Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.’
Anthony J. D’Angelo

The Helena College community has many people who care amongst its members … Helena College celebrates and thanks the many willing volunteers who bring additional richness to our community. Many parents and friends assist with reading in classes, help in the canteen or the library, fundraising for resources, speaking at assemblies, coaching sporting teams or assisting with sport carnivals, music and drama productions.

In a myriad of ways volunteers cheerfully share their gifts, talents, time and expertise to contribute to the lives of our students. Thank you to each and every volunteer in 2006 – we appreciate your enrichment of the Helena College community.

We would especially like to invite Old Helenians to become more involved in the College community in 2007. Included with this issue of Helena Connection is a form to update your details and an opportunity to indicate how you could do just that. Many Learning Areas of the College would appreciate the offer of skills and talents from members of our Old Helenians community.

We are confident that through their experiences at Helena College our graduating Year 12 students have come to a realisation that ‘Community is where we learn that life is about US, and not just about ME’. (Fr Chris Gleeson, a Jesuit Principal)

Our hope is that as graduates of Helena College, these young men and women will move forward into the next stage of their lives well-equipped, whole and healthy, into lives based on love, care and concern for themselves and others in their local, national and global communities.

We welcome the Class of 2006 into the community of Old Helenians.

Julie Carlton
Development Office
developmentoffice@helena.wa.edu.au
FAREWELLS

With a combined total of eighty-four years of dedicated service to Helena College this year we say farewell and thank you to four outstanding members of the school community. Their commitment, pastoral care and love of the students have been evident throughout varied careers in administration, teaching and support roles. Thank you for all your contributions over the years.

**DAVID HARRISON - Principal of the Junior School**

After seventeen years as Principal of the Junior School, David Harrison is retiring at the end of 2006. He will be greatly missed by the Helena College community and all the Junior School students and families.

The Helena College Council sincerely thanks him for his part in maintaining such a high standard of education at the Junior School. We thank him especially for all those extras he has contributed towards, such as arriving on Darlington Oval at 6 am with tents, tools and enthusiasm to set up for Mini Olympics Day, dressing up as Captain Hook for Book Week celebrations, attending all school functions (no matter how far he had to travel) and, above all, inspiring the staff to make school a beneficial and happy place for the students.

We wish you a long and happy retirement, David, and look forward to seeing you at all those ‘back to’ days.

**BETTY PITCHER - College Bursar and Secretary to Council**

Our school has been fortunate to have a bursar of the calibre of Betty Pitcher for the last fifteen years. Betty has worked tirelessly for the College during this time.

The Council has always been confident with her budgeting, accounting and planning and is well aware of how this has led to the strong foundation on which our progress stands. Betty has overseen many building contracts and I know that we will all be thinking of her as we use many of these buildings.

Betty, you will always be ‘one of the family’ and we look forward to seeing you at many functions. We hope you enjoy your well-deserved change in direction.

**HEATHER HUNT - Early Learning Centre**

Heather Hunt was the very first staff member employed by Helena College Council. After two years of extended long service leave, Heather has decided to retire and spend more time with her family and continue with part-time work tutoring student teachers.

At one time the enrolments in the pre-school numbered about fifty-six, with children attending two or three days per week. Heather managed all this calmly and, through the years of development of the present Early Learning Centre, Heather studied and introduced the Reggio Emelia principles. Her programs for the children consistently demonstrated innovation and enthusiasm. Heather catered for individuals and encouraged children to cope with situations. For example, if it rained, you didn’t stay inside; you put on a raincoat and got on with life.

After thirty-four years at Helena College and teaching hundreds of children, many Old Helenians remember Heather Hunt fondly. Helena College Council thanks Heather for her invaluable role in the development of the College, and, in particular, the Early Learning Centre.  We wish Heather every happiness.

