

College & the Community 2011

"From an old hessian sack to a dress to an art installation - Year 12 Dickson College student Rosie Hawkins took up a challenge in her final Fashion and Textiles unit "Recycle Reuse" to convert five old hessian sacks into a party frock.

Everything from the 1950s zip - donated from her grandmother's sewing box - to the lining - which was reused from a dress her sister made years ago - was reused and recycled. The sacks were donated by Braddon coffee hot spot Lonsdale Street Roasters. When Rosie completed her dress, it not only earned her the top mark in her year, but caught the attention of the Roasters crew who want to make it an art exhibition in the cafe."

Edited extract of Emma Macdonald's piece and photo by Andrew Sheargold, *The Canberra Times* 14/12/2011 page 1

English

In April two of our current students, Sophie Bishop and Victoria Beecham, were chosen to have their fantastic creative writing published in the Litlinks book of student writing, sponsored by ACTATE (ACT Association for the Teaching of English) and Paperchain book store. Two of our Year 12 students from last year, Oliver Bailey and Raqiyah Patel, were also included in the book. Victoria's story was shortlisted as one of the finalists for the book awards and the adjudicator had some very complimentary things to say about her writing.

**Hannah Walker Finalist in John Marsden Writing Competition**

Hannah Walker is one of four finalists in the under 18 poetry section of the John Marsden Prize for Young Australian Writers. Her work, a poem called "Clouds" was chosen from 450 entries of an extremely high standard. John Marsden, the well-known Australian author of modern classics such as "The Tomorrow" series, will be on hand to award the winners at the Express Media Awards Extravaganza in Melbourne.

Obama Visit

When Barack Obama addressed Parliament last month, two students from every college in the ACT were invited to attend the special sitting. Myself and Hannah Walker were lucky enough to accompany our Principal, Beth Mitchell, to this historic event. After the security checks, we were able to witness Barack Obama become the fourth President of the United States to address Australian Parliament. Obama used the address to reaffirm the cultural, political and military ties between the two nations. He stressed the common elements of the two countries' histories, "In each other's story we see so much of ourselves. Ancestors who crossed vast oceans - some by choice, some in chains. Settlers who pushed west across sweeping plains. Dreamers who toiled with hearts and hands to lay railroads and to build cities."

The primary focus of the address was to underscore the importance of the ANZUS alliance, with Obama referring to numerous twentieth century and modern conflicts in which Australia and the United States have fought together. He advocated a stronger American presence in the Pacific in the interest of regional economic and political stability, "Our new focus on this region reflects a fundamental truth - the United States has been, and always will be, a Pacific nation."

But, in my opinion, the most compelling element of the speech was when Obama placed the emphasis on global human rights, "Every nation will chart its own course. Yet it is also true that certain rights are universal, among them freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, and the freedom of citizens to choose their own leaders. These are not American rights, or Australian rights, or Western rights. These are human rights." Finally he declared that "History is on the side of the free - free societies, free governments, free economies, free people."

The whole experience was inspiring and a fantastic privilege.

Tom Hermes



Photo: Tom Hermes and Hannah Walker

From The Principal

Welcome to Dickson College for 2012

This newsletter is designed to give you preliminary information about Dickson College. More detailed information is available on our Website and in the ACT Colleges CD distributed to students. We hope to make the transition for students entering Year 11 as smooth as possible and to ensure that the next two years at Dickson College are interesting, challenging and meet all your expectations. For students continuing on to Year 12 we hope your progress so far is all that you have hoped, and if not, that you work with appropriate staff to ensure that this year is more successful.

Included in this newsletter is the timetable for Week 1.

Please bring this with you to College on Day 1.

At Dickson College we have an excellent student services team, and they are available to assist you and talk through your concerns, problems and doubts. You will quickly discover that at College you have greater responsibility for your own study habits and management. You will need to monitor and organise your time efficiently and effectively. We can help and guide you but the key person to make the college years enjoyable and successful is you. Make sure you enrol in MAPS and attend regularly as this program is instrumental to succeeding at College.

At Dickson College we pride ourselves on our academic excellence; on our ability to provide a variety of opportunities; the scope of our course offerings; on our resources across all areas and in particular on our expert, caring and highly qualified staff. We have an impressive array of extracurricular activities which you can become involved in - sporting, dramatic, musical, student decision making and a host of others. All the opportunities are here for you to extend yourself academically, socially and personally and most importantly become an active member of the Dickson College Community.

