

DARANNEWS

30 October 2026

WEBSITE

DARANET



2027 College Captains Ella Higginbotham & Sam Green interviewing Br Hoa



Upcoming events

30 October

6:00pm Visual Arts Exhibition Opening

4 November

Whole School Assembly

9 November

6:00pm Tech & Design Expo Opening

11 November

Remembrance Day

House PC Meeting

12 November

Year 12 Mass & Awards Practice and Farewell Assembly

13-20 November

Year 11-12 Examinations McCowage Hall

27 November

End of Year 10 Academic Classes
P6 Year 10 Mass & Awards Practice.
Daranews Published

From the Principal



Dear Parents/
Carers, Staff and
Students,

A belated welcome back to Term 4. As we come to the end of the third week of an already short term, the year seems to be

passing by very quickly. We have already seen a plethora of activities, events and excursions taking place over the past few weeks. Today marks World Teachers' Day in Australia, and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of our staff both inside the classroom and outside enabling our students to flourish. We are truly blessed as a community to have such dedicated and committed staff here at Daramalan who are willing to go above and beyond every day. Last week Pope Leo XIV addressed the International Congress for Pastoral Care in Schools and Universities following his recent surgery. In his

speech he urged Catholic educational institutions to make young people feel encouraged and loved, and for those of us who work in Catholic education to stimulate young people's intellect, to help them encounter Christ and discover "the fruitfulness of the synergy between faith and reason". He went on to highlight that our work in Catholic schools will be "all the more fruitful the more it focuses on the education of the heart". Pope Leo explained, "we must educate the heart in compassion, gratitude, and the ability to be moved by the suffering of others; we must educate it in praise and in the desire for God". Pope Leo concluded by encouraging those who work in Catholic education to continue on the mission they have chosen, "to walk alongside [young people] on their journey until they discover the gifts that God has already placed within them". For those who may be interested in reading Pope Leo's address, a copy can be found on the Vatican website. [\(To the Participants in the International Congress on the Pastoral Care in Schools and Universities \(22 October](#)

From the Principal

2026) As a Catholic school established in the traditions and ethos of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, there is much to take from Pope Leo's words and how they reflect and reiterate what I see occurring here at the College each and every day as a school founded in love and the Spirituality of the Heart. Over the break I had the privilege of attending the Australian Catholic University's Spiritus program in Rome and Assisi. Whilst the program included personal formation experiences and time for spiritual renewal, it had at its core exactly what Pope Leo referred to in his recent address, enabling encounter and witness to Jesus in our schools, for our young people and for our staff. I would like to thank **Mr Nathan Greatz** for stepping in as acting Principal while I was overseas undertaking such a powerful experience as a leader in a Catholic school.

Chevalier Day

Last Friday we gathered to pay tribute to the founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, **Fr Jules Chevalier**. Fr Chevalier died in Issoudun, France, on 21 October 1907, 119 years ago, however, his work lives on through those who followed his mission. Before his death, Fr Chevalier would see this mission, one founded in courage, faith, compassion, hospitality and forgiveness, extend beyond Issoudun in rural France to see his 'Family' - the MSC - working in Central and South America, the Philippines, Vietnam, Australia and the Pacific Islands. As an MSC school, we are part of a bigger Chevalier family with whom this mission continues and has grown. Fr Chevalier's charism finds its origins in his great passion for Jesus Christ, who loves with a human heart. As an MSC school, we too are lay missionaries and are part of a bigger Chevalier family with whom Fr Chevalier's mission continues.

As is our tradition on Chevalier Day, we gathered as an entire community for our Liturgy of the Word. The theme of our Liturgy was 'A Heart Set Free' in acknowledgement of our Year of Forgiveness. Our guest speaker was our incoming College Chaplain, **Br Hoa Tran MSC**, who shared with us a little of his story and his insights into what forgiveness means for him as an MSC. It was wonderful for

us to learn more about Br Hoa as he takes on his role over the coming months. We were also joined on the day by our current College Chaplain, **Fr Tru Nguyen MSC**, by former Principal **Ms Rita Daniels**, our Board Chair, **Mr Michael Munro-Mobbs**, along with a number of our former staff and lay members of the MSC community. Our Liturgy also provided an opportunity to acknowledge two of our Year 12 students, **Daniel Worsnop** and **Kiran Isbister**, with the inaugural, Esprit du Chevalier, or Spirit of Chevalier Awards. The awards have been established to recognise students who embody and live out the values at the heart of our MSC community. Their contributions to our community over the past 6 years made both Daniel and Kiran worthy and outstanding recipients.

The weather was on our side which enabled the afternoon to be filled with a shared lunch on the oval followed by performances from our talented musicians, face painting, photo booths and novelty sporting activities. All of the monies raised as part of the afternoon activities support the MSC Missions and clean water projects around the world. There was a real sense of community both during our Liturgy and throughout the afternoon. I would like to acknowledge the work of **Ms Amy Thomas**, **Mr Steve Carroll**, our College, Portfolio and House Captains, the Pastoral Leaders, **Ms Angela Dunn**, **Mr Michael Jackson**, **Ms Yvonne Turnbull**, **Ms Heather Chapman**, the Food Technology staff and the College Maintenance team for all of their organisation both prior to the day and on the day to make it such a success.

I would especially like to further acknowledge our 2026 and 2027 Student Leaders for their commitment on the day. They were integral to the success of our day, from start to finish, and I extend my thanks to them on behalf of our entire community. They did an outstanding job across all facets of the day.

Chevalier Day is also a day where we recognise those long serving staff members. This year we were able to acknowledge staff with 20 and 30 years of service to our community. Our thanks are extended to **Ms Anne Brown**, **Ms Jane Waddleton** and **Mr David Kurthi** for their 20



From the Principal

years of service; and **Mr Brett Wheeler** for his 30 years of service to our community.

Tour and Immersion Opportunity

Over the recent holiday break, we had two tours take place. Each of the tours were a success and provided different opportunities for students beyond the classroom environment. Our thanks are extended to those staff who gave up significant portions of their break to accompany the students:

Music Tour to the Gold Coast- **Ms Angela Dunn, Mr Michael Jackson, Ms Michelle Coggan, Mr Callum Brown**

Sustainable Futures project to Cambodia- **Mr Ian Garrity, Ms Amy Thomas, Ms Sophie Peacock.**

I am sure that you will have the opportunity to read more about both in this edition of Daranews.

