ISSUE 2-4

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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

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

Our Focus for 2010
Justice and Mercy: Through the Mercy tradition we seek to act with love, fairness, tolerance and compassion to all.

Funding of Catholic Schools

Victorian Government Funding
I must express my disappointment that the recent Victorian 2010/11 Budget contained no new funding for Catholic Schools. It did not deliver fair funding for Catholic schools, of 25% of the cost of education in a government school. While such an announcement would have been ideal this is not a surprising outcome at this time. The new funding agreement signed late last year with the Victorian Government is estimated to increase State Government funding for Victorian Catholic schools, over the next four years, to around 22% of the cost of education in a Victorian government school. Additional funding for students with disabilities and other areas of need was a particular feature of the funding.

Catholic Schools obviously appreciate the additional funding through the agreement. However, our goal remains to obtain an explicit link of 25% of the cost of education in a Victorian government school. The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria has been working on the detail of a sustainable 25% linkage to government school costs with the Department of Education. This work will continue as the State election, on November 27, draws closer.

As you will be aware the Coalition is committed to increasing funding for Catholic schools to 25 per cent of the cost of government school education if it wins the state election. On average, Victorian Catholic schools operate on just 63% of the recurrent government resources available to Victorian government schools, with parents contributing the rest. Catholic schools cater for families from diverse backgrounds, many in poorer socioeconomic areas.

Australian Government Funding
The Federal Government’s review of school funding will be crucial to Federal Government funding for Catholic schools from 2013 onward. As reported a few weeks ago, the Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, announced the members of the panel to conduct the review and released a discussion paper including the panel’s terms of reference. The panel will be led by chairman David Gonski AC, and includes Ken Boston AO, Carmen Lawrence, Kathryn Greiner AO, and Peter Tannock AM.

The panel’s draft terms of reference are open for comment until the end of May. The panel will examine issues about how Australian schools are funded and make recommendations for achieving a school funding system that is transparent, fair, sustainable and effective.

The Deputy Prime Minister has stated that from 2013 no non-government school will receive less funding in dollar terms per student. This statement is equivalent to a funding freeze with the prospect that there will be no government funding to keep pace with increasing salaries or other school costs.
The NCEC and CECV will be seeking assurances from the major political parties. At a minimum, this will include current funding levels indexed against government school costs. Our priority is to ensure funding certainty, at sustainable levels, that protects the autonomy of Catholic schools and school systems without additional regulatory burdens. With the federal election likely to be held between August and October this year, we will need to engage in the election cycle with our local members. To this end I have sought a meeting with Mr David Hawker and Mr Dan Tehan to represent these views and seek their support. I will also do the same when the other candidates for the Federal seat of Wannon are announced.

2009 Annual Report to the School Community
I am pleased to advise that the Mercy Regional College 2009 Annual Report to the School Community is now available on the College Website [www.mercy.vic.edu.au](http://www.mercy.vic.edu.au) and a copy is also available at each campus reception. The report provides details to the community on the following areas:

- Catholic School Culture
- Learning and Teaching
- Student Wellbeing
- Leadership and Management, and
- School Community

Student Achievement
Lewis Taylor has been selected as a member of Schools Sports Victoria’s Australian Football U/15 Team. This team will compete in Perth, from 24th to 31st July. Well done Lewis!

Xavier Darcy has been selected in the 2010 School Sport Victorian Diving and Swimming Teams. The teams will compete in the School Sport Australia Swimming and Diving Championships to be held in Brisbane, from 5th-11th June, this year. Congratulations Xavier!

VCE Exams
The arrangements for the June examination period for all students studying a Unit 3 subject this year are detailed below, along with the Unit 3 Examinations and the General Achievement Test (GAT) timetable for the June examination period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday 8 June</th>
<th>9.00am – 10.45am Biology Exam 1</th>
<th>11.45am – 1.30pm Physics Exam 1</th>
<th>2.45pm – 4.30pm Accounting Exam 1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9 June</td>
<td>9.00am – 10.45am Psychology Exam 1</td>
<td>11.45am – 1.30pm Chemistry Exam 1</td>
<td>2.45pm – 4.30pm Environmental Science Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 10 June</td>
<td>10.00am – 1.15pm General Achievement Test (GAT) For all students completing a Unit 3/4 subject in 2010</td>
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The Unit 3 Examinations will be held at the Uniting Church Hall in Camperdown. Students are required to be at the hall 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the examination. Students are required to wear full school uniform to all examinations.

Year 11 & 12 students who do not have examinations on Tuesday 8th June and Wednesday 9th June are required to be at school as per the normal timetable. Unit 3/4 classes will be running on these days.

Year 11 & 12 students who sit an exam (Biology, Physics, Chemistry & Psychology) will be permitted to have the day off, prior to their exam, for study purposes. However, these students must return to their normal timetabled classes after the conclusion of their exam.

The General Achievement Test (GAT) will be held at Camperdown College and all students who are studying a Unit 3/4 subject this year must sit the GAT. The GAT plays a very important part in the final assessment for VCE. It is used to check that the student’s examinations and student school-assessed coursework have been accurately and fairly marked. It is also used if a student is seriously ill or experiences hardship at the time of an examination.

Students are required to meet outside the Camperdown College Hall 20 minutes prior to the commencement of the GAT and have their name marked off the roll.

