

# MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

**ISSUE 1-3**

**9<sup>th</sup> March, 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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The last few weeks have been characterized by long warm days and cool evenings, perfect weather for enjoying some time on a deck after a day's activity. Of course, a little rain would be a good thing for gardens, farms and reservoirs alike. I came across today's prayer on the Redemptorists' website, it celebrates time spent in reflection on the deck or verandah:

### **Prayer Verandah**

*Australians often sit on the verandah and wait.*

*We wait, some of us, for the sun to rise; others for the sun to set. We wait for the storm to blow over the hills and water the parched paddocks. We wait there for a spouse to return or to watch over our children at play. Upon its boards we wait for the passing neighbour and the grace of their greeting.*

*On the verandah, too, we wonder about so much... In the quieter moments we drift into gratefulness and the prayer it sparks within us. We feel our sorrows, our pain, and our doubts. We shed our tears and relish our joys.*

*On the verandah, we've often held the hand of another who also knows the mystery of waiting – spouse, friend, child, parent, and yes – God.*

## **Welcome Back**

It is with much delight that we welcomed Mr. Lachie Lee back to school this week after a number of weeks away recovering from surgery; no doubt, the excitement of Lachie's Year 11 & 12 students will be tempered in future weeks as his expectations of completed work increases.

## **2017 Presentation Ball**

After many weeks of practice (and many more of preparation), our Year 11 students will be on show next Friday night at the Mercy Regional College Presentation Ball. As in recent years, the Ball is held at Glenormiston College and promises to be a night to celebrate the young women and men being presented as well as their proud parents and families.

I urge all parents and those being presented to pay close attention to the letter that was sent home last week in relation to the College's firm position on after parties and the serious risk that these can pose if lacking in firm supervision or guidelines with respect to attendees.

## **Parents' Consultative Group**

Over the last three years, I have been privileged to work with a group of parents from across our region in the Mercy Parents Consultative Group. This group comes together once a term to provide advice to the Principal on issues currently under discussion in school, to offer suggestions on areas of improvement and to continue to build the fundamental partnership between parents, families and school.

Our first meeting for 2017 is being held on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March in the McAuley Campus Board Room from 5.00 – 6.30pm**. The group is open to any Mercy parents and I would love to see a number of parents representing students new to Mercy join us. Please contact me at the College if you would like further details or just turn up on the night.

### **Mercy Regional College Contract Buses**

In the next couple of days, I hope to complete a letter detailing new arrangements for students who wish to access one of Mercy's contract buses on a casual basis and there is capacity available. It will also reinforce the processes and restrictions that remain for Mercy Regional College students who wish to access government-run bus routes with limited or zero spare capacity.

### **Student Achievements**

The last few weeks have seen many students involved in summer sports either at the College Athletics or Swimming Carnivals or externally. Congratulations to those students who represented Mercy at the recent HSSSD swimming finals as well as the Year 10-12 Outdoor Education students who have been involved in scuba diving and Surf Camp.

Additionally, we have seen:

- All students recognising the start of the Church's Lenten season last week through Ash Wednesday liturgies;
- The visit of several Geelong AFL footballers as part of their pre-season community camp program; and
- A group of students from McAuley Campus who travelled to Ballarat last week to participate in a Caritas Australia's Just Leadership day.

Yours in Mercy,



**DR. DARREN EGBERTS**  
PRINCIPAL

## **Important Dates**

### **Term 1 - 2017**

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

- Labour day Holiday – no staff and students

#### **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

- PARTY Program

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

- Presentation Ball – Glenormiston College

#### **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March**

- MRC Board AGM Meeting

#### **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

- Year 9 Sovereign Hill Excursion

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

- GWR Swimming

#### **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

- O'Keeffe Parent Morning Tea

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

- HSSSD Athletics

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

- Term 1 concludes for students

### **Term 2 - 2017**

#### **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

- Term 2 Commences

#### **Wed 19<sup>th</sup> – Fri 21<sup>st</sup> April**

- Year 8 Camp

#### **Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> – Fri 21<sup>st</sup> April**

- Unit 3/4 Outdoor Ed Camp

#### **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

- GWR Bowls & Golf Day in Ararat

#### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

- Staff PD – no school for students

#### **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

- Anzac Day – no school for staff and students

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

- Parent Teacher Interviews (11:00am – 7:00pm)

#### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

- Year 7 Immunisations

#### **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

- MRC Open afternoon/evening

## History Guest speaker Tony Smelter

*Mrs. Jo Saunders*

Dad spoke about his time in technical school which he entered at 13 years and 9 months. He went there to become a motor mechanic, as you had to choose your profession before you entered the technical school.