*Sally Herzfeld, Deputy Chair of Helena College Council*

**VAL SPICK - Support Teacher**

One of the Junior School support teachers, Val Spick, retired at the end of Term Two 2006. After eighteen years as part of the Helena College community, she will be missed very much. During her time at Helena College, Val worked as a classroom teacher, as well as support teacher, and always encouraged the children to produce their best work. Val always reinforced handwriting and correct grammar and any children who have been taught by her over the years attained a thorough grounding in both of these subject areas. Val Spick strongly supported the use of good manners and courtesy from the children. Her thoroughness in preparation and attention to detail were appreciated by everyone at the Junior School.

Mrs Spick is now enjoying more time with her grandchildren and her ageing parents, who live in England. We wish her well for her retirement.

*Jan Craddock, Junior School Deputy Principal*
ENGAGEMENTS

Lauren BOWDEN (Class of 2000) to Michael Delich. On the 30th of April this year my wonderful partner Michael Delich proposed at a sunset picnic at Heathcote Reserve. Of course I said yes! We currently live in a house we have bought in Mandurah and are looking forward to our big day on 6 May 2007. Both of us have family coming from all over the world and we are looking forward to sharing our special day with them. We plan to honeymoon in Europe for five weeks and share many laughs and happy memories in the future.

MARRIAGES

Mia DUNCAN (ex-Teacher) and long time partner, Shaun O’NEILL married on October 7 at Kings Park. The bridesmaids were ex-Helena College staff - Tamara Graham (ex-Indonesian teacher) and Diane Van Dongen (ex-Year 7 teacher).

Cerys LEACH (Class of 1999) and Matt COLLINS (Class of 1999) were married on Saturday, 25 November 2006. The ceremony was held at the Hidden Gardens in Caversham followed by a reception at Stewart’s at Brookleigh in Upper Swan. The bridal party included seven Old Helenians: Cerys and Matt, Tamasyn and Rhys Leach, Ben and Katrina Collins and Lisa Jones.

Cristy ROBINSON (current Health & Physical Education teacher) and Jeremy LOWE celebrated their marriage at Rottnest Island on October 2006.

Jono VOSE (Class of 1996) to Cate PROUT at the Upper Reach Winery on 30 June 2006. Dr Noel Vose, Jono’s granddad, conducted the beautiful ceremony under a gum tree outside on the grounds and the reception was held in the vineyard’s restaurant.

BIRTHS

Zelie BULLEN (nee THOMPSON) and husband Craig welcomed a new baby son, Colt Stafford Bullen, who was born on Monday, 31 July 2007 at 5.22 am, weighing 7 lb 6oz (3.3kgs).

Angie EDMONDS (nee CAMERON) and husband Chris welcomed a new baby daughter, Bonnie Gael Edmonds, who was born on Monday, 7 August, weighing 7 lb 8 oz (3.4 kg). Mme. Grannie Gael Cameron is so very proud!

Robin HUNT (nee KOSTERA, Class of 1993) Robin and Brian HUNT are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Rachel Grace, on September 14, 2006.

NEWS from OLD HELENIANS

BAILEY, Jessica (left Year 11 2003)
After Jessica left school in Year 11 she went to TAFE and studied for a Certificate III in Children’s Services. She worked in childcare for some time and is now taking a totally different direction - working with a lawyer as an administration assistant.

BLAKE, Jamie (Class of 2004) is currently doing the second year of a Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Health Science at UWA. She’s still playing soccer at East Fremantle and working at a gym in Mt Lawley. Jamie hopes to travel when her uni course finishes!

CANT, Jamie (ex-Drama teacher) is currently overseas teaching at the United World College of South East Asia, Singapore on a three-year contract.

CROFT, Carmel (Class of 2000)
I’m currently doing a Graduate Diploma of Education at UWA in secondary teaching with a science major and a LOTE (Indonesian) minor. In Term Two I did a teaching practice at Helena College. I’d have to say the hardest part was trying to call my ex-teachers by their first names - I don’t think I’ll ever be able to call Mr Lyons ‘Ian’, or Mr AW ‘John’! I saw Jess Daughtrey giving a presentation to the Year 12s about university options – it’s great that Old Helenians are still linked to the school. All in all, I really enjoyed my prac at Helena. I’d come back as a teacher in a flash (wink wink nudge nudge)!