Our Senior Basketball squads will travel to the USA over the December-January break. Thank you in advance to our staff who will be accompanying the tour, **Mr John Gale, Ms Heather Chapman, Mr Marty Capon and Mr Shaun Warren.**

DTC - Into the Woods Junior

The College musical, Into the Woods Junior opened on Saturday 10 October, with performances running through until Saturday 17 October. For many of our students this was their first production, and I would like to acknowledge our senior students who played mentor roles to these students. Three of the performances played to a sell-out audience, which is a testament to the enthusiasm of the cast and crew, as well as the support from parents, carers, extended family members and our staff. I would also like to acknowledge the work of **Ms Maria Tolfree, Ms Angela**

Dunn, Ms Jess Haynes, Ms Lucy Cronan, Mr Alex Hesterman, Ms Maddie Ward, Mr David Kurthi, Ms Libbi Wilson, Ms Heather Chapman, and the College Maintenance team, alongside **Mr Joe Woodward** for their contributions over weeks and months of rehearsals and performances. I had the privilege of attending the final performance. It was a fun and lively show, and I must admit, I had a smile on my face the entire performance. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Farewell Assembly and Senior Exams

Next week we will be holding our final whole-school assembly for the year. At this assembly we will be acknowledging and farewelling our Year 12 students and presenting the House Cups for 2026. The assembly will also provide an opportunity to present the proceeds of the Charity Walk to our two charities, MacKillop House and St Vincent de Paul Young Nick's program, and to hear from their representatives about the impact that the donations will have.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise our 2026 College Student Leadership Team: **Ruby Holden, Rory Arneman, Laura Green, Allegra Pangallo, Chelsea Delteza Patriarca, Roy Halliday, James Clarke and Archie Edwards.** They have been an amazing team of leaders and we have been privileged to have had them lead our student body this year. I would also like to acknowledge our 2026 House Captains who have thrown themselves into their roles, encouraging and instilling spirit and belonging within their Houses, helped along by a little friendly House rivalry to spur them on!

Our senior students will have completed their end of year exams before the next edition of Daranews, so I would like to take this opportunity to wish them much success in the final weeks of their classes prior to their exams and the best of luck for their exams. To our Year 12 students, I urge you to use these final weeks to extend your gratitude to those who have helped you along your schooling journey both

Bubble Soccer on Chevalier Day



From the Principal

here at the College and beyond, and to finish your 13 years of schooling well and in a manner in which you are proud.

World's Greatest Shave

Congratulations to the 11 students, along with **Mr Will Unwin**, who participated in the annual Brave Shave on Thursday 15 October, raising almost \$18,000. Thank you to everyone who supported them through sponsorship or simply encouragement. Our thanks are also extended to **Adam Ivankovic** (Year 10), **Noah Hyland** (Year 9), **Brae McGuinness** (Year 9) and **Ms Kirsty Saunderson** who generously gave of their time to shave and tidy heads. Thank you also to Social Justice Captain, **James Clarke** and Social Justice Facilitator, **Ms Carlie Dwyer** for their organisation and preparations in the lead up to the day.

2027 Enrolments

We have a significant number of families seeking places in each of our year groups for 2027 where there are currently no vacancies. If your child is currently in Years 7 - 11, and will not be returning to Daramalan next year, we ask that you let us know as soon as possible so we can assist other families. Please do this by notifying the Registrar, **Ms Kris Davis**, via the email enrolments@daramalan.act.edu.au

Financial Assistance

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

Daramalan App and Appointments

Thank you to those families who have been using the Daramalan App. Creating an entry for a student departure does not, however, create an alert in the College's systems for our teaching staff. Unfortunately, the system does not have this level of connectivity and as families would appreciate, our teachers are focused on teaching their classes and are not monitoring our attendance system once their class roll is marked. An App entry is only visible when a student presents to Reception to be recorded as entering or leaving the College. We would therefore ask that parents/guardians continue to contact Pastoral staff and/or Reception ahead of arrival when they need to collect their student for an unscheduled appointment or early collection.

Please also note that during our recess and lunch break times it can be extremely difficult to locate a single student during this time due to the number of activities taking place.

Student Leave Requests including School Sport ACT Representation

A reminder for families that should a student need to be away for 5 or more school days for reasons other than sickness, prior approval from the Principal must be sought in writing via a letter or an email. This includes where a student is absent due to their participation in representative sporting teams and competitions. Whilst the College approves a student as being eligible for selection, we are not provided with a list of students who have been successful in being selected or the dates of competitions. It is important, therefore, for us to best support our students in their assessment and learning, as well as meeting our legal obligations under the Education Act, that families request leave for their student to attend these competitions. The request needs to be submitted in sufficient time so that arrangements regarding missed schoolwork and assessment can be made. The preferred email address for such requests is principal@daramalan.act.edu.au.

Students in Years 11 and 12 should be aware that there are strict requirements for attendance and assessment stipulated by the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies in order for students to gain credit for a unit of work. Any extended absences from school may have an impact on the student's ability to be assessed, as under these policies and procedures all the assessment tasks for the unit must be completed. Students should seek advice from the Assistant Principal - Curriculum Years 11-12, **Mr Ben Stein**, prior to making plans to miss any school days especially as we are coming to the examination period for the semester.

Parking, Blocking Driveway Access, No Stopping Zones and Supporting Student Safety

As we make our way through the term, I would again like to reiterate my previous messaging relating to parking and student safety around the College. I have been notified by Access Canberra that mobile parking inspectors have and will continue to monitor parking especially along Morphet Street for the remainder of the school year in response to complaints that they continue to receive. Unfortunately, almost every day I witness multiple near misses where students have been dropped off and have alighted from cars in No Stopping areas or have crossed the busy roads



From the Principal

in between buses, cars or not at the designated pedestrian crossings when being picked up. 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. Unsafe and illegal parking can reduce visibility of our students and motorists to see each other, 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. Our priority is ensuring the safety of all members of our community on the increasingly busy roads that surround the College. 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. The Morphett Street gates are generally only closed for a 20-minute period between 3:20pm and 3:40pm. I would, therefore, urge families to consider waiting until after 3:40pm to collect their students if they are using these entrances.

P&F Meeting

The final meeting of the P&F Association for 2026 will be held as per the College calendar on **Wednesday 4 November at 6:30pm** in the College Boardroom. All parents are welcome to attend. Parents/Carers who wish to register for the meeting are asked to email pandf@daramalan.act.edu.au by COB **Tuesday 3 November** 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.

Student Achievements

Congratulations to:

The Daramalan Dance Company on winning the Wakakirri National Story-Dance Award this year out of 149 schools. This is the second time in recent years that the Dance Company have won this award. I would like to acknowledge **Ms Jess Haynes, Ms Lucy Cronan** and all of the staff who were involved in providing this opportunity to our students. Congratulations to the more than 70 students who were part of the award-winning performance. Many of these students were part of the Dance Showcase evening held on Saturday 24 October.

Cody Crabb (Year 9) who has been selected as a member of the Australian Rugby 7s Development Squad and will tour NZ in November as part of the program.

Congratulations to all of the students who have been competing as members of ACT squads at the Schools Sports National Championships in Newcastle this week. Students have been competing in a number of sports including Touch Football, Basketball and Football (soccer) across a range of age groups.

