ISSUE 3-3

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.

Appointment of a New Principal
As part of the process for the appointment of a new Principal for Mercy Regional College, the Catholic Education Office along with the Canonical Administrators, Fr Eugene McKinnon and Fr Matthew Thomas are providing an opportunity to meet with parents to discuss the qualities, qualifications and experience the community would find desirable in a new Principal.

To facilitate this discussion Mr. Bill Slatter (CEO Secondary Consultant), Fr. Eugene and Fr. Matthew will be available to meet with parents at the College on Thursday 26th August from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

Parents who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity are asked to report to the reception area at the McAuley Campus, Camperdown.

Later that afternoon a similar process will be held with the staff of the College.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Bill Slatter at the Catholic Education Office in Ballarat on 5337 7135

Assembly
At this week’s College assembly we had the pleasure of hearing from Samantha Alexander about her trip to Thailand and France as part of the Spirit of ANZAC competition which saw Samantha selected to represent Victoria. The places Samantha was able to travel to and the experience she was able to enjoy came about by her preparedness to engage in one of the many educational opportunities that are provided for students at the College.

The Assembly also recognized the achievements of the following students who were awarded certificates for their participation in the Maths Challenge and Science Competition.

Maths Challenge

Junior Division
Anna Baker-Campbell       High Distinction
Jack Williams              High Distinction
Caitlin Smart              High Distinction
Haylee Davis               Distinction
Kirsty Almond              Credit
Thomas Cheslett            Credit
Lucy Halloran              Participation
Steven Krybolder            Participation
Bonnie Hinkley             Participation
Henry Kissick               Participation
Jack Danby                  Participation
Thomas Leadbetter          Participation
Melissa Robbins            Participation
Johnathon Benallack        Participation
Meaghan Bone                Participation

Thank you
I would also like to thank the many members of the Mercy community that have taken the time to extend to me congratulations on my appointment as Principal of Thomas Carr College. Your best wishes are very much appreciated and once again demonstrates the wonderful community that Mercy is. It will be difficult to farewell such a wonderful school.
**Intermediate Division**

- Kiara Williams: High Distinction
- Zachary O'Flynn: Distinction
- Jacqueline O'Bryan: Credit
- Emmelie Nijikens: Participation
- Paige Gibson: Participation
- Daniel Leversha: Participation
- Matthew O'Brien: Participation
- Dallin Sonnet: Participation
- Amelia Jubb: Participation
- Peter Ryan: Participation
- Georgia Anderson: Participation
- Jarrod Johnson: Participation

**Science Competition**

- Toby McKenzie: Distinction
- Joseph Arundell: Distinction
- Tom Cheslett: Distinction
- Steven Krybolder: Distinction
- Thomas Leadbetter: Distinction
- Jack Williams: Distinction

During the sports report at the assembly the achievements of Xavier Darcy were recognized. Xavier was a recipient of the Australian Government Sport Achievement Award for 2010.

**Year 7 2011 Enrolment Interviews**

On Wednesday and Thursday the College had the pleasure of being able to welcome our 2011 Year 7 students and their families to the school as they took part in an enrolment interview. This is a wonderful opportunity for the staff of the College to get to know our new students and their families.

**HCSN Combined School Boards Dinner**

Next Wednesday, Mercy will be hosting a dinner for the school boards of St Patrick’s, St Thomas’, St Colman’s and Mercy Regional College. This is an opportunity for the schools to recognize the significant contribution that board members make to the life of each school and provides the opportunity to thank our board members for the time they give up in service of our community. The guest speaker for the evening will be Mr. Colin O’Coigligh, a Principal on exchange from Ireland for the year. The Mercy Regional College Choir will also provide entertainment for the evening.

**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 for 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.

**Mass Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Homeroom Attending Mass</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27th August</td>
<td>Year 10A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 7A &amp; 8A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 3rd September</td>
<td>Year 10B</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 8B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17th September</td>
<td>Year 10C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 8C</td>
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**Central Australia Trip**

There will be an important meeting for **ALL** students attending the Central Australia Trip in the September Holidays on **Wednesday 1st September at 7.30pm** in the Multipurpose Room at the McAuley Campus, Camperdown. At this meeting at least one parent **MUST** be in attendance.

