

new'n'old

[New College, UNSW]



ISSN 1447-8161

Newsletter of
New College, UNSW

The 'new' New College



The fourth floor goes up at New College. Photo by Trevor Cairney.

Alumni of New College will probably recall there have been rumours of a proposed extra floor for the College for at least 15 years. By the time Professor Trevor Cairney was appointed Master in August 2002, a total of three development plans had been brought forth by three different masters, the most recent forecasting a cost of \$14 million and proposing 20 fewer rooms.

On each occasion progress did not move beyond initial concept plans, prompting Trevor Cairney to go back to the drawing board one last time. He promised the New College Board that within six months of his appointment he would present a recommendation to either 'do something about the building – or nothing'.

"I made no promises about the potential 'something'," said Trevor, "but suggested that with further design work, costing and budget planning we could reach a point at which we could decide if major refurbishment was feasible."

Today, the College is four weeks away from the completion of Stage 1 of the redevelopment, clear indication that 'something' was more than feasible.

At an extraordinary meeting in late November 2003 the New College Board approved expenditure of \$5.67million for the first stage of the redevelopment under a business plan that required the College to use most of its reserves and seek finance for the balance of the projected cost.

While most work commenced on 4 December 2003 when the majority of residents left for the summer vacation, the Board boldly committed to the design and development of an elevator two months earlier, allowing jackhammers to break through the College ground floor in the October mid-semester break for the construction of a shaft.

New College has definitely changed. Stage 1 of the building plan has seen the construction of the much-talked about fourth floor which was driven by a desire to maintain the same group-based design concept as levels 1 to 3, albeit with larger and more diverse rooms that accommodated special needs. The new floor contains 24 regular rooms that are larger than previous rooms, two residential adviser flats, six disabled access rooms, five ensuite rooms and two meeting rooms.

Stage 1 of the building has also included the installation of an elevator that allows disabled access and a long-overdue means of transporting linen and

At an extraordinary meeting in late November 2003 the New College Board approved expenditure of \$5.67million for the first stage of the redevelopment...

equipment for cleaning and maintenance staff. D8 rooms have disappeared down the elevator shaft and D7 rooms have suddenly become larger.

Further aspects of the redevelopment tie functionality in with the aesthetic of the building. All 24 bathrooms throughout the College have undergone complete refurbishment; the College now showcases new automatic entry doors at the front and rear; the resource room has been rebuilt **continued page 4**

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Session 1, 2004

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From the Master



Professor Trevor Cairney

As mentioned in our cover story about the 'new' New College we are nearing the end of our much-awaited refurbishment. This has been an exciting time but it has also caused stress and strain for staff and residents. This hasn't been without its lighter side. For example, one resident came back from classes one day to find that she had three pairs of shoes cemented to the floor. A level-4 concrete pour had penetrated her room through a crack in the wall. She saw the funny side of it once the builder paid to replace them.

We also had many crazy moments when in the early stages of their installation, our new automatic doors showed signs of having minds of their own. They showed tendencies to open randomly when they felt like it, locking everyone out several times and choosing selectively to let some into the building while others were left outside. But all has been forgiven now that they work well. In spite of the unusual (and at times the frustrating) we're very excited about the significant improvements in the building.

We're very keen to have Collegians revisit the College to have a look and will announce the date of an official opening of the new level in coming weeks. We are also aiming to increase dramatically the opportunities you have to rekindle relationships with the College as well as with current Collegians.

I plan to announce more of these plans in the next *New 'n' Old* but one significant development will be the introduction of an annual Alumni Dinner and regional dinners for smaller groups.



Shoes cemented to 3C4 floor

I'd also like to hear from Collegians who might be able to help in one of the following ways:

- We're looking for volunteers to act as year coordinators in tracing addresses for Collegians, and
- We'd like your help in trying to increase the extent of memorabilia on display with photographic and textual accounts of significant events in the life of the College.

Could you help us in one of these two areas? I'm keen to hear from volunteers and to receive old photographs and written accounts of great moments when you were at College. For example, a short description of a classic Founder's Day stunt, memories of great sporting events, descriptions and photos of weddings in the building, and descriptions of special characters within the life of New and some of their exploits.

