

Speech by Matthew Cook in response to a Toast to the Freshers by the Students' Club President, Jack Jamieson at the Freshers' Formal Dinner, Friday 24 February 2017

Master, Deputy Master, President of the Students' Club

Good evening, my name is Matthew Cook. Lately I've grown more accustomed to Bolt-on but we will stick with Matthew for this evening.

I have come from a property just outside of Dalby and I have lived there all my life. It is a great privilege that I have been given the opportunity to stand before you on this memorable night. This is the night that we, as the new wave of Collegians to King's College, recognize this community as our home and accepts those within it, as part of our newly found family.

I came to King's because I was impressed with the things I heard from the Master on his visit to our College and because I have seen and heard a lot about boys who have been through King's, with great experiences and great memories. These memories I have already begun creating and keeping as part of my own King's experience.

After submitting my application and being accepted into King's for 2017, it began to slowly spread as people asked what my future plans were. From this I heard stories of King's from all sorts of people, mothers, siblings and Kingsmen themselves both saying that O-week specifically is tough. Whilst some mention the odd wives tale of rumours they have heard, O-week at King's was how I thought it would be. I knew it would be tough, and I had heard of the PT, but what I hadn't heard about, something I was a little worried about, was how I was going to find mates in such a busy week and such a new environment for me, having moved away from home somewhere in the middle of the sticks (some would say). O-week has exceeded my expectations, and whilst everyone has different values and different ideals, I cannot doubt my choice in College here on the Campus of UQ.

This week has been full of many great memories and to name them all would be virtually impossible, as for each and everyone one of us, we have experienced this week in different ways. However some stories stand out. Paintball created some lasting memories for us all, however for me, I walked away from paintball with so much developed respect for our seniors. I want to share something that really sums it up. It is said that "Leaders who win the respect of others are the ones who deliver more than they promise, not the ones who promise more than they can deliver" It's just like the saying that "respect is earned, not given out". Just as I'm sure many of the boys can say alongside me, I gained a lot of respect for our Seniors through their delivery, conduct and example as Kingsmen.

I would just like to say we were told that this week would be challenging, but we were also told that this week would bring rewards like no other experience. To my brothers, I speak on behalf of us all when I attempt to express our sincere gratitude for everything the Seniors have done. If you ask me, I think they absolutely killed it, these men have exemplified being Kingsmen throughout the week and this example is something we should strive for.

As a unit we began as a bunch we collectively knew as the "freshers", but by tomorrow we can finally call ourselves, Kingsmen. Thank you.