Leadership Centred on Community Service

Mr Christopher Jackman

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This year All Saints’ College celebrated its 140th Anniversary with a Ball held at The Carrington on Saturday, 1st November.

The Ball was attended by many ex-students and provided a wonderful opportunity for all present to reflect on the history of the College, share old stories and look forward towards the future of the school. It was a privilege to speak to some of the ex-students from Marsden School and All Saints’ College. Their passion for the school was evident in the way they spoke so fondly of their school experiences and their continued close relationships with school friends.

Mr Dick Crossing OAM, an Old Boy of All Saints’ College, was one of the guest speakers at the Anniversary Ball. Mr Crossing provided some fascinating insights into what the College was like in the late 1930s. He spoke about the hardships of being a boarder in those days where hot showers were only allowed after rugby matches. He recalled times when there was no glass or flyscreens in the windows of the boarding houses making it quite chilly and breezy in the winter months. His recollections of life back then made me think about the privileged life our All Saints’ College students lead today and how important it is to help them develop an appreciation for such a life full of opportunity and exciting experiences.

There are many opportunities we currently provide the students to support the community and we are always looking for more community service initiatives for them to get involved in. These activities aim to help students develop an understanding of the importance of helping those who are not as privileged as they might be. Our weekly visits to Macquarie Care Centre open the children’s eyes up to a large portion of our population that many of them would never get the opportunity to meet. The Macquarie Care Centre residents love their interactions with the students during their weekly games of Bingo together. The children always come away from this experience with an increased empathy for those in the later years of their life.

Fundraising events such as the Year 6 Fun Day and the Wacky Sock Day this year have enabled the Junior School students to give financial assistance to Daffodil Cottage and WIRES respectively. Raising the students’ awareness of the invaluable work such organisations partake in is just as important as sending in money and representatives from these organisations were invited to speak at our assembly. Operation Christmas Child, organised by The Reverend Tony Card, involved students supplying gift items to fill a shoe box that will be sent to children overseas. Gaining an understanding of how support can be given to people in need on a local, national and global basis is also an important lesson. With a greater sense of appreciation for how fortunate they are, hopefully our students will grow up understanding the need for them to provide leadership in the community which is centred on service and care for others. Schools should not just be about producing academics, athletes or musicians. Producing people who can contribute to society in a positive and supportive way is just as, if not more, important in today’s ever-changing world.