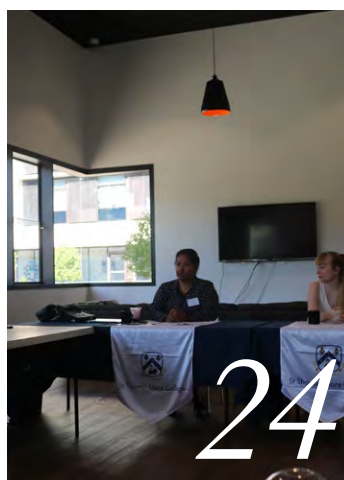


THE UTOPIAN

2019 EDITION | SEMESTER 1

Global Connections

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St Thomas More College
CRAWLEY WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Editor and Designer
Robyn Birkin

Photography
Lachlan Tom
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Please direct all correspondence to:
The Editor
St Thomas More College
48 Mounts Bay Road
Crawley, Western Australia 6009

T + 61 8 9386 0111
E r.birkin@stmc.uwa.edu.au



ST
DES
HIGH GRAVITY

From left: Zeke Gherardi and Rhys Landwehr at the Tommy More Fringe Fest.



I am extremely pleased to report that 2019 has been a great year to-date. In fact, both Bec and I would count 2019 as the best start to an academic year that we can recall. We have a wonderful group of students and the new ones have come to understand and be a part of our culture very rapidly. The students are having a great experience while staying true to our ethos of respect for each and every member of the community.

Significantly, the staff members at the College are very much a part of the fabric of Tommy More. They enjoy working with and for our students and enrich our family feel greatly. Testimony to the sense of connection is that there has been only one change to our staff makeup in the last semester. Our congratulations go to Kate Tse as she embarks on a new direction lecturing at TAFE. Even so, she can't let us go completely as she continues on a casual basis within our house-keeping ranks!

In Semester 2 2019 we have 385 residents at the College. Although this is not at capacity, it is higher than at the same time last year. With the opening of new accommodation in the city and at St Catherine's, we are pleased to see the continuing desire of students to be a part of Tommy More.

Thanks to the great work of Joel Chander, we have completed the re-roofing of the Chapel, upgraded air conditioning and established a memorial garden in recognition of those whose ashes have been dispersed on College grounds.

Our outreach and Social Justice Program is under the leadership of Eloise Pascoe who is doing an outstanding job. Commitment to helping others is as strong as it has ever been. Indeed, students often have to jostle to gain placement in some of the outreach activities because they have become so much a part of the fabric of what we do. Apart from the numerous activities the College is involved with, there are two areas of involvement that are growing rapidly: our Cambodia Collaboration and Eddie Rice Camps WA. Both are centred on improving the lives of vulnerable children – one at a global level and the other very much at the local.

Add to the initiatives, a burgeoning Health and Wellbeing Program under the leadership of Ellie Pead, and a full social, cultural and sporting program being skilfully driven by this year's President, Maggie Biffin and you have a College alive with activity.

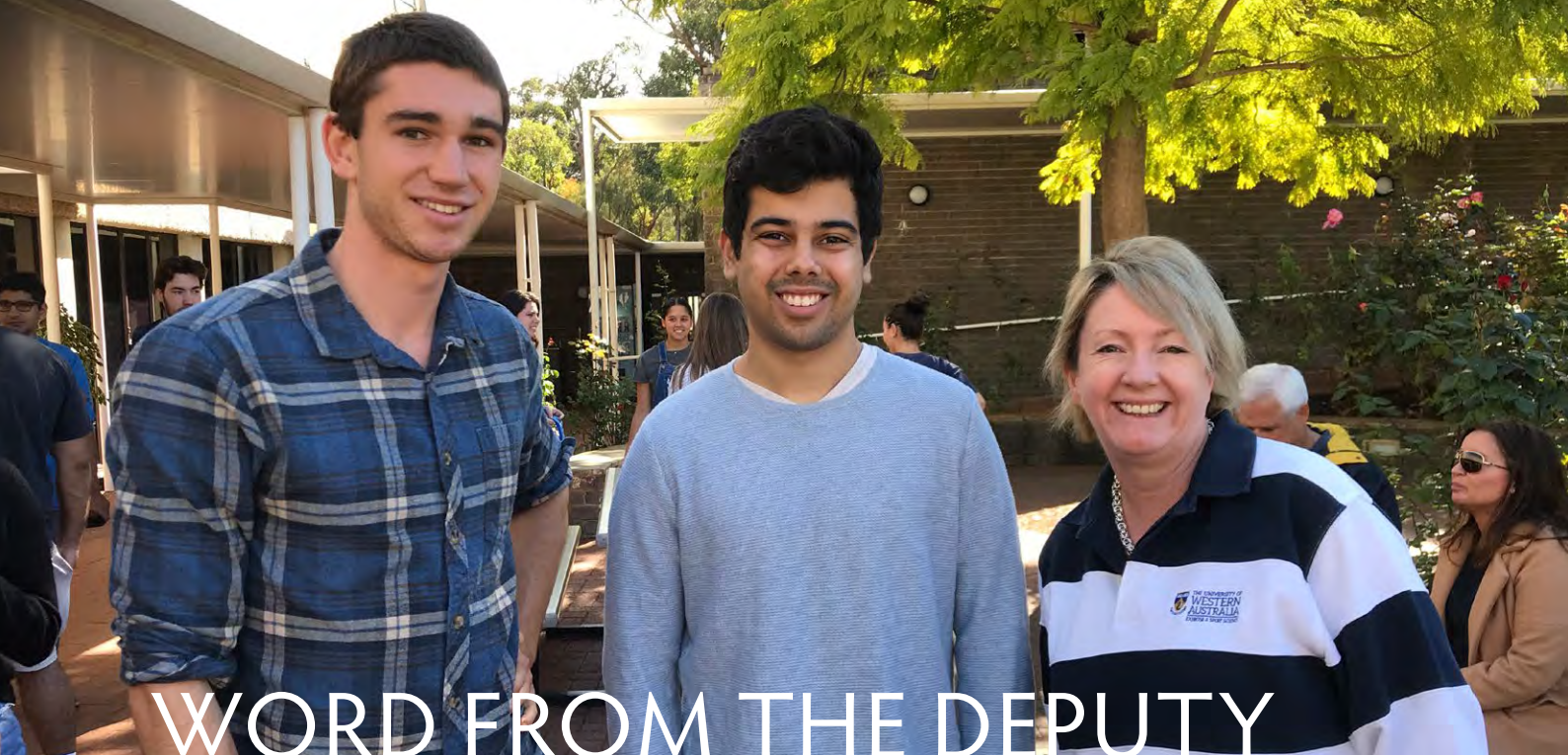
It is fair to say that I love being the Head of College where the energy, commitment and optimism are palpable in both staff and students.

