



THE UTOPIAN

2021



CONTENTS

2021 IN REVIEW

Head of College	4
Deputy Head of College	6
Father Peter Tran: Resilience in the face of Adversary	8
Resident Advisor's 2021	10
Student Club Committee	12
The Graduate Association	14
Outreach 2021	16
Health & Wellbeing 2021	20
A Fresh Perspective	22
Tommy Cambodia Market Day	26
NAIDOC Week	28
International Connection	30
The Social Calendar	32
The Sports Review	36
Valedictory Dinner	40
Bring On 2022	44
Celebrating Our Alumni	45
Save the Dates	46
Our Socials	47

Acknowledgments

Editor and Designer
Bonnie Meacock

Photography

Eye Candy
Trinity Mangano,
residents and staff

The Utopian is a biannual publication by St Thomas More College of the College events and happenings.

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

Cover Images: Strength through Unity

Student Club Great Escape - Scooby-Do Dressup Team



Please direct all correspondence to:

The Editor
St Thomas More College
48 Mounts Bay Road, Crawley
WA 6009

+61 8 9386 0111
b.meacock@stmc.uwa.edu.au



HEAD OF COLLEGE

2021 - A New Beginning

After an exciting but difficult redevelopment and growth phase that commenced in 2014, all at the College were pleased to reach our new capacity of 400 residents by Christmas of 2019. By the start of Semester 1 2020, we had turned away some 40 potential residents as there was “no room left at the inn”.

As fate would have it, the virus that would come to be known as COVID-19 had plans to thwart our new beginning as a thriving College at full capacity. We had no idea of the path ahead and the challenges that we as a College would have to face. However, with an outstanding staff and student body we have met the challenges and now it is time to get back on track. In many senses, I am seeing 2022 as the College’s New Beginning now and the signs are positive, albeit that many challenges still remain.

Not least of these challenges will be the logistics of handling COVID once our borders open. The College Management Team (CMT) has been very meticulous in keeping abreast of the way in which Colleges around the country and indeed the world are looking to tackle these same challenges. The CMT is confident in its approach and is looking forward to Western Australia opening up to the rest of the world once again.

Occupancy levels are expected to recover quickly once the borders are open. There are a good number of students overseas who are studying online and wanting to return to Australia and Tommy More once that is permitted.

Cambodia Collaboration 2022

Outreach has become a major pillar of who we are here at Tommy More. The outreach waters have run long and deep in the history of the College. It is one of the avenues provided to students to become “More than a Degree”. Some 40% of Collegians volunteered their time and energy to make a difference this year.

Even our fund raising for our friends in Cambodia has been strong in the absence of the extra funds travellers to Battambang would normally contribute. However, outreach is fundamentally about the relationships that are forged with those that we seek to help and that personal contact has been cut off with the necessary travel restrictions of the last two years.

Thankfully, there is reason to be optimistic about visiting our friends in late November 2022 to again compete with them in solidarity at the Angkor Wat International Half Marathon. This event is run in support of victims of anti-personnel devices such as landmines and cluster bombs. Tommy More sponsors the Arrupe Centre community to attend this event and also supports the young vulnerable people at the Lidy House Welcome Centre as they learn and grow into independent young adults despite their challenging life circumstances.

My optimism is not simply based on our vaccination rates and the direction international travel appears to be heading, but on the vaccination rates in Cambodia itself. Through strong Chinese assistance, at the time of writing, Phnom Penh is one of the highest vaccinated capital cities in the world.

The St Thomas More College Scholarship Fund

Each year the College endeavours to keep its fees as affordable as possible and we believe that Tommy More is the best value-for-money college at UWA. Nonetheless, there are always deserving, decent young people for whom College is out of reach financially. Currently, the College provides a small range of scholarships to assist such students, but we want to do more.

Many colleges around the country and certainly our peers on College Row here at UWA, have scholarship money sourced from the investment of donations, primarily from their Alumni.

In recognising this reality, the College has established a Scholarship Fund that will generate return through investment. The funds will be used to assist students in financial need to meet the costs associated with living at College. The value of this fund will likely become evident in the decades ahead however, it was felt that it was important to establish this fund now and create the opportunity for it to grow.

- Head of College, Tom Mitchell.



DEPUTY HEAD OF COLLEGE

Here we are again finished with another year. I swear time only gets faster and faster. I am so pleased that we have been able to share and make so many new memories as a College in 2021. Who would have thought we would be, almost fully prepared for every challenge that comes our way?

Speaking to my counterparts and friends in similar roles over east and around Australia, I am faced with the same response, "*you are so lucky over there*" and "*we are so jealous you are able to continue giving the experiences to students that make College living great.*" We must continue to understand that we are in this together and as the Tokyo Olympics 2020 wrapped up, it is important that we stand by their theme of *Stronger Together*.

Tommy More by true definition is a connection; *something that joins or connects two or more things*, and in our case, we connect people. We connect people to one another; we connect people to their studies, and we hope we connect people to their future.

As I walk around College grounds on a daily basis I am reminded of the bond our residents share with one another, the opportunity College living provides, the bond I get to make with each resident year in and year out and the bond we make with people from other countries.

We miss our international residents who reside with us from many places around the globe. From America, to England, to Norway, Singapore and beyond we are yearning for connection once again to the outer world. This connection we truly hope to see sooner rather than later in 2022.

This year has provided our residents with some incredible experiences and events. Our outreach program continues to grow and become a vital part of College happenings as our students get around providing support to the Ronald McDonald House and they step up to the plate when raising funds for different charities and causes.

Semester 2 is often a challenge for residents as they balance an enriching program that's jam packed with events, study and down time. All residents should be thrilled with the final months of the year as it was tackled head on and enjoyed thoroughly. I look forward to seeing what 2022 holds and can't wait to be joined by returners and the new freshers in February next year.

