ISSUE 3-1

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 2011
Through the Mercy tradition we seek to act with love, fairness, tolerance and compassion to all.

Over recent days, the world has been shocked into silence by the terrible events in Norway; as we unfortunately experienced here in Australia with the tragedy of Port Arthur in 1996, evil still has the capacity to flourish in the modern world. Little can be said in the face of such wanton disregard for the sanctity of human life, my reflection is centered on the simple, profound and hope-filled words of Francis of Assisi:

Prayer of Saint Francis
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen

Welcome back to all in the Mercy Regional College community for what promises to be a full and productive third term.

St Patrick’s School 125th Anniversary
As many will be aware, St Patrick’s Primary school celebrates its 125th anniversary on the weekend of 6th and 7th August. I encourage all members of our community with links to St Patrick’s to support the range of activities that are planned. McAuley Campus will be open on Sunday 7th August as part of the celebrations. Congratulations!

VET Building and Construction
On Monday 25th July, a number of guests joined our Year 11 Building and Construction students under the leadership of Ms Kirsten Gibson for the opening of a new shelter shed along the Timboon-Cobden Rail Trail.

The students have been working with the local rail trail committee who had funding to build an accurate (as can be) replica of the original railway station at Naroghid. The railway has been converted to bike track and the railway station/shed will be used as a sheltered rest area.
Fundraising for Grace Howard and family
Congratulations to all students, staff and family members who have supported the various fundraising initiatives that have occurred over recent weeks to support Cobden’s Grace Howard and her family. The amount raised was in excess of $660.00. Our thoughts and prayers remain with them in this difficult time.

PTFA and Presentation Ball
Please see below the financial return from this year’s Presentation Ball which was held in early April. As can be seen, the Ball does not raise a significant amount of money for the College. As it is one of the major activities of the PTFA, the decision has been made to increase the price of tickets for the 2012 Presentation Ball from $10 to $15. This increase will mitigate the increasing costs associated with the Ball and allow the PTFA to bank a tangible sum following the Ball.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESENTATION BALL 2011</th>
<th>FINANCIAL REPORT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RECEIPTS</td>
<td>ACCOUNT NO.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parents &amp; Friends</td>
<td>6.455</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Harvey World Travel</td>
<td>Gift – Trainers</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2’s Company</td>
<td>Band Hire</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit Card</td>
<td>Gift Voucher</td>
<td>$ 500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lush Events</td>
<td>Stage Decorations</td>
<td>$ 550.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>R &amp; D McKenzie</td>
<td>Security Hire</td>
<td>$1,554.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Star Printing</td>
<td>Printing of Tickets</td>
<td>$ 207.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Bloom</td>
<td>Flowers – Buttonholes / Sprays / Bouquets</td>
<td>$ 547.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reicha’s Drapery</td>
<td>Suit Hire</td>
<td>$4,963.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAFE</td>
<td>Glenormiston Hire</td>
<td>$1,275.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terang Co-op</td>
<td>Ice, Catering ingredients</td>
<td>$ 158.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valtek Productions</td>
<td>DVDs</td>
<td>$2,520.00</td>
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| TOTAL EXPENSES         | $15,276.41          |

| PROFIT                 | $1,198.59           |

The PTFA is an enormous supporter of the College and its programs, unfortunately, like many groups, its work falls upon the shoulders of a few parents and staff. I encourage any parents who would like to further support the College to consider joining us at the next PTFA meeting on Monday 8th August at McAuley Campus starting at 7.30 pm.

We are still seeking two or three keen and enthusiastic Year 9 or 10 parents to take leadership of the Presentation Ball committee. Most plans are in place for next year’s Ball, however, a couple of leaders are needed.

VCE Information Night and Subject Selection
Over the next month or so, students in most year levels will undertake the process of selecting subjects and, where necessary, electives for 2012. I urge students to take care in the selection process as taking time will help ensure that your decision-making is informed and will be reflected in an enjoyable year’s study. Parents and teachers have important roles to play in this process as they bring a breadth of life experience and knowledge regarding subjects and possible career pathways. Full details on next week’s VCE Information Night and other year level subject selections can be found later in this newsletter.

Sport at MRC
Congratulations to Elle Price, Haylee Davis, Ben Saunders and Declan O’Connor who represented Mercy Regional College at the recent State Crosscountry finals held at Bundoora Park.

Good luck to the MRC senior football side that competes next week against Colac!

Enrolment Intentions for 2012
Detailed information regarding enrolment intentions is on page 14 & 15 of the newsletter.

