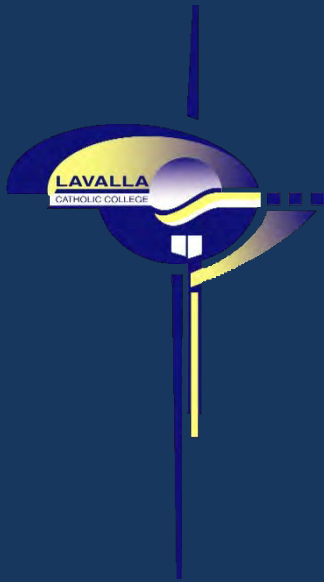


Lavalla Catholic College

Issue 8
MAY 30, 2014



This issue

FROM THE PRINCIPAL	P.1
IMPORTANT DATES	P.2
CAMPUS REPORTS	P.3- P.4
LETTER FROM BR JEFFREY CROWE	P.7

From the Principal, Mr John Freeman



Throughout much of this term, but in particular the last few weeks, there has been a lot of work done by staff and students focussing on social service. These acts of social service involved work that includes: our annual support of Give a Damn, Give a Can; Cause Worth week, including Shave for a Cure; Red Cross Blood Ambassadors program (we now have over 110 staff and students committing to this program); and assisting with the Fitzroy Soup van.

Also this week is Reconciliation Week. Lavalla Catholic College sits on the traditional lands of the Gunnai-Kurnai people. Therefore, to recognise this various information sessions were presented as well as class prayers and Reconciliation Liturgies were held to help all in the College become more aware of the need for reconciliation. My thanks to all involved and in particular Mr Paul Munday of the CEO Sale for his generous assistance.

Australia's indigenous population is made up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. According to the latest available census figures there are 517,000 indigenous people thus making up around 2.5 % of the Australian population. Of these, 75% live in major cities or large rural areas, 9% live in remote areas whilst around 16% live in very remote areas.

Indigenous people who come from a spiritual heritage referred to as *The Dreamtime*, have occupied this land for an estimated 70,000 years. The majority of Indigenous and non-indigenous alike live in contemporary settings (although a small number of indigenous have maintained their hunter and gatherer lifestyle). This mix has led to comment on the way in which assimilation between indigenous and other Australians has taken place.

The NTER (Northern Territory Emergency Response) was announced in June 2007 following the release by the Northern Territory Government of what was to become known as the *Little Children are Sacred* report which brought national attention to evidence of the abuse of children in the Northern Territory's Indigenous communities. It is one of a number of responses to a challenging situation in recognising the inherent rights of the traditional owners of this land.

Another challenge for Australia is the number of indigenous young people who access senior secondary and higher education. The disparity is highlighted by research (Kaufman, P. (2003). Diversity and Indigenous policy outcomes: Comparisons between four nations) which indicates that Australia has the lowest educational outcomes compared Canada, New Zealand and the United States. He showed that from 2001 data, available from the governments of each country, that 40% of indigenous Australians left school before reaching the age of sixteen. This compared to 22% in Canada and 26% in USA. Furthermore, fewer Australian indigenous youth had post school qualifications than their counterparts in those other countries. The statistics for indigenous children in Australia are:

23% attend pre-school.

65% attend primary school.

59% attend secondary school.

11% finish with a Year 12 Certificate.

The average life expectancy of a male is 53.

God, I know that some days are up and some days are down. I don't ask you to make them perfect.

Just give me enough grace to get through them knowing that you love me always. I can't get through the good days or the bad days without your help, love and support.

Amen

From the Principal (Cont.)

Therefore I am very grateful to not only the CEO, but also Rita Nainie and her team for the tremendous work that has been undertaken to collaborate with families from Lavalla Catholic College with indigenous heritages about increasing access to secondary and higher education.

Our official date for **enrolment applications** to be submitted is **Friday, 30 May 2014**. At this stage we have had a very strong response with applications being significantly higher this year than previously. Even if you currently have children at the College it is critical that you submit an application if you have not done so already. We can and do accept enrolments after this date, but given the strong response so far we do need them submitted very soon if you intend to have your son or daughter considered to be enrolled.

We are always keen to find meaningful ways to work with the Catholic Primary Schools we work with in the Latrobe Valley and so my thanks to Monica Justin and her Year 11 CYSMA who have this week been working with over 120 Year 6 students from St Michael's and St Gabriel's on preparation for Confirmation that will take place next month.

