

# new'n'old

[ New College UNSW ]



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Newsletter of  
New College, UNSW

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Session 2, 2002

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## Taggart takes on the streets of Kathmandu



**R**ob Taggart was a New Collegian from 1997 to July 2002 before heading off to Nepal for 12 months. He was Senior Academic Tutor in his final two years. Those who know Rob will recognize that he hasn't lost his sense of humour.

"Hhhup! Hhhup!" cried the voice at five in the morning. That was my neighbour and alarm clock, performing his daily Hindi ritual cleansing of bile. I'd love to roll over and get a few more winks. But the morning ticks on and so must my heart. Jumping on my bicycle, crossing the Bagmati River, hoping to see the Himalayas through the Kathmandu haze, breathing through a pollution mask lashed across my face. Ringing my bell like every other cyclist does—but unlike them, taking on the buses and tempos in a test of speed and traffic agility. It is 7:30 am, the trip to Kathmandu International Studies Centre (KISC) is over and another day of teaching begins.

Maths, physics, maths, physics, more physics... that is my timetable. Ironically UNSW was my university of preference because there I could study maths and not physics. But now I am teaching the discipline up to Cambridge A Level standard to children who come from all over the world. They are here because their Christian parents are sharing the love of Christ to the people of Nepal through medical, educational, developmental and agricultural service. My small contribution is to support them in their work by teaching their children.

In July 2003 I will return to Australia to consider where to invest my future. I may return overseas, I may remain in Australia. But I pray that whatever I do Christ's love may shine through.

It is 7:30am, the trip to Kathmandu International Studies Centre (KISC) is over and another day of teaching begins. Maths, physics, maths, physics, more physics...

And for those who previously looked at me in disbelief, I have found a fourteen year old Australian missionary kid whose mind is also ignited with fire when confronted with an elegant mathematical proof. There is more than one of us in the world!

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# Welcome Dinner for the new Master

**A** formal dinner was held on the 25th September to welcome New College's 5th Master, Professor Trevor Cairney. The dinner was attended by 240 people including Collegians and invited guests from the Board, University, Anglican Church and community. Professor Cairney commenced his term as Master on the 19th August following 13 years at the University of Western Sydney where his roles included Dean of the Faculty of Education and Pro Vice-chancellor (Research). A part of his welcome address is reproduced on p.6 of this issue.

Welcomes were extended on behalf of the Staff, Board, Collegians, University and Alumni. Emily Welch was invited to deliver the address on behalf of the Alumni. Her comments provided a wonderful insight into New College and its impact on her life. Her speech is reproduced below.

I would like to welcome Professor Cairney to the position of Master of New College on behalf of the College's alumni. As a former New Collegian, I attended many formal

discover in his new role, is a wonderful source of great and lasting friendships. Alumni of the college have gone on to do many interesting things, and forged brilliant careers. We've spread all around Australia and the world, but the relationships fostered over meals in this dining room and discussions over coffee in common rooms have endured.

Two weeks ago, I went skiing. Marcus Loane organised it and there were 14 people in the group, 9 of whom were ex-New Collegians. Most of us travelled down from Sydney, but Greg came up from Melbourne and Jono joined us from Canberra. We spent a very enjoyable first night in front of the open fire in our lodge, drinking red wine and schapps and just catching up on each other's lives. If I look at this group of people and where we went to school, we came from Townsville, Wollongong, Avoca, Lismore, Mildura and Sydney. We graduated from courses ranging from Law to BIT to Arts.

Alumni of the college have gone on to do many interesting things, and forged brilliant careers. We've spread all around Australia and the world, but the relationships... have endured.

dinners including the welcoming dinner for the last master, Dr Allan Beavis, so in the interest of keeping your interest, I will be brief.

New College, as Professor Cairney will



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## New 'n' Old

New 'n' Old is a publication of New College at the University of New South Wales. Enquiries about this newsletter should be directed to the Master, at (02) 9381 1999 or t.cairney@newcollege.unsw.edu.au

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Chemical, Materials, Civil and Mechanical engineers were represented... and one of us is still a student. Had it not been for our chance to live together and experience the fellowship of New College, I believe we would have missed out on these friendships that have enriched our lives.

New College remains important to Alumni throughout our lives. We have memories of experiences (“bucketing”) and lessons learned (“how to use a washing machine”) and we value the friendships formed. Many Alumni have a more tangible connection such as a sibling who is a current resident, or a spouse who they met at College. Whether or not New College currently plays an active role in our lives—for most ex-residents, all these links to New College continue to make college an important part of our lives.

