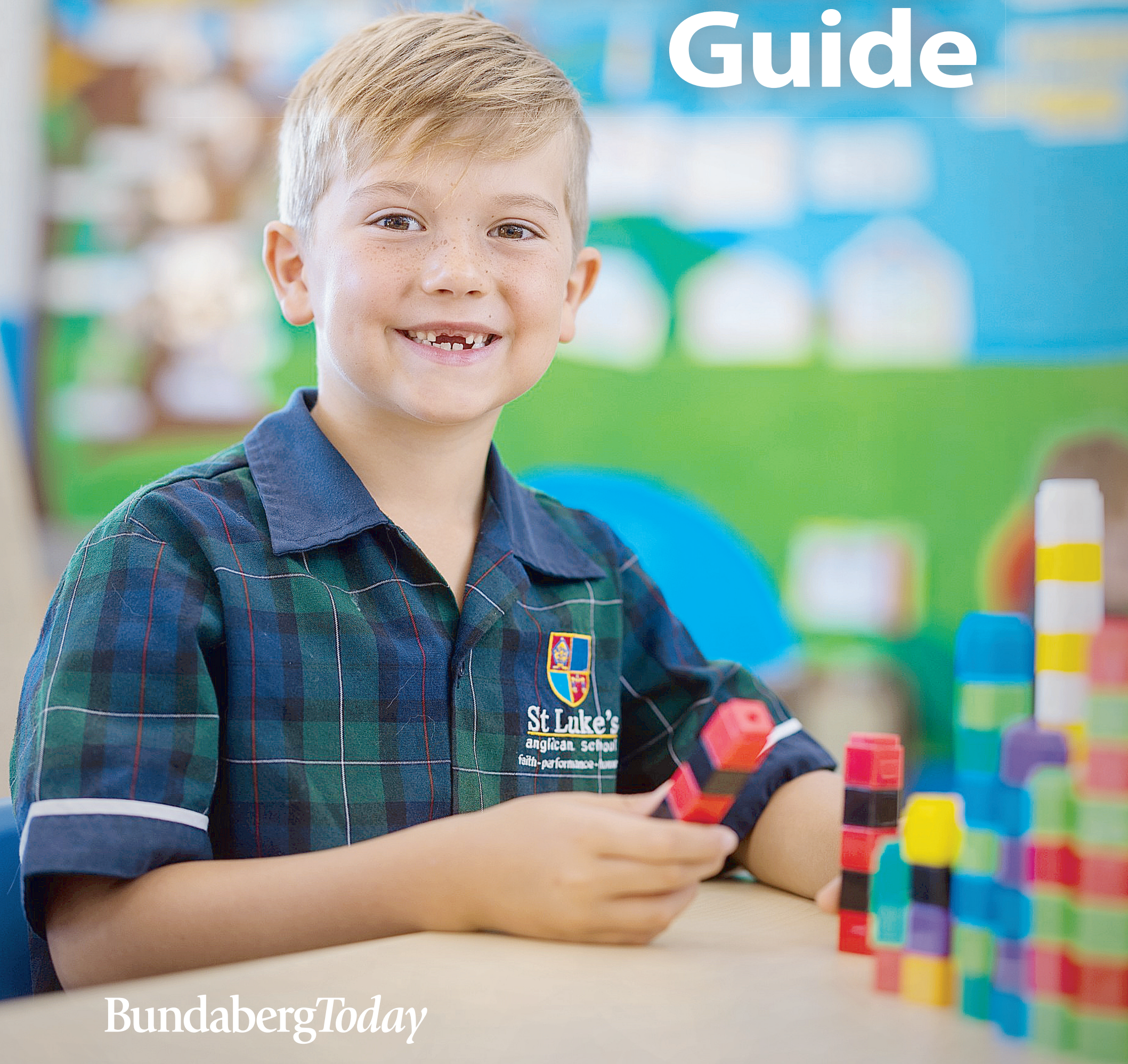


ISSUE 5 - 2025

Enrolments Guide



BundabergToday

2025 GUIDE

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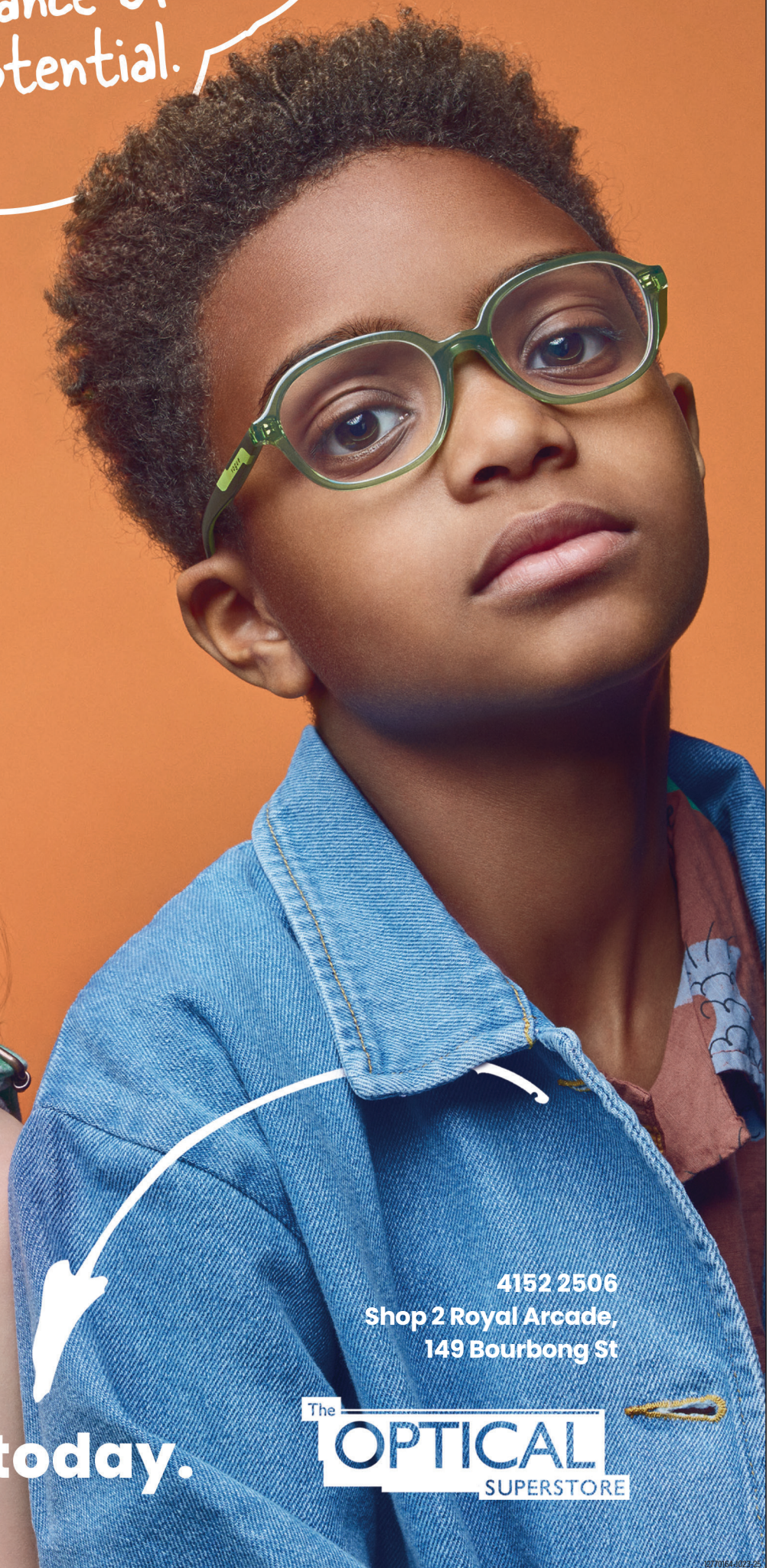
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CONTENTS

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR THE FUTURE/EDUCATION IS KEY PAGE 5

CONNECTEDNESS CLEAR AT ST LUKE’S PAGE 7

COLLEGE CONTINUES TO EXCEL..... PAGE 8/PAGE 9

A GROWING SCHOOL WITH A VISION PAGE 10

INVESTING IN STUDENT SUCCESS PAGE 11

BARGARA STATE SCHOOL, A THRIVING HUB PAGE 12

FREE TO FLOURISH AT ST JOHN’S..... PAGE 13

FIND YOUR PLACE, SHAPE YOUR FUTURE PAGE 15

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Building blocks for the future

By Angela Norval

APPRECIATING that no two children are the same, local schools are continuing to grow and adapt to provide a complete learning experience for students, while also helping them to feel comfortable in the school environment.