At 15 he went out to work at "Alinks" it was a store which sold stoves and heaters. Here he learned pipe fitting and welding and some plumbing skills. He also had to fix and fit flues in people's homes. Also help with some hydronic heating.

He actually wanted to be a motor mechanic and work at the garage (run by Germans) but the Germans had occupied Holland and his mother would not let him work for "the enemy" so he had to find a different job.

Often the Allies were fired at by the enemy just before they reached Germany (Dad lived four minutes from the German Boarder) so the planes had to drop the bombs in order to go faster and flee the enemy. So Bombs landed in Enschede (his home town) but one bomb did not explode. It went through the roof of a Hotel and literally came out the front door into the street. A woman was nearby with a pram and began to scream ... Dad leapt over the bomb to reach her baby and help right the pram and get them away from the danger.

At 16, Dad got a job at the Textile Factory in the maintenance section. About 800 girls worked there on looms and sewing and dying fabric, threads etc. The whole process from start to finish. He was asked to follow a schematic drawing and bend a piece of pipe to match the drawing. He was able to do so and then the boss said he had to begin the next day and spend 12 months going to every machine in the factory and learn how each of them worked so he could fix them all. He had 12 months to do so. He was to report back to the boss in 12 months and then be officially on the maintenance team.

Whilst Dad's brothers had to go to Germany and work in factories during the occupation of Holland, he did not as he was the qualified for fire safety for the factory and was therefore exempt under Geneva Convention. After working at the textiles factory for a number of years' dad had to complete his national service and went as a motor mechanic in the air force. After marrying Mum and having three children and returning to work at the factory he saw an ad in the paper for jobs in Australia for pipe fitters to help build the second stage of the Shell refinery in Geelong. (1955) Dad travelled to Australia by plane... Via Cairo, Karachi, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Sydney – Melbourne – took a week.

Reason for applying:

The textiles industry in Holland was beginning to wane as these manufacturing businesses were growing rapidly in China and India.

He had a two-year contract, but mum and the three kids came over on a ship after 12 months - they had three more children and never returned to Holland. They became Australian Citizens in 1959.

He learned English because one of his mates who had very good English used to make him translate and read the Geelong Advertiser every day.

At the Refinery he worked with other people from Holland, Germany, Italy etc. etc. Many of them could not speak to one another but eventually learned to communicate.

Dad was initially a pipe fitter, then he became a leading hand and then was invited to be a "shut down" Manager. These people manage the 'shut down' of sections of the refinery - when pipes and welds were tested, everything was checked, maintained and deemed safe to be in continued use. He and another man were put into the 'office' to plan and implement a shut down but his co-worker suffered a heart attack and died so he had to manage alone. He said it was frightening and challenging at the same time and he found he

had the skills to do it well. So he then become office management staff for World Services and Construction. Eventually he became an Estimating Engineer for the company.

Some questions he answered were about:

The language barriers, his age when he migrated (28).

How much he missed his family at home in Holland? Lots but he wrote them every week.

How did he deal with the cultural changes and working with people of so many nationalities? - exciting

Favourite job he had over the years – (The office job) because it challenged him the most and was difficult.

What he loved about Australia? – the weather!

Why he became an Australian citizen? – It was the rule and he wanted to vote.

Tony then showed the class his family tree. It goes back to 1760 and he went through the change of name from Schmelter to Smelter (German to Dutch) and the history of family names such as 'Christiaan" and 'Gerardus" and 'Adriana"'.

Haley Wason thanked Mr. Smelter on behalf of the class and presented him with a Mercy Regional College pen and key ring. Mr Smelter then spent time discussing the students' family tree projects with them and had a short tour of the school.





