

## **Luke Fletcher (Candidate for President)**

On the first night I came to St Edmunds, I wandered into the CR, and a friendly third year sat me down and acquainted me with the place. The experience is the sort of thing that I most value about St Edmunds and I see the key function of the CR committee as helping to continue the tradition of Eddies as an open, welcoming, friendly and multicultural place.



The top priorities I'd like to see for the CR undertake in the coming year are:

- (1) Maintain a productive relationship with the staff who run the college by:
  - working on improving living conditions, affordability and environmental sustainability of the college accommodation;
  - resolving any matters of tension or conflict between our members and the administration;
  - supporting the CR committee to improve transparency and accountability of the college's finances.
- (2) Ensure continuity with the college's 'academic reawakening' started over the previous year by:
  - Increasing academic interaction between PhDs and undergrads/MPhils;
  - Continuing the academic speaking series;
  - Instituting an annual academic speaking event with a renowned speaker.
- (3) Continue to make the CR the centre of Eddies social cultural life by:
  - supporting all the official and unofficial sporting and cultural groups which make our shared environment such a rich one;
  - continuing to make the CR a lively, relaxing and stimulating place.

In order to achieve all these things, we need a strong and well-functioning CR committee. I'd bring to the role of President over half a dozen years of professional experience as an event organiser and campaigner:

- Headed up an NGO in Australia which ran advocacy campaigns about poverty in the Asia-Pacific (though this role I coordinating large teams of volunteers and staff, liaised with media, politicians, government officials and organised numerous public events.)
- Several years engaged in running statewide education and public health programs for other non-profit institutions, which involved travelling around the country visiting schools and local communities.
- Led fellow students, during my masters at UC Berkeley, in putting on an international film series; represented my fellow students in negotiations with the University about the state of my program.

As a second year PhD, I've now been here some time and am well acquainted with the workings of the CR committee; moreover, I have the time to commit to the job. I see the main role of the President as helping the committee to run smoothly, and encouraging the other members of the committee to fulfil their roles by supporting them and empowering them in their respective duties. Finally, I'd like the CR committee experience to be a fun one, so that those who give up their free time will look back on the experience with good memories!