At the conclusion of the GAT, all students are to return to Mercy Regional College. Students are not permitted to go down the street for lunch. Upon their return to Mercy Regional College students will gather in the Multi-purpose Room for a presentation by a guest speaker.

The Unit 3 examinations are very important and therefore need to be treated very seriously, which means following strict examination procedures. Students have the VCAA booklet that details all examinations procedures and the times and dates for each examination.

However, a reminder to all students:

- You must accept all directions from supervisors, at all times, without question
- You must **NOT** communicate with any other student in the examination hall
- You cannot leave the hall until the designated time, and
- Correct School Uniform must be worn to all exams.

All Mercy Regional College students are expected to remain for the duration of the exam to ensure that all students have the best possible chance of achieving their best mark. We would be extremely disappointed if students were to leave the examination early.
If students have prepared properly for the examinations they will require the time allocated.

I would like to wish all students the very best for the forthcoming examinations.

**Year 7 to 11 Exams**
A reminder to all families that the examination period for our other students is quickly approaching, with Year 7 to 11 exams commencing in the next few weeks. Exam timetables have been sent home and have also appeared in editions of the newsletter. Words of encouragement for your child may be required at this time, as each student should be in the throes of a consistent revision pattern. This revision would form part of their homework that should be completed each night.

**School Diaries**
An important communication tool between school and parents is the student diary. Each student has been given a diary at the beginning of the year. I would encourage all parents to check their child’s diary to see if notes/message have been written by teachers. Also, parents are encouraged to use the diary to communicate directly with their child’s teacher. The diary is a particularly important tool for our Year 7 – 9 students.

**PTFA Meeting**
The next PTFA Meeting will be held on Monday, 7th June, 2010, at the O’Keeffe Campus. As always, I would encourage all parents to come along and support the wonderful small group of parents who continue to work for the PTFA for the benefit of all students at Mercy Regional College.

**St Colman’s Primary School**
I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the St Colman’s community on the completion of their wonderful renovation works which will be officially opened on Monday. Having seen the completed works, I can attest to the fact that St Colman’s now has outstanding facilities for their students. Congratulations to Michael Saunders and his school community, on such a transformation.

**Year 6 Transition Day**
On Tuesday, we had the pleasure of hosting the Grade Six students from St Colman’s, St Patrick’s and St Thomas’ for the first transition day. All students enjoyed the opportunity of experiencing a day in the life of a secondary school. From all accounts the grade six students enjoyed the opportunity to take part in Home Economics, Science and Information Technology at the O’Keeffe Campus. We look forward to welcoming the grade six students again next term when they will have the day at the McAuley Campus.

**On Track Data**
This week, the On Track Data was released by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. This data indicates the pathways taken by all Victorian students who have completed year 12 in 2009 and adds to the information previously collected since 2003.

The data for Mercy Regional College is summarised in the table below and certainly highlights the diversity of pathways that our graduates successfully pursue after leaving secondary school.

The table below represented the destination of our Year 12 students from 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 12 completers consenting to On Track (Actual Number)</th>
<th>40</th>
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**VTAC Data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tertiary Applications and Offers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary Applicants consenting to On Track (Actual Number)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Offers %</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAFE/VET Offers %</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Tertiary Offer %</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**On Track Survey Data – April 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Education and Training</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University enrolled %</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred %</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAFE/VET enrolled %</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apprentice/Trainee %</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Not in Education and Training**

| Employed % | 3 |
| Looking for Work % | 0 |

**End of Term 2**
Term 2 will conclude on Friday 25th June at 2.10pm. Term 3 will commence for students on Wednesday 14th July, 2010.

The later start to term 3 allows the staff of Mercy Regional College to gather for a two day staff retreat. This retreat is being facilitated by Fr Elio Capra SDB. This time away will provide our staff with a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon our role as Catholic educators working within Catholic Education. It will also be a welcome opportunity to spend some time on the religious dimension of our school.

**Along the Track**
I have attached to this newsletter, for your interest, on page 15, a reflection title “Talking about God” written by Jim Quilinan from the Diocesan Catholic Education Office in Warragul. I hope you enjoy this reading.
Whooping Cough
I wish to advise parents that another case of Whooping Cough has been reported to the College this week. In this situation, students who have been diagnosed with Whooping Cough are only permitted to return to school upon Doctor’s clearance. I would encourage parents to seek immediate medical advice if your son/daughter displays Whooping Cough symptoms. A fact sheet from the Victorian Department of Health is on page 14.

Andrew Watson
PRINCIPAL

Mercy Awards

VCE (Yr 11 & 12) Mercy Award
Sam Carlin and James Glennen, for caring about a fellow student.

Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award
Dominic Adlam, for his outstanding work ethic in Food Technology, helping other students and being prepared to take on extra cleaning duties.

Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award
Ella Clarke and Josh Wilson-Browne Year 7, who both spoke so well at the MRC Information Night

From the Director of Teaching & Learning

CAREER NEWS
James Castles & Lisa Pope

VOCATIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS
Interested in Engineering? RMIT offers a wide range of engineering programs at their TAFE division. They have developed five videos, which cover the following areas of engineering- computer systems/telecommunications, electrical, electronics, electrotechnology and electrotechnology upskilling. This is a high growth industry in need of more skilled and qualified people. To view these videos simply click on the following link: www.rmit.edu.au/engineeringtafe/electrocomms

Environment careers guide: RMIT have developed The Guide to Environmental Careers in Australia 2010. The guide showcases the huge range of career opportunities and suggests ways to identify entry points and career pathways to the environment profession and provides pointers on where to go to get further information. To access the guide, go to www.rmit.edu.au/environmentplanning

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

SW TAFE VET TASTER DAY (for Yr 9/10 students)
If you are interested in studying Vocational Education (VETis) at SW TAFE next year as part of your learning program, there is an opportunity to attend a Taster Day on Friday July 23rd from 10am - 2pm. The studies offered are: Automotive, Community Services (Childcare), Engineering (Metals), Hospitality, Hairdressing OR Makeup, Multimedia, Building, Furniture / Cabinet Making, Fashion, Landscaping, Agriculture and Equine Studies. If you are interested please see Mrs Pope for more information. All registrations of interest need to be submitted by Friday 11th of June.

Please Note. Students are required to make their own arrangements to travel to Warrnambool on the day.

UPCOMING STATE EVENTS
Want to explore careers in health and medical sciences? RMIT are running their annual Health and Medical Sciences Workshop at their Bundoora Campus on Tuesday 29 June between 10am – 4pm. You will be able to participate in hands on workshops exploring biomedical science (anatomy), Chinese medicine,
Folio Preparation Workshop: La Trobe University is running a folio preparation workshop at their Bendigo Campus in the areas of graphic design, photography, painting and drawing and ceramics. These workshops are for students in years 11 and 12 those at TAFE. It is a two-day workshop on 28th and 29th June. “On completion, you will have the skills required to build an impressive professional portfolio and be able to approach a University pre-selection interview with confidence. Contact Jennifer Uren on 03 5444 7969, j.uren@latrobe.edu.au

University of Ballarat: Art & Design Workshop Wednesday 7th July. This workshop is an intense one day workshop, specifically directed at assisting participants to plan and develop a quality folio of artwork to present at an interview for Degree or Diploma courses. Completed application forms and payment must be forwarded to the Arts Academy by Friday 2nd July. For more information: Phone 5327 8605 or email: artsinfo@ballarat.edu.au

Want to explore careers in Electrical and Computer Engineering? RMIT are running their annual Electrical and Computer Engineering Workshop at their City Campus on Wednesday 30 June and Thursday 1 July (identical workshops) between 9.30am - 4pm. You will be able to participate in hands on workshops exploring computer systems, networking and communications, and electrical, biomedical and electronic engineering. Registrations close Wednesday 16 June. For more information contact www.rmit.edu.au/seh/experience

Interested in Nursing and Paramedicine? The Australian Catholic University is running two events you may be interested in attending. 1) University Experience- Nursing and Paramedicine- this event is being held at the Ballarat Campus, 30 June. 2) Be a Student Nurse for a Day- this event is being held Thursday 8 July at the Melbourne Campus. You will find out what it’s like to be a nursing student through participating in hands on workshops, talking to lecturers and nursing students. You will gain insight into nursing careers and you will be able to view the simulated clinical laboratories on campus. For more information on both events, go to www.acu.edu.au/universityexperience

Certificate II in Hairdressing and Make-up This course will provide you with the basic training and skills required for an apprenticeship or pathway into Certificate III in Hairdressing or Beauty Therapy. The course offers daytime attendance and you can enrol now for 2010. To apply for this course or for more information contact the Customer Service Centre at Gordon Institute on 5225 0800 or visit www.gordonatafe.edu.au

JUNE EVENTS

Experience Monash, Nursing, Midwifery & Paramedics (9), Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Nutrition, Dietetics, Radiography (16), Psychology & Behavioural Neuroscience (22), Design, Fine Art & Multimedia (23), www.monash.edu.au/study/events/atmonash

Focus on Melbourne, Uni of Melbourne- Law (8), Environments (10), Arts (16) and Science (22), www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/events

2 and 3: VET For a Day Program, Healesville Sanctuary,

4: Want a career where you live – Deakin Uni Health Expo (Year 11 students only)

www.zoo.org.au/Learning/Programs/Student_Conferences/Careers

16 & 17: Uni Student for a Day, Monash University, Berwick Campus, www.monash.edu.au/events

18: Experience LaTrobe, Albury-Wodonga Campus, www.latrobe.edu.au/study


28: Janet Clark Hall Information Session, University of Melbourne, viceprincipal@jch.unimelb.edu.au

28 & 29: Folio Preparation Workshop, La Trobe Uni, Bendigo Campus, j.uren@latrobe.edu.au


29: Discover Deakin- Deakin University, www.deakin.edu.au

29 & 30: Test Drive Journalism & Test Drive Publicity, Promotion & PR (Berwick Campus), Monash Uni, www.monash.edu.au/events


University Open Days
Please find attached the dates for University Open Days. We would encourage students from Year 10 onwards to show an interest in attending one or two these days to help make career planning easier. More information on TAFE days will be available in the coming weeks.

Australian Catholic University (ACU)

- Melbourne Campus Sun. 15 Aug. (10am-3pm)  
- Ballarat Campus Sun 29 Aug (10am – 3pm)
Curriculum Report
Lisa Pope

As the end of term approaches, our students begin to finish off current areas of study to prepare for their end of semester examinations. For Year 11 and 12 students who have mid-year VCE examinations, this is a very demanding time of the year, as only Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Psychology subjects have mid-year exams, whilst other subjects continue to plough through their studies as normal. The students are very glad when this week is over and so are their teachers!

