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 2009 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 the first time, students in other year levels. I hope that all our new students enjoy their time at Mercy Regional College.

All students commenced on Monday, 2nd February. From all accounts, the students have settled back into school life very quickly. Our Year 7 & 8 students had the pleasure of returning to new, modern, air-conditioned classrooms at the O’Keeffe Campus. The construction of the six new classes is the completion of the first stage of the O’Keeffe Junior-Campus redevelopment. The refurbishment works which will provide for a new library, information technology centre, science laboratory and an art/textiles room is making good progress with these areas expected to be occupied by our students in early March. While this is a little later than expected many of the delays were beyond the control of the school, due to many manufacturers and suppliers closing down over the Christmas/New Year period and a number of manufacturers electing to take additional leave due to falling demand, a consequence of our current economic climate.

An invitation is extended to all families and friends of Mercy Regional College to our Commencement Mass and induction of Student Leaders to be held on Thursday 19th February 2009 with Mass commencing at 10.00am, at St Thomas’ Church, Terang.
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 2009 our core value will be:

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

**As a College we will endeavour to:**
- Expose our students to a wide range of experiences and resources
- Create an environment in which lifelong learning is sought and valued
- Offer a broad, inclusive and relevant curriculum
- Provide a curriculum that is challenging, flexible and open to change

*(from the Mercy Regional College Vision & Mission Statement)*

The Vision and Mission Statement articulates for us that through the Mercy tradition we encourage our community to seek knowledge, nurture curiosity and to love learning. Our focus for 2009 is particularly appropriate as we embark upon our new organizational structure which places the emphasis on teaching and learning. During the year we will strive to ensure that good teaching and learning occurs in our classrooms and that our students have every possibility to achieve their full potential.

**Enrolments**

Our enrolments for 2009 have increased significantly from 2008 with the College now having in total 415 students, an increase of over 30 students from last year. Below is the break down of the various year levels:

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<thead>
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<th>Year 7 - 78</th>
<th>Year 10 - 72</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year 8 - 72</td>
<td>Year 11 - 59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 9 - 76</td>
<td>Year 12 - 58</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**New Staff**

This year we welcome Ms Rebecca McGrath to the staff of Mercy Regional College. Rebecca is a past student of Emmanuel College, Warrnambool and has completed a degree in Environmental Science at Deakin University. Last year, Rebecca completed a Bachelor of Teaching also from Deakin University. During this time Rebecca completed a teaching placement at Mercy.

I take this opportunity to welcome Rebecca to Mercy and I trust that she will enjoy her time with us.

**2008 Year 12 Results**

Monday, 15th 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 2008 achieved some very positive results. Katie Alexander was announced as Dux of the College for 2008 achieving an ENTER of 91.05. Katie has been accepted into Architecture at Deakin University. Congratulations Katie!

The College had a 100% satisfactory VCE completion rate having achieved a medium study score of 30. Four percent of our students achieved a study score of 40 or better. 15% of our students achieved an ENTER of greater than 80, a very pleasing result. 37% of the class of 2008 achieved an ENTER of 70 or better. All in all, our students have achieved and excelled in 2008. Congratulations and well done!

**National Secondary School Computer Fund**

I am pleased to advise the school community that Mercy Regional College has been successful in Round Two of the Australian Government's National Secondary School Computer Fund. Through the Fund, the Government is allocating funding to secondary schools to move to a computer-to-student-ratio of one computer to two students for students in Years 9-12. Mercy Regional College will receive funding for an additional 88 computers, along with funding for information technology infrastructure. The College will start to make purchases of additional computers and other IT equipment in the coming months.

**Fr Barry Ryan**

Bishop Peter Connors has recently announced a number of changes of clergy within the Ballarat Diocese. After February 8th, Fr Barry Ryan will move to Ballarat, working as a visiting priest for the parishes of Wendouree and Ballarat North, while continuing to fulfil his duties as Vicar General of the Diocese. Fr Eugene McKinnon has been appointed parish priest of Terang. He has been Parish Priest of Colac. Fr Eugene is well known in the local area, with his family being part of the Terang community. The College community welcomes Fr Eugene.

I am sure the school community will be saddened at Fr Barry leaving, however we wish him well and trust that this change will lead to many years of good health to come.

Fr Barry has been an outstanding faith leader of our community for the past 10 years. He is a man of great faith, intellect and wisdom. His ministry to our community has been characterised by his compassion, integrity and understanding. Our College community has benefited from this on so many occasions. Barry is also intensely loyal and committed to Catholic Education, particularly the work of Mercy Regional College, in this region. Our successes have been very much due to his leadership and quiet encouragement of the past ten years. We wish Fr Barry well in his new role in Ballarat and his continued work as Vicar General.
**Congratulations**
Over the holiday break Mr James Castles announced his engagement to Chelsea and Mr Michael Clements announced his engagement to Nicole. Congratulations and best wishes are extended to James and Chelsea and Michael and Nicole from the Mercy community.