Tom Mitchell
Head of College



“The students are having a great experience while staying true to our ethos of respect for each and every member of the community.”

*Nathaniel Jackson, Jessica Fenton, Jesse Musitano and Ewan George
cooking breakfast for the families at Ronald McDonald House*



Tommy More has had a wonderful start to 2019. For the first time, we have recruited a number of second year students to the Resident Advisor role and all have stepped up to the plate.

In addition to our valued Student Club Committee, who once again organised a first-class O'Week for our freshers, a number of other students jumped into leadership positions as More Mentors and Club Leaders. Both these ongoing and new initiatives have contributed to the Tommy More legacy of being a welcoming and inclusive community for all.

In this edition of The Utopian, we celebrate the diversity of our campus and the global connections of our students and alumni. While our main cohort of students hail from Western Australia, we welcome more than 38 nationalities from across the globe. Some of our students have incredible life stories and experiences, and our Chaplain, Father Peter has shared his story as a refugee from Vietnam, as he celebrates the anniversary of his Ordination 25 years ago. Congratulations, Father Peter.

Our Indigenous student numbers also continue to grow and add to the culture at Tommy More. In Semester 1, we held our annual International Formal Dinner, wonderfully organised by our Student Club Committee and in Semester 2, Tommy More will hold its first NAIDOC Week celebration.

Our Cambodia Collaboration, which began with a small cohort has now become one of the defining attributes of our College and blossomed into an important partnership between us and the Arrupe Centre and Lidy House. Our students have overwhelmingly supported the Outreach and Social Justice Program here at college, which provides support not only for the centres in Cambodia, but also closer to home at Ronald McDonald House, Eddie Rice Camps and other charity events.

We are grateful to our alumni (the Tommy spirit runs strong!) for their support this year as we launched our suite of mentoring programs and look forward to further developing our connections and services for alumni to retain their connection with Tommy More.

Bec Wood
Deputy Head of College



Our Student Club Committee Members at the Fresher Dance Carnival.



The 2019 Resident Advisors at the Fresher Dance Carnival and Training





FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY

I was born and brought up during the Vietnam War when the Americans arrived at my doorstep in 1960. 15 years later the war ended, but with the introduction of Communism into our country, our story did not end there. We were under constant persecution for our faith, with virtually no freedom. It was an existence marked by fear.

Yet, it was in these times that I felt the call of God. I strongly resisted this urge at first. After all, Seminaries were not permitted, and it was incredibly dangerous. If the Government found out, it would not only be risky for me, but for my family too. But the call was too strong and I joined an underground Seminary in 1979. 18 months later I was discovered by the local police and conscripted to join the Communist Army with the intention that after four years in the service, I would give up on becoming a priest.

Reluctantly, I spent six months in the jungle preparing to fight in Kampuchea (Cambodia) where I knew that 80% of soldiers did not return before managing to escape. Chased by the military police, I travelled from bed to bed under the cover of darkness. It was the darkest period of my life and like Tobit, prayed each night:

“Then in my grief I wept, and I prayed in anguish, saying, for it is better for me to die than to live, because I have heard false reproaches, and great is the sorrow within me. Command that I now be released from my distress to go to the eternal abode; do not turn thy face away from me.” (Tobit 3:1,6).

After three months, I made the decision to hide in the jungle. Like Robinson Crusoe, I built a hut and planted vegetables such as corn and sweet potato and it was there that I felt some peace. Each day, I spoke to God and my faith was strengthened.

Then, I heard word that it was no longer safe for me to stay there. My only option was to escape from Vietnam. One night, together with 50 others, I boarded a small fishing boat and began the journey, sailing across the open sea. As we battled the rain and huge waves, we discovered the fragility of life and had no other choice but to trust our lives to God’s Providence, but after five days of hardship, we finally reached land and a chance at a new life. We were sent to the refugee camp at Pulau Bidong Island in Malaysia.

I still remember the moment I was told my name was on the upcoming departure list to travel to Australia. I had experienced deep grief in the refugee camp which felt like a prison, with the knowledge that I might never see my family again, and was no in ‘no mans land’ with no connections in the developed world.

I arrived in Perth 37 years ago alone, and with little grasp of English and no money and although those days felt isolating, lonely and frustrating, God has always been my companion. He has given me the strength and the courage to continue to persevere, despite my difficulties.

With diligence and determination, I learned English and started my new life here in Australia. 25 years ago I finally achieved my calling in life and was ordained as a

priest, and have since gone on to achieve my Masters in Moral Theology, Doctorate (in Italian!), author a number of books, and lecture here in Australia, New Zealand and even back home in Vietnam.

All that I am, all that I have achieved thus far are by the graces of God. I will always sing His praises, with my deep gratitude for His endless love of me. He has looked down with favour on me, and rescued me from persecution for His name, and given me opportunities beyond my expectations.

I thought the date of my ordination would never arrive. However, God is always faithful to his promises and what He has promised, He will bring it to the fulfilment.

Reverend Father Peter Tran
College Chaplain



OUR CAMBODIA COLLABORATION

In 2016, Head of College, Tom Mitchell, and Deputy Head of College, Bec Wood by chance met a lady called Sreyputh Hang (Puth) at the National Catholic Education Conference and that meeting sparked a reinvigoration of the Tommy More Cambodia Collaboration and community service tour.

Since their appointment in 2013, although a group of students had previously travelled to Cambodia, Bec and Tom had always hoped to reinvigorate student enthusiasm for our service there. In speaking with Puth, they agreed to a research visit and later discovered a need within a facility called the Arrupe Centre, which provides care and education to students, many who have fallen victim to landmines, while others may have the legacy of polio, blindness or muscular dystrophy.

