



# Don College

## Newsletter August 2015

### From the Principal

Our students are approaching a key time in their lives. All students need to deeply consider life beyond Don College and what opportunities may present in the future. Year 11 students will be making subject selections for year 12 and our leaving students will be investigating opportunities for further education, training and/or employment.

Regardless of specific decisions it is important that we all maintain momentum in a forward direction and continue to learn, maintain our own health and contribute to the wellbeing of others. Change is one thing in life that is inevitable. We cannot predict the future but we must consider how we prepare for this inevitability. Albert Einstein once said, "The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking." So keep an open mind, enjoy the uncertainty, be positive and say "yes" to opportunity.

Anneliese Aylett is to be congratulated for grasping the opportunity to enter the state-wide SNAP Photography competition. She committed hours to creating a coherent collection of 20 quality images and was awarded first prize. Anneliese walked away with a shiny new Digital SLR Camera. However the real prize is the learning of new photography

skills and reward for perseverance and attention to detail. Congratulations Anneliese. Some of her SNAP collection is presented below.

With a little over 12 academic weeks left for the school year of 2015 I encourage all students to commit to studies and create opportunity for your futures by achieving the best results you can.

**John Thompson**



Crumble



Hero's



Launch

# Careers Calendar

Date	Events
Early August	Application for universities in 2016 open Scholarship applications open
August	Open Days for mainland universities during this month
30 August	UTAS Open Day at all campuses
1 September	UTAS Applications assistance Don College library 12:45pm – 2:45pm Courses, scholarships, accommodation
30 September	UTAS applications close
30 September	Timely applications for mainland universities, TAFEs and some private colleges due
3 October	SEAS applications close for Victorian Universities
16 October	Scholarship applications through VTAC due
31 October	UTAS scholarship applications close

Don College hosted the Tertiary Information Session on 1 July, where we had mainland universities, private colleges and training bodies, the University of Tasmania and the Australian Defence Force presenting opportunities offered by their organisations. We are moving into a busy time of year in Careers with university and scholarship applications. It is also a good time, if you are considering TAFE, to check out prerequisites and the timing of information nights and applications. Assistance is also available with job applications.

The careers team of Julie Blanden, Asha West and Natasha Armitstead are available if you have questions. Students can make a booking at the careers room. Parents can phone the Don College office on 64240200.

## Queen's Guide Award

Georgina and Jessica Gaffney are Year 12 students, and twins, who are inspirational in their attitude to life and community achievements. On May 8th the girls received the prestigious Queen's Guide Award at a ceremony at Government House in Hobart. They started Guides when aged 7 and it has been a huge part of their lives for 11 years. It has taught them "heaps including confidence, leadership and self-respect." Georgina says that it has taught her, that sometimes "you just have to take a deep breath and run with it because life doesn't always go to plan!"

Both girls place a strong value on academic achievement and have learned the importance of planning. They keep diaries and lists so that they can remain organised. They have also learned that you have to be honest about how long something might take! An important lesson for many of us. They sing, play instruments, listen to music, read, are in Olaves (Guiding for young women aged 18 – 30) and Jessica is gaining an enviable reputation as an NWFU umpire.

The girls demonstrated their versatility both on stage and in the band as Thing 1 and Thing 2 in Seussical the Musical. They built up a huge fan base of young audience members who loved Georgina and Jessica's clowning, circus and musical skills as well as their vibrant characterisations.

Congratulations, Georgina and Jessica, on your Queen's Guide Awards. You are worthy recipients and thank you for all that you contribute to the culture of Don College. Your future shines brightly.



## 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



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# RACT – Beer Goggles

Drink driving has been a road safety concern for a long time, particularly for younger drivers. The RACT demonstrated to Don College students just how difficult it is to navigate a course while under the influence – with simulated intoxication. Students wearing 'beer goggles' drove a RACT Learner Driver vehicle, with dual controls, under the supervision of a driving instructor.

It's not as easy as it sounds, but then, that's the point! Driving under the influence causes heightened risk for all road users and is illegal. We encourage all our students to be safe road users.



