



Don College

Newsletter March 2016

Principal's Message

We welcome our students and parents to the Don College community 2016. This newsletter celebrates student achievement and varied aspects of college life. Don College is a place of learning and students have quickly adapted to the routines of classes and learning. This may sound mundane but actually I am sure that you can all recall the excitement of acquiring new skills and knowledge. The positive buzz and energy created by 1000 students learning at Don College is energising.

I congratulate the students of 2015 who received awards and acknowledgement at our recent Evening of Excellence. A summary of major awardees is included with this newsletter. With proposed extensions to local high schools and the current Review of the Education Act we are facing some uncertain times in regard to policy and legislation. Rest assured that the focus of our teachers is to provide the best possible classroom and learning experience that we can. Don College will remain the major provider for the majority of year 11 and 12 students in our community but I will happily work with our local schools to find solutions that will assist in the retention and subsequent attainment of the small number of students who do not



transition to Don College. The motivator for us is student achievement.

Please do not hesitate to contact Don College if you have any concerns or queries. You are welcome to make an appointment and see firsthand the high quality programs we offer. We look forward to meeting you at our Parent Meet and Greet on Wednesday 23 March from 4:30 until 6:30pm.

John Thompson



Mt Hotham 2016

The Don College Snow Trip is on again, departing Devonport on the Spirit of Tasmania on the evening of Saturday, 27 August and returning to Devonport on the morning of Saturday, 3 September 2016. The cost is \$1300 and if you need to hire extra gear it will be a little more.

More information will be shared in coming weeks when we have a meeting to which interested students are invited. Paper work will be handed out for students to take home with more detailed information and a section for parental consent. It will list the date for payment of a deposit of \$300 and subsequent payment dates. All payments are made to the main office. This trip is always good fun so be in it.

Introducing..

Nigel Baptist

Nigel graduated from UTAS with a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Teaching and began teaching at Wynyard High School in 2006. After 5 years he moved to Huonville High School. Science and especially the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) fields are of special interest to Nigel. He moved back to the coast this year with his family to enjoy the relaxed lifestyle which the coast offers. The environment is a great passion for Nigel and he has always been interested in the outdoors and fitness listing running, bushwalking and mountain biking as major hobbies. He is really looking forward to the challenges of working at Don College and hopes to make a positive contribution to the life of the college.



Kylie Malone

After many years working as a hairdresser, and running her own salon, Kylie embarked on a career change. In 2015 she successfully completed her Masters of Teaching, majoring in Criminology and Sociology, in her undergrad degree.



“Deciding to change careers was a difficult decision”, said Kylie. “I had a lot to weigh up, particularly with a young child, a partner and a successful business. But this year has reaffirmed I made the right choice and teaching at Don College has been nothing short of exhilarating.”

Kylie is currently teaching the Work Readiness – Personal Style course, and the Working With Children class.



Adele Geard

Adele has joined the Don College English and Behavioural Studies teams. Adele has spent many years specialising in English at local high schools. She has brought enthusiasm and a willingness to try new texts and approaches to her teaching. Like all new staff she has looked a bit glazy eyed but is starting to adjust to college life. Among her many interests Adele enjoys music, cooking, animals,

globes (the world variety that is), maps and a good atlas. She collects Scandinavian/Eames glassware too.

Suellen Kackley-Keep

After 6 years at Hellyer College, and some time at Oakwood School and Penguin High, Suellen came to Don College. She grew up in Canada (Quebec and Ontario) and currently holds citizenship in 3 countries: Canada, USA and Australia.



Before teaching Suellen had other careers that included working at universities, as an Office Manager and as Assistant to the Director for the Centre of International Studies in the US and Canada, and many years in the film industry and in communications, including a stint with the Canadian Government in ministerial correspondence, doing briefing notes and writing the odd speech.

Suellen and her husband have been in Australia/Tasmania for the past 12 years. She has a great love for animals, with ‘5 pets and a husband’ (sic) ☺. As a self-confessed education addict and currently working on her 4th degree, she is very happy to be working at Don and teaching in her local community.

We would like to welcome Suellen to our community here at Don and hope that she enjoys her time here. The wealth of experience she brings will help enrich the studies of the students.

Lisa Garland

Art making and all that it entails is Lisa’s passion, which is understandable since she is driven by the visual. She comes to us with a world of experience after teaching at Marist and Hellyer Colleges. Here at Don College Lisa is teaching Photography and Studio Practice and is having a “jolly good” time working with young people. She believes that that’s what it is all about!