Education Tax Refund
Please find information on pages 11 & 12 that may be of benefit to families when compiling their tax return.

I conclude this article by inviting parents and friends of MRC to read the attached “Along the Track” which explores the theme, ‘The Careless Shepherd’ on page six of the newsletter.

Yours in Mercy,

Darren Egberts
Principal

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)
Applications for the 2nd instalment of EMA are being taken. Parents who received the first instalment of EMA at the start of the year, DO NOT NEED TO APPLY AGAIN. Parents who have received a Health Care Card or Pension Card after the beginning of the school year, with an eligibility date on or before July 18, 2011 need to complete an application form. Forms are available from the College office and applications must be received by Friday, August 5, 2011.
Teaching & Learning Report
Mrs. Lisa Pope - Deputy Principal Teaching & Learning

VCE Information Night
On Wednesday the 3rd of August we will begin the subject selection process for students entering VCE in 2012. The night will be held at the McAuley campus in the MPA starting at 7pm. Parents and students will be given a brief overview of the VCE, and then you are invited to talk to our VCE staff in our mini expo held in the library. Whilst students in both Year 10 and 11 are welcome to attend the night, students in Year 11, who have already made decisions in relation to subject selections, will be given the selection packs in Pastoral Care on the 4th of August. All subject selections need to be submitted to the office by Friday the 12th of August.

For VCE students, this is not the final process, information is collated to obtain numbers for classes, and VCE Blocks will be created (subjects taught at the same time). Students will then select subjects from the blockings to finalise the process.

Middle School Subject Selections
Students in Year 8 will select their elective subjects on Wednesday 3rd of August. A brief presentation will be given at the O’Keeffe campus at 12.00pm on this day to explain to the students the Year 9 program. Students entering Year 9 in 2012 will need to pick 4 semester based elective subjects from a range of options: Ag Science, Art, Computer Applications, Food Technology, Graphic Design, Textiles, Woodwork, Music and Drama.

Students in Year 9 will select their electives for Year 10 2012 on Thursday 4th of August after a brief presentation in the MPA at the McAuley campus. They will be required to select one VCE/VET subject from the following options: VCE Business Management, VCE Outdoor Education, VCE History, VCE Psychology, VET Hospitality, VET Outdoor Education. They will also be required to pick 4 semester based electives from the following: Ag Science, Art, Art Photography, Computer Applications, Food Technology, Graphic Design, Media, Textiles, Woodwork, Music and Drama.

Students will be encouraged to submit their preferences on this day, however all subject selections for the Middle school program need to be submitted by Friday the 12th August. Both the VCE and Middle school handbooks can be downloaded from the College Website under Curriculum.

VCE Unit 3 results
Students who completed mid-year examinations in Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, Psychology and Physics will receive their first result on Monday the 8th of August. Studio Arts SAT 1 grades will also be available on this day. If students have any concerns regarding their results, please feel free to discuss this with their subject teachers or Head of VCE Teaching & Learning.

VCE Unit 3 results
Students who completed mid-year examinations in Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, Psychology and Physics will receive their first result on Monday the 8th of August. Studio Arts SAT 1 grades will also be available on this day. If students have any concerns regarding their results, please feel free to discuss this with their subject teachers or Head of VCE Teaching & Learning.

Progress Reports 9 - 12
The first round of semester two progress reports will be handed to the students on Friday the 19th of August. There will then be another round of reports for all students (7- 12) released at the end of term. Parent Teacher Interviews, which we normally hold at the end of term 3, have been scheduled for Monday 10th of October, the first day of Term 4. As we have many staff absent during the end of term 3, attending the History tour in France, we have moved the date to enable as many staff to be available to parents. The booking system will be online, and new passwords will be issued with the interim/progress reports.

From the Deputy Principal
Mr. Kerin Glennen

Last Monday staff gathered at the O’Keeffe Campus to work with Anne Doody from the Catholic Education Office Ballarat “Exploring all kinds of minds”...Understanding Learning and Learners.

We Remember
At our first break staff gathered to remember Mr. Dinny Ryan as it was the first anniversary of his death. We were also joined by his wife Mary. We remembered Dinny in prayer as well as in story and there were a number of stories spoken about him and how he will always be remembered as a legend of our college.

We also remembered other staff members that have passed away, Mr. John Tindley, Mr. Anthony Splatt, Mr. Ken Jehu and Mr. Bob Reed.

