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*"You cannot
teach a man
anything, you can
only help him find
it within himself."
- Galileo*

Welcome from the Executive Director

Andrew Callander

Changes to the name of Indigenous Support Unit now Indigenous Student Services
Recently there have been changes made to the name of the Indigenous Support Unit. The change to Indigenous Student Services was proposed in the strategy document detailing the University's future developments to meet the strategic objectives set for indigenous participation at CSU. One of the recommendations was to change the name of the unit to better signify the link of the unit to the support activities of the Division of Student Services. The unit is now working to change signage, website, and all documentation.

At the same time the unit has undertaken a thorough review and planning process that will result in a new operational plan, risk register, work force plan and service agreements with the Centre for Indigenous Studies and within the Division with Learning Skills for operational support to deliver a holistic support profile. The new plans are all available on the divisional website. Staff from the Division have been involved with the development of the work force plan and have worked with HR to move to the new structure.

Proposed changes to student support arrangement Ontario

The Division has submitted a proposal to the Ontario campus management group for consideration. The paper proposes enhanced service capacity for DSS in Ontario to reflect planned increases student programs and numbers. The proposal has raised consideration of the establishment of a generalist support officer position on site along with a contract to supply specialist support functions. If the proposal is accepted the Ontario campus students will continue to be supported from expert divisional staff members and an on site service contract.

Project Updates

Residences Project - Christine Furnell

Construction of new residential accommodation blocks at the Bathurst, Albury-Wodonga (Thurgoona) and Wagga Wagga campuses was completed in April. There is now a 12 month warranty that Joss Construction provides on all buildings and landscaping. The development projects each comprise 10 buildings of 20 bedrooms each, providing accommodation for an additional 200 students at each campus.

The buildings are paired with an outdoor connecting courtyard to create five "houses" of 40 students. Each building has 12 bedrooms on the lower level, along with a kitchen, bathroom facilities, a dining area and a lounge/study area. Each upper level has eight bedrooms and bathroom facilities. There is a large laundry on each site and student parking is available. Each complex is complemented by an outdoor recreational space.

Each complex has disabled access to each building from the car park as well as between the buildings and laundry facilities. Each complex is landscaped with native gardens and grasses. Pathways link the residences to the rest of the university.

For more information please visit the website at
<http://www.csu.edu.au/division/studserv/residences/new-residences/>



*New Residences – Thurgoona
Under Construction*

Articles are welcomed:

C/- Division of Student Services
Locked Bag 699
Wagga Wagga NSW 2678

Sent via the internal mail,
Faxed to 02 693 32199 or emailed
to
rmiskell@csu.edu.au.

Unit Updates

Manager, Access and Work - Vicki Pitcher

4 Million Dollars!! – That’s the round figure for Equity Scholarships allocated over the last few months for new and continuing students for 2009. Funded by both DEEWR and CSU, the Scholarships Office has again been flooded with applications from students needing financial assistance. In recognition of professional service, Scholarships Officer Carol Colombera has been nominated for the Vice Chancellors Award for Excellence. I’d also like to thank Kate, our wonderful scholarships assistant, for her tremendous efforts and wish her well as she heads off OS for the next month.

Our new Equity Officer Carissa Michel (see staff profile!) has settled in very nicely to her new role, and is working hard to promote equity initiatives with students and staff. Carissa will be going ‘on the road’ soon to visit rural and remote schools in our footprint to chat to students, in the hope that they gain an insight into the future possibilities of coming to University.

In Disability Support our staff have been very busy implementing the new arrangements for Examination Variations. After a successful collaboration with the Examinations Office over many months, we are now introducing a centralised system that has achieved consistency across every campus and study mode. Well done Kerrie, Rose and Lynn – an excellent team effort! Mention must also be made of Sandy’s work in alternative format preparation. We now have a system in place to ensure timely and accurate outcomes for our students.

