



From the Principal



This edition of Duchesne News brings the year to an end and what a year it has been: action-packed, fun-filled yet always focused on who we are and what we are striving to achieve. It is difficult to single out one highlight of the year but a few key events stand out clearly in my mind:

Sunday 18th February, the hot summer day when we welcomed our freshers to Duchesne. A turning point in their lives as they left behind the protective environment of their families and schools and equally in the life of Duchesne as these freshers quickly became an integral part of our community.

Sunday 13th May, Mother's Day Classic Run (where the Cranney sisters met Anna Bligh), rowing regatta and two hockey matches – and Kathleen Price involved in all of these events!

Friday 18th May, Duchesne College Ball held at Victoria Park Golf Club, with Pre's at the college. An endless procession of beautiful young women, dressed in their finest, followed by ... Leo's boys!

Monday 8th October, Dancefest: a performance by Duchesne which matched up to the standard of the previous year and who will ever forget Jess's scintillating routine!

Wednesday 10th October, our Sporting, Cultural and Services Award Dinner: an opportunity for Laura to

realise her dream by proudly holding up the ICC Sports Trophy, the culmination of the year when everyone played a part either in a team or as a 'crazy blue' supporter.

Sunday 14th October, the AGM of our Student Club where you displayed great wisdom in your choice of an excellent Exec for 2008.

Thursday 18th October, our Academic Awards and Valedictory Dinner, when 210 people filled the dining room to acknowledge and recognise the academic success of many of our students and to farewell the senior students who have given so much of themselves to the college and who have developed so much on a personal level in the process. It gave me great pleasure to introduce the Madeleine Sophie Barat Award, presented to the valedict who, throughout her time at Duchesne College, has most clearly exemplified the ethos of the Society of the Sacred Heart as expressed in the Goals of Sacred Heart Education. The inaugural award was presented to Chloe Baldwin and Anna Cranney.

These are but a few of the public events which have shaped our year and our lives but many more activities have gone on in the background, which are of equal importance.

I have spent a good deal of time in recent weeks interviewing the 88 students who wish to return to Duchesne next year and applicants for the position of Resident Assistant, a most rewarding process as I have heard many positive comments and suggestions. It will be great to have 28 third years (what a difference compared to 4 last year!) The thought of a beautiful new building for 2009 will, I am sure, encourage even more third years to stay. More about that in February!

At the same time, I have continued to interview prospective students. We have received approximately 140 applications, twice as many as places available. There will be some tough

decisions ahead but it is great to know that so many talented, interesting girls wish to come to Duchesne. Particularly in the schools I have visited this year, it is obvious that the very strong reputation of the college is a key factor, and that reputation is built most solidly on the spirit of Duchesne. We are each responsible for maintaining and developing that spirit, both now as a current student and in the future. As I have heard on many occasions, "You can take the girl out of Duch but you can't take Duch out of the girl!"

Over the last few weeks, I received a number of applications for the second year of the Duchesne College Council Bursaries. I was pleased with the number and calibre of the applications and with the way the candidates presented themselves at interview with Sr. Muirhead, a member of Council and myself. It was difficult making decisions as there was a number of most deserving students. As last year, the Council had authorised me to offer two bursaries for 50% remission of fees and two for 25% remission of fees (or the equivalent allocated in the most appropriate manner). There is clearly a need to support students and their families in this way and I hope I will be able to extend our range of bursaries and scholarships in the future.

At this time of year, many a 'thank you' is in order. I would like to thank Mr Pat O'Dwyer, Chair of the Duchesne College Council and Council members for the time and expertise they devote to the college. A massive thank you to Sr. Muirhead and Matt for their dedication to their role. Thank you too to all members of staff who have played their part in college life, supporting and caring for you and supporting me. It has been a difficult time in the admin department as we have tried to find the best replacement for Clyne. It took a while, and I am delighted to welcome Mrs Anne Baker to our team. I would particularly like to thank the Student Executive for the fantastic job they have done and their tireless efforts on your behalf. Finally, I would like to thank each one of you for your contribution. I wish you and your families a peaceful and

From the Principal (continued)

joyful Christmas and look forward to welcoming our returning students here in February.

Having celebrated the feast of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne on Saturday 17th November, I leave you with this quotation about her from Helen McLaughlin:

“Philippine speaks to us of leave-taking, of going forth, of going beyond ourselves, of living in faith”.