If any member of the community would like a summary of the school budget and/or the Board Annual report, please contact the Front Office and these will be forwarded during first term. We look forward to seeing you in February.

I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know you over the next two years. Remember my door is always open and I welcome your comments and feedback.

Beth Mitchell, Principal

Classes

On your first day you will receive another copy of your classes, which will give the details of your teachers and rooms for the lines that you are enrolled in. Class changes will not be made on Monday or Tuesday of the first week. This time is set aside for the enrolment of new students. Details about how and when classes can be changed will be given at the start of your first day and notices will be posted around the college.

Meet the Teachers & Year 12 Certificate Information Evening

Thursday 23 February 2012

**5.30pm – Year 12 Certificate Information, and
life at college.**
Dickson College Hall

6.00pm – Meet the Teachers
Dickson College Canteen

Students and parents are invited to a College information evening and to meet teaching staff. Find out more about Year 12 Certificate Packages, University Entrance: ATAR calculations, including Year 12 Certification AST: ACT Scaling Test and ASBA's – Australian School Based Apprenticeships

**Light refreshments provided.
We look forward to meeting you.**

Important Dates from the Calendar

Monday 6 February

Year 11 & New Year 12 enrolments attend College

Tuesday 7 February

All students attend, College Assembly

Monday 20 February

Board meeting 5.00pm, P&C meeting 6.30pm

Thursday 23 February

Meet the Teachers evening 5.30pm

Tuesday 6 March

Moderation Day No Classes

Monday 12 March

Canberra Day

Thursday 5 April

Parent Teacher Night

Friday 6 April – Monday 9 April

Good Friday & Easter Monday

Friday 13 April

Last Day Term 1

Student Services



Dickson College is adopting a positive psychology framework in 2012 to foster student and staff wellbeing. Student Services will be driving this initiative across the whole school. Positive psychology topics will be explicitly taught through our pastoral care program (currently known as MAPS classes) and will also be implicitly embedded throughout the school. This focus will also bring about enhanced programs for students with a variety of needs.

The Student Services team is always approachable, and our aim is to assist all students to thrive at College. We are happy to see students and parents on a drop-in basis, but as you can appreciate we are not always available due to our teaching responsibilities.

Please feel free to book an appointment by phoning our friendly admin staff on 62056447 or 62056426.

Executive Teacher: Sara Morgans 6205-6476

IPS Trip to China

During the September/October holiday period, 2011 two ESL teachers and the Chinese teacher visited China to work with the International Education Unit (IEU). This trip allowed us to work alongside the IEU staff as they trained the Chinese agents on the advantages of living and studying in the ACT.

We were so proud to find out that Dickson College is currently ranked Number 1 in Asia as the best educational setting for Year 11 and 12 students!!

The next part of our visit was possibly the highlight. We were able to meet the parents of the Chinese students studying at Dickson College. Many parents flew huge distances to meet us. To have been a part of their children's lives for almost 18 months and to finally meet the parents was an amazing experience. It was a testament to the entire staff at Dickson College hearing how happy the parents are with the education their children receive. It was also gratifying to hear how their children were able to embrace all the opportunities on offer due to the welcoming and inclusive community of students.

This experience proved to be valuable to ourselves as educators by being more aware of the cultural background the majority of our students originate from and also valuable to the parents who entrust their children to us such a long way from home.

We hope that this experience can be repeated in the future in other overseas communities represented at Dickson College.

Refugee Bridging Program

Welcome to all new and continuing Refugee Bridging Program students for 2012.

The Refugee Bridging Program at Dickson College has been developed as a response to the interrupted schooling of many of the young refugee students that enter the ACT college sector.

The bridging program is a year 11 and 12 course, generally undertaken over two or three years. Students who aspire to gain their year 12 certificate are given the opportunity to study units that support their past educational and life experiences and meet their current educational needs. The flexible nature of the program allows more able and experienced students to move into mainstream units when appropriate in order to continue their individual education pathway.

The program includes strong ESL and ICT support, mentoring, cultural orientation and life skills. Students have consistent contact with a small team of teachers. The focus is not only on academic support but also the broader welfare of the student, including support with settlement issues.

Currently the 25 enrolled students for 2012 belong to the Burmese ethnic minority 'Karen' community and also from Burma, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Sudan.

Some of the exiting 2011 Year 12 students are continuing their learning journey at the CIT, and others are joining the workforce including two young men with apprenticeships. We wish them all the best for the future.

Please feel free to contact me for any further information.

**Ros Phillips Executive Teacher
Refugee Bridging Program/SIEC**

GOT A SPARE ROOM?

