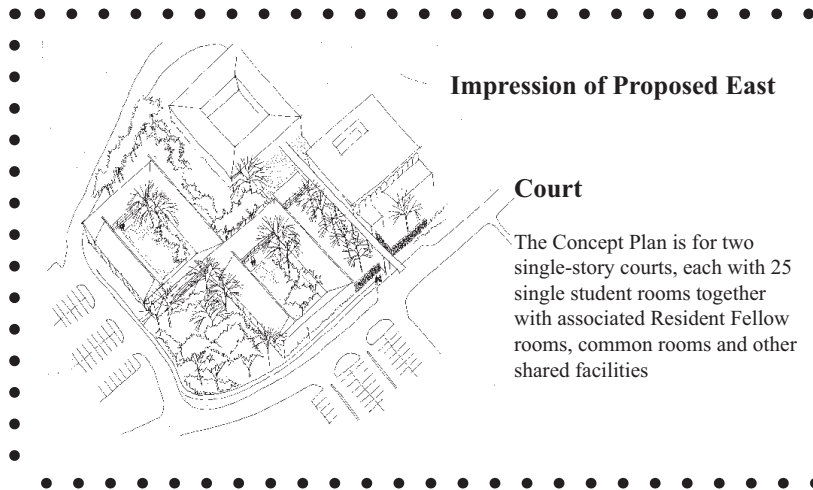


## ON THE THRESHOLD OF GROWTH



### Impression of Proposed East

#### Court

The Concept Plan is for two single-story courts, each with 25 single student rooms together with associated Resident Fellow rooms, common rooms and other shared facilities

### FROM MICHAEL MAAS, MASTER

Well, what a difference a year makes. Before going any further, I must apologise for the College only producing one edition of Roundup last year. It simply was a case of too much to do and not enough time or resources to do it. No excuse I hear you say. OK, we will endeavor to produce an edition of Roundup each semester.

Having celebrated my first year as Master in March 2004, it is timely to reflect on what has happened during 2003.

As you may have expected with a change in Head of College, there was the usual testing of the "new boy" from some of the residents. I had excellent support from staff, SCR members and College leaders, which made my hard decisions a little easier. On that note, I would like to thank Olivia Rogers (Senior Resident Tutor – Semester 1), Oscar Pearse (Senior Resident Tutor – Semester 2), Richard Blackburn (JCR President), Shelley Reid (JCR Vice-President), Wal Whalley (Senior Fellow and Chair, Robb College Foundation), Hugh White (SCR President), the 2003 Tutor team, Barbara Giles (Administrative Assistant, Robb office) and Jan Moran (Assistant Head, Robb College).

The College averaged 97% occupancy during the year, which was fantastic.

Equally pleasing was that 128 out of 200 resident Semester 2 students (64%) wanted to return to Robb College in 2004. This is even better when you consider that within the 200 residents a number were completing their studies and, therefore, would not be returning.

In August 2003 we appointed Jan Moran as our Assistant Head of College. Jan has made a very positive contribution to the College and is enjoying her own "baptism of fire" in her first year.

Our website has been completely overhauled by Michael Kruger, an ex-Robber. He has done an excellent job (at "mate's rates") and it is well worth your time to have a look. We are updating the site regularly with news, events, photos and the latest editions of Robbers.

Academically, we had a great year in 2003. In Semester 1, we had 87% of our resident members who sat for exams achieve greater than a pass average with 32.2% of all resident members (57) achieving a credit average or above. In Semester 2, we had 84.3% of our resident members who sat for exams achieve greater than a pass average with 34.6% of all resident members (66) achieving a

credit average or above.

Sporting achievements were again a highlight with Robb being grand finalists in two netball grades, soccer and all four grades of rugby. See George Hoddle (JCR President 2004) and the Rugby reports for more details.

Intercollegiate competition 2003 results were as follows:

- President's Trophy – 5<sup>th</sup> place
- Mary Bagnall Trophy – 3<sup>rd</sup> place
- Sir Frank Kitto Trophy - 4<sup>th</sup> place

Renovations have commenced on the inside of North Court. We are replacing the timber outer walls with colorbond steel cladding. Also, aluminum windows and doors are being installed. The estimated cost of this project is over \$170,000. The Robb College Foundation is donating nearly \$73,000 towards this project, with the balanced being funded by the University and the UNE Residential System.

The long awaited East Court project is also getting closer to reality. The Robb College Foundation will be launching its annual appeal shortly. Wal Whalley, Chair, Robb College Foundation, has more details on the appeal in his report.

Judy McDonald was elected as President of our Senior Common Room with Eve Woodberry as Vice-President. I would like to thank Hugh White for all his work as President over the last two years. Judy has continued the SCR's commitment to enhancing the relationship of the SCR with College members and assisting freshers with the First Year Link Scheme. It is a pleasure for me as Master to have people like Judy, Eve, Hugh and the entire SCR involved with the College. Their support is greatly appreciated.

