



**11 November 2022**

Parents of St Leo's Residents

By email – Various

Dear Parents of St Leo's Residents

It seems that 2022, the year that started wet and blustery in Brisbane, will also finish wet and blustery. Much the same could be said of the cities and towns up and down the coast as well as inland. Just as the February flooding impacted the start of the year, relentless rain has slowed UQ's attempts to drain and re-fill the lake. Women's, Duchesne, St John's and St Leo's each have front row seats....and we can't wait for the show to be over. In what would have been a major engineering feat if nothing had gone wrong, the project has been impeded by wet weather, which causes the lake to fill up again as well as machine strandings. It will though be a huge boon to the campus when it's finished. We wish the University well over the summer recess in wrapping up the job.

The end of year celebrations which commence for each of the UQ colleges around the third week in October have concluded and with 2023 Students' Club Executives in place and RA teams appointed, the UQ chapter of colleges (the collective noun for colleges) is readying for a big '23.

All UQ colleges are reporting a spike in numbers, with some of the bigger co-residential colleges having reported being full for 2023 as early as July of this year. St Leo's numbers are strong with more than 100 residents indicating they'd like to return next year and in excess of 120 applications for what will be about 110 places. Where enrolments finally fall will be determined by the number of students who elect to undertake tertiary studies in cities other than Brisbane. Of course, the popularity of residential colleges moves like most markets. However, in 2022 going into 2023, we have very strong demand from returning residents and one of our biggest pools of applicants in recent memory.

The ICC year drew to a close with victories for our neighbours St John's College in men's sport and for Emmanuel College in ICC Cultural. The incoming Students' Club has already spoken about improving our showings in certain ICC cultural events which, historically, haven't been St Leo's best performances.

On Saturday, 29 October we were delighted to host the parents, partners and guests of our outgoing Third Year cohort at our annual *Valete* luncheon. The Third Years of '22 had their college experience shaped by both the ravages of the pandemic in '20 and '21 and then flooding in '22. It was wonderful to see so many Mums and Dads make their ways to St Leo's from all over Queensland and Australia to celebrate their sons' journeys with us. We had parents from as far afield as Sydney, Cairns and St George each of whom we were delighted to welcome back to St Leo's. The Class of '22 started as one of our biggest – 94 in fact. They all went home for Covid in April of '20, and we held our breath as 93 of that number returned for the balance of the year after the University re-opened in July.

I'd like to thank our guest speaker Mark Adamson, father of Macca Adamson, St Leo's 2022 Social Convenor. I invited Mark to speak on behalf of the parents of the Class of '22, reflecting upon his observations of Macca's time at St Leo's from February '20 till November '22. Listening to Mark's speech, it became clear to me that a lot of the experience that our men enjoy here at St Leo's comes from the men themselves, and they grow as young adults to be the young men that make St Leo's special. As Mark said:

On this I say I don't know most of the parents here but I have met more than half the Third Years and I haven't met a young man that hasn't impressed me. I guess we can say the boys that do last as Third Years do have a quality that we as parents can be proud of.

Our *Valete* gives the College an opportunity to recognise the leadership and example of some of our departing Third Years. Several of the Awards that we confer at *Valete* carry honour board inscriptions\*. This means a permanent reminder of the contribution that the recipients have made to the success of the year.

Special mention goes to these Third Year Residents following their receipt of the following Awards at *Valete*:

College Involvement Recipients

Sean McDonald  
Flynn Ross  
Patrick McKay

RC Bob Katter Award\*

Will Kennedy

Old Boys' Award\*

Bryn Jenkins

Ignatian Award\*

Lachlan Smith

Congratulations too to Patrick McKay and Harry Packwood for their respectively winning Sportsman of the Year\* and Cultural Contribution of the Year\* Awards. It's also timely to recognise Rohan Olufson, Leonian 2016 – 2018, University Medallist\* in Electrical Engineering (Computers) and Mathematics.

Parents who work in education will relate to the following more easily than most, but sometimes after having been Head of this great College for now nearly ten years, and prior to that, three years as Deputy, I can't quite recall the years that a particular resident was at St Leo's. I remember his 'era', but I can't place his actual years.

This feeling was brought home to me earlier this week when I interviewed the fourth of a family of four sons and brothers to call St Leo's home. St Leo's families who send not one, not two, not three but four sons are pretty rare, but we have them. I spoke to this young man on the phone and I was reminded of each of the eras of his brothers. This young man will start at St Leo's in February, '23. His eldest brother started with us in February 2006. Whilst a lot has changed in the intervening seventeen years, I suspect a lot has stayed the same, too.

I'm also delighted to be able to announce St Leo's 2023 Students' Leadership Team. As is always the case, our residents elect the Students' Club Executive and the College appoints the Residential Assistants (RAs). Please join me in congratulating:

President	Edward	Ryan
Vice-President	Harry	Packwood
Secretary	Jack	Algie
Treasurer	Nick	White
Social Convenor	Will	Lynch
Sports Convenor	Alex	Francis
Cultural Convenor	Corbin	Zahn
ICC Rep	Ben	Fox
Sergeant at Arms	Kalani	Moncrieff
Shed	James	Caton
Merchandise Convenor	Jaidan	De Roia-Grant
Culinary Convenor	Hugh	Stack
The Phantom	Joe	Doljanin
1st Year Students' Rep (PJ)	Justin	Russo

The College also congratulates the following men for their appointments to our 2023 RA team.

