



ROBB ROUNDUP

No XXIII - December 2005, Robb College and Robb Alumni Newsletter
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2005 Rural Focus Dinner



Guest Speaker
Ben Fargher, CEO National
Farmers' Association

National Farmers' Federation
Chief Executive Office,
Mr Ben Fargher, a Robb
College alumni member was
the keynote speaker at the
annual Rural Focus Dinner at
Robb College on Tuesday 6
September 2005.

Ben became Chief Executive
Officer of the National Farmers'
Federation on 1 February
2005. He previously held
the position as NFF's Senior
Policy Manager, Trade and in
this position was responsible
for international trade

negotiations and quarantine.
Ben has also represented NFF
as the Secretary of the NFF
Trade Committee, the Cairns
Group Farm Leaders Forum
and the NFF Quarantine Animal
Health Task Force.

Since joining the NFF in 1999,
Ben has held the positions
of Senior Policy Manager,
Director of Rural Policy and
Secretary of the Australian
Farmers' Fighting Fund
(AFFF).

Prior to joining the NFF, Ben
was a Policy Officer with the
Cattle Council of Australia.

Ben, a Churchill Fellow, holds
a Bachelor of Agricultural
Science from the University of
Adelaide, a Masters degree in
Economics from the University
of New England and a Diploma
from the Australian Institute of
Company Directors.

The following points/issues

were covered by Ben during
his speech at the Robb Rural
Focus Dinner:

What are the
opportunities for
the future of rural
Australia?

How are today's
young generation of
agricultural graduates
able to contribute?

What are the
challenges in terms
of trade/globalisation,
sustainable resources
use and research and
development?

What strategies can
today's graduates
develop in order to
benefit their own
communities and
industries?

Following the speech the
students had a most enjoyable
and robust question/answer
session with Ben.

Look for the Great Questionnaire on Page 8 from
Sarah Reynolds, Alumni President

Michael Maas, Robb College Master's Report

It has been another great year for Robb College.

Robb women netball teams were premiers in A Grade, A Reserves 1 and A Reserves 2. Our women's basketball team were also premiers, with soccer reaching the minor semi-final, social Hockey coming second and waterpolo continuing to perform strongly. It was just the perfect ending for the year with Robb College women winning the Mary Bagnall Trophy for the second year in a row.

Robb men are not forgotten with strong representation in the New England Rugby Under 20's (which won the NSW country championship for the first time ever), the New England Opens Rugby and the Australian Universities teams. Robb men also featured in the UNE Rugby team which won gold at the Northern University games in Cairns which complements the silver medal they won at the National University Games in Brisbane being the only medal winners from UNE. Robb were finalists in Men's Basketball and Soccer as well as Waterpolo and Hockey.

It was also great to have Ben Fargher, CEO of the National Farmers Federation and ex-Robber, back in College as our guest speaker for the Rural Focus Dinner. I was sworn to secrecy at the time, but you may be interested to know that from the time I picked Ben up from his motel until we actually processed into the Dining Hall, Ben was in contact several times with the Prime Minister's Office finalizing NFF's position on Telstra. NFF's position was to be announced to the public the next day. I said to Ben how much the College appreciated his determination to honour his lecture commitment and I think it was one of the best Rural Focus Dinners we have had. Ben was extremely impressed at the number and quality of questions that were asked. It didn't only impress Ben, but also our guests, again reinforcing our claim as the premier College on campus.

In terms of academic success, our results for first semester examinations, including our Affiliates, were as follows:

Members awarded greater than a 50% pass average – 89.0%.

Members awarded a credit average or above – 29.9%

Breaking that down further
24.6% of members achieved a credit average and 5.3% of members achieved a distinction average.

A great result and something the College is very proud of.

I believe we have been extremely fortunate to have had a strong Resident Fellow team during 2005 and I would like to thank all our Resident Fellows for their continued support of College members throughout the year. To Nikki Bensch for being our Senior Resident Fellow and to Amy Adams,

Dimity Butler, James Knight, Stuart Moncrieff, Natasha Morley, Luke Murrell, Mary Philp, and Corey White for being our Resident Fellows. The 2006 team have an excellent example to follow.