Congratulations to Jeananne Brown on the birth of her grandson Eddie. Jeananne's daughter Kara, and her husband Mike Thompson are very proud new parents.

We also Farewelled Sarah Brown, who worked in a variety of administrative roles at the school. We wish her the best of success in her work at CEO in Darwin.

Finally I attach a letter from the Provincial of the Marist Brothers, Br Jeff Crower, concerning the next set of public hearings of the Royal Commission. These are to be held in Canberra in mid-June which will include that two cases to be examined that are connected to the Marists, focussing at least on a former Brother and a Brother, both of whom have been previously convicted for their crimes. The Commission will consider the adequacy of responses by school and Province leadership at the time. It will concern three schools – in ACT, New South Wales and Queensland.

HELPERS WANTED

We urgently require volunteer helpers for the Canteen at the St Paul's Campus.

If you are able to assist, please contact Allison Farley on 51747355

Important Dates

2—4 June

Year 9 City Camp

2—6 June

Years 10 & 11 Exams

2 June

Music Soiree—Year 11

3 June

Year 9 Food Excursion

SSV Wellington Cross Country

4 June

ICAS—Science

Multicultural Evening—Kildare Campus

5 June

Champagnat Mass

6 June

Champagnat Day

9 June

Queens Birthday Holiday

9—13 June

VCAL Work Experience

10—13 June

Year 12 Exam Experience

11 June

Clay Shooting Try Outs

GAT—General Achievement Test

Straight Talk

Lavalla Art Exhibition

13 June

LOTE Excursion

14 June

Book in a Day Competition

Lavalla Catholic College— Art Exhibition
Years 10 & 11
Opening Evening
Wednesday 11 June 2014
4.00pm
Arts Centre



St Paul's Campus Update

Mr Andrew Martin, Campus Director

St Paul's continues to hum with activity as we move toward the mid year break.

The past week has seen a range of events in support of our mission as a Catholic school. I congratulate Paul Skippen, our Youth leader for his organization of 'Celebrate often and Celebrate Well' a day centred around the joyful expression of catholic life through music. Participants came from all over Melbourne and from interstate to engage Paul's vision. Another activity held at St Paul's and organized by Chris Roga, our College Mission and Faith leader, involved over 120 students from St Michael's and St Gabriel's who gathered at St Paul's on Thursday for a confirmation retreat. We acknowledged also, Sorry Day, with prayer and at Year Seven, significant commitment to education around our history in respect of engagement with indigenous people. I thank Mr Paul from the CEO for his contribution to our understanding of this story.

The Atlas program swung into full gear as the first groups headed off on their City and Beach Camps this week to 'put Into practice' what they had learnt and prepared for over the past six weeks. Sadly, we are losing the services of Sarah Brown who has been a fantastic servant of the program in the role of support officer over the past 18 months. Sarah is taking up an Executive PA position in the NT and we wish her all the best for the future.

Our sporting success continued last week as College Soccer teams moved through the SSV competition undefeated in the round. Football teams were less successful, but battled manfully to earn opponents respect in the tradition of Lavalla teams

We look forward in the coming week to celebrating our founders day with the Champagnat Mass and activities.



Uniform Shop Open Days 2014

5th June

19th June

17th July

7th August

21st August

4th September

**The Second Hand Uniform Shop
is Located
At the St Paul's Campus**





Kildare Campus Update

Mr Douglas Doherty, Campus Director

In my previous update I began to examine the meaning of living the Marist Charism and made a bold claim that it was 'a way of life that is blossoming at the Kildare Campus'.

I then began to examine two further 'Characteristics of Marism' as part of our preparation for the celebration of the Feast Day of St. Marcellin Champagnat on 6th June. These characteristics are categorised as *Simplicity* and *Love of Work*.

The concept of *Love of Work* would certainly not be an issue to illustrate as a catalyst within the life of Kildare Campus.

This has clearly been manifested with the purposeful direction of the students and staff of Kildare Campus as we move towards exam time. This has been evidenced with the focus on the GAT, mid-term exams, Drama Incursions and the wonderful Year 12 Music Soiree last Monday night.

The *Love of Work* will again be undoubtedly manifested through the forthcoming Year 11 and 12 VCAL Work Experience, where our students will as usual be outstanding ambassadors for our school community.

Our geography students, under the leadership of Mr Erdely achieved excellent success with in the recent Australian Geography Competition. A report of the competition has been included in the newsletter.

