ISSUE 2-2

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our Vision
Mercy Regional College serves a wide rural community which values growth and diversity in Catholic Education in the Mercy tradition.

Our Mission
In the Spirit of the Gospels we commit ourselves to the core values of community, inclusiveness, learning, care, justice and mercy, excellence and achievement.

Our Focus for 2007
Community
Through the Mercy tradition we promote the uniqueness of the community and its heritage.

Diocesan Study Tour
My participation in the Diocesan Study tour came to a conclusion last Wednesday at 7.30pm when I arrived back in Melbourne. While it is wonderful to travel there is always something special about returning home. Likewise the study tour provided many opportunities to hear and see first hand what is happening in education on the international stage, however it is great to return to the many benefits and positive aspects of our education systems particularly in terms of curriculum, facilities, management and leadership of education we have here at Mercy Regional College, in the Diocese of Ballarat and in the state of Victoria.

To conclude the tour we were privilege to have our Bishop, Peter Connors, meet us in Rome, where we celebrated the Eucharist together at St Peter’s Basilica and then Bishop Peter lead us on a tour of the Vatican concluding in the Sistine Chapel. Our last meeting in Rome was with the Congregation for Education, the Vatican authority that has responsibility for Catholic Education. We met with Archbishop Michael Miller who provided us with an overview of the Congregation and outlined the purposes of Catholic Schools. In particular he identified the following points as being important for Catholic School:

- to ensure the Catholic identity of the school is maintained and enhanced;
- that Catholic schools are grounded in the Catholic tradition;
- that the school have visible and tangible signs that it is Catholic, and
- that the Catholic vision of the human person and of the world permeate the curriculum

Archbishop Miller was then very keen to hear from us on the state of Catholic Education in Australia generally and particularly within our Dioceses. We were please to report positively on the state of Catholic Education within the Ballarat Diocese. Our meeting with Archbishop Miller was certainly a highlight of our time away.

Feast Day Mass
Mercy Regional College celebrates its Feast Day on Thursday 24th May, the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. As this year is a significant year of celebration for those involved with Mercy, being the centenary of the foundation of St Thomas School, Terang and the arrival of the Mercy Sisters in Terang and the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of Mother Ursula Frayne, Bishop Peter Connors has kindly accepted my invitation for him to concelebrate our Feast Day Mass. All families are warmly invited to attend Mass at 11.00am in the deChantal Stadium on Thursday 24th May.

2nd Annual Mercy Dinner
Last year the first Annual Mercy Dinner was held where the College welcomed back and honoured past student Mr Paul Broderick. This year the second Annual Mercy Dinner will be held on Friday 25th
May commencing at 7.00pm. Our guest this year will be Fr Ed Moloney, our first past student to be ordained as a Priest. It again promises to be a most enjoyable evening, and I trust that many families will be able to get a table together for this evening. Details are contained elsewhere in the newsletter.

**MRC Cross Country**
On Wednesday 2nd May the annual MRC Cross Country Competition was held at the Camperdown Racecourse. The change of venue this year addressed some of the safety concerns with the old course. From all accounts it was an enjoyable event which saw Ryan House eventual winners.

Congratulations to the following age champions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U’21</td>
<td>Nathan McLeod</td>
<td>Amy Johnstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U’17</td>
<td>Martin Sargeant</td>
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<tr>
<td>U’16</td>
<td>Nicole O’Sullivan</td>
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<tr>
<td>U’15</td>
<td>Tim Hickey</td>
<td>Katie Milbourne</td>
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<td>U’14</td>
<td>Joe Gleeson</td>
<td>Bethany Moncrieff</td>
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<tr>
<td>U’13</td>
<td>Jackson Gaut</td>
<td>Ellie Kenna</td>
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<tr>
<td>U’12</td>
<td>Brendan Richardson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caitlin Hickey</td>
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**PTFA**
Last Monday, the PTFA Annual General Meeting was held. I am delighted that all positions on the executive were filled. Congratulations to the new executive and thank you for being prepared to take on these important leadership positions:

President: Mrs Sherrill Hinkley  
Vic President: Mrs Jo Place  
Secretary: Mrs Anne Carr  
Treasurer: Mr Danny Gordon  
Board Representative: Mrs Jenni Lenehan

In particular, I would like to thank Mrs Kathy Hall, outgoing President and Mrs Sheena Russell, outgoing Treasurer for their tireless efforts over the past year in leading the PTFA. Under their leadership and stewardship they have been able to raise substantial amounts of money for the College and ensure that the PTFA continues to represent the parent community.