As a practising artist Lisa tries to exhibit annually. Swimming every day is a favourite thing, along with the biggest dog in the world whose name is Maurice. His home companions are Elbow and Bottom, the fish, and a shabby cat called Kouta Chicken. We hope you enjoy your time at Don College, Lisa.



The Evening of Excellence

“Excellence and success is unique... we can all be excellent in our own way.”

Our Evening of Excellence is one of our most important events on the Don College calendar. It is an opportunity to invite staff, students, families and community members to share in a celebration of student achievement, contribution and the rich diversity of the college experience. This year's evening was a memorable event focussing on all that was successful about our previous year, 2015. The staff at Don College strive to provide a wide range of opportunities for all students and are proud of every student's personal success story.

Audience members were entertained with some outstanding multi-media items, musical and dramatic live performances. Sarah Hardy was an inspirational guest speaker. She shared 6 main points with everyone...

1. You don't have to have a dream! It is fine to take life one step at a time.
2. Don't seek happiness, seek resilience.
3. It's all luck Be thankful for the advantages you have

been given when you were born here and don't waste them.

4. EXERCISE!
5. Become a teacher! Always be prepared to share your experiences and support others in their learning.
6. No need to rush...

Congratulations to our award winners and best wishes to all of our students from 2015. Be the best that you can be and always be proud of Don College. Remember that gratitude is the most important ingredient to living a successful and fulfilled life.

Top Award Winners for 2015

Dux	Alexandra Fuller
Principal's Award	Alexandra Fuller
Citizenship and All-round Merit	Stuart Hedditch
VET Excellence Award	Olivia Aitken
Caltex Best All-rounder Award	Luis Wilson

Student Transition

Most people find transitions scary, whether it be from Primary School to High School, High School to College or any other major change. Don College provides a friendly team allocated specifically to make this process easier for grade tens across all areas of the north-west coast.

Our experience was enjoyable, beginning with visits from the staff at Don at our high school with familiar Grade 11 students who came to share their various aspects of Don College life. This was followed by several visits to Don, eg. Taster Day, where we chose subjects for the day which gave us a feel for the Don atmosphere. This not only helped us become accustomed to how college worked before we arrived but also helped us make new friendships which lasted through into year 11.

The Don team not only effectively made us feel as though we belonged, but also as though we were a part of Don College. Most students found the transition easy even though the first few days were daunting, because we were in a new environment with new people, new routines and new expectations. Overall, the transition was smooth and helped us settle in.

Phebe and Mahala



Austin Riley and Jessica Benge

On Thursday, 3 March 2016 many Don College students were fortunate enough to hear a very inspirational and life changing story.

Former Don College student Jessica Benge visited the college to help raise awareness of autism, and she was accompanied by a young Canadian named Austin. Part of the aim of the trip was to raise awareness of autism by sharing the life story of Austin Riley. Jess has been fortunate enough to spend 14 months travelling and living in Canada with the Riley family. Austin's story is very special and different from others with autism. Austin is a three time Canadian National Go-Kart Champion.

The students were very engaged through the whole presentation and asked some well thought out questions. Austin is travelling Australia with Jess for another six weeks. Austin is unable to tie his shoe laces and struggles to cut up most food, but he is able to drive a go kart at over 120km per hour, lap after lap, to win races at the national level.



Hitting Heart Disease for 6

The 'Hitting Heart Disease for 6' event was a fabulous occasion with a carnival like atmosphere at the Devonport Oval. There was a large crowd in attendance who partook in the myriad of entertainments and competitions taking place, such as a Fast Bowling comp, Hit the Target, High Catch, Bouncy Castles, Sumo balls In a few poignant moments before the game, Phoebe Berwick sang the national anthem and spoke a few words about the game and her brother, Lachlan.

The game itself was a close affair with only a few runs separating the 2 teams. During play there was a wall of sound and music, along with some very enthusiastic cheerleaders who danced their little hearts out. Every boundary was



celebrated with a huge cheer and the igniting of 4 smoke and flare cannons behind the cheerleaders, shooting smoke and coloured flame (of sorts) into the sky.

Our students from Don were in abundance helping out in running the competitions and generally helping the whole event go smoothly.

There was something for everyone at the event and most importantly, a lot of money was raised for a very worthwhile cause and the memory of Lachie was honoured by a fantastic event in support of the Berwick family. Adam Jago and Marcus Smith organised the event. They make a great team for Event Organisation and are to be congratulated for their initiative and creativity. The whole of Don College and NW community should be proud.

