Building bridges with our neighbours

JUST after university exams finished, 20 Warrane residents traded three weeks of their summer holidays at home for hard work in rural Indonesia. After many hours of travel, the group arrived in Blora, a small rural village on the island of Java.

The work started before the group landed in Indonesia. Before leaving, they managed to raise $20,000 AUD to assist SMA Katolik Widyakusuma in their construction project.

The goal was to extend classrooms and add a second storey to an existing building in order to create more space for the professional and technical departments within the school. In addition, the group broke up into teams and spent time teaching English classes in the high school, technical school and elementary school—a task almost as difficult as the labour.

“The teaching for most people at the start seemed to be quite a challenge; to be able not only to teach English, but also to find valid ways to teach them English”, said Matt Saxby.

When not teaching English, the volunteers were working hard on the worksite. “The work consisted of painting the inside and outside of the building. Outside we moved and crushed a whole bunch of rocks, which the school plans to cement over to make a new basketball court for the kids.”

Since the worksite was at the school, the group was able to interact with the students outside the classroom. Despite the language barrier, many of the volunteers tried their best learn some of the local language, Bahasa Indonesia, while the local students tried to use their best English.

The group was also accompanied by students from Airlangga University and Widya Mandala University in Surabaya. They came in small groups and assisted in both the manual labour and the English teaching. The volunteers quickly became friends the Surabayans and some still keep in contact today.

While in Blora, the group stayed at an ex-leper colony called WIRESKAT. They lived alongside people who had suffered from leprosy and had been cured but were ostracised due to the social stigma of the disease. One night after work, the ex-lepers and the volunteers had a gathering where they learnt more about each other. Some of the ex-lepers told their life stories and explained why they came to WIRESKAT. “It was a very eye-opening experience”, said Dan Marinari. “It really put things into perspective.”

After their first week of work, the group was invited to participate in a community health walk with the students from the high school followed by some sport against the local students. Oli Perrottet said, “We went for 2k walk through the town Saturday morning. It was fun talking to the locals and learning more about who them.” When asked about how the sport went he said, “We were surprised we won the soccer game, but they wiped the smiles off our faces in volleyball.”

After about two and half weeks of work, the worksite finished. “It was amazing how much the building had changed from when we first started working to when we finished”, Matt said. The volunteers’ main project was the technical classroom. It was transformed from a rough worksite to a pleasant learning environment. In addition, they completed extensive renovations at the local elementary school as well as a few classrooms in another school in Japon, a small town right next to Blora.

The group with students from the elementary school

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Preserving the idea of a university

T he beatification of Cardinal John Henry Newman by Pope Benedict XVI on 19 September 2010 in Birmingham, England, a city which is closely associated with the name of the new Beatus, reminds us that Newman is a "university man" par excellence.

Newman's Idea of a University has stimulated higher education debates about the essence of a university for a century and a half. His founding of the Catholic University of Ireland, the metamorphosis of which is University College, Dublin, and his ideas in A Grammar of Assent are relevant to those of us who value the distinctive formation which universities can provide the citizens of a country which values liberal education. Newman started a strong residential life within his university where learning in general as well further acquisition of technical skills.

Newman: master of one of the Houses. Newman's model for his university was not his alma mater, Oxford, but Louvain in Belgium, although Cardinal Patrick Francis Moran, a highly educated Irishman who was Archbishop of Sydney from 1884 until 1911 claimed that Newman tried to import Oxford into Ireland. Louvain itself is not really a Belgian university, but a university located in Belgium. So too Newman's Irish university, was designed to have a universal character and content, both Catholic and catholic. It was not intended to be peculiarly English – or Irish for that matter.

Newman's view of undergraduate education, and even his post-school upgrading course (what we would now call a bridging course) was that it should be liberal: religion, philosophy, literature and history. He was not opposed to technical training, but for it to be both foundational and flexible (and ultimately useful!) it needed to be located sensibly within a knowledge structure. For Newman, the generic qualities of true humanism transcend any one occupation but are needed in each. That includes not only an awareness of how much we do not know when we graduate but also a conceptual framework which permits continued learning in general as well further acquisition of technical skills.

Dr Peter Birrell from the School of Psychology at this University, in a seminar at Warrane in 1990 to mark the centenary of Newman's death, asserted "the Grammar makes it clear that Newman was and still is, in the forefront of philosophical psychologists – or more specifically in the forefront of those who would seek to give an intellectually satisfactory account of the grounds and psychology of religious belief". I mention just one aspect of this, namely Newman's postulating of an "illative sense" because it impacts on how we strengthen our own convictions and help to convince others. This so-called sense is based on the idea that we are convinced more by a convergence of probabilities than black-and-white logic. Newman termed the network of evidence constituted by complementarity and corroboration an "informal inference": synthesising probabilistic evidence from multiple sources of data (Spitzer, 2010: 23,74).

The further analysis of Newman's 'illative sense' appears in the 1931 book, The Nature of Belief, by Father Martin d'Arcy SJ, that erudite Master of Campion Hall at Oxford. "Belief of any kind is not the mere inspection of a chain of arguments but an entry into a three-dimensional world in which facts converge, support each other and form a structure whose completeness and solidity provides a firm basis for conviction" (Sire, 1997: 103). This in turn leads to a better understanding of perception as a link between the internal senses and the powers of the soul.

