

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 2012

Through the Mercy tradition we support, acknowledge and strive for personal excellence and achievement.

Dear parents, students, families and friends of Mercy,

Welcome to a new school year and the excitement of a year filled with engaging learning, growth in personal wellbeing, success on the sports fields and plenty of fun times with family and friends.

This week, the Australian Federal Parliament passed a new law which recognised Indigenous Australians as the First inhabitants and custodians of this beautiful land. It is a partial step towards the goal of revising our national Constitution so that it includes full and appropriate recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the original inhabitants of Australia. The Catholic Church in Australia has been a consistent and vocal advocate on behalf of Indigenous rights and for Reconciliation and I expect the Church to come out strongly in support of the proposed constitutional change. As Christians, we fundamentally believe in the sacredness of every human being, "created in the image and likeness of God" (Gen 1:26) and, therefore, any suggestion of inequality based on race, colour, religion or gender is abhorrent.

As a reflection, I offer the following words from Pope John Paul II who was celebrating the unique gift of Indigenous Australians on his visit to Alice Springs in 1986:

It is a great joy for me to be here today in Alice Springs and to meet so many of you, the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders of Australia. I want to tell you right away how much the Church esteems and loves you, and how much she wishes to assist you in your spiritual and material needs...Your culture, which shows the lasting genius and dignity of your race, must not be allowed to disappear.

Welcome

With the start of the new school year, I once again welcome the eight new staff members who have joined the Mercy Regional College community:

STAFF MEMBER	RESPONSIBILITIES
Mr. Jeremy Baker	Teaching 7 – 10 Woodwork and VET Building & Construction
Mr. Dan Glennen	Teaching Year 7 & 8 Mathematics and Year 8 RE
Mr. Matthew Harkin	Teaching Year 7 – 10 PE, Sport and Year 8 English
Ms. Jessica Niblett	Domain Leader – Science Teaching VCE Biology & Year 7 – 10 Science
Ms. Claire O'Connor	Teaching Year 7 – 10 English and History
Mr. Daryl Richardson	Teaching Year 10 & 11 Mathematics and Year 8 & 10 Science
Mrs. Emily Stephens	Coordinator of Student Wellbeing Teaching Year 8 Sport
Mr. Peter Delwig	Integration Aide
Ms. Emily Field	AFL Trainee

In 2013, we welcome 94 new Year 7 students to Mercy and another ten new students at Years 8 – 12, I hope that your start to the school year has been one marked by hospitality, warmth and inclusiveness.

2012 VCE Results

Congratulations to all students on the excellent results that Mercy Regional College achieved in last year's VCE studies.

Dux for the year was Stephen Delwig who achieved an ATAR score of 96.70.



Congratulations also to Courtney Mathew, Rachel Harney and Elizabeth Smart who each achieved an ATAR result above 90.

The full list of subject duxes is included below.

Dux of Unit 3 & 4 Subjects

Agricultural & Horticultural Studies:

Declan O'Connor

Biology:

Rachael Harney

Business Management:

Daniel Leversha, Toby McKenzie, Emily Walsh

Chemistry:

Stephen Delwig

English:

Elizabeth Smart

Equine Industry:

Verity Watt

Food Technology:

Lucy Place

Health & Human Development:

Meagan Carlin

Australian History

Genevieve Lee

Hospitality:

Thomas Brett

Information Technology:

Joseph Battistello

I.T. Applications

Bronson Whytcross

Legal Studies:

Elizabeth Smart

Literature:

Elizabeth Smart

Further Mathematics:

Rachael Harney

Mathematical Methods:

Stephen Delwig

Specialist Mathematics:

Stephen Delwig

Outdoor & Environmental Studies:

Ella Woodmason

Physical Education:

Rachael Gibson

Physics:

Stephen Delwig

Product Design & Technology:

Emily Walsh

Psychology:

Zachary O'Flynn

Studio Art:

Amity Pope

Visual Communication Design:

Hannah Jackson

Commencement Mass and Assembly

2013 started most appropriately for Mercy Regional College with the whole school gathering to celebrate mass in the de Chantal Stadium on Wednesday 6th February. The theme of the mass was "*Beginning Anew... We hope, We pray.*" and it was a theme that was reinforced several times through the celebration – in the prayers brought by the student leaders, in Fr. Matthew's homily and in the commissioning of staff that followed communion. Special thanks to Fr. Matthew and Fr. Gerry for joining us for the celebration and to Mrs. Jo Saunders for preparing and organising the liturgy itself.

