



*Better Leaders,
Better Collegiate Life*

President's Report to 2016 AGM

We were all saddened with the passing in December last year following a long battle with cancer of Life Member and former Master of St Mark's College, Adelaide, **the Honourable Dr John Bannon AO**. South Australia's longest serving Labor Premier (1982 – 1992), John Bannon later served St Mark's College with compassion, commitment and humility as an encourager and mentor of both students and staff, and was a keen, wise and supportive colleague as a member of our Association. As his Deputy and successor, Rose Alwyn, wrote: *"... he loved Colleges and what they stood for ... he was such an honourable and decent man, witty and charismatic – he slipped away from us too soon."*

Congratulations:

In the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours, **Dr Deborah Seifert**, Head of International House, University of Melbourne, was awarded 'Member of the Order of Australia' (AM) for "significant service to education through a range of teaching, consultative and administrative roles, and to the community"; and **Dr Stewart Gill**, Principal of Emmanuel College, University of Queensland, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for "service to tertiary education, and to the community". Warm congratulations to them both.

Colleagues and Changes:

Over the past year, the following colleagues have '**retired**' as **Heads of Colleges and Halls**: Mrs Nanette Kay (Duchesne College UQ); Dr Philip Dutton (Burgmann College ANU); Professor Mark Harrison (Jane Franklin Hall UTas); Adjunct Professor Iyla Davies (Women's College UQ); and Professor Trevor Cairney (New College UNSW). Professor David Runia (Queen's College, University of Melbourne) will retire at the end of the year. Each has served with distinction, with Iyla Davies serving as President UCA 2012-2014 and Trevor Cairney as UCA Public Officer.

New appointments include: Mrs Thérèse Eddy (Duchesne College UQ); Ms Sally Renouf (Burgmann College ANU); Ms Joanna Rosewell (Acting Head, Jane Franklin Hall UTas); Dr Lyndall Bryant (Women's UQ); and Associate Professor Bill Peirson (New College UNSW). Dr Philip Mosely, former Vice-Master at Queen's College Melbourne, is now Manager, Charles Darwin University Student Accommodation and Head of International House, Darwin; and Dr Stewart Gill will succeed David Runia as Master of Queen's College, Melbourne. Professor David Brunckhorst will follow Stewart Gill as Principal of Emmanuel College UQ. Mr Keith Conley has moved from University Hall UWA to Campus East at the University of Wollongong following Mr James Atkinson's appointment as Dean of Flinders Living, Flinders University.

Mr Michael Bongers, Principal of The John Flynn College at James Cook University, was appointed to fill the vacancy on the **Executive** following Iyla Davies' departure from Women's College UQ. Mr Bruce Pollard, Master of Robert Menzies College, Macquarie University, has agreed to take on the role of **Public Officer** following the departure of Trevor Cairney.

UCA Forum:

Our **re-badged Mini-Conference**, the UCA Forum, was held in University House at the Australian National University at the end of September 2015, with some 40 delegates attending. Former ANU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Young, spoke at an Opening Dinner, with the Deputy Chancellor of the University of Canberra, Dr Sarah Ryan, addressing the Forum Dinner the following evening. ANU Chancellor, Professor the Hon Gareth Evans, joined delegates at lunch. The 'round table' nature of the Forum allowed for discussion on a range of topics that included further reporting on the findings of the ARC Report on Alcohol Use and Harm Minimisation Among Australian University Students, the results of the 2014 Census of Australian University Accommodation Providers, and the accommodation needs of postgraduate students. The Hon Phil Honeywood, CEO of IEAA, took part in a focus session on international students.

The Forums give opportunity for networking and connection, as well as for less formal presentation and discussion of particular issues, some of which might have special relevance to the place or region where the Forum is held.

Future Leader's Grant:

The Forum saw the launch of our 'Future Leader's Grant', two of which may be awarded each calendar year to a **Deputy/Dean to engage in/undertake a project, program, course or visit** that will contribute to better collegiate life, especially in the areas of pastoral care, academic and other student support initiatives, cross-cultural engagement and understanding, and the links between college, campus and the wider community. Each grant provides up to a sum of \$2,000. The first grant was awarded to **Dr Tim Corney**, Dean of Student Wellbeing at Queen's College, Melbourne, who has now reported on visits he undertook to universities and colleges in the United Kingdom in relation to welfare structures and responses to alcohol and other drug use in residential university colleges.

Research Papers, Reports and Presentations:

I would like to remind members of the **valuable resources held on our website** under Research Papers and Archive Resources. Tim Corney's paper will join others as we seek to increase the publication of relevant research and commentary on collegiate residential life. Relevant surveys and discussions can be accessed on the site, including the latest UCA Members Remuneration Survey 2016 and the ARC Report on Alcohol Use and Harm Minimisation Among Australian University Students. The site also includes past conference programs and resources.

