

# Memories of Dr Cole

by Malcolm Smith (RMC 1974-1977)

When Alan Cole was a little boy, he would sometimes wake up early to a world so still and quiet that he suspected the Second Coming might have come and gone and left him behind. So he used to sneak into his parents' room to see if they were still there. "I didn't check on my sisters," he said, "because I thought it would be touch and go with them."

"You must have had a terrible conscience," I said to him afterwards, as we left the church where he had been guest preacher. He was one of the few people I knew who could give a 20 minute sermon and leave you more awake at the end than at the beginning. This one was on an obscure passage of Zechariah, in which he referred to his boyhood in Ireland, an American Indian proverb, a factory in ancient Babylon manufacturing fake antiques and, of course, the great pile of rubble outside Robert Menzies College.

His sermons at the College Sunday services were somewhat shorter and less formal, and were invariably interrupted at midpoint by his clock cuckooing eleven times at a level too loud to speak over. On the wall hung a copy, or rubbing, of an 8th century Chinese Christian inscription, while outside lurked a dog which appeared inoffensive, but always threatened to bite me.

The breadth of his knowledge never ceased to amaze me, but Old King Cole was a merry old soul. My image of him from the 1970s is of a middle aged man with a fringe of hair sticking up as eccentric as his personality, with a twinkle in his eye and a chuckle in his voice as he dipped into his bottomless fund of anecdotes. Looking back, I can't remember him actually telling a joke, but as a raconteur he had few equals. On one side was the brilliant and serious scholar and administrator, on the other a person who always saw the amusing side of life.

I was sad to hear recently of his demise. Somehow I had thought of him as indestructible, but I hope these few words will contribute to his memory.

**Rev Dr Alan Cole(1923-2003) was Founding Master of RMC(1973-1979)**

## The Echo 2007



The 2007 College magazine is here – 70 pages of articles and quotes, reports and jokes, plus heaps and heaps of photos (including individual shots of all 308 members and staff) – lovingly compiled by our Journalist/Editor Vincent Raoult. As you can see, the cover features a fantastic photographic artwork by our very own Jae Choi, a Study Abroad student from Korea. Jae has very kindly allowed us to display his original work in the foyer, so make sure you check it out if you ever get the chance to drop by.

If you'd like a copy of The Echo from 2006 or 2007, please email Alex – [alumni@rmc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:alumni@rmc.nsw.edu.au).

## RMCNow via email

Would you like to receive RMC Now via email instead???

If so, please email us ([alumni@rmc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:alumni@rmc.nsw.edu.au)) and let us know!

## INTRODUCING...

### Luke Midena, Senior Residential Tutor:

Luke joined RMC in September when the male SRT role became vacant, and he has already made a lasting impact on College life. Immediately recognisable by his 'unique' hair, Luke has a BMus in French Horn from the Australian National University under his belt, he studies Russian at Macquarie, and also works on campus with the Navigators. This term Luke has done a great job leading the male Residential Tutors and getting to know the 200 members of RMC, and we are delighted to have secured his services here for 2008!

Photo: New SRT Luke Midena brings Mozart to life at the Association Dinner



## RMC OVERSEAS

### Masters on Tour

Master Chris Bellenger and his wife Jan enjoyed a wonderful tour of Israel and Jordan in September, led by former Master Paul Barnett and his wife Anita.



And in case two Masters aren't sufficient for one tour, the group also included Stephanie Cole, daughter of the late Alan Cole, founding Master of RMC! Highlights included famous archaeological sites such as Petra, Jerash and Masada, but the focus was on sites of biblical interest including Jerusalem, the region of Galilee, the Jordan River and Lake Tiberias, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jericho, and Bethany beyond the Jordan. Much to everyone's amazement and jealousy back home, Chris and Jan even remembered to send through a cheerful greeting during the speeches at the RMC Ball, via mobile phone from the slopes of Mount Nebo!

### South-East Asian Alumni Dinners

On his mid-year conference trip to Europe, the Master hosted dinners for RMC Alumni & Friends in Singapore and Hong Kong.



The groups were small in size but the friendship warm and the food tasty! We'd love to organise more reunions like this in the near future, so please email us ([alumni@rmc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:alumni@rmc.nsw.edu.au)) if you are interested in being involved.

Photos: **01** The Master and Stephanie Cole replace oxen pulling a first century-style plough in Nazareth; **02** RMC reunion in Hong Kong; **03** The RMC reunion in Singapore included the Hadfield family

## Hogbristle is the new white!

After a creditable 34 years, the worn yellow stained timber wardrobes in all the bedrooms will be painted "hogbristle white" over the summer vacation, along with the walls and bookcases. New beds will be installed and white doonas will replace bedspreads and blankets. We expect all our rooms to be looking bright and fresh for the start of the 2008 academic year.

## RMC ART PRIZE – COMING SOON

The inaugural RMC Acquisitive Art Prize will be open for entries in 2008. By way of beautifying the College walls, RMC will host an art prize and exhibition which is open to all – artist or dabbler! There will be one section dedicated to works by high school artists. The total prize pool will be around \$2,500 and finalists will also have the opportunity to be exhibited in some of Sydney's best galleries. If you're interested in hearing more please email our Executive Assistant, Alex Paige ([alex.paige@rmc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:alex.paige@rmc.nsw.edu.au)).



