

Daramalan Alumni Newsletter



EDITION 1 - MAY 2006

www.daramalanc.act.edu.au

DARAMALAN COLLEGE

COWPER ST DICKSON ACT 2602



Welcome



*Welcome to the first edition of the **Daramalan Alumni News**. This year has been a big move for Daramalan in terms of recognising all 8000 members of the ex-Dara family and their importance in the 44 years of history of the College.*

I was appointed as Alumni Administrator in February this year, with the prime objective of providing a platform for all past students who are seeking to reconnect with their friends and the College.

It is not until many years have passed and you have created new lives with new jobs, new friends, new partners and kids of your own, can you look back and appreciate the great times and good friends you made during those memorable formative years at Daramalan. By referencing the members in each of our Alumni years, 10 years (1996) seems to be the watershed point in our lives when ex-students consider reconnecting with the College.

I suppose by the age of 30, ones life paths are being laid down with many patterns that provide the security and confidence we all seek. So we now have the time and desire to revisit our earlier days when every moment promised a different experience and no one knew what tomorrow would bring and what the future would hold for all of us.

This Newsletter is for all ex-students who want to stay in touch and we'll be doing this by keeping you informed of not only what's happening with your peers, but Daramalan College today.

Daramalan in 2006

Daramalan today is a modern teaching institution with over 1460 co-educational students across Years 7 to 12.

The numbers are fairly well spread 50/50 across boys and girls with a slight skew towards boys but not enough to attract calls of bias.

The College years (Years 11 & 12, or Forms 5 & 6 as they were previously) are within the total School, but as always, operate with more independence than the High School. Freedom, along with the responsibility that goes with that privilege, is given to the College students to get them used to what will be expected from them when it comes time for them to go onto further studies or into the workforce.

The School today comprises some ten major buildings as you can see from the accompanying aerial photograph below and page 4. The new Fulton Administration block facing the front car park (above) is the newest addition and was opened two years ago. It also houses the library and a state-of-the-art computer resource centre. Our next project is a new College Chapel. More on that later.

There are over 150 staff today teaching a wide range of subjects and courses and these days are all lay staff. The last MSC teacher finished some years ago, which is a little sad, but unfortunately, a worldwide trend. Our long-term rival "St Eddies" in Griffith is also in the same boat. However, we are lucky at Daramalan in having a strong MSC presence across many levels of the College with the day to day involvement Fr Jim Littleton as Assistant to the Principal – MSC Mission, along with Br Barry Smith as Business Manager, Br Dave Merrick and Fr Harold Baker who look after the Residence, and Br John Walker who works as a nurse at Calvary Hospital in Canberra. Last month Br Paul Brooks also joined the MSC community.

Sadly, two prominent figures in the early days of Daramalan, Father John McCowage and Father Anthony Prentice passed away in 2003 and 2005 respectively.





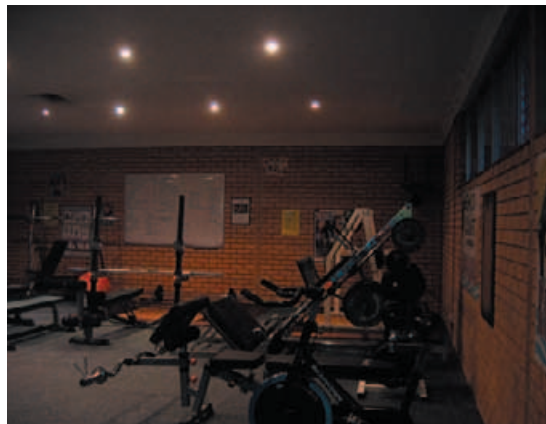
An "open" invitation

Every May, the College has "Open Days" for prospective students to be shown around the school with their families.

If any ex-student would like to share in this experience, the College would like to extend an open invitation come have a look around, to relive memories, or just come and introduce

yourself to any of the teachers who are present with their current students who will be showcasing their work.

Alternatively, if you don't live in the Canberra region, but manage to get back to visit every so often, please feel free to ring or email me, and I will be more than happy to take you around the school for a personal visit.



