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VERITAS

THE MAGAZINE OF ST ALBERT'S COLLEGE
Within the University of New England





ST ALBERT'S COLLEGE

The Veritas is published to report on the activities of the College. Our students study across a range of degrees at the University of New England, and our alumni cover many fields of professional endeavour. Veritas is a record of this proud and unique regional College.

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College Principal's Welcome

ALBIES – A TRULY CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Albies began robustly on the back of a magnificent 50th year ready for yet another exciting journey ahead. After a fantastic retreat and wellness week there was great energy throughout as our preparations for the sporting seasons, fresher sports and the college production of Grease were building well, all the while lectures were underway and students were embracing all that UNE and life in Armidale had to offer. Suddenly, all of this was halted in mid-March when we enabled the majority of our students to return home as a result of the pandemic's arrival, a period that will long be remembered globally.

This obviously resulted in a quiet Trimester One from a student perspective. Although, our staff were busily looking into a number of initiatives and changes from IT and finance structures, staffing matrix's and evolving student experience, through to investigation of alternate opportunities for growth within and beyond the college precinct.

This time also enabled some reflection by the Executive team on the way the College has evolved in recent years from the increased beautification of the precinct to the Dining Room that has become so much more than a place for meals, through to the emphasis on a truly holistic student journey. It also gave us time to reassess and plan for the coming years in our goal to provide the best collegiate student experience for our young men and women, and to connect with our thousands of alumni and broader stakeholders invested in Albies.

Fortunately, Trimester Two was a highly successful one for Albies where we welcomed students back who filled all Blocks, apart from A Block which was specifically shut as a part of our Covid-Safe Venue structure. The students managed to continue to make the most of College life enjoying a robust sporting season, great social energy at an appropriate level, inclusive of newly introduced Block and Year Dinners, committing wholeheartedly to charitable





“Through all this the common theme of relationships and common values of respect, inclusivity and integrity shone through, proving yet again that Albies truly is the ultimate Connected Community.”

causes, as well as strong levels of collaboration and academic support. This ensured that the University journey remained similar to the traditional experience, albeit within the safe haven of Albies, proving that through the legacy of our student leadership team in particular, we will continue to offer a truly dynamic student journey for all our residents whether the university returns to campus or not in 2021.

The College Board, Staff, SCR and our Student Leadership Team have done an amazing job this year in support of all our students and it has made me extremely proud to be immersed in a Catholic College that is genuinely a community of kindness. The exit survey reiterated the high levels of satisfaction our students have had with the support structures availed to them, especially in a year as unique as 2020. To that end I wish to offer my heartfelt thanks to all involved for the wonderful role they have played in 2020.

Whether our students resided here or not in 2020 they remained in touch through all platforms available, they supported each other holistically and they were invested in the ability to return to their ‘home away from home’ as soon as the opportunity

was availed. Taking that a step further, on the back of relationships forged with alumni and friends of Albies in our 50th year, our student’s connection grew even greater this year. Graduate positions were gained through alumni and one-on-one connection opportunities came through alumni and friends for students wanting a deeper insight into career paths beyond university. We were thrilled to welcome no less than eight people into the College this year who spoke of their journeys and the paths they had taken which led to the positions they hold and lives they lead today. Through all this the common theme of relationships and common values of respect, inclusivity and integrity shone through, proving yet again that Albies truly is the ultimate Connected Community.

I hope and pray that all of Albies enjoy a restful Christmas period spent with family and friends and that 2021 brings with it much hope and happiness for the broader family of the college.

Yours in Albies,

Jas Lincoln
College Principal

From the Chair of the College Board

There is no doubt that 2020 has presented challenges that could not have been foreseen in 2019. The recent droughts and bushfires have been eclipsed by the gravity of the COVID pandemic.

The COVID pandemic has presented difficult times for all and yet during this time the face of Christ has presented itself through St Albert's. The response of St Albert's residents, management, staff and community has reflected our shared Catholic values in caring for our neighbour and respecting the sanctity of human life.

Our College's Catholic foundation, academic and pastoral support programs, community spirit and commitment to serving others has ensured a rich and rewarding experience for our College residents, even during lockdown. In turn our College residents and families have supported each other and St Alberts reflecting a commitment to neighbour.

While 2020's schedule of events was somewhat interrupted, St Albert's has continued to enjoy some outstanding academic results and an incredibly successful charity fundraising program for the year. The St Albert's residents raised \$16,000 for the Little Windmills charity. This was an outstanding effort given the challenging circumstances of 2020.

