This edition of the College newsletter opens with a focus on the Lenten Pastoral Letter from the Bishop of Ballarat, Peter Connors. The letter challenges us to return to the real meaning of Lent, a time to build and strengthen our relationship with God. It focuses on a number of specific avenues through which this reflection can occur: taking time to sit with and consider the Lenten Gospels; supporting those who are on a journey towards baptism in school or through a parish RCIA program; and by assisting those less fortunate than ourselves by donating to Project Compassion. The letter then reminds us that within our Diocese, throughout Australia and across the world, there are many people who are still suffering due to floods, fires and earthquakes. I conclude by sharing with you the closing words of Bishop Connors:

*Lent offers us a beautiful opportunity to discover the mystery of Christ within us. It is a time of solitude but also community; it is a time of listening to the voice within, but also a time of paying attention to other people’s needs and reaching out in whatever way we can. It is a time continuously to make the passage to new life as well as to life within those around us. May we all live this Lent well and rejoice in the blessings that Easter brings.*

If families or friends of the College would like to access additional copies of the Bishop’s Letter, it is available at [http://ballarat-catholic.org.au/_uploads/fcknw//Lent_Pastoral_2011web.pdf](http://ballarat-catholic.org.au/_uploads/fcknw//Lent_Pastoral_2011web.pdf)

**Well-Being Presentations**

Last Thursday evening, I was privileged to attend the Well-Being forum organised for parents and students by the College’s Well-Being team – Mr. Kerin Glennen and Mrs. Helen Kenna. Held at St Patrick’s Church, the evening included presentations from Mrs. Lisa Pope on success strategies for students in Years 11 and 12; Mr. Michael Harris, a member of the local Mental Illness Early Intervention team; and Mrs. Lorri Chandler from Centacare, Warrnambool. Their engaging presentations highlighted the variety of support mechanisms available for students and families who might be struggling with the demands of study, health or even day-to-day life.

Also during last week, all Year 9 and 10 students were involved in significant presentations in the area of well-being. The girls listened to a guest speaker on the topic, ‘The Shape of a Girl’, which explored the negative impact that bullying has on the lives of adolescent females. The boys listened to a panel of three speakers who explored the fundamental male issue of risk-taking and its consequences.

**Athletics Carnival**

Last week, students, staff and families gathered to celebrate the Mercy Regional College Athletics Carnival. The spirit that was evident and high levels of participation were testament to the enthusiasm all brought to the day. Congratulations to Frayne on their victory in the House competition, to all those who were age-group champions and to every student who competed and tried their best.
A special thanks to Mr. James Castles as overall coordinator of the day. To the College Sports staff and to the broader College staff for their assistance, to Mr. Danny Gordon, Property Manager for his work in setting up and to the student House Leaders who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the competition.

**Barwon South West Swimming Championships**

Congratulations to all those students who competed in the Victorian Schools Sports Barwon South West Swimming Championships held last Thursday at Kardinia Pool in Geelong. Mercy Regional College students competed with distinction winning a number of races and obtaining places in others. Overall, the College finished second out of twenty regional secondary schools. A number of students have now qualified to participate in the State School’s Championship at Melbourne Sport and Aquatic Centre in April.

**Year Eight Camp**

This week, the countryside around Timboon and Port Campbell was alive with the sound of happy and excited Year Eight students enjoying a three day camp at Camp Cooriemungle. Students participated in the camp either from Monday-Wednesday or Wednesday-Friday and, while there, had the opportunity to enjoy canoeing, climbing on the high ropes course, scaling the climbing wall or testing their mettle on the giant swing. Meals were generous as was the staff of Camp Cooriemungle. Special thanks to Mrs. Leanne Carpenter as overall coordinator of the camp and to each of the other Year 8 teachers who supported her. I have included a photo taken of the College’s new Principal tempting fate on the climbing wall!

**Presentation Ball**

The day is almost upon us. The dresses are picked. The suits are ordered. Hair appointments made. Dance practice after Dance practice... Our Year Eleven students look forward to this Friday when the College’s Presentation Ball will be held at Glenormiston College. I look forward to celebrating with all students, their families and friends at an evening that promises to highlight all that is special about Mercy Regional College.

To assist in making the Presentation Ball all that it should be, I would like to reinforce a number of points that have been made to students and parents over recent weeks:

- The Ball is a strictly ticketed event with families allocated four seats per table and three seats at the rear of the Hall.
- Given the Ball is a College event, no alcohol may be taken into the grounds of the College and cars will be searched by security on arrival.
- The College does not condone any celebrations or parties after the Ball has been completed and asks all parents to support us in this wish.

Please find on the last page of the newsletter another reflection from Jim Quillinan of the Sale Catholic Education Office in Warragul. Titled “Knowing God or Knowing About God” (Part 1).

