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Visit to Murdoch

In early May some of the Year 12 students took advantage of an offer from Murdoch University to visit the campus and see the facilities first-hand. They were taken on a guided tour that included the veterinary hospital and animal enclosures, the simulated law court, the media studios and the chiropractic rooms. Students appreciated meeting some of the staff of the International Office and also seeing the beautiful grounds of the university and the various support facilities available such as a 24 hour computing room, banking outlets, cafes and a medical centre. It is planned that other visits will be organised in future.

2.

From the Principal’s Desk

Welcome to Tuart College’s first International Newsletter for 2005. I hope it provides you with interesting information about the progress of the College’s 2005 international students and their experiences and activities during their time at Tuart College.

All of the College’s 2005 population of international students has settled into living in Perth and most are coping well with their academic programs. A small number of the group have required extra assistance making the transition to living and studying in a new environment during their early weeks at the College. The staff of the International Students Office (ISO) have done an excellent job providing this extra support and advice, which seems to have been really appreciated by the international students.

The (ISO) staff that are lead by the Manager, David Hults, are totally committed to providing the international students with a wide range of academic and personal support, particularly the latter as it relates to accommodation, organizing their living arrangements, making new friends, entertainment and recreation and information about the facilities and services available in Perth.

Robyn Stevens and Peta Parker provide important support and advice to students particularly in the area of College requirements and academic performance. Ann Bignell and Dinah Turner provide a wide range of support in the areas of medical insurance, local transport and accommodation arrangements. In addition all four women provide a lot of ‘motherly’ advice to students so they can deal with some of the pressures and stresses of living away from home and missing the love and support of their families. However, I am delighted to report that almost all of the international students have coped well with these matters.

In 2004 the College had almost 200 international students enrolled in its programs and it appears that the number for 2005 will be similar. However, even with the number of international students, the group represents 12% to 15% of the total College population. This is an ideal arrangement as it provides international students with the opportunity to study with Australian students in an Australian environment. This assists them to adjust to the Australian style of teaching, improve their English language skills and provides an environment in which they can settle into living in a new culture.

All the current international students should have now received an interim report outlining their progress and performance in Term 1. I am pleased to report that the majority of international students performed well, even outstandingly in some cases, and are well on their way to having a successful and enjoyable year, while achieving their ultimate goal of university entrance in 2006 or 2007. Students whose achievements have been less than satisfactory will be counselled and given extra support, which hopefully will result in improved performance.

The staff of the College are looking forward with confidence to the current group of international students achieving excellent academic results, and developing the skills and confidence to be independent learners who will take responsibility for their on-going learning. In addition the staff hope that all the international students will develop intellectually, emotionally and socially into motivated, well-adjusted, successful adults as a result of their experiences of studying at Tuart College and living in Perth.

John Anderton
Principal
January and February this year found the ISO staff talking to or reading emails from many of last year’s students who were only too pleased to tell us where their successes at Tuart had led them. While many have returned to Perth to join one of the local universities, a number have chosen to venture further afield and live in one of the other Australian states. Some will be calling Hobart home for the next few years and Melbourne is still a popular destination.

Two of the students in our ‘Top 10’ studied in the Fast-Track Foundation Program. This means that they began their program in July and sat their final exams in early December, making their achievement highly commendable. If the results of the students listed below were converted to a TER (the ranking system used for local and international TEE students) they would show these students to be in the top 2% of all those who sat university entrance exams last year.

We are confident that our students will continue their efforts and be rewarded in their chosen tertiary studies.

### TOP FOUNDATION STUDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>CPS</th>
<th>Placement 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Marco Brenna</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>95.8</td>
<td>UWA - Advanced Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Yong Linn Zhian</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>Murdoch - Bio Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Wang Yun</td>
<td>PRC</td>
<td>91.4</td>
<td>UWA - Engineering &amp; Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Loh Xin Hui</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>87.1</td>
<td>Tasmania - Pharmacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Tecoh Su Ling</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>86.8</td>
<td>Tasmania - Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Sylvia Hartono</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>84.8</td>
<td>UWA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr James Yek Nai Hu</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>83.6</td>
<td>UWA - Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Wang Xiao</td>
<td>PRC</td>
<td>82.9</td>
<td>Melbourne - Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Lee Yee Wei(F/T)</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>81.9</td>
<td>offered Vet Science - Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Leung Lai Shan</td>
<td>PRC</td>
<td>81.1</td>
<td>unavailable for publication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At this year’s January Orientation we welcomed the forty new students who were able to be in Perth at that time. (Since then, we have also welcomed other new students who took a little longer to get visas and other arrangements in place.) We were also delighted to have a number of parents join us for many of the activities that filled our week. Orientation gave the parents a chance to see the College, talk to the ISO staff, and become familiar with the city and environs where their children will be for 2005.