Our 2006 Resident Fellow team will be lead by Stuart Moncrieff who has been appointed to the position of Senior Resident Fellow for 2006. This is the most senior student appointment in College and I know Stuart will have the full support of the staff, all members of the College and the Senior Common Room.

The Resident Fellows for 2006 are:

Thomas Capel
Zyra Familiar
Cary Gardiner
Catherine McConochie
Michelle Thurgood
Hayley Walter
Teresa Worthing

In 2006 we will be strengthening our academic support to College members through the appointment of Academic Assistants. Academic Assistants work as a team to enhance the generic academic skills of students and individually to provide discipline-specific support. In addition, Academic Assistants participate fully in the life of the College, supporting Resident Fellows, Senior Students and elected bodies in their roles. Academic Assistant appointments will represent the broad spectrum of academic areas studied by residents of the College. Not all academic areas can be catered for; therefore, an academic support team will be appointed which is appropriate to best meet the student needs in the particular semester or academic year.

The position of Academic Assistant is an excellent first step to any student wanting to take on the role of Resident Fellow.

The inaugural Academic Assistants for 2006 are:

Sophie Balding
Clare McDonald
Alex Noad
Brooke Slater
Alexandra Wear

I would like to congratulate our 2005 JCR President, Hannes Monaghan, the JCR Executive and JCR Committee.

Hannes, like all JCR Presidents, was elected to a position of significant importance and influence within the College. As JCR President, Hannes was responsible for the efficient running of the JCR Committee and achieving the objectives of the JCR.

Hannes wanted to build on the good foundation that had been laid down by his predecessors, which was in line with

my own goals. In doing so Hannes had my full support and working together as a team we had the very real expectation of making this happen.

The election of Matt Clark, Sinclair Steele, Tim Bryant and Cary Gardiner to their roles in the JCR Executive facilitated the opportunity of molding a group of individuals into a strong executive leadership team.

I believe Hannes and his whole team has done a fantastic job and has set a great precedent to follow.

At the President's Changeover Dinner Hannes announced the 2006 JCR President – George Wragge. I am sure George will do an equally good job as Hannes. I look forward to him making further improvements to the educational, sporting, cultural and social activities of the College.

I now turn my attention to our occupancy. Robb College has the capacity to accommodate 214 residents. This year we started the year with 214 residents.

At the start of Term 3 we had 186 residents.

Our average occupancy for the year was 93.5%. Unfortunately, this attrition was similar across all residences due to the lower number of first year students commencing studies at UNE in 2005.

At this stage 2006 occupancy looks a little soft, which is in line with the rest of the sector. I am expecting the College to be nearly full again in 2006.

Financially, we are in surplus as at the end of November 2005. Hopefully we will not incur any unexpected or unbudgeted expense items before the end of the year. Residential fees for 2006 have increased from \$33.00 per day (\$231.00 per week) to \$35.30 per day (\$247.10 per week). Other colleges and residences have also increased their fees. Continuing higher costs are the main reason for the increases together with the instruction from the Executive for the Residential System to be financially viable in order to maintain building infrastructure.

In regard to the Residential System and in particular Robb College, you may recall that a Residential System Working Party was established 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 sought 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, have provided 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.

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 and one that I am extremely keen to preserve.

The Residential System Working Party had a deadline of October 2005 to complete and make recommendations to the UNE Council. This deadline was achieved with the draft report being tabled to all members of the Residential System Working Party on Monday, 31st October 2005.

The Residential System Working Party recommendations were tabled at the UNE Council's Building and Grounds Committee and the Finance Committee in November 2005. The response was very favourable, with a request to submit a final recommendation in early 2006.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and the continued support of the Resident Fellows, JCR Executive, JCR Committee, members of Robb College, the Robb College Foundation, our Senior Common Room and our Alumni.



Michael

From Jan Moran, Assistant Head

It has been another busy year at Robb.

I have included the following report from Andrew Begg about Robb students involvement in Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE UNE) and the Vice Chancellor's Leadership Course as it shows how diverse the student involvement has been in the broader UNE/Armidale community this year.

SIFE UNE

Over the last year two Robb students, Andrew Begg and Anthony Newman, participated in Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE).

A worldwide organisation, SIFE gives university students an opportunity to pass on the skills and abilities they develop at university to others in the wider community.

