

THE UTOPIAN

2019 EDITION | SEMESTER 2



More Friends

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St Thomas More College
CRAWLEY WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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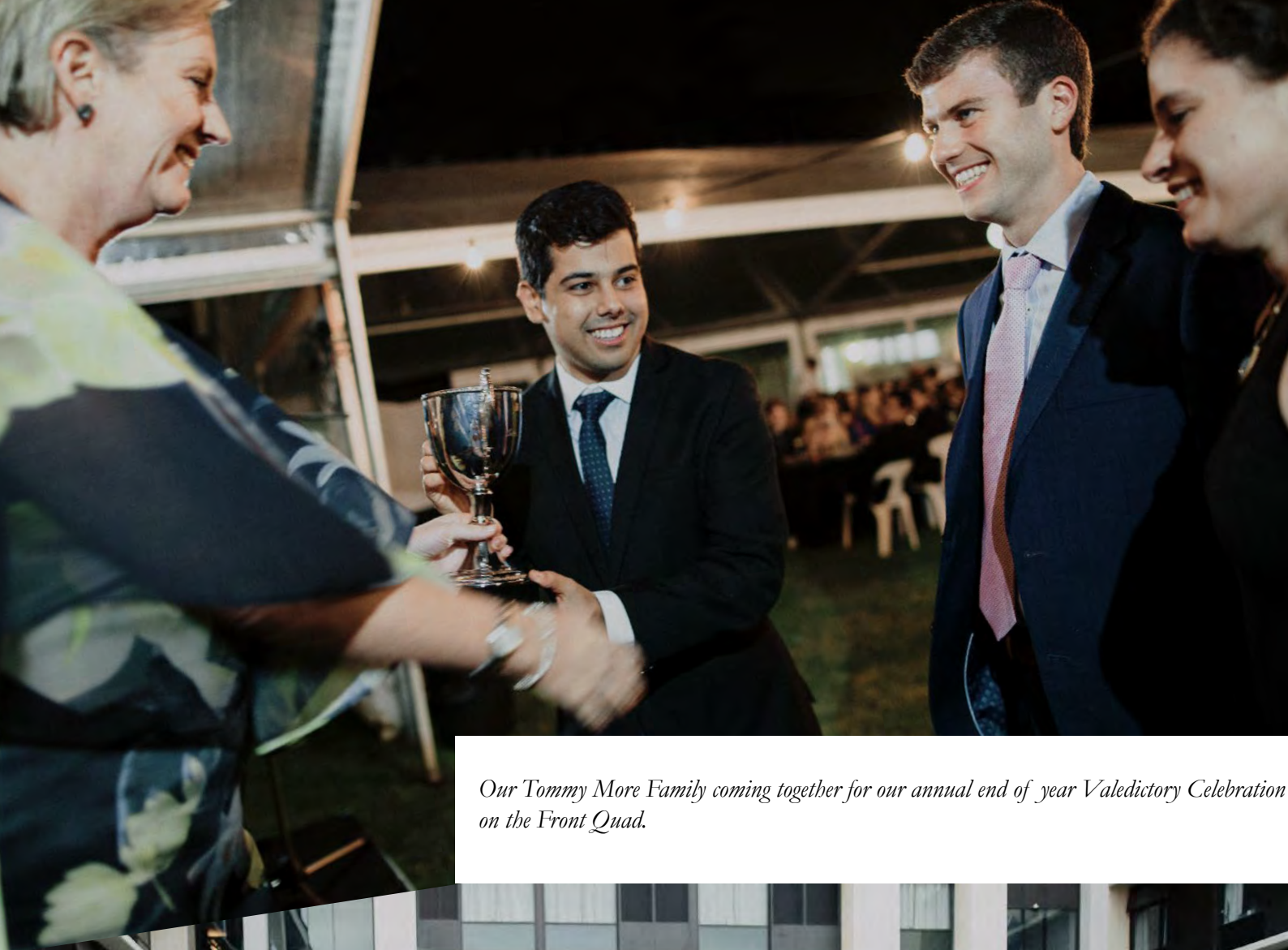
The Utopian is a biannual publication of St Thomas More College.

With special thanks to all residents and staff who contributed to this edition.

Cover Image: Anirudh Rangajaran, Sarah Hegney and Christopher Jones celebrating the next step in their journey at Valedictory.

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Our Tommy More Family coming together for our annual end of year Valedictory Celebration on the Front Quad.





HEAD OF COLLEGE

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 had 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 level.

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



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



WORD FROM THE DEPUTY

As many of you will remember, coming into college is a pretty daunting experience. Even if you do know some friends who are joining you in Orientation Week, one of the hardest things to do is to walk into that dining room wondering and hoping that someone you know will be in there and that you won't have to sit on your own.

After working in colleges for the past 11 years, I have seen firsthand the lifelong friendships that are made at college. These deep and long lasting friendships are evident years later at the weddings of alumni who stand alongside their college buddies as their bridesmaids and groomsmen. Living in college during these important years of learning how to be an adult, together with all the highs and lows that this brings can be made so much easier being surrounded by like-minded people and the opportunities that college provides.

Janice McCabe, an Associate Professor in Sociology at Dartmouth College recently published a book titled *Connecting in College: How Friendship Networks Matter for Academic and Social Success*. Basing her study on in-depth interviews, McCabe discovered that above all, students seek a good balance between their academic and social lives. The lines may often blur, but that can be good. Students check in with friends when they have a paper due, they study together and quiz each other, and they help each other blow off steam when the work is done.

Sound familiar?

The connection between loneliness and depression is obvious and why all of our programs here at Tommy More are based around building relationships and staying connected. You may have noticed that all of our Outreach and Social Justice events are designed to ensure our residents meet the people they are interacting with and have a chance to hear their story.

Our Leadership Programs are designed with an abundance of group work to enable students to widen their support network and form new friendships.

Some of you may have experienced me asking you to move to another table in the dining room so that you are not on your own. This isn't to make it easier for the kitchen staff to clean but to ensure you have the opportunity to have at least one meaningful conversation with another resident during your day.

Lastly, our Inter-Wing competition is designed to ensure you have the opportunity to get out of your room and comfort zone and compete with your neighbours or blockies.