## Careers Report

Mrs. Jenny Phillips

### Year 10 Work Experience

During Week 2 this Term, the majority of our Year 10 students undertook a week's work experience. There was a diverse range of careers investigated at a variety of workplaces, across a number of different locations. Work experience gives students the opportunity to investigate a career that interests them and gain some insight into the world of work. In order to undertake work experience at the beginning of this year, the students had been proactive during Year 9 to ensure that they had organised their placement and completed the necessary paperwork. This level of organisation and commitment was continued into the workplace, with many employers commenting favourably on the students' punctuality, friendliness, initiative and preparedness to be active participants in all activities.

Congratulations to all those students who have already completed their work experience and received positive and encouraging employer feedback. For those students who will be undertaking their work experience later in the year, I am confident that the College will receive similar reports from their employers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage students to undertake extra work experience if the opportunity arises. They are able to organise placements during the school holidays, providing all documentation is complete and approved.

Work Experience Forms are available on the College Website:

Mercy Homepage > Co-curricular > Careers > Mercy Careers – [careers.mercy.vic.edu.au](https://careers.mercy.vic.edu.au)

Once inside the website, go to: Workplace Learning (top of the page) > Work Experience

Below are just a few of the students in their workplace for the week.

### Don't forget to check out the Weekly Careers News:

Mercy Homepage > Co-curricular > Careers > Mercy Careers – [careers.mercy.vic.edu.au](https://careers.mercy.vic.edu.au)

Once inside the website, to access the Weekly Career News go to:

Important Info. (top of the page) > Careers Newsletter > Career News



Jessica James - Gilberts



Grace Broderick - Fry's Chemist



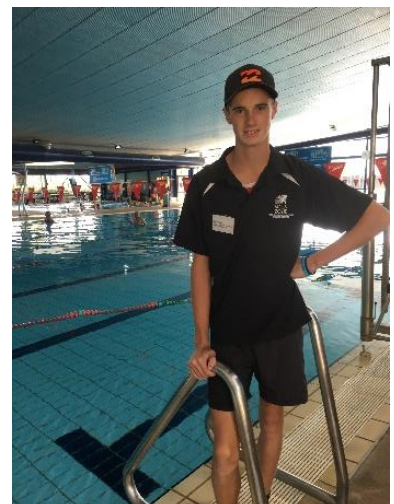
Alexandra Dickson – Metamorphos Hair



Jasmine Coolahan – Buckle my Shoe



Hannah Whytcross - Elders



Dylan Hoare at Aquazone

# Work Experience Report

Ella Gleeson

Year 10 work experience took place on February 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. Students participated in a wide range of activities in their workplaces. I travelled to Ballarat to do my work experience at Sovereign Hill.

On the first day, I arrived nervous and curious as to what awaited me. I was taken through to the costume department there I was turned into an 1850's lady and was given lessons on how to walk, talk and act as a member of staff in the museum. Then to Spencer's Confectionary and Sweet shop to get to work. Next up was Clarke's Grocers and with that day being Valentine's Day there was a staged 1850's wedding which I was involved in a wedding as a guest.

Wednesday was more hands on when I was working in Hewitt's Candle Makers where I was involved in the making of candles and demonstrations to the public.

Thursday was one of the tastiest days when I worked at Brown's Confectionary Factory making and doing public demonstrations. My work experience was one of the most exciting, fun-filled and educational weeks of my life, I would highly recommend it to anyone and I would definitely do it again.





## Caritas Report

*Caitlin Rix*

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Isabel Rowan, Jordan Gray, Tess Lourey, Sophie Rowan, Demby McKenzie and Tate Tregea-Copeland attended Caritas 'Just Leadership' Day in Ballarat.

Students workshopped with other catholic schools in the diocese's about what it is that makes a just leader. They also looked at ways they can fundraise for Caritas's 'Project Compassion', which has just commenced at both our Mercy campuses.

It was a pleasure to take these six students down for the day and see their passion to make a change in their school, community and even the world!



## From the Social Justice Team

As part of the season of Lent, Mercy Regional College is determined to support the work of Caritas Australia's 'Project Compassion' both at home and in other countries and territories.

For 2017, the Social Justice team would like to put more emphasis on building **awareness**, rather than solely focusing on donating money (even though we recognise money is an important factor). Feedback from our social justice leaders and others suggests that students are donating money without gaining any solidarity or knowledge about who their money is going to, why it's going there and what it does.

This year's theme for 'Project Compassion' (PC) is "love your neighbour". Our focus for PC this year is to share the stories of individuals who receive the much needed funding, education and awareness from Caritas' many programs.