**Year 9 AIM Tests**
This week our Year 9 students participated in the Achievement Improvement Monitor (AIM) test conducted by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. It is designed to monitor student’s progress in literacy and numeracy from Year 7 to 9. The numeracy test was held on Tuesday and the literacy test on Wednesday.

**Science Competition**
The first of our academic competitions was held this week when a large number of our students participated in the National Science Competition. Thanks to Mr John Houlihan for his organisation. It is an important instrument in extending the more academically gifted students at Mercy. Later in the year, we will be involved in similar Mathematics and English competitions.

**Coming Events**

**Wednesday 16th May**
- College Assembly Period 5

**Friday 18th May**
- MSO Meet the Orchestra Warrnambool - Yr 7

**Wednesday 23rd May**
- OPEN NIGHT – McAuley Campus

**Thursday 24th May**
- OPEN MORNING – O’Keeffe Campus  
- Feast Day Mass – 11.00am McAuley Campus

**Friday 25th May**
- 2nd Annual Mercy Dinner 7.00pm at the Noorat Community Centre

ANDREW WATSON  
PRINCIPAL

**Mercy Awards**

**VCE (Yr 11 & 12) Mercy Award**

Stefan Phillips for his assistance to the PE faculty with setting up at recent events.
Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award

From the Head of Sport
Darren Cheeseman

Cross-Country
Last Wednesday the 2nd of May all students participated in the Cross-Country. The Camperdown Racecourse proved to be a good venue for the race even though conditions were cold and windy. Well done to the age group champions that are listed earlier in the newsletter. These students achieved excellent times and this shows that Mercy Regional College will again be a strong force when the HSSSA Cross-Country is held on the 24th May.

Senior Football
Well done to all Senior Footballers that represented the College last week when they played Trinity College at Colac. Played in wet conditions the boys under Marty Ellul worked hard to achieve the victory.

Junior Football
For the first time next Monday the 14th of May the school will send a Junior boys team to participate in the Catholic All Schools Competition held at Colac. This is a good opportunity for the younger footballers to represent the school. Good luck to all students.

Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award

Laura McKenzie for her positive attitude to her work in all subject areas.

Tim Hickey for his contribution to school and community sporting activities.

COMING UP:
MRC/St. Pat’s Canteen Roster
Term 2 Week 5 & 6

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 14 May</td>
<td>Joy McConnell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 15 May</td>
<td>Mary Guy</td>
<td>55943377</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kathryn Moloney</td>
<td>55925348</td>
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<td>Wed 16 May</td>
<td>Caroline Buchholz</td>
<td>55963564</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Liz Johnstone</td>
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<td>Thurs 17 May</td>
<td>Janet Devlin</td>
<td>55963508</td>
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<td>Fri 18 May</td>
<td>Monica Mahony</td>
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<td>Mon 21 May</td>
<td>Loretto Milbourne</td>
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<td>Tues 22 May</td>
<td>Alicia Bowman</td>
<td>55933080</td>
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<td>Paula Fleming</td>
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<td>Wed 23 May</td>
<td>Dianne Glennen</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annie Watson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 24 May</td>
<td>Liz O’Brien</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 25 May</td>
<td>Janet Cain</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michelle Unwin</td>
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MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE

Invites all Families
To our College Feast Day Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Peter Connors (Bishop of Ballarat) on Thursday 24th May commencing at 11.00am in the De Chantal Stadium McAuley Campus, Camperdown
From the Director of Learning and Teaching
Mrs. Lisa Pope

Curriculum Coordinator Report

Over the past few weeks the staff of Mercy Regional College has continued to work on updating our curriculum to align ourselves with the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). During this time, we also have had several staff attend Professional Development activities in Horsham run by the Catholic Education Office to assist with the new reporting guidelines.

