

# MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

**ISSUE 1-1**

**10<sup>th</sup> February, 2017**

## **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 2017**

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

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## **Time to say goodbye**

After 7.5 years here in Camperdown, it is time for me to say goodbye and thanks to the Mercy Regional College Community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the community students, staff and families. I have been very fortunate to have taught many students within the school community trying to bring passion and life to Religious Education and History. Being involved with the Pathways program for the past three years has been very fulfilling. Central Australia Trips, camps and excursions have also been a highlight of my time here.

As I take the next step in my life I leave this amazing school community and head to Swan Hill. I wish you all well in your life's adventures. Thanks for the laughs, the tears, the good times and being a visible sign of God's love in the community in times of need. I pray that God will continue to bless you in all that you do.

May your years at MRC also be filled with many loveable and happy memories.

God Bless,  
Fr Matt



## **From the Principal**

Welcome to everyone in the Mercy Regional College community as we begin the 2017 school year. The College newsletter is the most important means by which the school manages communication with parents, families and the broader community and I encourage you to try to read it each fortnight. We have endeavoured to expand the means by which the newsletter can be accessed with it distributed via email, Facebook and Twitter.

My prayer today is the first reading used at Wednesday's College Commencement Mass; as one of the Letters of St Paul, it also celebrates one of the professional development sessions undertaken by staff last week – Walking in the Footsteps of St Paul.

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*  
(1 Corinthians 12:4)

As I write this, the thoughts and prayers of the College community are with the Delaney family who were struck yesterday by the passing of Amanda, mother of Luke in Year 9 and Layla in Year 7; our school was a sombre place yesterday.

### **Farewell to Fr Matthew**

This newsletter began with a note from Fr Matthew saying goodbye to our college community as he moves to begin his new appointment as Parish Priest of Swan Hill. This week, we have had two opportunities to celebrate Matthew's significant contributions to Mercy Regional College over the last eight years: through a moving blessing at the College Commencement Mass and, last night, at a joint celebration of the Mercy and St Patrick's PS staff.

As Principal, I would again like to thank Fr Matt for all he has given to our students, staff, parents, families and broader community. As a priest, teacher, colleague, friend and canonical administrator, Matthew has exemplified the Christian virtues of service, compassion, care and wisdom. He has a passion for Catholic education and the opportunities that it provides to grow children and adolescents into fully human persons and has been unceasing in his support and encouragement of our staff in their efforts to improve the learning outcomes for our students.

The final celebration of Fr Matthew's time with us will be on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February at the 11.00am Mass. Mass will be followed by a parish BBQ and I encourage all Mercy students, parents and families to join us there.

At last night's staff celebration, Fr Matthew offered the Irish Blessing to those present; on behalf of the College community, I offer to him and the Swan Hill community:

*May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields  
and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

### **Formal Opening and Blessing of Stage 2 Middle School Buildings**

Following my article is an invitation detailing the arrangements for the opening and blessing of the College's new Stage 2 Middle School Buildings that were completed late last year.

This important event will occur on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February from 11.30am – 12.30pm in the ground floor Middle School classrooms.

Fr. Gerry and Mr. Dan Tehan MP, Federal Member for Wannon will be officiating and I would like to extend an invitation to any parents and friends of the College to join us. If you would like to attend please email my secretary Mrs. Sue Bohm on [sue@mercy.vic.edu.au](mailto:sue@mercy.vic.edu.au)

# Invitation



The Principal, Dr Darren Egberts  
with the staff and students of Mercy Regional College  
warmly invites you to the

Official Opening  
by

**The Hon Dan Tehan MP**

And the Blessing of the

**Mercy Regional College  
Stage 2 Buildings**

Date: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2017

Time: 11:30am – 12:30pm

Address: Henderson Street, Camperdown Vic 3260

- A light lunch will be served following the opening and blessing.
- Parking is available in the grounds of St. Patrick's Church, off Walls Street, Camperdown.

RSVP to [sue@mercy.vic.edu.au](mailto:sue@mercy.vic.edu.au)  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.



### **College Swimming Carnival**

Thanks to all in the school community for your understanding with respect to the postponement of yesterday's College Swimming Carnival. Although yesterday did not reach Wednesday's forecast of 39 degrees, the College needed to make a timely decision that was in the best interests of students and staff.

We have confirmed that the new date for the College Swimming Carnival is **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February** at the Camperdown Pool. No classes will run on this day. A reminder that the College Swimming Carnival is a compulsory day for all students and should not be seen as an opportunity to schedule non-urgent appointments or social engagements.

