

FARRER HALL - 2005

Farrer Hall was the second of the Halls of Residence to be built, taking its first residents in May 1965. It reached full size in March 1966 with the completion of the 'House of Lords', the separate block to the north of the main building (the 'House of Commons'). The semi-detached part of Commons, which sits on top of the main Common Room, etc., has been known since the earliest days as 'Chastity'. If you haven't heard why, an older resident may be able to tell you.

The Hall as a whole accommodates a total of 193 female and male students, the Resident Advisors, the Deputy Head and Head.

Two of the rooms are suitable for residents with physical disabilities. Ground-floor areas of the Hall and the main dining area are accessible to these residents.

HEAD, DEPUTY HEAD AND SENIOR RESIDENT ADVISOR

The Head is Mr. Trevor Kennedy. He lives in the residence just to the north of Commons and west of Lords, at the top of the western car park.

The Deputy Head, David Treeby, lives in G62 on the ground floor of Lords.

The Senior Resident Advisor, Jacqui Blackley, lives in the flat on ground floor Commons G36 and is also the ground floor Resident Advisor.

Together the Head, Deputy Head and Senior Resident Advisor are responsible for much of the day-to-day management of the hall. They all welcome your dropping in for a visit, for business or pleasure, and you will usually be able to get in touch with at least one of them.

RESIDENT ADVISORS - There's a Resident Advisor's room on each floor of Lords, and Commons, plus one in Chastity – a total of seven advisors. The Resident Advisors are typically senior undergraduate students of the university.

Location of Resident Advisors for 2005

Location	Room
Ground	G36 Senior Resident Advisor
Chastity	Room 130
1 st Floor Commons	Room 146
2 nd floor Commons	Room 246
3 rd floor Commons	Room 346
1 st floor Lords	Room 174
2 nd floor Lords	Room 276
3 rd floor Lords	Room 376

Resident Advisors have a number of important functions in the hall. Their foremost role is to provide support for students on their floor. This involves fostering an atmosphere of respect and co-operation among students. They are the first point of call for residents in distress. The team is comprised of a hardworking team of exemplary students. They also contribute to the unique atmosphere at Farrer Hall by organising numerous functions including the Farrer Ball. They organise and participate in sport (a very large aspect of Farrer life!), and run the Farrer Shop which is a great place to chat and have a study break.

SERVICE PERSONNEL – The service personnel are on duty in the evenings between 9pm and 9am to provide assistance to residents and ensure the buildings are secure. The service personnel will patrol all residential halls throughout the night. By calling 53059, the service personnel can be contacted by residents who are having trouble with noise etc. Residents who have lost their keys and cannot get into their room can also contact them. During business hours assistance can be given from Resident Advisors and the MRS operations office.

EMERGENCIES. In an emergency situation the contact phone number for Security is 333 who will arrange appropriate action

This number must not be used for general service requests.

SERVICE COMMITTEES - To provide the regular services offered by the hall, a number of standing committees have been established. All are made up of both Resident Advisors and residents.

The Information Committee is a group that produce the fortnightly Farrer Newsletter and maintain the Farrer Hall website. The committee is made up of Resident Advisors and students from around the hall and aims to keep the residents of the hall informed and entertained. All residents are welcome to contribute.

The *Farrer Moan* is Farrer residents' internal 'social' newsletter that is produced and circulated several times during semester by the Farrer Hall Society. FHS publications officers look after the production of the Moan, which includes collecting articles from residents, typeset on the computer, photocopy and distribute to all residents.

The *Functions Committee*, working closely with the Farrer Hall Society, organises dine-in entertainment and special functions such as the Farrer Annual Ball. It also has another sphere of operations. In most halls, most of the time, a fair amount of effort is put into large-scale social activities. But some residents prefer small-scale interaction, and probably most do occasionally. It is always possible, of course, for a group of residents to get together to give expression to a mutual interest such as hobby groups, discussion groups, academic subject groups, etc. The Functions Committee can assist with these.

