



From the Principal



We have come all too rapidly to the end of another academic year. I have been most impressed with the way you have approached your academic studies throughout the year and particularly during Swotvac and exams. I hope your efforts will be rewarded by good results.

In our celebratory dinners at the end of this semester, I took the opportunity to comment on some of our major achievements of the year and I would like to copy my words here:

“As the academic year draws to a close, we gather this evening to acknowledge our Valedicts, more of which later, and to celebrate what we have shared this year as a college community.

We have enjoyed tangible success in many areas, which we celebrated last week at our Sportswomen, Cultural and Service Awards dinner. However, I would like to mention some of those successes this evening, in the presence of the families of our senior students and our distinguished guests.

Our second consecutive win in ICC Sport came as a result of three 1st places, one equal first, five 2nds and one equal second, an outstanding result. Thank you, Carly Nolan, our

Sports Convenor, for your dedication and commitment. And to the many students who participated in or supported the sporting events.

We demonstrated a high standard in the cultural competition with first places in Choralfest and Debating and overall 3rd place. Perhaps our major success however was encouraging such a large proportion of our students to participate. Lou Wagner, Cultural Convenor, and Monique, College President, may have been in the forefront here, particularly in Debating, but they could not have achieved so highly without you.

Commitment to service within and beyond the College community may not have been recognised with half and full blues but developments in this area are in a sense the real success of the year. The fact that so many of you have been prepared to give up your time to benefit others rather than do something for your own enjoyment is a tribute to the spirit and ethos of the college. Thank you, Jacinta McDonald, for the effort you have dedicated to this area.

It has given me great pleasure over the last few weeks to begin my interviews with the students who wish to return to College next year. You have made constructive suggestions for the future, many of which can be easily implemented. What has shone through is your support of Duchesne and the great pride you have in our college.

Our AGM last Sunday, when you elected the Student Club Executive for 2009, was a clear demonstration of this. So many of you were committed to offering your support to the college in this way. That Susan Tannock was unanimously elected President is testimony to the respect and support you have for her. Susan cannot be here tonight but we wish every success to her and her excellent team. Many more students have applied to act as Resident Assistants and it will be a difficult task indeed to finalise the team as every applicant has much to offer. With the

Executive and Resident Assistants working together, we are assured of strong leadership next year.

I have already mentioned to you some of the major initiatives and developments for next year. We will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the college, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the college at St Lucia and, of course, the opening of our new wing. These celebrations will provide an opportunity to invite family, friends and alumnae to the college to share in the many successes we have enjoyed and will continue to enjoy. Each year brings improvements and new ideas and I hope that the valedictory students who are leaving us tonight, the majority of whom arrived at the same time as I did, will recognise the significant changes which have taken place in their time. For me, perhaps the most rewarding innovation has been the development of the Duchesne College Council Bursaries. With the support of our Council, we have been able to offer significant bursaries to 13 students, which have enabled them to pursue their studies to a high standard and to contribute in many ways to the College. Due to the nature of these awards, we do not publish the names of the recipients but I know the value our families place on them.

Not only are we farewelling our Valedicts tonight, but sadly we must also bid a formal farewell to Matthew Downey, Dean of Students. Matthew III has been with us for two years and, in that time, has made a significant impact on the College. Firstly, he has been an outstanding role model in terms of time management as he has juggled the commitments of his role with extremely demanding post-graduate studies in Medicine. He has been successful in increasing the number of tutorials on offer and also your attendance at them. Secondly, he has impressed us all with his commitment to Duchesne College events, whether overseeing O Week parties at Leo's or donning one of his wide range of Duchesne tops to support sport or cultural activities. Will we ever forget his Irish dancing at Duch Idol last year or his

subsequent cheering of the cross country team from his motorized wheelchair waving a flag cleverly crafted from his Duchesne jersey? Thirdly, and most significantly, Matt will be remembered for the way in which he has espoused the ethos of the Sacred Heart which shares so much with his interest in Ignatian spirituality. This year in particular, he worked tirelessly to prepare for World Youth Day and I know that many of you have enjoyed gaining an insight into his commitment to an active faith. Matt, I will have an opportunity to thank you personally at a later date but I would like to thank you publically on behalf of us all. You will be sorely missed but we wish you well as you move to Rockhampton in January to undertake your practicum. You will be a superb doctor.

As we prepare for Swotvac and exams, spending time with our families and planning for next year, I ask you to reflect on this quotation from Patricia Garcia de Quevado, rscJ:

“Communities depend on what and who we are, not on what and who we are not. They are built with the strengths and resources we have, not with those we lack.”

We are fortunate at Duchesne to have a strong sense of community: our staff, our valedictory students, new student leaders and all our students are part of this and I am proud to share with you in our endeavours.”