Connection is at the core of what we do and Tommy More students have so many great opportunities to stay connected at college and to make those truly lifelong (bridesmaid type) friendships that last through thick and thin.

Bec Wood
Deputy Head of College

2019 TOMMY MORE FAMILY



FRIENDSHIP: A GREAT GIFT IN LIFE

One of my greatest treasures in life is my friendships. As I was growing up, my parents taught me that good friends are hard to find and should be valued. Later, I learned that friendship is a gift from God and people who come into our lives are not there by coincidence, but rather they are sent from God, who knows our needs.

I remember when I came to Australia as a Refugee from Malaysia after I escaped from Vietnam by boat. Coming here by myself with no friends, family or acquaintances was a lonely experience. I felt homesick for a long period of time but, through English school and the Catholic circle, such as the choir, acquaintances slowly became friends. Some of them became good friends.

They supported me both emotionally and materially. They helped me to get on with my new life here in Australia and with their support, I was able to continue and pursue my vocation in becoming a Catholic priest; a lifelong dream and the reason I fled Vietnam. Had I not escaped, life would have been very different for me.

One of the things that stands out very clearly to me and it is an undeniable fact, that if I did not have such incredible friends, who loved me and supported me throughout the years that I have been in this country, I am sure, that I would not have been able to achieve the things that I have. I attribute my success in life to these wonderful friendships. They are God's special gifts to me.

I would like to share with you a story of a beautiful friend that I have. I met him when I was studying Moral Theology in Rome. He came to Rome from the United States, in order to attend the beatification of Fr. Francis Seelos, C.Ss.R (one of our Redemptorist confreres), whom Pope John Paul II beatified in St. Peter's Square in Rome on April 9, 2000.

His name is Binh TA; he is also a Redemptorist priest from Houston, Texas. From the moment we met, somehow we clicked. We talked and shared quite openly about ourselves, our interests and hobbies, and our ministries as priests. During his time in Rome, I remembered the first thing I did was to introduce him to the taste of baguettes (a long thin loaf of French bread) and blue cheese, which we ate and drank with

red wine. This was something new to Binh and he really enjoyed it. I also took him around and showed him how beautiful Rome is, so I became his tour guide of sorts.

Later on, near the end of 2000, Binh invited me to visit him in the city of New Orleans, Louisiana. We had a wonderful time while we were working together at our Redemptorist Community in New Orleans. We also took time out to visit other famous places in different parts of America. Five years ago (2014), we were able to meet again in Seattle, where I visited my eldest sister's family. Luckily Binh was there as the local superior of the Redemptorist Community in Seattle, so I was able to catch up with him once again. This time, we decided to visit New York to see the Statue of Liberty and the beautiful city of New York.

Although, both of us live on different continents and are very far away from one other, we are somehow still connected and close. Whenever we have a chance to speak on the phone with one another, we feel so happy. We reminisce about all of our beautiful stories and memories that we have built over the years. We do love each other with a brotherly love in our priesthood and as close friends we support one another, especially when one of us may feel a bit down, due to the pressure of our life or due to our ministry.





I thank God for the beautiful friendship that I have with Binh and with many others, whom have been very significant in my life. My close friends mean a lot to me, and I will always uphold and treasure their friendship.

Friendship is a gift, a wonderful gift from God, but they do need to be cultivated and nurtured, so they can grow beautifully. Please do not take the gift of friendship for granted; treasure it with the utmost care and respect.

Fr. Peter Tran



Those of us, who are fortunate enough to have met Fr. Peter Tran in life, know that we have been given a special treasure, the rare gift of friendship. He is genuine, insightful and kind-hearted. Though he faced so much adversity in his early years, both in his motherland, Vietnam as well as in Australia, he has more often than not seen life with a glass half-full mentality. That personal depth is rooted in his very strong faith in Jesus Christ and the Blessed Mother Mary.

With such foundational traits and more, Fr. Peter turns many strangers into life-long friends. He loves his friends and really takes time to cultivate friendship with them, lifting them higher and helping them better themselves. As the great poet Ralph Waldo Emerson once penned, “the only way to have a friend is to be one.” And Peter, for me at least, is a friend. A true, loving and loyal friend! When I first met him in Rome, Italy more than 19 years ago, we instantly clicked like old friends and the rest is history. Though we are half a world away, our friendship lasts. I like the following quote from an unknown source, “Good friends are like stars. You don’t always see them, but you know they’re always there.” Perhaps that is the best description of our friendship. It may be in geographical distance but never in heart and mutual support. So, it doesn’t really matter how long ago since we last saw each other, our conversation instantly picks up on the topic where we left off the last time. It is magical.

I’d like to summarise our friendship with three simple quotes: the first from Eleanor Roosevelt, “Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.” Another from Helen Keller, “I would rather walk with a friend in the dark, than alone in the light.” And, the last from Proverbs (27:9): “A sweet friendship refreshes the soul.”

I indeed thank God for refreshing my soul, through my dear friend, Fr. Peter Tran.

Fr. Binh TA

NAIDOC WEEK

From 12 - 18 August, St Thomas More College was thrilled to hold its first NAIDOC Week to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture here at the College.

Although NAIDOC Week proper was held from 7 - 14 July, this coincided with student holidays and hence the decision was made to delay our College celebration so that all students had the opportunity to participate.

Events and activities, led by Iesha Brown and other Tommy More Indigenous students included boomerang and necklace painting, bracelet making and a movie night. These events were very popular with our students, and we were pleased to see so many international students with a keen interest in learning more about the culture of the traditional custodians of our land. Our Indigenous students are proud of their culture and were even more thrilled with the response.

At the beginning of the week, a packed room listened intently as our Aboriginal students shared their culture, beliefs and values, gave an honest account of what life is like living as an indigenous student.

Profiles of our students were placed in the Singleton Recreation Room letting others know their family lines and heritage, and inviting other students on campus to come for a yarn.

Lastly, for the entire week, Chris and his kitchen provided some Indigenous flair with fusion dishes that gave students the chance to try ingredients such as kangaroo, crocodile and wattle seed. Crocodile and lemon myrtle sausages with roast onions and charred garlic, served with a chocolate and wattle seed self-saucing pudding anyone?