FARRER HALL SOCIETY (FHS) - Representation of a different and most important kind is offered by the Farrer Hall Society, which is affiliated directly with the Clubs & Societies (C&S) council of the University's Student Union. Through this link the FHS is able to attract substantial financial subsidies for the benefit of residents' activities. It is primarily a social organisation run by a committee chosen by and from the members of the hall at annual elections. Most of the barbecues, sporting events, discos, formal parties and dances are run by FHS. Although it cooperates with the societies of the other halls, the FHS is Farrer's own student club, and it will operate in the way you, its members, want. It is funded primarily by your own monthly contributions - a small part of your accommodation fee - as well as by the C&S subsidies, which your membership attracts, so your involvement is very important. Although officers of the FHS are elected annually, the elections happen twice a year - in October for the following year's Executive, and in March for the remainder of the Committee.

For 2004 the FHS Executive members are:

President	..	Felicity Hauser
Vice-President	..	Nelson Dzadey
Treasurer	..	Jack Stephenson
Secretary	..	Bridget Rose

FLOOR REPRESENTATIVES GROUP - The Farrer Residents' Committee comprises eleven representatives, one from each floor of the Hall. They are volunteers chosen or elected in the first place to act as colleagues of the Resident Advisors in the organisation of the floors. They also serve as a representative body, meeting periodically (four times a semester) with the Farrer Executive to discuss matters of concern to residents. As the only *floor-based* residents' representatives they have an important role to play in the hall.

SMOKING POLICY - *In 1990 Monash University, like all other campuses in the country, adopted a new, tougher policy on smoking in public and other areas. This followed all the new evidence of recent years on the harmful effects of passive smoking on non-smokers. Although not nearly as tough as some, the policy still has a marked effect on us in the halls.*

As from 2005 Farrer Hall is now a non smoking hall . SMOKING IS BANNED IN ALL AREAS OF THE HALL INCLUDING PRIVATE BEDROOMS.

ILLEGAL DRUGS - The use, or trading, of illegal drugs or substances in the Hall is prohibited.

FARRER HALL RESIDENTS - That is, **YOU!** The residents of the hall, senior and junior, are a cosmopolitan lot. In the last couple of years, for example, there were, apart from the Australians, people from Brunei, Fiji, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, UK, USA, Vietnam and Yugoslavia. And *that* may not be all!

What all of each year's newcomers have in common - even the Victorians, most of whom are from country towns - is that they're away from home, they're not familiar with university life and they've not had much experience of living as part of a large group. As a result, almost *anyone* might feel a bit of an outsider at the beginning. Those who have been here for longer can do a lot to help, and most do. But there's something the new arrivals themselves can contribute to the process: they can try to avoid the feeling that the initiatives in making them feel at home must come from *someone else*. Remember that a lot of other people here are in the same boat as you are; in other words, most others will find it easier to make contact with you if they can see you'd like to talk to them.

Our Orientation Week program aims to help you get to know as many people as quickly as possible. Names can be a minor problem at the outset. The order in which people write their family names and given names varies from culture to culture; some in fact use only one name. In western societies the family-name comes last; the name by which people like being called, much more often than not, is the first of the two or three. Apart, perhaps, from the halls' convenience, probably the best thing about living here is the pleasure to be gained from getting to know people of different cultural backgrounds. You have a pretty good chance of ending up with a circle of friends that extends across many oceans and frontiers. This should be easy, even if you don't work at it: you really have to try hard to be distant with people you meet several times every day doing just the same things as you. But there can be difficulties, almost always because we don't make enough allowance for cultural differences. For example, you might be tempted to think that the person who still seems a little cool when you've flashed him or her your very friendliest smile for the third time is being stand-offish. But possibly the problem is just that meetings occur more formally, or that expressing warmth too soon is regarded as a come-on, in her or his society. All that's needed is a bit more patience. Or you may wonder why some people enjoy alcoholic drinks, while others are happier without, and yet others never touch them at all. The answer might not be cultural at all; it may be religious or merely a matter of taste. It may even be genetic; for large numbers of people (though not so many Europeans), alcohol in quite small quantities can have very unpleasant effects without any of the virtues. The differences, though, are rarely very significant for long. You adjust to them, and so does everyone else.

NOISE - Where so many people are grouped together in a small area noise can be a serious problem. Of course, you can't come to live in such a place expecting to find quite the same tranquillity you get (if you're lucky!) at home. On the other hand, if we don't make reasonable allowances for other people's sleep, work and general peace, no one will be very happy. In Farrer we try to find a compromise acceptable to everyone, so it's important both to keep your own noise to a moderate level and to let anyone else know if they're making too much for your comfort.

