



# Alumni News

EDITION 4 - APRIL 2008

## **INSIDE:**

- Principal retires
- Reunion details
- Building progress
- Where are they now?
- We remember those who have left us
- College releases Academic Charter
- ...and more

*Pictured: Retiring Principal David Garratt seen here in 1990 with School Captain Evi Prin*





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**Bernard Kane**

a strategic pathway for Daramalan over the next 5 years leading up to the College's 50th Anniversary in 2012.

The Daramalan Academic Care Charter has also been implemented which sets out a clear vision for education at the College. A copy of the Charter can be found on the back page of this edition.

Reunion planning is well underway and full details can be found on the [back page](#) or by clicking [here](#).

Last year's Reunions for the classes of 1977, '87 and '97 were a huge success with over 250 ex-students and partners attending functions at the College and the Gungahlin Lakes golf Club. This year the formats will be a little different due the increased number of events as well as feedback from some Alumni who asked for a more informal approach to their Reunion.

Many Dara ex-students have gone on to great acclaim and notoriety since leaving the College and we detail some of their achievements on Page Four

And lastly, we mourn the passing of some of our group and I'll take this opportunity to pass on the school's sympathies to all friends, families and co-workers who have been touched by sadness over the past 6 months.

*Girls from the Class of 1980 taken at the 2005 Reunion. All other Reunion photos can be found on the Alumni website by clicking on "Photoboard". (Photo courtesy of Greg Foster)*



Welcome to the first edition of the Alumni news for 2008.

It's a big year in many ways for the College with a new Principal starting in 2009 as well as the new multi-million Hospitality wing opening later this year.

Additionally the College's Strategic Plan has been released and has provided

## College announces retirement of Principal David Garratt



*David Garratt - 2008*

**After thirty-four years including six years as Principal, Daramalan's longest serving staff member, David Garratt, is retiring.**

After a comprehensive and satisfying career involving all aspects of teaching and administration since joining the College in 1974, David has decided that it is time to spend more time with his wife Lorna, their kids, and especially more time to indulge in some of his favourite passions, travel, golf and gardening.

David commenced his career at Dara as a teacher of English and Maths in 1974, eventually covering many departments including Assistant Headmaster in 1978. He was responsible for introducing the first Macintosh computers into the College in the early eighties and at the time, Daramalan was the first secondary school in Australia to have this technology and other schools soon followed. Unfortunately, in 1986 fire swept through the computer lab as well as large parts of the Administration block.

*The 1974 College Yearbook announcement.*

From 1978 to 1988 David was Assistant Principal - Administration, followed by AP Senior College - Welfare from 1989 to 1999. It was also this time that saw his five children here at Daramalan, including twins Ben and Josh and daughter Rachel.

David's life-long interest in Social Justice saw Lorna and himself, along with two College students, take an active part in the Year 2000 National Walk for Reconciliation across the Harbour Bridge and this passion is continued today with his introduction to the school of year "themes" in support of the MSC ethos. 2007 was the "Year of Justice"; this year is the "Year of Respect" and 2009 is set down as the "Year of Faith". He is seen here below with current students Catherine and Michael planting a tree at the College to commemorate the "National Apology" in February this year.

2002 saw the untimely death of Principal Frank Fulton, and it was under this unfortunate circumstance that David was appointed as Daramalan's seventh Principal. David's successor is yet to be appointed with prospective candidates being sought Australia-wide. When an decision is made, details will be posted on the Alumni website.

We all wish David and Lorna the very best in his retirement years and we hope that he will still be a regular visitor to the College, especially for Alumni Reunion dinners and other such celebrations.



*David - 1974*





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## \*\*\* 2008 REUNION DETAILS \*\*\*

2008 is destined to be the year of Reunions with seven events planned for later in the Year.

The formats will be a bit different from previous years, with more of an emphasis on a informal "get-together" to allow more ex-students to just

drop in and stay for as long as they desire. We will still be doing the full sit-down dinner for those years which have requested it, but in 2008, we want to offer our Alumni some alternatives.



Date: **December 6, 2008**  
Time: **1.00pm**  
Where: **Trinity Bar, Dickson**  
Cost: **Nil - buy your own drinks**

The Trinity Bar in Dickson, located at the end of Challis St just behind the old TAB (and all Dara students know where THAT is), is the venue for this event. We will have exclusive use of the bar and only be open to ex-students until 5.00pm when it will open to the general public. There will be a sausage sizzle during the afternoon and drinks at special prices until 5.00pm. Register your interest on the Alumni website now on the Reunions page.