Many of our students are returning next year but, for those who are not, I would like to thank each one of you for the contribution you have made to the Duchesne College community during your time here. I hope you will treasure your memories and maintain the many friendships you have made here. I know many of you will visit and we look forward to welcoming you back.

Enjoy the holidays, wherever you may be, and Happy Christmas.

Nanette Kay
Principal

From the President

This year, Duch girls have worked together to contribute to the respected reputation of their college while having lots of fun. They've won the ICC sporting cup, performed well in key cultural competitions, dedicated time to worthy causes and thrown social events to remember.

With firsts in volleyball, netball and tennis, an equal first in touch and seconds in swimming, hockey and soccer, Duchesne proved most deserving as the winners of ICC Sport 2008. After Duch claimed the title last year, Sports Convenor Carly Nolan was glad that the cup could stay right where it was, gleaming proudly in our trophy cabinet. Already, planning is underway to ensure it stays put for 2009.

Our cultural achievements weren't far behind our sporting ones. Overall, Duchesne placed third in the cultural competition this year, after taking out first place in Choralfest and Debating. In the second half of Semester 2, we had mass participation for two major cultural competitions, Dancefest and One Act Play. Competition was tough at Dancefest this year and despite our history of placing well and our solid preparation, we ended up in eighth place. The performance was still something the dancers could be really proud of. Dressed as penguins, they shook their sequined tail feathers to rousing Duch support. In One Act Play, we placed third, thanks to the

commitment of Director Kacie Anning and her dedicated cast. Kacie penned an original play for the competition about the politics and geriatric antics involved in the running of a Country Women's Association. The cast donned granny outfits, wheelchairs and crackling old voices to pull off their roles.

With salsa dancers, fire twirlers and bongo drummers all set in a beautifully lit marquee, Duch at Home really lived up to its theme as a Latino Fiesta. Around 300 guests flamencoed the night away in the glamorously transformed car park. The theme even extended to Social Convenor Gen Dunn's outfit, a stunning ruffled number in a deep red.

To celebrate the election of our wonderful new exec, Duch met up with Leo's after

AGM at the Red Room in traditional style. Decked out in crazy blues, the girls had a great time congratulating the new exec members.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Susan Tannock and the rest of next year's exec myself. Best of luck with your preparations over the holidays, girls. I know you will have a great time bonding in P Week and welcoming next year's freshers in O Week. Being on exec is a wonderfully rewarding experience. I've really enjoyed working with this year's exec, RAs, the Duchesne administration and Council, and, of course, all of the Duch girls this year. Thanks to everyone for all your hard work and support.

Monique Vandeleur
President



(L to R): 2008 Student Club President Monique Vandeleur with 2007 Student Club Secretary, Chloe Baldwin and 2007 Student Club Social Convenor, Claire Witherdin at this year's Duchesne at Home.

From the Cultural Convenor

At the end of the university year I am sure we are all more than happy to give up our college commitments for a while and head home to veg out, work, travel, etc. However it is reassuring to be able to acknowledge the success of these commitments to the cultural sphere of the cCollege which resulted in an overall third placing for Duchesne in the ICC Cultural Cup - a tremendous effort!

In the final event for the year, Dancefest, Duchesne pulled out all the stops as all singing, all dancing penguins - with much shaking of tail feathers to be had. Unfortunately our efforts were not so well rewarded as we might have hoped resulting in an eighth placing. However due to our previous successes we were still able to take out our excellent overall third placing which helped sweeten the deal.

At the conclusion of the year we also celebrated our collective achievements in the cultural sphere at the Sports/Cultural/Service Awards night. This was a fantastic evening as we celebrated the truly higher pursuit of the arts. The noteworthy awards given out on the night were Cultural Fresher of the Year to Ashley Cacciola and Cultural Woman of the Year to the recently-elected Cultural Convenor for 2009, Erin Dunne - congratulations once

again girls and thank you for your commitment!

In review of the year I feel it has been another outstanding effort from all of Duchesne. The most notable achievements being the triumph of the highly talented and good looking Debating team

as well as the first placing of the angelic Duchesne Choir.

All the best next year!

Mental High Five

Louise Wagner

Cultural Convenor



(L to R): Liz Doneley, Camille Grassick and 2008 Student Club Cultural Convenor, Louise Wagner looking splendid at this year's Ladies High Tea.

From the Service and Liturgy Convenor

The following is Service/Liturgy Convenor Jacinta McDonald's Sports/Cultural/Service Awards Dinner Speech.