After mass, the College community had the opportunity of celebrating the high achieving Year 12 students of 2012 with subject duxes awarded a certificate and voucher in recognition of their work. The assembly also recognised the six students who received a Spirit of Mercy Award last year as the most outstanding student in each year level for 2012.

Catholic Schools' Industrial Action

Last Thursday, February 14th, Mercy Regional College had four teachers take strike action but through the employment of emergency teachers all classes were able to run. Any sort of industrial action is difficult in a school and my communications with staff have indicated my personal frustrations with the lack of action by the State Government in resolving the impasse with the public sector education union. No meaningful progress can be made on a new industrial agreement across Catholic schools until this occurs.

Presentation Ball

This year's Presentation Ball will occur on Friday 22nd March at Glenormiston College and practices for the big night began this week with Year 11 students gathering most Monday and Wednesday evenings in the de Chantal Stadium. I encourage all students involved and their families to carefully read all the material sent home in the next month by the Presentation Ball committee.

Camps, Retreats and Work Experience

Following last week's start to the school year and the College's Swimming Sports, many students and staff will be involved in educational programs beyond the school:

- Year 7 students are currently on camp at Cape Bridgewater. This camp is for three days and two nights and includes a range of outdoor and team activities designed to facilitate the transition process into a new school. I joined the students on Wednesday for the fantastic walk along the cliff tops of Discovery Bay and for a less successful attempt at sandboarding.
- Year 10 students will be away from school next week undertaking a week's Work Experience at a wide variety of locations and workplaces in our local communities and beyond.
- Year 12 students travel next week to the Dunkeld Retreat Centre for a three day retreat program facilitated by Year 12 and other senior staff. The Year 12 Retreat remains a key foundation for students as they commence the rigours of Year 12 studies.
- Next week, Year 11 students complete a camp program designed to assist them in making informed decisions regarding future study, work or vocational plans. The camp includes two days in Melbourne with visits to a number of tertiary and vocational educational institutions and a day at the Noorat Community Centre facilitated by Shane Garner.

A reminder to all students and parents that the Mercy Regional College program of camps and retreats is compulsory for all students and should have precedence over other activities such as part-time work, sport or VET subjects. Students who miss a camp or retreat **must** make prior contact with their relevant Head of School.

Maintenance Works at Mercy

A significant amount of work was undertaken over the December-January break to improve and grow the facilities and capacity for learning at Mercy. These works included:

- Reburishment and painting of temporary portables in Russell property;
- Refurbishment of ceilings in Year 9 classrooms;
- Purchase and installation of air conditioners in four rooms;
- Replacement and/or purchase of blinds for all rooms across both campuses;
- Replacement of existing, and installation of new, sunshades at O'Keeffe campus;
- Significant extension work on O'Keeffe campus car park and drop off zone

In addition, a large amount of work has been done to continue to improve the infrastructure that supports IT and communications at Mercy. These works included the replacement of computer printers with photocopier/scanners, the rollout of Apple TV units and the development of a "Mercy wireless link" between the two campuses were particular foci for this.

2013 Battlefields Tour

Last Tuesday, I was privileged to spend some time at the launch of the 2013 MRC Battlefields tour which will again see a number of Mercy students and staff travelling to Europe to visit a range of sites in France, Belgium and the UK.

The tour will be led by our own Mr. Lachie Lee and promises to be something special. Please contact Mr. Lee if you are interested in more information.