The last two years we have also seen the loss of Mr. John Tindley, Mr. Ken Jehu and Dinny, all founding members of our college. It is by revisiting our past and sharing the stories regarding the beginning of Mercy Regional College, we as staff gain a greater insight into the commitment of so many who contributed to making Mercy what it is today. Throughout those early days parents committed their daughters and sons to Catholic Regional College (Mercy) because they wanted to have quality Catholic Education within the district.

As a staff we remember parents, priests, Sisters of Mercy and students who have passed away and we continue to thank all those who took a stand and showed the courage of their conviction by supporting Catholic Regional College / Mercy Regional College.

College Uniform (Winter)
As a college we have a uniform, the expectation is that each student is in the correct uniform or a parent note has been sent from home to explain the reason as to why not. The vast majority of our students wear our uniform with pride and are well presented and I thank parents and students.
The correct winter uniform for girls is as follows:
College Skirt, White College Shirt, Maroon jumper years 7 to 10 / VCE jumper for Years 11/12 (Not hooded jumpers), Navy tights and Black Leather shoes

The correct winter uniform for boys is as follows:
Tailored grey school trousers (Not shorts in winter), White college shirt, Maroon jumper Years 7/10, VCE jumper for Years 11/12 (Not hooded jumpers), Grey socks and Black Leather School Shoes

Uniform shop hours:
The uniform shop will be open on Tuesday and Thursday at the McAuley Campus, from 12:00 to 2:00pm. Please note that it will only be opened at the O’Keeffe Campus on the first Wednesday of each month. The dates for the rest of Term 3 are the 3rd August and 7th September. If you have any concerns regarding uniform please contact the Junior, Middle or Senior year coordinator.

Fact or Myth?.....some of the common myths and misconceptions regarding teenagers and alcohol.

Myth....You don’t have to drink to be cool or. The fact it is safer if you don’t.
Young people who establish heavy and excessive drinking patterns in adolescence are more likely to continue drinking at these levels as adults. This increases their risk of suffering from long term health consequences such cirrhosis, cancer and other harmful side effects.

Myth....Everyone drinks, you can’t have a good time without alcohol
In fact, many Australians do not drink or rarely drink alcohol
In 2006 approximately 20% of Australians didn’t drink alcohol and another 33.3% had an alcohol drink on a less than weekly basis.
Many people choose to celebrate significant events with healthy food and drinks.

Myth...You are the only parents who won’t let me drink!!!
In 2005, a survey of Australian secondary school students found that 52% of ALL students aged between 12 – 17 were non drinkers, while 23% were occasional drinkers and 19% said they were party drinkers.
While experimenting with alcohol is often seen as “normal” during adolescence, this doesn’t mean that it is safe, nor does it mean that parents have to accept teenage drinking. Research does show that alcohol is particularly harmful during adolescence especially in relation to brain development.

Myth...Alcohol is a drug and causes more harm to Victorians than all illegal drugs such as ecstasy and ice
In the five year period 2001 to 2005, there were 2670 alcohol related assaults on young people (age 0 – 17 years) in Victoria and 5152 alcohol related hospital admissions of Victorians aged 15-19 years. In 2004 alcohol was a contributing factor in the deaths of 722 Victorians where-as drugs (other than alcohol) were a contributing factor of 108 deaths.

O’Keeffe Campus Update
Tony Wynd – Campus Coordinator

Students arrived back at school on Tuesday 19th July, fresh and keen to start another semester. On chatting with our students it is amazing to think about the range of diverse activities that they engaged in while on holidays, from running Hip Hop workshops at Fun 4 Kids to pig shooting at Balranald!
A couple of our students deserve a special mention. Earlier on in the year Daniel Kenna entered the Presidents Cup Essay Competition where he wrote about why golf was important to him. Daniel was one of the special winners and has won a prize that includes:

- 2 tickets to the President’s Cup on 16th November at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club.
- A special shirt to wear at the opening ceremony.
- A behind the scene tour of the club house, media compound, golf course and practice area and hopefully bump into a few of the players.

The College congratulates Daniel and hopes he has an awesome day at this world class event.

Tyler Mungean was selected to represent the South West in Malaysia in a junior international cricket tournament. He is very much looking forward to playing against Sachin Tendulkar’s son.

We also have around 10 junior school shooters taking part in shooting practice at the Noorat Gun Club on Wednesday evenings. They hope to represent the
College at interschool shoots in August and October. They must do a safety course first to compete in this event.

We had an excellent response from Year 8 Students who wished to participate in the Thomas Carr Mercy Exchange. Over 21 students applied and the caliber shown by these students was very high. Choosing 10 students to represent the College was extremely difficult and after much consideration the following students are to be congratulated for being selected to attend the exchange.