Date: **September 27, 2008**  
Time: **TBA**  
Where: **TBA**  
Cost: **TBA**

This Reunion is being organised by one of your classmates Trish Carnevale and the date is set but a venue, costings etc.... are yet to be finalised.. As soon as information is received, it will be posted on the Reunions page as well as emailed individually to all registered members. So now's the time to ensure all your classmates are on the Dara Alumni site so we can keep in touch.



Date: **November 15, 2008**  
Time: **1.00pm**  
Where: **Trinity Bar, Dickson**  
Cost: **Nil - buy your own drinks**

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Date: **October 25, 2008**  
Time: **7.00pm**  
Where: **McCowage Hall, Daramalan**  
Cost: **\$45.00 p/p**

Saturday October 25 is set down as Reunion Night in 2008. Like previous years, we will be combining a few anniversaries all on the same night which keeps your costs down and provides opportunities to say hello to classmates above and below you depending on the year you were in. We will be conducting escorted tours through the College from 6.30pm and a sit-down meal will be served from 8.00pm. Drinks will be on sale all night and we plan to finish at midnight but the Tradies across the road stays open until 4.00am. Partners are most welcome because SOMEONE needs to be able to drive home!



Date: **November 8, 2008**  
Time: **1.00pm**  
Where: **Trinity Bar, Dickson**  
Cost: **Nil - buy your own drinks**

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As this is also Principal David Garratt's final year at Daramalan, he has been invited to each Reunion to give you the opportunity to say goodbye to an icon of the College. There will be some sadness mixed with excitement for most ex-students, as I know that David has played a large part in many students's lives in the 34 years he has spent at Dara.

So please don't miss your own event. Register now at the Alumni website on the "Reunion" page, and you be able to see who else has indicated they are coming, as well as a full list of your classmates who you can send invites to, if you know their email address.





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## 2008 Building program nears completion



Sharpe Wing Extension



New Hospitality wing and Gym development

The College building program for 2008 has so far come in on time and on budget.

The first part of the school's expansion was the Sharpe Wing extension which opened on in time for the first week of classes in Term One. This extension provides an all-weather student link from Reid Wing to Sharpe on the top floor and a covered walkway between the two buildings at ground level. This design feature also grants additional shade for the Year 7 students as well.

In addition to this, the top walkway, has given the same students much required additional locker space as well as a new PCA office freeing up the previously cramped conditions in McMahon and Reid Wings.

The second development, the most significant building project undertaken at the College since the Administration and Library extensions in 2003, is the new state-of-the-art Hospitality Department attached to the existing Gym.

This new building will provide every modern

facility for all our hospitality students, including commercial fridges, dedicated prep areas, modern ovens and cook-tops which will bring a fresh new dimension to this Department.

It will also cater for College functions and provide a "restaurant" area suitable for staff and guests alike.

Along with this expansion is the new offices, storage areas and change-rooms for the Sports and PE Departments. This development is on track to open in August this year.

### Temptation pays off

NOT bad for a week's work. Daramalan College teacher **Michael Castrission** finished his reign on the WIN-TV quiz show *Temptation* on Tuesday night with \$95,000 in cash and prizes. After a couple of close calls, he opted to take a \$70,000 Volvo XC90 and leave the show. His other prizes including a barbecue, outdoor setting and an inflatable dinghy, which *Temptation* host **Ed Phillips** reckoned would go well on Lake Burley Griffin. But Castrission still can't win a trick with his students. "Now when I'm walking past them in the hall, they'll call out, 'Bloody Volvo drivers!'," he said, with a laugh.

### Dara teacher proves the worth of a good education

In October last year current Daramalan teacher, Michael Castrission – pictured far right in the carry-over champions seat – appeared on WIN's "Temptation" quiz show, lasting the full five nights and consequently eventually going on to take out the major prize of a \$70,000 Volvo. And this is how the "Canberra Times" reported it. Another Volvo-driving teacher!







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APRIL 2008

Mr Frank Fulton  
1998 - 2002  
Daramalan

## In Memoriam

### Fr Paul Power MSC

Many of the boys in Dara's early years will remember **Father Power** who was the College Bursar until the early 70s. On Good Friday this year, Father Power passed away in Sydney after a long illness. He was 84.