- Rebecca Wood, Deputy Head of College



Spirituality

John 17:20-26 (NRSV)

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one. 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. 25 Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Around 2pm on Wednesday, May 19th, 2021, I went from my office over to the chapel of St Thomas More College to find the Monstrance (the golden sacred vessel that displays the Blessed Sacrament during Eucharistic Adorations). After locating it in the sacristy, I opened the Lectionary and read the passage from the Gospel of John, chapter 17, verses 20-26 (see above), in order to prepare for my homily the following day at the University of Western Australia.

I then sat in the chapel and reflected on the Gospel passage. After some time in prayer, I felt deeply - at my very core - the unconditional love that God has enfolded me with in the past 60 years of my life: from the moment I was born, my childhood and adolescent years, when I entered religious formation in the Redemptorist Congregation, ordination to the priesthood, and continuing on into my life as a priest.

These past 60 years of my life have been marked countless times with the seal of God's love, through every important challenge on my life in my journey following God as His disciple. His love follows me unceasingly and ever remains with me, even in my human weaknesses: when my love for Him runs dry and lukewarm, or in moments when I haven't been my best self or lived up to what is expected of me... God doesn't abandon me, but continues to love me still and ever ready to forgive my flaws, heal my wounds, and embrace me back into my loving relationship with Him..

To be honest, it is impossible for me to count each of God's blessings in my life, for they are innumerable... but simply to recall them as I remember them and engrave them into my heart, so that I will never forget what He has done in my life. On Thursday 7th August, I was touched by his immense love once again as I read the passage of John's Gospel;

"I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me"
(Jn 17:23, NRSV).





I came to the deeper understanding that God's love for humanity, which includes you and me, is manifested in the love that He has shown for His only Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. As I meditate on this, I feel so blessed and fortunate that God the Father loves me with the very SAME LOVE that He has for His only Son. Upon realizing this, I immediately felt a force enfolding my entire body, as if wanting to protect and shield me; it actualised within me a deep sense of joy and serene peace.

As the French writer Victor Hugo once said, "The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved, loved for ourselves, or rather loved in spite of ourselves." Everyone desires happiness and to be loved, for no one is able to truly live without (or lacking) love. A person who doesn't love (or be loved) may be physically alive, but spiritually dead.

Hence, I truly felt so blessed, for I have at least more than once in my life, experienced God's immense and everlasting love, and it is from this same love which motivated me to respond to His invitation to be His disciple by sharing in the gift of His priesthood, which I received 27 years ago (1994-2021). I continued to silently sit there in the Chapel before the Blessed Sacrament, and savoured the sweetness of His unconditional love for me in spite of my unworthiness...

It is also this same love that compels me to give myself each day in the proclamation of the Gospel - The Good News: that God loves humanity and desires to save us all. Christ desires for us to be with him in His heavenly kingdom, as He implored to His Heavenly Father, "Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world" (John 17:24, NRSV).

I am always convinced that after our earthly journey, we will all be reunited with Christ, our most venerable and compassionate Master/teacher, in our heavenly kingdom, where we will be able to see the Glory of God, to gaze at God himself, face to face, and share in His everlasting joy and eternal happiness.

I would like to share with you this special spiritual experience in order to give thanks to God for his great love to me and to the many blessings that He has given me in my life till present. I will never forget His love that is unfathomable to me. All I want to do is to give my entire life to Him and to love God and His people with all my heart.

- Rev. Fr. Peter Tran





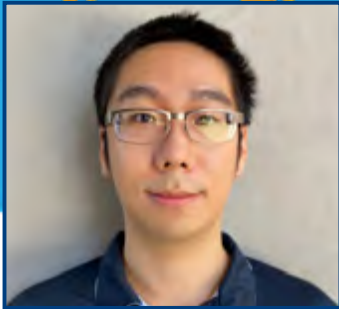
SRA & RA's

Luckily enough Tommy's lifestyle has reset back to normal (most of the time) after the hectic 2020. I am glad that the new students from this year and last year (especially last year!!) have had the opportunity to be involved in this wonderful family and participate in various kinds of events organised by our student club and admin. Sadly, we have not had many students from around the world this year due to the COVID situation, but we want you to know that you are always welcome at Tommy no matter who you are and where you come from. We look forward to seeing you as soon as the international border opens!!

I was also very happy seeing the new RA team work together to support the current Tommy residents in the best way they could, assisting the student club with many awesome events, helping Tommy Morons with lockouts at 3AM, answering all questions that came their way about living at Tommy, being a mentor for residents and listening to their concerns and needs... You have done so much for Tommy, my RA team! Well done! I am proud of you all!

- Sophia Li, Senior Resident Advisor.

2021 RA team



HAOCHEN ZHAO
BACK WING



VIVIENNE NOONAN
BACK WING



LAURA PARKER
BACK WING



RACHEL FERNLEY
FRONT WING



ADAM KHONG
1ST FLOOR



LILY TROVATO
2ND FLOOR



BEN KIRKE
A BLOCK



JAMES GRANGER
GROUND FLOOR



ANDREW ITALIANO
3RD FLOOR



CASEY SHIELDS
3RD FLOOR



ARCHIE HALL
4TH FLOOR



SOPHIA LI
5TH FLOOR - SRA



SHAE RICHARDSON
MIDDLE WING



PAUL SCHILLING
MIDDLE WING



BAILEY EDWARDS
HEALTH AND WELLBEING



DARCIE BOWDEN
OUTREACH AND SOCIAL
JUSTICE

Student Club Committee

New year. Fresh start. More fun.

It feels like eons since the start of the year, but the happy memories of O-week are still fresh in my mind like yesterday. Highlights included a petting zoo, chippies by the beach, winning big at the casino, initiating new freshers into the Tommy sisterhood community at Girls Night (I don't know, what happens at guys night, you're going to have to ask Kyle) and to top it all off, the freshers marched down to Matilda Bay to win gold with a kick ass fresher dance! This Mumma hen could not be prouder of the wee little freshers who have brought so much life into College, it wouldn't be the same without you guys!

To kick start semester one, the Welcome dinner went off without a hitch. We enjoyed the summers sun, good food and fantastic company as we wined and dined into the night.

