I would encourage as many students as possible to get involved in The Voice, whether it's just reading it every month, or contributing as a Student Reporter. If you are interested in becoming a reporter, you can contact me on intadviser.qld@acu.edu.au.

I'm certainly excited and looking forward to working with students from each of the other campuses.

I truly appreciate the support I've received so far from students, particularly those in Melbourne who I am sure were particularly saddened by John’s departure. I must also mention Rosemary Williams at the Counselling Service in Melbourne, who has offered me great encouragement, support and advice and will be thankfully continuing with her regular columns (please see back page).

So, Happy Holidays to you all, enjoy your very well-deserved breaks, and I look forward to seeing you again in February 2010!

Maria Valastro
International Student Adviser,
Brisbane ACU campus
Become a Brisbane Ambassador!

Applications close 29 January, 2010

Being a Brisbane International Student Ambassador is a fun and fulfilling volunteer position for the city of Brisbane. Appointed by the Lord Mayor Campbell Newman, in your role, you will be helping us tell the world what it is like living in Brisbane as an international student.

As an ambassador for Brisbane, you will:
- Have the opportunity to participate in fun and unique Brisbane experiences
- Have a unique and valuable addition to your resumé
- Share your experiences with people in your home country
- Meet and receive a certificate from the Lord Mayor of Brisbane
- Belong to a talented and motivated group of students

Applications are open now! Visit careers.brisbanemarketing.com.au and click on the application Brisbane Student Ambassador to apply!
“CHILLAX” in North Sydney

ACU North Sydney
“CHILLAX”
Presented by the International Club (TIC)

The International Club from the North Sydney campus got together in November to “Chillax” – that is a mix between chilling out and relaxing to celebrate the end of semester and the end of exams. As you can see from the photos it was a rainy day but all who came along had a great time getting to know some new people and taking some time off.

North Sydney students— keep on the lookout for more TIC events and the opportunity to sign up for the club – it’s FREE to join!

Wishing all students a safe and happy holiday break, congratulations to those who have finished their studies and will be leaving us and looking forward to seeing those new students in 2010.

All the best and God Bless
Emily
2010 is the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity

Human activity is causing the diversity of life on Earth to be lost at a very rapid rate. These losses damage the life support systems we rely on every day. Biodiversity is essential to sustaining the living networks and systems that provide us with health, food, fuel and vital services. The United Nations has declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. The Year provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity for life on Earth, reflect on what has been done to safeguard it, and focus on the urgency of action.

For more information visit:
http://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/

Ask Aunty Rosemary

The Ask Aunty Rosemary column was introduced in November 2008 at the request of the international students on the Editorial team of The Voice, so that readers could write in and ask her advice on different matters and get a written response in the next edition.

Since then, in response to readers’ letters, Aunty Rosemary – a Counselling psychologist, working in the ACU Counselling Service in Melbourne – has provided advice and comment on alcohol, arranged marriages, body image, choosing a partner, cultural issues, culture shock, discrimination, domestic violence, duty to parents, ethics, fear of failure, grief and loss, lending money, loneliness, morality, noise, participation in university life, performance anxiety, psychological strain, relationships, sex, shyness and study skills.

Have you a question that you’ve been too afraid to ask? Or something that has been troubling you or causing you pain or distress? Or something that you’ve always wanted to know? Write in to Aunty Rosemary and she’ll do her best to comment and advise. All your emails are confidential and you do not need to identify yourself.

To send a confidential email to Aunty Rosemary, please email intadviser.qld@acu.edu.au.