



# The Eagle

St John's College Weekly Newsletter

Semester One, Week 1, 12 March 2012

## FROM THE RECTOR ...



Greg Bartels (John's 51-53), Honorary Dean Rev Fr Walter Fogarty and the Rector at the Commencing Drinks in February

Welcome everyone! This first edition of *The Eagle* is late but is, still, the week one edition. Much has happened in preparation for this academic year. We welcomed back 32 student leaders on 23 February to take part in personal and professional development activities in preparation for the leadership opportunities that then lay in front of them. On that evening, too, the student leaders joined in the College-hosted 'Commencing Drinks' in the quadrangle. That event proved again to be a pleasant way for alumni and friends of the College to welcome in the academic year. I was pleased to introduce Mrs Christine Liddy on that

occasion as our recently elected Chair of the College Council. Mr Philip Meagher is staying on as a Fellow after three fine years as Chairman.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### MARCH

12 Rawson Cricket begin



Mrs Christine Liddy AO, FAICD, BA with Mrs Joanne Dunwell, Business Manager at the Commencing Drinks



The Student Leaders of 2012 (House Committee and Residential Assistants) toured St Mary's Cathedral as part of their leadership and induction program in February

The leadership preparation days and O Week made for a busy ten day period of induction and orientation. The first week of lectures is also now behind us. I would like to thank all staff for their fine work over summer and particularly Ms Amanda Bainbridge (Dean of Students) and Mrs Joanne Dunwell (Business Manager) for the leadership they demonstrated over this extraordinarily busy time. I will write in next week's *Eagle* about the many projects and initiatives completed.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Adrian Diethelm as a part time member of staff this year. His role as Academic Dean will complement his fulltime role as a senior university lecturer in law. Dr James Wierzbicki (senior lecturer in Music at Sydney University) also picks up a part time role as Resident Academic. Both Adrian and James lived in the Hintze Building last year and their new roles this year will see them more formally involved in College activities in 2012.



Greta King is welcomed to St John's

The *Matriculation Mass and Dinner* on 28 February saw a crowd of 260 in attendance. Following Mass in the Chapel, the registry book was signed by 91 commencing students in the cool of the *Quadrangle*. The *Great Dining Hall* was then filled for a formal dinner. O Week included social and structured university activities. House President, Matthew Sunderland, spoke on behalf of all college leaders at the combined colleges gathering prior to the official opening of the

**CONT...**

## FROM THE RECTOR CONT..

Academic year by the Vice Chancellor, Dr Michael Spence.

The positive start to the year was unfortunately marred by a regrettable incident at the start of the first academic week. The College sets high expectations with regard to respect for one another and acceptable behaviours. We cannot condone antisocial behaviours and anyone acting in that way should know that they will be dealt with in regard to College policies.

Please take time to read *The Eagle* each week. If you know of someone who'd like to receive this regular newsletter then please pass on the relevant contact details to Christina in the Development Office. The email addresses of parents, alumni and friends can be added to the distribution list quite easily. With cultural programs, Rawson and Rosebowl sporting contests, social and other events about to start, this weekly newsletter will assist in keeping you informed.

Mass is celebrated at 5.30pm each Sunday afternoon. All members of our community are most welcome to join us then in the Chapel. Masses and other special events during the year will be advertised through *The Eagle* each week with community service notices, too, a regular feature.

As the semester continues I look forward to the valuable contribution of all in our community. I'm sure we're all in for a pleasant ride this year.

With best wishes,  
Michael Bongers  
Rector



Hugo Branley signs the Matriculation book on 28 February

Lining up his pressure penalty shot from just inside the 10 metre line, in the intense silence of a packed stadium sensing victory, 17 year old full back Ben Kende kept his cool. "Head down and straight through," he told himself, before acing his second penalty of the night to secure the First Division 2009 – 2010 Grand Championship for CBRE Hong Kong Football Club.

Ben was an 18 year old rising star in Hong Kong. That was until a match in Bangkok that would change his life forever. Playing for the Hong Kong Under 20's team in the Asian Junior Championship in Bangkok in August 2010, a seemingly harmless tackle resulted in Ben receiving a severe neck injury that left him tetraplegic, with limited use of his arms and hands and no use of his legs.