Hunter Harrison and Benjamin Pedler (Year 11) who represented the ACT at the 17's Water Polo Nationals in Melbourne during the holidays. The ACT had a successful tournament, beating New Zealand by one goal to place fifth.

A large number of our students were also due to compete as members of ACT squads at the National Oztag championships in Coffs Harbour. The predicted weather for the area has meant that these championships have been postponed until later next month. We wish all of the students who will be competing at the championships all the best.

On Monday evening of this week I had the pleasure of attending the Music Performance Evening which showcased the talents of our musicians, bands, choir and vocalists. Over the coming weeks the College will be holding a number of exhibitions and activities showcasing the talents of our students and staff across a range of areas. I would encourage families to come along if they can to these events. This evening the Visual Art Exhibition, Imagination, will open at 6pm in the Joe Woodward Theatre (within the Issoudun building) and will be open over the weekend from 10am - 3pm. During Week 15 we will be holding the Technology & Design Expo showcasing our Technology and Design students' work in McCowage Hall. On **Monday 7 December** the College Carols event will be held in Issoudun to mark the festive season.

Best Wishes



Rachel Davies
Principal

Term 4 School Fees are now overdue.

Term 4 Statements were emailed to parents
Thursday 1 October.

Term 4 School Fees are due **Monday 26 October.**

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/>

Volunteer Building Cambodia

As part of 2026's Year of Forgiveness, Daramalan College's Environment Group raised funds for Volunteer Building Cambodia (VBC) through its Sustainable Futures initiative. The funds supported the construction of a house and gifts for a family experiencing hardship in Cambodia. Students also travelled to Cambodia to work alongside VBC builders and local community members, helping build the family's new home.

Exploring Cambodian Culture

On Day 1, students visited significant historical sites, including the magnificent Angkor Wat temple, gaining a deeper appreciation of Cambodia's rich history and culture.

Rory Arneman reflected, "It was humbling to visit Angkor Wat and learn about history that is far older than Western aspects of Australia."

On the afternoon of Day 2, students visited Tonlé Sap Lake, home to unique floating villages where communities live in houses on the water or raised on stilts.

Laura Green reflected, "It was incredible to see people living comfortably and happily without many of the privileges we have."

Building a Home and Lasting Connections

From Days 2 to 5, students worked alongside VBC builders and local community members to construct the house. The experience demonstrated the power of teamwork and how a community can come together to make a meaningful difference.

On Day 6, the house was completed, and a ceremony was held to bless the new home. Students were farewelled with a traditional water blessing, marking a memorable end to their time with the family.

The family's hospitality was a highlight, welcoming

students warmly and bringing out special ceremonial cloths for the occasion.

Roy Halliday reflected, "The time in Cambodia, while short, was still quite moving and unique, something I will never forget."

Food, Friendship and New Experiences

On the afternoon of Day 4, students participated in a cooking class, preparing traditional Cambodian dishes such as beef lok lak, sugar dumplings and sticky rice. Other afternoons were spent exploring the city of Siem Reap, visiting the Old Market and trying new foods.

Daniel Worsnop described the cooking class as "a wonderful experience to be immersed in traditional Cambodian cuisine, and the shared bonding over a meal cooked together."

Allegra Pangallo reflected, "The experience of building and exploring the city in Cambodia was truly one of a kind, that will be remembered and cherished forever."

An Experience to Remember

The Cambodia trip was much more than a building project. It allowed students to practise compassion, appreciate different cultures and reflect on their own privileges.

Through the Sustainable Futures initiative, Daramalan students helped provide a family with a new home while creating lasting memories. The generosity of the local community, the family's hospitality and the connections formed made this a truly meaningful experience that students will carry with them long after returning home.

Student participants: **Rory Arneman, James Clarke, Archie Edwards, Laura Green, Roy Halliday, Kiran Isbister, Allegra Pangallo, Daniel Worsnop.**

Staff Participants: **Mr Ian Garrity, Ms Sophie Peacock, Ms Amy Thomas, Ms Carmela Wilson** (St Edmund's College).

James Clarke

Social Justice Captain



School Counsellors Stress and Anxiety

Stress or anxiety? Helping students navigate exam season

As the school year draws to a close and students prepare for upcoming examinations and assessments, it is natural for young people to experience increased pressure. While the terms stress and anxiety are often used interchangeably, understanding the difference can help a student or parent/caregiver to navigate the issue and have better support.

What's the difference between stress and anxiety?

Stress is the body's physical psychological response to a perceived challenge, demand or pressure. It is generally associated with an identifiable stressor, such as an upcoming exam or assessment deadline, or competing commitments. Stress is not always negative. In manageable amounts, it can increase motivation, focus and performance. However, when stress becomes prolonged or overwhelming, it can negatively affect wellbeing.

Anxiety is a feeling of apprehension, worry or fear about a perceived or anticipated threat. Unlike stress, which is often connected to an immediate external demand, anxiety can persist when the stressor is no longer present. Anxiety may involve excessive worry about situations which have not yet occurred, such as fearing failure while being well-prepared.

Importantly, anxiety is a normal human emotion and experiencing anxiety does not necessarily mean someone has an anxiety disorder. Stress and anxiety also frequently overlap, particularly during exam periods.

What might anxiety and stress look like in young people?

Adolescents do not always communicate their distress directly. Parents and caregivers may notice changes in behaviour, including:

- Increased irritability or frustration
- Difficulty concentrating, making decisions or completing school work
- Changes in sleeping or eating patterns
- Physical symptoms such as headaches, stomach aches or muscle tension
- Procrastination, avoidance or increased reassurance-seeking
- Negative self-talk or excessive worry about academic performance.

While these experiences can be common in busy periods, it is important to consider their intensity, duration and impact on everyday functioning.

How can parents and caregivers help?

Validate rather than minimise. Statements such as "you'll be fine" are often well-intentioned but may unintentionally dismiss a young person's experience. Instead, acknowledge how they are feeling and invite them to have a conversation: "It sounds like you're feeling a lot of pressure. What's worrying you the most?"

Support realistic expectations. Encourage young people to focus on what is within their control, including preparations, effort and healthy routines rather than outcomes alone. Remind them that exam or assessment results do not determine their worth or future potential.

Encourage balance. While study is important, adequate sleep, regular physical activity, social connection and opportunities for rest also support emotional and physical wellbeing and learning.

Promote problem-solving, not avoidance. Help young people break overwhelming tasks into manageable steps. Supporting them to approach challenges gradually can build confidence and resilience.

When should additional support be considered?

Some stress and anxiety are expected during exam periods. However, when worry becomes persistent, overwhelming or begins to interfere with sleep, relationships or everyday activities, additional support may be beneficial.