### **Holiday works**

Our students returned last week to see substantial capital improvements and maintenance completed over the holiday break. These included:

- Completion of the Stage 2 Middle School Buildings
  - Refurbishments of SEN 03 & 04 to bring them into line with Stage 1 & 2 buildings
  - Painting and carpeting in McAuley Campus Library corridor
  - Landscaping works at O'Keeffe Campus with the construction of a series of paths, garden beds and seating for students
  - Asphalting of staff and Reception car parks

### **Celebrating MRC's Year 12 Duxes for 2016**

Following our Commencement Mass and farewell to Fr Matthew, the whole school community celebrated our Year 12 high achievers for 2016.

I would like to congratulate the College's two outstanding students for the year:

- Caitlin Williams who was the College's dux achieving an ATAR score of 92.75; and
- Emma Lucas who was awarded the College's Year 12 Spirit of Mercy Award.

Congratulations to each of the students who achieved the highest mark in their Year 12 subject, these are listed below:

<b>2016 VCE SUBJECT DUX</b>	<b>STUDENT NAME</b>
<b>Biology</b>	Caitlin Williams
<b>Chemistry</b>	Caitlin Williams
<b>Literature</b>	Caitlin Williams
	Ella Kissick
<b>English</b>	Ella Kissick
<b>Further Mathematics</b>	Ella Kissick
<b>History – Australian History</b>	Ella Kissick
<b>Mathematical Methods</b>	Caitlin Williams
	Stephanie Hibburt
	Joseph Smith
<b>Specialist Mathematics</b>	Joseph Smith
<b>Physics</b>	Stephanie Hibburt
<b>Accounting</b>	Daniel Kenna
<b>Business Management</b>	Charlie Darcy
	Jack Guthrie
	Hugh McBean
<b>Furnishing</b>	Charlie Brett
	Alexander Walter

<b>Psychology</b>	Chloe Gibson
	Ripley Watt
<b>Engineering</b>	Dale White
<b>Equine Industry</b>	Kaitlyn Atkins
<b>Product Design &amp; Technology</b>	Tara Suri
<b>Food and Technology</b>	Meg Lenehan
<b>Health and Human Development</b>	Emma Lucas
<b>Hospitality (Kitchen Operations)</b>	Ashley Uy
<b>Legal Studies</b>	Joshua Mason
<b>Media</b>	Gemma Lees
<b>Music</b>	Matthew Murray
<b>Outdoor &amp; Environmental Studies</b>	Claudia Lee
<b>Physical Education</b>	Lily Lourey
<b>Philosophy</b>	Eve Johnson
<b>Studio Arts</b>	Annie Kenna
<b>Visual Communication &amp; Design</b>	Emily Battistello



Caitlin Williams (2016 College Dux)

Emma Lucas (2016 Year 12 Spirit of Mercy Winner)



## **Student Achievements and Activities**

Although the school year has barely begun, there is already plenty to report:

- Congratulations to Year 12 students Tom Bennett and Sarah van der Schans who joined Ms Jacqui Hester at the National Youth Science Forum in Canberra over the January break.
- This week, we received confirmation of the success of Josh Newcombe (11D) and Lauren Huth (11B) at the Spirit of Anzac awards. As a result, Josh is travelling to Darwin and Singapore and Lauren to Canberra to further explore the role of Australia in the two world wars.
- On Tuesday night, Josh Newcomb, Chloe Gibson (12B) and Tate Tregear-Copeland (11D) participated in the Camperdown heats of the Lions' Youth of the Year Award. Congratulations to each of them on the fine performances! Josh has been selected to compete in the next round of competition in Willaura next month.
- It was fantastic to see so many students, staff, parents and families at the Year 7 Welcome BBQ and Information Night held at the O'Keeffe Campus on Tuesday night. The night was hosted by Mr Castles as Head of Campus and included opportunities for parents to meet their child's homeroom teacher as well as important information on the important start to secondary school.
- Next week is amongst the busiest of the school calendar with students from five year levels out of the school at various times: most Year 10s will undertake Work Experience for the week; Year 7 students travel to Cape Bridgewater in two groups for their three-day camp; Wednesday – Friday see the Year 12s on retreat at Bacchus Marsh and Year 11s in Melbourne for their camp; and, a number of Year 9 students undertaking the local BRICKs program. Good luck to each of these groups.

Yours in Mercy,



**DR. DARREN EGBERTS**  
PRINCIPAL



**Year 12 Leadership Group**

## Deputy Principal Teaching & Learning

Mr. Chris Grant

### Parent Access Module

The Parent Access Module is designed to provide relevant, informative, valuable and timely information about the academic progress of your child, along with the College calendar, daily notices, attendance record, timetable, booklist behavioural tracking count and also the ability to book your parent teacher interviews online.