Suitable families will be paid upto \$260 A WEEK FOR ROOM AND BOARD

Overseas students need to be placed in loving & caring homes This is an opportunity to participate in cultural programs for school and college students from overseas.

Application forms can be obtained from

Homestay

**International Education Unit
Act Department of Education
Phone: 62059194 Fax: 62059239
Email: ieu@act.gov.au**

SRC

WHAT DOES THE SRC DO AT COLLEGE?

Here are some excellent reasons for joining the SRC at College:

- You get to have direct input into current and future directions of the College, from day-to-day issues (like do students want some lockers available?) to bigger issues, such as sustainability and recycling;
- You get to have a huge say in what happens with year 12 events like the Formal;
- It's only as onerous as you want it to be – the SRC usually meets fortnightly and you can come along and just be part of discussions, or really get involved in activities.

Some highlights from 2011:

- Cross Dress for the Red Cross – *superb* outfits and a fantastic fund-raiser!



- Youth Week postcards – new Year 11's, have a look at the one included in this mail-out!
- East Africa Combined Schools Fundraiser – Dickson, Campbell and Lyneham - Bright Colour Day (again superb outfits, and a great fundraiser...)

What do I get out of it?

- Fun, involvement, negotiation skills, events management experience, and a taste of power...

Who runs it?

In 2012, Ryan and Daniel from PE/Outdoor Ed will be running the SRC.

CAREERS and UNI ADVICE

"Write your future in pencil"

Whether you are uncertain about your post-school plans or even if you are sure about your plan, then you should see a Dickson College careers advisor soon! Reliable information and advice will enable you to be proactive about your future pathways.

Dickson College has three fully-qualified careers advisors available to help you explore your options. Make time early in the year to explore the options that are available to you when you graduate from college. Parents and carers are also welcome to make appointments to discuss post-school options for their children.

Dickson College Career Advisors can:

- advise you on appropriate courses, career goals, and vocational and educational options
- help identify possible interest areas and suggest occupations for you to consider
- find out about training to help you develop the necessary skills for your transition to the next stage in your life
- explain the course requirements of institutes of technology and universities
- help you develop a plan for you to achieve your post school goals
- suggest a pre-vocational course or work experience placement to determine whether you like the occupation you have chosen
- help with job-seeking skills – including preparing resumes, interview skills, letters of application
- assist with contacting service providers, disability liaison officers and other agencies
- share secrets about applying for university and scholarships
- help you to connect with volunteer and gap year organisations – so that you can be something for someone else.

A number of careers-related opportunities arise early in the school year and we ask all students to listen out for careers information in their pastoral care program & to check in with their Careers and Uni Advice team.

The Careers & Uni Advice office is in "N Block" – look for the red carpet.

Jenny Cowell – Executive Teacher

Lisa Styles – Year 11 Transitions Officer and Careers Advisor

Erica Brown – ASBA Coordinator and Careers Advisor

Lia McKerihan – Work Experience Coordinator and Careers Advisor

Gap Years and Volunteering

If you are in year 12 and are thinking of volunteering while taking a gap year next year, come and see the team in Careers and Uni Advice early in term 1. Many 2013 volunteering options require you to start applying early in 2012, so get in quick.

Mathematics

While Mathematics is not a compulsory subject of study for the *ACT Year 12 Certificate*, most students at Dickson College include at least a minor course in Mathematics in their package. Many areas of employment encourage some level of study in Mathematics, and many courses at both CIT and at university require a background in Mathematics.

A course level to suit all abilities

At Dickson College there is a Mathematics course level to suit everyone. The College offers three T-level Mathematics courses and two A-level courses: *General Mathematics* and *Maths For Living*. For students who are concerned about their selection of course level for 2012, the members of the Mathematics staff will be happy to talk to you and offer advice. Students are always able to seek assistance in their Mathematical studies from their teachers.

It is important that students match their Mathematics course selection with their high school Mathematics background and the requirements for their future studies. To assist staff to determine if students have chosen the most suitable Mathematics level, there will be a short Mathematics test in the first week for all students in Year 11 Mathematics classes. Content for the test is based on material from the various levels of Mathematics programs in Year 10.

For enrichment, students who like the challenge of mathematics competitions are able to participate in the *Australian Mathematics Competition*, the *UNSW Mathematics Competition*, and the *ANU Maths Day* (Year 12s). In recent years our students have also participated in the *International Tournament of Towns*, and the *National Mathematics Summer School*. This year, students will again be able to enroll in the Mathematics course at the ANU Secondary College - students are able to combine these studies with their units of study at Dickson College.

