ISSUE 3-2

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.

From the Canonical Administrators
Re: Dr Andrew Watson

To the Staff, Students and Community of Mercy Regional College,
I write to you on behalf of Fr Eugene McKinnon and myself as Canonical Administrators of the Mercy Regional College to inform you that during the week I accepted the resignation of Dr Watson as our College Principal effective from January 2011.
Dr Watson has been the Principal of the College for the past six years. He is at the end of his contract and he has been appointed Principal of Thomas Carr College in Melbourne commencing in 2011. Over the past six years he has been a great leader and influential person within our College community and the local community. We thank him for his work here and wish him well.
The process to select the next Principal of Mercy Regional College has begun with the position being advertised in The Age this Saturday. An appointment of a new Principal should hopefully be announced before the end of this term.
Once again we thank Dr Watson for all he has offered to the College and his genuine concern for all the staff and student in his care.

Fr Matthew Thomas PP Camperdown and Canonical Administrator.

Federal Election Update
It is emerging that there are clear differences between the undertakings of the Labor Party and the Coalition in terms of funding for Catholic schools beyond 2012. The major issue at the moment is based around a commitment to the continuing indexation of funding for Catholic schools.

If Catholic schools do not have a commitment to the indexation of funding, it will simply mean that our schools will have less funding and the consequence can only be increased school fees for our families.

The Federal coalition has promised to continue indexation of funding for non-government schools. To date, the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard and the Education Minister, Simon Crean, have failed to commit to the continuing indexation of funding even after meeting, last week, with members of the National Catholic Education Commission in Melbourne.

In the “Weekend Australian”. Simon Crean was still not prepared to make this commitment and he confirmed that non-government schools should not assume they would have their funding maintained, in real terms, by a re-elected Gillard government.

The Green’s policy is to return a significant part of Catholic school funding to 2003 levels. This would mean a significant drop in government funding for Catholic schools. Schools would have no choice to respond to this drop in funding.

There is now a real difference in terms of education policy between the two parties and the choice for Catholic School parents has become evident.

Late News
On Wednesday, the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, has granted a one year extension to the current funding agreement which will guarantee existing grants and indexation until 2013. Capital funding is guaranteed until 2014.
I have written to the following candidates for Wannon, Mr Dan Tehan (Liberal candidate), Ms Judith McNamara (Labor candidate), and Ms Lisa Owen (Greens candidate), inviting them to visit the College and discuss the future funding of Catholic Schools.

I have attached to this newsletter further information for your consideration:

- Article from the *National Catholic Education Commission* on page 13.
- Draft letter for parents to write or email to their local federal MP and candidates on page 14.
- Media Statement from the *Bishops Commission for Catholic Education* on page 15.
- A press release from the *Catholic Education Office Melbourne* in relation to the misleading information on funding of non-government schools from the Australian Education Union (AEU) on page 16.

Also listed below are the six key commitments that Catholic Schools and Systems are seeking from the major political parties to ensure that Catholic Education is sustainable.

The other educational issue that has been raised and debated in this election campaign is the Education Tax Rebate for families in receipt of Family Tax Benefit A. The Government’s plan extends the rebate to include school uniforms. The Opposition’s plan increases the rebate and extends it, to include school fees and other school-related expenses.

While these are potentially important initiatives to assist parents financially, the most significant issue in the election for Catholic education is continued fair and certain funding.

**Sustaining Catholic Education In Australia Into The Future**

Election 2010 commitments sought from political parties include:

1. Catholic schools and systems have a direct relationship with the Commonwealth Government, underpinned by legislation. Catholic schools and systems are a large and genuinely national enterprise, educating one in five Australian children. They, therefore, require a solid basis for funding certainty - a direct relationship through Commonwealth legislation.

2. Catholic schools and systems from 2013 have, at the very least, access to the same funds, indexed to government school costs, as currently available. To allow schools and school systems to survive, general, recurrent and targeted program-funds for Catholic schools and systems, in 2013, must be at least the same level of funds, indexed, as currently allocated.

3. Catholic systems have the capacity to distribute funds to schools according to need. Catholic systems must be able to retain their well-established structures to allocate funds in a flexible, responsive and transparent manner to best meet the needs of schools and students.

4. Funding levels must be indexed annually, using a transparent mechanism, to ensure that Catholic schools and systems are able to meet the rising costs of education. Indexation must be linked to government school recurrent costs via an index that measures rising costs and expectations.

5. Funding for students with disabilities must be increased towards parity with government school funding. The number of children with a disability, enrolled at Catholic schools, is rising substantially. Increased funding is required to ensure that these students are able to be educated to an excellent standard with appropriate dignity and respect.

6. Capital funding should be increased for educationally disadvantaged communities and areas of population growth. Catholic schools and systems are committed to serving students from educationally disadvantaged communities and from fast-growing communities and therefore seek increased capital funding to provide facilities and resources in these areas.

**Additional Facts about Catholic Education**

To assist with any discussion you may be having in the coming month with candidates, for this election, about the funding of Catholic Education, I have provided below some facts about Catholic Education that may prove useful.