## Colour Run

50 Students from Don College worked together and conducted a Colour Run to raise \$500 to support the college's work in Vanuatu. Students from surrounding high schools enjoyed the frivolity and exercise. Don College students first visited Vanuatu 2 years ago to engage in community work, building water tanks, installing solar panels and cleaning up a school. Since then the college has maintained its relationship with the island nation and another trip is planned for December this year.



## Electronics

Students studying Electronics Foundation have been busy putting into practice skills and theory they have been learning in class, by adapting some switch operated toys for students of the North West School of Special Education in Devonport. Many of the toys are activated by pressing or squeezing a micro switch in a paw or flipper or whatever appendage. However, some of our friends at the special school do not have the fine motor control to operate small switches so Don students have been re-wiring toys so that they can be operated by big push buttons.

The classroom was alive to the sounds of Ernie playing the guitar and singing “Splish Splash”, a lion howling to “In the Jungle”, dogs barking, penguins singing Christmas versions of “Yakkity Yak” and a spooky Panda doing “The Addams Family”. Comments from students suggest that they were having way too much fun, but to sum it up with this from one of the boys, “I learned a lot today and I feel really good because I’m helping someone else.”



## Transition Education

Transition Education students had a very busy Term 2. The cold weather didn't deter us from regularly venturing into the great outdoors to do our bike riding program, our college garden work, community garden work and arboretum work. We also went on several excursions, including visits to Narawntapu National Park, Marakoopa Caves, where our guide shared interesting information about the caves, The Quiet Cone and the pedal buggies at Ulverstone. No wonder we were all exhausted by the end of the term!



John, our tour guide at Marakoopa Caves

## Pathways

In year eleven, all full-time Don College students are involved in Personal Pathway Planning. For those studying all TCE subjects (not VET) this is in a class dedicated to helping students decide what they want to do in their future, and how they can achieve their goals.

At the beginning of the year, we have looked at study methods and learning types. Each student was encouraged to try out new ways of studying, and we all discovered our learning type – audio, kinesthetic, visual, or a combination of all three. This information helped us study effectively and efficiently in the lead-up to mid-years assessments.

Throughout the year, part of our time is dedicated to Supported Study. We are able to complete assignments, do homework, and study in a supportive environment. Our teachers and peers are always present to help us, and many students work together to complete their work.

Recently, we have discussed our options for the years to come, such as subject choices for year twelve, and possible careers and study options after we leave college. Through completing a number of surveys and quizzes, many of us have discovered careers that we may pursue, and the best ways – whether through university, TAFE, or apprenticeships – we can get an occupation with which we are happy. The information that we have gained through this part of our course has helped us make decisions regarding which subjects we should study next year, and how we should go about achieving our future goals.



## 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

## Guest Speaker - Josh Bloom

Josh Bloom, a former Hellyer College student, was born with a rare congenital disease known as Femur Fibula Ulna Syndrome. This means that he was born without forearms or hands and his legs are 'stuck' at a 90 degree angle due to missing bones. Josh has overcome all odds and had just completed his Bachelor of Psychology at UTAS with the ambition of completing his Masters Degree next year.



Speaking to over 150 Don College students in May, he told of his battle to prove himself and defy all odds. His messages of resilience, courage and the desire to achieve were clearly heard by the students and sparked many conversations. Our students, teachers and principal were fortunate to be instructed in how to write with their feet, a challenge many were unable to fathom.



## Legal Studies

From the 5th to the 11th of July, two Don College students, Hollie Jackson and Rowena McPhee, attended the 2015 UN Youth National Conference in Hobart from 5 - 11 July. The Tasmanian delegation had ample opportunity to promote our home state and all that it has to offer. We were joined by 90 young delegates from Australia and New Zealand, accompanied by more than 50 facilitators and convenors. All the people involved, including those who organised the conference, were under 25 years of age.

As delegates, we participated in workshops, debates, and speakers' panels. The activities were designed to complement each other, and all focused on one topic: the Millennium Development Goals. This year marks the deadline the United Nations set to have all eight of the Millennium Development Goals achieved, which made it an ideal topic for us to study. We learnt about the MDGs, what they hoped to achieve, how they were effective and ineffective, and discussed how the goals could be better implemented. Finally, we created our own goals that represented our priorities and values, and as a group, voted for our top ten. These ten goals were named our 'Youth Development Goals' and included universal primary and secondary education, reduction in carbon emissions, and world-wide LGBTQ\* rights.