BEYOND STUDIES: CAREERS' WEEK

Participate. This was the core theme of the inaugural Careers' Week at St Thomas More College from 5 - 11 August, where students received first class support and alumni guidance into what steps they could take to stand out from the crowd once they graduate.

A common theme from all experts was that aside from good grades, what often differentiates star candidates is their commitment to extra-curricular activities, and in particular volunteer work such as Outreach and Social Justice Activities, as well as taking up leadership and mentoring opportunities.

Panelists commented that with the competitive nature of the job market, it is often these students who also demonstrate good social responsibility and being a team-player that secure employment following graduation.

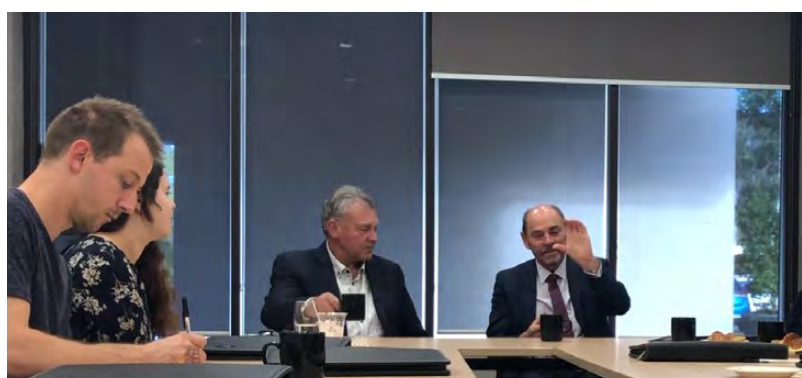
The week commenced with a Bright Breakfast, led by Head of College, Tom Mitchell, and Principal of Sacred Heart College (and Alumni), Peter Bothe. During the workshop, Tom and Peter, along with Manager of Marketing and Alumni Relations, Robyn Birkin, fielded questions from students about how to succeed in securing employment, all the way from the do's and don'ts of writing job applications to winning interviews. Students agreed that this insight was invaluable.

During the week, several guides on how to lay out, prepare and write applications, and interview well, were distributed to students and uploaded to the new student portal. A number of staff made themselves available to review resumes and cover letters for students, and several students chose to take up this opportunity.

Later in the week, St Thomas More College welcomed back alumni, Caroline Guimelli and Laura Tieri to talk about their careers in healthcare at a second Bright Breakfast. In 2019 just under a quarter of St Thomas More College students were studying a health related discipline, from psychology to medicine, sport science to nursing so it was a popular session that gave insight into securing employment upon graduation including alternate employment pathways, how to give a good impression and get the most from your practical experience, and how to effectively liaise with other disciplines and departments within your workplace.

Lastly, students had a fun session with members of St Vincent de Paul Op Shops and Community Services, who came armed with a rack of clothes to conduct a workshop with students, arming them with tips on dressing for success (on a budget).

The College is very grateful to the alumni who lent their assistance over the course of this week, and hopes to grow the event in 2020.



A CELEBRATION OF FUN, FRIENDSHIP AND FOCUS

A drizzle during the day couldn't dampen the spirits of students and staff who were excited to celebrate a year of hard work, friendship and achievement at the annual Valedictory Celebration on 23 October 2019.

On the one night of the year the entire College has the opportunity to come together, the Tommy More family enjoyed a delicious two course meal to reminisce on the year past at this annual tradition.

Father Peter Tran led a heartwarming reflection and students then gathered on the steps for the whole College photo, followed by hors d'oeuvres on the Piazza.

Deputy Head of College, Bec Wood, led the formalities, followed by Tom Mitchell, who introduced Charles Reddin as the President of the Student Club Committee in 2020.

Both Tom and Bec commended the leadership, participation and attitude of all students in 2019, through the various leadership positions on offer, as well as activities such as the 18 Outreach and Social Justice opportunities that students were involved in during the year.

Six-year veteran student Christopher Jones, who gave the Valedictory Speech, shared stories of his time at Tommy More, reflecting that his time here wasn't defined by a single experience, but rather that the 'Tommy More Experience' can be defined by lots of little moments in time.

Some of these moments included:

- Knowing that at Tommy a real mate is always around the corner if you need one.
- Being absolutely crushed each and every time Monkey refuses your love.
- Believing that Janienne is irreplaceable.
- Not caring that a bucket of water has just been dropped on your head from three stories high, because at least you were with your mates and that moment was forever captured on film.

The International Student Reflection was given by Salim Arsiwala, who mentioned the terrifying (yet brilliant, amazing and enriching) experience of first arriving at St Thomas More College, a College in a country so isolated and different... even from the United Kingdom where he had once lived.

Salim later told the audience that Tommy wasn't just a home away from home, but it became his home, and left with some parting words:

"If you are an international student like me, make the most of your time at Tommy. Don't be afraid of doing new things, meeting new people and embrace what this beautiful country and its people have to offer you. Tommy has and will continue to be a huge part of my life."

As usual, leaving students were presented with medallions and students who were graduating were inducted into the Eagles Society. The Collegians were announced and students then gathered around to watch a video of the past year, followed by entertainment by Comedic Hypnotist, Matt Hale.





Photo Credit: Eye Candy Photography

STUDENT CLUB EVENTS GIVEN A FRESH TWIST

2019 was a year to remember with the Student Club Committee doing the unthinkable with a number of unique and new events at Tommy More.

The year started with an action packed O-Week with many eager freshers ready to learn about life on College Row. Throughout the week, the Freshers participated in events every day that would help them learn and adjust to life away from home. The week ended with the traditional IC Fresher Festival where we placed 2nd in the Fresher Dance Festival.

Early in Semester 1, events such as the River Cruise (Good vs. Evil), Killer Week and Café Crawls were held and the community in Tommy was stronger than ever. Our sports teams had been giving their all each weekend and were doing Tommy proud. To finish the huge semester, we had the Thai-themed International Formal dinner, held in the final week of the UWA semester. Sean and his International Sub-Committee organised first class decorations, beverages, food and entertainment to suit the theme.