“When we arrived we accompanied a group of disabled students and their carers to participate in the Angkor Wat Half Marathon, a globally recognised event that aims to provide raise awareness of, and raise funds for landmine victims, but learnt that this funding was ceasing, and further funds were required to provide scholarships for students in remote villages,” said Tom.

“It’s hard to comprehend just how horrendous the legacy of the Khmer Rouge is. Following the genocide, 50% of the population in Cambodia is now under the age of 21, and without assistance, children are often forced into prostitution, child labour or begging. Many parents are injured or drug-addicted,” he said.

Tom and Bec saw a real need and an opportunity to make a significant difference to the lives of the students at the Arrupe Centre, and it’s sister facility, the Lidy House Welcome Centre. Both centres provide care, accommodation, life skills and education to students who might otherwise not receive it, and hence perpetuate the cycle of poverty within the country.

The passion for community service was now reinvigorated and the Cambodia Collaboration was born with 12 students fundraising and travelling to Cambodia, along with Tom, Bec and Father Peter Toohey, in 2017 and 15 students, accompanied by Senior Resident Advisor, Jess Fenton, Tom and Father Peter Tran in late 2018.

Together with the support and enthusiasm of all Tommy More students, the program has gone from strength to strength with an Op Shop on campus, and this year, a record number of applications to attend the annual tour.

The College has set the ambitious goal of raising more than \$20,000 for the Cambodia Collaboration this year, and has created two new events to support our mission, the annual Garage Sale and the Quiz Night and we are grateful to all students, families, staff, alumni and parishioners who continually help support our efforts.

Not only does this make a significant impact on the lives of those in Cambodia, but our students also.



THE BIG TOMMY GARAGE SALE



OUR CAMBODIA
COLLABORATION

On Saturday 9 March, students, Chapel Community members, alumni, staff and the local community gathered together to raise funds for vulnerable and at risk children in Cambodia, a special cause at St Thomas More College.

Although the weather wasn't obliging, spirits were high and the atmosphere was fantastic at the inaugural event, set to now become an annual fundraiser.

The popular contenders were the Op Shop, Plant Sale and Bake Sale, with donations from both students and the Chapel Community. There were plenty of food options, including a sausage sizzle, muesli, fruit salad and muffins, as well as the Chapel Community-run bake sale which was bursting with a delicious array of home-cooked treats. Guests were entertained by members of Rich Road (a four piece band from Bunbury, with three Tommy Alumni as members), and Rhonda from Cappuccino XPress provided much-needed coffee. Adding to the community atmosphere was free face painting, games and a raffle.

All in all, it was a wonderful day and we raised more than \$2,750 for the children at the Arrupe Centre and Lidy House.

St Thomas More College has a strong connection with these centres, that provide care and education to children who might otherwise not have the chance to attend school, or who may be living at risk. Children at the Arrupe Centre are often disabled as a result of landmines and come from impoverished families. Throughout the year, St Thomas More College runs a number of fundraising activities and events and holds several fundraising events to raise funds to help with the operations of the centre.

A special thanks to Rich Road, Rhonda from Cappuccino XPress, Alyssa our Face Painter and all of the donors, volunteers and patrons who contributed to the event, as well as the members of our Alumni and Chapel Community who made cash donations. Please save the date for our 2020 Garage Sale on Saturday 7 March.... and also say a prayer for sunny weather!



REFLECTIONS FROM CAMBODIA '19

Cambodia was an eye-opening experience like no other. The difference between a wealthy country and a country that's touched by huge amounts of poverty is daunting yet the one thing that shone through was the resilience and happiness the Cambodians share.

The children we met at the Arrupe Centre, were all affected by the barrier of disability, yet never let it affect their everyday happiness. One saying that resonated with me at an event we attended was that "Disability is not an impairment but a barrier in society." I left Cambodia with a deeper understanding of the effects the Genocide had and created a connection to what was and still is a most amazing country.

Bonnie Meacock

Cambodia was rewarding in every aspect. I had the opportunity to meet people who hadn't had the best lives but were so grateful for what they had and were willing to give their everything to people. The trip has changed my perspective on life, educated me in a whole different way to school/university and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to have worked with the gorgeous people at Arrupe and Lidy House."

Maggie Biffin

As I reflect back on my time in Cambodia, I can't forget the looks on the smiling faces of the children we met whether it be playing the 'Hokey-pokey' at the remote villages or 'Ninja' at the Arrupe Centre, these children were forever excited by our company and I was very excited by theirs. Whilst there, I discovered the enormous difference between the 'real' Cambodia that you see when you tuk-tuk down the urban streets of Phnom Penh or the gravelly roads of the remote villages of Battambang in comparison to the 'tourist' Cambodia you see in Siem Reap, a city of luxury upon luxury with a façade put up to protect you from the terrible things that had happened in that country. As Tom has said many times before: Cambodia is a beautiful country with a terrible history.

Shae Richardson

Going to Cambodia was one of the most challenging and humbling experiences of my life. I went into this trip with the expectation that I would be there to help others, but once I began interacting with the children, I knew that they would be able to help me. Despite the injuries, the poverty, and the hardships that these children had gone through, the children were so full of life and love. They taught me that regardless of the difficulties and circumstances you are dealt in life, it is up to you to choose how you react. That was the greatest lesson I learned on this trip and anything I did could not equal that.

Nicholas Quinn



The St Thomas More Outreach trip to Cambodia was more eye opening than I could have ever imagined, and I would not hesitate to do it all over again. One of my most treasured highlights from our trip was the day we travelled out to a little village to help the school plant trees. It was an hour-long truck ride, but this was a crucial part of the experience; dust in your face, watching the person opposite you hit their head on the top of the truck as we hit yet another pot hole, singing our favourite tunes with Father Peter, and playing Andie's famous Yeeehhhaaaa game.

