



NICOLE CHRISTENSEN

### Dear Parents and Friends of Monte,

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all our parents and community friends who, over the last three months helped Monte raise an extraordinary \$250,000 for the Blue Ribbon Bursary Appeal. Your generosity will make a transformative difference to many deserving young women.

Last Friday a record gathering of over 700 members of our community joined with some of Australia's finest rugby legends (Wallabies and Wallaroo) in the McQuoin Centre for the Monte Bursary Rugby Lunch to take the Blue Ribbon fundraising to record heights.

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*“May the generosity and Mercy spirit you have given so freely, flow back to you and ignite your hearts.”*

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The community spirit was inspiring as was the show of strength from our parents and friends. With over half a dozen Australian rugby greats in the room, Sister Carmel once again dressed to impress our Rugby fans and brought the house down with an original rendition of “Hey Big Spender” immediately prior to the live auction.

At the launch of the Blue Ribbon Bursary Appeal in May, I said that at Monte we stand up and we take action. Together, united by our Blue Ribbon cause, you have taken action to make our community even stronger. Highlights from the campaign included: College Captain Jordana Caravella and Blue and Blue Scholar Grace Morahan's encouragement of students to purchase Blue Ribbon pins by forming a “human blue ribbon” on the Monte Holy Grass; the Blue and Blue lunch at Parliament House; our annual appeal and finally the big Bursary Rugby Lunch event.

An event of this size would not be possible without the generous support of time, expertise and donations from our volunteers and community.

Special mention to our VIP guests, and speakers for their generous donation of talent and time, including:

- Cameron Clyne, ARU Chairman
- Monte Mum Pip Marlow, Managing Director Microsoft Australia, ARU Board Director
- Rugby greats: Louise Burrows, David Giffin, Bill Young and Ben Robinson
- Expert MC Rod Kafer and auctioneer Justin Ferguson

The College would like to thank Brian Phelps, Adam Taylor, members of the Rugby Lunch Advisory Committee and the group of volunteers who worked tirelessly at the lunch.

Our Mercy heritage and ethos of acting with compassion compels and encourages us to join as a community to help those in need. So I thank you most sincerely with this prayer of thanks.

May the generosity and Mercy spirit you have given so freely, flow back to you and ignite your hearts.

Finally in the words of Catherine McAuley, know that, “No work of charity can be more productive or good to society than the careful instruction of women.”

God Bless

**Mrs Nicole Christensen**  
*Principal*