2.O-Week came around before we knew it and our Fresher Rep, Charles and International Rep, Sean took the lead in organising the week with the help of the 2.O-Week Sub-Committee.

This week was focused on international students and introduced them to what it was like to live in Australia and further away from home than most college students.

Semester 2 saw some huge inaugural events including an Open Mic Night in the Rec Room which had an impressive attendance, a Ship Wrecked themed ball held at AQWA and The Great Escape - Amazing Race style.

This year, The Great Escape wasn't just your ordinary scavenger hunt. It was The Amazing Race with bonus challenges in between. For the second year, the race finished with an Underground Party in our Underground Carpark where residents had the chance to dance the night away to music provided by DJ Sam Hobson and a silent disco. Along with the two dance areas, there was also a chill out zone, facilitated by Red Frogs for people who wanted to take it easy.





Thank you to Rukaya Msuo for organising such a massive and successful event that was enjoyed by all.



The Inter-College Battle of the Bands was yet again a great night at the Tavern and it gave everyone the opportunity to show some Tommy spirit in a friendly competition against the other colleges. Our band put on a great show after many hours of practising in the Student Club Room. A special thanks to Grace and Ben for organising the band and making sure they were in great form for the competition.

Alongside these events with a fresh twist were some classics, including Angels and Mortals week which yet again brought out the best in everyone and the Brownlow Night, a lovely evening that gave us the chance to recognise our sporting heroes within the College.



The End of Year Valedictory Dinner was once again a wonderful opportunity for the whole College to gather together and reflect on what an amazing year and decade it has been at Tommy More.

Thank you to the Student Club members for their efforts through out the year with organising events, sporting teams and photography for our residents to enjoy.

Good luck to the 2020 elected Student Club Committee. We look forward to seeing what you do next year.

Maggie Biffin
Student Club Committee President



SHIPWRECKED: THE TOMMY AQWA BALL

Students were greeted to a spectacular underwater scene for pre-dinner drinks at the annual Student Club Committee Ball, held at the Aquarium of WA on 24 August 2019.

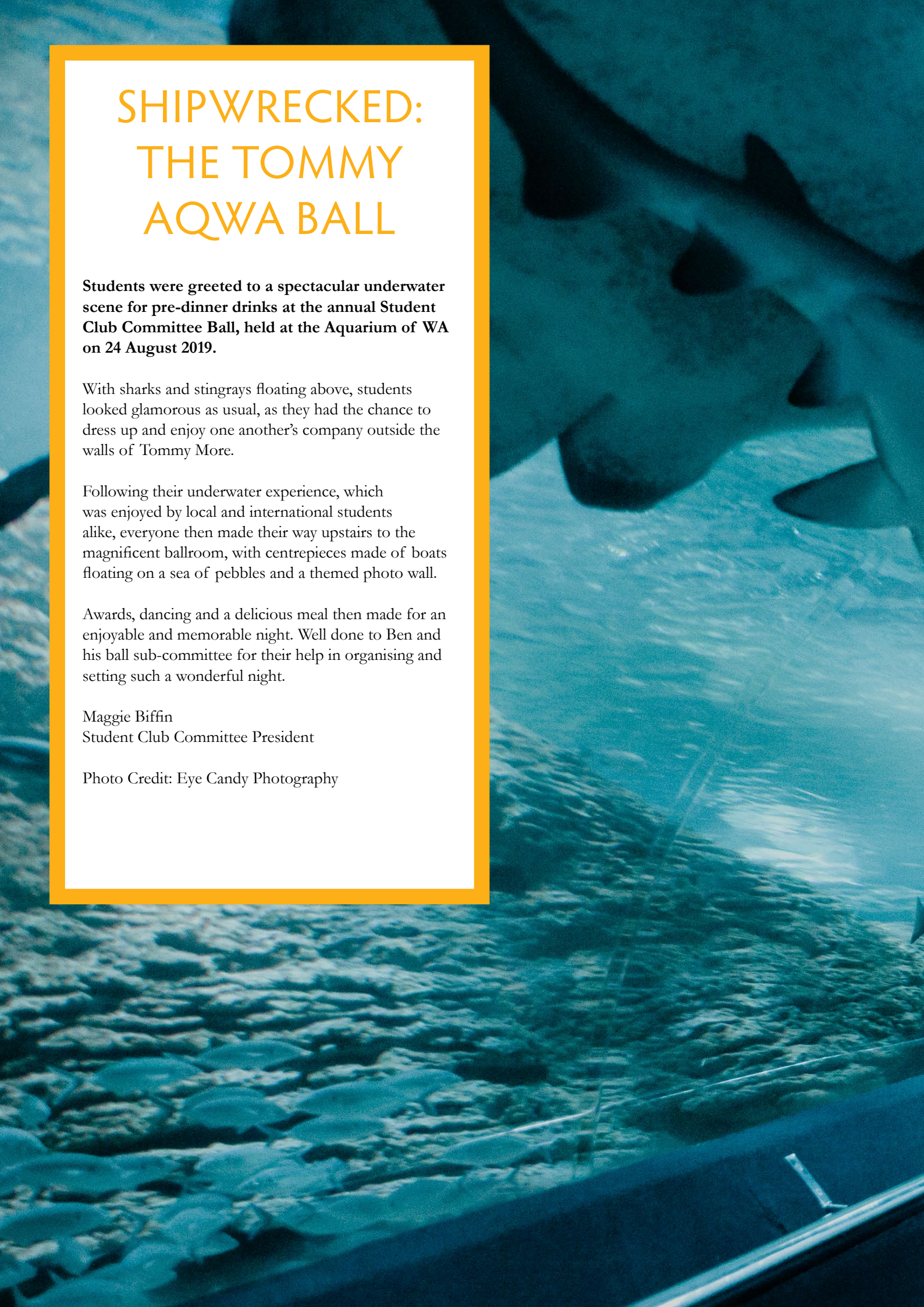
With sharks and stingrays floating above, students looked glamorous as usual, as they had the chance to dress up and enjoy one another's company outside the walls of Tommy More.