We are again at full occupancy for 2004, with a great group of freshers. This is the first time that Robb College has more women than men – 57% and 43% respectively. This mix is reflective of the gender balance across campus. Next year I would like to bring the mix closer to 50/50.

Continued from Page 1

Our Resident Fellows (Tutors) and JCR Executive and Committee for 2004 are doing a great job.

In February the Resident Fellows, JCR Executive and I went on retreat at Coffs Harbour. It was an intensive three days followed by another two days back at College. The result was a very strong and committed management team focused on putting Robb College back into its rightful place as the premier college on campus.

O Week was a resounding success. This was due to the efforts of the JCR President George Hoddle, the JCR Executive and the JCR Committee. The Resident Fellows also played an important part being involved in most activities.

Intercollegiate competition for 2004 has started extremely well with the results as at the end of Term 1 below:

President's Trophy – 1<sup>st</sup> place  
Mary Bagnall Trophy – 1<sup>st</sup> place  
Sir Frank Kitto Trophy – 7<sup>th</sup> place

More important than the results is the support that our competitors are receiving from College members. It doesn't matter what the sporting or cultural activity is, if Robb College is being represented by a single competitor or team, our members (residents and affiliates) are there. It is great to see such strong College spirit.

During 2004 UNE is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year of excellence. In 1954 UNE became Australia's first independent regional university. Since I am on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, I suggested an "old boys" rugby match between St Albert's College and Robb College on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2004. James Dickson, our Alumni President and rugby referee of some note, has kindly volunteered to be the referee for the match. Anyone interested in playing should contact the Robb College office with their details.

Speaking of ex-Robbers, we are very proud to announce that Rebecca Arnott will be our guest speaker at our annual Rural Focus Dinner on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2004. Rebecca was named 2004 NSW Rural Women of the Year for her work in finding new and effective ways of promoting beef products. Also, Skye Dixon, who has just graduated with a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics with First Class Honours, was named Miss Showgirl at the Sydney Royal Easter Show this year. This is an award for all round excellence and contribution to rural communities.

There are stories and notices inside this issue of Roundup regarding current residents, Alumni, SCR and events that I am sure you will find very interesting and entertaining. There is also an article that we have reproduced from Smith's (UNE magazine) about the late Dr John Corbett, who was a very dear friend of the College.

In closing, I would like to stress the importance of the 2004 Robb College Foundation appeal. We are at a critical point in the life of the College. I know that UNE considered closing Robb College a couple of years ago. Robb has an envious reputation within the university community, particularly it's Alumni. However, we need to stand on our own and East Court is vital for our future financial viability. If you or your contacts can help in anyway, please do not hesitate to contact me. Our bottom line depends on your financial support.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a great and safe 2004.



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## 2004 Scholarship Winners

Alison Dooley & Mary Philp - Fellows Scholarship  
Suzannah Cayzer & Wendy Gill - Tattersalles Scholarships  
David Brown - Sinclair-Wilson Scholarship & Sheep CRC/  
Wool Industry Scholarship  
Hannah Marriott - Alice Coventry/SCR Scholarship  
Alexandra Hall - Foundation Undergraduate Scholarship  
Hugh Palmer - Robb College Rugby Scholarship  
Teresa Worthing - Robb College Women's Sporting  
Scholarship  
Katrina Ilich - UNE Country Scholarship  
Roger Larkin - Faculty of Science/Robb College Scholarship  
Christopher Purkiss - Faculty of Education, Health and  
Professional Studies/Robb College Scholarship  
Katherine Jurgs - Scott Williams Opportunity Scholarship  
Mathew Roseby - Sport UNE Development Sporting  
Scholarship

## *Robb Calendar 2004*

21-23 May	Parent/Student Weekend
21-23 May	Art & Craft Exhibition
8 June	Christmas Buffet Dinner
3 August	VC/ Faculty Dinner
10 August	Inter-court Public Speaking
14 August	Robb Ball
15 August	Robb Ball Recovery
16 August	Affiliate's Cocktails
17 August	Buffet Dinner/ Debating Final
7 September	Robb College Rural Focus Dinner
19 October	Valedictory Dinner
2 November	Presidents Changeover/Sports Awards Dinner