Our resident Irishwoman did not disappoint for the St Patricks Day River Cruise event! Surrounded by good vibes and copious amounts of Guinness, it was safe to say it was a jolly good time! The spacey jane #robbed meme flooded our group chats following the lipdub screening at UniHall. Apparently "Rollin' On the River" and a flying drone showing a unique 'Tommy' wasn't enough for the top spot, but I think it was epic and definitely deserved gold! In true style, Tommy More showed our lyrical talent at the Open Mic Night. Singers and musicians showcased astounding music and a cracking awesome band competing in Battle of the Bands - which led to some familiar faces rocking out some crowd favourites.

St Georges may seem like our rival neighbours, but I promise you, they are the friendliest bunch you'll ever meet. We held a mini soccer event on our quad, and it was lovely to see a sea of blue, yellow and red, getting along and having a good laugh.

If I had to choose my favourite event of the calendar year, it would have to be the Great Escape. The team dress-ups were hilariously accurate, featuring everything from Disney Princesses to Mystery Inc and chiefly Borat's moustache.

When COVID social distancing reappeared, we adapted a college favourite game to suit, and students got camera happy for Paparazzi Week. This is the week to test your friend's loyalty and is a game for the dedicated photographer ... yes, Facebook stalking was at an all-time high.

To wrap up the year, the International formal dinner was on fire! With a mariachi band, a Lion who gave us good luck lettuce and the best food of the entire year, what was not to love? This choc-a-block year was absolutely, epic! A jam packed second semester could not have gone any better and I thank each and every Tommy Resident for getting involved this year and enjoying what the Student Club had to offer. The ball was incredible, thank you Kyle and the other events throughout brought everyone together.

Lots of love and virtual hugs,

Zara Leusciatti, Student Club President

Your 2021 Student Club



ZARA LEUSCIATTI
PRESIDENT



KYLE BORLINI
VICE PRESIDENT



ROSE BOWDIDGE
SECRETARY



KURT CRUDELI
TREASURER



EVA CAROLAN
SOCIAL REP



MIA HOLBEN
COMMUNITY REP



SOPHIE LYNCH
INTER-COLLEGE REP



JAMES FORKIN
MALE SPORTS REP



KALIRA DOCHERTY
FEMALE SPORTS REP



TRINITY MANGANO
PUBLICATIONS REP



CHRIS WONG
INTERNATIONAL REP



WILLIAM EWART
FRESHER REP



The Graduate Association

Each year Tommy endeavours to provide a number of opportunities to our residents who are in their 3rd year of university or above.

The graduate association is an opportunity for these residents to connect and network with one another as well as our alumni.

Each year we host multiple GA Conversation Evenings in hopes that our older residents touch base and form connections with each other that will last as they venture into the workforce.

Outreach Formal Dinner





Outreach Throughout 2021

This year Outreach and Social Justice at STMC has been highly successful. As the Outreach Resident Advisor for 2021, I am truly humbled by the level of support and involvement of the college community this year. It has exceeded my expectations and I am beyond grateful for all the resident, staff and community support the program has received. As WA has now transitioned almost fully into a state of freedom, the Outreach program has capitalised and thrived on the opportunities this has provided. Not only have we had more opportunities to participate in events, but we are also reaping the rewards of a more economically stable state in terms of fundraising. The success that was shown in the first semester of this year made me even more excited for what the rest of 2021 had in store and it did not disappoint.

2021 Outreach Events

Ronald McDonald House Big Breakfasts

We were lucky enough to attend the House five times this year. The college hosted 'Big Breakfast' events where we attended the House and did a massive cook up for the kids and their families. We also bring face painting and colouring ins to the House to entertain the kids. Each time, we are given a tour to show the new team members the facilities of the charity we invest part of our program in. These events are the most popular in the annual Outreach calendar, with the spots filled up in minutes of being opened.

Wheelchairs for Kids

Wheelchairs for Kids is an organisation whose mission is to manufacture wheelchairs and distribute them to children in developing countries who require assistance with mobility. Through mobility, the vulnerable children, when given their wheelchair, are granted freedom and independence beyond a livelihood in which they are confined to the ground or bed. To create wheelchairs, the company accepts the pulley tops of cans to use as material in constructing the wheelchair. This initiative at college is implemented as an inter-wing/floor competition with a prize for the floor that collected the most pull tops by weight. Not only does this help children in need of mobility assistance, but it also contributes to local recycling initiatives and minimises the waste that goes to landfills. It also pairs nicely with the Containers for Cambodia project.

Containers for Cambodia

Unfortunately, where we would generally raise something in the order of AU\$25,000 for our Cambodia Collaboration, COVID curtailed vital fundraising efforts and those that would normally travel and contribute further funds have been unable to do so. As a result, we are well short of our target at a critical time. You will be well aware of the WA Government's new "Containers for Change" program, which we have adopted at STMC as a "Containers for Cambodia" program. There are currently collection bins outside the dining hall and in A and B block's bin rooms that students can deposit eligible cans into. With the help of residents, Tom and I have visited the depot in Shenton Park to deposit the cans throughout the year. Since implementing the program in October 2020, we have raised just over \$2500. All funds have been directed straight into our Cambodia Fund, which is pleasing to see considering last year's fundraising efforts were tainted.

Worlds Greatest Shave 2021

This year's World's Greatest Shave saw the event return to an in-person event after last year went virtual. The support shown by the college community was humbling, especially as this was the first big fundraiser for 2021. Between residents, we waxed, shaved, cut and dyed hair for the Leukemia Foundation. In total, we raised \$7,441.93, a fundraising effort that is the highest for this particular event at STMC so far. I was incredibly proud of all students who participated. A special mention also goes to James Forkin, who raised over \$3,000.

Cambodia Market Day

We were fortunate enough to have one of our biggest fundraisers for Cambodia, The Tommy More Market Day, on the 28th of March, which also aligned without open day. With the help of Bonnie Meacock, the staff and the outreach committee, the event successfully gauged support and awareness of our Cambodia Collaboration from current residents, ex-collegians, chapel members, staff, college row students, prospective students and their families. In total, the day raised \$4,842.57, an incredible effort rivalling last year's results. This event continues to be taken to new heights every year, and it is exciting to predict what could come of it in the future.

