



# ROBB ROUNDUP

No XXII - June 2005, Robb College and Robb Alumni Newsletter  
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## From James Dickson, Outgoing President

In 1995/96 I was approached by the then Alumni President Guy Roth, who asked me to takeover from him in the role of Alumni President. I was keen to make a difference and also to broaden the overall contact base of the Alumni. At that stage Guy had really taken the Alumni to a position where we could organise a few get togethers in various centres and remember the good days when most of us struggled into breakfast at five to nine, battled our way up top for the 10am lecture, and found some odd excuse to miss the rest of the day by getting ready for footy training, practice for the musical or strapping notes from the people that actually attended the afternoon lecture of the day before.

So the Alumni organised a few gatherings in the mid to late 90s. All of which were well attended and were successful in our real aim which was to make people aware that there was an Alumni and that there was a way to stay in touch. It was designed to be relaxed in structure and to that end I believe we succeeded. Then there was an unfortunate change within the college itself and the general image of Robb was one that was becoming tarnished. During several visits to the college over a period of 12 months I realised something needed to be done. College admissions were at an all time low and the general morale was diminishing rapidly.

An Alumni committee, organised by Sarah Reynolds was formed with the intention of honouring the memory of Alice Coventry, and this event, I believe was largely responsible for re-igniting the Alumni spirit and for repositioning the college as the premier residential college at UNE. We had over 850 attendees and unfortunately had to turn 60 people away. The publicity and general coverage that was achieved by the Alice Committee in the name of the Robb Alumni was amazing.

College is now full, and as was the norm we have to turn people away each year. The people on that committee, I believe single-handedly turned the fortunes of college around. College was exceptionally fortunate to have a dedicated head, Jill Spillsbury and her guidance and the continued leadership shown by Michael Maas has capitalised on the momentum generated by the ball committee. We now have a dedicated website and I encourage you all to update your records at [www.une.edu.au](http://www.une.edu.au).

## From Sarah Reynolds, Incoming President



Sarah

I was a resident and then an affiliate of Robb College (1994-1998), whilst completing a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Commerce at UNE. During my residency I was involved in many facets of the Robb community and was elected president of the JCR in 1996 and survived being the first female president to reside in North Court. Both of my brothers Chris and Sam were also Robb students and are both pursuing careers off shore in Chicago and Edinburgh.

Our experiences at Robb College were invaluable in terms of the opportunity to be a leader in the community and to take on levels of responsibility at such a young age that really prepared you for life after Robb. The friendships that are formed through Robb are so unique probably because of the fantastic lifestyle we all had. I can honestly say my Robb friends are my best friends. It entertains me to think now what did we do with our time? There was certainly a lot of laughter, practical jokes, sport and amber fluid involved. Robb will always be a special place to me, it is for this reason that I firstly was involved on the committee for the Alice Spectacular Ball where nearly 1000 guests attended and over \$50 000 was raised in memory of Alice Coventry and that I now take on the role of Alumni President from James Dickson.

My background since Robb has been diverse, after university I traveled to remote Australia teaching at outback locations the highlight being school of the air

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## A Change in Alumni Leadership (Continued)

My last act as Alumni President was attending the Robb/Albies rugby match on the parent student weekend. There were 1000 people at the 1st grade game and thankfully the Robb boys proved too strong. College is looking better after some major refurbishments and the College Foundation headed by Wal Whalley is always looking for generous Alumni's. We started the move towards a new and much needed East Court, the plans are in and this will help Robb maintain its financial viability. Fundamentally the Alumni's support in this venture is essential.

I would like to thank the following people, Jan Wiles, Jill Spillsbury, Michael Maas, the indefatigable Wal Whalley and the wonderfully motivated incoming Alumni President Sarah Reynolds. Sarah finds the Alumni well, but there is much work to be done and her ability to further awaken the spirit of you all is undoubtable.

I wish her well and, I know with your support she will achieve much in her new role.

Best wishes to you all - Thank you for your support over the past 9 years, and I look forward to seeing you all at the next Alumni gathering.