**Catholic schools do more with less.**

Catholic schools have been providing a quality education for Australian children for over 180 years. There are 1700 Catholic schools in Australia, with an enrolment of almost 704,000 students. One in five Australian school students is educated in a Catholic school. In the upcoming funding debate and the Federal Election it is important to know this essential fact:

*When all forms of government funding are considered (that is, both federal and state), Catholic school students receive substantially less funding per student than government school students.*

As parents, teachers, students and friends of the Catholic schools sector, you are aware that some of this gap is made up by contributions from parents and parishes through fees and levies. However, Catholic schools strive to keep fees low so that schools remain accessible to all. No child is ever denied a Catholic education because of their family’s financial situation. Even when parent contributions are taken into account, on average, Catholic schools operate at about 85 per
The Catholic education sector believes that this principle should be strongly supported in the 2010 Election. The Federal Education Funding Review must begin its work based on this general principle. In this way, the Review can deliver a truly fair outcome for all students, whether they attend a government school, an independent school, or a Catholic school. Students should not be penalised, in terms of government funding, because their parents choose to send them to a Catholic school which will provide them with a first class education steeped in the Catholic faith and ethos. Importantly, future parents must have the same capacity, as current and earlier generations of parents, to exercise their freedom of choice in schooling. Importantly, future parents must have the same capacity, as current and earlier generations of parents, to exercise their freedom of choice in schooling.

Religious freedom paramount to Catholic schools.
Commonwealth and State Government funding arrangements have always respected the identity, integrity and autonomy of the Catholic school.

The ability of Catholic schools to infuse their curriculum and school life with the Catholic faith and to form students in the Catholic ethos is fundamental to the mission of Catholic education.

An essential outcome of the Funding Enquiry must be that funding, compliance and accountability requirements support, rather than hinder or compromise, the authenticity or autonomy of the Catholic school. The major political parties must support this principle in the 2010 Election. In this way, Commonwealth and State Governments will continue to actively support and encourage parental freedom of school choice for their children.

Election undertakings must guarantee funding security for Catholic schools. The Government funding review must deliver funding certainty.

Catholic schools and school systems are a large and genuinely national enterprise, educating one in five Australian children. As such, they require a solid basis for funding certainty, set in Commonwealth legislation.

A key outcome of the funding review must be that Catholic schools and systems have a direct relationship with the Commonwealth Government, underpinned by legislation.

Furthermore, Catholic schools and systems have built an enviable reputation for being able to effectively disperse Government funds across the sector according to the areas of greatest need. In any new funding system, Catholic schools and systems must be able to continue allocating funds in a flexible, responsive and transparent manner, to best meet the educational and personal needs of students. To ensure an ability to meet the rising costs of education, funding levels must be indexed annually, using a transparent mechanism. And, because education costs rise at a rate greater than the Consumer Price Index, indexation must be linked to government school recurrent costs via a cost of schooling price index.

Students with disability must be supported.
Catholic schools at all times seek to respect and nurture the God-given human dignity of all their students. Students with disability are therefore especially welcomed into Catholic school communities, where all possible resources are directed towards helping these students to reach their full potential.

This ethos is reflected in enrolments, with the fastest growing category of students in Catholic schools from 1985 to 2008 are those with disability. In 2009, there were 24,805 students with disability in Catholic schools which saw an increase of 1,590 students from the previous year. To ensure that Catholic schools can continue to provide the best care and resourcing for the growing numbers of students with disability, a significant increase in Commonwealth funds for these students is required. All political parties and the Federal Funding Review must recognise and support this growing trend in Catholic schools in arriving at any new funding mechanism.

Catholic schools committed to serving those facing disadvantage.
Catholic schools are committed to serving the poor, the marginalised and those students and families who face particular challenges, particularly in relation to disadvantage. The Church’s own research shows that Catholic schools need more financial help from governments to remain a viable option from families that struggle financially. Bishops and Catholic educators are determined to seek out ways to redress this situation and to ensure that Catholic schools are able to reclalm their centuries-old reputation for serving students facing disadvantage.
One important area where student enrolments have been increasing is in relation to Indigenous students. There were 14261 Indigenous students in Catholic schools in 2009, a rise of 735 students from the previous year and a rise of more than 2000 students in the last decade.

_in the upcoming election campaign, Catholic schools and school systems are seeking increased capital funding to provide facilities and resources to assist in serving students from educationally disadvantaged communities as well as areas of high population growth._

Catholic schools set the standard for delivery of Government funding.
Catholic schools and school systems have developed a reputation for having low levels of bureaucracy and a high commitment to funding transparency. Catholic school systems deliver value for money. A comparatively decentralised system means that funds flow to where they are most needed, with a minimum of bureaucratic wastage. The Catholic sector offers a model in this regard for discussion in the Federal Funding Review. The Catholic model relies on significant parent support. Catholic schools and school systems are also committed to transparency and accountability. They will continue to report, as agreed, on national output/performance parameters, through the appropriate authorities. They will continue to be financially accountable to governments, parents and the Church community.