To access the Parent Access Module, go to the College Website – <http://www.mercy.vic.edu.au/pam> If you have forgotten your username and password from 2016, please click on the **Forgot Password** link. New parents would have received their login details at the parent information night and BBQ. Once you log in, you will see the photo and name of your child or children. Click the photo to explore the learning areas (subject homework and assessment tasks) and further around the Parent Access Module.

It is encouraged that parents would access the Parent Access Module on a weekly or fortnightly basis throughout the term, and have frequent discussions with your child on their academic progress and completion of assessment and homework tasks.

If you are having any difficulties logging in or navigating around PAM, then please contact the College office.

### Student Uniform

Mrs. Berni Sinnott – Director of Students

I ask all parents to ensure that students have all necessary parts of the correct summer uniform as we are well into the New Year. Homeroom teachers and Heads of School have been emphasizing the importance of maintaining high standards with respect to correct school uniform and I ask for your support in this endeavour. These expectations also extend to jewellery, hair styles and lengths, facial hair (for the boys) and make-up (for the girls).

An important health consideration for all Australians in our brutal summer sunshine is to wear an appropriate hat when outside. Unfortunately, too many of us have been affected by the long term damage of UV radiation, especially as teenagers. **The College requires all students and staff to wear a College approved hat when outside at recess, lunchtimes and during sport/PE.** This expectation has been enforced from the start of the school year.

## Important Dates

### Term 1 – 2017

#### Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

- Year 7 Camp
- Year 10 Work Experience

#### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

- Year 12 Retreat
- Year 11 Camp
- Year 9 Bricks Program

#### Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February

- HSSSD Senior Cricket

#### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February

- Opening & Blessing of Middle School Buildings
- Board Meeting

#### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

- Middle School BBQ & Information Session

#### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

- Year 7 Immunisations

#### Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February

- HSSSD Swimming

#### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

- Ash Wednesday

#### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March

- School Photos

#### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March

- House Athletics

#### Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March

- Labour day Holiday

#### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March

- Presentation Ball

#### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March

- GWR Swimming

#### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March

- HSSSD Athletics

#### Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

- Term 1 concludes for students

### Term 2

#### Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April

- Parent Teacher Interviews (4:00pm – 8:00pm)

## Head of Senior School

*Mrs. Lesa Thornton*

### **Senior School Matters:**

As a new term begins I wish to touch on a few things that senior students may have forgotten or not been fully aware of till now.

#### **School times:**

The school day begins at 9:05 with homeroom and ends at 3:10pm at the end of period 6. Any late arrivals or early departures need to be accounted for at the main office and it would be appreciated that students (and parents) follow this practice as we have a duty of care for our students. A note from a parent or guardian would assist both the office and the teachers if for any reason a student is late or needs to leave early.

**Please note that 'study' is part of a student's timetable is a supervised class and the expectation is that students will be AT school and in the room supervised by a member of staff.**

#### **Driving:**

All students driving to school are asked to fill in a Driver registration form (available from the main office) and return the completed form PRIOR to driving to school.

The form must be signed by the student, parent or guardian and the Head of Senior School.

This assists us of student movement **prior to and immediately at the end** of the school day.

It is also needs to be noted students **ARE NOT** permitted to use their cars during the school day. Again we ask for parental support on this matter. PARKING is available over at the church/presbytery and students are asked to please park there. Please be aware that when you leave there are also many smaller children leaving school as well so take EXTRA care when you leave please.

#### **Expectations:**

- At MRC we are aware that not all students in Years 11 and 12 necessarily desire to be at school; however, the expectation is that whilst a student IS here they will work to the best of their ability to complete all outcomes required within the study and allow others the opportunity to work to the best of their abilities.
- Attendance is of great significance when completing both VCAL and VCE. If you are not in attendance you may not be able to demonstrate the competency level required for the study you are enrolled. If you experience illness or hardship that may impact upon your attendance figures PLEASE speak to one of us on the Senior Leadership team. We are here to assist you.
- If a student studying a unit 3 or 4 VCE subject is NOT PRESENT to complete an outcome/SAC

during class time, provision will be made for a student to complete the task AFTER school on a WEDNESDAY if no other suitable time can be arranged with the **subject teacher** and student.

**Please note that outcomes/SACs need to be verified as a student's OWN work and must be completed under specific conditions set by VCAA. It is not always feasible for students to complete these tasks during a study class, thus the provision for 'SAC catch-up Wednesday'**

If you have any concerns about this, please speak to the teacher/s concerned or Lachie Lee as Senior Head of Teaching and Learning or myself as Head of Senior School or Darren Cheeseman Assistant head of Senior School.