James Dickson  
Alumni President

and then on an aboriginal community 450km west of Alice Springs. After working as a training & development manager with the Sydney Olympic Games I worked with Rabobank (food & agribusiness bank). I managed Rabobank's Executive Development Program for Primary Producers (a business management course targeting Australia and New Zealand's top producers). In addition I developed leadership and personal development programs for the rural staff of the clients. I am now a co-owner of a business called proAGtive working with farming families across Australia to address succession and business management on farm. I have also traveled to America several times to learn about best practices in family farm business management.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank James Dickson for his dedication and effort to the Robb Community for over nine years and I look forward to his ongoing involvement and support as we work together to ensure that others are provided with the opportunity we were so fortunate to have had. I look forward to being able to meet current students over some of the many events in the next few months at college and developing a plan to ensure the Robb Alumni continues to be active and interacting.

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## FROM MICHAEL MAAS, MASTER

In this issue of Roundup I would like to bring you up to date on a number of issues affecting Robb College.

Firstly, James Dickson's handing over the Robb College Alumni President's baton to Sarah Reynolds. James has done a great job in the time that I have known him and on all reports, for the entire time he has been President.

Our Alumni is the envy of UNE and, no doubt, a few other colleges around Australia and the world. A President is responsible for leadership, guidance and counsel. I believe James has achieved all three.

James will not be leaving all together, as he has already indicated to Sarah; he will be available to assist where ever he is needed. James is also retaining his Director's position on the Robb College Foundation.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank James for all the work he has done for the College and the Alumni. We all wish you continued success in your future endeavours.

He is leaving the position in very capable hands. I had the pleasure of meeting Sarah with James and Wal Whalley during our Parent/Student weekend (21/22 May).

I know Sarah has the commitment, energy and drive to ensure our Alumni continue to grow, whilst strengthening relationships across an ever expanding group of Robbers. Congratulations Sarah, I am sure you will have the support of all Robb Alumni.

It is also a pleasure for me to advise that Ben Fargher, ex-Robber and CEO of National Farmers' Federation, will be our guest speaker at our Rural Focus Dinner to be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005. Ben follows in the footsteps of Rebecca Arnott (ex-Robber and National Brand Manager AA Company), Mark Spurr (CEO Meat & Livestock Australia) and the Honourable John Anderson (Deputy Prime Minister).

We are enjoying another year where the College is nearly at full occupancy. Our Rugby and Netball teams are going extremely well, and I am looking forward to our continuing academic success.

In the last issue of Roundup I advised I was appointed the Residential System Manager, reporting to the Pro Vice-Chancellor Teaching & Learning in November 2004. As the Residential System Manager I am responsible for the management of the Residential System, its physical, financial and human resources, including the development

of the residential system's strategic, business and operational plans and its annual budgets. This position is in addition to my role as Master of Robb College.

At the start of this year a Residential System Working Party was formed to review the Residential System, its financial viability and to deal with building compliance issues. Members of the Residential System Working Party include the executive of the University.

The Residential System Working Party have and will be seeking comments from stakeholders, like current and future students, and Alumni about the positives and negatives of our Residential System.

The focus groups, together with various other strategic planning activities, will provide the Residential System Working Party with valuable information which is crucial for making informed decisions about the future of the Residential System.

It is important to understand that the Residential System Working Party is looking long term (20 to 50 years) for the Residential System.

We have a deadline of October 2005 to complete and make recommendations to the UNE Council.

The UNE is very supportive of the Residential System; however, the UNE expects the Residential System to be self funding.

Robb College will definitely stay. This is something that I could not guarantee last year. However, we can not say at the moment in what style of accommodation. Of all the residential buildings, Robb would be the easiest to knock down and build progressively. The Dining Hall building would remain as it is, with the possibility of East Court, a new extension, being built first before rebuilding or refurbishing the other courts one at a time.

The on-campus residences must work together as a system to become financially viable to support a rebuilding and refurbishing program. That means changing the way we do things whilst maintaining, wherever possible, our services.

The UNE offers a unique living experience, one that is envied by other universities.

As part of our strategic plans we have already conducted a number of focus groups with present and past residents as well as parents.

What these focus groups have confirmed is that students don't just come to UNE; they come to the Residences to go to UNE.

Students enjoy living on-campus. They may complain sometimes about the food or about the rules or the cost or the fines; however, listed below are some of the positives that came from one focus group.

- Sense of community
- Organised functions
- Intercollegiate sports and cultural events
- Support networks
- Diversity of people
- Friendships for life
- Being part of a group and not being on your own

- A safe place
- A sense of home
- Well structured lifestyle for sport, cultural and social activities
- Being involved in social activities that are different and challenging
- Great academic support
- College years are the best years of your life.

