

DARANNEWS

1 May 2026

WEBSITE

DARANET



ANZAC Day Ceremony



Upcoming events

- 8 May
Languages Day
- 11 May
School Photo Day, FLA
School Fees Due
- 13 May
6:30pm P&F Meeting
- 18 May
6:00pm Music Performance Evening
- 28 May
Earth Day
- 29 May
Yr7 & Yr11 2027 Enrolments Close
Daranews Published



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From the Principal



Dear Parents/
Carers, Staff and
Students,

A belated welcome back to Term 2, given that we are already at the end of the second week of term. As I mentioned in my Daranews

article at the end of last term, Term 1 certainly was a whirlwind of activities and events, and if the past two weeks are any indication, I am sure that Term 2 will bring a similar level of activity around the College.

Last week I had the privilege of joining the three other Principals of the Australian MSC Colleges, **Mr Chris McDermott**, the Director of MSC Education, and **Fr Bob Irwin MSC** and **Fr John Mulrooney MSC**, at our annual retreat facilitated by the Director of the Chevalier Institute, **Mr Adrian Brannan**, for three days at the MSC Monastery in Kensington.

The retreat provided an opportunity to reflect upon our role as Principal of an MSC College, the challenges and the joys of our roles, and also to spend time sharing and learning from one another and with this the experience of Fathers Bob and John, both of whom have spent time as Principals of the four Colleges. We were also able to share a meal with the Priests and Brothers who now call the Monastery at Kensington their home and to hear of their memories of their time spent at our respective Colleges as younger men. The final morning of the retreat entailed an Emmaus Walk along the coastal path from Coogee to Bondi at sunrise as a group. Our walk ended at the Chanukah Menorah Memorial at Bondi Beach, where we prayed together and laid rocks from each of our communities with a pledge of commitment in memory of the victims of the Bondi Massacre of 14 December 2025. Given the current world events and uncertainties, this was a very powerful and moving experience.

This week members of the MSC Province have been meeting for the

From the Principal

Australian Chapter Gathering at Douglas Park where they will discern and discuss matters of importance both current and into the future. The gatherings are held every three years, with the election of the Provincial Superior being a key matter of business. On Wednesday, it was announced that **Fr Stephen Hackett MSC** had been re-elected for another three-year term as Provincial Superior. Our prayers have been with the MSC as they undertook their important work of discernment and decision making.

In the coming weeks we will be hosting the Annual General Meeting of the four Australian MSC schools, as we do each year in May. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity for key representatives from the Provincial Office including the Provincial Superior, Fr Stephen Hackett MSC, the MSC Education Members Council, the Chevalier Institute, and the Board Chairs, Principals, Business Managers and Assistant Principals Mission from the four schools, to come together over three days for a range of meetings.

ANZAC Ceremony and Sports Assembly

We have been able to gather as a community twice already this term. The focus of our opening assembly was our ANZAC commemoration service. The second occasion, this afternoon, was to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of our students at each of the three sports carnivals held last term. The next opportunity for us to all be together will be for Sacred Heart Day on **Friday 5 June**.

Through the story of Simpson and his Donkey, we were reminded at our ANZAC ceremony, that courage is not always found in moments of victory, but in quiet acts of care and sacrifice. We were joined by **Lieutenant Colonel Scott Foster**, a former Daramalan student from the class of 1989, who shared with us reflections on his time as a student at the College and his career journey in the ADF since graduating. Scott's message resonated with a number of students who spoke with him following the ceremony. Our students who are members of Cadet Units from the Air Force, Army and Navy, were once again key contributors to the ceremony. I would like to acknowledge and thank

Ms Amy Thomas for her preparation of such a moving ceremony. I would like to congratulate our College Leaders who facilitated and led the ceremony, and College Captain, **Ruby Holden**, who led the College in the National Anthem. Ruby also sang the national anthems of Australia and New Zealand at the Queanbeyan Dawn Service the following morning.

This afternoon, we gathered for a second time as a whole community, this time to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of our students at the three sports carnivals held in Term 1: Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country. The assembly also provided our College Leaders the opportunity to outline the achievements, successes and activities within each of their portfolio areas and how students can become involved throughout the term and year ahead. As I mentioned when I spoke to the students, I am constantly amazed at the activities and co-curricular activities that are available to our students on a daily basis. There is certainly something for everyone, and I urged all students to check the Daily News and become involved. We were also treated to performances from the Senior Band.

At the end of the Assembly, I was able to acknowledge and present nine students, some of whom have already been mentioned previously in Daranews, with Principal's Awards for their Australian representation:

Riley Wyeth (Year 12)- this was a retrospective award acknowledging Riley's selection as part of the Australian Oztag squad in 2025.

Luke Cullen (Year 11)- who will be representing Australia as a member of the U17 Boys Australian Flag Football team which will be participating in the Junior International Cup in Los Angeles in June.

Cooper Barker (Year 11)- on his selection as part of the Emerging Socceroos program last week.

Conner Brooks (Year 11)- who has been selected as Football (Soccer) referee for the Youth World Cup which will be held in Rome.



Lieutenant Colonel Scott Foster at the ANZAC Day Ceremony

From the Principal

Andreas Kaskoutas (Year 10) - who also was selected as part of the Emerging Soccerroos program last week.

Jackson Macdonald (Year 10)- who has been selected to travel to Malaysia as part of the Australian Cycling Development Academy.

Mitchell Power (Year 9)- for his selection as a member of the U15 All Australian Cricket team following the Australian championships in Perth earlier this year.

Samuel Sleeman (Year 8) - who is currently in Barcelona as a member of the Australian Futsal squad.

Sophia Murphy (Year 7)- who has returned from Barcelona where she was a member of the squad who represented Australia at the Barca Academy World Cup in Football.

Staffing Changes

As I mentioned at the end of last term, there have been a small number of staffing changes this term. On leave for the entirety of Term 2 are **Mr Ian Garrity**, **Mr Jason Paris** and **Mr Angus Balmaks**. **Mr Marty Capon** has been appointed to the role of acting Sports Coordinator whilst Mr Balmaks is on leave. **Mr Matthew Creswell** will be the Farrer PCA this term. **Mr James Keeley** has returned from leave and will be the acting College Chief Operating Officer for Term 2. **Mr James Hollis** will be on leave until the end of Week 13, with **Ms Jessica Tillack** continuing as the Goolagong PCA for this period.

