

Summer 2010

RMC NOW

**RMC,
ACTIVE
AND
ALIVE**



IN THIS ISSUE...

Renovation Blitz
RMC Thrives Academically
Association Dinner
New on Deck
Malaysia, Sydney, Scotland
Alumni News
Community Life
and more...

//FORMING THE PERSON,
TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD

From the Master

Dear Alumni and Friends of RMC

Following an incredibly busy summer renovation period, the scaffolding and builders' detritus is being removed even as new members of RMC begin to arrive for the 2010 academic year. 'Active and Alive' has been certainly true about our property maintenance but also true about the pastoral, academic and spiritual life of the College. The mean GPA for the entire College in second semester 2009 was a commendable 2.72. Training and preparation by our student leaders is underway and FOCUS, our International Student ministry, has continued right through the summer break. Last December the College farewelled Adam and Kay Ling Chessum together with their son Elijah, born during 2009. With this issue we also thank and farewell Kate Midena (nee Best), my Executive Assistant, and her husband Luke Midena after two and half years as Senior Residential Tutor. New on deck in 2010 are Cathryn Rankin, who replaces Kate, and a new Assistant Chaplain and SRT Paul Brigden, who will be residing in C Flat with his wife Vicki.

With best personal regards



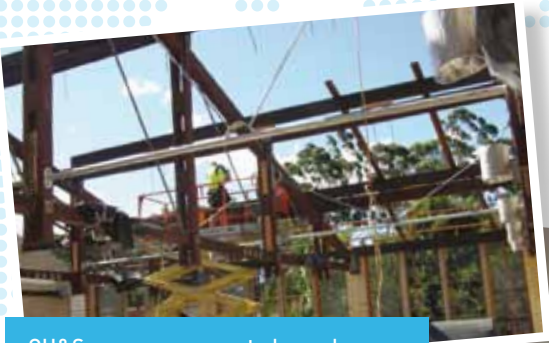
Professor Chris Bellenger
Master



RENOVATION BLITZ - The 1990's Toyota Corollas had to make way for the crane in the student car park as the Dining Room roof was lifted away.

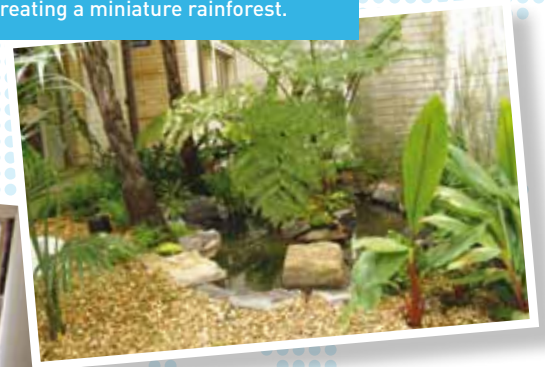
RENOVATION BLITZ

It has been a hot and humid summer in Sydney and dozens of workers have shed more than a little sweat in renovating, refreshing, and rejuvenating the College. The most significant project in this summer renovation blitz was replacing the Dining Room roof, which involved removing all tiles and then lifting the rafters by a crane in the student car park. Bob (the builder) Whitson put on a different hat to see that all these projects were finished in time for the arrival of our members in February.



OH&S concerns prevented members from enjoying meals under an open sky.

A team of recent RMC Alumni led by Jessica Horsfall rejuvenated this garden bed creating a miniature rainforest.



Summer renovations will add four new ensuite rooms in 2010.

RMC THRIVES ACADEMICALLY

Does living at a residential college help or hinder the members of RMC? With the many social and cultural events and the ever-present opportunities for taking time out over a game of table tennis or in a friend's room, you could imagine that college life would be a distraction from studies. But the results of RMC students in 2009 clearly show otherwise. In 2009, our Macquarie University students scored an average GPA of 2.7. Over a quarter of all units taken scored a HD or D and what is just as encouraging is that our members got over the line in a strong majority of units – 92% of units scored a pass or better. Congratulations are also due to

Hannah Blackwell and Steven Wright who, respectively, completed a Masters Thesis and an Honours Thesis with First Class Honours. Anyone who has lived at RMC may not be surprised by this as they would know that in addition to our social and cultural programmes we have a strong academic assistance programme operating six nights a week. In 2010, we have a keen group of five Academic Tutors who will be coordinated by Rajeswari Eliyathamby, a fourth year Applied Finance/Actuarial student. Furthermore, it is the close friendships made at RMC that help people to thrive academically as they support and motivate one another.