"As we know 2008 has been a year of great achievement for Duchesne in both the sport and cultural arenas, however this year has also been very significant for service. So far this year you, the students of Duchesne, have participated in three fun runs, a Red Cross blood drive and Clean Up Australia Day in which we won most unusual piece of rubbish. We have also helped fundraise for UNICEF at a Soccerroos game and joined the lovely boys from St Leo's College fundraising for the Cancer Foundation on Daffodil Day. We have collected bras for Rotary and gone out to dinner at 'Mu'ooz', an Eritrean restaurant supporting refugees. Some girls from Duchesne were also lucky enough to help serve at Mamma Rennae's, a food van for the homeless here in Brisbane.

Furthermore, one of our most anticipated social events of the year, 'Ladies High Tea,' helped raise funds for Hannah's Chance Foundation. Hannah's Chance Foundation aims to raise funds for medical research into rare types of cancer, called sarcomas, and is based at the Wesley Hospital here in Brisbane. Tonight, we are joined by Tom, Connor and Daniel who are representatives of the Foundation. All of the ladies here at Duchesne feel very privileged to be supporting a cause as valuable as this. I would like to thank all the members of the Student Club Executive especially Student Club President Monique Vandeleur and the Duchesne Administration for making Ladies High Tea such a great success and I hope that our support for community groups and funds such as Hannah's Chance Foundation continues in the future.

This year has also been very special for spirituality at Duchesne, several girls attended World Youth Day in Sydney and on return shared their amazing, sometimes funny and always moving stories and experiences with each other and other members of our community at a reflection night organised by Matt here at Duchesne. We have also been welcomed in both the Leo's and Duchesne Chapels for masses and liturgies allowing quiet time to reflect on our lives.

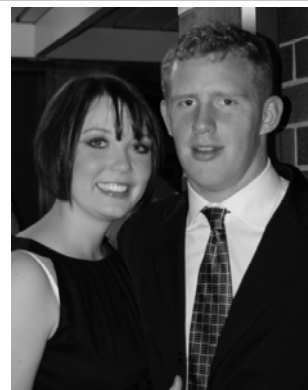
Although we may have momentarily misplaced Nancy, our World Vision sponsor child, under a pile of paperwork she has now been found safe and sound and continues to enjoy skipping and jumping games. I would like to say a very big thank you to the Lolly

Shop Convenors Jess von Drehnen and Kate Young for kindly donating all shop profits to Nancy. This truly shows how a little can go a long way.

I would also like to say a very grateful thank you to all the girls on the Service Committee, Jess Pascoe, Cathryn Moore, Bec Power, Renee Martensen, Anna Debono and Gemma Will. Your continuous support, ideas and helping hands were of endless strength to me and you were always there to lend a hand whenever needed.

Finally I would like to thank you all, the students of Duchesne. You have all contributed to the wonderful atmosphere that fills the halls of Duchesne with wide smiles and a willingness to help, not only each other but also members of our community and the world. You should all be very proud of your efforts this year in service. I would now like to make a toast to the future, may we all recognize the difference we make in the lives of others and continue to be people that make the effort to create change.

Jacinta McDonald
Service/Liturgy Convenor



2008 Service/Liturgy Convenor Jacinta McDonald with Ball partner

Duchesne Wins ICC Sport for Second Year in a Row!

To all the girls who competed in sport this year congratulations and thank you for a fantastic year. We have yet again managed to put another ICC win to our name, continuing Duchesne's winning streak. The following report outlines just how that happened.

The 2008 sporting year began with the swimming carnival in week 2. With a team comprised of mainly first years, the fresh new talent of Duchesne carved up the pool and managed to earn us a second place. I'd like to mention Emma Leishman in particular, aka Stephanie Rice, who swam in the maximum number of races a swimmer could compete in, and made Duch very proud.

Next was cross country, held just 2 weeks after coming back from holidays. A riveting 4 kilometre race around the uni in the sweltering hot summer sun. For some reason this event never does seem to attract the numbers. Unless you employ some devious tactics and pretend to the freshers that it is in fact compulsory. It absolutely wasn't, and I'm sorry girls. I just began the year very ambitiously and thought that making everyone run a really long way was the way to go. In my defence, it did seem to work because Duch ended up coming second and had the highest number of girls from any college finish in the top 40.

In the next few weeks volleyball and netball started. This year we ended up coming first in netball, which may just be the first time ever, and we managed to take out the volleyball competition as

well. With star players like Marina Chapman and Zoe Bartolo, not many girls could defend a Duchesne power strike.

Nor could many girls defend our amazing efforts on the hockey field. With another strong team this year we were determined to take out first place again. Sadly, we lost just one game the whole season but it was enough to fall back into second place. First place went to St John's, who were proving to be very tough competition and who had replaced Women's as our new rivals.