**Condolences**
The Mercy community also extends its deepest sympathies to Margaret Leahy and her family on the death of her brother Brian in Perth, Western Australia, just before Christmas.

**Date Claimer**
Last year, at the Annual Mercy Dinner the College welcomed back and honoured past student, Dr Lauren Bourke. I am sure that all those in attendance would agree it was a great night. This year the fourth Annual Mercy Dinner will be held on Friday 22\textsuperscript{nd} May commencing at 7.00pm at the Noorat Community Centre. I am delighted to announce that our guests this year will be Sara Tindley and Peter Dafy. Peter a well renowned local musician reunited with Sara last year in Camperdown when they performed at Court a’Fair café. From all accounts this was a wonderful evening of entertainment and I am delighted that they have accepted the College invitation to perform at the Mercy Dinner. This will provide a unique opportunity for the College to promote the performing arts by being able to recognise two past students who have been able to achieve great success in this area. They are both very inspiring artists. This year, the College will again be taking the opportunity to honour staff members who have given 15 and 25 years of service to the College. It 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 and the youngest child in each family was given a school calendar. If this is not the case, please check with your son or daughter, in the first instance. For those families that were billed for a 2008 College Year Book last year, these will be distributed to the youngest members of your family from Years 8 - 12.

A reminder to parents to return the medical forms 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.

**Bus Passes**
Students who wish to have a bus pass must have a letter/note from parents detailing the reason for the bus pass. If there is no letter/note from parents a bus pass will not be issued by any of our office staff.

**Lunch Passes**
Lunch passes are only issued to students who live close to the College and with a parent’s permission. Friends are not permitted to go with students who have been issued a lunch pass and a letter from parents is required before a pass will be issued.

Lunch passes are not issued to students who wish to go down the street for lunch or to run errands for parents. There are significant legal liability issues surrounding the care of students during the school day, hence the need for all students to remain on school grounds during recess and lunch.

**Extended absences from the College**
Wherever possible extended absences from school for holidays, and other commitments should be avoided. Where this is not possible, a written letter to the Principal explaining the circumstances is required. To send a message to school via your son or daughter informing the class teacher of a week’s family holiday is not acceptable.

**Student Diary**
Each student has been issued with a College diary. Contained within the first 8 pages is information relating to the various school rules, regulations and policies. I would urge all parents and students to take the time to read these pages.

**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 by 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 proudly.

**Procedures for reporting absences to the College**
All absences need to be reported to the College, on the day of absence, by 9.00am. The College switchboard opens at 8.15am. Absences then need to be followed up with a note, to the homeroom teacher, the next day that students are at school. The College has a legal responsibility to be able to account for all students. Also, students who arrive late to school need to have a note from parents explaining the reason for late arrival. Parents’ cooperation in these matters will eliminate the need for the College to make phone calls later in the morning.
**Presentation Ball**

Once again our Year 11 students will be participating in the Presentation Ball at the end of term 1. The Presentation Ball this year will be a fully ticketed event. The need for this has arisen due to concerns that have been raised over recent years about the number of guests who attend the Presentation Ball. In particular, concerns relate to compliance with fire regulations at Glenormiston College, Occupancy Health and Safety issues for staff and parents who volunteer, as well as concerns over the number of unsupervised children on the evening. The poor behaviour of some guests, along with general security, is of concern.

Therefore, each Year 11 family who has a child participating in the Presentation Ball will be allocated 10 tickets. If a family does not have a need for all 10 tickets they can be returned to the College for distribution to other families who would like additional tickets. With families, Year 11 students and staff the total number of guests for the 2009 Presentation Ball will be in excess of 750 people. This is a number that can be catered for comfortably by Glenormiston College.

**Education Tax Refund**

A fact sheet for families and independent students relating to the Education Tax Refund has been included with this newsletter. The fact sheet will provide information to help you work out if you are eligible for the Education Tax Refund and when you can claim.

**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

**Director of School Operations**
Mrs Jenny Phillips

**Head of O’Keeffe J unior Campus (Year 7 & 8)**
Mr Tony Wynd

**Head of Middle School (Year 9 & 10)**
Mr Michael Clements

**Head of Senior School (Year 11 & 12)**
Ms Lyn Davies

**Head of Teaching & Learning - Junior School**
Ms Leanne Carpenter

**Head of Teaching & Learning - Middle School**
Mr Wayne Walsh

**Head of Teaching & Learning - Senior School**
Mr Lachie Lee

**Head of Sport**
Mr James Castles

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

**Canteen Price Lists**

Attached to this newsletter on page 12 are two price lists for both our Canteens. Please note that each Canteen has a different supplier, therefore the price lists vary for each campus.