Yours in Mercy,

Darren Egberts
PRINCIPAL

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**Message from the Business Manager**

I would like to thank all the families that have returned their Tuition Fee Arrangement Form.

There are still a quarter of families who have not yet returned their form. The details on this form allow the College to budget our cash flow more effectively and also not to have to contact families unnecessarily regarding unpaid school fees.

Should you have any queries regarding completion of this form, or need another form, please don't hesitate to contact me at the McAuley Campus.

Lynn Wadley
Catholic Education Week:  
Sunday March 27th – Sunday 2nd April  
Mrs. Jo-Anne Saunders Director of Religious Education

Why do we teach religious education?  
We are a Catholic School. It is what sets Mercy Regional College apart from other fine schools. Both within and outside the classroom there is a message to be shared and to be lived. In the Ballarat Diocese, all schools are mandated to follow the Awakenings Religious Education curriculum and we are very fortunate to have great support from the Catholic Education Office Ballarat. Our staff is able to access planning assistance to continue the development of a Religious Education program that challenges our students to both study and consider how they live out the Gospel message. We also have an extensive retreat program that enables students to experience faith development outside the confines of the school environment.

Last weekend saw the beginning of Catholic Education Week in our Diocese. As a school, there will be time to reflect, both as a staff and as a student body, on what makes our school a vibrant and positive place to be. Whilst Mercy Regional College began as “Catholic Regional College” in 1973, the Sisters of Mercy have played a direct role in helping to build the foundations of the school. The name, “Mercy Regional College” reflects this rich heritage.

Our classes are currently studying the following units in Religious Education:

Year 7: Jesus the Human face of God – focusing on the life lead by Jesus and coming to understand the gift of his actions and message.

Year 8: How do we celebrate as a community - focusing on the origins of the early church and St. Paul's letters as a guide for establishing Christian communities.

Year 9: Sacraments – focusing on the Eucharist, its meanings and traditions and its place within our celebrations today both at school and in the life of our Parish community.

Year 10: Christian decision-making: Stewardship of the land – focusing on close link to the gift of the earth and its beauty, its frailty and our need to appreciate and care for it.

Year 11: VCE Religion in Society – which examines the role of religions in Australia and the components and meaning-systems that comprise them.

Year 12: VCE Religion and Society (Ethics) - this examines what constitutes ‘right’ and ‘wrong’ in societies, the values that religious traditions contribute to this examination and decision-making systems by which informed life choices can be made.

How we, as a College community, live out our experience of faith are apparent in a number of ways:

- Our fundraising for St Joseph’s Charlton as part of our Lenten giving.
- Our Year 10 Christian Outreach program which sends students out into community facilities to assist those working with the elderly and less fortunate.
- Our Social Justice Committee who are constantly looking to raise awareness of many public causes; either with the blood bank drive, shave for a cure or various other causes.

We are currently developing a voluntary street retreat program for Year 11 students to serve others less fortunate in Melbourne.

Mercy Regional College is proud of its Catholic identity, proud that we teach, nurture and care in the essence of Mercy.
Teaching & Learning Report
Mrs. Lisa Pope Deputy Principal Teaching & Learning

The past fortnight has been a busy time for many of our staff with several balancing their teaching with professional development opportunities and sporting events. Last Friday, four of our Mathematics staff - Narelle Williams, Berni Sinnott, Leesa Henriksen and Margaret Jeffery attended Trinity College to work with Peter Fox. Tina Jenkins attended a VCE session for Studio Arts in Melbourne whilst Jason Moloney, Elia McPhee and Sophie Carr attended a graduate teachers’ forum in Ballarat.

Next week, our interim and progress reports will be mailed home. This report package will also include details and passwords to allow you to log into our Parent Teacher Interview booking system (PT Online).

Each parent will be provided with their own login and password, however, if both parents are attending only one person is required to use their login to make booking times. Whilst we have tried to make our staff as accessible as possible, some staff members will be on leave and therefore there is an option in the system to request teachers to contact you via telephone or email.

As each interview time is five minutes in duration, we ask parents who may need longer time with a specific teacher to contact the school. If your child has a teacher for more than one subject, the system allows you to book two time slots. For this system to work effectively it is important that we try to adhere to the scheduled time slots given.

Also within the report envelope, there will be an opportunity to respond to our End of Semester report survey. Our reporting system and the reports themselves are one area of the school we would like to improve to ensure the feedback we provide regarding your child’s progress is meeting the needs of both our students and parents.

Over the coming weeks, we will be continuing to work on the College’s intranet (SIMON) to make way for the provision of the Parent Access Module (PAM). This module will provide parents secure online access to their child’s timetable, calendar, assessment results and reports. Our students are becoming more familiar with the use of SIMON as a communication tool to inform them of future tasks, class work, homework and feedback on assessment.