Reproduced here is a tribute to his life as published in the Daramalan Yearbook on the 25th anniversary of his Ordination.

#### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS!

An appreciation of Father Paul James Power, MSC, FRGS



Born and baptized in Uralla, New South Wales, 1923, Father Paul took the habit as a member of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1941, and after his perpetual profession, was ordained a Priest on 25th March 1948.

His appointments have included: 3 years at Thursday and Hammond Islands, one year each in Kensington, Randwick and Downlands College, Toowoomba; before teaching for 10 years at Monivae College, Hamilton.

A quiet, unassuming, dedicated worker, he joined Father McCowage at Daramalan in 1965, where he has directed the business affairs of the College as Bursar and Procurator. One of his first tasks was to construct 14 dozen student desks. These are still in use. As a teacher, his principal fields have been Woodwork, TD and Geography, arranging and directing several successful Geographical projects over the years. He was nominated a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 1971.

On the evening of 24th July, the Daramalan family together with Father Paul's family and friends, gathered in the College Chapel, where 24 priests concelebrated Mass to honour the Silver Jubilarian; and at the same time, Father Michael Quinn, Parish Priest of the Dickson parish. The Provincial Superior, Father John McMahon, MSC, gave the homily — on the dignity of the Priesthood and the sacrifice and dedication of the Religious state. Afterwards the guests were entertained to dinner in the Senior Secondary Common Room.

Ad multos annos! Ad multos annos vivat! Plurimosque annos vivat! VIVAT!

Frederick W. Ross, MSC

### David Elphick ('68)

Cancer claimed another "old boy" with the death of Class of '68 student **David Elphick** who passed away earlier this year.

Classmate **Tony Rumble** remembers, "I knew David quite well as my wife and I had the pleasure of having a beautiful family home built by David and his partner **Jack Nash**,

another Daramalan '68 school member, over 1983-4 in Latham. A lot of the "subbies" were ex-Dara boys as well and they all helped build our lovely home." Tony went on to say that, "David's parents used to own the service station at the airport and David had two younger brothers, Andrew who was in my year — '70 — and another younger brother who left in the early 70's."

Vale David.



ELPHICK  
David

### Peter Newham

(Class of '70) died of cancer last September. He was diagnosed just before Christmas 2006 with pancreatic cancer and was 54 years old. He was a Superintendent with the ACT Fire Brigade and had been with the Brigade since 1978. **Peter** also had another brother at Daramalan, **Michael**, who was in the Class of '72. (Mick is now living in the States)

Peter's funeral was held at St Christopher's Cathedral in Manuka.

Peter is pictured here below with Daramalan's First XV in 1970. Sadly, Peter Carse pictured in the back row, is not with us anymore either.

1970 was the same year as Brumbies coach **Laurie Fisher** was chosen as Best Forward U/12 in NSW, and future ARU Chairman **Peter McGrath** U/15's team were ACT Junior Rugby Union Champions.



FIRST FIFTEEN 1970

Back: D. Walsh, J. Hanrahan, P. Carse, M. Edstein, P. Martin  
Middle: B. Dempsey, M. Kelly, S. Fitzgerald, M. Callahan, A. McCormick  
Front: P. Cardiff, B. McGee, D. Collins, P. McDermott (c), P. Newham, A. Roberts

Peter McGrath, who was in the middle of Australia's World Cup Rugby challenge in France, sent a condolence email from Bordeaux where the Aussie team were preparing for their next game.

School mate **Tony Rumble** remembers Peter. "Peter and I started school together on the same day at St Joseph's O'Connor in 1958 & finished our school lives at Dara on the same day in 1970."

"We shared a heck of a lot through our school life: we played all our football together in the same teams and other sports that we participated or represented in. He was one of the best centre 3/4's I ever had the pleasure of playing with. He had the gift of a "football brain" and amazing instinct, a bit like Ricky Stuart, the skills of a Harry Wells and hands like John Ballesty, it was a real treat to play footy with him. If he hadn't pursued his career in the Fire Brigade after leaving

school I think he probably would have gone on to higher senior representative honours in footy."

Tony went on to say, "He possessed a great sense of humour and you could never forget his radiant smiling face even in the adversity of the terrible cancer he had to suffer and endure over the past 9 months or so."

Vale Peter.

### Michael Paine

Class of '73 died early this year.