Calculators are ESSENTIAL in ALL courses

It is most important that students have their OWN calculator and bring it with them to Mathematics lessons. Calculators on mobile phones are not appropriate for use in class and are NOT permitted in tests. Nor will students be permitted to use CAS-based (ie algebraic systems) calculators in tests.

For T-accredited Mathematics courses: students will need their **own graphics calculator**.

For A-accredited: students must have their **own scientific calculator** which includes trigonometric and statistical operations.

The College is able to facilitate the purchase of CASIO graphics calculators at a discounted rate on the general retail price. More information will be available to students at the start of the year about such arrangements. Some of our Year 12 students from 2011 will be selling their pre-owned graphics calculators at a reasonable price at the start of the school year. Look out for further information on how to obtain one of these.

You are welcome to contact any member of the Mathematics staff for more information on any aspect of the Mathematics program at Dickson College. We look forward to meeting our new Year 11 students, and welcoming back our Year 12s – all with calculators of course!

Jan Bentley, Executive Teacher Mathematics

Science

The study of science enables you to gain a greater understanding of the world around you. By enrolling in one of the Science units at Dickson College you will be encouraged to problem solve and to develop the capacity to think about and question the things you encounter in the world.

In 2012 we will be offering subjects in the disciplines of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Oceanography for tertiary students. We are also expanding on programs we established in 2011 through General Science units. Combined with these are a broad range of activities students can become involved in, including: National Science & Titration Competitions; Chemistry Quiz; Oceanography/Biology/Physics research expeditions to Kiama, Whale watching, ANSTO, Geoscience Australia and the Anatomy Museum in Sydney and Biology projects with Dr Peter Chandler (our Scientist in Schools partner for Biology at Dickson College).

In 2012 we also welcome Dr Robin Robertson who will partner with Dickson College Oceanography students. Dr Robertson currently works as a tidal modeler and we are looking forward to working collaboratively with her in the Physical and Chemical Oceanography units. We are also expanding the range of activities in Cosmetics to include an excursion to the International Spa and Beauty Expo in Sydney, Lush and Body Shop Parties and Entrepreneurial Business opportunities.

To assist students in getting the most out of their educational experiences in Science at Dickson College all Science classes will have access to web based support in **cLc**. We are also embracing the idea of “flip teaching” in the Faculty and we will encourage all students to utilize online video classes and text books to complement what is done in the classroom.

2012 will also see a major expansion in the number of lines offered in Science and so we would like to welcome the newest member of our team, Brooke Willis, who will be teaching Chemistry, Hair Care and Cosmetics.

Most of all we are looking forward to working with each and every student who will be studying a Science subject this year.

Matthew Hall Executive Teacher Science, IT & PE

ADF Scholarships

A Defence Technical Scholarship (DTS) is a fantastic opportunity for Year 11 and 12 students, intending to pursue an ADF general entry technical trade career after completing Year 12. The DTS rewards technically-savvy students for staying on at school and enrolling in specific subjects.

Year 11 recipients will receive \$2000, paid over two semesters and successful Year 12 students will receive \$3000, paid over two semesters. Applications open early in 2012 <http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/education/>

College Board

On behalf of the Dickson College Board I would like to extend a warm welcome to you from the college. I know your son or daughter will have a wonderful time while studying at Dickson and I hope you will take the opportunity to become involved in the school community.

Last year I had a wonderful time coming to see the great work the students had produced, including on the Arts night and at the One World Day. If you get the chance, go along to one of the outstanding lunches the students in the hospitality course put on. The food is as good as you will get in any café in Canberra. On another occasion I enjoyed being involved with students on the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle team as they gave a very professional presentation to a computing services company.

On the board we were especially thrilled when we heard the news that the Beth was named Public Education Principal of the Year last year. We have seen first-hand the enthusiasm and dedication Beth puts in to her work. Beth leads by example and all the teachers at Dickson are committed to getting the best for their students, your children.

I am sure this year will be just as exciting as the last. I encourage all parents to become involved in the school in any way they can, the benefits for the College and your children are immeasurable and the rewards for you as a parent are fantastic.

Joel Cowey
Chair, Dickson College Board.

Student Pathways Planning: Which path are you following?

Dickson College students will continue to develop their education and work pathways in 2012. Students will build on the planning they have already undertaken in high school and will be supported through their pastoral care program. The Careers and Uni Advice team are also available to help.