Upon entering the little community, we parked up alongside an open wooden structure. This was the new school that the children and the volunteers had been raving about. It was quaint and gorgeous, the children all looked so smart in their uniforms and had smiles that filled their entire faces. Rukaya and I gathered some of the 5 year old girls, who were too shy to talk and began to play ring-a-ring-a-rosy with them, the circle quickly expanded from three little girls to almost all of the children joining in, I will never forget the massive smiles they had on their little faces and the continuous giggling that was travelling around the circle. I was left with a deep feeling of admiration towards these kids who attend a classroom sized school based in the middle of a landmine zone and they couldn't be happier. They were the most outgoing, enthusiastic and upbeat children I have ever met, and they are what made this day and the trip an experience I will forever treasure.

Abbey Omodei

I arrived in Cambodia with the philosophy that; "you may not be able to change the world but you can change a person's world", however never did I think that it would be my world that would be changed. With a saddening, yet strong, history we were provided with the contrast of what the worst of humanity can do but also the best attributes of people. You cannot help but be transformed by the idea of someone being a happy, cheerful person, yet losing so many of his family members in the genocide. Instead of revenge, he strives to provide his family with what he never had such as education. Cambodia to me became a country of lessons. It reminded me of the values such as gratefulness, resilience, forgiveness and kindness, all of which we should aspire to uphold. Visiting Cambodia was more than experiencing a new country and understanding its people and culture, it was a blessing for which I will forever be thankful for.

Gaby Nel

The children in Cambodia, whom we met, are the human face of God's incarnation. God's love for humanity has been manifested in and through the love that we have for each other. Saint John in his first letter said: "whoever living in love is in God, since God is love." I believe that whenever we reach out to others in love, we become God's personification.

Peter Tran



Cambodia was the trip of a lifetime. Over the course of the trip I realised this experience was not only about what we could provide for the children but also what we could gain and learn from the culture and people of Cambodia. The attitude and high spirits of everyone regardless of what situation they were in, was the highlight for me. It enabled me to grasp the concept of gratitude and taught me to appreciate the smaller blessings in my life. We were lucky enough to gain knowledge on the history and make a difference to better the future of Cambodia. The beaming faces of the children in Cambodia will forever be an unforgettable and humbling experience.

Cassandra Liebeck



The Cambodia trip was the most surreal experience of my life. No amount of reading and learning the history can prepare you for being there at the exact places those atrocities occurred. Leaving those horror sites with the biggest pit in my stomach and then arriving at the Arrupe Centre were two complete opposite extremes of emotion. From our first arrival and throughout the whole trip afterwards, the smiles on the kids' faces were the greatest part of the experience. Regardless of their different upbringings and their individual situations I have never come across such a happy, willing to share group of people. Every day was hard to leave them and the last night was something I will never forget. Saying goodbye to kids you met just over a week ago doesn't seem to be a hard task but knowing I wouldn't get to share those smiles again was heart breaking. I will forever be grateful when I think of my time in Cambodia and I cannot thank the college enough for this experience, it truly puts our lives into perspective.

Ellie Pead

CAMBODIA
REFLECTIONS
CONT...



Reflecting upon our 2018 Cambodia Collaboration, the most beautiful thing about Cambodia, isn't the country, it's the people. It's the love, the humanity and the resilience of its people that makes it one of the most beautiful places on earth. The children that we particularly worked with when visiting local villages and in the education centres, are nothing short of inspirational, hard working and resilient people. The sense of solidarity that is created, is simply awe inspiring.

To say the trip was a phenomenal and life changing experience, would be an understatement. It reminds you that, you can't change the world, but you can change one persons world and that every little thing you can do to help, matters and can be life changing for someone. Cambodia, Battambang and the children at the Arrupe Centre will always have a piece of my heart and I would take to opportunity in a heartbeat to return.

Kate Black

CHILDREN THE REAL WINNERS AT CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

In 2019 St Thomas More College embarked on a partnership with Eddie Rice Camps, after several students had volunteered as Camp Leaders for the organisation and left feeling incredibly moved and motivated to help following the experience.

This is a testament to the type of students who live at our College, and also the ethos of outreach fostered at Tommy More.

Eddie Rice Camps provides support and respite for vulnerable children here on our doorstep in Perth through their camps. The children who attend their camps are always poverty-affected and sometimes lack positive role models in their lives. Some attend, not knowing where they will sleep upon conclusion of the camp, as either homeless or foster children, and Eddie Rice aims to lighten their load in life, provide them with optimism and supportive role models.

In addition to presenting at a Tell Me More Seminar for students who may be interested in joining Eddie Rice as team leaders, this year, St Thomas More College partnered with Eddie Rice Camps to hold a joint Quiz Night, held on Friday 21 June.

The first Eddie Rice and Tommy More Quiz Night was held to raise funds for both Eddie Rice Camps and the Tommy More Cambodia Collaboration, and received support from the communities of both organisations, with tables of staff, parishioners, volunteers and students all booking tables in a glorious mix of generations, brought together by a good cause.

With a first-class set of Eddie Rice volunteers, Mix 94.5's Kymba Cahill, and co-host Heather Graham, as well as 200 quiz night attendees, the energy in the room was full of positivity, laughter... and head scratching. Teams worked their way through four rounds of questions, games, raffles and both a silent and live auction.

The feedback from the event was fantastic and the first of this annual collaboration was deemed a huge success, raising \$11,000 for the joint causes.

We look forward to further growing the event in 2020 and hope to welcome more sponsors, donors and attendees for these valuable endeavours.



STUDENTS' MORE WELCOME

Once again in February 2019, St Thomas More College had the pleasure of welcoming a new cohort of students from across Western Australia and the globe to live on campus and were made to feel at ease instantly by our dedicated Student Club Committee Members and their hard work in co-ordinating Orientation Week and the Fresher Festival.

As always, the week was filled with fun events and activities to help students settle in and break the ice, along with some friendly College Row competition.

This year however, the College also introduced the More Mentor Program, whereby each new student is paired with another student who acts as a mentor. It provides a new element of support for students, who are often adjusting to a new country or town, outside of the many existing support mechanisms that exist, including the Student Club Committee, Resident

Advisors and staff.

Students were paired by nationality, course or campus and the College is very proud of the way the first group of More Mentors have further added to the welcoming environment of Tommy More.

Lastly, campus life has also been enriched by a number of casual on-campus clubs, run by students including Book Club, Study Accountability Club and the Best Cheap Eats Club. Tommy More certainly has been a special place to live in 2019.