DE BOER, Rachel (Class of 2002) is currently studying to become a Naturopath at the Perth Academy of Natural Therapies and should complete her studies by the end of next year. She then hopes to work towards opening her own business in Perth.

KIRK, James (Class of 2002) in September 2005 sailed from Cocos Keeling Island to the Seychelles on a 70 foot yacht. Then, with his family, travelled to Kenya on safari, Zanzibar and Dubai. Currently he is in his third year of an electrical apprenticeship at Cully’s Marine Technology.

MACDONALD, Anna (nee Fergusson-Stewart - last year at Helena, Year 7, 1985). Anna lives with her husband Alisdair and their two sons, Hamish (6) and Angus (3), in Northam where they have recently built a house. Anna is a physiotherapist but is currently working as a Project Officer for WA Country Health Service on some new initiatives. She is also a volunteer Ambulance Officer for St John Ambulance at the Northam Depot.

NELSON, Fiona (Class of 2002) has been living in Glendalough since 2003. She has completed a degree from Murdoch University with a double major in Media Studies (Broadcast Journalism) / Political and International Studies. She has also been working at Myer and volunteering at a radio station and last year went backpacking through Japan and Europe for a few months.

NORTHOVER, Scott (Class of 2001) is studying at Murdoch Uni doing a Bachelor of Arts in English and History.

QUIRK, Joel (Class of 1995)
Congratulations to Joel on being awarded a Doctor of Philosophy from ANU (for his thesis on slavery) and a RCUK Fellowship from the Department of Law at Hull University in London. Joel studied Political Science at UWA and then at ANU. He’s now living in London.

QUIRK, Kyle (Class of 1997) is teaching maths and biology at Newton Moore SHS in Bunbury, has bought a house there and loves it! (according to his dad, Pat Quirk)
Class of 1996 10 Year Reunion

The Class of 1996 Reunion, held Sunday, 8 October, 2006 was an example of the Helena College community spirit. Once our students leave the College they still remain part of the school through the Old Helenians' Association. Our ex-students and staff are now spread right across many countries creating a global Helena College community.

The Class of 1996 reunion was an opportunity for old classmates to meet up again after ten years and share afternoon tea together in the administration building, followed by a tour of the new gymnasium, before departing for drinks at the Parkerville Tavern. Their ex-teacher, Alasdair Leonard, sent the students his best wishes from China, and several other teachers attended the reunion, catching up with their news and achievements since leaving school.

Reunion organiser, Shauna Hunt, reflected after the event, ‘We really appreciated being able to come back to the College and have a look at the new gymnasium. We reminisced about the old times and all the things we got up to. It was great to learn about all the new and exciting experiences we have had since leaving school. It was nice to see that we haven’t really changed – we’ve just grown older (some could call it wiser) but we had a great time talking and catching up. I would like to see us get together more often. The reunion was a great experience and hope that the bonds that we formed at Helena College never change.’

Have you ever wondered if ….
Kate is still with Dru?
Adam has straight hair now?
Felicity ended up on the stage?
Martyn is still into basketball?
Alex, Borgas and Claire have PhDs?
Bryan is still into body building?
Kristy still a footy fan? Which team now?

Bec and Bec still have a crush on Leonardo DiCaprio?
Tamara is still hyperactive?
If Chris is still a techie?
Sarah has ever stopped laughing?
Sam still loves sausages?
Kyle is still a clown?

Remember that diverse, crazy bunch of friends you spent Year 12 with?
If you would like to catch up and re-live some of those memories and find out where they’ve all ended up after ten years please put your hand up to assist with the coordination of the reunion for the Class of 1997. Please contact Julie Carlton in the Development Office.
As I sit here in Beijing at the end of the Mid-Autumn (the fifteenth day of the eighth lunar month) Festival holiday and look at a list of your names, two things come into my mind.

