

Dear fellow Rhodes Scholar

Warm greetings from Rhodes House!

In the four weeks since I became Warden, I have – despite the summer diaspora of Scholars – had the chance to meet a high proportion of our current Scholars. I can say without hesitation that they are people of outstanding quality, whom it is genuinely inspiring and energising to meet. Their achievements, academic and extra-curricular, are superb. It is impossible to be other than deeply impressed, and equally impossible not to feel again how important the Rhodes Scholarships are in creating vital leaders for the world's future.

Like so many of us in the global community of Rhodes Scholars, I am extremely grateful to Colin Lucas for his wise stewardship of the Rhodes Scholarships as Warden over the last five years. I am honoured and humbled to succeed him.

Having been born and lived as a young boy in modest circumstances in the Outback of Australia, and now sitting in the Warden's study at Rhodes House, I am deeply conscious of the life-changing nature of this Scholarship. I would be very surprised if it had not had a profound effect on your life also. For most, if not all, Rhodes Scholars it has opened up a world of opportunities we would not otherwise have had – or, for many of us, even imagined ourselves having.

Profoundly grateful for this, I am committed to ensuring that the Rhodes Scholarships continue to offer current and future generations the same life-transforming opportunities that we have had, if not better. With your help, I will do all I can in my time as Warden to ensure that the Rhodes Scholarships remain the world's pre-eminent scholarships forever.

Over the next 18 months or so, I will be visiting all Rhodes constituencies to meet with as many Rhodes Scholars as possible. I am keen to hear from you about the impact of the Scholarship on your life, how you think we can give best effect to the ideals of the Rhodes Scholarships in the 21st century, and how you think we can best meet the various challenges we face in a world of increased competition and costs, and reduced resources.

At the start of a new Wardenship, it is important to take this opportunity to think afresh about these issues, and I am eager to engage all Scholars in dialogue about how we ensure the vibrancy of the Rhodes Scholarships for the decades ahead. In a fast-changing world, all institutions need candid review and effective renewal of their activities and processes to ensure their continued success, and we are no exception.

If you would like to email or write to me about these matters, I would warmly welcome your thoughts. Your contribution to refining the long-term strategy of the Rhodes Trust will be very important, and will be greatly appreciated.

In addition to encouraging your input, I will on my part be providing regular updates on the activities of the Trust and the Scholarships. In this spirit of transparency, accessibility, and interaction, our website is being significantly revised, and will over time include more [news](#) and information on Scholars and [Trustees](#), as well as [annual reports](#) and other documents pertaining to the Rhodes Trust and our current operations.

As you know, one of the challenges we face – greatly intensified by the global crisis – is financial. The Trustees and I are engaged in careful analysis of this, and of alternative strategies for responding to it. I will be back in touch with you about this important challenge later in the year, and will strive to give you the most complete picture I can of our situation, and of how we can meet it.

In the meantime, if you are able to be in Oxford during the [Oxford University Alumni Weekend](#) at the end of September, I'd be delighted if you would join other Scholars (including many current Scholars) for an informal Brunch and Open House here at Rhodes House on Sunday, September 27th. The detailed invitation is attached, and we would love to see you here.

I look forward to seeing you and to hearing from you in the near future – and will be immensely grateful for your support.

With many thanks, and all good wishes
Don

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