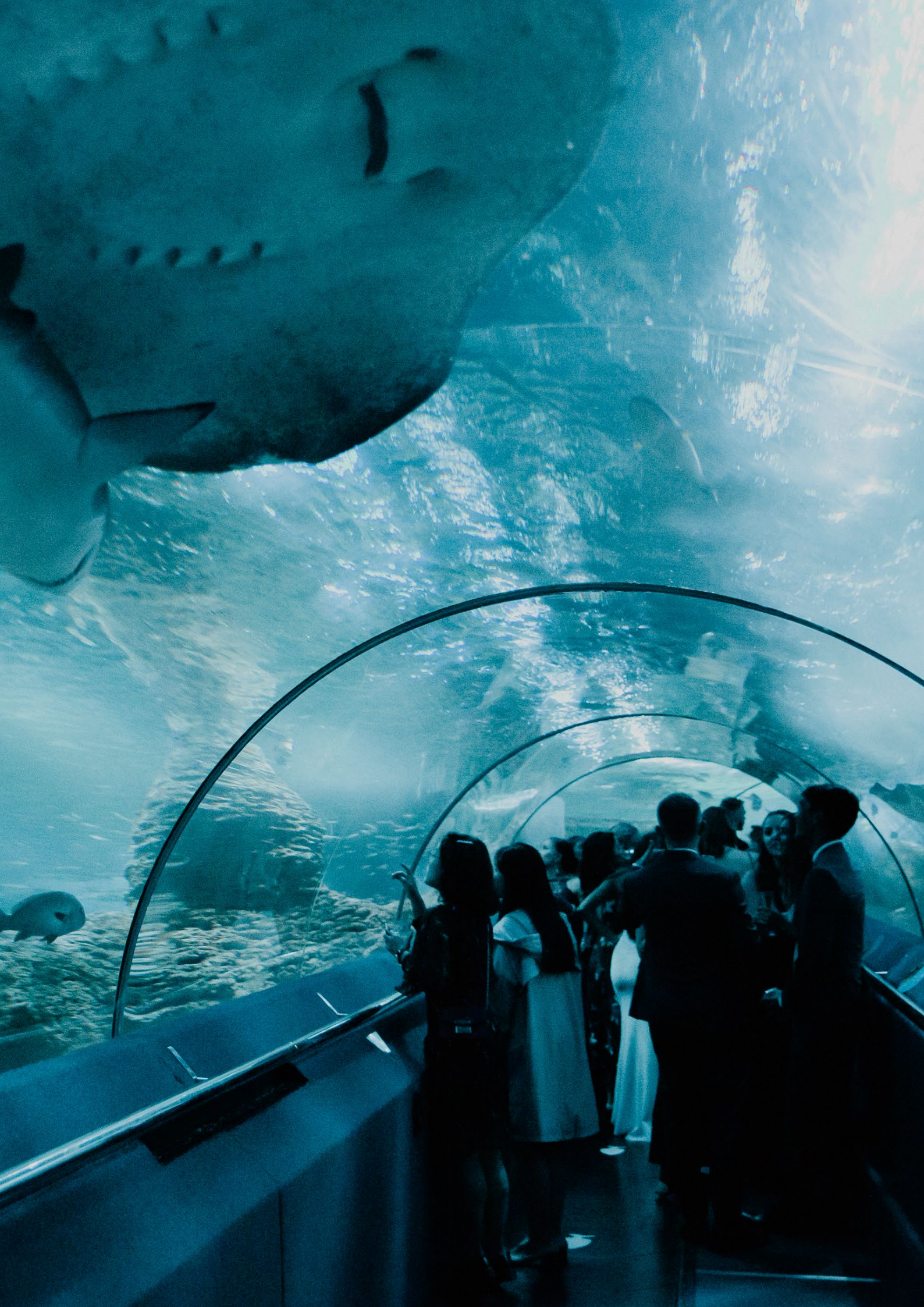
Following their underwater experience, which was enjoyed by local and international students alike, everyone then made their way upstairs to the magnificent ballroom, with centrepieces made of boats floating on a sea of pebbles and a themed photo wall.

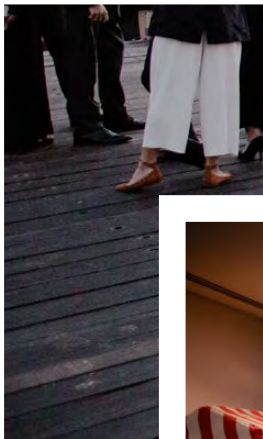
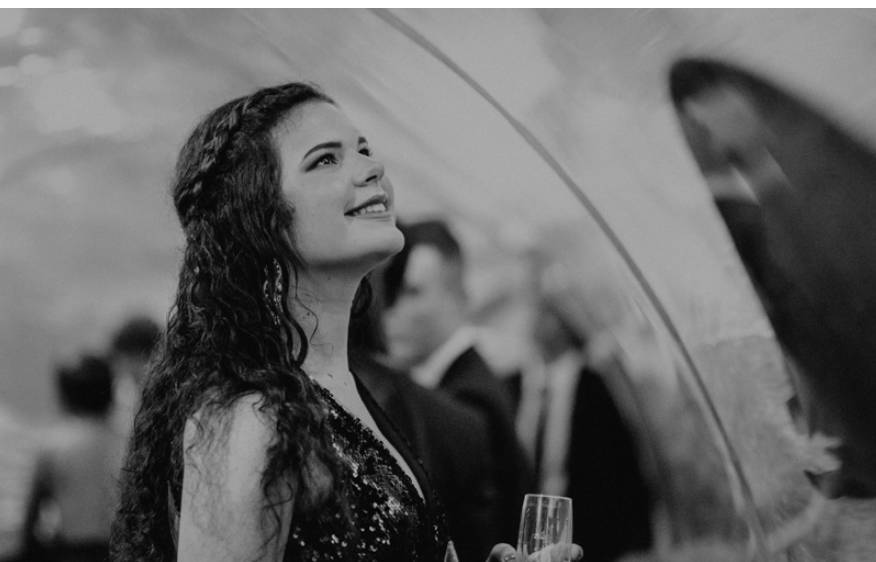
Awards, dancing and a delicious meal then made for an enjoyable and memorable night. Well done to Ben and his ball sub-committee for their help in organising and setting such a wonderful night.