**Australia Day**

Last week our nation celebrated Australia Day. I provide for your reflection an Australia Day prayer by Bruce Prewer from his book, Australian Prayers:

> God of Australia ...
> We bring you our gratitude for the diversity and wealth of this land and its people; for its weathered old mountains, fertile valleys, and vast plains; for its riches of mine and agriculture, forest, and grazing lands; for the first Australians, who know and love this Continent with intimate, profound sensitivity; for the courage, vision and sacrifice of the early settlers; for the diverse races who now call Australia home: for these and all your gifts We offer you, O’Lord, our joyful, thankful hearts

**Along the Track**

I have attached to this newsletter, for your interest, on page 14, a reflection titled “A Resurrection Experience” written by Jim Quilinan from the Diocesan Catholic Education Office in Warragul. I hope you enjoy this reading.

**2008 College Year Books**

The 2008 College Year books will be distributed to the youngest member of each family in Years 8 – 12 in Homeroom on Monday morning. Students who left the College last year will have theirs posted home.
Catholics Returning Home
St. Thomas' Parish will conduct an ongoing series called 'Catholics Returning Home' on six consecutive evenings. These sessions are for non-practicing Catholics who are seeking answers to questions about returning to the church. There will be information sharing of the Catholic faith. More details to follow.

School Photos
On Wednesday, 4th March, school photos will be taken. Year 7 students will have their photos taken at the O'Keeffe Campus. The Year 8 - 12 students will have their photos taken at the McAuley Campus. Students will receive a photo envelope in homeroom next week. If parents wish to have a family-photo taken of all their children, please ask your son / daughter to collect a family-photo envelope from the office. On this day, students will have their photos taken with school jumpers on. Therefore, it is essential that all students have their school jumpers with them on this day. Needless to say the rest of the uniform should as always be worn correctly. The polishing of school shoes prior to Monday would not go astray.

Receiving the School Newsletter
The school newsletter will be handed out to the youngest child in the family, each fortnight, on Friday morning, in Homeroom. A number of our families receive the newsletter by email, if you wish to do so, please ring the office and let us know your email address and then you will be added to the list.

From the Deputy Principal
Kerin Glennen
Thank you to all the parents who have returned permission slips, medical forms and payment for the up-coming Year 12 Retreat and the Year 11 & 7 camps. All these forms are required prior to a student being able to take part in the event. All parents have been asked to complete and return an accurate up-to-date medical form for this year. All of these are important documents that assist in our care of the students in the college.
On another matter for those parents who are interested in parenting courses, Centacare has asked us to include their brochure in the newsletter on page 11 for courses that will take place this term. Please contact them directly if you are interested.

From The Business Manager
Matin Ellul
School Fee Accounts for 2009 have been posted home with this newsletter. A reminder that all accounts outstanding from 2008 must be settled immediately.

In particular, parents who wish to pay their fees monthly by Direct Debit or Credit Card Authorisation must ensure the paper work is filled in and returned to the College office by Friday, 13th February. Deductions will commence on Friday, 27th February and conclude on Tuesday 27th October.

Education Maintenance Allowance
Forms are available from the College office and applications for Education Maintenance Allowance must be submitted by Wednesday 11th February. All applicants must hold a current Commonwealth Health Care Card or Pension Card which was valid from the 30th January 2009. The EMA is paid to eligible parents of students up to the age of 16 years old. We encourage those families who are eligible for EMA payments to use this money towards payment of school fees.

From the Director of Learning and Teaching - Careers Report
Mrs. Lisa Pope

Tax File Numbers
Any student wishing to obtain a Tax File Number through the College can obtain an application form or Enquiry for a Secondary School Student form from the office.

Forms will be sent to the ATO on Friday 27th February.

Work Placement
Could all students currently out on Work Placement please make sure you have new Work Place Learning forms signed and submitted for 2009.

Forms are available from the office.
**COMING EVENTS**

**TERM 1**

**Monday 9th February**
Year 10 Work Experience commences

**Wednesday 11th February**
Year 7 Camp commences
Year 11 Camp commences
Year 12 Retreat commences

**Friday 13th February**
Year 7 Camp concludes
Year 10 Work Experience concludes
Year 11 Camp concludes
Year 12 Retreat concludes

**Monday 16th February**
PTFA Meeting, 7.30pm McAuley Campus

**Tuesday 17th February**
Presentation Ball Training

**Thursday 19th February**
2009 Commencement Mass, St Thomas Church
Terang @ 10.00am

**Sunday 22nd February**
Presentation Ball Training

**Tuesday 24th February**
Presentation Ball Training

**Wednesday 25th February**
Year 8 Camp commences

**Friday 27th February**
Year 8 Camp concludes

**Sunday 1st March**
Presentation Ball Training

**Tuesday 3rd March**
Presentation Ball Training

**Wednesday 4th March**
School Photos
VCE Information Evening - 7.30pm

**Monday 9th March**
Labour Day

**Tuesday 10th March**
Presentation Ball Training

**Wednesday 11th March**
MRC Athletics Carnival

**Sunday 15th March**
Presentation Ball Training

**Monday 16th March**
PTFA Meeting 7.30pm O’Keeffe Campus
Draw of School Fee Raffle

**Tuesday 17th March**
Presentation Ball Training

**Sunday 22nd March**
Presentation Ball Training

**Wednesday 25th March**
Presentation Ball Training

**Friday 27th March**
The Presentation Ball

**Tuesday 31st March**
MRC Board Annual General Meeting

**Thursday 2nd April**
Term 1 concludes for students
Parent/Teacher/Student interviews
(4.00pm – 8.00pm McAuley Campus)

**Friday 3rd April**
Parent/Teacher/Student interviews
(10.00am – 2.00pm)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Simpson Football / Netball Club Inc.