## 2004 Robb Freshers

### Letter From Nikki Lane - Currently on Exchange from Washington State University

I have long wanted to study abroad and when the opportunity to be a Resident Fellow at Robb arose, I grabbed it. Little did I know what I was in for. Being here is both terrifying and thrilling. It is the fulfillment of a dream, and at times the most challenging thing I've ever done. My first real glimpse of what I might be facing happened on the plane to Sydney. I was sitting next to a guy from Newcastle. When I told him I was going to be studying at UNE, he whistled and rolled his eyes. "Armidale, huh? That's a rough gig." Throughout the next two weeks, before I came to college, I heard the same sort of remarks. Everywhere I went, somebody had something to say about Armidale, and not much of it was nice. I arrived at Robb worried and homesick. I did not have a lot of confidence about

the coming year, but from my first day in College, that began to change. I was welcomed with open arms by some of the warmest people I've ever met. It was apparent that the community at Robb is something rare and special. By the end of O Week, during which I had to wear the fresher hat, I was pretty sure my time in Armidale wouldn't be boring. I had begun to make friends and understand the unique culture that makes Robb what it is. The transition hasn't always been easy. It is an enormous jump from life in the big city of Seattle to life with all the country people in Robb. There have been times when I wanted to give up and go home, but looking back over the last three months, I

wouldn't change a thing. It's been an amazing first term and I am anxiously looking forward to what the rest of the year will bring.



*Nicole Lane is the current WSU Fellow on exchange at Robb College*

## From Jan Moran, Assistant Head

I accepted the position of Assistant Head of Robb College in August 2003 with great pleasure, having just returned to Armidale after 35 years spent in the United States. As Armidale shows its autumn colours in full regalia, I pinch myself on a regular basis to make sure I am not dreaming and have really come home to such a beautiful area.

As Assistant Head, besides standing in for the Master when needed, my responsibilities range from liaising with College residents, supervising the office and house staff, managing students' accounts, administering all Robb College scholarships to organizing formal functions within the College. Being a new position the learning curve was quite steep but I have come through much more knowledgeable and enjoying it more and more each day.

This year the Residential system was in the position of having many more students needing accommodation than in previous years, creating quite a challenge for the Residential system as a whole. One of the benefits was getting to know parents very well during the

process then having the pleasure of meeting them when they arrived at the beginning of the year.

Orientation Week was most invigorating with lots of freshers decorating their boot camp helmets in surprising ways. Lots of fun for all. The JCR/College Club did a fantastic job.

One of the most enjoyable parts of the position is announcing the awards and scholarships at formal dinners. The following awards were presented at the Valedictory Dinner in September 2003; the Meredith Prize to Richard Peatling for contributing significantly to life of the College and University and the Gannaway Prize was presented to Shelley Reid and Kirsty Speed for contributing most to the wellbeing of others through support for College activities. In 2004 at the Academic Dinner the following awards were presented; the Gwynn James prize went to Kylie Parminter who set an outstanding example in academic proficiency and participation in a range of College activities, for the first time since 1997 the Bruce/Dent

Trophy for Best in History went to Cary Gardiner, the Robb Resident Fellows' award went to Tiffany Bensch for a successful transition to third year study with excellent academic progress, and three Merit Certificates from the Resident Fellows' went to Alex Gilbert, Elizabeth Johnson and Kate Whitely. (Note: Scholarship recipients are listed on Page 2). Well done all.

### **Robb College Fellows & College Club 2004**

Senior Resident Fellow - Shelley Reid  
Resident Fellow - Nikki Bensch  
Resident Fellow - Jane Davies  
Resident Fellow - Aaron Kemp  
Resident Fellow - Ben Leys  
Resident Fellow - Angus McLaurin  
Resident Fellow - Trudi Rodgers  
Resident Fellow - Kirsty Speed  
Resident Fellow from (WSU) - Nikki Lane

JCR President - George Hoddle  
Vice - President - Patrick McCosker  
West Court President - Stephen Gray  
South Court President - David Brown  
North Court President - Hannes Monaghan

Secretary/Social - Amy Abrahams  
Treasurer - Penny McArthur  
Traditions/Dining Hall - Francis Fainifo  
Project Officer - Hannah Marriott  
Cultural Officer - Alex Gilbert  
Marketing Officer - Suzanna Cayzer  
Sports Officer MB - Vanessa Brennan  
Sports Officer PT - Mathew Clarke  
SFK Officer - Cary Gardner  
Affiliate Representative - Andrew Paton

### **Robb Students 'Got Plastered' in 2003 and Raised \$6800 for the Plaster Clinic at Armidale Hospital**



Pictured above Robb College project officer Hannah Marriott presenting a giant cheque to Armidale physiotherapist Chris Millet.

## Judy McDonald, President, Senior Common Room

It is wonderful to see Robb College full to overflowing again. It is easy to forget that in 2002 Robb College management spoke to UNE senior officers about the future of Robb, wanting some commitment that Robb would not be closed. I would like to thank Hugh White for his calm, efficient leadership during the last two years.