Cambodia Kings Park Half Marathon

The second annual Cambodia Run took place in May, with over eighty students, staff and alumni participating. Tom Mitchell organised the courses for different participatory distances, and a group of volunteers stepped up to help marshal and coordinate the event. As a result of the day, we raised a total of \$5,685.00 for the Cambodia Collaboration. As the event was such a success for a second year running, it is envisioned to continue in future years to contribute to the college's fundraising efforts for the Cambodia Collaboration.

Perkins' walk for Women's Cancer

The Walk for Women's Cancer is a 42km walk around Perth to benefit WA women's cancer research at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research. A team of students spent the day volunteering at this event across stations on Mounts Bay Rd and in Claremont. Although the weather was less than favourable, our students embraced it, cheering on walkers, supplying food, water, and boogieing away to inspire walkers to continue. It was a major success and will likely be carried forth as an event in the coming years.

Step Up to Breast Cancer

Step Up to Breast Cancer required us to step up and complete 10,000 steps a day to raise money for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. The team of five raised \$639.00, a fantastic effort. This is our second year implementing this event, and I am very proud of all those who participated.

Relay For Life

Relay for Life is an event run at different locations across WA, where participants run/walk a track for 24 hours. We had a team of almost 50 collegians sign up for the event, which was a massive effort. A few members camped out overnight, which facilitated a great team bonding and community experience, despite the downpours lasting all night. It was a very successful and enlightening event, and the college team raised a total of \$7,557.00 for the Cancer Council (WA), placing us second in the entire event. In addition, it made many on the team aware of the continued presence of cancer in our local community. I think many individuals were given a chance to pause and reflect on their own experiences with Cancer which was intrinsically rewarding in itself.

Telethon

We were lucky enough to have residents selected to volunteer at the Telethon Call Centre and the Telethon Family Festival in mid-October. I cannot express how rewarding this experience was for all involved, especially considering that it was a last-minute phone call asking them to attend for many. We got to interact with the wider WA community, be on TV, chat to Olympians, Perth Wildcats, West Coast Eagles, Fremantle Dockers and Australian Cricketers. The Telethon Kid's Institute provides opportunities to volunteer all year round, and it would be very rewarding to expand the Outreach program into this amazing foundation.

Residential Students Department Community Cup

The community cup is a competition between the colleges on college row, based on a college's volunteering and outreach work over the year. This year, it included PROSH, a food bank drive, which we won, relay for life, which we placed second, and the quiz night, in which we placed first. St. Thomas More College was lucky to retain the cup for another year, which we have held now since Eloise Pascoe's efforts as Outreach RA in 2019.



World's Greatest Shave ♡ *Relay For Life* ♡

This job is one I wish I could pursue full-time for the rest of my life. However, in keeping with the nature of the role, providing opportunities for growth in our Tommy community is integral.

I can safely walk away from coordinating the Outreach Program in 2021, knowing that we accomplished great things this year, and goodness, am I proud. Proud of myself and proud of all who have helped Tommy get to where we are today.

Although I am sad that this is not going to be my role in 2022, I am unbelievably excited to see what the program can achieve next year under the guidance of Ashleigh Kennedy as the incoming Outreach and Social Justice RA.

- Darcie Bowden, Outreach & Social Justice RA

♡ Containers for change



Ronald McDonald House



Telethon 2021





Health and Wellbeing

The Health and Well-being Program has grown immensely in 2021. We implemented a few new initiatives, along with optimising and improving on existing events.

The Inter-Wing Competition ran smoothly, and we saw some great competitiveness and sportsmanship. We also expanded the competition, involving more than just sport by running a Kahoot competition.

We introduced a new event, the “Quad Coffee Catch Up” which saw great success to start the year. We received a lot of great feedback and support for this new event, where people could spend a bit of time having a break and catching up with friends. We hope that this event can continue to become a frequent part of the Health and Well-Being Program for years to come.

We also increased the amount of awareness around many global health and well-being initiatives such as International Women’s Day, Women’s Health Week, World Mental Health Day, R U OK? Day and Harmony week. We received great responses and hope that this awareness can help to educate and inform our residents about the many ways they can help to make a positive impact on the health and well-being of themselves and others.

Throughout the year there is a lot of emphasis on competing against other Colleges and the Health and Wellbeing program is a great way to get Tommy Residents involved and supporting those these see daily. A step away from

Overall, the improvement we have seen in the participation of residents and the quantity of events has been significant and I couldn’t be happier with our progress. I hope that we can carry on with this growth into the following year!

Bailey Edwards, Health and Wellbeing RA





Fresh Perspective

For me college was supposed be a place for me to live and attend university, but It has proved to be so much more. So far college has provided me with so many opportunities to grow as an individual and meet new people. Whether that be through the outreach committee which I was lucky enough to be selected to be a part of, outreach events like Ronald McDonald house visits or the plethora of social events that we can attend at college like formal dinners and intercollege sport events. The facilities and staff at Tommy More make life living away from home amazing and such a breeze.

Chelsea White



College has provided me with so many opportunities to grow as an individual."

- Chelsea White

College life at Tommy More has been awesome! While transitioning into uni life can be super daunting, everyone at Tommy is really welcoming and friendly - whether it's your room neighbours, or the RAs and Committee members (who are super approachable and helpful).

There are also SO many opportunities to get involved in a whole range of activities, no matter what you enjoy doing (from inter college sport to volunteering and more). Not to mention, there are also a lot of beautiful spaces to study, or just chill out.

Shaun Thomas





Coming to college as a 17-year-old, turning 18 in May was a bit rough as I couldn't do many things that the rest of my fellow freshers and people at the college were doing. I made many great friends which I am still friends with now 6 months down the track. And still got to participate in many events held by the college such as the make-shift casino night, multiple formal dinners and other events and activities held during o-week and after. Tommy has provided me with a great start and access to a social life I wouldn't have had as a 17-year-old in private accommodation. For kids from small rural towns being part of a community is something we really enjoy and value and Tommy Provides a ready-made community to belong to. You can be as active as you want at Tommy community, but you know that someone is always looking out for you. Covid has really changed university campus life in lots of ways, so living in a residential college like Tommy helps fill the gaps that online life has created when it comes to social connections and networks.