**Along the Track**

I have attached to this newsletter, for your interest, on page 7, a reflection titled “The Courage of Faith Part 2” written by Jim Quilinan from the Diocesan Catholic Education Office in Warragul. I hope you enjoy this reading.

**Prayer**

Lord, we pray that we will be confident in presenting ourselves as models for our families.

We pray that we will see the goodness in our lives as your presence in our family.

We give thanks for the opportunities to remember (make present) Jesus each day.

We pray for the courage and wisdom to do this effectively and with hospitality for others.

Amen.

Andrew Watson

PRINCIPAL
**Mercy Awards**

**Senior School (Year 11 & 12) Mercy Award**

Amy Henry for organising the recent school BBQ and her hard work on Year 12 fundraising.

**Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award**

Bronson Whytcross for his outstanding presentation on the Outdoor Education Snow Trip.

**Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award**

Christopher Barks for helping out teachers in his own spare time.

**MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIANS**

Leanne Carpenter
Head of Teaching & Learning (Junior)

The Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians is a problem solving task designed to encourage and foster:

- A greater interest in and awareness of the power of Mathematics
- A desire to succeed in solving stimulating mathematical problems
- A discovery of the joy of Problem Solving in Mathematics
- The identification of talented young Australians.

We certainly do have some very talented young Australians in our classes.

This was particularly evident in the way our students approached the Mathematics Challenge. All are to be commended for their dedication and willingness to have a go.

A special mention goes to two students Anna Baker-Campbell and Jack Williams, who each had a perfect score, this placed them at the 98th percentile and each received High Distinctions.

Also receiving High Distinctions were Caitlin Smart and Kiara Williams, Haylee Davis and Zachary O'Flynn received Distinctions.

Well done to all participants.

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**Coming Events**

**Term 3**

**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
From the Director of Teaching & Learning
Lisa Pope

Mobile Phones and other Electronic Device Policy:
Recently the school's welfare and curriculum teams have combined to review the school's Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy. Mercy Regional College understands and accepts that mobile phones and other electronic devices are part of the students' everyday life. However, students of Mercy Regional College must use mobile phones and other electronic devices in a responsible manner. Issues surrounding privacy laws and the use of cameras on mobile phones must also be taken into consideration. We accept that parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks, involving personal security and safety. There is also increasing concern about children traveling on transport or commuting long distances to school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently; however the first point of contact for your child whilst at school should be through the College office. However as teachers and parents we must educate our children to use technology safely, responsibly and respectfully.

The policy is quite extensive and will be posted on the College Website; however it clearly outlines some of the following rules:

- Mobile phones and all electronic devices should be switched off and kept out of sight during classroom lessons (they should be stored in the student lockers). Exceptions may be permitted if the supervising teacher allows the use of an IPOD or MP3 player to be used in class (this is only at the discretion of the teacher). In exceptional circumstances the parent/guardian may specifically request for a mobile phone to be accessible in class or school activities. Such requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis and should be directed to the Deputy Principal. Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.
- Mobile phones or other electronic devices should not be used in any manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routine of the school.
- Unless express permission is granted, mobile phones or other electronic devices should not be used to make calls, send SMS messages, surf the internet, take photos or use any other application during school lessons and other educational activities, such as assemblies and school camps. Students should only use their mobile phones before or after school.
- Using mobile phones to bully and threaten other students is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. In some cases it can constitute criminal behavior.
- Mobile phones, cameras or other electronic devices are not to be used or taken into changing rooms or toilets or used in any situation that may cause embarrassment or discomfort to their fellow students, staff or visitors to the school.