The provision for parents to access this information will only provide greater knowledge on how we can all work together to support your child’s learning. Access to PAM should be available mid-term 2.

Wellbeing Report
Mr. Kerin Glennen

Last week we saw a number of students, parents and staff engaged in programs designed for our students and the wider community.

Tuesday saw the year 9 and 10 students involved in gender specific programs. Our girls were involved attending a play relating to bullying and its consequence to those who are vulnerable. The play was well received and it gave our students a look into the issue of bullying and then some of the consequences that come from such behaviour.

Whilst this was taking place our Year 9 and 10 boys were involved and listening to several guest speakers explaining to the boys that risk taking and drinking at such a young age does have serious consequences. As each of our speakers presented their stories they reiterated to the boys that you only have one life to live. Each presenter also spoke about what happens when an incorrect decision is made and how the wider community is affected.

On Thursday Mercy hosted an evening forum for our VCE students, parents and teachers. The forum was aimed at sharing information with students, parents and staff as to how to make VCE as stress free as possible for all participants. As well as offering advice to all involved about how to deal with concerns before they become an issue.

We have three highly qualified speakers who each have a good deal of experience in this area, Mrs. Lisa Pope, Director of Learning and Teaching at Mercy, Mr. Michael Harris from the Early Intervention Team and Ms. Lorri Chandler from Centacare Warrnambool.

Topics covered throughout the evening included:

- Study tips for Mercy VCE and how to approach staff if concerned about your study.
- Work with staff to achieve the best result that you can so as to get the results you want.
- The importance of students taking care of themselves both physically and emotionally.
- The need for students to strike the balance between study and family/person free time.
- Resources of wellbeing that are available for both students and families to access if a concern does arise.
- The importance of open and honest communication between students and their family.

The feedback from students and their parents involved has been very positive.
Students are to attend homeroom as normal; they treating each other with respect etc. the Year 9 students regarding several issues e.g. several stage shows and has gained critical acclaim both groups of students. Kate has appeared in building exercises with Kate Mc Lennan working with All students will be taken through a se ries of team and alcohol use and abuse. It also teaches when and students learn to identify risks associated with drug and alcohol use and abuse. It also teaches how to call an ambulance for assistance as well as basic first aid and safe partying tips.

All students will be taken through a series of team building exercises with Kate McLennan working with both groups of students. Kate has appeared in several stage shows and has gained critical acclaim for her one woman show. She will be working with all the Year 9 students regarding several issues e.g. treating each other with respect etc.

Students are to attend homeroom as normal; they will then be walked up to the football oval. Students are able to wear casual clothes for the day and MUST BRING their own lunch, snacks and DRINK. There will be NO ACCESS TO CANTEEN FACILITIES on the day. At the completion of the day ALL students will be walked back to Mercy; no town students are permitted to go straight home.

Tips for making the most of study
Studying, getting homework and assignments done sitting exams can be difficult at the best of times, and they feel even harder if you are stressed. Good study habits can help to learn better. A helpful start is having a study area that is well lit and away from the noise of the house. The Mercy library is open after school, a good place to access for some quite time and teachers are usually around after school. Make certain you have an organised desk; this helps you so you do not have to go looking for books, pens, your school bag etc. Avoid distractions like phone calls or emails when you are studying, turn your phone off (they will ring back) and do not procrastinate; you have a task to do get it done. You will have/enjoy a sense of achievement when you complete tasks. Take regular breaks every 50 minutes.

Senior Teaching and Learning Report
Mr. Lachie Lee

The New Year is well and truly under way and students are preparing or have recently completed the first of the Outcomes and SACs for the year. Although first term contains many unavoidable interruptions to the curriculum, students have none the less generally worked well and are adhering to course timelines. Some of the studies and the work the students are undertaking are listed below.

In English, the students have nearly completed a thorough study of David Malouf's most recent novel, Ransom. This is a story based on a series of incidents from the ancient Greek tale, The Iliad, by Homer. Students have generally found the novel interesting and it is a rich source for their writing. Indeed, one of Malouf's goals in writing this book was to contribute to the ancient art of story-telling and to allow the reader to reflect on how such an ancient series of poems such as The Iliad can maintain relevance today. The Year 12 English classes will complete their first SACs next week.

This year we have two Literature classes in VCE; one at Units 1 and 2 and another at Units 3 and 4. We are quite happy that these students who are particularly interested and avid readers are able to study Literature and indulge their passion for reading. Currently, Year 12 students are studying My Brother Jack by George Johnston, and Year 11s the play Inheritance by Hannie Rayson. The Year 11 English classes are currently studying Shakespeare's “Othello”.

