

Equity

Transformation

Hope

This National Newsletter provides a space where all at the Clemente Australia sites can share their journeys with students, lecturers, Learning Partners, program co-ordinators and many supporters. This allows a rich sharing of ideas, celebrations, photos, news and articles across all Australian sites.



Clemente Australia is a community-embedded, socially-supported educational program, delivered by Universities in partnership with community agencies to provide education to people experiencing disadvantage across Australia.

Over 400 people have participated in the program. 60 now have successfully completed the four units of Certificate in Liberal Studies, and have made their new life choices, including further learning.

May the friendship, love and hope shared throughout 2010 bring peace and happiness to us all.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Challenge

Steve Foster, CA Campbelltown

*Oh no I am getting older.
The grumpy old man that they say I am,
Noticing generations becoming colder.
Not many seeming to care.
What can I say this aint fair.

Where is the love let it bloom.
Especially through this economic gloom.
With people running around everywhere.
There is no time to despair.

Life has changed in many ways,
A family we have to raise
A happy person we strive to be.
So let life be stress free.*

Reflection from CA Lecturer

...These were adult learners, highly intelligent, motivated, and rich in life experience. The atmosphere in the class was generally excellent, students were appreciative and supportive of my work and each other. I found that as the semester went on I realised that at the beginning of each Monday I was really looking forward to the Clemente class. I found myself thinking aha, this is why I like teaching! I enjoyed seeing the group when they came to ACU on Thursday night for their Learning Partner sessions; the students were warm, interesting, engaging people, some of whom needed to move mountains to be there. (Dr. Sue Rechter, ACU Fitzroy)

Malcolm Park

Patricia Hunter, CA Newcastle

*I came to "Malcolm Park", so innocent of horses.
Loved the look of them, but scared as well.
I watched and watched, before I touched
Their velvety muzzles.
I looked into their eyes so kind, as they sniffed my breath.
I learned to feed them carrots and brush their coats to shine.*

*The first ride was terrifying, fulfilling
As I accomplished my dream.
I rode as stiffly as a board and wobbled from side to side.
But so exhilarating the feeling, I knew I wanted more.
Forget the pain; it will go in time, as I conquer
This momentous achievement of mine.*

Message to Learning Partners

Suzanne Hunt-Tuzo, CA Melbourne

Most of us have a very scratchy idea of what studying means. Learning Partners help us find the right way that suits our individual needs. We may need support by boosting our confidence and encouraging us to stick with it if we feel like giving up. We may need help with skills for essay writing or oral presentations. We may need help with computer skills, or research. Simply we just need your support. You are an invaluable part of the Catalyst Clemente program. None of us are used to studying, it is new and can be frightening. You are a gift beyond measure.*

Thanks to Program Co-ordinators

Dale Home, CA Brisbane

...I have had a joyful and successful semester and have done well with 90% High Distinction in English Literature. I am now looking forward to a Winter intensive writing course and then more courses in Semester 2. Thank you for all the encouragement and assistance given in the Catalyst Clemente program.



Congratulations to the 2010 Graduates

Ballarat	Cathryn Smith, Linda Chubb, Kerrin-Lea Doyle, Linda Higham, Rebecca Pegg, Anne Schembri, Tamara Couttie
Brisbane	Constance (Helen) Summerton
Canberra	Patricia Green, Colin Ford
Melbourne	David Kerr, Helen Sullivan, Jay Daniels, Suzanne Hunt-Tuzo, Anne Jenkins, Miranda Madgwick, Fran Opperman
Newcastle	Johanne Buckley, Noeline Crawley
Campbelltown	Ben Klok, Jennifer Nielsen, Nicole Piper
Surry Hills	John McDonnell, Craig Geng, Wayne Schmidt
Perth	Alex Prudnicki, Nerissa Blake, Anita Welsh, Tasha La Mer



Site	No. of Enrolments (Semester 2, 2010)	No. of Expected Graduates 2010	Total No. of Graduates	No. of Graduates Continuing Undergraduate Studies @ ACU
Ballarat	9	1	6	1
Brisbane	9	1	5	2
Canberra	24	1	2	-
Melbourne	16	-	7	4
Newcastle	8	2	-	-
Campbelltown	19	3	5	3
Surry Hills	45	3	20	7
Perth	15	-	4	Edith Cowan University 3
Adelaide	12			
Total No. of Graduates (including 2010)		11	49	60



Catalyst-Clemente ARC Project 2009-2011

Through an Australian Research Council (ARC) grant involving students at Surry Hills, Campbelltown and Perth it is evident that housing has been a significant issue for many students. Many students have had a long standing physical health condition, about half were receiving support in relation to a mental health condition and a large number of students were facing financial difficulties. The impact of the program has been positive, with most students agreeing that *"I really like being a Catalyst-Clemente student"*. In the overall satisfaction with life, the majority felt somewhat better or much better than before they began the program; they felt their ability to cope with serious problems had improved; and *"I now feel a greater connection to the community"*. One of the clearest outcomes of the program was identified as self esteem, resilience and self confidence. Through interaction with peers, and engagement with class content, students reported a new understanding that other people don't have uniformly positive lives. The distance they felt between their lives and others seemed less significant, and their own lives appeared more 'normal'. Feeling a sense of self-worth was a new experience for many.

"Well this program has given me hope of a better future ...it's sort of made me more focused to look after myself and to get back on my feet..." (Neo)