During Orientation the students were exposed to a mixture of activities. Some took place in a classroom setting and involved lots of listening and learning. Others were outside of the classroom and, often, away from the College. We visited both the local shopping centre (where a ‘hands on’ small animal ‘farm’ was on display) and a larger, more comprehensive shopping centre (where many household essentials were purchased), AQWA (where sea creatures are on view), a recreation centre, Cottesloe Beach and Fremantle.

The varied activities allowed the students to become more comfortable with each other and with their new surroundings. Therefore, Orientation was again a great success and is something that all future students should aim to attend.
A Word from David

It seems impossible that half the year has almost passed as it feels like Orientation was just a few days ago.

The Orientation in January was a wonderful start to the year. Each year brings a new group of students. Each has his or her own story and dreams for the future. That in itself brings a great sense of satisfaction to be able to work with each new group to assist them to change their dreams into reality.

The College provides first class academic programs for each student. We take pride in tailoring programs to suit the individual needs of each student. In addition, we also provide a high level of support to maximize achievement. This includes free tutorial groups for each subject and specialized programs run by the library to enhance study skills, examination techniques, etc.

The library, which was fantastic before, is now even better having had a complete refurbishment. It now provides a facility that matches any institution and the students love it! The pictures speak for themselves.

A recent highlight of the year was the Tuart College Ball held on 27 May. I had the pleasure of attending. A large portion of the students were international students. It was a glamorous occasion to say the least and the students were a real credit to their families both in terms of dress and behaviour.

In the final analysis, our students are here to attain entry to university programs. The 2004 group doing Foundation and Fast Track had an excellent success rate with 84% going on to university, TAFE or other tertiary sector programs. This achievement places them further along the road of translating their hopes into achievements.

Under the Stars

The 2005 Tuart College Ball was recently held at AQWA. A number of the international students took the opportunity to attend their first formal ball. This meant that there was much excitement as plans and preparations were made by both the girls and the boys regarding what clothes to wear, what shoes, what hairstyles and so on. The evening began a little nervously for some as it was such a new experience, however the good food and the good music soon relaxed everyone. All the students looked wonderful and had a fun-filled, fantastic evening.
Look at Our Up-dated Library!

When the students returned to College for Term Two on 26th April, they were greeted with a very pleasant surprise. During the students’ holiday, the library staff had worked very hard to create a more inviting and modern atmosphere in the library.

All the furniture was replaced, so there are now new shelves, new display units, new teacher-librarian work-stations which allow students seeking individual help to be better catered for, and new tables and chairs for the students. Some new flat screen computers have also been purchased to increase the number of computers available for student use.

The open plan layout of the library allows for better use of the available space and has created a much lighter and more welcoming environment. The fiction reading area is now more easily accessible and the increased size of the group working area has already made it popular with students and teachers alike. In fact, all of the feedback has been positive!

Fortunately, the incredibly helpful and well-trained teacher-librarians, library-officers and library-technicians are still the same - and the library remains open from 8:00am until 8:00pm Monday to Thursday and from 8:00am until 5:00pm on Friday, as it always has. The library also opens during the school holidays and on the two weekends prior to the College semester exams and the WAUP and TEE final exams.

The recent changes that have been made to the library mean that students now have an even better resource to assist them to be successful at Tuart College.

Interactive Whiteboards at Tuart

The Computing Department has been the first to install interactive whiteboards in each of its classrooms. Because the interactive whiteboards interface with computers, their inclusion allows the teachers to more clearly and interactively demonstrate processes that they are teaching, and hence student learning is improved. Teachers and students can add notations and emphasis to key points by using a pen or highlighter tool. Computer applications can also be run directly from the board and any notes and drawings can be saved and/or printed out and distributed to class members. The new whiteboards are proving to be wonderful for demonstrations and for increasing student involvement in lessons.
We get many visitors to the International Students Office each week. Some are past students who come to tell us about their lives at university, some are parents who are seeing their children, and others are agents who manage to fit us into their busy schedules when they have a business week in Perth. Far too many times we do not have the camera at the ready and so not all of the visits are captured on film. However, we enjoy every visit that is made to us, and encourage anyone who would like to visit to do so. Just a few of this year’s visitors are shown here.

Agents from Taiwan, Brazil & Hong Kong included Tuart in their itinerary

IDP study group from Saudi Arabia, UAE & Qatar

Past students visit us again

Davina Taggar (second from right) & her family when they visited in April

Anne Kei from Studylink Jhohor Bahru with John Anderton

John Anderton with some agents from Malaysia

A POSTCARD FROM PERTH!