



From the Principal



Welcome to the first edition of DuchesNews for 2009. Reading through the articles and reports gives a clear idea of the vibrancy and strength of our community. At this stage in the semester, it is a good time to reflect.

I have pointed out on a number of occasions, that this is a special year for the College as we celebrate our 70th Anniversary, the 50th anniversary of the opening of this building on the St Lucia campus and the completion (almost!) of Rose Philippine Wing. 1937 saw the foundation of Duchesne College, at the behest of Archbishop Duhig, to house young Catholic women from rural and regional Queensland as they embarked on their university studies in Brisbane. The College commenced with 3 students in a dormitory set aside for them at Stuartholme School.

Duchesne closed during the war and was re-opened in New Farm, where it grew to 35 students. In 1955, the foundation stone for our building at St Lucia was laid; the building opened in 1959, 50 years ago. Various additions have been made over the years to house the increasing numbers of students. Today, of course, we are celebrating the virtual completion of Rose Philippine Wing, our latest addition, which has brought us to 199 students, an amazing achievement which means we are no longer the smallest female college. A far cry from the original 3 students! We owe much to our heritage and to the Religious of the Sacred Heart, who have worked tirelessly and with vision to establish the college we know and love today. We look forward to celebrating in many ways throughout the year. The official opening and blessing of Rose Philippine Wing will take place on 4th June, with Archbishop John Bathersby presiding. There will be an Alumnae Celebratory Weekend on 19th and 20th September, to include a Ball at Hillstone Golf Club and a Mass and Morning Tea in College. At the request of students, we are holding a Parent's Weekend on 3rd and 4th October. We look forward to welcoming many of our families and alumnae on these occasions.

Despite the fact that the Rose Philippine Wing was not completely ready for the beginning of the year, we are delighted with this new addition to our College. The 44 students ensconced in new rooms seem very happy with their facilities, especially the ensuite, air-conditioning and great range of storage. They will be even happier, as will we all, to bid farewell to the builders and the early morning wake up calls. sculpture for the quadrangle to represent the College motto, "Robur in Luce veritatis" which means "Strength in the Light of Truth". This was installed over the Easter break, after a lengthy delay due to the weather.

Of course, the Rose Philippine Wing is more than just another building. Given that we have been turning away high numbers of excellent applicants over the last few years, it was wonderful this year to be able to offer more places. The morning in February when we welcomed 102 new students may seem like a distant memory but I know it is a day which will remain in the hearts of those students and their families. It was wonderful to see how quickly the freshers dealt with their homesickness and settled to college life and found their own way of contributing. It may have taken parents and families a little longer to adjust to the gap left at home!

At our Academic Awards Dinner in March, we acknowledged and celebrated academic achievement in 2008. Given that we do not select students at Duchesne primarily on the basis of their OP score, it is rewarding to see how well our students perform. We are confident that the academic support given within College, through tutorials, study groups and Academic Progress Interviews for instance, is a major factor in this. At the dinner, I mentioned these statistics:

The average GPA of returning students is 5.35, as opposed to 5.13 last year, Forty returning students have a GPA of >5.5.

24 have a GPA of >6

60% of our 102 new students have an OP 1-5

11 were awarded an Excellence Scholarship or a Merit Scholarship by UQ, from a total of just over 300 available scholarships. I am sure we will see many of those students being acknowledged at this event next year.

As ever, university and college activities play a large part in our lives. The articles in this newsletter provide some insight into the range of activities but, what is difficult to pinpoint is the Duchesne spirit which pervades everything we do.

I am always pleased to see that we have such a high level of participation in events and even more pleased to see how quickly first year students become involved.

Janet Erskine Stuart, RSCJ, said of Sacred Heart Education:

“So we must remember that it is better to begin a great work than to finish a small one...the work in the rough...may look ugly and yet be full of promise...A piece of finished insignificance is no true success... Our education is not meant to turn the children out small and finished, but seriously begun on a wide-basis. Therefore they must leave us with some self-knowledge, some energy, some purpose...If they leave us without these three things they drift with the stream of life.”

Self-knowledge, energy, purpose...

I take pride in saying that the three abound at Duchesne.

I wish our students continued happiness and success.

From the President

Duch has shown its true colours so far this year and already it is clear that Duch has more BOOF in '09!! Welcoming 102 fantastic first years into the College has fuelled everyone's enthusiasm for the year ahead and our returning students have been excellent Duchinian Role Models for our newest members. Already so much has happened in all areas of college life, from the sporting field to the debating table.