One project, Graduate Aware, developed programs to link students to regional employers and helped build the employability skills of UNE students to make it easier for them to find employment.

A second project, 'Markets in the

Mall', helped stallholders at the Armidale Markets in the Mall market their stalls on the internet.

In July 2005, SIFE attended the SIFE Australia National Competition which was held at the Exhibition and Convention Centre at Darling Harbour in Sydney. At the competition SIFE teams presented and were judged on their projects by a panel of business executives. The team garnered a second in their division.

Managing and presenting their projects gave participants a chance to develop their skills, improve their employability, and at the same time make a difference in their community.

Vice Chancellor's Leadership Course

In the first semester of 2005, four Robb students, Andrew Begg, Adam Dyball, Paul Matten and Tess Worthing, participated in the Vice-Chancellor's Leadership Course. The course consisted of seminars that encourage participants to consider what being a leader actually meant and how they all have the potential to be leaders. Several seminars

focused on developing understanding of the contextual environment in which leadership operates. There were also seminars on communication, how to deliver presentations and project management. Gaining knowledge about the above skills complemented the seminars and also developed their understanding of themselves and how they can be leaders. This is a great course for anyone from any degree because no matter what career a student chooses, leadership is an important asset. All Robb Participants finished the course and received a Certificate of Participation.

I thank Andrew for his report and well done everyone.



Jan

2005 Sports Awards

Inter-College Women's Sport - Mary Bagnall Trophy

Stephen Gray - Sinclair-Wilson Shield
man who has contributed most to sport

Vanessa Brennan - Olivia Molineux Trophy
women who has contributed most to sport

Teresa Worthing - Valedicts Trophy
best first-year contribution to Robb College sports

Mick McCarthy - SCR Trophy
sporting contribution by an SCR member

Hannah Marriott - Club Hotel Trophy
Sportswomen of the year

Francis Fainifo - Club Hotel Trophy
Sportsman of the year

A-Res1 Netball - Wicklow Hotel Trophy
Sporting Team of the year

Matt Clark - Cricket Club Person of the year

Teresa Worthing - Hockey Club Person of the year

Laura Macpherson - Water Polo Person of the year

Nikki Bensch - Netball Club Person of the year

2005 Scholarship and Award Winners

Meredith Prize

Nikki Bensch

Meredith Prize Special Mention

Jane Davies

George Hoddle

Patrick McCosker

Sinclair Wilson Scholarship

Cary Gardiner

Max Webster Art Prize

Tom Marriott

Bruce/Dent History Prize

Dan Garland

Ron Gannaway Prize

Lucy Amos

Tattersalls Scholarship

Tom Marriott

From Judy McDonald, President, Senior Common Room



Judy

Again it is my pleasure to present the President's report for Robb College SCR. What a great year for Robb. The College keeps going from strength to strength with sporting cultural and academic success in 2005. This doesn't just happen and Robb's achievements are due to the hard work of 'the team' comprising of Michael, Jan, Barb, the JCR and the Resident Fellows.

Special thanks to Michael who has effectively been doing two jobs and doing them extremely well. We are allowed to be optimistic for the future of the residential system with Michael in charge. At Robb, much of the day to day organisation has fallen on Jan and Barb and the smooth running of the College is a testament to their skill and ability.

I would like to highlight the formal dinners which I think have been outstanding this year. Robb has more formal dinners than any other College and they also don't just happen. The Academic Dinner in first semester where so many Robbers gained excellent results was a wonderful night. The Vice Chancellor's Dinner allowed the talents of the chef to shine through and I think Professor Moses enjoyed the fuss that was made of her at her last dinner in Robb. The Rural Focus Dinner was also a highlight with Robb students being seen in a particularly good light.

We have had a great year at Robb College in 2005, but here, we always do.

My time at Robb has provided me with some of the best times of my life, but more importantly, it's helped to shape me as the person I am today. The University has given me a degree, but Robb College has given me so much more.

Robb College, as you all know, is more than just somewhere to sleep at night. It's our community, and for a period in our lives, it becomes our family. I truly value the friendships that I have formed over my years at college. I would do anything for these people, and I know they would do the same for me. They are the people who are dedicated enough to drive ten hours just to spend a night catching up. Robb is full of people like that. They'll be the people who will be the godparents to my children.