Dr Mauri Hamilton visited the school on Monday 23rd of April and Friday 26th of April to continue to share her expertise in working with VELS and the school used these two days for our staff to collaborate their ideas within individual learning teams.

In the coming weeks we will see many of our students preparing for Examinations. I have included in this newsletter the Exam timetable for Year 12, Year 11 and Year 10 students as well as some study advice. We wish all students well in their upcoming exams and if there are any concerns please feel free to contact your student’s teacher or myself.

VCE Unit Three June Examination and GAT timetable

Each examination commences with a 15-minute reading period which is included in the times shown in the timetable.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tuesday 12 June</th>
<th>9:00 am - 10:45 am</th>
<th>11:45 am - 1:30 pm</th>
<th>2:45 pm - 4:30 pm</th>
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<td>Accounting Exam 1</td>
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<tr>
<th>Wednesday 13 June</th>
<th>9:00 am - 10:45 am</th>
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<th>2:45 pm - 4:30 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology Exam 1</td>
<td>Chemistry Exam 1</td>
<td>Environmental Science Exam 1</td>
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<tr>
<th>Thursday 14 June</th>
<th>10:00 am - 1:15 pm</th>
<th>General Achievement Test (GAT)</th>
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</thead>
</table>

These Exams will occur at the Uniting Church Hall - Except for the GAT which is to be sat at Camperdown College by all students studying a Unit 3-4 subject!!

The DETER Strategy for Taking Tests/Exams

To do well on a test or exam, you must have good knowledge of the information that is being tested. But you must also have a strategy for taking the test that allows you to show what you know. The DETER strategy can help you do your best on any test or exam. Each letter in DETER reminds you what to do.

D = Directions
- Read the test directions very carefully.
- Only by following the directions can you achieve a good score on the test.
- If you do not follow the directions, you will not be able to demonstrate what you know.

E = Examine
- Examine the entire test to see how much you have to do.
- Only by knowing the entire task can you break it down into parts that become manageable for you!
- The only way to avoid misinterpreting a question is to read through the question at least twice. Underline the key words in the question. Make sure you understand what those keywords mean. Some examples of keywords which some students have problems with are:
  - Describe
  - Outline
  - State
  - List
  - Explain
  - Evaluate
  - discuss
T = Time
- Once you have examined the entire test, decide how much time you will spend on each item.
- If there are different points for items, plan to spend the most time on the items that count for the most points.
- Planning your time is especially important for essay tests where you must avoid spending so much time on one item that you have little time left for other test items.

E = Easiest
- The second E in DETER reminds you to answer the items you find easiest first. This enables you to feel good about the paper and boosts your confidence.
- If you get stuck on a difficult item that comes up early in the test, you may not get to answer items that test things you know.
- If you manage the easy questions properly, you will be able to answer them quickly and allow yourself more time for the difficult questions.
- Last but not least, you may be able to attain the answers to the difficult questions after you have solved the easy ones. It has happened to many people many times!

R = Review
- If you have planned your time correctly, you will have time to review your answers and make them as complete and accurate as possible.
- Also make sure to review the test directions to be certain you have answered all items required.
- Always strive to complete a paper at least 10 to 15 minutes ahead of time. Then make use of this spare time to check through your paper at least twice. You may be pleasantly surprised that you can spot an error or two in your answers, and that you have the time needed to make the corrections.

Managing the Stress of Exams
Always tell yourself not to worry too much before a test or exam. Below are some good ways to reduce or eliminate your anxiety and worry:
1. Clarify all your doubts at the end of each lesson, so that they will not snowball into a big bag of questions before your test or exam.
2. Always prepare for a test or exam well in advance. Be organized!
3. Don’t study every minute while you are awake. Busy yourself with some mundane household chores or exercise to take your mind off the upcoming test or exam.
4. Have a good night’s sleep before the date of the test or exam and eat sensibly!
5. Keep reassuring yourself that you can do it. Once you stop doubting yourself, you will stop panicking.
6. Maintain positive relationships with family and friends.