Newman himself had come slowly to Catholic beliefs and so he was sensitive to the non-beliefs of others. Newman was also remarkably prescient in the nineteenth century in gauging the threat of militant secularism, especially atheistic fundamentalism. In a sermon in 1873, entitle "The Infidelity of the Future", he prophesised that "Christianity has never yet had experience in a world simply irreligious … ours has a darkness different in kind from any that has been before it". Since then the world has seen the bloodiest century in history, with wars persisting on a country's own citizens in the form of full-term abortion, as though replacing murder of the innocent by another term changes the reality! Yes, we do need education: both educare and educere. Newman understood that there can be no effective teaching without affective learning. Indeed Newman's motto was "Cor ad cor loquitur" (Heart speaks to heart).

This short letter cannot touch on Newman's literary and poetic achievements, nor his spiritual writings, particularly his oft-misquoted penetration of the notion of conscience, let alone why his cause for canonization ever started. For Newman, conscience seeks God … whose voice it is … in preparation for "a tribunal in the future, and reward and punishment" (Boekrad and Tristram, 1961: 14).

Newman was not perfect in personality or achievements, but he was a genuine leader with great empathy, who worked among the poor and down-trodden as well as with the rich and famous. He was beatified because he practised virtue to an heroic degree, and his many accomplishments were an expression of his love for God. In particular, in the beatification ceremony, Pope Benedict remarked on Newman's devotion to Our Lady. Newman called his first home in Birmingham 'Maryvale' and he also designated her the patron of his university under the title of ‘Sedes Sapientiae’.
Warrane’s Harvard connection

WARRANE has a historical connection with Harvard, with the foundation Master, Dr Joe Martins, being a graduate. The original chaplain of the College, Fr John Flader was a Harvard graduate, as was Michael Cook the former College Bursar.

Dr Mark Schembri

The current College Master, Professor Tony Shannon, first went to Harvard in 1994 where he participated in a workshop on medical statistics at the Harvard School of Medicine. At this time he was doing some work in epidemiology and public health. Tony was one of the first researchers in the world to apply meta-analysis to medical research with a study relating multiple injections of insulin to glycaemic control in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1986. While he has been back there a few times since, it has only been in the last two (Northern) summers of 2009 and 2010 that he has worked in the Harvard Graduate School of Education at Cambridge.

One of the attractions for the Master was the opportunity to pick the brains of Howard Gardner, famous for his pioneering work on “multiple intelligences” which comes into the leadership and mentoring course which Tony runs at Warrane College (see article below). Howard, whose honours include twenty six honorary doctorates, has worked hard to encourage schools to focus on more than logical and linguistic skills, and look at the emotional quotient as well as the intelligence quotient. The summer schools at Harvard have focused on the “future of learning” with emphasis on the contributions of neuroscience to the understanding of the mind, brain and education. The workshops have included some lectures but the main focus has been on learning groups in which there is no working distinction between the teacher and taught. All are expected to put serious preparation into the themes of the program before arriving at Harvard.

Tony’s mantra has been “there is no effective teaching, without affective learning”.

In other words, a teacher has to engage the hearts of learners if their minds are to be receptive to new ideas.

Warrane’s Director of Studies, Dr Mark Schembri, also headed to Harvard this year. He is currently completing a Masters degree at the Harvard School of Public health and the Harvard School of Law.

Dr Mark Schembri

Mark is studying the epidemiology of infectious diseases, particularly those that are transferable between animals and humans. He is also learning negotiation and mediation skills to enable him to better work with government and industry in case of a viral epidemic.

Diploma course well established

THE Certificate and Diploma of Educational Studies, run through the College of Teachers, University of London, is now a well-established part of the program for senior residents in Warrane.

Warrane became an Accredited Course provider for the College of Teachers in 2007. Since then a total of 35 students have completed the Certificate of Educational Studies and 24 have completed the Diploma. This year saw an increase in the number of external participants in the course.

Classes are held in the evenings over both semesters of the academic year. The College Master, Professor Tony Shannon, gives the majority of classes. The assessments are examined externally.

“The course provides academic tutors, residential tutors and other senior residents the chance to enrich the practical experience they are getting in teaching and mentoring” said Professor Shannon. “A number of recent graduates from the program have contacted me saying how useful it was, both in terms of their outlook and in helping them gain employment!”

Dr Joe Martins

Professor Tony Shannon

With a study relating multiple injections of insulin to glycaemic control in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1986. While
Colours and Sizes of the Black Dog

If you or a family member has clinical depression you need to be very careful who you consult, according to one of Australia’s leading psychiatrists, the head of Sydney’s Black Dog Institute at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Professor Gordon Parker.

DELIVERING the 2010 Warrane Lecture on September 15, Professor Parker expressed concern about existing medical guidelines for the diagnosis of “clinical depression”. He said there was not enough differentiation between different classes of depression. This was partly because the existing guidelines in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) of Mental Disorders, published by the American Psychiatric Association, failed to address the range of causes for the different types of depression.

He said that anyone with depression needed to find a medical practitioner who was “more than merely a meandering warm therapist”.

“I see so many patients who say they have been talking to their psychiatrist or their psychologist who is a ‘lovely human being’. And I will say, ‘you have been seeing this person for a while – 5 years – and how often do you see them? Oh, once a week. What’s the game plan? Oh, you haven’t got around to it yet.

