

... And what went on at the Munsbach summer school this year? Janice Allgrove says:

Munsbach at Clairefontaine? What?

Well us old Munsbachers know what we mean! But the newcomers to Summer School (which I now will refer to as SS) are not quite sure exactly what we were talking about. This was my first year at Clairefontaine (SS has been held there now for the second year) and I must say I was impressed with the building (although it took me to Thursday to find where my room was without a map, but those who know me know that's not unusual). 17 SS's were held at Munsbach, but times move on and changes occur and Clairefontaine IS the new Summer School, and looks after us proudly within her walls and I am glad to say welcomes us back with open arms next year.

When I wrote my application for this year's Pirates Jane Carter award, I remarked that however many times you go to SS there is always so much to learn, many different experiences and new friendships to be made and old acquaintances you meet and the relationships become deeper and richer. That certainly happened to me this year. Some of the people I worked with in previous SS's were there again and although sometimes we shared the same classes with the same lovely talented tutors, all of the experiences were new ones. This will never cease to amaze me.....

Another SS first was the acceptance and inhabitancy of a dog, Sari, belonging to Rodney Tow. She's a lovely happy miniature dachshund that is in the SS group photo if you look carefully. You would not notice she was there, except when she came and said hi to everyone now again, at break times and came with us on the picnic trip. She was a delight to us all.

I am going to use this opportunity to say a public heartfelt "Good Luck" to Chris Bearne. I am so happy and excited for him to have this opportunity I feel he absolutely deserves, but of course will miss him and Ann greatly as they have been supportive and loyal friends to me, as to many of us. Next year SS will not be the same without Chris, but I have been honoured in being asked to assist John in the admin and I will do my utmost best to fulfil the position to the best of my ability.

One of my SS highlights was at the special session when we learnt and "performed" Glen Miller's "In the Mood" or as one of our SS wag's called it "Not so in the mood." Ingeniously organised by one of our tutors, Graeme, we performed this by using Penny whistles, Kazoos (split into male and female sections) and Suwannee whistles. Then we had the rhythm section! Peta ably choreographed the women's Kazoo section. And all in an hour and a half! Brilliant!

A recording was made but won't be out on CD this year.....maybe next...

Thank you very much Pirates.