



“The Robber”



The Robb College Alumni Magazine - Volume 6 - December 2019



Head of College Report

Jamie Moore

Dear Geoff

2019 has been a great year for Robb College and I thank the entire Robb Community for their contributions and support. It takes a strong network of support to ensure the college is successful and it is fantastic to have you all as part of our journey.

We welcomed Dr Cameron Moore into the role of Senior Fellow this year as Associate Professor Wal Whalley decided to step down. Cameron has been a former Academic Dean of the college and is a great asset and deserved successor. To Wal, I would like to extend the most gracious and heartfelt thanks from the college, and the many students that he has influenced over his 40+ years at Robb, he is not only an outstanding educator but exceptional person. Alongside Wal through all those years was his beautiful wife, Pam and her contribution cannot be overlooked, from hosting students in their home to mentoring through academic and life trials they have been a mainstay of the Robb Family. I am pleased to say that both will stay involved with the college as members of the SCR and Wal will remain on the Foundation. In a fitting tribute, as part of the new Scholarship Pathway both have been honoured with a named scholarship...fitting reward.

The foundation has had a busy year working to revamp our scholarship program and raise the funds needed to make it sustainable. Again can I express, on behalf of the college, our gratitude for the board

members, those that hosted events, and especially, those who have, most generously, donated. Geoff Perry has been tireless in this endeavour and his personal contribution of time and effort does not go unnoticed.

I would like to acknowledge Alumni president, Jack Grant (right). In his first year in the role we have been able to learn some valuable lessons that will only benefit us moving forward . I look forward to working closely with him and the rest of the college committees, associations and supporters as we move into our 60 year celebrations.



The Senior Common room, led by Sally Strelitz and Sam Ditchfield, were active in their support of both the college and the students. A concerted effort to initiate more informal interaction with the students proved successful and planning is already underway to develop this further in 2020. The SCR contribution continues to be an integral part of the success of the college and I look forward to working with them, again, next year.

By now you should have all received a letter from the Vice Chancellor with an official update on the rebuild of Robb and the Universities commitment to providing a schedule of upgrades to the residential infrastructure. We will remain locked and loaded and ready to proceed the minute we get allocation in the budget.

Academics continue to be a challenge for the college with the greatest hurdle being consistency and rhythm. Fortunately I have found that our students are improving in achieving this balance but still have a long way to go to get it right. I will be working with the incoming team at placing more emphasis on monitoring those who are consistently achieving below their best. We were able to secure the Pigram Whalley Shield for a third year even if only by the smallest of margins.

2019 was, again a big year for Robb Sport. We had students compete in Mary Bagnall and Presidents Trophy, Hockey, Netball, Rugby, WaterPolo, Touch, Soccer, Basketball, AFL and Volleyball. We fielded one hockey side that failed to make finals but showed great dedication in playing most weeks in freezing conditions to small crowds. It was great to see a small but dedicated band of supporters make regular trips to the turf to watch them play. Netball, again, saw us field around 9 teams in all divisions with 4 teams making Semi's and two getting to the Grand Final. The A-Res girls got up in a spirited game but unfortunately our B graders went down. This was a great result as a bulk of the players were from our successful Fresher Netti winning side. Rugby had a great season with all teams making semi's and 1st and 2nd grade winning Minor Premierships. The womens' 7's came from nowhere to make the GF which was just reward for a building season where everybody put in 100%. 1st Grade and 2nd Grade also made the GF and both were successful. It was great to see 2nds avenge a heartbreaking loss in last years game and be rewarded for what was a dominant season. 1st Grade managed to go back to back, a first for the club (I do believe we did it in the 60's but the second was a joint premiership). It was a great way to wrap up the season and is being touted as the most entertaining GF in living memory.



Above left: 1st Grade Minor and Major Premiers. Above Right: 2nd Grade Minor and Major Premiers



A-grade Netball team

The college made a concerted effort to increase our footprint in the Sir Frank Kitto competition, for cultural pursuits, with good participation at events. A highlight would have to have been the third place achieved at the small band event with a rousing original composition about Pub Food.

I would like to mention the fantastic efforts of our leadership team led by James Gavin (SRT) and John Thompson (JCR Pres) in ensuring that the college continued its march forward as the premier college on campus. We had a jam-packed year that included the move of our Charity Long Lunch to March. I think that this was a great success and allowed us to have a positive and highly supported event early in the year. This year the college was able to raise over \$25,000 for the Angel Flight Organisation. The students also hosted very successful Parents and Mates weekends with fantastic events occurring over both.

As we move to 2020 I feel very positive. We are looking to have some early interaction next year in the form of a couple of get to know you's around late Feb early March more details to follow. The College

will embark on an ambitious and complicated series of events to celebrate the 60th Anniversary and I encourage you to keep an eye on the Robb Facebook pages and Foundation and Alumni website for finer details. Currently we will look to launch the festivities in Armidale early in the year and follow it up with events in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra, Aq Quip, Moree, Toowoomba, Orange and Mudgee. Start the conversation with your Robber year/decade group and pick a venue to attend. Also, if there are any of you that live in these venues and would like to assist in championing the event or offering on the ground support please contact the college. For this to be successful it will need us to access our wonderful network.