In supporting Catholic education, the Federal Education Funding Review will also be supporting the employment and vocation of teachers and other school employees

_Catholic schools - giving back to the community._

Any debate on the amount of public money received by Catholic schools and school systems must also recognise what Catholic schools give back to their local communities in a variety of ways. Catholic schools are a national asset, educating children at substantially less cost per student than public schools, even when parent contributions are taken into account.

_and, while Catholic schools offer a good return for the taxpayer’s dollar, they also encourage their students to give something back to their community._

A key platform of the Catholic ethos in education is that Catholic schools educate young people in the notion of service and instil a commitment to social justice. They encourage practical action in social justice through a range of school-based programs. These can range from high school students being part of the local Vinnies night patrol service for homeless people, to younger students taking part in environmental conservation programs in their community, or visiting the elderly in nursing homes. Support for Catholic schools translates into support for local communities.

_Congratulations_

Last week, I received a letter from the Cobden & Camperdown Community Bank congratulating a number of our students for assisting with the Bank’s Birthday celebrations. Margaret McDonald, Company Secretary writes:

"Your students were a delight to have as assistants. They are to be commended on their good manner and courtesy shown to everyone as well as the expertise they displayed in carrying out the duties required"

Congratulations to Rachael Hickey, Lizzie Smith, Emily Kemp and Emily Walsh.

_Along the Track_

I have attached to this newsletter, for your interest, on page 12, a reflection titled “The Courage of Faith Part 1” written by Jim Quilinan from the Diocesan Catholic Education Office in Warragul. I hope you enjoy this reading.
**Dinny Ryan's Funeral**

As most of the school community would be aware we celebrated the life of Mr. Dinny Ryan last week with a very moving and fitting Requiem Mass held at St Patrick’s Church, Camperdown.

The College was represented by all staff and our Year 10 to 12 students. Their presence at the Mass and subsequent formation of a guard of honour, along Henderson Street, was a tangible sign of the respect that Dinny enjoyed from our students and an indication of the impact that he had on Mercy Regional College.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking our student body for the respectful way in which they attended Dinny’s funeral on Friday. The forming of the guard of honour as Dinny’s funeral procession drove down Henderson was very moving, something that the Ryan family will never forget. You were all indeed a credit to the College.

Thank you also to the students who also directed guests and served the refreshments. The Ryan family were very appreciative of all your efforts. There was no doubt that the staff and I were very proud of each and every student.

I also received a letter of gratitude and thanks from Mary Ryan, which she has asked be published in this week’s newsletter. Mary and the family remain deeply thankful for the prayers, thoughts and support of the Mercy community.

**To Andrew, Staff, Students & Parents,**

*We would like to sincerely thank you all for your kindness, support and presence at Dinny’s farewell. It has been amazing to receive so much support and continuing assistance.*

*The students were so fantastic, their attendance at the Mass and the very moving guard of honour, it was indeed overwhelming, we didn’t realise how many lives Dinny touched.*

*To the parents for being at the Mass and those who assisted in providing food for the “cuppa” at the College, sincere thanks.*

*To the Principal – Andrew Watson and all staff for your caring concern and support, with the Mass and especially the luncheon, so much food and service, beautifully served, thank you Annette and team. The students, who directed people and served food, thank you.*

*I am lonely, but, we had a happy life and Dinny was doing what he loved, before he went to the Lord.*

*Our family thanks everyone, I will always remember, caring Mercy Regional College.*

*Mary Ryan & family*
Class Masses for Term 3
During term 3 all homerooms will celebrate the Eucharist with one of our local parishes on a Friday morning. This provides us with the opportunity to strengthen our links with the parishes and also provide another opportunity for our students to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Year 9 to 11 homerooms will attend St Patrick’s Church Camperdown at 9.30am Mass. Our Year 7 & 8 homerooms will attend St Thomas’ Church in Terang at 10.00am.

I extend an invitation to parents and friends to also attend when their son or daughter’s homeroom is scheduled.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Homeroom Attending Mass</th>
<th>Church</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6th August</td>
<td>Year 9A, Year 7B</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s St. Thomas’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 14th August</td>
<td>Year 9B, Year 7C</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s St. Thomas’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 20th August</td>
<td>Year 9C, Year 7D</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s St. Thomas’</td>
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<td>Friday 27th August</td>
<td>Year 10A, Year 8A</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s St. Thomas’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 3rd September</td>
<td>Year 10B, Year 8B</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s St. Thomas’</td>
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<td>Friday 10th September</td>
<td>Year 10C, Year 8C</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s St. Thomas’</td>
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Presentation Ball 2011
The date for the 2011 Presentation Ball will be Friday, 1st April, at Glenormiston College.

Parking in Henderson Street
Please see letter from myself on page 17 in relation to cars parking in Henderson Street.

Andrew Watson
PRINCIPAL

Mercy Awards
Senior School (Year 11 & 12) Mercy Award
Grant Mitchell for working hard whilst constructing fences in VCAL class.

Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award

Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award

Kaitlyn Baird for expressing mature ideas and thoughts in relation to careers and RE topics.

Camperdown Swimming Pool Committee of Management

Your Pool Needs You!