CAREER NEWS

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY - BENDIGO

University/ Folio Preparation Workshop - 2nd & 3rd July 2007 for Year 11 and 12 students
For more information on Graphic Design/Multimedia, Printmaking, Photography, Ceramics and Painting and Drawing folio building techniques, interview strategies, studio experience and course specific information please contact Jennifer Uren on 54447969
email j.uren@latrobe.edu.au, or www.latrobe.edu.au/visualarts/folioshop.htm

RMIT UNIVERSITY

RMIT is arranging laboratory visits to Melbourne’s major teaching hospitals and a number of regional centres for VCE students with an interest in the laboratory investigation of disease. These visits will take place in the second week of the holidays (9th - 13th July). Interested students can register online from 14th May at www.rmit.edu.au/medical-science/lab-visits

RMIT’s Bachelor of Applied Science (Laboratory Medicine) is the only professional accredited course for medical scientists in Victoria. For further information: Telephone Ralph Green 9925 7082, Email: Ralph.green@rmit.edu.au
New Courses in 2008
Diploma of Creative Industries - Industry is increasingly seeking creative entry level and general employees who are able to multi-task in a number of areas. Students in the program will choose any three areas to complete electives from: Photography, AV Technology, Music Industry, Multimedia, Profession Writing and Editing, Screen (Film & TV production) and Professional Screenwriting. For more information contact Viv Weir 9925 8012 or Email: vic.weir@rmit.edu.au

Nanotechnology and Applied Sciences - New double degree. In 2008 RMIT will welcome the first intake of students into the Bachelor of Science (Nanotechnology)/Bachelor of Science (Applied Sciences). For further information contact Gary Bryant 9925 2139 or Email: gary.bryant@rmit.edu.au

Scholarships and Equity
VCE students may experience a disruption during their VCE studies. This can affect their overall performance and results. RMIT offers a number of structured pathways into degree programs, which can be particularly useful for students who have experienced such educational disadvantage during their schooling. Other students who can benefit from these pathways include students with disabilities (including learning disability), difficult family circumstances/low socio-economic background, Koori students, and students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. For further information contact Helen Brooker 9925 3181 or Email: equity@rmit.edu.au

Scholarships and Finance
Year 12 students may be able to gain assistance from RMIT if they are:
- Experiencing financial difficulties,
- On a humanitarian visa,
- From a regional area
- From a farming background
- Of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
- Of good academic standing or show initiative in academic or personal life

For more information contact the Scholarships and Finance Office 9925 2811 or Email: scholarships@rmit.edu.au or www.rmit.edu.au/students/scholarships

EXPERIENCE ENGINEERING - SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM
RMIT University’s “Experience Engineering” program offers Year 11 and 12 students the opportunity to participate in a series of interactive workshops at the city campus.
- Session 1: The power of high voltage
- Session 2: Reading the mind – electrical brainwaves and the power of sleep
- Session 3: Robots – the future is coming.
Date: Wednesday, 11th July 2007-05-08 Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm
Cost: Free - lunch will be provided Location: RMIT University City Campus, 124 La Trobe St Melbourne. For further information: Jodi Weller, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering 9925 2590
Register online at www.rmit.edu.au/sece/prospective/experience

PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIES COLLEGE
New Course - New Digital Curriculum. For more information contact Angela Harvey on 9682 3191 or aharvey@psc.edu.au

ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING
Nurse Scholarship Program
- Rural and Remote Undergraduate Scheme
- Continuing Professional Education Scheme for Rural and Remote Nurses
- National Nurse Re-entry Scheme
Phone: 1800 11 72 62 Email: scholarships@rcna.org.au Web site: www.rcna.org.au