PE

Sport is an important part of life at Dickson College. There is a long and proud history of sporting excellence and success at Dickson. We have produced many, state, national and international champion athletes across a diverse range of sports through our various programs, whilst also supporting and encouraging high levels of participation by our student body in our Human Movement, Sport Studies, Physical Education, Outdoor Education and TSP classes. Students are encouraged to participate in inter-college sport, which is held on Thursday afternoons as well as one day sporting carnivals.

The PE Team

Dickson College U.A.V. takes to the skies again in 2012

The Dickson College Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (U.A.V.) team had a great year in 2011. We designed, built and flew aeroplanes that can fly by themselves. In September, the team travelled up to Queensland to compete in the [U.A.V. Outback Challenge](#). The goal of this competition is to locate and deliver rescue supplies to a lost tourist stranded in the outback. Our large plane used G.P.S., ultrasonic sensors, an on-board autopilot computer and a very clever drop mechanism to deliver much needed supplies to the lost tourist. The students that made up the team were from a wide range of interest areas. Media, computing, software development, metal and wood shop, physics and maths and many more were all integrated into this project.

The project attracted many high profile sponsors and media attention. SAP, University of Canberra, Southern Cross Computing, Department of Defence, Cyber Technologies and DIY Drones provided much needed technical, financial and teaching resources to the project. Our team also presented the project to the executives of these big organisations giving our students a wonderful opportunity to develop their presentation skills. A big THANK-YOU goes out for all the help they have provided throughout the year. We were even featured in the [TEDx Canberra](#) talks.

The U.A.V. project will be expanded in 2012 with even more opportunities for students, the community and industry to be involved. Much of the development work that was accomplished in 2011 will be developed even further to produce an sophisticated aeroplane that can rescue "Outback Joe" from the outback desert. We are looking for students from every area of interest to help make this project successful. It will also open many doors for you in your future schooling and professional careers.

If you are interested in becoming part of the Dickson College U.A.V. team, please see Andrew Moss in the I.T. facility or email Andrew.Moss@ed.act.edu.au. If any parents/carers would like more information about helping the team through sponsorship or technical assistance, please contact Andrew as well.



Technology and Hospitality

Technology studies at Dickson College include the workshop-based courses in Automotive (A/V), Construction Pathways (A/V), Metal Technology (A) and Wood Technology (A). Students often complete studies in more than one of these areas, especially if they are considering future employment in any of these fields.

During 2011, Construction Pathways students completed a number of building projects at the College and visited construction worksites to further their understanding of work requirements in the construction industry. The college Barbeque-pizza oven recreational facility was completed this year and will be a facility that students and staff will utilise greatly in 2012. Students also built a number of substantial cubby houses on site for clients including the Mount Rogers Pre School. Similar opportunities are planned for 2012 with a Chicken pen adaptation to be built for Turner Pre School during 2012.

Throughout the year we have also organised for a number of employers to visit the Auto workshop to discuss with students industry standards and employer expectations of apprentices. Many of our graduates go on to complete further studies at CIT and at local universities, and they tell us how well the courses at Dickson College have prepared them for their career pathways. Past students, Sam Bingley and Joel Boston are excelling in their chosen engineering and welding career paths. In the Worldskills Competition held last November, one of our current students Zac Todd competed against the best ACT Year 11 automotive students and was awarded the Gold Medal. He will now go on to represent the ACT in the National Competition in Perth. Congratulations to Zac, on all of his achievements to date and we wish him all the best in Perth.

Skills gained in Hospitality studies at Dickson College can open up employment opportunities to students as they travel the world, or provide a regular income as they study at university or CIT in their chosen career path. The Hospitality course is a vocational course in which nationally recognised Certificates I and II may be achieved. Over a number of weeks each semester, Hospitality students operate the Majura Café which is also open to the students, staff and the public. The café serves light meals and beverages, with students developing the menus, preparing the food and serving customers in the front of house. Students also have the opportunity to participate in this field while studying at college.

Please feel free to contact Glen Shipton, Allen Luhrs, Sue Edwards or any member of the Technology and Hospitality staff for more information. We look forward to meeting our incoming Year 11 students and of course welcoming back our Year 12s.

Jenny Cowell, Executive Teacher

English News

Congratulations to our outstanding Year 12 English students in 2011.

In 2012 Year 11 Tertiary English students will start the year with Responses to Literature with a focus on developing skills, clear thinking and literature. We will be specifically teaching essay writing, oral presentations, creative responses and the AST test.