This was a group of students who had left college – and why did they? Well some were married after meeting at college, some had finished their degrees and most who were living in town said it was time to move on in their own lives – because College is also a great place for transition from home to adult life.

Not surprisingly, the other focus groups said the same things.

Colleges offer a collegiate environment that promotes academic achievement, pastoral care and personal development of residents.

We build communities within each one of our on-campus residences.

In Robb's case, we have very passionate Alumni members, Foundation members, past students and families of past students. It is typically through word of mouth from all these people that students come to Robb.

Robb College residents are not just a group of individuals living in a building full of bedrooms. We are a college; we are a community, a very special community where people are encouraged to interact and develop at all levels within that community.

I am extremely passionate about what we have here – the very heart of Robb College is its community, the people, past and present who have lived and worked in Robb College have left a fantastic legacy which we are all part of.

That is why people want to be part of Robb College.

As Master of Robb College I appreciate the continued support of our Alumni and I am looking forward to a very positive future for Robb College.



**Michael**

## From Jan Moran, Assistant Head

We opened 2005 with a great Resident Fellow and JCR team who had a full college on their plate with nearly half being freshers who were well and truly initiated during "O" week. Both Nikki Bensch, Senior Resident Fellow and Hannes Monaghan, JCR President, have handled their responsibilities admirably.

Since Michael has taken on so much more responsibility as the Residential System Manager I have found that I am working more closely with Hannes and Nikki and have a more hands-on approach with all students which I do enjoy.

The latest craze round college is the stable of small shiny chrome mini bikes of all description that have appeared round North Court. Only to be ridden off campus of course! (See below)

The new college operating system StarNet, a comprehensive database that provides complete details on students for the application process of new and returning residents, is up and running. It took some getting used to but has greatly streamlined all front office processes which has made Barb's day.

The first formal dinner of the year was the Academic Dinner with many prizes, awards and certificates being given to residents for academic performances and general achievements in 2004. The Fellows Scholarship and Gwyn James Prize for an outstanding academic record and overall participation in college activities in their first year went to Melani Vincent, the Resident Fellow's Prize for good academic progress and contribution to college life went to Rob Hall and Elizabeth Ricketts and the Bruce/Dent History Trophy went to Daniel Garland. Also, see the list below for Scholarship recipients.

We have just enjoyed one of my favourite events - Parent/Student weekend. By Friday lunch the energy in College was beginning to rise as parents began to appear for the weekend.

The Art Exhibition was a great success on Friday evening with Tom Marriott being awarded the Max Webster prize for his sculptured ewe "Baaaaabraaaa". Saturday Sporting events, the Ball that evening at the 'Stro' and the Women's Sporting Association Brunch on Sunday, held outdoors in the main courtyard in

beautiful Armidale winter sun, went off really well.

We say goodbye to James Dickson, retiring President of the Alumni, thanking him for a stellar job as we greet Sarah Reynolds as the new President of the Alumni.

So the year 2005 progresses well after a great start.



Jan



Low Riders in North Court



Hannas Monaghan, Jake Schafer, Tim Bryant, Sinclair Steele, Tim Cameron, Tom Capel

### 2004/5 Scholarship and Award Winners

Melanie Vincent  
Fellows Scholarship

Vanessa Brennan and Teresa Worthing  
Tattersall's Hotel Scholarship

Wendy Gill  
Alice Coventry Scholarship

Nicole Gray  
Foundation Undergraduate Scholarship

Rob Hall and Elizabeth Ricketts  
Resident Fellows' Award

Brendan Cox  
Robb College Rugby Scholarship

Sophie Balding  
Faculty/College Scholarship

Fiona Fishpool  
Faculty/College Scholarship

Meegan Smith  
Faculty/College Scholarship

Andrew Glover  
Sports UNE Development Scholarship

Natasha Morley  
Sheep CRC Scholarship

## From Judy McDonald, President, Senior Common Room



**Judy**

I am enjoying my second year as President of the Robb College Senior Common Room. We have an active executive which meets every month to carry out the business of the Senior Common Room. Thank you to all SCR members who have attended College Dinners and supported Robb at the various sporting and cultural activities.

The SCR makes a contribution to the College whenever funds permit and has purchased a much needed microphone for the Dining Room. A request from the JCR for pay TV was approved and the SCR will pay for the cost of implementation and twelve months subscription to Austar for a TV in one of the student common rooms. There are a number of students who cannot or do not want to attend pubs or clubs in order to

watch special sporting events. The JCR has agreed to raise money in subsequent years to maintain this service.