We are about to embark on an exciting new development in the Careers Service. Working closely with learning and teaching staff, Paul and Vicki will develop and deliver a series of workshops to align with the implementation of Pebble Pad – the ePortfolio product recently purchased by CSU. Thanks also to Karen, our Careers Assistant, for her invaluable support in the lead up to the recent Careers Fair. Many hours of program preparation, Career Hub maintenance and employer liaison all contributed to this University wide event.



Vice Chancellor
Professor Ian Goulter and
Leadership Excellence Award
Recipient Justine Booth,
Assistant Catering Manager,
Bathurst

Q: “Why didn’t the pony want to sing?”

A: Because he was a little hoarse!”

Director, Residences & Business Unit - David Griffin

The Residences and Business Unit is entering the final stages of its structural realignment. Our newly created Events Coordination Unit recently finalised delivery on an extremely successful round of Graduation ceremonies. Tisi and his team have made wonderful progress and met significant goals over the last 7 months, well done! The appointment of Brett Russell (Manager), Toby Perry (Team Leader-Southern) and Joleen Wright (Team Leader-Northern) to managerial positions within the Food & Beverage Services Team provides ongoing clarity and stability and will allow our strategic initiatives to be implemented with renewed vigour. The pursuit of excellence in our Residential Operations area will be further enhanced by the attendance of Residential Operations Managers at the ACUHO-I conference in Baltimore and Residential Advisors attendance at the recent NAUCC conference in Sydney. Our expansion of Operations at Orange and Thurgoona have been very successful with Terri-Lee Duffy & Kurt Neville proving to be valuable appointments, and we also welcome Justine Booth & Vanessa Conlin whose appointments have been very welcome inclusions. The Division recognises the importance of provision of quality on-campus accommodation for our students and continues to work with the Division of Facilities Management in planning for Stage2 of the Residential Accommodation expansion project with a further 60 bedrooms at Orange and 80 bedrooms at Wagga scheduled for completion in time for commencement of the 2010 academic year. This will provide with the capacity to house almost 3,000 students across 5 different campus locations and places us at the forefront of the industry both in numbers and in terms of the services provided to students through our Residential Support Scheme. I would also take this opportunity acknowledge & congratulate the Food & Beverage Admin Team (Kylie, Teena, Narelle, Tom & Kate) and Justine Booth who were very worthy recipients of the VC’s Awards for Excellence recently. The receipt of these awards is an outstanding achievement and wonderful recognition of sustained high level of performance, well done to all.

*“Remember
that happiness
is a way of
travel, not a
destination”
– Ray
Goodman*

Manager, Administration, Contact and Services - Jaci Blumhagen

Carissa Michel has worked diligently to ensure C4 in Bathurst has an Emergency Evacuation Plan in Place along with the below Fire Wardens.

Level 2- Offices:	Carissa Michel	84256	Vicki Anderson	84695
Level 2- Residential Operations:	James Kelly	86960		
Level 1- Offices:	Helen Soulios	86983	Carolyn Weal	86984
Level 1- Bakery and Shops:	Duty Staff Members	84279		
Level 1- Auditorium and Bar:	Peter Starkey	84823		

The Student Service Centre project is continuing to move forward. The Director, Student Service Centre position will be appointed very soon. The Implementation Group and different working parties are meeting regularly to determine the service, knowledge, and technology that will be available in the new Student Service Centre. There will be an Interact site available to all staff very shortly where documentation and communiqués will be available for viewing. The Student Experience website is: <http://www.csu.edu.au/study/student-experience/>. More information will be sent out about the Interact site when it is available.

Manager, Residences Wagga Wagga & Thurgoona - Peter Bell**Unit Updates (cont.)****Wagga Wagga:**

From the 1st to 3rd June the Wagga campus played host to 22 Agriculture students from the University of Iowa. Fortunately we were able to accommodate the students in the New Residences. The Iowa students were very impressed with their accommodation and loved having single rooms in which to stay.

