

Rosebank College

GAZETTE



Celebrating
140 years

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RULE OF BENEDICT

The third step to humility is that a man submits to his superior in all obedience for the love of God, imitating the Lord of whom the Apostle says:
He became obedient even to death. 7.34-35

Dear parents, students and friends of Rosebank,

It was wonderful to see the safe return of students and staff this week as we commence the last term of the academic year. We are entering a period of course completion, finalising assessments, sitting for exams and preparation of final reports.

The excitement with the onset of summer (well on certain days) has been somewhat clouded by the economic woes of our global human system. Many will be concerned by the impact of these troubled times on their work, their savings, their ability to maintain mortgage payments and their personal and family health and well being.

I encourage families who may find themselves in any difficulty to come and speak confidentially to me. We have seen an unprecedented global effort of unity among governments including the 27 nations of the EU, the G9 and G20 countries and I believe that the crises will force the creation of a better set of rules and expectations for how humans will do business globally. If the political and economic world can come together to help and support each other then surely, we as the Rosebank community, can extend at least the same level of care to those among us who also find themselves in unexpected stress.

As the HSC exams commence for our senior students we particularly pray for them and their families. This process is always challenging for parents who cannot "do it" for their kids but hover around to support and encourage and affirm. For many parents, it represents the first real step of their children moving into the adult world – a rite of passage where they must step back, trust, hope, pray, be available but not control. For our young men and women, I feel confident that they have prepared as well as possible and so we pray that they can maintain a healthy balance, optimism, high levels of concentration and commitment to their best, so that they will emerge out of this, affirmed and confident in their own abilities. May God shower many blessings upon them.

Finally, this is a time when young people want to celebrate both at home and with friends. Often they are learning to handle

many choices completely new to them like relationships, alcohol and unhealthy substances. These are worrying times for parents who want to both, protect their children but also want them to grow and become citizens of the world. This period also includes the issue of parties and after-parties. I write to alert parents of the responsibilities they take upon themselves when they host these activities at their home. Here are some guidelines that might help.

1. If a number of students from Rosebank are invited to a party you are organising (at home or elsewhere) then the College is implicated whether intended or not. Please let your Year Co-ordinator know what is happening. It's too late afterwards if problems occur (and they inevitably occur). Whether you intend to or not, you are taking responsibility for the reputation of the College so be alert and be careful.
2. Ensure that you have defined an exact list of people who are invited and insist that this list be adhered to – there is an endless set of parties that have been invaded and ruined by uninvited guests. You cannot rely on the advice of your child to modify this list as they are under enormous pressure to say yes and so it is easier for them if they can say that you have said no!
3. Be aware of the laws of serving or allowing access to alcohol to minors – there are serious consequences.
4. Insist on security at the front door to ensure only invited guests enter your property. (This is extremely difficult when hordes of young people descend upon you). Be alert and maintain this security uninterrupted for the whole duration of the party – not just the start.
5. If uninvited guests do manage to enter the premises insist on their departure immediately – by allowing them to stay, you are taking responsibility for their behaviour. If they refuse, feel free to call the police for assistance.

Over the last 15 years, I have spoken to many parents who have related horror stories. Remember, when large groups of young people gather (particularly if alcohol is involved) the scene can turn very nasty with little warning. In these situations assaults and serious property damage has occurred often resulting in kitchens, lounge rooms, equipment and the front of properties being trashed. It is not worth the risk. Be very careful and be prepared.

Tom Galea, Principal

Year 8 Film Festival



From the Assistant Principal

Kiribati Immersion Trip

During the holidays I travelled with seven other teachers from Good Samaritan Colleges across Australia to Kiribati. Our aim was to become immersed in the culture of the I-Kiribati people and the communities of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan in this beautiful Pacific island nation, spread across the equator, halfway between Australia and Hawaii.

The work of the Sisters is varied and busy: from pre-school to tertiary education, research and strategy in ensuring water sustainability, providing support to mentally ill and physically disabled children and adults, and the formation of novices. We were privileged to share in the experiences of some of

this work, and moved by the warm and joyful welcome we received from each community we visited.

