Start of Semester BBQ at South Bank Parklands

On 19 July, the McAuley United Club organised a BBQ for 40 hungry students at Brisbane’s South Bank Parklands. Students included our commencing students, Exchange and Study Abroad, continuing students, and our ELICOS group. The weather was beautiful and everyone had a great time enjoying potato salad and sausages on bread cooked by members of the McAuley United Club. Thanks for all your hard work everyone and what a great welcome for our new students!!

Maria Valastro
ISA
Brisbane
G’day everyone! Welcome to McAuley United Club! - where all nations meet to share and support each other, create long lasting friendships and unite as one.

Monday 25 July, 2011 was a busy day for McAuley United Club (MUC), as we held our first gathering for the semester. There were almost 30 students gathered in the Student Association area from different nationalities; including Mitch and Ben (who are the McAuley Student Association’s President and Vice President) also joining the gathering.

The gathering started with a funny game called “I act, you guess”. Everyone there was divided into several groups and each group had to choose their leader and guesser. They were given a word (it was about movie titles and human expressions) that should have passed through each of the members of the group (from leader to guesser). Instead of saying the words, they had to describe the words to one another by acting in 5 seconds. The leader had an important role here since they were the only one who knew the word, hence the acting had to be good enough so that the guesser could guess the word. The way they acted was so funny, even sometimes what the leaders had acted suddenly changed, and was misinterpreted by the other members which made the guesser so confused in trying to guess the word. It was really entertaining; we had a lot of laughs during this game.

Next, we had a “Smart Tips” session which was basically a sharing of information, especially for the students who just arrived at ACU. Woods, one of the MUC executive members, explained about the ACU website and Blackboard, which was followed by the other executives Ricky, Bora, and Vicky who shared information about textbooks, libraries, transportation, entertainment, shopping centres, etc. This session was very interesting as at the end many of the second and third year students were also asking about things they did not know before. Soon after the session finished, the pizzas arrived and we had a relaxing time getting to know each other.

We also talked about our calendar of events for this semester. On 17 August we are planning a day trip to the Brisbane Ekka., and our other off-campus activities will be Riverfire on 3 September and a day trip during the mid-semester break. We also plan to have some other casual gatherings during the semester. In particular, we are looking forward to the Cultural Fiesta on 31 August at the Brisbane campus. And finally, at the end of the semester we will have a trip to Fraser Island.

To get more info about MUC, visit our facebook group McAuley United Club. We put all the information about our events as well as info from the “Smart Tips” session. Looking forward to seeing you in McAuley United Club, mates!
Human suffering

Rosemary Williams
Counselling Psychologist
Counselling Service
Melbourne

‘About suffering they were never wrong,
The Old Masters: how well they understood
Its human position; how it takes place
While someone else is eating or opening a window or just walking dully along’
W.H. Auden (1940), ‘Musee des Beaux Arts’.

Auden had visited the Museum of Fine Arts in Brussels in 1938 and viewed a painting by Brueghel, which depicts how daily human commerce continues, as, I suppose it must, in the face of the surrounding suffering of individual human beings.

None of us is a stranger to this suffering for it falls upon one and all in differing degrees and forms whose comparison and full meaning lie beyond our competence. The deepest complaint one encounters about it, though, is usually not over the event precipitating distress, but, rather, over the specific reactions of others to the suffering person.

Ruth Park (1994) expresses something of this dynamic in her autobiography, Fishing in the Styx: ‘In need, which so often translates as defencelessness, there is some mysterious component which brings out the worst in many people; regrettably, too, in all races. It is as if defencelessness, no matter the cause — poverty, age, gender, physical weakness or anything else — instantly marks you out as an appropriate victim’. The effect is that the suffering person tends to be blamed for their own suffering.

People who grieve the loss of their child, marriage, relationship, physical or mental health, economic security or employment invariably discover that their friends and family and even detached observers, consciously or unconsciously, view their suffering as being their own fault. They are judged, misjudged, criticised, plied with ill-informed advice and plagued with platitudes and I-told-you-so’s, but, concern is rarely expressed for the cold, hard fact of their suffering. It is important to remember as we tread life’s dusty, stony way that most of our suffering is random, undeserved and blameless. We have to remember a fact that seems elusive to us all — the fact of innocent human suffering.

The human mind does have an amazing capacity to shield us from intolerable suffering — from mental pain and conflict and from becoming aware of unpleasant emotions and thoughts. This temporary clouding of reality through thought, feeling and behaviour is known by the descriptive metaphor, ‘defence mechanism’. Defence mechanisms often are disguised and operate outside our awareness. An example of a defence mechanism is psychological denial.
We have been told, for instance, that a close friend of ours has died but we simply can’t believe it. We deny it, sometimes for months, because it is too painful to accept. Our mind is protecting us from unbearable loss.

How do we live our lives given our experience of suffering? Peter Steele (2009), the Australian Jesuit, points out, in A Local Habitation: Poems and Homilies, how much ‘we are all, if not bombarded by, at least immersed in, claims on our allegiance, night and day, by people calling us this way or that, urging priorities upon us, offering us hardware and party-gear, more beguiling bodies and more sophisticated attitudes, violence if we’d like some and porn at a keystroke, excitement, oblivion, triumph, the envy of others, and escape, escape, escape’.

It is tempting to choose to escape our difficulties and dilemmas but so futile, particularly, in the face of our mortality which changes nothing but changes everything. Peter Steele (2010), in his poem ‘Rehearsal’, contemplates his own death in the context of a life lived, it would seem, with depth, commitment, faith – a triad of values which might well underpin every thoughtful life:

Upright again, fritters of mint in my fingers,

I’m given pause in the kitchen patch...