He spent the next three months recovering from multiple drug resistant pneumonia in Bangkok then Hong Kong where he was born to be with his parents and two sisters. He finally moved to an Australian rehabilitation centre in Sydney for the rest of the year.

Ben had had a job for one week as a junior personal trainer before his injury and had been saving up for a gap year back packing around South America with his mates. As testament to their friendships, they cancelled their trip and saved up to fly down to Sydney and visit him in his rehab hospital.

He doesn't regret playing rugby for a moment. He is really happy to be at Sydney University studying commerce and living at St Johns – this had always been his dream. He has met a lot of great people at John's.



## FROM THE HONORARY DEAN

### 'UBUNTU'



Archbishop Desmond Tutu, particularly during his time with South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, often promotes the concept of 'ubuntu': 'I am because we are'. At its root 'ubuntu' speaks of the importance of community in assisting the wellbeing of the individual; an individual reaches her or his full potential when the community to which they belong is nourishing, providing a secure environment which not only allows but also enables all its members to be who they naturally are. Such an environment is possible through the conscious awareness of the needs and aspirations of all its members. St John's strives to be an 'ubuntu' community.

At its core St John's embraces the fundamental Judeo-Christian belief that all people are made in the likeness and image of God. As such each person possesses an innate dignity worthy of respect. This respect enables the person to flourish in a way that they are able to achieve their full potential. Any action which compromises this innate dignity not only thwarts the individual's realisation of their potential it also impoverishes the community which allows or tolerates such actions. A community cannot be strong and healthy if it seeks to undermine the innate dignity of any of its members.

When asked what is the greatest commandment Jesus simply responded love of God and love of neighbour. His challenging response, the foundation of the all the laws and the prophets, is a reminder that the essential commandment for Christian living is to love and to love in such a way that the innate dignity of each person is respected. Only by living according to this fundamental principle can a person hope to achieve her or his own potential and work to foster that of others. A community likewise can only achieve its potential when it lives according to this same principle.

Each member of a community has a responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of the whole community and a community's wellbeing is determined by the level of wellbeing experienced by each of its members. If a person fails to act to protect the wellbeing of another, even if they are not directly responsible for the action, then they are morally complicit in the action and must take some responsibility for the belittlement of the other and the impoverishment of the community. As Edmund Burke wrote, 'for evil to succeed good people need do nothing'. In choosing to do nothing a good person has to take some responsibility for the 'evil' that is enacted. If unable to directly act themselves a person ought to bring their concern to an appropriate authority who can act to prevent the wrong. Some may want to say that this is 'un-Australian' for we don't do on a mate. But what kind of mate would stand by and allow another suffer or their mate to act inappropriately?

Communities need to be wary of the assertion of the 'common good' to override a member's dignity; such an assertion is critically flawed. The true common good of any community is the respect it affords its individual members. Throughout his public ministry Jesus taught about respecting the value (the innate dignity) of the least member of society whether they are a child or a diseased person. Similarly, St Benedict, in his rule, wrote about the need for all in a community to consult with and to listen to the least member of the community, thereby respecting their value and membership of the community. In order for St John's to continue to grow as a strong and vibrant community its members must continue to work for the betterment of all students and staff. Individual or group actions need to be considered to ensure they respect the innate dignity of all involved and truly reflect the essential values which make John's what it is. Each member of our college community ought to know that they can discuss any concerns they may have about something they may have seen, experienced or even done with an appropriate member of the College's staff such as the Rector or the Dean of Students, they may even speak with an RA or a member of the House Committee, also, I am always available to speak with students. When one member of our community suffers we all suffer – I am because we are.

I am because  
we are  
& because  
we are  
I am because  
we are  
all ONE

Rev Fr Walter Fogarty

Honorary Dean

**Sunday  
Mass**

**Date: Sunday 18 March**

**Time: 5.30pm**

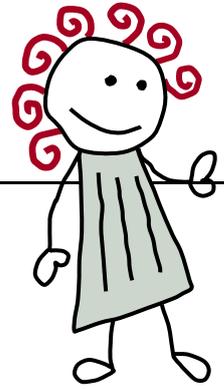
**Place: College Chapel**

**Celebrant: Rev Fr Peter Williams**

# PHOTOS FROM MATRICULATION EVENING



## MESSAGE FROM AMANDA



### Do **S**top and think about what you do and why you

If returning students actually read their letter of offer for 2012, they would have read this paragraph....