Firstly, there are the memories of you all during our time together at Helena College. I hope that in retrospect you enjoyed it as much as I did. My years at the College from 1988 to 2003 were full of interest and I believe that the College provided you with a delightful learning environment and me with a teaching one.

Secondly, there are the thoughts of what you are all doing now with your lives. On a personal level I wonder who of you is still single, who is married, who is a father or who is a mother. I also wonder who is still living in Perth or who has ventured to other states, or like me, to another country. On a professional level I am sure that such a diverse group of individuals as you will be involved in a wide range of jobs.

But most importantly, I hope that you are all leading happy and fulfilling lives and accepting all the challenges and opportunities which you are faced with everyday.

I have now been in Beijing for just over a year and am thoroughly enjoying the experience of being in the capital city of rapidly changing China. During my longer vacations I have had many opportunities to travel to other parts of this vast and diverse country. One of my favourite places is in Guizhou province where I stay in a remote village with the Dong people. China has 56 ethnic groups with the Hans forming the majority and the Dongs are one of what are called the ethnic minorities. They are very hospitable people and great fun to be with. Although Guizhou is far from the sea, many aspects of the life of the Dong people is reminiscent of what my life was like with my grandfather in the Isle of Harris, in the Scottish Hebrides, during the 1950’s.

The photos below are of a Dong village and of the delightful grandchildren of the village doctor I stay with. The photo of them was taken at a place of pilgrimage (hence the traditional clothes) after a five hour ascent through padi fields, river valleys and forests and eventually on to the high grasslands. A wonderful day!

To date, four old Helenians have visited me here in Beijing.....James Waterton, Leon Lorenti, Robert Beaton and Hannah Clemen. Perhaps some of you will ‘knock on my door’ one day? You will be very welcome. My son Neil, is working with the Deutsche Bank in Hong Kong and I am sure that he too would be pleased to welcome any of you there.

I hope that Sunday will be a happy and memorable day for you all.

With my very best wishes

Alasdair.....Mr Leonard.....Sir!
What's happening at College?
Gymnasium Opening Events
Friday, 24 November 2006 and Sunday, 26 November 2006

[With acknowledgement to President J.F. Kennedy's speech 12 September 1962]

'We choose to build a gym. We choose to build a gym in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organise and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one that we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win...'

Kennedy's words inspired a new generation of scientists to pursue the dream of landing a man on the moon. In many ways the vision of a gym at Helena College was almost as impossible and as great a challenge for our community.

With a construction cost of over $1.8 million to build the gym it was an ambitious project. On Sunday 5 May 2002 our 'Apollo', our $500,000 fundraising appeal target, was launched. Raising half a million dollars seemed unattainable, as it was a huge task for a small school community which had never been asked to fundraise to this extent before. But our parents, students, friends, businesses and supporters generously contributed to the gymnasium project over the next few years. We had no major sponsors or corporate donors, but with the generosity and hard work of so many of you in the community we finally reached the target in November last year. (Some pledges are still coming in and we thank you for continuing to honour them.) It was a mammoth undertaking and we can be very proud of our achievements.

How did we do it?
Through family, student and Old Helenian donations and pledges from $2 to $20,000, the cubby house raffle, iPod raffle, Flight Centre raffle, Bali holiday raffle, art sales, walkathons, quiz nights, sausage sizzles, wine sales, International Pasar Malam, Family Fun Day, Swap Meet, Freddo Frog sales, 24 Hour Table-Tennis-a-Thon, Darlington Arts Festival stalls, read-a-thons, brick pavers, drama productions, entertainment books, fees raffles, biscuit sales, business loyalty book, lucky numbers, music recitals, cocktail evening, P&F contributions, student free dress days, support from local businesses and many, many more.

It was such hard work but we did it! Support came by way of in-kind donations, pledges, donations, time and skills. Helena College values and acknowledges every single donation which was made, whether large or small.