With my best wishes

Nanette Kay
Principal

From the Vice Principal



Yesterday

is but today’s memory and

Tomorrow

is today’s dream.

Kahlil Gibran
The Prophet

How often have we heard the words “I can’t believe that we are at the end of another year”! Yet, here we are again with the opportunity to look back over the months that have passed and to reflect on what the year 2007 has been for us.

Here at Duchesne the opportunities for growth in the different aspects of our lives are many and varied. As a College community we have been richly blessed

by the unique gifts that each one has brought to the College this year.

I feel privileged in my role to care for students during such an important time in their lives. I appreciated and enjoyed working with the Student Executive, and thank them for the dedication and commitment they have shown in carrying out their responsibilities. They were remarkable in their vision, their leadership, their enthusiasm and their interest in the student body. Their willingness to give a high priority to working for the good of the College was inspiring. They worked hard to make College functions and inter-College activities enjoyable and successful.

As we all know Duchesne is a special place. Each student in her own way has contributed to making it the happy, friendly College it is and one to which everyone feels proud to belong.

It has certainly been a rewarding year for me and I thank all the staff and each of the students for their support and friendship.

I shall continue to think of you all especially during the next few weeks and assure you of my prayers and good wishes for your exam results. I encourage you to reflect on what you have received at Duchesne, and how this might challenge you to be aware of people’s needs in the wider community and how you could respond:

Whatever you can do

or dream you can,

begin it.

Boldness has genius, magic

and power in it.

Begin it now.

Goethe

I hope you all have enjoyable and happy holidays and I wish you and your families every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

Sr Kathleen Muirhead
Vice-Principal

From the President

Hello Everybody!!

It seems like only yesterday that we started the year but we are now well and truly at the end of 2007 with second semester exams behind us. Semester two has been jam packed with college activities and all the girls have been busy.

Semester two kicked off with 'O2 week' where we welcomed all the new students to the college and enjoyed a week of social activities including a very successful trivia night in the dining room and St Leo's First Knight Back. Many of the girls also went dressed up in their crazy battle-field costumes and attended Cromwell Bunker – it was wonderful to see the girls supporting these intercollege events!

The weekends all semester have been full of activity for Duchesne girls. I can recall one Sunday two months back where in the morning close to 30 girls volunteered to assist at the college Open Day, the Duchesne Soccer team competed in 2 games (which they

won!!) and close to 70 girls later attended Dancefest rehearsal. It has been a similar story all semester where many of the girls have been involved in a wide range of cultural, sporting and other college activities.

One Act Play, Athletics, ICC Oratory, Tennis and Squash are just some of the other activities we have participated in (all of which we did very well). Perhaps the most exciting news to report is that Duchesne officially won the ICC Sporting Cup this year – a remarkable and some what shocking event as we have never won or even come close to winning ICC Sport ever. Congratulations to Laura who is a remarkable Sports Convenor who has worked tirelessly for two years to encourage and support a more serious but still fun approach towards sport at the college. We recently acknowledged Laura's achievements, the work of the specific sport convenors and of course all those who have participated in sport this year at the Sports, Cultural and Service Dinner.

The semester ended with a few big bangs with Dancefest, ICC Ball, Year Dinners,

Ladies High Tea and AGM all in quick succession.

Enjoy the remainder of the year girls, work hard, play hard and remember that Duch HAS more Boof!!

Warm Regards,

Kathleen
President



Staff Profile: Anne Baker

With the sad resignation of College Coordinator Clyne Roche several months ago the College has been on the lookout for a person to fill Clyne's considerable shoes and to operate in the new and expanded role as Personal Assistant to the Principal and Student Coordinator. After searching high and low Duchesne College has finally welcomed Mrs Anne Baker as the latest addition to its community.

Born in Ipswich, Anne spent the first six years of her life in Papua New Guinea before returning to Australia. While at school Anne had strong scientific tendencies but also indulged her interests in ballet and speech/drama receiving advanced qualifications in both.

Anne's extensive and interesting career has led her to positions in education as well as a long association with pathology service provider Sullivan Nicolaides. While at Sullivan Nicolaides

Anne filled a number of positions from Technician through to Facilities Coordinator. Widowed at 38, Anne continued running a Sound Recording Studio in partnership before leaving the cut-throat world of music recording in 2000.