The Executive proposes to set up a **Research Committee** to encourage and foster continuing contributions, and to promote the Future Leaders' Grants as well as our Research and Conference Grants. Evidence based material related to collegiate community and care is increasingly important at a time when so much student accommodation is being outsourced to commercial providers.

President's Visits/ Engagements:

Over the past year it has been a privilege to speak at the **INFORMA Student Experience and Housing Symposium** in Melbourne in October 2015; to address the **25th Anniversary AACUHO Conference** in Sydney in April this year and to meet with the then President of ACUHO-I, Mr Allan Blattner (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill); to attend and speak at the **Council of International Students Australia (CISA) Conference** in Darwin in July; to take part in a senior management review at **Robert Menzies College, Macquarie University**, in August; and to participate in a strategic planning weekend in Armidale for **St Albert's College UNE**. I am looking forward to being one of the speakers at the Centenary Conference of **St Leo's College UQ** at the end of January 2017.

Visit of Executive to University of Queensland:

The Executive visited the **University of Queensland** on 5th and 6th May last, meeting with colleagues at International House and visiting Kings College and the Women's College. It was especially pleasing to meet with the **Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Høj**, and to discuss matters around the importance of collegiate community and of the nature of support and care required in larger commercial student accommodation developments. Our visit was also an opportunity to thank and farewell our Immediate Past President, **Iyla Davies**, prior to her leaving the Women's College after 7 years as Head and CEO. Iyla is an Honorary Fellow of Emmanuel College where she was a resident during her undergraduate years at UQ.

Building Bridges of Affiliation and Understanding:

Our links and affiliations are important in placing our work in context, learning from the experience of others in our field here and overseas, and in seeking to contribute to the development of communities of care and to be advocates of the best possible experience for local/domestic and international students living on or close to our university campuses.

We continue to work with **AACUHO** in areas of common concern such as developing professional standards of practice, responding to sexual assault and the range of harassment issues, promoting best ways of alcohol harm minimisation, and supporting best practice in the engagement and work of Residential Advisers. I have enjoyed the collegial friendship and support of Vincent Wilson, CEO Deakin Residential Services and AACUHO President.

Our affiliation with **ACUHO-I** saw **Ms Ashleigh Benadretti**, Dean of Residents at St Catherine's College UWA, attend this year's ACUHO-I Conference in Seattle USA as a **UCA 'new professional'**. This arrangement offers \$1,500 USD reimbursement from ACUHO-I for the costs of the UCA nominated delegate. In her report, which will be placed on our website, Ashleigh notes: *"As a newcomer to this sector, it was invaluable to have the opportunity to see the industry from an international perspective and whilst I returned home with many new ideas, the trip also underlined the fact that Australia is indeed a front-runner by global standards. The conference also provided me with the wonderful opportunity to network and forge new friendships with colleagues from all over the world ... I thank you sincerely for such a wonderful opportunity."*

In August, Past President Mrs Barbara Green, met with Mr Jacob Waitere, President of the **New Zealand Association of Tertiary Education Accommodation Professionals (NZATEAP)**, in Auckland. With Jacob's keen encouragement and enthusiasm, we are looking at ways of developing for mutual benefit an affiliation or MOU arrangement.

Following particular work by our Secretary, Dr Carla Tromans, with the President of **NAAUC**, Mr Lachlan Power, and previous NAAUC Executive, we recently signed an MOU "to create collaborative initiatives to foster sustainable college communities across Australia." Collaboration between staff and student leadership is key to the success of our colleges and halls.

On the suggestion of Dr Amanda Bell, Principal of The Women's College, University of Sydney, I met in Canberra with **Ms Beth Blackwood, Chief Executive of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA)** and former Principal of Presbyterian Ladies' College in Perth. We discussed ways in which we could share mutual concerns, particularly in the process of transition from school to university and in the challenges of leadership of communities of young people. We will look to ways of bringing heads of colleges together with heads of schools, and forming the most appropriate means of association. I am delighted that Beth Blackwood will attend the opening of our Collegiate Way International Conference. Carla Tromans has also been in touch with the Executive

Officer and Chair of the Board of the **Association of Secondary School Principals Australia (ASPA)**, and we look forward to discussion about similar links with our Association.

We keenly look forward to the development of **Collegiate Way International** as a global association of understanding, professional development and exchange in the promotion and leadership of collegiate university residence.