Yours in Mercy,



DR. DARREN EGBERTS
PRINCIPAL

Deputy Principal Teaching & Learning

Mr. Chris Grant

Parent Access Module

A significant goal for Mercy Regional College in 2013 is to generate an increased level of communication between the College and home, through the Internet via the Parent Access Module (PAM). The Parent Access Module is designed to provide relevant, informative, valuable and timely information about the academic progress of your son/s or daughter/s, along with the College calendar, daily notices, attendance record, timetable, booklist and a behavioural tracking count.

New parents will receive a letter shortly outlining further information on the Parent Access Module and your unique username and password.

Current parents may use their details from 2012. If you have forgotten any of these please contact me at the College office.

Application for Change of Preference Form

Students wishing to change a subject must now complete the Change of Preference Form. Some students have already made a change, however, at this stage of the term only genuine changes will be considered.

Any students wishing to change subjects can obtain a form from Mrs Leanne Carpenter or Mr Lachie Lee. No further changes for Semester 1 will be made after Monday 25th February, 2013.

From the Business Manager

Mrs. Lynn Wadley

School Fee Accounts

School Fee accounts for 2013 have been posted out to all families. Included was information detailing the different methods available to pay the school fees. I encourage you to adhere to the timelines for payment. Should you foresee difficulty in meeting the timeline, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Throughout the year there may be the cost of camps, excursions, etc. that have not been organized as yet added to the school fee account. You will be advised on the permission letter of these costs being added to the account.

Education Maintenance Allowance 2013

Forms are available from the College office and applications for Education Maintenance Allowance must be submitted by Thursday, 28th February.

To be eligible to claim EMA, all applicants must hold a current Commonwealth Health Care Card or Pension Card which was valid from 29th January, 2013. The EMA is paid to eligible parents of students up to the age of 16 years old.

We encourage those families who are eligible for EMA payments to use this money towards payment of school fees. The College no longer receives direct payments on behalf of parents.

MISSING PE SHIRT AT O'KEEFFE

Jack Darcy 7D lost his new PE shirt last week at the O'Keeffe Campus. It has his name on it so please check that you have the correct shirt.

2013 Dates

TERM 1

Monday 18 February

- * Year 10 Work Experience
- * Year 12 Retreat
- * Year 11 Melbourne Camp

Tuesday 19 February

- * Year 10 Work Experience
- * Lions Youth of the Year Camperdown (7:00-9:30PM)
- * MRC Board meeting (7:30 - 9:00PM)

Wednesday 20 February

- * Year 10 Work Experience
- * Year 11 Camp
- * Year 12 Retreat

Thursday 21 February

- * Year 10 Work Experience
- * Year 11 Camp
- * Year 12 Retreat

Friday 22 February

- * Year 10 Work Experience
- * Year 12 Retreat

Monday 25 February

- * Presentation Ball training (3:30 - 5:30PM)
- * PTFA Meeting (7:30 - 8:30PM)

Tuesday 26 February

- * Year 7 Immunisations (11:30AM-1:00PM)
- * Presentation Ball training (3:30 - 5:30PM)

Wednesday 27 February

- * HSSSD Swimming
- * Immunisations for all Year 10 and Year 9 boys (10:00 - 11:00AM)
- * Year 12 Bowls Night (6:00 - 9:00PM)
- * Lions Youth of the Year - Terang (7:00 - 9:30PM)

Friday 01 March

- * Guest speakers at O'Keeffe - World Day of Prayer

VCE Information for 2013

Mr. James Castles

Listed below are several initiatives that will help to build on the supporting environment that already exists at the College.