Grade	Percentage of Units Taken in 2009
Pass or better	92%
Credit or better	60%
High Distinction/Distinction	28%

'MAKING A LIVING, OR MAKING A DIFFERENCE?'



Patrick Cole addresses RMC Alumni and Friends in front of the portrait of his father and founding Master of RMC, Dr Alan Cole.

At RMC's annual Association Dinner for alumni and friends on October 30 2009, we were treated to a captivating address from Mr Patrick Cole, Assistant Secretary Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade and former Australian High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands. He spoke about the joys and the challenges he faced throughout his extensive diplomatic career, and encouraged and inspired those in attendance to be people who live to make a difference in the world.

Here's a snapshot of Patrick's memories of his time at RMC from his Association Dinner speech...

"I think we all recall that from its very inauguration in 1973, Robert Menzies College was all about making a difference in this place, Macquarie University. Noel Bell and Ridley Smith as architects deliberately went for a startlingly different visual: an orange roof and yellow brick "Mediterranean village" feel to the College, standing in stark contrast to the drab greys, dark browns – and occasional daring wood-grain concrete – of the uni buildings (W6A and B; E7B; the Library; the Union; and the

Macquarie Theatre), as well as then-dour battlements of the original block of Dunmore Lang College, our neighbour. It all reflected that Robert Menzies College had been established to be not just another anodyne hall of residence, but one of distinctive positive Christian witness, engagement and pastoral support.

Well what "making a difference" skills do I remember acquiring from Robert Menzies College and Macquarie University? There were baptismal skills. The fine art of "creeking" – throwing fellow students into the creek between the College and the university – was a fine tradition marking birthdays, no birthdays, achievements of any kind (or no achievements), for any reason (or for no reason at all). Survival

skills post-creeking. The great English poet Coleridge almost certainly had the water of that creek in mind when in Rime of the Ancient Mariner he described "...slimey things that walk with legs upon a slimey sea". Chris Bellenger is no doubt aware that there are entire veterinary and biological studies doctorates waiting to be written about the exotic life-forms to be found there. You never opened your mouth. But there was also the making of great and lasting friends, here and at uni, which is as we all know a skill basic to making a difference in life...



Preparing to make a difference for many of us involved a lot of creative fun here at RMC and at Macquarie University, often also meeting along the way our future life-partners, who were in turn to make a difference to us! That was certainly the case for me, meeting as I did my wonderful future wife Naomi. You never know when the seeds sown by life at RMC or through courses like 08222 New Testament in its Times, which have borne fruit throughout professional and personal life so far, will take you in new directions...After starting theological studies this year on long service leave, I'm now looking forward to making a difference in the really important area of full-time Christian ministry.



... So be warmed by good memories, be encouraged to keep making a difference, and be warned of what exciting places this might take you to."

NEW ON DECK IN 2010

Name: Paul & Vicki Brigden

Position at RMC: Paul is the Assistant Chaplain & Senior Residential Tutor. At Trinity Chapel Macquarie, one of Paul's priorities will be ministering to international students at the FOCUS group. Paul has a passion for discipling and developing leaders in this ministry.

Originally from: Paul - Penrith, NSW; Vicki - Turramurra, NSW

Previous work and study: Paul worked as a primary school teacher before completing a Bachelor of Divinity at Moore College. He was recently ordained in the Anglican Church. Vicki has degrees in journalism and law and currently works as a solicitor in the city.

Hobbies & Interests: Paul loves reading, watching DVDs and walking his dog, Ebbie. Vicki loves sleep, chocolate (especially Snack), cricket, running and spending time with Ebbie. Both like to spend time with each other lazing around.



Name: Cathryn Rankin

Position at RMC: Executive Assistant to the Master

Originally from: Orange, NSW.

Previous work and study: Bachelor of International Studies with Honours in Modern History (finished with First Class Honours for her thesis- well done!). Worked casually for World Vision during her time at RMC (2006-2008) and she was also a Residential Tutor in 2008.

Hobbies & Interests: Hockey, foreign cultures and languages (speaks fluent German), craft.

MUDGEES STEPS UP At RMC this year, the town of Mudgee in central NSW has proven that it's capable of producing not just fine wine, but fine leaders too. All three of our returning members from Mudgee have been elected or appointed to key leadership roles in the College.