“I feel like the Tommy More Mentor Program has been a fantastic addition to College as it has given freshers more opportunities to establish friendships with returners enabling them to actively engage in college life, and make friends for life.”

Sam Curulli, More Mentor



NEWS AND EVENTS



NERD NIGHT

The Dining Room was abuzz with an overwhelming number of students arriving for the first Nerd Night at Tommy More.

Although the campus has a number of quiet places, study rooms and individual study tables in each room, the new Nerd Nights have been deemed one of the most successful initiatives of 2019.

On the first Tuesday of each month, the Dining Room has been transformed into a dedicated study hub, with hot chocolate and a collection of tutors available to assist students in almost every course with their studies.

“The discipline of having a formal time for study is no doubt also a factor in the success of the Nerd Nights,” said Deputy Head of College, Rebecca Wood.

“The large format study space was so popular throughout Semester 1 that during study week, we decided to leave the Dining Room open until midnight each day so students could continue to study, and once again, it was a really popular option with students,” she said.

Tommy More plans to run these events on an ongoing basis and from Semester 2, the Study Accountability Club, led by Andrew Shardlow will take the reigns during the off weeks to hold a formal group study session for students who wish to partake.



GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES



My name is Avni and I am a study abroad student from New York, USA. I am a Neuroscience major at Boston College and decided to travel halfway around the world to Perth to attend the University of Western Australia for a year. It is definitely one of the best decisions I have made. Perth and the Western Coast are filled with beautiful architecture and natural landmarks, and the educational opportunities and friendships I've made have bolstered my experience exploring the city and all that Australia has to offer.

Firstly, studying at UWA is incredible - this past semester I had wonderful professors who were all engaged in their students' progress, and also had the chance to explore units in courses that were very different from my own. However, UWA is very different from my home university in that I have lots of free time to travel to Perth city and its surrounding wonders. Only a short distance away are some of my favourite spots in Perth, such as the Blue Boat House and Elizabeth Quay. A bit farther away yet definitely worth it are the Perth Zoo, the Fremantle beach and markets, right on the western coast, and, of course, Rottnest Island (the only place to see adorable quokkas)!

However, for the incredible experience I've had so far, I have none other than St Thomas More College to thank! The success of my entire study abroad experience would be nothing without the home and friends I have found at Tommy. The STMC Student Club Committee and staff are dedicated to ensure that all people living at college (especially international students) feel at home by organising incredible events and activities, all while fostering a comfortable and familial environment where everyone is able to get to know each other. Living at Tommy is what I will miss the most about Australia when the time comes to go back home, but I am incredibly thankful to have had the opportunity to be surrounded by such a loving community. Tommy! Tommy! Tommy!... OI! OI! OI!

Avni Amin
New York, United States of America
Bachelor of Science (Neuroscience)
The University of Western Australia



I come from China and have stayed at Tommy for about nine months. I find Tommy is a great place where you can meet many different people, especially in O'Week where I have made so many new friends by going to events and getting involved, such as volunteering for Ronald McDonald House twice which was very interesting. During this event, I made Australian friends and had fun cooking breakfast for the kids who live there.

This semester I became a More Mentor which has provided me with a chance to meet many students who are also from China and support them while they settled into life here. During study break I met one of my mentees in Kalgoorlie and we had a really long talk about travelling.

Haochen Zhang
Daqing City, China
Engineering Science
The University of Western Australia

My name is Vineet and I'm an Engineering student at UWA. Having landed here two years ago from Kenya, I've been living at Tommy ever since (and currently loving the studio room I finally got...and managing to make a mess of it every week).

Staying in this college has been a decision I've never thought twice about, and it's made my university life more fulfilling and exciting than I could have ever imagined.

Especially as an international student, I was able to meet so many others like me from different backgrounds and walks of life – but still managing to immerse myself into authentic Aussie culture.

The support system I have here is unparalleled; all credit goes to the amazing Resident Advisors and Student Club Committee who organise events like

*The support system
I have here is
unparalleled*

the Inter-Wing Sporting Events and the Ball, which always manage to bring all of us together.

Most of all, I've been lucky to discover a solid group of friends I know I will share experiences with now and for the rest of my life.

Vineet Vadakattu
Nairobi, Kenya
Engineering Science
The University of Western Australia





INTERNATIONAL FORMAL DINNER

In Tommy More tradition, the end of Semester 1 marked the annual International Formal Dinner, where the College celebrated the diversity of students on campus.

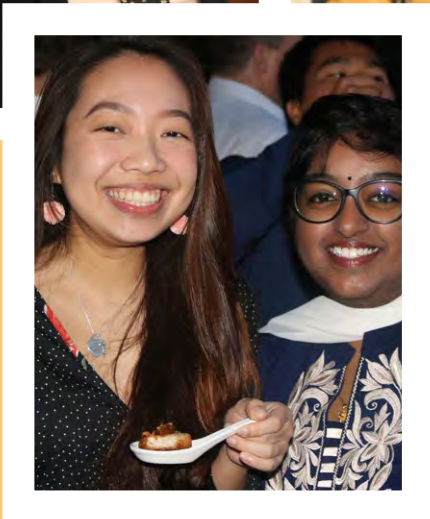
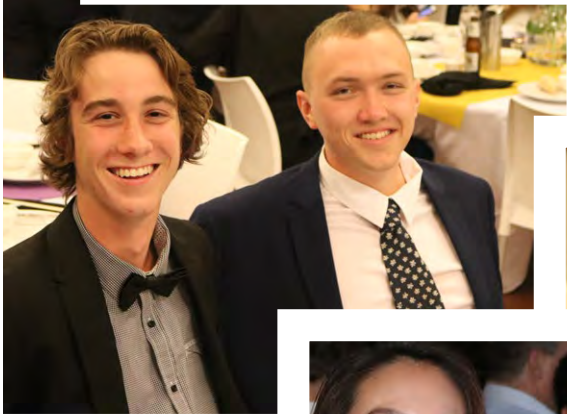
The evening is organised by the Student Club Committee, in particular, the International Student Representative, who this year is Sean Soh. The event was very organised and well received by the student body.

Spread over two nights as normal, students and staff had the opportunity to listen to a band made up of current Tommy More residents that included both local and international students.