As the weeks passed, the touch girls were gearing up for a competitive carnival, spurred on by our tough coaches Mandi Searston and Anna Payne, both old girls, who had experienced the competitiveness of the touch carnival before. Every year our main goal with the touch carnival is obviously to win, but to also beat reigning champs Emmanuel who never seem to lose a game... ever. Thanks to our experienced coaches, we ended up sharing an equal first with Emmanuel which was good enough for Duchesne!

The final sport for semester 1 was rowing. It's never really been one of our strongest sports, and despite having awesome convenors, and super coach Meg Farr we just couldn't pull through. There might be plenty of reasons why we didn't compete so well this year, including the fact that no one dared do hill sprints up Grace hill again. So in an effort to improve our rowing abilities, we called on Patty Toomey who was to be our last hope. We'd heard rumours that this Mr Toomey had

coached the Emmanuel crews and since they won last year he must be pretty brilliant. Of course the introduction of Toomey suddenly made the amount of girls at training sessions flourish however, he seemed to be more of a distraction than anything else. His training techniques involving 'leg send' were too much for our little Duchies. So Duch came 6th in rowing and we all drowned our sorrows at the Snakepit.

Semester 2 saw sports like squash, tennis and basketball start within the first 3 weeks. With strong teams in tennis and squash we came first and second respectively which added a few more points to the ICC ladder. After semester 1 Duch was coming in first place, well ahead of the other colleges. But the task of maintaining this lead throughout the second semester was going to be a tough one.

The basketball girls tried there very hardest, but sometimes, even with awesome new uniforms, the balls just don't fall through the hoop. On behalf of Duchesne Sport however, I would really like to thank Camron and Shannon Ebzery who organised the new singlets and helped us take out 5th place in smashing style.

All was not lost however, Duch still had talent to share on the track and field. The Athletics carnival in week 6 saw some of our best athletes shine. We had another success story with our 4x100m relay team this year and we dominated this most exciting event of the day with a breathtaking final 100m by Laura 'Maudie' Marsden. Congrats to the rest of us in the team and to all the other athletes who competed on the day be-

cause Duch took out 2nd place.

The final ICC event of the year was Soccer. This was definitely a tough one. Even with the constant encouragements from Jacinta we were still not completely sure we were strong enough to take on the other colleges. Luckily the girls who actually attended the training sessions were able to carry our team through to take out second place.

But was this enough to take out the ICC cup? Well since my tactics with the cross country race seemed to work, I planted in everyone's minds that we HAD to win our last soccer game against Union or we would lose ICC to John's. We had hardly left the field after playing Union when Gen gets a call from 'Nugget', the John's girls sports convener, asking whether we had lost or not. Sadly, we had.

Due to complications with scoring, we were forced to wait a nerve-racking 3 weeks until the ICC points were finally published. As I suspected Duch did manage to maintain the lead and we ended up beating John's by a margin of 3 points. We ended up scoring a total of 83.5 points over 10 sports throughout the semester. Our total was equal to that of our victorious brothers at St Leo's who ended up winning the male's ICC competition.

It was certainly a fantastic year and I am very proud to have been able to lead our college to sporting victory yet again! Good luck to everyone competing in Duch sport for next year, hopefully we can make it a hat trick!

Carly Nolan
Sports Convenor



Members of the 2008 Champion 4 x 100m relay team (L to R) 2008 Sports Convenor, Carly Nolan, 2008 Social Convenor, Genevieve Dunn, 2009 Sports Convenor, Laura Marsden and 2008 Sportswoman of the Year, Zoe Bartolo.

Inter-College Sport

Cumulative Points - 2008

Old Collegians Cup - Women's Division

	Duchesne College		Women's College		St John's College		Emmanuel College		Grace College		Union College		Cromwell College		International House	
	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points
Swimming	2 nd	7	5 th	4	4 th	5	1 st	9	7 th	2	6 th	3	3 rd	6	8 th	1
Cross Country	=2 nd	6.5	1 st	9	4 th	4	=2 nd	6.5	=7 th	1.5	=5 th	3.5	=7 th	1.5	=5 th	3.5
Touch	=1 st	8	5 th	4	3 rd	6	=1 st	8	7 th	2	4 th	5	6 th	3	8 th	1
Volleyball	1 st	9	=2 nd	6.5	=4 th	4.5	7 th	2	8 th	1	=4 th	4.5	=2 nd	6.5	6 th	3
Netball	1 st	9	=2 nd	6	=2 nd	6	=2 nd	6	7 th	2	5 th	4	6 th	3	8 th	1
Hockey	2 nd	7	6 th	3	1 st	9	=4 th	4.5	7 th	2	3 rd	6	=4 th	4.5	8 th	1
Rowing	6 th	3	3 rd	6	1 st	9	4 th	5	2 nd	7	5 th	4	7 th	2	DNC	0
Athletics	2 nd	7	1 st	9	4 th	5	3 rd	6	6 th	3	7 th	2	5 th	4	8 th	1
Basketball	5 th	4	6 th	3	1 st	9	2 nd	7	7 th	2	3 rd	6	4 th	5	8 th	1
Squash	2 nd	7	6 th	3	1 st	9	3 rd	6	5 th	4	4 th	5	8 th	1	7 th	2
Tennis	1 st	9	2 nd	7	4 th	5	3 rd	6	=7 th	1.5	=7 th	1.5	5 th	4	6 th	3
Soccer	2 nd	7	6 th	3	1 st	9	=4 th	4.5	=7 th	1.5	3 rd	6	=4 th	4.5	=7 th	1.5
		83.5		63.5		80.5		70.5		29.5		50.5		45		19