From the moment that children are born, parents want the best for them.

While it might start out as simple things such as the right nutrition or sleep schedule, as they start to mature, how best to educate and grow their young minds is often something that parents are looking at.

This can begin from early education, because this will often dictate how comfortable your child or children feel in a social environment that is a mix of educational opportunities but also fun.

The right school or educational opportunity for your child or children can often make all the difference in them feeling welcome, comfortable, developing their career path or even finding a talent they never knew they had.

A child's love of education can be developed from a very young age, so therefore early learning is sometimes just as important as the graduating years in helping a child appreciate who they are and what they enjoy.

Many of the schools or other educational/care facilities welcome the opportunity for parents to take a tour of their grounds, see the effort that has been made to create facilities

Education is key

EDUCATION is the foundation of opportunity, and here in Bundaberg and the Burnett, we are lucky to have many diverse schools offering world-class learning experiences.

They're more than just traditional classrooms – our schools are hubs of innovation and creativity, preparing students for future possibilities and obstacles.

From coding and robotics to 3D printing, psychology, and even e-sports, students in Bundaberg and the Burnett have access to an education that equips them for a vast array of pathways and prospects. Beyond academics, our schools also emphasise critical thinking, collaboration, and independence—qualities that are vital in an ever-evolving world.

What sets our region apart is our sense of community. Our schools reflect the diversity of the Wide Bay, where students learn from each other's cultures, experiences, and perspectives.

This not only enriches their education but also prepares them to thrive in a connected and global society.

Starting or transitioning to a new school is a big step, and it's important to take the time to find the right fit for your family.

I encourage parents and students to explore the opportunities available and to reach out, ask questions and get involved.

I wish our students all the best in their new schools, I'm sure it will be an adventure to remember.

If there is anything I can do to help, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

My doors are always open.



A good educational environment can make all the difference for children right from the start. (Supplied)

that are engaging and helpful in their education, after school activities that can develop special skills or teachers who are very committed to their role.

Thankfully, throughout the Bundaberg region and beyond, there are some incredible options. This specialist feature is designed to provide parents with real knowledge and options when it comes to their child or children's education or even for taking the leap and trying something new themselves.

This specialist feature is designed to provide parents with real knowledge and options when it comes to their child or children's education or even for taking the leap and trying something new themselves.

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I am dedicated to working with our community to protect our children's future, and make this region an even better place to live.

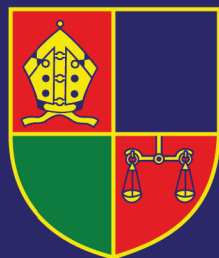


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THE BEST THEY CAN BE

Connectedness clear at St Luke's

EXCELLENCE, service, innovation and global thinking are at the forefront of the education St Luke's Anglican School proudly offers.

The school offers a stimulating learning environment, rich in opportunities within and beyond the classroom, designed to develop students' knowledge, skills, and understanding of themselves and others.

According to Principal Mr Matthew Hughes, it is this holistic approach, combined with the School's strong sense of community, that makes St Luke's so unique.

"Over many years, our community has developed and embraced the St Luke's Way," Mr Hughes said.

"Our core values of Faith, Performance and Honour inform all that we do.

"St Luke's rightly enjoys a reputation as a high-performing academic school, one that focuses on the growth of each student and embraces a range of service, sporting, cultural, and academic opportunities beyond the classroom.

"At St Luke's, we want all students to be the best they can, discovering their full potential and capacity to make a difference in the world, and building a platform from which they can embrace a fulfilling life beyond their time at school."

St Luke's distinctive school culture is embedded throughout the whole school, from the Early Learning Centre to Year 12, with students and staff striving to live their values every day.

"St Luke's deepens a strong sense of school community and belonging across the School and reinforces a culture where students, staff and families feel safe, valued, included and encouraged to flourish," Mr Hughes says.

