

EDUCATION

School's out NICK WALL



Nick Wall has a true passion for sport, which began when he was a student competing in athletics. As director of sport at Genazzano FCJ College and a coach, Wall has helped many athletes at the top levels achieve success, including at the Paralympics.

YOUR INSPIRATION TO TEACH?

My mother was a teacher librarian and my aunty a primary school principal in Catholic schools, so I always had a fascination with teaching from a young age. My greatest inspirations for education came from my high-school home room teacher Bruce Walsh and my track-and-field coach Norm Osborne. Osborne, the coach of Olympic 400-metre silver medallist Rick Mitchell, motivated me as an athlete, and fuelled my thirst for knowledge as a facilitator of coaching throughout Australia, Asia and Oceania in the 1980s and '90s. This has led me to be studying for a Masters of Coaching at the University of Queensland.

FAVOURITE MEMORY AS A STUDENT?

I loved being part of large sporting teams, with one great memory being my last APS Athletics Carnival as athletics captain leading the team in front of a 500-strong Xavier College red-and-black schoolboy army. I also have very fond memories of musicals and choir performances – any activity that involved multiple year levels I found very stimulating.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT GENAZZANO FCJ COLLEGE?

I began in June 2017 as head of athletics and was appointed director of sport in December 2017.

WHAT DOES YOUR ROLE INVOLVE?

With a hardworking team of seven staff and nearly 40 casual coaches, we strategically plan, deliver and review a multi-tiered sporting and physical fitness program. Our program includes a range of recreational physical activities from Pilates to boxing and run group. Our key-program competitive sports of netball, rowing, swimming, athletics and basketball run across multiple terms and various competitions, while there are 23 more programs (from indoor cricket to snowsports) that operate throughout the year. My role is to maximise



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SPECIAL PROMOTION

GREG BRIGGS

participation in these co-curricular offerings, collaborate with physical-education classroom teachers to educate on personal physical wellbeing and ensure that performance pathways exist for those girls seeking further challenges.

WHAT MAKES YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT SPORT AT GENAZZANO?

Sport at Genazzano has a great balance of enjoyment and desire for success. If given the right tools and support, girls love turning their passion for participation into a pursuit of high performance. Importantly these performance indicators aren't always measured by wins or losses, but rather improvements in personal process and preparation.

WHAT DO YOUR STUDENTS TEACH YOU?

I am constantly amazed at how girls find a way to create team spirit among each other. Whether it be a matching ribbon in the hair, to a self-penned team

song or squad slogan, girls definitely have a great way of making every sporting experience inclusive and enjoyable.

HAVE YOU COMPETED OR COACHED PROFESSIONALLY?

As an athlete I competed at a national junior level in the 400-metre hurdles, but my contribution to the sport has been considerably more valuable as a coach.

On the journey to developing more than 40 athletes to national championships, I have also been lucky enough to work with an elite group of para athletes, four of whom have represented Australia. The standout has been cerebral-palsy T35 athlete Isis Holt. Now a four-time world champion and three-time Paralympic medallist, Isis at only 16 has been named to represent Australia at this month's Commonwealth Games in the 100 metres. ●

MELISSA HEAGNEY