UA Survey on Sexual Assault:

Following the release and screening on our campuses this year of *'The Hunting Ground'*, an American documentary on incidences and outcomes of sexual assault on American university campuses, Universities Australia (UA), as part of **'The Hunting Ground Project'**, has engaged the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Australian Human Rights Centre at UNSW, to develop and conduct an independent survey on the prevalence, reporting experiences and responses to sexual assault and sexual harassment in universities across Australia. I was pleased to represent UCA at the launch of the **'Respect. Now. Always.'** Survey on 23 August at UNSW. The survey has the support of the NTEU and NUS, with the NUS Women's Officer, Heidi La Paglia, noting: *"It's great to see universities, the Australian Human Rights Commission, and university students and staff coming together to make university campuses safer."*

UCA is committed to such initiatives and outcomes/recommendations, and to supporting colleagues in **our continuing efforts to provide safe and secure living and learning communities** that are free from all forms of violence and intimidation, sexual assault, harassment and discrimination. More than most, leaders in university residential communities, in collaboration with a range of university and community health workers and other service providers, are at the 'front-line' of awareness programs, consent and response training and care in dealing with incidents of sexual assault and harassment.

National Working Group on Alcohol Harm Minimisation:

In response to the ARC (Linkage) Research Grant Report on Alcohol Use and Harm Minimisation Among Australian University Students, we have set up a **National Working Group/Steering Committee** to explore ways of identifying and promoting appropriate methods of alcohol and other drugs harm minimisation in our residences and universities. Convened by our current Treasurer and Principal of Sancta Sophia College at Sydney University, Dr Marie Leech, the Group comprises Associate professor Toni Schofield and Dr Rose Leontini from the Faculty of Health Sciences at Sydney University; Mr James Atkinson, Dean of Flinders Living; Dr Tim Corney, Dean of Student Wellbeing at Queen's College, University of Melbourne; Mr Jamiyl Mosley, Head of Burton & Garran Hall at the ANU; Ms Roxana Paterson, Dean of Students, Grace College UQ; and Dr Hester Wilson, Vice-Principal of St Andrew's College, University of Sydney.

IPART NSW:

Following a member enquiry, consultation with Mr Peter McDonald ('Tertiary Balance'), and discussion among the Executive, I made a submission on behalf of UCA to the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) **Review of Local Government Rating System**. A full report is to be presented to the NSW Minister in December this year, and the UCA submission can be found at:

<https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Industries/Local-Government/Reviews/Local-Government-Rating-System/Review-of-Local-Government-Rating-System?qDh=2>

AskRIGHT Survey:

UCA has collaborated with 'AskRight' to conduct a **survey of members** to help improve our understanding of fundraising and alumni relations. A survey report will be presented at the Collegiate Way International Conference.

Corporate Governance Protocol:

Many thanks to Carla Tromans for her work on preparing a **UCA Corporate Governance Policy** so as to ensure that there is a **solid foundation for the Executive Committee and any staff** to oversee the strategic direction, management and control of our enterprise. The protocol will soon be placed on our website; it is a 'living' document, so up-dated, amended from time to time.

Collegiate Way International:

It has been a challenge but a great pleasure to convene the second Collegiate Way International Conference 2016, **incorporating our biennial UCA Conference**, at the Australian National University. I particularly want to thank **my ANU local organising committee colleagues**: PVC University Experience) Richard Baker; Registrar (Student Life) Lynda Mathey; Master of University House, Peter Kanowski; Principal of Burgmann College, Sally Renouf; Head of John XXIII College, Geoff Johnston; Head of Ursula Hall, Dave Segal; Head of Burton & Garran Hall, Jamiyl Mosley; Head of Bruce Hall, Rochelle Wilkins-Tate; and Acting Head of Fenner Hall, Samitha Ramanayake. Many thanks also to our Conference Organiser, Alicia Watson, and UCA Executive Officer, Deborah Pugh.

We have been encouraged by the warm support of Dr Michael Eamon, Chair of the **Collegiate Way International Advisory Board**, and we look forward to future developments in a global association of collegiate universities and residences.

Appreciation and Conclusion:

It has been an enormous privilege to serve as President over the past two years, and especially to work with such a **loyal and committed Executive Committee and Executive Officer** – Rose Alwyn, Carla Tromans, Marie Leech, Barbara Green, Iyla Davies and Michael Bongers. Deborah Pugh does an amazing job as Executive Officer in the limited time available to her. My special thanks also to Ms Lucinda (Cindy) Watt, Administration Manager at Toad Hall, for her willing and efficient liaison with Deborah in support of arrangements for Executive commitments. I very much look forward to continuing to serve as Immediate Past President.

The theme of this year's conference '*Collegiate Communities – Global Contexts*' highlights the great value of **collegiate residence** but also the challenge and opportunity of both demonstrating and expressing it as best as possible in new and changing university contexts, especially with the rapid growth of commercial investment and development in student accommodation. UCA has a continuing and important role to play in promoting "**better leaders, better collegiate life**", and in affirming the significance of university living and learning communities as places of intellectual, cultural, social, sporting and spiritual engagement – safe, caring, scholarly and respectful places that foster **the best possible university experience**.

In our corporate and competitive world, collegiate residential communities continue to be, in words I have often quoted of the late Dr Davis McCaughey, former Master of Ormond College and former Governor of Victoria, "part of the academic enterprise ... part of the business of learning".

Dr Ian Walker

November 2016