

# Farewell the Class of 2009

*In December, we farewelled our Year 12 students at an emotional Mater Dei Graduation Mass and Assembly and at a star studded formal held at Camden Lakeside Golf Course (Bianca Akkary's partner was Ben Hannant from NRL team Canterbury Bulldogs!). Regular readers will know that some of our Year 12 students are members of a Satellite Class located at John Therry Catholic High School Rosemeadow for 3 days a week. They spend the other 2 days with those Year 12 students who are at Mater Dei full time. We asked their class teachers to fill us in with what they have been up to this year.*



## SATELLITE CLASS MEMBERS

In 'the blink of any eye', or so it seems, 2009 is drawing to an end and it is with great pride that we reflect upon the year that was.

The students have enjoyed a wide range of subject choices including Photography, PDHPE, Food Tech, Woodwork, Creative Arts, Religious Education, Citizenship and Society and Sewing. This has ensured a broad range of learning opportunities and skill development that will be of benefit to them well beyond school. Highlights of this year have included; the excursion to Cataract Dam for Photography – many great snaps taken, the many excellent swimming and fitness activities offered in PDHPE, the visits to local restaurants as part of Food Tech, the bird houses we made in Woodwork and the work that we did in the gardening plots at John Therry. We also enjoyed many wonderful activities in Drama and we were let loose on sewing machines in Sewing and Clothing Care. In brief, it has been another sensational year at John Therry.

We congratulate Leica-Maree Williams and Shai de Vletter-Sont who both won the OLHC Marian Award for Quiet Achiever at the John Therry Yr 12 Presentation Assembly, Shae Smith who won the prestigious Mater Dei Peace Prize and Jeffery Casey who was chosen to represent NSW in Soccer at the Australian Paralympic Youth Games in October and who won a gold medal in the process (see page 3).

The Mater Dei experience has also been wonderful, with highlights including the Year 11/12 Retreat at Gerringong, the making of the Mater Dei movie (see page 2), and the opportunity to take part in significant celebrations and events at Mater Dei and beyond. All of these experiences and opportunities have contributed to a very exciting year.

The Structured Work Placement Program was another huge success in 2009, with students all experiencing success in their jobs. Highlights this year include Stephanie Sciuto's invitation to Parliament House for the day with her 'employer' the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Mr Graham West (MP) and the possibility of a traineeship for Ryan Stibbard at Camden Golf Club.

Glynis Fitzpatrick

## MATER DEI 11/12E CLASS MEMBERS

Time moves really fast and what a busy and exciting year it has been. This has been our second year of moving to different rooms for specialised subjects and we have really finetuned the process and the students have met the responsibility that comes with this system and enjoyed the additional independence.

The students really enjoyed Food Technology with Mrs Roberts where they learnt about safe food handling and enjoyed preparing, and of course eating, a variety of meals. The students' favourite was definitely burgers.

We are very fortunate to have a beautiful pool and qualified and patient auswim teachers. The students loved participating in the swimming program, particularly in the summer months. We are sure all the students would agree that a few of the highlights of their school program include going bowling and inclusion at John Therry with Mrs Earle where they were taught dancing for the formal.

All of our students have been active in the Structured Work Placement Program and have enjoyed the independence that comes with working, as well as giving back to the community that gives so much to Mater Dei. We have placed several students at Meals on Wheels where they have been an absolute delight to those who have received the meals. We congratulate Sarah Piper for receiving Camden Council's 2009 Mayoral Citizenship Award in recognition of her contribution to the Camden community through the Mater Dei Meals on Wheels Program.

Several of our students have gone to "Afford" at Ingleburn and have had a great experience. Again, Sarah Piper proved to be a star, doing such a magnificent job at "Eats On Argyle" at Camden that the manager offered her part time work. Daniel Bishay has attended a TAFE course and has had glowing reports from Camden Hire. All our students really do have a great work ethic and we are fortunate that so many employers are prepared to allow Mater Dei to send students for work placement.

Leanne Steadman and Ann Earle