



# DARAMALAN ALUMNI



Newsletter #1 Feb 2016

## Welcome to the first Alumni newsletter for 2016.

### *What's happening at Dara?*

#### **2015 Year 12 academic results**

We had a very successful 2015 Academic Year with 194 students receiving an ACT Senior Secondary Certificate. (The old Year 12 Certificate. The even OLDER Higher School Certificate!) Of these, 158 students, about 82%, also received an ATAR which is an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank.

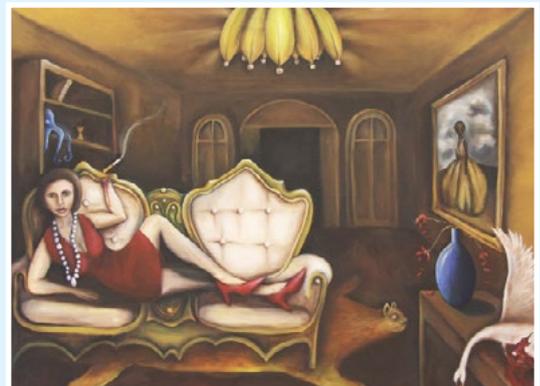


Six students received an ATAR above 99 and 29 students (18%) gained an ATAR over 90. Student Oliver Levi-Malouf topped the list with 99.95, the highest possible.

Then to round off an already successful year for Oliver, he won the \$500 "College Express 7" Ray White Belconnen People's Choice Award for an oil painting he did while at studying last year.

He is also an accomplished filmmaker with many wins in local and international competitions including a Silver win in Houston Texas last year with for his 7-minute film, "Magic Man", which starred long-time Daramalan drama teacher Joe Woodward

Thirty-five students in Year 12 were awarded one or more Vocational Certificates. This is a significant achievement and indicates that almost 20% of our students received a nationally recognised qualification in addition to their ACT Senior Secondary Certificate or their ATAR.



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## Current student achievements

Year 8 student, Austin Zerk, was one of 24 students from across Australia to gain a place in Questacon's first National Invention Convention from 17 to 23 January 2016. Austin was one of two ACT students selected through a competitive application process to attend the intensive week long workshop that gives secondary students a practical insight into innovation and entrepreneurship.

Congratulations to Rose Weller (Year 10), Jared Graf, Terence Johnson and Lachlan Wilson (all Year 11) who qualified as national finalists in the BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards in Melbourne last weekend.

Terence and Lachlan came 3rd in the Engineering Division and have won all-expenses trips to the 2016 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix, Arizona in May this year.

## School Building program.



The new school Canteen was opened in the Littleton Wing last year which consolidates both High School and College Canteens into the one location. This gives the school the ability to provide students and staff with a wider choice of food and drinks including a new 4-head coffee machine (yes, a proper coffee machine!) resulting in Canteen staff taking barista courses to learn the tricks of the trade. One advantage of this new machine is that staff and students have been more inclined to stay on site for their "fixes" rather than wandering over to

the Dickson shops.

The next stage in the College's expansion is the new Dempsey Science Wing. The current Wing was one of the original Daramalan buildings, having been constructed in 1965. Consequently it was well due for an upgrade.

The new building will be state-of-the-art, double-storied and connect to the Garratt Hospitality Wing by a covered top-floor walkway. It is due to be opened in time for the opening of the 2017 school year.



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## Ex-staff news

### Mrs Tracy Lee

Many students will remember Tracy who retired in 2014. Tracey taught English – and was a well-loved PCA - for many years before deciding to make a sea change to the South Coast.

Rather than taking up the typical coastal retirement pursuits of fishing and waiting for the Bingo to start at the local RSL Club, she took the opportunity to embark on a life-long goal to write a novel.

The result was a book entitled “What Remains”, which is a murder mystery set in Bungendore. It is available now as an eBook (approx. \$7) at the following address <<http://bookstore.xlibris.com/Products/SKU-001034602/What-Remains.aspx>>, or as a soft or hard cover book.

If you are interested just go to the link and enjoy the read. If you do read her novel I am sure that Tracey would appreciate your feedback.



### Mrs Jean Reid



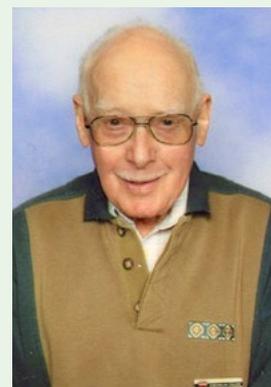
Jean was not only the first female teacher at Daramalan, but also the first lay teacher. Jean turned 100 years old last November after spending the majority of her teaching years at Daramalan in the Special Education division.