Tongue-in-cheek, Anne says that having three children is the riskiest thing she has ever done however she has also revealed a "need for speed" having on occasion been known to dabble in motorbikes and helicopters. Anne's predilection for Asian cuisine is matched only by her appetite for British films starring the incomparable Dame Judy Dench as well as all the Harry Potter movies! A lover of books, Anne is captivated by autobiographies, self-help books and more recently fantasy fiction. When on holiday Anne often frequents Tugun Beach. Anne finds that time spent at the beach offers the perfect mix of sun, surf, sleep and reading.

Embarking on her new role at Duchesne, Anne has been impressed by the wonder-

ful sense of community within the college and is proud to be a part of an organisation which has integrity and the best interests of the young women in its care as its primary motivation.



Author: Matt Downey

From the Sports Convenor

Duchesne Wins 2007 ICC Cup!

It is now official that Duch was won the ICC sport cup for 2007. It has been 41 years since we have last won the competition- a long time! The successful year was celebrated at the annual Sport/Cultural/Service Dinner on Wednesday 10th October. Guest speakers on the evening included Angie Lambert (nee Skirving), Olympic hockey gold medallist and Andrew Walker, Australian dual rugby international. Both were interviewed about their sporting life on the evening. At the dinner, major award recipients for the year were also announced. This years Fresher Sportswoman of the year was received by Susan Tannock and College Sports-woman of the year by Carly Nolan, next year's Sports Convenor. Final placings for the year include:

Tennis	1 st
Basketball	1 st
Hockey	Eq 1 st
Touch	2 nd
Volleyball	2 nd
Squash	2 nd
Athletics	2 nd
Cross country	Eq 2 nd
Rowing	3 rd
Soccer	3 rd
Swimming	3 rd
Netball	5 th

Thank you everyone for putting a HUGE effort into sport this year. We did it!!!

Yours in sport,
 Laura Greenhalgh
 Sports Convenor



L to R: Laura Grenhalgh (Sports Convenor), Mr Andrew Walker, Mrs Nanette Kay (Principal), Mr Matt Downey (Dean of Students), Sr Kathleen Muirhead (Vice Principal), Mrs Angie Lambert (nee Skirving) , Monique Vandeleur (Cultural Convenor).

Inter-College Sport

Cumulative Points - 2007

Old Collegians Cup - Women's Division

	Duchesne		Women's		St John's		Emmanuel		Grace		Union		Cromwell		International	
	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Poi	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points
Swimming	3rd	6	eq1st	8	eq1st	8	4th	5	5th	4	6th	3	8th	1	7th	2
Cross Country	eq2nd	6.5	1st	9	eq2nd	6.5	7th	2	8th	1	eq4th	4.5	eq4th	4.5	6th	3
Touch	2nd	7	4th	5	3rd	6	1st	9	eq5th	3.5	eq5th	3.5	7th	2	8th	1
Volleyball	2nd	7	eq4th	4	eq4th	4	7th	2	1st	9	8th	1	eq4th	4	3rd	6
Netball	5th	4	1st	9	eq2nd	6.5	eq2nd	6.5	6th	3	4th	5	7th	2	8th	1
Hockey	eq1st	8	6th	3	eq1st	8	5th	4	3rd	6	4th	5	7th	2	8th	1
Rowing	3rd	6	4th	5	5th	4	1st	9	2nd	7	6th	3	7th	2	dnc	0
Athletics	2nd	7	1st	9	3rd	6	4th	5	8th	1	5th	4	6th	3	7th	2
Basketball	1st	9	7th	2	eq2nd	6.5	eq2nd	6.5	5th	4	4th	5	8th	1	6th	3
Squash	2nd	7	eq5th	3.5	eq5th	3.5	1st	9	3rd	6	4th	5	7th	2	8th	1
Tennis	1st	9	3rd	6	2nd	7	8th	1	6th	3	4th	5	5th	4	7th	2
Soccer	3rd	6	2nd	7	eq4th	4.5	8th	1	7th	2	6th	3	1st	9	eq4th	4.5
		82.5		70.5		70.5		60		49.5		47		36.5		26.5

The Amazing Cranney Sisters!

