



From the Principal



Welcome to the first edition of Duchesnews for 2008. As you will clearly see from the articles in the newsletter, life at Duchesne continues on apace. I think it is safe to say that it did not take the freshers more than a day or so to feel part of our community. Even if feelings of homesickness lingered for a little longer than that, they started to find their niche here from the start and immediately immersed themselves in what was going on. It was probably harder for parents to adjust to the gap left at home!

I am always delighted to see the tremendous spirit of cooperation which exists in college, no matter what the activity. I have greatly enjoyed attending sporting and cultural events and to hear about contributions to service and other projects. Jacinta got the year off to a good start with the blood drive and 'Clean up Australia' Day and I know she is looking forward to a good number of students signing up for future events. We have started off extremely positively in the cultural arena too with an unbeaten record in the debating competition. I am eagerly awaiting the final to hear what Monique, Lou, Jess and Ashley have in store for us. Our musical efforts to date have been impressive. Erin made quite an impact in Duch Idol and College Idol and I thought our band

was great. The choir is working hard with Sarah to prepare for Choralfest, whenever that may be, and I am impressed that so many of you were prepared to give up time on the public holiday for a long rehearsal. The girls from Duch singing songs from Oz leaves a lasting impression.

Carly and her sports convenors have certainly been busy making sure that you are all putting your best efforts into ICC Sport. I appreciate how hard it is to get the teams together for training but it certainly looks like the efforts are being rewarded. I think it is fantastic that we are doing so well across the board – it is becoming harder and harder for any other college to catch up with our points. Well done to everyone!

Social events too have brought many of you together and have enabled you to extend contacts with other colleges. The highlight of the year the 'Duchesne Snowball', is fast approaching and I am sure it will be a great success, as ever.

Academic life has been very much to the foreground throughout the semester. In March, we celebrated outstanding achievements of students in 2007 at our Annual Academic Awards Dinner. It was wonderful to recognise the three students who achieved a GPA of 7 but also to see this in the context that we are not a college which selects primarily on academic ability. It is difficult to believe that we have less than a month until Swotvac. It has been interesting to see how many people have been using the library and the study rooms throughout the semester and I am sure these areas will be busier still in coming weeks. I hope the freshers have heard that Swotvac is not all bad – you at least have the delights of supper to look forward to.

I was delighted that members of my family, in particular my mother, were present that night. During their three weeks in Australia, they had the opportunity to experience a little of what

Duchesne is all about and to understand why I am so enthusiastic about my role here. It was certainly difficult taking them back to the airport but we appreciated every moment we were able to spend with them.

As you are aware, we were again unable to offer places at Duchesne this year to many of those who applied. The Duchesne College Council has therefore agreed to undertake a building project to increase the number of rooms to 195. To me, this is a really good number to ensure a diverse college yet it is small enough to maintain the friendly family reputation which means so much. The new rooms will have ensuite bathrooms and will be air-conditioned and will primarily be available to the more senior students. These should prove quite an incentive to some of you to stay for a further year. Everyone will benefit from the central courtyard which the new building will create, the common room, further seminar room and larger gym. Building will be underway soon and I have already asked the architects to come in and present the plans to you so you understand exactly what is happening.

I know that in addition to our current students, this newsletter will be read by prospective students and their families. Duchesne College is not just a building; it gains its strength and vitality from the contributions of each one of its members. I hope they will gain an insight into this special environment our college provides and feel motivated to apply here.

I wish you all continued success throughout the year.

Nanette Kay
Principal

From the President

Duch has certainly lived up to its reputation of getting in and giving everything a go so far this year. It was a pleasure to welcome an enthusiastic group of first years into our college community during O Week. The first-year girls have really jumped straight into college life, making the most of the cultural, sporting, service and, of course, social events on offer. Their mass participation is undoubtedly thanks to the brilliant example set by our returning students. The girls' efforts have certainly been paying off.

We are sitting comfortably at the top of the ICC sporting ladder – a sure sign that the ICC cup will safely stay at Duch. Our debating team remains undefeated having moved into the Grand Final and our choir is busy rehearsing to take to the stage later this semester. Despite adding cultural and sporting

commitments to their studies, the girls have managed to make time for others. We had the highest participation in the inter-college blood-donation drive despite being the smallest college on campus, and about a third of the college, approximately 50 residents, took part in Clean Up Australia Day.

The first half of the semester has also been jam-packed with social events. Whether we were dressed for the greens at Duch Bowls or covered in green at Patty's Day Boat Cruise, we had heaps of fun getting to know each other and our fellow collegians better.