We have had great success in the sporting arena with so many of our girls diving into all the sport college has to offer and representing Duchesne in style each week. Culturally, our Duchies have been causing a stir at the debating table and our Duch Idol, Anna Ryan came 4th at College Idol on the 2 April. The Bandfest and Choralfest

girls have been tuning their voices and guitars in preparation for their big events and will no doubt be very entertaining.

As well as this, Duchesne has also participated in Clean Up Australia Day with Duchesne College having over 60 girls participating, contributing to the largest number St Lucia has ever had. Not only have Duchies been donating their time to study, sporting teams, cultural events and the community, we of course have found time to attend the famous Duch Bowls and have scheduled in time for Patty's Day Cruise, Reclaim the Re, Duchesne Cocktails/Mocktails and Duchesne Ball all still to come in first semester. Last but certainly not least, Crazy Blues have been out in force supporting all aspects of College

which is testament to how well Duch has been performing this semester. Keep it up Duchies!!

It has been a brilliant start to the year with the Duch Spirit alive and well and I cannot wait to begin the second half of the semester. Happy College days!

Susan Tannock
President



From the Service and Liturgy Convenor

Duchesne girls have once again welcomed the year with a great start to service and liturgy. Thus far we've celebrated International Women's Day, Harmony Day and Earth Hour in small but memorable ways; we got our hands dirty for Clean Up Australia Day and some of us rolled up our sleeves for the Red Cross Blood Bank.

At Clean Up Australia Day, approximately 60 Duchesne girls cleaned up St Lucia. They contributed to the group of 110, the remainder consisting of St Leo's and St John's students who were the largest group to ever assist in cleaning up the suburb. This year's effort was coordinated entirely through Duchesne and it is hoped that this will continue into the future.

One of the most exciting developments has been the establishment of the joint St Vincent de Paul Society Conference with St Leo's College. In previous years the two colleges have been able to work together but this venture will enable us to pool resources and energy to offer a lot more to both of our communities and beyond.

We had in excess of 60 attendees at our inaugural meeting so enthusiasm is high. Through the conference (which is as yet to be named), we hope we will not only continue the activities we have taken up in the past but extend our involvement into more ongoing locally based work. Congratulations and offers of encouragement and support to both colleges have been received from the State President, Mr John Campbell and the Regional Council President, Mr George Keryk.

The first few weeks at Duchesne have seen us involved in a number of Masses. Members of the service committee have also been involved in establishing a group to lead liturgical music to enliven our celebrations.

We have an exciting ride in store for service at Duchesne in the next few weeks so watch this space!
Cathryn Moore

Service and Liturgy Convenor



From the Sports Convenor

Duchesne College has shown yet again the reason why we have been crowned ICC Sports Cup winners for the past two years. We have had an unbelievable start to the sporting calendar and... we're well on our way to becoming champions again in 2009!

Duch is off to a brilliant start in ICC Sport. We kicked off the year with the Swimming Carnival, which was an outstanding success. Duch came second, with amazing swims by all girls in the team.

One of the most exciting events of the sporting calendar is the Touch Carnival. We WON the carnival, going through the tournament UNDEFEATED. All of the girls in the team trained extremely hard and it was clear that their commitment paid off. A big thanks must go to Genevieve Dunne, an old girl, who came back to coach us to victory. Also thank you to those

who came to support us at the games.

Netball fixtures are well underway and so far the girls are off to an awesome start, winning their first game and drawing their second.

We are performing really well in Volleyball. We have won five games and narrowly lost won. Our final game is against St John's and this will determine our overall position for Volleyball. Our girls are improving each week and I am sure that we will perform really well in the final game.

We're coming up to the halfway mark of Semester One and the Hockey fixtures are about to begin. Trials have been held and we are going to be entering a really strong team. Each year we perform really well in hockey and I am sure that this will continue.

The Rowing Regattas are due to begin in early May.

We have some very experienced rowers joining us this year and I am sure that we will perform really well.

Finally, I'd like to share a massive thanks with all the supporters who've shown up to sporting events in their Crazy Blues to support their fellow duchies. Continue the good work by making sure you get down to the Hockey Fixtures, Regattas and Netball games!

Laura Marsden
Sports Convenor



Girls dressed in their 'Crazy Blues' to support Duchesne at the ICC Swimming Carnival. Duchesne came second.

From the Cultural Convenor

Duch has well and truly launched our assault on the ICC Cultural Competition for 2009, and this year is shaping up to be massive on the cultural front. It's exciting to see how enthusiastic everyone has been at having a go in the true spirit of the Duch sisterhood. A hearty congratulations, girls!