There is a general policy in Halls that at 11pm on nights followed by a working day, and at midnight on Friday and Saturday, the noise level should drop to as near to zero as possible - not only in the corridors and rooms but also in the car parks and around the outdoor echo-chambers formed by the halls buildings. Rules about noise are only effective if everyone takes them seriously. What counts most is plain and simple consideration. When you're getting home late at night or farewelling your favourite visitors after a pleasant evening, for example. But even in the middle of the day, some of your neighbours may be depending on a reasonable amount of peace to get some urgent work done or to catch up on a bit of sleep. Music is a common problem. Your friends may not especially like your taste in music (however nearly perfect they may otherwise consider you); or, even if they do they may not want it interfering with their own. At any time of day or night, if you want to listen to radios, tapes and so on, you must play them at a lower level. You like blowing your mind? Fine, but the only way to do it around here (and by far the least expensive way anywhere) is to use headphones. Excellent ones come pretty cheap these days.

The other major source of nuisance is the friendly gathering inside or outside someone's room. (It's very hard, with the best will in the world, to laugh in a whisper!). Particularly in the warmer weather, when everyone's windows are open, sound travels easily and far. The quietest of chats, punctuated at no more than ten-minute intervals with bursts of merriment, may stop two or three neighbours from going to sleep for as long as it goes on. It's all a matter of give and take. You may be used to living with absolute quiet or maybe the parental pad is on the floor above a steel foundry. But we've got to get a community in which everyone is prepared to adjust enough to other people's needs to make communal living tolerable. If you need to, you can ask a Resident Advisor to help sort things out. But first of all, if you're having difficulties, talk to your neighbours about it. It's unfair on you if people nearby are making too much noise, but you can't expect them to find out about your discomfort by ESP. What's needed is, on the one hand, a moderate degree of consideration for others and, on the other, a willingness to drop a gentle, ever-so-friendly hint to those in need of it. Be warned, though, that if your neighbour does complain to you about unreasonable noise, and you don't lower it, we will have to take it very seriously. There is simply no place in halls for people unprepared to make the necessary adjustments for communal living.

FARRER HALL FACILITIES

THE WILLIAM FARRER SHOP - The shop provides a service for all residents and is run by a committee of Resident Advisors and students. Its function is twofold. It provides some of the most commonly needed grocery items at reasonable prices, generally cheaper than those at the local supermarket! What's more, all profits from the shop are used to maintain and improve Farrer facilities. So, if you buy what you need at your shop, you'll often be paying less than you would elsewhere and you'll be guaranteeing that the modest profits stay inside the hall. Opening times are normally 10-11pm Sunday to Thursday.

COMMON ROOMS - There are three common rooms, two on the ground floor of the south wing of Commons, the other on ground floor Lord. Local and national newspapers are delivered daily and are available for reading in both.

The Main Common Room, next door to the Shop, features the Hall's large screen TV (complete with DVD), and the audio system. The TV is available at any time of night, whilst the audio system is available until 11pm. The FHS usually arranges video film evenings on Saturdays in the Common Room. **Drinking is strictly not permitted in the Common Room.**

Adjoining the Common Room is a poolroom. To minimise accidents, drinking and eating is banned from the poolroom (as is smoking, here as elsewhere). The large common room is always open to residents using their keys, but the poolroom, for the sake of the residents living above, is closed at 11pm.

The Farrer Lounge is available for socialising in small groups. Drinking is permitted in the Farrer Lounge. It is expected that noisy residents retreat to the library when requested by a resident advisor or security personnel. This is so that socialising can continue without interfering with other residents. A television is also available.

A large TV set is housed in G61 in the Lords television room. Smoking and alcoholic drinks are not allowed in the television room.

FLOOR LOUNGES - These are on the floors of both buildings. They are provided as convenient centres for small-group activities, especially those involving the residents of the particular floor, and are equipped with kitchens, comfy chairs and tables. They have stoves, microwave ovens and toasters. You are free to use them for cooking or eating, playing cards, reading, discussions, or simply to escape from your own room. They are very close, however, to the residential rooms, so please note that informal gatherings in them need to be relatively restrained - and *very* restrained after 11pm at night.