The Annual General Meeting and formation of a new Committee for the Camperdown Swimming Pool will be held at the pool at 8.00pm on Tuesday 10th August 2010.

The purpose of the meeting shall be to elect a Committee of Management for the forthcoming year. The role of the Committee is to assist with the programming and minor capital improvements of the pool. The Committee meets on average 3 times per year.

We encourage all community members, parents and senior students interested in the future developments of the pool to attend.

For further details contact Lisa Worrall on 5563 7100.
Term 3

Monday 9th August
Mid Term Break – no school for staff or students

Wednesday 11th August
- Grade Six Transition @ McAuley Campus
- Year 10 Boys Retreat

Thursday 12th August
- Year 10 Boys Retreat
- Year 10 Girls Retreat

Friday 13th August
Year 10 Girls Retreat

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

Friday 27th August
Frayne Speech Festival

Monday 30th August
MRC students depart to Thomas Carr for exchange

Wednesday 1st September
- MRC students return from Thomas Carr exchange
- Thomas Carr students arrive at Mercy for exchange

Friday 3rd September
Thomas Carr depart Mercy after exchange

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

Australian Government Sports Achievement Awards
James Castles – Sports Co-ordinator

Xavier Darcy was a the recipient of the Australian Government Sport Achievement Awards for 2010, presented by former member for Wannon David Hawker MP, and Paralympic dual bronze medalist Cameron Rahles-Rahbula.

Xavier received the award on Friday 23rd July for his dedication and all his achievements in swimming. Attached below is some information showcasing his remarkable career to date.

Xavier started at the Colac Swimming Club when he was 10 years of age. His first major success came when he was selected in the Pacific School Games Team, in Year 7, in 2005.

He continued to train three to four times a week for the next few years and swam in the Victorian Championships. In 2006 he went to the Country Championships in Shepparton, where he made the finals for the first time.

Xavier’s determination was the driving focus behind his improvement. He was able to go on and win his first Short Course medal in 2007. In 2008 he won his first Long Course medal in the 50m Breaststroke, after moving to Warrnambool Swimming Club.

In 2008 and 2010 Xavier started training up to five-seven sessions a week, and with hard work, success follows. Xavier has now won medals in both short and long course Victorian Championships, competed in the Pacific School Games Team in Canberra in 2008 and the Victorian Team, in 2009, in Perth. The Australian Age Multi-disability Championships in 2009 and 2010, in Canberra, where Xavier won three medals the first year and four medals this year.

Since then Xavier has been selected in the Australian Team for the World Down Syndrome Swimming Games, in Taipei, in October this year. He was also selected in the Team Vic school team where he competed in Brisbane, June this year.

Xavier you are a STAR!! well done.

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Xavier you are a STAR!! well done.
From the Director of Teaching & Learning

CAREER NEWS
James Castles & Lisa Pope

University of Ballarat Open Day - Sunday 29th
August 10am - 3pm

Learn to succeed in your chosen career at the
University of Ballarat Open Day. You will get a taste of
Uni life, meet mentors and find out more about the 750
programs on offer. It is a great first step to your career
path. For more information call 1800 811 711 or visit
www.LearnToSuccess.com.au/openday or

Careers Night- for all Year 7 - 12
Careers Night- All Year 7 - 12 students are encouraged
to attend one of the career information nights. There
are two different nights which students and parents can
attend, Wednesday 11th August @ Mortlake College –
6.30pm to 8.30pm, or Wednesday 18th Aug @ Cobden
Technical School – 6.30pm to 8.30pm. For all students
attending the evening please bring your selection
sheets back to the front office by Monday 9th Aug.

University Open Days
University Open Days Coming Soon!!! We encourage
students from Year 10 onwards to show an interest in
attending one or two of these days to help make
career planning easier, See notice boards for details.

Scholarships at Monash
Yr 12 students thinking about attending Monash Uni in
2011, See Mr.Castles for Scholarship Information.

AUGUST EVENTS
□ RACI Hartung Youth Science Lectures,
  Melbourne (16), Albury-Wodonga (18) and
□ 17: Music Information Evening, Monash Uni,
  Clayton Campus, www.monash.edu.au/events
□ 19: Engineering and Science Careers Expo,
  Victorian Space Science Education Centre.
□ 21: Advertising Careers Day, RMIT & Advertising
  Institute of Australia, businessevents@rmit.edu.au
□ 25: At Monash- Monash College and Diploma of
  Tertiary Studies, Monash Uni, Clayton Campus,
  www.monash.edu.au/events

Open Day Calendar 2011
Australian Academy of Design: 03 9676 9000 - Port
Melbourne, 8 August

Australian Catholic Uni: 1300 275 228 Melbourne - 15
August Ballarat- 29 August

Australian College of Sports Therapy: 03 9670 3735 -
Melbourne dates- 8 & 11 August; 12 & 15 September

Box Hill Institute of TAFE: 03 9286 9222 - Elgar, Nelson
& Whitehorse Campuses- 22 August
Deakin University: 1300 334 733 - Geelong- Waterfront
 & Waurn Ponds- 8 August - Warrnambool Campus-15 August - Melbourne Campus, Burwood- 22 August

