College News

WINTER/SPRING EDITION 2021



STEPS PATHWAYS COLLEGE

Places are now available for boarding.
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www.stepspathways.com.au

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Welcome

It was wonderful to witness the independence and confidence that our students displayed at this year's STEPS Grand Winter Ball. For many, it was a huge leap of faith to attend given the anxiety, noise, and a room full of people that they did not know.

However, each one of them – either as guests or volunteers – shone brightly throughout the evening and did a spectacular job. We even had Matt, Jordan and Courtney perform on stage with the fabulous Paulini.
One significant part of STEPS Pathways College's journey is to give our students the courage to step out of their comfort zone and reach for the stars – and at the ball, they did just that.

Anne Nioa,
CEO *STEPS Pathways College & STEPS Charity*

How you can help

The generosity of our community has changed our students' lives.

You have the chance to change many more.

With help from our brilliant community, we can create brighter futures for people with a disability and autism.

Donate now



Chatting live with Channel 10

Viewers all across Australia had the chance to meet one of our amazing students, Chad Bridgman.

Recently, Chad was brave enough to share his story with the media, detailing how far he has come since having a stroke almost eight years ago.

Now 19, Chad hasn't let anything hold him back and has been making massive strides in becoming an independent young man.

Chad's story was powerful enough to get Channel 10 to interview him for a live cross, with Chad going live on the 12th of July for Studio 10.

The interviewer, Jesse Baird, toured Café on George and was even served scones and a cappuccino – freshly made by Chad!

"I never liked going to school but, being here, I do now," Chad shared during the interview.

"It's fun and enjoyable, I feel supported by the teachers."

Chad was also joined in the interview by Café trainer Michelle Lamb, fellow student Corey Burke, and STEPS Pathways College CEO Anne Nioa.

Everyone had a load of fun, and, most importantly, Chad had the chance to share his wonderful journey and just how far he has come at STEPS Pathways College.

Chad's interview can be seen in full on our YouTube channel STEPS Group Australia.



PICTURED HEADLINE: (L-R) Michelle Lamb, Jesse Baird, Chad Bridgman and Corey Burke.

PICTURED ABOVE: Chad checking out the gear used to film the live cross.



Volunteer wins award

for her life-changing support

A huge congratulations goes to our long-term volunteer, Linda Ritchie, for winning the Volunteer of the Year Award for Disability Services at the Sunshine Coast Volunteer Awards.

Linda's award noted her selflessness in helping young adults with disabilities and autism learn the life skills required to move out of home, get a secure job they love, and find their place in the world.

"As soon as I started with STEPS Pathways College, I knew I had found the place I wanted to be," Linda said.

"Seeing the students become confident in themselves and what they can do, it's indescribable.

"I feel honoured to see each student's journey and know that I was there throughout."

Linda hopes that the award lets parents know that great support is available in the community for young adults with disabilities and autism.

"Receiving the award means recognition and acknowledgement from the volunteering community of what STEPS Pathways College does and how important it is," Linda said.

"It's a privilege to have parents entrust their wonderful young adults to us and to be able to see the parents become independent too.

"I look forward to welcoming every new student into their journey with us."

Thanks Linda!

Being inclusive

on Global Accessibility Awareness Day

Recently, we had the chance to celebrate Global Accessibility Awareness Day and the importance of making the online space inclusive to all.

To celebrate the day, we sat down and spoke with two of our online students – Bianca and BahLee - about the importance of specialised education being available online.

"I can be myself here," Bianca shared.

"The teachers have boosted my confidence and maintained it.

"I have only had one teacher that I felt comfortable with previously, but I'm comfortable with every teacher here."

Bianca also shared that she found the ability to "turn off" an essential part of making her feel comfortable in the class.