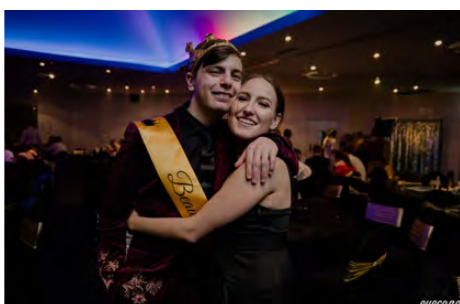
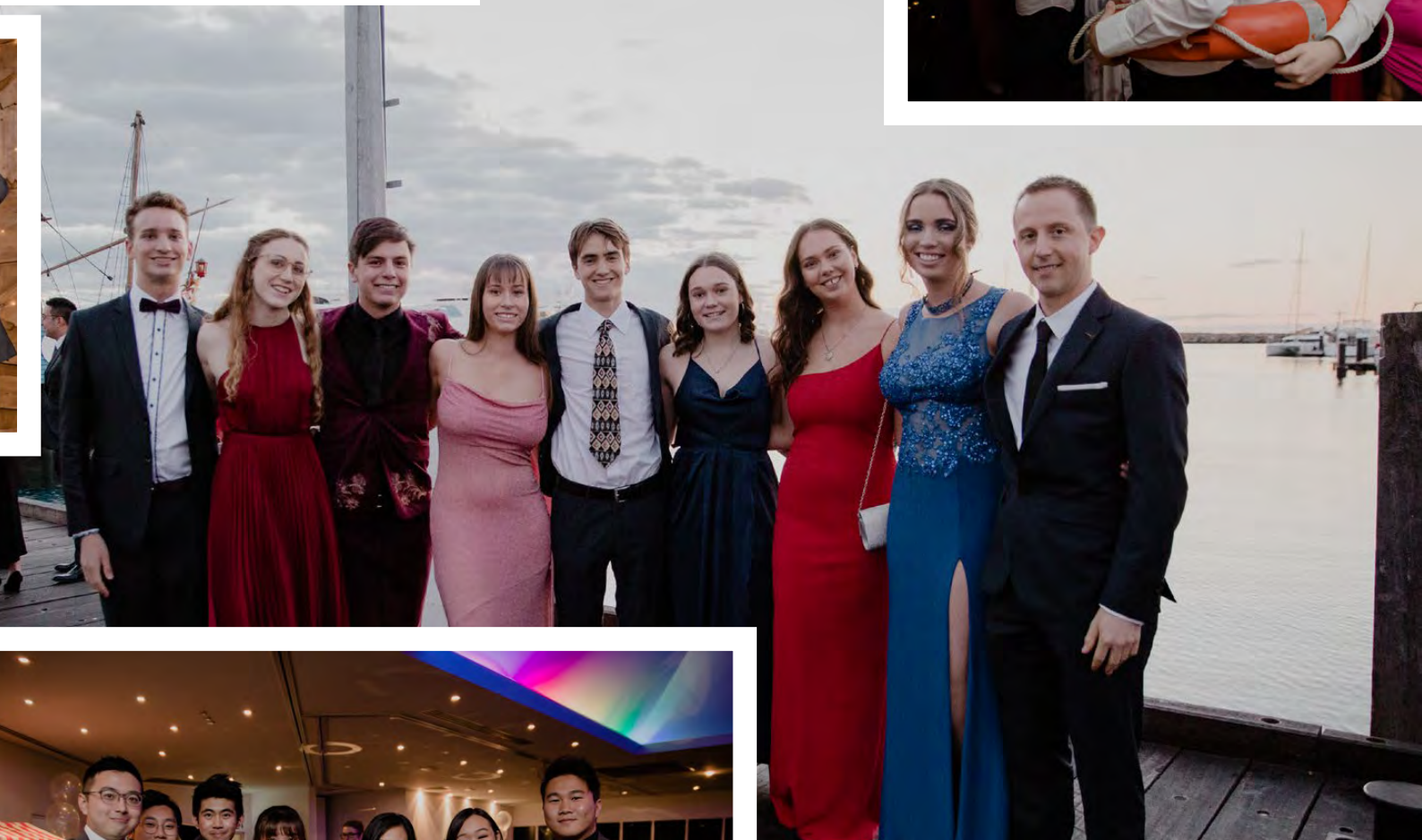
Maggie Biffin
Student Club Committee President

Photo Credit: Eye Candy Photography









OUTSTANDING IN OUTREACH




What a year 2019 has been for this ever growing and outstanding program.

The Outreach and Social Justice program grows, develops and improves each year and this year was no exception. As each new leader comes into this daunting position of Outreach and Social Justice Resident Advisor, they bring with it something new but we all have the same sole purpose of refining and building upon the strong foundations built and formed from previous years.

Tommy is increasingly recognised for going above and beyond in the community. This year St Thomas More College won the Residential Students Department (RSD) Community Cup. The RSD organises community events throughout the year including Relay for Life, Red Bull's Wings for Life fun run, beach clean ups, tree planting and more. Tommy had the highest number of participants and money raised overall for all 5 colleges which was an astounding accomplishment.

With the events that were fundraising based, Tommy as a collective raised over \$12,000 towards numerous charitable organisations in our community. For such a small number of people we made an incredible difference. Throughout the year it has been amazing to watch and witness so many acts of kindness, compassion and respect shown by our residents. Besides continuing and developing the programs established over the last few years, I introduced our (hopefully continuing) annual Pink Ribbon Lady's Brunch. This raised over \$1,300 towards breast cancer research. The day consisted of lots of food and drinks, incredible live performances from ex-Collegians and the St George's all girl a cappella group which was wonderful. There were games and raffles donated by many local businesses helping to make the day a huge success.



The Outreach and Social Justice Celebration Evening was our way to show our appreciation towards all the residents who participated in an outreach event throughout the year. We also invited special guests from the events and organisations we teamed up with. A representative from Red Frogs, Red Bull Wings for Life team and a member from Edmund Rice Camps for Kids all joined us for the evening. We awarded medals to those that went above and beyond at each major outreach event. The Outreach and Social Justice Award for 2019 went to Andrew Italiano for his commitment to each and every event he did and for the copious amount of extra work he did behind the scenes. Andrew is an amazing person. He approached every event and task I gave him with a smile and willingness to help.

