



25 November 2021

Parents of St Leo's Residents
By email – various

Dear Parents of St Leo's Residents

I'd usually have this newsletter out to Mums and Dads in the last week of exams, but such has been the frantic pace of 2021, that simply hasn't been possible. Now that each Brisbane university has concluded its semester, we have changed gears here at St Leo's. We now have painters in L Block, UQ Young Achievers' Program scholars in A and B Blocks, bathroom renovators sprinkling their fairy dust on en suite bathrooms in E and H Blocks and, unexpectedly, roofers traipsing about the dining room and reading room rooflines.

I'd particularly like to acknowledge the Parents who travelled to St Leo's for our Third Years' *Valete* luncheon on Sunday, 31 October. We had Mums and Dads from all over Queensland as well as our departing men's guests from not just UQ colleges, but further afield, as well. The luncheon, along with the Fathers' Day barbecue and the Mothers' Day brunch are formats that have been embraced like no others before them. It's been a pleasure to see Parents back here at College so regularly across the course of the year and to assist them to stay engaged in their sons' university lives.

Residential colleges find their own rhythms inside the lives of their parent universities. Of course, no recap of '21 can overlook Covid. In 2021, the differences between residential colleges, where people live and work and universities, where people work and study, were at their clearest. I'd like to note UQ's magnificent generosity when Covid disrupted the academic year. Indeed, UQ provided not only collegial support, but also coordinated the logistics of relocating UQ college residents off-site to Brisbane CBD hotels to do their periods of quarantine.

At the height of the Indooroopilly cluster, one UQ college had nearly 100 of its residents in hotel quarantine off-site, fully UQ funded. For our part, St Leo's had three separate areas of the College in total meals-delivered lockdown. It was a fine effort by each of the UQ colleges and UQ. As far as I know, Queensland is the only Australian jurisdiction that has experienced a Delta outbreak and successfully suppressed it through lockdown measures. St Leo's and the other UQ colleges were all part of that.

We all hope that 2022 won't be as Covid-impacted as either '20 or '21, and to that end, the St Leo's Council has mandated that all Residents must be double vaccinated prior to commencing residency at College next year. Earlier this week, UQ announced that it too is considering mandating vaccination for attendees at each of its SEQ campuses. Parents should by now have received the College's advice in respect of our vaccination requirements for '22. I do though note that any Resident who has a valid reason why he can't be vaccinated should also contact the College.

The good sense in this position will hopefully see St Leo's free of Covid infection in the new year. Of course, should we have a case, the College will implement virus management systems as it does with any pathogen that represents a risk to College operations and our Residents. As a matter of course, visitors to the College will also be required to evidence their vaccination status.

At its annual AGM, on Sunday 10 October, the Students' Club elected the incoming office holders for the new year. Please join with me in congratulating

President – William Kennedy
 Vice-President Joseph McKeering
 Secretary – Max Siemon
 Treasurer – Lachlan Smith
 Social Convenor – Macaulay Adamson
 Cultural Convenor – David Bagshaw
 Sports Convenor – Sean MacDonald
 ICC Rep – Flynn Ross (ICC President in 2022)
 Sergeant at Arms – Luke Caswell
 Shed – Jack Robson
 The Phantom – James Caton
 Merchandise Convenor – Harry Packwood
 Culinary Convenor – Jack Algie
 First Year Rep – Thomas Lyons.

It's also a pleasure to announce our RAs for 2022.

Bryn Jenkins (Senior RA)
 Tyson Andrews
 Walter Boehme
 Cameron Bray
 Alex Francis
 Bryce Kenyon
 Pat Mackay
 Mitch Makin
 Charan Musuwadi

Following on from these announcements, it's also a pleasure to announce those of our 2021 Residents who were recognised at the *Valete* for what was an outstanding leadership year and year of service.

