be able to assist here, we would love to hear from you.



Over the school holidays another Year 10 student, **Levi McAuliffe** will enjoy some work experience with Memmott's Automotive at Windsor. Levi will be working with mechanics, learning about car repairs and maintenance.



Another work experience success story is with Year 12 student **Nathan Gibbs** and our significant and supportive work experience partner Brisbane Diff & Gearbox. Nathan was one of five students who completed work experience with the automotive group this year and proved to be a standout worker with his knowledge of vehicles and enthusiasm to learn. Nathan will be signed up for a Heavy Vehicle Repair Mechanic apprenticeship with Brisbane Diff & gearbox on 30 November. Congratulations Nathan!



Despite the restrictions placed on our school work experience program in 2020 due to COVID-19, work experience continues to benefit the students at Jimmies. The knowledge gained through work experience increases the student's awareness and expectations employers require in the world of work and the students who participated in work experience this year are to be applauded for their high participation and behaviour.

In 2021 we will continue to work with industry to provide the best opportunities for our VET students. Work experience programs would not exist but for the generous support of our host employers. Our colleagues in industry provide a safe workplace, precious time, and supervision of students. Many industries have responded in such a positive way and this is appreciated. We are always keen to forge meaningful relationships with employers who may be able to host students and encourage all in our school community to promote the work experience program. If you can host a student in 2021 or know someone who may be able to, please email me at [mbeddows@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au](mailto:mbeddows@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au).

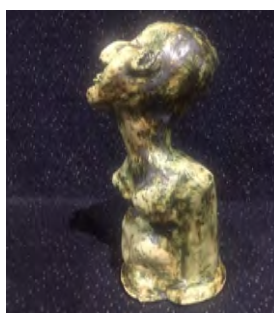
## Art Department Development Officer

Ms Berenice Anzellotti

Last semester some teachers have been participating in art classes on a Thursday in first lunch break.

They all did a wonderful job. Featured on the left is an example of a clay sculpture by teacher Annette Deane. In the other image, featured on the right, there is a selection of clay sculptures by students in Year 11/12.

Great work everyone!



## Brisbane Flexible Trades Skill Centre

The annual St James Billycart festival was a huge success once again this year. There were four quality entries that covered vehicles from many different categories. Students had worked all semester on their Billy Cart and they were justifiably very proud of the result. The chassis is made from metal and the body is made from pine and MDF board. This gives students experience in working with both materials. This group has set a very high standard and we now look forward to next year's class.



## Teacher

### Recreational Sport - Fishing

Wednesday afternoon sport this week saw the greatest day in recent history for the Jimmies Fishing Club. Over the past several weeks, the junior students have caught the odd Whiting or River Cod and occasionally would throw back a Toad Fish, however this week was the pinnacle for our mighty anglers. The team landed seven decent sized fish and had many more stories about the one that got away! Well done to Molly Carter, James Robinson and Luis Natera Gonzalez who all caught two Whiting each at the Colmslie Boat Ramp. I also managed to wet the line and practice my casting before I head over to Moreton Island.



## Mr Andrew Ebrington

*Pictured above from L-R are James Robinson, Molly Carter and Mr Ebrington.*