Georgia Buchholz, Olivia Giblin, Olivia Stephens, Lucy Halloran, Haylee Davis, Sam Henderson, Darcy Collins, Jack Williams, Sam Watt and Will Milsom.

The College also welcomes back Charlie Bezzina, former Victoria Police Homicide Detective. Charlie will speak about his role as a former detective and share stories from some of the cases he worked on. He will also take questions from students about his experiences in the Victoria Police Force.

Year 7D have started to plant out a couple of beds in the vegetable garden. Peas, carrots, lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower and also spinach are now growing slowly and we hope to harvest by the end of next term.

A report on Charlie Bezzina’s Visit and Tyler’s Cricket Tournament will be in the next newsletter.

**Local Schools Join Together for “Make a Wish”**

Terang College, St Thomas’ Primary School, Noorat Primary School, Mercy College students and parents are all invited to join the ‘Make A Wish Charity Walkers’ who are walking through Terang on Sunday 31st of July. These walkers will also be supported by Terang Lions Club Members.

It would be great for local Terang Schools to support the ‘Make a Wish Walkers’ who are walking from Melbourne to Portland to raise money to deliver wishes to children with life threatening illnesses.

The Terang Walkers will meet at Scanlon’s Dairy Centre at 1 High Street, at 10.30am and walk with the Make a Wish walkers through to the P-4 Campus of Terang College.

We are looking forward to seeing as many students, parents and friends on Sunday the 31st, to ensure that this worthwhile event is well supported by our community.

Donations will be accepted on the day.
What is your opinion? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off (Mt 18:12-13).

Like all of Jesus’ parables and stories, the meaning of the parable of the Ninety Nine and the Lost Sheep is not as obvious as it looks – there are layers of meaning! This Parable is the first of a trilogy about loss and redemption that Jesus tells after the Pharisees and religious leaders accuse him of welcoming and eating with “sinners.” Jesus responds to his critics when he told them this parable (Mtt 15:2), but Luke also slips in two more, the Lost Coin and the Prodigal Son, just to ram the point home!

The first parable tells of a shepherd who lost one of his sheep and who left his ninety-nine others ‘in the wilderness’ (15:4).

The shepherd’s job was tough, unforgiving, severe, tiring, and hazardous. Almost they worked in the hills and valleys – away from home, wandering with their flocks in search of grass, water and, at night, safety and shelter. In Luke’s account of this story, the sheep is lost in the wilderness (15.4). That was indeed, a wild place. Wolves roamed freely and so, in those days, did lions. The lone sheep didn’t have much hope! Neither did the others who were left behind while the shepherd roamed the hills and valleys. The behaviour of a shepherd who abandons his flock in order to look for one lost sheep (Mt 18:10-14) may be considered vengeful on recklessness! So what’s the point? The Shepherd is like God – look at what lengths God is prepared to go to save individuals. God risks everything for you! Even for the lost’, Jesus’ critics considered those sinners and people of ‘poor’ reputation to be lost. Jesus didn’t. Nor, if we are to accept Jesus’ stories, does God! In Jesus’ kingdom, no one is lost or over-looked. In fact, their reconciliation, is a cause for even greater rejoicing than those who consider themselves to be faithful, to be ‘orthodox’. God, it seems, does not want to rest until everyone is safe, until the community, the family is once again whole and we are all eating at the same table.

Secondly, what is at issue here is the loss of wholeness. For a Hebrew at that time, the number 99 did not designate wholeness, but the number 100 did. For the woman who lost one of her ten coins, 10 was a number of wholeness, 9 was not. The same message comes through in the story of the Prodigal Son – the Father cannot rest, nor be at peace, until both his sons are back in the fold. He is overjoyed when his wayward son returns but the story ends with him still outside the house, trying to coax his other son, outside because of anger, to also come inside. The picture is not complete without wholeness. In Jesus’ day, while these scribes and critics exclude those, in their judgment, not considered to be worthy or acceptable, there is no wholeness in God’s kingdom. That applies to us today too and it calls on us to be compassionate, to be welcoming, big-hearted, non-judgmental, to work to get rid of barriers, attitudes, structures that divide. It calls on us to work to restore relationships, to be reconciled where division and separation have occurred. Those parables, like the woman who lost a coin, like the shepherd who has lost a sheep, and like the father of the prodigal son and older brother, call on us to look at our own lives to see what is not whole, what is not complete, what is wanting.