This sense of connectedness is evident throughout the school's strong Pastoral Care Program that focuses on student wellbeing inter-cohort buddy programs.

Service is a main focus of the school, with device activities available through the school's Interact Club, Primary students' visits with Meilene Aged Care residents, volunteering opportunities for Middle and Senior students at Dorcas Soup Kitchen, fundraising and support of local charities.

Head of Senior School Ms Robyn Deer said one of the things they really pride ourselves on at St Luke's was developing the character of their students.

"We work with families and the community so that our students graduating Year 12 go out to be great citizens of the world. I love working at St Luke's because of the relationship between staff and students," Ms Deer said.

"This is the main difference between St Luke's and every other school."

“At St Luke's, we want all students to be the best they can, discovering their full potential and capacity to make a difference in the world, and building a platform from which they can embrace a fulfilling life beyond their time at school.



Service is a main focus of the school and this involved activities within the school and also outside.



There is a real sense of connectedness at St Luke's Anglican School. (Supplied)

Bundaberg Christian College shines

ESTABLISHED for almost 30 years, Bundaberg Christian College (BCC) provides families excellence in education, a thriving community and a caring and supportive Christian environment.

A growing independent school of over 850 Prep to Year 12 students, plus an early learning centre, principal Mr Paul Thompson said it was the College's Christian values, extensive programs and focus on student wellbeing that had families seeking their school.

"Our College has received a tremendous amount of support from our community, with many alumni now returning to the College to enrol their own children, apply to work here, or be inspired to become a Christian teacher," Mr Thompson said.

The demand for independent, Christian education in the Bundaberg region has led the college to expand their Junior School (Prep to Year 6) to eventually having three classes in each year level.

"In 2026, we are adding an additional Prep class, and also an additional Year 5 class," Mr Thompson said.

"Having Year 5 as an intake year helps to set students up for success leading into their high school years.

"Not only do students enjoy a smooth transition into Year 7, but they experience a dynamic Year 5 and 6 program that will enrich their primary schooling."

At BCC, all Year 5 students learn a wind, brass or percussion instrument as part of their music curriculum and can join and perform in choirs, bands and ensembles.



Further, a Junior School musical is held every second year with Year 5 and 6 students having the opportunity to take on lead roles.

Extra-curricular sports programs offer high level training and competition in basketball and volleyball, and development coaching in futsal, touch football and netball-with interschool sport competitions a highlight for students.

Japanese lessons, camps, lunchtime clubs, reef guardian opportunities, chapel, and a gifted and talented program extends students and helps them to discover new gifts and passions.



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College continues to excel



Further, the College’s take-home laptop hire program begins in Year 5— helping students to develop digital literacy and study skills to propel them into Year 7.

“Leadership and character development is also a key focus in Year 5,” said Mr Thompson.

“We are preparing our students in Year 5 to be leaders of the Junior School and we spend a lot of time on what servant leadership looks like.

“There are multiple leadership opportunities available to Year 6 students, including the opportunity to participate in our



Bridge Builders conflict resolution program.”

Mr Thompson encourages families who are thinking of BCC for high school to consider joining the College in Year 5.

“We are experiencing a high demand for positions across all year levels, and enrolling in Year 5 not only helps students to build friendships and get to know our college, but also guarantees them a place in Year 7.”

Families interested in joining the Bundaberg Christian College community are encouraged to contact the College Enrolments Team on 07 4132 5800 or enrolments@bcc.net.au.



AN EXCELLENT SCHOOL ACHIEVING EXCELLENT RESULTS

With a long history of academic excellence, Bundaberg East State School offers students the opportunity to realise their potential in an engaging and exciting learning school community. Students work confidently with today’s technology which is integrated throughout the school and includes access to 1-1 devices. Smartboards feature in all classrooms and teachers fully utilise the interactive and connectedness of these devices to deliver up to date information that is enhanced through high student participation. Our dedicated ICT teacher further extends students into design, media arts, coding and robotics; both in school time and as an extra-curricular activity. This has led to regular success with our student Robotics teams winning at state and national championships.

Hands on learning is a feature of all classrooms, and our flexible furniture allows students the space to use their learning environment practically. Our highly experienced staff ensure

students individual needs are catered for and that all students experience success. Additionally, Bundaberg East SS students are taught the importance of social skills in an environment where individual differences and the rights of others are respected. We are partnered with the Jeff Horn “Bullyproof Australia” program, in which values of courage, resilience, integrity and respect are explicitly taught and acknowledged.

