COLLEGE NEWS

Spring 2025

Creating a brighter future



Students on stage at STEPS Grand Winter Ball with Executive Principal Stephanie Patey







Students shine at STEPS Grand Winter Ball

Our Boarding College students were shining bright at the 2025 STEPS Grand Winter Ball, enjoying an unforgettable night that raised $310,000 for STEPS Pathways College and celebrated the students' journeys to independence.

In the weeks leading up to the event, the students worked through a fun visual checklist to make sure they had everything they needed for a glamorous gala: outfits, accessories, shoes, and plans for hair and nails.

One morning was spent browsing the nearby Funky Op Shop, where the students tried on formal wear and picked out special pieces for the STEPS Grand Winter Ball.

When the evening arrived, Trainers and Support Officers joined in the fun and helped some students with their hair, makeup, and finishing touches.

"Seeing the students' excitement as they got ready was pure magic," said STEPS Pathways College Training Coordinator Kelly.

"They all looked amazing, and it was a proud moment for everyone at the College. It's incredible to see these students transform in front of our eyes into confident young adults."

While a few students were ready to rest up after a big night, most didn't want the celebrations to end, showing off their moves on the dance floor until the very last song of the evening.

STEPS PATHWAYS COLLEGE

07 5458 3000
customercare@stepsgroup.com.au
stepspathways.com.au



Principal's message

Welcome to the latest edition of our STEPS Pathways College newsletter!

This issue is filled with celebrations, proud milestones, and powerful reminders of what makes STEPS Pathways College so special.

From dazzling on the dance floor at the STEPS Grand Winter Ball to joining Jamie Oliver in breaking a world record, our students have had some truly incredible moments in the last three months.

You'll also read about the ways our curriculum supports our students' personal growth and meet a couple of the people in our STEPS Pathways College community: Hospitality Trainer Aaron and Boarding College student Lachlan.

Thank you for supporting our College and taking interest in our students' experiences. Whether this is your first time reading or you're a loyal subscriber, we hope this newsletter shows you just how lifechanging STEPS Pathways College is.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you would like to learn more about our College, have any questions or would like us to take you on a tour of our beautiful campus

Stephanie Patey
Executive Principal, STEPS Pathways College
and CEO, STEPS Social Business

How you can help

The generosity of our community helps make STEPS Pathways College possible.

Your donation has the power to change a student's life for the better, giving them the skills they need for independence, empowerment, and connection.

With your help, we can continue to build a brighter future for young people living with a disability and autism.



Thank you!

halcol energy
Solar & Battery Solutions



Halcol Energy team at the STEPS Grand Winter Ball

Thank you to Halcol Energy

Family-owned and community-driven, Halcol Energy's support of STEPS Pathways College reflects the team's passion for creating brighter futures through both environmental and social impact.

Co-Directors Gary and Rosie Higgins are deeply involved in the Sunshine Coast community, where they raise their daughter and lead one of Queensland's most trusted solar companies.

Their commitment to social responsibility shines through in their ongoing support of STEPS Pathways College. "We're proud to stand alongside STEPS and support the incredible work they do," said Gary.

Thank you to Halcol Energy for its generosity and heart!

Curriculum news





Students with their own custom Toolboxes in the classroom

Students build toolboxes to check in with emotions

Supporting students to develop their life skills is at the heart of the STEPS Pathways College curriculum, and that includes emotional wellbeing. A key tool in this journey is the Zones of Regulation Toolbox, a structured framework that's designed to help students recognise and manage their emotions.

The Toolbox categorises feelings and states of alertness or stress into four colour-coded zones: blue for low states like sadness or tiredness; green for calm and ready-to-learn energy; yellow for elevated emotions like anxiety or frustration; and red for intense emotions, such as anger or panic.

Introduced early in a student's journey at STEPS Pathways College, the Toolbox encourages emotional literacy and self-regulation. Students start by identifying at least three strategies, or 'tools', they already use to manage their emotions. As they progress through the curriculum, they expand their personal Toolbox with new techniques that they've uncovered.

Classroom Trainers use the Zones of Regulation in everyday learning, helping the students build their resilience and supporting positive wellbeing. Whether it's taking a walk, listening to music, or asking for help, the Toolbox empowers our students to better understand their emotions and respond in healthy and constructive ways.



Boarding Colleges students show off Guinness World Record certificate



Our students are officially world-record-breaking chefs

A group of STEPS Pathways College students recently became part of history, joining thousands of people from around the world in Jamie Oliver's Guinness World Record attempt for the largest cookery lesson (multiple venues), and it was a huge success.

