



# “The Robber”



The Robb College Alumni Magazine - Volume 5 - December 2018



## Head of College Report

Jamie Moore

2018 has been an amazing time to be part of Robb College and I thank each and every member of the Senior Common Room, Foundation, Alumni, Student and Friend of Robb for their contribution, no matter how big or small. It takes the efforts of all involved to guarantee the success of the college moving forward.

The redevelopment of the original site continues to progress with demolition well underway. South Court is close to being at slab level. West court gutted and ready to be demolished to slab and North Court well and truly coming down. The 2019 leadership team were taken through the preliminary plans as part of the student consultation process. I was impressed by their approach and suggestions, of which most were taken on board and worked into the design. The students were very happy with what they saw and were excited to see the process moving forward.

Through the year we were able to open our Alcohol Free Space which included a Lounge, a study room and a Gym. This was well received by the students and used constantly. Over the summer break we will be adding a cover to the BBQ area and doing some landscaping to improve the look of the courtyard. We have also purchased new heaters for the Bistro which will continue to build on this space and its' usability.

Academics continue to be a focus for the college with the greatest challenge being consistency and rhythm. With non-compulsory lectures and being able to mix on campus and online units all whilst

holding down a part time job and leading a very active social life this is a lot of balls to juggle. Fortunately I have found that our students are improving in getting this balance right but still have a long way to go. We will wait to see if we retain the Pigram/Whalley shield on 2018 results and start working on strategies to lift our overall performance in 2019.

Sport, in 2018, was again an integral part of the College with participation in Mary Bagnell and Presidents Trophy competitions. We fielded sides in the local Hockey and netball competitions as well as a full compliment of Rugby sides. All of the college sides performed well and with their usual tenacity. Unfortunately, in the Netball and Hockey we were able to come close but neither taking home the chocolates. However it was a stellar year for our Rugby club. Making the grand final in 5 grades was outstanding and adding to that a couple of minor and major premierships was fantastic. Above all, however, was the achievement of Club Champions and honour that far outstrips the premierships and reflects the position and focus of the club.

As we move to 2019 I feel very positive. Our students, clubs and college have received the news around the banning of alcohol related sponsorship with maturity and a sense of seeing it as a wonderful opportunity as opposed to something enforced to hinder. Our officials are already proactive in changing the way we seek support and enjoying the fact that this will not be determined by the amount of alcohol that we consume. Our college continues to be supportive of each other and the students are working hard to make it an inclusive, safe and positive place to live. I encourage all Alumni to engage with the college in some way, big or small, as it is the whole of the Robb Community that provides its strength and continued success.

Cheers  
Jamie



# Robb College Foundation Report

Geoff Perry



Merry Christmas Robb Alumni

## What a Difference a Year makes!

Last December I was able to say that I believed the “battle to save Robb” had been won and the “battle to re-build Robb” had now begun. The pendulum is swinging back and what great results we are seeing. Look at the trends:-

1. Robb has highest numbers of returning students wanting to become Resident Tutors.
2. Robb already has high numbers of new applicants – College should be full again in 2019.
3. Robb has excelled on the sporting fields including all 5 Rugby Grades in the Grand Finals with the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and Womens 7 Rugby Teams taking out the premiership.
4. Robb holds the Academic Shield for 2<sup>nd</sup> year running against Albies (by a very small margin).
5. Robb students raised over \$30,000 for charity – this year for “Beat The Breakdown” - an organization that aims to raise the awareness of suicide in rural communities.
6. UNE has commenced re-building & re-furbishing the original Robb College.
7. The Foundation has lifted our total Trust funds for prizes and scholarships by over 50% in 2 years. Our total funds are now at over \$400,000.

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

## Rural Focus Dinner & Symposium – “ Family or Corporate Farming ?” – July 24-26<sup>th</sup> 2019 – open for Speakers and Sponsorship.