Bundaberg East SS encourages students to develop their individual strengths, experiment with interests and realise their talents. Instrumental music lessons are available from Year 3-6 and further musical opportunities are offered through junior choir. Dance and Drama is taught, and older students regularly compete at interschool sport and play in representative teams.

At lunchtime, students can play on our spacious ovals and playgrounds, use our well stocked library and access the computer lab. Every week a variety of lunchtimes clubs are offered, which include activities such as gardening,

craft, Karaoke, Minecraft & Art club.

Transitions to Prep and to high school are carefully planned through strong partnerships with local early years centres and our secondary schools. There are many opportunities for students to visit and learn about their next educational step that will increase their confidence and build connections.

We believe that learning should be fun, so alongside a strong focus on academia, we lean into events that make our students excited about coming to school. If your child is at Bundaberg East SS, they will dress up for Book Week, experience Pirate Day and the Royal Ball; they will perform with their class on Gala Night and exhibit their artwork; there will be a Colour Run and discos to attend, Discovery Days, excursions and Sports Galas. We embrace all the different ways that education can be engaging and celebrate the curiosity and excitement of childhood.

We invite you to come and visit our school community, you will be glad that you did!

Bundaberg East State School

33 Scotland Street East Bundaberg
Phone: 07 4132 6111 | Email: principal@bundabergeastss.eq.edu.au
Website: www.bundabergeastss.eq.edu.au | Contact Person: Leanne Davis (Principal)



A growing school with a vision

AS our region continues to grow, so too does Hope Adventist School, and with that growth comes a unique opportunity.

Principal, Tanya Barbuto said at Hope, they offer a distinct educational experience grounded in strong values, academic differentiation, and a genuine sense of community.

“We are proud to be a school of difference for families seeking more than just a place of learning,” she said.

“At the heart of everything we do is our Christ-centred foundation.

“Our students engage regularly with the Bible, and Biblical values are intentionally taught and lived out within our school community.



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“We are committed to cultivating character, compassion, and faith in each student.”

Ms Barbuto shared that their small school environment fosters a family-like atmosphere, where every student is known by name — not only by their teachers but often by the wider school community.

“This close-knit approach creates a nurturing and supportive setting in which students thrive.

“We are currently developing our Master Plan and Site Development Plan, which will guide the future direction of our facilities and learning spaces.

“As part of this exciting process, we are hosting a community meeting in early June, where we invite the wider Bundaberg community to join us at Hope.

“In partnership with Burling Brown, we look forward to sharing our vision and dreams for the future of our school.”

Hope is part of the global Adventist Education network, the largest Protestant schooling system in the world.

With 9,489 schools, colleges, and universities in over 100 countries, this system includes 111,360 teachers educating more than two million students annually. “This global perspective, paired with our local focus, allows us to offer an education that is both deeply rooted in faith and broadly connected to the world.

“Academically, we pride ourselves on offering a differentiated curriculum that meets students where they are.

“For example, we’ve had Year 4 students excelling in Year 5 spelling while receiving support in Year 3 mathematics, enabling them to work at their own pace and flourish in their learning journey.

“Service is also a core part of our ethos.

“We seek to model and teach our students what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus, fostering a heart for others and a commitment to making a positive impact in the world.

At Hope, we are building more than a school — we are shaping a community where faith, learning, and care come together to prepare students for a life of purpose.”



Hope Adventist School has a clear vision for its students’ future. (Supplied)



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Investing in student success

NORVILLE State School principal Brooke Clarke has credited 2025 as being the busiest year yet, as the school invests for success.

Principal Brooke Clarke said there was a clear need for diverse opportunities and supports to cater for the individuality of each student.

"No two learners are the same and we try to reflect this with a varied, diverse and robust curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities," she said.

Norville State School has welcomed additional support staff in 2025 including a nurse practitioner who provides free medical consultations for students and their wider family group, as well as a Family Support Coordinator to assist families link in with community supports and organisations.

Experiments a plenty are occurring at Norville as the 2024 trial of the science specialist teacher and lab was so successful, that they have continued to grow the program into 2025 now introducing a lunch time Science Club.