Tyson Andrews, Thomas Blatchford, Ollie Cooper-White, Antonio Del Vecchio, Joseph Greene, Armandt Grundlingh, Mitch Makin, Dylan Miles, Sabareesh Sampath

The success of each year is tied up in the capacity of the Students' Leadership Team to set a clear and discernible example that speaks to the College's values and that which reconciles with what St Leo's publically says about itself. My thanks to Will Kennedy's 2022 Student Leadership Team who overwhelmingly got this balance right.

As is always the case in these newsletters, I try and give Mums and Dads something of an insight into what is going on behind the scenes, as it were, here at St Leo's. Many Parents might be surprised to learn that St Leo's is one of the few UQ colleges not to have a member of staff dedicated to Advancement and Marketing.

Quite a few of the Old Boys reading this newsletter will recall the outstanding contribution of Shona Clayton, our Director of Stakeholder Engagement who assisted me so capably in convening the Centenary events way back now in 2017. Old Boys will no doubt recall the Centenary Ball, the Centenary Mass, our Centenary on the Road visits to regional Queensland and interstate, our recreation of the day that St Leo's commenced its affiliation relationship with UQ on 30 September 1917 and various smaller events hosted here at the College.

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In 2023, after five years of not having a Stakeholder Engagement type role, St Leo's will again be filling this position. Interviews for the role are already underway and I'm hopeful that the new look role, which will have a stronger Advancement and Alumni focus, will be filled by the start of the new year. Amongst other priorities, we're hopeful of establishing a firmer foothold in the Alumni space and engaging more meaningfully with the men who lived here and who still think so fondly of the College.

To that point, in late October we were again delighted to host our old Old Boys' annual reunion lunch. These men have been coming out to the St Lucia St Leo's for decades, but are themselves Leonians from the time that St Leo's was sited at 259 Wickham Terrace, the address of the current Brisbane Private Hospital. [St Leo's was on the Terrace between 1917 and 1961. Seven of the ten UQ colleges were sited at places like Kangaroo Point and Spring Hill up to UQ's relocation from what is today QUT to the new St Lucia campus.]

Many of these men and their partners are in their nineties, and even though in 2022, I was unable to meet with them for their annual reunion, I've placed a Save the Date in my calendar for '23. Should you ever visit the Brisbane Private Hospital, on the street-side wall of the downstairs' café you'll find a plaque marking the old St Leo's. The buildings and land at 259 were sold so that the Archdiocese could build St Leo's at the new UQ.

I got a lovely email of thanks from one of the event organisers, Jill Faa, who wrote:

We had 23 in attendance, including Ben Russo (97 years of age), who came along with his daughter.

Unfortunately we also had last minute apologies from our other nonagenarians, Jack O'Brien, Noel Tunny and Sean Costello, due to the bad weather in the morning.

St Leo's touches many lives, and it's a pleasure to know that people who resided at the College before almost all of the readers of this newsletter were even born, still think fondly of it.

Glen Cronan and I have already commenced planning for the '23 P Week when we will work with the incoming Student Leadership Team, reflecting upon things that were done well in 2022 and consolidating those achievements, whilst refining those things that could have been done better. We're looking forward to what 2023 and beyond will bring to the College.

I will close here and thank all Parents for their trusting their sons' growth, welfare and wellbeing to us in 2022. It's a privilege and a pleasure to be fortunate enough to lead this great College. I especially acknowledge the leadership of the St Leo's Chair, Mr Daryl Hanly OAM and the Councillors who advise, constructively critique and require my accountability. I also acknowledge and thank the College Staff, Glen Cronan, Chad Pennington, Ilana Whimp, Heidi Baban, Jocelyn Forsyth, Aimee Waddington, Curt Swenson, Antony Kittoli, Darryl Scott, our Kitchen and Catering Staff and those people who work for us at all sorts of odd and unusual hours.

Christmas best wishes to all of St Leo's families. I wish you all the very best as your sons return home for the Festive Season. As I always do when I sign off these newsletters, should there be something that you feel we could do better, please call me. If you think we do what we do well, please tell your friends with school leaving aged sons about your experience at St Leo's.

I look forward to welcoming the Parents of returning residents back to St Leo's in '23.

Happy holidays.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Step L Foley".

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

Enjoying drinks on the Deck prior to the Sports and Cultural Dinner: Samuel Callaghan, AJ Shahinper, Joseph Greene Finbar Rasmussen, Joseph Doljanin and Zachary Guse







Cultural Award recipients: Harry Packwood, Aidan Henderson, Declan Attenborough, Justin Russo

Sports Awards: A few of the Full Colours recipients: Jack Koerner, Joseph Doljanin, Will Kennedy, Sean McDonald and Alex Francis







Relatives of old boys - back row: Max Siemon, Luke Caswell, Joseph McKeering, Denison Hilla, and front row: Will Lynch, Lachlan Smith, David Bagshaw and Edward Ryan

Gathering in the Quad prior to the Valette Lunch: Charan Musuwadi and Mum, Aparna Polla, Mrs Belinda Robson, Tom Robson (1<sup>st</sup> year resident), Mr Peter Robson, Annabel Orrah, and Jack Robson (3<sup>rd</sup> year resident)







Prior to the Valette Lunch: Aaron Davis with parents, Clark and Michelle

Bryce, with his parents Jacen and Michele Kenyon







Sportsman of the Year, Pat McKay, with his parents Andrew and Jennifer, chatting to Dianne Adamson (Macca's Mum)

Jackie Littleton, Will Littleton, Mikayla Jensen and Harry Gaston enjoying a drink in the Quad before the Valette Lunch