“And that is as dangerous as having a venal exploitative therapist if you are just getting meandering good feeling, but with no substantive component. And that is actually quite common.”

Professor Parker pointed out that there was a lot of concern today about clinical depression, particularly from politicians who had made concern about existing medical guidelines for the diagnosis of clinical depression. He said that anyone with depression needed to find a medical practitioner who was “more than merely a meandering warm therapist”.

“Depression is a ubiquitous human experience,” he said. “It usually spontaneously remits. And it is usually fairly brief, lasting hours or days. What distinguishes clinical depression are three key parameters.

“Firstly, severity. This is a little bit dangerous because it relies on experiential judgment. But certainly the sort of severity which causes suicidal preoccupations would be an example. And not being able to function, being unable to sleep and losing your appetite and so on.

“Secondly, it is impairing. It prevents people from getting to work, which we call ‘absenteeism’, or more commonly from the data, people with clinical depression can be treated on the basis of the background training of the practitioner than anything to do with the condition itself,” he said.

“So if you go along with depression type X and see a GP, you will probably get a drug, or with the same type of depression you go to a psychologist you will get CBT (Cognitive Behaviour Therapy), or if you go to a counsellor you will get counselling, go to a lady with a kaftan you will get crystal therapy.”
He said he knew of no other area of medicine where the patient is “fitted to the background training of the practitioner”.

“It is worrying. It is as silly as treating major breathlessness as a diagnostic entity. If you go to a GP who says you have got major breathlessness, you want to know whether you have got asthma, or pneumonia or pulmonary embolism because you know respectively that you are going to receive a bronchodilator, or an antibiotic or an anti-coagulant. Medicine proceeds by chasing causes…”

Professor Parker referred to widely publicised, recent research which appeared to indicate that there was little difference between the response to antidepressants and placebos. He indicated that his own clinical experience working with patients with melancholic depression painted a very different picture. It indicated that while the response to a placebo is only around 10 percent and the response to psychotherapy is only 10 to 20 percent, the response to antidepressants is in the range of 60-70 percent – clearly a dramatic difference.

He argued that the problem with recent studies of the effectiveness of antidepressants was that those who were recruited for research were not the type of patients who presented for clinical treatment.

Another thing that concerned him was that “the message going out to the general community is that if you are depressed go and see your GP”.

“Now GPs vary,” he said, “GPs have a huge range of domains that they have to be competent and involved with. Not all are comfortable with mood disorders, not all have been well trained. So my point would be that, in the same way if you have a cardiac condition, you wouldn’t expect that you would just obey the injunction … you should see your GP.

“So I think that we need much greater sophistication in our profession and also in the community.”

On the question of exercise and depression, Professor Parker said the research findings were “quite spectacular”. “Some patients have said ‘it generally takes me four hours to get going in the morning, but when I go walking it only takes half an hour’. What is actually happening is that there are real biological changes. And particularly in Sydney, getting out in the morning exposes people to sunlight which stimulates melatonin from the pineal system.”

Professor Parker said it was not just endorphins nor serotonin levels in the brain that were affected, but exercise, particularly in sunlight, had a “cascading” affect on many brain chemicals. It was not merely a psychological affect, but “quite a powerfully biological effect”.

Building bridges with our neighbours

Xavier Brennan said, “We felt as though we had really accomplished something: not just through the physical work, but also the impact we made. You could see that it really meant a lot to them that we came here and not only worked hard but also got to know them on a personal level.”

During their last night in Blora, the townspeople put together a farewell ceremony at the school filled with traditional Indonesian dancing and musical performances and treated the volunteers to a big dinner.

They exchanged goodbyes the following morning and made their way back to Surabaya to begin their journey back to Australia.

The Indonesia Workcamp was a great success. The volunteers were able to do major renovation to the local school as well as help students learn more English. “One of the teachers told me that just before we arrived her students asked her to teach them more English so that they could talk to us. She said that they saw it had a practical use”, Dan said. “You could see that we were able to create a bridge between Australia and a small village in one our neighboring countries—one that will last for quite some time.”
Consultant urges residents to consider employment early

ONE of the most popular speakers at Warrane this year was Senior Consultant for Odgers Berndtson Executive Search Mr Allan Laurie who offered residents practical advice about how to go about finding a job after they complete their degrees.

Mr Laurie, whose experience has included recruiting members of boards of directors and CEOs for the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and for NASA in the United States, pointed out that many students make a big mistake by not thinking about a job until they graduate.

He told residents they should get started as soon as possible after they begin their university studies.

“The earlier the better,” he said. “You should be thinking about networking and your future career from your first day at university and your planning needs to be something you consider every day of your life.

“You should sit down every six months or so and review how things are going.”

Among Mr Laurie’s suggestions were to:

• learn to be part of a team and to compromise;
• put down on paper their strengths and weaknesses and reflect on it for 10 minutes a day every day for a week;
• remember that networking is the biggest factor with around 70 per cent of job seekers finding their new jobs through their network;
• think of themselves as a product - “you have got to market yourself”;
• not hide behind email, but use the telephone instead;
• consider company executives as ordinary people with strengths, weaknesses and insecurities just like anyone else;
• when making an application to pay careful attention to spelling and grammar. “If there is any bad grammar the application can be rejected straight away”; and
• be careful about the information you put on your Facebook page. “Facebook is dangerous,” he said, “be careful of what you have on there. A lot of companies are using that to test people.”