The College today: (top) Students from all years in the choir singing in support of the School Band. (Top left) Finishing a table in woodwork; (Top middle left) Teacher/Librarian Melissa O'Brien demonstrating the audiovisual facilities in the new Fulton Resource Centre; (Top middle right) two Year 10 students discover what happens when paper burns in Science; (Top right) Hospitality students prepare mock "Midori Splices" for Open Day visitors; (above left) the fully equipped gym with trampoline practice also includes a weights training facility (above middle). (Top right) Ready to serve the pumpkin soup for the Open Day visitors.

DO YOU REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE? Teachers and staff still working at the College in 2006



David Garratt
Principal of Daramalan



Fr Harold Baker
now retired and living on site at the Residence



John Coonan



Michael Kelly
"old boy" and Dara staff member



Br Barry Smith
College Business Manager

The new Daramalan Chapel



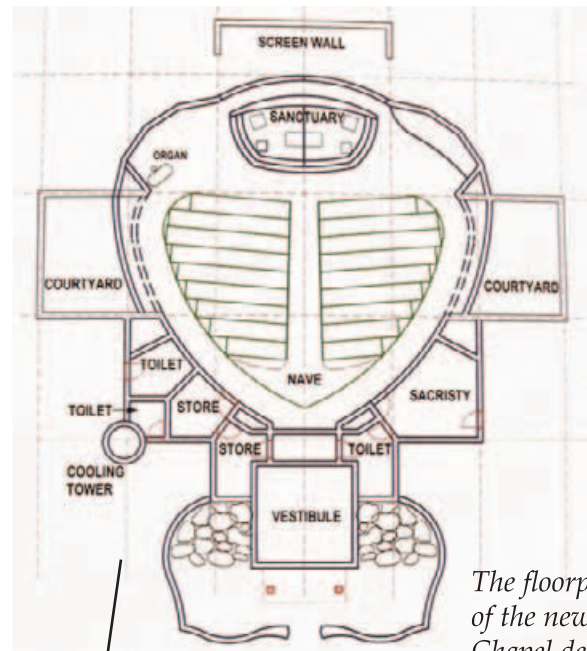
Plans are well underway with the design of a purpose-built Daramalan chapel.

Previously the only places for worship within the school were temporary locations that were never meant to offer a permanent place of solitude and reflection. The College was crying out for a proper chapel to serve not only the school's religious needs, but also a suitable venue for the wider community who wanted to forge links with the school by using our chapel for private weddings, funerals, baptisms and so forth. The new plans will cater for all these wants and needs and will be open to all who wish to make use of it.

The necessary funds to commence this project have still to be found and several income-generating initiatives are currently under consideration. However, at the moment, we are some way from our target and would encourage all ex-students to consider supporting

this very worthwhile cause. If you are able to assist in the financing of the construction of this chapel, donations (or assistance in kind) can be made by contacting Daramalan's Business Manager, Br Barry Smith.

If you would like any further specific information on how you can help, please ring the Principal Mr David Garratt direct on 6245 6313 who will be more than happy to explain the project and discuss any options you may wish to consider. *(And yes, it is the same David Garratt who most of you would remember from your years here as a student. Often with great fondness...or pain, as the case may be!)*



The floorplan of the new Chapel design





WHERE ARE THEY NOW...?

Tony Curtis (1971)

Is currently Chief Executive of ACTTAB and in 2003 was awarded the Australian Public Service Medal in the Australia Day Honours.

Peter McGrath (1972)

Is a lawyer with Chamberlains in Canberra and played with the original Canberra Raiders team in 1982 scoring the Raiders first point in their first game.

Michael D'Ascenzo (1972)

Was appointed Australia's Commissioner for Taxation on January 1 2006

Joe Roos (1972)

Has his own printing company called Monaro Printing located in Hume ACT.

Peter Gregory (1977)

Is the chief court reporter at The Age newspaper in Melbourne and has published a book called Court Reporting in Australia. He recently covered a Federal Court case that concerned Lleyton Hewitt. It was settled out of Court.

His younger brother **Robert**, also a former Daramalan student, is a senior executive at Woolworths in Sydney and has driven in one of the "amateur" races at the Grand Prix in Melbourne.