Excitedly looking forward to ball!

Monique Vandeleur
President



From the Cultural Convenor

Finally, for the first time in living memory, the Duchesne College Debating Team has won the Intercollege Debating Grand Final! Expectations were high as the team progressed through to the "Big One" undefeated throughout the preliminary rounds, quarter- and semi-finals. The team of Monique Vandeleur, Jessica Pascoe and Louise Wagner did not disappoint and etched itself in Duchesne history with a unanimous four point victory over rivals Union. The girls' sharp wits and incisive rhetoric, not to mention uproarious humour, was indeed a delight to watch. Once again, congratulations guys!

Earlier in semester "Duchesne Idol", Duchesne's selection event for College Idol, saw many varied and talented performers croon and rock the enthusiastic audience. However there could only be one winner and in 2008 it was first year, Erin Dunne, who won the hearts and minds of the crowd and in so doing earned the right to represent the college. Erin went on to give an electrifying performance in front of the adoring masses at the inter-college event held in the Red Room.

Sponsored to the tune of \$1000 by Spotless, Duchesne's Art Show again showcased the extraordinary depth and breadth of artistic talent within the college. The major prize winners picked up \$150 for their efforts and the minor prize winners \$50 each. This year the major prize category winners were: Bernadette Young, Linden Morris, Erin Dunne and Kate Cranney. Minor prizes were awarded to: Alison Lam Ying Lim, Nassassja Lazarus, Natalie Greenwood, Alana Rowan, Lacey Mack, Carly Nolan and Renee Martensen, who won in two categories. Ten items were entered in the ICC Art Show and the best Duchesne piece was awarded to Kate Cranney whose creative use of natural products to depict native fish was ranked fifth overall in the competition.

"Saving the best to last" was indeed the catch cry when it came to describing the efforts of the Duchesne College Band at this year's ICC Bandfest. Despite performing at the very end of the night the band captured the audience's imagination with a scintillating yet sublime performance which included such favourites as "Black horse in a cherry tree" by KT Tunstall, "Take me out" by Franz Ferdi-

nand and the original "Pascoe's Song" by none other than our very own Jessica Pascoe.

Choralfest is quickly approaching on the 28th of May and the choir is going through its paces ably led by their fearless leader and conductor old girl Sarah Kirk. With a large proportion of first years the choir is keen and eager to strut its stuff on the stage and give what will undoubtedly be an awesome performance.

Matt Downey for Louise Wagner
Cultural Convenor



From the Sports Convenor

The year of 2007 saw Duchesne College win the ICC Sport Cup for the first time in over 40 years... and we're well on our way to becoming champions again in 2008!

Duch is off to a brilliant start in ICC Sport. We kicked off the year with the Swimming Carnival and Cross Country in week 2, both of which were an outstanding success. Duch came second in both events leaving us in first place on the ICC ladder and well ahead of the other colleges.

Netball fixtures are well underway and so far the girls are off to an awesome start, winning their first four games comfortably against reigning champs Emmanuel, Cromwell, Grace and Union.

Our most recent victory has been in Volleyball where Duch went through UNDEFEATED to claim first place in the competition! We only dropped one set throughout the entire comp and that was in our final match

against Womens. At that stage even if we lost we would have drawn for first with Womens, but instead we won it outright, congrats girls!

Speaking of WINNING, Duchesne College also won the Touch Carnival. Emmanuel College came equal first, but a MASSIVE congratulations to the Touch girls for finally giving Duchesne a well deserved victory. We've always trained hard for touch and it's finally paid off! A big thanks must also go to Anna Payne and Mandi Searston, two old girls who came back to coach us to victory.

We're now over halfway through Semester One, and this coming weekend sees the beginning of Hockey fixtures and Rowing Regattas. During the Easter break, our rowing convenors held a 3 day training camp to prepare our rowers for our first regatta to be hosted by ourselves and Leos. Unfortunately a lot of the girls couldn't make the camp, but well done to those who came and showed a massive improvement.

Hockey trainings are underway and we'll be playing our first game against St John's at

8:00am on Saturday the 19th of April. Last year we tied for first place with John's, so should make for an interesting first match!

Finally, I'd like to share a massive thanks with all the supporters who've shown up to sporting events in their Crazy Blues to support their fellow duchies. Continue the good work by making sure you get down to the Touch Carnival, Regattas and Hockey games!

