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 2009
Learning: Through the Mercy tradition we encourage our community to seek knowledge, to nurture curiosity and to love learning.

Presentation Ball
The evening of Friday 27th March was a wonderful occasion for the College community as we held the annual Presentation Ball. I felt privileged and honoured to be part of the Official Party, which received the young ladies and gentlemen of Mercy Regional College. Both the boys and girls look magnificent on the night and were indeed great ambassadors for our College. It was great to see so many people from the school and wider community in attendance. Our new arrangements for ticketing and security certainly made the night so much more enjoyable for all who were in attendance and for the staff and parent volunteers who give so freely of their own time to assist the College.

In particular, I would like to thank Marie Harney and Jenni Lenehan who were responsible for the overall co-ordination and organization of the event, a very big undertaking. They was assisted and well supported by other members of the Presentation Ball Committee who ensured the night was such a success.

Thank you to the following parents and staff:

Flowers
Katrina Boyd & Leanne Field

Suits
Maureen Gstrein

Photos
Jo Saunders, Mary O’Brien & Louise Kemp

Booklet
Rose Henry, Maureen O’Loughlan & Sue Bohm

Ticket Sales
Pam Martin & Sue Bohm

Friendship Photos
Rebecca McGrath

Set Design
Vicki Whiting, Sandy Noonan & Narelle Carlin

Booklet Cover Design
Michael Harney & Jess Rowbottom

Supper
Donna Baxter, Betty Kenna, Kerrie Kissick and the wonderful Year 10 parents

A special thank you to Mrs. Jenny Phillips and Ms. Lyn Davies for their work in co-ordinating our students over the course of the last seven weeks and all the other behind-the-scenes work that so often goes un-noticed.

College Open Afternoon/ Information Evening for Year 7 2010
On Wednesday, 6th May 2009 Mercy Regional College will hold an Open Afternoon and Information session.

The O’Keeffe Junior Campus will be opened from 3.30pm to 6.00pm for families to view the campus in operation. During this time families can arrive at any time and have a look at the facilities and educational programs offered. A light tea will be provided after 6.00pm for families who wish to go straight to Camperdown for the information session and who have travelled long distances.

The Information Evening will commence with registration at 7.00pm and the evening program at 7.30pm, followed by a tour of the Senior Campus.

Please let family and friends know of this date if they are considering enrolling their son or daughter at Mercy Regional College for 2010.
Respect
At last week’s whole school Assembly I spoke to the students about respect. I believe that respect is one of the most crucial concepts that we need to engender in schools, especially those who align themselves with Catholic values. A healthy, functioning society demands that respect is a cornerstone. It is something that needs to underpin all of our actions here at Mercy Regional College. While I will not attempt to fully define respect, I would suggest that respect can be as simple as acknowledging that another person has values and rights, or that an object has value to another person. Respect begins when you can see or feel what another person is experiencing and it often fails when we fail to see the humanity in others.

In the last few weeks, there have been some situations that have arisen at the College, where there has been a lack of regard to the feelings of others. It is important that we encourage everyone, within our community, to develop respect for each other when it is not evident on all occasions. In order to work through these issues, it is often important that the person who has been disrespectful faces the impact of how their actions affect others, whether that is through a restorative meeting or through an opportunity to consider the impact of their actions.

In particular, however, I remind all students of the need for respect in the everyday situations at school by:
• respecting themselves, particularly with the way they are wearing their uniform,
• respecting others, particularly in the way they interact with other students and staff,
• respecting their College environment, particularly with regard to litter and the use of class buildings.

There is no doubt there is room for improvement in all these areas, by us, as a community.

Mercy Regional College Board of Management Annual General Meeting
On Tuesday, 31st March, the Annual General Meeting of the Mercy Regional College Board of Management was held. At this meeting the new Constitution of the College was formally adopted. The change to the constitution centred on the membership of the College Board of Management. Last year at the direction of the Canonical Administrator and with the approval of the Bishop of Ballarat the College Board of Management changed from a representative model to a model of expertise. This means that Board Members are invited by the Canonical Administrators (Governors of the College) who have expertise in a range of areas such as finance, building, education and the law and who are supportive of Catholic Education.