Low birth rates herald a demographic winter

US author and journalist Mr Don Feder attracted media attention when he spoke at Warrane in May, warning of a world-wide “demographic winter”.

Sydney Morning Herald columnist Miranda Divine devoted much of her column on May 15 to Feder’s view that the world was ignoring the dramatic decline in global birth rates at its peril.

“It could be the greatest crisis to confront humanity in this century,” Feder, a former columnist with the Boston Herald, said.

“Today for the first time in history just under half of the world’s population uses some form of contraception … We don’t ask if sex has an emotional or moral component, or if it serves a higher purpose, only if it’s safe.”

Mr Feder argued that people were the planet’s “ultimate resource”, pointing out that the dramatic growth in the world’s population over the past two centuries had been responsible for “every human advance from the Industrial Revolution to the computer age [and the] phenomenal growth of productivity, prosperity, scientific advance, health and general human well-being.”

He reminded Warrane residents that today’s children are the “workers, employers, producers, innovators, caregivers and taxpayers of tomorrow” and told them that whatever they achieved in their academic and professional lives, it would not be as important as raising a family.

Veteran artist unveils his work

ARTIST Alan Grosvenor travelled from his studio in Jindabyne to speak to residents in August this year. With experience in fields as varied as aeronautical design, residential design and construction, portraiture, and landscape impressionist painting; Mr Grosvenor was well placed to discuss professional options as well as the finer points of his artistic work.
After his address, Mr Grosvenor unveiled ‘Snow Showers, Watson’s Crags’, one of his many works inspired by the beauty of the Snowy Mountains. The work has been given on permanent loan to the College by Academic Fellow, Dr Jim McCaughan.

**Politicen addresses the facebook generation**

THE spread of Facebook could have an unforeseen impact on politics, according to the Liberal Member for Ginninderra in the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory, **Alistair Coe MLA**. Mr Coe, now 26, is the youngest member of the Assembly, having been elected in 2008. Speaking at the College on Wednesday, September 1, he said he was part of the Facebook generation. But because at present the average age of parliamentarians was around 40 years, most had not recorded their past, complete with photos, online. He said that would change dramatically in future and warned young people who were considering entering public life to be very careful of the information they uploaded to Facebook. By the year 2030, most people standing for election would have recorded their whole adult lives online and those records could be open to public scrutiny. It was even possible that political parties would be hesitant to preselect people with a “history” on Facebook. It was also possible that some politicians would use their Facebook records as a way of underlining the “excellence of their integrity”.

“People are sceptical of CVs and written third-party endorsements,” he said. “Anyone can get a third-party endorsement. The importance of your Facebook record is certainly something worth considering when you look at the way you are using Facebook.

“I am probably one of the last politicians to escape it, but anyone elected from now on will face this kind of challenge.” He encouraged resident to think carefully about where they want to go in life.

**Faculty guests inspire residents**

In addition to Wednesday night guests, Warrane hosted a number of faculty dinners in 2010. During faculty dinners residents of a particular faculty have the chance to meet with prominent guests with backgrounds in their specific areas of study. The guests are drawn from both academic and professional life.

Students from the Faculty of Medicine hosted **Professor Gerard Carroll**, a cardiologist who has played a significant role in the expansion of rural medical schools in NSW; **Professor Neil Dan AM**, a neurosurgeon with a wealth of experience both clinically and in various professional bodies; and **Associate Professor Philip Stricker**, a urologist at St Vincent’s Hospital who is at the forefront of treatment strategies for prostate cancer in Australia.

The Faculty of Law hosted **Professor Peter Butt** in Semester Two (see adjacent article). The Faculty of Commerce hosted **John Perrottet** from Perrottet Partners who spoke about his involvement in the World Bank and their work in the aftermath of the tsunami in Samoa.

The Faculty of Engineering hosted **Tim Edwards** and **Noriaki Endo**, Warrane Old Boys who both worked recently on the Sydney Desalination Plant. **Professor Chee Kwok**, Deputy Head of the School of Electrical Engineering, was the engineers’ guest for Semester Two.

**Emeritus Professor Peter Alexander** was a guest of the Arts Faculty Club. He led a discussion of Alan Paton’s novel ‘Cry the Beloved Country.’ Professor Alexander has written the definitive biography of Alan Paton.

The Faculty of the Built Environment invited **Sarah Hudson**, a Senior Environmental Planner with WorleyParsons. She spoke with residents about the role of planners in strata title development.

**A hitchhiker's guide to property law**

Fellows, friends, and residents of the College attended a highly entertaining presentation on property law by **Professor Peter Butt**, who was a guest at a Law Faculty Dinner at the College on September 23rd this year.

Professor Butt is a leading lecturer and author in land law, native title, and legal drafting. He has delivered numerous papers at conferences and seminars in Australia and overseas on the topics of legal drafting and land law.

