



Queensland College of Teachers **College Connection**

Issue 2 September 2006



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The secret to
happiness and
longevity revealed



Prof John Dewar
QCT Chair

The College is currently finalising its Strategic Plan 2006–2010, which will provide direction for the first five years of the College's operation and is reflective of its roles and responsibilities under the *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005*. A draft plan was developed by the College Board and staff and feedback was sought from our key stakeholder groups, including teachers, parents, employers, educational institutions and unions.

The College values the contribution of all who provided feedback. We will continue to consult with our key stakeholder groups, where appropriate. The Strategic Plan outlines the College's vision, purpose, values and key outcome areas.

The major projects to be undertaken by the College, the strategies to be used and relevant success indicators are also identified

Chair's Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of *College Connection*, the aim of which is to continue to provide you with information about the work of the College and ensure you are kept well informed of any issues that may affect your teacher registration.

in the Plan. The final version of the Strategic Plan 2006–2010 will soon be available on the College's website and a copy will be distributed to every school in Queensland.

During the next six months, the College will facilitate two important projects – the development of Professional Standards for teachers and a Code of Practice for teachers. When completed, these will be the cornerstone of many of the College's policies and practices regarding initial and ongoing registration.

Just as importantly, the Professional Standards and the Code of Practice

will help the public understand the nature of the profession of teaching. By these means, we aim to improve public understanding of the complex, challenging and professional work that teachers do.

I encourage you to take the opportunities that will be available to you to provide constructive input to these projects to ensure that they reflect the complex nature of teaching.

This edition of *College Connection* is wide and varied, providing a snapshot of what the College is doing for you. We trust that you will find the articles enjoyable and informative.

The objectives of the Act are to:

- uphold the standards of the teaching profession;
- maintain public confidence in the teaching profession; and
- protect the public by ensuring education in schools is provided in a professional and competent way by approved teachers.



What do you think of our website?

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Principal for a Day

Wanda Lambert — a nominee of the Queensland Council of Parents and Citizens Associations (QCPCA), participated in Education Queensland's Principal for a Day program in June. Wanda reflects on her day work-shadowing Judy Newman, Principal, Gladstone State High School.



Wanda Lambert
Board Member

Being Principal for a Day was a wonderful opportunity to 'walk a mile in someone else's shoes.' It provided me with a first-hand opportunity to experience the complexity of such a position and the balancing act that Principals undertake in their roles as leaders, managers, educators, counsellors and colleagues in a single day.

Although the day provided only a very tiny snapshot (starting at 9 am and finishing at 3.30 pm), I am well aware that the day began and finished for Judy Newman, Principal of Gladstone State High School, well outside the very civilised hours that I was at the school.

Amongst the routine aspects of a day in the life of a school and all it entails (including the many scheduled and unscheduled activities), the teamwork within the school was highlighted.

Although good leadership is a very important aspect of the role, it was evident to me that it is a blessing to have a cohesive and supportive team, including Deputies, HODs, administrative support officers and, most importantly, teachers.

The students at the school were a credit to the team at Gladstone State High School. The respectful way they spoke to the Principal and to me when I was introduced was a pleasure

to hear (especially as a mother of teenagers).

The way the Principal spoke to the students as we walked around during a break and during a behaviour management incident that occurred while I was there was noteworthy. It made me realise (or really confirmed for me), that parents can be satisfied that their children are getting the best possible education in our schools, both academically and socially, and that we as parents should be very willing members of the support teams in the schools our children attend.



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New Toll-Free Telephone Service

The College has recently established a Toll-Free service for teachers located outside the Brisbane metropolitan area.

This has been done in an effort to reduce the expense that these teachers can incur in contacting the College. The Toll-Free number is **1300 720 944**

Queensland College of Teachers celebrates ...

We have lots of heroes today-sportsmen, supermodels, media personalities. They come, they have their 15 minutes of fame, and they go. But the influence of good teachers stays with us. They are the people who really shape our life. - Jonathan Sacks

World Teach

Cover Story — Joyce Neilson

The secret to happiness and longevity revealed

Born in Winton in 1919, Joyce Neilson was enlisted to teach Years 1 and 2 at the local Anglican school in her home town of Barcaldine with the advent of World War II. 'I earned 7 pounds, 13 and 4 pence per month,' she laughs. 'I've never been so poor in all my life!'

Joyce's passion for teaching took her from her country home to teaching adults, orphaned children and deaf children and finally to Our Lady Help of Christians primary school in Hendra for 16 years. 'My saddest day was when I had to retire. I certainly missed teaching for a long time.'

