

FROM THE COLLEGE CAPTAIN

What a journey it has been! Over the past six years as Salesian men, we have shared an unimaginable number of memories, laughs and heartbreaks. It is difficult to picture a time when we were a group of shy and timid Year 7s.

At the time, the prospect of graduating and becoming young men seemed like a barely visible finishing line, down a dauntingly long road. Nevertheless, it feels like we only blinked and we were at the end of this road, crossing that finish line. As this epic journey reaches its final chapter, I am proud that we made it to the end, and further humbled in the way in which we achieved it. We crossed that line together, side by side, as brothers in arms, and I am incredibly proud of that.

It is easy to overlook how far we have come. Channelling the philosophies of St Don Bosco, Salesian College has shaped each and every one of us into the great men we are today. Generosity, comradeship, and providing “all things to all people” are just a handful of qualities we have all developed as a product of the Salesian community, which has surrounded us for the past six years. Interestingly, the school itself has undergone a somewhat similar transformation alongside us. It has developed from a simple place of learning to a second home for many.

After six years of education, Salesian College will always hold a special place in my heart, cementing the philosophies, values and brotherhood of the Salesians within me.

Of course, our senior years at the College would not have been possible without the assistance and guidance of

a very special woman, Ms Bennett. On behalf of the year 12 cohort, I would like to thank you a million times over for your undying commitment, respect and love for all of us, which was far beyond your call of duty. Your ability to make each and every one of us feel comfortable and loved is a testament to your nurturing nature and leadership, not to mention the countless times you have sacrificed your time to care for us. Ms Bennett, it is not possible to thank you enough for your three years of commitment to our cohort.

Additionally, I would like to extend special thanks to the teachers and staff at Salesian who have challenged us and provided constant encouragement over our six years at the college. We have been truly blessed to have the full support of the Salesian staff behind us, pushing us to achieve our best. Although at times we may have taken it for granted, the efforts of our teachers have not gone unnoticed. Furthermore, to the families and friends of the Year 12 cohort, we thank you for your unconditional love over this challenging and tiring period. It has not been an easy year for us; however, your support has helped lighten the burden of Year 12 from our shoulders.

An American writer, Ralph Waldo Emerson, once said, “Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail”. This quote was given to me by a teacher at the beginning of the year. At the time, I overlooked it as simple and generic; however, as the year progressed, I realised the power of it. As College Captain, I discovered the significance of standing up for your own

values, regardless of others’ opinions. This quality is often suppressed and ignored in favour of fitting in or taking the easiest path. Therefore, although it is a challenge, I implore all of you to take this quote with you as we venture out into the world.

Finally, to my brothers of the graduating class of SCC18, our time has come. The final pages of our short, but rich, period at Salesian College have been written. We now face the vast uncertainty of our future. Although we may stumble or, at times, fall in our future endeavours, be reassured. Your brothers will always be at your aid, forever present, to lend a hand and get you back onto your feet. As I reflect on all the memories we have shared together, I cannot help but feel a great sense of nostalgia, camaraderie and pride, a strong testament to our brotherhood. I sincerely wish every one of you the greatest success in every venture you may pursue in the future. So, as many of us part ways, always remember who you are, where you have come from, and your Salesian heritage.

Mark Linden
2018 College Captain



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