Kiribati faces many challenges, including those arising from climate change and social and economic pressures. It is inspiring to witness the positive actions being taken by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan in these areas.

These challenges are best expressed by an I-Kiribati person, and I recommend you read Sr Claire Anterea's thoughts on working for social justice at http://www.goodsams.org.au/html/news/global_compassion.html

I was pleased to take with me some art supplies (crayons, paints, glue, scissors etc) which I had purchased with some of

the funds raised at Rosebank this year. These were very enthusiastically received by the students whose classes I visited. The Sisters' community at Teoareareke was also pleased to accept Rosebank's donation towards much needed improvements to their truck which will allow them to comfortably transport the many people who enjoy their services. My sincere thanks go to Sr Julie O'Regan and Sr Meg Kahler who organised and led our visit. It allowed all of us deepen our appreciation of the work of the Sisters and to become more informed and aware of our neighbours. I also thank all of the Rosebank community for their ongoing support of Kiribati.

Miriam Berlage



Student Recognition

As part of the ongoing preparations for the extension of co-education, a committee of teachers has been reviewing the ways in which we recognise and reward students' achievements and contributions to the school community, as well as the ways in which we support and challenge students who have difficulties in meeting expectations.

As a result, a model has been developed which involves a series of awards (Merit Certificates for junior students and Letters of Commendation for seniors) which may be accumulated over time to larger awards. These will be presented to students who demonstrate outstanding work, consistent effort and application over a sustained period or who make a significant contribution to the Rosebank community. Students may ultimately receive a Principal's Award which would be awarded at a College assembly.

As well as aiming to enhance our students' feelings of value and success at school, the redeveloped model for student recognition is also designed to minimise disruption to learning and to provide a mechanism to facilitate restoration where damage has occurred. It includes clear processes and consequences for working with students who are not meeting the College's expectations regarding behaviour or application to learning. These involve close communication between staff, parents and students.

Part of the redevelopment of these processes involves the expansion of our online record keeping of student details. This will enable us to better track students' achievements during their time at Rosebank.

During this term, the new opportunities and record keeping for student recognition will be trialled and evaluated with Years 7 & 11. Further information about Student Management at Rosebank will then be published in Term 1 next year for students and parents.

Dates for the Diary

21 October	Yr 11 2009 Course Confirmation Interviews
22–24 October	Yr 9 Camp/Senior Retreat
31 October	Yr 8 & 9 Dance Party 7–10pm Concord RSL
10 November	School Certificate exams commence. Yr 12 2009 UAI Information evening and Parent – Teacher interviews

Parent Dinner

The Parent and Friends would like to invite you to dinner for a great chance to catch up with old friends and to make a few more.

For parents of Years 8 & 9 students this is a good time to relax together while the girls are at the Dance Party.

FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER 2008, 7.30pm

Chilli Jam Restaurant

104 majors Bay Rd, Concord

\$39 p/p for a 3 course banquet including seafood
drinks are not included

Look out for a flyer coming to you shortly with more details.

Up-dates from the Coordinator of Mission

The spiritual life of Rosebank College continues to be truly alive and active in this Ordinary Time of the Church year, where we endeavour to "LIVE THE RULE".

Year 12 HSC Examination Prayer

Let us pause and take a moment to pray for the Year 12 students undertaking their HSC Examinations:

Holy Spirit, God of Wisdom and Truth,
guide the minds of all the Year 12 students of Rosebank College as they undertake the Higher School Certificate Examinations. Steady their nerves so that they remain focussed. May they be duly rewarded for their efforts in their learning.

Remind them that You are a God of love and compassion, calling all to live life to the full.

We make our prayer in Jesus name and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Aboriginal Immersion Program

During the first week of the recent school holiday (Sunday 28 September to Saturday 4 October), five students from the Year 11 cohort took the opportunity to travel to a remote part of New South Wales to spend three days living in an Aboriginal community. The five Rosebank students—Stephanie Blasé, Louise Menegoni, Oksana Lutak, Cassandra Champley and Jay Barrett—were accompanied by seventeen students from four other Good Samaritan schools and four supervising teachers. The community of Goodooga is in central northern New South Wales, not far from the Queensland border.