It has truly been an absolute honour to be the Outreach and Social Justice Resident Advisor of 2019. It filled my heart with pride to witness each event organised for the College and seeing all the residents in their elements helping others and giving back. I have personally seen this make a difference to not just the people who are receiving the donations and help, but to see the residents gain appreciation and respect towards people from all walks of life. This program is hugely beneficial in so many respects. I thank Tom and Bec sincerely for all they have allowed me to achieve with this program.

Eloise Pascoe
Outreach and Social Justice Resident Advisor

Tommy is increasingly recognised for going above and beyond in the community.



2019 OUTREACH ACHIEVEMENTS

This year 18 events were organised, and each was a huge success. We had 98 residents participate in one or more of these outreach events throughout the year. That is over 25% of the student population volunteering to be involved!

These events included:

- Our first ever Big Tommy Garage Sale which raised nearly \$3,000 towards our annual Cambodia Collaboration. This was part of more than \$21,000 raised throughout the year to support vulnerable children in Cambodia.
- World's Greatest Shave that raised over \$5,000 and had seven residents shave their heads, six boys wax something from a leg to a chest, and three dye their hair all to raise money and awareness for the Leukaemia Foundation.
- Red Bull's Wings for Life Fun Run which was very popular.
- The famous Ronald McDonald House visits which allowed 60 residents to cook for and entertain the families and children staying during their difficult times at the Perth Children's Hospital.
- HBF Run for a Reason assisting with distributing water on the half marathon leg.
- Organised blood drives which were an inspiration. 16 residents donated blood or plasma to the Red Cross Foundation. Just one donation can save up to three lives, so all up those residents saved up to 48 lives.
- A Pink Ribbon Breast Cancer Brunch.





TOMMY SPIRIT REMAINS STRONG

2019 was a year filled with zest, skill and participation culminating in the End of Year Medal Count, The Brownlow on 18 October 2019.

On the Brownlow Evening we revisited the sports played throughout the year awarding votes to the best three players in each sport. The male and female with the most overall votes would win the Brownlow medal.

A wonderful opportunity to dress up, the annual event gave us the opportunity to acknowledge those who have shown dedication above and beyond others within Inter-College Sport. There were many awards for spirit, along with dedication and finally the best and fairest overall.

The Tommy Spirit Award went to Shae Richardson for

continuously showing her dedication to Tommy, often answering early Sunday morning calls to join a team when spaces needed to be filled. She participated in an amazing 11 out of 14 sports.

There was a Tommy Moron award presented to a male and female athlete who attended most trials and dedicated countless days to Tommy sport. They may not have necessarily polled in every sport but their drive and dedication was clear. For 2019, Bronte Mitchell and Andrew Italiano received this award.

The Rookie of the Year award was awarded to Indi Quinlan and Adam Khong for their outstanding commitment and sportsmanship shown throughout the years events. These two were some of our most reliable athletes and were always available when needed most.

Lastly, the night concluded with the announcement of the Male and Female Sportsperson of the Year.

Sportsman of the Year was awarded to Lachie McLean who displayed outstanding sportsmanship and skill throughout the year. His multi-talented ability allowed him to poll in almost every sport but notably, it was his volleyball skills that shone with him taking out Best and Fairest.

Sportswoman of the Year was awarded to Monsoon Money who was a late contender for the award, only polling once in first semester taking out the best and fairest in ultimate frisbee. Her participation increased in Semester Two which did not go unnoticed, polling in almost every sport including netball for which she took out Women's Best and Fairest.

2019 Inter-College Sport was a great success, with the skill that Tommy is so well known for on the sporting field.

Our women finished in an overall second and the men took home the trophy. This was achieved through having the highest number of participants on College Row and always having a full team early Sunday morning ready to go for a day of competition.

This year has been a fun filled and successful year for Tommy Sport, we would like to thank everyone who participated or came down to support.

Ewan George and Nell Eastough

2019 INTER-COLLEGE PLACINGS

	Men's	Women's
Tennis	2nd	5th
Netball	3rd	2nd
Table tennis	1st	1st
Badminton	1st	4th
Touch	3rd	1st
Basketball	1st	4th
Dodgeball	2nd	1st
Volleyball	2nd	5th
Ultimate	1st	4th
Soccer	1st	3rd
AFL	2nd	1st
Swimming	3rd	3rd
Hockey	3rd	3rd
Cricket	2nd	3rd

	Mixed Sport
Swimming	3rd
Cross Campus	2nd
Netball	4th
Tennis	2nd







Live on Campus at University
Live at Tommy More
St Thomas More College offers 400 standard

NOTRE
DAME

NOTRE DAME
STUDY CENTRE



Alex McKay, Eloise Pascoe and Lachie McLean representing St Thomas More College at the University of Notre Dame Open Day.

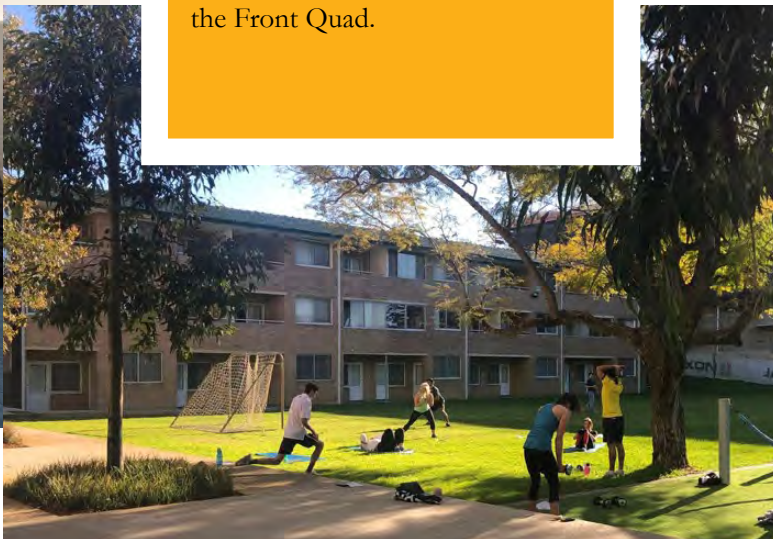


Jessica Fenton, Charles Reddin and Nicholas Quinn were the deserving recipients of Catenian scholarships and bursaries. Congratulations, Jess, Charles and Nick.