The Board of St Albert's is continuing with its Block refurbishment program with A Block completed in 2020 and C Block to be completed in time for the return of residents in early 2021.

In 2020 the Board also began preliminary planning for the building of a purpose-built chapel on the College grounds. The chapel will provide a special place of reverence for College Masses, Baptisms and Weddings. The Chapel will also provide a place of reflection and prayer for residents and the broader St Albert's and UNE communities.

In 2020, the Board spent considerable time reviewing its governance processes in readiness for 2021. Recently, Bishop Kennedy appointed three new board members and it is with great pleasure that I welcome Jane Watson, Tom Newsome and David Smith who will join the Board in 2021.

Many people contribute each year to the success of St Albert's College. In particular I would like to thank Bishop Kennedy, the Board, the Principal Jason Lincoln, the staff, members of the Senior Common Room, our chaplain Father Paul McCabe, our student leaders and residents and the families that continue to value the St Albert's college experience for their sons and daughters.

I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and look forward to meeting with many of you in person next year when we are able to resume a more usual program of College activities.

Best Wishes,

Associate Professor David Miron
Chair, St Albert's College Board



From the Bishop Diocese of Armidale

Throughout this year, one most people describe as extraordinary, I have watched as Saint Albert's College has responded to these very particular tests. When what you do is based around having over 300 people living and working together on a daily basis, having that shut down presented enormous challenges.

The response of the College Board, Leadership, and staff was nothing short of outstanding. Whilst most residents were not able to return to College, there were some whose short-term home is the College. Arrangements were put in place for them to remain and to be cared for. The outreach to residents who were studying off campus, enabled the College experience to continue and for their studies to be supported.

When College could reopen with limitations on capacity, there were more residents wanting to return than places were available. One of the learnings for the College community, and perhaps we should not be surprised by this, is that the College experience – the Saint Albert's College experience – makes a real difference in the lives and learning outcomes for residents. There is no replacing via electronic means the benefits that come from living in a Catholic residential College.

In 2008 Pope Benedict XI spoke at the Catholic University of America in Washington and he said "Set against personal struggles, moral confusion and fragmentation of knowledge, the noble goals of scholarship and education, founded on the unity of truth and in service of the person and the community, become an especially powerful instrument of hope."

In this year of pandemic and disruptions to lives we have all needed hope. I am delighted that within Saint Albert's College there is a supportive community which allows the residents to pursue these noble goals of scholarship and education with hope.

I express my appreciation to the College Board, Leadership and all the staff and students for once again being there for each other and the College community.

May God bless you all,

Yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Armidale



From the Chaplain

I was deeply moved by the response of Albies students to the live-streamed Requiem Mass for Adam Fitzpatrick. About 60 gathered in the JCR to join in the celebration on Monday 7th Sept. Adam (Albies 2018-19) died on 25th August as a result of a car accident. Due to the Covid restrictions, it was not possible for fellow students to attend his funeral, which was held outside the family parish church in Jugiong, about 40km north of Gundagai.

The shared grief and mutual love was palpable, evidenced by the sincere way everyone participated in the ceremony as if they were actually present at the Mass. I found myself being quite overcome, though not having known Adam except to say hello. It was as if we were all possessed by a common spirit of unity which transcended our individual selves. It felt as if Adam was somehow still one with the group, so that we could say: "Once you're Albies, you're Albies, not just for life, but forever!"

That's not just a flight of fancy. It's the Mystery of Christ in whom we are all one. St Paul said that in Christ there is no distinction of class (slave or free), race (Greek or Jew), or gender (male or female). "...all of you are one in Christ." (Gal 3:28)

When Jesus ascended into heaven, it was not to leave the earth, but to fill the whole of creation so that

God may be all in all. Central to Christian faith is our understanding that to die is not to disintegrate into primal elements, but to be assumed into the Mystery of God, through Christ. Our true self is not limited to this tiny, culturally conditioned, individual ego we usually experience ourselves to be. Our true self is a manifestation of the One Reality we call God. The Good News Jesus came to tell us that our true selves, who we really are, will be revealed in what we call 'heaven', or 'the resurrection'.

The live-streamed Mass for Adam somehow gave us a taste of what it means to share in that Mystery of Unity in the Trinity, dancing with God forever, the 'perichoresis' as John of Damascus called it.

Enough of the sermonising! I just needed to express my delight at the spirit of Albies which is such as to attract students back even under Covid conditions. I was told in September that there were more residential students at Albies than in all other colleges combined. It did not surprise me.