We're not simply interested in the amusing – you might have memories of more sombre but equally significant moments. If you can help in any of the above ways I'd like to hear from you. You might even have some of the skills needed to adequately display some of these precious moments and memories. You might have old publications, invitations or posters that relate to College activities. We're keen to display this material and would love to receive donations of such materials and artefacts. Please help us to reconstruct the richness of 35 years of history in our great College. ▀

Ewen McKenzie announced as Alumni Dinner speaker for September 2004

Ewen McKenzie, NSW Waratahs coach and New Collegian 1986–87, will be speaking at the New College Alumni Dinner on Wednesday, 8 September 2004. The evening will be a wonderful opportunity to revisit the College, reconnect with alumni, share stories, unveil the building redevelopment, get excited about the vision of the College, mingle with current students and meet the administrative team. Invitations will be sent to alumni closer to the date but you're warmly welcomed to register your interest in advance by email at alumni@newcollege.unsw.edu.au. ▀

NEW 'N' OLD

New 'n' Old is produced by New College at the University of New South Wales. Inquiries about the newsletter can be directed to email address alumni@newcollege.unsw.edu.au.

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New 'n' Old
New College
UNSW
Sydney NSW 2052

ISSN 1447-8161

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“It was 20 years ago today...”



Remember when you were young?

David Green (New Collegian 1982–83), Michael Crookes (New Collegian 1981–84) and Darrell Perkins (New Collegian 1980–84) are planning a reunion for alumni from the early to mid 1980s, with Collegians from other years welcome to join in.

“The current plan is to hold a dinner on Saturday, 30 October 2004 at a venue in Sydney yet to be confirmed,” said David.

“At the moment we’re finalising the venue, looking to see what numbers are interested in attending and planning a range of recovery events for the next day.”

David is keen to inform as many alumni as possible and asks everyone who is interested to forward their contact details to david.green@ionlimited.com. ▶



Wondering who's still hanging around?

New College Lectures 2004 presented by Nobel Prize nominee

Dr Fritz Schaefer, the third-most cited chemist in the world with over 1,000 publications to his name, will speak at the New College Lectures 2004 from 11 to 14 October. The former Nobel Prize nominee is currently stationed at the University of Georgia as Graham Perdue Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Center for Computational Quantum Chemistry.

“The significance and joy in my science comes in the occasional moments of discovering something new and saying to myself, ‘So that’s how God did it!’” Dr Schaefer said, who views his work in science as inextricably related to his Christianity. “My goal is to understand a little corner of God’s plan.”

To find out more about the New College Lectures or Dr Schaefer’s coming visit, contact the Master, Trevor Cairney, at t.cairney@newcollege.unsw.edu.au. ▶

Double-edged sword

At the onset of the second Gulf War Dr Tom Frame, Anglican Bishop to the Australian Defence Force, supported the involvement of Australian troops in armed warfare. Months later at the New College Lectures 2003, Bishop Frame revealed why he changed his mind and how Australia’s involvement may now be seen as a mistake.

His book *Living by the Sword: the Ethics of Armed Intervention* has just been published by UNSW Press as an extension of the lectures delivered to New College students, academics and clergy in September 2003. Get your copy from UNSW Press or by contacting the College on telephone (+6 12) 9381 1999. ▶

CASE on the web

The CASE website has been revamped at www.case.edu.au and is now a constantly updated source of Christian scholarship, book reviews and opinion. If you are not a CASE Associate, sign up at the alumni discount rate of \$40. You’ll get the quarterly magazine in the mail, as well as opportunities to enrol in CASE courses, seminars and conferences at discount rates. Associates also get special website access privileges. To join, fill in the postcard on the back page of *New n’ Old* and write ‘CASE discount’ at the top. ▶
Greg Clarke, Director, CASE



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View of construction from the courtyard. Photo by Paul Doak.

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with a glass wall overlooking the Village Green; a new disabled toilet has been built on the ground floor; fire safety upgrades and enhanced compliance with Building Council Australia regulations have been implemented; glass facades will soon be fitted to all four sides of the building to create an attractive external aesthetic; and approximately 30 rooms will acquire internal cosmetic updates including window seats.

The biggest change to the student culture is that Semester 2 of 2004 will herald in 36 new faces. But increasing the student intake from 216 to 252 residents has left the College with more questions than just those surrounding capacity.