I also believe that Alumni are important to the College now and into its future. Through the circulation of the college publication, *New 'n' Old* and the creation and maintenance of the alumni database, the college is endeavoring to keep the ties it has with alumni. *New 'n' Old* allows old fogies like me an opportunity to

I also believe that Alumni are important to the College now and into its future.

find out news of the college, including sporting achievements, and dates of upcoming events, plays or revues. The “where are they now” section is also an interesting read! We know, from the last issue of *New 'n' Old* that Professor Cairney is keen to foster and build on relationships with the alumni network, and in this, we wish him every success.

I would like to repeat my welcome, on behalf of Alumni to you, Professor Cairney as Master as we look forward to a continued connection with New College. ▀

## Birthplace of the “Next Big Idea in Business”

Four Collegians were recently awarded the prestigious AGSM Connector Business Planning Competition. The team consisted of Simon Blythe (2000-2001? *even admin aren't sure if he has left or not*), Rami Banna (1999-2001), David Ah Toy (2000-2002) and Matthew McKay (1999-present).

The team won the \$20,000 award from a record number of 52 entries.

The ‘Virtual buttonz’ team developed an holographic device that eliminates physical contact between humans and machines. Simon tells us “The idea is a unique application of holographic technology to eliminate problems of contamination, wear-and-tear and customisation encountered with conventional tactile buttons. It has numerous applications including pharmaceutical laboratories, elevator panels, switches in factories and automatic teller machines, to name a few and it will be particularly valuable in sterile environments where human physical contact can cause contamination problems.”



Left to right: Matthew McKay, Simon Blyth and David Ah Toy.



The team hopes to be able to bring the idea to the marketplace within twelve months. They are also currently exploring other forms of funding for the next big phase of the idea’s development. Watch this space! ▀

# Sporting New(s) 2002!

**S**ports Co-ordinators Genevieve Lang and Tom Fisher report that there have been many highlights in sport during the year.

As usual there were many wins in the inter-college competition. The Girls Touch footy team won the final against Basser 3-2. As well there was success in winning the Squash, Tennis, Indoor Soccer, Outdoor Soccer, Indoor Cricket and Rowing competitions.

The New College women finished 2nd in the inter-college shield for 2002—very narrowly beaten by Basser (who were all too happy to beat New!).

The New College men were not quite as successful as the women but still managed to take out Rowing, Indoor Soccer and Outdoor soccer (though Warrane took the final... we dominated the sport!). They finished third in the inter-college shield.



There were many individual highlights including:

**Alex Blackwell** was selected to play for the NSW Women's cricket team and is in the Australian squad as part of the targeted youth program (see story below).

**Jarrat Wood** and **Manoa Vocea** were key touch players in the UNSW side that won the Australian University Games (AUG).

**Shelley Bambrook** was Captain of the UNSW tennis team that won bronze at AUG.

**Chris Quigley** and **Lisa Perrett** are the current NSW Womens Rogaining champions.

**Lisa Antill** was winner of the triple jump at the AUG.

**Alex Whiteside** played soccer for the UNSW team that came 2nd in Eastern Conference Games & 7th in AUG.

**Joel Orchard** ran the city to surf in 51mins 45secs—coming in 143rd, and coached the UNSW athletics team for the AUG.

The winners of the sportsman and sportswoman of the year for 2002 were **Jarrat Wood and Alissa Tenney.** ▀

## IN THE NEWS Move over Waugh Twins

**T**he Sydney Morning Herald (26th November) recently heralded the emergence of female rivals to the famous Waugh brothers. Alex and Kate Blackwell have burst onto the national women's cricket scene in a way that has reminded commentators of Steve and Mark Waugh.

Originally from Port Macquarie but having grown up in Wagga Wagga, the 19 year old identical twins have both been selected to play for NSW against Victoria.

One of the twins, Alex has been a New Collegian in 2002 and is aiming for national selection, having already been picked in the training squad. Alex has been described as a "...Steve Waugh type player. She's very gutsy out in the middle and pulls the team out of holes." ▀

# Presenting the Christian 'CASE'

New College has just announced the creation of the Centre for Apologetic Scholarship and Education (CASE). The Centre will apply biblical frameworks to our understanding of everyday issues. Using Christian faith as the basis of argument, CASE will provide a Christian perspective on matters of relevance to all people. It will attempt to engage people of all persuasions in dialogue, debate and discussion concerning contemporary issues of broad interest.

The over-riding mission of the Centre will be to seek to advance knowledge of God through apologetics. The Centre will attempt to do this by engaging intellectually with College residents, Alumni, the University community, secular groups and the wider church grappling with the complex issues of contemporary faith and culture.