God be with everyone. May the spirit of oneness in Christ continue to enliven and encourage all our students and staff in these tough and uncertain times.

Fr Paul McCabe
College Chaplain



From the Deputy Principal

The year commenced in mid-February with our leadership team welcoming 119 First Year students for two weeks of wellness and orientation. Saturday 29th February saw the remaining students return for Ladies Day bringing the student body to 289 students to commence Trimester One 2020. The College was a buzz with energy for the first three weeks. We were able to hold our Annual Commencement Mass in the JCR followed by a dinner in the Dining Hall. Unfortunately, the year would take a turn and by the 23rd March the College would become near on empty as every student headed home for lockdown. The rest of Trimester One was very quiet until we welcomed 60 or so students back to complete their exams at College.

“Compared to most other places in Australia, there wasn’t a better place to be if you needed to study and socialise responsibly.”

Trimester Two was unable to commence with an Albies Week, but we were fortunate enough to have it in mid-Trimester break in August. We welcomed 160 students in the first week and this slowly increased to a peak of 220. Trimester Two saw the events scaled back significantly but I still believe that compared to most other places in Australia, there wasn’t a better place to be if you needed to study and socialise responsibly. Academically, the College adjusted well to the move to online and we saw an increase in the overall GPA of the College from 4.13 – 4.34.

I would like to thank the staff for all the work they did to ensure there was still a student experience to be had in 2020. Finally, a massive thank you to the Student Executive Team (James Bloomer, Florance McGufficke, Henry Hickson, Sophie Harris, Angus Roberts, Millie Smith) and the rest of the RST for their support, counsel and patience in helping the College make the best out of a bizarre situation.

Trent Donaldson
Deputy Principal



From the Junior Common Room

2020 started off with 119 Freshers being welcomed by our renowned fridgies who assisted the Freshers and their families by carrying all their belongings to their new rooms. This year Albies participated in both Wellness Week and O-week, providing them with education around drug and alcohol use, sexual relationships and driver safety. We as the JCR had organised a social program that included movie nights, Barefoot Bowls, golf days, Billy Maddison Day and our annual Colosseum night.

Then returned our older students of the college, which meant we then organised events for 289 people. We managed to get in our famous Beach Party then, our college's social calendar had to be modified due to COVID-19. This resulted in smaller and non-dancing events which were still thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Amelia Smith,
2020 JCR Vice President



Student Leadership Team 2020

RST Retreat

The RST, JCR Executive and Club Presidents began the year with our Annual Retreat to Coffs Harbour, where the leadership team developed their plans for 2020 and participated in a range of team-building activities, Retreat concluded with our annual RST – SCR meet and greet at The Great Hops Brewery.



Student Executive

JCR President
Angus Roberts

JCR Vice President
Amelia Smith

Senior Residential Advisors
James Bloomer, Florance McGufficke

Senior Academic Advisor
Henry Hickson

Deputy Senior Academic Advisor
Sophie Harris

Residential Advisors
Madeline Lane, Lachlan Buttenshaw, Hamish Markey, Matilda Hunt, Sarah Hamparsum, Phoebe Allpass, Harrison Darley, Angus Dickson, Nick Whip, Elizabeth Smith, Alice Frend, Robbie Waters, Jack Todhunter, Annika Spork, Jack Hely

Pastoral Assistants
Sam Brandon, Penny McKillop, Frankie Stanley, John Mullany, Bill Perrignon, Liam Alderdice, Celia Arnott, Jessica Towns, Sophie Venz, Angus Dunn, John Menzies, Georgia O'Neill, Sally Finch, George Rodgers, Monique Chauvier

2020 Student Leadership Team

Academic Support Team

Angus Dingley, Shelby Glavocih, Anthony Toscan, Callum Melton, Charlie Bergmeier, Stephanie Hennings, Jack Jansen, Eleanor MacGregor

JCR Executive

Treasurer – Lucy Christie, Secretary – Angus Jakins, Publicity – Will West

Clubs & Committees

Charity President
Anthony Sheridan

Vice President
Darby Brown

Netball President
Kaitlin Staniforth

Vice President
Dominique Schuurs

Hockey President
Celia Arnott

Vice President
Sarah Hassall

Rugby President
Lachlan Holz

Vice President
Nick Whip

Social Media and Marketing
Claudia Dunn, Emma Cullen

Student Leadership Team 2021

The College is always humbled by the number of students willing to give back to the College through leadership and this year was no different with an overwhelming number of applications. It is always a difficult task to select our team.