Two Dining in Excellence dinners have been completed, Stewards/Premium and Doman. Dr Aamer Aziz, a CSU Lecturer and Radiologist, spoke at the Stewards/Premium dinner. If Dr Aamer ever throws away his stethoscope he could get a job as a stand-up comedian, he enthralled the Stewards/Premo students with his advice on how to deal with Indian telemarketers and apart from other hot topics, ended his talk with some good advice on how to make the students time at University as successful as possible, both academically and socially.

Professor Michael Bailey, Student Services Assistant Catering Manager, spoke at the Doman dinner, about all things Crow Bar and Nosh Pit. Professor Bailey gave the students an insight in to how very fortunate they are to be at University and how he loves to see them at all the Crow Bar functions. Michael is in high demand as a Best Man and Guest Speaker, so we were fortunate to obtain his services. Michael may have been slightly distracted by the Bucks night he was forced to attend following the dinner. –Belly

“Wisdom is a way of being” – Hazel Hawke

Thurgoona:

I would like to say that things here at Thurgoona Accommodation are going extremely well. The vibe around campus leading up to the Faker concert was electric, with the hard work of Tom Hogan and his team the students seemed to be everywhere and really getting behind CSU events. The Residents also really got behind the ‘nights in’ concept with approximately 80% of Residential Students attending our ‘Boys Night’ and ‘Girls Night In’. A great opportunity to get some health promotion out there, as well as provide the opportunity to get together for a non-alcohol initiated event, play some Nintendo Wii, tell some ‘war stories’, have a laugh and a great big feed of KFC. A great night down here. Despite the fact that we are at less than full capacity in the residences the students have settled in and are currently preparing to sit for their first exams of the Year. This in itself is providing the students with plenty of new challenges for our first year students as well as some recurring anxieties and excitement for our returners. All seem to be in high spirits despite the pressure. Our RA’s here in Thurgoona have been doing a fantastic job over the past few months in dealing with Residential challenges as well as still keeping on top of their study. Chris will be heading to the U.S. for most of July, for the ‘New Way Education Conference’, a fantastic opportunity not to mention a well deserved break. Andy continues to study hard in his final year, determined to succeed with the goal of becoming a successful financial planner, well respected amongst his peers. A goal he will reach no doubt. Monique continues to do well; success has come in leaps and bounds since taking on the challenge of becoming an RA. Since RA training in mid-January she has gained the respect of her peers as well as developed some fantastic leadership qualities. Monique is determined to study on exchange in 2010 where she will visit one of her closest friends in Canada. These three make a close knit team which I and others in Thurgoona are fortunate enough to be privy to. A great attribute to the CSU Residential Support Scheme. So at this point in the year, all things accommodation in Thurgoona are doing well. A big thank you to all those who have helped and continue to help in the success of the Residential Support scheme and the opening of the New Residences, with special mention to DFM, Grounds staff and Mitchell Services staff. -Cheers Kurt, Residential and Projects Officer

Manager, Residences Bathurst, Orange & Dubbo - James Kelly**CSU RESIDENCE STIRRING THINGS UP FOR CANCER IN MAY**

On Thursday 28th May the Cancer Council’s popular annual fundraiser, Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea (www.biggestmorningtea.com.au) came to Charles Sturt University.

The JOV Social Committee and Residential Advisors brought the Morning Tea spirit to John Oxley Village with over 40 university students participating in the social event.

Each dorm was required to bring a plate of food for the Morning Tea to accompany the endless supply of tea and coffee. The morning was a great success and the students raised \$275 for the Cancer Council.

“It was great to see so many students involved and willing to donate, we will definitely be running the event again next year” said Sam Orders, President of the JOV Social Committee.



Residential Advisors, Kat Bruyn and Shell Perry showing off the delicious culinary delights



JOV's Biggest Morning Tea!

Find the Newsletter online at:

<http://www.csu.edu.au/division/studserv/about/>

Unit Updates (cont.)

Manager, Student Support - Paul Shaw

Support Area: Not All Fun and Games

If I ask staff the following question "What services do the Support area provide?" The majority of people would say, you organise the social events for students, recreational activities and look after the students clubs. We do provide these services so they are correct which I can understand as these are the services that are very visible within the University. However there are so many more services that the Support Staff provide.