The Link group scheme is active again in 2005. This scheme links a group of freshers and a Junior Common Room member or Resident Fellow with a Senior Common Room member and aims to provide support to new students in their first year at University. Thank you to those members who are involved in the scheme.

I must also acknowledge the work of Jan and Michael. Michael has two jobs, Residential System Manager and Head of Robb College and, as you can imagine, is very busy but has already made progress towards a more effective and successful residential system. A large amount of work has fallen on Jan who has managed admirably.

I participated in one of three focus groups organised to gain input from stake holders about the College system. The group was overwhelmingly supportive and complimentary about the Colleges and the contribution they make to University life.

It is a pleasure to be involved with Robb College. Visitors to the College are very impressed by the behaviour and general atmosphere of the College. A significant reason must be attributed to the talented and hardworking Nikki Bensch and Hannes Monaghan and their excellent team of student leaders.

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The start to 2005 has been extremely positive, and hectic, for the members of Robb College. As always, a new year is met with a high degree of enthusiasm and excitement towards our first year students, and the year ahead. I am pleased to say that our Freshers have made a positive transition to University studies, and to life at Robb College. Furthermore, and with no bias whatsoever, Robb College, through its traditions, participation and energy, has solidified its position at the forefront of the residences at the University of New England. Robb is definitely the place to be!

The year began with the Resident Fellow team engaging in a week of intense training, with leaders from all the residences at UNE. The training focussed on numerous pastoral care issues, including alcohol awareness, offering support for homesickness and first aid training. Despite the initial shock of the depth of the role as a Resident Fellow, the team established many positive strategies and networks in order to rectify any problems that may arise. Importantly, the team made many contacts with the other teams on campus. We have had a great night out with the Fellow team from Earle Page College, and have had students from Austin College attending our academic workshops.

Following this training, we packed up and headed off to Coffs Harbour with the JCR Executive to engage in further training and planning for the year. In what was to be a productive few days, we further developed time management skills, financial goals, teamwork and communication skills. We had a great night out with St. Alberts College, which involved the renowned 'shank challenge'. This involved the Robb College President, a St Albert's Resident Fellow, and the consumption of an entrée, followed by a ridiculously large shank, and dessert! Needless to say, many positive relations were fostered, which reflects the close relationship between our colleges.

With our planning and training complete, it was now time to put it all into practice with "O" Week. The principle goal, of integrating the first year students in Robb College, was achieved successfully. With many events to attend, including social, sporting and introductory lectures, the first year students received a very accurate picture of what the next few years will involve. We received many positive comments from students and their families, which needs to be credited to the JCR and Resident Fellows, who not only organised a great week, but who lead by example

to demonstrate what being a Robb College resident is all about!

First term proved to be extremely busy, which required all residents to integrate a certain amount of balance into their lives. As Resident Fellows, we have tried to lead by example in order to demonstrate that while life at Robb College is extremely fun, we are also here to gain a degree. We have provided academic workshops, which primarily involve the students sharing their ideas in order to achieve a greater understanding of their subjects. This has proved a challenge, as the diversity in the degrees undertaken by Robb College residents continues to expand.

I am pleased to report that Robb College continues to be the exceptional college at UNE. Our residents have proved dedicated to continuing all the things that we pride ourselves on. This includes the challenges on the sporting field, in our academic studies, and in the fostering of great friendships. Robb College, and its future, are in very safe hands.



**Nikki Bensch**

# JCR President's Report

2005 got off to a cracking start with the commencement of "O" week and the arrival of the 2005 freshers. "O" week again was a massive few days and was a huge success having received only positive feedback from the first years at the completion of their orientation. Of the ninety odd first years the male/female split was roughly half-half which is in contrast to last years intake of first years. 2005 also saw a record acceptance of affiliates showing that people living in town still want to be part of and remain involved in what Robb life has to offer

The hoodoo of recent fresher match losses to Albies unfortunately continued this year with both our rugby and netty teams going down. Revenge was swift though, the 1st XV taught Albies a rugby lesson in their first encounter and the girls triumphed also in their first competition match up with the choppers in Netball.

Our participation in MB, PT and SFK has been excellent so far in 2005. PT got underway to a flying start with the boys taking out the swimming carnival and placing

highly in the next few events. The girls continue to dominate MB, smashing the initial competition events, the girls look set to easily defend the MB title. SFK results thus far have been mixed with a number of judges decisions being questionable to say the least, participation has been excellent though and this will continue for the remainder of the year.