I’ve taken leave of the Cliffs of Mo-her, the unsmiling campus guard at Georgetown, the fall of Richelieu’s scarlet enclosed by the London gloom:

I’ve watched my last candle gutter for dear ones, back in Paris...

But here’s the mint still on my hands. A wreath, so Pliny thought, was ‘good for students, to exhilarate their minds.’ Late in the course, I’ll settle for a sprig or two – The savour gracious, the leaves brimmingly green – as if never to say die.

Rosemary Williams
After your arrival, the first and most important thing to organise is accommodation which suits your budget. As you will stay for a long period of time, renting a property is the best thing to do. There are different types of renting options in Brisbane such as studios, units, apartments, townhouses, and share houses.

For the first few nights after your arrival, I would recommend you stay at a backpacker’s hostel just to settle yourself. They cost around $20-30 per night. Some popular backpacker hostels available in Brisbane are Brisbane Backpackers (www.brisbanebackpackers.com.au), Chill Backpackers (www.chillbackpackers.com/) and Bunk Backpackers. (www.bunkbackpackers.com.au/).

It can cost around $130 per week to rent a room/studio from a landlord or an agent in Brisbane (prices may vary according to location, facilities available, standard and other factors). You can rent apartments, houses, and units (from one to four bedrooms) through a real estate agency. Some popular real estate agencies in Brisbane are Ray white, Harcourt, L J Hooker and First National Real Estate. One way to cut down the rent is by sharing the property with more people. However, you should refer to the RTA Act 2008 in Queensland for more details prior to doing anything.

Before renting a property the real state agent requires you to provide a form of identification (eg. passport), bank statement/income source and a few other supporting documents. You will also need to pay a bond (money that the tenant pays at the beginning of a tenancy which the lesser/agent can claim if the tenant owes money for rent, damages, or other costs at the end of the tenancy). It is usually 4 weeks’ rent and is refunded upon the end of the lease.

There are many laws and regulations associated with renting a property in Brisbane. The following link has useful information on setting up, maintaining and ending Rooming Accommodation Agreements (Form R18) under the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008 in Queensland. http://www.rta.qld.gov.au/manager_rooming_accom_qld.cfm

Our campus is located at 1100 Nudge Road, Banyo which lies in the northern suburbs of Brisbane. So, it is advisable to rent a property somewhere close to the campus. This will cut off your travelling time to-and-from the campus. Banyo is around 11 kilometres from the city. It is a quiet residential area with easy access to public transport and shops. Furthermore, it is close to Brisbane Airport.

Even the friendly staff at the International Office on campus can assist you in finding a suitable accommodation.
Looking at the campus notice boards regularly is always advisable as heaps of rental advertisements by other current students are posted on them which may suit your preference. The good thing about going through it is that you get to live with your own campus mates! :)

Some useful links for finding an accommodation in Brisbane:

www.brisrentals.com/rentals
http://australia.accommodationforstudents.com/Brisbane.asp

If you’re a student at the ACU campuses in NSW or VIC, please see your International Student Adviser for advice on accommodation.

NSW: Emily Leite
(emily.leite@acu.edu.au)

VIC: Zoe Banna
(zoe.banna@acu.edu.au)

In August ACUmates has some great events planned! Check out the table below with everything we have coming up!

Don’t forget to “Like” us on Facebook by visiting www.facebook.com/ACUmatesNorthSydney or www.facebook.com/ACUmatesMelbourne to get all the latest information and event invitations!

In August ACUmates has the following planned in Sydney:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3rd August 5pm-8pm</td>
<td>Trivia and Pizza Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10th August</td>
<td>Catch-up with mates: Morning Tea at Rui’s Cafe on Napier Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>20th August</td>
<td>ACUmates @ Sydney Aquarium and Sydney Tower</td>
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In August ACUmates has the following planned in Melbourne:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10th August</td>
<td>Victoria Street Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>28th August</td>
<td>AFL Footy Game – Melbourne Vs Gold Coast</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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For more information:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ACUmatesNorthSydney or www.facebook.com/ACUmatesMelbourne

Web: www.acunsa.com.au/acumates

Email: North Sydney: joshua.ang@acu.edu.au or Melbourne: rachel.carr@acu.edu.au
be part of the journey

Join 92 ACU staff and students as they make the journey of a lifetime to Madrid in the footsteps of Blessed John Paul II. Travelling through twelve European cities, we'll be posting videos, photos and written blogs so you can share the experience with us.
What is World Youth Day?

- It is a great worldwide encounter with the Pope which is celebrated every three years in a different country.
- **Why could it interest me?** Because it could be a great incentive in your Christian life and a chance to experience in first person the universality of the Church.
- **Why is it celebrated?** To share with the whole world the hope of many young people who want to commit themselves to Christ and others.
- **What is it “to live a WYD”??** It may be a unique way to deepen your faith and grow closer to Christ, by means of prayer and the sacraments, together with thousands of other young people who share your interests and ambitions.
- **Is it just for Catholics?** No, WYD is open to all young people who want to take part in a festive encounter with their contemporaries centered on Jesus Christ.
- **What is the agenda for the event?** During the week of World Youth Day, there will be a complete cultural agenda in addition to the events with the Pope. ([http://www.madrid11.com/es/agenda/](http://www.madrid11.com/es/agenda/))

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**World Youth Day Madrid 2011**

16 – 21 August

World Youth Day is a great meeting of young people from all over the world gathered to celebrate and learn about their faith. It is one of the primary means by which the Church proclaims the message of Christ and expresses its concern for young people.


**University Dates:**

31 August       Census Date