LAUNDRIES - These are located on each floor of both blocks. To minimise the disturbance to residents in adjoining rooms, washing machines and tumble dryers may only be used between 10am and 11pm daily. If you aren't sure of the operations, how much soap powder to use, what not to tumble, etc., please ask someone who is. Most important: make sure you spin-dry any articles before placing them in the tumble dryer; otherwise the dryer will overheat and cut out long before dripping wet clothes dry. It will also cut out if the lint filter is clogged up - so check it beforehand, not after. Also remember: don't remove other another resident's clothes mid cycle!

MUSIC ROOM - A piano is housed in G60, on ground floor Lords. So far we have had very limited success with different means of soundproofing. Therefore, for the sake of those living nearby, there are restrictions placed on the times at which the music room may be used (9am - 11pm). This is the place to play any musical instrument, electric or acoustic

COMPUTER FACILITIES – All Computers in the Halls of Residence are connected via the Monash Network. This allows for rapid file sharing. Games can also be played over the network. A Computer Co-ordinator is available to residents having problems with the network. Five new computers can be found in the Computer Lab on the ground floor of Lords. They are all connected 24 hours per day to the Internet, e-mail and a quality laser printer is also available. Students having Novel registration problems should contact the Information Technology Support centre in the campus centre. Should you have any problems with the Computers in the Lab, the Farrer Computer Coordinator will be only happy to assist you. Food, drink and (of course) smoking are not allowed in the lab. The computer lab is Farrer Hall's primary study room, so noisy gatherings, games and music is not permitted.

BIKE ENCLOSURE - The theft of bicycles has been a perennial problem around the Halls of Residence and you are advised to take good care if you keep one here. Next to the Common Room, in the courtyard, we have provided a locked enclosure containing skyhooks. For a key-deposit of \$5 you may secure from the Deputy Head a place for your bike. But to be extra certain, it might be smart to use a locking-chain as well. Bikes have been known to go missing from the enclosure so it is best to be safe than sure.

STUDENT ROOMS

ROOM CHANGES - The Deputy Head allocates rooms, and any requests for changes. Changes are not normally considered during the first four weeks of semester and preferences are given according to previous contribution to the Hall, seniority, and reasons for the change.

LINEN - You are responsible for cleaning and tidying your room and for making your bed. Fresh bed linen is available each week on a Wednesday evening. Your room is virtually your castle, and, other than in extreme circumstances or at your own request, it will not be unlocked.

FURNITURE - Furniture must not be moved from rooms nor, of course, may it be defaced in any way. If accidental damage occurs - burning, breakage, tearing, etc. - please report it as soon as possible. Damage clearly resulting from other than fair wear and tear will be charged to the occupier, as well as the cost of making good any unreasonable damage or wear to the fabric of the room itself - for example, to paintwork. Thus, no sticky-tape, nails or drawing pins, please! If you should spill something that will stain your carpet, please report it as soon as possible; the sooner it's cleaned expertly, the less chance there is of permanent damage and the consequent cost of replacement.

MAINTENANCE - Any necessary repairs needed in your room or elsewhere in the hall should be reported to Maintenance. A box of request-cards is kept on the counter in the Farrer foyer, as well as at the Operations Office; completed cards should be placed in the front of the box, where they're normally collected daily. Online maintenance reports can also be made. Urgent matters should of course be reported immediately, during office hours to the receptionist or, outside them, to a senior member of the hall.

KEYS - For security reasons you are strongly urged, when you'll be absent from your room, even for a short time, to leave it locked. Some people don't take that precaution, perhaps thinking it signifies a lack of trust in their own friends. But not everyone who comes into your corridor is going to be a friend, so it's not wise to take chances.

SECURITY - To ensure security for residents the outer doors to Farrer Hall are locked at all times. Only current residents are able to gain access by using their special "dog tag" key.

