

Clarence High School

Designing the future together



SISTER SCHOOL IN CLASS APART



SIGHT-SEERS: Ratwinit Bangkaeo students at Russell Falls, Mt Field National Park.

By **REBECCA BANHAM** and **BIANCA-LEE PINNER**

RATWINIT Bangkaeo School is located in Samut Prakan, a suburban area near Bangkok. It is a co-educational school of over 4000 students, split into a junior section, Grades 7-9, and senior section, Grades 10-12.

For all those students, the school employs just 140 regular teachers, with class sizes of 50-60 students. Tasmanian students get far more individualised attention with our classes, averaging around 25.

Ratwinit Bangkaeo School offers a wide range of subjects,

from Thai social studies, maths and English, through to technology, physical education and art.

The students are also able to participate in a number of subject-related camps and the school even offers a Girl Guides and Boy Scouts program. Similarly, Clarence High also runs strong Outdoor Education and camp programs.

Like Clarence, Ratwinit Bangkaeo School prides itself on student sporting achievement. They boast a highly skilled soccer team, whose members are currently reign-

ing champions of the country.

The school also has another sister school in the United Kingdom, with which they run the "Dreams and Teams" Project, a sports leadership program.

By law, every student in Thailand must learn traditional Thai culture, including classical Thai dancing, from primary school age.

As the school is under the patronage of the Thai King, who is held in very high regard in Thailand, the Ratwinit Bangkaeo students are outstanding performers of classical Thai dance.

FOOTY STAR MILL

By **JAMES KITTO**
ROYCE Hart is probably the best known player to have begun his football career as a student at Clarence High.

Lacing up the boots in the 2005 AFL draft was another former student, Heath Neville, who was drafted to the Melbourne Demons at pick 68 and has been playing in Victoria for the Sandringham Reserves.

Hamish Ogilvie, from Football Tasmania expects Heath to be cementing his place shortly. "Heath was named an emergency against the Tasmanian Devils on Sunday April 30 for his consistent good form in the reserves," Mr Ogilvie said.

Another Clarence student and Mariner teammate, Sam Iles, was drafted by Collingwood ahead of some AFL greats including Scott Camporeale (Essendon) and Brent Guerra (Hawthorn).

Iles was playing VFL football for Williamstown before suffering an ankle injury, which kept him out of action for two weeks.

He is now back playing for Williamstown and trying to break into the star-studded Pies line-up.

In local competitions, former students Matt Wade, Alex Hevey and Daniel Chandler have had successful starts to 2006.

Clarence Sports Coordinator, Dale Langford, says names to watch out for in future are Jackson Cracknell, Alex Triffet and Kieren Rogers.

They could follow the lead of premiership captain Hart, who played 190 games for Richmond in the 1970s, and Stephen McPherson, who played 180 games for Footscray in the VFL in the 1980s.

STARS DO US PROUD

BEN and Tom Hamlett have been selected in the State Under 15 Soccer Squad to play in the Nationals in Sydney later this year.

Sam Hunt, 16, is the top-ranked A grade squash player in Tasmania will compete later this year in the National Under 18-20 Championships.

In July, Clair Priest heads off to Coff's Harbour to represent the state in the Under 15 Girls State Soccer Team.

Anita Boatwright travelled to Canberra to compete in the National Athletics Championships in April.

In February, Jamie Iles competed in the Under 18 Athletics Championships in Sydney.

He made the finals in the long jump, high jump and triple jump.

His best was fourth in the long jump — an excellent performance for a 15-year-old.

Richard Geard and James Rogerson were successful competitors in the National Surf Life Championships on the Gold Coast last summer.

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BUILDING THE THAIS

By **SIAN PARANY, JESS PHAIR,** and **JENNA MacKAY**

THAI students visiting from Clarence High's sister school, Ratwinit Bangkaeo, amazed their hosts with fluent English during a recent two-week stay.

Eight students, who have been studying English as a second language and mathematics and science in English, volunteered for the exchange. Upon arrival they were billeted out to Clarence students.

The visit, was part of the sister school program that was established last year and the students were accompanied on their trip by their director, or principal, Mr Boonprasert and English teacher Mrs Siritwatanapornkul.

Whilst they were here the Thai students attended classes and visited places of interest around Hobart, including Cadbury's, Battery Point and Mt Field.

One of the students also went on a school camp to Maria Island with her billet, Sara, who is a native Thai speaker. She was very excited to meet the visitors from Bangkok.



SWEETENER: Students from Clarence High's sister school, Ratwinit Bangkaeo, visit Cadbury's.

At a special welcome assembly the visitors performed a wonderful display of traditional Thai dance, which they have been learning since they were very young. The stunning costumes were a striking feature of this style of classical dance.

The students loved Tasmania, saying the people were extremely friendly and help-

ful, and were polite enough to say the weather was "nice," even though we have had extremely cold weather this autumn.

They also enjoyed participating in classes at Clarence and said they were less strict than the ones they attended in Thailand.

It's important for people of

all ages to experience different cultures and ways of life. The sister school relationship provides an opportunity to have student exchanges that give an insight into the lives of others.

Clarence High hopes to participate in an exchange next year, this time with some of our students visiting Thailand.

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