The Years 11 and 12 VCAL students are starting the Mercy Mowing Project. This will consist of a variety of outdoor maintenance projects and will help develop the students' practical and organisational skills. The students are enthusiastic and excited about the project and it will contribute considerably to their assessment in this area.

At this time, Year 12 Specialist Maths students are working on Complex Numbers and Vectors and will complete a SAC before the holidays. Further Maths students are studying the Data Analysis component of the course and will complete the SAC on this unit before the end of term. Maths Methods students have just about completed Functions and the Algebra component of their Unit 3 studies and will also complete a SAC before the end of term. There is a requirement for all Maths students to regularly complete chapter topic tests which are accessible on SIMON. Students are expected to complete the tests then submit them to the teacher for correction. These are to be done on a regular basis and it is pleasing to note that most students are adhering to this requirement.

In Unit 3 Biology, the students have just completed a SAC on the structure and function of enzymes. The class at the moment is investigating the process in cells that create proteins and the various roles proteins have within organisms. Year 11 Biology are looking at the topic of Cells and are then moving on to the process of mitosis. The students will be completing a SAC at the end of March. In Psychology at year 12 level, the students have also just completed their first SAC on States of Consciousness and all students performed quite well at the task. The class has now moved on to looking at the inner workings of the brain and nervous systems.
Physics students at Unit 3 are at present designing and conducting their own experiments on the topic of motion. These experiments will lead into the SAC for this Area of Study. Unit 1 Physics students will also complete their SAC based on the work they are currently undertaking, using the laptop computers. They are studying electricity and are working with our new computer simulation software. In Unit 1 Chemistry, students are studying Stoichiometry (chemical calculations) leading into a test as an assessment task. In Unit 3, students are studying Analytical Chemistry leading to an extended experimental investigation as the SAC.

Yr 11 Design and Technology students are working on a redesign project in groups and Yr 12 Design and Tech are working on their folios and design concepts for their major project. Yr 11 Building and Construction have been restoring Father Matthew’s fly screens down at the Presbytery and will be starting a new project next week in which they help a group of enthusiasts to rebuild to specifications the original Naroghid Railway Station. The Unit 3 Visual Communications students are currently working on their folios. Their current project is designing posters and advertising using the Apollo Bay Music Festival as a creative focus. The Viscom and Design and Tech (Wood) students will this week also visit Warrnambool to interview the architect who designed Paul Jennings’ home. This house is situated on the coast between Logan’s Beach and Allansford and has stunning ocean views. The students will be completing a SAC on this interview. Unit 3 Studio Arts have started practical work trialing and exploring their chosen materials in preparation for the development of their folios and Unit 1 Studio Arts have just completed a photographic series telling a story by images. A great deal of time, imagination and effort goes into these productions and also those from Wood, Viscom and Food Tech. Many of these pieces will be on display at the MRC Arts Night on the 16th November which is a great opportunity to view the creative talents of our young people.

In Year 12 Food Technology, students have made some interesting recipes. Information on health and hygiene issues has mostly been followed up in practical classes. Students have then moved on to look at key foods and functions of food commodities. The Certificate 2 in Hospitality people are also well organised with their first SAC centering on a cocktail party function. They will complete the food requirements and staff will be paying clients for the privilege of being guinea pigs.

Health and HD students at unit 3 are currently working on the National Health Priority Areas and will, next week, complete a SAC based on their study of the Health Status of Australians. Year 11 Health and Human Development are about to sit their first SAC looking at lifespan stages with a particular focus on adolescence and risk taking behaviour. Unit 1 Outdoor Education and Environmental Studies students recently attended a camp at Torquay as part of their investigations into how people look for motivations for outdoor experiences. This information will be gathered together and form part of the students assessment for the unit. Students are looking forward to further experiences during the year including the snow camp and the trip to Wilson’s Promontory. Those studying Unit 3 are currently looking at the historical perspective Environmental Studies and how human occupation of the Australian continent contributed to the shaping of the environment. Students attended Sovereign Hill in order to gather further information in preparation for the next SAC. Year 11 PE students are currently focusing on energy systems and year 12s are preparing for their first SAC Task next week. They have recently finished the first Area of Study “Monitoring and Promotion of Physical Activity” and have been combining theory lessons with some practical classes in the stadium. Next week, both classes will begin Area of Study 2: Physiological Responses to Physical Activity.

Business Management students at Unit 3 are currently studying the various roles managers require on a day-to-day basis, before examining a range of styles managers might use to direct their staff in combination with skills that may also be necessary. This encompasses a large portion of the investigation of an organisation's internal environment. In unit 1 Twentieth Century History, students have just completed a study of the First World War. They will complete an assessment task on the causes and outcomes of the war and have now begun a study of the rise of Nazism in the years between World Wars One and Two. In Unit 3 History- Revolutions, the students are about to complete a SAC analyzing the role of leaders, ideas and events in the development of the American Revolution from 1763-1776. Students of Unit 2 RE are completing work on codes of ethics in professional organisations, business and scientific research. Unit 1 RE is studying the dimensions of religions with a particular focus on the Catholic faith.