Student Executive

JCR President
Bill Perrignon

JCR Vice President
Georgia O'Neill

Senior Residential Advisors
Florance McGufficke, Harrison Darley

Senior Academic Advisor
Stephanie Hennings

Deputy Senior Academic Advisor
Callum Melton

Residential Advisors
Penny McKillop, Jock Menzies, Lachie Markey, Josh Liepins, Henry Coldham, Matilda Hunt, Georgia Lane, Jessica Towns, Angus Roberts, Will Weatherlake, Sally Finch, Will West, Lizzie Smith, Sarah Hamparsum, Frankie Stanley

Pastoral Assistants
Riley Carroll, Alex Viegas, Martha Haycock, Bridget Madigan, Phoebe Biddle, Robert Bragg, Lachlan Elworthy, Ben Hamparsum, Sarah Hassall, Georgia Flude, Royce Carroll, Molly Aveyard, Matthew Langfield, Thomas Jakins, Hagan Size

2021 Student Leadership Team

Academic Support Team

Angus Dingley, Shelby Glavocih, Anthony Toscan, Xanthe O'Neill, Charlie Bergmeier, Imogen McMaster, Jack Jansen

JCR Executive

Treasurer – Ruby van den Hoek, Secretary – Jock McMaster, Publicity – James Bailey

Clubs & Committees

Charity Presidents
Imogen Turnbull
Maddy Mullany

Vice Presidents
Angus Wood
Lucy Christie

Netball President
Kaitlin Staniforth

Vice President
Monique McRae

Hockey President
Maddie Kennedy

Vice President
Luci Gerathy

Rugby President
Nick Whip

Vice President
Hagan Size
Ollie Bierhoff

Social Media and Marketing
Claudia Dunn, Emma Cullen

Collegian of the Year

Lachie Holz

The Collegian of the Year is awarded to a student who is nominated by their peers as having made an outstanding contribution to the life of St Albert's College.

It is a person who upholds the five core values of St Albert's College –

Service, Engagement, Integrity, Respect and Heritage.

We would like to congratulate Lachie Holz for receiving Collegian of the Year in 2020.



College Events & Student Success

The year commenced with our Commencement Mass in the JCR which was followed by a dinner. This was a spectacular evening in the dining hall with a number of our valued SCR members in attendance.

Trimester Two saw the capacity of the dining hall reduced to 145 people, which meant that formal dinners needed to be adapted. This led to us hosting four Block dinners in the first half of Trimester Two, and three year group dinners in the second half of Trimester Two culminating in a revised Valedictory Dinner. These events were extremely well received, and the College is now considering building them into our annual calendar. The year dinners also revealed musical performers in the College. From first year performers were 'Fresher Five and Ebony', second year 'The Disappointments' and the third year band was aptly named 'The Burnt Out Bandits'.

Whilst the year was disruptive and a number of students didn't return for a full year, the College still had a number of outstanding academic results. All

the students below returned to College for Trimester Two and managed to complete 6 units in total.

High Distinction Average (GPA > 6.5)

Henry Hickson, Tessa Parry

Distinction Average (GPA range 5.5 - 6.5)

Maddy Bignell, Ruari Browne, Robert Bragg, Shelby Glavocih, Sophie Allen, Jack Hawkins, Jade Sinclair, Anna Johnston, Matt Langfield, Hamish Thompson, Howard Litzow, Frankie Stanley, Sarah Hamparsum, Xanthe O'Neill, Georgia Laurie, Eleanor MacGregor, Amelia Griffiths, Hamish Markey, Jack Hyem, Angus Jakins, Martha Haycock, Anthony Toscan, Florance McGufficke, Nick Whip, Bluey Adamo, Ruby van den Hoek, Phoebe Boydell, Rachel Barlow, John Menzies, Sally Finch, Evan Chee, Jack Hely, Georgi Turner, Jared Lawrence, Bridget Madigan, Molly Aveyard, Nicholas Moore, Amber Smith, Campbell Jones, Annika Spork.