On the social side Robb has held a number of successful functions already in 2005 including South Court cocktails, North Court luncheon and the Parent Student Ball. The Parent Student weekend was very successful again and everyone whom attended praised the committee's efforts in organising the weekend. All our formal dinners have been at capacity and enjoyed by all whether it be at the dinners themselves or catching up after the meal at kegs in the courtyard.

Despite the high social and sporting demands our academic results from last semester have been impressive. This was no doubt due

to the efforts and persistence of last years Fellows team. 2005 will see the bar being raised even higher with this years Senior Resident Fellow, Nikki Bensch and her team keen to see even better academic results throughout the college.

2005 has already gotten off to a frantic pace and looks to be a memorable year in progress. I must thank the rest of the JCR for their continued support as we look to roll on to make it even a bigger year in all aspects of College life.



*2005 JCR President Hannes Monaghan*



Hannes hard at work (Armidale Express Photo)

**Robb College Fellows &  
College Club 2005**

Senior Resident Fellow - Nikki Bensch  
 Resident Fellow - Amy Adams  
 Resident Fellow - Dimity Butler  
 Resident Fellow - James Knight  
 Resident Fellow - Natasha Morley  
 Resident Fellow - Stuart Moncrieff  
 Resident Fellow - Luke Murrell  
 Resident Fellow - Mary Philp  
 Resident Fellow from (WSU) - Corey White

JCR President - Hannes Monaghan  
 Vice - President - Mathew Clark  
 West Court President - Cary Gardiner  
 South Court President - Tim Bryant  
 North Court President - Sinclair Steele

Secretary/Social - Vanessa Brennan  
 Treasurer - Ben Anderson  
 Traditions/Dining Hall - Charles Hollingworth  
 Project Officer - Julia Hanson  
 Cultural Officer - Chloe Davis  
 Marketing Officer - Angus Harrowell  
 Sports Officer MB - Laura Macpherson  
 Sports Officer PT - Hugh Palmer  
 SFK Officer - Lucy Amos  
 Affiliate Representative - Patrick McCosker

***Robb Calendar  
2005***

9 August	Vice Chancellor/ Faculty Dinner
23 August	Buffet Dinner Debating Final and Inter-court Public Speaking
6 September	Robb College Rural Focus Dinner
18 October	Valedictory Dinner
31 October	Presidents Changeover Sports Awards Buffet Dinner

**Robb College Women's Sporting Association Report**

2005 has been a strong start for Women's Sport at Robb College.

This year there are seven netball teams across five grades which have all made an impressive stance on the court. The two water polo teams have struggled a little in the beginning but have now combined into one intense team. The three hockey teams have been playing well, with one of the teams undefeated. Basketball has only just begun, comprising of one competitive team and two social teams. There has been an impressive turn out from the girls for soccer and many women are involved in the mixed competition.

The women of Robb College have the potential to excell in all fields of sport this year. With the influx of interest and enthusiastic first years has boosted the range of talent and

skills across all sporting areas and not to mention the abilities the returning women have to offer.

This year Robb should dominate on the sporting field just as strongly as it has in the many years before. Congratulations to all women who have given sport a go this year.

**Netball during Parent/Student Weekend 2005**



**Vanessa Brennan  
R.C.W.S.A. President**





Robb White trounces Albies  
(Photo: Armidale Express)

As New England Rugby Union enters a somewhat radical restructuring phase, Robb Rugby again stands strong and is leading the way for other clubs to follow.

The preseason has seen many Robb Rugby boys selected in representative teams, ranging from regional, state, and country. This year was a very special one for New England Rugby, with the U20s side bringing home the cup for the first time since the formation of the competition. Congratulations to the following Robb players involved in this side:

Charles Hollingworth  
Charles Huften  
Chris Hardie  
Mathew Roseby  
Rodger Larken

Also representing at opens level was:

Andrew Roseby  
Murray Amos  
Jamie Brauer  
Francis Fanifo  
Hugh Palmer

Special mention must go to Hugh Palmer and Francis Fanifo for, due to their performances last year, being selected to travel to England to play with the Australian Universities side over the summer break. This is a commendable achievement considering the strong competition for spots in this team and a credit to their playing ability.