#### **Library:**

The Library at Macaulay campus is a wonderful resource and the opportunity to remain after school to study is available Monday to Friday till 4:30pm. It is also an opportunity for students to catch up on unfinished class work, assignments or a chance to catch up with a staff member if they are available.

#### **Respect**

Should not only be about the person but also about property. We are very fortunate to have new facilities available to us at the Senior School and the hope would be these facilities would be treated as you would your own property.

Please remember NO ONE should be helping themselves to another person's bag or locker.

We would ask that all students set the example for our younger students; rubbish put into the bins, sorted if we have recycle bins, the tables outside left clean of food and paper, common areas like corridors, classroom areas and furniture not be vandalised with graffiti, scuff marks on walls or food thrown at walls.

#### **Camps/Retreats/Sports Days:**

Just a reminder that students are expected to attend all school organised events. Camps and retreats will involve a cost and if this is a concern please speak with one of the leadership team or Dr. Egberts. Sport and school sanctioned activities are part of our student's overall development. A student may not necessarily be particularly athletic but the expectation is that the students can support their peers and help build the supportive atmosphere of the College. If a student is to be absent for whatever reason please communicate this to our office.

Many thanks,  
Lesla Thornton  
Head of Senior School



## Head of Middle School

*Mr. Ben Brisbane*

### **Middle School News & Information Night**

Middle School has had a fantastic start to the year. We see our Year 10s off to Work Experience next week and we wish them all the best during this valuable opportunity. The Year 9s will be spending time back at school with our current Year 8s whom will be having classes upstairs in our new Middle School building.

The Year 9s will be participating in our BRICK's (Building Resilience in Corangamite Kid's) Program on Thursday and Friday next week. This program offers the students valuable strategies to deal with the pressures that adolescence delivers.

We would also like to take the opportunity to invite parents to our Middle School Information night. This will be held on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** starting at **5pm** after the return of our Year 9 students from the Spirit of Anzac Excursion to Melbourne.

This is a great opportunity to create a communication link between all teachers and parents of students in Year 9 and 10 as well as a chance to tour our new Middle School facility. The schedule for the night will include a sausage sizzle at 5.30pm with tours of our new Middle School, Science rooms and senior classrooms. After these tours at roughly 6.30pm, we will begin our information night which will include helpful information for all parents on assisting their child through a period of growth and change. Information will cover many approaches we take with the learning and welfare Mercy Regional College utilises to try and fulfil each individual student's potential.

The topics covered within the session includes:

- Learning strategies and engagement
- Approaches to discipline and welfare
- Meet and greet homeroom teachers
- Channels of communication
- What does a Mercy student look like?
- Parent involvement in student learning
- Important dates and events

We feel this is a great opportunity for parents to gain extra support in what can be a stressful period for all parents and children. It will also clarify and solidify the processes we have in place and give parents the chance to see the learning environment provided by Mercy Regional College. We look forward to seeing you there.

Again we are all looking forward to working with all parents across Middle School.

Please don't hesitate to make contact if there are any concerns.

Kind Regards,  
Ben Brisbane  
Head of Middle School

# INVITATION

## Parents and Students

are invited to attend the

## Middle School Information Night

McAuley Campus, Camperdown

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**  
**Commencing at 5:00 pm**

**Sausage sizzle at 5:30pm**

**With tours of our new facilities:**

- **Middle School Building**
- **Science Rooms**
- **Senior Classrooms**



**Information Session at 6:30pm**

We look forward to seeing you there.

## Head of O'Keeffe Campus

*Mr. James Castles*

### **Commencement Mass**

Commencement Mass is always a great opportunity to welcome our Year 7 students and their family into the College Community. The Year 7 students have made an excellent start to the year, the group seem calm, eager and very respectful. We look forward to working with them on their journey at Mercy regional college.

### **Year 7 BBQ Night**

Thank you to all parents, students and staff members for attending the Year 7 BBQ on Tuesday. The night provides a great opportunity to connect students and parents to their new school. The night covered a number of different areas including the Parents Access Module (PAM), Study Planners and organisation and also the College procedures. As a College it is important to recognise that the partnership between school and parents is a vital one for the growth of our students, we look forward to working with all our parents not only this year, but in the years to come.

### **Students Leadership**

The Year 8 students have also made an exceptional start to the year, we feel that the group are ready to lead the campus as positive role models. The students have also been busy applying for student leadership this week. We look forward to announcing our Campus leaders in week three.

### **Communication**

As mentioned at the barbecue night we will be working hard to ensure that the parents are well-informed about the day-to-day activities that occur at the O'Keeffe Campus. Once a week will be emailing out the week ahead which will give a rundown of all events and activities that are on offer for our students.