If we ever hear in the pipelines that the powers that be decide Robb is not 'economically viable', then I guarantee you that I will come up and chain myself to the place. I'm sure that there are many who are like me. Robb means so much, to generations of people, that it would be a tragedy if it didn't continue. I hope

Congratulations to Hannes and the JCR team for a fantastic year. I think the sense of community and pride in the College is vibrant and strong and the perception of the College in the outside community is improving in leaps and bounds. The JCR team is critical in developing this positive atmosphere.

Congratulations to Nikki Bensch, Senior Resident Fellow and the rest of the Resident Fellow team on the excellent academic results for the College. The College owes you special thanks for your enthusiasm and commitment because the job is far greater than providing academic support.

Thank you to all those SCR members who attended dinners and other Robb functions. Personal and work commitments must always take priority over College activities which make any support particularly generous. The membership of the SCR remains a perennial issue but there are people in the outside community who would enjoy involvement with Robb and have something to contribute to the College. A Challenge for 2006! A special thanks to Wal, Judith, Eve and Chris for their support during the year. Thank you to Stuart, in his role as Cellar Master, Tash for her great minutes and Mary as treasurer.

Congratulations to the new student leaders for 2006. Stuart Moncrieff, Senior Resident Fellow, and his team of Resident Fellows received their bars at the President's Changeover Dinner. At the same dinner George Wragge was announced as JCR President for 2006.

Robb College has had a very successful year in 2005 and I am confident that this will continue in 2006. I encourage all members of the SCR to maintain an active involvement with College next year.

that my children will come to Robb one day.

Robb people are so special, and if there were more like us, undoubtedly, the world would be a better place. If we started a political party, I think that our motto would be 'We'll work hard for you, and we'll guarantee that everyone will have a great time along the way.'

Thank you to everyone who has made my time at Robb some



Nikki Bensch

JCR President's Report

2005 was a highly successful year in all aspects of Robb College life. Our "O" week as always began with a frantic pace and we saw ninety odd freshers being introduced to the ins and outs of being a Robber.

Participation in sport this year was excellent with the girls successfully winning the MB trophy for the second time in 2 years - what a credit to Laura Macpherson who was also named MB rep of the year by Sport UNE. In Netball the girls won 3 out of the 4 contested grand finals, another superb result. The Rugby teams all got off to promising starts early in the season but were unfortunately unable to build on this and had a fairly disappointing season. We can only look to 2006 for bigger and better things from the rugby club.

SFK results were mixed throughout 2005 with a number of the judges decisions being questionable, to say the least, but the highlight that stands out would definitely have to be our SFK performance where Robb gained a 2nd placing. Our best ever result of the final performance was thanks mainly to the time and effort put in by our SFK rep Lucy Amos.

On the social side, Robb JCR held and hosted a number of successful functions in 2005 including Parent and Student Ball and Robb Ball which were both successful events. Praise here must go to the second year committees who organised these events immaculately. All our formal dinners have been at capacity and enjoyed by everyone whether it be at the dinner itself or catching up for a beer in the courtyard afterwards.

Despite the hectic sporting and social calendar our last semester academic results were of an impressive standard due to the efforts of this year's Resident Fellows team which was headed up by Nikki Bensch. I'm sure that Stu Moncrieff will continue to maintain this standard across college and even look to improve where necessary. Thanks must also go to my JCR executive this year, without their continued support and assistance 2005 would not have been anywhere as successful as it was. The SCR, as usual, played a pivotal role in many aspects of Robb College in 2005. We appreciate the efforts put in by Judy

McDonald and all the members of the SCR and look forward to their continued support.

Lastly we look to 2006 where the JCR will be led by George Wragge the newly appointed JCR President. With a strong team around him, I'm certain that George will strive to uphold the proud traditions and reputation of the college in all facets of his leadership next year and he has my full support for the year ahead.