Chaplaincy

We are fortunate at Don College to have an extended Support Team including a Chaplain, Cathrin Boerma, who can be found in the Student Support Room, E204, in the Southern Common Room.

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 students learning.

Cathrin is employed through community funding via donations from Devonport Chaplaincy Inc.

Student participation in all activities offered by the Chaplain is voluntary and students can only access Chaplaincy services with parental or guardian consent.

Goals for the Chaplaincy program at Don College:

- To offer students and staff the support of the 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.

Devonport Regatta Fashion Design

On Sunday, 6 March Don College fashion design students dominated the Devonport Regatta "Design and Make Your Own Outfit" competition.

First place went to Tess Argent who won a sewing machine and overlocker valued at \$1200. Tess designed her own fabric, basing her print design around the children's picture books called "I Spy". Images were symbolic of things you might see at the regatta. Her electronic images were sent to the USA and then printed onto cotton twill.

Chloe Hartog won third place and \$50. The 1950's inspired design was made from a Kmart bed cover, costing a total of \$14 to make.

Tyson Rose entered an op-shop remake, finishing fourth and winning \$50. It has been a big week for Tyson who has just left Don to start an apprenticeship at Molly Malones.

Well done to all of the other Don College entries; Chloe, Game, Kathryn and Kristy. You helped make Don College shine. We thank event organisers and major sponsors, Deegan Marine and Ross Stewarts Sewing Machine Centre.

Shanli Perkins



Our Own Bobby



Having worked in General Duties, Public Order Response Team and the Criminal Investigation Branch, it is a complete change at Don College where I interact with happy, enthusiastic young people who are excited about life. It is invigorating and makes me feel as though I

might be making a difference in more than one way by helping to mould our future leaders. The staff are great too.

Like general policing each day at Don College can be varied and unpredictable. At times I have to deal with poor choices and behaviour, investigate offences and counsel or refer people to other services. I also get to present to classes on matters of law and policing, walk and talk with teachers and students, and even fit in a triple espresso!

My interests are sports of all kinds, tech and computer games and my prized collection of Batman comics. I love to travel all over the world and I got married in Thailand, a long way from growing up on the west coast of Tasmania. I am married to a police officer, Sarah, and we have a two year old son.

This job comes with a uniform and part of it is a MIPV (multi-use integrated protection vest) and gear belt. On the vest I carry two radios, OC spray, a spare magazine, expandable baton, torches, books, pens and personal protective equipment. The belt carries gloves, handcuffs, torch and a Glock firearm. The total weight is between 10 and 12 kgs. Training with this extra gear makes me a good runner!

I can be found in the Northern Common Room in E206B, and enjoy being part of the Support Team of Don College.

Bobby

Don College facebook is available at
www.facebook.com/doncollege

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

Vanuatu

In December 2015, 21 Don College students travelled to Sara Village in Vanuatu to construct a water tank and refurbish the Women's Centre. It was hard labour whilst living in a local village and eating their food harvested from their own gardens and the surrounding bush. The tank helps to provide safe and sanitary water to everyone in the village, while the Women's Centre allows women who are in trouble or are experiencing domestic violence, to have a safe place to go at any time and for however long they need it. Both of these projects have helped to improve the overall health of those living in Sara Village. It was truly rewarding to see a tank constructed by Don College students three years ago providing superior quality, clean and fresh drinking water to the community at the Sara Village School. The villagers accepted us as family members.

Student Reflection

Volunteer Vanuatu was a beneficial experience for me as it has allowed me to experience a completely different culture to our own, which has allowed me to open my mind to other cultures and ways of life. This, in turn, has taught me to appreciate my life and the way I can live. It was also beneficial to me as I now have the satisfaction of knowing that I have helped and made a change in many people's lives.



Sport Management and Certificate III in Fitness

Both the Sport Management and Cert III Fitness students have had a busy start to the year. We have assisted the Cradle Coast Sports and Events group to set up and help run the Devonport Triathlon. We were responsible for setting up barriers, attaching advertising signs, handing out water and fruit to the athletes, photography and packing up.

Our next event was the North West High Schools Inter High Swimming Carnival which both classes ran on Wednesday, 2 March. As a class we were responsible for planning, set up, timing, recording, judging and points calculations. We were very busy in our shifts during the day but coped well in a sometimes high pressure situation. Thank you to our Certificate II Tourism and Business students who created the program.