This term we have welcomed **Ms Keeva Mostyn** who joins our Counselling team, **Ms Amanda Brown** who joins the Mathematics department, and we welcomed back **Ms Becc Morris** to the Religious Education department.

DTC Rhinoceros

Congratulations to the Daramalan Theatre Company on their production of Rhinoceros. A culmination of months of weekend and intensive rehearsals came to fruition with performances over the final weekend of the break and the first week of this term. The reviews from external theatre critics were outstanding and extremely positive. In fact, many noted the magnificent rhinoceros heads, which were masterpieces in their own right. In the final days of rehearsals, the Company were provided with a masterclass facilitated by Arts and Theatre practitioner and Critic, **Mr Peter Wilkins** who provided notes after the production and allowed cast members to seek his advice. Our thanks to **Mr Joe Woodward** for his vision, and to all of the staff (both current and former), students and parents who volunteered their time to bringing the production to life.

Rotary Peace Pole

This year the College has partnered with the Sundowners Rotary Club to establish a Peace Pole in the McMahon Quad gardens. The Peace Pole program has its origins following the Second World War and there are now more than 250,000 Peace Poles located around the world in approximately 200 countries. Yesterday, I was joined by the President of the Rotary Club of Canberra Sundowners, **Mr Jordan Fallon**, our College Leaders **James Clarke** and **Laura Green**, and Language students representing the four languages taught at the College to unveil the Peace Pole. We have been reminded in recent days by Pope Leo that peace is not built through fear or force, but through the simple call to love our neighbour. It is something we are called to live out in the way we treat others. The placement of our Peace Pole and its message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth", will be a reminder of this not just today but for the days and years ahead. I would like to acknowledge **Mr David Kurthi** for his vision in bringing the project to fruition and to the Maintenance team for their work on the project.



Rotary Club Peace Pole Ceremony

2027 Enrolments and Year 11 Transition Information

A reminder that applications for Year 7 and Year 11 2027 must be submitted by Friday 29 May 2026 to be considered in the first round of offers for a place in 2027. This deadline is the same for current families as well as new families. Enrolment forms are able to be completed online via the link on our website, <https://www.daramalan.act.edu.au/>. Enquiries or questions concerning enrolments should be directed to enrolments@daramalan.act.edu.au

Information for students currently enrolled in Year 10, outlining the transition to Year 11 for 2027 will be available on our website in the coming days. There are a range of resources including recorded Information Sessions for families to access. The Notice of Intention forms were emailed to all current Year 10 families earlier in the term. These are due to be returned by **Friday 12 June 2026** to facilitate our planning for 2027.

School Photos

A reminder that school photos will be taken on **Monday 11 May**. Order forms have been distributed to students this week to be taken home for families to complete should they wish to purchase photographs. All students are required to have their photograph taken even if families are not placing a photo order. If a student is absent on that day, the only catch-up time the photographers will be here is **Friday 22 May** for the first lesson in the morning.

Winter Uniform

Students should be wearing their full Winter uniform to school. Can I remind families that hoodies, including Daramalan sports hoodies and quarter-zip tops, and 'puffer' jackets do not form part of the Daramalan uniform and should not be worn to school, at school or from school. Thank you for your support in ensuring that our students wear their uniform, including using the College backpack in Years 7-10, with pride as ambassadors of the College.

Parking and Supporting Student Safety

To keep our students safe when making their way to and from school, please ensure you drive and park safely and legally around our school. The roads around the College are extremely busy at all times of the day and the safety

of our students, staff and families are our priority. Unsafe and illegal parking can reduce visibility for our students and motorists, creating a significant hazard when students cross the road. Please remember not to park across pedestrian crossings, in No Stopping zones, on corners, verges or double parking. Mobile speed camera vans as well as licence plate recognition vehicles continue to monitor safe parking and driving around the College.

We also ask that people who are dropping off their students in the morning, and/or picking up students in the afternoon do not park on the nature strips of houses near the College or across driveway entrances. Already this year we have received complaints from our neighbours about damage done to grass and trees as well as access being blocked when they have attempted to exit their property. We wish to maintain positive relationships with our neighbours, so we ask that you assist by respecting their space. I would also ask that when collecting students of an afternoon that families do not park in the College driveways or the nature strip on Morphett Street once the gates have been closed. This creates a significant safety hazard for our students.

I would also like to remind our families who attend the College out of hours and on weekends, particularly for sporting and performing arts events, not to park on the nature strips or verges along Morphett and Challis Streets. I have received complaints from our neighbours outlining their concerns regarding footpath access and safety due to illegally parked vehicles. Thank you in advance for your support in ensuring the safety of our community.

P and F

The next meeting of the P and F is calendared to be held on Wednesday 13 May. All parents are welcome to attend. The meeting starts at 6:30pm in the College Board Room which can be accessed from the front carpark near Reception. Parents/Carers who wish to register for the meeting are asked to email pandf@daramalan.act.edu.au by COB **Tuesday 12 May** and meeting documents will be sent out to you.

There is an email address for P and F correspondence. It is pandf@daramalan.act.edu.au should you wish to contact the Committee with any matter.



Netball Tour to Fiji

From the Principal

Financial Assistance

Families who are experiencing changed financial circumstances are encouraged to contact the College acting Chief Operating Officer, **Mr James Keeley**, to make an appointment to discuss support that may be available to you. He can be contacted via email on james.keeley@daramalan.act.edu.au.

Student Achievements

In addition to the students who were presented with Principal's Awards at our Sports Assembly, I would like to congratulate the following students on their recent achievements:

Macie Wilson (Year 8) on securing Bronze in both Shot Put and Javelin, and 4th place in Discus (U15 Para) at the recent National Athletics Championships.

Gabby Yeung (Year 12) who will be competing as a member of the ACT tennis squad at the Pizzey Cup.

Tomas Spoljaric (Year 8) who has been selected as a member of the ACT U15 Netball squad for the upcoming championships.

Charlie Ravouvou (Year 11) and **Eroni Camaivuna** (Year 11) who have been selected for a second year as members of the Australian Flag Football squads that will travel to the USA in June, alongside Luke Cullen.

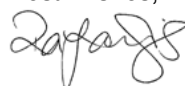
Trixie Morphett (Year 10) who is currently in the USA competing as a member of the Sirens Cheer team.