Additionally, Norville State School has invested in the Pick of The Crop Program which helps students draw connections from the land on which they live to the food and products produced in the region.

Students can visit Chookland to assist with the upkeep of crops and feed and care for the friendly chickens.

It is envisaged that with the new supports in 2025, Norville State School can strengthen the inclusive and proactive child focused approach for every child at school into the future.

Norville State School boasts many and varied opportunities to ensure individual student success including but not limited to:

- Experienced and dedicated child-focused teaching and leadership team.
- A dedicated science specialist and laboratory.
- A dedicated technology teacher and ICT Lab
- Large class spaces inclusive of quiet spaces, breakout rooms and group spaces.
- Low to no cost excursions and incursions, school camps, guest speakers, environmental and cultural opportunities.
- A specialist support team consisting of a full-time HOSES and Intensive Support Teachers to assist students who require additional learning supports as well as two guidance officers and a student wellbeing officer.
- Generous teacher aide provisions in all classrooms.
- Speech and Occupational Therapy Support if required.
- A myriad of social, academic, sporting and hobby-based clubs and offerings including Thinkers Club, Chess Club, Norville Writers Group, Signing Choir, Student Council and Crochet Club



Norville State School is focused on making each year level fun and educational. (Supplied)

Growing and Learning Together

Please give us a call to find out why Norville is a great choice for your child's education.



Norville State School

9 Dr Mays Road, BUNDABERG Q 4670

Ph: (07) 4132 6333

Absence Line Ph: (07) 4132 6360

Email: principal@norvilless.eq.edu.au

www.norvilless.eq.edu.au

Bargara State School a thriving hub

BARGARA STATE SCHOOL continues to shine as a place where students receive a well-rounded, positive education experience that balances academic achievement with personal wellbeing.

Proudly surpassing both state and regional academic averages, the school's results reflect the dedication of passionate teachers and a nurturing learning environment.

While academic excellence remains a key focus, Bargara State School equally prioritises student wellbeing, helping young learners build resilience, confidence, and emotional growth.

The school's holistic approach extends beyond the classroom, offering students a diverse range of sporting, arts, and cultural opportunities.

These activities allow children to explore their interests, develop new skills, and form strong connections within a vibrant school community.

This inclusive atmosphere is further strengthened by Bargara State School's perfect size, large enough to offer diverse programs, yet small enough to ensure every student is known, valued, and supported.

Principal, Ms Bec Rayner says 'a standout feature of Bargara State School school was its exceptional teaching staff, including specialist teachers in Technology, Arts (music, dance, drama, and visual art), Japanese, Physical Education, and Instrumental Music.

"These experts provide students with engaging, high-quality learning experiences that foster creativity, critical thinking, and a lifelong love of learning," she said. "The school also boasts strong pathways to high school, preparing students academically and socially for the next stage of their education."

Community connection remains a cornerstone of Bargara State School's success.

From the principal to tuckshop staff and volunteers, everyone plays a vital role in creating a welcoming, supportive environment.

The school's outstanding volunteer program not only supports classroom activities but also helps keep the school closely linked to the local community. Families benefit from convenient on-site after school and holiday care programs, while additional support comes from a caring Chaplain and an enthusiastic Parents and Citizens (P&C) team.

Bargara State School's comprehensive wraparound support ensures that all students feel safe and ready to thrive.

Learning support staff, wellbeing coordinators, and specialist



There is a place for everyone at Bargara State School. (Elka Scherer: 481324)

personnel collaborate to meet the individual needs of every child, making the school a place where academic success and personal growth go hand in hand.

With a strong commitment to academic excellence, wellbeing, community spirit, and diverse learning opportunities, Bargara State School continues to be a standout choice for families seeking an enriching and supportive educational journey for their children.

"Call us today to book your enrolment tour to find out how we can support your child to be the best they can be."

BARGARA STATE SCHOOL



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12 Issue 5

BUNDABERG TODAY ENROLMENT GUIDE

Free to flourish at St John's

ST JOHN'S Lutheran Primary School, located in the heart of Bundaberg, continues to shine as a beacon of excellence in Christian education.