Questions include... if there will be enough plates and cutlery to accommodate a larger student population...

"First, how should we allocate the new rooms when they're finalised at the start of Semester 2?" asked Trevor. "As you can imagine we are already receiving numerous requests for a move to the lofty heights of level 4 where the rooms are new and the views are pretty good. Second, who gets to use the ensuite rooms and should we charge more for them?"

Other questions include whether all residents will fit in the dining room (they will, assured Trevor), if there will be enough plates and cutlery to accommodate a larger student population (yes, depending on how scrupulous the College is with fines for residents carrying plates upstairs), and whether a glass facade facing south might be a new defensive weakness in relation to inter-college pranks. "There may be new cleaning bills that I

need to take to our neighbours," Trevor mused. "As you can see, there is much to think about."

At initial planning stage in 2003, Trevor formed a partnership with PMDL Architecture and Design Pty Ltd, the architects of the latest master plan, and the University's Capital Development branch. ProBuild was chosen as the construction contractor and the design was based on five basic principles: it needed to cost less than \$6 million in the first stage; the enhanced building would need to contain more, not fewer, rooms; the construction needed to take place with no room



Frames go up on the fourth floor. Photo by Paul Doak.

vacancies and minimal disruption to residential life; construction needed to occur primarily in the Christmas break; redevelopment had to be packaged in stages to accommodate students and allow revenue raising in between stages; and all residents needed to enjoy some benefit from the project in Stage 1.

Having met most of these criteria by the completion of the first stage, Trevor has every reason to feel building progress is on track. But the greatest challenge still lies ahead. "We are already planning Stage 2 of the project which is expected to take place in the next two to three years," he said.

"This will involve the removal of some courtyard rooms to be replaced by ensuite rooms, the refurbishment of all rooms on levels 1 to 3, the enlargement of common rooms throughout the College, the refurbishment of the courtyard to remove the skylights and enhance space, the addition of a new glass recreation room in the centre of



Construction of the fourth floor of New College viewed from the Village Green. Photo by Kwan Hee Lee.



New bathroom

the courtyard, and the refurbishment of the offices and some staff accommodation on the ground floor.”

Stage 2 will cost between \$3 million and \$4 million, prompting the College to embark on a fundraising plan to complete refurbishment to deadline.

“Everyone who has lived at New College knows it is a wonderful institution but the physical fabric of the building has both strengths and limitations,” said Trevor. “The greatest strength of the building has always been its unique group design which fosters interaction between residents and facilitates the first pillar of the College’s mission statement: collegiality.”

But the building’s limitations were broad, Trevor pointed out. Its interior was dated, the bathrooms were 35 years old, it provided a uniform standard of accommodation in an age when people were looking for options such as ensuite amenities, it lacked disabled access, it required upgrades in fire safety and it had limited communal space for meetings, seminars, tutorials and study.

“New College is still the college of choice on campus and turns away many people each year,” said Trevor. “The standard of accommodation prior to the refurbishment was equal to or better than other college accommodation on campus, but as competition increases in the accommodation sector on and off campus, it’s important for the College to upgrade.”

What does the future hold for New College? There is an even bigger plan that extends beyond the College itself. Some will be aware that the original New University Christian Colleges (NUCC) company was the driving force behind the formation of New College and Robert Menzies College at Macquarie. While NUCC has ceased to exist as a separate entity from New College, the original dream of building colleges lives on.

“As the Master of New College I am keen to see more students have the opportunity to experience life in a place like New College,” said Trevor. “To this end we are contemplating how we might expand our operations at UNSW to include postgraduate accommodation and indeed, how we might build colleges at other universities. We would appreciate your prayers and practical advice about this potential development.”



Interior of a new common room on the fourth floor.
Photo by Trevor Cairney.

How can you help?

New College needs help with fundraising to complete its redevelopment and there are many ways you can help. Do you have skills in marketing, media or fundraising? Can you volunteer to help build alumni support by tracking Collegians and coordinating alumni functions with friends from your vintage years at College? Or can you offer direct financial support to the College, which is tax deductible and a solid investment in the reputation and success of your alma mater?