This is just sample of the wonderful variety of studies and activities that are taking place across the senior school in the first semester. Students have a broad choice of studies that will allow them to follow the path that most excites and interest them. As the year progresses, I will publish some of the other activities which are taking place and also publish some exam preparation tips early in the second term. Students of Psychology, Accounting, Biology, Chemistry and Physics will have exams in June; all students of Unit 3 and 4 subjects will complete the GAT test in June and all Unit 3 and 4 students will complete exams in the November exam period. There is still plenty to look forward to in a very busy year.
Coming Events

27 March
* Presentation Ball Training @ St Thomas’ Hall (3:30PM-5:30PM)

28 March
* Catholic Education week commences

30 March
* Presentation Ball Training @ Glenormiston (6:30PM-8:30PM)

31 March
* Year 9 Issues Day

01 April
* Yr 12 Dress-up Fundraiser
* Catholic Education week concludes
* Presentation Ball commences 8.00pm Tonight

06 April
* HSSSA Athletics Carnival

07 April
* HSSSA Athletics Carnival - back up day
* Parent Teacher Interviews (4:00PM-8:00PM)
* Term 1 concludes for students

08 April
* Parent Teacher Interviews (10:00AM-2:00PM)

Furniture Restoration
Darcy Woolley, Billy Rasmussen & Declan Wright

As part of the VCAL program this year, our group has chosen to find old furniture so that we can restore it. We are looking for any donations of old furniture (preferably made of hard wood) to restore and sell so we can raise money for our VCAL trip this year and St Vincent DePaul. For any further inquiries please contact Kirsten Gibson at the College and let us know if there is anything you would like to donate.

MISSING

In 2009 one of our families hired a Saxophone for their son / daughter's tuition. We have been advised by Musicorp the company who owns the Saxophone that it has never been returned to them, therefore the College is still being charged for the annual hire of the instrument. As Saxophone lessons are not being taught at Mercy any longer, it would be appreciated if the person who has the Saxophone could return it to the College ASAP.

Art Report
Tina Jenkins

Congratulations go to Bronson Whytcross and Emily Saunders for entering the ‘A Lens on the Lakes’ Photographic Competition, which had a focus of capturing the Corangamite Shire lakes.

Bronson Whytcross won First Prize in the U18 section with his image titled: “Moon Reflection – Lake Koreetnung”.

Emily Saunders received a Highly Commended for her image titled: “Lake Purrumbete Pier – Lake Purrumbete”.
Sports Report
Mr James Castles

Golf Competition
On Monday the 7th March 2011 an eager group of Golfers traveled to Colac Golf Course to compete in the Barwon South West Golf Championships. We sent a junior team consisting of Charlie Brett, Matt Baxter, Jack Kenna and Daniel Kenna and a senior team consisting of Jack Kerr, Thomas Brett, James Keough and Paddy Kenna. Both teams played good golf which lead to some excellent results. The junior boys had a very successful day, winning the junior competition. We also had some separate winners with Daniel Kenna having 86 off the stick coming 3rd in the junior scratch score and Matt Baxter having 75 off the stick and winning the junior scratch. Matt also came 2nd in the net score having a net score of 61.

Thank you to Coach, Mr. Tony Forbes who provided both local knowledge and experience of the Colac Golf Course. The junior team will now travel to Melbourne to compete in the Schools Sports Victoria STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS. Well done to all involved.

Swimming Results from Barwon West Sports
Here are the placings of each school on the day and their points score.

1st Belmont High School 536
2nd Mercy Regional College 394
3rd Oberon High School 268.50
4th Bellarine Secondary College 258
5th Brauer College 252.50
6th Warrnambool College 231
7th Baimbridge College 184.50
8th Geelong High School 174
9th Grovedale College 149
10th Lara Secondary College 119
11th Timboon P-12 School 104
12th Mortlake P-12 College 100
13th Lake Bolac College 94
14th Trinity College Colac 86
15th Western Heights College 54
16th Colac College 50
17th Torquay College 37
18th Terang College 36
19th Cobden Technical School 22
20th Camperdown College 9

Sports Captain Report
By Jahd Anderson & Sophie Quick

Athletics Carnival
The Athletics Carnival was held on Wednesday the 16th March, big thanks to all who participated and organised the carnival to make it run so smoothly.

There were many successful athletes and many records were broken. Frayne were victorious for the second time this year, winning the carnival by just over 300 points.