Later, they were served a feast of delicious Thai fare and watched Thai dancers who were invited to perform at the College.

Students often remark that formal dinners are one of the most memorable events of their time at the College, and always provide an opportunity for connection and celebration.

At present, the College has more than 38 nationalities represented on campus from India to the Netherlands, the United States to Singapore and is proud of the many stories, varied culture and unique perspectives our International students bring to our campus.





HIBISCUS FOR HEALING

Two native hibiscus were planted on the Tommy More Campus at a ceremony to mark National Sorry Day which occurs annually on 26 May.

Students and staff came together to mark the occasion and show respect for the mistreatment of Indigenous people in Australia and commemorate the day the Bringing Them Home report was presented to Parliament in 1997.

One of the recommendations of this report was for a National Sorry Day to help facilitate healing and remembrance for members of the Stolen Generation.

The species was chosen by the Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation and later endorsed by the National Stolen Generations Alliance as the official symbol for the day. It was adopted because it is found widely across Australia and is a symbol of survival and resilience. It's colour denotes compassion and spiritual healing

Tommy More is proud to have a number of Indigenous students who live on campus and is proud of the leadership roles they have taken both here on campus, and within the wider community.

Head of College, Tom Mitchell introduced the ceremony, and was then joined by our cohort of Indigenous students, led by Iesha Brown and David Clarke who planted the two hibiscus outside the Chess Courtyard in the Back Quad.

Later this year, Tommy More will hold a belated NAIDOC Week on campus which will include a Tell Me More Seminar, a celebration of Indigenous Food as well as Arts and Crafts.



GRADUATE ASSOCIATION DINNER

St Thomas More College Alumna and MLC Member for South Metropolitan Region with the Australian Labor Party, Kate Doust returned to her former College as our special guest and speaker for the 2019 Graduate Association Dinner on Thursday 11 April.

The night was a special event to acknowledge the determination and academic achievement of the College's senior students and various committee members who have made an active contribution during their time at Tommy More.

Students learned of Kate's vast experience since leaving Tommy More. Her achievements include serving as the first ever President of the Legislative Council, a position she has held since 2017 and is the first woman to hold this position.

Kate hailed from Kalgoorlie and lived at St Thomas More College whilst studying at the University of Western Australia. Kate is an active member of the Alumni within the College, jumping on board as one of the first 1:1 Alumni Mentors in a program launched by the College this year.





BRIGHT BREAKFASTS

I had the privilege to attend the first STMC Bright Breakfast on 13 March, hosted in the St Thomas More College Singleton Recreation Room. The event was a professional occasion, where a group of aspiring students received the opportunity to pick the minds of two successful alumni on the topic of obtaining employment, graduate programs and internships post-university.

Kelly Dunn, former Student Club President who was recently promoted from the HBF Graduate Program, gave her perspective on what is really required to break into the job market. Her insight was highly relatable and gave a sense of hope to those in attendance, that we too could actually one day land our dream job.

Premila Levaci who currently is the Director for Clinical Operations at R&D Translation Services and whose accomplishments are far too broad to be encapsulated in one sentence gave an alternative view on what it's like looking from the other side of the interview panel. She provided tips and tricks on what employers are actually looking for, whilst coming prepared with a wide variety of opportunities that those in the wider college community could apply for.

The Bright Breakfast was a runaway success, not only due to the quality of the breakfast provided by the kitchen staff, the high-quality leather binder gifted to the attendees and the opportunity to listen to two

intelligent and influential women. The success of the inaugural version of this event, in my opinion, came from the Q&A session to finish the morning. The speakers fended off all types of questions ranging from what to include in a cover letter to “how do I gain admission into an international university?” The responses given were insightful and every person who attended was more employable for the opportunity.

Later in the Semester, the College welcomed four Alumni, now lawyers, including Chairman, Bruno Camarri AM, Luke Bone, Brigette Macfarlane and Erica Stark with a session titled Pathways to Law.

I highly recommend anyone with the opportunity to attend a St Thomas More College Bright Breakfast takes the chance, as you never know what helpful bits of knowledge you could gain.

Christopher Jones
Resident Advisor
University of Western Australia
Master of Professional Engineering Mechanical



SINGLETON SCHOLARSHIP

St Thomas More College is very grateful to Bev Singleton, the wife of the late Brian Singleton who was the first Student Club President at the College in 1955 for providing a donation to establish a scholarship for returning residents to Tommy More.

The scholarship is valued at \$5,000 for one year to a student who has committed to contributing to the vibrant life of the College, based on their own talents and positive attributes.

The scholarship adds to a number of scholarships St Thomas More College already offers to both new and returning students, explained Head of College, Tom Mitchell.

“We have a number of students who are very talented and make a valuable contribution, but who, for financial reasons, may not be able to stay at the College without support,” he said.

This scholarship will assist us in supporting these students and enabling them to receive the continued benefits that living on campus provides in the way of camaraderie, convenience and academic assistance.

From 2020, St Thomas More College has plans to further grow the scholarship and bursary program, which currently includes a suite of Cantenian scholarships, STMC Council Scholarships, the SJ Scholarships and Rogerson Scholarships.

Applications for 2020 scholarships are now open, and are processed independently to College applications.

Further information is available on the College website under Admissions.