U17 Football Training commences on
**Wednesday 18th February** at 5.00pm at the
Simpson Recreation Reserve. All welcome
Enquiries to Pat Duynhoven on 5598 7335
or 0438 988 224.
You and your family are cordially invited to join the

Mercy Regional College
Staff and Students

at their
School Commencement Mass
and
Induction of Student Leaders

on

Thursday 19th February, 10.00am
at
St. Thomas Catholic Church Terang

Morning Tea will be provided after Mass
and you are most welcome to stay for a cuppa and a chat.
Dear Parents,

Every day there are accidents involving children. To assist parents with the costs associated with those accidents, Catholic Education in association with Catholic Church Insurances Limited has developed the SchoolCare Children’s Accident insurance program. Mercy Regional College is pleased to be a part of this program and our School Activities Only policy provides protection to all children attending our school.

The School Activities Only policy includes accident cover for school camps, school sports (including sports out of school hours as long as they are organised by the school), work experience and travelling to and from school or school activities. It also includes activity organised or authorised by the school. This includes before and after school care if organised by the school. Cover is worldwide. Our policy covers three important areas of care and any one accident may be claimable under one or more of these areas. It is important to note that the policy cannot cover any Medicare service including the Medicare gap. Cover includes:

1. **Up to $5,000 inclusive per accident** for medical costs from the following registered medical practitioners:
   - Dentist
   - Chiropractor
   - Osteopath
   - Physiotherapist
   - Remedial massage
   - Podiatry
   - Acupuncture, and also costs from a
   - Chemist, and
   - Hospital accommodation and Facility fees.

2. **Fixed amounts for defined events.** For example, when a child accidentally receives a fracture of the hand the policy will pay a fixed amount of $300. The full table of benefits lists all the defined events covered under this policy and the fixed amount payable. The full table of benefits is printable from [www.ccinsurances.com.au](http://www.ccinsurances.com.au)

3. **A number of other benefits:**
   - Emergency transport
   - Home tuition
   - School fee relief
   - Hospital inconvenience allowance
   - Nursing allowance
   - Professional counselling fees

These are all limited to **specific amounts per accident**. These amounts are detailed in the table of benefits.

Your child may have an accident so please cut out the information below and keep it in a handy place.

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**YOUR CHILD IS PROTECTED BY A SCHOOLCARE ACCIDENT POLICY**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of school:</th>
<th>Mercy Regional College</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy number:</td>
<td>03.PAE.116133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy type:</td>
<td>School Activities Only-Basic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information:</td>
<td>If you have any questions please call the <strong>SchoolCare Accident Help Line on 1300 138 498</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make a claim:</td>
<td>You can print a claim form and the policy wording from <a href="http://www.ccinsurances.com.au">www.ccinsurances.com.au</a>. Your child’s school will need to endorse the claim form prior to it being submitted. You will need a Doctor’s or Dentist’s Certificate and copies of accounts or invoices for any claimable expenses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please note:</td>
<td>Catholic Church Insurances SchoolCare cannot pay for any Medicare service including the Medicare Gap.</td>
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The Education Tax Refund

Information to help you work out if you are eligible for the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and when you can claim

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO CLAIM?
If you had eligible education expenses for a child's primary or secondary education during the income year 1 July 2008–30 June 2009, you can claim an education tax refund of up to 50% of those expenses if any of the following circumstances apply:

- you received family tax benefit (FTB) Part A for the child
- a payment was made for the child that stopped you from receiving FTB Part A
- the child stopped full-time school during the year and received income over the cut-out amount, which stopped you from receiving FTB Part A.

Payment types that can stop you from receiving FTB Part A include a:

- social security pension or benefit – for example, Youth Allowance
- labour market program payment
- prescribed educational scheme – for example, ABSTUDY living allowance.

WHAT IF YOU ARE AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT?
If you are an independent student, you can claim the refund if you had eligible education expenses during the income year and all of the following apply:

- you received a social security pension or benefit, a labour market program payment or a prescribed educational scheme payment including
  - Youth Allowance
  - ABSTUDY Living Allowance
  - Veterans’ Children Education Scheme and payments under Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004
  - a disability support pension
- you were an independent person for the purpose of the payment
- you attended secondary school
- you were under 25 years of age
- you were an Australian resident (within the meaning of the Social Security Act 1991) or a special category visa holder (within the meaning of the Migration Act 1958)
- you lived in Australia.

You do not need to be eligible for the entire year. You can claim the refund for any periods that you were eligible.