Hannes Monaghan



Hannes Monaghan, 2005 JCR President with George Wragge, 2006 JCR President

*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

e-mail: robb@une.edu.au

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

NAME: _____ DOB: _____

ADDRESS: _____

email: _____ Years at Robb: _____

COMMENTS/NEWS: _____



Please tick if you would like future Roundup editions sent by email

**Robb College Resident Fellows & Junior
Common Room 2006**

Senior Resident Fellow - Stuart Moncrieff
 Resident Fellow - Tom Capel
 Resident Fellow - Zyra Familiar
 Resident Fellow - Cary Gardiner
 Resident Fellow - Catherine McConochie
 Resident Fellow - Michelle Thurgood
 Resident Fellow - Hayley Walter
 Resident Fellow - Tess Worthing

JCR President - George Wragge
 Vice - President - Andrew Campbell
 West Court President - Lachlan Bassett
 South Court President - Tom Marriott
 North Court President - Chris Hardie

Secretary/Social - Alexandra Hall
 Treasurer - Hugh Palmer
 Traditions/Dining Hall - Richmond Steele
 Project Officer - Belinda McLeish
 Cultural Officer - Gemma Jordan
 Marketing Officer - Jarrrod Pirie
 MB Representative - Jessie Wythes
 PT Representative - Daniel Ham
 SFK Officer - Simon Moloney
 Affiliate Representative - Sinclair Steele

***Robb Calendar
2006***

9 February	SCR/Resident Fellows/JCR/ Academic Assistants BBQ
13 February Scheme	SCR/First Years Link Dinner
28 February	Introductory Dinner
14 March	Academic Dinner
28 March	Court Debates/Inter-Court Public Speaking Buffet
9 May	Christmas/Quiz night Buffet
19 - 21 May	Parent/Student Weekend Art & Craft Exhibition
8 August	VC/ Faculty Dinner
22 August Buffet	Debating Final/Inter-Court Public Speaking
12 September	Rural Focus Dinner
17 October	Valedictory Dinner
31 October	Presidents Changeover/

Robb College Women's Sporting Association Report

Robb College Women's Sport was a great success this year with maximum participation from many of the girls who reside in college and those who are affiliated with Robb.

Netball, as always, carved up the court with A-grade winning the grand final for the first time in seven years, congratulations to A-grade.

A-reserve1 and A-reserve 2 also won major premierships in this year's UNE netball competition, social B team finishing the year off with the minor premiership.

Women's basketball also saw a win this year in the UNE competition with the ladies taking home the grand final cup. The soccer girls gave it their all, however, in the end didn't quite manage to get up on top. Hockey saw a great mixed competition

this year with three teams coming in 2nd, 3rd and 5th. The mixed water polo team also did Robb College proud coming 1st in the second semester competition.

Robb College this year again won the Mary Bagnell trophy for the second year in a row. It was a close race to the finish with Drummond & Smith but it took the combined efforts of all the women at the cross-country for us to win by one point.

The committee for next year has been selected and by the looks of it there are more great things to come from all the women at Robb College.

Congratulations to all those women who participated in sport this year, it has been you that has made all of these achievements possible, keep

up the participation in next year's competitions.

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



Vanessa

Dear Members of the Robb Alumni

I have recently taken over the role as Alumni President and would like to use this opportunity for you to give me some feedback on what type of events and information you would like and if you would like to support some other Alumni initiatives.

I would really appreciate if you could please tick, fill in your contact details and return this form to: Sarah Reynolds, Kooramilla, Monterey Rd, Loomberah NSW 2340 / email sarah@proactive.com.au or give me a call on 0427 282 745.

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you

Cheers

Sarah

Robb Roundup

I would be interested in more stories profiling alumni members

Yes I'd be happy to do a story for inclusion in Roundup

I'd like the Roundup to have a balance between current student and alumni member activity with more alumni stories, photos etc.

Robb Database

I have already or will today register my name and contact details on the database so I can receive further updates - www.une.edu.au/campus/robb/

Events

I'd be interested in attending a celebration (ball, luncheon) every 2-3 years

I'd be interested in organising or attending a state based or my year get together

I'd be interested in organising an ex Robb rugby game and BBQ

Committee Members

I'd like to volunteer to be on an alumni committee to organise another event (last event in 2002 raised close to \$55,000 and attracted 900 people)

Work Experience

I'd be happy to support a work experience program for 3rd and 4th year Robb students

I'd be interested in attending an informal dinner at Robb College talking to students about what I have done since university

Other ideas are very welcome

PLEASE COMPLETE BELOW

Alumni News



THE POWER OF LEADERSHIP AND CONTROL REVEALED IN NEW BOOK

Thomas Murrell, MBA, is an award winning broadcaster, international business speaker and media consultant.

