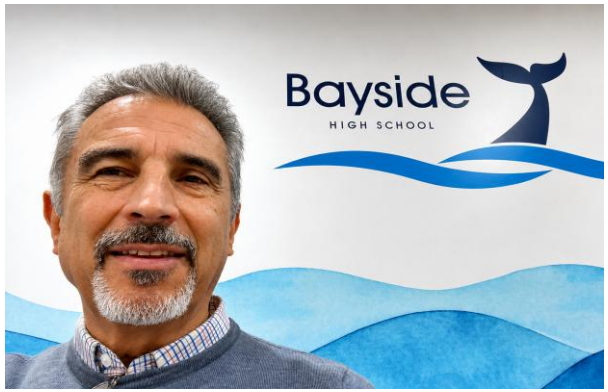
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And remember when you see the school





BAYSIDE
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BOARD

Nick's Notes - August 2026

To see a generation of young people in the St. George community come to know Jesus



Blast from the past - Yr 7 Camp 2006 with some nervous looking peer support boys, ready to embark on a kayak adventure!

"Be strong and courageous…for the Lord your God goes with you." – Deuteronomy 31:6

Dear friends

It has been a really encouraging season in our school ministry, particularly after some of the challenges we faced getting SRE up and running at the new Bayside High at the beginning of the year. Praise God all of our Scripture classes are going really well, with 124 students across Years 7–11 attending. This year, Scripture has been included in the school's timetable, which has significantly reduced clashes with other activities. As a result, we've had a consistent and interruption-free run with our classes. Yet teaching students is still a challenging task. Surprisingly it is the Year 7 cohort has presented the greatest challenges when it comes to classroom management! Because I am based on the senior campus, I don't have many opportunities to see these students outside Scripture. It has been another reminder of just how important relationships are in ministry. Their class is also the last period on Friday afternoon — I'm sure that brings back memories for many of us! At the other end of the school, the Year 11 students have been a real pleasure. They are engaged in the lessons, asking thoughtful questions and thinking more deeply about their faith and the world around them. I've also had some encouraging conversations with students outside class and often walk away from these chats feeling particularly encouraged by what God is doing in their lives.

At the end of last term, I attended the Year 7 camp at Stanwell Tops. It was fantastic spending time with the students outside the classroom and really getting to know them. These moments to build genuine relationships are invaluable—sometimes a casual chat away from school is just as impactful as a formal Scripture lesson. Looking back on over 20 years of camps, I can safely say some of the best gospel conversations always happen while on camp.

Our regular Crunch-time group continues to be a highlight of my week. It's encouraging to see students coming together, asking questions and engaging with the Christian faith in an informal setting. Recently, Andrew, a teacher at Bayside, joined us. He is also involved in a local youth group and has brought some great insights as we think about the questions and challenges facing our students.

I was particularly encouraged last week when a Year 10 student shared that he had recently committed his life to Jesus. He had prayed a prayer of repentance with his family and immediately experienced a deep sense of joy in knowing that he belonged to God. Praise God! Please pray that he will continue to grow in his relationship with Jesus.

Another highlight has been seeing others become involved in teaching Scripture. More families are choosing to opt their children into Scripture in NSW schools, and we haven't seen numbers at this level for many years. It is wonderful to see this door opening wider, but it also brings a practical need: we need more people willing to teach.

This year, Susan, from a local church, has joined me in teaching Scripture. She has been teaching a couple of the classes while I help with classroom management, and it has been a real encouragement to see her involved.

Our intern, Laura, has also been a highlight. As she approaches the end of her internship, I've watched her grow significantly in both skill and confidence. She has recently started teaching her own Scripture classes and is doing an amazing job as a beginning teacher.

It has been a joy to see God equip and grow others for ministry. We want to see more people equipped to open God's Word and build relationships with students in other schools where they are needed.

Please pray for:

- Relationships with students. Pray particularly for the Year 7 students, that challenges would become opportunities to build genuine relationships.
- Students responding to Jesus. Pray for those asking questions and exploring Christianity, especially the Year 10 student who recently committed his life to Jesus.
- Those serving in our school. Pray for Susan, Laura and others giving their time, that God would continue to grow them in confidence, wisdom and love for the students.
- More Scripture teachers. Pray that God would raise up more people willing and equipped to teach as more families opt into Scripture.

Thank you for continuing to pray and support this ministry. I am genuinely encouraged by what God is doing in our schools, and I'm grateful that you are part of it.

In Christ

Nick Hadges