Consequences of Unacceptable Use:
Students who are found to be using a mobile phone or electronic device within the classroom without authorization will have the phone immediately confiscated and the following procedures will take place:

First offence for the term: The phone will be confiscated and a letter will be sent home addressed to the parents. This letter will outline the students will not be able to collect the phone or device until the end of the school week. (If the phone is confiscated on a Friday the student cannot collect the phone to the end of the following week).

Second offence for the term: The phone will be confiscated and a letter will be sent home to parents. This letter will outline the students will not be able to collect the phone for two weeks.

Repeated infringements may result in the withdrawal of the agreement to allow the student to bring the mobile telephone or electronic device to school. Let's hope we can all work together to ensure our students are technologically savvy, but remain respectful of its place in learning and society.

CAREER NEWS

Upcoming Events
At Monash Seminar Series: provides a unique opportunity to hear from academics, current students and graduates all in the one place. There is also a question and answer session and a chance to pick up course information and ask individual questions of the speakers and faculty representatives. This is a fantastic opportunity for current Year 12 students and their families to find out about Pathway options into Monash University degrees, such as the Diploma of Tertiary Studies and Monash College. It will be held Wednesday 25 August, 6.30 – 8pm at the Clayton Campus. Please register at www.monash.edu.au/study/events/atmonash/

Monash University Parent Information Sessions: The sessions provide an excellent opportunity for parents to find out more about the range of course and campus options at Monash University. You can find out about: Applications and selection; Equity and access schemes; Student support services and facilities; Scholarships; Accommodation, fees and cost of living; and Living in Melbourne. Information sessions run on the following dates: August: Ballarat (23), Werribee (26), Wodonga (31). September: Melbourne (8). To register go to www.monash.edu.au/study/events/parents
More information on scholarships can be obtained from [http://www.vtac.edu.au/scholarships.html](http://www.vtac.edu.au/scholarships.html)

**VTAC Scholarships**

Mr. James Castles has a great publication for scholarships “A Guide to University Scholarships” More information on scholarships can be obtained from [http://www.vtac.edu.au/scholarships.html](http://www.vtac.edu.au/scholarships.html). Most institutions offer scholarships. Further information about institutions and scholarships can be found on institutional websites. For more information, please email the Careers teacher on info@mercy.vic.edu.au

**UNSW Science Competition**

101 students from MRC participated across Years 7 – 10 in the annual NSW Science Competition on Wednesday the 8th of June. Six students were awarded Distinctions, which is an excellent result placing these students in the top ten percent of our State. The students were presented with their awards at our recent whole school assembly. The students who received distinctions were: Toby McKenzie (Year 9), Joseph Arundell, Tom Cheslett and Steven Kryboldt (all Year 8), Tom Leadbetter and Jack Williams (Year 7). Twenty-one of our students also received a certificate of credit, placing them in the top thirty percent of the State. Congratulations to all our participants.

**The Bad Science Show**

This week in celebration of Science Week, all students had the opportunity to view the Bad Science Show presented by Nicholas Johnson. Nicholas has appeared on radio, film, print and television as an educator and entertainer. Given the nickname "Australia’s Honest Con Man" by the Australian media for his work uncovering con artists, Nicholas has appeared on Today Tonight, A Current Affair, The 7pm Project, Today, Triple J and several other radio stations. Nicholas has performed his unique educational shows at Parliament House, Canberra, The National Science and Technology Centre, The Australian Science Festival, National Museum of Australia and, most recently, the Edinburgh Science Festival. In 2007 Nicholas was awarded a special prize by the Australian Skeptics for his work promoting critical thinking among high school students. The students reported some great feedback from the show which included the following presentations:

**Scientific Spooks**

Scientific Spooks explains the Gestalt Principle and how it can make us see ghosts.

**The Path of Pain**

Can you really walk on broken glass with bare feet without cutting yourself? The Path of Pain demonstrates pressure, weight distribution and the strange properties of glass.

**Suspect Surgery**

Is it possible to perform brain surgery on someone wide awake? Suspect surgery explores the inner workings of the human head and the placebo effect. This resulted in Nicholas demonstrating how he could place a nail up his nose.