WHAT EDUCATION EXPENSES CAN YOU CLAIM?
You can claim the cost of buying, establishing, repairing and maintaining any of the following items:

- laptops and home computers
- computer-related equipment such as printers, USB flash drives, disability computer equipment aids for students with special needs
- home internet connections
- computer software for educational use, including word processing, spreadsheet, database and presentation software, internet filters and antivirus software
- school textbooks and other paper based school learning material, including prescribed textbooks, associated learning materials, study guides and stationery
- prescribed trade tools.

You cannot claim for:

- school fees
- school uniform expenses
- student attendance at school based extra curricular activities such as excursions
- tutoring costs
- musical instruments
- sporting equipment
- school subject levies
- computer games and consoles
- building levies
- library book fees
- school photos
- donations
- tuck shop expenses
- waiting list fees
- transport
- membership fees.

Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office

NAT.72591-12.2008
HOW MUCH CAN YOU CLAIM?

If you have full care of a child
If you have full care of a child, you can claim 50% of eligible expenses up to:
- $750 for each eligible child in primary school — that is, a refund of up to $375
- $1500 for each eligible child in secondary school — that is, a refund of up to $750.

If your expenses exceed your refund limit for the year, any excess can go towards your following year’s refund claim as long as you are still eligible.

Remember to keep your receipts for items you purchased from 1 July 2008. This will help you work out what you are entitled to claim and any excess expenses.

If you have shared care of a child
If you have shared care of a child, use one of the following methods to work out your refund:
- If you received FTB Part A, use the same shared care percentage you get for FTB Part A.
- If you did not receive FTB Part A because you or the child received a payment, work out the percentage of nights during the year that the child was in your care.

If you are an independent student
If you are an independent student, you can claim up to $1500 of your expenses. This means the maximum amount you will receive is $750 if your undertook secondary school studies.

HOW DO I CLAIM THE REFUND?
You can claim the refund at item T6 in your Tax return for individuals 2009. Any refund you are entitled to will be paid directly into your nominated bank account or as a cheque.

If you don’t have to lodge a tax return, you can use the Education tax refund claim 2009 — available from 1 July 2009. Your refund will be paid as an electronic payment into your nominated bank account or as a cheque.

Remember, if you have full or shared care of a child, you can only claim a refund if you received FTB Part A or a payment that stopped you receiving FTB Part A.

MORE INFORMATION
To obtain a copy of the claim form or for more information:
- visit our website at www.ato.gov.au
- phone our publications distribution service on 1300 720 092
- phone us on 13 28 61
- visit one of our shopfronts
- write to us at GPO Box 9990
In your capital city

If you do not speak English well and want to talk to a tax officer, phone the Translating and Interpreting Service on 13 14 50 for help with your call.

If you have a hearing or speech impairment and have access to appropriate TTY or modem equipment, phone 13 38 77. If you do not have access to TTY or modem equipment, phone the Speech to Speech Relay Service on 1300 555 727.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU
We are committed to providing you with guidance you can rely on, so we make every effort to ensure that our publications are correct.

If you follow our guidance in this publication and it turns out to be incorrect, or it is misleading and you make a mistake as a result, we must still apply the law correctly. If that means you owe us money, we must ask you to pay it but we will not charge you a penalty. Also, if you acted reasonably and in good faith we will not charge you interest.

If you make an honest mistake in trying to follow our guidance in this publication and you owe us money as a result, we will not charge you a penalty. However, we will ask you to pay the money, and we may also charge you interest.

If correcting the mistake means we owe you money, we will pay it to you. We will also pay you any interest you are entitled to. If you feel that this publication does not fully cover your circumstances, or you are unsure how it applies to you, you can seek further assistance from us.

We regularly revise our publications to take account of any changes to the law, so make sure that you have the latest information. If you are unsure, you can check for a more recent version on our website at www.ato.gov.au or contact us.

This publication was current at December 2008.
Strengthening Family Relationships
Warrnambool 2009

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<td>Managing difficult behaviour in</td>
<td>For parents of children aged 2-12 years</td>
<td>Monday February 16,</td>
<td>1pm-3pm</td>
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<td>children - Incorporating 1-2-3</td>
<td>• Managing difficult behaviour</td>
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<td>• Encouraging good behaviour</td>
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<td>• Negotiating change respectfully</td>
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<td>• Lessen parental feelings of frustration &amp; stress</td>
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<td>Parenting Young Adolescents</td>
<td>For parents of children aged 10-14 years</td>
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<td>• Setting boundaries</td>
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<td>Building Positive Relationships</td>
<td>For anyone who wishes to improve relationships</td>
<td>Monday March 16</td>
<td>1pm-3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Positive and negative behaviours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Communication skills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Conflict resolution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Negotiating outcomes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enquiries and bookings
Contact Madeleine or Carol on: 5561 5922