The school is well known for nurturing the whole child and is committed to fostering academic achievement, strong values and spiritual growth in a warm, inclusive environment.

Appointed in 2024, principal Mrs Jocelyn Bakker leads with purpose and passion, ensuring every child is known, valued and supported to flourish.

She believes growth is a journey—academic, emotional and spiritual.

At the core of the school's approach is a framework known as PRACtice—Purposeful, Relational, Adventurous and Compassionate teaching in Christian education:

- **Purposeful:** With Christ-centred values and a focus on the 6Rs (Relationships, Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Rigour and Random Acts of Kindness), St John's builds strong foundations in literacy and numeracy through targeted teaching and tailored support. A learner-focused curriculum equips students with essential skills and confidence for life beyond school.
- **Relational:** Relationships are central to school life. A dedicated buddy program, restorative practices and strong family-school partnerships foster a caring, inclusive culture where every student can thrive.
- **Adventurous:** Learning is dynamic and hands-on, with students engaging in inquiry, service projects, excursions, performances and a growing range of extracurricular activities.

- **Compassionate:** Guided by Christian values, St John's nurtures kindness, empathy and a commitment to fairness and justice. Service learning and leadership opportunities empower students to make a positive impact.

In 2024, the school welcomed a specialist Arts teacher, enriching learning across dance, drama, music and visual arts.

In 2025, the program expanded to include dance troupes, choirs, rock bands, Drama Club, Ukulele Group and Mini Music Makers—highlighting the school's commitment to creative, high-interest learning that fosters confidence and self-expression.

St John's also offers a strong sports program that promotes skill development, teamwork and opportunity. Students participate in weekly Physical Education and a tailored swimming program from Prep to Year 6. Junior students benefit from the specialised Gymfinity program, while Years 4 to 6 enjoy Intraschool Sport with specialist coaches. Annual Athletics, Cross Country and Swimming carnivals, along with regional competitions, support growth and school pride.

Strong reciprocal partnerships with local businesses and organisations enable community experts to help bring learning to life. Underpinned by evidence-informed practice and the latest Australian Curriculum, St John's prepares confident, curious and capable learners for a rapidly changing world.

As Mrs Bakker says, "Our mission is simple but powerful—Loving, Living and Learning with Christ.

"Here, students are encouraged to grow in grace, guided by faith and supported to become the best version of themselves.

"They are truly free to flourish."



St John's

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Find your place, shape your future

AT Impact Community ACADEMY, they know that not every student's path is the same.

Some need a fresh start.

Others are looking for a school that truly sees them.

Many are simply looking for a place where they can grow, connect and find purpose.

Principal Jenny Auer said as they through 2025, they're proud to have welcomed a vibrant and diverse group of students into our school.

"But we also want families to know: there's still time, and still space to join us," she said.

Impact ACADEMY is designed for young people who have disengaged, or are at risk of disengaging, from traditional schooling.

If you're recently moved, are rethinking your current school environment, or are just looking for a better fit, we offer a supportive, flexible and future-focused alternative.

"We believe senior schooling should be more than a race to the finish line. It should be a time of discovery, development, and direction.

"That's why our program meets students where they are - academically, emotionally, and personally.

"With small class sizes, caring educators, and a focus on real-world learning, we help students build confidence, find their voice, and prepare for life beyond school."

What makes Impact Community ACADEMY unique is their commitment to community.

"Here, students are known by name, supported as individuals, and encouraged to grow into the best version of themselves.



Coming together are Bec Domaille - Taribelang Aboriginal Corporation Manager (far left), Nicole Anderson – Impact ACADEMY Teacher, Jenna Auer – Impact ACADEMY Principal, Halleigh – Impact ACADEMY student, Dakota – Impact ACADEMY student, Brodie – Impact ACADEMY student (and Steve Wroe – Impact ACADEMY Teacher (far right)). (Supplied)

"We don't just enrol students - we welcome them into a space where they can belong, be challenged, and be celebrated.

"Year 11 enrolments for 2025 are still open and in 2026, we're excited to expand our offering to include Years 10-12."

If you're looking for a school that offers more than just a seat in a classroom, if you're looking for a place where your child can truly thrive, Impact Community ACADEMY is ready when you are.



Impact Community ACADEMY principal Jenna Auer. (Supplied)



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