Debating kicked off this year's events. Our formidable team of Adele O'Driscoll, Amelia Torre and Bridget Young (first years), led by Ashley Cacciola (second year), has fought convincingly all semester. Next week's debate will see them go head to head with Women's College in the final round before the quarter finals, in what will surely be a hotly contested battle.

Last week we packed into the common room for Duch Idol, where we were dazzled by the freshers' singing and playing talents. First year Anna Ryan wowed us with her sweet rendition of Eva Cassidy's "Songbird" to take out the title of

Idol, and represented Duchesne proudly, achieving fourth in the competition in front of a huge crowd at the Second Degree for College Idol.

Also on the musical front, the number of girls who auditioned for Bandfest was overwhelming! The band is rehearsing hard in preparation for their rocking gig on 1 May at IH. The musical talent doesn't end there either, with our choir for Choralfest (21 May) practising in full swing also, led by the wonderful Sarah Kirk. The girls are all keen, particularly the large proportion of first years, to follow up last year's win with another stellar performance.

The last cultural events for first semester are Duch Art Show and ICC Art Show. Everyone is encouraged to produce something to show at our Duch show, which will be held in April after we return from mid-semester break. Winning pieces will be selected by our exhibition judge to represent Duch at ICC Art Show on 9 April.

I'd like to wish all of the Duch girls involved in Cultural activities this semester the best of luck, and thank them for generously sharing their talents with us. Cheers girls, and GO DUCH!!!

Erin Dunne
Cultural Convenor



Our entertaining and enlightening Duchesne Debating Team

From the Social Convenor

Duchesne College provides an enriching experience where young women from areas throughout Australia and overseas come into a community where they pursue tertiary studies. Whilst many of the girls spend ample time studying and concentrating on their studies, there are also many opportunities by provided where they can interact socially. So far this year, the residents have been involved in enriching, exciting and welcoming social activities from O Week to the recent Duch Bowls.

O Week is a week of social events that have been carefully orchestrated and planned. Amidst attending programme and faculty orientation activities, the first years of 2009 were capably inducted into the life of a “Duch girl” by the enthusiastic and energizing Student Executive. The first social event of the week is the Ugly Party where residents don disgusting outfits in favour of prim and proper clothes. It allows the girls to feel comfortable in their new surroundings, while not worrying about the finer details of high heels and make-up. The reverse is called for at the Formal Party when residents step out in style. At this year’s punk party we saw a variety of leather, studs, black eye make-up and even some inflatable guitars which saw the girls rocking it out to some awesome punk music of the 70’s and 80’s. By the time the girls arrived home from Mooloolaba on the Friday evening, they were well and truly ready to have a good night’s sleep.

March 15 saw the continuation of the annual Duchense tradition of ‘Duch Bowls.’ The girls slipped into a variety of interesting white frocks and it certainly felt that we had stepped back in time with the wonderful array of outfits.

This year we had an amazing turn out with people turning up from a range of Colleges.

Any excuse should, and is made, to organise a cruise down the Brisbane River and what better excuse than to celebrate the Feast Day of that most Irish of saints, St Patrick. This year’s classy green cohort of Duch girls will gather with their Leonian counterparts in just a few days to dance a jig or two.

The organisation for the Duchesne Ball is well underway. The Ball will be held on the 8th May at a secret location in Brisbane.

The Duchesne Ball does not see the end of the Social Calendar. Other exciting Social Events to look forward to include:

- Duchense @ Home
- Duchesne Cocktails
- Parents Weekend

There are many exciting events for the girls to look forward to and display the Duch Spirit!

Zenetta Burger
Social Convenor



Some of the girls cooking up a storm for Duch Bowls.

Interview with First Year Esther Cazzulino

How are you finding living at Duchesne College?

It is great, I have made so many friends and everyone here is lovely.

How was O Week?

Excellent. It was totally different to any experience that I have had before. It was a really good experience.

What was the best function of O Week?

The Ugly Party because everyone made themselves 'ugly' and you did not feel self-conscious.

What are you studying at University?

A Bachelor of Arts.

How are you finding University?

It is good. The contact hours are different from at school. In my non-contact hours I do a lot of work back at Duchesne.

What has been your best experience after O Week?

Making friends with the girls.

Do you like your room?

I love it, it is really big.

What is your favourite facility at Duchesne?

The computers and the library.

Do you enjoy Formal Dinners?

Yes. They are interesting. They reflect the history and traditions of Duchesne.

What do you think of the new building?

It is extremely nice.

Do you go watch Duchesne play sport?

Yes, it is heaps of fun to go watch them, especially when you dress up in Crazy Blues.