A large part of the popularity of Robb can be attributed to the good management by our current staff. Thank you to Michael, Jan and Barb. I am sure that Michael wondered at times whether he had made the right decision in accepting the position of Head of College but we are certainly glad that he did. The functions held so far this semester have been enjoyable and well attended.

O Week was very successful and I would especially like to thank George, Shelley and their team of helpers for a job well done. While I heard some critical comments about fresher behaviour at a meeting up on the hill I didn't hear one adverse comment about Robb College at that meeting or elsewhere.

Following a suggestion by Hugh White I have introduced meetings of the Executive on the first Tuesday of every month. Any SCR member is welcome to attend and/or raise matters for discussion. Agendas and minutes of these meetings are circulated to all SCR members. This seems to be working well and gives more regular support to Michael and Jan and frees other members to come to functions of the College.

One of the initiatives of the SCR is the 'First Year Link Scheme' in which SCR members are linked with a group of freshers. Students are allocated from the one court with a resident fellow to help organise the group. Formal and informal interaction with the SCR member provides freshers with another 'prop' to help them survive their first year at university.

I would like to acknowledge the committed group of SCR members who attend functions and generally support the College. It is an honour to be President of Robb College Senior Common Room and I look forward to another successful year.

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## From Shelley Reid, Senior Resident Fellow

Robb College has this year taken off after a flying start, with a new Resident Fellow and JCR team, and an enthusiastic and energetic group of First Year students. First term was a little hectic, but life has now settled into a productive routine in all aspects, and all students are beginning to prepare for first semester exams.

### Retreat

Michael, the Resident Fellow team, the College JCR Executive and I travelled to Coffs Harbour for four days prior to O'Week to prepare for the year ahead. This proved to be a very productive few days, and everyone came back to College with increased levels of knowledge and confidence about their roles.

Activities involved team skills, time management, in-house procedures, financial planning, and identifying goals for the year ahead. Some very positive ideas grew from discussions about what does and does not work in the running of a Residential College, and it was great to see a close relationship develop between the Resident Fellows and JCR Executive. A night out at dinner with the St Albert's College Club initiated the development of a close association between the two colleges, resulting in a positive outlook for the rest of the year.

### O'Week

There is only one word for O'Week, HUGE! The JCR and Fellow team made a huge effort to see that First Year students settled into College and University life comfortably. Most students arrived on Monday with parents and friends, where we enjoyed the traditional Parents and Friends lunch in the Dining Hall before heading 'Up Top' for the Vice-Chancellor's address. She was pleased to see Robb College arriving early and sitting up the front with our O'Week hats on.

### Academics

There is an increased diversification of students enrolled in different degrees this year at Robb, with a decline in the num-

ber doing Agricultural related degrees, and an increase in education, communications and arts. The first year students have proven to be an energetic and motivated bunch, in all aspects, contributing to academic, cultural, sporting and traditional activities.

The older students have also set a high standard for their younger counterparts, setting a positive example by regular attendance to lectures, and spending more adequate time on their studies. Most students have developed a good balance between academic, sporting and social activities, which has improved relations with students and lecturers. The number of students on the Robb Academic Assistance Program (RAAP's) has decreased dramatically, showing that students are keen to achieve well in their studies.

All in all, first term at Robb has been a fantastic few weeks, and I look forward to spending the rest of the year with an enthusiastic and well organised Fellow Team. Second term will see a lead up to first semester exams, along with many important and enjoyable functions, such as North Court Luncheon, Parent Student Weekend, and Formal dinners. This year will see Robb College not only hold on to those impor-

tant traditions we value dearly, but also create a new modern style that continues to show the community we are dedicated to improving the image of the University Residential System as a whole. Our mission statement will continue to be observed and practiced, and I believe we will finish this year on a high.



Shelley

## JCR President's Report

I am please to say that for the second year in a row Robb College is at full capacity. Yet again Robb College had a massive O Week which was a complete success and proud to say that Robb College has been blessed with a great and diverse bunch of freshers. Robb College ratio for this year is about 60 to 40 percent in favour of the women, which has seen a record number of netty teams and loss in the fresher rugby match.

This year Robb College is making an effort to be number one across all areas. We are currently out right first in both MB and PT a massive effort due to a lift in College spirit. Unfortunately we remain constant in SFK but promise to improve with future events especially the musical section.

A strong number of on campus

residents have been matched by a high number of people who wish to affiliate with Robb College. This has seen formal dinners and functions been a complete sell out.

Parent student weekend is fast approaching as is the North Court luncheon. Both appear highly organised and are expected to be huge successes. These functions are just part of the busy life of being a Robber!

Even with the high demands of the sporting and social arenas Robb College reported one of its best ever academic results. Congratulations to last year's Fellow's team however I am sure that 2004 will see an even greater success under the guidance of Shelly Reid.

