



# Don College

## Newsletter April 2014

### From the Principal

Firstly, we offer a belated but warm welcome to the students and families of Don College in 2014. From a physical perspective, Don College may not feel too welcoming, as we have lots of building action that has temporarily interrupted our access routes. We will benefit from refurbished science laboratories and classrooms designed to support teaching and learning in the current era. Spaces will be more comfortable with improved airflow, improved acoustics and lower energy requirements. Despite the inconvenience classes are all housed in appropriate spaces and this newsletter celebrates the diverse educational activity that has already happened in 2014.

I congratulate students and staff of 2013 as we achieved our fifth successive year of improved achievement standards. In summary over 200 students achieved qualifications in Vocational Education and Training. More than 80 Don College students achieved an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) that ranked them in the top 20% across Australia. This is testimony to the quality of our local schools and the capabilities of our students.

Qualifications and achievement in year 11 and 12 determine future options. Students with greater qualifications and higher levels of achievement have a wider range of choices in relation to further study and work. We look forward to working together with students and parents and realising opportunities for the future.



Will Thomas - Dux - Tas ATAR score top 30



Alyssa Gaffney - VET Excellence



Miles Deka - Tas ATAR score top 100



Kate Johnson - Tas ATAR score top 100



Taylor Johnston - Year 11 Academic Achievement



Ethan Mansfield - Year 11 Academic Achievement



Molly Archer - Year 11 Academic Achievement



Watkinson Street, Devonport, Tas 7310  
PO Box 189 Devonport TAS 7310  
Ph: (03) 6424 0200 • Fax: 03 6424 9740  
email: doncollegereception@education.tas.gov.au  
[www.academy.tas.edu.au](http://www.academy.tas.edu.au)



## Don College Offers Full-Service School Support Model

Don currently has numerous services to ensure our students' well-being. Our support team includes a full-time social worker, a youth worker, a chaplain, and a police officer. Another service for students is access to Drug and Alcohol counselling on campus through our local youth service.

An independent General Practice, Don Medical Clinic, is available to Don College students. Dr Jane Cooper has a deep interest in youth health and well-being. This is a confidential service with bookings made directly with Dr Jane, via a weblink.

These services are available to all of our students and can be accessed confidentially by the student. While we encourage parental support and communication, we also encourage students to take responsibility for their own physical and mental health needs.



Meredith Irvine, Youth Worker & TA



Andy Crawford, Chaplain



Cathy McClure, Social Worker



Dr Jane Cooper

## 2013 Grade 10 Object Challenge

A two day Object Design Short Course was held at Don College for local grade 10 high school students. The aim was to introduce students to 'design thinking' as a preparation for their studies in design at Don College. Design courses can foster links and facilitate pathways from grade 10 into Don College and on to University.

The course began with an introduction to the design process, followed by a presentation from Simon Ancher (Program Director of furniture design at the UTAS School of Architecture) who detailed how designers use this process and apply drivers and constraints to arrive at informed solutions to design briefs.

The students from Devonport, Reece and Latrobe High were divided into three groups and given the task of designing a display system for a collection of mystery objects. Once the planning was completed each group was assisted by a college staff member to cut materials, which then enabled them to assemble and complete their designs.

The completed projects show how students have effectively applied the design process to arrive at functional and creative solutions to the brief.

Don College teachers David Tabart and Grant MacDonald remarked, "The students who participated demonstrated a high degree of engagement and creativity."



## Ian Hoare

Ian is a past student of Don College. He then developed superb card handling skills, working as a casino croupier. His thirst for knowledge and enjoyment of learning took him back to university where he completed a Fine Arts Degree, majoring in 3D Design and then a Diploma of Education focussed on Visual Arts. Ian has two sons who both live in Darwin.



He is a versatile man who has industry experience in Designer Making Furniture. He has also worked as a low rise builder and builder's labourer. The wide range of subjects Ian has taught includes MDT, Art, Numeracy, Design in Metal and Automotive. He has also taught in remote areas of Australia including Darwin and Kalgoorlie.

Ian makes jewellery, enjoys eating sushi and has been taught how to make the perfect round pancake by his Trades Prep class. Welcome back to Don, Ian!