I am pleased to announce that the College Board of Management for 2009 is:

Governors of the College
Fr Eugene McKinnon - Parish Priest of Terang
Parish Priest of Camperdown (to be advised)

Board Members
Mr Murray Whiting (Chairperson)
Mrs. Cherolyn Bullen
Mrs. Jenni Lenehan
Mr. Paul Marsland
Mr Gerard Ryan
Mr Michael Smart
Mr. Bill Slatter (Catholic Education Office)
Dr Andrew Watson (Principal)

I also take this opportunity to thank the retiring members of the 2008 College Board of Management for their outstanding contribution to the College over many years. Thank you to Mrs. Jenny Phillips, Mr. Kerin Glennen and Mr. Martin Ellul.

Staff on Leave
Mr. Lachie Lee will be on Long Service Leave during term 2. Lachie and his family will be travelling through many parts of the world over a 12 week period - a well deserved break for Lachie, Jane and family. Mr. Merv Edmunds will return to Mercy to replace Lachie during this time.

For the first two weeks of term 2, I will also be on leave. Part of this time will be spent in Dublin, Ireland, participating in the Mercy Ethos Programme held at the Mercy International Centre. This programme is an intensive seven day residential programme studying the life and achievements of Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy and understanding the context in which the current Sisters of Mercy now operate and the future for their many ministries, including education. I will be travelling with a number of other principals, deputy principals and staff from other Mercy ministries such as health and aged care. During this time, Mr. Kerin Glennen will be Acting Principal.

Fundraising - Bourkey’s Tyres, Terang
In the last newsletter I advised that Pat and Michelle Bourke who operate Bourkey’s Tyres in Terang, are prepared to donate $25.00 to the College for each set of new tyres purchased by parents of Mercy Regional College. If you wish to take advantage of this generous offer by Bourkey’s Tyres please present the card attached to last week’s newsletter when you purchase a set of new tyres from Pat.

I take this opportunity to thank Pat and Michelle for their generous fundraising initiative and I trust that the Mercy community will support Bourkey’s Tyres
Date Claimer
Last year at the Annual Mercy Dinner was held where the College welcomed back and honoured past student Dr Lauren Bourke and 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 22nd 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 Daffy. 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 recognising two past students who have been able to achieve great success in this area. They are both very inspiring artists. This year, again, the College will also 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. Please find attached to newsletter an invitation to the 2009 Mercy Dinner.

Uniform
The commencement of term 2 is the time that our students move to wearing the winter uniform. I have provided below the list of the uniform items for our winter uniform. I would also like to take this opportunity to ask for support of both parents and students in relation to the following uniform issue.

The College has made it very clear as to the type of school shoes that should be worn by students. However, a small minority continue to opt to wear alternative shoes. I would ask that where this the case that over the term break the necessary arrangements are put in place to ensure that correct footwear is worn during term 2. If students turn up to school with the incorrect footwear they will be asked to return home until such time as the problem is dealt with. The correct footwear for boys and girls is black leather school shoes. Other footwear that is not acceptable.

Girls Winter Uniform
College Skirt with navy tights
Maroon Jumper (Navy for VCE)
White College Blouse (Green for 2009 acceptable)
Black Leather School Shoes

Boys Winter Uniform
Tailored Grey School Trousers
Maroon Jumper (Navy for VCE)
White College Shirt (Green for 2009 acceptable)
Black Leather School Shoes

The College Diary also states that students are expected to maintain high standards of personal grooming and neatness, and to take pride in their College uniform and appearance. I have again listed below some areas that need attention by students and again I would ask for parent support in these issues.

Jewellery: Must be discrete and cannot include any of the following:
- Piercing other than the ear (for girls only) not acceptable

Hair: Must be clean and tidy
- Must be tied back if below shoulder length (girls)
- No extremes in hairstyle (this includes length and colours)

Make-up: No visible make-up or nail polish

Again, if there is an issue in relation to the above mentioned it will be necessary for students to remain at home until the particular problem is rectified.