Grenadi School of Design: 03 9663 0001 - Melbourne- 8
August

Holmesglen Institute: 03 9564 1555 - All campuses- 21
August

Institute for Design & Entertainment and the Arts
(IDEA): 03 9600 2832 - Melbourne- 8 August

La Trobe University: 1300 135 045 - Bendigo- 22
August - Shepparton- 13 August, (Evening) - Albury-
Wodonga- 15 August - Melbourne (Bundoora) - 29
August

Monash University: 03 9902 6000- Caulfield, Clayton,
Parkville Campuses- 1 August

NMIT (Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE): 03 9269
1200 - Epping- 22 August - Preston – 31 August

Photography Studies College: 03 9682 3191 -
Southbank- 15 August

RMIT University/ TAFE: 03 9925 2000 - City, Brunswick
 & Bundoora Campuses- 8 August

Swinburn University of Technology: 1300 275 794 -
Hawthorn, Lilydale & Pahran Campuses- 15 August

University of Ballarat: 1800 811 711 - Mt Helen, SMB &
Camp Street Campuses- 29 August

University of Melbourne: 1800 801 662 - Parkville &
Victorian College of the Arts & Music- 15 August -
Dookie- 15 August

Victoria University/ TAFE: 03 9919 4000 - Footscray
Park- 8 August

Whitehouse Institute of Design: 03 9600 3625 -
Melbourne, 8 August

William Angliss Institute of TAFE: 03 9606 2111 -
Melbourne- 8 August

Other Future Dates of Interest
September 21st - Discover Deakin (Burwood, Waurn
Ponds, Warrnambool) .September 23rd - Discover
Deakin (Waterfront Campus Only).

For more information, please feel free
to email the Careers teacher on info@mercy.vic.edu.au
2011 Information Sessions
Thinking about a course in 2011 and want some more information?

South West TAFE's information sessions are open to all prospective students and provide an opportunity for you to meet staff members, learn more about our courses, the application process and course costs.

Hamilton Campus
Health and Community Services
Certificate IV in Nursing (HLT43407)
4 August, Video Conference Room, 6.00 pm
Certificate IV in Nursing (HLT43407)
8 September, Video Conference Room, 6.00 pm
Certificate III in Aged Care Work (CHC30208)
7 October, Video Conference Room, 2.00 pm
Certificate III in Aged Care Work (CHC30208)
7 October, Video Conference Room, 6.00 pm

Portland Campus
Early Childhood Development
Diploma of Children's Services (Early Childhood Education and Care) (CHC50908)
15 September, 6.30 pm

Warndambool Campus
Business and Financial Services
Certificate III in Business Administration (BSB30407)
4 November, OEA B Building, 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm
Certificate III in Business Administration (Education) (BSB30907)
4 November, OEA B Building, 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm
Certificate III in Business Administration (Legal) (BSB31007)
4 November, OEA B Building, 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm
Certificate III in Business Administration (Medical) (BSB31107)
4 November, OEA B Building, 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm
Certificate IV in Financial Services (Bookkeeping) (FNS40207)
4 November, OEA B Building, 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm
Diploma of Accounting (FNS50204)
4 November, OEA B Building, 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Early Childhood Development
Diploma of Children's Services (Early Childhood Education and Care) (CHC50908)
14 September, F Building, 6.30 pm

Hairdressing and Beauty
Certificate II in Hairdressing (WRH20109)
1 December, Verde Hairdressing, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm
Certificate III in Hairdressing (WRH30109)
1 December, Verde Hairdressing, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Certificate IV in Hairdressing (WRH40109)
1 December, Verde Hairdressing, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm
Diploma of Hairdressing Salon Management (WRH50109)
1 December, Verde Hairdressing, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm
Certificate II in Nail Technology (WRB20104)
30 November, Former Courthouse, 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Certificate III in Beauty Services (WRB30104)
30 November, Former Courthouse, 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Certificate IV in Beauty Services (WRB40105)
30 November, Former Courthouse, 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Diploma of Beauty Therapy (WRB50105)
30 November, Former Courthouse, 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Health and Community Services
Diploma of Community Services Work (CHCS6008)
15 September, Room WF 3.02, 6.00 pm
Diploma of Community Services Work (CHCS6008)
13 October, Room WF 3.02, 6.00 pm
Diploma of Community Services Work (CHCS6008)
10 November, Room WF 3.02, 2.00 pm
Certificate IV in Nursing (HLT43407)
15 September, Room WF 3.16, 6.00 pm
Certificate IV in Nursing (HLT43407)
12 October, Room WF 3.16, 6.00 pm
Certificate IV in Disability Work (CHC40302)
22 October, Room F213, 6.00 pm
Dual Certificate - Certificate III in Aged Care (CHC30208) / Certificate III in Home and Community Care (CHC30308)
14 October, Room WF 3.02, 6.00 pm
Dual Certificate - Certificate III in Aged Care (CHC30208) / Certificate III in Home and Community Care (CHC30308)
8 November, Room WF 3.02, 6.00 pm
Dual Certificate - Certificate III in Aged Care (CHC30208) / Certificate III in Home and Community Care (CHC30308)
24 November, Room WF 3.02, 6.00 pm
Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance (HLT42507)
3 November, Room F212, 6.00 pm
Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance (HLT42507)
22 November, Room F212, 6.00 pm
Diploma of Remedial Massage (HLT50302)
13 October, Room F102, 6.00 pm OR
16 November, Room F102, 6.00 pm