Joyce's career began when she was invited to join the staff at a local Barcaldine private school struggling to manage the large number of students sent as boarders during the war. She had just returned from boarding school in Brisbane herself. 'I was shy. I imagine it was a real effort to overcome,' she reflects. Perhaps she had little time to consider it at the time. A talented musician, Joyce played the Church organ, taught music theory and did the boarders' accounts as she came to terms with teaching the infant classes.

No stranger to challenge, Joyce later joined the Nudgee Opportunity School, a school for orphaned children. 'Some of them had behavioural problems. I remember one boy throwing a thick book of wallpaper samples at me. But he missed.'

Her heart went out to the children – some abandoned, others witness to the violent deaths of their parents. 'We'd take them in for holidays and out during our spare time. We worked very hard. Weekends were never free. I think that children who have an educated background do have a start in life.'

'I've always tried to teach children to tell the truth, behave sociably, use correct language and develop character. And enjoy life. I think the best is yet to come. If we can keep away from war, there is lots to be interested in such as cures for diseases and physical disabilities.'

Catholic Education was very good to work for. 'When they took over the school I was working in, the most exciting thing happened to everyone when it was said that

teachers should all be registered. I think that was a gift. I had the feeling of belonging. I'm a great supporter of it [teacher registration].'

Joyce completed an Arts Degree as a mature age student. 'They paid me extra in my salary. I majored in Ancient History, Latin and Modern History. I have continued with Latin and Italian.

'I would include parents in celebrations of **World Teachers' Day**. Put on a morning where parents can sit in on classes and then have sports in the afternoon,' she says, thinking aloud. 'Or connect your celebrations to the library. After all, reading is the most important thing you can do.'

Could reading be the fountain of youth? At the age of 87, Joyce is active and independent and every day indulges her sharp mind in reading from morning to night.

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Working for You

Teachers' Day, 27 October 2006

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The Good Doctor

An early lesson in University pathways + an adolescent's ride on a plane = medical research breakthroughs. How does this all add up?

Type 2 diabetes is a major world health problem with 300 million people expected to be affected by 2025. It is a leading cause of kidney failure, blindness, heart attacks and stroke, and few Australians have not been touched by it.

A Brisbane-based medical research team is working to isolate the genes causing Type 2 diabetes. Dr David Good, a graduate of Ipswich State High School and an award-winning researcher, acknowledges the ways his primary and secondary school teachers instilled in him a love of learning and an enquiring mind.

'We're close to isolating the gene causing diabetes, which will lead to better understanding of the disease process, early detection and new and more effective approaches for the prevention and treatment of the disease.'

Dr Good is working with the University of Queensland's Diabetes and Cardiovascular Research Laboratories at Prince Charles

Hospital in Brisbane. After nearly nine years, the researchers have located the chromosomes in Indigenous people and plan to continue searching for the chromosomes of other ethnic groups to find the genes responsible for Type 2 diabetes across the population.

The work requires painstaking concentration, patience and attention to small details, traits Dr Good cannot recall exhibiting as a child.

'I talked a lot in class,' he remembers. 'But two teachers of a composite grade 5 and 6 class, Mrs

DiMarino and Mrs Jones, turned me around.

'In Year 9 my first ride in an aircraft helped me make a decision. I wanted to become a pilot and, to do that, I had to do well at school. When I'm speaking to students today, I encourage them to have a goal. Several of my teachers knew my interest in flying and helped me.'

'I think teachers instil within children a desire to want to learn, and that can start with the very young. I've never forgotten Mrs DiMarino explaining the whole university system to me.'

'To celebrate **World Teachers' Day**, we need to make people aware of the important contribution teachers make.

'Teachers are expected to perform miracles. I think they are doing a great job and must be respected for holding the future in their hands.'

Dr David Good is available for school talks. Contact him through the University of Queensland or email: d.good@uq.edu.au

Ed. Mrs Iris Jones is enjoying retirement and is delighted to hear of David's success.

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To register your interest contact the Communications Officer at the QCT: anne.stephens@QCT.edu.au



Elected Teacher Message

Greetings, fellow teachers. I would like to take this opportunity to refer to some of the work that the QCT is currently undertaking.

Mark Hollands

Cairns SDE, QCT Board Member

Board members are keenly aware of the complex nature of teachers' work and the workload facing teachers and want to ensure College requirements do not place unnecessary burdens upon teachers.

The issue of continuing professional learning (CPL) and how we, as teachers, will be able to demonstrate our participation in such learning is of particular interest to us all. Another issue that we all need to recognise is the development of the College's

professional standards for the teaching profession and how they may assist us in our work. The standards will also be a useful tool in explaining to the public the changing nature of teaching and its complexity. A challenge for the College is how these standards will be incorporated into the new College CPL framework.