**Big Drips**

Is it possible to find water under the ground or are believers in water divining mistaken? Big Drips explores automatic biological actions and the flaws of post hoc evidence.
2011 Term Dates

Term 1
Monday 24\textsuperscript{th} January  
Office opens (book collection day 9.00am – 3.00pm)
Tuesday 25\textsuperscript{th} January  
Office open (10.00am – 2.00pm)
Wednesday 26\textsuperscript{th} January  
Australia Day Holiday
Thursday 27\textsuperscript{th} January  
Office open (8.30am – 4.30pm)
Friday 28\textsuperscript{th} January  
Office open (8.30am – 4.30pm)
Monday 31\textsuperscript{st} January  
Office open (8.30am – 4.30pm)
Tuesday 1\textsuperscript{st} February  
Teaching Staff Resume - Staff PD Day 1
Wednesday 2\textsuperscript{nd} February  
Staff PD Day 2
Thursday 3\textsuperscript{rd} February  
Staff PD Day 3
Friday 4\textsuperscript{th} February  
Students commence
Friday 8\textsuperscript{th} April  
Term 1 concludes

Term 2
Wednesday 27\textsuperscript{th} April  
Term 2 commences for staff and students
Friday 1\textsuperscript{st} July  
Term 2 concludes

Term 3
Monday 18\textsuperscript{th} July  
Term 3 commences – Staff PD Day 4
Tuesday 19\textsuperscript{th} July  
Students commence
Friday 23\textsuperscript{rd} September  
Term 3 concludes

Term 4
Monday 10\textsuperscript{th} October  
Term 4 commences – Staff PD Day 5
Tuesday 11\textsuperscript{th} October  
Students commence
Friday 25\textsuperscript{th} November  
Year 11 students conclude
Friday 2\textsuperscript{nd} December  
Year 7 – 10 students conclude
Friday 9\textsuperscript{th} December  
Teaching Staff conclude
Monday 12\textsuperscript{th} December  
Office open (8.30am – 4.30pm)
Tuesday 13\textsuperscript{rd} December  
Office open (8.30am – 4.30pm)
Wednesday 14\textsuperscript{th} December  
Office closes

CAMPERDOWN AMATEUR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
Is now taking enrolments for the new season which will commence in October. Midgets must be 8 by the 31/12/2010, Juniors must be under 16 at the 31/12/2010.

Name: ___________________________  Date of Birth: ____________

Phone No: ___________________________  I Would like to play MIDGETS/ JUNIORS

Seniors can enter a team we need.

Team Name  ___________________________

Contact Person  ___________________________

Contact Phone No: ___________________________

All Entries can be left at Davis’ Milkbar. Entries must be in by 10/09/10. Enquiries phone 55932136 or 55951568.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HAS BEEN RECALLED FOR MONDAY THE 23\textsuperscript{rd} OF AUGUST AT 7.30 AT THE STADIUM, STRONGLY ADVISE PARENTS AND SENIOR PLAYERS TO ATTEND.
The Courage of Faith (Part 2)

It takes courage to have faith. Faith is not a security blanket, is not an insurance policy, it is not something that brings peace and serenity – it is not, as some would suggest an opiate, making life more bearable because of promises of better things to come. It can be all too easy to put our trust only in religious practice and faithful observance of laws and duties. But as Jesus himself warned, not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven (Mt 7:21). Although we might go to church every Sunday, we might fast and pray and study the Bible, in that way our relationship with God can become easy for us to manage, rather than leaving it to God, and our religious practice may give us some sense of security, rather than being open to God's unpredictable ways, when this happens, it can become all too easy to disconnect the rest of our life from our faith. As Pope Benedict warns us:

But if in my life I fail completely to heed others, solely out of the desire to be 'devout', and to perform my 'religious duties', then my relationship with God will grow arid. It becomes 'proper' but loveless. Only my readiness to encounter my neighbour and to show them love makes me sensitive to God as well. Deus Caritus Est #18

That is quite a challenge. It is not a modern phenomenon. The prophet Isaiah voiced God's anger with the Israelites for just this kind of behaviour:

What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats……. Learn to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. (Isaiah 1:11-17)

Fasting, prayer and worship, however important they may be, lacked real meaning when disconnected from relationship with God and relationship with others. Religious practice and observance meant very little if they did not find expression in acting for justice. Fasting, prayer, trusting and believing were not then, nor are they today, ends in themselves – trusting and believing must lead to action. Jesus taught that same lesson in his parables and by his own example. But that action, Jesus warned, takes real courage.