### Br Dave Merrick

Sadly I have to report that Br Dave suffered a stroke over the January holidays and is now in hospital. His condition is stable and hopefully he will recover enough to come home to The Residence sooner rather than later.

Last year Dave wrote his memoirs which is now available if you'd like a good rollicking read of his years at Chevalier and Daramalan Colleges.

He came to Dara in 1987 and has been part of the fabric of the school from Day 1. If you'd a copy of his book you can download a copy for free from the Daramalan website. <<http://www.daramalan.act.edu.au/about-us/daramalan-alumni-association/>>



### Vale Br James Maher MSC

Sadly James Maher – who many would remember with great fondness from his time here at the College - died peacefully on 6 December 2015 after a long period of illness with cancer.

Br James was born in 1963 and was professed as an MSC Brother in 1995. He lived in the Daramalan MSC community from 1999-2002 and for some of this time he worked in the College as the Chaplain. He described this role in a later interview as being one that was “very fulfilling”.

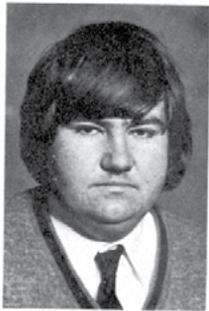
He is well known for his extensive writing of liturgical and spiritual music and he has made several CDs which communicate “heart” theology and spirituality. His song “Woman of the Sacred Heart” is one of his best-known works. In addition, in 2001 he wrote the Daramalan school song “Eagle People” which is sung with enthusiasm at all major events at the College.

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Br James was a very talented, warm, friendly and caring man who touched the lives of many people. May he rest in peace.

## *Farewell to ex-students.*

Sadly, the beginning of 2016 has not been kind to our Alumni. In quick succession we lost three well-known and loved members of the Dara family.



*Michael Rothery*

### **Mike Rothery (Class of 1981)**

Mike had been battling serious illness for the last 14 months and died on Saturday 6 February this year

Mike had had a long and highly successful career with over 30 years of distinguished service in the public sector and most recently he was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2014 in recognition of his great service in delivering strategies that protect the community and improve the national capacity to respond to and recover from national security events. He leaves behind his partner Paula and his two daughters, Caitlin and Siobhan.



*Bendan Cleary*

### **Brendan Cleary (Class of 1977)**

Regrettably, just two days before Mike Rothery passed away, another of our Old Boys succumbed to cancer. Brendan died on February 4 after a long battle with his illness. Brendan had three brothers at the school in Terry (Class of '74), Michael (Class of '79) and Tim (Class of '82).

Vale Brendan.



*Stephen J. Dawson*

### **Stephen Dawson (Class of 1978)**

Many ex-students would remember with great fondness Peter and Ilse Dawson who taught at Daramalan for many years in the 60s, 70s and 80s. Sadly, their son Stephen passed away at home in Pennsylvania USA in early February after a period of ill health.

Stephen also had two sisters at Daramalan, Kate (Garkut) Class of 81 and Jacqueline (Palmer) Class of 84.



Please keep Mike, Brendan and Stephen in your prayers along with all their families.

## *Where are they now?*

### **Mark Henshaw (1970)**



An acclaimed author, Mark's first novel, "Out of the Line of Fire" (1988), won the FAW Barbara Ramsden Award and the NBC New Writers Award. It was one of the biggest selling Australian literary novels of the decade and has been re-released as a Text Classic. "The Snow Kimono" won the 2014 NSW Premier's Award for Fiction and Mark was the 2015 winner of the Copyright Agency's Author Fellowship picking up \$80,000 prize-money during the year for his efforts.



## John Woodland (1990)



Speaking of published articles, John Woodland (now Sean Woodland) is a very clever Australian comedian and writer, much in demand on the comedy circuit winning many of the competitions held around the country. He also had a very funny (and thought provoking) piece published entitled "How to – be Mitchell Pearce". (Again, if you want to read the piece, it is also at the end of this email.)

## Kim Huynh (1995)

Kim - BA (Hons) PhD International Relations- and who now Lectures in Politics and International Relations at the ANU, had an article published in a variety of media including the Sydney Morning Herald detailing exactly why he prefers living in Canberra. I have copied the story into the end of this email.