Uniform Shop
The College has reviewed the trading hours for the Uniform Shop after it first 2 months of operation. To allow students from all year levels to access the uniform shop during either recess or lunch the following trading hours will apply from next week.

NEW UNIFORM SHOP TRADING HOURS
During Term 2
Tuesday 9.30am to 12.00pm
Wednesday 1.00pm to 3.30pm

PLEASE NOTE:
The Uniform shop will be open during the school holidays ONLY on Wednesday 15th April from 1.00 – 3.30pm

Office Hours during Term 1 Holidays
The College Office will be closed for the first week of the Term 1 holiday. It will reopen on Mon 13th April from 10.00am to 2.00pm each day. Normal office hours will resume on 20th April 8.30am to 4.30pm

ANZAC Day
I have been advised by the Catholic Education Office that Mon 27th April is NOT a substitute public holiday for ANZAC Day. In 2009 the declared public holiday for ANZAC Day is Saturday 25th April 2009. Therefore classes will run as normal on this Monday and all students are expected to be at school on this day.

Commencement of Term 2
A reminder to all families that Term 2 for students and staff will commence on Monday, 20th April, 2009. Normal classes will be held. We will commence the new term with Week 1 of the timetable.
Emailing of the College Newsletter
During 2009, we will be continuing to send the College Newsletter, via email, to all families who have provided us with an email address. Those people who don’t have email will continue to receive the newsletter via their son or daughter. If anyone changes his/her email address please let the College office know of the change. If any families wish to take up the option receiving the newsletter via email, email your address to office@mercy.vic.edu.au

Along the Track
I have attached to this newsletter, for your interest, on page 8, a reflection title “Taking God to Heart” written by Jim Quilinan from the Diocesan Catholic Education Office in Warragul. I hope you enjoy this reading.

Easter
Easter is a significant time in the Church’s liturgical calendar and I encourage all families to attend the Easter liturgies on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. I have listed below the times of the Easter ceremonies for the various parishes

St Patrick’s Camperdown
Holy Thursday
Derrinallum 11.00am, Cobden 6.00pm, Camperdown 7.30pm

Good Friday
Camperdown 3.00pm, Lismore 5.00pm

Holy Saturday
Cobden 6.00pm, Camperdown 7.30pm

Easter Sunday
Derrinallum 9.00am, Camperdown 11.00am

St Thomas’ Terang and St Colman’s Mortlake
Holy Thursday Terang 7.30pm
Good Friday Terang 3.00pm, Mortlake 3.00pm
Holy Saturday Terang 7.30pm
Easter Sunday Terang 10.30am, Mortlake 9.00am

St Joseph’s Timboon
Holy Thursday Timboon 7.30pm
Good Friday Timboon 3.00pm
Easter Saturday Timboon 7.30pm
Easter Sunday Simpson 9.00am

As Easter approaches, it is important that as Christians we take time to reflect upon the Easter season. Easter Sunday is both the third day of the Easter Triduum (Three Days of Easter, Good Friday, Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil) and the first day of the Easter Season.

Easter Reflection
Is your life like this?

One day everything seems just right—
all is going well...
you feel at peace with yourself
and more or less at one with all the world—
Do you sometimes have days like that?

Do you also know the opposite?
when nothing goes right...
when you are at odds with yourself
and at loggerheads with all the world—
do you have times when you think the
chaos will never end?

And do you know those grey days in between
when life is dull, monotonous,
when day just follows day after day...
Do you ever wonder what it's all about?

Do you ever wonder, do you ever think...
maybe Jesus found his days like this too?
...from the heights of Palm Sunday
to the depths of Good Friday
and into the blazing glory of Easter Day...

The fiftieth and last day of Easter is the feast of Pentecost.
Throughout this time of rejoicing, Alleluias are sung
and the Easter candle stands in a special place in the parish church. May we take the time over the Easter season to celebrate the news of the risen Lord?
Mercy Awards

VCE (Yr 11 & 12) Mercy Award

Lachie Hose for his fund raising efforts for the Year 12’s.

Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award

Hamish Cabel for his commitment to taking on leadership roles within the school.

Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award

Briony Kent for success in representing the College in Equestrian Events.

From the Wellbeing Co-ordinator
Kerin Glennen

CYBER BULLYING PD

For students to be aware of:

Law in Victoria:
Photos or video-streaming directly onto the net is illegal. The Law in Victoria, states it is illegal to post images even of yourself. You can be charged with child pornography, distributing and producing. The same goes for the internet and texting. There is debate over whether or not you will be on the sex-offenders list. A teacher recently lost his teacher registration because when he was 14 he had photos of another minor on his mobile phone. He had a record and just recently, 10 years later he lost his job as his police-check revealed this.

For Staff to be aware of!!!!!!:
It is a duty of care for us to be moving around the room in IT classes. A reasonable effort must be made. That is, you don’t have to be watching every screen all the time but once in a while patrol the room.

If teachers suspect students of having pornography on their phones, or inappropriate photos of minors, they are not legally allowed to look through a student’s phone to see what they have on it, however they can ask the student to show them what is on it. If unsuccessful, the advisors recommend that we threaten to call the police and allow them to come and take care of the matter.

Things to watch out for:
Kids bringing in Wireless Modems from home. These have unfiltered Internet access.

Harvest Festival "Millennium Goals" Competition
Jo Saunders

Students from year 8A participated in the Harvest Festival "Millennium Goals" Competition co-ordinated by the Camperdown Uniting Church.

Last Thursday, Reverend Cameron McAdam came to the O’Keeffe campus to return the posters that the students had made for the exhibition and to announce that one group in particular had won second prize for their interpretation of the Millennium Goal Number Three, which hopes to promote gender equality and empower women in developing countries. The posters prepared by the class were all wonderful and this experience helped 8A to learn more about the “Make Poverty History” campaign and the “Millennium Goals” that the United Nations hope will be reached by 2015.

Congratulations to Genevieve Lee, Sharni Moloney, Amy Gaut, Laura Mason and Caitlyn McVilly who won second prize.

SCADE Report
By: Hamish Cabel and Emily Saunders.

On Friday, the 20th of March, The year tens travelled to the Noorat Community Centre for the Alcohol & Drug Information Forum Day. The day was very successful and enjoyable, with a wide range of activities, including the use of Beer Goggles, Body Mapping, and estimating standard drink sizes.

We listened to a couple of speakers including, Tanya Bonner and ex-student of Mercy, explain the effects and down-sides of alcohol and drug use. We discussed the short-term and long-term effects of drinking and how much alcohol is in a standard drink, whether it’s spirits or beer. Throughout the day, everyone learnt something new and enjoyed themselves.
VCE Outdoor Education Surfing Camp
James Castles

The Outdoor Education students had an overnight stay at Torquay Foreshore Caravan Park. The camp was on the 16th and 17th of March.

The focus of the camp was to learn how to surf and to understand what motivates individuals to participate in the sport. It was outstanding to see the whole group surfing and by the end of the camp everyone could stand up on their boards.

Thanks must go out to “Go Ride a Wave” for their time and effort in teaching us how to surf.

It was pleasing to see that all students enjoyed themselves and the company of their class mates. I must commend the group on their positive attitudes during the camp and now look forward to the Snow Camp in July.

In the next newsletter their will be a full report and photos on the Emu Creek Dressage Challenge and the Mortlake Showing Jumping.

CAREERS INFO for PARENTS & STUDENTS in the Corangamite & Moyne shires

Your questions answered!

As a parent, what role should I play in my son/daughter’s choice of career?
As a young person, who do I ask for advice – my parents, my teachers, my mates . . . ?
As a family, what resources are available to us?
   What is a transition plan?
   Is part-time work worth it?
   “He has no idea what he wants to do . . . should I be worried?”
What courses are available at universities – locally and further away?
   What is TAFE?
   What is a “Gap Year?”
How much does tertiary study cost?  How is it paid for?
   SBA - what does that mean?
   What is an ATC?
   How does it all work?
   What is an RTO?
   What are Group Training Organisations?

