College Captain’s Report

Good evening staff, students, parents and esteemed guests of the Mazenod community.

There has been no greater honour that has ever been bestowed upon me than to address everyone here tonight – not just on behalf of myself but on behalf of the Mazenod community and especially the students. Tonight is a night where we as a College community gather to celebrate the success that our students have achieved throughout 2012.

When I was first told by Mr. Payne that I had inherited the College Captaincy from Brandon Giles, the first thing that leapt into my mind was this very occasion. Nervous thoughts of this speech crept into my mind, but as the year has progressed the nervous thoughts and worries about tonight have transformed into passion and eagerness to attend to everyone in this room on behalf of the student body.

Tonight is the most prestigious occasion in the Mazenod calendar, and although we are here to recognise the success and achievements of our students, we risk going without recognising the people who facilitate this learning and make these achievements possible – these are the teachers of our College. Academic success is built upon hard work and determination of the student, but also arising from the teacher’s willingness and passion to catapult the student to success.

In 2008, the Herald Sun surveyed over 10,000 high school students and asked them what they thought made a great teacher. The most frequently occurring answers involved treating students with respect, trustworthiness and providing extra help. The teachers here at Mazenod possess all of these qualities, and so much more. Their desire to help our students learn and excel in each class is shown in their actions. Teachers will host afterschool tutorials for students, help during lunch and also giving students extra work to assist in areas of trouble.

The best attribute about our teachers is the environment that they provide for the students – not just to learn inside, but also outside the classroom as well. One glance at College life sees teachers giving up their time to go on ski tips, football, cricket and hockey tours along with outdoor-ed camps and out of school activates. This is what makes us as students enjoy coming to school, the quality of teachers and the environment they provide. This is one of the several components of what makes Mazenod, Mazenod, it creates a feel about the school an aura that we call the Mazenod spirit all the way from the grounds staff who provide us with first class facilities to the ladies in the library who if we need a book will find us one. We are all a team here at Mazenod and in the words of the great Vince Lombardi “winning is a habit” at Mazenod we are given the opportunity to obtain that habit. I speak of every student and every parent when i say that we will always be in debt of the staff for the sacrifices they make and passion they have towards us as students and to you parents what they do for your sons. We as a college community thank you the staff of Mazenod.

Each and every year in the life of a Mazenod student is different but there is one thing that will always be a constant variable of the days of our students and that is the Mazenod spirit. My first memories of the college back in 2009 coming from a small country town and having no previous association with the college where terrifying. When I walked up those blue stairs in the junior block i thought wow must be flash if they paint their steps.

Walking into 9A all I remember is seeing a room of happy and excited boys with the big smiling Mr King laughing with the boys. Straight away I didn’t feel isolated, I didn’t feel like an alien, I felt like a mate, I felt extremely comfortable. When I first came to Mazenod in 2009, I always heard of this thing that was the “Mazenod spirit” and I never quite understood what the Mazenod spirit was until early this year. I was playing in a game of Belt-Up Cup football on a Tuesday afternoon and students had made the effort to stay behind and watch and also come out of after school activates to watch the game. There were students from the Drama Club rehearsing in the PAC, students from music, science and boarding along with about 20 staff. I remember just as we broke from the huddle to start the fourth quarter looking over my shoulder and seeing all these people with different interests and lives coming together and not just barking for the boys who were playing but the emblem on our jumper. That what Mazenod spirit is in my eyes - it is the coming together of a group of young men who after school have totally different interests and hobbies but during the day coming together under one common cause: an emblem, a name, a brotherhood.

Coming to school each day to your mates you form a connection with these boys that will last a lifetime. This reflects in the amount of students that join our Old Boys community to stay connected with the College because they too have felt this bond and want to keep giving to our ever growing Mazenod community. This brother hood, this bond runs deep into the history of our school from Father Mackintosh breaking rocks all week to lay the foundations of what we now call our College, to the way we pull together every year to help other people through organisations like Young Vinnies and the Mission Fun Run. We as Mazenod students young, old or graduated unite under the Mazenod banner, the Mazenod name, and we always will.

Our Mazenod community will forever be changing - the implementing of the new laptops and technology upgrades, additions of new building and structures will always be changing to accommodate for our ever changing world. Change is something that presses us out of our comfort zone. It is destiny-filtered, heart grown, faith built. Change is inequitable, not a respecter of persons. Change is for the better or for the worst, depending on where you view it. Change seeks a better place at the end and is complete when you realize you are different. Our college will always