## Adam Hyde (2008)



Adam is one half of the award winning band "Peking Duk". Their biggest hit "High" reached number 5 on the ARIA Singles Chart; achieved a triple platinum certification; won the ARIA Award for Best Dance Release with music producer James Wilton and Best Dance Release at the ARIA Music Awards of 2014.

They have performed at various festivals such as the Falls Festival, Splendour in the Grass, Parklife Music Festival, Shore Thing, Big Day Out and Stereosonic. They have also twice scored in the top 10 in Triple J's hot 100 competitions.

## Lucy Matthews (2010).

Lucy and Miriam Slater (Class of 2011) presented a musical at The Belconnen Arts Centre over January which was written and produced by Lucy. Other former students are performing in it were Kat Bramston (2007) and Francis McNair (2010) while Jaimy Collins (2010) was stage manager.



## Jack Ward (2011)

Currently flying around the Northern Territory as a charter flight pilot.



## Nick Kyrgios (2102)

There's really nothing I can say about Nick that you don't know already. Pictured right is Nick playing basketball at the College late last year.

## *Class reunions for 2016*

I am currently planning Reunions for the Classes of 1976, 1986, 1996 and 2006. They will be held in October and early November this year so can I ask that you all start spreading the word now through Facebook, emails or any other of these new fangled methods that use the Interweb. I'll post up details on the Alumni web site when everything is finalised.

## *And finally...Footy Tipping*

Yes, love them or hate it, the Alumni footy tipping competitions will be back for 2016. Both Rugby League and Union. I'll send you out a reminder and the links when the tables are finalized.

*Thank you for your interest. The next newsletter will go out in Term 2.*

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## Published stories

### Why Canberra wins...

Over the summer I had the chance to experience everyday life in Sydney and Melbourne.

While there's much to be said for the two cities in terms of culture, business and leisure; I returned home with a greater appreciation of the wisdom and virtue of being a Canberran.

In Sydney my three-year-old and I visited the Darling Harbour playground which is promoted as 'one of the most spectacular ever built in Australia'. The problem is that everyone seems to know this. And so, as my son climbed up the big slide, throngs of kids clambered around and over him. When he slid down crying, it dawned on me that this was the first time he had ever been jostled.

'That boy needs to break out of his bubble wrap and toughen up!' was my initial reaction.

However, as a playground regular, my son is no stranger to being tormented, whacked or having sand thrown at him (nor is he always the innocent victim). What troubled him in Sydney was not so much that others were mistreating him, but rather that they had no regard for him whatsoever.

It's one thing to have faces pulled at you; quite another to be faceless in the crowd.

Not long afterwards I found myself catching a suburban Melbourne train when a squad of inspectors entered the carriage. A young man was questioned for not having a student concession card. He explained that he'd been overseas and was changing schools – an entirely fabricated answer. The inspector knew this, but also knew that it would be too much trouble to fine the boy. And so he snarled and moved on in search of less savvy and more honest commuters.

Another fellow had parked his bike in front of the train doors. The inspector gruffly reminded him that this was an offence and insisted that he move it. The cyclist hollered, 'The door's busted! Don't think for a second that you can tread on me just because you're wearing a uniform! You've got nothin'! Nothin' but your uniform!'

It struck me that the default relationship between the citizen and the state on that train was mistrust.

Of course Canberra is not immune to indifference and antagonism. Critics point out how Canberrans judge one another by the information on their public service ID cards and that there's a coldness about the city that lasts

all year round.

This is when Plato's Republic is useful as a way to understand Canberra's merits when compared to Sydney's razzamatazz and oh so refined Melbourne.

Plato recognised that cities are essential to any civilisation because they generate wealth and creativity. But for him they were also places of great danger, especially when unplanned and mismanaged. He warned of the feverish city, when citizens become infected with desire and thereby turn into racing rats, gluttonous pigs or savage wolves.

The key challenge for a city's leaders, said Plato, is to ensure that the people love one another and in turn love the city.

The great philosopher would approve of Canberra for several reasons.

In terms of population, it's big and cosmopolitan enough to justify an international airport, but small enough that strangers acknowledge you when you're out walking.

Just about every ACT suburb has a combination of public housing, smaller abodes on the lowlands, larger houses on upper slopes and parkland where residents can exercise and play. This allows for diversity without division and fosters a level of aspiration that falls short of envy.