Cooper Leslie (Year 11) on his selection as a member of the ACT U18s Rugby League squad who will compete at the National Championships in July.

Tessa Pocock, Darcy Byrne (Year 10), **Chloe Holmes** and **Cindy Lucic** (Year 12) who were part of the choir which performed the Matins and Lauds at St Christopher's Cathedral on Good Friday.

Our Senior Netballers on the manner in which they represented the College both on and off the field on their tour to Fiji over the recent holiday break.

Best Wishes,



Rachel Davies
Principal



DARAMALAN COLLEGE

2027 ENROLMENTS CLOSING SOON

Enrolments for Year 7 and Year 11 must be submitted by Friday 29 May

For information about enrolments in other years, visit our website or contact the Enrolments Office on the details below.

enrolments@daramalan.act.edu.au or (02) 6245 6348
Reception 6245 6300 | 121 Cowper St Dickson www.daramalan.act.edu.au



School News

Uniform Shop Opening Hours

Monday: 8:30am – 5.00pm

Friday: 8.30am – 5.00pm

(Closed for lunch 12.00-12:30pm)



Request for Sacred Heart Day Volunteers

On **Friday 5 June** we will celebrate Sacred Heart Day with a shared lunch for all students and staff. This is a big undertaking and we would love to have your help on the day if you are available.

If you are free for a couple of hours to assist with our barbecue, please provide your details via this [link](#). If you have any questions about volunteering on the day, please contact me at yvonne.turnbull@daramalan.act.edu.au

I look forward to hearing from you!

Term 2 School Fees 2026

Term 2 School Fees are due by **Monday 11 May**.

Term 2 Statements were emailed to parents on Wednesday 8 April.

If you require a copy of your statement, please email fees@daramalan.act.edu.au

Please be aware of the College's terms regarding unpaid fees:

- An **administration fee of \$15.00 (including GST)** will be charged to any family account not paid by the due date (typically 14 days after the start of term).
- A **further \$15 fee** will be added **each fortnight** until the account is fully paid.
- These charges do not apply if the College has agreed to a payment plan and fees are being paid by direct debit.
- The administration fee covers the additional costs incurred due to late payment.
- If a parent defaults on fee payment, they may also be liable for all associated recovery costs, including legal and collection fees.

For full details, please refer to our website:

<https://www.daramalan.act.edu.au/fee-schedule/>



Homework Club 2026

We are excited to offer Homework Club each afternoon from **3:30pm to 4:30pm Monday to Friday** in the Daramalan College Information Centre.

It is known that homework reinforces classroom learning, allows for spaced practice of concepts and encourages independent learning all of which are essential to improving academic achievement and study habits.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to access extra support with their learning. Homework Club will be staffed with teachers who will be on hand to support and assist with assessments, homework and general study support. We are encouraging students to embrace this opportunity to support their academic growth. More information on the subjects and teachers supervising each afternoon can be found in the Daily News on Daranet.



DARAMALAN COLLEGE HOMEWORK CLUB

3:30pm-4:30pm

INFORMATION CENTRE

Please take the opportunity to try, join or visit
Daramalan College's Homework Club!!!!

Year 10 Retreat

On Tuesday 28 April, our Year 10 students came together for their Retreat. The day was led by **Sam Clear** from Walk4One, who shared his remarkable story of walking more than 15,000 km around the world to encourage unity among Christians. His journey, filled with challenge and perseverance, was captivating and set the tone for a meaningful day.

Alongside listening to Sam's inspiring experiences, students took part in a range of activities including games, small-group discussions and guided reflection. These sessions invited them to explore themes such as perseverance, resilience, communication, and the importance of building trust with themselves, with others and with God.

It was great to see a number of students taking the opportunity to speak with Sam during breaks and again at the end of the day, eager to hear more and engage with his message.



Social Justice

Daramalan's Gift of Life Walk 2026: Walking Together to Save Lives

On Wednesday 22 April, Year 11 students took part in an "empathy in action" activity linked to The Resilience Project, participating in a Gift of Life Walk/Jog on the school oval. The event aimed to raise awareness about organ and tissue donation ([DonateLife](#)).

Why were we walking together? Every step represents hope. Every day around 2,000 Australians are currently waiting for a lifesaving transplant. **Registering** as a donor takes just one minute, yet one donor can save up to seven lives and help many more through tissue donation. There are many stories such as **Tilly's** that inspire us to give the ultimate gift of life.

Misconceptions still exist. While many believe you must be 18 to register, you can record your intent from age 16. Despite this, 16–25-year-olds have the lowest registration rates, highlighting the importance of events like this.

For many students and staff, the cause is personal, with connections to donors or recipients. Participants were encouraged to continue the conversation with family and friends and spread awareness.

As the music played, students completed as many laps as they could, each one symbolising lives that could be changed.

The Gift of Life Walk 2026 was more than exercise—it was a chance to build empathy, raise awareness, and inspire life-saving action.

[Have you registered?](#)

Project Compassion

Last week, we concluded our fundraising efforts for Project Compassion. As a school, we raised \$7175 for Caritas Australia. Congratulations and thank you to Year 10 Lawson who raised the most money as a PT group. Last Thursday, we drew the Easter Raffle prizes. Thank you to all students, families and staff who bought tickets in the raffle and made it such a success. A special thank you to the very generous donations of prizes by members of the Daramalan community – Mel Hill Photography, Pinnacle Driving School, Pacific Facilities Maintenance, The Corner Market, Eat Cookies and ACT Brumbies. Congratulations to all winners.



Social Justice Cont...

Do It For Dolly Day

On **Friday 15 May**, our school community is invited to support Do It For Dolly Day by “going blue to end bullying”. Students and staff are encouraged to wear blue accessories such as ribbons, scarves, ties, hair pieces or socks to show their commitment to kindness and inclusion. Blue ribbons will also be available during PT and at recess. Let’s come together to raise awareness and take a stand against bullying.

Joes Holiday Program

The mission of the Joes April Holiday Program is to provide the Joes with a fun filled safe, happy environment for the days they attend.

Monday and Tuesday was held for 10–12 year-olds and the leadership team was **Rex Collins** and **Crystal Neou** (Year 12). The theme was friendship and the Joes discussed the meaning of friendship and shared their ideas.