## Childrens Services Certificate II

The Children's Services class are off to a flying start in 2014, organising some fun activities for Valentines Day on 14 February. All members of the class enjoyed mixing, interacting and chatting with other members of the school community. With some great "kitch" tunes and some sweet messages of love, a wonderful feeling of "caring" was felt across the college.

Following on with our group work, class members organised a range of activities that were enjoyed by students from Nixon Street Primary School. Together staff, students and international guests from Japan, celebrated the importance of Harmony Day. The event was a great success and gave the students insight into working closely with children of different ages. Most Certificate II students are looking forward to their work placements commencing in Term 2.



## Josh Mackie

We welcome Josh Mackie to the Don teaching staff this year. Josh is teaching Physical Recreation and Outdoor Education in addition to Work Preparation. Originally from South Australia, Josh has a wealth of outdoor experience including instructor qualifications in surfing, white water kayaking, rock climbing and abseiling, and has recently completed an Advanced Mountaineering Skills course in New Zealand. Josh has impressed his colleagues with a broad repertoire of learning activities which are both engaging and rewarding for his students. Recently married and with a young son to keep him busy. Josh has still found time to explore adventure recreation opportunities that can be had on the North West Coast. Welcome Josh.



## Important Dates to Remember

- April 9 Don College Association Meeting in the Library at 5.30pm
- April 17 Term 1 ends and Easter Break begins
- May 5 Term 2 begins
- May 15 Progress Report #1 posted
- May 22 Parent/Teacher interviews
- June 9 Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
- June 20 – 27 Mid-Year Assessments
- July 4 Term 2 ends
- July 21 Term 3 begins
- August 14 Progress Report #2 posted
- Aug 23 - 30 Don College Snow Trip
- Sept 5 TQA Quality Assurance – Student Free day
- Sept 9 Taster Day
- Sept 26 Term 3 ends
- October 13 Term 4 begins
- November 7 TQA courses end
- Nov 10 – 21 TQA Exam and Assessment Period
- December 2 START Day



## Welcome Back Darren



Darren Close

We welcome Darren Close's return to Don College - as an English teacher! He was a student at Don, who left Grade 12 in 1985.

"I really enjoyed my time here as a student, particularly the show 'Bye Bye Birdie', where I played Hugo Peabody, with the catchcry of, 'he is a thief of love'. Don has changed over the years and has a lot more

buildings than when I was here. There are also a lot more students. Although much has changed there are still things that are the same. The main building is basically the same with the two common rooms still going. The library is still the central hub of the college, although, gone are the little booths we used to sit in and watch the 'Life of Brian'."

After teacher training in Launceston, Darren worked in Youth Theatre for five years before going overseas. He has spent the last 20 years teaching in London and Birmingham. Most recently he taught at Bartley Green School in Birmingham UK, where he taught English and managed the Special/Additional Needs department.

Darren started umpiring cricket in the NWTCA when he was 12 years old. He continued to eventually umpire Sheffield Shield Cricket when he was just 18. Still a record, he believes!

"I went on to umpire over 20 first class games being fortunate enough to umpire the West Indies, Pakistan and New Zealand when they played Tasmania and officiated in the U/19 World Cup held in Australia in 1988. Umpiring wasn't a living back then, so I took a break to focus on working, that eventually led me overseas. I also played indoor netball for England! I played Mixed and Mens in the World Cup of 2001 in Australia and in a Tri-nations tournament in South Africa against them and Australia."

Darren arrived from England, accompanied by his eldest daughter and started work at Don immediately. His wife and two younger children have recently joined him.

"It is nice to be back home after 20 years. There are still a lot of people who I remember and they remember me. It has been nice reacquainting with people. I am enjoying working at Don because the staff and students have been very welcoming. There is still a drive to succeed and do the best for the pupils that permeates all that is done. It is a great place to work.

"We think so too, Darren! We are delighted to have you!"