We are looking forward to the year – from all Mercy Staff.



## From the Business Manager

Mrs. Judith Murfitt

### School Fee Accounts

School Fee accounts for 2017 have been posted out to all families. Included was information detailing the different methods available for you to pay your school fee account as well as a Fee Deduction form. I encourage you to adhere to the timelines for payment of fees. Should you foresee difficulty in meeting the timeline, please don't hesitate to contact me.

### The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

This provides payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. \$225 per year is paid for eligible secondary school students. Payments are made directly to the school. To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

See flyer on page 10 for more about CSEF.

If you require an application form, please contact the College Office or you can download further information from their website at [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

### Spirit of ANZAC Competition

Ms. Tania Bruckner – Humanities Teacher

Year 11 students, Lauren Huth and Joshua Newcombe, were recently successful recipients of the Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize. Both will be attending study tours this year, accompanied by returned soldiers, teacher chaperones and representatives from the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Josh is headed on an overseas tour following the footsteps of Australian WW2 veterans, visiting places of national significance in Darwin & Singapore to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Darwin & the fall of Singapore. Lauren has not yet received her full itinerary, but will be travelling to Canberra, gaining special access to the wonderful collection at the Australian War Memorial.

Lauren and Josh were selected on the strength of the wonderful narratives they wrote, around the theme of the impact of World War 1 on families and communities. They also attended a day of interviews in Melbourne. They are to be congratulated on the hard work they put into their entries. They will be terrific ambassadors for our school as they both have a passion for history, and the telling of stories.



Short excerpts:

#### Josh's piece was titled *The Weeping Widow*.

*After walking back down the driveway to my front porch I sat down in a patio chair to read the mail I had received. I shuffled through the letters. I distinguished one, in particular, and almost choked on my breath. This fatal letter had winged its way across the sea, like a bird of prey. News talked of these letters, they brought unimaginable information no one ever wanted to receive. The letter of trepidation that was a result of the dreaded pink telegram sat in my lap.*

#### Lauren's narrative was titled *Dearest Sister*.

*I fold an old letter Ernest's', and hold it against my heart, knowing he was alive and had touched this very bit of paper that I now hold in my shaking hands. A tear slowly slides down my cold and nervous face as I think of him, and the atrocities he may be soon to face. Mother misses him dearly, father does too but he dares not show it. Father didn't sign up to war – he had injured his leg years ago jamming it in a piece of farm equipment. Even though the war has only just started everyone is on edge and feeling the repercussions of war. Everyone was afraid.*



## Lions Youth of the Year Quest

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February we had three senior school students compete in the Camperdown Lions Youth of the Year Quest.

They were Chloe Gibson Year 12, Tate Tregear-Copeland and Joshua Newcombe both Year 11 students.



Joshua was judged the overall winner at this level.

Each year student representatives from the secondary school's senior students are invited to participate in this public speaking competition. We send representatives to both Camperdown and Terang competitions.

Students are judged not only on the presentation of a prepared speech but also two 'unseen prompts' given on the night.

The competition also has an interview component where the students have an opportunity to promote themselves, their involvement in the community through sporting and cultural events, their leadership attributes and citizenship involvement.

Our students were outstanding ambassadors for the school and I would like to thank the students for their willingness to participate, families who supported them and Jan Smith who encouraged and assisted our students in preparing for the event.

Joshua will now compete in the Regional final held at Willaura on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

The Terang Lions Quest will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February and we are preparing a number of senior school students to participate in this event





You may have heard of the National Youth Science Forum; a 12-day residential program for students entering year 12 who are passionate about science, technology, engineering and maths. But in reality it is so much more than that. During the first two weeks of this year I had the opportunity to experience the NYSF firsthand. Held in Canberra, it was a long bus trip with people



I had never met. When we arrived eager and a bit nervous, we were suddenly immersed into a different world. I was surrounded by a group of about 200 students from all over Australia, who were passionate about the same things I am passionate about. It was an intense two weeks consisting of lectures, lab visits which ranged from archaeology digs to the deep space communication centre, science discussions, social activities, formal events and a lot of bonding. We were challenged, engaged and looked after by staff members only a few years older than us ourselves. The inspiring talks from science experts and the enthusiasm of other students to achieve their goals was the highlight for me. Not to mention the friends I made from all over the country. Since returning from Canberra I am motivated for year 12 and excited to see what the future holds. I strongly urge year 11s to apply for this amazing opportunity and hope to see some of you getting to experience it yourself in January 2018 - **Sarah van der Schans (Year 12).**