Our Year 7 - 11 students also have exam weeks and like our Year 12 students, can feel the pressure of the week. End of semester examinations are only one form of assessment that helps teachers and students gain an understanding of where the students are 'at'. For example, it highlights gaps in student learning, but it can also highlight gaps in teaching. The process is a learning curve for both teachers and students. For example, I recently corrected a practice paper for my Year 12 Psychology class.

As I corrected the paper I could see the students struggled with a particular concept. This enabled me to go back to the class and give them greater clarification. The basis of our examinations is to prepare students for their futures, equip them with the skills to revise content, apply their knowledge to unfamiliar situations or examples, work to time and celebrate what they have learnt over the semester.

However, we all need to keep in mind what our students have achieved over this period. We need to celebrate the wonderful displays of work at the O'Keeffe and McAuley campuses, the assignments, the posters, the PowerPoint Presentations, Videos etc our students have produced to demonstrate an understanding of their learning. Students’ artworks, woodwork, media pieces (many currently under construction) are all celebrations of student achievements. We have students building a chicken coop at the Camperdown Presbytery, hospitality and food students producing creative aromas that waft through the school buildings. We need to recognise the work of our school choir and instrumental students who recently shared their talents with the Mercy community during the Feast Day Celebrations, the Year 10 RE class who volunteer in the community; the students who represent our school in either the student representative council or social justice. We continue to celebrate the remarkable talents of our sporting students who have represented the school at high levels of competition. Several of these students continue to amaze us with their ability to balance their schoolwork and demanding training schedules.

Whilst the unit examinations are an important focus for our students and aim to build skills, which enable them to prepare for this style of assessment in the future, they are not the only form of assessment used to determine your child’s ability. We encourage our students to increase their study over this period of time, as preparing for the exams is an equally valid process in skill development. Writing study notes, skills sheets, flash cards, reciting definitions, creating flow charts and yes, those posters plastered over walls, all assist a student’s ability to retain information. Students are encouraged to ask their teachers the format of the exams, relay any concerns and seek assistance early. Find an environment for quiet study, prioritise your time and approach this period with a positive attitude.

The Year 12 exam period begins on Tuesday, 8th June until Thursday 10th June – finalising in the GAT. Best of Luck to all students over this demanding period!

Cyber-bullying
Lisa Pope

Today’s technology instantly allows children to communicate with each other in both positive and negative ways. The Internet has created a whole new world of social communications for young people who are using e-mail, Web sites, instant messaging, chat rooms and text messaging, to stay in touch with friends.
and to make new ones. Education is now relying on many of these technologies to provide other mechanisms of communication between our students/parents and teachers.

However, following the article of digital literacy, we must recognize that some members of society are using this form of technology to bully others.

This article, I hope, provides some information for both parents and students to protect themselves from such forms of harassment.

Cyber-bullying includes all communications that seek to threaten, humiliate, intimidate, control or put another person down. Cyber-bullying is an intentional, repeated behavior by an individual, or group, to cause distress or undue pressure to another using technology. Cyber-bullying opens the door to 24-hour harassment through computers, cell phones, gaming consoles, or other Internet-enabled means. (ACMA).

Examples of cyber bullying behavior are:
- teasing and being made fun of
- spreading of rumours online
- sending unwanted messages
- defamation

Schools and families need to work together to make sure that students use technology appropriately and are equipped to form positive relationships. We need to be vigilant and look for signs of online-bullying, for example, your child is online and he/she becomes upset or is reluctant to go to school.

Is your child’s behavior changing? Document the time they are spending online (this could be more or less). Are your mobile phone or Internet bills increasing?

Prevention is one way to protect our children from such forms of harassment.

- **Keep the family computer in a central location** (even video games, if they have internet connectivity).
- **Keep personal information, passwords, P.I.N numbers secret.** This includes your name, the names of friends or family, your address, phone number, school name (or team name if you play sports). Personal info also includes pictures of yourself and your e-mail address.
- **Don’t believe everything you see or read online** - just because someone tells you that they are 15 doesn’t mean they are telling the truth.
- **Use Netiquette** - Be polite to others online just as you would off-line. If someone treats you rudely or meanly - do not respond. Online bullies are just like off-line bullies - they WANT you to respond (don’t give them the satisfaction).
- **Don’t send a message to someone else when you are angry or hurt** - Wait until you have calmed down and had time to think. Try to send messages that are factual and not emotional or later on you will regret sending the message. Once you’ve sent a message, it is VERY hard to undo the damage it may create.

- **Don’t open a message from someone you don’t know** - If in doubt check with an adult first.
- **Trust your instincts** - If it doesn't look or feel right, then it probably isn’t. If you find something that you don’t like, or makes you feel uncomfortable turn the application off and tell an adult.
- **Take time out** - The virtual world can make you accessible 24/7 if you let it! Take time out from being online and spend quality time face to face with your friends and family.

**What to do if someone is cyber-bullying your child?**
- Do not reply to messages from cyber-bullies (this is what they want, it is a form of control, don’t allow them to have it).
- Act immediately. Your child needs to know that you can and will help. Don’t wait to see if the abuse will stop.
- Every effort should be made to find the cyber-bully and hold him or her accountable. Report bullying to your Internet or Mobile Service Provider as these companies usually have procedures to assist in these cases, such as blocking the messages.
- Save the evidence. Save text messages, e-mails, voice messages and other evidence of cyber-bullying in case the authorities need it.
- Get help from technology. Turn on the safety features available in most programs and services such as anti-virus, spy ware, a firewall and filters. Free Internet content filters are available at [www.netalert.gov.au](http://www.netalert.gov.au)
- Report to the school if the bullying is occurring amongst students. Report to the police if the incidents are threatening.