The start to the season saw Robb enter two sides in the Armidale knockout. Being the only club to enter two teams was a great sign of commitment from the boys early in the season and paid big dividends when the 1<sup>st</sup> side took out the consolation cup.

In terms of team management it is excellent to see Mick McCarthy back with us, wasting no time after coaching the New England U20's to success to get back with the

White Opens and pulling the team into gear. Also this year Mick was named an honoree life member of New England Rugby.

A big welcome must also go out to Andrew Junge, a capable and intuitive coach that has join us this year to take the seconds side. Alistair Spring has joined forces with Chuck Hollingworth this year to tutor the White Colts while Ben Anderson has accepted the position of team manager and coach of Green Colts.

To those not privy to the restructuring of the zone, there are now only two competitions – an open and a premier league/colts competition which has no age limit but is played with U19s rules, to cater for the younger players. Robb has two teams in each grade, being divided by colour, Green and White, and both competing for the same cup! An intriguing and difficult design of competition, however it will be played to its best advantage by Robb Rugby.

With the game aside, Robb Rugby social events have been a blast so far this year. The Beach Day event provide some serious entertainment for partakers and by-standers alike, with a huge slide and interesting jelly wrestling being the main events. Rugby Pub day during O'Week also gave the Freshers a chance to meet and familiarize themselves with the strong rugby culture we have here at Robb.

Strong support from the girls and non players ensured that social member numbers are up this year. The social committee has been working overtime to get everything into place for the first Robb home game against Glen-Guyra and the newly formed Barbarians team. Thank you for the help boys. A big thanks for the Ladies Auxiliary also for looking after the catering for the Robb home games. Fundraising can be a tiresome job but the Auxiliary does it with diligence and in good nature.

Sponsorship this year has been lifted yet another rung, with most sponsors raising their funding and redesigning their logos. Thank you to all sponsors, especially Tattersalls Hotel, for their support.

Thanks must also go to the Rugby Committee, being Stuart Moncrieff (Vice President), Sinclair Steele (Club Captain), Tim Cameron (Secretary), Murray Amos and George Wragge (Registrars) for their work so far and still to come.

So, with one dominating weekend against Albies just gone, Robb Rugby is lifting the bar for the other clubs to jump. Good luck to all teams throughout the season and let's get behind them in support – there is every chance that the cup will be held above Robb jerseys in both grades at the end of this season.

David Brown  
Robb Rugby President 2005

## Alumni News

**Nicola Fea (nee Tapp)** married Mathew Fea on 11/7/98 and have 3 children on the Fea family property at Westmar which is mixed farming and grazing.

**Callum (1991) and Skye Maclachlan** are expecting a child in October 2005.

**Andrea Marshall and Tony Marshall (1994)** are expecting their first bub in late August. Tony is working away at Stacks and playing rugby for the mighty Manning Valley Ratz (likely to run into across or over the top of Darren Beaumont (1994) who is captain coach of the Dorriggo dingbats).

**Nigel and Kelly Lotz** have 5 kids - Harriet was born on 4 January 2005. The twins Sophie and Phoebe are now 1 3/4, Henry is 4 1/2 and Olivia is 6

**Sam and Caroline Coupland** have moved to Melbourne where Sam is opening the Melbourne office of FMRC Legal. He would love to hear from any ex Robbers his contact details are 0402 024 120 or [samcoupland@fmrcllegal.com](mailto:samcoupland@fmrcllegal.com)

**Ex Robbers (Swain, Dickson, Robinson, Purseglove)** have bought a hoof each in a race horse as an excuse to imbibe at the track together. A bonus being that the nag has had a few wins boosting the trackside beer budget (not quite Champagne yet!). Unfortunately two of the owners missed a recent Randwick win but were spotted dressed as Elvis Presley (Purseglove) and Johnnie Cash (Robinson) at the Bellagio Casino in Las Vegas where they were attending Tim White's wedding.

**Kate Mitchell:** Announced engagement to Ben Taylor, a farmer from Condamine. Kate is teaching in Moree and hopes to teach in Condamine

**Kate Woodward (1997-1999):** Kate is founder and manager of Hunter Belle Cheese in Scone and was a finalist in the NSW 2005 Rural Women's Award. She was also a Tutor during her residency at Robb.