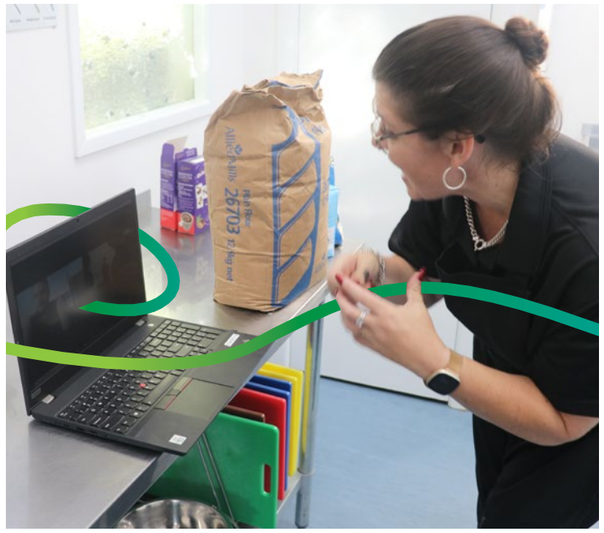
"When I'm overwhelmed, I can just turn my screen off; you can't do that in person," Bianca added.

BahLee also spoke about how online formats aid in helping students feel comfortable.

"I feel like I don't have to mask as much when I'm online," BahLee said.

"When I go to an in-person class, I have to mask all the time and I come home exhausted and tired."

Having now been with STEPS Pathways College for around a year, Bianca and BahLee are happy to report they "love" the program and look forward to expanding their skillsets and confidence even further.



PICTURED: Trainer Kaz conducting a one-on-one online cooking lesson.



Students dazzled the night away

Every year, we have the chance to come together with our community and celebrate the amazing achievements of our students at the STEPS Grand Winter Ball.

This year's Ball was no exception, with both past and present students joining us in our biggest fundraising night of the year.

Our students dressed to the nines and even got on stage to share their great thanks for all of the generous guests who attended the night and pledged their support to the College.

The night raises vital funds for STEPS Pathways College to continue expanding and helping young adults with a disability or autism Australia-wide find their independence and lead a life they enjoy.

"It was amazing for our students to be able to come and see the incredible support for them here in the Sunshine Coast community," Carmel Crouch said.

"The chance for them to look around and know that so many people believe in them, believe in their journey, and believe in what they can do; it's indescribable."

The night also featured a very special performance from the Sunshine Dance Troup, an amazing group of young adults who identify as having a disability.

One of the group's performers was Elli, a current student at STEPS Pathways College, who undertakes the College's café work experience course.

"We're so grateful to everyone who got involved on this special night, we cannot express how much your support means to our students; life-changing almost seems an understatement," Ms. Crouch concluded.

"We look forward to delivering an even more incredible event next year and celebrating all the amazing things our students will achieve throughout the rest of this year thanks to our community's great support."



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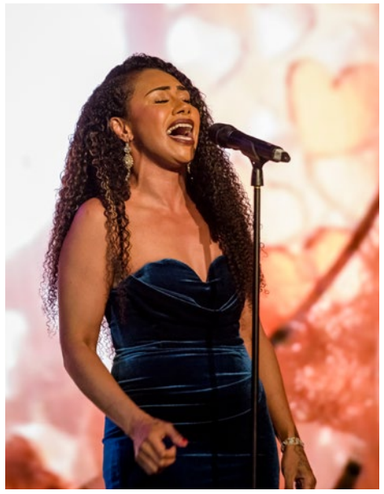
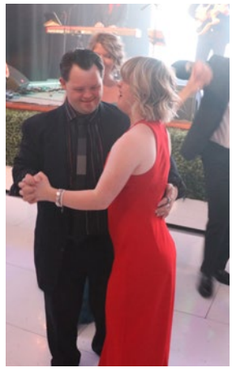


A night of glamour, entertainment and celebration.







Celebrity chef visits College



Renowned celebrity chef Alastair McLeod has made a very special visit to STEPS Pathways College.

First visiting our specialist kitchen, Alastair saw a group of students cook local barramundi, with the students able to show off their skills and even getting some great positive feedback from the chef.

"It really highlighted that food and cooking is not only an important skill but it's also an excellent communicator," Alastair added.

Later joining the students in the specialised café, Alastair had the chance to try some of the student's coffees and sandwiches, which the students specially made to thank Alastair for his support of the College.