In the entry foyer of the gym there is now a Donor Acknowledgement Board to say thank you to all donors, including some generous Old Helenians. Those who contributed to the brick pavers appeal will be eager to find your names engraved on the pavers leading to the gym entry.

Old Helenians are invited to come and view the new gym. You would be most welcome anytime.
In the past few weeks we have been able to finally celebrate the gymnasium opening.

Three and a half years after the gymnasium fundraising appeal was launched and despite delays with building materials and a shortage of tradespeople, the Helena College gymnasium was finally opened with much fanfare and celebration on Friday, 24 November 2006.

With students, staff, and parents from both schools joining together for a combined school assembly the College community welcomed special invited guests, dignitaries, politicians and donors. Ms Kylie Wheeler, Captain of Australia’s Commonwealth Games team, was flown in by helicopter, to formally open the gym. Kylie was escorted by Deputy Principal, Ian Lyons, and Head Students, Jarrad Stovell and Janet Sorensen. Apparently the helicopter ride was lots of fun!

During the assembly, as is tradition at Helena College, the ‘gong’ was struck to commemorate the occasion and a building plaque unveiled. Acknowledgements of donors to the gymnasium fundraising appeal were made in recognition of the generous support of families and students during the construction of the gym. Students were treated to an icy pole after the assembly and invited guests and donors adjourned to the circuit room overlooking the oval for a light lunch.

Families unable to attend the assembly were invited to a gym ‘open viewing afternoon’ on Sunday, 26 November, with physical activities for the children to enjoy and refreshments provided via afternoon tea and a sausage sizzle.

The potential for a wide variety of uses for the gymnasium will ensure that this building is well used by students, staff, Old Helenians and future and current members of the Helena community in the coming years. We will be able to utilise the versatility of the space for whole school assemblies; examinations; award and graduation events; drama, music and dance performances; exhibitions and social occasions. This purpose-built sporting and recreation facility will benefit all our Junior and Senior school students. With a gymnasium, Helena College will be able to offer a more diversified and challenging physical education program, with activities such as indoor climbing, weight training, badminton, table tennis, Zen Do Kai, dance, callisthenics, yoga, pilates, fitball, indoor volleyball, netball, basketball and so on. The possibilities are fantastic.

On behalf of Helena College Council may I say thank you to everyone in our community for all your support with the fundraising over the past three and a half years. Your generosity demonstrated real community spirit and we did it the ‘Helena way.’

We now have a magnificent new gymnasium that bears witness to the truth of Kennedy’s words… that the challenge was one we were willing to accept… one which we intended to win… and we did. (eventually!)

Julie Carlton
Development Office
developmentoffice@helena.wa.edu.au
Immerse yourself in the food, sights, sounds, social life and customs, music and dance of Indonesia, France, Mexico and India.

Bring the whole family along to experience the international night market at Helena College Senior School.

Gold coin donation appreciated please
OLD HELENIANS NOTICEBOARD

Please send any notices for the noticeboard to the Development Office or e-mail to old.helenians@helena.wa.edu.au

EVENT MANAGEMENT

Congratulations and many thanks to Old Helenians, Gemma Turner and Kate McCarthy, for their willing assistance with the gym open viewing afternoon event for families on Sunday, 26 November 2006. Kate and Gemma heard about the gym opening events and were very quick to volunteer to help with the organisation of the event as a win-win situation, to gain new clients and experience for their fledgling business but also, as Old Helenians, to give back something to the College. Kate and Gemma organised the catering and decorations for the Sunday, donning one of the new house t-shirts (Cardan of course!) and getting into the cooking and serving of sausage sizzles for all the family groups attending on the day. Thank you for all your assistance – it was fun! If any Old Helenians require event managers for a special occasion please contact Kate or Gemma directly. Details appear below:

Gemma TURNER  and Kate McCARTHY (Class of 2001)
Exclusive Event Management
PO Box 528
MOUNT LAWLEY WA 6929
0411 262 238 (Gemma)  gemma@exclusiveevents.com.au
0407 990 187 (Kate)  kate@exclusiveevents.com.au

JUNE 2006 RETURN TO SENDER LIST

Quite a number of Helena Connections were returned to sender after the June issue was mailed.
If you know the whereabouts of the following ex-students and staff please ask them to contact the Development Office to update their postal address. Thank you.