NYSF allows you to see multiply science lab visits around the ACT and ANU, along with lectures from a wide variety of science fields from professors and Noble Price holders. My favourite part was seeing the cutting edge of today's science and to listen to the underdog story of professors that came from public high schools. I am so motivated to do well in life after attending NYSF, and I'm so very happy that I made so many friends that I hope will be in my life for as long as possible. NYSF gives you the opportunity to expand your understanding of science, see the ins and outs of modern science, all while in such a great social environment, surrounded by people of like mind and sparkling attitudes - **Thomas Bennett (Year 12).**







The fun wasn't all had by the students however! I too had the opportunity to attend a program offered by NYSF - the National Science Teachers Summer School. This program ran for one week alongside the Youth Forum which gave me both a great insight into the experiences of the students, as well as VIP tours of the best science facilities Canberra (and the nation) has to offer. I spent the week with 39 other like-minded science

teachers from around Australia which was jammed packed with activities. Some of these included:

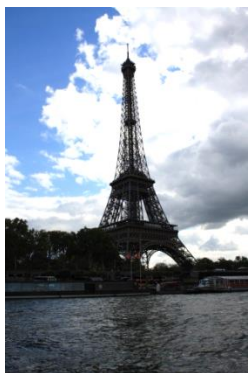
- a number of university laboratory visits and experiments around Canberra
- a tour of the National Computational Infrastructure which hosts the largest super computer in the Southern Hemisphere - located in a room the size of a house!
- an evening star gazing at ANU Mount Stromlo Observatory and participating in an interactive presentation by leading astrophysicist and astronomer Dr Brad Tucker
- a visit to CSIRO and Geoscience Australia

We also had the opportunity to share in a formal science dinner with the students from the Youth Forum at the National Museum of Australia. This was by far the highlight of my experience - being in a sea of hundreds of professional teachers, scientists, professors, university liaisons and researchers listening to 200 passionate youths about the amazing opportunities their futures will hold - **Miss Jacqui Hester (Domain Head of Science)**.



**Year 11 students** - if you wish to apply for this fantastic opportunity in 2018, please speak to Miss Hester. Applications open early March and close at the end of May. You can also check out the website at [www.nysf.edu.au](http://www.nysf.edu.au) for more information.

## MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE FRANCE AND BELGIUM BATTLEFIELDS TOUR 2017



In my time working with the students from Mercy Regional College who have travelled on our school tours, I have seen some quite interesting stories unearthed by the students in their research. Sam Bond from Ecklin has found that his soldier David Edgar Taylor who came from Ecklin, enlisted in the 6 Battalion in November 1915. He was one of twelve children and the family grew potatoes and other vegetables at Ecklin. His family home was just around the corner from where Sam's family live now and this was only discovered during this research project. The descendants of the Taylor family now live in Queensland but Sam has found plenty of information about David which he shared with us while we were on tour. I think that his research is also interesting in a social way as it describes the use of farmland in the district a century ago. The land was used for a variety of very different agricultural pursuits and, as far as I am aware, David was part of a large family who all moved on from the district.

David Edgar Taylor was killed in action during the great Somme Offensive of 1916. He was killed on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1916 probably around the Windmill on a low rise of land outside of Pozieres. The memorial at this site has the dedication, "The Windmill at Pozieres...lay at the heart of the battle which raged here in July and August 1916 in this part of the Battle of the Somme. On 4 August 1916 it was captured by Australian troops but on this hilltop they lost more men than on any other battlefield throughout the war". Some of the bombardments that the Australians suffered under in this period were among the most violent of the war. On the night of the 5-6 August the Australians were "subjected to an extreme bombardment". Such conditions would mean that anyone killed or wounded might be hit multiple times. Bodies might be buried and then dug up again. It is no surprise that so many would have simply been "missing". In seven weeks in 1916 the Australians lost 23,000 casualties of whom 6,700 were killed. David Taylor was one of these men.

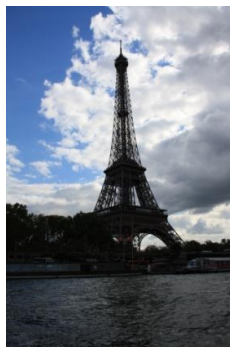


He is remembered on the War Memorial at Villers Bretonneux with the names of 11,000 Australians killed in France who have no known grave. We will visit Pozieres, the Somme battlefield sites and Villers Bretonneux as part of our tour this year.