Professor Butt presented a ‘Property Travelogue’; a series of photographs of houses and estates in the United Kingdom accompanied by an explanation of famous property cases associated with them. The tour began with challenges to trespass laws in the Great Onyx Cave Case and Bocardo SA v Star Energy UK Onshore Ltd. It explored the validity of easements in Ellenborough Park. A detour was made to St Ives to examine the case of the stranded bus depot. The group then dropped in on Dartmoor, where the remains Australia’s own Sir Robert Torrens lie in a forgotten churchyard. Professor Butt then stepped back in time to the Isle of Sark, where laws of primogeniture are currently being challenged. Finally, all headed north to Scotland’s Shetland’s to consider whether a right to pass and repass accompanied by an explanation of famous property cases associated with them. The tour began with challenges to trespass laws in the Great Onyx Cave Case and Bocardo SA v Star Energy UK Onshore Ltd. It explored the validity of easements in Ellenborough Park. A detour was made to St Ives to examine the case of the stranded bus depot. The group then dropped in on Dartmoor, where the remains Australia’s own Sir Robert Torrens lie in a forgotten churchyard. Professor Butt then stepped back in time to the Isle of Sark, where laws of primogeniture are currently being challenged. Finally, all headed north to Scotland’s Shetland’s to consider whether a right to pass and repass included a right to park.

There were other stops along the way and at the close all in attendance agreed that it was a very novel and enjoyable approach to the topic. One student was heard to say that “he never thought property law could be interesting.” He was glad to have been proved wrong.

Classical Concerts Draw Crowds

Among the cultural highlights for the year were the classical music concerts held in the Main Common Room of the College in May. Performers included: (on violin) Doretta Balkizas, Zoe Bloomsfield, Laura Curotta, and Bernadette Yim; (on flute) Truman Mak, Helena Jang, soprano Jennifer Bonner, pianist Dominic She and (on cello) Chris Pidcock, Kenichi Mizuchima, Karol Kowalik, Hyung Suk Bae.

The musicians performed a range of classical and contemporary pieces. The string Quartet performed Spring from Vivaldi’s Four Seasons, Bach’s Air on a G String, Toselli’s Serenata, Mozart’s Eine kline nacht musik, Monteverdi’s Overture, Orfeo, Boccherini’s La Musica Notturna Delle Strade and a special arrangement of The Beatles songs Yesterday and Hey Jude. The flautists, violinists and soprano performed Bach’s Sheep My Gaze, Franck’s Panis Angelicus, Puccini’s Oh! Mio Babino, and Gerschwin’s aria summertime. The cello quartet performed Tavener’s The Dormition, Mozart’s Ave Verum Corpus, Courette’s The Phoenix, Debussy’s La Fille aux cheveux de lin, Mores Cafetin de Buenos Aires, Metallica’s Nothing Else Matters, and Pizzicato Polka Op. 234 by Strauss.

“it was heart-stopping” said Warrane sports director and president of the Inter-College Sports Association, Oliver Perrottet. “Traditionally we haven’t done very well in water polo but we happened to have a few really good players this year. And the whole team lifted to the occasion.” The finish topped off a successful year in sport, with highlights including:

- 1st place in Rugby Union
- 1st place in Tennis
- 1st place in Basketball
- 1st place in Water Polo
- Equal 1st place in AFL
- 2nd place in Soccer
- 2nd place in Cross-country

(1st place in the race to Warrane resident Robert Joseph).

Incoming sports directors Rohan Stocker and Russell Martin have said they are determined to repeat the performance in 2011.

Meeting The Parents

Residents’ parents and other family members were treated to some side-splitting entertainment and a gourmet lunch at this year’s Parents’ Day on May 22.

The day began with a buffet lunch in the main dining room, which was followed by a short presentation on college life and the aims of Warrane by College Dean Arthur Escamilla. Arthur explained to parents some of the ways in which staff at the College seek to serve their sons and the ways in which it helps to promote their academic, professional and personal growth.

Residents and staff members then performed a number of musical pieces followed by a play written and directed by college bursar, David Curran - a Hamlet-meets-Sherlock-Holmes spoof.
One of the judges for the event, Dr Mark Schembri, said he was “incredibly impressed with the skills on display. It was a pleasure to judge this competition”.

Taz Chuck, the diminutive head cook for the victorious 7th floor, emphasized the importance of teamwork in his victory speech. “Everyone contributed something and we just remained calm,” he said.

Cultural director and organiser Matthew Saxby said “The world of cooking, for most residents, is a daunting one. Having said that I think that most residents ran into this world with no fear, ready to do just about anything.” He hopes the competition will become a yearly event.

New Position For Community Service

THE Activities Committee of the College has voted for an additional position to be added to the committee— that of Community Service Director. The first person to take the position will be 3rd year commerce student Aditya Ramani. Aditya has plenty of experience; he has participated in the last two Warrane workcamps to Indonesia and Kenya and was previously co-ordinator of Warrane’s St. Vincent De Paul Night Patrol run.

In addition to Workcamps, visits to nursing homes, and St Vincent De Paul activities, Adhi plans to expand the community service program at the College in 2011. “I am hoping that we can get some groups visiting Villawood detention centre and also to do some work with the disabled” he said.

‘Outdoors Club’ Builds Momentum

THE College has witnessed an increased interest in outdoors activities in 2010. In second semester alone, trips organised included: hiking at Mt Solitary, Blue Mountains; mountain biking at Megalong Valley, a ski trip to Perisher, a Coastal Walk in the Royal National Park, and camping in Bungonia National Park.

Other new events introduced this year included the inter-floor Go-Kart Challenge and the social event ‘In the Courtyard’. Traditional events such as St. Patrick’s Day, Floor Film Festival, the Harbour Cruise, Band Night, Mooncake Festival, and the College Ball were also very successful.