The Master of New College, is the Interim Director of the Centre that grew out of the College's former Institute for Values Research. In launching the Centre Professor Cairney has suggested that the Centre will fill an important niche and will support the Mission Strategy for the Sydney Diocese of reaching our city with the gospel.

Professor Trevor Cairney suggests that "CASE will help to inform and equip Christians to give a reason, a 'case', for their faith and what it means for issues that they face day by day." Professor Cairney says that the Centre will do this through research, publications, forums, short courses and public events of all kinds. "We want to engage with people about the truth of the gospel and how it affects all of life."



The over-riding mission of the Centre will be to seek to advance Knowledge of God through apologetics... helping to inform and equip Christians to give a reason for their faith and view of the world.

The Centre has just published its first CASE News that features a lead article on a biblical position on war, an interview with Craig Gay about globalisation and capitalism, reviews and a report by Dr Greg Clarke on the annual CS Lewis conference in the UK. To obtain a free CASE News or for more information about CASE contact Professor Cairney at New College (02 9381 1999). ▀

# Community building at New



**A**t the welcome for our new master on the 25th September Professor Cairney shared a little of his past as well as his reasons for accepting the position of Master.

“The role of Master allows me to pursue a long-term interest and commitment to young adults and their educational, social and spiritual development.

Part of my experience in Universities has shown me that they can be lonely places that contribute much to the growth of minds and not always a great deal to the growth of human character.

A key to the latter is the way in which humans support each other in families, communities and groups.

I recognise that my views on the world, my abilities, my prejudices, my fears and my hopes have been shaped within the relationships that have made up my life to this point in time. My parents, my sister, grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends, sporting team coaches and managers, the pastors of my various churches, colleagues at work have all played a part.

I have committed a large part of the last 25 years researching how people learn in communities and groups and the way in which we are socially constructed.

My work confirms what common sense should tell you anyway, we grow and learn as we relate to other people—we make a difference to each other.

The Bible teaches us that when God created the world he saw that it WAS good. But when he placed a man in the garden and saw that he was alone, he concluded that it was NOT good for him to be alone, so he created woman (Gen 2:18). And so a pattern was set of people needing the relationships of other people as well as their primary relationship with him.

The most significant of your earliest

relationships are within the family. Later friends, peers and colleagues at university and work continue to affect your life.

Research in the social sciences is littered with significant findings that show how one person can make a difference to your life:

- a teacher
- a parent or caregiver
- a coach
- a youth group leader

At age 50 I stop in my tracks regularly because I hear my father’s voice coming from my lips, and even feel the shuffle of his feet as I jump (well maybe drop) out of bed in the morning and head for the shower. And it scares me!!

In a discussion just last week, in this building, a young person said to me and others in his presence—‘I believe that everyone in this building is over the age of 18 years and is responsible for their own actions. I don’t have any responsibility for anyone else except myself.’

I hold a different view and that’s why I’m here at New College. The community within a residential college provides a network of relationships enabling connectedness and a sense of belonging. The academic and pastoral support systems reflect the fact that welfare and growth of students is at the core of college life. We all contribute to each other.

I believe that to be human is to experience and to contribute to relationships. What we believe and how we act has an influence on others—no man or woman is an island unto themselves.

New College is an attempt to educate the whole person. An important part of this is for Collegians to be open to the ideas of others and to consider the big issues of life including matters of faith and the impact that this has on who we are and how we engage with our world. I look forward to making a contribution to New College and pledge myself to fulfill the role to the best of my ability. ▸

# Farewell Quinny



**A**n era will end in January when John Quinn will leave New College.

He arrived as John Quinn in 1995, quickly became just plain 'Quinny' and leaves us as Dr Quinn! In his own words (shared at his "Reflections on New" talk in November) "I was a wide eyed country boy, having grown up in the town of Coolamon between Wagga and Griffith—this was my first taste of the city. I had little idea of what awaited me over the next few years."

John is leaving to take up a position as Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of Melbourne.

In his time at New College he has filled just about every role open to him. He was Social Director of the NCSA in 1996 (difficult to believe but true!), a Tutor (now Resident Adviser) in 1997-98, Senior Tutor/Senior Resident Adviser from 2000-2002 and Acting Dean from July till December 2002. During these 7 years he completed his Bachelor of Science (Hons 1) and PhD. His PhD was completed recently and was titled "Synthetic and Kinetic Studies of Reversible Addition-Fragmentation Chain Transfer Polymerization".

As his various roles suggest, John has always been an active participant in New College life. Sometimes this involvement came at a price.