This year we held our 3<sup>rd</sup> successful Rural Focus Dinner and Symposium as part of UNE Ag-Week. The theme was based on investing in and succession in farming. We had the highest audience yet with over 450 people attending the two events. Leading Robb Alumni have presented sessions each year.

We are in 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. ***If you would like your company to be represented 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 or services.

## Robb College turns 60 in 2020.

Plans are starting on what we do for this milestone. Please send us any ideas. From the Foundation we are moving to be ready to launch a re-structured scholarship program called the Robb Leader Scholarship Program. It combines boosting our existing with launching new scholarships. We must raise \$766,000 over the next 3 years. Our scholarships must be competitive to attract, retain and encourage Robb students to pursue higher degrees, to meet current costs of tertiary education and be ready for Robb’s new building.

It is time for us older Alumni to “give-back” and help our future farmers, business leaders and young professionals who will go on to be leaders in their fields and add-value to their communities.

Our immediate need is to raise \$222,000 to help launch a new scholarship to be called "The Wal & Pam Whalley Senior Fellows Scholarship". This will mark over 40 years of remarkable contribution Wal and Pam have given to students passing through Robb College. Please help. You can donate on-line.

**Please go to our combined Alumni/Foundation website at [www.robbcollege.com](http://www.robbcollege.com) and follow our "Robb Antiques" Facebook site for current news on the College and details on how you can donate.**

We now need to build on the current "momentum", help develop our future leaders, keep Robb College full and vibrant for another 60 years and becoming one of the leading residential Colleges in rural Australia and the SE Asian region.

Kind regards

Geoff Perry  
Chairman

**Email:** [gsperry@bigpond.com](mailto:gsperry@bigpond.com) or call 0417 226 698

**Jack Grant**



Hello Robbers,

My name is Jack Grant and I am the incoming President of the Robb Alumni. My time at Robb began in 2010, and extended to 2012, and then affiliating with the college for a further year in 2013. I studied a Bachelor in Agribusiness and an Advanced Diploma of the Sciences over this time.

Since returning to Armidale in early 2018, I have been excited to become part of the Robb College family once again, and through the Robb College Alumni I hope to build this community to extend much further than the boundaries of Armidale.

It has been exciting to see the huge transformation of the College over the past few years, culminating in a college without any empty beds and some wonderful sporting victories throughout 2018.

If you have not already, I urge you to visit Robb College website ([www.robbcollege.com](http://www.robbcollege.com)) and update your details through the Alumni and Friends of Robb Page.

I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas, and looking forward to a big year in 2019.

Regards,  
Jack Grant



# News

After a 6-year delay the University has begun demolishing and re-building Robb College. The dining hall is being preserved and is already undergoing refurbishment. Wherever possible, the basalt-blocks are to be re-used. The University recognizes the importance of the original layout of the buildings and is incorporating the design principles in the modernisation of Robb College. Go to the Robb Alumni website to follow the development.



# Alumni Get-Togethers - Golf day 2018

Each year a group of hardy 70's era Alumni come together to compete for the "Rhodes Plate" and "Summers Bucket" – awards established in honour of 2 Robbers who passed away a few years ago. This years tournament was held at Royal Sydney and the winners were; Rob Onus and Tig Crowley won the Summers Bucket; Crowley won the Rhodes Plate - but may not qualify – not being a Robber - so a committee decision is pending! The contest is open each year to any Robber. Contact the Alumni for details.

Photo from the recent Plate and Bucket contest at Royal Sydney - Rob Onus, Tig Crowley (ring in), Paul Cotton & Ross King.





Robb students at the Charity Long Lunch 2018.



We wish all Robbers a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. For more news and updates visit and like [the Robb Antiques Facebook Page](#) plus go to the official Robb Alumni/Foundation website at [www.robbcollege.com](http://www.robbcollege.com).



**Robb College Office**

02 6773 1700

[robb@une.edu.au](mailto:robb@une.edu.au)

[robbalumnifunctions@gmail.com](mailto:robbalumnifunctions@gmail.com)

[www.robbcollege.com](http://www.robbcollege.com)

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