2003 was a positive year for ROBB however all the signs a pointing to a massive year that has continued to build on the momentum of O Week.

George Hoddle  
JCR President 2004



*2003 JCR President Richard Blackburn and 2004 JCR President George Hoddle*

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## Robb Rugby Report



Robb Rugby has had a successful beginning to 2004, with the boys already forming the foundations of a premiersip winning rugby club.

Due to the success of our club as a whole, and due to the performances of many Robb players last season we were rewarded with the selection of 4 players in the New England Zone side. The future also looking bright for the club as 5 boys were named in the New England U 20's side earlier this year.

The Robb dominance of New England Rugby was once again evident early on with two teams being entered in the Armidale Rugby knock-out competition. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Grade side took out the consolation plate, having defeated St Alberts in the final, 21 – 0.

Robb also took two teams down to play the Tamworth Magpies in

“Cheeky” (Armidale Express)

opens and in colts for a pre season trial. This was a great opportunity to see what the talented freshers had to offer, and was a day which yielded 2 Robb victories. Opens 26 – 5 winners, while Colts had an impressive 31 – 0 victory.

The start of the 2004 season has seen Robb Rugby been represented in higher representative levels. Robb's Number 8, James Roberts was selected in the Country Cockatoos squad for the season. Quite an achievement, as it's been some 4 years since Robb has been represented at this level.

On the social side, Robb Rugby this year has enjoyed record numbers in social membership, and an increase in Robb Rugby social events on the College Calendar,

suggests that 2004 will be as enjoyable off the field as on. The high level of support from the girls and from the non players has already been evident as crowd numbers have been up from last season.

This year Robb will be looking to defend its Colts, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Premiership titles in the New England Rugby Competition, while Robb will be looking for its first premiership title in the New England/ Mid North Coast competition with Robb having 4 quality teams vying for the title.

2004, has also seen a record number of sponsorship for the Club. Thank you once again for your continued support, your support is always valued at our club, so once again thank you.

I am looking forward to a promising, and most importantly, enjoyable 2004 Rugby season, and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the supporters of the club for your involvement, as clubs as unique as ours do not function without such voluntary work.

To the Clubs 4 sides, good luck for this year, and most importantly, enjoy the 2004 Rugby season, and hope to see you all at the Rugby.

*Andrew Roseby  
Robb Rugby President 2004.*

# Robb College Women's Sporting Association Report

With a strong performance from the Robb College Women's Sporting Association in 2003, we are preparing for an even better year in 2004. A high influx of committed and dedicated female freshers adding to our already strong female body, the 2004 sporting season is set to thrive.

In 2003 our strength on the netball court continued, again our four netball teams reached the semi-finals, 2 in the finals and 1 premiership win for the A Res 2 for the second year in a row. With a tight battle in the mixed netball a runner-up position was gained. The commitment of our basketball team brought home a solid standing while soccer continues to improve. The increase in female residents of Robb College is set to have a positive effect on our sporting contribution both with the university competitions and on representative level. In 2004 we will field 6 women's netball teams, 2 hockey teams, 2 basketball teams, a soccer team and teams in both the mixed

netball and twilight mixed soccer competitions. Hockey is set to dominate with a number of talented first year students already making their presence felt.

Our successful sponsorship deals from 2003 have been renewed for 2004, combined with a profitable 2003 for the Robb Ladies Auxiliary; the 2004 committee is looking at improving uniforms and facilities for sporting activities around College. Enquiries are being made for the construction of a netball goal post on College grounds, while basketball singlets are being purchased.

The success of women's sport at Robb College is set to continue into 2004, with the support of a passionate executive team and keen College members our success can only continue.

Tiffany Bensch R.C.W.S.A President 2004



New Barbeque for Robb

O Week 2004

More Photos?  
Don't forget to visit our web site  
on:  
[www.une.edu.au/campus/robb](http://www.une.edu.au/campus/robb)

# ROBB COLLEGE FOUNDATION REPORT

The winds of change have been blowing strongly through the university system for some years and have now dramatically changed the way we operate. During the 1980s the Federal Government fully funded the Universities and even gave extra support to regional universities by meeting the capital costs of constructing student residences and subsidised their running costs. All that has now gone and we are in a 'user pays' society with universities expected to meet a proportion of their running cost from outside sources and students having to pay HECS fees. The future of Robb College is now firmly in the hands of the Robb Community and we must decide what we want that future to be. If you believe that the Robb College experience has been of benefit to you, now is the time to start thinking about how you can give something back so that a similar experience will be available for future generations of students.