Duchesne College has once again this year been privileged to have as members of its community the dynamic duo of sisters Anna and Kate Cranney. Hailing from Goondoowindi and having been educated at St Ursula's College Toowoomba, both girls have contributed much to college life in 2007.

Anna's activity has centred around her role as this year's Student Club Liturgy and Service Convenor. Leading the charge in all things service and liturgy, Anna organised residents for a number of activities ranging from the Mother's Day Classic fun run to raise money for breast cancer research to Clean Up Australia Day in collaboration with "The Bridge", UQ's volunteer organisation. Anna was also been responsible for a number of moving liturgies which have highlighted the individual and communal aspects of our lives at Duchesne. Anna also organized two wonderful evenings of contemplative Taize Prayer in second semester. The college recognised Anna's efforts at this year's Academic and Valedictory Dinner where she was the co-winner of the inaugural

Madeline Sophie Barat award as the student who has most clearly exemplified the ethos of the Society of the Sacred Heart.

Later this month and throughout December Anna will be traveling to India as part of the Queensland based Centre for Social Reponse's Community Leadership Programme. Anna will be exposed to local projects run by various non-government organisations in and around the rural areas of Pune. These projects will relate to micro-enterprises and self-help groups. Similarly, Anna will also gain experience in projects established to address microfinance and women's development around the city of Satara. Amidst this heavy schedule there will also be time for sight seeing with the Taj Mahal and the Golden Temple of Amritsar on the agenda. Having spent three years at Duchesne, Anna will next year be leaving college to complete her studies in Secondary Education and Arts majoring in Religious Studies.

As a member of this year's social committee, Kate Cranney has helped organise the wonderful array of social events at Duchesne including the never to be forgot-

ten Ball at Victoria Park Golf Club overlooking the City and the glitz and glamour of the Duchesne at Home. Earlier this year Kate was awarded a Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Water graduate scholarship. The scholarship provides Kate with assistance in completing her studies, 8 weeks paid work during the summer holidays and a guaranteed job as a Water Policy Officer with the department on completion of her degrees in Law and Environmental Science.

Earlier this year Kate competed with other students in her Biology and Biological Diversity course for the opportunity to visit Borneo as part of a volunteer research team. To be invited to join the expedition Kate had to place in the top twenty students within the course. Kate was in the top three. Kate will be traveling to the Danum Valley Field Centre for three weeks in February. Kate will then be returning to Duchesne next year as the Student Club Vice President.

Author: Matt Downey



The Cranney Clan at this year's Academic and Valedictory Dinner. L to R: Anna (2007 Service/Liturgy Convenor), Trish, Graham and Kate Cranney (2008 Vice President).

O Canada!

Dear Duch!

I want to start by congratulating you all and letting you know how proud I am of Duchesne's recently acclaimed ICC Premiership title!!! I was ecstatic to hear the news and found myself wishing more than ever that I was back in Brissey and part of the celebrations! It's an excellent accomplishment and everyone (especially Laura G) deserves so much credit for their hard work! Well done!



Peace Arch at the US/Canada border

Okay, now picture this - squirrel's running around madly. A WHOLE shop just for umbrellas. People that actually wear gum boots ("rain boots"). A city so big it's impossible to not get lost. Buses that are so environmentally friendly that at least two people will fall asleep on each trip you make downtown. AND finally, people that are so nice you find your own manners somewhat rude in comparison. Aside from the fact that that was a lot of random facts, what you have just pictured is unarguably Canada; or Vancouver to be more specific. One of the first things that was really impinged in my mind in my first week in Van (as the locals call it) is this - "when fall comes, it's going to rain, and then rain some more, and then it's gonna keep on raining, and it's more than possible that you aren't going to see the sun for a couple of weeks." To be honest I initially did not accept this statement to be completely true. Canadian's after all do love to exaggerate! With the onset of fall though, I am starting to realise that Canadian's don't exaggerate EVERYTHING! People are already getting decked out in their huge jackets, vests are totally in and I believe rain boot sales are rising exponentially.

I'm sure you've all heard before that Canadian's are very similar to Australians, and for the most part, this is true. To try for a dichotomy though, I will use a humorous and completely truthful example.