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Summer 2007

# RMCNOW



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## From the Master

### Dear RMC Alumni and Friends

2007 has been a great year in so many ways! After struggling a little for new members (the profit-making Macquarie University Village opened 650 new rooms early this year) we finish the year with a full College. Vacation times were busy with visitors, especially our Warawara friends (Macquarie's Indigenous Studies residential program) and the Youth Olympics, where our Mandarin speaking College members were a great help to the visiting Chinese athletes.

It was a year of significant personal challenge and development for several members. The social and sporting programs were busy as usual, and we finished the year with an excellent Valedictory Dinner on 9 November. Plus the exciting new RMC website went 'live' on 20 November!

Through 2007 we have brought out three issues of RMC Now and in each issue one sees the evidence of a great community of friends and scholars. We also launched the first RMC Annual Appeal, and I am very grateful to those Association members who contributed so generously. The annual Association Dinner on 2 November was attended by nearly 100 Alumni & Friends, and you can see some photos of that great night later in this issue.

From the RMC Board we farewellled Ann Eyland and Philip Bell; and in their place we welcomed David Barnett (son of Paul and CEO of Pearson Education Australia/NZ) and Peter Hicks (GM of Leighton Contractors). Over the vacation all the bedrooms will be painted, and new beds and bedding installed ready for the 2008 start.

Jan and I send warm Christmas greetings to all readers.

Chris Bellenger  
Master

//FORMING THE PERSON,  
TRANSFORMING THE WORLD

# COMMUNITY LIFE@RMC

# RMC Ball 2007



Christmas in Winter



Foam Party in the courtyard!



Valedictory Dinner



Geeks vs Gangstas at the Semester Two harbour cruise



A memorable College photo attempt in the rain



College Cup



Games Night!



Our victorious debating team



American football lessons on Conception Day



## ALUMNI & FRIENDS Return En Masse

The 2007 instalment of the annual RMC Association Dinner on 2 November was a real success, with almost 100 people happily catching up with old friends and meeting a few new faces from other eras at RMC.

The evening began with pre-dinner drinks at the Master's Residence, then progressed to the Dining Room for a three-course meal, a couple of brief speeches, interviews with current students, and a little musical entertainment. Possibly the highlight of the night was coffee and petit-fours after dessert, which provided the perfect excuse to mingle and chat for another hour until the Master threatened to call security...

Thank you to all who came along and made it a great night, and we hope to see even more of you next year – pencil Friday 31 October 2008 into your diaries now!

Photos: 01 Recent alumni Vezi Ncube (2004-2006) & Joel Loveridge (2004-2005); 02 New Board members David Barnett & Peter Hicks with Chairman Rob Mackay



## New Website goes live!

It was a long time coming but on 20 November, just 364 days after the first photo shoot in the courtyard, the all-new RMC website took its place in cyberspace.

We are very excited about this site – not only does it have a great new look and feel, thanks to our graphic designer Melissa Summers and photographer Peter Armati, but almost every other aspect of the site has also been redesigned, restructured or rewritten. There's a new Alumni & Friends section, which we'll be adding to over the coming months, a large Gallery of photos, lots of information about the College and what a great place it is to live (including a new 4½-minute promotional video), as well as online applications for prospective members.

Check it all out at [www.rmc.org.au](http://www.rmc.org.au)



## APPEAL NEWS

### RMC Annual Appeal

Many thanks to those who generously provided support through the 2007 Annual Appeal. This year we raised over \$14,000 in total, including over \$11,000 for the Bursary Fund (for student scholarships and financial assistance) and \$3,000 for theological education. These are great causes to support, and you can be sure that your money is making a real difference in Forming the Person, Transforming our World.

### About the Antonuccios

We asked two of our regular supporters, Philip & Rosemary Antonuccio, to tell us a little about how they met at RMC.

Flashback to 1985... Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev are running the Cold War; Nelson Mandela spends his 23rd year in prison; John Howard leads the Liberal Party for the first time; AIDS testing begins on blood donations; Yul Brynner dies of lung cancer after recording his "don't smoke" ad; the Achille Lauro is hijacked; Live Aid concerts are held around the world to provide famine relief for Ethiopia; the Commodore Amiga personal computer is released; and Philip Antonuccio meets Rosemary Knox in a Bible Study group at Robert Menzies College!

Philip was an Accounting/Law student and lived at RMC from 1982 to 1985 during the Paul Barnett and Evonne Paddison era. Rosemary studied History and English teaching, and was known amongst other things as the daughter of Broughton Knox (Principal of Moore Theological College for 26 years). Coincidentally, Rosemary remembers the current Master, Chris Bellenger, from her childhood at St Barnabas Anglican Church.

Why do the Antonuccios continue to support the work of RMC? This is where they met each other, of course, and also made many other lifelong friends, but that's not all. In Philip's words, "I can say with some confidence that my attendance at Robert Menzies has been a foundation stone for my adult life. While Macquarie University provided me with my tertiary education, Robert Menzies College provided me with a solid basis for my spiritual education and adult maturation. There were many leaders in the College at the time who were fine role models. They confirmed without a doubt in my mind that one can be both excellent in a field of knowledge and yet at the same time be committed to Jesus and his teachings. This conviction has been with me ever since."

If you can, please join Philip & Rosemary in supporting the ongoing work of transforming lives at RMC.