Credit Average (GPA range 4.5 - 5.5)

Lachie Holz, Izzy Waugh, Sophie Hansen, Angus Roberts, Katelyn Hall, Annabel Brown, Tilly Hunt, Kasey Lane, Georgie Macintyre, Will Weatherlake, Millie Menzies, Maddy Mullany, Emma Kennedy, Cate Horton, Amy Clementson, Lachie Elworthy, Millie George, Campbell Creighton, Issy Densley, Summer Chaseling, Abby Brown, Georgia Lane, Sophie Harris, Tim Finlayson, Millie Smith, Megan Humphrey, Luci Gerathy, Mitch Roworth, Lachie Markey, Wyllie Harris, Ben Donohoe, Millie George, Georgia O'Neill, Imogen McMaster, Summer Chaseling, Ebony Thomas, Bill Packer, Sophie Harris, Grace Whittle, Robert Waters, Megan Humphrey, Annabel Arnott, Annie Derrick, Lachie Markey, Sam Spanton, Josh Liepins, Tom McKenzie, Lauren Officer, Peter Urquhart, Abbey O'Neill, Darby Brown, Sarah Hassall, Ben Grant, Georgia Butt, Munro Campbell, Tom Robson, Ilanah Baston, Alex Cranston, Tim Quirk, Hagan Size, Jess Towns, Ginny Molesworth, Maggie Taylor, Brydi Holmes, Molly Thomas, Tom Jakins, Sam Brandon, Lucy Christie, Jed McEvoy, Anthony Stephens, George Rodgers, Monique McRae, Angus Wood, Sam Bloomer, Max Schmelzer, Tilly Dowling, Harrison Darley, Angus Turner, Callum Melton, Maggie Yeomans, Charles Hogan, Shannon Rush, Angus Dunn, Harry Maunder, Duncan Webb, Henry Coldham, Jock Menzies, Sam Webster, Rylee Cooper, Maine Sharpe, Sophie Venz, Liam Alderdice.



2020 College Valedicts

Below is a list of students who returned for Trimester Two to complete their Albies journey. We would like to thank them for their contribution to our community and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Congratulations to our 2020 Valedictorians

Liam Alderdice, Celia Arnott, James Bloomer, Phoebe Boydell, Samuel Brandon, Abby Brown, Darby Brown, Lachlan Buttenshaw, Angus Dunn, Samuel Flude, Sophie Harris, Jack Hely, Henry Hickson, Bronte Hiscox, Charles Hogan, Lachlan Holz, Angus Jakins, Harriet Killen, Howard Litzow, Eleanor MacGregor, Hamish Markey, Jed McEvoy, Paul Norrie, Anna Ogden, Timothy Quirk, Tom Robson, George Rodgers, Ella Ronnfeldt, Zoe Sevil, Anthony Sheridan, Amber Smith, Amelia Smith, Sam Spanton, Annika Spork, Hugh Sullivan, Hamish Thompson, Jack Todhunter, Angus Turner, Sophie Venz, Robert Waters, Lachlan Watkin, Emma Workman, Tawnda Gwairi.



Once you're Albies,
you're Abliies for life!

#AlbiesForLife



From the Senior Common Room

St Albert's College SCR started the year with such gusto, with over 60 SCR members, we hosted our first of many gatherings with the RST and college staff and then our "freshers". These events for the SCR are a wonderful way to connect with their allocated floors, form friendships and be their 'home away from home'.

Our Commencement dinner kicked off the first of our whole college dinners. The SCR awarded two bursaries to fresher students and in typical formal dinner fashion, we finished the night with our talented student band getting everyone up on their feet.

Unfortunately, that is where the dancing stopped. We wished the students well and hoped they would continue their studies online when most went home with the introduction of the COVID lockdowns. No doubt this has been a challenging year for our students, and it is refreshing to see just how many have returned to college for trimester Two, even with continued online learning in place. 2020 is a year of adaptation and the college is to be congratulated

on how they have managed and continue to support students and experience the Albies life (albeit COVID style).

Fingers crossed we can dance again in 2021.

Justine Biddle,
SCR President



St Albert's Hockey Club

The St Albert's Hockey Club began the year with an extremely talented fresher hockey team to play Robb College, which had a turnout of 20 girls. This set the club up for a promising season with many of these players stepping up to play for the St Albert's Hockey club throughout the year, where our team consisted of a massive 23 players. Our team for 2020 looked to be the most promising side in years with the girls clocking an astonishing 18 goals to nil in our first game. More wins trickled in throughout the season which had us sitting at 4th on the ladder after a couple of game forfeits.

A special thank you must go to Sports Power Armidale for providing us with our hockey training equipment, Tobco for funding the t-shirts for the girls to train in and to Skor for providing us with new uniforms and hockey jackets. All these sponsorships allowed this season to progress successfully and improve the club's reputation. A huge congratulations must go to Alice Mainey for being the 3rd grade highest goal scorer for 2020 with an astounding 21 goals scored throughout the season.