Jesus’ vision of the Kingdom of Wholeness is an important one. Jesus’ message here is that Christianity is, by its nature, inclusive, not exclusive. Like the shepherd or the father, we too shouldn’t rest easy when others are separated from us or we separate ourselves from them – we should not rest easy when our communities are divided or people excluded. We are called on to be open hearted, compassionate, welcoming. Yes, some behaviour, some attitudes and actions can separate us, isolate us. There are actions and attitudes in all of us that need evangelsing, reforming, changing. None of us is perfect but Jesus’ message is that God wants wholeness (or holiness) and God takes the initiative – God seeks us out as Jesus so vividly describes in the image of the shepherd who leaves the 99, the father who goes out to meet his wayward son, and the second son who is so angry. The Catechism reminds us that

By his revelation, the invisible God, from the fullness of his love, addresses us as friends, and moves among us, in order to invite us into his own company (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1145).

And, we are told, God never ceases to draw each person to himself (Catechism of the Catholic Church #27).

Jesus tells his critics that there is there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety nine righteous persons who do not need to repent (Lk 15:7), over what was lost and has now been found. That’s a tough call, even hard to accept. It may even seem somewhat unfair but these three parables remind us that what ultimately characterizes a genuine faith is a big heart. In Pope Benedict’s words:

Only my readiness to encounter my neighbour and to show him love makes me sensitive to God as well (Deus Caritas est #20).

So, what is your opinion?

Regards
Jim Quillinan

Phone: 0401 933 023
Email: jquillinan@dcsi.net.au

The Careless Shepherd 19 July 2011
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Open Day(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academy of Interactive Entertainment</td>
<td>Sunday 21 August (10:00am - 3:00pm) Saturday 19 November (10:00am - 3:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Academy of Design</td>
<td>Sunday 14 August (11:00am - 4:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Catholic University</td>
<td><strong>Melbourne Campus:</strong> Sunday 14 August (10:00am - 4:00pm) <strong>Ballarat Campus:</strong> Sunday 20 August (10:00am - 4:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian College of Sports Therapy</td>
<td>Sunday 14 August (12:00pm - 3:00pm) Wednesday 17 August (4:00pm - 7:00pm) Sunday 11 September (12:00pm - 3:00pm) Wednesday 14 September (4:00pm - 7:00pm)</td>
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<td>Australian Maritime College</td>
<td><strong>Beauty Point:</strong> 20 August (10:00am - 3:00pm) <strong>Launceston:</strong> 21 August (10:00am - 3:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School</td>
<td>Telephone: 1800 257 360 or (02) 9437 0300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Sturt University</td>
<td>At CSU it’s ‘open day every day’ (Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays). To book a tour at any campus, telephone 1800 334 773. (Three days notice is required).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deakin University</td>
<td><strong>Warmanibool Campus:</strong> Sunday 14 August (10:00am - 2:00pm) <strong>Geelong Waurn Ponds:</strong> and Geelong Waterfront Campus: Sunday 21 August (10:00am - 3:00pm) <strong>Melbourne Burwood Campus:</strong> Sunday 28 August (10:00am - 4:00pm)</td>
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<td>Gordon (The)</td>
<td>30 May 21 August 2011 (10:00am - 3:00pm) see <a href="http://www.thegordon.edu.au">www.thegordon.edu.au</a> for full details and location</td>
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<tr>
<td>JMC Academy</td>
<td>Melbourne: Thursday 18 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>La Trobe University</td>
<td>Information on all open day activities - <a href="http://www.latrobe.edu.au/openday">www.latrobe.edu.au/openday</a></td>
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<td>La Trobe University Bendigo: 28 August (10:00am - 4:00pm)</td>
<td>Melbourne: 7 August (10:00am - 4:00pm)</td>
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<td>North Melbourne Institute of TAFE</td>
<td>Caulfield, Clayton and Parkville campuses check the website throughout the year for details of 'Super Thursday' information sessions at <a href="http://www.rmit.edu.au/superthedays">www.rmit.edu.au/superthedays</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Photography Studies College</td>
<td>Sunday 21 August (10:00am - 4:00pm) Individual and group tours by appointment: (03) 9602 3191</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIC-photographic imaging College</td>
<td>Sunday 21 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMIT University</td>
<td><strong>City, Bundoora and Brunswick campuses:</strong> Sunday 14 August (10:00am - 4:00pm) A free bus service runs from the City campus to Bundoora and Brunswick. <a href="http://www.rmit.edu.au/openday">www.rmit.edu.au/openday</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>SAE Institute</td>
<td>Saturday 15 October (11:00am - 3:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>South West Institute of TAFE</td>
<td>Visit <a href="http://www.swtafe.edu.au">www.swtafe.edu.au</a> for dates and further information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern School of Natural Therapies</td>
<td>Check <a href="http://www.southern.edu.au">www.southern.edu.au</a> for details and times or call (03) 9415 3335</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swinburne University of Technology</td>
<td><strong>Hawthorn, Lilydale and Prahran campuses:</strong> Sunday 21 August (10:00 am-4:00 pm) For further information visit <a href="http://www.swinburne.edu.au/openday">www.swinburne.edu.au/openday</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Ballarat</td>
<td>Sunday 28 August</td>
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<td>University of Melbourne (The)</td>
<td>Parkville: Sunday 21 August Southbank: Sunday 21 August <a href="http://www.openday.unimelb.edu.au">www.openday.unimelb.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria University</td>
<td>Virtual Open Day: 26 June – 30 September 2011 Victoria University’s online Virtual Open Day will run for three months from 26 June to 30 September 2011. Visitors will have the opportunity to interact online in real time with lecturers, current students and graduates. Visit Victoria University’s Virtual Open Day at <a href="http://www.vu.edu.au/openday">www.vu.edu.au/openday</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>William Angliss Institute of TAFE</td>
<td>Sunday 7 August (10:00am - 4:00pm)</td>
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Each term, a different cluster of schools is invited to nominate Year 9 students who may benefit from an opportunity to experience a well-designed, interactive "taster" of a Certificate II in Agriculture (Dairy).