So to help with broadening peoples' knowledge of what the Support area do I have listed some of the other major services and some minor ones as well:

- We are the coordinating body for the orientation programs which are provided via online means and face to face on campus plus organise student mentoring programs;
- Student Support Officers assist students with the academic and general appeals process;
- We help students who come in with financial needs; providing information and support with the process to access available loans and grants;
- International Student Support Officers provide support services to our international students that start well before they come to Australia right up to organising farewell events for these students in their preparation for leaving CSU;
- Another service which is often missed is the provision of spiritual connection, so that students have access to spiritual advisors while at University and other information to connect to the community;
- The team also have the responsibility for providing support and assistance to the relevant student representative committees which enables a "student voice" within the CSU community;
- Students also see us to obtain legal assistance, assistance with logging a personal insurance claim, taxation and child care information; and
- Finally we also organise training for students in several areas, including RSA, First Aid and Leadership, to name a few.

So as you can see the Support Team provide some fun activities and we certainly do enjoy being involved in these, but we also provide essential support to assist student with their needs which are not always fun. To see a full listing of services and support we provide check out the Support website: <http://www.csu.edu.au/division/studserv/support/>

Also note that Support staff can be located on the following campuses – Albury/Thurgoona, Bathurst, Dubbo, Goulburn, Orange and Wagga. To find out who the Support Staff are on your campus, take a look at our contact list: <http://www.csu.edu.au/division/studserv/support/contact.htm>

South Campus Head Resident competes for Pharmacy Student of the Year!

👉 South Campus Head Resident Lloyd Smith was announced the NSW Pharmacy Student of the Year at a cocktail party that was part of the 2009 Pharmacy Expo at Sydney.

The competition is sponsored by Alphapharm and aims to recognise outstanding pharmacy students by showcasing their counselling skills to the pharmacy profession.

As well as a prestigious certificate, he's won a flight and accommodation package to attend PAC in Oct where he will compete for the National title.

*"Laugh and the world laughs with you;
snore and you sleep alone."*

– Anthony Burgess

Eastern University Games - Bathurst

This year CSU were a co-partner with Australian University Sport in hosting the Eastern University Games held in Bathurst from 5 – 8 July. 10 team sports were contested over the 3 days of competition.

AUS made the decision to return the annual sporting event to a Regional University in the hope to increase the number of participants, as numbers had dropped off over the past 2 years when hosted in the Sydney metropolitan area and also with the impact of VSU. The decision has obviously been the right one with 1,560 participants registered.

CSU had close to 300 students registered to compete in the following sports:

- Basketball - 1 Men's & 2 Women's Teams
- Hockey - 2 Men's & 3 Women's Teams
- Lawn Bowls - 3 Mixed Teams
- Netball - 1 Women's & 3 Mixed Teams
- Rugby 7's - 4 Men's Teams
- Soccer - 1 Men's & 1 Women's Teams
- Touch - 1 Men's, 1 Women's, 2 Mixed Teams
- Ultimate Frisbee - 2 Mixed Teams
- Volleyball - 1 Women's Team

In addition a Men's and Women's Water Polo Fats 5's team headed South for the Southern University Games as this sport wasn't being contested in Bathurst.

A number of the teams had students from different campuses playing together which is great for the University and friendship.

There were many opportunities for our students as volunteers and paid 1st aid providers at the venues, a total of approximately 50 volunteers assisted in administration, media, photography, sport liaison, operations and human resource management during the week.

The Official Launch was held on 2 June where the Vice-Chancellor, Mayor of Bathurst Regional Council and Games Patron Marty Roebuck along with many other invited guests were in attendance. The MC for the Launch was CSU Bathurst student Charles Croucher and the AUS staff were so impressed by his character and charisma that they will be flying him to the Gold Coast in August to MC the Launch of the Australian University Games.