The goal is not to eliminate stress or anxiety entirely, but to help young people develop the skills, confidence and support to navigate challenging experiences.

If you or a student in your care feels like extra support is required, please visit <https://daranet.daramalan.act.edu.au/homepage/3139> to access various resources which may be helpful, or complete a referral for school counselling.



Social Justice

World's Greatest Shave

On Thursday 15 October, Daramalan College proudly participated in the World's Greatest Shave, raising an incredible \$17,550 for the Leukaemia Foundation to support Australians affected by blood cancer.

The World's Greatest Shave is the Leukaemia Foundation's flagship fundraising campaign. The initiative raises vital funds to provide support services for people living with blood cancer and their families, fund groundbreaking research, and advocate for meaningful change. Every dollar raised helps bring us closer to a future free of blood cancer.

Blood cancer continues to affect thousands of Australian families. With approximately 150,000 families currently facing blood cancer and 17 Australians losing their lives to the disease each day, campaigns like the World's Greatest Shave play an important role in providing support, raising awareness and funding life-changing research.

A massive thank you to all of our participants — **Colby Bear, Mason Brown, Harrison Mazis, Edward Ovin, Joe Whitwell** (Year 7), **Teoman Dagseven, Nathaniel Keeley, Tomas Spoljaric** (Year 8), **Jimmy Phillips** (Year 9), **Conner Brooks** (Year 11), **James Clarke** (Year 12) and **Mr Will Unwin**. Your enthusiasm, generosity and willingness to get involved helped make this year's fundraiser such a success.

A special shoutout also goes to **Adam Ivankovic** (Year 10), **Noah Hyland, Brae McGuinness** (Year 9) and **Ms Kirsty Saunderson** for putting their fantastic hairdressing skills to work and helping make the day memorable!

Daramalan College is incredibly proud of the generosity and community spirit shown by everyone involved. Thank you to all participants, supporters and donors who helped make a meaningful difference in the lives of Australians affected by blood cancer.

James Clarke

Social Justice Captain

School Holiday Joeys Program

Our October Joes Holiday Program was a wonderful success, with **Crystal Neou** and **Rex Collins** (Year 12) as the leaders.

Matilda Ward, our 2027 Social Justice Leader, was again present to support this very important program. We were also joined by students from St Clare's College and Merici College.

At its heart, the Joe's Program is all about creating a safe, happy haven where Joes can connect with older volunteers they know and trust. It provides vital opportunities, mentorship and experiences for Joes who might otherwise miss out on them. It also offers an amazing experience for our volunteers who say they get as much out of the program as the Joes do.

Each program features a theme and this time the focus was on kindness. The Joes discussed how they can show kindness to each other in all their activities during the two days. At the end of the day, they reflected on the kindness they have seen during their activities.



The two-day program was filled with entertainment offered by our volunteers. The Joes enthusiastically joined in with the fitness class, proving they have more energy than our volunteers.

Our next Joes get-together is **Saturday 12 December** for the Christmas party starting at 9.30am. As this year comes to an end, we would like to say a special thank you to all our Year 12 Joes volunteers.

Your commitment to the program has made it the success it is today. You have made a difference to the Joes lives.

If you would like to be part of the day, please speak to our Social Justice Captain **James Clarke** or **Matilda Ward**.



Business and Government

Year 11 Legal and Global Studies Excursion to Parliament House

On Monday 12 October, while most students were getting settled back into their subjects for Term 4, the Year 11 Legal and Global Studies students were enjoying an engaging and memorable day at Parliament House, accompanied by **Ms Eve Fitzpatrick** and **Ms Bianca Ross**.

The day began with students stepping into the heart of the parliamentary process through a mock Senate Committee Inquiry. After spending a week preparing in class, students took on the roles of Senators and expert witnesses. Six students served as Senators, questioning witness groups representing organisations such as the Refugee Council of Australia, the Institute of Public Affairs, and UNHCR to determine recommendations for reforming Australia's refugee and asylum seeker laws. Students rose to the challenge brilliantly, using their research to confidently answer probing questions and defend their positions.

One of the highlights of the day was meeting **Senator David Pocock**. Students asked insightful questions about his experience in the Senate, his role as an Independent Senator, and emerging issues such as artificial intelligence. In return, Senator Pocock was keen to hear

from the students, asking what issues mattered most to them and what they would like to see championed in the years ahead.

Students also had the opportunity to meet **Alicia Payne MP**, engaging in lively discussion about refugee and asylum seeker policy, migration and credit card surcharges. They even learned a little more about their guest speaker when she shared her top four favourite movies.

Another special moment was meeting **Amelia Meyers**, a 2023 Daramalan College graduate who ran for the Senate in Tasmania at the 2025 federal election and now works as a political staffer. Taking time out of a busy sitting week, Amelia shared her journey from Daramalan student to working in Parliament, providing a valuable and inspiring insight into the many opportunities available after school.

After lunch, students watched a spirited Question Time, observing democracy in action as parliamentarians debated issues including inflation, credit card surcharges, small business policy, workers' rights, and fisheries and agriculture.

Throughout the day, our students were outstanding ambassadors for Daramalan College. Their respectful conduct, enthusiastic participation and thoughtful questions impressed both **Senator Pocock** and **Alicia Payne**, and they represented the College with pride and professionalism.



Humanities and Social Sciences

Mount Kosciuszko Excursion

The Year 8 Geography classes travelled to Kosciuszko National Park to work with the park rangers as part of their Landscapes and Landforms unit. Students travelled through montane and sub-alpine forests to the alpine area of the park to complete fieldwork. The purpose of this was to study the way vegetation changes with altitude, the impact of grazing, effects of ski resort development and alpine area management.

The park rangers had nothing but positive things to say about the students. They said they were respectful, great at participating, asking high-quality questions, and supporting each other in group activities.



Friday 6 November | Evening Spectacular

Step into a glamorous evening of sustainable runway fashion, contemporary dance, live music, and immersive design. Discover visionary collections from leading local and national designers, explore captivating installations and creative stalls, hear from inspiring change makers, and dance the night away. Upgrade to our exclusive VIP experience and enjoy pre-show drinks and canapés from 6pm, along with intimate opportunities to meet the designers and choreographer and learn about the sustainable stories behind their work.

Saturday 7 November | Full-Day Gathering

Get hands-on with the future of design. Dive into an immersive day of artist and designer-led workshops, interactive installations and fashion displays, panel conversations with industry leaders (fashion, interiors and live performance) and a clothes swap - refresh your wardrobe sustainably! For all ages and abilities, with inclusive Auslan-interpreted talks, a sensory tour of the CIT Campus, family 're-making' activities and a chill out zone. The philosophy of the day is to cultivate and share circular design ideas for you to apply in your home, business and community.