Year 12s will launch straight into the specialised units, Comedy and Satire, Crime Fiction, Speculative Fiction, And the Beat Goes On, Lives and Times and North American Literature.

In Accredited English, Year 11s will start with Introductory English and Year 12s will begin with Heroes in War and Peace and Science Fiction and Fantasy.

We look forward to meeting our new Year 11 students and to work with our Year 12 students again for a challenging and rewarding year.

Debbie Dwyer, Executive Teacher, English

Humanities & Languages

The Humanities faculty offers inspiring and engaging courses - **History (Ancient, Medieval and Modern), Global Relations, Sociology, Psychology, Legal Studies, Business Studies and Geography.** We welcome all students, new and continuing! Course options abound for Year 11s and 12s, at both the Accredited and Tertiary levels.

ESL: We are proud to have **one of the best ESL faculties in the ACT.** Our very caring and highly competent teachers support a large number of students with Tertiary and Accredited ESL courses, as well as a bridging English class, tutorials, and special classes for ESL students studying IT and Accounting. ESL students include international fee-paying young people, migrants, people in Australia for a short time (e.g. exchange students and those whose parents may be academics or in the diplomatic corps) and refugees, and are a welcome addition to the inclusive and diverse student body that the Dickson community celebrates.

Languages: Learning a language is a life-long skill which can bring much pleasure, as our teachers of **Chinese, Japanese, French and Latin** can attest. Learning another language sharpens the mind, and can gain extra ATAR points for some university courses!

We would all like to say **"Welcome"- Huan Ying, Youkoso, Bienvenue, and Salvete!**

STUDENT OPPORTUNITES – HUMANITIES, ESL and LANGUAGES

Each year a year 11 student is selected to attend the **UBS Young Women's Leadership Academy** for one week in April at Sydney University, with travel and accommodation expenses paid by UBS. UBS is a global financial services firm which has been involved in helping secondary school students throughout ACT, NSW and Victoria for more than 8 years.

In 2011 four year 12 and two year 11 students attended the **Stamp out Homophobia in Schools Conference** at the Centre for Teaching and Learning, a fantastic experience.

Legal Studies students attend Parliament House for a tour and question time; they visit the ACT Magistrates court where they see how the court

system operates and talk with magistrates about the process, and they visit the High Court. Students also participate in the ACT Legislative Assembly Parliamentary debates.

In 2011 students from Legal Studies classes met the Sports Minister Andrew Barr, team members from the Canberra Raiders and team members from the Transact Canberra Capitals on Wednesday 25 May at Dickson College in the Anthill theatre, as part of their current unit on Sport and the Law.

Business Studies students discover their practical skills in setting up a small business by visiting a real business such as the Gungahlin Fresh Tex Mex Grill called *Zombrero*; they talk with the owner in person about the perils and pleasures of starting up a new business.

In 2011 Business students worked on a business simulation; they received a microcredit "loan" from the National Australia Bank as part of a schools partnership - they raised close to \$1000.00. The profit goes to "Save the Children".

Psychology students went on excursions in 2011 to observe primary students in their natural habitat (!) and to the Dendy to see "The Help". On the wonderful Melbourne excursion, students went to Melbourne Zoo, the Mental Institute of Research, and the Dax Centre where there are over 15,000 sculptures, drawings and paintings created by mentally ill patients. They also saw Rock of Ages at the Comedy Theatre!

Psychology students also produced a 60 second video based on their research, which was entered in the National 60 Second Science competition. **Cameron Kirby won first prize in the ACT and Axel Debenham-Lendon came second.**

AFFIRM: The Australian Foundation for Mental Health Research Youth Ambassador Program was launched by the Governor General in 2011. 2 students from Psychology represented our college as AFFIRM Youth Ambassadors in 2011 and Psychology classes raised over \$1000 for the Foundation.

History: The online journal *Clio* History Journal Awards Evening was held in March - Gemma Matheson wrote an award winning essay on the significance of the events of September 1970 in Arab history.

Latin: Ancient History and Latin class visited the ANU Classics Museum to further their understanding of the period, and contributed entertainingly and informatively to the *Dickson Docendo Discimus* classics evening.

Geography students attended the forum held by the Climate Commission at Parliament House in Canberra and met political figures Julia Gillard, Tony Windsor, Malcolm Turnbull and Greg Combet.

Students entered the SeeChange 2020 Vision Project competition which was judged at the Festival of Young Ideas, held in the Legislative Assembly's Exhibition room.

