

Why give? What to give? How to give?

An alumni perspective from Kaitlin Tucker

The Robert Menzies College Association (RMCA) is designed to enhance relationships between alumni, former staff and friends of the college whilst simultaneously enhancing the experience of current students of RMC.

For someone, like myself who has experienced the true care and transforming community that is RMC, I believe we have a responsibility to help to continue to sustain its mission. I am not sure whether we comprehend the enormity, collaborative and generous work of people that enable us to experience the caring community that is RMC.

Scholarships, academic tutorials, and pastoral support are all things that make a huge difference to our experience and ability to live here. It certainly did for me. Without the support, ideas, finances and generous attitude of the wider RMC community, we would have not received the quality of care that we experienced. To continue the high level of care that RMC is known for, we need to be continually thinking about practical and beneficial ways that we can support the college's mission.

As a staff member I now attend career markets and talk with students from regional and rural areas. I have gained a real understanding of the need to financially support young individuals. Many who are talented and would thrive and benefit from and to the RMC community rule it out, solely based on finances. How great would it be for us to provide just one extra person the opportunity to experience the transforming nature of college? I know, money doesn't grow on trees. Something that becomes a reality to me more each day. That's why we need a community. Think creatively about how you, your friends and this community can look to establish much needed bursary funds for those who would benefit from it greatly, and be someone that is transformed by the RMC experience.

One way I believe we could strengthen the RMCA's ability to support the college's vision and mission, and strengthen ties between the alumni community and the college is to develop an alumni committee. This committee would aim to support the development of alumni events and initiatives that aim to connect alumni with each other as well as the College. It would allow us to reach and established a broader, fuller alumni cohort and would allow for wider and more creative events, involvement and giving.

There are many other ways that we can support the college and it looks different for everyone! Here are some suggestions:

- **Financial:** supporting the bursary fund to provide *'quality and affordable accommodation'*, for those who would otherwise not be able to benefit from the college community. This can look different for everyone. We welcome your creative and sustainable ideas of how we can enrich our bursary.
- **Events:** Attending and/or participating in combined events, such as academic dinners. Being a part of *'encouraging learning and academic excellence'* among our current members and developing networks with students and academics.
- **Keep connected:** Keep connected by updating your details so we can contact you about new developments, updates about alumni, and special events. There will be an annual publication that you can receive and make contributions to.
- **Alumni committee:** Express your interest in being a part of an alumni committee today.
- **Be an ambassador:** Know someone in a situation where they need to move away from home to study? Provide them with insight and wisdom about the value of living at RMC through your personal experience.

Let us be continually thinking about practical and beneficial ways that we can support RMC and its mission. If you have any suggestions or ideas, I would love to hear from you. Please fill out the attached form so that we can continue to sustain and connect with the wider RMC community.