With the support of **Sophie Perrett** (Year 12), **Matilda (Tilli) Ward** and **Jenna Di Mezza** (Year 11), the Joes visited Vinnies to learn about the work the store does and how the money raised is used to support others. While there, they were also able to choose some books. A surprise visit from **James Clarke** (Year 12) was a highlight and delighted the Joes.

Tie Dye and friendship bracelets were part of the craft activities. Nerf Wars continues to be the favourite activity, closely followed by Survival Tag, with UNO always a firm favourite. All activities endorsed the friendship theme and in the warm and fuzzy (affirmation) circle on the last day, the Joes explored how friendship had been part of their program.

The Thursday and Friday program was held for the 6–9 year-olds. **Sophie** and **Tilli** were the leadership team for these two days.

They were ably supported by **Crystal** and **Rex**. The theme was empathy. **Sophie** and **Tilli** began each day by reading a picture book about empathy. Sophie deepened their understanding by discussing what empathy meant to her. Some of the Joes had heard about empathy and their thoughts and ideas were written by Sophie on the whiteboard. They then worked through a booklet learning how important empathy is in all our lives. Throughout the two days the Joes showed empathy in their many activities with each other and the “Oldies” (student volunteers).

With both groups, the leaders had to prepare certificates for each Joe, recognising a personal achievement involving the theme of the two-day program. This task was to be meaningful and truthful. The leaders spent time ensuring these were unique for each child and genuinely affirmed the Joes, with the certificates being presented on the final day.

In the final warm and fuzzy sessions, the Joes had to relate how empathy had been part of their experience during their activities of a visit to Vinnies, Nerf War, mini games and Tie Dye.



The last activity was making cards for people in their lives. They loved making these cards and the words they used to describe what family and friends meant to them was a pleasure to read. They made thank you cards for the Oldies, and these showed the trust, respect and kindness they felt for them.

Thank you to **Jenna Di Mezza** for volunteering and **James Clarke** for visiting on Tuesday. 2025 Year 12 student **Kristi Morris** was a popular addition to the Thursday/Friday program and we had students from St Clares, Narrabundah College, ex-students from Mackillop and a student from ACU. A special thank you goes to **Tilli (Matilda) Ward, Rex Collins, Crystal Neou** and **Sophie Perrett**, who attended all four days.

Please see our Social Justice Captain, **James Clarke** if you would like to be part of this program.

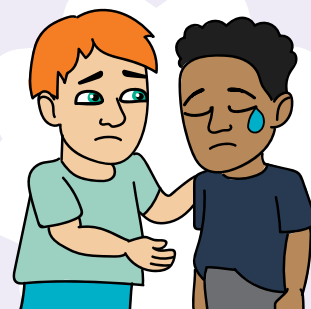
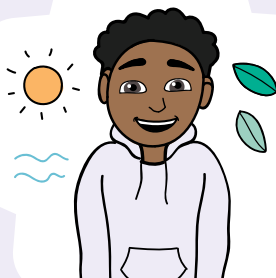
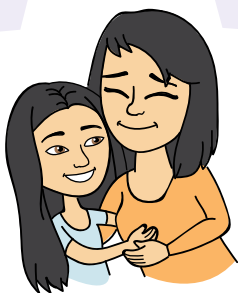
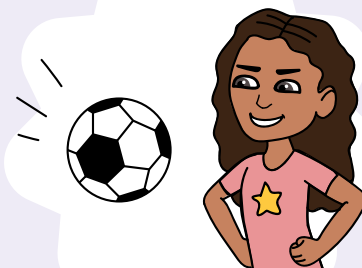
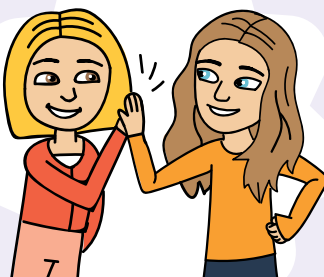
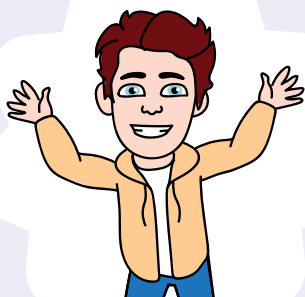
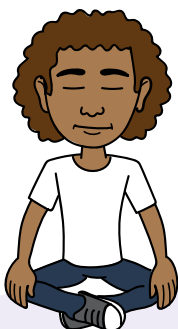
Program Impact from Vinnies

Trish Halangahu, former Daramalan staff now working for Vinnies and the Coordinator of these programs, is very grateful for the use of the space and the support of Daramalan College. These programs are offered for free to the children. Together we have all been able to create and offer a rich, valuable experience. The student volunteers are so gentle, positive, creative, caring, supportive and fun. It is truly amazing to witness.

The parents of the Joes children really appreciate what these programs offer their children. It is a credit to all the students that volunteer and the support from **Ms Gail Mutton**.



How I can calm myself down



English/ Information Centre

Kids' Lit Quiz

Daramalan's excursion for the Kids' Lit Quiz was a joint initiative between the Information Centre and the English Department.

"The Kids' Lit Quiz was a great experience and I had a lot of fun participating. The Lit Quiz is a fun learning experience and was held this year at Merici College. You answer questions about literature with your team.

There were lots of high schools from Canberra participating. There were 10 rounds, all with different themes; the themes could vary from mythology to children's favourites. There were also little bonus questions at the end of every round where you were given clues about a book, author, or even an illustrator. If you got the answer correct, you got a small prize.

Daramalan entered two teams: a Year 7 team with **Scarlett Farrell, Willem Van Galen, William Tonkin, Ruby Myles** and **Noah Patterson** (reserve), and a Year 8 team with **Alex Linardakis, Ella Boland, Evelyn Henderson** and **Sam Norfor**. The Year 8 team ended up coming fourth, just one point away from being tied for 3rd. The Lit Quiz was great fun, and I got to make some new friends from other schools."

Ella Boland (Year 8)



Science

Year 11 Biology

Year 11 Biology students recently travelled to Shellharbour for an exciting fieldwork excursion to investigate life in the intertidal zone. Despite heavy rain persisting for the entire journey, conditions dramatically improved just in time for our rock platform study, allowing students to safely explore the area. Students conducted a quadrat study on the intertidal rock platform, gathering and analysing data to investigate how abiotic factors such as wave action, moisture and exposure influence the distribution and abundance of organisms. Through hands-on data collection and observation, students deepened their understanding of how animals have evolved remarkable adaptations to survive in harsh and changing coastal conditions. Our guides were really impressed with the enthusiasm and knowledge demonstrated by our students – it was a fantastic day!