Our week one PC story begins with Dinia, a lady from the Philippines, who was selected as one of the most in need in her community after her husband passed away leaving her to raise their 7 children alone. Through Caritas' programs, Dinia was able to learn the skills to create a sustainable future for herself and her family to survive. Dinia is now considered a leader in her community and is helping her neighbours create a self-sufficient and sustainable lifestyle for themselves.

To find out more about Dinia, or stories like Dinia's please visit the Caritas website:

<http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/weekly-stories/week-1-Dinia>

Students will be learning and sharing these stories throughout the length of lent and will be able to donate money to 'Project Compassion' during homeroom, PAC or up at the front office.

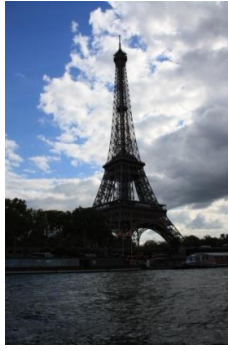
"Awareness is the greatest agent for change" - Eckhart Tolle.

**Darren Egberts, Mel Brisbane and Caitlin Rix**



**Dinia harvesting rice**





## **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.



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 are interested please contact Claire Walsh on 5593 2011 or [cwalsh@mercy.vic.edu.au](mailto:cwalsh@mercy.vic.edu.au)

A referral will be sent on your behalf to the L2P Co-ordinator, Belinda who will contact you directly if you meet the criteria.



5 great reasons to welcome a French student  
into your family for 4 or 10 weeks this year...



For more information and to apply go to...

**nacel.com.au**

#### INTERESTED IN HOSTING A FRENCH EXCHANGE STUDENT FOR A SHORT-TERM PERIOD?

Hosting a student from another country is an enriching experience for the whole family; creating lasting friendships and offering a unique cross-cultural experience in the comfort of your own home. Nacel are seeking host families for French exchange students for a short term stay in July/August this year. Some key information to consider:

- The purpose of these programs is for young people around the world to expand their horizons, engage with other cultures and improve their language skills, and they come here seeking to experience life as an Australian teenager.
- Exchange students enter Australia on a visitor visa and as such they are considered a guest of the school they attend for the short period of their stay.
- As these are non-academic programs there is "no" cost or administration for school.
- Visiting students are required to pay for all expenses related to school uniform, textbooks and subject resource charges, public transport to and from school, outings, excursions, personal and incidental spending.
- Nacel manages all the arrangements with the host family to prepare them for the experience and provide 24/7 support to them throughout their hosting experience.
- Nacel provides comprehensive insurance and 24/7 support to host students while on the program.

For more information please visit [www.nacel.com.au](http://www.nacel.com.au) or contact Mrs. Chamon Vogels at Mercy Regional College [Cvogels@mercy.vic.edu.au](mailto:Cvogels@mercy.vic.edu.au)



## **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

### **Kolora Noorat FNC Junior Football**

Training is running at 4:30 at Noorat Recreation Reserve as follows:

Under 14.5 Wednesday 15/3 and Tuesday/Thursday after that

Under 12 Thursday 23/3 and each Thursday after that

Please contact Paul Dunn (U14.5) 0417 360 158,

Phil Beasley (U12) 0438 921 213

or Matt Clarke (President) 0417 922 515 with any enquiries.

All Welcome!



**Junior Football Training Commencement Dates:**

**Under 12's, Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> March @ 4:00pm**

**Under 14's, Tuesday and Thursday @ 4:30pm – Starting 14<sup>th</sup> March**

**Under 16's, Tuesday and Thursday @ 4:30pm – Starting 7<sup>th</sup> March**

**Where: Camperdown Football Grounds**

**All Welcome – Current or New Players**

**Any further details please contact:**

**James Lane 0419 887 152**

# PLAYERS WANTED



## Cobden Night Netball

### Starting Term 2

(Games beginning 1st week of Term 2)

#### JUNIOR COMPETITION

**C GRADE** - Grade 2 to Grade 4

Wednesday Night

For more details on C Grade

contact Bernie Hickey 0448 951 941

**B GRADE** - Grade 5 to Year 7

Monday Night

For more details on B Grade

contact Leah Buckle 0418 505 373

#### REGISTRATION NIGHT

Tuesday 14th March

If your child wishes to play in the  
Junior Competition please attend the  
**REGISTRATION NIGHT** from  
4.30pm to 5.30pm at the  
Cobden Technical School Gym