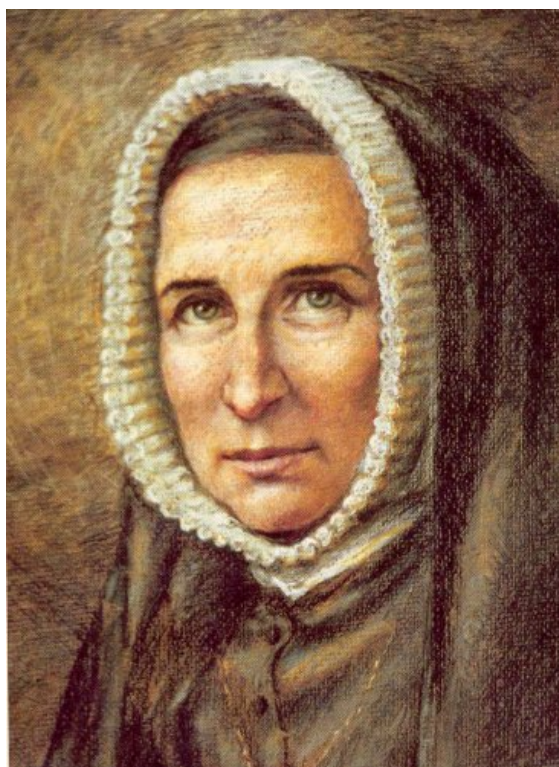
NOVEMBER 18TH

Let us pray that the spirit of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne will

FEAST OF SAINT ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE
~~remain strong in our hearts and guide us in all we do.~~

1769 – 1852

Rose Philippine Duchesne, a Religious of the Sacred Heart, was canonized in Rome on 3 July 1988.



In our College Handbook we read that “it was Archbishop Duhig who gave the College its name. He said that the name recalled a valiant French woman, Blessed Philippine Duchesne, who was instrumental in bringing the Society of the Sacred to America from France in 1818”.

“Ten Brilliant Years!”

“I’ve had ten brilliant years! All I can wish for and hope is that I’ve used the time wisely. Here’s to the next ten!” Carly-Jay Metcalfe spoke about surviving both cystic fibrosis and cancer to Duchesne College students at our Formal Dinner on the 25th of September.

Carly-Jay Metcalfe was born with cystic fibrosis; a genetic condition which affects the respiratory, digestive and reproductive systems. Diagnosed at just nine weeks of age, Carly-Jay has endured this condition all her life, affecting her study, travel and plans for the future. “Study and creative writing was definitely my main escape from the illness. So when I had to defer from university I was so angry. It frustrated me that I couldn’t do anything about it. For a long time my only goal was just to survive.”

Carly-Jay spoke about the severe shortage of donors and organs available for patients like herself. She encouraged the ladies of Duchesne to consider the difference that it could make to others’ lives to be a donor. “I would have to constantly carry around a beeper with me from the hospital to let me know if I was going to get a new set of lungs or not. I remember the day that I was told that I was finally at the top of the donor list.”

In 1997, at age 21, Carly-Jay received a double-lung transplant, saving her life. “In 1997, having cystic fibrosis was pretty much a death sentence. I knew I was dying.” Now, ten years on from the transplant, Carly-Jay is looking forward to completing her Masters degree in creative writing and hopefully commencing PhD studies next year. She is currently taking a leave of absence from teaching creative writing at Queensland University of Technology.

In 2007, Carly-Jay underwent radical surgery for cancer, which was caused by the anti-rejection medication she takes for her transplant. “The cancer was actually in my fingers so my nails required surgery and skin-grafting.” Despite her battle with cystic fibrosis, Carly-Jay’s bubbly personality shone through as she shared her most intimate feelings about her experiences. “The lungs are great,” she commented on the transplant. “To have someone else’s lungs inside of you is an amazing thing; I can only hope that they last me. They’re not *my* lungs; they’re *ours*; mine and my donor’s. It’s something I know and acknowledge everyday. What a ride.”