**We all need to contribute to stopping this form of bullying**
- Do not tolerate it! If you know about cyber bullying happening to a friend or student, support them by reporting the bullying. You would want them to do the same for you.
- Don’t become part of the cycle. Do not forward messages or pictures that may be offensive or upsetting to someone. Even though you may not have initiated it, resending or forwarding messages will include you in the cyber bullying cycle.
- Remember, treat others as you would like to be treated yourself.

Please note; the material used in this article has been adapted from the Australian Communications Media Authority (ACMA), Netalert and Cybersmart Resources. All three have helpful websites and are supported by government bodies. [http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/) [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) [www.netalert.gov.au](http://www.netalert.gov.au)
Sports Report
Mr James Castles

Victoria’s Australian Football U/15 Team
Lewis Taylor has been selected as a member of Schools Sports Victoria’s Australian Football U/15 Team.
This team will compete in Perth from 24th to 31st July.
Lewis' costs will be $1500.
To assist with the cost he will be selling raffle tickets. I am sure that any financial support you can provide through buying raffle tickets would be greatly appreciated.

Well done Lewis!

Indoor Bowls
Last week, students from Year 7-10 participated in Indoor Bowls which was provided by the Camperdown Indoor Bowls Association. All students had a fantastic time learning new skills from local players from around the district.

On behalf of the students and the staff at Mercy Regional College a big thank you must go to Ron Absalom for organising the event and the Coaches for taking the time to teach our students the game of Indoor Bowls.

Congratulations must also go to Lily Smethurst for her outstanding achievement. She has been named in the Victorian Indoor Bowls Team. The team will travel to Shepparton, in August, to take part in the Australian Championships.

Well done Lily!

Battle of the Bands Report
Luke Bourchier

Darkness covered the stadium, but for the lone stage front and centre, responsible for showcasing the astonishing talent of some of Mercy's best musicians at the ‘Battle of the Bands’ on Monday, May 24th. The musicians varied in experience from several years playing together, to the very first time performing at all!

After lunch, the students filed into the stadium where the first band awaited. Libby Steel stunned the excited audience on vocals, singing Powderfinger’s ‘On My Mind’ and the classic, ‘Proud Mary’. Andrew Kinnear and Tim Van der Schans controlled the guitar section, with Louis Hickey looking comfortable on drums.

The next band to perform consisted of six students from Year 8. With ‘Zombie’ and ‘Not Pretty Enough’ on the set list, they gave their all, impressing onlookers, and received a grand reception. A gutsy effort!

Calm filled the stadium again as Thomas Lenehan and Joseph Battistello launched into two classic rock hits, ‘Sweet Home Alabama’ and ‘Long Way to the Top’. A last minute inclusion, Sam Carlin, fronted the band on vocals. With Thomas looking comfortable and Joseph giving the crowd its first taste of a drum solo, their performance gained in momentum and ended on a strong note.

The crowd then was graced with opportunity to witness a true up-and-coming star on the guitar, Henry Kissick, supported by his brother Caleb and Steven Cornelissen. Henry displayed all kinds of tricks, perfected difficult guitar riffs and looked completely sure of himself the entire time. A jaw-dropping performance!

“The Havocs” – Joe Gleeson, Daniel Unwin and Matt Moloney came together in an accomplished unit to bring two modern hits to the crowd, ‘Coca-cola’ and ‘Little Lion Man’. With all the credentials of a professional band, the trio gave an energy-filled performance that had the audience in rapture.

Sam Carlin returned solo as the last of the competitors in the battle. On the six-string acoustic, he showed off an original song in style, ‘By the Sea’, for which the audience was very appreciative.

With the judges collaborating tirelessly to finalise the results, two performances formed the grand finale of the event. Ten members of staff attempted ‘Mustang Sally’, welcomed by James Castles adding a tribal aspect to the song on his didgeridoo.

The event was closed with Joe Gleeson and Callum Humphrys on a drum kit, each playing in unison, exchanging fills where one could not help but tap the foot along.

All competitors deserve huge congratulations, not only for entering, but for entertaining an eager audience. An extra congratulation goes to the boys from “The Havocs” for winning the competition and a very big thank-you to all who helped in the organisation of the event.

Included are a few photos of students performing in the “Battle of the Bands”, however, there are lots more photos and these can be viewed on the College website.
**Term 2**