Andrew Fernon (1979)

Is a Sydney Barrister and acted for a client who was suing Lleyton Hewitt. And no, it is not the same case Peter Gregory was covering. The case was settled out of Court.

Duncan Cole (1979)

Is the Austrade Trade Commissioner in Seoul and trains a rugby team, which came second in last year's Korean National Championships.

Neil Stephens (1979)

Competed in five 'Tours de France' between 1992 and 1997 winning the 17th Stage of the 1997 Tour. You may remember pictures of him crossing the finish line rocking his hands from side to side as if he had a baby in his arms.

Brenda Croft (1981)

Is now Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Senior Curator at the National Gallery.

Stephen Conroy (1981)

Is Senator for Victoria with the Australian Labor Party and is the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate

Marty Sheargold (1989)

Is one of Melbourne's top radio DJ's working with the Triple M network.

Monique Julian (1993)

Is currently a well-known Public Relations professional in London and is about to launch a new charity to the Brits.

Chris Begg (1999)

Was a professional wrestler and worked under the name of 'Chris Colomбу'. Chris is now in a band with his wife called Serratonyn. That's the band, not his wife. He also wrestled for several different wrestling federations in Canberra and Sydney. He has been in a few bands and became a qualified music producer.

He says his greatest achievement has been his family - his wife Vanessa, stepson Joshua (5) and son Caleb (7 months).

In 2002-2003 he was in a band with ex-Daramalan colleague Beau Nestor who played several gigs around Canberra, going on to winning heats in the local "Battle of the Bands" competition.

Daniel Halangahu (2001)

Plays fly half for the NSW Waratahs in the Super 14's Rugby competition.

James Montero (1995)

Works for the Commonwealth Bank as National Strategy and Campaign Manager.

Marco Caputo (1989)

Played for the Wallabies for four years

Leo Kennedy (1981)

Holds the 100mtr record for the Masters Games.

Richard Aedy (1983)

Is an ABC National journalist.

Stephen Ryan (1973)

Is president of ACT Touch Football.

Katherine Hill (1995)

Is an Air Traffic Controller with the Royal Australian Airforce.

Simon O'Connor (1972)

Leading Canberra heart surgeon

Wayne Gregory (1972)

Owner of Canberra Sand and Gravel

Michael and Paul Smith (1971 and 1973)

Owners of National Capital Printing and Canberra Printing and Publishing respectively.

Emilio, Aldo and Angelo Cataldo – (1972, 1974 and 1981)

Owners of Cataldos Salon in Northbourne Avenue. One of Canberra's best hair salons established by their Dad in 1965 in Hobart Place. Mr Cataldo is still alive and still visits the salon every day.

Dave Howarth – (1968)

Owner of Blackett Homes for 25 years.

Phillip Westbury and Frank Adcock (1981)

Airline pilots.

Andrew Laing (1986)

Senior Public Sector Specialist for The World Bank

Andrew does development work focusing mainly on public finance. He is currently in Cambodia as the World Bank's Senior Public Sector Specialist working on the Royal Government of Cambodia's public financial management reform program.

He has completed his Masters at the London School of Economics, and then spent a year in Baghdad providing technical assistance to the Government of Iraq on public finance matters including the establishment of a macroeconomic and fiscal policy department. (*Ed: Phew!*)

Before that he was the World Bank Country Economist in East Timor and the Deputy Director of the Budget Office also in East Timor (on secondment from the Australian Department of Finance and Administration).

Dr Michael Ward (1981)

works at the Dept of Veterinary Pathobiology in West Lafayette Indiana in the United States. (*Ed: And one day someone will explain Veterinary Pathobiology to me*)



WHERE ARE THEY NOW...?

David Patterson(1967)

Is a member of Mensa and joined the Public Service after leaving school before heading into the Army. One of his jobs was in charge of the morgue in Vietnam. On leaving the Army he returned to work and study at the Canberra College of Advanced Education. He later joined the Army reserve and rose to the rank of Major. He also started Pattos Grog shops but he is now retired and living in Sydney.