## Drama/Theatre Performance Class Spend a Romantic Night at the Theatre

Yep, that's right. Whilst the rest of you were probably spending your Valentine's Day snuggling up with flowers and chocolates, or spending a night at the movies, this year's thespians in Drama 3/Theatre Performance 3 were sacrificing their 'romantic night with their significant other' for a class trip to see 'The Goat, or Who is Silvia', presented by CentrStage at the Burnie Arts and Function Centre.

As part of these pre tertiary courses, students must critique a minimum of three live theatre shows for the year. This also forms part of the subject content in the Drama 3 exams. So on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 16 dedicated students, accompanied by Dayna and Michelle, took the bus to Burnie to spend the evening enjoying the works of some of Tasmania's finest home grown actors.

'The Goat, or Who is Silvia' is written by Edward Albee and is a black comedy based around the story of Martin, a successful architect who falls in love with a goat. Yes, a goat! It focuses on the themes of truth, trust and family breakdowns, and the universal question of 'what is love?' ... perfect for Valentine's Day!!!



Following the show, Don students enjoyed the privilege of a private 'questions and answers' session with the cast and crew – a priceless opportunity to get inside the mind of the Director and his performers.

It was also a good opportunity to share the audience space with a bus load of Drama students from Launceston College, and students from Burnie's Hellyer College.

Well done to Drama 3 and Theatre Performance 3 for putting studies ahead of romances by spending Valentine's night with class mates!!!

## Certificate II In Kitchen Operations

So far it has been a very busy term for the Kitchen Operations students. They have been kitted out in a Chef's uniform and now understand the importance of wearing the correct uniform at all times in the kitchen. They have also been learning about hygiene and safety in the kitchen. From a practical point of view the students have been working on their knife skills and are now all confidently producing precision cuts such as julienne, brunoise and paysanne.

We have been lucky enough to be asked to cater for two functions at the college, preparing soups for the staff at the Parent Meet and Greet and we backed this up the next day

by preparing a gourmet BBQ for the Japanese students and their host families. We have also made and sold tomato relish, muffins and shepherd's pie.

Students have been working hard to hone their skills so we will be prepared to open the Don College restaurant "Exposures" during term 2. Exposures will offer a dine in and take away service for staff and students.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff at the College for their continued support this term. We look forward to cooking more delights during Term 2.



## Medical Information Update

Students and parents are reminded that it is very important to keep medical records current. If there is any change to an aspect of your medical profile (including diagnoses and/or treatment plans) we must have this recorded so we can respond in the most appropriate way if, and when, required.

**PLEASE SEND DETAILS TO THE OFFICE.**

## Katie Lowther

When Katie was asked how she is finding life at Don College, she enthusiastically shared all the things she loves about her new job and life back in Tassie. One of the things that Katie really likes about her new workplace is the fact that she teaches in a school which has nearly as many people as in her old home town of Derby, in the Kimberly region of Western Australia.



Prior to Don College, Katie was employed as a Home Economics teacher at Derby District High School. Students at the school were predominantly from the Aboriginal Communities of Mowanjum and Pandanus. Originally Katie intended to work in Derby for two years, but returned to Tasmania five years later with a husband and a baby daughter. Katie says she has come back to family and back to live in paradise.

Katie began her hospitality career in the late 90s. After completing a prevocational course at Drysdale in Launceston, Katie gained an apprenticeship with a group training company. During her apprenticeship Katie had a diverse range of experiences. Her training included working at Lemonthyme Lodge, Tall Timbers, the Star Bar and the Penny Royal Hotel. Katie also worked at Molly Malone's where she became head chef. While working as the restaurant supervisor at the Elimatta Hotel, Katie decided to return to study. She completed a University Preparation Program at UTAS Cradle Coast Campus followed by a Bachelor of Education at the Launceston Campus.

Don College staff and students love having Katie as a member of staff. Katie and her students have already catered for a number of functions and enterprises. Katie says a highlight so far has been seeing her students working together in their chef's uniforms and looking fabulous.

## Risk Management – Outdoor Education

So far this year in Outdoor Education we have been focussing on Team Building, Swimming and Water Safety, Risk Management, Navigation and Surfing. Students have participated in a range of both practical and theoretical activities to learn and utilise these skills. These activities have taken students to local areas such as Coles Beach, Devonport Bluff, Don Heads and as far as Quamby Bluff, Forth Valley Falls and Liffey Falls. We are fortunate to have these playgrounds so accessible.