*First year was a Baptism of fire—aside from all the OWeek shenanigans that I did (and still do) find somewhat testing, I settled down to life in 3G. There were six freshers in the group, and three second years. It didn't take the old boys long to work out that I was an easy target, and as such I found myself perpetually under fire. Queensland wins the state of origin, let's basin John. NSW wins the state of origin, let's basin John. John's doing his washing, let's bucket him. John's in the toilet let's bucket him. John has a Maths test let's bucket him. At one point I was*

*bucketed, basined or showered no less than 14 times in two weeks—which isn't that impressive until you consider that I wasn't there for four days in the middle of it.*

John has epitomised what it is to be a New Collegian. He has been involved widely in the social, academic and spiritual life of the College and University and has sought to serve others. He has achieved highly in a community of high achievers, and he has touched many lives with his sense of fun and wit, his friendship and commitment to God. It is the growth in John's relationship with God that he believes has been the most significant part of his time at New College.

*"...there have been a lot of lessons, but what is the most important one. Well, it has nothing to do with chemistry or polymer science or research though I certainly did learn a lot about that. It hasn't got to do with communal living – though those lessons will be handy in the work place. The most important thing I learnt is that I am a sinner—I can't stand before God's judgement and expect anything other than punishment – I continually try and live my way, on my terms. Despite that, though I live my life in rebellion from Him, God loved me (and you) enough that he would send his Son into the world, that he might go to the cross and in doing so take the punishment for our sin, and so that through him we might have life. In the First Epistle of John, the Author writes: "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sin." Similarly, in Paul's letter to the Romans "Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man one might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

Bye John, we will miss you. May God bless and use you in your new life in Melbourne. ▀

# Where are they now?

**Aaron Brett** (1993-1995) his wife Jenny (nee Wilson) and their daughter Miriam (born 12/3/02) are on the move again. They are on their way back to Sydney to study at Moore Theological College. Aaron has just spent three years in Gawler as a Christian Youth Worker and Part-time High School Teacher.

**Dr Ian Lavering** (1971-1974) has been based near Canberra since 1983 with his wife Jocelyn. Ian is also involved in distance education with the UNSW Master of Business and Technology program where he is one of three current Adjunct Professors. Ian fondly recollects the opportunities presented during his time at New College for the 'formulation of life-long values', 'faith based on universal truth' and some of the social skills to deal with a diverse and complex world.



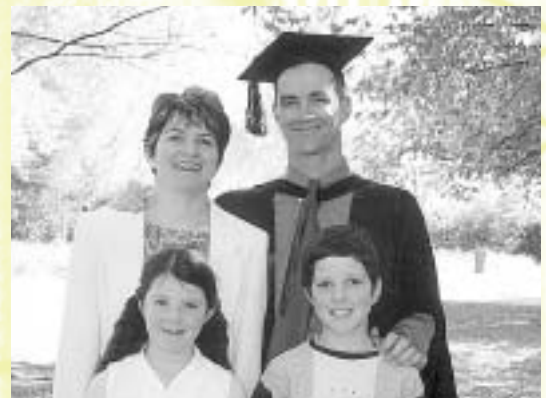
**Ross Fox** (1995-1998) studied Mining Engineering while at UNSW, as well serving as Student President (1996) and a residential tutor (now called residential advisers) in 1997-98. After

leaving college at the end of 1998 he spent 4 years with McKinsey & Company as a business analyst. After leaving McKinsey in April of last year he spent 6 months working on three remote Aboriginal communities in the Ngaanyatjarra lands in Western Australia. His work included store manager, essential

services officer and community development advisor on different communities. Since April he has been working as a policy adviser in the Office of John Brogden MP, Leader of the Liberal Party in NSW.

Ross suggests that "the skill of withstanding, the often-fierce debates over dinner and the stamina developed from balancing an active social life with a modicum of academic achievement were just two of the long lasting benefits gained from student life at New College."

**Chris Raymond** (1981-1986) and **Judy (nee Capel) Raymond** (1981-1984) have been married for 16 years and have 11 year old twins, Mark and Rachel. Judy studied medicine and Chris Mechanical Engineering. Chris now works in IT at the Health Insurance Commission and Judy is a psychiatrist. Judy says that she first spotted Chris lined up in the New College balcony hanging competition in the "O" Week of 1981. ▀



Judy, Chris, Rachel and Mark Raymond

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## Making Contact

We would like to hear from our New College Alumni. Please tear off and return the form below or simply email [alumni@newcollege.unsw.edu.au](mailto:alumni@newcollege.unsw.edu.au)

- I'd like to contribute something to a future edition of New 'n' Old
- I'd like to help organise an Alumni reunion
- I'd like information on New College events and Alumni functions
- Please amend my address details as outlined (right)
- I'd like to offer financial support to the work of the Alumni

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
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