“As Master I’m keen to hear your ideas on how we can build a successful fundraising program,” said Trevor. Advice and support from alumni and friends are welcomed by contacting Trevor Cairney, Master, New College, on telephone (+6 12) 9381 1999, email address alumni@newcollege.unsw.edu.au or postal address New College, UNSW, Sydney, NSW, 2052. ▀



Third-floor roof prior to construction.
Photo by Paul Doak.

Old memories in New times

James Oglethorpe (New Collegian 1980-82)

I have very fond memories of my three years at New College. The College presented a very diverse environment that offered great opportunities to meet people of different viewpoints and backgrounds. I'm also pleased to record I met my wife (Tomoko Kuriyama) through New College! She was a temporary resident whilst I was finishing my graduating year. We ended up sharing a flat together quite by chance!

The early eighties was a time of tolerance for College pranks that now seems almost unimaginable. The best thing that can be said about the inter-college rivalry is that there were no fatalities (but only just!)

In the 'Battle of the Oval' in 1982, a phalanx of about 100 Kensington College males (spurred on by a raucous crowd of female camp followers) appeared after dark to bombard Fortress Warrane with an impressive armoury of Roman Candles, rockets and other pyrotechnic devices which have since (quite sensibly) been banned from private ownership. It made for a very impressive display. Even more so when the Warrane boys replied by hurling down from their battlements what can only be described as small bombs – metal chair legs filled with gunpowder!

To the observing New Collegians the situation was obviously getting out of hand, so we formed a scratch 'bucket brigade' and mounted a very successful surprise flanking attack from the 25-metre line. The chilly deluge served to dampen the enthusiasm of the combatants and the riot dispersed.

"A room in 3F was 'modified' with jib rock to eliminate half the floor space... the longest occupancy actually stretched out to three days."

During my time at College, New maintained clear superiority in academic and sporting honours and repeatedly won the Foundation Day 'scavenger hunt'. I believe this competition was discontinued when a UNSW student (thankfully not from New) hijacked a bus during the driver changeover and parked it neatly in the Roundhouse.

One year, New College scooped the pool with points after getting 30 Collegians to ride the morning commuter ferry from Manly wearing nothing but garbage bags emblazoned with the word "SPING!", holding bananas in their left ears and emitting loud random "BEEP!" noises. Our explanation to the perplexed commuters was that we



James Oglethorpe and Tomoko Kuriyama at Woolloomooloo Bay

were sponsored by the National Institute for Street Theatre and the performance was part of a trilogy called *The Commuter* (we even scored a few donations).

Sometimes the stunts within College itself were equally imaginative. At the start of one academic year (with the compliance of the Master, Dr Babbage) a room in 3F was 'modified' with jib rock to eliminate half the floor space and hide the window, desk and cupboard. Several freshers were greeted on arrival by the student president and shown to 'their' room as the large number of card-playing observers in the 3F Common Room maintained appropriate poker faces all the while. Most of the freshers twigged to the joke fairly quickly but the longest occupancy actually stretched out to three days.

Another interesting reverse-psychology stunt was arranged for the occasion of a major formal dinner. The word went around that one of New's most notable lads, Mick Braund (now sadly deceased), was organising a professional stripper to appear during proceedings. The football team were very impressed with this idea. They contributed generously to the collection and were unprecedentedly prompt on the evening to secure a front-row table. Goodness, some of them had even taken the trouble to shave. But Mick had the last laugh when the bump-and-grind music started up and a stripper of the male gender appeared. The looks on the faces of the strategically positioned football jocks were quite priceless.

But probably the ultimate stunt I observed took place during the end-of-year stuvac of 1982. A number of notable Collegians were puzzled to find plaster models of Mini-Minor racing cars in their locked bedrooms. The cars were fetchingly painted in College football colours with individual racing numbers indicating a countdown: 7, 6, 5, 4... The same individuals then found their names inscribed on large banners in the locked dining hall overnight announcing

various personal embarrassments under the heading 'The New College Awards for Excellence'.

The stunt came to a climax after several days when the recipient of the top prize returned from his evening job and tried to enter his room in 1F: his door bumped against an object inside. A loud sound of engine revving filled the air. A hundred concealed observers emerged to absorb the astounding sight of a full-sized Mini-Minor assembled in a New College room. It was beautifully presented in College pale blue with a cheeky black and white racing stripe and a number '1' circled on the bonnet. It also had a UNSW 'This car is illegally parked' notice under the wiper for added authenticity.