In 1988, far sighted members of the Robb College Senior Common Room were aware that the university scene was about to change and set up the Robb College Foundation as an entity independent of the University. The only objective of the Foundation is "to assist the Master of Robb College .....to preserve, develop and maintain the standards, position and facilities of the College...". Until about three years ago, the Foundation raised small amounts of money and funded projects such as doing up the odd bathroom, buying computers for student use and solving the problems with the acoustics in the dining hall. One of the major problems that the College has faced over the years, is that the fourth court, East Court, was provided for in the original plan but has never been built. The central infrastructure was designed to cater for about 270 students but we can only accommodate 214 within the three courts. Robb has been at a disadvantage compared with the other, larger colleges for many years.

The winds of change have now forcibly struck Robb College. The buildings are now over 40 years old, the tallow wood cladding is literally falling off parts of the College, the flat roof, so fashionable in the 1960s, now leaks voluminously whenever we have an even moderate hailstorm and the College has rather a tired look. One might argue that the University owns the buildings and so should have provided for this major maintenance in its financial planning over the years. Irrespective of the validity of this argument, the University itself has been buffeted by the winds of change and it is up to us to take action if the College is to prosper and look prosperous.

The Foundation is changing its culture and responding to these challenges and, I believe, is entering the most exciting period of its existence. We have actively promoted a partnership with the University administration in tackling the backlog of deferred major maintenance by offering to pay half the cost of replacing the wooden cladding on the inner walls of the North Court courtyard with insulated metal cladding if they would pay the other half. In the event, we are paying nearly \$73,000 towards this cost and the University about \$100,000. This has only been possible because of a major donation in 2002 of \$50,000. I'm positive that this project would not have been started if we had not been in a position to make a major contribution to the cost. We must now raise further funds to continue with this re-cladding project. Once the whole College is re-clad, we will be in a strong position to persuade the University to commence the re-roofing on its own account.

Another major change has been a turnaround in the number of internal students wanting to come to UNE. This number decreased from about 5,000 in 1992 to a minimum of about 3,400 in 2002. The trend has now turned around and our internal numbers are increasing. In 2004, there were over 100 applications for college places that could not be satisfied. If the internal student numbers increase yet again in 2005, then there will be an even greater unsatisfied demand. It is clear that the college system needs more places and now is the best time for years to press for the construction of East Court.

It is clear that many present day students are demanding more upmarket college accommodation and are prepared to pay more for it. With the blessing of the University administration, the Foundation commissioned HBO+EMTB (Architects) to provide a concept plan and cost estimates for the construction of East Court and a striking College Entrance. The concept involves about 50 student rooms, each with ensuite facilities, together with common rooms and appropriate services. The estimated cost of this proposal is \$5 million. The University Council recently gave approval for the Foundation to raise funds for the construction of East Court

The Foundation is well aware that it must change its culture and the culture of fundraising in the whole College, if we are to meet these challenges. Large amounts of money have been raised by the College in the past for various worthy charities but we must now concentrate on our own affairs. That is not to say that fundraising for charities should cease, but the College itself must find substantial sums of money if it is to survive and prosper in the future. The Foundation has recently changed its constitution so that the previous Trustees will now be known as Directors. My perception of a "Trustee" is of a person who does little except ensure that all financial dealings are above board whereas a "Director" is pro-active and is responsible for making things happen.

The Foundation has recently appointed Sally Strelitz as part time Foundation Development Officer. Sally's first task is to update the database of the Robb Community so that we have a complete list of the people out there who are interested in the future of Robb and have valid addresses so that we can communicate with them. The Robb Alumni has purchased Potentiality as a way of promoting communication among the Robb Community and we will be making much greater use of its potential in the future. If you have not explored it, then there are links to it on the Robb website and once registered, you have password access and it allows you to communicate with other people with similar interests.

The last couple of years have seen a marked resurgence in the fortunes of Robb College and we look forward to an exciting future. If you want to be part of that future, then please contact me, the College or the Master and let us know how you can help. There are so many things that we would like to do but they all require time, commitment and financial help from all of you who want to see the College go on from strength to strength.

R.D.B. (Wal) Whalley  
Chair, Robb College Foundation  
Ph 02 6773 2477  
Email [rwhalley@pobox.une.edu.au](mailto:rwhalley@pobox.une.edu.au)

# Alumni News

\_\_\_\_\_The past year has literally flown, but we now have a new website which I would encourage you all to visit. There is also a new and improved special Alumni website, attached to the new College site. I implore you all to update your details as well as providing us with an update of your news. We are such a broad and diverse group of 'stoppers' that we must maintain a database that is up to date and useful to you all. Any comments here and relevant feedback will be well received and no doubt implemented at the appropriate time.

College is entering a new phase, and we are quickly working towards raising funds for a new East Court. Yes this has been a dream of many over the years. To put it simply, the College will blossom with the new wing, and will continue to just survive without it. We need your help, no matter how small – or even your suggestions will be welcomed. It is the job of the Alumni to provide the College with its benefactors, so please consider the report and news from the Foundation, contained within this feel free to contact the College directly or myself at your convenience.