## New Principal at Mt Carmel Central School Yass

Mr Naish Storman (pictured left), Daramalan's Assistant Principal - Staff Welfare since 2002, has this year accepted an offer as Principal of the Catholic school in Yass. We wish him all the best in this challenging new role.



## Major MSC milestones

February 26 is traditionally the day when the MSC were professed. This year Fr. Harold Baker celebrates 66 years as a priest; Fr. Jim Littleton 60 years and Br. Dave Merrick celebrates 62 years as an MSC brother.

An amazing record in any career or calling.





## WHERE ARE THEY NOW...

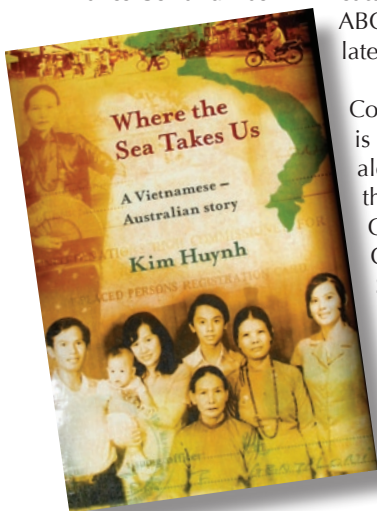
### Kim Huynh (1995)

**Kim Huynh** is now a lecturer in politics at the ANU and has written a book detailing his family's frightening flight from Vietnam in the 70s on a small, smelly boat braving near fatal illness, hunger and pirates to get to a refugee camp.

Ultimately they arrived in Canberra, and Kim's book details his time spent growing up in Canberra including his school days at Daramalan.

The book is entitled "Where the Sea Takes Us" and was featured on the ABC's "Stateline" late last year.

Kim, who was College Captain, is pictured below along with the rest of the Class of '95 Community Service team.



### Gerard Zochling (1987)

Another ex-Dara author is **Gerard Zochling** (1987) who has written a book of verse.

### Brendan McMahon (2002)

With many current Year 12s wondering what lies in front of them, we hope they can take heart and pride in the achievements of their predecessors. One outstanding example is **Brendan McMahon** from the Class of 2002 who has taken out the University of Sydney Medal for 2007.

Brendan was awarded a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil Engineering) (Structures) passing with Honours Class 1 and Medal. He was also presented with the A. S. Macdonald Prize of the Association of Consulting Structural Engineers of New South Wales in Structural Engineering; the Bradfield Memorial Prize for First Class Honours in Civil Engineering as well as the R. F. Chapman Memorial Prize in Civil Engineering Design.

Well done hardly seems adequate in recognising Brendan's achievements.



Brendan McMahon

### Laura Hilly (2001)

Graduated with a double degree from the ANU and was awarded the University Medal for Law.



Laura Hilly

### Lauren Boden (2006)

Ran the 400 hurdles at the ACT Championships last month smashing her Personal Best, and taking her to just outside the qualifying mark for the Beijing Olympics. She does however have the opportunity to better her time with two more "meets" before the final selections are made. We wish her luck!



### Ashleigh Mannix (2005)

Released her first EP in March this year, as well as supporting Josh Pike at Canberra Uni, Abby Dobson at the "Basement" in Sydney plus sold out gigs in Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide.

However she really shone in front of 30,000 people in March this year, at Commonwealth Park in celebration of Canberra's 95th birthday.

Her first EP, appropriately entitled "My First EP", was released at Tilley's in Lyneham on March 8th and there were many familiar Dara faces in the audience that night.



Ashleigh Mannix







## WHERE ARE THEY NOW...

### Simon Wookey (2006)

Was one of three Daramalan boys to join the RAAF at the Defence Force Academy late last year. The other students were **Sam Longbridge** and **Dayne Schmidt**. All three will be studying Electrical Engineering, which is a four year course.

Around 320 joined the three services from across Australia from approximately 10,000 applications, so to have three from the same school doing the same course after a very competitive process says a lot about all three boys and about Daramalan.

Pictured from left are Sam Longbridge, Dayne Schmidt and Simon Wookey with their RAAF Certificates of Recognition

### Amy Banson (2001)

Was this year chosen as "2008 Young Canberra Citizen of the Year" in recognition of her work in raising awareness of mental-health issues among young people.

Amy was the first on the scene when student Clea Rose was fatally injured by a hit-and-run driver in Civic in 2005.

This life-changing event inspired her to take on personal challenges to raise money for this worthy cause.