Both these experiences have given us real life insight into how events are run and have extended us to often problem solve and think on the spot.

The Sport Management group have also been to UTAS in Launceston to attend a lecture by the CSIRO's Geoff Tuck, who spoke on Sport Management issues including tanking, draft penalties and league expansion. This has introduced us to research and what a research

topic or paper involves.

We have an amazing line up of guest speakers who will be visiting our class throughout the year. We will also be co-ordinating and assisting with a number of events throughout the year – watch out for us next at the Run Devonport!

BeachWatch

Environmental Science and Society 3C students recently completed round one of the biannual litter collection at Laycocks Beach. This is the fifth year students have been involved in this project, which is a collaborative partnership between Don College, Cradle Coast NRM and Devonport City Council.

A total of 1208 items were removed from the beach. Each item is carefully recorded and the data sent to the Tangaroa Blue Foundation who analyse the data as part of the Australian Marine Debris Initiative. Several other schools and community groups are involved in the project and, collectively, have removed approximately 24 cubic metres of litter since the projects inception in February 2012.

Plastics make up 95% of the collected debris, which

comes as no surprise given that it is non-biodegradable. This material poses a range of threats including the ability of plastics to absorb toxins. These toxins then enter the food chain when wildlife mistake the litter as their food. Beachwatch has proven to be an invaluable exercise for students as it assists them to gauge the scale of the marine debris problem and its associated impact.



Responsible Digital Citizenship

Engage Positively
Know Your Online World
Choose Consciously

Principal, John Thompson and Assistant Principal, Michelle Best recently visited all Year 11 Support groups to talk about Digital citizenship. They emphasised that social media itself is not a negative activity but that students need to consider how and when they are online. John and Michelle were supported by the Theatre Performance students who enacted two scenarios where students made mistakes and unwise choices in their use of social media. Basically, they needed to “think” before they pressed Send. This was followed up with some “in role” questions and answers as well as information about legal ramifications.

Overall, John and Michelle encouraged students to have balance in life. Social media is a great communication and learning tool but it is important to have a range of hobbies and interests. Be in the moment. Go outside and reconnect with nature. Encourage your friends to sometimes turn all phones off and place them face down at a social event so that you are “fully present.” Check the number of Facebook Friends that you have and maybe get rid of some so that your Newsfeed is not so overwhelming. Ask a trusted person to change your Facebook password for a while to give you a break from it especially if you have a lot of assignments to do! Encourage your household to have a sunset clause where everyone agrees to be “device free” after a certain time each evening. Don’t sleep with your phone, do turn it off at night and for an even better night’s sleep, have a break from your screen before you go to bed.



Kitchen Operations

Our Certificate II in Kitchen Operations class has been working on a unit of work based on Pulses, which is a term used for dried seeds that grow in pods such as dried peas, dried beans, lentils and chickpeas. We are studying this because 2016 is the Year of the Pulse, and the Devonport Food and Wine Festival is running an activity based around Pulses. The class had to research Pulses and Pulse recipes, choose a recipe, prepare, cook and present to customers. Lastly we photographed our work to share on Facebook and Instagram.

By Olivia and Jarrod



Design Production

This year’s Design Production wood and metal classes have been combined to enable students to produce projects using a range of materials. The class has been challenged to design and produce a clock for their minor project. Student’s designs have been based upon areas of individual interest using a generic clock mechanism. A wide range of materials such as plastics, leather, timber and stainless steel have been used by the students. Lauren Butler was the first student to complete the challenge producing a clock to be placed in a nursery.



Transition Education Term 1 2016

We have a ‘get-to-know-you’ activity that we like to use at the beginning of each year, where students have to organise themselves in a line from shortest to tallest, without speaking. When the class of 2016 achieved this accurately and in record time, we knew it was going to be a good year.

Since then, students have participated in a wide range of activities such as dog walking, car washing, making relish, gardening, fitness and circus skills. We have been very busy preparing goods for sale on our Easter Stall, to be held on the Wednesday, 23 March.

We look forward to what the rest of the year will bring with this fabulous group of students.



Assessment for Learning

Don College staff are two years in to a long term project aimed at developing teacher skills and raising student achievement. A key focus is Assessment for Learning Strategies developed by Dylan Wiliam. Using Assessment for Learning Strategies teachers are constantly assessing the skills and knowledge students have developed and are planning

the next sequence of instruction or activity with student understanding in mind.

Dylan Wiliam's research and strategies can be viewed at www.dylanwiliam.org