You can't judge the citizens of a country by their homeless population. It is completely outlandish to think that this could be argued otherwise. In Canada's case though, I beg to differ. If you politely decline to donate money to the homeless, they often reply with "thank you anyway, have a nice day". Seriously! I was walking into the train station the other day and a homeless man was telling everyone to smile and have a great weekend, while holding out his hat for donations!

I was initially somewhat shocked with how open Canadian's are to unfamiliar people. I don't know if Australia went too hard on the 'stranger danger' part of our education but here Canadians you have never met will talk to you like you've know them for ages. They even hold the door open for you and wait for you if you're not quite there yet.



University of British Columbia Vancouver Campus (Main Mall)

Aside from the mass amount of squirrels running around the University of British Columbia, the campus is amazingly beautiful. It is located on the outermost Western point of Vancouver; surrounded by a lake...that shall remain nameless (I actually don't know the name but it eventually leads to the ocean). Vancouver itself is enormous - so big I can't even deal! The main streets for uni students are Broadway, 4th Ave, 10th Ave, Robson and Granville - which is possibly the longest street in the whole world. I made the mistake of getting the last two streets mixed up and ended up on a bus headed for Seattle. I told you its impossible not to get lost! Largely though, I guess it is accurate to say that Vancouver is an extremely multicultural city with lots of opportunities for social activity. In fact, right behind my residence at UBC is Wreck Beach. I have come to learn that isn't really the place for a casual jog. Once down the millions of stairs you are more than likely to be confronted with a lot of bare skin. The first and only time I have ventured down there, I was shocked to see that I had landed on the infamous nude beach. I am yet to return...

Just last weekend UBC Rec (equivalent to UQ Sport) held the annual Day of the Longboat. This is held at Jericho beach which isn't too far from UBC. Basically it is a 7-10 person voyager canoe race that involves a 2km trip around a course and ends with someone from the team running up the beach to hit a gong; thus symbolising the end of the race. Let me just say that none of these teams had anything on Duchesne Rowing!!

O Canada! (continued)

The university culture is comparably much more American than ours. There are five Starbucks on campus (I've found three!), the Greek system is definitely present, the police are literally everywhere and American football is pretty popular; of course ice-hockey trumps all though. There is definitely a distinct Canadian way and I would probably be shunned if I didn't mention that Canadians are quite different to Americans! Just walking on campus, cars will stop for you, crossing or no crossing.

Kelsea Ravell

(Duch Girl and Duchesnews Foreign Correspondent)



UBC Rec Day of the Longboat (Jericho Beach)

From the Cultural Convenor

I was sitting at oratory when I realised what Duch Culture 07 was all about.

I was sitting in the seventh row and everyone in it looked like me, decked out in the finest blue attire opp shops at country towns from all over Queensland had to offer. Blue filled the row in front of me and behind. There was even a patch of blue down the front, which I could see over the sparkly blue headbands the three freshers just in front of me were wearing, that had been part of their choir costumes earlier in the year. A crazy sea of blue had flooded the theatre, but none of the girls swimming in it were feeling blue at all. They were there to support a friend and their turnout was by far the largest and most colour-coordinated of any other college.

This year has been about getting involved. And it didn't matter if a cultural competition limited the number that could actually enter it. Duch treated being a part of the

audience just as enthusiastically as being on stage. When it came to those events that didn't limit participation, it really didn't matter that we were the smallest college, we certainly filled the stage. At least half the college has been involved in Choir, One-Act Play or DanceFest this year and it paid off. We came third in DanceFest and One-Act Play and fifth in Choir.

Participation was the focus of every 2007 cultural event. This year four girls were each involved in five cultural events, three of them first years. Since 2003, only one other person has managed that. More cultural full and half blues were awarded this year than in each of the past four years. All up, there were 30 half blues awarded in 2003, 2004 and 2005. This year alone, we awarded 27. Last year, there were 8 full blues, this year there's double that number. This is testament to the great bunch of girls that made up the college community this

year. To encouraging third years being inspiring leaders, to second years whose enthusiasm didn't dampen but deepened and to first years brave enough to dive in blindly and give everything a go. They certainly made my job so much easier and granted me such a rewarding experience that I will never forget.

Monique Vandeleur
Cultural Convenor



Library Notes

This has been a very enjoyable and rewarding year in the library. I have been encouraged by the number of keen students reading books, making suggestions for new books and studying in the library. All of which has proved to me that books do have a place in study and recreation.