Ignatian Award – Max Manassero
Old Boys' Award – Vincent Melbin *BM*
Hon Bob Katter Snr Award – Oliver Dickinson & Liam Duffy
College Service Award – Liam Parker, Howard McDonald & Watson Blaikie

It was a privilege to work with the '21 Third Years. They have set the bar high for their successors and leave St Leo's with a proud legacy. Singling out individual efforts always brings risks, but huge effort by *Phantom Menace* to finish second in Bandfest, an extraordinary job by our football and hockey teams to defend their premierships in '21 after resounding wins in '20. It is though some of the smaller victories that are most significant.

Among other examples of leadership, after St Leo's residents found themselves on the receiving end of more unwanted attention when residents from another UQ college entered our change sheds during an AFL match and "found" Leo's belongings, then snatched away from one of our Residents and subsequently smashed up and graffitied our mascot, there was no St Leo's retaliation.

This is a huge tribute to the 2021 St Leo's Leadership group. The other college's Students' Club will reimburse St Leo's for the damage done to our mascot. Again, I received an apology from my colleague who runs this other college. We would though all be delighted if 2022 is event-free, at least as far as this type of conduct is concerned.

I think all of St Leo's and quite a lot of our friends around UQ were disappointed that Leo's finished half a point shy of a shared overall ICC premiership. As a result of an administrative error, ICC football wasn't determined in accordance with ICC rules. The upshot of this was that both Emmanuel and St Leo's shared the football premiership with 6.5 points each out of a possible 7. I've asked UQ Sport to ensure that administrative errors don't determine outcomes in the future. When our 6.5 football points were added to our cumulative total, we finished on 72.5 points. Our colleagues at King's were on 73, but our congratulations to them for another ICC overall premiership.

I try to give some insights into life around the College in these newsletters, even on the Christmas deliveries like this one. Mums and Dads may be interested to learn that with King's decision to become co-residential from 2020 and St Paul's (USyd) decision to go co-residential from 2023, St Leo's is now one of only two surviving single-sex male colleges in the country. The other male college which continues to operate is Warrane College (UNSW) which, just this year, celebrated its 50th anniversary.

In 2018, I was invited to speak at Warrane as the Head of what was at the time, one of four single sex-male colleges in Australia. I spoke about St Leo's gender equity workshops and our ongoing commitment to ensuring that our men understand our mission and the importance that there be clear and principled leadership that unambiguously establishes parameters and expectations.

I'm often asked St Leo's intentions in respect of remaining single-sex male and always give the same answer – I think single-sex male institutions, whether colleges or schools can continue to enhance and add value to the student experience, provided they are well led. The St Leo's leadership model has evolved across the past eight years. Today, it is informed by biannual meetings of the Students' Club, College Staff and the Council, the first at the commencement of semester 1, the second at the commencement of semester 2.

The motivation in these meetings is to ensure that the Student Leaders' vision for their year accords with the Council's and the Staff's vision. This model has worked very well indeed and has been refined and developed to the point where we can confidently say St Leo's Residents to a man know that what the College publicly says about itself is what the College privately requires of the men who reside with us. As I keep on saying, there are no gaps. In 2022, again Glen Cronan and I will be working with the incoming Student Leadership group canvassing the all-important questions around what it means to lead communities that enhance and enrich the lives of the people who participate in them.

I always tell our Residents that it pays to read this newsletter closely. I'm pleased to announce that in 2022, St Leo's and Women's will be hosting two *Woozonians*, the inaugural event on 26 May at Women's and the second on 8 September at St Leo's. This idea has been brewing for some time here on College Road and it'll be a pleasure to both host our friends and colleagues from Women's and visit them in much the same way that we did with our Professional Networking event with Women's earlier in '21. I again remind Mums and Dads, that along with a sibling discount that St Leo's jointly offers with Duchesne, we also offer one with Women's College.

