ISSUE 1-1

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 Goals
Community
Through the Mercy tradition we promote the uniqueness of the community and its heritage.

Inclusiveness
Through the Mercy tradition we welcome and celebrate individual difference.

Learning
Through the Mercy tradition we encourage our community to seek knowledge, to nurture curiosity and to love learning.

Care
Through the Mercy tradition we commit ourselves to caring for each other

Justice and Mercy
Through the Mercy tradition we seek to act with love, fairness, tolerance and compassion to all.

Excellence and Achievement
Through the Mercy tradition we support, acknowledge and strive for personal excellence and achievement.

Welcome
It is with great pleasure that I welcome all members of the Mercy Regional College community to the 2008 school year. I hope that you have all had an opportunity to rest and relax at some time during the course of the summer holidays. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Year 7 families along with those families who have for first time students in other year levels. I hope that all our new students enjoy their time at Mercy Regional College.

Our Year 7, 11 and 12 students commenced on Thursday 31st January followed by Year 8, 9 and 10 on Friday 1st February. From all accounts the students have settled back into school life very quickly.

This year at our Commencement Mass the College will officially open our new and refurbished buildings. Bishop Peter Connors will celebrate the Mass the Hon. David Hawker will official opening the new and refurbished buildings. The date for the Mass and Official Opening is Friday 7th March with Mass commencing at 10.00am in the de Chantal Stadium. Hopefully the builders will have completed all the works and I look forward to this occasion and the opportunity to show parents and friends what has been achieved over the past eight months.

Our Vision and Mission Statement includes six core values. During the life of our Visions and Mission Statements one core value will be the particular focus for the year. In 2008 our core value will be:

Inclusiveness: Through the Mercy tradition we welcome and celebrate individual difference.
The challenge for our school community in giving witness to this core value will be to create a supportive learning environment which recognizes and appreciates the uniqueness of each person along with being attentive to developing individual pathways for success.

**Enrolments**
Our enrolments for 2008 are in total 390 students, again an increase from last year. Below is the breakdown of the various year levels:

- Year 7: 69
- Year 8: 73
- Year 9: 71
- Year 10: 63
- Year 11: 55
- Year 12: 59

**New Staff**
This year we welcome two new members of staff, Mr Simon Horan and Ms Pam Martin.

**Mr Simon Horan** a past student of Mercy Regional College returns to his old school to teaching in the Technology and Science Faculties. Last year Simon was teaching a Padua College on the Mornington Peninsula. We welcome Simon back to the Mercy community and trust the he enjoys his time at Mercy Regional College.

**Ms Pam Martin** comes to us from St Patrick's Primary School where she was working as the school secretary. Pam joins our administration team and will work in the reception area three days a week. I am sure Pam’s familiar face will help our Year 7 students from St Pats settle into life at Mercy.

The College also welcomes back this year Mrs Kym Penry who is returning from maternity leave and Mrs Margaret Jeffery who was one of our emergency teachers last year. Both Kym and Margaret will be teaching in the Junior School.

I take this opportunity to welcome our new and returning staff to Mercy and I trust that they will enjoy their time with us.

**2007 Year 12 Results**
Monday 17th December was the date for the release of the Year 12 results for 2007. I am delighted to report to the school community that our class of 2007 achieved some very positive results. Joshua Saunders was announced as Dux of the College for 2007 achieving an ENTER of 98.95. Congratulations are also extended to the following students who achieved an ENTER of >90:

- Libby Buchholz: 97.3
- Louise Place: 93.4
- Rhiannon Cabel: 91.2

Josh and Libby are both off to study medicine at Monash while Louise is enrolled in Radiography and Medical Imaging at Monash and Rhiannon will study Emergency Health (Paramedics) also at Monash.

The College had a 100% satisfactory VCE completion rate having achieved a medium study score of 31 which is above the state average. Five percent of our students achieved a study score of 40 or better. Four students achieved an ENTER of greater than 90 and 50% of the class of 2007 achieved an ENTER of 70 or better. All in all our students have achieved and excelled in 2007. Congratulations and well done!

**Student Achievement**
At the end of last year I received notification form the University of Melbourne that the following students have been selected as Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars. This Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars is a scholarship program for students who achieve academic excellence in Year 10 and 11 and who are considering attending Melbourne University on completion of secondary school.

Congratulation to: Stacey Hall, Georgia Muir, Sarah Kemp and Adam Thulborn.

**Date Claimer**
Last year the second Annual Mercy Dinner was held where the College welcomed back and honoured past student Fr Ed Moloney and I am sure that all those in attendance would agree it was a great night. This year the third Annual Mercy Dinner will be held on Friday 18th April commencing at 7.00pm at the Noorat Community Centre. Our guest this year will be Dr Lauren Bourke who graduated from medicine in 200. This year the College will also be taking the opportunity to honour staff members who give 15+ and 25+ years of service to the College. It again promises to be a most enjoyable evening, so please make a note in your diaries and keep the date free.

**Calendars, Diaries, Newsletters and Year Books**
During the first week of school all students were given a copy of the College Diary. The youngest child in each family was given a school calendar and year book to be delivered home. If this is not the case, please check with your son or daughter in the first instance.

A reminder for parents to return the medical form which were posted home prior to the commencement of school. This is particularly important for Year 7, 11 and 12 students who are attending camps and retreats next week.

It is the College’s expectation that **ALL** students will attend camps and retreats during the course of the year. If this is not possible the reason for a student’s absence from camps and retreats needs to be put in writing to the Principal.
People to contact at Mercy Regional College
To assist members of the MRC community to make contact with staff in the College who have a position of leadership, I have taken the opportunity to list the various positions and the person to contact.