**Monday 7th June**
PTFA Meeting @ 7.30pm O’Keeffe Campus

**Tuesday 8th June**
VCE Exams

**Wednesday 9th June**
- VCE Exams
- Year 7 & 8 Exams

**Thursday 10th June**
- General Achievement Test (GAT)
- Year 7, 8 & 10 Exams

**Friday 11th June**
Report Writing Day – no students

**Monday 14th June**
Queen’s Birthday Holiday

**Tuesday 15th June**
Year 9 & 11 Exams

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

**Thursday 17th June**
Year 11 Exams

**Wednesday 23rd June**
Ministry Retreat (Melbourne)

**Thursday 24th June**
Ministry Retreat (Melbourne)

**Friday 25th June**
Term 2 concludes

**Term 3**

**Monday 12th July**
Staff Retreat

**Tuesday 13th July**
Staff Retreat

**Wednesday 14th July**
Term 3 commences

**Monday 19th July**
VCE Subject Selection Evening for Year 10 students @ 7.30pm McAuley Campus

**Tuesday 20th July**
Board Meeting @ 7.30pm

**Wednesday 21st July**
“Parenting Teens” Evening 7.30pm O’Keeffe Campus

**Tuesday 27th July**
Unit 2 Outdoor Ed Snow Camp commences

**Friday 30th July**
Unit 2 Outdoor Ed Snow Camp concludes

**Monday 2nd August**
PTFA Meeting @ 7.30pm McAuley Campus

**Monday 9th August**
Mid Term Break

**Wednesday 11th August**
- Grade Six Transition @ McAuley Campus
- Year 10 Boys Retreat
- Thomas Carr Exchange

**Thursday 12th August**
- Year 10 Boys Retreat
- Year 10 Girls Retreat
- Thomas Carr Exchange

**Friday 13th August**
- Year 10 Girls Retreat
- Thomas Carr Exchange

**Tuesday 17th August**
Board Meeting @ 7.30pm

**Wednesday 18th August**
- Year 7 2011 Enrolment Interviews @ McAuley Campus
- Careers Information Evening at Cobden – 6.30pm

**Thursday 19th August**
Year 7 2011 Enrolment Interviews @ O’Keeffe Campus

**Wednesday 25th August**
HCSN Combined Boards Dinner @ MRC 7.00pm for 7.30pm

**Friday 27th August**
Frayne Speech Festival

**Monday 6th September**
PTFA Meeting @ 7.30pm O’Keeffe Campus

**Thursday 16th September**
Year 12 Trial English Exam

**Friday 17th September**
Term 3 concludes

**Monday 20th September**
Central Australia Trip commences

**Wednesday 29th September**
Central Australia Trip concludes
Wanted
Recycled Corrugated Iron!

The Mercy Regional College VCAL class is searching for free corrugated iron to build the schools’ kitchen garden at Father Matthew’s house. If you could help the class with materials, please contact Miss Sarah Hinkley at the College.

CUB Excursion Report
Luke Bourchier - Business Management Teacher

On Tuesday, 25th of May, the Year 12 Business Management class braved the morning chill to catch the train to Melbourne to visit the Carlton Brewhouse, to learn about the operations process of a large manufacturer.

We arrived and donned the safety jackets to ready ourselves. The tour took us through the production area where the beer is made and the bottling area where the beer is packaged. Only after seeing this process in action do you get a real appreciation for the complexity of automated manufacturing.

The tour proved very beneficial for the students, firming their knowledge about the process of how raw materials undergo transformation to become a finished product.
Access All Areas is an event especially designed for Year 10 – 12 students and their families, offering a personalised insight into the University of Melbourne.

Whether you’re an international or Australian student, studying locally, interstate or in regional Victoria, join us at the Parkville campus and enjoy the opportunity to gather information and talk to University staff about all aspects of studying and life at Melbourne.

Find out about:

- Courses and careers including the Melbourne Model study options and graduate pathways
- Unique opportunities to enrich your degree such as studying a concurrent diploma, going on exchange or participating in community involvement activities
- Admissions and entry requirements
- Access Melbourne and Melbourne Scholarships
- Accommodation options
- Student Services and Transition programs

Program schedule

Date:
Friday 9 April 2010
Friday 9 July 2010 (repeat session)

Time and venue:
The events will be held at the Parkville campus from 9:00am to 2:00pm (followed by 30 minute residential college tours for registered participants).

A map and program details will be emailed to registered participants.

Cost and registration:
Admission is free but places are limited. Please register as early as possible to secure a place.

Register now online via:
www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/accessallareas

Registration for the 9 July event will be available online in May via: www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/accessallareas

Further information and queries
For further information about Access All Areas, please contact us:

Toll Free: 1800 801 862 (within Australia)
Tel: (03) 8344 6543
Fax: (03) 9349 1291
Email: via http://unimelb.custhelp.com

Disclaimer
The information in this publication was correct at the time of printing. The University reserves the right to make changes as appropriate. As details may change, you are encouraged to visit the University’s website or contact the University of Melbourne’s Information Centre to obtain the latest information.
What is whooping cough?

Whooping cough is a highly contagious disease caused by the bacteria Bordetella pertussis and is spread by droplets from coughing and sneezing to 70-100% of susceptible household contacts and 50-80% of susceptible school contacts. Susceptible people are those who are either unvaccinated or have waning immunity since childhood vaccines. Whooping cough is particularly serious in infants under 12 months of age, while older children and adults usually have a milder disease.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms may vary for different ages but initial symptoms are usually similar to a cold. Severe cases develop sudden attacks of repetitive coughing and often a characteristic ‘whoop’ as the person gasps for breath. Not all cases get the ‘whoop’. Babies may stop breathing (apnoea). Vomiting often follows a coughing spasm. A person with whooping cough is infectious for up to three weeks after they start coughing. The cough may last for months.

Who should be immunised?

Babies are at risk from birth as no pertussis protection is passed from mother to newborn infant. Complete immunisation of children and new parents remains the most effective measure to control whooping cough. Pertussis vaccination is offered as part of the government-funded immunisation program for children at 2, 4, 6 months, at 4 years and in year 10 of secondary school (or 15 years of age).