I come from being at boarding school (Year 7 to Year 12) so being away from family wasn't too hard for me. But when I told my friends that I would be living at Tommy. My friends would ask "why would you want to live at a residential college, it would be like going back into boarding". Although boarding school and residential college have their similarities, for example, living near other people, sharing a bathroom, and eating meals in a dining hall. There is a whole list of differences that make Tommy so great. I have made many friends who all go to different universities, I am free to come and go from the college as I please (no need for sign out forms or reach forms), I have no bedtime or wake up time determined by someone other than me, and best of all from an ex-boarder point of view, no need to hand in your laptop or mobile phone.

Rowena Flanders

So far, my experience at Tommy has been an amazing one. During O-Week I made friends with a whole lot of interesting people as well as attending a series of well organised and fun events.

Throughout the semester the college offers a variety of tools and services to help us achieve our academic goals, including multiple study rooms and free tutoring.



I have immensely enjoyed by time so far at Tommy and I look forward to my future here.

Conor Tillbrook



"Tommy is like a family."

- Finn Mulligan

Before coming to Tommy, I was very quiet and liked doing thing on my own and then BAM! Orientation week is the best week of your life and the most exhausting from dancing to 11pm at night to running down to the lake chanting Tommy songs.

Tommy is like a family, protecting and sticking with each other when we go out to Cap S, to uniting against other Colleges in intense Dance battles. I am so grateful for Tommy and for the friendships I have made that I know are going to last for life.

Finn Mulligan



My time at Tommy More has been an incredible experience and I have really enjoyed the community and great social atmosphere at this college.

There are plenty of opportunities to meet like-minded people and make great friends. The social events are also very entertaining and have been very enjoyable to get involved in.

My hopes were high moving here and they have been more than met.

Nick Italiano



Tommy has been BRILLIANT literally since the first day! There's always so much going on each week to get a part of, and the culture is unreal.

I initially came here without many of my close mates from high school which I was nervous about at first to be honest, but within my first semester I have found friends for lifetime who have cracked me right out of my shell. It's crazy to think what I would have missed had I noy decided to stay at Tommy and I have no doubt that I will remember my time here for the rest of my life."

Nick Duplex





Cambodia Collaboration Market Day

We often say here at Tommy, what sets us apart from the other Colleges is our Outreach and Social Justice program.

As you would all know the charitable efforts of our college residents, staff and the wider community is astonishing. 2021 has shown even higher efforts by those within the Tommy Community and our market day was the start of it all.

From students volunteering their time to help set-up the event, run stalls and pack down, to the very kind and generous donations of family/friends, sponsorship from some of our amazing business partners, the generosity of the Chapel Community and lastly to the attendance on the day, we were overjoyed with all the support.

This event is one we find brings the community closer together and provides an opportunity for people to come back to our grounds in a relaxed, fun, family friendly afternoon.



face
painting



NAIDOC Week 2021 - Heal Country

NAIDOC Week is a week to celebrate and acknowledge the original Custodians of the land we reside on. Held in July each year, Tommy endeavours to celebrate this with our residents and therefor hosts a separate NAIDOC Week in August.

This year's theme was "Heal Country". A theme that recognises the importance of needing to look after the land and the original custodians of Australia. A theme that means embracing First Nation's cultural knowledge and understanding of Country as part of Australia's national heritage. That the culture and values of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders are respected equally to the cultures and values of all Australians.

Tommy NAIDOC Week started with a relaxing paint and music night. This night was run by one of our Indigenous residents, Blake Griffiths. Many joined in on the night as it was a great way to get involved and start to generate awareness and understanding of the Aboriginal arts.

On Tuesday night, students gathered in the rainbow room to watch "The Sapphires" with an incredible Aboriginal cast as lead actors.

This year's guest speaker was Dr. Richard Walley. Dr Richard Wally OAM is a Nyungar man, one of Australia's leading Aboriginal performers, musicians, and writers, who has been a campaigner for the Indigenous cause. He delivered a workshop that received a lot of great feedback. Everyone who attended retained a greater understanding about indigenous culture, history and the problems and barriers they still face today.

A 'Tell me more' session was held by Blake Griffiths and was highly received by those who attended. He informed students of his heritage, taught some Aboriginal language, and showed us meaning behind a few paintings.

We then concluded the week with a Smoking Ceremony performed by Barry Winmar and held a Aboriginal quiz night that evening. The Smoking Ceremony was a lovely way to understand why they are performed as Barry explained the connection we share with the earth we stand on, the nature that surrounds us and cleansed our grounds of evil spirits.

NAIDOC Week 2022 will again return in similar fashion to this years events. A week of celebration, an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Stait Islander people to come together and be acknowledged for their many achievements within our Tommy community.



International Formal Dinner



International Similarities Outnumber our Differences

Last May, I had the privilege of organising Tommy's International Formal Dinner. I was glad that the guests enjoyed themselves with the eclectic menu and special feature performances. All of which, would not have been possible without help from the college's management, the chefs, and the Student Committee.

It was intentional that the performances comprised of one from the east, a traditional Chinese Lion Dance. And the other, from the west, a roving Mariachi Band. The choice of these two performances encapsulates how I see my role as the International Representative in attempting to offer a taste of international culture to the local Australian students and vice versa.

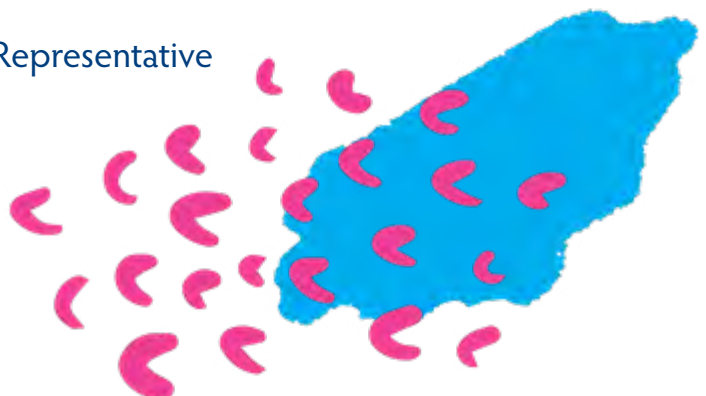
I have always been fascinated by the cultures of different ethnicities and nationalities. Coming from multi-cultural Singapore to an even more multi-cultural Australia, I am not only aware of the challenges this multiculturalism brings but also the opportunities. Being the International Representative has given me the chance to observe this dynamic up close and to think about it more deeply.