ADAMSON family (Michael Class of 1999 and Sarah, Year 11, 2001)    Tyneil ANDERSON
Ellie BATE                                           BERTRAM family
Alexandra CARAVELLA                                      Jonathan DE’ATH
Simon DUKE                                            Nils GRIMLEY
Callum KNIGHT                                         Tara LAWRY
Sally PADBURY                                         Deborah PAJROVIC
Irene RANKIN                                          Warren SCHAER
Nicholas THOMPSON                                      Stephanie THOMPSON
Sandra TUCHY                                           Ryan WATTS
Grant, Jonathan and Karen WILLIAMS

HELENA COLLEGE NUMBER PLATES

NOW available – orders are being taken for Helena College number plates @ $150 per set.
Contact Julie Carlton developmentoffice@helena.wa.edu.au  or 9298 9100 for an order form

THE TRAVELLING LEAVERS’ JUMPERS

Helena College Year 12 students wear their leavers’ jumpers with pride whilst at school. But what do they do with them when they leave school? It would be fun for Old Helenians to send in photos of themselves in other places, other situations, to see just where those jumpers end up. Maybe you wear it to bed, or to the footy, or whilst lecturing at uni, or doing the gardening, or standing in front of the Eiffel Tower, or outside Buckingham Palace…. We’d love to find out where travel to. E-mail to Old Helenians old.helenians@helena.wa.edu.au

DATABASE UPDATE

Included in this newsletter is an ‘Update your details’ form for completion and return please. Helena College is moving to a new administration system in 2007 which will enable us to keep more comprehensive data. Your support with the records update would be appreciated.

TEN YEAR REUNION - CLASS OF 1997

Is there anyone who would like to assist with the reunion? Date and time to be determined. Please contact the Development Office to register your interest.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

INTERNATIONAL PASAR MALAM     Friday, 9 March 2007, from 5 pm – 9.30 pm at the Senior School campus in Bilgoman Road. All welcome.

BACK TO THE JUNIOR SCHOOL REUNION     Friday, 30 March 2007 from 10 am at the Junior School.
Please see the details on the back cover. All welcome.
BACK TO JUNIOR SCHOOL REUNION - FRIDAY, 30 MARCH, 2007

Did you know that Helena College is one of the oldest schools in Western Australia?

Mrs and Miss Jessie Jones founded the forerunner of today's Helena College shortly after they arrived in Perth from England in 1888.

Official records indicate that it commenced as Perth Jones Preparatory School for Boys, located for a time in Bishop's House, Mount Street, Perth.

After several site changes it was located at McNeil Street, Peppermint Grove and called Helena School after Princess Helena (of Greece) College in England.

During the war the school moved to the site of the present Helena College Junior School in Darlington. In 1972, Tom and Sally Herzfeld bought the School from Mary Jones and Jane Ashbury and two years later sold it to the newly formed Helena College Council Inc.

In 2006 the Junior School offers a very well equipped and innovative educational campus with up-to-date facilities from Kindy to Year 6 across all Learning Areas.

All Old Helenians are invited to a Back to the Junior School morning tea on Friday, 30 March 2007.

Meet the new Junior School Principal, Mrs Marie Barton, enjoy a delicious morning tea and take a tour of the school. It will be an opportunity to relive old memories and meet up with other former students of the Junior School.

Please bring along any memorabilia you may have to share your stories and memories with others.

We would especially love to meet some of our ex-students from the old days at Helena School. Hope you can join us.

Please RSVP for catering purposes by Friday, 16 March 2007 to:

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Contributions of text and photographs may be e-mailed to:
old.helenians@helena.wa.edu.au

Updates of contact details may also be e-mailed to that address
The DEADLINE for material for the June issue is 31 May, 2007.