In September last year, Sandy Taylor of the ESL Department, visited Nguyen Dinh Chien High School in Vietnam for two weeks to liaise with the English staff there who deliver the English as a Foreign Language program.

Whilst in Vietnam, Sandy visited as many classes as possible to talk to the students. They were very keen to practice their language skills and in particular to hear Sandy sing her favourite Australian song, Kookaburra sits in the old Gum Tree and to hear about koalas and kangaroos.

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To celebrate Adult Learners Week, eighteen students were nominated as ideal candidates for the two College awards in 2006. The winners were Dianne Ingham and Phoebe Kingston.

Nominations for the awards were based on students’ academic performance, College involvement, extra-curricular activities and support for fellow students. Dianne Ingham is in the Flying Start program and doing a full-time load equivalent to Year 11 in one semester. She is a popular student with others in the College and works diligently in class.

Phoebe has been with the College for 2 years and is now studying for a mature-age entry to university. She balances work and study and with her dedication to study she is achieving high marks.

Ex Tuart Dux from the year 2000, Aaron Wyatt, has the honour of being lead viola player in the WA Youth Orchestra with the help of Woodside and Healthways scholarships. Aaron will graduate in 2007. He is currently completing in a Bachelor of Music at UWA and, after fifteen years’ orchestral experience, he hopes to take up a full-time music career when he graduates.

Pictured left to right are:

Naomi: “through writing letters to people in authority, I feel a sense of justice”.

Jacob: “although our group is small, we are doing our part fighting for what we believe in”.

Yvette: “the weekly meetings are very good at keeping our group as a whole motivated to keep pressing for justice”.

Craig: “it was encouraging to hear of U Win Tin being released and it reinforces that AI is something I am proud to be a part of”.

Phoebe: “since being involved with AI, I’ve found many issues that complement my academic studies. This year has been great so far”.

Reproduced from the Letters to the Editor page of the “WA Medical Forum” magazine is in part this item from Personal Development lecturer Christine Richardson:

“Change Your Thinking - Change Your Life” is not only a true statement but also the title of one of the personal development courses at Tuart College. Over the last two decades, hundreds of people on campus have been taught strategies for making positive changes to their thought processes. These skills allow individuals and families to decrease stress and dysfunction. The course facilitators come from a range of life, employment and university backgrounds. They use the relaxed friendly atmosphere to inform on the complexities of distorted thinking styles and behaviour patterns. As community members increasingly seek to “pop a pill” to help them cope, we recommend our courses as an alternative for their healing powers.

Popular for more than ten years is STAT Preparation classes conducted by the College.

STAT is the Special Tertiary Admissions Test which is conducted by the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) as an alternative method of gaining university entrance for mature-age students. The STAT test consists of a two hour multiple choice test with 70 questions and a one hour English writing test. The Preparation classes at Tuart are three 3 hour sessions, available day or evenings. In the classes, students are given ideas about tackling the multiple-choice questions which involve English, mathematics and science. Help with writing the English essay test is also covered. Below, Librarian Faye Bruce explains the intricacies of university entrance.

“Doing the STAT Preparation classes made all the difference to me, and it has enabled me to enter Edith Cowan University”

Shirley

In recent weeks, a number of visits to agencies has been made by the Deputy Principal Development, Mal Hewson. These have been local Centrelink offices and Job Placement agencies. Information about the College courses has been distributed and contacts have been established with significant personnel in each of the centres.

Following these initial contacts, an information session was conducted at the College to allow a greater awareness of our offerings. Personnel who attended were from a range of backgrounds, including Centrelink, local secondary schools, job placement and support agencies.

Introducing the session, College Principal John Anderton, said that it has always been our aim to maximise the extent to which we can meet the needs of the local community. He pointed out that the College’s success over 25 years of operation has proven to be invaluable in the lives of numerous past students.