Dr Ralph Craven (New Collegian 1973–75)

I started my postgraduate studies at UNSW in 1973 and was a resident of New College for three years. In 1974 and 1975 I was a New College tutor and by 1976, when Dr Babbage was Master at New College, I was awarded my PhD in Electrical Engineering.

Since leaving New College I have held various roles in the energy sector in Australia, Switzerland, Canada and now New Zealand. I have worked for the public and private sectors and in recent years for the Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation, Shell Coal Australia and NRG Energy Inc, a large US-based energy company where I managed all of NRG's investments in the Asia-Pacific area until October 2003.

I have now been with Transpower New Zealand Ltd for 12 months in Wellington as CEO. Transpower owns and operates the high-voltage national electricity grid throughout NZ and we are the system operator responsible for keeping the lights on 24 hours a day through the operation of a wholesale spot market for electricity similar to that which operates throughout the eastern part of Australia.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at New College and made lots of great friends during the three years I was a resident. I moved to Brisbane soon after finishing at UNSW and lost touch with many New Collegians. In 1977 I married Libby (a Sydney girl who many of my friends at New College knew well) and we have four daughters, the oldest being 23 and the youngest 13. Our youngest, Rachel, is with Libby and myself in Wellington. ▀

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Why a Mini in a room? Apparently just to prove that an apocryphal American college yarn could come true at New College. Dr Babbage's grandchildren were delighted with the sudden appearance of the new play equipment.

It often amuses me to think that the people who perpetuated this mayhem are now counted amongst the 'pillars of society' – admirals, surgeons, judges, professors and captains of industry. Certainly we owe a great debt of gratitude to all those in authority who tolerated so much blowing off of steam whilst we were in the process of 'gaining wisdom'. In a way, it was all part of growing up, but that unique College environment must still remain a fond memory for all who experienced it. ▀

Lisa McKay (New Collegian 1995–98)

My four years at New College were one of the best parts of my years in school in Australia! After leaving New College I went on to get a Masters in Forensic Psychology at UNSW, then spent half a year in the Philippines working with a couple of charities and writing. For the next six months I worked in Croatia for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) Mission to Croatia to provide stress management training for their staff.

Following a six-month stint working for the NSW Commission for Children and Young People back in Sydney in 2002, I was awarded a full scholarship to do a Masters in International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame in the USA. The opportunity to spend a year in that environment living and studying with 22 others from 17 different countries around the world was truly amazing and I had a total blast!

I finished my studies at the University of Notre Dame in June 2003 and moved to California to begin my new job as the Director of Training and Education Services for the Headington Institute, a non-profit in California that provides psychological and spiritual support to humanitarian aid and disaster relief personnel. It's keeping me busy. I already have training trips scheduled to Thailand, Germany and Kenya before July 2004. ▀

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Lisa McKay, left, and sister Michelle, also a New College alumnus, in Hollywood in October 2003

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Kwan Hee Lee wins prestigious Oxford scholarship

“In ten years time, when people say ‘UNSW’, the first thing that will come to my mind won’t be my research, but my time at New [College],” said Kwan Hee Lee, who departed from the College in April to undertake the prestigious University College Old Members scholarship at the University of Oxford as part of a three-year doctorate (DPhil) at Oxford’s Clarendon Laboratory.

“My time at New College was an awesome and humbling experience. I’ll remember the wonderful people I met, fun times shared and the feeling of belonging to a larger community.”



Kwan Hee Lee

“One thing that impressed me during my time at College was the dedication demonstrated by Collegians...”

Oxford holds new challenges for the Masters student and University Medallist (Sydney University), with research lined up in the optical properties of ‘wide energy bandgap’ quantum dots, small nanometre-sized semiconductor structures that exhibit interesting quantum effects when excited with laser pulses. Results from this research, explained Kwan, have applications in optoelectronics and quantum computing.

“Quantum computing represents the next revolution in information processing. By using quantum physics, quantum computers may be able to crack secret codes like the ones used for e-commerce or solve certain problems that have been considered

impossible using conventional computers.”

Kwan’s departure from the New College community is keenly felt. Offered the Oxford scholarship soon after his arrival at New College in 2003 and at the start of his postgraduate studies at UNSW, Kwan chose instead to defer the scholarship and commit to his role as New College academic tutor for 12 months before opting for Oxford.