The 2017 Mercy Regional College France and Belgium Battlefields Tour is open to students from Years 9-12. If you are interested in securing a place on the tour please contact me at [llee@mercy.vic.edu.au](mailto:llee@mercy.vic.edu.au) or see the office for a booking form.  
Lachie Lee





## **MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE FRANCE AND BELGIUM BATTLEFIELDS TOUR 2017**

PLACES STILL AVAILABLE FOR THIS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY  
THIS TOUR HAS BECOME A TRADITION IN THE LIFE OF MERCY

**BE PART OF THIS GREAT EXPERIENCE IN 2017**



Departs Melbourne on **Friday 15 September 2017**  
and returns  
**Thursday 28 September 2017.**

Open to all students from Years 9-12.

For more information contact:

**Lachie Lee** at [llee@mercy.vic.edu.au](mailto:llee@mercy.vic.edu.au)  
or see the office for itinerary and further information.

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

THE  
**EDUCATION  
STATE**

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

#### **CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)**

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students.

#### **HOW TO APPLY**

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

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#### **MORE INFORMATION**

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)





Learner Drivers - are you finding it hard to get your 120 hours of driving experience? The L2P Program may be able to help you.

## About the L2P Program

Under the VicRoads graduated licence system, learner drivers are required to complete 120 hours of driving experience before they can obtain a drivers licence. Sometimes young people find it difficult to get access to a fully licensed driver or a suitable car or both, in order to complete this driving experience.

The L2P program may be able to help by matching young people with fully licensed volunteer mentors and provide access to a sponsored vehicle, which they can use to get supervised driving experience. L2P is free for eligible young people and is funded by the Transport Accident Commission and managed by VicRoads...

The Program does not substitute for professional driving lessons and L2P does not pay for the probationary driving test itself.

## To join the program you need to meet the following criteria:

- be between 16 and 20 years of age
- hold a current learner's permit
- not have access to either a vehicle, a supervising driver, or both.

If you meet the criteria, you or your parent, school or community group, can contact the Corangamite L2P Program by calling the L2P Co-ordinator

## Contact your local L2P Program which is

Your local L2P program in the Corangamite Region is co-ordinated by Terang and Mortlake Health Service.

To contact the **L2P Program Co-ordinator** call **Belinda** on **5592 0222** or **0418 438 484**

## Corangamite Relay For Life

Sat 25 – Sun 26 February, 2017



### Register now for the 2017 Corangamite Relay for Life

Cobden Recreation Reserve

Saturday 25 February from 5pm to 11am Sunday 26 February

- You have less than 4 weeks left to get your friends and family together to register today for the 8<sup>th</sup> Corangamite Relay for Life, and start fundraising for a great cause!
- Register a team or as an individual here: [http://fundraising.cancer.org.au/site/TR?fr\\_id=4258&pg=entry](http://fundraising.cancer.org.au/site/TR?fr_id=4258&pg=entry) or Google Corangamite Relay For Life 2017 and follow the links to the Cancer Council website.  
OR attend our last Team Information & Registration Night, Mon 13 Feb, 5:30pm at the Cobden Recreation Reserve.
- Like the new Corangamite Relay for Life Facebook page (2017 written in the photo) to keep up to date with the latest news for the event: <https://www.facebook.com/CorangamiteRFL>
- Post your fundraising efforts and team preparation photos on Facebook and tag us in: [#CorangamiteRFL2017](https://www.facebook.com/CorangamiteRFL2017)
- This year we have lots of activities planned for kids, families and adults, including:
  - An outdoor cinema
  - Kids' craft
  - Activities passport, including trivia, social media posts, a scavenger hunt and more
  - Lions Merry-Go-Round
  - Dancing with Dance Struck, Cobden
  - Live music from more than 8 local acts, including internationally acclaimed act Howlin' Wind.
- What is Relay for Life? An overnight team fundraising event, which brings the community together to provide support and hope for those touched by cancer. Every dollar raised goes towards funding Cancer Council's vital research, prevention and support programs.
- Corangamite Relay For Life events have raised \$722,436.60, which is helping the 112 people diagnosed with cancer in the Shire of Corangamite every year.
- The Corangamite Relay is organised by locals in your community and supported by Cancer Council Victoria.
- Support the Corangamite Relay for Life committee raffle and go in the draw to win a \$500 Woolworths voucher, \$100 Moloney's Produce voucher or \$50 Nick Hose Fitness voucher (\$2/ticket, 3 for \$5) selling in towns around the Shire.
- Have an idea for an activity to be held at this year's event? Want to volunteer? Let us know!
- Share your passion, promote what you do and help a great cause all at once! We're currently seeking recreational activities to hold a session (30 min – 1 hr long or more, whatever works best for you) at the 2017 event, such as (but not limited to) tai chi, yoga, pilates, boot camp/circuit training, boxing, dancing, meditation, Zumba, martial arts, Scout activities, face painting and masseurs.  
For getting involved, we'll say thanks by promoting you prior to and throughout the event.
- Want more information? Go to the new 2017 Corangamite Relay for Life Facebook page or contact:
  - Trish Wynd, Corangamite Relay For Life Chair 0434 926 732, [trishandage@gmail.com](mailto:trishandage@gmail.com)
  - Becky McCann, Corangamite Relay For Life, 0409 842 471, [becky.mccann@hotmail.com](mailto:becky.mccann@hotmail.com)
  - Catherine De Vries, Cancer Council Victoria 0427 731 858, [corangamite@relayforlife.org.au](mailto:corangamite@relayforlife.org.au)