For more information contact 03 5564 8911 or email info@swtafe.vic.edu.au

WHO LEARNS WINS | www.swtafe.vic.edu.au
That night, after a hot shower and a yummy roast, we all sat around for trivia! Round by round we answered questions and each had to participate in a challenge at the end of each round. The challenges ranged from a spelling bee, which saw Maddy take out the win with ‘Eucharist’; balancing on one leg, won by Nick; seeing who could do ‘The Plank’ for the longest was Choppers winning that round and the fluffy duck marshmallow game, which had everyone laughing their heads off, won by Jonesy. We finished with a whole team challenge where each person had to scull a glass of water and the quickest team to finish, won. The times became shorter and shorter as each team tried it’s best. The teachers nearly won, with Willy’s impressive sculling skills but the winners were, rightfully, the students.

After trivia we all settled down, had a quick chat and headed off to bed, ready to be on the slopes again the next day.

Thursday arrived and we were all a bit sore and a bit tired, but we happily boarded the bus for our last day at Mount Buller. It was much colder and foggier that day on the mountain but that didn’t really make much difference to us. Everyone was having a ball and was even better than the day before. At the end of the day we had a massive snowball fight. It was the best fun ever! Then the skiers competed with the snow boarders in a snowman competition. The boarders won, only because they had Tony Kryboldor in their team and he just happened to be a super freak at making Snowmen! Everyone was drenched with snow by the time we sadly piled on to the bus for the way back to Mansfield.

That night we were all too tired to do anything so we hopped in our sleeping bags, lay down on the floor and watched a movie. Some managed to make it through without dozing off, others didn’t.

We sadly packed up and left Mansfield on Friday for a long bus trip home. We stopped in Ballarat for lunch and arrived at school in time for our buses home.

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to Mr. James Castles for organising the whole camp, none of it could have happened without him. And also a huge thank you to Miss Stacey Hillman, Mr. Luke Bouchier, Michelle Whytcross and Tony Kryboldor for making the camp as enjoyable as it could be. A special mention, also, to Darren Williams for driving us around everywhere, it was greatly appreciated.

I’m sure everyone had a blast over these few days and it will definitely go down as one of the best camps ever!
CENTRAL AUSTRALIA TOUR
IMPORTANT NOTICE

A reminder to parents who have children participating in the Central Australia Tour.
The 3rd and final instalment of $220.00 is due to be paid in full by Tuesday 31st August, 2010.
Please ensure that your payment is received at the College office BY THE DUE DATE.

Also
1 or 2 places are still available if your child would like to go.
If interested, please contact the College office ASAP on 5593 2011.
The Courage of Faith (Part 1)

It takes courage to have faith. It is not always easy to believe. The very idea of having faith seems to be under concerted attack from those who suggest that faith and its expression in religious belief has become thoroughly discredited by scientific discoveries and the actions over the centuries of those who have unfortunately brought much discredit on religions of all persuasions. Faith is just a 'security blanket', in their view, especially for those who regard the world as threatening, so that faith does provide a physiological sanctuary, it makes life more bearable by its false promises and guarantees. Faith, in their view, is not only something that requires no proof but has little factual evidence to support its claims.

In reality, we all have faith of some sort or another – even the most agnostic, the most ardent atheist still requires some faith – virtually every scientific discovery still relies on a bit of faith. We would be paralysed in inaction if we did not have faith that the sun would rise tomorrow, and that our sensory perceptions are accurate, and that our mind is processing data reliably. We are continually exposed to uncertainties. If we lived in a state of total doubt regarding everything, we would hardly be able to interact with life at all. Faith facilitates our basic ability to function. Even the best scientific discovery changes, grows, our understanding of it deepens over time. It is not the last word. For a period of time, many in the scientific community once held that the earth was flat, even in the face of other evidence. The best scientific discovery does not provide certainty – look at how climate change divides the scientific community today. Cosmologist Stephen Hawking once thought physics would come to know the mind of God. He now doubts that is possible.

But that is not the only reason why it takes courage to have faith. Faith isn’t something static, it is not blind acceptance - having faith does not mean that we check our brain in at the door! Religion is not just about the heart, but also very much about the mind. After all, God invented brains. God invented logic! Just like science, faith calls on us to enquire, to wonder, to question, to go deeper, to seek greater understanding. Having faith is a process – it is always seeking a deeper knowledge of God, of the world, of the purpose of life and of this world. Doctrines and formulas endeavour to describe our faith, they endeavour to describe the mystery of God, our search for God. They too are not static, they require thought and understanding, revision and updating as our understanding grows and we become more aware. Modern science and its discoveries continue to help that process along. St Anselm spoke of faith as always seeking understanding. St Thomas Aquinas taught that in the process of faith “wonder proceeds to enquiry, and enquiry to knowledge”. The Catechism describes this process in this way:

Faith moves a person from within to wonder, to question, to seek greater understanding (CCC158, GDC #92)

Once again, the Catechism provides this wisdom:

Christian faith calls us to an ever deepening understanding of God and of all that God has revealed. We do not believe in formulas, but in the realities they express, which faith allows us to touch. The believer’s act [of faith] does not terminate in the propositions, but in the realities which they express. (CCC #170).