“It’s part of my personality to see tasks through to completion,” he said. “The College placed a certain amount of faith in me by appointing me academic tutor and I didn’t want to disappoint them. I met so many wonderful, intelligent and unique individuals at New College and it has been a positive experience. One thing that impressed me during my time at College was the dedication demonstrated by Collegians, whether it be towards their university studies, sport or extracurricular activities. It’s an attribute that employers and scholarship committees look for: well-balanced individuals.”

The College community farewells a student who was tireless in his enthusiasm for College life and regaled students and staff with his innovative and breathtaking photography. Kwan leaves with a final note for College friends: “*Time spent with each other may be transient, but may the friendships formed be eternal.*” ▶

To find out more about student life at Oxford University, go to ‘Postcards from Oxford’ at Kwan’s website: <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~univ1983/Welcome.html>

Kwan in the Semiconductor Nanofabrication Facility (SNF), Centre for Quantum Computer Technology (CQCT), UNSW



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Sahm Nasser and Kate Basset lead National Youth Science Forum 2004

“I don’t think I would have come to New College and definitely wouldn’t have received a scholarship if I hadn’t gone to the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF),” said Sahm Nasser, New College Students’ Association President.

New Collegians Sahm Nasser and Kate Basset were this year selected to become senior staff of NYSF, the high-profile science, engineering and technology forum that gives 300 students from across Australia the chance to ‘see the world of science and be inspired’, according to Kate.

The program features seminars in science research and development, career guidance, industry networking, interview techniques, university life and tertiary scholarships, and in addition provides students with the opportunity to socialise and form peer support groups before they start university.

For Kate and Sahm, who were selected from an initial pool of 25 candidates for senior staff status and share a combined six years’ involvement in the program, confidence and leadership skills were the greatest attributes they walked away with. “That’s why I was happy to give something back and become a senior staff member,”



Kate Basset and Sahm Nasser

said Sahm. “NYSF really teaches you to get involved.”

Recalling how busy the forum was, Sahm said the leaders found an effective solution to their waning energy levels every morning. “We’d secretly pass Berocca from hand to hand among the leaders in the breakfast hall. The students had no idea. The Berocca kept us enthusiastic and energetic because we were just so tired by the end of it. The forum was such a great experience for us and the younger students that we just wanted to keep the vibe up.”

Missionary in India: Rebecca Barnes



Rebecca with local Indian children in the north-eastern village of Simdega

“I went through my midlife crisis when I was nine years old,” said Rebecca Barnes, senior academic tutor at New College. “I asked myself, ‘What am I going to do with my future?’ and at that point in my life I could see only one thing that appeared to have any lasting value – telling people about Jesus.”

Rebecca’s self-professed crisis ended with her resolution to become a missionary. In February this year she was keener than ever to try it out. “When an organisation called Engineering Ministries International came to my attention I jumped at the opportunity – what a perfect combination in just three words! And so it was that I spent my summer in India, doing engineering projects and Christian work in the

snowy Himalayan town of Mussoorie.

“The main project consisted of designing a hospital for a village area in north-eastern India. Currently the area only has a mobile medical clinic run by Christians. The clinic travels from village to village, desperately trying to serve over a million people. High time for a hospital!”

According to Rebecca, the team of six architects and engineers worked onsite for a week to assess the needs of the hospital, rudimentary engineering ‘techniques’ and local materials.

“But it wasn’t the engineering that struck me. It was the people,” Rebecca said. “I stayed with Indian pastors who couldn’t hold in their joy. Despite having so few possessions, they praised Jesus with every breath they had. I played with school children with no means of communication other than smiles, screams and laughter as I showed them their photos on my digital camera. I met people who hadn’t heard of Jesus and were still living in fear of gods and spirits. And I met people who had been healed of diseases and had turned to Jesus, their healer.”

So does she still want to be a missionary? “More than ever.”

Rebecca, centre, with pastors from Calvary Gospel Ministries





Richard, seventh from the left in the back row, with his New College volunteers

Fifteen New Collegians build a house for local community group in Fiji

Just some of the reasons resident adviser Richard Fleming gives for his upcoming volunteer trip to Fiji include the excitement of building a house from scratch, donating time and money to less privileged people, being involved in a native culture at grass roots

rather than as a tourist, and the sheer life experience.