The Year 10 and 11 exams next week will also highlight that this love of work needs to be monitored and will hopefully bring rewards. A letter has gone home to explain the arrangements for exam time and scheduling of events such as the celebration of St. Marcellin Champagnat Feast Day. On that note we are very excited to say that we will help celebrate this event with an amazing illusionist act by Tim Ellis. He is one of Australia's leading magicians and illusionists.

The *Love of Work* is also clearly evident in all other aspects of Kildare life, including sport. The Touch football students (male and female) also had amazing success. Also, as a member of the Delany House, it does pain me but as Campus Director it gives

me pride to say that Champagnat House where the winners for both the Shave for a Cure – Trivia Competition and collecting the most cans with "Give a Damn, Give a can".

Simplicity is the characteristic I found to be the most difficult to fathom, especially within such a successful College and with my motto of striving for 'Habits of Excellence' through 'Raising Aspirations and Delivering Excellence For All.'

However, I did not need a deep-delve into campus life to understand that this concept of *Simplicity* is actually the foundation stone of all our successes. This was highlighted to us by a guest speaker, Mr Paul Munday (CEO) when he spoke to Year 11 students in regard to 'Sorry Day' and the Reconciliation week in regards to our aboriginal brothers and sisters. His speech spoke very clearly about the terrible events from history, the ways in which the Catholic church are working to support our indigenous neighbours and the simplistic yet traditional life that many indigenous live today within Australia.

This concept of *Simplicity* also focuses on the quality of showing we believe what we say. This again is evident with the work of the Justice Student Leadership team led by Mikaela Tarraran and the Community Cohesion student leadership led by Quinn Scott.

Mikaela and her teams worked tirelessly with Mrs Clarke to arrange and lead 'Cause-Worth Week'. The campus raised its record total this week, exceeding it's target and achieving over \$8,000! A full report and photos are included in this newsletter. All funds will go to Gippsland Cancer Care Centre. Any further donations would be gratefully accepted and can be given to Mrs Clarke at Kildare Campus.

So in our preparation for the Feast of St. Marcellin Champagnat, the reflection of the past two weeks shows that we are a Catholic School in action not just word.

Inspiring Young Women Dinner

On Wednesday 14th May, Lauren Van Dyke, Bianca Gawthi, Mikaela Tarraran, Taryn Clarke and Kayla Massaro were given an amazing chance to take a night off homework and attend an Inspiring Young Women Dinner at the Warratah Training Restaurant, GippsTAFE Morwell hosted by the Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN.

50 young women from schools around Gippsland were paired with 50 successful women to share their stories about how they got where they are today.

Testimonial from Kayla Massaro:

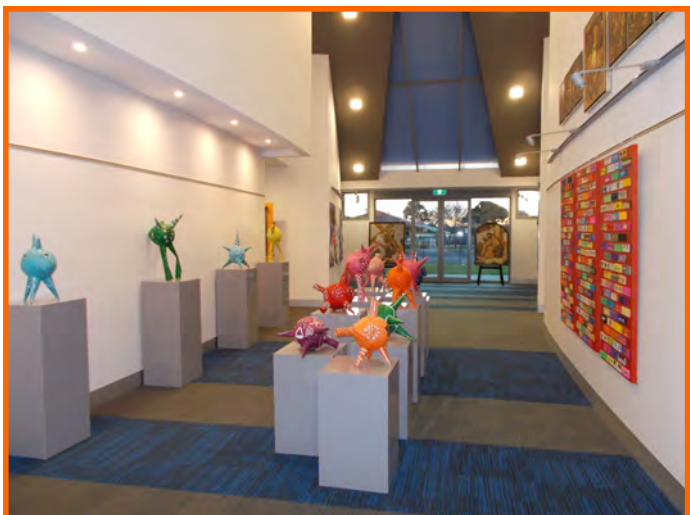
'I found that it really was a great experience to meet the influential women in our community and to listen to the advice of someone who knows what they are doing and who has been in my position before. Over the course of the dinner we were given a chance to really think where we want to go in the future and to consider where the past 13 years of schooling could take us. I would recommend to anyone that has the chance to attend this dinner does so as it truly is a really great experience and an opportunity worth taking.'



Year 7 2015 Twilight Evening

Above: Daniel Gatpan

Below: Le Rozey Centre



Geography

Mr Stephen Erdely - Geography Teacher

Geography students from Years 10 and 11 tested their geographical skills and knowledge against students from all around Australia in the 2014 Australian Geography Competition. Over 70,000 students from 760 schools entered.