George Patterson (1969)

(David's brother). On leaving school he joined Rank Xerox to fix photocopiers but left very soon after to join the Army. Served in Vietnam in the Signals Corp. On return to "civvie street" he rejoined Xerox and went on to be their National Sales Manager. He and his wife then started a copy business in North Sydney, which they have only recently sold.

Dan Woodman (1998)

Is a Research Fellow, at the Youth Research Centre Faculty of Education at the University of Melbourne. He recently attended a wedding at Emu Bottom Homestead in Sunbury Victoria (just outside Melbourne) for two "Class of 98" alumni. Dom Marzano and Kate Goodrich were married on the 5th of February with several members of the same class in attendance, most of who have been out of contact since the end of Year 12. He goes on to say that, "many exaggerated stories of successes in the intervening years we told over the evening and a good deal of reminiscing about the heady days of high school was the order of the day".

Andrew Schroder (1981)

Is a Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) in the Royal Australian Navy. He was LCDR in HMAS Bunbury and is now stationed in Samoa, as a Maritime Surveillance Advisor.

Rachel Power (1997)

Manager TRIK Photography. (Ed: I won't try and edit Rachel's life story so far, but reprint it exactly as she sent it to me – I can't work out what would stay and what would go. So here goes...)

"The first is that anyone who knows my sister and I (both ex Dara) know that we like to shop. It seems only

fitting now that in about 6 weeks we are launching our business together - Mystery Shopping!! Yes we have a lot to do with each other now but when we were younger my sister Carolyn and I didn't have much time for each other (as most siblings are). We look nothing alike, and although we sound alike there really isn't much else that immediately says we are sisters. That was until I met my Husband Greg.

Greg is also ex Dara (funny how that works). We met one night in a Canberra nightclub, and thanks to Monday morning Daramalan Assemblies he thought he knew who I was. Greg (being a Pook) used to sit next to Carolyn (a Power) in assembly every Monday, and although he was a year older, thought he was pretty good when he talked all night about knowing me (especially since I had no idea who he was). It wasn't until he was back at work at the National Library and decided to look me up in the Dara Year Book that he got a bit of a shock.

Sheepishly he met me out the following week but it wasn't until he knew me a bit longer that he admitted to his mistake. That was 6 years ago - we have been married for 3 1/2 years and have 2 lovely daughters. He also has to put up with Carolyn and I on a regular basis as we try to hold business meetings around 4 children!"

John Finsterer, (1986)

Is the star of the Australian production "Kokoda", which has been getting great reviews recently and also starred in a movie on Seven (Prime) late one Sunday night about three weeks ago called "Big Reef" which got crap reviews, as well as episodes of "Blue Heelers", "Farscape" and "McLeod's Daughter".

There are plenty more stories to tell, which we will publish in forthcoming editions. If you would like to submit some information on any aspect of your life, either while you were at school, or since you have left, simply email me on bernard.kane@daramalanc.act.edu.au and I will make sure it gets in as soon as soon as there is space.



CURRENT STUDENTS

There are many stories to tell of successes in our current students. We will be starting a regular feature on this next edition, but just for starters, we have three students who deserve broader recognition for their sporting feats.

Lauren Boden (Year 12)

competed in the 400 metre hurdles at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games but was beaten by Jana Pittman, which is no small effort.

Patrick O'Keeffe (Year 8)

student has been chosen to compete in the Australian Secondary Schools Rugby League Under 15's Championship in Perth at the end of June 2006.

Bronwyn McIlvar (Year 7)

student will be representing the ACT in Diving at the Canberra Olympic Park Pool between 11 and 16 June this year.

If you know where any of your Dara mates are, just email me on bernard.kane@daramalanc.act.edu.au and let me know the details and I'll publish them in a later edition.

REUNIONS

I am still looking for expressions of interest in class reunions for later this year. 1976, 1986 and 1996 are the obvious choices but any year is welcome to talk to me about getting something up and running.

I'd rather not have a last minute panic locating classmates, so if any Alumni member from the above years wants a reunion, and would like to help assist by supplying contacts, please let me know as soon as possible so we can start the ball rolling.