A special thanks must go to the St Alberts Hockey Club committee members who aided in making the hockey season special for all those attending. Without these girls working tirelessly throughout, the season would not have been successful, especially in these trying times through COVID-19. A lot of hard work

and effort has gone on behind the scenes to make this season special for all players. The 2020 hockey committee consisted of the following girls:

President - Celia Arnott (Minnie)
Vice President - Sarah Hassall
Secretary - Ciara Macken & Phoebe Boydell
Treasurer - Penny McKillop
Registrar - Monique Chauvier
Publicity / Sponsorship - Sophie Venz

Each of these girls worked as a team to ensure that hockey was supported, increasing awareness for our sport which increased the number of players we will have for years to come.

Congratulations must go to the new committee for 2021 voted in by all members of the hockey club. The committee for 2021 consists of:

President - Maddie Kennedy
Vice President - Luci Gerathy
Secretary - Alice Mainey
Treasurer - Brydi Holmes
Registrar - Lucy Barton
Publicity / Sponsorship - Chelsea Eichorn

Celia Arnott,
2020 Hockey Club President



St Albert's Netball Club

The 2020 netball season was yet another successful year for St Albert's. At the beginning of the year we started with 11 netball teams and over 100 girls playing. The first round of games was played, however not long after this round we were forced to have a break until July due to Covid-19.

When trimester two began student numbers were down and in turn the number of netball teams was reduced, however we still had over 70 women representing the St Albert's netball club. With the boarders closing for a second time, a lot of girls had to back up for a second game due to girls taking the opportunity to return home. After the mid trimester break, we saw girls return, ready and able to complete the back end of the season.

A grade and B yellow showed they were just as strong as the previous season going through the round games only losing two games.

The club had four teams make it through to the first round of finals, A grade, A res, B yellow and B pink. Due to restrictions, these girls missed the normal support of fellow students and parents.

We would like to thank the players, coaches, students and parents for abiding by the restrictions and allowing the competition to go on. Out of the four teams two of these made it through to the grand final. A grade going up against the impressive Barbets team and coming away with a strong win 49-31 for the second year in a row. B- yellow fought hard however unfortunately went down to Robb.

On behalf of the committee, we would like to congratulate all the teams on their season and we look forward to the 2021 season.

Kaitlin Staniforth,
2020 Netball Club President



St Albert's Rugby Club

2020 saw St Albert's Rugby Club enter its 51st year in true Albies fashion. With a recruitment of new faces eager to embrace college life and take part in the rich sporting culture Albies has to offer. Early days saw a variety of body shapes stepping out of tractors and onto the field to begin pre-season fitness, and with the help from Scotty Waterson and the coaches, we could see promising talent emerging. Teams, combinations and fitness were well and truly taking shape, when all was brought to a halt by Covid-19, with no choice but to postpone the season. The committee looked ahead and began preparations for our return to the field.

Following government guidelines, Jock Menzies was appointed as the Club's Covid-19 marshal, attending every club gathering and ensuring we adhered to relevant policy. Jock's devotion to the club, alongside committee members, allowed us to proceed with training in preparation for round 1. Upon receiving news of interest from the Walcha Rams and Harbour Knights about joining the competition, the New England zone reached out to clubs and asked for thoughts and opinions. Presuming their hunger for rugby was as great as ours, Albies voted in favour for the inclusion of the two clubs. This proved to be an exciting challenge for all teams, and we thank all those involved to make this happen.

We were honoured to compete against the Armidale Blues for the Greg 'Bushy' Stephen memorial trophy. We fought hard and claimed the victory in first grade, however, the Blues proved their might by winning the other grades to be called up as deserved victors for the first year of the award.

First grade earned a place in the semi-final against a well drilled Harbour Knights team at Coffs Harbour. Much of the college seized the opportunity for a coastal holiday with 'club support' as the excuse. Following an exciting game in humid conditions, the Knights proved too good, as we farewelled several senior players.

I'd like to thank the coaches, committee, club patrons, sponsors and all those who contributed throughout the season for their unquestionable dedication to the club, and for making this year possible. It has been thoroughly enjoyable, and we wish everyone a prosperous off-season.

Lachlan Holz,
2020 Rugby Club President



St Albert's Charity Program

The support from Albies for charity in 2020 has been outstanding. Although faced with the challenging restrictions from Covid-19, the college and the wider Albies community were always up for donating either money or their time to support this year's partnered charity, Little Windmills.

