

## FROM THE COLLEGE CAPTAIN

At the beginning of our journey as Salesian men, the day when we would finally graduate seemed like a distant dream. Yet here we are now, preparing for our final exams that will conclude 6 years of schooling. However, the term 'school' doesn't even begin to do Salesian College Chadstone justice. After all, how can you possibly begin to attribute such an extensive journey, accounting for invaluable experiences, friendships, mentors and memories for life, to merely a school? The answer is, you can't. This is perhaps why St Don Bosco wanted his boys to call it a home, and in my time at Salesian I have indeed been offered a home. It has been a safe haven and a platform where I have immersed myself in a community centred around a culture that fortifies the notion of "all things to all people".

Throughout my years at Salesian I have travelled many roads which have led to my current destination. These roads were the leadership opportunities I took in my stride, which allowed me to be chosen as College Captain of 2017. I humbly accepted this position, albeit with great uncertainty of what awaited in 2017. However, with the guidance and support of our Student Leadership Coordinators, Mrs Dwyer and Mr Barnes, who stood arm in arm with the Student Leadership group, we embarked on a year in which we represented the voice of our Salesian brothers. This was truly an honour, and something that I will hold dear for the rest of my life.

Leadership at Salesian College, and its importance in enhancing the lives of all students, can be attributed to the legacy passed down from previous cohorts. I count my blessings every day to have worked alongside such a fine group of leaders this year who contributed to the College in such a positive way. To my fellow captains, Peter Pamouktsis

and Lachlan Magee, we've experienced countless board meetings, school functions, excursions, speeches and proposals together. I cannot possibly thank you enough for all your support, dedication, hard work and laughter.

To the Class of 2018, I implore you to make the most of every opportunity given to you. Just as I was advised before I entered Year 12, you will find that your time at Salesian will pass quickly. Every great story needs a fitting ending, so it is important that every chapter within your story is filled with friendships to cherish, lessons to learn, and memories to last forever.

This journey, that is now coming to an end, has not been one we have undertaken alone. A special thanks must be given to our families. For the unconditional love and support provided to us all, we are truly grateful. On a more personal level, in particular to my family and my parents, you have not only been there in triumph for the memorable moments, but also in support through the hardships. The sacrifice, belief and love with which you have never failed to assure me will forever leave me indebted to you. The end of my journey here at Salesian also marks the end of a rather special era for my family. For the past 11 years, there has been a member of my family attending Salesian College, with both my brothers graduating as notable members of their respective cohorts and House Captains of the mighty Moroney House. I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the entire Salesian community for everything it has done for our family, and say on behalf of us all, a very warm goodbye.

To the teachers and all other staff members of Salesian who have contributed to our lives, we have been truly blessed with the dedication and

unequivocal encouragement to fulfil our potential. From our humble beginnings as wide-eyed Year 7s with oversized blazers and an eagerness to learn, we have been provided with the guidance to unlock the ability to maximise our scholastic capabilities beyond any other means.

Without question, there is one very special member of staff who, on behalf of the Year 12 cohort, I would like to thank. To Mr Beurs, our Year Level Coordinator of almost two years, you have truly exceeded the demands of your role. To all of us, you are a highly respected mentor, teacher and friend. Your ability to maintain your witty sense of humour and share a laugh with the boys during one of our most important schooling years has helped us considerably. We are forever grateful for having shared our journey with a man such as yourself. Thank you.

Lastly, to my boys. To my brothers of the graduating class of SCC17. There are quite simply no words to describe the emotions that fill me when I stop and reflect on all that we've shared together. From the camaraderie shown during the times of heartbreak for our fellow brothers, to the moments of pure joy and happiness that will be held dear to us, I will forever be truly grateful to each and every one of you for having made my 6 years at Salesian the most memorable years of my life. In a sense of belonging that can only be described as a brotherhood, I am so truly proud of what you have all achieved. I sincerely wish you all the best for all your future endeavours. To have been able to walk alongside you all throughout this journey as brothers the honour is, and forever will be, mine.

**Stefano Mascaro**  
College Captain



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