

TERM 1, 2025:

MOB

ACADEMY

WHAT'S ON?

BETTER MEN
BUILDING



TO OUR INCREDIBLE STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY,

On December 1st, 2024, I turned 50. Arne Rubenstein, who leads our Rites of Passage Camps, challenged me to embark on a two-day solo journey into the bush with no food, no water, and no distractions. His aim was to help me reconnect with myself, my values, the universe, and the path ahead.

During those two days, I gained a deep clarity about the importance of being present, trusting my intuition, leading with my heart, and prioritizing authentic connections. But most of all, I left with an overwhelming sense of peace, knowing that everything we've built together has been shaped by connection. Together, we are the heartbeat of MOB Academy, and together, we are committed to Building Better Men.

As we step into 2025, I'm filled with gratitude and honour to be walking this journey with you all. Every year, we grow stronger in living our core values of respect, family, passion, gratitude, and ownership.

To our families, you are not just part of this journey, you are the reason it exists. The trust you place in us to guide, mentor, and shape the young men of MOB Academy is a responsibility we hold with immense gratitude. As we start the new year, know that we are committed to walking alongside you, making sure that your young man is not only equipped with knowledge and skills but

also with the strength of character to navigate life with confidence and purpose.

To our Year 11's, the journey ahead may feel daunting, but you are surrounded by a family that will help you navigate it. As we have said to you, family and respect are at the heart of everything we do, and we're excited to see you grow within this environment. As you start this next chapter, remember, you are supported, valued, and capable of more than you know. Welcome to the MOB family.

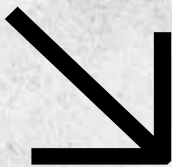
To our Year 12s, we've spoken with you about ownership and gratitude. As the leaders of our school, you are the ones who will shape what comes next. Own your journey and be grateful for the community we've built together. We can't wait to celebrate you as you step into the next chapter of your life at the end of the year.

To our MOB Community, the power of this community is undeniable. Your passion, commitment, and belief in our mission have allowed us to stand tall and strong. Over the past 14 years, we've laid the groundwork for something truly special, and this year promises to be our most transformative yet. Thank you for everything you have done and continue to bring to this journey.

For this year ahead, I look forward to leading with trust, presence, and connection.

Thank you for your ongoing love and support.

With love,
Marco Renai



BETTER MEN BUT



YEAR 11

LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN

The Year 11s at MOB Academy recently kicked off their term with something a little different: their PAT R and PAT M baseline testing in English and Math. Doing this activity wasn't just about numbers and scores—it was about setting the foundation for their growth and giving them the right tools to succeed. Both our education and engagement teams came together to support the students, guiding them through this challenge. The testing was a way for us to make sure each student lands in a class that fits them, a place where they can grow, thrive, and feel supported from the very first day.

They also revisited the heart of what MOB stands for—our values. We took time to reflect on the lessons from the immersion program and reminded them of what it means to embody these values every single day. This was a moment for them to really feel what it means to start their journey here at MOB. This is where we begin - they've already made the choice to step into something bigger than themselves. They're on the path to becoming better men and it's a privilege to begin to walk this path with them.

YEAR 11 & 12

RAW CHALLENGE

The Year 11 and 12 students of MOB Academy, alongside our amazing staff, recently took on the Raw Challenge. This outdoor obstacle course pushed everyone to their limits, testing their physical endurance, teamwork, and resilience. The event was an opportunity for students and staff to bond outside of the classroom, building stronger connections through shared effort. As they navigated through mud pits, climbing walls, and rope swings, the group showed remarkable determination and support for one another, embodying the core values of MOB Academy. The Raw Challenge proved to be a special experience, reinforcing the importance of pushing boundaries, trusting each other, and embracing challenges together.



GROWING STRONGER

MEET THE NEW FACES AT MOB



A MESSAGE FROM OUR
NEW ACADEMY MANAGER

CLIFF POWYS



My journey to MOB is probably not unique. After being here and immersing myself in our culture of support, love, compassion, and improvement, I've seen firsthand how we attract the right people to mentor and educate our boys. I found a touchpoint in the personal satisfaction of knowing that I am part of something bigger than myself - something that will ultimately make this world better long after my path has been travelled.

I think most people are surprised to hear about my family background, heavily influenced by indentured labour in previous generations - which has led to quite an eclectic mix of religions, races, and cultures in my family tree, including how a South African with Indian heritage ended up with a Welsh name.

In life, there will always be many people offering advice, so my advice to our boys is this: Be critical of the people who are giving it. Ask yourself why - does this serve me and my long-term future? The best piece of advice I've ever received came from my grandmother. She told me, "You shouldn't try to change the world, but be the change you want to see in the world." Once I started following that message, I started to see the positives, the gain and love in my life start to grow.

What really excites me about MOB Academy is the connectedness and care you feel the moment you walk in - it's palpable. You sense that what we do here at MOB is unconditional. You can be from anywhere and go anywhere, but when you walk through our doors, we will always see you as a MOBster.