Ashley Cacciola



(L to R): Duchesne resident, Ashley Cacciola with Formal Dinner guest speaker, Ms Carly-Jay Metcalfe.

Duchesne Resident Entertains at 2008 Beijing Olympics!

Originally we were told we would be in the Opening Ceremony however a few months before we left the Olympic officials informed us the Opening Ceremony would be strictly Chinese performers only. So we were to be what was being called the lead up to the Olympics; we were the preliminary act... the supporting act... the before hype for the tourists and locals... we were the *Beijing 2008 Olympic Orchestra*.

Being a present or former, myself a former, Mackay North State High School student and falling within the requirement criteria I, 23 other students and two teachers finally jetted off to China. Now when I say ‘finally’ I mean after almost a years worth of practicing, rehearsing and memorising half an hours worth of music we flew from Mackay to Brisbane, Brisbane to Sydney and then the 12 hours from Sydney to Beijing.

After arriving we were soon at Fuangong Hotel (the amazing hotel they renovated just for us) in Grand Epoch City. It is literally a small city within four amazing walls and it was here that we lived and breathed, slept and ate, rehearsed and kept rehearsing and endured the unbelievably horrible Chinese heat.



(L to R): Linden Morris and Tom Williams of Channel 7’s ‘The Great Outdoors’ at Beijing Airport.

Our first performance was at Tiananmen Square and saw us departing Grand Epoch City at 4:00am in order to make our 9:00am appearance. Squat-toilet buses, sweltering heat and itchy uniforms made for a wonderful morning with the Red Band (America), the Gold Band (China) and the Green Band (Australia, Japan and Guam) all pulling of their respective and

then their collective performances without a hitch. The media had a frenzy and no doubt many of us were made stars on the Chinese local and national news.

Our next performance was on The Great Wall of China. After a two hour drive that turned into a four and a half hour drive we hiked up the kilometre long path to the wall laden with heavy instruments. The Red Band performed first followed by the Green Band after which we trekked along the Great Wall for the remainder of the afternoon.

More rehearsals followed in the lead up to our third performance at the Tianjin Olympic Live Stage in which all three bands joined for the final and largest performance. The two thousand strong band wowed the crowd full of officials, locals and tourists laying way for the Opening Ceremony the following night.

As part of the trip we were given tickets to the first event of the Olympics, the women's soccer, China versus Sweden. We saw the Forbidden City and the Summer Palace and in the spirit of Hamish and Andy we did a little Ghosting of our own startling a few locals whilst leaving others in stitches from laughter. After leaving Beijing we headed to Shanghai for a few days of R&R. There we did some more sight-seeing, cruised the river by night, shopped, saw the Chinese acrobats, shopped some more and had a lot of fun in the process.

All in all my trip to China for the Olympics was an amazing experience and definitely something not that many people can say they did. One thing that made it that little bit more special for me was that I also got to share it with my younger brother Jack.

Linden Morris.



L-R: Taylor Ramsay, Erin Dixon, Trent Thomson, Kirsty Moloney, Luke Scott, Angela Pyatt, Caitlin Lavarack, Jack Morris, Daniel Bentley, Linden Morris and Matthew Pasquale at Tiananmen Square after our first performance.

Duchesne College Welcomes Alliance

Spotless' Business Education and Aged Care business (BEA) within Food Services has officially changed its name from Spotless to Alliance Catering (Alliance).

The new brand provides a refreshed look reinforcing a national strategy for a fresh approach to food and service. The change follows the acquisition of the Alliance Catering Services business in Victoria and New South Wales in 2007.

"Our new Alliance Catering team's mission is to be the best in the business. Our priorities are fresh food, friendly staff and satisfied customers," says Hamish Cook, General Manager of Alliance Catering.

The process of communicating the details of the change to employees, clients and suppliers has occurred throughout September with our new website www.alliancecatering.com.au, uniforms and marketing material being implemented at sites during October.

The Alliance mission is supported by five Guiding Principles:

Food

We will produce and serve food that we would be happy to eat ourselves.

Customers

We will greet every customer with a smile and a friendly manner.

Client

We will respond promptly to client and customer requests.

Team

We will treat our teammates with respect and courtesy, help them wherever we can, and be mindful of each others safety at all times.

Environment

We will consider the environment and support the communities in which we operate in every decision we make.

Alliance Catering has more than 4,000 food service professionals serving more than 140,000 customers every day, across more than 350 individual locations across Australia. Look out for the Alliance brand appearing at various Spotless sites across the country.

Coralee Jeffrey

Duchesne College Business Manager

Postcard from Japan!