The following students received age champions for the day:

13 year old female: Kate Hallyburton
13 year old male: Lachlan Bone & Liam Parker
14 year old female: Marnie Jones
14 year old male: Nathan Stevens
15 year old female: Ailish Glennen
15 year old male: Benjamin Saunders
16 year old female: Elizabeth Steel
16 year old male: Declan O’Connor
17 year old female: Olivia Duynhoven
17 year old male: Brendan Richardson
21 year old female: Rachael Steel
21 year old male: Jahd Anderson

Barwon South West Swimming Carnival
This was held on Thursday the 17th March with many of our students continuing onto the State level.

These students are: Dylan Lee, Caitlyn Mitchell, Daniel Unwin, Lachie Spicer, Matthew Stevenson, Jack Williams, Clare Glennen, Haylee Davis, Amy Hallyburton, Sharni Moloney, Kayla Spicer, Amy Gaut, Ella Woodmason, Dana Rhode and Bayley Thompson.

Best of luck to these students.

Huge thanks to Mr. Castles for all his work in preparation for these events.

Congratulations
To Courtney Stevens who came fourth in the girls Under 15 Shotput at the 2011 Little Athletics State Track & Field Championships held Sunday 20th March at Olympic Park in Melbourne.

Well done Courtney.
Mortlake College Interschool Showjumping

Sarah Bone

On Tuesday the 15th March the Mercy Regional College Equestrian Team went to Mortlake to compete in the Mortlake College Interschool Show Jumping. Mercy was the 2nd biggest team there with 15 riders. All riders performed well on the day. Mercy ended up coming second overall with 50 points with the winner being Mortlake College on 55 points. We all had a fantastic day. Elle Price came 2nd in her section overall and Belinda Greig won her section overall and Olivia Stephens also placed well in her section.

Photo of Stephanie Hibburt on “Goody 2 Shoes”.

PUBLIC NOTICES

If there are any Cobden Junior Football Netball Club U12 & U14 Netballers who wish to play the Sunday Competition, please contact Phyllis on 0427 946 203 to register your interest as soon as possible.

CORANGAMITE JUNIOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

WANTS YOU!

to play Hockey

**REGISTRATION DAY**

**DATE:** Saturday 2nd April

**TIME:** 10 am – 12 noon

**PLACE:** Camperdown Showgrounds

- Registration and payment of fees for all players.
- No registrations on first day of play.
- Please return any club equipment and team uniforms on registration day

C.J.H.A hockey season will commence on Saturday 7th May

A Coaching Clinic with Annie Anderson from “Just Hockey” will be held on Saturday 30th April at the Showgrounds. This free clinic is available for all registered players provided by the Corangamite Junior Hockey Association. Please register with either Jane Gough or Fiona Cole.

An invitation to attend a night of food, fun and frivolity...

PARTY AND DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY AT A...

**Gala Dinner Ball**

...with a touch of tartan

Hosted by the Camperdown/Corangamite Committee for Warmnambool’s Rotary House

To aid in the fundraising to make this important project a reality

SATURDAY 2nd APRIL

Starting at 6.30pm with a free pre-dinner drink and savouries, followed by a two-course dinner in Camperdown’s historic Theatre Royal

Refreshments at bar prices

Featuring one of Australia’s best Celtic rock bands **CLAYMORE**

**Dress code:** After five/black tie/kilt

Imagine having an ill child or close relation in hospital and you have nowhere to stay...

To book enquiries can be made to either:

**Tower Computer Aid** on 5593 2489

**Gerard Ryan Electrical** on 5593 3033

Or mail your cheque for the tickets to:

PO Box 269, Camperdown. 3260. VIC

Tickets are $100 ea. or Tables of 10 $1000 ea.

Tickets will be sent to you by return mail.

**Book now to avoid disappointment!**
Focus on careers in Science and Math

Do you enjoy Math and Science subjects at school? Have you considered pursuing a career in these areas? You may like to explore careers in Mathematics, Sciences and engineering.

Math, Science and Engineering shapes our day to day life. Here is an example from [www.futuremorph.org](http://www.futuremorph.org)

Who produces your breakfast? Farmers, food scientists and technologists, nutritionists.

Who takes you to school? Design & development engineers, petrochemical engineers, automotive engineers, automotive electricians, environmental scientists, mechanics, materials scientists.

Who built your school? Architects, surveyors, structural engineers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters.

Who assists your learning? Teachers, journalists, film producers, software designers, publishers, writers.

Who helps you exercise? Exercise scientists, physiotherapists, sports psychologists.

Who keeps you healthy? Doctors, nurses, pharmacists, biomedical scientists.

Who contributes to your spare time? Computer game developers, music technologists, product designers, sound and lighting technicians.