“Fifteen New College volunteers will live with a local Fijian community for eight days and build a house from the ground up,” Richard explained of the program which is hosted by rural aid organisation Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI).

For Richard and his team of 14 New College volunteers, raising funds for the trip is paramount. “We’re each providing \$1,500 to cover our own expenses but we still need an additional \$11,930 to make the trip happen.” The homes, which HFHI calls ‘simple, decent houses’ with concrete floors and steel sheet roofing, cost an average of A\$14,000 to build and span an aggregate 36 square metres.

The New College team kick-started their fundraising efforts with a ‘Slave for a day’ initiative on 1 May where team members auctioned themselves to fellow Collegians for the execution of mundane tasks under 12-hour consignment. They raised \$911 and will launch further fundraising endeavours in the lead up to the trip this July. Donations to the New College/Habitat for Humanity International Fund can be made by contacting Richard on (+6 12) 9381 1820.

“This is a unique chance for us to live in a local native community and be involved in rural activities like collecting water from a river,” said Richard. “I’m also looking forward to getting to know my team members better – New College students I don’t normally spend much time with. We’ll build our friendships as we build the house.”

Alana Fagan selected for history expedition to Gallipoli



Alana Fagan at Hill 60, the battlefield where soldier John Henry Foster died in 1915

Anzac Day held particular significance for Alana Fagan this year when she was selected as one of 10 UNSW students to travel to the battlefields of Gallipoli and track the personal story of Australian soldier John Henry Foster as part of her history major.

“We each had to research a soldier and find out how he died,” said the second-year New Collegian who travelled to Turkey between 7 and 18 April. “Searching for someone who died for your country is incredibly emotional. I cried when I found my soldier and I was deeply moved by the reality of the numbers that died – mothers lost sons, women lost husbands and sisters lost brothers on those battlefields.”

The futility of the fight hit hard for Alana when she saw the battlefield of Nek – a strip of land the size of a tennis court – where 321 Australians lost their lives on the small patch of ground at her feet. “The poor boys did it for no gain,” she said.

You need the ability to laugh a little to cope with the emotional strain of a trip like this, Alana emphasised. “And a good pair of hiking boots will come in handy because there’s plenty of scrub to trek through!”

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Andrew Joyce sails to victory in Sydney Hobart Race



Andrew and his crew docking at Hobart at dawn on 30 December, minutes after finishing the race

As the youngest navigator in the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race 2003 and one of only eight crew members on the winning Beneteau First 40.7, Andrew Joyce has sailed to success faster than most of his peers.

The second-year Naval Architecture student who participated in the Sydney Hobart Race for the first time last December said the prevailing emotion on finishing the race was relief. "It was a combination of relief that we finished and the feeling that we knew we did pretty well. But I didn't expect the gruelling publicity and celebration schedule when we got there. I was just so exhausted," recalled the nineteen year old.

The winning yacht, named *First National Real Estate* after its sponsor, was declared provisional Overall Winner when it took out the IMS and IRC divisions of the great ocean classic. Andrew's role was to navigate the right course under the GPS satellite system, advise the crew where they were in relation to their competitors and accumulate correct weather forecasts – a job he took so seriously he consulted mathematics

lecturers at the University of New South Wales.

"You learn a lot about yourself during a race like this," he reflected. "You learn there are things you can do which you normally don't think you can because there's no point in the race at which you can say, 'Stop, I've had enough'. You can't stop until you get to Hobart."

"You learn there are things you can do which you normally don't think you can because there's no point in the race at which you can say, 'Stop, I've had enough!'"

Andrew found the conditions of the race physically and psychologically challenging as the crew remained in the same wet clothes for three days, fought against waves two to three metres in height, braved the cold, ate irregular meals, slept a few hours at a time and sailed through the night. "After a day and a half the fatigue starts to set in heavily but you know you've still got a day and a half to go. You're only half way there and you won't be comfortable or dry for days."