It takes courage to go beyond the security of those propositions, those formulas, to seek greater understanding, to go deeper, to learn more, not to be satisfied until we reach a deeper relationship with God. Much of the popularity of modern atheism comes from what we might call ‘bad religion’. What gives religion a bad name is a retreat to fundamentalism – not using our minds (and hearts) in the quest to deepen our faith and our relationship with God. We still need good theologising, we still need to explore and go deeper into the mystery of God and the universe. In 1215, the church defined dogmatically that all our concepts and language about God are more inaccurate than accurate, more inadequate than adequate, and speak more about how God is different from us than similar. So why have theology, why have this language, why have these formulas? Theology helps us know and describe the richness of God, it stretches our intellects and hearts beyond their normal resting places. The idea of God as Trinity, the concept of an all-powerful God who knows when one hair on our head should fall, the idea of a God whose son became one of us so that we could become one with God – these take us to depths of discovery and wonder beyond what we could ever imagine. Good theology, good theological language lays out some boundaries within which we should stay if we don’t want to stray from the truth. That search asks us to take courage and step out of our normal resting places.

There are aspects of our faith that we can’t picture or explain rationally, they are beyond us, mysteries, wondrous realities that make God worth believing in. There are similar realities in science too. There is still so much that neither side of this debate understands. We are both being led into mystery. In the words of St Augustine, “I believe in order to understand; and I understand the better to believe”.

Regards

Jim Quilliman

Phone: 0401 933 023
Email: jquilliman@dcst.net.au

13 July 2010
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commitments sought by NCEC</th>
<th>Australian Labor Party Response</th>
<th>Liberal/National Party Coalition Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Catholic schools and systems have a direct relationship with the Commonwealth Government, underpinned by legislation.</td>
<td>The Gillard Government, which has delivered record funding for Australian schools, values its strong and direct partnership with Australia's Catholic schools and this will continue to be reflected in future arrangements, which will be determined following the findings of an independent Review panel in 2011.</td>
<td>The Coalition agrees that there will be a direct relationship between the Commonwealth and Catholic schools and systems. Commonwealth legislation will underpin funding for Catholic schools.</td>
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<td>2. Catholic schools and systems from 2013 have, at the very least, access to the same funds, indexed to government school costs, as currently available.</td>
<td>For at least the lifetime of the next Parliament, until the end of 2013, funding will be at least indexed as currently for all schools, Catholic Independent and Government. After 2013 indexation arrangements include indexation for all schools and will be put forward well before the next election.</td>
<td>The Coalition will continue current funding to Catholic schools and systems in real terms from 2013, and in the meantime we will consult on how to enhance the model further.</td>
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<td>3. Catholic systems have the capacity to distribute funds to schools according to need.</td>
<td>The Australian Government supports the desire of Catholic systems to allocate funding according to need and is committed to working with Catholic education authorities to achieve this goal in ways which respect the autonomy of schools and school systems.</td>
<td>The Coalition supports the role of Catholic systems as distributors of block funding according to local school need.</td>
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<td>4. Funding levels must be indexed annually, using a transparent mechanism, to ensure that Catholic schools and systems are able to meet the rising costs of education.</td>
<td>The Gillard Labor Government has provided for indexation at least the current rate for all schools until the end of 2013. Beyond 2013 all schools' funding will be indexed in a transparent and robust way.</td>
<td>General recurrent grants to Catholic schools will be indexed annually to reflect rising costs.</td>
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<td>5. Funding for students with disabilities must be increased towards parity with government school funding.</td>
<td>The Gillard Labor Government is currently providing $810m over four years to non-government schools for Literacy, Numeracy and Special Learning Needs. If we are re-elected we will prioritise the growth of this funding for students in every kind of school.</td>
<td>The Coalition is committed to addressing the disparity in dollar terms between SWDs in government and in nongovernment schools over time. The Coalition will work to secure national agreement on definitions of disabilities before 1 July 2011, as well as provide students with portable funding through an Education Card from January 2012.</td>
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<td>6. Capital funding should be increased for educationally disadvantaged communities and areas of population growth.</td>
<td>The Australian Government has budgeted for non-government school capital funding through till 2013-14. This capital will be made available to non-government schools immediately if the Government is re-elected, with a focus on growing communities.</td>
<td>A Coalition Government will maintain current base level capital funding to Catholic Block Grant Authorities.</td>
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Draft letter for parents to write or email to their local federal MP and candidates

[DATE]

[CANDIDATE CONTACT DETAILS]

Dear [MP/CANDIDATE]

I seek your support to ensure certainty and fairness in the funding of Catholic schools.