Exploring Math, Science and Engineering Degrees

Mathematics: If you are a logical and analytical person who enjoys solving problems with numbers, you may like to explore a career in Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Studies.

Employment for Actuaries, Mathematicians and Statisticians to 2014 – 2015 is expected to grow very strongly and Mathematics and Statistics degrees are on the Commonwealth ‘National Priorities’ Band funding level which means you will contribute a minimum of $4249 per year to your University course (2010)

Go to the following websites to find out more-

Engineering: If you are practical, like to know how things work and enjoy analyzing and solving problems, you should explore careers in Engineering. You can blend engineering with an area you are passionate about. Types of engineering include (and are not limited to): civil, chemical, mechanical, electrical, systems, biomedical, environmental, marine, coastal, mechanical, robotics, computer, mechatronic, aeronautical, automotive, mining, sound, metallurgical, structural- the list goes on! About 16 800 new engineering jobs will be created over the next 5 years, with about 8800 of these in Civil Engineering. Electrical and Mining Engineers will also be in demand with the creation of new jobs.

Check out the following sites:

Science: There are several broad disciplines in Science. The following are examples:

- **Physical science** is for people who like to ask questions about why things are the way they are in the world around us. School subjects include Chemistry and Physics.
- **Computer science** is for people who like to understand how computers work and to learn how develop new programs and systems.
- **Life sciences** is for people who like to ask questions and think about living things and covers areas such as medicine, biology and ecology.
- **Astrophysics** is for people who are fascinated with the universe, stars and space exploration.
- **Earth science** is for people who are interested in soil, rocks, weather and the natural environment.

Science degrees are on the Commonwealth ‘National Priorities’ Band funding level, which means you will contribute a minimum of $4249 per year to your University course (2010). About 12,800 new jobs for science professionals will be created over the next 5 years, with about 4,200 of these in Environmental Science. Demand for Medical Laboratory Scientists and Chemists, Food and Wine Science professionals will also be high.

For more information about science careers, browse through the following links:

VOCATIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

Bachelor of International Tourism: Flinders University in South Australia offers this three year degree. You can undertake one of three streams: Cultural Tourism, Festival and Event Design and Management, and Nature Based Tourism. Domestic and international field placements are compulsory and students gain a firsthand perspective on international tourism, making them better equipped to face the challenges of the industry. The degree is taught from a global perspective; reviewing the economic, environmental and cultural impacts that underpin sustainable tourism. International Tourism graduates can find work in a variety of roles in Australia and overseas. Job titles include Tour Guide, Events and Promotions Officer, Research Assistant,
Tourism Development Officer, and many more. For more information, go to www.flinders.edu.au

Have you considered Surveying? If you enjoy subjects like Math, Science, IT and VISCOM, enjoy being outdoors, would like to travel nationally and globally and earn good money, this is a great career to explore. “Surveyors are needed to assist with: building roads and cities, defining property, finding and mining mineral resources, measuring changes in the earth, understanding waterways, finding ancient ruins and developing Google Earth etc”. If you would like to find out what surveyors do, where you can study surveying, to watch videos and read career profiles, and learn about doing work experience go to www.alifewithoutlimits.com.au

INTERESTED IN HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM?
Have you ever wondered what chefs and managers in the areas of hotel, resort, business, events and tourism actually do? William Blue College of Hospitality Management in Sydney is running a ‘Day in the Life’ program where you can find out about these career areas, have a tour of the facilities and a 5 star hotel, undertake hands on workshops and be served a three course lunch in their award winning restaurant. The event will be held Wednesday 13 April and Cost is $30. To find out more and to book, contact the College at 1300 851 237, www.williamblue.edu.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

INTERESTED IN HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM?

Have you ever wondered what chefs and managers in the areas of hotel, resort, business, events and tourism actually do? William Blue College of Hospitality Management in Sydney is running a ‘Day in the Life’ program where you can find out about these career areas, have a tour of the facilities and a 5 star hotel, undertake hands on workshops and be served a three course lunch in their award winning restaurant. The event will be held Wednesday 13 April and Cost is $30. To find out more and to book, contact the College at 1300 851 237, www.williamblue.edu.au

MARCH EVENTS
• Meet Melbourne, University of Melbourne-Bendigo (31), www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/meetmelbourne
• 29: My Day Nursing/ Paramedics, Charles Sturt University, Bathurst Campus, Contact Judy Walsh to register at infoevents@csu.edu.au