Science Competitions

We are very proud of our students who participated in the OzGrav Astronomy and Space Olympiad. This competition is designed to challenge students and encourage problem-solving and curiosity. This particular competition is more open ended and conceptual than most others of its kind. Students are required to explain reasoning, and creative approaches are rewarded. In particular, we would like to congratulate **Josie Willmore** who received a prize for being the top female in Year 8 and **James Stein** (Year 8) who was selected for further training.

High Distinction: **Sean Loney** (Year 12)

Credit: **Josie Willmore, James Stein, Sam Norfor** (Year 8), **Patricia Sukardi** (Year 10) and **Zachary Johns** (Year 12).

There are several external science competitions being held this term. They are a great chance to challenge yourself beyond the classroom, build problem solving skills and strengthen future study or career pathways. Please encourage your student to register their interest when they are advertised through our Daily News.

Year 11 and 12 Earth and Environmental Science

Year 11 and 12 Earth and Environmental Science students recently visited Wombeyan Caves in the Blue Mountains National Park, NSW.

During the excursion, students ventured into Fig Tree Cave, observing impressive marble formations. The rock began as limestone formed in a shallow sea around 430–450 million years ago before being metamorphosed into marble. Over time, slightly acidic rainwater carved out the caves, while mineral-rich water continues to form stalactites and stalagmites. Students also enjoyed spotting native wildlife, including wombats, goannas and kangaroos in the surrounding bushland.

The excursion provided a valuable opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world geological processes.



Visual Arts

Visual Arts Excursion to Sydney

In Week 9 the senior Art, Photography and Media students went to Sydney to see the Art Gallery of NSW and the Museum of Contemporary Art. We explored the ARTEXPRESS 2026 exhibition, full of talented Year 12 students work from across NSW and were given free tickets to Ron Mueck's sculptural realism. The most insane part was Mike Hewson's installation; the entirety of the gallery's Tank area was converted into a massive underground civilisation (playground) equipped with functioning utilities (like a sauna and washing machines) all in a cyberpunk style.

Lunchtime is always a highlight, getting to eat and wander around Sydney's harbour freely. Whilst groups separated to eat, buying Yochi has become a recognised tradition for us.

Moving on to the Contemporary Museum we were introduced to an exhibition focused on AI art that felt like a liminal fever dream as we watched each horror short film on display. Also, very exciting to see, was my absolute favourite artist Patricia Piccinini, with her two brawling motorcycles, so insanely smooth you would assume she simply twisted two real motorbikes together.

Overall, I loved this excursion and the chance it presented to see so many artworks, styles and ideas; besides, it's also a day off from school to have fun with friends.

Chloe Eaton (Year 11)



Performing Arts

Rhinoceros by Eugene Ionesco opened on Saturday 18 April in the Joe Woodward Theatre. Expressionist influences and the strange rhythms of Ionesco's writing provided the basis for a unique experience for both actors and audience.

TAPAS meals and bar service was available with the theatre being set up as a cabaret style space.

Each night had pre-show entertainment. **Tom Woodward** performed from 6.00pm on the first night and **Aria Wallace** (Year 12) performed Wednesday to Friday, with **Ruby Holden** (Year 12) performing on the final Saturday night.

The reviews and audience reaction were very positive. Some comments included:

"This is indeed a production like no other. Of course, every show has somewhere to go, until it can rest on its well-deserved laurels. Judging by opening night Daramalan Theatre Company has reached new heights of excellence with a production that is both challenging and rewarding. I dips me lid to every person who has contributed to a production that excites and enlightens. I thank everyone for transporting me beyond the ordinary by creating the extraordinary. I am certain that were I to come again to the show tomorrow, there would be even more moments to marvel at and applaud." (**Peter Wilkins**, Theatre Reviewer)

"Not to be missed":

<https://ccc-canberracriticscircle.blogspot.com/2026/04/rhinoceros-by-eugene-ionesco.html>

(**Frank McKone**, Canberra Critics' Circle)

"Rhino heads were a highlight – rough but powerful and menacing" (**Alanna Maclean**, Theatre Reviewer)

The show played to a 74% house for the season with lots of positive discussion ensuring after each performance. A long process of development came to a conclusion. We trust it has created wonderful memories for all involved.



Music Performance Evening

Monday 18 May 6:00pm

Joe Woodward Theatre



Sport

2026 College Carnivals Wrap-Up

This term, we proudly celebrated the achievements of our students across our three major school carnivals: Swimming, Athletics, and Cross Country. Each event showcased outstanding participation, school spirit, and athletic excellence.

Swimming Carnival

Dickson Pool – Week 2

Our annual Swimming Carnival was a fantastic start to the year, with strong participation and enthusiastic support from all houses.

Spirit Plate

Awarded for participation, enthusiasm, and house pride:

- 3rd: Goolagong
- 2nd: Merrick
- 1st: Lawson

Congratulations to Lawson for leading the way in energy and encouragement.

House Cup

Awarded for overall performance in the pool:

- 3rd: Farrer
- 2nd: Phillip
- 1st: Cuthbert

Well done to Cuthbert on an exceptional team performance.

Age Champions

Students recognised for consistent excellence across multiple events:

- 12 Years Girls: Runner-Up **Holly Meadley**
Champion **Kiara O'Connor**
- 12 Years Boys: Runner-Up **Mason Brown**
Champion **William Tonkin**
- 13 Years Girls: Joint Runner-Ups **Ella Boland & Camilla Sarri** | Champion **Annika Scherl**
- 13 Years Boys: Runner-Up **Jack Lynch**
Champion **Max Singh**
- 14 Years Girls: Runner-Up **Arabella Hawley**
Champion **Macie Wilson**
- 14 Years Boys: Runner-Up **Joseph Pratt**
Champion **Raeland Loney**
- 15 Years Girls: Runner-Up **Laura Corkhill**
Champion **Riley Bransdon**
- 15 Years Boys: Runner-Up **Mitchell Harris**
Champion **Jack Gilligan**
- 16 Years Girls: Runner-Up **Eliza Lawton**
Champion **Carla Sarri**
- 16 Years Boys: Runner-Up **Alexander Donaldson**
Champion **Ryley Power**
- Opens Girls: Runner-Up **Rebecca Spinks**
Champion **Eloise Smith**
- Opens Boys: Runner-Up **Hunter Harrison**
Champion **Sean Loney**



Swimming Carnival Winners



Athletics Carnival Winners

Athletics Carnival

Dickson Oval – Week 5

The Athletics Carnival was a highlight of the term, with students demonstrating determination, athletic ability, and strong house spirit across track and field events.