But the love of the sport is what steers sailors on said Andrew. "You never know what you're going to get when you're out on the water. A Wednesday afternoon on Sydney Harbour can be relaxing and soothing one day, or a real adrenaline rush and hair raising the next. It's a physical as well as mental sport. You can be the fittest or the smartest in a race but neither of these will make you win. You need a combination of both." ■



Andrew Joyce, left of trophy, with *First National Real Estate* crew celebrating their victory



First National Real Estate coming out of Sydney Heads at the start of the race on Boxing day



Andrew Joyce

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Where are they now?



Aaron with wife Jenny, daughter Miriam and son Chris

Aaron Brett (New Collegian 1993–95)

“My wife Jenny (nee Wilson), two-year-old daughter Miriam and eight-month-old son Chris moved from Adelaide to Sydney in December 2003 when I started studying at Moore Theological College. From 1999 to 2001, I worked in Gawler as a Christian youth worker and part-time high school teacher

for three years. During 2003 I studied for a Bachelor of Theology at the Bible College of South Australia.

“Other New College alumni I heard from during my time in Adelaide include Emily Fitzsimmons who teaches at St Peter’s College in the city, Nandor Barkos who is based at the RAAF in Elizabeth, Steve Cox who did ministry training at Holy Trinity between 2000 and 2001, Scott MacKenzie who took up university ministry with his wife Wendy, and Simon Curnow who married Rochelle in July 2003 and now lives in Hurstville.

“I really enjoy keeping up with my old mates from College and hope to catch a few more this year in Sydney. My new email address is aaronjennybrett@yahoo.com.au.”

Andrew Brown (New Collegian 1996–2000)

“Since leaving New College at the end of 2000, much has happened. I moved to Wollongong to work in the refractories industry (ceramics for the uneducated) for the mighty Shinagawa Refractories. In Wollongong I renewed a friendship with Karina, the girl who became my wife in 2002. After three years in refractories I have called it quits and now Karina and I are both studying at Moore Theological College. We hope to use our training to help people understand who Jesus is.”

Andrew can be contacted at:
26 Terrie Avenue
Figtree NSW 2525
Telephone: (+6 12) 4228 9421
Mobile: 0439 466 824
Email: ankbrown@fishinternet.com.au

Kin S. Chiang (New Collegian 1980–83)

“After receiving my Engineering PhD in 1986, I spent six months at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra. For the next seven years I worked for the Division of Applied Physics (now Division of Telecommunications and Industrial Physics) of CSIRO in Lindfield as Research Scientist/Senior Research Scientist. Between 1992 and 1993, I worked concurrently for the Optical Fibre Technology Centre of the University of Sydney. I joined the City University of Hong Kong in 1993, where I am currently Professor (Chair) of Electronic Engineering and Associate Head of the Department of Electronic Engineering. For the last 20 years or so I have been engaged actively in R&D in fibre optics, integrated optics and optical communications.”

Andrew Glauser

(New Collegian 1981–84) is married to Jacquie and has two daughters, Emily-Rose and Isabella. He works in Singapore at DBS Bank in Group Finance and often touches base with fellow alumnus Patrick Thng. He can be contacted at andrewglauser@db.com.

Delphine Leclercq (New Collegian 2003–04)

“It’s already nine months since I have left Australia. I have just finished my fourth year at uni back home and I have started a three-month internship in Lyon to pass this year. Starting in September next year, I am going to do the second year of my MBA in Lund, Sweden.”

Delphine can be contacted at:
9 rue des Bosquets
6911 Sainte Foy les Lyon
France
Email: delphine.leclercq@free.fr

Patrick Thng (New Collegian 1982–89)

“Since leaving College in 1989 I got married in Singapore and have three wonderful kids and a great wife. I work in the banking industry as a Managing Director of one of the largest banks in SE Asia, with fellow Collegian Andrew Glauser working in the same organisation. I look forward to receiving news from Collegians and to hopefully meet up with some of them in Singapore. I can be contacted on email at family838@pacific.net.sg or patrickthng@db.com, or on mobile + 65 9752 3388.”

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Making contact

We are delighted to hear from our New College alumni.

Simply complete this slip or email us at

alumni@newcollege.unsw.edu.au if you would like to:

- Contribute something to a future edition of *New 'n' Old*
- Help organise an alumni function
- Receive information about New College events and alumni functions
- Amend your address details as outlined (right)
- Offer financial support to the work of the alumni

Name _____

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