It is anticipated that the Alumni will be arranging another large event in Sydney within the next 6 to 12 months. So I ask you all to enter your updated details on the website, so we can send you an invitation directly. Last time we had to unfortunately turn more than 60 people away, as we were over subscribed. The last ball attracted 860 people, and the next one is planned to be even bigger.

On a lighter side the following Alumni members have celebrated the following events:

**Helen (Connors) and David Hunter** had a boy in April. This is their third child in a year after having twins Lilly and Harry in April last year.

**Caroline (Kermode) and Andrew Dance** are living at Ben Lomond. Andrew is working with the family business as an engineer and Caroline is working as an accountant/financial planner in Guyra. They had a son George last year.

**Pete McCook** is living in Guyra and traveling regularly to Sydney for work. He has just sold his business which involved high tech products but is still running the company for them. He and Sally (Thomson) had a baby called Lilly last year.

**Bec Arnott** is living in Brisbane working for Australian Agricultural Company managing their 1824 brand. She won the NSW Rural woman of the year this year for her work with value adding beef products.

**Mick and Kate Owen** are still living in North Star and are expecting their second child in June.

**Helen (Thomas) O'Neill** had her second girl Arabella last year, a sister for Emily. Helen and her husband Steve run a cropping farm at Gurley.

**Chevy (Gervaise) Kelly** is living in London working in the gym industry and had a little girl Freya last year with his partner.

**Ellie Tucker** has moved to Brisbane where she is finishing her degree.

**Emma (Spring) Mc Athie** lives near Quirindi and she and her husband David Mc Athie have two children Zoe and David. Emma teaches at a nearby school and David runs their farm.

**Lisa (Vickery) Hill** married Charles Hill last March and is expecting her first child in August.

**Nicki (Bramma) Littlewood** lives at Boggabilla with husband Richie. They have three children and run a cropping property.

**Vicki (Robinson) Fenwicke** lives with husband Chris on a feedlot near Toowoomba. They have two children Ben and Chloe.

**Nic (Francis) Barry** and her husband Sean have recently returned from Scotland to live in Sydney. Nic had been living in Edinburgh working in finance for five years.

**Di (East) Fraser** is living in Melbourne with her husband Kerry. They have a little girl called Annabel.

**Sam Paradice** and his wife Mandy have recently moved to Scone where Sam is running a stockbroking firm. They have two daughters.

**Sally (Bucknell) Strelitz** is living out of Armidale with her husband Peter. They have two daughters and are expecting their third child in August.

**John (Hicko) Hickson** is living at Boomi with his wife Sam and their four children! They run a cotton and cropping farm.

**Mandy (Moses) Gavin** and her husband Tim are living near Gunnedah where they run a cotton farm. Mandy has recently had her third son Harry brother to Archie and Toby.

**Marina Prendergast (Notaras)** has given birth to a bouncing baby girl **Sam Coupland (JCR Vice Pres 1993)** has announced his engagement to Caroline Katter. The wedding day is set for 12th June

**Chris Johnson (West Court Pres 1993)** is getting married in the UK in mid May.

I look forward to providing you with more news at the next roundup, but should any of you wish to contact me directly in relation to our major project in East Court or any other matter please feel free to contact me at james.dickson@bigpond.com

Best to all  
James Dickson

*We are currently updating our ALUMNI DATABASE and would greatly appreciate it if you could provide us with your updated details and details of other Robb Alumni that you are in contact with.*

**MAIL:** Fill out the form below and mail to us at the address below.

**e-mail:** robb@une.edu.au

**WEBPAGE:** www.une.edu.au/campus/robb - fill in the Alumni section

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email: \_\_\_\_\_ Years at Robb: \_\_\_\_\_

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COMMENTS/NEWS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Editor Roundup, Robb College, University of New England, NSW 2351; (robb@une.edu.au)**

## ***THE PASSING OF A FRIEND***

### ***Distinguished scientist's research was a legacy for grazing industry***

#### **JOHN LOVICK CORBETT**

**B.Sc.(Agric.), M.Agr.Sci., D.Sc., A.M.**

**The death occurred on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2003 of a well-known retired CSIRO scientist, Dr John Lovick Corbett. Dr Corbett was 77 years of age.**

John Corbett completed his first degree at Reading University, England in 1946. Then followed a postgraduate Diploma in Dairy Husbandry and the award of a United Kingdom Ministry of Agriculture Scholarship for postgraduate study at Massey Agricultural College (now Massey University) in New Zealand where he gained a Master's of Agricultural Science with 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours. On return to the United Kingdom in 1950 he joined the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, where he established a research program on the nutrition of grazing animals. Achievements during that time included estimations of maintenance requirements, the first definition of the substitution effect of supplementary feeds, the introduction of chromic oxide paper which is still widely used, and the discovery of seasonal variation in the net energy value of pasture which has had a major influence on subsequent work on energy metabolism in ruminants.