## **TERANG JUNIOR BASKETBALL SUMMER 2017 SEASON**

Registration is now open online for the upcoming season.

Season Start Date - Friday 3rd March (Juniors) & Senior competition start date to be Monday 20th March. Both will be 12 week seasons with 3 weeks of finals.

The Registration period will be Tuesday 10th January through until Tuesday 14th February 2017

We have a few amendments that have been made on our registration system this season, which will see players and teams appear on the website itself instead of an attachment added manually. This streamlines our administration in coordinating the season even more than last season and will be a fantastic addition to the system.

This means that until your registered and paid, you won't be placed into a team online. It will also allow the scoresheets for each round to be automatically printed and results easier to enter and save lots of time for our volunteers in these jobs.

Please keep in mind that all players will be due to pay their BVC Insurance of \$40.58 as well as their playing fees for their specific age group. Please remember to select the age criteria for each child you are registering to ensure correct game fees are applied, i.e. primary or secondary. If you're a secondary student playing in the senior competition, you must select the senior fee.

We have opened up the registration two weeks earlier than normal to allow you plenty of time to have this done. (If anyone has paid their BVC for 2017 at another association - you must contact Kym Grundy 0427954324 on how to register - Please note you will need your receipt from that association)

It is extremely important that all registrations are done by the closing date of 14th February. Late entries will not be guaranteed a position in a team. This enables the team selection panel to get the teams as even as possible, which makes for a much more enjoyable season for everyone playing. It also saves hours of time in not having to reshuffle teams and players. We ask that you please remember this and be registered on time.

Players must be 7 years of age as at 1st January 2017.

We look forward to another great season ahead.  
Many Thanks, Terang Junior Basketball Committee

### **Terang Athletic Club Training Resumes**



Anyone in Year 3 and above, wishing to partake in running training are welcome to come to the Terang Recreational Reserve at 4.00pm until 4.45pm each Wednesday afternoon, weather permitting. This will run during Term 1 with the last session being Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> March.

Please contact Jill McKenzie for any further information on 0418 175 599.

## **Heytesbury/ Simpson Agricultural Show**

4<sup>th</sup> March, 2017

Simpson Recreation Reserve

The animal nursery is after any friendly or unusual pets for the kids to play with or look at for the day.

We can also help rehome any animals.

Your pets will be looked after for the day while getting lots of attention.

Phone Julie on 0428 323 821 for further information.



## Corangamite Brick Club

Monthly every Second Saturday

St Paul's Parish Hall, Church St Camperdown

**10 am till 11.30am**

All welcome – Gold Coin Donation – Parental Attendance Required

Enquiries phone Murray on 5593 1513 Bookings suggested.



## PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



(For non professionals)

Newfield Valley Landcare Group are pleased to present this opportunity to showcase the environment in the lower half of the Corangamite Shire.

This area includes Princetown to Peterborough, and north to Terang and Camperdown.

Categories are:

- Native Flora
- Native Fauna
- Marine and Coastal
- Agriculture
- Open
- Intermediate (Under 18)
- Junior (Under 12)

Entrants may submit one photo per category. Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

Entry is free, closing date is 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017.



The entries and queries can be submitted to [admin@heytesburylandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@heytesburylandcare.org.au)

Photos will be displayed at Artspace Port Campbell on March, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 2017. Winners will be chosen by the community from voting at the exhibition.

\*Any photos submitted may be shared on Heytesbury District Landcare Network's Facebook and website.

# Functional Fitness Class Mums & Daughters

all ages welcome



Quality Mother/Daughter Time

3.45pm Wednesday

Keep your daughters active and spend quality time  
with them in a fun environment.....

For more information call Tania  
0429 988 244



m 0429 988 244 • tania@1life.net.au • www.1life.net.au

**Mother/Daughter  
Fun &  
Functional  
Fitness**

**Camperdown  
Jaycees Park**

Alternate venue if inclement  
weather

**3.45pm  
Wednesday's**

**Register Now**

**Ph: Tania**

**0429 988 244**