Principal
Dr Andrew Watson

Deputy Principal
Mr Kerin Glennen

Business Manager
Mr Martin Ellul

Director of Religious Education & Faith
Mrs Margaret Leahy

Director of Learning & Teaching
Mrs Lisa Pope

Head of O’Keeffe Campus
Mr Tony Wynd

Daily Organiser
Mrs Jenny Phillips

Year Co-ordinators
VCE Co-ordinator: Ms Lyn Davies
Year 9 & 10 Co-ordinator: Mr Lachie Lee
Year 7 & 8 Co-ordinator: Mr Michael Clements

Heads of Faculty
English: Mrs Margaret Leahy
Mathematics: Mrs Leanne Carpenter
Science: Mr Dean Ludeman
Humanities: Mr Lachie Lee
Learning Enhancement: Mrs Jo Anne Saunders
Creative Arts: Mr Jared Lynn
Performing Arts: Mrs Maria Russell
Technology: Mr Wayne Walsh
Sport, Health and PE: Mr Darren Cheeseman

Please feel free to contact any of the above staff if you have any concerns or questions.

Uniform
I would like to remind all students of the importance of representing Mercy Regional College to the highest possible standard when in the general community. One very practical way in which all students can achieve this is through wearing the College uniform correctly and with pride.

The details relating to the College uniform are clearly expressed in various documents including the student diary. I would ask for parents’ support in ensuring that all our students wear the uniform correctly and with pride.

Coming Events

Friday 8th February
- MRC Swimming Carnival

Sunday 10th February
- Presentation Ball Training

Monday 12th February
- Year 10 Work Experience commences (all week)

Wednesday 13th February
- Year 7 Camp and Year 11 and 12 Retreats commence

Friday 15th February
- Year 7 Camp and Year 11 and 12 Retreats conclude
- Year 10 Work Experience concludes

Sunday 17th February
- Presentation Ball Training

Wednesday 20th February
- Presentation Ball Training

Thursday 21st February
- HSSSA Swimming Carnival

Sunday 24th February
- Presentation Ball Training

Wednesday 27th February
- Year 8 Camp commences
- Presentation Ball Training

Friday 29th February
- Year 8 Camp concludes

Saturday 1st March
- WYD Youth Summit – Ballarat

Sunday 2nd March
- WYD Youth Summit – Ballarat
- Presentation Ball Training

ANDREW WATSON
PRINCIPAL

From The Business Manager
Matin Ellul

School Fee Accounts for 2008 will be posted home in the next few days. Accounts outstanding from 2007 must be settled immediately. Parents who have concerns regarding this matter are to contact myself at the College office on 5593 2011.
Mercy Awards

VCE (Yr 11 & 12) Mercy Award
Nick McConnell for being awarded the Australian Technical College Building and Construction Award for 2007

Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award
Megan Bullen for reaching the interview stage of the Spirit of ANZAC Competition

Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award
Welcome to all our new Year 7 students. We trust that you enjoy your time at Mercy Regional College

Director of Religious Education & Faith
Mrs Margaret Leahy

Today we celebrate the beginning of the Lenten season. This morning the students gathered at both the O’Keeffe and McAuley campuses to take part in a ceremony of the ashes. In prayer, scripture and song, as a college community we committed ourselves to being strong and determined in our work of bringing about the Kingdom of God. That kingdom (or reign) of God is about making sure that no one is neglected or despised and that all are included in the community equally. This is an extremely demanding call. It is, however, one from which we cannot shrink. All of us must make sure that the dignity and value of every person in our midst and beyond is upheld.

A Prayer for Ash Wednesday
“Today we begin the forty days of Lent and commit ourselves to fasting prayer and good works. Let us pray that as Christians we may be faithful to the call of God. Merciful God tenderly guide us through this Lenten season. May the ashes we wear today strengthen us to live with the risen Christ. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Year 11 & 12 Retreat
The Year 11 and 12 students will begin their retreat experiences next week. As these senior members of the college enter into their time away, we remember them and keep them in our thoughts and prayers. The retreat time is a most valuable opportunity to step away from the stress and distractions of life and assess those things which are of real value. Students will be encouraged to search more deeply for and come to appreciate their own identity, the search for meaning in their lives and the way in which they may choose to map out their future pathways. As a Catholic school we place a great deal of importance on such opportunity for reflective and meditative times. We wish our VCE well as they enter into their retreat experiences.

Wellbeing Coordinator
Mr Kerin Glennen

Welcome back all to 2008 and the excitement that it has to offer our community. Throughout the year there are a number of Mercy based activities planned for students to become involved in eg the PAL program, SCADE alcohol awareness program for the senior students, year 9s taking part in a first aid course, community visiting, retreats, camps, social justice group, work experience, assemblies, oratory competition and several inter school activities. I would encourage all students to become involved in activities and programs offered to them.

With the start of the New Year and the need for uniforms and books it is a costly time for some parents and families. With this in mind, I would encourage parents have any school uniform items that their son and or daughter may no longer need, donate the clothing to a “shared clothes box” that is being set up to assist some of our students. The shared box would be administered by the well being team, it may be a short or long term lend depending on the circumstance. If you can assist with a uniform donation please leave any items at either campus. Your support to this program would be greatly appreciated.

The wellbeing team this year consists of Karen, Vicki and I. Karen and Vicki available to our students and families on a part time basis, both have had extensive experience in the well being area. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have a concern.

NOTICES

Cobden Football/Netball Club will host a Fun Triathlon at Lake Bullen Merri on Sat 15th March for entry forms / program and further information you can ring 0427 952 055.

Terang Junior Basketball 1st Season 2008 registrations are being taken for further information please contact the Terang Stadium on 5592 1747.

[for any students interested in the above you can pick up a flyer from the office].