More than 10,500 people took part globally, with our students proudly among them. Together, they followed Jamie and his Head Chef in a live-streamed lesson, preparing fresh pasta and a simple no-cook tomato sauce.

The experience wasn't just a cooking class, but a celebration of community and our students' developing cooking skills and confidence.

"Our students had such a great time participating in this lesson," said STEPS Pathways College Classroom Trainer George.

"The pasta tasted amazing, and we got to be part of a huge international challenge; it was an unforgettable experience for everyone in the room."

As Jamie Oliver said after the event: "We couldn't have done it without everyone who joined the class – so thank you, each and every one of you." Congratulations to our students on being world record-breaking chefs!

Luke celebrates 21st birthday with party

Boarding College student Luke recently reached an exciting milestone, celebrating his 21st birthday during our camp with The Southport School (TSS) on South Stradbroke Island.

Our camp hosts and students made sure the day felt extra special, surprising Luke with a birthday cake and multiple renditions of 'Happy Birthday' through the day.

The celebrations were the icing on the cake for Luke, who had already organised his own birthday party before the camp, showcasing his organisational skills and independence.

Drawing on the time management and life skills he's been developing at STEPS Pathways College, Luke made his own ice cream cake and took care of every detail, from sending out invitations to decorating the space and preparing snacks and drinks.

It was a wonderful way to mark a special birthday and reflect the personal growth Luke has achieved during his time at STEPS so far. Happy birthday, Luke!



Luke celebrates his 21st birthday with his friends and delicious cake



Make a difference. Become a volunteer.

Volunteers are an integral part of STEPS – and we want your help to deliver lifechanging opportunities to our students.

Whether your skills lie in the kitchen, classroom, garden or beyond, we have a role that suits your unique experience and interests.

If you are unable to commit to a regular volunteering role, we have opportunities for one-time positions at our many community events.

For more information, please contact our Volunteer Relationship Coordinator, Karla.

07 5458 3002

volunteer@stepsgroup.com.au

Mark your calendar!

SEPTEMBER

STEPS Pathways College Open Day – Tuesday 16 September 2025

OCTOBER

STEPS Garden Centre Harvest Day – Saturday October 25 2025



Visit our website for more information and to RSVP

Trainer profile

What do you teach at STEPS Pathways College?

I'm a part of the hospitality team, which means I train the students in the culinary arts as a Hospitality Trainer. I also work in the classrooms some days, helping the students as they work through the curriculum.

What do your students teach you?

While being a Trainer here, the students have taught me many things over the years; particularly, the importance of patience and flexibility, the value of inclusivity, and that celebrating the small wins goes a long way.

What do you enjoy teaching your students?

I love teaching the students cooking techniques and recipes that they can use in their day-to-day lives. Often, they'll pick up on or demonstrate something we're learning in class when we're out in the community, taking it out of that classroom point-of-view and putting it into a real-world context. That's really special to see.

What is the most valuable thing that you have learnt in your role?

I've learnt that empathy and the way we communicate with the students are the most important things. We develop a connection built on trust and respect and common experiences, which makes it easier for the students to connect with what we're teaching.

What has been a highlight for you so far?

There have been so many little wins, which all mean something big to us and our students, but the Ready STEPS Cook Competition was so much fun and an amazing event to be part of.

Aaron

Trainer

STEPS Pathways College



Aaron



Lachlan

Student profile

What hobbies or activities do you enjoy?

I like learning things and watching YouTube videos on pretty much anything.

What classes do you enjoy taking at STEPS Pathways College?

Learning is fun, so I enjoy a bit of everything, but my favourite thing to do in class is cook.

What do you enjoy about STEPS Pathways College outside of the classroom?

The camp with The Southport School was great, I went crabbing and really enjoyed the bonfire. I also love going out on the weekends all together.

What are some valuable life skills you have learnt so far during your time at STEPS?

I like learning new skills like cooking. I couldn't cook or clean before coming to STEPS and now I can do it without help. My favourite thing to cook is steak and vegetables.

Who is someone you look up to?

No one comes to mind. I prefer to make up my own mind about things.

What are your goals for future?

One day, I want to travel to Japan. I'm very interested in riding a bullet train.

What advice would you give to someone wanting to attend STEPS Pathways College?

STEPS Pathways College is a good place. You learn to be more independent and do things yourself.

Enrolments are open for STEPS Pathways College for 2025/2026

STEPS
PATHWAYS COLLEGE

07 5458 3000
customercare@stepsgroup.com.au
stepspathways.com.au







Annual Stradbroke island camp with TSS















Sign up to get this newsletter in your inbox

@stepspathwayscollege

@stepspathwayscollege

Creating a brighter future