MEALS - Meals in the Halls dining rooms are cafeteria style. The Halls dining room is open seven days a week. You can also do some cooking in the Floor Common Room kitchenettes, or you may re-heat precooked food in the microwave ovens located in the floor lounges around the hall, or make toast in one of the toasters provided. We've introduced these facilities in order to give people a bit of flexibility in their eating — and, so long as each floor's members are prepared to keep their own kitchen and lounge clean, we can keep going with it. But please note that, because of the fire-danger and the risk of attracting ants and rodents, **COOKING IN RESIDENTS' ROOMS IS TOTALLY PROHIBITED.**

PARTIES - Parties are not normally permitted in hall because there is no suitable venue that won't create problems for other residents. There's nothing to stop you having a quiet drink (note that "QUIET"!) with a couple of friends in your room. If thirty-seven of your friends from Tamooltha drop in for a rage (or even just two or three of them from the next floor), whether you actually invited them or not, remember that each resident will be held responsible for the behaviour of his or her guests in and around the halls.

GAMES AROUND THE HALLS - To protect both the gardens and the residents' peace, playing games (especially ball games) is banned in the grounds around the Halls. But should the urge to kick or throw (etc.) a ball or frisbee (etc.) suddenly take hold of you, it can be done without going far. Just across the car park and driveway from the front entrance of Farrer, on the Deakin Common, you can indulge yourself to your heart's content.

FIRE - Fire alarms are located in all sections of the buildings. Please check where the nearest one to you is situated, in case you're the one that has to press the button. If an alarm sounds, you should leave the building immediately. It may be natural to hold back for a while to see whether there's really any danger, or for fear of looking foolish, but that could be fatal. Better embarrassed than dead. Fires can be worse than they look, especially if they've spread into a wall cavity or a duct. So play safe. The penalties, on the other hand, for false alarm, for tampering with fire equipment or for parking your car in the fire access zone outside the southern double doors near the main Common Room, are heavy. Your floor Resident Advisor will explain the emergency procedures and sometime during the year there will be a couple of fire drills for the Hall to make sure we all know what to do.

EMERGENCIES - In any real emergency, let the Switchboard and/or Security Personnel, Deputy Head or Head know immediately.

WILLIAM FARRER

The hall is named after William James Farrer (1845-1906). Born in England, son of a tenant farmer, Farrer won scholarships first to Christ's Hospital, London, where he won awards for maths, and then to Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he took out his BA in 1868.

He began to read medicine but, when he contracted TB, emigrated at the age of 25 to Australia. Qualifying as a surveyor in 1875 Farrer worked with the NSW Department of Lands until 1886. He then settled, at his own expense, to research into wheat varieties near what later became Canberra. In 1898 he was appointed to the NSW Department of Agriculture as a wheat experimentalist on a salary of 350 pounds a year. His only chance of real wealth he passed up: a wealthy uncle in England asked him to return to inherit his fortune or stay in Australia and get nothing. He stayed.

His research was prompted by the evident unsuitability of the (basically European) varieties of wheat used in Australia at the time. They were unsuited to drier conditions, were especially prone to the fungal disease, rust, and did not produce particularly good grains for milling or good straw for harvesting. At a time when Mendelian genetic principles had not yet been rediscovered, he was interested in the heritability of disease resistance, of grain quality factors and of maturing rates.

His first successes, in 1889, came from selecting outstanding individual plants from imported strains and breeding from them. By writing to agricultural colleagues in several countries he was able to collect a wide range of strains, which formed the basis of his work. In the first years of this century he had many successes. His grain, 'Federation', was the leading variety for the whole of Australia between 1910 and 1925; and, of the 29 varieties recommended for growing in NSW during the same period, 22 were his. In fact his wheats were largely responsible for the expansion of wheat cultivation into drier or dust-prone areas in NSW. (Between 1897 and 1915 the area under wheat increased fourfold.)

Five years after his death a Farrer Memorial Fund was opened in Sydney. It now endows an annual Farrer Memorial Medal for outstanding service to agricultural science in research, education and administration, and the Farrer Memorial Research Scholarship, for postgraduate research in agriculture. William Farrer has appeared on postage stamps and currency and his name has been given to streets, schools, a Canberra suburb, a flour mill and several institutions, of one of which you are now a resident. There is a bronze bust of him in the centre of Queanbeyan, in the Australian Capital Territory.

MAY 2005 BE YOUR BEST YEAR YET!