1. The first is a Year 12 Parents/Students/Staff BBQ Bowls Night which will take place at the **Camperdown Bowls Club on February 13th at 6.00pm**. We would be extremely grateful if parents could attend this night. This was proven to be a great way to kick start the year, with 180 plus people attending this event in 2012.
2. **Parents Beginners Guide to Year 12 Workshop** 7.30pm at the McAuley Campus on **May 1st**. The session will focus on ATAR, Study Scores, Scholarships, VTAC Guide, Applying for University and TAFE, and Pathways.
3. **Year 12 Energizer Day June 14th**. This will be an opportunity for the students to reflect on the year and develop motivation for the start of semester two. This event will take place at Port Campbell.
4. **Year 12 Footy Colours Night June 14th**. This event is similar to the Bowls Night. Parents, students, and staff are invited to attend our Year 12 Footy Colours Night. The evening will consist of a meal, followed by watching a live game of AFL Football on the big screen.
5. Mentoring Program, all Year 12 students will be assigned a teacher who will act a mentor for the year. This program has been supported and encouraged by the student's leaders.
6. After school study, the Library is open every day after school if students would like to study in a fresh learning environment. We strongly encourage our Year senior students to participate in after school study in the library.
7. If you have any concerns regarding the wellbeing of your son and daughter please don't hesitate to contact me directly on 0432 682 047. I'm happy to take calls when the need arises.

Thank you for your time, and please know that we are only a phone call away. We look forward to working with you in what will be a challenging, exciting, enjoyable, but most of all a rewarding year for our students in 2013.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPETITION

Calling all students in years 7 to 10.

Do you want the chance to win cash for yourself and for your school?

If so, then register for the Caring for our Watersheds competition that is running in your area.

All you have to do is answer the question; 'What can you do to improve your catchment?'

For further information and to register please go to,

www.caringforourwatersheds.com

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Married couples, we encourage you to prioritise your relationship. It underpins your family life. Please join us for a Marriage Encounter weekend. Our weekend helps you to remember why you married and gives you skills to maintain your love for each other.

Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around catholic values but you don't need to be catholic to attend. There is no group sharing. Our next weekends in 2013 are on: 19-21 April, 14-16 June and 9-11 August in Melbourne.

For further information and bookings contact Marianne & Marcel Van den Bronk (03) 9733 0997 or Email vicbookings@wwme.org.au

RELAY FOR LIFE

Cobden Recreation Reserve 23-24 February

The Relay for Life community will come together to fight back against cancer.

Fundraising has been going on for 12 months since our last Relay in Terang to go towards research, prevention and support programs!

Last year for the first time, the fundraising around the State saw more than \$1 was raised for each Victorian! Activities for old and young, ceremonies, social, remembering, personal - all describe this moving weekend.

Come and join in the spirit – contact Trish (5597 9219 AH).



Sign up at: www.footytips.com.au

1.Login

2.Select Comps and search MRC 2013 Footy tipping

3.Select the MRC 2013 footy tipping comp.

4. Put Password: MRC2013

Entry fee - \$5 pay at the office

TOP 10 TIPSTERS WILL BE IN THE NEWSLETTER.

1ST PLACE:\$50

2ND PLACE:\$30

3RD PLACE:\$25

LAST PLACE:\$5

**THIS IS ALSO AN APP IN THE APP STORE
JUST SEARCH FOOTY TIPS - IT'S THE FIRST
ONE THERE**

Weekly winners get a share in \$5

See Nathan Bailey or email Nathan at Nathan-bailey@student.mercy.vic.edu.au for more info

**Note: Prize money will be split in a draw and I will be
collecting money at the end of the NAB cup**

Weekly Career News

TERM ONE

12 February 2013

FOCUS ON EARLY INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR TAFE AND UNIVERSITY

It's never too early to start considering your future career directions. Making decisions about what you would like to study after school can be both stressful and exciting. Many students often feel lost about what they would like to study and many feel like they don't know where to start!

There are so many things to consider-

- Complete Year 12 or leave early?
- TAFE or university?
- Have a gap year or go straight into further study?
- Can I afford to move away if I can't study locally?

For students and their families who haven't been to a university or TAFE information session, there are even more questions-

- Where can I study the course I am interested in?
- How do I choose between several courses across several institutions?
- How much will my course cost?
- How do I find out about scholarships?
- What if I don't get the ATAR I need?
- What is university and TAFE actually like?

These decisions can be difficult to make, and then you have the added pressure of focusing on your studies and other commitments like sport and employment.

Not only can it be tough for students, but also for parents!

- Where do we access information?
- How do we best support our child?
- How can we afford the costs associated with further study?
- Will Youth Allowance and HECS-HELP be available?