The Official Opening Ceremony was held at the UniBar on Sunday 5 July, the Closing Ceremony and medal and trophy presentations on the Wednesday evening also in the UniBar. CSU concluded the meet as Winners!
- Jean Ryan, Student Support Officer

"How little a thing can make us happy when we feel we have earned it"

-Mark Twain,

The Diaries of Adam and Eve

Manager, Learning - Liz Smith

The Learning Skills unit were delighted to hear that the STUDY LINK team have been named the recipient of the Inaugural Vice-Chancellor's Award for Programs that Enhance Learning. STUDY LINK is a nationally recognised enabling program which has demonstrated a sustained capacity to deliver significant outcomes for students of Charles Sturt University in terms of a positive student experience. In addition to positive feedback from students, STUDY LINK is strongly supported by academic staff of CSU. Since its inception over a decade ago, STUDY LINK has had in excess of 24,000 enrolments. The STUDY LINK team will receive their award from the Vice Chancellor during a ceremony later this month. We have just launched the new STUDY LINK web site at www.csu.edu.au/student/studylink

Events Team Leader - Tisi Tukuniu

As this is my first year as the Team Leader in Events, the Events Team has many people to thank for the 2009 graduations. Internally the immediate team of Shiralee Hillam, Leesa Lepaio and Reann Miskell had the task of bringing one of the main events for CSU together – THE 2009 GRADUATIONS....thanks guys for sharing the stress and pressure.

Special thanks to the Office of the Vice Chancellor – Heather McKinnon, Linda Breen and Debbie Schache. They were positive right up until the last minute and especially on the day of graduation....we had a guest speaker who decided the day before that they couldn't make it, so the OVC found a car and driver, sent him into the to sunset bring the guest speaker to address our most important customers of the day....the Graduates.

Student Administration put in some good yards to ensure I had many parts covered. They explained the processes and pointed us in the right direction: who to ask, where to find, how it's done, what to do. Pia, Michelle, Di, Meredith, Marg, Debra, Kerry, Virginia and their crew ensured scripts and registration ran smoothly. We watched the graduation together and sighed after each one.....it ran smoothly.

Catering; the coffee just seemed to work! The cakes and slices didn't work so well....my belt has moved a notch! In all honesty though, at each venue, the graduates and their guests enjoyed what was on offer and made positive comments. The non-CSU venues did a great job ensuring we were looked after. The kids and staff at Orange and Goulburn seemed to enjoy our presence and being at a school again bought back some memories, some good and some....well that's another story.

Musical interludes were all fantastic, young people doing what they enjoy the most, entertaining each other....there were many highlights, but Chris Kloppers' singers were fantastic and the Harp was something fantastic and out of the ordinary. Just to give it that extra touch, this year David Green provided us with a Didgeeridoo player. Thanks to the musicians, you were all exceptional performers.

Thank you to Chris Klopper for the anthems, procession and recession music. Thank you to the Academic Procession, guest speakers, vote of thanks persons, welcomes to country, DVD and Plaques, photographers, external suppliers, truck drivers, Rivservices – Martin Dooner, students who assisted with gowning, cashiers, setting up, pulling down, those who provided muscles and those who provided the brains. We look forward to everyone's participation in 2010.

CLUBS @ WAGGA

Rivcoll SRC currently have 41 clubs on campus from social to sporting with the introduction of 5 new clubs this year – International Club, Business Club, Veterinary Business Management Association, Uni Tunes (Choir) and the Animation Club.

The Top 3 clubs with the most members are the WARRIAHS (Rural Health Club) with 233 members followed by the Pharmacy Club with 183 members and the Veterinary Science Association 164.

The following sporting clubs have had a few wins so far this season: **Bushsows Netball Club, Ag Netball Club, Ag Rugby Club, Red Rugby Club and the Hockey Ducks**. I am also happy to say the **Bushpigs AFL Club** has finally had a win for the first time in two years..

Clubs have had numerous functions to kick the year off with great success, Toga being the winner on numbers as well as continual BBQ'S radiating scrumptious smells through the quadrangle. You may have noticed the increased number of fundraising chocolates going around – numerous clubs have jumped aboard the Cadbury wagon, at one stage I had 150 boxes in my office – I now have gone on a chocolate detox diet.