My stay at Duchesne was only for nine months, but it is full of memories. I learned a lot from college life, and I think it helped me grow me as a person. Now I can confidently say that I really enjoyed Duch life, but it was challenging for me to involve myself there because of the language barrier and cultural differences. However, thanks to the warm-hearted Duch girls and staff, I was able to fully enjoy my life in Australia. This experience taught me the importance of supporting other people.

I really worried about my English and often complained about it, especially when I had difficulties communicating with others and doing university assignments. However, people in Duchesne did not exclude me because of my language skills, rather they always listened to me and helped me. This convinced me not to complain about my language skills, but to "trial and error" in order to improve it. Sometimes my misuse of words made others laugh! It was embarrassing, but since then I have never made the same mistake again! Everyone in Duchesne was a good teacher to me because they convinced me to be brave when communicating with others.

College events were challenging for me as well, because I did not know how to act in big parties, especially during O Week. However, some girls encouraged me to join some events such as Choralfest and Duch Ball. This was a big adventure for me, and it turned out to be great fun! After the first semester, I became a fan of Duch events. Here again, thanks to open-minded Duch people, I was able to be part of the college.

Therefore, support from other people in Duch encouraged me to try new things actively. You may say you did not do much, but even a small chat in the Dining Room or Common Room and questions such as "Are you coming to Duch at Home?", motivated me to involve myself in Duch. And thanks to this, I fully enjoyed my life there. It was the best year of my life so far! I now intend to help international students coming to my home university in Japan, like you did to me in Australia.

I hope you had a wonderful year and have a great year in 2009!

Thanks to everyone with best wishes,

Mariko Saso



(L to R): Kate Delany, Mariko Saso and 2009 Cultural Conventor, Erin Dunne don the 'Crazy Blues' for the 2008 AGM.

From the Social Conventor

Duchesne provides a base from which young women from rural and regional areas can come to pursue their tertiary studies. While gaining a quality education is first and foremost in our minds, the academic nature of the college is supported by the many other aspects of college life which seek to improve and grow the person as a whole. In 2008 the college has excelled in all areas, most notably in the cultural and sporting arena, however the social life of the college has also been very enriching. To that end, the residents of Duchesne have certainly participated to the full in developing their relationships with one another and with their fellow collegians from amongst the nine other colleges on campus.

O Week is a spectacular if not exhausting introduction to everything university and college life has to offer. Amidst attending programme and faculty orientation activities, the first years of 2008 were capably inducted into the life of a "Duch girl" by the effervescent and always enthusiastic Student Club Executive. The Ugly Party allows all residents to present themselves at their worst and not to worry 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 illustrating to all and sundry that grace and elegance are synonymous with Duchesne. Leather, studs and black mascara are the name of the game at the Punk Party when people are transported back to the late 70's and early 80's. Suffice to say Duchesne's first

years rocked with the best of them and a more than a few air-guitar fantasies were lived several times over on the night! Grass skirts and all things Hawaiian were the standard attire for the Tropicana Party which signaled the end of yet another college O Week.



(L to R): First years Amy McCosker, Raquella Vieira, Eliza McInerney and Alana Martin in all things green at the St Patrick's Day Cruise.

Slipping into white frocks, hordes of Duchesne residents earlier this year traversed the campus to descend upon the St Lucia Bowls Club and send a few down at the annual 'Duch Bowls' outing. For the less coordinated there was ample opportunity to engage in polite conversation and catch up with friends after the long summer break.

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 gathered with their Leonian counterparts to share a jig or two and generally enjoy some good craic as they leisurely explored the pleasant reaches of the Brisbane River.



(L to R): "Ladies in Red" Gemma Will, Renee Martensen and friend enjoy the rollicking good times at the Latino Fiesta which was the 2008 Duch at Home.

Much has been made of the 2008 Duch Ball and with good reason. The beautiful starlit night was matched only by the angelic forms of the Ladies of Duchesne who showed all who attended that Duchesne is more than capable of putting on a good show. Many thanks to the Red Frogs team whose endless supply of red cordial and doughnuts not to mention red frogs kept everyone's energy up.



(L to R): Old girls Tammy Wade and Louise Stephens show first year Alana Martin what Duch at Home is all about.

While Ladies High Tea again created a stir the 'El Supremo' of the Duch social scene for 2008 was the Duch at Home. In a daring move the venue was relocated from the traditional site of the Dining Room to the front carpark. The scene was set with a large white marquee which glowed in the soft mood lighting. The air was filled with the sonorous rich rhythms of a Latino drum band and a fire twirler stunned the crowd with his coordination, skill and death-defying fire breathing. In an effort to break the ice on the dance floor a cunning plan was hatched to invite the keen and enthusiastic dancers from the UQ Dance Club along to whip the crowd into a frenzy with salsa moves that would make Antonio Banderas look inadequate. The plan worked a treat as residents and their partners danced long into the night. Many thanks must go to Social Convenor, Gen Dunn, resplendent in her flamenco dress, and her band of merry helpers who created a night to remember.