My thanks go to all the students who have contributed to the library in 2007 with suggestions, donations and a general quest for knowledge.

I would like to thank Mrs Kay for her

support and great interest in the library. I would also like to thank Sister Muirhead and Coralee Jeffrey who have given assistance in many ways.

Clyne Roche deserves a special mention for creating a database for the catalogue. I am very grateful for her help.

Good luck to all those leaving college.
Happy holidays.

Sally Hall
Librarian



From the Business Manager: WATER EFFICIENCY AT DUCHESNE

In accordance with amendments to the *Water Act 2000*, Level 5 water restrictions were introduced in early 2007. In addition to the water restrictions, businesses, including University of Queensland residential colleges, which consumed over 10ML of town water per year, were required to submit a Water Efficiency Management Plan (WEMP). Duchesne College in consultation with Commerce Queensland have conducted a water audit and submitted our WEMP to the Brisbane City Council.

As part of the WEMP, the College will be undertaking further water saving initiatives over the coming months. These include the installation of flow restrictors on all taps, water efficient shower roses and dual flush toilets.

Below for your information is a table showing water usage for 2006 and 2007. To date we have recorded a 20% reduction in water consumption in comparison with the same period in 2006. These savings have been achieved not only through changes in how we operate but also as a result of the efforts of our students. Many of our students are from areas where the effects of drought are profound and those students are therefore very much aware of the need to conserve water.

2006- DUCHESNE COLLEGE												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
369	487	1123	834	1182	934	588	1183	969	1437	426	73	9605
2007- DUCHESNE COLLEGE												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
112	421	978	693	1000	761	437	931	0	0	0	0	5333

However based upon current figures we are still to meet the recommended target of 140 litres per person per day. In August, the average daily use per person in College was 166 litres. While the installation of new water saving devices will achieve additional savings, it is imperative that each of us does our little bit to assist. **Remember – restrict showers to 4 minutes only; turn taps off when brushing your teeth; report dripping taps to maintenance.**



TARGET - 140L/person/day

New Resident Assistants for 2008!

Congratulations must go to the recently announced Resident Assistants for 2008. A number of quality applications were received from senior returning residents and as a consequence it is unfortunate that only a select number could be granted positions. To that end, the Resident Assistants (RAs) for 2008 are:

- Meg Becker
- Jane Britt
- Sarah Dreger
- Paula Dew

- Emily Hetherington
- Elise Lenske
- Laura Stock
- Alison Yung

The RAs of 2008 will take on an expanded role compared to previous years. A more pastoral element will be incorporated whereby RAs will consciously act to make Duchesne a more inclusive community, especially for International students who may find it difficult adjusting to a

new country, culture and university. In addition to this new aspect of the position, the RAs duties will still include maintaining and developing the ethos of the College; supporting the Administration and the Student Club Executive; implementing and supporting the Resident Code of Conduct. RAs fulfil the important role of acting as points of contact for residents whenever difficulties are encountered and either dealing with the problem or referring them to the appropriate member of administration.

Author: Matt Downey

From the Dean of Students

Trying to sum up what this year has been and meant to me is indeed a challenge. Reflecting on the year there are a multitude of wonderful memories, thoughts and emotions which come flooding into my consciousness, all of them competing for my attention. Encapsulating the essence of Duchesne in 2007 is indeed a difficult but nonetheless welcome task and I hope that the following attempt does justice to the true spirit which exists within the college.

With the elusive ICC Sporting Cup ever at the back of our mind it was truly inspiring to see the early sporting successes of the year instill a confidence which grew and permeated all our sporting performances throughout the year. Not daring to dream of victory, every game took us closer to the ultimate prize till finally the dream came true and all our efforts were rewarded. It's said that sport teaches us two things; how to win and how to lose graciously. Ever gracious, Duchesne has finally surmounted the odds and demonstrated to all, including ourselves, that we know how to win.

Duchesne's efforts in all things cultural were on a par with those on the sporting field however the rewards, sadly, were not as forthcoming. Despite the subsequent frustration these setbacks did not deter us from consistently drawing upon the incredible depth and breadth of artistic talent within the college. The vitality, keenness, and sheer joy of performing was uninhibited and the quality of our performances reflected a

sense of life which is far more precious than any ICC Cultural Cup victory could ever be.