Managing risk in Outdoor Education hinges on the reduction of the degree of real risk to a level considered acceptable to everyday exposure. Students are taught to assess all risks that may occur when doing an activity, including 'worst case scenario' and then make decisions accordingly. Such decisions involve ocean and weather conditions when surfing and group or individual experience when bushwalking. Students will continue to experience and learn about varying levels of risks, together with how to deal with them, for the remainder of the year throughout a range of new activities including Kayaking, Rock Climbing, Mountain Biking and Bush Cooking.



## UTAS Object Design Program

Object Design is a UTAS program that counts towards a student's TCE score and at the same time it may provide credit towards a university degree.

Don College offers Object design in association with Design Production Textiles, Wood, Metal and Housing and Design. UTAS provide a design brief and students solve this brief using a variety of materials and techniques.

Students have said "it's a great pre tertiary as there's lots of practical work and no end of year exam".

Interested students should seek further information from Shanli Perkins, Dale Johnson or David Tabart as enrolments are about to be finalised with UTAS.



Object Design students Ryan Hohnke and Molly Devlin experimenting with shape and proportion in preparation for their UTAS design task.



# Olá Brasil!

Enrich your family - host a Brazilian student



Government Education and Training International is thrilled to announce that, in July 2014, we will once again welcome students from the North-Eastern Brazilian state of Pernambuco to our island.

## Win the World

Following on from the extremely successful Brazilian program of 2013, in which Tasmania's Government Colleges hosted 50 Brazilian students as part of the Pernambuco State Government's 'Win the World' program, we, this year, have the privilege of welcoming 100 highly-deserving students to colleges across Tasmania for terms three and four.

The 'Win the World' program rewards the academic success of 1,000 students from disadvantaged backgrounds in Pernambuco, and provides sponsorship for these students to study internationally in English or Spanish speaking countries.

These vivacious and engaged students, aged 16-18, will attend Year 11, with between seven to twenty students attending each of the Tasmanian Government's eight 'international ready' colleges.

To give these students a truly Tasmanian experience, we are recruiting families who will offer a caring, supportive homestay environment, in which these students' studies, language skills, and personalities can thrive. In return for providing these students with support, and showing them as much of our beautiful state as possible, you will receive a weekly homestay fee to cover food and board.

## Ganhe o Mundo

Pernambuco's Ganhe o Mundo or "Win the World" program arose from a desire on the part of the local government to improve foreign language studies in its public high schools. Brazil, and in particular the Brazilian Northeast, is undergoing rapid economic growth. The country is preparing to host the 2014 Soccer World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games. Foreign language skills – particularly English – are a vital priority for increasing international commerce as well as receiving tourists for these events.

Overall in 2013, 1,000 students were chosen for the Ganhe o Mundo program, from 20,000 applicants, of which Tasmania was host to 50. And these are no ordinary students! All of them were at the top of the list in their State for Academia and English, a test they completed before being selected for the Win the World program.

## Pernambuco

Pernambuco is a diverse state in the North-East of Brazil. It's location near the equator ensures a great amount of sunshine throughout the year, with an average temperature of 26 degrees. Portuguese is the official national language, and thus the primary language taught in schools. The economy is driven by agriculture, livestock farming and industry. The state is home to 8.7 million people, and boasts 187km of some of the most beautiful beaches in the Country.



**Students will be arriving in Tasmania mid-July, and departing in early December, 2014.**

If you are interested in becoming a Homestay host, or would like more information on hosting a student, please contact Tiffany von Stieglitz, the Homestay Coordinator for North and North-West Tasmania on **6336 2771** or email [tiffany.von.stieglitz@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:tiffany.von.stieglitz@education.tas.gov.au).



CRICOS 03352G

## International Students

### Selamat Datang Alba

Alba, whose full name is Royan Albar Edo Santoso, has swapped life among the bright lights and nine million inhabitants of Jakarta, Indonesia for the quiet life of Devonport. Quite a shift! Yet Alba has settled into the local and Don College communities with ease. He plays soccer and badminton and is now, due to the influence of newly found friends, a one eyed Hawthorn supporter. Alba is an international student who will study at Don for two years. Please make him feel welcome.



