



Boarding

Cranbrook School's Boarding Houses are more than just a place to live, they are the beating heart of the School's community. The goal in providing a personalised and nurturing Boarding experience is achieved through the boutique nature and individualised approach to supporting each student. As a result, the boarders truly reflect the very ethos of the School, immersing themselves in every aspect of School life.

It is no coincidence the annual elected Head Prefect consistently emerges from the heart of the School. Richard Fogarty, Tully O'Regan and current Head Prefect, John Coleman, are recent examples of these Boarding House champions.

Under the guidance of Matt Banes and Bradley Gill, our boarding students flourish in all aspects of studies, sports, and social opportunities. The Boarding House staff understand the delicate balance necessary to ensure a student thrives, proven through the abundant Head Prefects which have come through the doors of Street and Rawson.

As a son and nephew of previous Cranbrookians, the choice of Cranbrook for Richard Fogarty (OC 1999) was a matter of when, never if. And at the culmination of his Cranbrook years, Richard was selected as Head Prefect. This position, alongside his active participation in the Boarding House of Rawson, saw Richard then and even continue to do so today, engage wholeheartedly with the Cranbrook experience.

Throughout his time at the School, Richard took part in various musicals and Sports. It was his Rugby 1ST XV Coach, and Deputy Headmaster at the time, Stuart Meade, who left a lasting impression on the former Head Prefect. Richard vividly recalls the question of "would the boy you were, be proud of the man you've become" being routinely presented to himself and his fellow students by Mr Meade. Richard professes that his words "have stayed with me well beyond School".

After passing through the Cranbrook gates for his final time, Richard was well-equipped for the enticing career ahead of him. Initially, he lived between New York and Sydney, working in advertising as he seeded an idea for his future career. Richard founded Concrete

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RICHARD FOGARTY

The K

Playground, an Australian-based culture website, about 12 years ago. Since its launch, Richard's brainchild is updated with daily content, has been nominated for a Webby, and Deloitte's Tech Fast 50. However, enduring through the past few years of Covid cultural cessation, feels to Richard as their "biggest achievement to date".

Despite his astounding career, the Cranbrookian still assigns "the hardest thing he has ever done" as his Year 9 experience of walking the Kokoda Trail with other members of the Cranbrook community. For Richard, the adventure was "hugely formative" and shaped the person he is today.

Another focal point of his time at Cranbrook was Year 12. As Head Prefect and living alongside his best mates, Richard strengthened friendships that have carried through with him, now more than 20 years later. In effort to gift back the invaluable lessons and relationships the School gave Richard, he continues to return for events, was an OCA Committee member and organised reunions for his own cohort.

His ties with the School will only strengthen as he anticipates becoming a Cranbrook parent himself in the near future. For Richard, "the incredible sense of community...and the finger buns are at Cranbrook the things you don't just come across every day."

As a legacy of his father Adam O'Regan (OC 1986), Tully O'Regan (OC 2019) always dreamed of Boarding at Cranbrook. The vertical living system assisted him in connecting with all aspects of Cranbrook life, and all ages of Cranbrook students.

Tully attributes the Boarding Staff to the man he is today. In true Cranbrook style, by the time of his graduation, Tully had embraced the diverse offerings of the School and pursued his unique personal interests. His passions for Drama and Music, alongside his advocacy for coeducation and consent were fostered by the Boarding Staff. They embraced his curiosity by providing him with exceptional resources and ample guidance to extend his talents and form his own educated opinions on difficult topics.

The Staff were especially instrumental in my latter schooling years as I began breaking away from the crowd and really fostering my own vision and beliefs. Our friendships have withstood the School environment and they continue to check in on me.

TULLY O'REGAN

The structure of the Boarding House ensured Tully had the freedom to extend himself beyond the insular gates of the School, advancing his personal growth while simultaneously providing him with a foundational level of stability to ensure success in all areas of his life.

The former Head Prefect recognises that "the passion the Boarding House Staff have for their students is unquestionable."

As a Year 9 student at the time, John Coleman (Year 12 2022), vividly recalls sitting on the floor of the gym as he listened to Tully's speeches. "I really looked up to him, he had such a genuine nature about him, and his speeches always seemed to leave a positive impact on all the boys, something I try to strive do as well". Tully's character influenced how John leads the School today. "His charismatic and earnest nature was infectious to the whole School, and his dedication to the School made him someone I will always be inspired by".

Like all Head Prefects who have come before him, John immerses himself in a wide range of Co-Curricular activities and additional commitments offered by the School. It is this extensive involvement which presents the diverse perspectives of the entire School community to John's immediate view, allowing John to converse and truly understand the feelings of all students and staff.

His participation in these abundant commitments is fostered by the curriculum and structure of the Boarding House. "I truly do believe that living at the School enables boys to be able to balance a busy and fruitful School life more effectively, and this is due to the convenience and support provided by the Boarding House". John said the "kindness, dedication, dignity and positivity that the staff members display everyday" is something he wishes to do with his own life. Hence John's decision to spend his own gap year working at a Boarding School in the UK after graduating this year.



