



### **Matt Street Dinner Speech**

Before receiving the Matt Street Scholarship, I was living in Newcastle and I attended the local catholic school. My family didn't have a history of going to private schools, so to be given the opportunity to come to Cranbrook was something new, but very exciting. I didn't know much about Cranbrook except for my Dad constantly reminding me, if you can't get a girl get a Cranbrook boy.

I met with James Street before attending Cranbrook and he left me with three valuable messages. These were, to completely invest yourself in everything Cranbrook has to offer, seize every opportunity and that lifelong friendships will be made. These messages seemed fairly distant and unbelievable at the time, but as my time at Cranbrook went by, they became more of a reality.

Opportunities presented themselves on a daily basis, enabling boys to discover their talents and excel in the pursuit of excellence. **Whether it be in the classroom, on the sporting field or outside School, Cranbrook maintains a great respect for individuality.** It values each student's uniqueness, tailoring their schooling life to their particular interests and capabilities. Boys are not simply manufactured through the production line that forces them to become great scholars or sportsman, each student is supported on their distinctive pathway, whatever that may be. Some of my best mates from Cranbrook were fantastic artists, musicians and performers which is an indication of the unique nature of the School. By receiving the Matt Street Scholarship, I was exposed to all of this, and much more. I wouldn't have received these opportunities elsewhere and I will be forever grateful for this.

Cranbrook also provided me with a number of memories and experiences in which I will never forget. A special moment which stood out to me was when Phillip Street watched my last game in the first XV. In an extremely under strength team, we beat Trinity in the last minute of the game. I talked to Hooky after the game and I felt very privileged and fortunate to be a part of such a great scholarship. I think this moment was a testament to the true significance of the Matt Street Scholarship and was a culmination of all aspects of Cranbrook. To be able to play rugby with 14 of your best mates and represent a great school is something very special.



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The tragedy of Matt Street's death hits home when you realise that he was a few years out of Cranbrook with his whole future ahead of him just like I am now. He made an outstanding contribution to the Cranbrook community and was set to make his mark on the wider community outside School, armed with all he learned at Cranbrook on and off the field. The parallels to my own journey aren't lost and I feel I have a similar set of skills and preparation for life after School courtesy of Cranbrook School. The Matt Street Scholarship gave me this opportunity and I think the scholarship has created an enormous legacy of Matts passing and hope that others can get the same benefit as I have for a long time to come

I know that many people here tonight were present at the last Matt Street Dinner in 2014 and I would like to say a special thank you to all of you for supporting the scholarship. Not only has the scholarship given me the opportunity to dive into everything Cranbrook has to offer but it has also provided me with unforgettable memories, lifelong friendships and valuable life lessons that extend well beyond the confines of the school grounds, so I can't thank you enough.

I'd also like to say thanks to James Boyd, Matthew Banes and Michael Hodge for the time and effort you've put in to helping me over the past few years.

And lastly, I'd like to thank David Bavin and Hooky for everything you do toward the Matt Street Scholarship. Thank you for organising this tremendous event and for the countless hours that you dedicate to the continuation of the Scholarship.

Thank you.