She has walked from Brisbane to Canberra in 2006 and last year completed a marathon 3000km walk from Perth to Canberra raising money along the way. Last year she was also the subject of an ABC TV "Australian Story" episode.



HONOURED: University student Amy Banson with her award.



### Peter Casey (1996)

(Pictured below centre) is now a thriving comedian and saw an opportunity to hone his skills with last years Federal elections. The result was a satirical stage show in Canberra last November and was featured in the "Canberra Times".

## CURRENT STUDENTS

### Year 12 Drama student stars in new Australian feature movie



Year 12 Drama student **Lloyd Allison-Young**, is featured in the new Aussie movie *The Black Balloon* which opened across Australia last week.

The movie has been getting rave reviews and won a prestigious award at the Berlin Film Festival earlier this month.

The film featured on a number of TV news and current affairs shows, including the highly regarded ABC TV's *The Movie Show*. The link to the segment can be found at < [www.abc.net.au/atthemovies/txt/s2162605.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/atthemovies/txt/s2162605.htm) >

### Trio backs satire as election victor



By James Massola

"We haven't done our job if we haven't offended someone." So said Moya Simpson, one of the stars in the show *Christmas in December* at Teatro Vivid.

Shorts and Simpson have it up with pianist Peter Casey and director Carissa Campbell for end-of-year review, and it looks like the show's mix of political humour will be a winner with Canberra audiences. The review, like its stars, is one of Canberra's most proud to trumpet. "We've done a political satire show for five years now. One took it to Sydney, and it felt like we were shouting," Simpson said, gesturing over her own head. "It (Canberra) is such a politically aware town, it really is, and you really notice it, and it's the show that not necessarily translates."

## Dara boy takes out sprint record

Year 11 student **Brendan Matthews** sprinted his way into the record books on Saturday February 9 by becoming the youngest ever winner of the highly acclaimed Temora Gift. This annual event held over 120 metres was won by Brendan in a time of just 11.5 secs. This was just outside the previous record time of 11.64 secs.

Temora Golden Gift President Rick Firman said of Brendan, "He was our youngest ever winner and was just amazing."

He went on to say, "He is a delightful young fella and a popular and deserving winner".

His coach Matt Beckenham, who also coaches fellow ex-Daramalan student and Commonwealth Games 400m hurdler Lauren Boden, predicted big things for Brendan over the next few years.







## Academic Care

C • H • A • R • T • E • R

*Academic Care: enhancing student learning, well-being, and resilience through strategies sympathetic to their needs and embedded in learning experiences.*

*This Academic Care Charter sets out the vision for education at Daramalan College.*

*Believing that the heart of education is education of the heart, Daramalan College aims to help all students grow into the kind of people they are meant to be before God and each other. The school seeks to offer an education that not only prepares young people for life, intellectually and socially, but also grounds them in a sureness about their future and their values.*

*Staff members strive to create a learning environment that reflects the spirit of Christ in a strong and faithful way, and calls forth the best in all those who are part of the school.*

*To engender in our students a strong belief in God's love as manifested through the heart of Jesus, we need to be a Christian community developing the gospel spirit of freedom, loyalty and concern for one another.*

*To help foster these aims we have adopted this Academic Care Charter.*

*Daramalan College  
promotes Academic Care by:*

- ~ **providing** opportunities to develop an understanding of the strong links between learning, well-being and resilience
- ~ **believing** that all students can succeed in their learning
- ~ **monitoring** student connectedness to the learning environment
- ~ **stimulating** student engagement with learning
- ~ **providing** learning experiences that are relevant to their lives
- ~ **fostering** high expectations of all learners
- ~ **engaging** staff and students in dialogue about understanding learning
- ~ **enhancing** positive psycho-social and developmental outcomes through protective factors
- ~ **utilising** a range of support networks and resources and implementing structures and programs in response to diverse student needs
- ~ **modelling** respect and fairness

*Daramalan Staff  
promote Academic Care by:*

- ~ **using** pedagogies that strengthen the links between learning, well-being and resilience
- ~ **supporting** individual needs and learning styles
- ~ **offering** authentic learning experiences
- ~ **encouraging** opportunities for reflection in learning
- ~ **embedding** assessment for learning within classroom practices
- ~ **developing** quality learning environments where students enjoy learning, are motivated, self-directed and feel empowered to take risks as learners
- ~ **demonstrating** clear and consistent behaviour and learning expectations
- ~ **developing** relationships that allow all students to feel valued, safe and supported