Emily Buckley gave the keynote speech at the official launch of the festival. **Sam Sautelle, Kate Mulvaney, Liam Holder, Matt Boak, Jordan Roche, Ellie Williams and Petra Tindall-Mather** were prize winners.

Students worked with the Environment and Sustainability Directorate on plans for a sustainable suburb, as part of the Suburban Challenge. The submissions were contained on

large scale maps that included 3D models of the various parts of urban infrastructure, and a written rationale. This complex task involved presenting their submitted plans to the Chief Planner of the ACT, Ben Ponton.

Global Relations: Eight year 11 students from Global Relations attended the World Vision Global Leadership Convention at the AIS in June, where they debated UN style on a variety of issues.

Members of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition visited Global Relations and Geography classes. Ex-student Maddie Brodie is a member of AYCC and is keen to start an environmental group at the college. Ten Dickson College students were invited by Prime Minister and Cabinet to attend the Address to a combined session of the Australian Parliament by the Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Global Challenges Conference: The inaugural Dickson College Global Challenges Conference was held in July at the ANU, with 80 Global Relations and Geography students in attendance. It was a great day, with former Governor-General Major General Michael Jeffery opening, Climate Commissioner Will Steffen as keynote speaker and current students and academics from the ANU and University of Canberra also presenting.

Japanese classes were lucky enough to have the expertise of visiting Japanese Teaching Assistant, Miss Kaori Inahara in terms 1 and 3. On the 1st of September, the classes marked the first day of spring with a Hanami (flower viewing and obento lunchbox) party.

A number of students won places in the 2 year ANU Secondary College program for Japanese.

Students also attended the Asia Pacific Day held in August to experience what it would be like to study at the ANU. Later in the year, the ANU is hosting a two-day Japanese immersion camp, to which all students studying Japanese in Year 10 or 11 may attend.

During the September/October holidays, 16 students travelled to Japan for a 16 day immersion enrichment opportunity – they had an amazing trip which will again be offered in 2013.

Chinese: In 2012, students will have the opportunity to travel to China during the September/October holidays – the trip will be offered to students studying Chinese but will also be open to other interested students. This will be a 14-day trip which we expect to cost less than \$3000 per person. The itinerary will include the following cities: Beijing, Shanghai, Xian, Guilin, Hangzhou and Suzhou. Students will be able to compare and contrast the modern city of Shanghai with the timelessness of "old" Beijing and Xian, allowing a true appreciation of the cultural diversity of this fascinating country.

Jenny Rae Executive Teacher Humanities, ESL & Languages

ARTS

What a fantastic year for the ARTS in 2011 at DC! Throughout the year we saw thought provoking drama performances, listened and danced to great music, watched outstanding media footage, been amazed at textiles and fashion, been motivated by the design and seen photography, sculptures and paintings that belong in galleries and that was, on some days, all before lunch!

For all the new students coming to DC in 2012 we wish you all the best and hope that you dabble in the ARTS and try your hand at Media, Music, Art, Drama, Photography, Dance, Design and Fashion/Textiles. Enjoy the Art around the school and think of the whole school as an Art Gallery.

Below is a photo of the mural our students and staff have just finished painting with local artist Joan Costanzo on the Ainslie IGA wall



and one of the new sculptures that has found a home in our courtyard garden.



On behalf of Chris, Alison, Nicky, Jill, Kristie, Ron, Hardy, Pete, Lisa, Mark and myself, have a lovely holiday and we look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in 2012.

Natalie Bennett, Executive Teacher Arts

ACT Youth Territory Conference March 2012... Interested?

The event will require students to represent a country in the United Nations over three days, where they will debate, discuss, and negotiate from their country's perspective. Aside from this, they will participate in a range of workshops lead by members of UN Youth and guest facilitators, and participate in interactive Q&A sessions with guest speakers. No prior experience is necessary and the students will be taught all about the United Nations, starting from its very beginnings and all the way to current issues it faces, over the three days.

Check it out on Facebook:

UN Youth ACT Territory Conference 2012

[Share](#) · Public Event

Time Friday, March 23, 2012 at 3:30pm
Sunday, March 25, 2012 at 4:00pm

Location Greenhills Conference Centre
1437 Cotter Road, Weston

Created By [UN Youth ACT](#),
Emily Hitchman, Arisha Arif

If you're in year 9, 10, 11, or 12 next year,

If watching Q&A every Monday night is your thing,

If no one understands your fervent belief in international diplomacy,

If you're pretty keen for some conferential fun,

If you've been going mad trying to find an outlet for your passion for the United Nations, or you just want to come eat some biscuits,

YOU HAVE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE.
Arisha and Emily are pleased to invite you to UN Youth ACT's Territory Conference 2012!