Little Windmills is a charity which supports rural based families who have seriously sick or injured children. They achieve this mainly through providing financial relief for the families in need. Throughout the year myself and Darby enjoyed coming up with ways to support the charity and are proud to announce that the Albies community raised up to \$16,000 for Little Windmills.

Anthony Sheridan,
2020 Charity President



Alumni and Friends

Hello to one and all who call themselves either Alumni or Friends of our great St Albert's College. Albies has been, for me, a life-long journey to date and a connection that I'm sure will remain strong into the future.

During my association with Albies I have been a student, Dean, SCR Member, Albies Parent, Patron of the Rugby Club and now President of the Albies Alumni & Friends. The networking connections are boundless and you would be hard pressed to go anywhere in the world where you will not find some type of Albies link, it truly is that strong and far-reaching.

I would encourage you to reconnect with Albies at every opportunity you can, not only for your own sense of well-being that seeing old friends gives you, but also in terms of showing support and acknowledging the great memories, good times and strong friendships the College has given each of us in years gone by.

I look forward to catching up with many of you in 2021, given so many of our Alumni & Friends events haven't gone ahead this year due to COVID-19.

Kate Pigram ('88-'91)
President of Albies Alumni & Friends



Greg ‘Bushy’ Stephen Shield

2020 saw the inaugural Greg ‘Bushy’ Stephen Shield being played between Albies and the Armidale Blues RUFC. The Stephen name is synonymous with both clubs, and Greg and his wife Trish are Honourary Fellows of St Albert’s College, the highest honour held in the College. Sadly Bushy passed away at the end of 2019 after a long battle with cancer.

Bushy was the epitome of all that is good in the world, as a truly selfless contributor, who cared so much more for the wellbeing of others than he did himself. Bushy and Trish both impacted the lives of hundreds if not thousands of students since Greg’s first introduction as a student of Albies in 1979. Together they have been proud and loyal supporters of the college on every level at every opportunity.

Bushy was renowned for setting students up with employment opportunities for decades and for taking them under his wing consistently as friend and mentor. Bushy and Trish backed the Albies Art Show, were instrumental in reigniting the College Production and have always played an integral role in the success of the Albies Race Day. They were so generous with their time, energy and support.

Most importantly Bushy’s passion for the rugby club, his beloved red and green from the sideline was only matched by brother Maurie. This does happen to split the Stephen family down the middle with other members of the family having always contributed and continuing to hold key positions in the Blues Club.

The Greg ‘Bushy’ Stephen Shield was a wonderful way to commemorate Bushy’s love of Albies as well as the broader Stephen family’s outstanding contribution to both clubs. The Shield was decided by the overall results of all men’s and women’s games across the day. In 2020 the Blues won the shield.



Calendar Highlight

Albies Reunion Sydney





Peter Ireland's approach to life at UNE in the 1970s speaks volumes of his personal character and the values instilled in him from childhood. Tumbling into a Bachelor of Arts course and then a Diploma and Masters of Education, he "had a crack" at everything - from committees, orienteering, French and debating to drama, philosophy and sport. Especially sport.

"I've always been a great believer that the more things you try, the more those experiences build your personal stock of resilience," says Peter, who grew up "near a cow bail north of West Wyalong". "You can draw on those experiences and challenges your entire life, and constantly learn from them."

It's a basic tenet that has underscored Peter's professional career, sporting success, community contributions and now consultancy work. In his initial school leadership roles he began advocating for those who needed extra support, including rural, Indigenous and refugee students. And his philanthropy hasn't stopped.

"My father always talked about looking out for others," Peter says. "Although we had a large family

of nine, Dad was always active in the community and was honoured with an OA for his community service. There's that famous saying by either Shakespeare or Picasso that the meaning of life is to find your gift and the purpose of life is to give it away."

Whether it was Friday night street patrols to serve coffee and provide companionship to Sydney's homeless or organising the uplifting Sony holiday camps for students with severe cognitive and physical disabilities, Peter's own community spirit has soared. It has reached admirable heights in the past 10-15 years through his fundraising efforts for four major charities - the Humpty Dumpty Foundation, which provides vital medical equipment for Australian children's hospitals; the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children; the Kids with Cancer Foundation; and BlazeAid.

"I am often reminded of those inspirational words by William Wilberforce [the British politician and philanthropist who led the movement to abolish the slave trade], 'You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say again that you did not know'. It's a good reminder to step up if you can."