RMCSA Student President – Tom Roberts,

studying Media, has been elected to the position of Student President for 2010. Here's a quote from Tom's welcome

letter to new members that shows his passion for RMC: "Menzie's is a great place to live for anyone, we have such a wide variety of people from different backgrounds, interests and places that come together to make being at our College a truly enriching and fun time."



Social Rep & Editor/ Journalist – Meg Hill was

involved in everything at RMC in 2009 and will be leading the social committee

to make 2010 a memorable year for everyone. She is a creative arts student and will bring that creativity to The Voice and The Echo student publications this year.



Residential Tutor – Sophie Ottley, an

education student who plans to be a High School English teacher, will be looking after

the members of D Block. Sophie's experience at RMC has been life-changing, and with her warm and vibrant personality she will definitely have a big impact on our members in 2010.

MALAYSIA, SYDNEY, SCOTLAND.

Malaysia - Sydney - Scotland – this is becoming a surprisingly well-trod path for RMC members, most recently with Danny Wang and Evelyn Yong, who decided to compliment their studies at Macquarie University with a couple of courses at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland. In the years before them Zi Chan and Ruth Tan studied at the same university in Scotland; it was their positive experiences that encouraged Danny and Evelyn to head in the same direction (and not the lower pass mark at that University of only 40%!). Danny took courses in Corporate Finance as well as Business and Corporate Strategy while Evelyn took courses in Actuarial Studies. Danny appreciated the smaller size of the lectures and tutorials which made up for the fact that he missed half of what was said as he struggled to adjust to the strong Scottish accents of his teachers. Perhaps not surprisingly, the best part of the experience was the friendships made with both Scots and other international students; however, another highlight was travelling with a group of Macquarie students to the Dark Forest, a few hours south of Glasgow. In this place, reputed to have one of the darkest nighttimes in the world, they watched a hundred meteors shoot across the sky in an hour. Apart from study in Edinburgh, Danny and Evelyn also travelled to Ireland, Sweden, France and Norway - where they had a very white Christmas. Along with these extraordinary experiences they also encountered the trademark Scottish experiences.



Here are Danny's comments on:

Haggis – it's OK in moderation (as with Vegemite).

Kilts – I saw them on a few formal occasions, not out in public everyday though.

Scotch Whisky – Huge variety to try but very expensive.

Highland Dancing – good fun.

The Weather – Very unpredictable, the main reason I couldn't live in Edinburgh permanently.

Alumni NEWS

Entrepreneur of the Year

Cecilia Morales (RMC 2002–2004) has had a remarkable few years since leaving Australia. After completing her degree at Macquarie University in Media and Cultural Studies, she returned to her home town in Mexico and opened her own company, specialising in the sale of security equipment for the police force. She then branched out into vehicle armouring and developed a working relationship with the US Foreign Trade office in Mexico City, closing two big deals which attracted the attention of the US government.



Cecilia with the US Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton.

After travelling to Japan for a series of seminars contributing to her MBA, in September 2009 Cecilia was honoured by the US State Department with a nomination for Americas Women Entrepreneur of the Year. In October, Cecilia won the award for Mexico and travelled to the 'Pathways to Prosperity' entrepreneur conference in Washington, developed and attended by US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton. The aim of this convention was to recognise the efforts and accomplishments of those attending, and to provide them with tools to help them grow their companies through workshops, visits from other business women, and the opportunity to work with a mentor for one year. Congratulations Cecilia on your entrepreneurial accomplishments.

Congratulations to **María Martínez Lirola (RMC 2005)** who has recently been recognised as a Professor of Linguistics in the Department of English Studies at the University of Alicante, Spain. Maria (centre) had a remarkable chance encounter with Paul and Nicole Yeates on Wangfujing Dajie, Beijing while in China for a conference.



Alumni WEDDINGS



Adam Acherstraat (RMC 2004–2005) and wife Rachel; married January 2010.



John Huang (RMC 2004–2007) and wife Vanessa nee Lincoln (RMC 2005); married October 2009.



Jim Chou (RMC 2007) and wife Sharlina; married August 2009.

COMMUNITY LIFE@RMC



VALEDICTORY DINNER 2009



The RMC men's team dominated the second round of soccer beating DLC 3-0 while the women managed a draw.



RMC BALL 2009



Wendy Slee invited some RMC members to her home for Christmas and managed to get a photo with Santa along the way!



The new RMC beach volleyball court was opened with the Inaugural Dean's Volleyball Competition.



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