A group of up to 15 students is then invited to attend a three day program of activities delivered by the National Centre for Dairy Education Australia.

The program consists of selected (highly interactive) components of three units of the Certificate II in Agriculture (Dairy); structured visits to two different types of dairy farms: one small herd farm which employs a trainee, and one large herd (or corporate) farm which employs staff at various skill and management levels; and an introduction to the diversity of career paths available within the industry following completion of certificate level training, either as a straight VET course or as part of a school-based apprenticeship.

The taster draws from activities in the following Cert II units: Care for health and welfare of livestock; Participate in workplace communications and Provide feed for livestock.

Transport is provided to and from school for the students for each day of the taster, and lunch is provided each day.

There is no cost to the schools or the students to attend the taster.

**History**

Term 4, 2010: pilot - Terang, Mercy and Camperdown, 11 students attended

Term 1, 2011: Emmanuel, Brauer, Warrnambool, Hawkesdale.
25 students expressed interest in the 15 available places. 12 students attended

Term 2, 2011: Cobden/Timboon
16 students attended

*A Taste of Dairy* forms only part of WestVic Dairy's investment in the promotion of dairying careers to school students. The project also coordinates the industry's efforts at careers expos in Colac, Corangamite, Warrnambool (and soon Portland and Hamilton), in the provision of work experience opportunities both on and off-farm across the region, the Cows Create Careers project in 14 schools, promotion of the TAFE, on-the-job and university pathways to careers in dairying through careers events and projects that link industry experience to schools' curriculum needs.

**WestVic Dairy Inc.** WVD is the regional development program for the dairy industry, and employs Robyn Vale as Careers Co-ordinator, who manages the project delivery and school liaison. Robyn delivers a session on career pathways in dairy at the end of the taster.

**National Centre for Dairy Education Australia.** Terang. The NCDEA is the dairy industry's preferred RTO. Their programs have been developed and are delivered in close consultation with the industry. Certificate II and II trainers deliver the taster, to give the students a taste not only of the content, but of the different training styles they might come across in TAFE training. The NCDEA also liaises with suitable farms for inclusion in the delivery of each program.

**Australian Apprenticeship Centres/ Group Training Organisations** AAC/GTO field officers join the students for lunch on the third day to explain the roles of Australian Apprenticeship Centres and group training organisations; school-based apprenticeships and how they fit with the requirements of VCAL/VCE and school timetables. Information for the students to take home for discussion with the parents is provided.
02 August
* Senior School Football
* Mortlake College Musical Production - Yrs 7 & 8
  (11:00 AM - 3:00 PM)

03 August
* Year 8 Subject Selection Talk for 2012
  (1:30 PM - 2:30 PM)
* VCE Information Evening (Subject Selections)
  (7:00 PM - 8:30 PM)