Spirit Plate

- 3rd: Cuthbert
- 2nd: Merrick
- 1st: Goolagong

Congratulations to Goolagong for their outstanding energy and participation.

House Cup

- 3rd: Goolagong
- 2nd: Cuthbert
- 1st: Lawson

Well done to Lawson for an exceptional all-round performance.

Age Champions

- 12 Years Girls: Runner-Up **Holly Meadley**
Champion **Kiara O'Connor**
- 12 Years Boys: Runner-Up **Mason Brown**
Champion **Kwame Antwi-Tuffour**
- 13 Years Girls: Runner-Up **Eve Andonovski**
Champion **Harper Clear**
- 13 Years Boys: Runner-Up **Zion Adu-Adjei**
Champion **Ryder Coutts**
- 14 Years Girls: Runner-Up **Baaba Antwi-Tuffour**

Sport Cont...

Champion **Bridie Iglewski**

- 14 Years Boys: Runner-Up **Oliver Lawton**
Champion **William O'Rourke**
- 15 Years Girls: Runner-Up **Kayla Nemet**
Champion **Grace Kelly**
- 15 Years Boys: Runner-Up **Mitchell Power**
Champion **Alexander Clarke**
- 16 Years Girls: Runner-Up **Oceane Meredith**
Champion **Ella Higginbotham**
- 16 Years Boys: Runner-Up **Devin Holpfer**
Champion **Harry Clark**
- Opens Girls: Runner-Up **Grace York**
Champion **Tahli Milin**
- Opens Boys: Runner-Up **Jasper Harris**
Champion **Lucas Korab**

Dara Gift (100m Handicap Race)

Girls: **Baaba Antwi-Tuffour**
Boys: **Samuel Blood**

Cross Country Carnival

Stromlo Forest Park- Week 7

Our final carnival of the term challenged students with a true test of endurance, resilience, and determination.

Spirit Plate

- Joint 3rd: Lawson & Lyons
- Joint 1st: O'Brien & Goolagong

Congratulations to all Houses for their encouragement and support throughout the course.

House Cup

- 3rd: Goolagong
- 2nd: Lyons
- 1st: Cuthbert

Well done to Cuthbert on a strong team performance.

Age Champions

Unlike other carnivals, Cross Country champions are determined by finishing positions:

- 12 Years Girls: Runner-Up **Holly Meadley**
Champion **Kiara O'Connor**
- 12 Years Boys: Runner-Up **Archie Booth**
Champion **Zac Kelly**
- 13 Years Girls: Runner-Up **Allegra Violi**
Champion **Isla Haig**
- 13 Years Boys: Runner-Up **Harvey Yeo**
Champion **Rafael Thompson**
- 14 Years Girls: Runner-Up **Verity Lawton**
Champion **Bridie Iglewski**



Cross Country Carnival Winners



Kiara O'Connor receiving a Principal's Commendation



Students receiving a Principal's Award

- 14 Years Boys: Runner-Up **James Stein**
Champion **Oliver Lawton**
- 15 Years Girls: Runner-Up **Sienna Bodycott**
Champion **Rachel Giason**
- 15 Years Boys: Runner-Up **Blake Meadley**
Champion **Nikos Vassiliotis**
- 16 Years Girls: Runner-Up **Jillian Ryan**
Champion **Eliza Lawton**
- 16 Years Boys: Runner-Up **Isaac Viana De Freitas**
Champion **Harry Clark**
- Opens Girls: Runner-Up **Lucy Blacker**
Champion **Elliott Barnes**
- Opens Boys: Runner-Up **Oliver English**
Champion **Patrick Clark**

Sport Cont...

Welcome to the DaraNews Sports Report.

As we move into Term 2, we wrap up a fantastic Summer sports season. A big congratulations to all students involved in our Rowing, Cricket and Basketball programs. It's been a strong season across the board, with excellent participation, teamwork and some impressive individual and team results.

Now we turn our focus to our Winter sports. This term, we are excited to see students competing in Rugby, Netball, Basketball and Hockey. We wish all teams the very best as their seasons get underway.

A special highlight over the break was the Netball Tour to Fiji. This was an incredible opportunity for our players to develop their skills, experience international competition, and represent the school abroad. We look forward to hearing all about their experiences. A big thank you to **Ms Bernadette Ross**, for organising and attending the tour, and to **Ms Sepi Hawke** and **Mr Jonathan Hall** for travelling to paradise to 'accompany' our Netballers.

Today, we celebrated the students that achieved across our three school carnivals. Age champions were awarded for their contribution to our Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals as well as the ASC Swimming that was held late last term.

There are also several important events coming up. We have strong teams attending the following Associated Southern Colleges (ASC) events. Yesterday was the ASC Athletics Carnival and in the coming weeks:

- ASC Swimming Carnival – **Thursday 7 May**
- ASC Cross Country Carnival – **Friday 29 May**

We also have many upcoming one-day Gala Days, so keep an eye out for announcements and make sure you are prepared.

Now, it's time for our 'Game of the Round', brought to you by our sports leaders. If you have the time, please go along and support our teams over the weekend:

Archie Edwards, Daramalan Sports Captain
Come and see the 2nd XV take on Marist U16's at Daramalan College on **Saturday 2 May** at 1:45pm. Bouncing off winning the competition last year, they are looking like the team to beat this year. It's going to be an electric first home game!

Mr Marty Capon, Acting Sports Coordinator
My match of the round is the U14 Girls Div 1 Basketball Daramalan v Radford Hawks 12:10 PM, Saturday, 02 May 26 at Radford College / Court 2

The Div 1 Girls have been training the house down and look primed for a big season, first round they come up against Radford on their home court.

Ms Bernadette Ross, Netball Convener
Dara Watson (Year 7) Inters Div 2 @ Lyneham Netball Centre 11.30am Saturday. This will be the first time putting on the Daramalan Netball dress. Good luck girls!