SPORT ON WAGGA CAMPUS

Sport on Campus is going off like a frog in a sock; we have a competition of 6 teams in the indoor soccer as well as 7 dedicated tennis players playing in the social comp on a Tuesday night. Next term will see Wagga campus take on Albury in the inter-campus Mixed Touch Football and Mixed Netball competition to fight back the inaugural trophies that were lost last year.

EASTERN UNIVERSTIY GAMES

I am currently finalising teams for the University Games to be held in the July holidays at our fellow campus in Bathurst, we have the following teams heading that way to brave the cold from Wagga.



BUT that's not all..... including all the campus's @ CSU there are around 300 students competing for the Overall Trophy for the 2009 Eastern University Games.

COMING UP SOON:

- Wagga Teams compete for CSU @ EUG in Bathurst
- Wagga V's Albury inter campus competition

Social Mixed Indoor Hockey competition

-Peta Bullock, Student Support Officer

Human Resources

Welcomes & Farewells

New Staff Profile: Carissa Michel

Welcomes	Farewells
Simon Thomson <i>(Director, Learning, Access and Support)</i>	Marilyn Combs <i>(Student Services Officer)</i>
Carissa Michel <i>(Student Equity Officer)</i>	Vicki Pitcher <i>(moved to: Director, Student Service Centre)</i>
Valerie Foster <i>(Learning Skills Adviser (English) Thurgoona)</i>	
Jane Bardos <i>(Learning Skills Adviser Wagga Wagga)</i>	
David Ross <i>(Learning Skills Adviser Orange)</i>	
Glynnis Taylor <i>(Learning Skills Adviser (English Language) Goulburn)</i>	
Sandra Fisher <i>(moved to: Learning Skills Adviser (English) Bathurst)</i>	
Robin Wills <i>(moved to: Senior Learning Skills Adviser Bathurst)</i>	
Justine Booth <i>(moved to: Residential Operations Bathurst)</i>	
Christine Furnell <i>(Administration/ Projects Officer)</i>	
Simon Hall <i>(Administration/ Projects Officer)</i>	

Name:

Carissa Michel

Role:

Student Equity Officer

Birthday:

27th June

Place of Birth:

Sydney, NSW

Background:

Brought up in Bathurst, NSW. Lived in Canada, Canberra, Central Coast and Sydney. Returned to Bathurst after 13 years away in 2002

Favourite Food:

Chocolate of course! Also Thai, Indian, mung beans (seriously true!)

Favourite Place:

Appreciating a beautiful garden, bush walking in the mountains. Loved the tranquillity of Vancouver Island, the history of the UK, and had to endure the breathtaking splendour of Hamilton Island as a tour director – it was pure torture!

Tell us a little something about yourself:

I've travelled extensively throughout Australia and seen a lot of Canada, London and parts of the US. After completing a BA in Tourism and Public Relations in 1994 at the University of Canberra I worked as a Tour Director around Australia, had a one year stint in Canada as tour consultant, then back to Sydney as an Executive Assistant, Training Coordinator and Community Relations consultant before coming back to Bathurst and working at the local private hospital. I joined the Media and Marketing team at CSU in 2004. I was seconded to Community Education where I coordinated the highly successful Mitchell School of Arts and then to Organisational Development where I developed and delivered professional development programs. I am excited to be a part of the Equity team, and look forward to assisting in improving access, success and support to disadvantaged students, especially those from a low socio-economic, non-English speaking or from a rural or isolated background.

See:

<http://www.csu.edu.au/division/studserv/equity/about.htm>



Vice Chancellors Awards

Division of Student Services Congratulated

A number of staff from the Division of Student Services have been celebrated for Performance Excellence with nominations for this years' Vice Chancellors Awards.