Science

Year 9 Fish Cannons

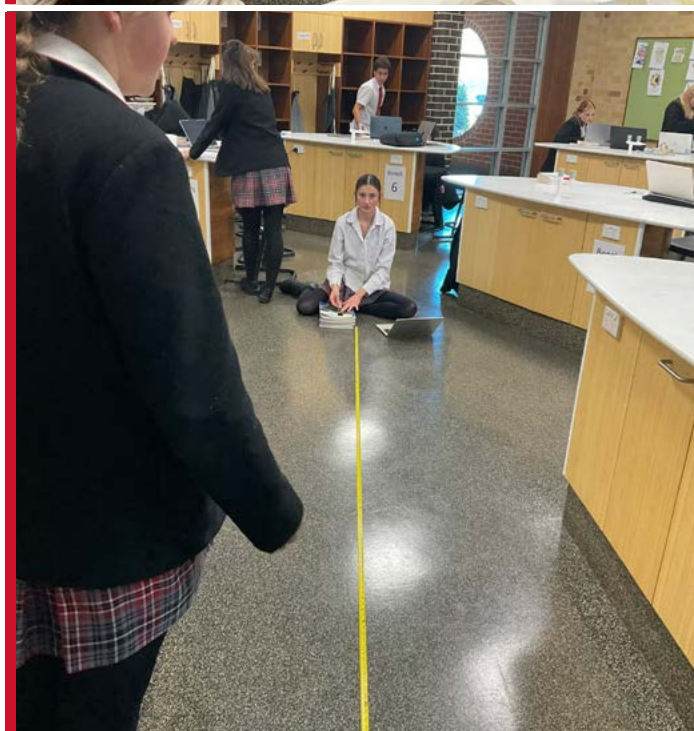
Year 9 Science students recently put their understanding of energy into action by designing and testing fish cannons as part of a STILE learning investigation. The aim of the experiment was to explore how stored energy can be transferred and transformed into kinetic energy to launch an object over a distance. Despite the name, no animals were harmed during this activity, with all "fish" projectiles being made from safe, non-living materials.



Year 11 Biomacromolecules

Year 11 Biology students have been investigating biomacromolecules and exploring the important roles carbohydrates, proteins and lipids play in living organisms. Through a series of practical investigations, students learned how different substances can be identified using qualitative chemical tests. By observing colour changes and other visible reactions, they gathered evidence to determine the presence of specific biomacromolecules.

The focus of our content at the moment is how structure is related to function. We look at a range of organs and body systems and study how they keep an organism functioning. Students really enjoyed dissecting the fish to look at the respiratory structures that help them survive.



Year 10 Climate Change

Our Year 10 students are studying causes and impacts of climate change – we hope they finish with a scientific understanding of the causes and a solution focused mind set. Models of the greenhouse effect were made in class with data collected out in the quad to show how greenhouse gases can impact temperature. Students developed their evaluation skills through practicals that model processes contributing to sea levels rising. Students have been set the challenge to think of ways they can reduce their carbon footprint.



Performing Arts

Daramalan Dance Company: Wakakirri 2026, Guided by the Groove

On Monday 7 September, Daramalan Dance Company had the privilege of performing at the Wakakirri Awards Night after receiving a National Nomination for our 2026 Story-Dance, Guided by the Groove. It was a wonderful opportunity for the cast to perform once again alongside other nominated schools from across the ACT and celebrate the achievements of the Wakakirri season.

Following the Awards Night performance, the cast recently came together to celebrate the exciting news that Guided by the Groove had been awarded the National Story-Dance Award.

This outstanding achievement recognises the students' ability to communicate a compelling story through movement, performance, creativity and teamwork, and places Daramalan College among the top Wakakirri Story-Dance productions in Australia.

This success would not have been possible without the support of many staff members who contributed throughout our Wakakirri journey. In particular, we would like to thank **Ms Maddie Ward** for painting the sets and designing the students' makeup, **Mr Jake Anderson** for constructing the sets, **Mr Joe Woodward** for creating the digital projections, the Maintenance Team for assisting with set transportation, and the many staff members who supported the production behind the scenes.

A special mention to Year 12 students **Bridgette Dickens** and **Emma Prail** who were our lead dancers, as well as **Eloise Smith** and our Arts and Culture Captain **Laura Green** for being our amazing helpers on

and off the stage. It was wonderful to see the way our senior students mentored and encouraged our younger performers throughout the process.

Congratulations to all students involved on this remarkable achievement and for representing Daramalan College with such professionalism, commitment and enthusiasm.

Stay tuned for 2027!

Ms Jessica Haynes and Ms Lucy Cronan



Dance Showcase

On Saturday 24 October we held our first Dance Showcase in the Joe Woodward Theatre. It was a fantastic evening, with a sold-out audience in attendance.

Students from Years 7-12 showcased the hard work and dedication developed throughout the year in their dance classes. Friends, families and members of the school community enjoyed a variety of performances, including student-choreographed works as well as teacher-led assessment pieces.

We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the school community. It was wonderful to see students performing with confidence, enjoying themselves on stage, and working together as a team to make the evening such a success.

Thank you to everyone who supported the showcase and helped on the night, and congratulations to all the students who performed.

Ms Jessica Haynes and Ms Lucy Cronan
Dance Teachers



Performing Arts Cont...

Audition Notice - Macbeth

Actors wanted for a co-curricular production by the Daramalan Theatre Company (DTC) in 2027.

DTC is auditioning for actors:

- Date: **Saturday 31 October** 10.00am - 1.00pm
- Where: Issoudun Drama Room 2
- First, please complete this form after reading the information below:

MACBETH AUDITIONS – Fill in form

The DTC seeks actors/performers who are capable of creating an elite performance ensemble capable of extending work from Drama classes into a highly tuned theatrical presentation that will affect audiences and participants for many years after the experience.

What is needed for the audition?

Study the text of the original Shakespeare. You can find one in the Folgar Shakespeare (see Google for a copy). Read the play if you haven't done so already. Select a section of text and learn it for your presentation at the audition. You need between one and two minutes worth.

So what might you be signing up for? What is needed from you?

- Can you learn lines?

Lines must be learnt in advance of most rehearsals so that characters can evolve as part of a process.

- Do you read?

Reading about events in the world and about world literature enables you to empathise and even be non-judgemental on fictional characters and their circumstances. So, do you read?

- Can you put aside ego and cooperate with colleagues?

An essential part of working on a major theatre work is the ability to step aside from one's own egoism and natural teen narcissism in order to support and develop an ensemble of dedicated actors creating a show!

- Can you meet deadlines and have a sense of urgency when needed?

Actors need urgency. Deadlines are an essential component of all theatre presentation. The ability to be on time for every rehearsal and performance is essential. Can you guarantee this? Can you prioritise your theatre commitment over social and sport activities?

- Can you sacrifice other areas of your life in order to create the art and performance necessity in front of a paying audience?