My favourite quote comes from scripture: "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17). It reminds me that

I need my brothers to support me, hold me accountable, and be the ones I can rely on to help me become a better man.

A strength of mine, I believe, is that at my core, I am a very competitive person. When I was younger, competition simply meant winning. As I've matured, thankfully, that definition has expanded to achieving success through the trials and challenges that life presents. We all have a story, and we all have our struggles, but I aim to demonstrate my values through action, working toward achievement through small improvements every day. This mindset carries into all areas of my life, whether it's golf, the gym, or clay target shooting, I find something to improve on and challenge myself to be better than yesterday.

My vision for MOB Academy is one I'm excited to create with our staff, our boys, and our broader community. So, keep an eye on what's coming - it's going to be something special!





YEAR 12

LEADERSHIP DAY

The Year 12s kicked off their first day back at MOB Academy with a powerful Leadership Immersion experience. This day was about integrating our Year 11s into their new roles as leaders and making sure they step into Year 12 with a deep understanding of the expectations and responsibilities that come with leading the school. They are in the Transition Phase of the MOB Academy journey, where they leave behind their comfort zones and enter a space that pushes them to grow.

Throughout the day, the Year 12s rotated between three key sessions, focusing on leadership, culture, and our core MOB values. They recapped the MOB values and expectations, tackled a physical exercise that demonstrated real-world leadership, and engaged in discussions around boy behaviour vs. man behaviour. They also took time for personal self-reflection, setting goals for their growth.

The Engagement Team led these sessions, supported by teachers who travelled with each group, ensuring everyone had a chance to engage deeply. By the end of the day, our Year 12s walked away with a sense of pride, motivation, and clarity about the responsibilities that come with being a leader at MOB Academy.

GROWING STRONGER

MEET THE NEW FACES AT MOB



A MESSAGE FROM OUR
NEW HEAD OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING

STEVE MIKAEL



My passion for education comes from a deep belief in shaping young minds and making a real, lasting impact. My journey to becoming Head of Teaching and Learning at MOB Academy was driven by one goal, building better men in our community. Throughout my career, I've found that the most rewarding moments don't always come from lesson plans or structured outcomes, but from the unexpected breakthroughs, those moments when a student surprises himself with what he's capable of.

At MOB, I'm committed to personalised education because every young man deserves a learning experience that works for him. If I could change one thing about the education system, it would be making it more adaptable, designed around individual strengths rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

When challenges arise, I stay motivated by focusing on the positive impact we're creating every day. Encouraging others and fostering a culture of trust, integrity, and purpose keeps me grounded. To keep the curriculum engaging, I prioritise innovation, real-world applications, and most importantly, input from both teachers and students - because when learning feels relevant, it sticks.

The best part of my job is watching our young men develop confidence and skills that extend far beyond the classroom. My hope is that every student who walks through our doors carries with them the core values of family, respect, gratitude, ownership, and passion. Long after they leave MOB Academy, we'll still be here - because this is a place that supports, empowers, and truly believes in its students.

Since arriving, I've been blown away by the level of trust and support here. The staff, the boys, this whole community is exceptional, and I'm proud to be part of it.

MEET THE NEW FACES AT MOB



CHARLIE
TEACHER



Teaching Journey: I started teaching 10 years ago. From PE to Youth Detention to independent schools - I had heard great things about MOB and the way MOB is run really resonated with how I like to teach young people.

Favourite Pastime: Making memories with my partner and our border collie. My family mean the world to me, and I spend every waking moment possible making memories with them.

Guaranteed Smile: My family, particularly my dog's zoomies!

Teaching Style: Turning lessons into conversations - learning without even realizing.

Fav Quote: "If not now, then when?"



LISA
ADMINISTRATION



Path to MOB: From England to the Gold Coast, my passion has always been working in roles where I can make a real impact and help others. I loved the MOB values and had to be part of it!

Hobby: Yoga and walks by the beach, lake, mountains, you name it!

Dream Getaway: America to explore San Francisco, Skiing in Queenstown or DisneyWorld to relive my childhood magic - The main thing I love about travel is wherever you go it's all about the memories you make.

Best Part of MOB: The family vibe and connections it fosters. It's rewarding to work in a positive environment and see MOB's impact.

Fav Quote: "In a world where you can be anything... be kind."



NOAH
TEACHER



Path to MOB: From coaching rugby, touch, and athletics to finding my passion here.

Go-to Relaxation: Anything by the water...beach, boat, or pool.

Favourite Meal: Chicken Parmy-never fails!

Hidden Talent: Played Kenickie in Grease in Year 12.

Fav Quote: "Every day of my life, I'm trying to find a way to get better." - Ray Lewis



TK
YOUTH WORKER



What made you join MOB: I've been a Youth Worker for 7+ years, passionate about helping students grow. My wife introduced me to MOB, and I loved it instantly.

Special Talent: I can play a right-handed guitar upside down (I'm left-handed).

Hobby: I play basketball, volleyball, mixed netball, and enjoy photography.

Best part of MOB: The best part of MOB is seeing students grow-building skills, confidence, and reaching their goals. It's so rewarding!

Fav Quote: Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things."