Influencing the leaders of today and tomorrow is the premise behind a new book on control, power and leadership. Since the book was launched nationally in Perth last month by Dr Fiona Wood, it has sold about 2,000 copies and will sell about 3,500 copies by June of this year.

“To gain power, today’s managers need more people skills and more influencing skills, there is no place for the control freak in today’s leaders,” said Thomas Murrell, co-author of *‘Understanding Influence for Leaders at All Levels’*, Managing Director of Perth-based 8M Media and Communications and a Robb College Alumni (1985 North Court Tutor).

“The book has a theme running through it; it’s about power and influence but in an ethical way,” he said. “It’s a book aimed at aspiring and experienced leaders, it aims to give them the practical ideas and know how to become more influential, more powerful and stronger leaders,” Mr Murrell said.

Mr Murrell’s chapter introduces the concept of integrity marketing and illustrates the importance of power, control and leadership in communication. The chapter outlines the vital roles power and control play in influencing others positively.

‘Understanding Influence for Managers at all Levels’ is the latest addition to AIM’s Management Today Series. The series includes six books which present the work of almost 50 authors and collectively explore more than

Note from Jim Irvine (Master of Robb College 1980-1991)

I am now a resident in Angourie, and plan to limit further overseas work to short-term consultancies rather than extended assignments. I recently completed 30 months at the Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan. It is very nice to be back in Australia, and have time to catch up with family and friends. Our two grand-daughters live nearby, and Sue and I have been delighted to have time to help out and to share our enthusiasm for the beautiful surroundings in this part of the country.

In the course of the past few weeks, we have been interacting with Tim Marshall, Principal Financial Consultant, Berkley Group at Level 16, Riverside Centre, 123 Eagle Street, Brisbane. In the course of conversations, it transpired that Tim was a member of Robb College in the late 1960s-early 70s, and has very fond memories of his time at UNE. He studied Agricultural Economics, lived

in Robb, and was part of a very successful rugby era that included people such as Rex Ward (who was also the Senior Resident Fellow at some stage during our time at Robb in the 1980s), Hugh Rose, and others who went on to higher representative levels. Tim seems to keep in touch with some of his Brisbane-based contemporaries of that period.

Now that I am back in Australia, I also hope I could offer to assist the College behind the scenes and perhaps re-activate contact for some of the functions if that were appropriate. I may be off to Laos for a month or so in October, but that is not yet confirmed. Apart from that, I don’t anticipate too many other commitments for the remainder of 2005.

I trust that 2005 is going well for the College. Thanks for keeping me in the loop on Foundation

Francis Fainifo (from John Kauter, UNE Marketing - picture on back)

Francis Fainifo, a 2006 recruit to the ACT Brumbies, played his first game of Rugby Union as a student at UNE. The 190cm, 101kg convert from Rugby League played four seasons with UNE’s Robb College while studying for a bachelor of Commerce degree. “I liked living at Robb as it has a great family atmosphere and we stuck together,” Francis said. “There was always assistance in exam preparation and with assignments, and they encourage leadership.”

Francis thought one of the best features of UNE was its sports centre with the top-class gym he used four or five times a week. He felt campus social life was “fantastic”. “Although I’m a non-drinker, I’m ‘high into life’ and don’t need much motivation to enjoy myself,” he said.

When asked about his career prospects, Francis said he hoped to work for one of the Super 14’s Franchise teams. He thought his commerce degree would be very useful. “If I am injured I will have a top degree to back me up,” he said.

The Foundation has been somewhat somnolent during 2005 but we will need to wake up during the first couple of months of 2006. The Residential System Working Group (RSWP) with the expert guidance of Michael Maas in his other role as Residential System Manager, has been busy wrestling with the problems associated with the backlog of maintenance in all the colleges (some worse than others) as well as compliance problems resulting from legislative changes since they were built. The major problems, of course, are related to how to come up with the large amounts of money needed to bring the whole system up to scratch.