Students experimenting with light photography in the bike store to create memories of college.



Left: students using the refurbished Hickey Learning Centre.
Below: Bec Golder leading a gruelling morning HIIT session on the Front Quad.



SUNDOWNER SUCCESS

As always, it was a pleasure to welcome more than 65 Tommy More Alumni back to the College for our annual Sundowner.

Former students who studied at the College prior to 2015 were invited to the Dining Room on Friday 22 November to catch up with one another and learn about recent developments at the College. The night is always a fun occasion with many laughs and stories of college times.

Manager of Marketing and Alumni Relations, Robyn Birkin recapped the progress Tommy More has made in the last 12 months in developing programs and systems to allow Alumni to maintain their connection with the College. Initiatives included the Memory Lane Morning Tea (a new annual event for Alumni who were at the College in 1980 or prior), the Alumni Facebook Group, new Alumni Portal, as well as a variety of group and 1:1 career mentoring opportunities between students and Alumni.

Head of College, Tom Mitchell, then discussed ways in which Alumni can get involved, including the announcement of a forthcoming Endowment Fund.

St Thomas More College is often approached by Alumni who are keen to contribute towards scholarships for students who require financial assistance to study at Tommy More. Additionally, a number of our neighbouring colleges are already running well-established funds. In short, in order to remain competitive, we must develop our offerings.

Until now however, the College has not had the resources to properly develop and manage the ability to receive funds. For the past two years, behind the scenes, the College has worked in consultation with a number of former Student Club Committee Presidents to plan how a scholarship fund might look and function, and from May 2020, we look forward to touching base with Alumni to discuss more details about giving back.



5 WAYS TO STAY INVOLVED AT TOMMY MORE

Spread the Word about Tommy More to Others

As happens over time, some members of our Alumni have dropped off our communications. If you are still in touch with any of your Tommy More alumni group, please ask if they are still receiving emails from us and if not, extend a warm welcome to them to visit the Tommy More website and update their details.

Attend the Tommy More Community Market

In 2019, St Thomas More College held the very first of our annual market to raise funds for vulnerable children in Cambodia. This is now an annual event and all alumni are warmly welcomed to attend, donate or even hold a stall, as well as sharing the details with your friends and family!

Our next Market will be held on **Sunday 8 March 2020, 10.00am - 2.00pm** at the Front Carpark at the College. Entry is by gold coin donation and all funds raised will support Lidy House and the Arrupe Centre. To read more about the event and how you can help visit: stmc.uwa.edu.au/community/tommy-market.

Put together a table for our Quiz Night

Together with Eddie Rice Camps, St Thomas More College holds an annual (very fun!) Quiz Night that raises funds for both Lidy House and the Arrupe Centre in Cambodia, and Eddie Rice Camps.

We would love to welcome some Alumni tables to this event!

The next Quiz Night will be held on **19 June 2020** and an email will be sent when tickets are available.

Become a 1:1 Career Mentor

Our students have commented that our Career Coffee Chats are incredibly valuable in helping students gain some real-world advice about the industry relevant to their studies from Alumni.

We'd love you to put your hand up too. Find out more at stmc.uwa.edu.au/community/alumni

Support our Scholarships Endowment Fund

St Thomas More College is pleased to announce that in 2020 we will be launching a Scholarships Endowment Fund and in the Tommy Spirit, we hope that many Alumni will put their hands up to contribute (even a small amount). This will help us to build a fund that will change the lives of our students by making our College affordable to those who may otherwise not be able to attend, or remain with us. More details will be released in mid-2020, however if you are interested in making a contribution sooner, please contact Robyn Birkin, Manager of Marketing and Alumni Relations at r.birkin@stmc.uwa.edu.au

UPCOMING EVENTS AND REUNIONS

Young Alumni Champagne Breakfast

Sunday 2 February

9.00am - 10.30am

\$20.00 per person

Students who left St Thomas More College between 2015 - 2019 are invited to a Champagne Breakfast. Invitations have been sent via email.

Tommy More Community Market

Sunday 8 March

10.00am - 2.00pm

All Alumni, Students, neighbours and friends of St Thomas More College are invited to join us in March for a special market to raise funds for our Cambodia Collaboration. Please see our Facebook Page for more information.

Memory Lane Morning Tea

Wednesday 1 April

10.00am - 11.30am

Alumni who attended St Thomas More College in 1980 or prior are invited to the College to catch up over morning tea. Invitations will be sent via email.

South-West Alumni Lunch

Friday 1 May

Ferguson Valley (or nearby)

Bernie Masters and Malcolm McAuley are organising the annual South-West Alumni Luncheon. If you would like to receive more details, please email Bernie at berniemasters@iinet.net.au

Eddie Rice and Cambodia Quiz Night

Friday 19 June

6.00pm - 10.30pm

Alumni are invited to put together tables at our annual charity Quiz Night to raise funds for Eddie Rice Camps and the Tommy More Cambodia Collaboration.



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

2 February	Young Alumni Champagne Breakfast	Invites by email
8 March	Tommy More Community Market	Check Facebook
1 April	Memory Lane Morning Tea	Check Facebook
1 May	South West Alumni Luncheon	Contact Bernie Masters
19 June	Quiz Night	Check Facebook

More details on Page 31

WHAT'S ON THE PORTAL?

We are pleased to announce that our long-awaited student and alumni portals are live.

Each have differing benefits, however they provide a secure portal for the different groups to view event photographs, connect with one another via email, update their details and RSVP to events.

Alumni also have the opportunity to view a number of photographs and publications in an archives timeline and search for lost members, while students have access to an ever-growing bank of professional and personal development training resources.

We look forward to further developing these resources that allow us to securely share photographs and information that may be of interest to you.

Please contact us at alumni@stmc.uwa.edu.au if you have yet to receive your login details.

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.



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