Geography teacher Mr Steve Erdely, had just received the results and was very pleased with how their students performed.

"This was the first year the college entered the competition with 22 students from the senior school completing the multiple choice paper. Students performed to a high level with 3 students receiving credit certificates and 3 receiving distinction certificates. A special acknowledgement to LACHLAN DAY in Year 10. Lachlan was the only student to achieve a high distinction being ranked in the 91st percentile across the country."

Congratulations to all participants and all the very best for your studies in Geography over the next few years.



Year 7 2015 Twilight Evening

Above: Zoe Roberts



Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon



Book in a Day Competition—Enrichment Activity

Saturday June 14th, 2014
10am - 5pm



Book in a Day is a fun, flexible, team building and writing experience, open to students from Y8 to Y12.

Teams of 6-8 students work collaboratively during the day to create a novella of approx 10 -12,000 words. Teams can be Senior, Junior or Mixed year levels.

All students must bring their own devices/chargers.

Wi-Fi access will be provided on the day.

Please note: Each school must have at least one staff member present for the duration.

Your team will be given a choice of two topics on the day. Writing will begin at 10:00am. It will be up to your team to decide on the plot and characters for your novella.

Lunch will be provided.

Writing will end at 5 pm. All novellas are submitted via a USB. Lavalla Catholic College will print, bind and distribute each novella to participating schools.

At 5pm, Certificates of Participation will be awarded to all students as well as individual and team prizes.

Registration Details

Name of School

Address of School

Name of Staff Member
accompanying students

Team members name and Year
Level

Any special dietary

Requirements for any members

Registration is now OPEN!

Lavalla Catholic College contact staff

Ms Gloria Zahra

zahrglo1@lavalla.vic.edu.au

Ms Jeananne Brown

browjea1@lavalla.vic.edu.au

**REGISTER NOW VIA THE
LAVALLA WEBSITE**

www.lavalla.vic.edu.au

PROVINCE OF AUSTRALIA

Marist Centre Sydney

Level 1 247 Coward St Mascot, NSW 2020

PO Box 1247 Mascot NSW 1460

T: +612 9218 4000

F: +612 9218 4084

E: mcs.reception@marists.org.au

ABN: 91 064 875 510



22 May 2014

Dear colleagues,

In June there will be a public hearing of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse in Canberra. The hearing will focus on tragic cases of serial abuse involving Marist Brothers.

In the course of the hearing there will be victim statements that will be heart-wrenching and that will show deficiencies in responding to complaints.

The offenders have been convicted for their crimes and there can be no doubt about the devastation of lives that they have caused, the victims and their families. The Brothers have provided compensation to the victims and made personal and public apologies before and will do so again. We are committed to whatever it takes to address their need for truth, justice and healing.

What will be under scrutiny here will be the failure of the system – i.e. school authorities, including Provincials in the past – to act to safeguard the well-being of children.

Our response to known victims will also be examined. Have we Brothers been just and compassionate?

A number of former Principals and school staff will be called to testify, as will Br Alexis. I expect to be called in relation to our past response to victims, to provide information on our structures and to give our response to this hearing.

In the January hearing, I gave evidence that we Brothers had a big problem of abuse that was largely unrecognised until the early 1990s. How could such a betrayal of our mission have happened?

At the same time, I stated that there have been no substantiated cases of institutional child abuse by Brothers since 1994. As a group, we Brothers have learnt much. Certainly our institutions have adopted "best practice" in regard to child protection matters.

I repeat what I said in a letter of last year welcoming the establishment of the Royal Commission, "The Marist Brothers want to apologise to you, our colleagues and parents of today's' students at Marist Schools ... The Marist Brothers know that we have brought shame and an element of mistrust into our relationship. We ask your forgiveness."

St Marcellin Champagnat, apostle of youth, pray for us.

Br Jeffrey Crowe
Provincial

Marist Centre Melbourne

1 Dawson St, Brunswick VIC 3056
T: +613 9389 3100 F: +613 9381 0417
E: mcma.reception@marists.org.au

Province of Australia

PO Box 1247 Mascot NSW 1460 Australia
T: 1300 MARISTS F: +612 9218 4084
E: reception@marists.org.au

Marist Centre Brisbane

142 Frasers Rd, Ashgrove Qld 4060
PO Box 273, Ashgrove West Qld 4060
T: +617 3354 0600 F: +617 3354 4654
E: mcb.reception@marists.org.au