*“If you come back to John’s in 2012 expecting the year to be exactly the same as the last, you will probably be disappointed. You are now a year older, so be prepared to take on more responsibility. Incoming students will look to you as a role model and it is extremely important that you are a positive influence upon them. Great colleges become even greater if their returning students make incoming students feel welcome and treat them respectfully.”*

*“If you accept this offer of a place, you are choosing to become a part of a movement towards positive change.”*

After the events of last week, these words are ringing truer than ever in my ears.

*“Great colleges become even greater if their returning students make incoming students feel welcome and treat them respectfully.”*

Our commencing students represent fresh blood, fresh ideas and fresh talent – we need to embrace this freshness rather than make it conform to stale standards.

Why do we need to establish an exclusive hierarchy between year groups? Why do some students feel they need to prove themselves to the rest of the group by doing anything to fit in? Why do we expect them to ‘fit in’, aren’t we mature enough not to be threatened by change or difference? These are questions that I’m sure could form the basis of a long paper or thesis.

We are continually making choices in our everyday lives. And with choices come consequences. There are right things to do in most situations we find ourselves in. I want this College to become known for the way its individuals do the right thing and stand up for what is right.

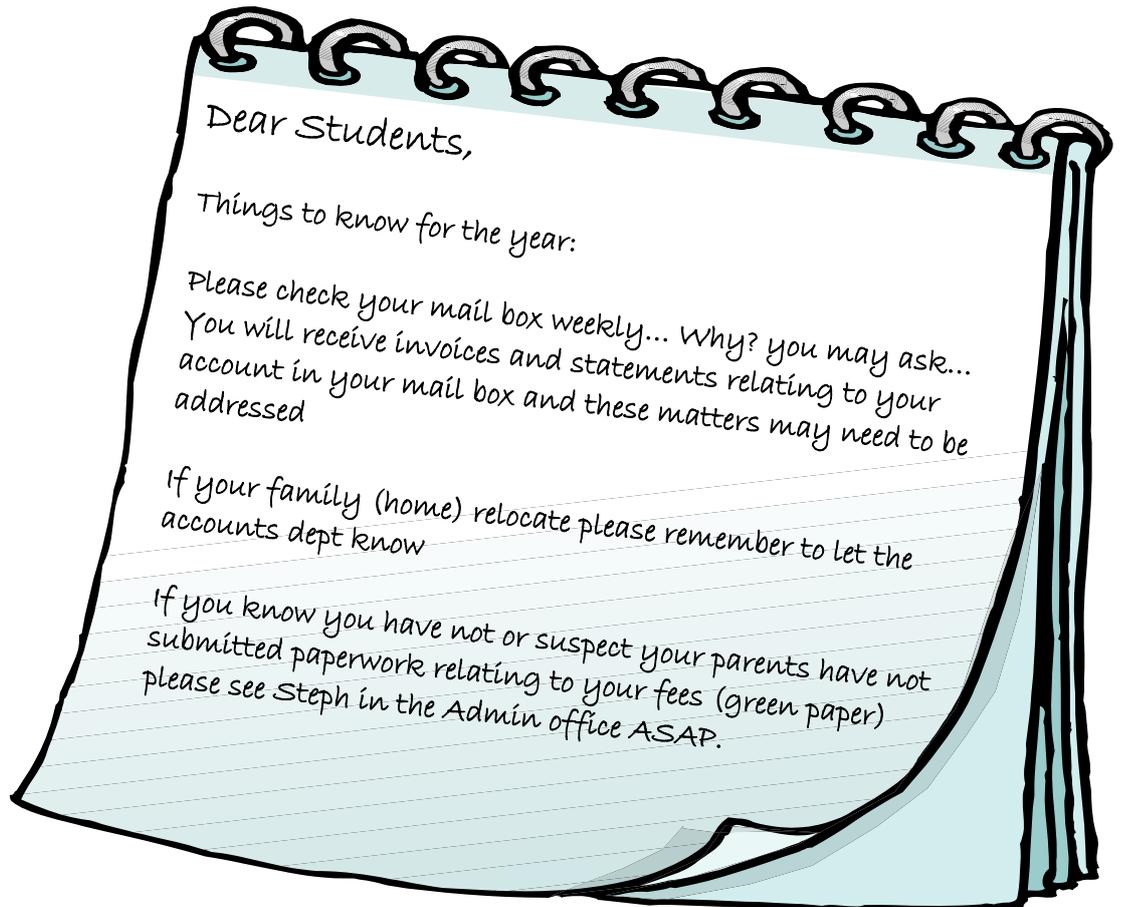
*“If you accept this offer of a place [at St John’s College in 2012], you are choosing to become a part of a movement towards positive change.”*

Welcome to a movement towards positive change.