Key to Success

A Home Away from Home

Year 12 boarder Koda Sissian's eyes were opened to a new world of opportunity after receiving the Matt Street Scholarship. His Cricket and Rugby prowess, alongside his strong academic potential and admirable character, were recognised and inflated by the Cranbrook Boarding community.

The quality of education, mentors, facilities and relationships he has developed at the School are unmatched to what he would have experienced at home. Therefore, in recognition of this rare opportunity, Koda prioritises saying 'yes' to everything.

Despite the comfort of his hometown Dubbo, each term, Koda looks forward to travelling back up Victoria Road to embrace the comradery of his fellow Boarding brothers. Throughout the length of his entire school journey thus far, the Boarding House has provided Koda with the underlying comfort and support essential to his academic and overall prosperity.

The Boarding House is Koda's harbour, retreat, and place of relief amidst the extensive commitments of Year 12. "The entire Boarding community create a warm, friendly and nurturing environment that truly feels like my home," he said.

Director of Boarding, Matt Banes, and his wife Sarah, have been raising the boarders, alongside their own four children, for the past seven years. Their personal and caring relationships with each student are core to the personal experience Boarding at Cranbrook provides.

Kaleb Ah-Colt is another adored face of Street House. Like Koda, his natural embodiment of Cranbrook's ethos gifted him the opportunity to attend the School under the RMG Scholarship.

While the Rugby programme was what initially enticed Kaleb towards Cranbrook, the rich variety of Co-Curricular opportunities available to him have brought out several of his other talents. Kaleb has discovered a passion for Choir Singing, Piano and Swimming, all while consistently remaining on the Headmaster's List for Outstanding Academic Achievement. The Year 11's achievements align with Matt Banes' vision of "seeking to foster and equip each student with the skills that will stand them in good stead for when they leave School". Kaleb relies on the companionship that the Boarding House provides. While he loves going home for the holidays, the family dynamic of Street and Rawson fulfil Kaleb's emotional support. Cranbrook Boarding replicates the nurturing environment of a home and for our boarders, is much more than just a place to live.

Although Sarah takes on the unofficial role of the 'Mother' of the Boarding House by baking every boy cakes for their birthday, sharing Supper Club fun around the dining table, or being there when a hug is needed, she believes that "the Cranbrook journey teaches the boys to be independent, responsible and always striving to achieve their personal best," she said.

We seek to foster and equip each student with the skills that will stand them in good stead for when they leave School.

MATT BANES



NICHOLAS STOUPAS, YEAR 9, AND KENRICK MONK, HEAD SWIMMING COACH



KODA SISSIAN, YEAR 12



JOHN COLEMAN (PICTURED CENTRE), YEAR 12, HEAD PREFECT



KALEB AH-COLT, YEAR 11

In Good Hands

The Boarding Houses present a harmonious balance of academics, sports, arts, and socialising tailored to every student. At the heart of this balance, are the resident Boarding Tutors, who, as mentors, are engrossed in the daily wellbeing of their live-in students.

Kenrick Monk accompanies the students from 5.30am pool or gym sessions in the morning, to final lights out at 10.30pm. His to-the-minute schedule ensures the boys achieve a healthy and sustainable lifestyle, guaranteeing every student who leaves his guidance is set up for a prosperous future. His typical Saturdays and Sundays reflect his commitment to the boys and their happiness. Transporting between sporting games, taking them out to dinner or the movies, beach trips, study periods, gym sessions and BBQ breakfasts are only a few of the activities he enthusiastically conducts.

As an Olympian, national record holder, Commonwealth Games and World Swimming Championship participant, Kenrick knows all too well the benefits of a balanced routine and healthy lifestyle, which he aims to demonstrate to students.

Boarding student and recent CAS Swimming record breaker, Nicholas Stoupas, admires Kenrick not just as his coach, but as a life mentor. By training together eight times a week and living alongside each other, Nicholas recognises that Kenrick is “tough, but fair, and always encouraging,” he said.

Kenrick has a great balance of when it’s time to put in and when it’s time to relax. He inspires me to keep pursuing my dream. He guides me, while also encouraging me to be as independent as possible and learn from my own experiences,” Nicholas said. The dedication Kenrick extends to his Boarding students is confirmation of the significant pastoral element embedded into the Cranbrook Boarding experience by all the resident staff. By accompanying the students from the moment the sun rises each morning, to the final day they walk out of the School’s gates, Kenrick’s influence on the students stays with them for life. For the boarders, not only is he an exemplary mentor, gym partner and sideline fan, but a friend.

As a foundation for every student’s success, a domestic haven from a bustling curriculum, and a place of formulated yet tender mentorship, Boarding at Cranbrook provides a School-life experience like no other. The Cranbrook Boarding Houses are unmatched in their offerings, proven through the admirable individuals to have walked, and continue to walk, through the doors of Street and Rawson Houses.

It’s all about wellbeing and creating a balance within life. Not just focusing on academics or sport but ensuring that have a complete healthy balance..

KENRICK MONK