Please check with your friends to see if they have received this newsletter, if not then their details are wrong. We don't want anyone to miss out on staying in touch with the college, please encourage them (and yourself) to update details.

<https://www.une.edu.au/alumni/update-details>

I look forward to meeting many of you in 2020.

Cheers

Jamie



Charity Long Lunch

Robb College Foundation Report

Geoff Perry



Merry Christmas Robb Alumni

Another great year for Robb College

Robb had high occupancy again this year and achieved some great results with a terrific leadership team led by Jamie Moore with the resident Tutors. Highlights were the good wins on the sports fields (with history made when the Robb 1st XV Rugby team won the New England Premiership for the 2nd consecutive year) plus Robb winning the Academic Shield against Albies for the 3rd year running and the students raising \$25,000+ for their chosen charity this year; Angel Flight.

Although we expect numbers may be down a bit next year due to the drought the demand by young people to join Robb remains high. Earlier this year we were delighted to hear the UNE building plans received Development Approval and the process to commence re-building Robb is progressing as part of a total campus residential plan, see the attached letter from the VC.

Congratulations and thanks must go to the terrific work that the Master, Jamie Moore the JCR, SCR, sports Coaches, Tutors and other volunteers have put in to achieve these results. We must build on this momentum.

Scholarship Appeal

2019 saw the Foundation officially launch an appeal to raise \$700,000 funds over 3 years to boost our Scholarships. With many thanks to Matthew Irwin (who provided his residence in Sydney) and other Directors we had a very successful launch dinner in May with over 30 attendees. This was followed by the Rural Focus conference in July and then later by an appeal dinner in Brisbane in November with over 20 Alumni attending. At time of writing we have received donations of over \$130,000 and pledges of another \$134,000. Our total trust funds are now at over \$540,000.

Robb Foundation launches new scholarship pathway for the 60th Anniversary commencing 2020

Based on this level of funds the Board approved funding total scholarships for next year at \$19,000. This includes commencing a new scholarship pathway for 4 students. It triples the Sinclair-Wilson Scholarship and lifts the old Fellows Scholarship from \$500 to commence at \$6,000 pa. This has been re-badged as The Wal & Pam Whalley Senior Fellows Scholarship in honour of the 40 years plus service Wal & Pam have provided students in Robb.

The new pathway will provide 4 students, residing in Robb, up to \$12,000 for a 3-year degree and \$18,000 for a 4-year or post-graduate degree. We wish to double the number of pathways for 8 students by 2022. Details can be found on our website.

Our thanks go to the 260 Alumni, SCR members, family benefactors, sponsors and friends of the College who have donated over many years and enabled us to commence this valuable support for our students and help underpin the College.

Rural Focus Dinner & Symposium July 2020

“ Re-generating from Challenging Times” – Lessons of initiative, change, resilience, perseverance and sustainability – July 29-30th 2020.

This year, as part of UNE Ag-Week, we held our 4th successful Rural Focus Dinner and Symposium. The theme was based on family or corporate farming. We had a terrific speaker line-up with nearly 400 people attending the two events and some great feedback.

We are in the process of pulling together this event for next year. We combine Rural Focus with Farming Futures – an annual careers fair and dinner organised by the students from the ERS School. This year over 1200 people attended the events with over 50 companies involved as either speakers, sponsors or exhibitors. Why not get your company involved?

Places are open for advertising and sponsorship for 2020 event

If you would like your company to be represented at Rural Focus please contact me to explore the best way for you to do this. This is a great way to give-back, get involved with our students and sell your business and career-paths for our Graduates.

Please go to our Alumni/Foundation website at www.robbcollege.com and follow our “Robb Antiques” Facebook site for current news on the College. Our ‘Jobs for Robbers’ page profiles current jobs available for Alumni and students. Please contact me if you would like to advertise your company’s positions-available.

Can you donate to our appeal? We need to build on the current “momentum” and double our number of scholarships in time for the new building. They are a terrific and perpetual gift that help rural families and fund our future leaders. They will also help to keep Robb College in demand and vibrant for another 60 years and remain one of the leading residential Colleges in rural Australia and the SE Asian region. Please go to our website for more details and to donate on-line <https://robbcollege.com/donate>

Kind regards

Geoff Perry

Chairman

Email: gsperry@bigpond.com or call 0417 226 698

Tribute to Dr Evan Thomas, Resident Fellow of Robb College from 1979 until 1984

We were saddened to hear of the passing of a great, past member of Robb, Dr Evan Thomas, who passed away in July this year. Evan and his lovely wife Tineke were enormous contributors to Robb sport and student support during their time in Armidale. Evan coached the immortal 1983 Robb 1st XV who won the NE Premiership for the first time in many years for Robb.

Our sympathies go to Tineke and her family. (Tineke still holds an unbeaten record of 85 ‘Sporting Excellence’ glasses from her time in Robb).

To read the full tribute and their story, which has been wonderfully compiled by Dr Jim Irvine – who was Master of Robb during their time in College- please go the link on our website:

<https://robbcollege.com/history-heritage-people>



Robb College Foundation Appeal

In 2020 Robb College will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of its founding. The Robb College Foundation has launched an appeal to raise funds to create a new pathway of residential scholarships that will be in place when the new college reopens.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)



Residential Colleges

2020 applications open

[APPLY NOW](#)

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