It is my opinion that certain prejudices one enclave harbour towards another can never be completely cancelled, but only kept to a minimum. I believe people are people and they will always have their biases. I include myself in that prognosis to. And have hence learnt to be more reserved and meagre with my own judgements.

I have been fortunate to experience little to no instance of this prejudice. Whenever people ask me whether studying abroad alone has been tough and whether I miss my family, I say not really. Because I have been blest with new family. The new friends I have met here have been nothing short of affectionate and supportive. Some even serving as surrogate father and mother figures.

Although we are different in many respects, I have learnt that our similarities far outnumber them. Because at the end of the day, we are all the human. And human nature is the same in every place, at any time.

- Chris Wong, Student Club International Representative



The Social Experience of the year

Hi! My name is Eva Carolan, and I was the social representative of the Student Club Committee in 2021. My job was to organise and run Tommy's social events, however this year has taught me that being on committee is so much more than the jobs delegated to your specific role. There's a whole other element to being on committee that allows you to get to know all your peers, get out of your comfort zone and create a positive, fun culture around College, and I could not recommend it enough!

I began my role this year with probably the most intense week of my life: O-week. Meeting 200 new Tommy residents can be quite overwhelming and having to organise events for them on top of this creates some chaos. It was safe to say I didn't get much sleep that week, but it was totally worth it! My favourite memory from O-week was helping Sophie (the intercollege rep) choreograph the fresher dance for the Friday performance.

We set sail into the first semester with our first event, The River Cruise. Since it took place a few days after St. Patrick's Day I thought I'd embrace my heritage through an Irish theme which included leprechauns, Irish jigs, and lots of Guinness. In terms of organising the event, it was overwhelming to say the least. However, it taught me the value of sharing the load, and Tommy's leadership team were more than happy to help wherever they could.

This emphasises how being on the Committee doesn't just mean you do your own job but you help everyone else out and get around other their events for support as it makes a massive difference to the person organising it, and I am so grateful to have worked with our team this year.

The night was a great success, and included eating pizza, watching the stars reflect off the swan river and dancing the night away thanks to the amazing tunes from DJ Sam. We saw some amazing costumes on the night, with winners including Nat Sloper as St. Patrick herself and Jesse Musitano as Oscar the Grouch. That was my only event in semester one but gave me insight into how intense event organisation can be.

The second semester was off to a racing start with my second event, the Great Escape. 9 teams dressed up in different themes and set off in the early afternoon for a day of games, racing and challenges along the way. This event made me so grateful for the Committee as they ran stations around Perth while I stayed home and organised the underground car park party which took place that night. From jumping in the UWA moat, burying friends in the sand, smashing 60 cent cones on foreheads and other fun quirky scavenger targets the videos posted throughout the day were great entertainment for the whole college to see.

The end of the competition saw the "Dads on tour" take out first place, "Hippies" coming in a close second and third being the "Scooby gang" who also won best dressed only because of how well Brent and Joel pulled off Daphne and Velma. Special mentions should go to the various Chris lily and Sacha Baron Cohen characters, the Disney princesses, and the cast of the hangover.

Everyone did an amazing job, and the good vibes were carried into the night. The underground car park party was an immense success thanks to DJ Sam and Camden for the music. Covering everyone in UV paint, dancing in the silent disco and eating fairy bread provided by the red frogs team were highlights.

My final event was my favourite, as I got to play cupid and wed two tommy residents at, the Wedding. After various cinematic masterpieces were posted showing proposals between freshers, returners, and RAs alike, Mia Holben and Riley York's video was the most popular. The ceremony commenced on a warm Saturday night as we ate pizza and listened to speeches from those in the wedding party. After locks were given to the boys and keys were given to the girls as wedding favours, everyone hopped into party buses, and lived happily ever after.

That pretty much sums up my year as social rep, and I would not have changed anything for the world. The stress writing EMPs, selling tickets and organising venues pays off due to the satisfaction you feel after an amazing event. I am so grateful for the leadership team always being there for me when I was in need of direction. To Bec and Tom for allowing me to run these events, the Red Frogs team for helping wherever they could and everyone at Tommy who got around the social calendar, thank you.

It really meant a lot and I cannot wait for next year as an RA and to help the committee wherever I can because I now understand the committee antics and need for people to jump on board where possible. I could not be more excited that Molly Bowles is taking over my role next year, I know she will be exceptional and keep up the positive college culture our committee helped maintain this year.

- Student Club Social Representative, Eva Carolan



TOMMY



Battle of the Bands



Our bodies are temples & we love sport

2021 Inter-College sport, what a ripper of a time! Here is a year in review from none other than your sports reps, James and Kalira...

We started the year with a great stretch of the legs for Cross Country, which proved to be a great hit amongst the over-eager freshers looking to make an excellent first impression. Again, we had the most participation and won first overall.

We streamlined our way through Swimming. Even with limited training, Travis Owen showed us that you can still win a freestyle race with rubber ducky budgie smugglers. Tennis proved to be a sport in which the males showed their actual skills. Nic and Michael were an unstoppable duo. The females, however, spent more time whacking the ball straight at the net.

We learned how to throw a Frisbee just in time to allow us to come first for men and second for girls. Rhys, Sophia, and Laura showed us how it was done on the field. We served up some great laughs in Volleyball, with Ruby Hodges managing to turn this non-contact sport into a contact one by breaking an ankle. However, the boys spiked their way to the grand finale falling agonisingly short of the flag.