As Christians we might feel safe, secure and comforted by our prayer – they are necessary. So is our faithful religious observance. But that is only half the Christian story. They 'gird us up for the Journey', as it were. They give us strength, they give us courage and vision for what we must do. Jesus calls his disciples to live as he did – to reach out to those that society ignores and discards, to act with compassion and work for God's justice in the world.

This is not always what we might regard as a safe and secure way to live. The apostles left everything, their homes, families and work, to follow Jesus. Then there were the seventy who were also sent out into the world with nothing:

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go……Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; (Luke 10:1-4)

To say the least, that was quite a challenge. One of the consequences to living the Christian faith as a security blanket or an insurance policy is that we can become very insular. Our faith community, our Christianity becomes a club. Those of us in the club are meant to share the same world view; we develop certain defined ways of interacting with groups and people on the 'outside'; and we either give permission for people to join our club or not.

The problem of faith as a club was a common problem in Jesus' time and was often the source of his disputes with the religious leaders of the day. Jesus touched, talked and ate with those who had been defined as 'sinners' or unclean. Jesus not only broke the club rules but he taught that those who love God should love the ones society and religion had forsaken – just as God loved each of them, also sinners before God.

Jesus told parables and stories about people who believed that they could find security and comfort in material wealth only to be eternally disappointed (Luke 12:13-21, Luke 16:19-31). He advised the rich who were still trying to find the perfect relationship with God to sell all they owned and give away their money (Matthew 19:16-22, Luke 9:11, Luke 19:1-10). He also taught that security does not come from power and privilege but from humility and service (Mark 10:42-45). In God's kingdom, the ways of this world will be turned upside down – the poor will be rich, the hungry will be fed, the sick healed and the oppressed set free. It is only in God that we can find eternal hope and only in God will we find true security.

Christianity is not an insurance policy. It is a call to take courage… It is a call to risk the way of Jesus. After the death of Moses, this is how the Lord prepared Joshua for the task before him.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9, 5:7, 9)

Regards
Jim Quilliman
Phone: 0401 933 023
Email: jqquillman@dsci.net.au

The Courage of Faith II

July 27 2010
COBDEN DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES INC.
IS SEEKING YOUR INPUT INTO
THE PROGRAMMING OF THE
NEW INDOOR WARM WATER EXERCISE POOL

The Warm Water Exercise pool will have:
- A main pool (12m x 8m)
- Sloping depth of 1.2m to 1.6m to accommodate as many types of programs as possible
- A hydraulic hoist in the shallow end
- 2 swim spas to swim against the current

Please tick the boxes that are of interest to you and your family!
(please note all programs are based on public demand and instructor availability)

☐ Recreational Swimming  ☐ Water Fitness Classes (Gentle)
☐ Water Aerobics  ☐ Learn To Swim (Children)
☐ Learn To Swim (Adults)  ☐ Learn To Swim (Pre-School)
☐ Rehabilitation/Recovery  ☐ Football (Postgame/PreSeason)
☐ Mum’s & Babies Classes  ☐ Relaxation Classes
☐ Gentle Water Exercise (Arthritic/Osteoporosis)  ☐ Life Guard Courses
☐ Children’s Birthday Parties  ☐ Endless Swim Spas

If you have any ideas or programs that you feel would benefit yourself, your family or your community, please write them down.

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Number of pool users in your household (please circle)  1  2  3  4  +5

Name (optional) _______________________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________ Postcode ______

Age (please circle)  10-15  16-21  22-35  36-50  51-65  65+