



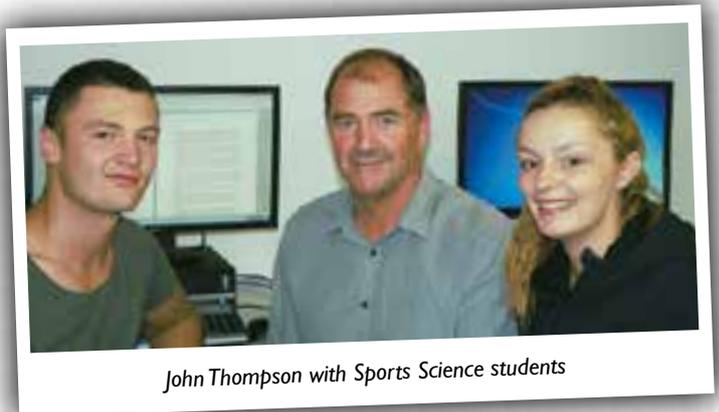
# Don College

## Newsletter March 2015

### From the Principal

We welcome all our new students and parents to the Don College community in 2015. Our aim is to assist students in the transition to further education or training, employment and independent living. It is important that students have the skills to be lifelong learners and maintain involvement in their continued education.

Our community members can have confidence in the quality of teaching, learning and assessment at Don College. Many of our 2014 graduating students commented that they achieved beyond their personal expectations. 25% of Don College students are ranked in the top 10% of graduating Australian year 12 students. In partnership with TasTAFE over 400 students achieved accreditation in 2400 nationally-recognised training units. These qualifications are a ticket to employment, further training or further education. Qualifications allow individuals to make choices in life and determine their own future.



*John Thompson with Sports Science students*

One key component of success at Don College is attendance and participation in all lessons. Students who attend and participate achieve better results. I encourage all students of Don College in 2015 to set personal goals, set them high, and strive to achieve them.

**John Thompson**

Don College facebook is available at  
[www.facebook.com/doncollege](http://www.facebook.com/doncollege)

This facebook site is used for  
communication with staff and students  
with regular updates.



# Don College Award Winners



## **DUX OF DON COLLEGE - MOLLY ARCHER**

Clear goals have provided motivation for Molly to succeed. She has very high expectations of herself and has maintained this commitment to her learning for an extended period and achieved. Caring and supportive, Molly was often relied upon by others for subject assistance. She will pursue a degree in Medicine at UTAS in Hobart.



## **PRINCIPAL'S AWARD - VINCENT HORTON**

Vince is strategic in life. He maintained a strong focus in Maths and Science in Year 12 and worked relentlessly to achieve his outstanding results. He has exceptional capacity for reasoning and logic, and at a national level Vincent has achieved in the top 1% in selective entry tests. He aims to complete a Medical degree at UTAS in Hobart.



## **CITIZENSHIP - EMMA MCMAHON**

In a multitude of disciplines Emma has excelled. She is an outstanding musician, a learner with many dispositions at her disposal and a caring, patient tutor for others who seek her knowledge and support. She is heading to Melbourne University in 2015 to study Science and Music.



## **VET EXCELLENCE - KYLE WILSON**

After completing Year 12 at Don College Kyle has been able to focus on his passion for helping others. He works as a Youth Leader at Camp Clayton, provided outstanding leadership in the Youth and Disabilities Program areas at Don College. He will prove to be an exceptional worker in the vocational area of Community Services.



## **VET MERIT - CHLOE SMITH**

Chloe is a quiet achiever. She has tremendous compassion for people and this will help her succeed in the Community Service industry area should she pursue this as a potential career area. Her solid academic results, community involvement and strong sense of family are a solid foundation for Chloe's future success.



## **ALL-ROUNDER - COURTNEY DOWLING**

Courtney has achieved outstanding success through hard work, dedication and a positive mindset. At Don College Courtney has excelled academically, in sport, as a young leader and role model. She continues to strive for success as an elite kayak paddler and has been accepted into UTAS to study Exercise Science.