Amateur actors and students will often prioritise their life-relationships over commitments to artistic development. However, to make a highly significant product, one must sacrifice personal moments. Can you commit to doing this?

- Are you studying Drama in 2027?

It is essential that all cast are studying Drama in 2027. Basic Drama techniques, terminology, study of form, vocal techniques, cooperative learning and focus work is essential for a starting point for complex theatre work.

- Are you available?

If you know you cannot do the work, please don't audition. Essential dates for cast will be:

- **Monday 14 – Friday 18 December 2026** for the Burrill Pines Camp intensive
- **Monday 19 – Friday 23 April 2027** for the holiday intensive before the show
- Performances from **Saturday 24 April – Saturday 1 May 2027**

Are you physically fit and vocally dexterous?

Actors will need to be capable of extending their physical and vocal range and dexterity. Will you be able to try new vocal and body physical skills?

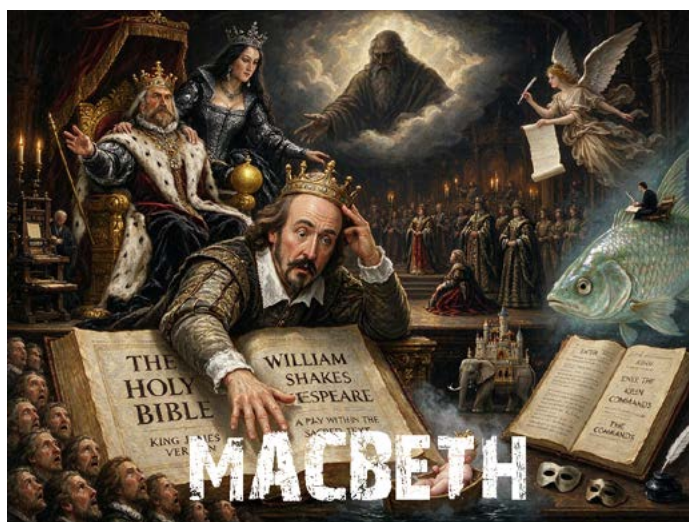
- Are you capable of being still and being silent?

Silence and stillness are the first requirements of Performing Arts. Are you capable?

- Most of all, are you keen to have fun with Shakespeare?

Click on this link to sign up for the audition:

MACBETH AUDITIONS – Fill in form



Performance Arts Cont...

Queensland Music Tour – A Memorable Success

This year's Queensland Music Tour gave Daramalan students the chance to showcase their talents while creating lasting memories together. The tour featured performances from the Junior Concert Band (Mega Band), Senior Concert Band, Choir, Chamber Orchestra and Jazz Band.

On the journey north, students performed for a local school in Goulburn before continuing to their accommodation on the Gold Coast. Once there, ensembles impressed audiences at Cavill Mall, attracting large crowds and plenty of positive feedback from visitors.

Another highlight was a community performance in a local park, where families gathered to enjoy the music. The Jazz Band, joined by vocalists **Ruby Holden** and **Aria Wallace** (Year 12), opened the concert, while the Mega Band's energetic performances of Sweet Caroline and Cup of Life had the audience singing along. Unfortunately, the final scheduled performance was cancelled due to rain.

Away from the stage, students enjoyed time together at Pacific Fair and took part in a highly successful Music Tour Trivia Night, which proved to be one of the week's most enjoyable and team-building activities.

Thank you to all students, staff and Year 12 musicians who helped make the tour such a rewarding experience. Special thanks go to **Mr Michael Jackson, Ms Michelle Coggan, Ms Angela Dunn** and **Mr Callum Brown** for their continued support of Music and the Arts at Daramalan.



Visual Arts



2026 Visual Arts Exhibition IMAGINATION

Opening Night - Friday October 30th
Joe Woodward Theatre 6pm

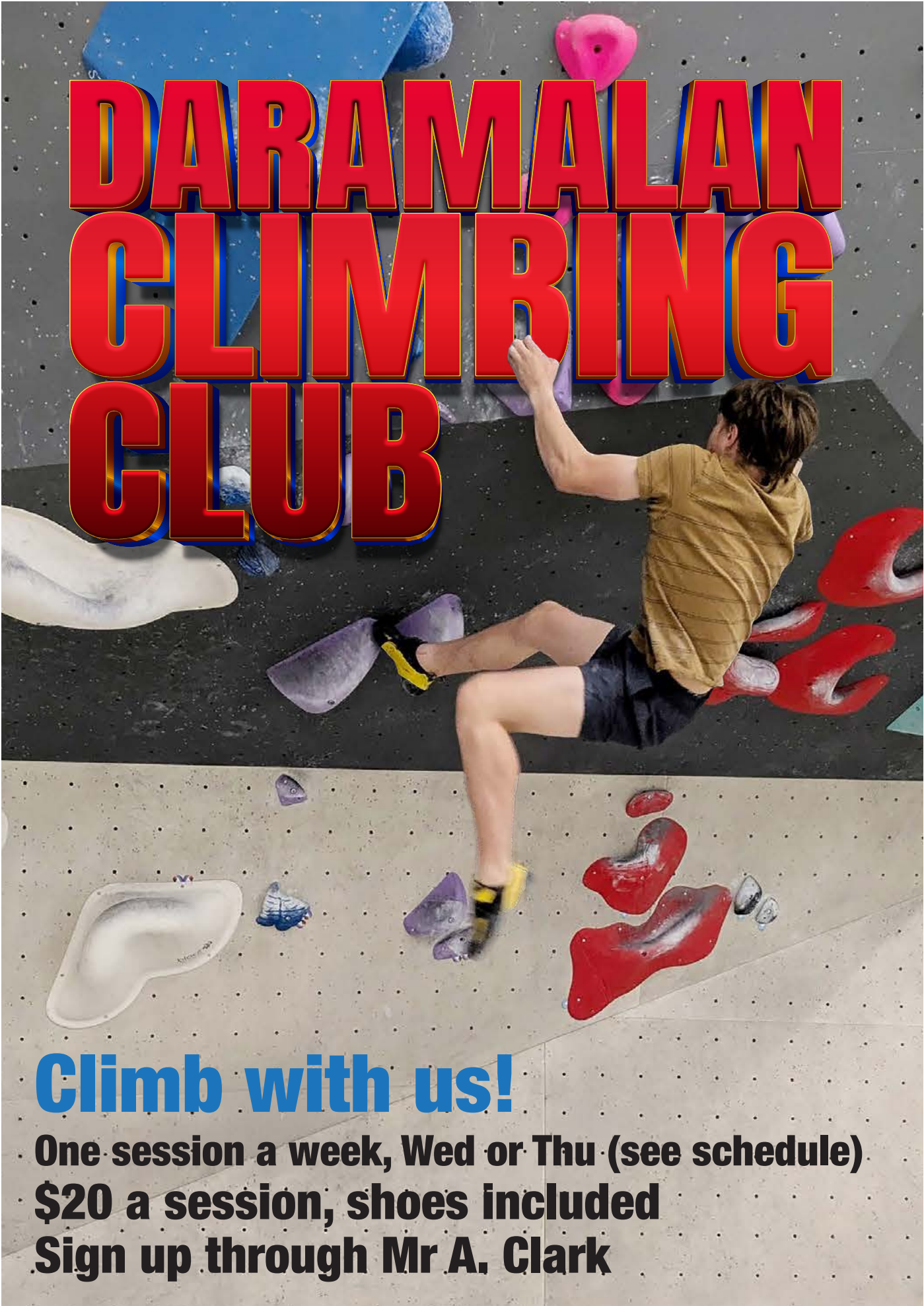
Come and see the amazing Art, Media &
 Photography work from Year 9 to Year 12 students