Carly Nolan
Sports Convenor



From the Service and Liturgy Convenor

Service at Duchesne has made a great start to 2008. This year Duchesne wanted to do something a little different for Lent, and from this the 'Give back, don't give up' theme was born. Therefore, we decided in addition to giving up cordial we would do something each week to give back to our community. The first week of university kicked off our first activity, the inter-college Blood Drive. I am very proud to announce that Duchesne was the second highest blood donor of all the colleges.

Next cab off the rank was 'Clean Up Australia Day'. Duchesne again showed their support for the community by donning gloves and picking up rubbish along the river banks and roads of St Lucia. Our final activity was dining in the amazing Muooz Eritrean restaurant, Moorooka, which is run by Eritrean refugees to Austra-

lia. Dining in this restaurant was an amazing cultural and culinary experience that I am sure all the girls who attended will treasure for many years to come.

Attendance, at the Dawn Service on ANZAC day was also very high, so high in fact that we hired a bus to take us all to the city and back. I know that all the girls who attended, though weary eyed were very moved by the sombre experience of the Dawn Service on ANZAC day.

Currently, at Duchesne we are taking some small steps to making Duchesne more environmentally friendly by offering mugs instead of styrofoam cups in the common room kitchenette. We have got off to a great start, much to the credit of all the girls at Duchesne, keep up the good work.

Our next service activity is approaching fast. The 'Rotary Fun Run' in aid of the 'Think

Pink' foundation will be held on the 25th of May in the University grounds. I am hoping for a turn out to rival all the previous events, so girls let's show off our sporting prowess in the Service arena and get keen for a FUN RUN.

Jacinta McDonald
Liturgy and Service Convenor



Canada, eh?

Devoted readers of Duchesnews will recall that Kelsea Ravell, our Duchesne resident on exchange in Canada, wrote of her experiences which appear in the 2007 November edition of Duchesnews. Nearing the end of her exchange Kelsea has once again donned her Foreign Correspondent hat and penned an update on the land of maple syrup and Roots clothing apparel.

Bonjour from Canada!

Welcome to the freshers of 2008! You have successfully chosen the best college at UQ and I'm sure by now you have all effectively inaugurated yourself into the Duchesne community and eagerly adopted the Duch spirit. I'm looking forward to meeting you when I return for second semester!

As I write this last journal to you as "Foreign Correspondent", things here in Vancouver are coming to a close. My year as an exchange student at the University of British Columbia will officially expire on April 30. Therefore, in true journal format, I'm going to reflect on the past seven or so months.

From the outset this was a challenge I set for myself, and let me tell you, this past year has certainly been a huge learning curve. This has been by far the best 'personal growth' experience of my life. Not only have I learned to snowboard at the famous Whistler Mountain and how to survive in minus 25 (!!!) degree weather in beautiful Montreal, I've learned what life is like for so many different people.



View from Whistler Mountain

While at times I really miss my life at Duchesne and in Australia, I absolutely appreciate the opportunity I have here and the knowledge I am constantly gaining inside and outside of the classroom.

Although, I can say with great conviction that being a part of Duchesne, something so fulfilling and enjoyable, can't be replaced.

Since I last wrote, I have actually purchased and worn gum boots (numerous times), gone through two umbrellas, and found myself frequenting *The Australian* website. I've been

asked whereabouts in England I'm from, where in NEW ZEALAND and even where in South Africa. Honestly, it's a wonder I haven't through a matic identity gone drama-crisis.



Top of Whistler Mountain

I've also gone months without seeing the sun (seriously!) and have learned that winter extends from the beginning of "fall" until the end of "spring".

I have found myself frequenting Whistler more than the library – like a true UBC student – and I have to say that it is definitely everything it is cracked up to be, if not more. It is just a hop, skip and a two-and-a-half hour bus ride from campus. Whistler Village has just as many, if not more, Australians inhabiting it than rumoured. It almost feels like home...except for the snow and Canadian beer.

During my time here I've been lucky enough to get a fair bit of travelling in. While I didn't make it back to Australia for Christmas, I did manage to head over to New York. Christmas Day was certainly interesting and a huge change from the traditional family day in 25 degree heat with seafood for lunch. My travelling companions (from Adelaide) and I were fortunate enough to experience a quintessential Manhattan Christmas on a horse-and-cart ride around Central Park. However, to our disappointment it didn't snow so there was no white Christmas for us, but it was a beautiful sunny day nonetheless. I spent New Year's in Montreal which was amazing. Although we didn't know a lot of the music, or which number they were up to in the countdown to 2008, we managed to have a blast all the same.