Travelling to Goodooga took two days, with an overnight stopover in Wellington. Once we had arrived at Goodooga, the immersion experience began in earnest. On Tuesday morning, we set off to visit Brewarrina which used to be a traditional meeting place for the Aborigines of the entire area. Not far from there was an abandoned Mission station which now stands as a monument to the injustices done to Aborigines of generations past. This was a sobering and moving experience. There were many other occasions during which we were confronted with the truth about the plight of Aborigines. Unfortunately, not all the maltreatment happened in the distant past; it is still relatively recent. Elsewhere in this week's newsletter is a report written by Stephanie Blasé who gives a perspective from the students' point of view.

I think that the Goodooga experience is extremely valuable. The students were always thoroughly engaged, attentive and receptive. The strong sense of close friendships having been formed via their common experience is a very clear result of the trip. There was plenty of variety of activities and the hospitality extended to us was uncompromising.

The five students from Rosebank have reported back to their Year Group and part of their presentation was that they felt unable to adequately convey the depth of their experiences. It is something that has to be experienced first hand in order to be fully appreciated. Also, I would like to extend a strong vote of confidence and thanks to Cassandra Gibbs, who coordinates the program and to her assistant Julie-Anne and the Gibbs family.

Senior Retreat

I wish to extend to all Year 11 students a word of encouragement as they undertake their Senior Retreat experience next week. May the Holy Spirit fill their hearts and minds so that they may gain maximum benefit from their time on Retreat. Thank you, too, to the parents and guardians of our students who have been their first and primary teachers of the faith.

Angelo Gattone



Goodooga

In the first week of the holidays, Jay Barrett, Stephanie Blasé, Cassandra Champley, Oksana Lutak and Louise Menegoni along with 17 other year 11 girls, set out from Rosebank on a twelve hour drive to the rural outback community of Goodooga. It was an opportunity for girls from St Patrick's, St Mary's Star of the Sea (Wollongong), Stella Maris, St Scholastica's and Rosebank College, to experience living with an Aboriginal community for a week. We were fortunate enough to be welcomed with open arms by the Gibbs family and the entire community, and were invited to participate in smoking ceremonies, Aboriginal dancing, jewellery making and water fights. We learnt about Aboriginal culture, unfair stereotypes and how to survive in a community of less than 350 people and only one store- the post office. Our group travelled to Lightning Ridge and made friends with the locals at the pools, taking photos together and meeting an Andrew Johns look alike. After spending a week together, sharing meals and sleeping in the local school hall, we made lasting friendships and left with many fond memories. It was an amazing experience that exceeded all our expectations and made a far greater impression than we could have hoped for. We cannot express just how much we gained from this experience, and wish to thank all those who helped make it possible.

Stephanie Blasé

Co-Curricular News

Netball

Unpires Needed

Senior umpires required for Tuesday night games at Cintra Park. Umpires will be paid \$20 per game. Please see Ms Laing if you are interested.

Special Provisions

The Board of Studies allows students in Years 10 and 12 to access special provisions for their School Certificate and Higher School Certificate examinations. These provisions allow students who may be affected by a medical condition, attention difficulties, physical disability or reading/writing difficulties to demonstrate their knowledge under examination conditions. The College also extends these provisions throughout Year 11.

If your son/daughter is new to the College this year and has had provisions approved by the Board of Studies previously, please notify Ms Laing at the College.

Alternatively, if you feel that your son/daughter may be eligible for such provisions in Years 10, 11 and 12, please contact Ms Laing.

Marina Laing

See Ms. McAloon or log on to www.careercentral.com.au

Taglio Salon

Hairdressers in Norton Street Lilyfield, is looking for a part-time assistant to help on Saturdays from 8am to 5pm. They are seeking a committed, reliable and well presented student interested in hairdressing. The role includes cleaning, making and serving beverages, passing up to seniors where required. The successful applicant will be trained to shampoo and apply treatments. See Ms McAloon if you are interested.

Good Luck Year 12!