Academic Awards Dinner

On the 18th March, Duchesne College held their annual Academic Awards Dinner. At this dinner, we recognise those residents who achieved a GPA of six or above in 2008 and who have returned to Duchesne College in 2009

This year we had an amazing number of students who achieved this outstanding result. 23 Duchesne residents received an award this night. Listed below are the three students who received a specific award for having the highest G.P.A of their year group. This is followed by the 20 students who received the Duchesne Medal for Academic Achievement.

Joan Percy-Dove Award 2008. Awarded to the First Year Student who has achieved the highest G.P.A

Eliza McInnerney

Bachelor of Agricultural Science

Phillipine Duchense Award 2008. Awarded to the Second Year Student who has achieved the highest G.P.A

Camron Ebzery

Bachelor of Applied Science (Forensic Science)/Bachelor of Biotechnology

Alumnae Academic Award 2008. Awarded to the Third Year or Above Student who has achieved the highest G.P.A

Megan Smith

Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Majoring in Psychology

Name	University	G.P.A
Charlotte Connolly	UQ	6
Fleur Deguara	UQ	6.625
Sarah Dunne	UQ	6
Julie Kayes	UQ	6.5
Elise Lenske	UQ	6.5
Caitlin O'Donohue	UQ	6
Ellen Penna	UQ	6.75
Alana Rowan	UQ	6.04
Claire Smith	UQ	6.125
Bradene Standen	UQ	6
Eliza Strickland	UQ	6.425
Bernadette Young	UQ	6.415

Name	University	G.P.A
Eleanor Capel	QUT	6.25
Jacqueline Curran	QUT	6.375
Sally Anne Daniels	QUT	6.125
Lauren James	QUT	6
Cathryn Moore	QUT	6
Nicola Newman	QUT	6.625
Jessica Von Drehnen	QUT	6.12
Tillie Walsh	QUT	6.5

The guests at the Academic Awards Dinner were extremely lucky to listen to an insightful speech by the Honorable Justice Ann Lyons, Supreme Court Judge. Justice Lyons is a member of the Duchesne College Council. She gave a wonderful insight to her life, explaining to the guests how the many committees she has been involved in, her volunteer work, and of course the jobs that she has worked at that have enabled her to become a Supreme Court Judge. The guests really appreciated this speech, especially the residents of Duchesne College as it highlighted to them the path of a successful woman.

Photos from the Academic Awards Dinner



Jessica Von Drehnen with the Honorable Justice Ann Lyons



Camron Ebzery receiving the Phillipine Duchesne Award from the Honorable Justice Ann Lyons



Julie Kayes with the Honorable Justice Ann Lyons



Megan Smith receiving the Alumnae Award for Academic Excellence from Andrea Webb-Jolly



Eleanor Capel with the Honorable Justice Ann Lyons



Eliza McInnerney receiving the Joan Percy-Dove Award from the Honorable Justice Ann Lyons



winners Nicole Newman, Fleur Deguara and Julie Kayes Award



Sally Anne Daniels with the Honorable Justice Ann Lyons

Touch Summary



The UNDEFEATED 2009 Duchesne Touch Team. Winners of ICC Touch Carnival 2009

The results for the 2009 ICC Touch Carnival are as follows.

Duchesne College	11	defeated	Cromwell College	0
Duchesne College	4	defeated	Emmanuel College	1
Duchesne College	8	defeated	International House	1
Duchesne College	6	defeated	Grace College	2
Duchesne College	4	defeated	St John's College	1
Duchesne College	10	defeated	Union College	1
Duchesne College	4	defeated	Women's College	3

Volleyball Summary



Dukesne College Volleyball Team 2009

The results for the 2009 ICC Volleyball Competition are as follows.

Dukesne College	2	defeated	Union College	0
Dukesne College	2	defeated	International House	1
Cromwell College	2	defeated	Dukesne College	0
Dukesne College	2	defeated	Grace College	0
Dukesne College	2	defeated	Women's College	0
Dukesne College	2	defeated	Emmanuel College	0
St John's College	2	defeated	Dukesne College	0

The Refurbishment of the Dining Hall and Service Area

Following the change in brand for catering from Spotless to Alliance in second semester 2008, Alliance completed a refurbishment of the Dining Hall and Service Area at Duchesne College.

The aim of this new brand is to provide a refreshed look and a fresh approach to food and service. Janice Gage, chef of Duchesne College believes that the refurbishment has enabled there to be an increase in fresh food. She also believes that the Duchesne Residents are very satisfied.