While there are transportation challenges associated with distributing Canberrans over several town centres, this militates against a feverish demand for centrally located services. Moreover, there are several prominent and placid lakes which generally bring people together, unlike rivers which tend to create rifts.

Solidarity is also facilitated by the fact that the territory is surrounded by mountain ranges. And we have an ever ready up yours response to those who hate the city because of politicians who were almost entirely elected by non-Canberrans.

As the city grows out and up, the essential wisdom and virtue of living in the ACT should be preserved. And we should keep in mind that Plato would like Canberra. Indeed, the worst thing that could happen is for all those who despise it to realise their error and then seek to move here.

© Kim Huynh (1995)

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## How to – Be Mitchell Pearce.

Just when everyone thought that his performances in State of Origin were the greatest embarrassments Mitchell Pearce would ever suffer.....

Rugby league does a lot of good for the community. Keeping the prison population down for one.

The game was built on controversy. To this day it is what feeds it. Bringing the game into disrepute is nigh on impossible. What happens off the field is often more exciting than what happens on it. Rugby league is the Woman's Weekly of sport. But, it tries hard.

The NRL (Neanderthals Running Loose) provides courses for players on how to treat women. I would have thought that if you need a course on how to treat a woman, when you go to bed at night, it should be in an orange jumpsuit and your door should be bolted from the outside.

The NRL is an advocate for White Ribbon Day which is a bit like Ivan Milat promoting safe hitchhiking.

Past players and beacons of morality Mark Geyer and Matty Johns are employed to guide the public through the societal issues of the day on radio. Whether it be multiculturalism, homophobia or politics. Anything but how to beat the shit out of strangers or gangbang the emotionally vulnerable.

Mal Meninga pours himself a beer, Greg Bird pisses on a cop car and who knows how many of them beat their wives. Entitled men with the IQ's of zucchini are being deified by our children.

The only reason I'd ever encourage my kids to get an NRL players signature is to collect a DNA sample. Maybe I'm jealous. I could never have been a professional rugby league player as I've no idea how to shave my legs or operate an X-Box.

The media is awash with Mitchell Pearce simulating a sex act with a dog and pissing himself. Should he be sacked for either? Probably not. The non-consensual slobbering on a woman's face, however, has barely rated a mention. Does this menace have a mum or sister?

But, it's not all their fault. It's ours too. We are the sychophants. We put them on a pedestal of which they are undeserving. Because they're good at something. A staggeringly brutal sport.

You think the sponsors care? The sponsors product is what got Pearce in the state he was in. Footballers are simply mobile, advertising sandwich boards for them.

Just as there's probably a very good reason Mitchell's dad, Wayne Pearce doesn't drink, there's also a good reason the Romans used to kill or keep captive the gladiators once their entertainment obligations had been fulfilled.

Testosterone-fuelled men are idiots, especially when they're young and in groups. I know, I was one. I still love getting as full as a caterpillar's sock drawer on the drink, but I know to leave women, children, other people and poodles alone when I do. I always did. Famous footballers are not held to the same standards of accountability as everyone else, so disaster is always, merely pending.

It is the parents' fault, too. Excited, blinded even by the joy of having a family member excel at something. They enable, albeit usually unintentionally.

It is the fault of the people who run the game and conducted themselves in the same way twenty years before. Do as I say, not as I did. Let's tick all the politically correct boxes and go on our merry way.

It is the fault of uncoordinated, white-collar parasites who, unsatisfied with having climbed a less masculine path to success in the business sector surround themselves with these modern day gladiators, feeding off their fame like filthy leeches. Russell Crowe as a role model?

And, it's Pearce's fault, and Blake Ferguson's, and Andrew Johns', and Craig Field's, and all the other knuckle dragging, slow learners for being massive dickheads.

How on earth anyone with a level of respect for Indigenous Australians can celebrate Australia Day is entirely beyond me anyway, but that's another matter. Mitchell Pearce trending above Noel Pearson on Twitter. There's our problem, right there.

Who knows if Mitchell Pearce is a good bloke or not. I certainly don't. He obviously shouldn't drink, and anyone who poses in a photo with other men like the one attached has serious ego problems. What I do know is, he's a performer, a circus act, who allows me to live vicariously through a television screen, while surreptitiously encouraging me to buy sponsors products, such as beer.

A role model is not someone who is really good at something, but is someone who is really good at doing good things. The only thing that surprises me about the whole sorry saga is that Pearce wasn't wearing an Australian flag as a cape.