We also had the chance to make friends with people from across the country. Thanks to the 2015 UN Youth National Conference, we now have a network of likeminded young people who are actively trying to change the world.



## Chess State Finals Qualifiers

The Don College Chess team participated in a tournament at Latrobe recently. Their second place has secured their participation in the State Finals, in September. Success at this competition will secure them a place at the National Finals in November, 2015 at Melbourne University. The team is led by James Pierce, who was unavailable to play in the recent tournament. Other players are Kiran Walker, Kel Langmaid, Ben James, Austen Howe and Joe Gibbs. James and Kiran have worked hard to encourage participation in the chess team throughout 2014. Their effort seems to be reaping dividends in 2015!



# Fashion

## Paper You Can Wear

Each year the Burnie City Council organises a Paperwear competition. Fashion Design students from Don College entered this competition and displayed their work at the Burnie Art Gallery in August. The judges' decision must have been difficult to make with incredible designs on show.

Maisie Turner was chosen as this year's winner of the 13-18 year division for which she received \$200. Congratulations Maisie! Emily Smith, Hannah Rowlands, Chloe Bonney, Tess Argent and Mel Emery also designed and constructed work for this exhibition.

Their work was beautifully designed and well constructed. Congratulations to all entrants.



## Design an Outfit for Agwear

Don College was well represented at Agfest in May with several students entering the Agwear Competition. The task was to make a garment from things found on the farm. Kristy Jeffries, Bree Jackson and Shanli Smith were amongst the prize winners. Maisie Turner, Emily Smith and Mel Emery also exhibited. All the girls' outfits took a lot of effort and hard work which was evident when you saw how fabulous they looked. Congratulations to you all.

"It was a fun but very cold day!"



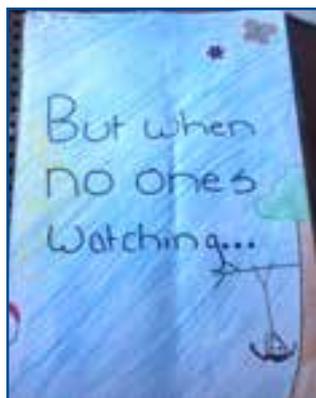
# Certificate II Children's Services

During term 2, Certificate II in Community Services Children's services students enjoyed writing and illustrating children's books. Students first selected a book that had been presented with an award from the Children's Book Council of Australia [CBCA] in the early childhood category and identified elements they thought contributed to the quality of the books. Students then used these elements in the production of their very own children's book.

There were many excellent and varied stories created by the students. Some books were about animals and the different homes animals have, while others were about lost animals and animals getting stuck in funny spots. Other books looked at issues such as depression and how sometimes mummy can lose the baby she has inside her tummy.

Great hand drawn pictures add meaning to the text. We hope to be able to launch sometime in Term 3 with a local school or even a sharing time at the Devonport Library. Books will be on display in the Don College library to help celebrate book week.

Copies of the books have been accepted by Chatter Matters Tasmania, for use by prisoners involved in their Prison Literacy Pilot Program. Prisoners are recorded reading a story onto CD for their child to use at home.



## Don Connecting with the Community

Eliza Purton Home for the Aged visited our Certificate II Hairdressing class for some pampering.

Students displayed their skills and knowledge in blow-drying, scalp massaging and clipper cutting visiting residents from Eliza Purton. It was a most enjoyable day for everyone being able to meet and communicate with new people and listen to their stories, whilst students practiced their new hairdressing skills.

Some clients were so relaxed they fell asleep, others were so happy with their new hair style they started dancing. It was a fantastic moment with students and the senior citizens sharing laughter and smiles.

We look forward to seeing them all again.



## TASC Information

Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification (TASC) has replaced the Tasmanian Qualifications Authority (TQA).

Students must see their Support Group teacher for their TASC Registration form, make any changes necessary and sign it.

The information provided on the form ensures TASC have accurate details for the distribution of results and future records.

