

Charles Sturt University Family Newsletter April/March 2009



CSU Bachelor of Dental Science Students. Photo courtesy of Jude Keogh, Central Western Daily

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the CSU Family Newsletter for 2009. Due to staff illness, this newsletter has been delayed by several weeks; we apologise for the delay. The aim of these newsletters is to give you - parents, partners or family members of new students - some useful information that you can use to support your student in their first semester of study.

The year has started with a flurry of activity including the Orientation Program, Survival Week, Harmony Day celebrations, an inter-campus blood donation challenge and much more! By now students are well into their study program and will have submitted assignments; some will have even sat their first (mid session) exams. The mid session break provides an opportunity for students to take a break from the routine of attending classes and perhaps to visit home, but it is expected that private study and preparation of assignments will continue during this period.

Socialising is always an important part of Orientation and the first part of the session. Students are encouraged to enjoy themselves in a safe and healthy manner on campus, including participation in student clubs and cultural and sporting activities: <http://www.csu.edu.au/division/studserv/support/>. We also encourage students to strike a healthy balance between an enjoyable social life and application to their study. Setting good study habits early will go a long way towards ensuring a positive outcome at the end of the session.

The University offers a host of resources to assist students. Many of these resources are online and some were demonstrated in the Parents Information Sessions during Orientation Week. The Student Life website is a key resource for students, and is also accessible to you as parents and family members:

<http://www.csu.edu.au/student/life/index.htm>

Support Central is also a key starting point for students to find assistance:

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

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CSU Orientation 2009 Charity Donation

During Orientation 2009, students at Charles Sturt University (CSU) helped raise money for the organisation, Aussie Helpers. A total of \$5,733.05 was raised. Aussie Helpers is a little known charity that assists farming families during drought. Aussie Helpers and its 40 volunteers aim to lift the spirits of those families severely affected by drought in rural Australia. Aussie Helpers operate in QLD, NSW, VIC, SA and Tasmania. www.aussiehelpers.org.au

The Division of Student Services would like to thank all of the student leaders for working so hard to fundraise money for this year's charity. It was a great achievement. We would also like to thank the students, parents and staff that also donated money.



Resources for Parents and Family Members

The Parents Page can be found in the Student Life website: <http://www.csu.edu.au/student/life/parents.htm> The Parents Page has some useful links to other information that will be important for you to know in the first few weeks of the semester. The links include the online version of the Family Guidebook (which many of you received at the Parents' Information Sessions), financial assistance, accommodation and 'Contact Us'.

CSU Regional News is another informative website for parents and family members of CSU students and the general community. It provides regular new features on research activities, new developments and general happenings as well as student activities. It is updated regularly and may have news items related to your student's course or general news from their campus. You can access the CSU Regional News site from the main CSU site front page at: <http://www.csu.edu.au> or go directly to the Regional News site at: <http://news.csu.edu.au/director/regionalnews.cfm>

We hope this newsletter will assist you in supporting your student at CSU. If you want to give any feedback about this newsletter or anything else, please contact the Student Community Coordinator gsimmons@csu.edu.au .

Geoff Simmons
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