Mr Ben McGee, Rugby Convener

With many of our U13 Boys preparing to play their first game in the Red and Black, there is a real sense of excitement around this group. After a long and committed pre-season, the players are ready to represent Daramalan Rugby with pride. The coaching staff have done a fantastic job preparing the team, and we look forward to seeing them take the field and showcase their efforts. U13 Black take on Vikings at Daramalan College on **Saturday 2 May** at 9.30am.

Mr Stuart Dix, Hockey Convener

Today, **Friday 1 May**, the JSL girls defending premiers will be taking on Canberra Girls Grammar in what looks like a tight match up. They will be playing at Kjar Field (Tuggeranong Hockey Fields) at 5:15pm. It would be great to see some of the Daramalan community down there to support them.

Mr John Gale, Basketball Convener

Come on out and support the U19 Boys Div 1 White team, taking on Marist Blue at 6:20 PM on Sunday, **03 May 26**, Tuggeranong Southern Cross Basketball Stadium / Court 2.

Finally, a special congratulations to all students who have been selected to represent the ACT and Australia. This is a fantastic reward for your hard work and dedication to your chosen sport. If your child has been selected in a representative team, please let us know at sports@daramalan.act.edu.au

Mr Marty Capon

Acting Sports Coordinator



Congratulations to **Macie Wilson** (Year 8) on her outstanding performance at the National Athletics Championships, held at Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre over the holidays.

Macie achieved excellent results, earning bronze medals in both Shot Put and Javelin, and placing 4th in Discus (U15 Para). This is a remarkable accomplishment, as she competes against athletes with a range of disabilities and is the only seated thrower in her events. Final placings are determined using a percentage-based system across classifications, making her results even more impressive.

Rugby

Daramalan Rugby Union – Round 1

This weekend marks the start of the 2026 season, with an exciting lineup of 12 home games. Players across all age groups will have the opportunity to take the field at home and experience the strong support of the Daramalan community.

Following a productive pre-season, all teams are well-prepared and eager to get underway.

Daramalan Rugby would like to extend its sincere thanks to our 2026 season sponsors, the many volunteers who have already contributed their time and effort, and our outstanding community for their ongoing support.

We warmly invite the entire school community to come down to Daramalan this weekend for what promises to be a fantastic day of rugby.

Games kick off from **8:30am this Saturday**, with the 1st XV taking the field at 3:00pm.

Head to www.daramalanrugby.com.au for all your Daramalan Rugby news and information.



Daramalan v St Kevins Preseason Game



Winter is Coming: Daramalan College Snowsports Program 2026

As the cooler months begin to roll in, Daramalan College is gearing up for another exciting Snowsports co-curricular program for the 2026 snow season. This program offers students a fantastic chance to get outdoors, step away from screens, and be part of a fun, active experience in the snow.

Students interested in participating are encouraged to contact **Mr Dean Parkes** at dean.parkes@daramalan.act.edu.au or **Ms Sophie Peacock** at sophie.peacock@daramalan.act.edu.au to find out more and register their interest.

An Information Session for both parents and students will be held in Week 12 on **Wednesday 6 May** at 5:30pm in the FLA. This session will outline how the program operates and provide families with an opportunity to ask questions.

Don't miss the chance to be part of an exciting snow adventure and discover what's on offer for the 2026 season.

We look forward to seeing you there!
The Daramalan Snowsports Crew

DARAMALAN COLLEGE SNOW SPORTS

Careers News

Please contact **Annette Brady** on 6245 6394 or careers@daramalan.act.edu.au
[Book an Appointment with the Careers Advisor](#)

DARAMALAN CAREERS WEBSITE

May

Friday 8 May	ANU direct applications close
Monday 11 – Sunday 17 May	2026 National Careers Week National Virtual Careers Expo
Monday 18 – Tuesday 19 May	NEW Construction Course set – now open on Qkr!

June

Tuesday 2 June	NEW RSA Course – now open on Qkr! (details have been emailed to Year 11-12 students)
Thursday 4 June	UC Explore Day – registrations have now closed

2026 National Virtual Expo – Choosing Your Uni

The 2026 Choosing Your Uni [National Virtual Expo](#) will be taking place during National Careers Week (**Sunday 10 May – Saturday 16 May**). The Expo will feature presentations from the Commonwealth Department of Education and Services Australia about things like HECS, the new Commonwealth Prac Placement Payments, and other support for university-level studies. Students and families will have access to:

- Official guidance on funding, HECS-HELP and government support
- Alternative entry pathways and VET routes
- Apprenticeships and trades
- Student-led transition experiences

ANU Direct Applications for Study in 2027

[ANU Direct Entry scheme applications](#) close on **Friday 8 May**. Applying to the Australian National University (ANU) directly covers admission, [scholarships](#) and [accommodation](#).

UAC Applications Now Open

UAC applications for study at university in 2027 are now open, on-time applications close at the end of September. Details of hundreds of Semester 1, 2027 courses offered by UAC's participating institutions are available on the website. More will be added over the next few months. Students should log back in to their application in August to take another look at the courses being offered and review their course preferences.

Year 12 Student Number and UAC PIN: UAC emailed UAC PINs to ACT students on Wednesday 8 April using the email addresses ACT BSSS have on file. Please do not delete this email!

Early Entry for Study in 2027

[Early Offer Schemes for Year 12 Students](#). Please check the institution's website for the most up-to-date information.

University of Canberra Early Offer Scheme

UC applications are now open for study in 2027. [See here for more details](#), including eligibility and course exclusions.

Charles Sturt Advantage Applications Now Open

The Charles Sturt Advantage (early offer) program is a direct

application program for Year 12 students. [See here for more information.](#)

UCAT ANZ – Registration Now Open for 2027 Admissions

Students interested in pursuing Medicine and Dentistry may need to sit the UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test) in July/August 2026. For more information, please visit www.ucat.edu.au

Charles Sturt University Online Information Sessions

Parent Information Evening

Thursday 7 May, 6.00-7.30pm

Where: Online information night via Zoom

Register: info.csu.edu.au/2026-online-parent-info

Careers in Agriculture, Animals and Environment

Tuesday 26 May, 5.30–7.00pm

Where: Online information night via Zoom

Register here: <https://study.csu.edu.au/ag-animals-enviro>

Animal, Equine and Veterinary Sciences Online Information Night

Wednesday 27 May, 5.30–7.00pm

Where: Online information night via Zoom

Register here: <https://study.csu.edu.au/ag-animals-enviro>

Uni Melbourne Residential Colleges Open House – Saturday 16 May

The ten Uni Melb Residential Colleges are holding an Open House event of tours on **Saturday 16 May**, 12.00pm-4.00pm. There are also two Uni Melb Course and Admissions Overview Information Sessions, at 12.00pm and 3.30pm. Event details and register online [Register: Open House 2026 - Colleges University of Melbourne](#)

News from Work Study Grow

[Planning to study medicine at university?](#)

Applications to study Medicine are competitive, but we have some tips to help you plan and get ahead of the pack.