04 August
* Street Retreat - Some Yr 11 Students
* Year 9 into 10 Subject Selection Talk 2012
  (9:30 AM-10:30 AM)

05 August
* Street Retreat - Some Yr 11 Students
* Yr 12 Dress-up Fundraiser

07 August
* St Patrick's School 125 year Celebration
  MRC will be open for tours on this day

08 August
* PTFA Meeting @ McAuley Campus 7.30pm
* 2012 Yr 7 Enrolment Interviews at McAuley
  Campus (3:30 PM-5:30 PM)

10 August
* Year 10 Boys Retreat
* 2012 Yr 7 Enrolment Interviews at O'Keeffe
  Campus (3:30 PM-5:30 PM)

11 August
* Year 10 Boys Retreat
* Year 10 Girls Retreat

12 August
* Year 10 Girls Retreat
* Subject Selections for 2012 Due Today Yrs 8-11

15 August
* Mid-term Break no school for Staff & Students

16 August
* Board Meeting @ 7.30pm
* Whole School Mass - Feast of Mary MacKillop
  (1:30 PM - 2:50 PM)

19 August
* Enrolment Intentions 2012 Due Today Yrs 8-11
Program Costs and Information
Centacare understands that finances can be tight at times, so if you are unable to pay you are still welcome and entitled to come to a group. Concession rates are available.

If you think a group is not for you, or if time is difficult to find, then working with a facilitator can be helpful. Options include the couples’ program Prepare/Enrich, and individual Parenting Consultations.

A separate Preparing for Marriage brochure is available.

Individual Parenting Consultations are available by appointment only.

Childcare is not provided.

Centacare programs are conducted in a relaxed, friendly, non-judgmental environment. The facilitators are experienced and qualified professionals who draw on current research to support and encourage individuals and couples in their relationship happiness and success.

All program details and venues will be confirmed prior to commencement.

Confidentiality

Funded and approved through the Federal Attorney General’s Department, The Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Family Relationship Services Program

Contact:
Centacare Warrnambool office
Level 1, 142 Timor Street
PO Box 994
Warrnambool Vic 3280
PH: 03 5559 3000

www.centacareballarat.org.au

Program Calendar
TERM 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Year 12’s</td>
<td>Monday, Aug. 8</td>
<td>Emmanuel College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.45pm - 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2-3 Magic and Emotion Coaching</td>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>Kirrae Health &amp; Anglican Church Port Fairy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wednesday, Sept. 7, 14 &amp; 21</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6.45pm - 9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABCD Parenting Young Adolescents</td>
<td>Wednesday, Aug. 17, 24 &amp; 31</td>
<td>Centacare Warrnambool</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10am - 12noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our Changing Family</td>
<td>Tuesday, Aug. 9</td>
<td>Centacare Warrnambool</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5.30pm - 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raising Teens</td>
<td></td>
<td>Baimbridge College, 85 Stephen St, Hamilton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Behaviour Change Program</td>
<td>Starts Thursday, July 28 and runs for 15 weeks</td>
<td>Brophy Family and Youth Services, Timor Street, Warrnambool</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5.30pm - 7.30pm</td>
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TERM 4

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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2-3 Magic and Emotion Coaching</td>
<td>Monday, Nov. 21, 28 &amp; Dec 5.</td>
<td>Hamilton or Warrnambool</td>
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<tr>
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<td>11am - 1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuning into Kids</td>
<td>Wednesday, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23 &amp; 30</td>
<td>Port Fairy Community Services Centre, Port Fairy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10am - 12.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABCD Parenting Young Adolescents</td>
<td>Monday, Oct. 31, Nov 7 &amp; 14</td>
<td>Centacare, 11 Clarendon St Hamilton</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11am - 1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our Changing Family</td>
<td>Tuesday, Oct. 18</td>
<td>Portland</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5.30pm - 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preparing for Year 12</td>
<td>Tuesday, Oct. 25</td>
<td>Emmanuel College</td>
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<td>5.30pm - 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transition to Secondary School</td>
<td>Monday, Nov. 21</td>
<td>Emmanuel College</td>
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<td>5.30pm - 7pm</td>
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School uniforms
The Government is changing the Education Tax Refund (ETR) so that people can claim their kid's school uniforms. This means people will be able to claim school-approved uniform items from 1 July 2012.

What do I need to do and when?
From 1 July 2011 start keeping receipts for school uniform items so you can claim them next year.

What school uniform items will I be eligible to claim?
Items need to be distinctive and recognised by the school — but are not limited to items bearing a school crest. For example:

1. A public school has a policy which states that students should wear yellow shirts, blue hats, grey shorts or skirts and black leather shoes to identify the students as attending the school. However, while wearing these colours is strongly encouraged, it is not compulsory. An eligible individual whose child attends the school buys items which fit within this policy from a store unaffiliated with the school. None of the clothing items contain the name of the school or school crest. As the items, including shoes, are approved or recognised as part of a distinctive school outfit and fall under the policy, they would be eligible expenses. This applies irrespective of where the clothing was purchased or the fact the uniform was not mandatory.