Alba (Royan Albar Edo Santoso)

In July, Don will host eight students from Brazil for a six month stay. They arrive mid-July and depart early December. Here's a chance to have a Brazilian student in your home as the World Cup is played in his/her country. Please give thought to hosting one of these students and if you decide to, please contact the Homestay Co-ordinator, Tiffany von Stieglitz on 6336 2771 or email [tiffany.von.stieglitz@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:tiffany.von.stieglitz@education.tas.gov.au)

## Staff Fitness

Pushups, sit ups, boxing, running, squats, bench press..... and more. The staff at the Don College are looking and feeling healthier.

The Certificate III in Fitness students have adopted a client or two from the Don staff and are putting them through their paces on a regular basis, to meet short and long term goals. Some goals are specific: for example a Melbourne Marathon, or the Burnie 10; others just include losing some extra kilograms, or getting fitter and stronger.

Whatever the case may be, our trainers are tailoring individual programs so staff can safely achieve their fitness goals. This is an extremely positive program and it's not just the staff who are benefiting from this. So hats off to all involved and keep up the good work.

We hope that this health and fitness trend becomes contagious and we see more and more people joining in with gym programs or any other simple ways of finding 30 minutes to exercise each day.



## Let's ask Dr Jane about getting a tattoo ... Do you really want one?

Tattooing is currently very popular. They can look great but can be quite costly. This might make some young people think about cheaper options like seeing a backyard tattooist.



This can be a dangerous choice with long term consequences. Unsafe tattooing techniques make you vulnerable to picking up disease like Hepatitis C. The inks used in tattoos can contain toxic substances that could impact on your future health.

A tattoo is for life, so make sure you choose a design that you can live with for the rest of your life. Tattoos are not easy to have removed, it can be time consuming, costly and painful.

Some things to think about if you decide to get a tattoo: (taken from an Article by Dr Kelly Shaw, Acting Director of Public Health, Tasmania, May 2012.)

- **Make sure it's from a licensed operator. If you're unsure if a tattooist is licensed, ask your local council.**
- **Ask the tattooist if they are a member of the Professional Tattooing Association of Australia. This organisation promotes the use of hygienic and safe tattooing practices.**
- **Ask the tattooist to explain their infection control techniques used at the premises.**
- **Look around you and ensure that their work area is clean and tidy.**
- **Tattooists should wash their hands thoroughly and put on a fresh pair of gloves.**
- **Make sure they open a new individually-wrapped needle and barrel from sterilised packaging.**
- **The tattoo gun should have a plastic cover over the cord that connects to the gun and the ink should be placed in individual tiny cups on a clean work station.**
- **Most tattooists apply a modern antiseptic cream and bandage the site and they should provide you with 'after care' advice.**



## Visit to Don by Japanese Students from Ozu High School, Kochi

Don College enjoyed the annual visit from our Japanese friends who attend our sister school OZU KOUKOU. They were very busy attending classes with Don students and participating in the college programs. As part of Harmony Day the students taught children from Nixon Street Primary to paint Japanese symbols.

They also participated in the Japanese classes at Devonport High and Port Sorell Primary where they shared various cultural aspects of their life in Kochi. The Japanese science students and Don students enjoyed an overnight adventure exploring the geographical features, flora and fauna of the Cradle Mountain Reserve, ably led by Craig Kerr and Cathy McClure.

On Thursday evening the host families were treated to a wonderful gourmet barbecue prepared and served by Katie Lowther and her hospitality students.



On Friday the Japanese students visited Wings Wildlife Park and Gunns Plains caves. Although hectic, the visit was a fantastic opportunity to build international connections and many friendships were forged between the Japanese students, Don students and their host families.

## Barbie Bungee

Maths Applied 3 students have been dropping Barbies and swinging pendulums to work out linear and non-linear models which they can use to make predictions about larger scale events.