The Program (first four weeks of Term 2)

Week 1:  Parents and career education
Wednesday 22nd April

Week 2:  The tertiary scene – university and TAFE
Tuesday 28th April

Week 3:  Training – making sense of the jigsaw
Wednesday 6th May

PREPARING FOR . . .

Week 4:  Bus to Warrnambool Careers Expo – Wednesday 13th May
   Primarily for Years 10 & 11 students and their parents but Years 9 & 12 families are welcome too.

Presenters will include Martin O’Brien (Deakin University), Lorna Tan (South West Institute of TAFE) and other specialists in the training area.

VENUE:  Johnno’s Shed at Cobden Technical School, 7.45 pm

Each session will run for an hour only but don’t leave with unanswered questions. Parents and students are encouraged to attend the sessions together but if that is not possible, we ask that you still take the opportunity to come along. The more the merrier!

Attend all three sessions or just one or two sessions! All inquiries: 55 951700. Seats on the free bus to Warrnambool on Wednesday, 13th May will need to be booked with Kelvin or Robyn, on the above phone number, in the lead-up to the Expo.

Victorian Dairy Conference Presentation
Ian Nicholson

A group of Year 8 MRC students travelled to Warrnambool on Tuesday, March 31st to deliver a movie-style presentation at the Victorian Dairy Conference. The presentation has been created using the criteria given to MRC regarding the gaining of insight into what young people think of the Dairy Industry and its future. Those involved in this project were: Kayla Bradley, Montana Howard, Ruby Leadbetter, Daniel Sinnott, Cameron Spence, Brooke White, Emmelie Nijskens, Rachel Beaton, Dominic Adlam, Samantha Crebbin, Lillian Van Donk, Matthew Conroy and e-learning co-ordinator, Ian Nicholson.
**COMING EVENTS**

**TERM 2**
**Monday 20th April**
Term 2 commences for all staff & students

**Thursday 23rd April**
MRC Cross Country

**Saturday 25th April**
ANZAC Day

**Monday 27th April**
Normal school day
Catholic Education Week commences

**Friday 1st May**
Catholic Education week concludes

**Wednesday 6th May**
MRC Open Afternoon/Evening
O’Keeffe Junior Campus 3.30pm – 6.30pm
McAuley Campus 7.00pm for Registration

**Monday 11th May**
PTFA Meeting @ McAuley Campus – 7.30pm

**Tuesday 12th May**
NAPLAN (Yr 7 & 9)

**Wednesday 13th May**
NAPLAN (Yr 7 & 9)

**Thursday 14th May**
NAPLAN (Yr 7 & 9)

**Monday 18th May**
HSSSA Cross Country

**Thursday 21st May**
Mercy Feast Day Mass de Chantal Stadium 9.30am
Year 9 Retreat @ O’Keeffe Campus 10am – 7pm

**Friday 22nd May**
Year 7 Retreat – Noorat Community Centre

**Monday 1st June**
Year 9 Camp begins

**Tuesday 2nd June**
Mass & Official Opening of O’Keeffe Campus
Board Meeting @ 7.30pm

**Wednesday 3rd June**
Year 9 Camp concludes

**Monday 8th June**
Queen’s Birthday Long Weekend

**Tuesday 9th June**
VCE Exams
Year 7, 8 & 10 Exams

**Wednesday 10th June**
VCE Exams
Year 7, 8 & 10 Exams

**Thursday 11th June**
General Achievement Test

**Friday 12th June**
School Holiday - no classes

**Monday 15th June**
PTFA Meeting @ O’Keeffe Campus – 7.30pm
Year 9 & 11 Exams

**Tuesday 16th June**
Year 9 & 11 Exams

**Wednesday 24th June**
Ministry Retreat

**Thursday 25th June**
Ministry Retreat

**Friday 26th June**
Term 2 concludes at 2.30pm

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**Centacare - Warrnambool Programs for 2nd Term 2009**