2. A school has a dress code where students are required to be dressed in a neat and presentable fashion, but which does not indicate a more specific colour or style that the clothing should take. An eligible individual whose child attends the school buys clothes which they intend to wear to school. The items would not be eligible expenses. While the clothing meets the school's dress code, they lack the sufficiently distinctive quality of a uniform, and could not identify the child as a student at the school.
About the Education Tax Refund

Who is eligible?
- A person who has received Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A for a child undertaking primary or secondary school studies.
- Independent students in primary or secondary school.
- People on other allowances may be eligible too.

How much can be claimed?
Those eligible can claim 50% of eligible education expenses up to the maximum amounts.

For the 2010–11 financial year the maximum amounts that can be claimed are:
- $794 for each primary school child — that is, a refund of up to $397, and
- $1,588 for each secondary school child — that is a refund of up to $794.

What can be claimed in 2010-11?
Eligible expenses include the cost of buying, establishing, repairing and maintaining any of the following items:
- home computers and laptops
- computer-related equipment such as printers, USB flash drives, and disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- computer repairs
- home internet connections
- computer software for educational use
- school textbooks and other printed learning material, including prescribed textbooks, associated learning materials, study guides and stationery, and
- prescribed trade tools for secondary school trade courses.

How do people claim?
- The ETR is claimed in an individual's tax return, or
- For those who don't lodge a tax return, it is claimed on the Education Tax Refund for individuals claim form, available from the Tax Office.

For more information go to www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au.
ATTENTION PARENTS

From now until September 18th 2011, you can earn one “Earn & Learn” point for our school for every $10 you spend at Woolworths (excluding the purchase of cigarettes, alcohol and gift cards).

Points automatically appear on your shopping doockets, so all you need to do is bring those doockets to school (Woolworths have even given us a special collection box!).

The more points you bring in, the more we can redeem from a choice of more than 7,000 educational resources including library books, classroom equipment, art & crafts materials and much, much more!

Help Woolies to help our school. Collect as many Earn & Learn points as you can!

MANY THANKS,

LYNN WADLEY
BUSINESS MANAGER

PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT
Camperdown Regional Library
Junior Library Officers (2)

The Corangamite Regional Library Corporation has a vacancy for two junior library officers to work at the Camperdown Library for 3 hrs per fortnight every second Saturday, 9.00am - 12 noon. Please click here to download a position description. For information about this position please contact Andrew Fletcher, Branch Library Officer during Library opening hours on 5593 2356. Application is by expression of interest and applications should include a cover letter, resume and contact details of two referees.

Applications close on Saturday 30th July 2011.

Applications may be emailed to cmpdlib@corangamitelibrary.vic.gov.au, mailed or handed to:
Andrew Fletcher -Branch Library Officer
Camperdown Library
212 Manifold Street, Camperdown, Victoria 3260.
Dear Parents,

**ENROLMENT INTENTIONS FOR 2012**

At this stage of the year, we are busy planning for 2012 in terms of staffing, budgeting and timetabling arrangements for students currently enrolled at Mercy Regional College.

To assist with this, could I ask that you fill out the attached form regarding your enrolment intentions in 2012 for your child(ren). Please print their name and current year level, and then tick the most appropriate box regarding their intentions in 2012.

**Do not include your son / daughter if they are currently in Year 12 as they will be leaving the College.**

This indication is merely a statement of intention and, in no way, final and binding. But to assist with 2012 planning, we need indications which are as accurate as possible at this stage.

I also ask that you inform me if a change occurs to the information you provide to us, as this will directly affect our planning for next year.

Please complete and return the 2012 Enrolment Intentions Form to the College office by no later than;

**Friday 19th August, 2011**

Yours sincerely,


**Dr Darren Egberts**
PRINCIPAL
## 2012 ENROLMENT INTENTIONS

(Please fill out a separate section for each child you have at Mercy)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT NAME:</th>
<th>CURRENT YEAR LEVEL:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. [ ] Leaving school for employment</td>
<td>D. [ ] Leaving school to do TAFE course</td>
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For (B) (C) (D) (E) please give further details.

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For (B) (C) (D) (E) please give further details.

___________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________

Parent Name(s):

___________________________________________________________________________________

Parent Signature(s):

___________________________________________________________________________________

Please sign this form and return it to the College office by Friday 19\textsuperscript{th} August, 2011.