There is an opportunity for the QCT to assist teachers and add value to the profession by taking a more active role in teachers' professional

development. The QCT website may become a valuable tool for teachers looking for professional development opportunities and a place where we can give feedback to our professional body.

It is vitally important that we stay informed and have our say on matters that affect us as teachers. I encourage all teachers to access the QCT website at www.qct.edu.au and provide constructive feedback on issues affecting our profession.

Teachers Disciplinary Committee

Dealing with disciplinary matters – the Chair of the Teachers Disciplinary Committee, Lisa O'Neill, explains.

Besides changing the registration system, the establishment of the Queensland College of Teachers on 1 January 2006 also introduced new ways of dealing with disciplinary matters involving Queensland teachers. Disciplinary matters are now conducted by the Teachers Disciplinary Committee (TDC) if the matter is likely to result in serious consequences for the teacher, such as the cancellation of

the teacher's registration. Where the matter is likely to result in less serious consequences such as a warning, reprimand or an undertaking by the teacher, it is heard by the Professional Practice and Conduct Committee.

Decisions are made in writing by the TDC and are provided to the teacher and the College. The TDC can also notify the complainant. The College may be required to advise interstate and overseas registering

authorities of the decision.

Since January this year 16 matters have been referred to the TDC. Of these matters, the TDC has determined to cancel the registration of six teachers and determined that four teachers' registration should remain suspended pending the outcome of court proceedings. Six matters referred to the TDC are ongoing.

It is in all teachers' interests to know about the TDC. Details of its membership and how matters are referred to it can be found on our website: www.qct.edu.au



The knitting gave Cecily a more immediate sense of achievement.

This picture is reproduced with the kind permission of the artist, Celia Allison. Further details are available at www.cecily.co.nz

What's happening at the College?

Below is an overview of the activities that the College has been undertaking.

Completed

- Development of the Queensland College of Teachers Strategic Plan 2006–2010
- Development of a Code of Conduct for Board and Committee members of the Queensland College of Teachers
- Appointment of Ms Ros Bell, Assistant Director Professional Standards, and Ms Rebekah Kitto, Assistant Director Professional Conduct
- Foyer Art Competition for senior students and Art teachers.

Ongoing

- Development of the Professional Standards
- Development of a Code of Practice for Queensland Teachers
- Development of a Service Charter for the Office of the College
- Redevelopment of the College website
- Establishment of a Promoting the Profession Working Party
- Undertaking a project to assist teachers in identifying professional development activities.

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QTE3567CC

Some Interesting Facts and Figures

(as at 30 July 2006)

Registered teachers in Queensland	90 645
Applications for teacher registration processed so far this year	2535
Applications for teacher registration from mid-year graduates	626
Successful applications for teacher registration so far this year	1752
Oldest registered teacher in Queensland	89 years

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Your thoughts

Thank you to those people who provided feedback about the first edition of *College Connection*. Your comments were provided to the Board of the College and considered by the Editorial Committee when planning this edition.

Some of your feedback included:

'We received our copies of *College Connection* yesterday. As there are two of us, we received two. We consider this wasteful. Please send just the one in future.'

Ed: Should any other teaching couples wish to receive only one copy of the College Connection, please to let us know.

'I suggest that teachers be given the option of receiving newsletters by email. I would be happy to read a PDF version of your newsletter.'

Ed: It is anticipated that such a facility will be incorporated into the Teacher Services section of the website as it continues to be developed.

'May I take the opportunity to thank you all for the wonderful

progress you have made from the BTR days — the *College Connection* and website look fantastic and I look forward to future developments.'

'I am a member of QCT and recently received the May newsletter. It was pleasing to notice a diverse balance of board members. Congratulations.'

'Thanks for the first edition — a nice PR pamphlet but of limited use/ relevance to my teaching role.'

The College welcomes feedback about the *College Connection*. Feedback can be provided via email to enquiries@qct.edu.au

Congratulations ...

to Jason Davis, Year 11, and art teacher Mr Barry Voevodin of AB Paterson College for winning our competition to complete an original artwork for the entrance foyer of the QCT.

AB Paterson College will receive a \$1000 prize voucher, kindly donated by EDSCO Education Supply Company Pty Ltd. EDSCO have offered additional support to Jason to complete the work.

Jason's progress will be reported in Edition 3 of *College Connection* including details of how your school can win \$1000 from EDSCO in 2007.