*I congratulate our students for their achievements in 2014. We have a network of excellent schools and a large group of very talented and capable young people on the North West Coast. One personal quality our local students carry is humility. Many students have commented that they achieved beyond their personal expectations.*

*I encourage all Don College leavers to enjoy this uncertainty and think beyond the immediate borders by exploring a range of possible future options.*

*Local businesses and community organisations have provided learning opportunities for our students. Many have also generously donated funds to support individual students and assist in the acknowledgement of student achievement. We thank you for your donations and continued support. Once again, congratulations to students of 2014.*

**John Thompson**

## Chaplaincy at Don College

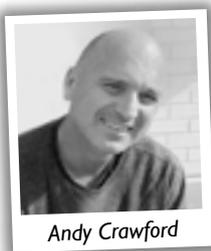
**We are fortunate at Don College to have an extended Student Support Team including two Chaplains.**

**Cathrin Boerma** grew up in Launceston and attended University of Tasmania to study Nursing. She moved to the Gold Coast of Tasmania (North West Coast) in the early 90's following her heart to marry a local man. Here she sculptured an ideal lifestyle of being married to the man of her dreams and raising 3 wonderful children who are now all teenagers. Cathrin still works as a Registered Nurse. When asked about her role of Chaplain, Cathrin replied, "I now have the privilege of following my passion of working alongside youth and hopefully having a positive impact and bringing the best out of them."



Cathrin Boerma

**Andy Crawford** grew up in Latrobe and attended Don College in the 80's before joining the Royal Australian Air Force as an Avionics Technician. He then joined the West Australian Police Department and left 11 years later having worked as Senior Constable and moved into Youth Support roles. Andy now enjoys life back on the NW Coast with his wife and 4 boys.



Andy Crawford

As Chaplains, Cathrin and Andy are part of the Don College Student Support Team in E204 in the Southern Common Room

and can assist with building positive relationships, contribute to the health and well-being of our community members and to be a resource for both staff and students. Their work includes cooking barbecues, helping out in classes, developing community programs, mentoring and helping with life's 'big picture' questions if you ask them.

### The Program:

At Don College the chaplaincy program supports all members of the college community by promoting physical, emotional, social and spiritual health and supporting student learning. Andy and Cathrin are employed through community funding via donations from Devonport Chaplaincy Inc.

Student participation in all activities offered by the Chaplain is voluntary.

Goals for the Chaplaincy program at Don College:

- To offer students and staff the support of a Chaplain within the Student Support Services Team
- To establish connections within the College environment
- To provide spiritual guidance on request
- To provide a resource in matters of Christian faith
- To co-ordinate a lunch time social group for Christians
- To liaise with and establish closer community links with Church organisations and Christian groups outside the College, in consultation with the Principal
- To contribute to and support retention, educational programs and learning experiences of students.

## National Schools Constitutional Convention



Hayley Hingston



Sharifah Syed-Rohan

Don College students Hayley Hingston and Sharifah Syed-Rohan have been selected from over 4000 candidates nationwide to join a 120 member Year 11 and 12 student group invited to investigate the need for an Australian Bill of Rights at the 20th National Schools Constitutional Convention. The convention will be held at Old Parliament House in Canberra from 24 - 26 March 2015. Don College teacher Bron Sidebottom will be the Tasmanian group chaperone.

Sharifah and Hayley will learn how Australia's constitution provides a democratic framework and the benefits of taking an active interest in the operation of government. The topic of the 2015 Convention is "Checks and balances: do we need an Australian Bill of Rights?" Discussion at the Convention will include a focus on the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta. Students will participate in a mock plebiscite to determine the outcome of their deliberations.

The Convention is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training as part of its ongoing commitment to civics and citizenship education.

*Don College Supports Students to Succeed  
in Their Chosen Course of Study*

## Don College -Volunteer Vanuatu 2015

A detailed report of the very successful 2013 Don College trip to Vanuatu is online at [www.volunteervanuatu.org/](http://www.volunteervanuatu.org/). Don College staff and students are planning a second humanitarian trip to Vanuatu in December 2015.

The benefits for our local students are educational and experiential. The benefits for the Vanuatu community will include access to clean, safe drinking water, broader networks and educational.

All participating students will pay their own travel expenses and assist with fundraising for project costs. Possible projects in Vanuatu for 2015 include the engineering and construction of a mains water pipe, construction of a masonry water tank and assistance with community education.

If you have any further queries, please contact Nick Haywood or John Thompson at Don College on 6424 0200.



## Environmental Science and Society

Environmental Science and Society students are participating in an exciting project called USAUS-H2O - US Australia Virtual Environmental Partnership. Our college is one of eight schools in Australia selected to participate in this program, which involves analysing the sustainability of urban water cycles, both between schools within Australia and with schools in the US. We undertake a range of collaborative tasks with our sister school, Boothbay Region High School located in Maine.

This project is funded by the United States Department of State, Global Connections and Exchange program, and is a collaboration between the University of Maryland Centre for Environmental Science (UMCES) and Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in the US, and Charles Darwin University in Australia.