Then the most brutal sport came along, Netball. The true white line fever came out front and centre. The boys dominated their way to an easy win, whilst the girls met their match in the final, but with Darcie's help defending a six-foot national all-star, we came away with the flag. The mixed also won, with Viv Noonan guiding the team to a clean sweep.

Then we had a short intermission to recover from injuries to ensure we started semester 2 on the right foot (not a broken foot, Ruby). Basketball opened the second half of the year's sports with men coming in second and the girls dominating again to come home with a win (payback for the one-point loss we had to Georges last year).

Dodgeball was our next hurdle to conquer, with some ripping biceps appearing during the competition. The girls once again were unstoppable. The boys showed just how competitive dodgeball can be but unfortunately fell short of the flag once again.





An unstoppable force was met on the Badminton court. Both the men and women genuinely earn their keep. Sophie and Ruby were the best double team we have ever seen, whilst Mitch went up against a national badminton player and lost by the skin of his teeth. Truly amazing!

Touch Rugby. 18, 980 steps, 15.6 kilometres, and one beautiful shiny gold for the ladies. You'd think the boys were a team full of Usain Bolts, also dominating their competition.

Now onto the sport that is one of the most competitive, Soccer. Whilst the men front up with a team of experience and white line fever, the girls, were consistent with previous years. Four people knew how to play, and the rest were just eager to run around like golden retrievers and do their best. Soccer, as always, had an epic turnout with significant participation and some great laughs.



We discovered some true Irish talent in Hockey, with Eva being coached on the rules as the game was being played and Kurt absolutely killing it for the men. Whilst Kalira and James couldn't attend Hockey, we thank Bonnie and Kurt for stepping up and doing us proud.

The perfect way to end this epic year of sport was AFL. Now, the females were walking onto the field with a three-peat hanging over their heads, and they didn't disappoint. They came out with winning margins of 86-0, which gave them their final season flag. The men proved that they could be as skilful as the females, giving us all the fright of our lives in the grand final. They came away with a four-point win with a kick on the siren. All there is left to say is one man, Jack Blechynden.

This year has been nothing short of incredible. The girls won 8 Flags out of 13 sports, and the males won 3 Flags. In addition, we won the mixed trophy and, overall, placed second. We couldn't be prouder! We thank all the athletes, spectators, and the Student Club Committee for all your support. Whilst we know no one can replace us as sports reps, we are eager to watch Ruby Hodges and Josh Pierce attempt to fill our shoes in 2022. These two, mean business, and we couldn't be more excited to continue our domination next year.

- Kalira Docherty & James Forkin ,2021 IC Sports Representatives,

IC Mens Tennis







Valedictory Dinner

We all have a different story of how we ended up at college, some of you are legacies - your parents or siblings came here, some of you chose it for convenience and some of you came because this is where your friends were going.

This is my story. I began my St Thomas More College journey in 2018. I made the decision to come here based on having stayed one week in high school for an ATAR revision course, and of course hearing Tom speak at my school found me applying in late 2017. My initial application was just for a place to stay for a year whilst starting my university journey in the city. I was lucky enough to get a studio room on third floor, room B331. Looking out onto the quad and the lovely trees which used to be there before the new St George's building appeared. Sound travelled up to this room and I overheard many conversations, let this be a tip to all of you who are staying next year, if you want to have a private conversation do it in your room!

In my four years here, I have not only managed to complete a double-major Bachelor degree but two thirds of a Masters degree. I have also paid hundreds of dollars in washing tokens, completed hundreds of hours in volunteering, held 4 leadership positions, completed countless lockouts and noise complaints, learnt 4 fresher dances (2 of which won the competition), had multiple conversations in the dining hall and have made some of the most valuable connections, friends and family imaginable.

Most of you probably see me as the old middle wing RA who has either told you off for playing sport on the quad too late, let you into your room at an ungodly hour of the morning, put you to bed after a big night out, or asked you numerous times in the dining hall how your study is going. I reckon my middle wing residents see me as a slightly over-competitive soccer mum who will do anything to keep them out of trouble and even more to ensure our floor was winning all the inter-wing competitions.

My time at Tommy has led to many new and exciting experiences. I wasn't very interested in leadership in high school. Believe it or not, I was very timid and quiet. College has allowed me to come out of my shell, which I can assure shocked Tom a little. Whilst being here I have held four leadership positions including: IC Rep, RSD Vice President, PESA President and in my final year Resident Advisor. These positions have allowed me to gain an enormous skill set which will help me in the future. I've had the opportunity to go on two incredibly educational trips one interstate and the other international. I have enhanced my public speaking ability, my confidence, my skills in handling confrontation, interpersonal skills and much, much more.

2021 was a huge year for us all. Not only did WA host its largest event at Optus Stadium to date, the Tommy ball, but I guess the AFL grand final was okay too. However, it was no nail-biter like the IC Footy Grand Final was. We managed to bring home many flags on the sporting field - mainly thanks our sports people of the year. Ruby and Jesse absolutely crushing it out there and of course we can't forget Jacks game winning goal in footy - as we all know our body is a temple and we love sport here at Tommy.

We got absolutely robbed of winning a number of intercollege events this year but never the less absolutely crushed battle of the bands with our incredible musical talent, impersonating Tina and Ike turner to the max at lipdub and taking gold in the fresher dance. I never expected to see some of the RA boys doing the WAP dance on the front quad but it's all in the name of winning.

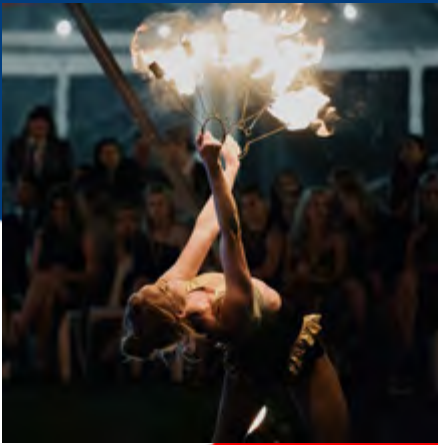
We saw some incredible secret talent at the open mic nights and look I will be hiring Eva and Tahlia to perform their rendition of "Love is an open door" for my wedding in the future. Eva continued to amaze us with an excellent performance at IC debating where she was unlucky to lose to Trinity College but taught us a good lesson: "If you don't like the dining hall food, you'll get fed off the banter". Kyle did an incredible job with the ball this year at Optus Stadium, honestly one of my favourite to date.