TRANSITION TO COLLEGE:

Extra support for year 11 students

The transition from high school into college is an exciting and sometimes difficult time. Here at Dickson College we have a Transition Officer who can help support your transition.

Our Transitions Officer, Lisa Styles, is located in Careers and Uni Advice (near Student Services) – look for the red carpet. You can just drop in, but we do get busy, so it is a good idea to make an appointment with Lisa through reception in the Student Services office.

Information Technology

The study of Information Technology is very broad. It is constantly changing and evolving. Who had heard of an 'app' 3 years ago?

The IT faculty at Dickson College aims to teach the skills to keep up with this dynamic and challenging area of study. Our units are geared to introduce a range of technological areas from Robotics and Programming to Networking and 3D Modelling. This year in our Semester 2 subject, Computer Games Programming, we'll be introducing a new 3D games environment, Unity 3D, that will enable the students to make some seriously cool games that are fun to play but also great looking.

We have very strong ties to the ANU and UC. We visit the IT and Engineering faculties of these universities allowing our students to meet with the lecturers, professors and former Dickson College IT students. We also have an annual excursion to Sydney where we visit the techs at CISCO, the Robotics Faculty at UNSW and the engineers at Google. We also take part in many IT related competitions such as the UAV Outback Challenge, Robotics comps and the UNSW Programming challenge.

Our subjects are offered as Tertiary or Accredited and all earn your competencies towards your Certificate II in Information Technology. This qualification alone can help you gain employment in the IT industry. Last year several of our students gained employment in the industry which was fantastic.

We are really looking forward to meeting our new students and in continuing the partnerships with our new year 12's.

Library News

The library is a great place to browse, read, study and do research for assignments. Teacher librarians and library staff are here to help you with your research, assignments and recreational reading. We provide a wide range of services and resources to help you with your college life. We open in the morning at 8.45 am and close at 4pm. Our library database is called Oliver and is accessible from any of the networked computers across the college.

As well as desktop computers, the library has netbook computers. Students can use them anywhere in the library to connect to the wireless network.

We are looking forward to meeting all new students in the library orientation classes early in term 1. We hope continuing students will be keen to explore recent additions to the library's collection.

Check out the Dickson College library's website at: <http://dckclib.wikispaces.com/>

See you in the library!

Lindy Hathaway and Gary Floyd - Teacher Librarians

P&C - it's your forum

The Dickson College P&C provides a forum for all parents and carers to interact with the College as well as with each other. The emphasis at the Dickson College P&C is not fundraising, but as an opportunity to keep in touch with what is happening at the College and make connections with the parents of other College students. Also, the P&C has the responsibility for the College canteen which in 2012 made a modest profit which goes back to the school indirectly in donations through the P&C. You get a say in this distribution if you come to P&C meetings! Now that's an incentive isn't it?

Meetings are generally held in the Freda Ford Lounge (on the left down from the reception) on Mondays of week 3 and week 8, starting at 6.30pm (although the first meeting each year is in week 4).

Many meetings have a key topic or speaker. In 2011 these included presentations from the College's Career's and Transition/Student Service team focussing on Thriving at College and also another on assisting students to maximise scores and select the best pathway through College and beyond. In addition we always have a catch up on what's happening at the College from the Principal. In 2011, we donated money on request from different areas in the College to: the Refugee Bridging Program, The Robotics Program: PE and targeted Breakfast Club to be trialled in 2012.

All parents are encouraged to come along. The P&C is *your* forum and can be used to provide opportunities to hear from speakers or simply to communicate with other parents. You are welcome to suggest topics for future meetings.

Next meeting: Monday 20 February 2012
Freda Ford Lounge, Dickson College. 6.30pm

The March meeting will be the AGM and therefore there will be an opportunity to nominate for positions (don't hold back, as your involvement with the College may only be a short one!).

If you would like further information about the P&C please contact me by email at zipkow@optusnet.com.au

Andrew Blanckensee P&C President

Australian School Based Apprenticeships – ASBAs

If you **already have an ASBA**, see Erica in Careers and Uni Advice in week 1 for important information and to organise an "Extended Leave of Absence Form".

If you would **like to combine school with an apprenticeship and start an ASBA**, Erica can help. Make an appointment through Student Services from the start of week 2.

We will receive more ASBA information early in the New Year and those students who have already expressed an interest in starting an ASBA will be notified of these opportunities as they arise.