[Where Tourism can take you](#)

Tourism isn't just about going places, it's an entire system

Careers News Cont...

built around how people experience them. Behind every trip, attraction or event, there are roles and decisions shaping what visitors see, do and remember.

How data affects real world decisions

Every day, decisions are made using information most people never see. Understanding how that information is used offers a clearer view of how the world actually operates.

The power of portfolios

Learn everything you need to know about portfolios, including what they are and how to create one that stands out, in this blog.

When science stops looking like science

Science is often thought of as something that stays in labs or classrooms, but it shows up in far more places than most people expect. Some careers rely on scientific thinking in ways that are easy to miss at first glance.

Jobs Board

Brindabella Natural
Therapies, Dickson

Casual admin and customer
service role –

would suit a Year 10 student
looking for local work.
Ph 6262 6464



Alumni

Trivia Night

Still thinking about Trivia? We can squeeze in a couple more tables, but places are filling fast!

You can register as an individual — we'll match you with a team — or sign up as a group. Tickets and more information can be found [HERE](#)

Enjoy a complimentary drink on arrival from 6:30pm, and then the legendary **Mr Ben McGee** will take the mic at 7pm.

All proceeds go to the Daramalan College Scholarship Fund, helping families who may not otherwise have access to an MSC education.

If you have any questions, please email arina.yakovtseva@daramalan.act.edu.au.

DARAMALAN COLLEGE COMMUNITY

TRIVIA Night

IS BACK!

PURCHASE	FRIDAY	TICKETS:
ALCOHOL	15 MAY	\$25 SINGLE
BYO	6:30PM	\$200 TABLE
SNACKS		

PURCHASE TICKETS HERE

COMMUNITY BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The College invites members of the Daramalan family to use this Business Directory to locate businesses and services provided by the Daramalan College Community, including former students, Alumni, former staff and other supporters.

If you are in business, and would like to advertise in our Directory, please contact arina.yakovtseva@daramalan.act.edu.au or phone 6163 6523 for more information. Your small fee will go a long way to supporting our Scholarship Fund and your business will be promoted to the wider Daramalan College Community.

This week we are delighted to present the following businesses. [To search all advertisers, please use this link.](#)

Thank you for supporting our community!



All Class Carpet & Upholstery Care Pty Ltd

Carpet and upholstery cleaning, flood restoration, tile and grout cleaning including domestic and commercial properties.

T: 0418 242 013

E: peter@allclasscarpetcare.com.au

W: www.allclasscarpetcare.com.au

F: Facebook

C: [Peter Nassar](#)



Caday Workplace Relations

Providing tailored workplace relations advice and guidance to your business. We can develop your employment contracts and any HR policies you need.

T: 0411 523 811

E: hello@caday.com.au

W: caday.com.au

F: [Facebook](#)

C: Cath Day



The Corner Market

Supermarket and Espresso Bar

113-119 Marcus Clarke St, Canberra City ACT 2601

T: 02 6248 8881

C: Katherine Olmos

E: kvolmos@bigpond.com

COMMUNITY BUSINESS DIRECTORY CONT...

ACT Cabs	Hamza	www.actcabs.com.au
AllClass Carpet & Upholstery Care	Peter Nassar	www.allclasscarpetcare.com.au
Australian National Character Check	Hamza	www.australiannationalcharactercheck.com.au
Caday Workplace Relations	Cath Day	www.caday.com.au
CBR Recruitment	Adam Kowalski	www.cbrrecruitment.com.au
Corver and Co Chartered Accountants	Trevor Corver	www.corverandco.com.au
Eat Cookies	Lisa Jansen	www.eatcookies.com.au
Element Building Projects	Dennis and Aldona Stravopodis	www.elementbuildingprojects.com.au
Griffin Legal	Claire Carton	www.griffinlegal.com.au
Holly Komorowski – home.byholly	Holly Komorowski	www.homebyholly.com.au
Leader Security	Troy Cassell	www.leadersecurity.com.au
Loop Booth	Michael	www.loopbooth.com.au
Mel Hill Photography	Mel Hill	www.melhillphotography.com
Pacific Facilities Maintenance	Justin Hyland	www.pacificfm.com.au
Pinnacle Driving School	Lisa Murphy	www.Pinnacledrivingschool.com.au
Q1 Dental Care	Dr Susan Leonera-Salazar	www.q1dentalcare.com.au
Ray White Canberra		www.raywhitecanberra.com.au
Ray White Rural Canberra-Yass	Simon or George Southwell	www.raywhiteruralyasscanberra.com.au
Red Shed	Monique Gassan	www.redshed.org.au
Riteway Cleaning Services	Alan	www.ritewaycleaningcanberra.com.au
Sentinel Security & Technology Group	Ellena	www.sstg.com.au
T.A.T Building Group	Toby Ward & Ancke Ward	
The Athlete's Foot	Ashleigh Hogan	www.theathletesfoot.com.au
The Corner Market	Katherine Olmos	
The Energy People	Alex Morrison	www.energypeople.com.au

Do you own a business and want to support the local community?

Daramalan College hosts a Community Business Directory on our school and alumni websites where local businesses are promoted year-round. Each company is also promoted on a rotational basis in our school newsletter and on alumni Facebook and Instagram pages with more than 5000 followers.

Promoting your business on the Daramalan College Community Business Directory costs \$130, including GST, and is an annual subscription renewable at the end of each advertising year.

All funds raised from annual subscriptions will be donated to the Daramalan College Scholarship Fund. This will provide a life-changing opportunity to a student whose

family situation would mean an education at Daramalan College might otherwise be out of reach.

Contact Ms Arina Yakovtseva for more information on alumni@daramalan.act.edu.au