As the sun sets on another social year at Duchesne and we all retire to our respective homes it is indeed wonderful to warm the soul with so many memories. However, 2009 is another year, and a year when I'm sure Duchesne will once again be the jewel in the social crown of the UQ colleges social scene.

Matt Downey
Dean of Students

"It's all down hill after Duch!"

After two years at Duchesne as the Dean of Students I am departing college to commence my third year of medical studies at the University of Queensland's Rural Medical School in Rockhampton. Below is a collection of my thoughts presented at this year's Valedictory Dinner.

"Over the last couple of days in the lead up to tonight I have had much cause to reflect on what it is I would like to say. I thought of a million different things and I hope that what I have managed to distill from the multitude of thoughts will convey my essential feelings at this time.

Before starting this job I strongly suspected that it would challenge and stretch me. Now, almost two years later I am indeed able to confirm that suspicion. However, amidst the daily milieu of lectures, organising tutes, and passing exams, I feel that it has been the simple and small things which I recall most fondly. Seeing two friends embrace after being apart over the

summer break, the idle chat and smart comments flowing from the common room, the friendly greeting in the hallway or the loud and boisterous cheering at last year's Sports, Cultural and Service Dinner when we finally brought home the ICC Sporting Cup. As much as I sometimes look forward to the semester breaks when you all depart and the pressure of my work noticeably lessens, it's not long before I starting missing the true heart and soul of Duchesne, you, its residents.

My sincere thanks go to the wonderful staff of Duchesne. I have been extremely fortunate in having the support of such a dedicated and hardworking group of men and women whose efforts have made my task all the more easier. Three members in particular deserve special mention at this point in time.

To the Principal, Mrs Kay, your confidence and trust in my abilities was all the encouragement I needed and your care and concern for the young women in your charge has been comfort-

forting and inspiring. Thank you.

To the Vice-Principal, Sr Muirhead, your lived faith and constant companionship, not to mention your subtle comments about my haircut, will always remain fond memories of our special time together here at Duchesne. Thank you.

To the College Business Manager, Ms Coralee Jeffrey, your tireless 'can do' attitude and helpfulness at every turn has quite simply made me look good. Thank you.

I would also like to thank you the residents of Duchesne for taking me into your confidence, for giving me the opportunity to enter into your lives for these two brief years. I hope I have served you well.

As many of you will know, I have been extraordinarily privileged to have spent my undergraduate days at St Leo's in addition to my two years here at Duchesne as Dean of Students. My memories of St Leo's are still relatively fresh but have been given a perspective through having lived life in the world at large, a slightly older age and my subsequent return to college. On that basis I would say this to you, the Ladies of Duchesne.

While your university studies are very important and your main responsibility, I would suggest that you also pay close attention to the reality of your life at college at this present moment. You are now at your mental and physical peak. Your world is filled with possibility and dreams and you are taking your first exciting steps into the fullness of life, love and the world around you. For many of you these steps taken together with your fellow collegians will lead you to form bonds of friendship which will last you the rest of your lives. Life changes as you get older as it presents new joys and wonders for you to explore however your life at this point is infused with a special freedom and boundlessness and college life only serves to make it more so.

I look forward to the years to come and either catching up with you or hearing about your studies, your careers, and your new families, and especially Liz Doneley's hot date with Billy Slater! I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all every blessing. My hope is that you experience the many joys, sorrows, successes and failures which lead us all to the fullness of life.

I have long described my heart as being made of Leonian green and gold however after my two years here at Duchesne I think I can also justly claim that the blood that flows through this heart must surely be coloured Duchesne blue. Thank you.

Matt Downey
Dean of Students



My professional Irish dancing career was tragically cut short in a fateful incident at the 2007 Duch Idol competition. The things I do for Duch!

A Prayer

Hold very close to your children
Talk with your friends while you can,
Drink in the music around you
Be conscious of what's in your hands
Relax in the vice-grip of being
And feel the youth in your mind
Don't look at the hour hand fleeing
Keep walking and don't look behind
For all of the people you see here
And all of this room that is real
Will sooner or later not be here
So smile while you still feel
Alive.

By Andrew Denton, found in "Virtuosity", New Hobson Press, 1997.

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: mdowney@uq.edu.au or phone (07) 3377 2325 for more information.

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



The front of Duchesne College from across the lake amidst the jacaranda blooms on a late spring afternoon.
Photo taken by recent Duchesne international resident Ms Mariko Saso.