WARDEN’S REPORT

In September of 2015 I joined Trinity as the eighth Warden, and it gives me great pleasure to join my colleagues to report on our accomplishments.

It was another successful year for Trinity, with strong demand for all our programs generating great optimism for the future of the College.

We also shared times of sorrow. In January, the Trinity community was saddened by the passing of young alumnus Rudi van Breda (TC 2011). In remembrance of Rudi, a keen sportsman who rowed for Trinity, the College Boat Club commissioned a memorial oar to be mounted in the Billiards Room. A memorial service saw a full Chapel with current students, alumni, Rudi’s friends and staff. In the midst of significant sorrow, it was a fine celebration of Rudi’s life.

We were deeply saddened by the passing of Professor Robin Sharwood AM, fourth Warden of Trinity. For over 50 years, Professor Sharwood, who had distinguished academic and legal careers, made an extraordinary contribution to the life and culture of Trinity. He was a Senior Fellow, an important advocate of the Theological School, and gifted to the College many precious pieces from his collection of fine art.

My colleagues will report more fully from their various divisions, but I am delighted to draw your attention to the following:

The excellent academic achievements of the students of the Residential College were equalled by their achievements in sports and the Arts. The College won the Intercollegiate Arts Shield, the men won the Cowan Cup, the women came second in the Holmes Shield, and the College overall came second in the Tickner Cup.

The Theological School, offering both online and face-to-face study options, and a faculty of national and international scholars, attracted strong enrolments in Undergraduate and Postgraduate Coursework, and the Higher Degree by Research Program. The Trinity community had unique opportunities to raise funds for the Theological School through events such as a viewing at St Paul’s Cathedral of Walk the Camino Way, an exhibition and sale of photographs, and the inaugural Archbishop’s Dinner.

The College continued to host an exceptionally vast range of events. We welcomed Lady Hale as the Caldwell Lecturer, and Kevin Rudd as the Rowan Williams Lecturer for a meeting of the Board of the Colleges of the Anglican Communion. We hosted dinners with the Minister of Trade, The Honourable Andrew Robb AO, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, Professor Glyn Davis AC, and the Federal Threatened Species Commissioner, Mr Gregory Andrews. Father Samuel Dow presented a preaching series on War and Peace at the Sunday Evensongs. Speakers included historians Dr Alan Gregory and Professor Geoffrey Blainey, peace activist Jessica Morrison, Principal of JCH Dr Damian Powell, and the Trinity Provost, Mr Campbell Bairstow.

In October, Trinity celebrated 25 years of our internationally acclaimed Foundation Studies program. The first intake of students in 1990 was just 56 students; more than 1,400 students commenced in the program in 2015. The original Executive Director of the program, Denis White, along with members of the program’s initial supervising committee, and Dr Rosemary Blight, one of the key program designers, were amongst the esteemed guests who celebrated the anniversary with hundreds of Foundations Studies students on the Bulpadock.

We continued to develop our programs for Indigenous students, supporting the transition into tertiary studies and hosting programs for secondary school students. The Bachelor of Science Extended program for Indigenous students commenced in 2015, which we trust will follow in the footsteps of the BA Extended, now in its seventh year. One of our resident Indigenous students, Rona Glynn-McDonald, was awarded a prestigious UN internship.

In January 2015, to celebrate the commencement of the construction of the Gateway, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, Professor Glyn Davis, had the honour of turning the ceremonial soil at the site. By the end of the year, the Gateway was well underway and on track to open as planned in July 2016.

As I reflect on 2015, I thank Provost Campbell Bairstow for his leadership as Acting Warden during the 18 months since Revd Professor Andrew McGowan left Trinity to take up an appointment at the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale.

For the support and warm welcome I have received, I thank the Chair, members of the Board and subcommittees, Fellows, alumni, staff and of course students.

All with best wishes, Ken