FOUNDATION MEMBERS



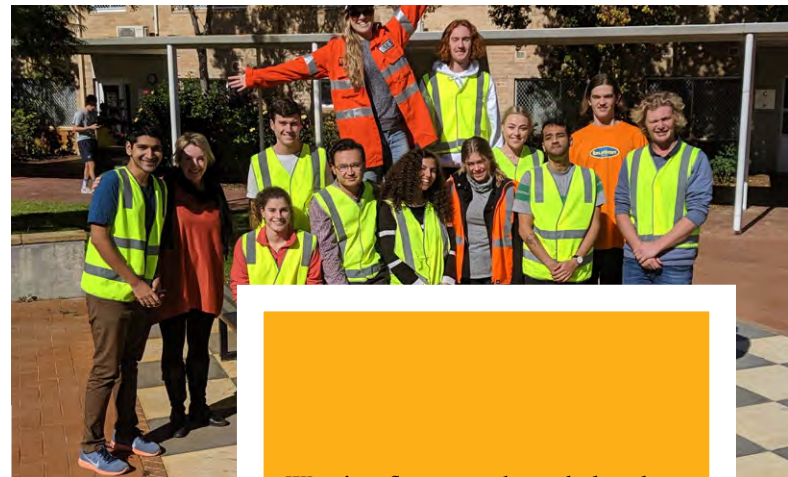
John Hallon's Studio, 1106 Hay Street

Back: B. T. Walters, B. M. Chesson, R. A. C. Wittenoom, M. Sampson, A. J. Monaghan, P. G. Cole, P. L. Machado, M. R. Kuhlmann, P. T. Seaman, K. G. Bartlett, J. Kordis.
Centre: J. J. S. Meddemmen, J. P. Bana, F. Fischer, N. C. Bullock, E. G. J. Dobson, T. P. Bowen, I. G. Ralph, V. Di Lollo, J. A. McCarthy, F. J. Vlatko, L. W. Rampant, P. A. Smith.
Sitting: G. J. Cullity (c), J. K. Walsh, P. M. Buck (c), T. M. Heenan (c), P. B. Kirby (c), Rev. Fr. J. E. Begley, S.J. (Dean), Rev. Fr. C. P. Finn, S.J. (Rector), B. J. Singleton (Senior Student), K. J. Hammond (c), J. A. Bevan, D. J. G. Punch, P. J. Shanahan (c), K. S. Lazaroo.
Front: A. J. Groessler, L. A. Gardiner, M. S. Chew. Absent: D. A. McCallum.

Showing our solidarity for our Muslim friends following the NZ Mosque attack.



Our Outreach and Social Justice Residential Advisor, Eloise Pascoe hosting the Worlds Greatest Shave, which raised more than \$4,000 for Leukemia.



Wearing fluoro to acknowledge the contribution our SES volunteers make every day, one of whom is medical student, Gaby Nel.

Tommy More staff coming together for the Feast of St Thomas More.





MEMORY LANE MORNING TEA

Alumni from the 80s and prior came together on Thursday 24 April to reminisce over morning tea at the inaugural Memory Lane Morning Tea, an event the College hopes will become an annual affair.

Alumni had the opportunity to catch up, as well as meet current students at the College and learn how life (and rooms) have changed since their college days, and were later provided with a tour of the campus to see the new development.

The current students in attendance were in fits of laughter as stories of past shenanigans and inter-college rivalries were shared, and the best-dressed award went to Kim Holmes who wore a very well-maintained Tommy More T-shirt from his time at Tommy More.

Manager of Marketing and Alumni Relations, Robyn Birkin told attendees that the College was working hard to maintain a connection with all alumni by improving the Tommy More database and providing more events to allow people to come together.

She also revealed plans of St Thomas More College to further build connections amongst past students.



ALUMNI

COFFEE CONNECTIONS 1:1 MENTORING PROGRAM HAS TAKE OFF

In 2019 St Thomas More College has aimed to provide the opportunity for Alumni to become more involved in College life. After all, for many it is their Tommy More experience and friendships that have endured.

In addition, the College has also sought to enable students to access more of the wide expertise available within the Alumni community, to network, and to increase their employability.

The Bright Breakfast series has been a runaway success, however it is in the 1:1 Mentoring Sessions that students have had the opportunity to chat directly with a mentor in their field about industry and job-specific questions they have. This has also given students who are studying smaller courses such as Political Science and Zoology that might not be featured as a Bright Breakfast, the chance to receive insight from Alumni.

The 1:1 Mentoring Program at the College is unique in that it involves a single, laser focused coffee chat. In providing this system, both Alumni and staff have the opportunity to connect with multiple people if desired, and Tommy More hopes to enable many more students and alumni to participate because of the low time commitment.

To date, the College has paired five students and hopes to pair many more in the second half of the year. We would be delighted to receive more alumni offers of mentoring, and in particular, are seeking someone in the field of physiotherapy (in a clinical setting) and psychology (in a law environment).

Further information is available through the St Thomas More College website.

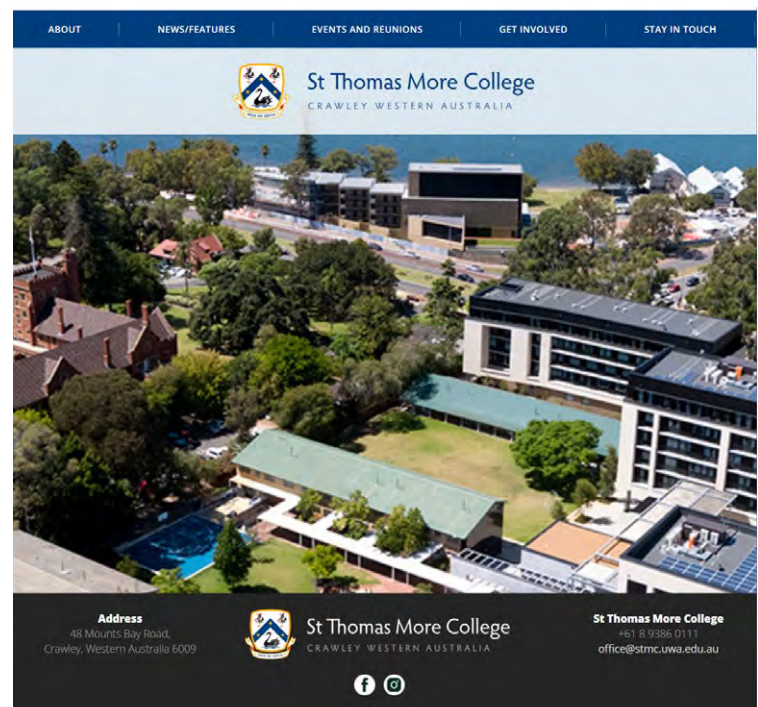
ALUMNI PORTAL COMING SOON

St Thomas More College is pleased to announce that our new digital Alumni hub will be launching soon. The new site will allow alumni to connect with one another, view the digital archives (which will be regularly added to), past editions of *The Utopian Magazine*, and support one another with a business directory.

“As time has progressed, naturally people change addresses and contact details, and we constantly receive word that there are alumni who wish to, but did not receive information of future events, not realising that we don’t have their details,” said Head of College, Tom Mitchell.