We all know that the college experience adds values in so many intangible ways, but the value-add that comes with professional workshops like those we co-hosted earlier this year is where colleges are at their finest. I'm hopeful that Joe McKeering, will continue on with the good work that Liam Duffy was able to do with Tyler Kiernan in this space in the new year.

In closing, I'd like to acknowledge the fine work of all St Leo's Staff across what has been another difficult year. Ensuring each of our Residents feels safe, valued and respected informs everything that we do, but it can only happen when people in key roles consistently deliver. My thanks to Glen Cronan, our Deputy Head of College, Ilana Whimp, our Director of Hospitality, Chad Pennington, our Business Manager and our accountant, Antony Kittoli, whom many of you will know has replaced Elaine.

Nearly all of our parents know our ladies on the front desk, Jocelyn and Heidi, in whose absence, things just can't get done at St Leo's.

I also acknowledge the many staff who make St Leo's happen and who aren't as readily visible from Hallie Couchman, our Head Chef to Lily Seeto in the Kitchen, to Darryl (Thunder) Scott on the leaf blower and Curt Swenson who maintains our buildings and oversees capex projects.

Please join with me in wishing well our two departing Staff, Tyler Kiernan and Sophie Simpson. Tyler is about to start a new role at Caterpillar in Brisbane and Sophie has accepted a fulltime appointment as Dean of Students at Grace College. My thanks to each of them for their ongoing efforts in our two part-time Community Coordinator roles. St Leo's aims to appoint a Dean of Students for the commencement of the new year.

I also acknowledge and thank the St Leo's Council. The St Leo's Council like all UQ colleges' councillors are volunteers. They are the governing body to whom I report and they require the accountabilities and policy compliances that make the operation of the College possible. I know that St Leo's Student Leaders and the St Leo's Staff greatly appreciate the leadership of our Chair Daryl Hanly and all Councillors, each of whom so generously shares their time, expertise and enthusiasm for St Leo's.

Lastly, the very best of Christmas wishes to each of our families. Thank you for entrusting your sons' development and welfare to us. We remain indebted to each of you for choosing St Leo's and are grateful for the confidence that you have placed in us.

As I am always wont to do, let me finish by saying that should you be impressed by what St Leo's has brought to your son's university experience, please tell all of your friends with school-aged boys. Should you think that we could do some things better, please pick up the phone and speak with me.

A happy Christmas one and all. We look forward to seeing the Mums and Dads of our Second and Third Year men around St Leo's in '22 and to remaining in touch, even if more distantly with the Parents of our departing Third Years.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Foley
Head of College & Chief Executive
St Leo's College
College Road
Within The University of Queensland



Third Years 2021



Gathering prior to Valeté Lunch

Adam Takai with his parents, Daniel and Rhonda at the Valeté Celebration





Valete Celebration: Hugh Forbes with his Mum, Cathy, and guest, Caitlin

Third Years celebrating in the Pit after Valete





**Victorious ICC swimming team: Rear: Flynn Ross, Tyson Andrews
Front: Timothy Cookson, DeWet Potgieter, Corbin Zahn and Daniel Reilly**

Sons, Grandsons, Nephews of former Leonians





Victorious ICC Hockey Team 2021

Keith dominant in struggle with St Leo in Foyer





Two fresh new arrivals 2019: Liam Hall and Josh Phillips

2019 Family Day: Aiden Raabe dropped off by parents Sharon and Shane. Brother and old Leonian, Kyle in support





New Leonians farewelling parents in February 2019: above Kyle Hemmett and parents Melanie and Robert, and below, Mason Trevanion with parents Kerry and Luke





February 2019: Lachlan Klibbe farewelling parents, Jackie and Russell and brother.

Family Day 2019: new friends at College: Vince Melbin, Ben Gunn, Adam Takai, Danny Reilly and Max Manassero





**Alex Rice being dropped off in 2019 by parents, Caroline and Michael above, and
below
Patrick Hart with his parents Antony and Tess**