The project website <http://www.usaus-h2o.org/> will be the key platform for data exchange.

DON MEDICAL  
ON CAMPUS CLINIC

DR. JANE COURIER  
DR. NICHELLE WILSON

Monday & Thursday 9am - 1pm  
Online bookings using appointit  
Phone: 03 64 48 298 - Email: reception@donmedical.com.au  
[www.donmedical.com.au](http://www.donmedical.com.au)  
Or see our Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/donmedical.com.au](http://www.facebook.com/donmedical.com.au) facebook

## Suessical

Suessical is a musical written by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, based on the books of Dr Seuss (specifically Miss Getrude McFuzz, Horton Hears a Who! and Horton Hatches the Egg). The show debuted on Broadway in 2000, and is the Don Production for 2015. For several years Michelle Best has taken on the role of Director for Don's musicals. She, alongside

Keren Smithies and with musical direction from Jill Colgrave will proudly put on the show at the DECC in June.

According to Michelle, the auditions were exceedingly impressive and she found the show easy to cast. Now with rehearsals well and truly underway, she is finding the students fit incredibly well into their roles.



*Cast of Seussical*



*Jono Bentley (Wickersham)*

## United Nations Youth State Conference

On the 6 March this year Alexandra Fuller, Hollie Jackson, Rowena McPhee and Sharifah Syed-Rohan attended the United Nations Youth State Conference in Hobart. This occasion encompassed four days of educational workshops, interactive problem solving activities, informative and inspiring guest speakers and stimulating model UN debate.

The theme of this year's conference was United We Stand: Towards Equality, which focused on how we as people of the world can actively contribute to changing global, political and social landscapes, by advocating for the rights of all human beings to be upheld.

Throughout the model UN debates, a various number of countries were represented with each of the Don College students being allocated one country to represent. Alexandra represented Fiji, a nation that has faced much turmoil at the hands of its government in recent years. Hollie represented Japan, a nation that is highly developed and as a result has stakes in a number of issues. Rowena was allocated France, which is an incredibly powerful and wealthy nation, which similarly to Japan is able to influence a number of issues. Sharifah represented the United Arab Emirates, which is a diverse and complex nation given its wealth, geographical location and its Islamic majority population. The UAE is further able to influence a number of



decisions within the Middle East and the greater world.

In representing these countries we had the role of articulating our country's views on a number of world issues, some of those include; food security, the right to internet access, the presence of children in armed conflict and the importance of human rights and how the countries of the world should work to uphold them.

This event was not all about world politics, but it also provided us with an opportunity to mix with like-minded students at a number of social events including a trivia night and a disco.

Upon returning from this conference I'm sure I can speak on behalf of the Don team in saying that this event was both uplifting and informative. After spending four days speaking about the issues that face our world, it has ignited within us a desire to give back and work towards improving the shortcomings that present themselves. We are also incredibly grateful that our school encourages us to broaden our horizons by attending events such as these.

**Sharifah**

# F1 in Schools

F1 in Schools team members Peter Henderson, Sam Rees and Sam Hausmann will soon be competing in the national F1 miniature car championships.

Having won the state championships late last year, the three will now be travelling to Albert Park in Melbourne with their car "Ignition". A bonus is they will be present for the 15<sup>th</sup> Australian Grand Prix which all three team members are excited to attend.

Team Ignition would like to thank Ulverstone High teachers Simon Voorwinde and Rob Locket for their continued support. Thanks also go to our supporters and the sponsors listed below. Ulverstone High School, Degree C, Toll, Don College, Readings Advertising, Fork Truck Specialists, Woolworths, Jacqui Lambie, Simplot, Leonie Hiscutt, Brett Whiteley, Spreyton Engineering, Elite Crash Repairs, Maveric Clothing, Tyreright Ulverstone, Tasmanian Liberals, Engineering Edge and Distant Space Studios.



## Certificate III in Fitness

Don College has won the Medibank Active Tasmania Inspirations Award for the Certificate III Fitness program. Congratulations to all staff and students involved and well done to group leader, Nick Haywood.



## Special Disability Examination Provisions

If students have diagnosed

- Significant health impairment
- Physical or learning disability
- Hearing or vision impairment

please inform your classroom teachers. This will enable teachers to tailor learning programs to suit individual needs. If you are enrolled in pre-tertiary courses with external assessments it may be possible to request Special Disability Examination Provisions with the Tasmanian Qualifications Authority. Further information can be found at <http://www.tqa.tas.gov.au/1470>



## 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*