People become immune either through pertussis immunisation or by catching the disease itself, but protection is not life long and begins to wane after 6-10 years. Sometimes immunised people still contract pertussis, but they are likely to have a less severe illness and may not have the typical whoop.

Adult pertussis booster vaccines (combined with diphtheria and tetanus) are recommended for the following groups who have previously completed a primary (childhood) course of vaccine:

- Adults before planning pregnancy or for both parents as soon as possible after birth
- Adults working with or caring for very young babies, especially health-care workers and child-care workers
- Any adult wishing to protect themselves against whooping cough

Pertussis-containing vaccines licensed for use in Australia are Adacel® orBoostrix®.

It is important to note that Boostrix® is only provided free to adolescents in Year 10 (or age equivalent). Since June 2009 booster vaccine is provided free to parents of new babies. Whilst pertussis booster vaccine is strongly recommended for the other groups outlined, it is not funded. All parents with children under eight years of age are urged to check their child’s immunisations and catch up any missed doses if necessary with their doctor or council immunisation program.

What if my child has whooping cough?

If your child has whooping cough, they should not attend school, pre-school, day-care or similar settings where there are young children and infants for 21 days from onset of coughing or until they have received at least the first 5 days of a course of antibiotics. If your child has been coughing for more than 21 days, they are no longer infectious and can go back to school or child-care. In these circumstances, antibiotic treatment is not usually needed.

What about others who may be in contact with someone who has whooping cough?

Household members and very close contacts of someone with whooping cough may also be infectious. If you think you or your child may have whooping cough, please consult your doctor as soon as possible. There are tests available (either a swab taken from the nose/throat or a blood test) to determine if you have whooping cough.

Antibiotics are not always recommended and should only be given within 14 days after last contact with the infectious case (for infants <12 months within 21 days after last contact). Antibiotics rarely prevent other people from getting whooping cough and their use should be limited to household or institutional (eg hospital) contacts at high risk that have had direct contact with an infectious case. High risk contacts are e.g. infants <12 months of age, pregnant women in the last 4 weeks of pregnancy and people with suppressed immune function.

Can my child go to school?

Children less than 7 years of age who have not received 3 doses of a pertussis containing vaccine should be excluded from school/children’s services centres if they were in the same room with an infectious case. Exclusion is for 14 days after the last exposure to the infectious case, or until they have taken 5 days of a course of effective antibiotic treatment.

For further information, please contact the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit at the Department of Health on 1300 65 11 60.

February 2010
ATHLETES WANTED

Do you have a strong desire to achieve at the highest level? Do you live, attend school or are registered and competing in a club within the five funding shires of SWAS (Southern Grampians, Warrnambool, Moyne, Glenelg & Corangamite)?

The South West Academy of Sport (SWAS) is a not for profit administrative body supported by state and local government along with state sporting bodies & corporate partners to provide funding for coaching, education and services to promising South West athletes. In August SWAS will induct athletes for 12 month ongoing contracts in all Sports. Do you meet the following criteria?

Golf Applicants
✓ Must be aged between 12 and 17 on July 1, 2010
✓ Must have minimum handicap girls 39, boys 20
✓ Must be a member of a regional club
✓ Must attend trial if requested

The MBO Financial Group Golf Squad program objective is for athletes to achieve state colts or VIS squad selection.

Cycling Applicants
✓ Must be eligible for U13, U15, U17 or U19 categories on July 1, 2010
✓ Must be willing to follow a training program
✓ Must be registered with a cycling club holding a VCI licence
✓ Selection based on performance/results

The Bicycle Superstore Cycling Squad program objective is to provide a pathway for regional cyclists to State & National Representation.

Table Tennis Applicants
✓ At least 10 years of age and eligible for U13, U15, U18 or U21 age categories on 1 January 2011
✓ Successful performance at the National, State, Region, Club or School level
✓ Able to attend a try out session in Portland, Hamilton or Warrnambool if requested

The South West TAFE Table Tennis program objective is to provide a pathway for regional players to State & National Representation.

Other Sports
✓ Applicants must be 12 years or older on 1st July, 2010
  (Exceptions will be made for age exemption sports i.e. gymnastics)
✓ Applicants should already be competing at State, National or International levels
  (Exceptions may be made for some sports)
✓ Must be competing in a sport recognised by Sport & Recreation Victoria

All other sports (Individual Athletes) objective is to eliminate the need for travel for essential services

Athletics intake September 2010, Tennis intake December 2010

For Further information and application forms visit www.swas.org.au
Enquiries phone 5564 8567 or 0400 076 469 or attend one of our information sessions in June

Applications close Friday June 25, 2010

Information Sessions
Camperdown – Tuesday June 15, 5.30 pm Killara Centre Manifold Street (Next to library)
Hamilton – Wednesday June 16, 5.30 pm Martin Hynes Auditorium behind Melville Oval
Warrnambool – Thursday June 17, 5.30 pm South West TAFE Timor Street Level 3 Room 3.25
Portland – Friday June 18, 5.30 pm Reception Room Glenelg Shire Offices Portland
Along the track

Talking About God

In an article in one of our daily newspapers some time ago, the regular columnist decided to write about God “even though I am sitting here wondering why I would want to take another battering.” She goes on to recount that she receives so much mail, even hate mail if ever she dares to include the word ‘God’ in her column. According to a bishop she consulted, writing about God or religion makes a lot of people very nervous! God, religion, faith, belief can certainly provoke some negative reactions these days but perhaps ‘believers’ need to ask themselves why?