“This enables alumni to check what details the College has for them, and choose whether they would like to update their details to enable them to receive reunion and event invitations.”

If you would like to be one of the first to add your business to the directory, please email Robyn at r.birkin@stmc.uwa.edu.au.



REGENT RECEIVES JOURNAL ACCOLADE

Regent aspired to be a vascular surgeon ever since he was a medical student at UWA. He graduated with a medical degree from UWA in 2000, and went on to join the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons to undertake specialist surgery training in vascular surgery. During this period, he obtained a Masters Degree in Vascular Surgery from the University of Sydney in 2008 and took up an exchange training fellowship to Oxford University in 2009.

Whilst working at Oxford, he decided to pursue further postgraduate research training in the field of cardiovascular medicine. He was awarded a string of prestigious scholarships from the Royal Australian College of Surgeons, including the Surgeon Scientist Award, which enabled him to gain a DPhil in Cardiovascular Medicine. His doctoral research focused on the utilisation of proteomics/metabolomics techniques to discover novel biomarkers in different disease contexts. This led to a string of publications and the appointment as a clinical lecturer in vascular surgery at the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences of Oxford University. He completed his specialist training in vascular surgery and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons England.

The aorta is the major artery that pumps blood from the heart to the rest of the body. It should usually be the width of your thumb. An abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) is a pathological ballooning of the aorta in the tummy. When left untreated, an AAA continues to balloon. This can eventually burst and result in internal haemorrhage. Worldwide, about 200,000 people die from burst AAAs each year. To prevent death from burst AAAs, many countries (including the UK and Australia) has populational



AAA screening programs. A key challenge for vascular surgeons is to work out how fast an AAA will balloon in the future. Methods for AAA growth prediction will improve the care of patients.

Regent established the Oxford Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Study (OxAAA) with the primary ambition to develop new methods for AAA growth predictions. His team has developed a method which combines blood tests and physiological measurements to predict AAA growth in individual patients. His latest work was published in *Annals of Surgery*, the highest ranked journal in the field of surgical sciences. These innovative methods have also been captured by two international patents. His team is actively establishing international collaborations to test the efficacy of the novel prediction methods.

Congratulations, Regent.



ALUMNI NEWS

Greg Donnelly ('79 - 81) is now working and living in Sydney with his family, as a member of the New South Wales Legislative Council. He entered the Legislative Council in February 2005, and from 1986 until he entered Parliament, he worked as a Trade Union Official. He travels to Perth regularly to catch up with family.

Thomas Kilvan ('70s) is now living in El Salvador in Central America after spending 40 years as an international consultant who has worked in nearly all parts of the developing world in programs designed to promote improved economic well being and respond to the needs created by civil conflict or natural disasters. He has now published a book about his time, available on Amazon called *Foreign Assistance Across the Developing World: A Personal Account of 40 Years*, published in October 2016.

Ros Borong ('72-75) currently lives in the Australian Capital Territory and is a retired Australian DFAT Diplomat.



Bo from Denmark, Matt and Tony from the USA and Chesca from the UK all met up in Denmark

Kevin Lathbury ('80 - 81) following an engineering role at Chevron in mid-2016, Kevin spent time working in Collie, Karratha, Northwest Shelf and further abroad in exotic places such as New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Mauritiana in Northwest Africa. He now works with BP in Kwinana and very much enjoys going home to his own bed each night!

Philip John Hagan ('59 - 68) married to Patricia Adam, a fellow science graduate, by Fr Ted Storman SJ in the Tommy More Chapel in August 1967 and remained closely associated with the College until he and Patricia left Perth for Oxford in August 1968 where he completed his PhD thesis. He had been offered a post doc at the Nuclear Physics Laboratory, University of Oxford. While his formal subjects may



ARE YOU AVAILABLE AS A CAREER MENTOR?

We are thrilled that so many of our alumni are interested in contributing to the career development of our students through mentoring and we have a variety of options for staying involved. Visit our website for more details.

FOLLOW US



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CHOOSE YOUR HASHTAG
#TEAMTOMMYMORE
#HOMESWEETTOMMY

VALE

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of the following Alumni and friends, and offer our condolences to their loved ones.

Carlos Furtado ('58 - 63)
John Kobelke JP ('67-70)
Ronald Scherini ('89 - 90)
Fr Peter Toohey SCC

have been focused on science, it was in College, through the life long friends he met, that he was introduced to English Literature and choral and classical music which have enriched his life ever since.

They returned to Australia from Oxford in January 1974 with the first three of their five children to take up a position in the Federal Public Service in Canberra, fulfilling their wish to return to Oz to bring up their children as Australians. Except for a two year exchange posting in the Canadian Public Service in Ottawa in 1990-91 they have lived in Canberra since, never quite finding an opportunity to return to the West. Nor are they tempted anymore as all of their children and grandchildren are in Canberra, the Southern Highlands of New South Wales and Melbourne.

SHARE YOUR NEWS

We love sharing the news of our Alumni and keeping in touch - your articles and updates are a great source of interest to our past, current and future students. Wedding photos, career updates, achievements - we want to know!

Send us a photograph and your news to alumni@stmc.uwa.edu.au and let us know if you're happy for your news to be published in an upcoming edition of *The Utopian*.

DO WE HAVE YOUR DETAILS?

Don't miss out on news, networking events and reunion invitations for Tommy More! Make sure you keep us in the loop with your latest contact details - you can update them on our website or call us on 9386 0111.

SAVE THE DATE

4 August	Open Day	Check Facebook
22 November	Alumni Sundowner	Invites by email
8 March	The BIG Tommy Garage Sale	Check Facebook
22 April	Memory Lane Morning Tea	Invites by email

WOULD YOU PREFER A PRINTED VERSION?

Printed versions are available on request. To request a printed version, please email us at alumni@stmc.uwa.edu.au.



St Thomas More College
CRAWLEY WESTERN AUSTRALIA

48 Mounts Bay Road
CRAWLEY WA 6009

Telephone: +61 8 9386 0111
Email: admissions@stmc.uwa.edu.au
Website: stmc.uwa.edu.au

 [tommymorecollegeUWA](https://www.facebook.com/tommymorecollegeUWA)
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