



Chevalier College

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MEDIA RELEASE

28 January 2021

Chevalier College to honour alumnus John Fahey with naming of new education and sport centre.

Chevalier College, the alma mater of the late Hon. John Fahey AC will honour him with the naming of a new building precinct to be known as **The John Fahey Education and Sport Centre**.

Mr Fahey passed away on 12th September last year at the age of 75. He attended Chevalier College for his secondary education with the assistance of a bursary scholarship from 1958-1962. By his finishing year in the Class of 1962 he was a prefect, a student leader in the Young Catholic Society, a cadet under officer, captain of the First XI cricket team, and member of the acclaimed First XV rugby team of that era.

The college has already committed to a 6-year scholarship starting in 2022 as a tribute to Mr Fahey and will be undertaking a fundraising campaign to secure an endowment so the award can continue in perpetuity.

Chevalier College Principal Chris McDermott explained that the approval process for the naming involved extensive discussions and consideration with a number of stakeholder groups, including the college board and the MSC community which owns the college, and had taken some time to complete due to the significance of such an action.

“This is the first time a major building in the college is being named after a past student. Until now the buildings have been named almost exclusively after members of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Our plan represents a new way of thinking about such significant action,” he said.

“This multi-purpose hall is the latest and largest building to be constructed on our campus. It is arranged over two-levels and incorporates a full-size basketball court for a range of indoor sports, changing rooms and break-out areas, as well as adaptable class room spaces that adjoin spectator viewing areas on the mezzanine level.”

“A feature of the building is an automated retractable seating system that when combined with fixed seating gives a capacity of 1300 people, allowing the space to be used for a variety of events, not just sport.”

“Another feature is the marvellous views to the east across the tennis courts and sporting ovals that John Fahey himself played cricket and rugby on, and was also the location for cadet exercises and parades along with the athletic events of that time.”

“The college is delighted that the Fahey family has given its enthusiastic approval to the naming of The John Fahey Education and Sport Centre and we hope to be able to formally dedicate it at the proposed “Celebration of a Life” event to be hosted in this building precinct on Saturday 25th September 2021, the first anniversary of John’s funeral,” concluded Mr McDermott.

Mr Fahey’s widow, Mrs Colleen Fahey, speaking on behalf of the Fahey family, spoke of the connection that both John and his children have had with Chevalier College over more than 60 years. All three of John and Colleen’s children were students at the college over the years and the family home is nearby, along the route that John used to take as a student when he and his classmates went to a local swimming hole in the Wingecarribee River.

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“John always said that it was at Chevalier College, and his experiences there as a boarding student, that formed his character and instilled in him his values and helped to teach him the ability to get along with people and to be a leader when required”, said Mrs Fahey.

“John joked in the weeks before he died that due to the COVID-19 pandemic he would have a lonely funeral. Thankfully, there were quite a number who were able to attend at St Mary’s Cathedral but the family is appreciative of the college’s offer to host the “Celebration of a Life” event in September so that, hopefully, more of the community can come together and share some stories” said Mrs Fahey.

The then principal during John’s time as a senior student, Rector Fr Tyson Doneley OAM was a major influence on John and many of his contemporaries. In 2012, Mr Fahey led a fundraising campaign to endow a scholarship in Fr Tyson’s honour, in much the same way as the college is doing to honour John Fahey now. In 2022, the second Tyson Doneley Scholar will start alongside the first John Fahey Scholar and applications are open for these awards from the end of January 2021.

As part of the fundraising for the John Fahey Scholarship, opportunities will be given to donors to be recognised for their support via naming of elements of The John Fahey Education and Sport Centre, ranging from entire rooms down to individual seats.

Expressions of interest in attending the John Fahey Celebration of Life event on 25th September or in supporting the John Fahey Scholarship endowment can be done at the college’s alumni website www.shieldandheart.org.au

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For more information or interview opportunities contact

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**Original hi-res JPG attached to email:
Caption:**

*Soon to be named The John Fahey Education and
Sport Centre at Chevalier College*