### Managing difficult behaviour in children - 1-2-3 Magic
For parents of children aged 2-12 years
- Managing difficult behaviour
- Encouraging good behaviour
- Establishing boundaries
- Negotiating change respectfully
- Lessen parental feelings of frustration & stress

**Date**
Monday May 18, 25 & June 1, 1pm-3pm

### Living with Teenagers
For parents of teenagers
- The joys and challenges
- Adolescent development
- Parenting strategies
- Beyond the present

**Date**
Thursday June 11 1pm-3pm

Enquiries and bookings contact Madeleine or Carol on: 5561 5922.

**Costs:**
- Managing difficult behaviour in children - 1-2-3 Magic $30.00
- Living with Teenagers $10.00
- Concession available
CAMPERDOWN & DISTRICT JUNIOR NETBALL ASSOC.
2009 Season

Registration Day
Sat. 18th April 10am - 11am
At the Camperdown Community Stadium.
For further details contact - Ange Cunningham on 5593 2260
Michael Smart on 5593 2641
Registration forms are available from the College office.

CAMPERDOWN BADMINTON ASSOC.
The information evening will commence with registration at 7.00pm and the evening program beginning at 7.30pm followed by a tour of the McAuley Senior Campus, Henderson Street, Camperdown.

Open Afternoon @
O’Keeffe Junior Campus, Noorat
Families are welcomed to view the Campus in operation
at any time from 3.30pm – 6.00pm
(a light tea will be provided after 6.00pm for families who wish to travel onto Camperdown)

Information Evening @
McAuley Senior Campus, Camperdown
7.00pm Registration
7.30pm Information Session followed by a tour of the campus

SECONDARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM
The Corangamite Shire will be running two activities over the school holidays. If any students are interested in either of these trips, you can pick up a flyer / registration form from the College Office. Bookings are essential and must be done as soon as possible.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF MUSIC
Tony Forbes

MUSIC LESSONS
Just a quick note to let families know that if your child has enrolled for drum lessons that these will commence the first Wednesday of Term 2 (22nd April). The drum teacher is Jonathon Emry. Jonathon will make every effort to catch up with the lessons that have been missed. Also, any other teachers who miss lessons with their students will make up the lesson at another time.
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<th>Week</th>
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<td>English</td>
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<td>Visual Communications 1</td>
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**CAREERS REPORT - MRS. LISA POPE**

**MONASH UNIVERSITY**
Seminars commence on 31st March and run until 15th July for dates and booking information Visit their website. [www.monash.edu.au/study/events/atmonash](http://www.monash.edu.au/study/events/atmonash)

**LATROBE UNIVERSITY**
Year 10, 11 and 12 Students and their families are invited to the **Talk and Tour** event on Tuesday 7th April at La Trobe’s Bundoora campus. For more information and registration go to: [www.latrobe.edu.au/talkandtour](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/talkandtour)

**DEAKIN UNIVERSITY - TOURS**
Deakin University are offering Campus Tours on the following dates 8th April, 7th July, 16th July, 22nd September and 28th September at all campuses. To register you can book online at [http://www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/news-events/discover-deakin-form.php](http://www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/news-events/discover-deakin-form.php)
Cordially invites

Our Parent Community

to the fourth
Annual Mercy Dinner

to be held on
Friday 22\textsuperscript{nd} May, 2009
at the

Noorat Community Centre
McKinnons Bridge Road, Noorat

Featuring
Sara Tindley & Peter Daffy
Past MRC Students

And the recognition of long serving staff members
of Mercy Regional College

The Dinner will commence at 7.00pm with
Pre-dinner drinks and savouries
followed by a sumptuous two-course meal and
featuring performances from Sara Tindley and Peter Daffy.

RSVP to Sue by Friday 15\textsuperscript{th} May, 2009 on 5593 2011 or email
sue@mercy.vic.edu.au