**DOWNLOAD THE REGISTRATION FORM**  
from our Facebook page to save time  
on the night at **REGISTRATION NIGHT**

#### SENIOR COMPETITION

**A GRADE**

Wednesday Night 6.30pm onwards

Text A Grade teams or individual  
names to Kylie McVilly 0427 951 935  
by Tuesday 14th March

**A RES GRADE**

Monday Night 6.30pm onwards

Text A Reserve teams or individual  
names to Julie Finney 0417 327 677  
by Tuesday 14th March

For general enquires contact

Janelle Smith 0409 423 687

**ALL names due in by Tuesday March 14th**  
**No late names will be accepted**



### Timboon Railtrailers & Lions Relay for Life Team

#### Open Garden

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Janine Molan & Daryl Lyon's

1249 Morey's Road Nullawarre

(Follow signs from Ayrford Rd or Bailey's Rd)

11.00am-4.00pm

\$10.00 entry includes Devonshire Tea

Bring your Own Chair & Drink

Sausage Sizzle available

Relax & enjoy Live Music with

Cathy & Shane Plozza

in this beautiful garden.



**COBDEN ART GROUP**

# **AUTUMN ART SHOW**

**Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th March, 2017**

**WATERCOLOUR, OIL, PASTEL & ACRYLIC** PAINTINGS, INCLUDING  
HANDMADE **GREETING CARDS** AND **FOLK ART**

**\$3.00 ENTRY**, Students Free.  
Door Proceeds to .. *COBDEN HEALTH SERVICES.*

**OPENING HOURS:** 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. daily  
**VENUE:** Cobden Civic Hall Supper Room

**PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:**.....





**MARCH**  
**11**  
9-11AM



## **COUSINS CLUB BBQ**

**ALL FUNDS GO TOWARDS  
BEYOND BLUE**



**AT STIRLOS  
BUTCHERS  
COBDEN VIC**

**2\$ SAUSAGE PLUS FREE ONION**



# Cobrico Hall Anniversary Weekend

31st March - 2nd April  
 "110 years old, 50 years new"

Have you / your family danced, sang, acted, played cards, bowls or table tennis, partied or celebrated a wedding or farewell at the Cobrico Hall?

**If so, we would love to have you join us for a special celebration**



The original hall (now the Supper Room) was opened in 1907 with a concert, followed by dancing. The main hall was opened in 1967 with a ball.

You are invited to come to either, or both functions.  
 (A reply is not essential, but would be helpful for planning)

## Friday 31st March, 2017 - "Old Time Dance"

8pm to midnight, Frankie Lawrence Band, \$8.00 entry. Supper 10.00pm.  
 (Please bring plate of supper if you can)

## Sunday 2nd April, 2017 - "Open Day and Variety Concert"

Hall open from 11.00am, to view displays and a chance to reminisce.  
 (Please bring a snack lunch with you, tea / coffee available)

Concert 1.00pm, \$8.00 pp, school age \$2.00. Cutting of cake 2.30pm.  
 Afternoon tea provided.

Any memorabilia, eg photos, sashes etc, that could be loaned for display would be much appreciated.

Contact phone numbers:

Jan 5595 1796; Nola 5595 1231; Helen 5595 2210

Cobden & Districts  
 Community Bank Branch  
 Bendigo Bank

**NET FIT Netball**  
**NEON**  
 NEON NETFIT IS COMING TO  
**Warrnambool**  
**THURS 23RD MARCH 4:00PM OPEN**  
**NEON workout starts 8:30pm**  
**KIM RAVAILLION & LIZ WATSON**  
**AUSTRALIAN NETBALLERS**  
**WARRNAMBOOL STADIUM**  
**FESTIVAL OF NETBALL BEGINS**  
**COACHING WORKSHOPS // NETBALL FITNESS POPUPS**  
**WELLBEING POPUPS // WORKOUTS**  
**GOLD COIN DONATION // 100% PROFITS TO LET'S TALK**  
**world record attempt**  
**NEON NETFIT workout**  
**Girls MAKE YOUR MOVE**  
**LET'S TALK**  
**NET FIT Netball**