Have a good week everyone.

Amanda

## STUDENT NEWS



Internet.Ink

**mixed dodgeball** \$100 +gst  
all sorts  
**wed nights @ alexandria indoor sports**



**register now [www.urbanrec.com.au](http://www.urbanrec.com.au)**

## STUDENT NEWS

### Birthdays this week



*Joshua Crawford*

*Greta King*

*Georgina Houston*

*Philip Joseph*

*Zach Martin-Dennis*

*Alastair Ryan*

## St John's College Tutorial Program

Students must **pass all subjects**, and be of good standing, if they wish to be offered a place for the semester following.  
(*St John's College Handbook, 2012*)

One of the many privileges of living at St John's College is the availability of the College Tutorial Programme. Tutorial request forms for Semester 1, 2012, are ready for you to complete and submit online.

TUTORIAL REQUEST FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY

### FRIDAY, 16 MARCH

Tutorials require your weekly commitment of attendance.

We will attempt to cater for all tutorial requests. Your tutorial may be hosted at another College.

If you are experiencing difficulties in accessing the link via email, please note this internet address:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?pli=1&formkey=dGZwUTJhYWVhLZE9oZfJCLVhVNE5fdWc6MA#gid=0>

If you would like to provide tutoring to students of St John's College please complete the form at the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dEFybVhzUVZQOW1qQUx4ZXU0MFFJNIE6MA#gid=0>



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE  
within the University of Sydney

# HISTORY HIT

## Renovations from December–March 2012



While you were all enjoying your summer holidays, escaping from the rigours of university life or enjoying your first freedom after school, St John's has been a very busy, noisy and dirty place—all essential activities to enhance, renovate and upgrade the College. Over the next few weeks I'll share some pictures with you. These show the work in the Dining Hall which was re-wired, new lighting installed and projection equipment installed. One picture gives you a glance behind the timber panel where the screen now sits. For those who are concerned, the trophies will find a new home.

I encourage you to look at the College not just as a place to live but as a living breathing community which has historical links back to the beginnings of the University of Sydney and the early colony of NSW. Have fun here and enjoy living in this wonderful environment but please also respect it and care for it

In October seven artworks left the premises to be restored and cleaned. The large painting in the Brennan Hall, *Curse the Gold*, had been in need of 'help' for many years. Now

with the assistance of a former member of College and the skill of restorer David Stein we are again proud to display it. It is one of several of our valuable artworks by Alfred Coffey. Six other paintings—four in the Dining Hall and the two on the wall at the entrance to the Library have returned after being restored by International Conservation Services. The two Sydney Bishops: Most Rev John Bede Polding (1858-1877) and Cardinal Moran (in pink) (1884-1911), on the wall outside the Library, were associated with St John's as 'Visitors' during their terms as Bishops of the Sydney diocese during the years noted in brackets.



The four paintings in the Dining Hall are Justice O'Connor, Rev Sheehan, Rev Farrell and Rev Maurice O'Reilly—more about the history of these men in later editions of the Eagle.

As the historian and archivist of the College I encourage you to share with me by email or in person, any associations you may have with St John's. Some of you may be related to previous students, tutors or associates of the College. All contributions gratefully accepted.

Dr Perry McIntyre  
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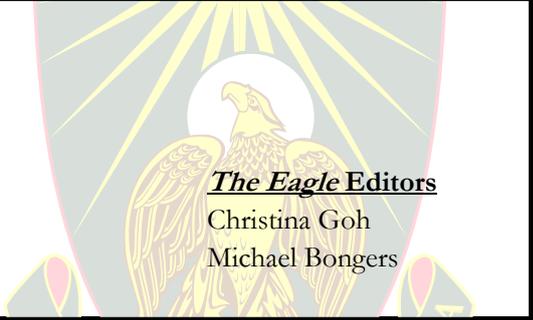
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***The Eagle Editors***

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