APRIL EVENTS
• ‘Meet Melbourne’, University of Melbourne, Ballarat (6) and Mildura (28), www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/meetmelbourne
• 7: My Day events at Charles Sturt University- Allied Health at Albury-Wodonga and Exercise Science at Bathurst.
• 15: Access all Areas (Year 12 Students only), University of Melbourne, Parkville Campus, http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au
• 15: ‘Talk and Tour’, La Trobe University, www.latrobe.edu.au/study/events
• 18 – 20: Career Focus Days, Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School, 1800 257 360, enquiry@hotelschool.com.au & Australian International Hotel School, 1800 500 307, degree.info@aihns.edu.au
• 21: Art and Design Discovery Day, Swinburne University, www.swinburne.edu.au

THE AGE VCE AND CAREERS EXPO – Caulfield Racecourse
Friday 6th, Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th May 2011

An Exhibitor List has been emailed to each student in Years 9 to 12 advertising this very worthwhile event. If students are interested in attending please see Mr. Castles for free tickets.
We expect a lot of God. In our own way, we all have images of what God is like, what God can do, what God ought to do. Some of those images come from our childhood, some from our joys, others from our disappointments in life—times when God seems to have blessed us or the times when God did not seem to hear or answer us at all. Some have rejected any idea of God at all. It is interesting to ask ourselves to describe how we see God—so many times we hold onto childhood images rather than having an adult relationship with God. At other times our faith can be limited to just ideas, thoughts and concepts, formulas. These can be very useful but not enough—they tell us lots about God but do we take the next step from talking about God to seeking some experience of God. Do we seek to come to know God?

The desire for God is written in the human heart, because each person is created by God and for himself. Only in God will each person find the truth and happiness that they never stop searching for.

Catechism of the Catholic Church #27

The desire for God is within our heart, the place where the Spirit of God is at work, inviting us into friendship, into relationship, helping us discover the God within us, the God in whom we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). The heart is also our hidden centre, where we are most alone with God, where we are most ourselves, the place only the Spirit can know fully. The heart is the place of decision... it is the place of truth... CCC #2563

It is difficult, however, to explain how God satisfies the yearnings of our heart, our yearning for truth and happiness, but it is made easier when we come to experience God’s presence in some way. Each of us is capable of that; each is called to that. We were created, after all, by God and for God. The Spirit is the magnet within us that draws us to God— to value what cannot be seen: the beauty of nature, the generosity of others, the dignity of every other living thing. It draws us on further to a kind of consciousness of the God who is with us and the God who is beyond us. We discover that presence within by going into our inner self, reflecting, praying, just being with God—but this Spirit urges beyond our inner life to make connections with the people and events of our lives. We cannot live a fully human life by living an entirely private life. We are called to move beyond ourselves, to connect with others, to be generous, to foster the capacity to give to others, one’s time, one’s support and even, sometimes, one’s money, without the hope of return. In such selfless giving, we encounter God.

God reaches out in a multitude of ways—we are not always aware of that, we are not always aware of or conscious of God’s invitation. Sometimes we can be resistant, sometimes indifferent, sometimes even hostile, disbelieving. God still seeks us out. The Christian mystics’ legacy, their message to us today is that, even though many of them began with a sense of emptiness, scepticism even, once they experienced God within, this experience was powerful and transformatory. Like them, we do not always experience God as a constant presence. Sometimes we can come to know God in God’s absence. Some of our greatest saints, Mother Teresa among them, experienced terrible absences from God—she and others suffered dreadful periods when they felt abandoned, alone, without faith. But all the while they yearned for something—they were dissatisfied, unfulfilled. They did not miss formulas or theological concepts—rather they hungered for contact with God, although at times they could not name that. Deep down, we all suffer in one way or another from that hunger for God—for meaning, for a spiritual peace. We are all created to know and love God—to be in a relationship with God.

Karl Rahner, perhaps the twentieth century’s greatest theologian, talked about the hunger for God when he said that: ‘The future Christian will be a mystic or he or she will not exist at all’. How on earth can we become mystics? The gift of organised religion today is to create ways to lead people within themselves, to help us find that part of ourselves that is capable of developing faith, that part which needs faith, that part which hungered for God. All of us have that need. Too often we have intellectualised our faith—put it into the head instead of seeking ways to experience the ‘God within’, finding ways to encounter God in this life. The Dutch theologian Erasmus said ‘Called or not called, God is present’—it is up to us, not to make God present, but to become attuned to the presence of God who is already here, already around us.

God never ceases to seek us out, to draw us into friendship. We need to give God a chance—to take some alone time, some Sabbath time in our lives, to think about moments of healing or reconciliation in our lives, to discover or recall the ‘graced’ moments or events in which we have felt the presence of something greater than ourselves. We need to take some time to touch the inner life, appreciating the beauty of nature, the generosity of others, the dignity and wonder of every other living thing. We need to take time to pray, to talk to or just sit with God who is calling us to friendship.

Regards
Jim Quillinan

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Knowing God or Knowing About God (Part 1) 15 March 2011