“Cultural and social events are a great part of College life and help to galvanise College spirit” said incumbent Activities Committee president Lachlan Dally. “I am confident next year’s Activities Committee will build on the good work of the 2010 team.”

New Courtyard Put To Good Use

THE College courtyard has had many makeovers in the past 40 years but none so comprehensive as its most recent facelift. The courtyard was used for many College events in 2010, including barbeques, formal dinner appetisers, and the inaugural social event ‘In the Courtyard’.

The new look courtyard features a raised wooden deck surrounded by cream coloured pavers. A garden skirts the edge of the courtyard, and the magnolia tree persists in the middle. The improvements in the courtyard marks the end of Stage 2 of the College renovations that has seen ground, first and second floor renewed in the past few years. Remaining projects include the modernisation of the College lifts, and refurbishments of the College Chapel.
Andrew Watson

Andrew Watson proved a worthy recipient of the 2010 Warrane Sports Scholarship, playing a vital role in a number of sports. Andrew, a second year Commerce student, was named Sportsman of the Year at the College Awards Dinner in October. The sports awards were presented by former Wallaby Ernesto ‘Topo’ Rodriguez.

Andrew represented the College in volleyball, tennis, touch football, AFL, rugby league, soccer, water polo and rugby union during the year. He was leading goal scorer for the soccer team, and player of the year in rugby.

“The rugby final was the highlight” said Andrew, referring to Warrane’s 10-7 win over Baxter College. Andrew kicked the winning penalty from out wide with the scores locked at 7-7 with only minutes to go.

Chris said in his spare time he as been able to go to some “sweet jazz bars” and an impressive local art institute.

When we spoke to him, Chris was preparing to fly back to Australia to perform a Haydn cello concerto with a Central Coast orchestra in Gosford on December 12 and was hoping to catch up with staff and residents of Warrane for carols on December 19.

John O’Callaghan

IN the five years he has spent at Warrane, John O’Callaghan has made a big impression on staff and residents alike. Always ready to roll up his sleeves and give a helping hand, John has been a College Scholar and a Senior Tutor. As College Social Director in 2008 he played a big part in making the Warrane Ball, held at L’Aqua at Cockle Bay Wharf, a big success.

John also joined the College’s first ever work camp to Vietnam in 2007, helping to teach English to university students in Ho Chi Minh City and visiting an orphanage of mentally and physically disabled children—something that had a big impact on himself and the other residents on the camp.

“The work camp was a real turning point for me,” he said. “Before that I really didn’t have much focus, but afterwards I started to put in much more effort.”

In addition to being a senior tutor at Warrane, John has also been a Planning Theory and Practice Tutor at UNSW, a Student Strategic Planner with North Sydney Council and a Planner with Worley Parsons.

After spending the Christmas period with his family in Leeton in the Riverina, John said he was looking forward to getting out into the professional world.

“I would like to work in Sydney for the next two years or so,” he said, “and then maybe try to work overseas, perhaps in the UK or Italy.”

John said he would always have fond memories of his time at Warrane.

“It has been home for me for five years and it has given me so much. I feel like I have made friends in College who will be there for the rest of my life.”

Ben Ting

Ben Ting, a College Scholar who graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering in Mechatronics in 2010, is heading to Bendigo to start a two-year graduate program with Thales Australia, a primary defence contractor for the Australian Defence Force.
Ben, who has been one of Warrane’s senior tutors, said he was looking forward to his move to the country, but that he would miss College life. Since arriving at Warrane in 2007, he has taken full advantage of College life, taking part in everything from the in-house activities to College sport and work camps. In 2008 he took part in a project to help build a new science lab in a village school in Kenya. He said his long term plan with Thales was to get into a management role within the company, but that would take a while. “Hopefully I will be able to move back to Sydney in a few years,” he said. The Thales parent company is based in France and has operations all over the world. Ben said he was hoping to take advantage of this aspect of the company to do some international travel. He said he had enjoyed his time at Warrane immensely. “I have to say that my experience of College life has been overwhelmingly positive,” he said, “particularly the service project to Kenya. I am hoping to keep in touch with the people I have met in Warrane in the future.” Ben completed his final year thesis in Mechatronic Engineering this year under the supervision of a Warrane Old Boy, Dr Erik Van Voorthuysen.

Patrick Allan

FIRST year resident Patrick Allan is the first person to be awarded the Warrane College Rural Engineering Scholarship.

The scholarship was established to provide financial support to rural students studying Engineering at UNSW and living at Warrane. The protocol for the scholarship was signed this year by the College Master, Tony Shannon, along with the Dean of Engineering Professor Graham Davies. Patrick, from Orange, came to Warrane on the advice of his grandfather - old friend of the College John Fletcher, who will be well known to many College old boys. Patrick says he is very happy with the decision, particularly due to the “sense of community and camaraderie” at the College. “I like the way everyone gets involved in football and all the rest of the sports, the way the residents are all so friendly - everyone in college seems to know each other even though there are so many of us,” he said. “It’s good to have people popping in and asking how your are doing and residents doing so many things together.”

Patrick may be living a long way from home, but he clearly knows how to get along with other people - he was school captain at James Sheahan Catholic High School in Orange and is also a high academic achiever, having received awards for academic excellence in maths and science.

Patrick is studying Mechanical Engineering at UNSW and says so far he is very happy with the course.