Saturday 31st October - Monday 2nd November

FREE ENTRY

10 AM - 3 PM

ALL WELCOME

A person is climbing a rock wall with various colorful holds (blue, pink, purple, red, white). The person is wearing a yellow t-shirt and black shorts. The wall is grey with a grid of small holes. The text 'DARAMALAN CLIMBING CLUB' is overlaid in large, bold, red letters with a blue outline and a 3D effect.

DARAMALAN CLIMBING CLUB

Climb with us!

One session a week, Wed or Thu (see schedule)

\$20 a session, shoes included

Sign up through Mr A. Clark

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

November

Sunday 1 November	ANU application portal reopens for change of preference (excluding Bachelor of Health Science) and for uploading supporting documents
Thursday 5 November	UAC change of preference closes for November Round 1
Friday 6 November	Future Fridays! Lunchtime in the Seminar Room Clare Whitmore (2021) Royal Australian Navy (Combat Systems Operator – Mine Warfare).
Thursday 12 November	UAC November Round 1 offers released (Schools Recommendation Scheme offers)
Friday 20 November	Coffee Basics Course at CIT Now open on Qkr! (details attached)
Thursday 26 November	Responsible Service of Alcohol Now open on Qkr! (details attached)
Monday 30 November	ANU Change of preference closes for all programs and for submitting supporting documents

Upcoming courses

Construction Course Set – **Monday 26 – Tuesday 27 October** FULL
 Coffee Basics Course at CIT – **Friday 20 November** [CIT Coffee Basics excursion note 20Nov26.pdf](#)
 Responsible Service of Alcohol – **Thursday 26 November** [RSA incursion note 26Nov2026.pdf](#)

UOW Discovery Day 2027

Are you interested in the University of Wollongong?

Year 11 (2026) students are invited to attend the UOW Discovery Day on **Saturday 17 February** next year! You must register online by completing [this online form](#). You will then receive the link before **Wednesday 4 November** to register with UOW and create your timetable for the day.

ADF Canberra Trade Careers Information Session

Thursday 22 October, 6.00pm – 8.00pm
[Register here](#)

UC and The Grove Studios Partner to Nurture the Next Generation of Artists

Joint partnership with UC, a three-year Bachelor of Creative Industries (Contemporary Music Practice) degree will be delivered at The Grove Studio's Central Coast campus from 2027, combines hands-on training in music production, audio technology, songwriting, live sound and performance.
[More information here](#)

UC and BrightStart - Partnership Program with Deloitte on an Earn-While-You-Learn Model

Deloitte's BrightStart program offers students from under-represented backgrounds a more accessible pathway to higher education and career success, covering 50% of course fees for eligible Bachelor of Engineering, Business Informatics and IT students.
[More information here](#)

Building and Construction Management Outreach Program for Years 9-10 Female Students

UC invites Years 9 and 10 female students to take part in our free Building and Construction Management Outreach Program on Monday 23 – Tuesday 24 November.

Contact Ms Annette Brady ASAP if you are interested!

Register your interest for YoWIE 2027

YoWIE is a free, hands-on program designed to inspire young women to explore the exciting world of engineering. We invite female students currently in Years 8 – 11 to express their interest in joining our April 2027 program. Current Year 11-12 students who have been part of YoWIE throughout the years can apply for our SuperYoWIE via the same EOI form.

UCAT Resources for Medicine and Dental Applications

[Steps to become a Doctor](#) – for help with the admissions process.
[Free UCAT preparation resources](#) (including a detailed medical entry handbook and mock exam with feedback) to get started.

Charles Sturt University News

Online Parent Information Evening - **Wednesday 4 November**, 6pm - 7:30pm
[More information here](#)

Scholarships for 2027 are Open!

Year 12 students, if you haven't already started looking at scholarships for 2027, now is a great time!
 To view Charles Sturt University scholarships, click on the link here: [Charles Sturt Uni Scholarships](#)

NIE Comprehensive Medicine and Dental Interview Training Workshop

Live online and interactive training covering interview

Careers News Cont...

theory, assessed criteria, answer strategies and confidence-building, followed by a full day of practice with constructive feedback. Students will also receive a hard-copy [Medical Interview Techniques](#) book.

[Register here](#)

SFC Pilot Academy Tamworth
Open Day - **Saturday 14 November**
[More information here](#)

Are you moving interstate for study?

Applications for the [2027 Iglu Regional Scholarship](#) are now open. An Iglu Regional Scholarship offers rental assistance during your first year of living at Iglu. Located in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney.

LEADAg – Careers in Agriculture

CHRRUP is currently recruiting participants across Central and Western Queensland for the upcoming LEADAg Pathways – Certificate II in Rural Operations, commencing **Monday 23 November**.

LEADAg Pathways is a fully funded, six-month program designed for people who are interested in the industry but may not know where to start.

[Find out more](#)
[Register your interest](#)
[Facebook](#)

Australian Government Teaching Scholarships

The [Commonwealth Teaching Scholarships Program](#) offers up to \$40,000 for undergraduate initial teacher education

students, and up to \$20,000 for postgraduate initial teacher education students, to assist with study costs.

Find out more about the range of [scholarship programs](#) for future teachers.

Tertiary Health Study Subsidy Program (THSSP)

The Tertiary Health Study Subsidy Program (THSSP) provides financial support to students studying an eligible health qualification. These payments can help with fees, technology, travel or other study-related costs. Recipients must commit to being part of the NSW Health workforce, the largest health system in Australia, offering a variety of roles and locations across NSW.

For eligibility and application information, please visit - [More Information](#)

Veteran-Descendant Scholarships - Applications close Saturday 31 October

Students with a parent, grandparent or great-grandparent who served in the Australian Defence Force can qualify for scholarships worth up to \$18,000. AVCAT applications opened Tuesday 18 August and close **Saturday 31 October**. Digger Scholarships (diggerscholarships.com.au) has a free searchable database of all 67 veteran-descendant scholarships and grants, with eligibility, closing dates and application links, plus a map of scholarships near your school.

