

21 January 2020

Dear Parent

I am truly grateful for the opportunity given to me through the Matt Street Scholarship.

Before attending Cranbrook, I was living in Trangie, a small country town in Western NSW. I caught the bus travelling 80km twice a day to attend the high school in Dubbo. Originally, I was unsure of what to expect, not knowing anyone or anything about Cranbrook apart from Big Cat (Mr DeBrincat).

The nerves of leaving home were all extinguished walking through the doors of Street House for the first time. The warm welcome of Mr Matt Banes and his wife Sarah highlighted the boarding community I was entering. The environment fostered in both Street and Rawson boarding houses is a credit to the previous hard work of Mr Boyd and further enhanced by Mr Banes and Mr Gill. A strong emphasis on mateship, loyalty and responsibility allows for boys to gain the full Cranbrook experience while preparing us for life after school.

The Matt Street Scholarship provides individuals such as me not only the experience of living in the beautiful Eastern Suburbs of Sydney but to become part of the unique Cranbrook boarding and wider school community. The words "just have a go" struck me from the beginning, that sentiment ensured I involved myself in all that was on offer. Cranbrook provides countless opportunities daily, whether it be in the classroom, on the sporting field or outside school. The responsibility is then placed on the student to apply themselves in fields of interests.

At Cranbrook, I encountered supportive mentors, teachers and boys. I was encouraged to fully apply myself in all areas of my study completing Standard English, Standard Maths, Business Studies, Chemistry and Industrial Technology Timber (ITT) for my HSC. Cranbrook's excellence is a result of the hardworking and passionate staff led by Mr Sampson. Teachers go above and beyond for boys, regardless of age or ability. Mr Freeland would often stay behind until 7pm to ensure our ITT Major Works were completed on time to the highest quality possible.

The Matt Street Scholarship gave me the opportunity to participate in some of the most competitive rugby competitions in Australia. Cranbrook exposed me to some of Sydney's best coaches in Mr Hodge and Mr Gill, furthering my rugby skills and game knowledge. I had the privilege of playing in the 1st XV in both Year 11 and 12. Despite having an unlucky start to my rugby, with enough strapping tape and painkillers, I was able to make it through the CAS rugby competition. The culture around sport at Cranbrook is growing, the backing from the extended Cranbrook community saw larger crowds week after week. This support and love of our school

forged one of my fondest memories; on a cold, wet and windy Friday night boy from both the Senior and Junior School stormed the oval at the conclusion of the game when the 1st XV beat Knox in a thriller of a match.

For the future, Cranbrook has prepared me with a wide variety of skills and connections. With these abilities, I have been lucky enough to get a job on a remote cattle station in Queensland for 2020. As Mr Meakin would say, “the kid from Trangie” has also been able to influence two other boys to undertake a similar experience for their own gap year. After a year away from education, I am planning to attend the University of New England to complete a Bachelor of Rural Science.

As I reflect on the end of my schooling, I am so grateful for being given the chance to attend Cranbrook School. To the Street family and scholarship donors, a massive thank you.

Regards,

Lachlan Bible