Costs:
Managing difficult behaviour in children - Incorporating 1-2-3 Magic $30.00
Parenting Young Adolescents $ 30.00
Building Positive Relationships$ 10.00
Concession available
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 1</th>
<th>WEEK 2</th>
<th>WEEK 3</th>
<th>WEEK 4</th>
<th>WEEK 5</th>
<th>WEEK 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MON FEB 2</td>
<td>ROSE</td>
<td>MON FEB9</td>
<td>TANIA CATLEY</td>
<td>55932845</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUES FEB3</td>
<td>CHRIS MOLONEY</td>
<td>TUES FEB10</td>
<td>JILL SONNET</td>
<td>DANNI DAFFY</td>
<td>55931598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED FEB4</td>
<td>BETTY KENNA</td>
<td>WED FEB11</td>
<td>HELEN HICKEY</td>
<td>PAULA FLEMING</td>
<td>55932641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURS FEB5</td>
<td>JENNI LENEHAN</td>
<td>THURS FEB12</td>
<td>JANET CAIN</td>
<td>ROSE</td>
<td>55932641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI FEB6</td>
<td>ANNIE HENRY</td>
<td></td>
<td>HELEN ROSE</td>
<td>55945290</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 3</th>
<th>WEEK 4</th>
<th>WEEK 5</th>
<th>WEEK 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MON FEB16</td>
<td>BERNADETTE PLACE</td>
<td>MON FEB23</td>
<td>DENISE ARUNDELL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUES FEB17</td>
<td>MICHELLE JOHNSTONE</td>
<td>TUES FEB24</td>
<td>MARY GUY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED FEB18</td>
<td>SHIRLEY VANDENBROEK</td>
<td>WED FEB25</td>
<td>JODIE MARSLAND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURS FEB19</td>
<td>BRONWYN MOLONEY</td>
<td>THURS FEB26</td>
<td>CHEROLYN BULLEEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI FEB20</td>
<td>DONNA BAXTER</td>
<td></td>
<td>KELLY WICKENTON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>WEEK 6</td>
<td>WEEK 7</td>
<td>WEEK 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MON MAR2</td>
<td>MONICA MAHONY</td>
<td>MON MAR9</td>
<td>LABOUR DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESMAR3</td>
<td>LOUISE KEMP</td>
<td>TUES MAR10</td>
<td>NATASHA POWELL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED MAR4</td>
<td>JAN HINKLEY</td>
<td>WED MAR11</td>
<td>MRC ATHS CARNIVAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSMAR5</td>
<td>JULIE WHYT CROSS</td>
<td>THURS MAR12</td>
<td>JANET DEVLIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI MAR6</td>
<td>DONNA DOYLE</td>
<td></td>
<td>LEANNE FIELD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 7</th>
<th>WEEK 8</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONMAR16</td>
<td>MICHELLE UNWIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUES MAR17</td>
<td>SHARYN SPICER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED MAR18</td>
<td>CATHERINE KRYBOLDER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THUR MAR19</td>
<td>COLLEEN O'CONNOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI MAR20</td>
<td>MARIA HICKEY</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 9</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MON MAR30</td>
<td>BELINDA ROWBOTTOM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUES MAR31</td>
<td>GERALDINE CONHEADY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED APR1</td>
<td>DIANNE MEADE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURS APR2</td>
<td>CAROLYN RICHARDSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI APR3</td>
<td>ANGE NUTTING</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MRC/ST PATS  CANTEEN PRICE LIST 2009

HOT FOOD
SWEET CHILLI ROLL with lettuce&cheese & s/sauce $3.50
COBB LOAF PIES/PASTIES $3.00
CHICKEN PIES $3.20
SAUSAGE ROLLS $1.70
NIBBLE PIES $1.20
HAM/PINEAPPLE PIZZA $2.20
LASAGNE/SPAGHETTI $2.50
DIM SIMS STEAMED $0.70
HOT DOG IN BREAD $2.20 ROLL $2.50
TSTD SANDWICH (HAM OR CHICKEN&CHEESE) $3.00
TSTD FOCACCIA SMALL $3.00 LARGE $4.00
CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP $1.00

ROLLS & SANDWICHES
SALAD ROLL/SANDWICH (chicken or ham) $4.20
SALAD ROLL no meat $3.50
ROLL WITH chicken or ham only $3.20
Egg & Lettuce Sandwich $2.50

FRUIT
APPLE/BANANA $1.50
FRUIT SALAD -FRIDAYS ONLY IN TERM 1&4 $3.00

CAKES
DONUTS SMALL $1.20 LARGE choc/straw icing $1.50
DONUTS JAM $1.80
MUFFINS choc chip or apple $1.80
COFFEE SCROLL $1.50
VANILLA SLICE $2.00

DRINKS
BIG M'S SMALL $1.80 LARGE $2.60
FRUIT BOX $1.20
QUENCH MINERAL WATER VARIETIES $1.20
SOFT DRINK CANS DIET ONLY $1.20
SOFT DRINK 600ML $2.50
COOL RIDGE WATER 600ML $1.20
FRESHA ORANGE/APPLE JUICE sm/1.60 lge $2.00
PLAYWATER $2.00
NIPPYS ICED CHOC/COFFEE $2.00