Jeremy Wong

4TH YEAR Warrane resident and Electrical Engineering student Jeremy Heng Meng Wong won 3rd prize in the School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications Poster Competition.

Jeremy walked away with a cash prize of $200 for a poster entitled: Quantum effects in silicon MOS nanostuctures. Jeremy’s supervisor, Professor Andrew Dzurak, praised Jeremy’s dedication and constant spirit of inquiry. Jeremy will complete his degree half way through next year and will return to Singapore for military service. And afterwards? “Who knows”, he says. “Maybe I’ll come back to UNSW for a PhD.” Jeremy’s success continues a tradition of strong performances from Warrane residents in Electrical Engineering, with brother Nicholas Wong, who graduated this year, receiving 2nd prize in the same competition last year and David Maunder winning first prize and the university medal in 2008.

Rohan Stocker

FIRST year resident Rohan Stocker, of Bega, capped off a big year at Warrane by receiving the Bevan Corbett Award. This most prestigious award is presented yearly to the first year collegian who best emulates the qualities of former College resident, Bevan Corbett (2004-05).

Bevan resided in Warrane for two years and was notable for his commitment to College activities, his application to his studies and on the sporting field, and his spirit of service. Early in 2006 Bevan was tragically killed near Cobar while on placement for his mining engineering studies. The award, a perpetual trophy donated by Bevan’s parents, is presented by the Master of the College, who chooses a winner based on nominations made by the residential tutors.

Rohan was a worthy recipient of the award. Not only has he maintained a high distinction average and represented the College in a number of sports, he has also contributed to College life consistently during the year. He participated in the College play, a in a range of social and cultural activities, and in the end of year Workcamp to Samoa. “Rohan is your quintessential quiet achiever” said College Master Tony Shannon.

Rohan said he was honoured to receive the award. “It is a privilege to have your name alongside those past recipients, and particularly alongside Bevan’s.”
Tom Burger

TOM BURGER has been busy over the 18 months since started work as an engineer on oil and gas rigs. Tom started out with Esso Australia, an ExxonMobil subsidiary in March 2009 as a Reservoir Engineer. He began by working the oil and gas fields in Bass Strait in the Gippsland Basin, working with geoscientists, geophysicists and drilling to find and produce oil and gas.

Over the past 18 months he says he has coordinated various “workover” and drilling activities and was lucky enough to be given a trip to Houston Texas for three weeks to attend Reservoir Engineering training.

He is now the Reservoir Engineer for two offshore oil platforms.

Tom said: “It is amazing how fast and how much you learn actually being out in the field working with real problems. All in all, I have no complaints about how things have been going.”

40th Anniversary Dinner

THE COLLEGE held a special dinner on Wednesday June 2 this year to commemorate 40 years since the first College photograph. Four of the faces from the photograph were present at the dinner: College staff member Frank Casadeseus, tutor David Bolton, chaplain Fr John Flader, and resident Paul Dunn.

After dinner David Bolton shared some of memories of the tumultuous early 70s in Warrane. He spoke about how different the atmosphere was on campus at that time when the College first opened its doors.

In particular, he mentioned the volatile student politics of the day, the big protest meetings and marches on campus and the role played by “The Wizard” (Ian Channell, a lecturer on campus who now lives in New Zealand from where he continues his Wizard role online). David said The Wizard often defused some of the political tensions at meetings where the students were getting a bit too aggressive with the university administration.

David also shared some personal insights into the disappearance of thousands of copies of a controversial edition of Tharunka that included a pornographic sex manual.

He spoke about the student marches on the College and the burning of an effigy of Dr Joe Martins, the College’s first Master. The police were called in and the protest was reported in the media. The University agreed to hold an inquiry into the College’s management, but the campaign actually backfired because the College was cleared and many people came into contact with Warrane as a result.
Michael Campion

WARRANE resident from 1971 to 1973 Dr Michael Campion was presented with a lifetime achievement award by the College’s Master, Professor Tony Shannon on Wednesday, May 26.

During his visit to the College, Michael, who is a Consultant Gynaecologist to the Australian Army and Senior Staff Specialist with the Preinvasive Unit of the Gynaecological Cancer Centre at the Royal Hospital for Women in Randwick, gave a talk on some of his experiences while working with the Australian forces in Afghanistan.

While taking care not to breach any classified information, Michael gave a frank overview of some of the challenges that the Australian military face in Afghanistan.

particularly from landmines. He explained that the task of detecting mines had become extremely difficult due to the fact that detonators now used so little metal that they were often impossible to locate with metal detectors.

Nevertheless, Australian personnel were among the best equipped in the world thanks to very advanced technology that is capturing the attention of other nations.

Michael’s achievements over the years have included:

- establishing a multidisciplinary Rape Crisis Centre and women’s refuge at Blacktown District Hospital, Sydney;
- winning the Israel State Medal for medical research;
- working in the United States of America as a Physician of International Renown where he served as a Consultant Surgeon to the US Army, assisting in the establishment of the surgical services for Gulf War One.
- Assisting with United Nations civilian humanitarian missions in Rwanda and the Belgian Congo;
- helping to establish award-winning cancer screening projects in Africa, Central America, South America, Asia and Alaska.
- working as a consultant Australian Army surgeon in Bougainville where he helped to re-establish Obstetrics and Gynaecology services decimated by years of war.
- humanitarian work in East Timor, where he helped to build a Teacher’s College;
- a major role on behalf of the Australian Army in Banda Aceh after the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami - a role that led to him being commended by then Prime Minister John Howard and Chief of Defence Force General Cosgrove as “the face of the humanitarian intervention”.