Women of STEM Scholarships

Advanced notice – the Women of STEM Scholarships are for women aged 17 – 20, who are commencing an applicable STEM related university degree in 2027. Applications open **Friday 18 December** and close **Sunday 31 January**. [More details here.](#)



JOBS BOARD

Further details of these positions have been emailed to students in Careers News.

Further details of these positions have been emailed to students in Careers News.

Game Development Officer (AFL) - Regional South NSW (ACT) [Click here for application details](#)

Sport and Recreation Traineeship x 2

Australian Training Company (ATC) is seeking someone with a genuine passion and interest in Sports Administration for a 12-Month Sport and Recreation Traineeship.

Study Monkey – Tutoring Positions

Are you looking for a fun, flexible and highly rewarding role that pays well (up to \$44.50/hour + superannuation)? Consider being a 2027 tutor with us! We are currently seeking expressions of interest for in-person tutoring with us in Term 1 2027.

[Term 4 week 12 Study Monkey 2026 job ad - ACT.pdf](#)

CJC Constructions – 1st Year Carpentry Apprentice

CJC Constructions is a Canberra-based building company specialising in high-end residential construction and renovations. We are currently looking to employ a motivated first-year carpentry apprentice for a full-time position within our team.

OCR Commercial Refrigeration and Beer Installation – 1st Year Apprentice

Refrigeration and beer installation, maintenance and service won't be taken over by A.I. any time soon, and OCR - Commercial Refrigeration and Beer have Full-Time Apprenticeships available.

[Term 4 Week 12 BECOME A FRIDGIE AT OCR.pdf](#)

7 FACADE PTY LTD - 1st Year Apprentice Carpenter/Roofers

We are a specialist cladding and roofing company based in Canberra, and we are looking to take on a 1st Year Apprentice Carpenter/Roofers for a full-time, four-year apprenticeship.

Interstate opportunities

Multiple roles with Carroll College
Sport and Recreation Trainee
Canteen Trainee
Broulee, NSW

Multiple roles with Nowra Anglican College
Creative and Performing Arts Trainee
Sports and Physical Education Trainee
Bomaderry, NSW

Sports Administration Trainee
with Edmund Rice College
Wollongong West, NSW

Sports Administration Trainee
St Mary Star of the Sea College
Wollongong, NSW

[Apply here](#)

From SEEK

[Palermo Perfumes – Christmas Casual Retail Assistant](#)

[Gold Creek Country Club – Pro-Shop Assistant](#)

[OPSM – Retail Associate \(Gungahlin\)](#)

Alumni

1-Year Alumni Reunion is coming up!

Saturday 21 November

5:00pm - 8:00pm

Please find more details and reserve your FREE ticket by

Monday 9 November [HERE](#)

For more information contact **Ms Arina Yakovtseva** at

arina.yakovtseva@daramalan.act.edu.au

Teachers of the 2025 graduates are also encouraged to come!



Fundraising

Dara Dozen

The [Dara Dozen](#) has become a much-loved tradition, and after a two-year break we are excited to announce the 2026 edition!

We are offering a delicious selection of wines from local wineries connected to the Daramalan community, with prices held at 2022 levels. Seriously!

This year, we have a few exciting new additions. First, we are introducing a range of non-alcoholic wines from Altina Wines. We have also welcomed several new local wineries to the initiative, including Mount Majura Vineyard, Selecta Wines and Vineyard 1207. And of course, many of our loyal supporters are back!

Click [HERE](#) to find out more about the 2026 selections.

- Treat yourself to some well-deserved deliciousness!
- Support the Scholarship Fund and help students in need.
- Get your Christmas gifts sorted early this year!



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!



LJ Hooker – Virginia Stoker

Residential Sales.

46-50 Hibberson Street, Gungahlin 2912 ACT

T: 0434610698

E: virginia.stoker@ljhooker.com.au

W: <https://agent.ljhooker.com.au/virginia-stoker-9974640>

F: [Facebook](#)

C: Virginia Stoker



Riteway Cleaning Services

Commercial Cleaning

10/5 Gregg Place, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

T: 0458584910

E: cleanu@bigpond.com

W: www.ritewaycleaningcanberra.com.au

F: [Facebook](#)



Pacific Facilities Maintenance

Specialising in electrical, air conditioning, fire protection, plumbing, and building and grounds maintenance.

2/52 Hoskins Street, Mitchell ACT 2911

P.O. Box 891, Mitchell ACT 2911

T: 02 6262 4673

E: service@pacificfm.com.au

W: www.pacificfm.com.au

F: [Facebook](#)

I: [Instagram](#)

C: Justin Hyland

COMMUNITY BUSINESS DIRECTORY CONT...

All IT Solution	Anthony Cataldo	www.allit.au
AllClass Carpet & Upholstery Care	Peter Nassar	www.allclasscarpetcare.com.au
Boland Legal	Magdalena Orczykowski	www.bolandlegal.com.au
Caday Workplace Relations	Cath Day	www.caday.com.au
Corver and Co Chartered Accountants	Trevor Corver	www.corverandco.com.au
Dentist at Dickson	Dr Nandini Polepalli	www.dentistatdickson.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
Jacko's Pizza	John Howlett	www.jackospizza.com.au
Leader Security	Troy Cassell	www.leadersecurity.com.au
Little Wings Images	Hannah	www.littlewingimages.com.au
LJ Hooker - Virginia Stoker	Virginia Stoker	https://agent.ljhooker.com.au/virginia-stoker-9974640
Mel Hill Photography & Loop Booth	Mel Hill	mel@melhillphotography.com
Pacific Facilities Maintenance	Justin Hyland	www.pacificfm.com.au
Pinnacle Driving School	Lisa Murphy	www.Pinnacledrivingschool.com.au
Ray White Canberra		www.raywhitecanberra.com.au
Ray White Rural Canberra-Yass	Simon or George Southwell	www.raywhiteruralyasscanberra.com.au
REZICAST® SYSTEMS AUST PTY LTD	Mick Johnson	www.rezicastsystems.com
Riteway Cleaning Services	Alan	www.ritewaycleaningcanberra.com.au
T.A.T. Building Group	Ancke Ward	tatbuildingg@gmail.com
The Athlete's Foot	Ashleigh Hogan	www.theathletesfoot.com.au

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

Join our Daramalan College Community Business Directory!

For just \$150 per year, your business will be featured on alumni social media with more than 6000 followers, plus promotion in our newsletter and Year Book - and every dollar raised goes directly to the Scholarship Fund.

Interested? Email us at alumni@daramalan.act.edu.au.

With your support, the Directory will continue to grow and become an even more powerful tool for the entire Daramalan family.

DARAMALAN
COLLEGE
BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Running a business?

Let the Daramalan Community know about it!