SNACKS
LICORICE STRAPS $0.90
STRINGS $0.50
OVALTINES $0.80
SUNFRUITS $0.80
POTATO CHIPS VARS~ JUPITER BAR $1.00
NUTELLA $0.70
BUTTER MENTHOLS/SOOTHERS $1.70
HOMEMADE JELLY IN CUP WITH SPOON $0.50
FROZEN FRUIT TUBES 50c FRZN YOGHURT $1.50
SLUSH PUPPY $1.50
ICY POLE VARS $1.00

Noonan's Sandwich Bar and Takeaway

Sandwiches/Wraps/Rolls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vegemite</td>
<td>2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filings cheese, egg, tomato, pineapple</td>
<td>1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beetroot, lettuce, carrot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 filling</td>
<td>2.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 fillings</td>
<td>3.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>salad</td>
<td>3.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat and salad</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ham, chicken, tuna)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coleslaw with cheese</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homemade soup and roll</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Winter only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn Cob</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Chili Tenders</td>
<td>1.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Burger</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Cheese, lettuce and mayo)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pizza Muffin</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(chicken, cheese and pineapple)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Healthy Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Piece of fruit</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit Cup</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yogurt tub</td>
<td>1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popcorn bag</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salad bowl</td>
<td>3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(summer only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salad bowl with ham or chicken</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caesar salad</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasta salad</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lasagne</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Winter only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Warm Food

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treats</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday - Chicken stir fry with rice</td>
<td>3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday - Sweet Chili Wraps</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday - Baked Potatoes</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday - Pies and pasties</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Super Specials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sausage Rolls</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Party Pies</td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Along the track

A Resurrection Experience

And so we usher in another New Year. Each year has its own patterns and rhythms, its joys and its sadnesses, its blessings and its privations. Each New Year also begins a new path of wonder, a different invitation to the mystery of life. Or will we make it just the same as the last? Will we return to work and everything will look the same, the people will just appear to be the same-old-same-old? Will our days just pass by as they did last year – not much change, nothing much different?

January is named after Janus, a god with two faces, one facing forwards, the other backwards, giving a two-fold vision, the god of doorways and thresholds, of coming in and going out, of past and future. New Year is that time when we look back to where we have been and forward in hope and anticipation of where we may be going. The New Year offers each of us our own experience of resurrection, our own opportunity to begin life anew, to see familiar things in a new light. So do birthdays and anniversaries. They offer us precious moments when transformation is possible, when we can see things with new eyes, as it were, with a new vision, with new possibilities, new beginnings.

Our New Year prayer might go like this:

Dear God, let me learn the lesson from the past. Help me to put past experiences in their true perspective. Let me see how my losses, trials and sorrows contain the seeds of greater blessings. And now by your grace may I turn into blessings the endless possibilities of the New Year which stretches before me in solemn mystery.

At this time the parable story from the Gospels about the sower and the seed is very timely. The Sower, in somewhat reckless hope, throws seed on good soil, barren soil, among rocks. Not unlike our own farmers in this time of drought, seeds are sown in dry soil in the hope that rain will come and they will spring into life. The soil represents the choices of our past. The past is much more than mere memories. When we look back at our lives, we can sometimes see one dominant thread, or perhaps we might see patterns of behaviour that have emerged. Like the soil in this parable some of these are life giving, some are destructive. But they both help mould our future. In this looking back, in this reflection, the seeds of hope emerge. Sometimes we appear to have made more mistakes than goals kicked. But if we make a mistake, there is always another chance. The real mistake is in not making the fresh start, not recognising that we need to change. The anger, the hurt, the bitterness that we may carry from the past does little or no harm to the one who harmed us. It harms only ourselves, eating away at the peace within us.

Sr Joan Chittister tells the story of a rabbi's students asking him why he teaches that God is closer to sinners than to perfect ones. "Well", the old Rabbi explained, "every time we sin, we break the thread that ties us to God. Every time we repent, God ties it up again. And every knot shortens the thread." So it is our weakness that brings us closer to God – not our perfection. Didn't Jesus say that there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner repenting than over ninety-nine upright people who have no need of repentance (Luke 15:7)? Our mistakes in life can tie us up, keep us in destructive patterns of behaviour or in our recognising them, they can liberate us.

None of us is perfect – success lies in not being discouraged but rather in our ability to recognise our capacity to grow.

The soil also represents our potential for the future. The seeds of tomorrow are planted in our past. These seeds in the parable represent the hopes we carry. The prophet Jeremiah gave this advice so many years ago – it remains relevant to us as we contemplate the year ahead:

Stand at the crossroads and ask for the ancient paths; which was the good way? Take it and you will find rest for yourselves.

(Justin 3:16)

In other words, how will we build on those patterns of behaviour which are positive and life-giving? What blessed us, enlivened us and enriched us? What challenged us, discouraged us? What were the roadblocks, the detours? These too are opportunities for growth.