According to independent advice, Catholic schools in Victoria operate on only 63% of the recurrent funding available to government schools.

It was found that when Catholic school fees and other private income were included - Catholic schools operate on only 93% of the recurrent resources given to Victorian government schools.

With this evident disparity in funding for Catholic schools and the continuing commitment of Catholic schools to address educational disadvantage I seek the following:

1. A guarantee that federal funding to Catholic schools will not be frozen after 2012.
2. Certainty that federal funding for Catholic schools will continue to keep pace with government school costs.
3. An increase in funding for students with disabilities and special needs so that every student has an equal opportunity to learn.
4. Capital funding that ensures Catholic education can continue to provide school choice for the new and growing communities in our outer-metropolitan and regional areas.
5. Funding arrangements that respect the Catholic school system and its expertise.

Where do you stand on certainty of funding for Catholic schools?

Will you support funding for Catholic schools at the 2012 level?

Will you support any additional increase that allows Catholic schools to keep pace with government school costs?

Yours sincerely

[NAME]
Media Statement

Bishop Greg O’Kelly SJ, Chairman, Bishops Commission for Catholic Education

A funding floor for Catholic Schools for 2013

Last April the then Education Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, said that no school would lose a dollar of Commonwealth funding following the Review of Funding for Schooling she was announcing. “This was a welcome promise,” said Bishop Greg O’Kelly, Chairman of the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education, “but it left Catholic schools unsure about the value of future Commonwealth grants – would they continue to keep pace with inflation and increasing costs such as salaries and basic operating expenses.”

Today Prime Minister Gillard undertook to maintain current school funding indexation measures until the end of 2013. She also said that there would continue to be a “transparent and robust” indexation system for all schools from 2014.

“We appreciate that the Prime Minister has been able to provide Catholic schools with an interim funding floor for 2013. This certainly helps schools with their planning. Catholic schools and systems look forward to stable and secure funding arrangements from the Commonwealth to enable us to meet our obligations under the National Declaration of Educational Goals for Young Australians. We will work hard to ensure that the indexation system from 2014 is fair and reasonable, as well as transparent and robust, for Catholic schools, and indeed for all schools.”

“The National Catholic Education Commission is committed to working with the expert Funding Review Panel in 2010 and 2011 to advise on all aspects of school funding, including the question of proper indexation of grants of schools,” said Bishop O’Kelly.

ENDS

Further information
Dr Bill Griffiths
Chief Executive Officer
National Catholic Education Commission
Tel: (02) 6201 9830 or 0488057660

4 August 2010
Wednesday 28 July 2010

**AEU misleads public on school funding**

The McMorrow report has already been discredited by the Prime Minister and is a shameful attempt by the Australian Education Union (AEU) to mislead the public on the facts of school funding.

According to analysis of Productivity Commission figures, Victorian Catholic schools receive 37% less per student in government funding than government schools.

In response to the AEU’s latest attack on funding for non-government schools, the Director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Stephen Elder said, “Catholic school communities know that continuing the current funding model will not bridge the gap between needy Catholic schools and better resourced government schools.

“Catholic schools know that their future would be at risk if government funding was reduced further.”

As the Prime Minister has already stated, “As state governments remain the predominant funders of government schools, direct comparison with Commonwealth funding for non-government schools is disingenuous.”

“The fact remains that commonwealth funding is distributed to Catholic schools according to a needs based funding model,” Mr Elder said. “If the AEU genuinely want more resources for needy students we share that motivation.

“We are interested in more resources for the neediest students whether they are students with disabilities, students at risk, early intervention and literacy and numeracy programs.

“The AEU would be well aware the Coalition’s policy will not deliver funding to Catholic schools at the expense of government schools who receive most of their funding from state governments,” said Mr Elder.

Further information from David Ahern, Catholic Education Office Media, on 9267 0228 or 0418 351 383.
6th August, 2010

Dear Parents,

RE: Picking up of students in Henderson Street from School Buses

I would bring to your attention a decision made four years ago. Due to parent concerns about buses and cars both picking up students in Dimora Avenue at the end of the school day, Mercy Regional College and St Patrick’s School decided to shift our bus zone to allow for cars only to pick up students in Dimora Avenue and hence leaving Henderson Street as the bus zone.

As a result, the safety of our students leaving the school at the end of each day improved significantly. However, over recent months, an increasing number of parents are choosing to collect their child/children in Henderson Street, once again creating a dangerous combination of cars, buses and pedestrians. The preferred option is for all students to be picked up by a car, to do so in Dimora Avenue.

However, if, for some reason this is not possible, parents MUST only use the marked parking bays in Henderson Street and should certainly not double park. If there is no immediate improvement to adhering to the road rules and obeying the parking limitations in Henderson Street, the College will have no choice but to ask the Police to monitor the situation over a period of time.

It is the safety of students that must take precedence over convenience.

I thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Watson
PRINCIPAL
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<td>THUR AUG 26 CAROLINE RICHARDSON 55946200</td>
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