Michael travels to Tehran every two years to conduct teaching and training in gynaecological oncology and has helped to establish the Iranian Gynaecological Oncology Society and the Iranian Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology. In 2003, he established a gynaecology and gynaecological oncology service in the Pius X Aboriginal Corporation in Moree. He has also established a comprehensive eye-care service, the Pius X St John Eye Clinic.

Sam Adeloju

WARRANE Old Boy, Sam Adeloju, has been in the news after becoming a Silver Medalist at the Australian design community’s “night of nights” – the Australian International Design Awards.

Sam, a graduate of the UNSW Industrial Design Program, has appeared on Channel Seven’s Today Tonight program, and featured in articles in the Sydney Morning Herald. His invention, The Longreach Water Rescue System, is also to be featured on ABC TV’s, the New Inventors.

The system is a compact package that allows a potential drowning victim to remain buoyant and attract the attention of rescuers. One of its main benefits over other systems already in production is that it uses “hydrophobic” or rapidly expanding foam to provide buoyancy once the package comes into contact with water Sam explained: “This allows the package to be vastly smaller in size than any currently existing buoyancy device.”

The package is equipped with a light for attracting attention and Para-Flares for night-time illumination. It is designed to be simple to manufacture and easy to handle and is ideal for emergency services personnel or a ship’s crew.

Most important of all, the Longreach system has the potential to significantly reduce the number of drownings at sea.

Sam said that at the awards night he met a number of his peers from across the country.

“It was great to see the passion that we shared for design and problem solving and it was great to be able to quiz people about their unique and interesting designs.

“It was also good to see people who were not familiar with the awards or our designs, coming up to ask questions.”
Warrane 2.0

The new Warrane homepage.

2010 saw the launch of Warrane 2.0, an effort to further promote the College making full use of the social aspects of the internet.

Warrane now has a Facebook group, a LinkedIn profile, and a Twitter page. Podcasts of some Wednesday night guest talks are available.

The move coincides with the launch of the new look College website. The website features a photo archive and regularly updated College and Old Boys News sections.

Publications

Some current residents are already publishing in their field. Fourth year medical student Hasib Ahmadzai had his case report “Liver abscess or neoplasm? A diagnostic and surgical dilemma” published in the Journal of Surgical Case Reports, October 2010.

PhD student Neil Fernandez had a poster presentation at the 13th International Symposium on Microbial Ecology in Seattle, USA. The poster was entitled: Bleaching the Red Algae Delisea Pulchra Leads to Phylogenetic and Functional Shifts in the Surface-Associated Bacterial Community.

First year medical student Colin-John Perrins co-authored “Current advances in the understanding of the immunopathology of atherosclerosis” in Virchows Arch.

WARRANE had a packed program of Wednesday night guests in 2010. Others to visit the College included Michael Fahey, author of The Baggy Green, Richard d’Apice AM, lawyer and expert on heraldry; Michael Baird MLA, member for Manly; Professor James Franklin, author and professor of mathematics at UNSW; Professor Sandra Lynch, from the School of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame; journalist Desmond O’Grady; Mrs Elizabeth Crouch, chairwoman of RailCorp; Cardinal George Pell; Mrs Gemma Saccassan, fashion designer and image consultant; Professor George Mendz, from the University of Notre Dame’s School of Medicine; Senor Gerardo Bugallo, Consul-General of Spain; Andrew Horsley, search consultant and former national skier; and Michael Crouch AO, CEO of Zip Industries.

In the news

Residents from 5th floor made headlines in the Daily Telegraph in February this year although no one can work out why. They were snapped taking a “scruffy lounge” onto a bus and the reporter speculated it may have been a protest against the inadequacies of the NSW’s public transport system. Was this the real reason?

Vale Gil

Among the valedictorians this year was legend of the recent past, Shaun Reynolds (2006-08; 2010). Shaun has graduated from Town Planning and is heading back to Gilgandra. Among his many contributions to College in the past few years, Shaun is famous for his impeccable administration of the rugby league tipping competition and his slick and masterful presentation of the Geek of the Week award on Wednesday nights.

Registration and donations

WARRANE needs the support of its Old Boys and friends to continue providing a family-like, supported environment for students coming to UNSW.

One way to support the College is to join the Warrane Association and keep up to date with College events, especially Old Boys events. Registration for the Warrane Association can be completed below.

Donations to the College can also be made below, or by visiting the home page and clicking on Donate Now. We are specifically fundraising for the following items for the College:

- A new piano for the Main Common Room.
- Framing for all the College photographs from 1970-2010, which will be displayed in the corridor outside the College office.
- New scholarships for residents, especially rural students.

If you would like to contribute to a specific project, please mention so below. If you would like to change your contact details, please email info@warrane.unsw.edu.au. An online form for these details will be coming soon.

Title __________ First Name ______________________________
Family Name ______________________________
Phone ______________________________
Email ______________________________
Life Membership: $100 [  ]
I enclose a cheque to Warrane Association for $ ______ or please debit my credit card [ ] Visa Card [ ] Mastercard [ ] Amex with $ ________
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