Steps have never been a problem for Peter. His impressive sporting career began representing UNE, New England Zone and Australian Universities XV in rugby and athletics (the pentathlon, 400m hurdles and 800m) during his UNE days, leading to multiple gold medals at the Australian Masters Athletics Championships from 2008-2011 and a 400m hurdles gold medal at the World Championships in 2009.

He remains a highly competitive man when set a challenge. During the past 18 years Peter has won the Balmoral Burn - Sydney's steepest hill sprint - on eight occasions in his age group, and was the highest individual fundraiser (for the Humpty Dumpty Foundation) in this event in 2014, 2015 and 2018. Since 2006, he has scaled Sydney's Centrepont Tower 10 times, raising tens of thousands of dollars for the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind children.



"I was blessed with two wonderful parents, some healthy athletic DNA and a good memory; it's been enjoyable to use these in a positive way for all sorts of groups in our community," Peter says. "If you're fortunate enough to have done well in life, it's good to send the elevator back down. I think it's incumbent upon us, otherwise we are not leaving or building a legacy, and fundraising is actually fun."

From 2012-2019 Peter was Head of Governance, Policy and Risk as well as Company Secretary for the Sydney Catholic Schools Trust Board. He had previously held senior leadership roles, including Principal of MacKillop Senior College in Port Macquarie and Deputy Headmaster of St Ignatius' College, Riverview. More latterly, as a governance consultant, Peter has worked with board members and directors, managers and administrators in private and public spheres to help set higher ethical benchmarks for best practice. Since 2008 he has also been a selection panel member for the prestigious Australian Winston Churchill Fellowship Trust.

Sport remains a part of Peter's active lifestyle. This includes morning swims, gym and regular cycling with his wife Annie, as well as maintaining robust support for the Wallabies. "Training for fitness is a discipline," Peter says. "No-one sees the thousands of hours behind any success. Sport, for me, doesn't build character; it reveals character. It's a great leveller."

The parallels between sport and governance are striking. "The same ideals of transparency, accountability and respect exist; all representing ethical behaviour," Peter says. "As in sport, you need to continually nurture a reliable reputation and a culture of trust in the best boardrooms. You've always got to win clean. Raising the bar on governance is another community contribution that I continue to enjoy."

Just never challenge Peter to a push-up competition. In February 2020 he raised over \$68,000 for BlazeAid when he won the Mosman Push-up

Challenge, managing a muscle-burning 114 push-ups in the regulation 2 minutes. Peter says the community outcome and satisfaction easily trumped the pain and was redolent of Rudyard Kipling's message, still hanging sagely over Wimbledon's centre court: "If you can dream – and not make dreams your master; if you can think – and not make thoughts your aim; if you can meet with triumph or disaster, and treat those two imposters just the same".

From the Director of Advancement

I hope this past year you have all been well despite 2020 being a tough year for all. Albies would like to thank you for all your ongoing support and engagement towards the College. Without you, Albies would not be what it is today, with many students considering the College a home away from home.

The ability to find part-time work in Armidale is often difficult for new students – many who are fresh out of school – all while trying to settle into College and University life. These existing struggles have now been exacerbated with the COVID-19 pandemic, so supporting our new students is more important than ever. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting our 2020 annual appeal. The Fresher scholarship has raised enough for nine students to begin their journey at Albies in 2021. Fresher year 1982 were the first past the post.

I was hoping that you may consider banding together to raise enough for one \$2,000 scholarship. Any amount, big or small, will be greatly appreciated by the College as this is an ongoing appeal.

Please note you will receive a tax receipt as your donation is tax deductible. You can donate by going to the St Albert's College website www.stalbertscollege.catholic.edu.au or by contacting me directly.

If you have any further questions about this initiative, please contact me on 0407 728 211.

Thank you in advance for your time and for considering supporting this initiative.

Wishing you and your families a happy and holy Christmas. I look forward to seeing you all in what I am praying will be a better year for us all.

Kind regards,
Mary Wright
Director of Advancement

mwright@stalberts.com.au
(02) 5733 5200



Pave the Way

If you would like the opportunity to become a part of the Albies Legacy, purchase a paver today. Your paver will be stamped with your preferred name and/or personal message. Part of your purchase will contribute to assisting students and families in need of financial support.

If you would like to become a permanent part of the Albies Legacy, safeguarding our collegiate experience for future generations of students, please contact Mrs Mary Wright, Director of Advancement, on 0407 728 211, or email her at mwright@stalberts.com.au.



ST ALBERT'S COLLEGE

"Creating a wonderful campus for generations of students who will share in the Albies advantage."

PAVE *the* WAY