In true North American style, for Spring Break some friends and I headed to Hawaii for some well-deserved sunshine. I now know why Spring Break is so popular and such a big deal in the north. By the time it comes around everyone is vitamin D deficient, stripped of that summer tan and sick of falling over in the snow. This is something I know from personal experience when a couple of months ago I was riding my bike in the snow because I thought it was such a fun thing to do, of course

To end things, I'm going to leave you with some 'you know you're in Canada when you...' points:

- ...walk into a bar and there is ice-hockey on every TV in sight;
- ...hear the word *toque* being used to describe a beanie;
- ...hear French and English in the same sentence;
- ...hear the phrase 'eh' at the end of a sentence;
- ...hear "rain predicted again for tomorrow, and probably for the rest of the month";
- ...notice the population triple when the sun comes out;
- ...hear "the environment" mentioned an average of three times a day at least
- ...notice the population of Vancouver go crazy when the Canucks (ice-hockey team) actually win.



Look forward to seeing you all soon!

Au revoir!

Central Park, NY - Christmas Day

Library Notes

The academic year has started well with many students showing an interest in the library, borrowing books and submitting suggestions for new books.

New text books which have been added to the collection already include texts in biology, chemistry, physiology, business, law, journalism, psychology and public relations. A number of paperback editions of the classics have been bought to make the classics more accessible for all students. General reading books acquired include *Australian women's writing*, *Aboriginal women by degrees*, *Australian soul* by Gary Bouma, *The kite runner* and *A thousand splendid suns* by Khaled Hosseini, *Brida* by Paul Coelho and Ian McEwan's *Atonement*. Some recent crime

and fiction books have been bought for the Light Reading Section.

Suggestions for more books are always welcome.

We have received some donations this year. Donations of all kinds are always well received.

I look forward to seeing more students in the library in the weeks ahead. Please do not hesitate to ask for assistance.

Sally Hall
Librarian



From the Dean of Students

In writing this article I really struggled to find a topic to discuss. My initial attempt was quickly discarded as perhaps being too overbearing and abstract. Despite my apparent lack of inspiration, my goal was clear and that was to write something which would hopefully provide some relevant food for thought to the residents of Duchesne. However my concern was that I would be dishing out advice which was neither relevant nor welcome.

Somewhat frustrated at all the possible topics which I came up with, I sternly chastised myself and muttered under my breath, "what do these guys really want?" The penny finally dropped. The question of what I really want in life is a fundamental yet unquestionably common human question which all people ask in some form or another, not just once, but usually throughout

their life. It is a particularly pertinent question for myself since over the last 18 months my efforts in the lead up to World Youth Day have been directed at this question in relation to young people.

Unlike at other stages of life, the question of what I really want in life for a young person can be at once exciting, scary, overwhelming or exhausting and simply postponed to a later date. Being young is to literally have the world at your feet. All the possibilities lie before you and every hope, dream and desire competes for space in your imagination. Time unfortunately waits for no one and growing older sometimes forces us to make certain decisions, for example, in relation to career, lifestyle, partner etc. In making the big decisions in life it makes sense to have clarity, that is, a thorough knowledge of the facts.

Truth be known, gathering the “facts” is only half the battle. Ask anyone who has had to make a serious and deliberate decision about anything of consequence and I can almost guarantee you that two or three clear options will emerge, all of which appear equally appealing, viable and sensible.

So what then? The “fact” finding isn’t over. The “facts” which need to be collected are those concerning yourself. Purposefully listening to your own desires, reflecting on your reactions and responses to life and questioning your motivations and values are all activities which lead us to a greater appreciation of ourselves as human beings. Having a person to bounce off such ideas and thoughts is a wonderful gift however writing a journal, even if only an infrequent jotting down of a few notes for future contemplation, can be the next best thing. Such activities take you into the world of the philosophical and the spiritual, a realm which everyone must encounter at some time or other, whether fleetingly or deeply.

However, as with most things, moderation is the key, and a good balance of contemplation and action can result in a quiet self-confidence and assurance with any questions you face. Developing a habit early in life which leads you to a closer understanding of yourself can only be beneficial in the long run both for yourself and those around you. Therefore, amidst the craziness of college life, I hope that you find time to every once in a while indulge in a little self reflection. All being well this will go some way to helping you discover not what you want but what you, “really, really want”. (Apologies guys, I couldn’t resist, I had to work the Spice Girls in there somewhere!).

Matt Downey
Dean of Students

Newsletter Compilation

Thank you to all those who help make the newsletter happen. If you would like to contribute photos or written material please send them to: mdowney@uq.edu.au or phone (07) 3377 2325 for more information.

This newsletter is also available electronically at: www.uq.edu.au/duchesne



“The Tower” viewed from the front of the college.