Perhaps talking about God should make us nervous because no words, no formula, no title can ever adequately describe God. Talking about mystery is always difficult – trying to talk about Ultimate Mystery is well nigh impossible. We use words to try to describe how we see the action of God but even they are inadequate. God is love, according to John (1 Jn 4:18) – not one who loves but Love itself. Jesus’ stories describe God as self giving love – the story of the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan are vivid descriptions of God who loves – as one who forgives, who breaks down barriers, who goes the extra mile for another, even though that person is a stranger and even considered to be untouchable. The word God is closer to verb than a noun!

People of the Jewish faith never speak the word “God” – it is simply too sacred and, one suspects, too inadequate to encompass all we know or all that God is. Their stories of God’s intervening in their history, their stories of God’s dealings with them, their images of God are rich and inviting – but they are still inadequate because God remains mystery. One of the great gifts of the Jewish faith, however, is their understanding of God as ‘invitation’. ‘God is love’ and ‘God is invitation’ have immense implications for how we present God, how we write about or speak about God, to how we celebrate our liturgies, to how we reach out to those who don’t share our beliefs, to how we teach our children.

John’s Gospel starts by describing the love that is God’s very nature: God’s relationship as Father, Son, and Spirit is the key thought that Jesus reveals to us about God. We should not only think of God as person but also relationship between persons – isn’t that what we mean when we say “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”? In addition, God has reached out to us in Jesus who became one of us. Why? To invite us into that relationship!

What kind of invitation did Jesus issue? Jesus disturbed others because of his love, his invitation was so inclusive. He reached out to sinners and those

considered unclean or worthy. He dined with outcasts and undesirables. He cleansed the temple in a way that was meant to show that people no longer had to go through the intermediaries to get to God, taking control of that away from the established authorities. He made God and God’s love accessible, even encouraging us to use the intimate, family term for God, ‘Abba’. It was the nearest way Jesus could describe God for us – God is like the father in a family. He also told us that He himself is like God – when you look at me and what I do, you see what God is like. But he upset people, important people. They were jealous of him and his influence. The kind of love he shared, the way he lived ultimately brought about his downfall – some people could simply not accept that this image of God was so appealing and so inclusive. Surely God could not love everyone – what was the point of the laws and regulations, the strict observances, the need for ritual cleanliness if God still loved everyone but more importantly, if God did not love them more.

Too often, however, the God we describe is laden with fear, even exclusivity. Surely we deserve to be loved more, we think, after all we are believers, we have been faithful to our religious duties. We have tried to do God’s will but sometimes ‘doing God’s will’ has overtones of a manipulative God who has a master plan to which we must all conform. If we pray even harder, God might hear us. But what we often call ‘God’s will’ is really ours? It comes from how we think God ought to act. That comes from our own fears, our own wounds, from our hardness of heart. It comes from our inability to really accept just how generous God can be. Sometimes others appear to be more blessed and they don’t seem to have lived or been as faithful as us! That can lead us to make extraordinary claims on behalf of God – that bushfires or earthquakes or famine or disease are punishments from God, not only because of a strange idea we may have of God but because we consider that some people need to be punished!

It is not surprising that this columnist attracts so much of a battering whenever God is included because we like to think we know all there is to know about God. It disturbs us if we feel that we cannot put God in a category, that we do not know what God expects, that God does not live up to our expectations, as it were. We don’t like Mystery! We find it difficult to live with the Unexpected, the Unpredictable, the Unknown!

Regards
Jim Quilliman

Phone: 0401 933 033
Email: jquilliman@dsci.net.au

Talking About God

25 May 2010
Parenting Young Adolescents

A seminar for parents of 10–14 year olds

Helping your adolescent understand and cope better with the challenges of early adolescence.

- provides information on adolescent development.
- builds a strong relationship with their young adolescents.
- includes: adolescent development, boundary setting, parental self-care.

During the session, parents have the opportunity to discuss strategies and ideas.

WHERE: O’Keeffe Campus of Mercy Regional College

When: Wednesday 21st July 2010

Time: 7.00pm

Cost: Gold Coin Donation – Supper In

Contact: Chris Maloney 5592 2017 or
Mercy Regional College 5592 5353

Registration is essential

centcare

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Venturer Scouts

Young people aged 15 to 17

Each Venturer Unit meets weekly

Decide your own activities together and then make them happen

Camping, canoeing, rock climbing, hiking, citizenship and leadership

Opportunities for National and International events

Venturer Units across Victoria

Rovers

Adults 18 to 25

Each Rover Crew meets weekly

Self-governing groups at a local, state and national level

Lots of challenge and adventure

Advanced leadership and organisational skills

Almost limitless activities

Practical Scouting skills

Lots of fun, friendly and social activities

Both locally and on a larger scale

Scout Groups in Victoria

Variety of Scout Groups throughout the State

Leaders undergo security checks

Contact: Annette Mulhallan
DC: Emu
A. 5595 4337
Email: t.mulhallan@com.a

www.vincoast.com.au

Scout Centre (03) 5545 8802 (Office hours)

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Scouting is alive and well, and there is ample opportunity to participate

- Age 6 and up
- Teenagers and young adults
- Both males and females
- Fantastic value and great fun
- Adult can help (as leader, or behind the scenes in varying capacities)