**Bina Brown (1983-1986):** Writer for the Australian. Contact email: [binab@medianmatters.com.au](mailto:binab@medianmatters.com.au)

**Graydon Staniforth (1991-92):** Did Masters in Land Valuing to add to AGECo (2002). Married Kate Thorburn. Currently in England playing professional

Rugby for Exeter Chiefs (2004-05) and will probably play two season (06). Played NPC for Southland in NZ (2003), represented Australia in 7's (2003)

**Karen Kennedy (nee Rathbone) (1990-93):** Living near Gunnedah, married with 6 year old daughter. Currently writing a book on coping with a transplant after receiving bone marrow transplant in 2000 and double lung transplant in 2002.

**Emma Tolley (1998-99):** Married a farmer and live near Gunnedah. They have two children - Bethany (2yrs) and William (7 weeks). Emma works on their properties and teaches locally.

**Melissa Hellwig (nee Cameron):** Married to Frank with 2 children - Rory (6 yrs) and Alice (2 yrs) and living in Ontario, Canada near Niagara Falls where Frank grows grapes for Vincor International. Melissa is continuing with a Masters of Environmental Management and the whole family have taken up cross-country skiing.

**Denielle Campey** was married to Cameron Donald-Oates on 4 March 2005.

**Alison Southwell (Robb Tutor 2000):** Dr Robb Lewis, Chairperson of the A W Howard Memorial Trust Inc named Alison the winner of the A W Howard Memorial Trust Research Fellowship for her involvement in a study to investigate the influence of native perennial grasses on water use.

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Don't forget to visit our web site

on:

[www.une.edu.au/campus/robb/](http://www.une.edu.au/campus/robb/)

Where is the UNE residential system going and what will be its shape in the future? These are important questions for the Robb College Community, including alumni, parents and the Robb College Foundation. The present round of strategic planning is well under way and a Residential System Working Party (RSWP) has been formed comprising four senior UNE administrators including Michael Maas in his role as Residential System Manager. The RSWP has instigated a number of Focus Groups of stakeholders in the College System to gather ideas concerning the future of the system. These Focus Groups have an independent facilitator (who will facilitate all the Groups) and their input will be considered by the RSWP in the production of a Strategic Plan and its presentation to the University Administration and the Council.

I attended a meeting of one of these Focus Groups and it was an interesting exercise. I was primarily wearing my Senior Fellow hat but was also present as Chair of the Robb Foundation. The College Heads were present but were not permitted to speak during the Group's discussions. They were sitting behind me and I could hear considerable mutterings going on among them as the discussion proceeded. The facilitator concentrated on questions regarding the strengths of the college system as well as the weaknesses. The general consensus was that the strengths far outweigh the weaknesses.

Some time before October 2005, the RSWP will present its Strategic Plan for the residential system to the UNE Council. Once this plan is accepted by the Council, the Foundation, in consultation with Michael as Master, will then be able to work out how it can best assist in the future development of the College. At this stage, we have no idea what the recommendations of the RSWP will be except that we have

assurances that Robb College will continue to exist and that the dining hall block will be retained in its present form. The residential courts may be demolished and replaced, or extensively renovated. If the former, then the Foundation will be seeking re-imburement from the University of the funds we spent on the cladding of North Court. If the latter, then we may wish to contribute more funds to the cladding of the rest of the College. Hopefully, the final report of the RSWP will include some mention of East Court.

The Robb dining hall block is the only building in the college area of any architectural significance and so will remain as the focal point of Robb whatever is done to upgrade the rest of the College infrastructure. Michael has suggested that the Foundation might like to undertake some improvements to the dining hall including re-organising the lighting to give a better ambience to this centrepiece of the College. The Directors of the Foundation have yet to consider this proposal but any ideas from the Robb Community at large would be most welcome. If anyone has any contacts with consultants experienced in dealing with large rooms like the Robb dining hall, we would be delighted to hear from you.

From my perspective, the College is having an excellent year and I await with interest the report from the RSWP so that the Foundation can see how best to make a major contribution to the future of Robb College.

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*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 Editor Roundup, Robb College, UNE, NSW 2351

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Ashlee Oldfield and Emily Toole  
Viking Fresher - "O" Week 2005



Robb Green "Stuff" during "O" Week 2005 "O"



Rambo, Robb Mascot



Face Paint - Holly Bretthauer, Tilly Gardner  
and Charlie Hollingworth



Joel Murphy's new invention for spreading seed in  
experimental plots (Armidale Express)

David Brown, Ben Wythes, Charlie Hollingworth,  
David Hardie, four time winners of the  
Late Rolling Competition  
(Armidale Express)