Workplace Maths have been racing radio controlled cars and using them to investigate speed, distance time, mean, median and mode, percentages and ratio.



## Working With Children

During Term 1 students have been busy learning about child development and the important role of being a carer. To put some of this understanding into practice class members had the pleasure of visiting Kinder Taylor at Nixon Street Primary School. Students met with the class and paired up with some “buddies”. Together the children and Don students had a great time creating some sculptures from fruit and vegetables. The kinder children were incredibly creative in their approach to this activity and came up with some fantastic creations. Once each child had finished their work of art they were able to enter in the Fruit & Vegetable Sculpting Competition held as part of the Taste the Harvest Festival. You can see from the photographs how inventive these 4 year olds are.

All students are looking forward to Term 2, when they will get to practice their skills in planning, running and evaluating play experiences for 1-4 year olds at a fortnightly playgroup session at Don College. Students will also continue their work with Kinder Taylor and spend time observing and planning activities for these children. There is lots of fun and games to look forward to in the next few months.



## TJ Veggie Garden

If you happen to wander down past the northern side of the MPC, you will come across the fertile oasis that is the TJ veggie garden and chook house. This construction project started last year with Transition Education students being involved in all aspects of the process.

Our team of prize show bantams were the first residents and the planting out of the boxes occurred late last year. After our lovely warm summer and some TLC throughout the holidays we came back to school to find our garden thriving.

We are presently growing corn, tomatoes, pumpkins, capsicums, herbs and some Peruvian lilies. Students are involved each day in caring for the chickens and gardening duties such as watering, weeding, harvesting and replanting. We are currently harvesting tomatoes which are being cooked, in TJ, into some glorious relish which will then be available for purchase.

The lilies will be harvested as cut flowers and also offered for sale. This enterprise is to raise funds to provide our students with various learning opportunities in the community.





## Beachwatch Survey

Environmental Science and Society students have been involved in twice yearly clean-ups of Back Beach for the past three years. This year's students recently completed their first survey of the beach, collecting 15kg of litter which included 507 individual items. Each item is identified and recorded with data sent to the Tangaroa Blue Foundation, who coordinate volunteers nationwide as part of the Australian Marine Debris Initiative.

Data is regularly analysed and reveals some startling statistics. Plastic is the most common material found, making up 74% of all litter collected Australia wide between January 2012 and

February 2014 (Source: Australian Marine Debris Initiative). Involvement in this activity provides a host of learning opportunities, including discussion on the environmental impact of various litter types and how resources can be sustainably managed to minimise any potential impact.

For more information go to <http://www.tangaroablue.org/>. We encourage all students to "Do the Right Thing" and dispose of their rubbish, so it doesn't end up in the sea.





## Vanuatu

Congratulations to students of Don College who successfully raised \$3800 to purchase 50 bags of cement, piles of steel bar, plumbing and tons of sand which they transformed into a smart looking, waterproof water tank in Sara village, Vanuatu. We also purchased solar panels and fitted these to the roof of the local school.

Sara is an impoverished village where local residents live a life without running water, without electricity, and survive on food they grow in their gardens or hunt. They are a happy group of people, very hospitable and very kind. They are resourceful, multilingual and highly motivated. We were lucky enough to live as guests of the village for 10 days in December last year.

The outcome of the journey was a very strong connection between our school group and residents of Sara. It was the first big step towards developing a powerful ongoing impact for villages in need in Vanuatu and it was a very successful step. We were constantly in a caring atmosphere. It reminded us that giving is really more rewarding than receiving. We experienced a completely different culture and learnt so many life lessons. It was also really fantastic to travel with a purpose (building the tank) and one that allows you to completely immerse yourself in the local way of life, working alongside the locals.

One of the group members reflected, "Overall it was the most enjoyable thing I can remember doing and it really has changed my life and the way I view things for the better. Thank you so much for the opportunity."



## Values at Don College

- *desire for personal excellence*
- *ethical behaviour*
- *honesty and personal integrity*
- *right to express ideas and attitudes*
- *diversity and equity*
- *enacting social justice*
- *giving everyone a fair go*
- *welcoming and supporting students whose circumstances have made it difficult for them to be successful in the past*