FOCUS ON EARLY INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR TAFE AND UNIVERSITY

Apart from meeting with your career adviser early in the year, it is a great idea to attend information sessions run by tertiary institutions. Many run focus days and information seminars throughout the year, and all run Open Days in August.

By attending information sessions- you and your family will be able to do the following:

- Speak directly to current students and lecturers and hear from them about the courses you are interested in
- Look around the campus and get a feel for the culture of the institution (i.e., does it have a modern or traditional feel? Do you think it would be easy to meet people? Would you prefer to study at a small or a large campus?)
- Learn about scholarships, course costs, government fee assistance, global exchange and accommodation options
- Ask about alternative pathway programs available as a back up in case you don't get the ATAR you need for your course
- Attend workshops and sessions on the courses you are interested in and compare facilities and students services between institutions.

Attending information sessions will assist you in setting new career goals or firming up ideas you already have. Having a course or courses in mind can also assist you in feeling more motivated to work hard at school.



FOCUS ON EARLY INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR TAFE AND UNIVERSITY

Information sessions are usually free and you may have to register. Start to map out session dates on a calendar and pick the ones you will be able to attend. Here are some tertiary information programs to get you started:

University of Melbourne- 'Meet Melbourne': Sessions will be held in various locations across Victoria between March and August. To find out when the closest Meet Melbourne seminar is being run and to register, [click here](#)

University of Melbourne- 'Access All Areas': The first session will be held Friday 5 April at the Parkville Campus for students in Years 10 - 12. For more information, [click here](#)

Charles Sturt University- 'MyDay' CSU: The events will showcase over 40 courses. March events include nutrition/dietetics, oral health, medical imaging, arts, psychology, social work, business, IT & computing. For more information and to register, [click here](#)

La Trobe University- 'Experience La Trobe': will be held Friday 5 April during the school holidays. You can participate in hands on workshops in areas of interest. For more information, [click here](#)

RMIT- 'Get Real Experience' School Holiday Programs: These hands on workshops cover a wide range of course areas and are for students in Years 10-12. The sessions run during school holidays. To find out what workshops are running and when, [click here](#)

Monash University- 'At Monash Seminar Series': showcases different faculties within the University. The seminars run over several months and students have to book in advance. You will be able to attend seminars in areas such as engineering, arts, sport, education, health, design etc. For dates, [click here](#)

Deakin University- 'Discover Deakin': events run at different campuses during school holidays. Dates for 2013 have not been released yet. More information will be released in a future newsletter, or you can request to be emailed information [here](#)



VOCATIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS



Applying for Medicine/ Dentistry/ Oral Health/ Optometry/ Physiotherapy?

If are applying for any of these health science courses, you may need to sit the Undergraduate Medical Admissions Test (UMAT).

This is a three-part test that you sit in July and selected universities use your UMAT score as part of the selection process, in conjunction with your ATAR and in some cases an interview.

You will be tested on the following- logical reasoning and problem solving, understanding people and non verbal reasoning.

You will only have one chance to sit the UMAT this year and the test will be held Wednesday 31 July. You must register online by 5pm 7 June

It is important that you start to prepare for the test early. There are several private companies who offer commercial preparation programs – www.nie.edu.au/ and www.medentry.edu.au/ are examples.

It is important to note that the universities who use the UMAT do not endorse any of these companies and you will receive free preparation materials once you register for the UMAT (you can register from early April).

Please go to <http://umat.acer.edu.au/> for more information about the UMAT and to see if you have to sit the test.

Pre Apprenticeships: If you are interested in pursuing an apprenticeship pathway and are unsure about continuing on at school this year, you may want to enroll in a pre apprenticeship. Contact your local TAFE institution to ask about the programs they have available. You can undertake pre apprenticeships in areas such as bricklaying, building, plumbing, electrical, automotive, community services, beauty etc.



VOCATIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

Dual enrolment at Flinders University: Flinders in South Australia has a huge range of interesting courses. From next year, they in partnership with TAFE SA will be accepting dual enrolments, where you are accepted into TAFE and the University at the same time and you can gain a dual qualification. For more information, [click here](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH EVENTS

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- **24: United World Colleges, Scholarships** Information Session, City Library, Melbourne, www.uwc.org.au
- **24: Police Open Day**, NSW Police Academy, Goulburn, [click here](#)
- **28: Whitehouse Institute of Design** Information Session, Melbourne, [click here](#)

MARCH EVENTS

- **Meet Melbourne University**, for the closet event, [click here](#)
- **MyDay Charles Sturt University Events**, for a list of course areas covered and dates, [click here](#)
- **At Monash Seminar Series**, for a list of events, [click here](#)
- **17: Veterinary Science Open Day**, University of Melbourne, Werribee, [click here](#)
- **21: Whitehouse Institute of Design** Information Session, Melbourne, www.whitehouse-design.edu.au



CONGRATULATIONS

To the following student who have been accepted into the Australian Catholic University - Early Achievers Program.

About the Early Achievers Program - ACU looks for students who understand the importance of working toward the common good and have a willingness to make a contribution to their communities, whether it is at school or church, or through sporting, cultural or charitable organisations.

ACU believes students should be recognised for their contribution and leadership potential, and that is why they grant students status as Early Achievers, assuring them a place at ACU ahead of other applicants.

Again we congratulate the following students for their successful applications. We will you all well.

- Laura McKenzie - Bachelor Education
- Caitlyn Mitchell – Bachelor Exercise & Health Science
- Lucy O'Connor – Bachelor Nursing



Animal Career Discovery Day



Spend the day at the RSPCA Animal Career Discovery Day!

Hear from RSPCA staff currently working in the industry in various roles and gain helpful insider knowledge on planning pathways to a fulfilling career with animals.

Details:

Dates: Thursday 14th March, Tuesday 18th June, Tuesday 3rd September and Thursday 5th December

Time: 9:00am – 3:30pm

Location: Burwood East RSPCA

Cost: \$55 includes registration, morning tea, RSPCA career show bag, and all activity costs.

Please note: Places are limited!

For more information and to download a registration form visit :

<http://www.rspcavic.org/services/education/secondary-education/animal-career-discovery-day>

Timboon Action

RAIL RUN

Saturday 16th February

Start/ finish Timboon Railway Shed Distillery
Come along and enjoy a scenic run or walk along the Rail
Trail including the iconic Trestle Bridge.

8:30am 10km Distillery Dash

9:00am POPES shuffle 5Km Run or Walk

FREE babysitting is available for competitors
Bookings essential please phone 5598 7254

Online registrations are preferred and close Thursday February 14th, however registrations can be made at 8am on the day

Individual: \$20

Family walkers: \$25

Online registrations
www.timboonaction.org.au

Proudly sponsored by



22 February - 17 March

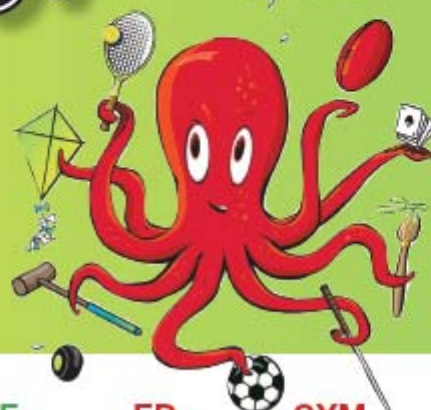


give it a go!

More than
60
activities



**More than
60
activities
on offer!**



Three photographs showing students participating in sports. The first photo on the left shows three students on a golf course; one is in the middle of a golf swing while two others watch. The middle photo shows a student in a white cricket uniform batting, with a wooden bat raised high. The third photo on the right shows a group of students running on a track during a race, with a student in the foreground wearing a white t-shirt and black shorts. A red jagged graphic is at the bottom right of this photo.

for a full event program...give it a go!

**Activities in Terang,
Lismore, Skipton,
Cobden, Camperdown,
Cooriemungle,
Princetown,
Derrinallum, Noorat,
Simpson, Scotts Creek
& Timboon**