It's been said that the measure of any society is the way in which it cares for the poorest and most disadvantaged in its midst. Surely, Duchesne must rank highly in this regard in view of both participation and levels of enthusiasm in a variety of charitable and spiritual activities. While exhibiting the brawn and cunning required to win ICC Sport Duchesne's true strength will always lie in its gentleness and concern for those beyond our privileged and sometimes insular world.

While we are currently awaiting second semester results it would be remiss of me not to mention the strong academic performance of first semester. A combined college GPA of 5.14 (out of a possible 7) and the fact that more than 1 in 5 residents gaining a GPA greater than 6 stands as a testament to not only the inherent intelligence of Duchesne's residents but also to their application to their studies. A keen mind is uncommon but the conjoined ability to realise its potential in the same person is a rarity.

This brief synopsis of the academic, cultural, sporting and academic activities represent the tangible aspects of our lives at Duchesne this year. Below these perhaps more substantial aspects lies a deeper sense which forms the real basis of our shared experience. The band 'Evermore' echoes this deeper sense in the following words from their song

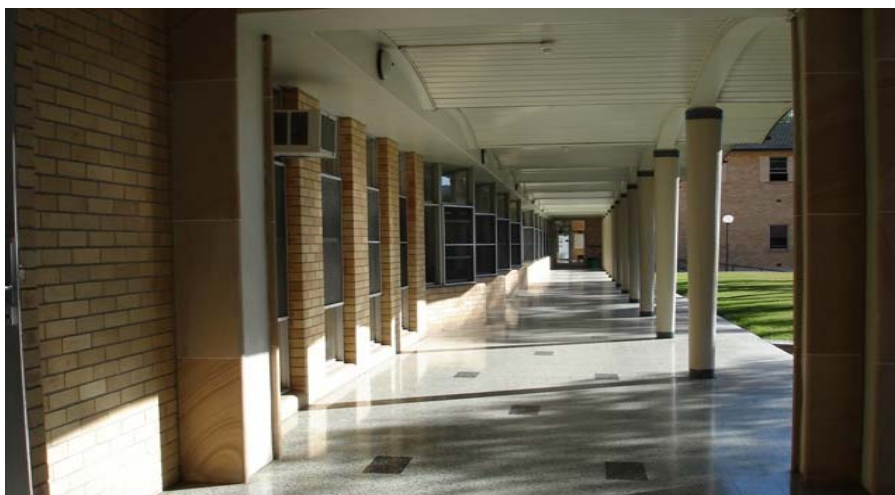
"Light Surrounding You":

'Cause I see the light surrounding you
So don't be afraid of something new
'Cause I see the light surrounding you
So don't be afraid of what you're turning
into

Irrespective of our age, every day offers new and wonderful opportunities to discover something new about ourselves and others and to let go of our fears and grow into something bigger and brighter than we could imagine. Many such opportunities exist at Duchesne, perhaps far too many to account for, let alone appreciate. Some of these opportunities or encounters are subtle and unobtrusive, like a simple greeting from a friend in the morning, whilst others are stark and overwhelming, like the palpable exuberance at this year's Sports/Cultural/Service Dinner.

As I reflect on this year I recount more and more instances for which I am grateful. In doing so, I have come to the slow realisation that the light surrounding me is in fact the reflected light from each and every member of the Duchesne community. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the small or large way in which you have helped create my experience of Duchesne this year. My only hope and prayer is that I have likewise been able to contribute to the light surrounding you. Best of luck with your semester 2 results and have a happy and holy Christmas.

Matt Downey
Dean of Students



Light on the colonnades at the front of Duchesne College

Newsletter Compilation

Thank you to all those who help make the newsletter happen. Hopefully we can get some continuity with these newsletters so that in ten years from now you can come back and be reminded of what your time at Duchesne was like.

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



Ladies of Duchesne enjoying preprandials at this year's Academic and Valedictory Dinner: L to R: Alessanda Torrisi, Aisha Thomas, Laura Stock (Resident Assistant 2008), Monique Vandeleur (Student Club President 2008), Alison Yung (Resident Assistant 2008), Andrea Hetherington and Paula Dew (Resident Assistant 2008).