College has clearly taught me a lot about myself and who I want to be. Living at Tommy has given me skills and tools to take with me into the workforce and into becoming a better person but mostly it gave me some incredible people to hold onto for the rest of my life. To my closest friends thank you for being beside me throughout the past four years. You've never failed to bring me up when I am down, convince me to study when I'm deep into procrastination and helped inspire me to become the person that I am today.

To Tom and Bec, for providing me the opportunity to be an RA and allowing me to fulfill the role of security guard, plumber, electrician, big sister and nurse all in one night, as well as always supporting me through any personal road bumps which might have popped up along the way.

To the admin staff for keeping this place running, Janienne for always providing a hug when needed, the maintenance staff for fixing my dodgy middle wing pipes all year, the kitchen staff for making sure I always had a nice cooked meal and all the rest of you who have inspired me. Each and every one of you have impacted me in some way and I am forever grateful for this experience. I will miss Tommy immensely but I'll catch you all at the Alumni events in the future.







What will 2022 look like?

As we look back over the past couple of years and how things have changed, we can't help but wonder, what will 2022 really be like?

We have been very lucky here in WA to continue with life - close to normal. Now, as we open up, the uncertainty of living alongside COVID is generating feelings of being overwhelmed, scared, sad, confused and at times angry.

Will we be welcoming back our international friends to our shores early in the year? Will we be able to head to Cambodia in November? Will we have to keep preparing for lockdowns and the re-scheduling of our events?

The answer; we certainly hope so. What we do know is that we've managed to get this far and hopefully we can continue to enjoy what life throws our way. We are prepared. We are excited and we are nervous. College endeavours to provide an opportunity to students that most other living situations do not.

We provide a rounded and wholistic approach to the beginning of adult hood. An environment where parents can feel safe knowing their child is surrounded by likeminded people and that the best interests of their child is at the forefront of everything.

As we have seen COVID-19 is changing the way we work and the way we live. An ever-evolving situation where we don't know what will happen next. The good news is we have somewhat started to learn how to live with uncertainty and respond in a positive and productive way. We can see it all around the world. Countries adapting to what is happening and learning from one another.

In many ways we are closer than ever experiencing this global crisis together. We will plan another incredible year in 2022 and adapt as each situation unfolds. We must continue to move forward and experience what life is all about. We must continue to engage in our community and the communities that surround us.

In 2022 we look forward to meeting new freshers from here in Australia and around the world and to welcoming our returners home once more.



What are our Alumni up to?

Sean Dondas



Congratulations to Sean Dondas on receiving the ACT State Recipient, Young Australian of the Year 2022.

Sean is being recognised for his previous and current work as an integral member of the CanTeen Leadership Team. Throughout his time at CanTeen he has grown throughout multiple positions; Secretary, Vice President and President in Western Australia.

Later Sean joined the National Youth Advisory Team before being appointed a director on CanTeen's board in 2015.

Sean's input has helped shape decisions on a range of vital strategies including clinical trials, youth cancer services, community-based support and online-support

Engagement Congratulations

Congratulations to Alumni Lauren Ovens on her engagement to fiancé Haydan earlier this year. We hope you have a long and prosperous marriage together.

Alumni Sundowner 2021

On November 12th we held our annual alumni sundowner. It was our pleasure to welcome more than 70 Alumni back to the grounds for some chit chat, refreshments, and nibbles. The sundowner is a great evening to catch up on the progression of the college and to reconnect with past Alumni, finding out the journey and paths, those who started at Tommy, have taken.

We ask all those who did not receive an invitation to the Alumni Sundowner to update their details with us, either through the Alumni portal or directly to our Alumni email address. It is so important for us to remain in contact with you all and we hope to see you at our next Alumni event. Please note the dates listed on our Save the Date page.

Share your news

We love to hear about the things our past residents are up to and enjoy sharing them with the Tommy community, so please keep in touch. Send us a photograph along with 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?

Make sure we have your current details, so you don't miss out on news, networking events and reunion invitations. You can update them on our website or call us on 9386 0111.



Save the Date

March 27th | Cambodia Market Day

To all our alumni and the wider Tommy More community we invite you back to our grounds to enjoy a fun day in the sun. Our annual Market Day is again happening in 2022 with lots of stalls and entertainment for you to enjoy.

April 13 | Memory Lane Morning Tea

This event is for all residents who resided at Tommy between...

June 25 | Young Alumni Breakfast

This event is for all residents who resided at Tommy between

July 12th | Edmund Rice X STMC Cambodia Collaboration Quiz Night

If you are interested in attending this event please contact our Manager of Community Relations, Bonnie Meacock via email: b.meacock@stmc.uwa.edu.au

November 18 | Alumni Sundowner

All Alumni are invited to this event, and we hope to see many of you return to our grounds in 2022 to celebrate the year it was. This year we have picked the date early in hopes that those who weren't able to come this year can arrange to come next year.

Jump on and have a look at our Socials

Use the camera on your mobile phone to hover over each QR code. A link should pop up please click on it to be directed to the corresponding page.



Instagram



Facebook



STMC Website



Would you like to help us make a difference?

In 2021 we launched a scholarship fund in hopes of offering the opportunity to live on Campus to those who might not be able to due to cost. This fund will help us grow the number of scholarships we offer to future residents, making it more affordable to those in need.

The opportunity of living on campus is something we believe all first years shoud experience. Having the additional support and guidance throughout your first year of Univeristy whilst living away from home is an experiance that no words can truely describe.



St Thomas More College
CRAWLEY WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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

 [stthomasmorecollege](https://www.instagram.com/stthomasmorecollege)

48 Mounts Bay Rd,
CRAWLEY WA 6009
www.stmc.uwa.edu.au