"The success of any café is as much about the quality of food and coffee as it is about hospitality, and the students gave both in spades," Alastair concluded.

Cooking in the kitchen with Chef Brendan...



Warm Apple Crumble

Ingredients

6 green apples, peeled and de-seeded

2 tbs sugar

1 tsp cinnamon

1 cup granola

50g butter

50g desiccated coconut

METHOD

1. Dice apples and place in saucepan with 25g of butter and brown sugar
2. Stew apples until soft and golden
3. Mix together granola, remaining butter, and coconut in a bowl
4. Place apple mixture in greased baking tray
5. Spread granola mix over apples
6. Bake in oven at 180C until golden
7. As an extra... serve with custard or cream of your choice



Online Disco fun

Our Pathways College trainers had a very hard time keeping up with some of the amazing dance moves at our recent end of term disco!

This time we were joined by some of our online students, who were keen to get involved in our 1980s theme.

One of our students, Jessica Finn, acted as our brilliant DJ, pumping out some great dance tunes. Thriller by Michael Jackson proved especially popular, with multiple students nailing the signature dance move.

The disco also managed to attract a particularly famous character, with the one and only Frankenstein making a very grand entrance. Our students did manage to figure out who was under the mask – can you?

A huge congratulations go to all of our students, who ended the term on a great note!

Life after graduation:

Morgan McCarthy

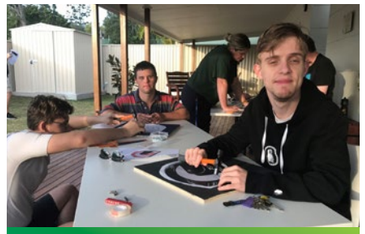
STEPS Pathways College prides itself on the continued fulfilment of its graduates in finding their independence and leading a life they're passionate about. We recently had the chance to catch up with one of our 2019 graduates, Morgan McCarthy, to see how he has been going since graduation. Living independently with fellow graduate Ariana Nioa since his graduation, Morgan is incredibly proud to share his next great step – finding a workplace he loves. Morgan has undertaken a new Golf Programs Australia traineeship at the GPAI shop in Nambour. Morgan will have the chance to build furniture, make craft items, and help create cushions and golf bags. When asking Morgan about his achievement, he said he was "very excited" to find his dream job in the golfing field. Congratulations Morgan, we know you'll hit it out of the park!



Latest College Snaps



Students taking a break from study...



String art...students getting artistic with hammers.



Thank you to The Crosby Foundation. Your generous grant allowed us to purchase noise-cancelling headphones.



Fun in the kitchen with Chef Brendan!



Andrew growing his gardening skills with his favourite plants.



The Ferris Wheel is back in town!!!



Students went on a Camel Cuddle Tour with QCamel at Glasshouse Mountains.



Behind the scenes as Chad shares his brilliant story with Channel 10.



We said a sad farewell to much loved trainer, Jason.



Students preparing delicious food for Café on George.



We said goodbye to Claire!



NEW programs!

I ♥ ndis



STEPS PATHWAYS COLLEGE IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE TWO NEW PROGRAMS!

Come and try out the college and see if it's the right fit for you. STEPS Pathways College trainers will be there to support you along the way.

STEPS NURSERY

- Weekly, five-and-a-half-hour experience
- Available to young adults with an NDIS plan
- Students learn nursery retail skills, propagation, WHS, identifying plants and weeds, and more - all while immersing themselves in the much-loved STEPS Nursery.

CAFÉ ON GEORGE

- Weekly, five-hour experience
- Available to young adults with an NDIS plan
- Students learn barista skills, food preparation skills, food presentation skills, till management, customer service, hygiene and safety, and cooking skills.

Join the program today! Email your interest to pathways@stepsgroup.com.au

STEPS PATHWAYS COLLEGE

HELPING YOUNG ADULTS LIVING WITH DISABILITY AND AUTISM GAIN A LIFETIME OF INDEPENDENCE

Get in touch with us to find out more.
Phone (07) 5458 3000 or email pathways@stepsgroup.com.au

www.stepspathways.com.au