HSC Exams commenced Thursday 16 October (as if you've forgotten!). We are thinking of you and wish you all the very best of luck. Stay calm, stay focused and do the best you can. Remember - there IS life AFTER the HSC!

2009 Uni Admissions

The Universities Admissions Centre receives and processes applications for admission to most undergraduate degree, advanced diploma, diploma and associate diploma courses at participating institutions in NSW/ACT. Late applications attract a fee and close on 31 October.

NSW HSC Online

NSW HSC ONLINE was developed by Charles Sturt University in conjunction with the NSW Department of Education, Science and Training to provide access to quality education resources and exam material for students, parents and teachers.

Yr 12 – Keep Your Options Open!

Applications for many popular TAFE courses close 31 October. You CANNOT apply for these courses AFTER receiving your UAI so consider applying NOW for any courses related to your preferred uni course in case you fail to gain an offer

Australian Federal Police

The Australian Federal Police is responsible for community policing in the ACT and offers the chance to gain experience in specialised policing roles, as well as to work with national and international law enforcement agencies.

Adv Diploma Fine Arts

Meadowbank College TAFE NSW offers an Adv Diploma in Fine Arts. No UAI required for entry. The course will be offered in an accelerated mode from 2009 to allow faster progression into university studies if required. Applications close 31 October.

APS Indigenous Traineeships

The Australian Public Service is seeking enthusiastic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for exciting career opportunities in Canberra! 18 month traineeships available, commencing Jan – Feb 09. Applications close 24 October

Computer Games Industry

The Academy of Interactive Entertainment's new Sydney Campus will offer Adv Diploma courses in the Computer Game Development and 3D Digital industries, commencing 2009. Sydney Campus Open Day: 15 November.

Racing NSW Apprenticeships

Are you interested in a career in the Thoroughbred Racing Industry? Racing NSW will run a pre-vocational training course for eligible job seekers commencing 24 November that may help you gain an apprenticeship/traineeship or entry level employment.

Music Studies

The Australian International Conservatorium of Music offers a Diploma and Bachelor of Music (Performance) with music/voice studies in Jazz, Classical or Contemporary performance. Auditions: 6-20 November. Open Day: 1 November.

Apprentice Bakers Wanted!

Alliance People Solutions are seeking enthusiastic candidates interested in starting a Baking career for a FREE Pre-Apprenticeship course at Ultimo College - TAFE NSW commencing 27 October. Info Session required.

Employability Skills Workshop

Students in Yrs 9-12 from the Ryde, Ku-ring-gai and Hunters Hill areas, or recent school leavers, can attend a workshop on 17-18 November to gain some practical skills in job preparation such as employability and interview skills. Bookings required.

Reserve Bank Traineeships

The Reserve Bank of Australia is offering 12 month traineeships in Business Admin, Facilities Management and Information Technology to Year 12 school leavers to commence March 2009 in Sydney. Applications open early October.

USYD Flexible Entry

The University of Sydney offers flexible entry to some courses for current HSC applicants whose UAI falls within 5 points of that required for entry, who can demonstrate aptitude for their chosen course.

Hospitality and Tourism Management

The residential Career Focus Days Program offered by the Blue Mountains Hotel School provides an introduction to hospitality and tourism management with a view to entering this rapidly growing industry. 25–28 December.

Apprenticeship/Traineeship Info Sessions

The Australian Training Company offer training opportunities in a number of areas including: Carpentry, Auto, Aged Care, Plumbing, Sport and Rec, Business, Admin, Electrical and IT. Info Sessions: Traineeships (10/11). RSVP required.

Computer Science School

The National Computer Science School from 3-12 January 2009 brings together talented young people for an intensive week of computer programming, web design and related activities in the School of IT at the University of Sydney.

Snow Sports Training

Educating Adventures have 12 places available on a 'Ski and Snowboard Instructor Internship Program' at Whistler Blackcomb in Canada, North America's premier ski destination. 18yrs+. Applications for 08/09 winter season close early October.

Please see Ms McAloon, Careers Advisor, for more information on any of the above notices or visit www.careercentral.edu.au.

Parents and teachers can also register online at Career Central. To open a user account, click 'registered' and follow the prompts.