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY - HEALTH INFORMATION EVENINGS
Nursing
Melbourne Campus at Burwood Tuesday, 10th July at 6pm Lecture Theatre 12
Warrnambool Campus Friday 13th July at 7.30pm, Lecture Room J201
Geelong Waterfront Campus Thursday, 12th July at 6pm, Percy Baxter Theatre
Health
Melbourne Campus at Burwood Thursday, 12th July at 6pm, Lecture Theatre 12

For more information please contact Deakin University, Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing & Behavioural Sciences
Faculty Student Centre, Phone 9251 7777, Email: hmnbs-support@deakin.edu.au, or visit www.deakin.edu.au/hmnbs

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY - TALK & TOUR 2007 - AT BUNDOORA CAMPUS - 12TH JULY & 25TH SEPT.
For more information contact: Phone 1300 135 045 Email: study@latrobe.edu.au
Web: www.latrobe.edu.au/study/events.html

Experience La Trobe
Albury-Wodonga (Nursing or Social Work) 13th June Phone (02) 6024 9785, Email: study.aw@latrobe.edu.au
Albury-Wodonga 27th June
Bendigo (Visual Arts Folio Workshop) 2-3rd July Phone 5444 7969, Email: j.uren@latrobe.edu.au
Melbourne - Bundoora 3rd July Phone:1300135045

New Courses for 2008
Bachelor of Dentistry/Master of Dentistry - Bendigo
Bachelor of Information Technology - Bendigo
Advanced Diploma of Nursing - Albury-Wodonga

More information about these courses is available on CourseFinder: www.latrobe.edu.au/coursefinder and in the undergraduate course guide.

La Trobe Open Days
Bendigo: Sunday, 5th August Albury-Wodonga: Sunday, 19th August Mildura & Shepparton:
Sunday 12th August Melbourne (Bundoora): Sunday, 26th August

MONASH UNIVERSITY
Chemical Engineering Experience – A two day school holiday program – 11th & 12th July 2007-09
For more information contact: Lilyanne Price on 9905 1872 or Email: Lilyanne.Price@eng.monash.edu.au

WESTVIC WORKFORCE

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<td>Administration</td>
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To find out any more information on any of these current vacancies please contact David Gladman at Westvic work force on (03) 5561 9000.

FOR APPLICATION FORMS AND MORE INFORMATION ON CAREERS PLEASE SEE MRS POPE
### YEAR 10 EXAM TIMETABLE – SEMESTER 1 [JUNE 2007]

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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
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### YEAR 11 EXAM TIMETABLE – SEMESTER 1 [JUNE 2007]

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**Please Note**
- School uniform is to be worn to the school for the exams.
- Students will need to bring looseleaf paper to exams.
- Exam conditions apply for all exams.
- Students will not be permitted to leave the room until the designated finish time.
- Students may bring a novel (not the newspaper) to read if they finish early.
Cordially invites you to attend the second

Annual Mercy Dinner

to be held on

Friday May 25, 2007
at the
Noorat Community Centre, McKinnon's Bridge Road, Noorat

Featuring

Father Edward Moloney
(first past student of MRC to be ordained as a Priest)

The Dinner will commence at 7.00pm with pre dinner drinks and savouries
followed by a sumptuous two-course meal
featuring keynote address from Fr Edward Moloney.

This will be an occasion not to be missed. Please reserve your table early to avoid
disappointment, as there are only limited numbers available.

Drinks at Bar prices

I wish to purchase ________________ tickets at $37.50 per person to attend the dinner.
Total $ ________________

Please reserve me ____________ tables of 10 @ $375.00 per table for the dinner.
Total $ ________________

Name: ___________________________________________

☐ Attached is a cheque (payable to Mercy Regional College) for $ ________________
☐ Credit Card Payment [please tick which card is applicable]
   ☐ Visa Card    ☐ Master Card

Credit Card Details ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________

Expiry Date ☐ ☐ / ☐ ☐     Signature________________________________________

Please phone Sue on 5593 2011 to reserve your table by Monday May 14, 2007
Please Note: All payments must be received at the office by Monday May 21, 2007