In 1963, John Corbett joined the CSIRO Pastoral Research Laboratory at Chiswick near Armidale. John developed methods that for the first time allowed calorimetric measurement of the energy expenditure of grazing animals and quantitative measurement of the various products of digestion of their feed. The results of these studies have allowed definitions of energy requirements at pasture and provided clear guidelines on factors affecting the nutritional value of forage plants. His research at Chiswick contributed towards the development of the GrazFeed program which is now widely used by sheep and cattle producers across Australia.

John Corbett served on many official bodies. He was Technical Secretary of the United Kingdom Agricultural Research Committee on the Nutrient Requirements of Farm Livestock, and as the member of the Animal Production Committee's Working Party on Feeding Standards, was responsible for the report on ruminants. He published more than 100 scientific papers and monographs and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science by Massey University in 1968. John was an active member of the Australasian Society of Animal Production from the time of his arrival in Australia until his death, being appointed as a Fellow of the Society in 1988. He was a regular contributor to the Society's Biennial Conferences, was president of the New England Branch in 1969, Chairman of the Editorial panel for the 1968 Proceedings, Federal President 1982-84 and was the editor of all Conference papers for the past three years. John also served as the Australian representative for the World Council of Animal Production.

John Corbett also served as a member on a Working Party of the Commonwealth Standing Committee on Agriculture where he prepared the official publication on the nutrient requirements of sheep and cattle. He supervised many PhD students and was well known for his editing skills for international conferences and journals.

In 2002, John Corbett's achievements were recognised when he was appointed as a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia, being presented with an A.M. for his services to agricultural science, livestock grazing research and animal production, and to the community of Armidale Dumaresq. On receiving his A.M., John Corbett commented that he owed much to his late wife Audrey for her understanding and tolerance. He considered himself lucky to have had



Dr John Lovick Corbett

such excellent colleagues and associates in CSIRO and at the University of New England. He considered Armidale to be a major centre of research for the livestock industries, with high international standing, and felt it had been a privilege to have worked here.

John Corbett remained active around the University well into 2003, being an Honorary Fellow of the Department of Animal Science, where he was able to share his knowledge with staff and students. He continued writing and presenting research papers, presenting a paper at the Recent Advances in Animal Nutrition Conference held at UNE in July 2003. He was also a member of the Robb College Senior Common Room where he enjoyed contributing to and participating in the social activities of the College.

John Corbett was also well known in the social community, being actively involved in the North Hill Tennis Club, the Armidale Bridge Club, the Downhill Bushwalker's Club and the New England Regional Art Museum. His energy, dedication, enthusiasm and huge contribution to all these organisations will be sorely missed.

Dr Corbett is survived by his son Andrew Corbett (Sydney) and two daughters, Nicola Croft (Inverell) and Catherine Sniekers (Armidale) and their families.

Smith's: March2004

## ***“REMEMBER ME”***

Richard Evans died in 1993, aged 27 years, but has never been forgotten by his family and friends. Richard was struck by lightning during a violent electrical storm in Thailand.

Many of you will remember Richard from his Robb College days (1985-87) and knew him as Goody or Dick. He gained a degree in Financial Administration at UNE.

“Remember Me, A COLLECTION OF POEMS” by Richard were collected and published by a group of his friends from Geelong Grammer School where he went to school. This is a part of the extract, written by Goody’s friends, from the Foreword. “Dick’s attributes, characteristics and experiences are all expressed in his writing. His literature and poetry are insightful, at times alternative and “beat” in nature. He wrote a comprehensive novel, titled “Glippo’s Bubble” which was short listed for the Australian Vogel Literary Award along with the infamous Helen Demidenko Novel.”

The poems were written from 1989 to 1993 while Goody was travelling and working in different countries around the world. Here is a taste.

### **IT’S OK CHILDREN**

We are the ones who inherited this mess,  
very few trees and no more wilderness,  
but its OK children, there’s no need to cry,  
we don’t want suicide you don’t have to die  
the solution is simple so don’t deny me,  
just one famous word and it ends with an e.

The book of poems is available by emailing the Old Geelong Grammer Office at [oggs@ggscorio.vic.edu.au](mailto:oggs@ggscorio.vic.edu.au) or phoning 03 5273 9338 (\$20 per book, \$3 postage). Please call Jane Barrie if you have any queries.

All proceeds from the book and any further donations will go towards a memorial for Goody at Geelong Grammer School.

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## **North Court Cladding Project in Process**

(look for update pictures in next issue and website)



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**Unspecified - for either fund**

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