The soil, just like the seeds within it, needs nurturing. In many ways, the future is an open space inviting me to fill it, inviting me into more creative possibilities. Rather than getting caught in what may have become negative patterns of thinking, old behaviours which may hold us back, the New Year invites us to look forward – to become more aware of the people who journey with us – to stop to meet them, to listen to them, to learn from them and perhaps they will learn from us. Are there parts of our lives which need to be simplified, parts where we need to slow down, to give ourselves time and space? When we look ahead, do we feel our future is not only unknown but perhaps a bit scary? Is this the time when we put our trust in God who tells us that:

I know the plans I have in mind for you, they are plans for peace and not disaster, reserving a future full of hope for you...

(Jeremiah 3:11)

Regards
Jim Quillman
MUSIC AT MERCY

Dates for Your Diaries

- Friday, 13 February - Instrument Hire Fees due
- Friday, 27 February - Semester One Music Tuition Fees due
- Friday, 31 July - Semester Two Music Tuition fees due

Students and Parents - Welcome back to another year of music making at Mercy!

MRC Music Faculty 2009
I am delighted to announce that we have been able to expand our Instrumental Music Program in 2009 and welcome two new staff members - Mr Jon Emry, our new Drum Teacher and Mr Casey Tucker, our new Woodwind, Brass and Voice teacher. Strings will be taught by Mrs Fiona Pugh. Our continuing staff include Ms Michelle McKinnon - Piano and Flute and Mr Peter Sharp - Guitar. During the holidays, Mr Alex Francis has gained full time work in Melbourne and has resigned. I know our students enjoyed Alex’s lessons and we will notify you as soon as we have found a new guitar teacher. Stay tuned!

Performing Arts Captains
I am also pleased to announce that two school Performing Arts Captains have been appointed for 2009. Our congratulations goes to Hugh Saunders and Rachel Broomby. All students are encouraged to assist Hugh and Rachel and to share ideas for their important roles in promoting the Performing Arts at MRC through the year.

Choir rehearses on Wednesdays
Choir members have their first performance at Opening Mass on Thursday, 12 February at 10am. Rehearsals will take place at lunchtime on Wednesdays in the Music Room.

Instrumental Music Lessons for Years 7 and 8 Students
Instrumental lessons will be taught at both campuses. Some students will be required to bring their instrument to Camperdown if their teacher is teaching there on a Tuesday or Wednesday, and some instrumental teachers will visit both campuses.

STOP PRESS!
Some instrumental music students from 2008 have not re-enrolled for lessons. If you wish to continue your lessons in 2009, please contact me as soon as possible.

If you have any queries, you can contact me by leaving a message at the School Office on 5593 2011 or by emailing me on fpugh@mercy.vic.edu.au.

Fiona Pugh
Music Director
MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM 2009
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS and STUDENTS

Music Lessons
Most Lessons will commence in Week Two, week beginning 9 February 2009, with the exception of drum lessons which commence in Week Three and Alex’s guitar lessons - TBA. Students will soon receive notification of their lesson time. Lesson Timetables will be posted on the board near the Instrumental Teaching Room at the corner of the school by Friday of Week One.

Instrument Hire
Some students have elected to hire instruments. Parents will receive invoices for Instrument Hire in Week One. Please note you can choose to hire instruments for one semester or a year. Yearly rates are up to $100 cheaper.

Students cannot receive their instruments until the Semester Instrument Hire Fee has been paid. Students will receive a copy of Terms and Conditions of Hire prior to collecting their instrument which will need to be signed by a parent/carer so that students can collect their instrument. Hire Fees are payable to MRC and must be returned to the Front Office no later than FRIDAY, 13 February. Please email me on fpugh@mercy.vic.edu.au if you are unable to do this or leave a message at the School Office on 5593 2011.

Semester Fees
You will receive an invoice for your son or daughter's Music Tuition Fees in Week Two. These Fees are due by Friday, 27 February 2009. Group lessons are $180 per semester and Individual lessons are $360 per semester. Please note Semester Two Fees are due on Friday, 31 July, 2009.

Lesson Expectations
Students who elect to take instrumental music lessons at MRC are expected to:
• participate in the instrumental music program for the whole year,
• attend timetabled instrumental music lessons on a rotating timetable. (Timetables are on the board near in the Instrumental Teaching Room.)
• practise regularly at home (5 days a week for 15 minutes a day for beginning students)
• attend weekly Ensemble/Band rehearsals at lunchtime commencing in Term 2 (Piano and guitar students they can participate in Ensembles/Bands either by playing piano/guitar or percussion)
• participate in all scheduled school concerts and other performances
• parents are encouraged to attend lessons once a term so that they can assist students at home.

Music Books and Music Stands
Students are requested to bring a music notebook/exercise book to each lesson. Parents can use this book to also communicate with their child's teacher.

Each instrumental teacher has selected a book for each student to purchase in Term One. The school will order these books and parents will receive an invoice. Students will receive their book once it is paid for. Books will cost between $25 and $40. Students also have the option of purchasing a music stand for approximately $25 and this is highly recommended.