The RSWP went back to basics and asked such fundamental questions as "Does UNE need a residential system" and "Is the present form of University residences where students have access to pastoral care and are encouraged to develop their sporting and leadership qualities, important to the University". The RSWP collected information from a number of sources, including a number of focus groups, and accepted that a significant proportion of UNE internal students come to a College, rather than to The University of New England. In other words, the college system, as it exists today, is essential to the recruitment of internal students to the University and without the college system, the University would have difficulty in filling its quotas of internal students. To my mind, this acceptance of reality was an important step because there is considerable opposition to the college system among the academic staff of the University.

The RSWP has presented its report to the Building and Grounds Committee and to the Finance Committee of the UNE Council and received a favourable response from both. It will now go before the full Council early in 2006. We have no idea how the new VC will view the College system and so we will have to wait and see.

A pleasing aspect of the events of this last year from my perspective, is that the construction of East Court may become an integral part of the refurbishment of the other colleges, as well as Robb. A possibility is that it will be built first to house the overflow students while parts of another college are extensively refurbished/rebuilt. For this to be a priority, then the number of new, internal students must be such that the college system remains full. Unless the residential system is overflowing at the beginning of 2006, then the drive to refurbish/rebuild the residential system (including Robb and East Court) will lose its impetus.

How can members of the Robb Foundation (or any of the Robb Alumni for that matter) help? Firstly, by ensuring that the quality of the whole educational experience at UNE does not remain the best kept secret in the higher education system of Australia. Most of the students who

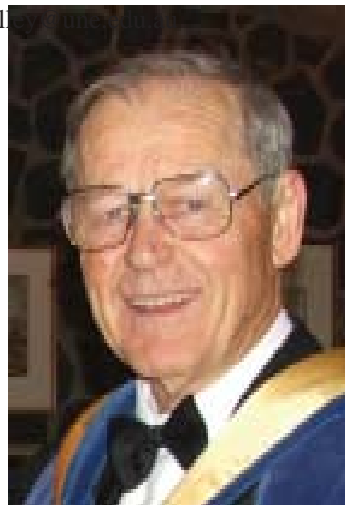
come to UNE do so because someone has told them that it is one of the best places to do the courses that it offers. If you can be that 'someone' which results in one or more students coming to UNE and to Robb, then, in the present climate, you will have re-paid some of the debt you owe to Robb and to the University for all you gained from your sojourn here. A second way is, if you are an employer and you have received good service from Robb alumni in the past (and we hope you have), then actively seek them out for future employees. The word does get around.

We have yet to make any progress with the Master's suggestion that the Foundation give the College dining hall a face-lift. This item is still on the agenda and, depending on the course of events in early 2006, may rapidly move from the back-burner to the front.

We will keep you informed of events in the New Year and make appropriate decisions when the time is ripe.

I wish you all well for 2006.

R.D.B. (Wal) Whalley
Chair, Robb College Foundation
Ph 02 6773 2477
Email rwhal



Associate Professor Wal Whalley

TO MAKE A DONATION

(Please detach this section and return to the College Office)

The Robb College Foundation Annual Appeal 2005

Title _____ Initials _____ Family name _____

&

Title _____ Initials _____ Family name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

email address _____

If Robb Alumnus:

Years at Robb _____

If parent of current student:

Student's name _____

If parent of past student:

Student's name _____

Years at Robb _____

Donations are tax deductible.

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A donation of \$500, or \$100 per year for five years,

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Payable to The Robb College Foundation

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I authorise the debiting of my Visa/Mastercard/Bankcard

For the amount of \$ _____

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Please tick if you would like to help us in other ways.

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A receipt and letter acknowledging your donation will be sent to you as soon as possible

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Please tick if you wish your donation to be anonymous.

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2005 Fundraiser for the Australian Red Cross (Armidale Express)



Matt Clark, Nikki Bensch and Wal Whalley



Robb Validicts 2005 - Wendy Gill, Tara Hogan, Georgina Marshall and Felicity Knapman



Breakfast on Lawn at Parent/Student Weekend



John Harris, Chris Reading, Michael Maas and Stuart Moncrieff



Francis Fainifo and Susan Forrest at Validictory Dinner



President's Changeover and Sports Awards Dinner



Netball Winning Team