The refurbishment of the Dining Hall and Service Area has allowed there to be more food on display, with more variety being offered. The Service Areas are no longer cramped and are easily accessible by residents. In addition, there is now an ice-cream freezer, much to the delight of the residents.

brightened up Duchesne’s eating areas.



Newly refurbished service area.

The refurbishment of the Dining Hall and Service Area has

Library Notes

The academic year has started well with many students showing an interest in the library, borrowing books and submitting suggestions for new books.

As the mid-semester break looms, the girls are also using the large amount of space and availability of large study desks to prepare themselves for exams. It is exciting to see so many dedicated students in the library at various times throughout the day.

New textbooks which have been added to the collection include:

- Basic biomechanics of the musculoskeletal system
- Clemente’s anatomy dissector
- Manufacturing, engineering and technology
- Understanding pathophysiology
- Wide Sargasso Sea
- Behind the Moon

Books of general interest that have been added to the collection include:

- The audacity of hope - Barack Obama

- Dreams from my father—Barack Obama
- Serious frolic: essays on Australian humour—De Groen & Kirkpatrick
- The Guernsey literary and potato peel society—M.A Shaffer
- The Forgotten Garden—Kate Morton
- Heroic Australian women in the war—Susannah De Vries
- The Uncommon Reader—Alan Bennett
- One Hundred Years of Solitude—Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- Boy in the striped pyjamas—John Boyne

Books by such authors as Jodi Picoult, Cathy Kelly, Stephanie Meyer, Alexandra McCall-Smith, Sue Grafton and Michelle DeKretser have also been purchased for the light reading section of the library.

Suggestions for more books are always welcome.

The residents of the College are also making strong use of their ‘reserved collection’ to assist them in their studies.

We have been very fortunate to have received donations of some excellent books from Paul and Meegan Ryan, Margaret Rise and a number of other sources. Donations of all kinds are always welcome and well received.

I look forward to seeing more students in the library in the weeks ahead. Please do not hesitate to ask for assistance.

Sally Hall

Librarian



The Belles of Duchesne

Handbells??? What comes to mind? Many people cringe at the thought of what this might involve. Well just to clarify, it is not 20 people standing in a line impersonating Santa Claus or hanging giant bells from the ceiling and trying to ring like the hunch back of Notre Dame. It is a concept that is difficult to grasp until you actually see it for yourself.

This year we are lucky enough to have received a set of handbells at Duchesne College. There are only a few places throughout Australia that are privileged enough to be able to work with such instruments, so we are extremely fortunate to be given this opportunity. We have many new and continuing ringers that have recently formed a team that will expand their skills weekly under the guidance of Daniel Del Dot.

Bells range in many different sizes. They are all uniquely made, the bigger bells for a low deep sound right through to the smallest bells that a very high pitched. Like many instruments, we follow specially scored music and require much practise to perfect a particular piece. We assure you that the end result is absolutely magical!
We hope to be able to perform for you soon!

The Belles of Duchesne 2009



From the Dean of Students

It was with nervous excitement that I came to Duchesne on 3rd February, my car packed with the key essentials—clothing, university books and of course my array of beloved shoes.

As an old Duchesne girl, I have many amazing memories of my time spent here in my undergraduate degree. Since coming back to Duchesne the wonderful welcoming and support that I have received has made my settling in be very easy. The wonderful community that Duchesne provides enables the girls to experience each day being aware of who they are, what they want to do in the future and spending time with people that they enjoy.

It was with a feeling of pride that I sat at the Duchesne Academic Awards Dinner, which was held on the 18th March. So many residents had achieved outstanding success. Watching the Duchesne girls win the touch football carnival undefeated also made me very proud.

Everyday so many residents achieve wonderful success, whether it be at university, in cultural or sporting arenas or many other areas. It is clear when walking through the hallways of Duchesne, or sitting in the library, or watching the sporting teams go for their training sessions that Duchesne residents are constantly in the pursuit for success.

The pursuit of success requires persistence and dedication and most of all the desire for passion. Success does not come easily; it is the result of a keen vision for what you want and putting in immeasurable effort to achieve it.

I encourage all residents to continue in their strive for success. Set both short-term and long-term goals so that you can maintain the passion that I see every single day. Most of all, reflect on the following quote:

‘The difference between success and failure is not just one’s abilities or dreams, but the courage to follow them and take the steps necessary to embrace success.’

(Kieren Revell; November 2008)



Newsletter Compilation

Thank you to all those who help make the newsletter happen.

If you would like to contribute photos or written material please send them to:

m.smith@duchense.uq.edu.au

or phone (07) 3377 2325 for more information.

This newsletter is also available electronically at: www.uq.edu.au/duchesne



Duchesne College from the air in 1959