- Justine Everaardt, Assistant Finance Manager (Performance Excellence)
- Carol Colombera, Equity Scholarships Officer (Performance Excellence)
- Rachel Heffer, Coordinator, Residential Administration and Projects (Performance Excellence)
- Catering Administration Team – Teena Beale, Kylie Bennett, Narelle Sanders, Tom Stening and Katie McMullen (Performance Excellence)
- Justine Booth, Assistant Catering Manager (Leadership Excellence)

Did you hear about the two men who walked into a bar?

You'd think the second one would duck.... ☺

Wagga Catering Administration staff Narelle Sanders, Katie McMullen and Tom Stening travelled to Bathurst for the 30th June Ceremony, receiving their Vice Chancellors' Award with Bathurst staff members Teena Beale and Kylie Bennett (pictured right with Executive Director Andrew Callander).

Assistant Catering Manager Justine Booth was also a Recipient of a Vice Chancellors' Award, receiving hers for Leadership Excellence (photograph page 2)

Congratulations to all nominated and awarded staff. Group photo next page.



Executive Director Andrew Callander, Teena Beale, Kylie Bennett, Narelle Sanders, Katie McMullen and Tom Stening at the VC's Awards in Bathurst



Vice Chancellor Professor Ian Goulter, Catering Manager Brett Russell, Kylie Bennett, Teena Beale, Justine Booth, Narelle Sanders, Katie McMullen, Tom Stening and Executive Director of Student Services Andrew Callander at the Vice Chancellors Award Ceremony, Bathurst

"Being your age is hard enough without having to act it". – P.K. Shaw

Important Dates to Remember

August:

31st - HECS Census date

September:

11th: Term 3 Ends (September Res School Period Begins)

October:

5th: Labour Day Public Holiday

6th: Term 4 Commences

9th: Due Date for On Campus Accommodation Fees

News, Events, Interest & Updates

Overseas Travel - Kate Paterson

After much preparation and escalating anticipation my friend Megan and I finally jetted off overseas for our 5 week holiday.

Leaving Melbourne on 2nd June we commenced a camping tour of the USA visiting -

Los Angeles, San Francisco, Yosemite National Park, Inyo National Park, Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Mesa Verde National Park, Santa Fe, Carlsbad Caverns, San Antonio, Houston, New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville, Washington DC and ending in New York.

During the tour we made a lot of friends but mainly two lifelong friends Phillip and Soren from Denmark. After our tour ended in New York Phillip, Soren, Megan and myself went on a road trip up to Canada to view Niagara Falls. After a few days on the road we travelled back to New York where we got to experience Independence Day celebrations (otherwise known as 4th of July). We are a little intrigued about the concept of American patriotic fervour, however it was a bit of a let down but maybe that's chic for New York to be so relaxed and almost oblivious to your national celebrations.

Over the last 10 months I had been busily planning, saving and paying for what was originally meant to be a 4 month holiday across USA, Mexico and Brazil. Unfortunately due to Influenza A (H1N1) aka Swine Flu, we had to cancel the bulk of the trip due to health and insurance reasons, leaving us at a loss financially (due to some smaller Mexican and Brazilian airlines) and quite disheartened for a while.

However, positivity always prevails and we were thrilled about our adventure – to which Carol Colombera advised me that L.A.X had my details and had strict instructions to return me to Australia ASAP and to get back to work, I obviously manage to escape officials and had have a lovely trip.

Due to a recent update in the Student Services Thurgoona 'Postcard Guidelines', the Thurgoona team received 4 out of the 5 required postcards, all in all a good effort J

Just to add a twist: while on tour I met someone very special and it is possible I may be travelling back to the states sooner rather than later.

Kind regards,
Kate Paterson
Equity & Scholarships

Charles Sturt University

Division of Student Services

www.csu.edu.au/division/studserv

Online Enquiry form:

<http://www.csu.edu.au/division/studserv/helpform.htm>

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STUDENT SERVICES
supporting student life

A special thanks to all who supplied articles for this edition of The Supporter.

Please don't forget to keep them rolling in C/- Division of Student Services, Locked Bag 588, Wagga Wagga NSW 2678, sent via the Internal mail, faxed to 02 69 332199 or emailed to rmiskell@csu.edu.au.