



From the Principal

John M Freeman

The Hermitage Administration Centre

Starting next Wednesday, 6 November, the Hermitage Administration Centre on the corner of Grey St and Grubb Avenue will commence full operation. Public access will be from Grey St, near the Chapel and the student entry from inside the school via the walkway near the Stoddart Building.

The Hermitage Administration Centre will house the functions of the St Paul's Campus Administration. It will also accommodate all of the staff from Marcellin House, including Accounts Payable and Receivable. Additionally, my office will be located on the first floor.

No doubt with any change there will be a time of adjustment as we all start to understand the best way to use this new resource. So I thank everyone in advance for their patience, good humour and understanding over the next few months.

Assistant Principal Catholic Identity and Mission from 2020

Following the announcement that Chris Roga will be taking on a new role as College Faith Formator we have been engaged in a rigorous selection process with the guidance of Marist Schools Australia Regional Director, Ms Julie Ryan as well as support from the College Advisory Council to appoint an Assistant Principal Catholic Identity and Mission from 2020.

Accordingly, I am delighted to announce the appointment of Robyn Rebbechi as Assistant Principal Catholic Identity and Mission

Since 2008 Robyn has held the role of Director of Faith Development at Marist-Sion College, Warragul, and she is a member of the College Leadership Team at the school. Robyn's qualifications are a Bachelor of Arts/Humanities, Bachelor of Teaching Primary and Secondary, Graduate Certificate in Religious Education and she is currently completing a Master of Education and Theology. Additionally, Robyn has been a member of a number of significant committees and groups that include Member of the Diocesan Liturgy Committee (current), Chair of the Sion Schools Australia Curriculum Team and the Bishop's Appointee to Diocesan RE Review. Robyn is an active member of the St Joseph's Parish in Warragul and is involved with Children's Liturgy, Liturgy Team and leads Music Ministry.

In making this announcement I wish to thank the following people for their time and careful work as members of the selection panel:

- **John Freeman** – Principal
- **Fr Harry Dyer** – Parish Priest Moe and Newborough and member of Advisory Council
- **John Fazzino** – Deputy Principal – Mission at St Francis Xavier College and has working knowledge of the role
- **Oronzo Farina** – School Leadership Consultant: Secondary for DOSCEL
- **Mr Peter Centra** – Deputy Principal Catholic Identity and Community at Catholic College Sale – MSA representative

I know Robyn is looking forward to joining us in 2020 and I trust that she will enjoy our support.

Graduation Mass and Celebration Day

Thursday last week was the final day of formal classes for our Year 12 students. To celebrate the Year 12 Class of 2019's time at Lavalla Catholic College we have had a number of events. During Thursday, we held a Whole School Assembly. This was as always a moving time and I thank all involved, in particular our current school captains for their words of reflection and appreciation as well as the gift they presented on behalf of the Class of 2019 to the College. The gift was a framed copy of the image below, which is a beautiful depiction of "The Three Violets" one of the five which represent the virtues of Humility, Modesty and Simplicity. This is fourth time our Year 12s have created such an image and it is very much appreciated and cherished.



Following the assembly, the senior campus gathered in the Kildare Hall to be entertained by staff and student performances. This afternoon was filled with great spirit and everyone had a great sense of the camaraderie of this group. During the evening students, staff and families gathered for the Valedictory Mass at St Michael's. Thank you to all involved, particularly Fr Francis O'tobo who celebrated Mass, Tamsin McCormack for all her organisation, Nicole Denovan for the photography, Chris Roga for the preparation of the liturgy and Shane Reid who conducted our Liturgical Choir. The following day we celebrated our traditional and quite moving farewell ritual.

I have included at the end of this article excerpts of my speech to the Year 12s and their families at the Mass. We wish these fine young people the best of success in all their endeavours.

Year 12 Examinations

For three hours on Wednesday morning, Year 12 students in VCE completed their English examination.

Over the coming weeks, most will sit another four to six exams, depending on their subjects. Please remember them in your prayers through this important time.

Staff News

Congratulations to Nicole Fenech and her husband John on the birth Ella Grace last Tuesday.

After many years as the accompanist for the College's Liturgical Choir, we say farewell and thank you to Chris Medhurst. We wish Chris well in her retirement from this important role.

Fire Safety this Cup Weekend

Attached to this Newsletter is a Fire Safety warning from the CFA

Student News

Congratulations to **Guguei Malual** who, last weekend, was awarded with a community award by The Latrobe Valley Soccer League (LVSL) for his contribution to the Barefoot to Boots Program. Guguei is commended for the implementation of this fund raising activity completed via his VCAL Community Awareness project. Guguei has a passion for this cause and genuine concern for others who have experienced a life similar to his story. Through this enthusiasm he collected more than 500 soccer boots, 300 strips, 20 soccer balls, 50 socks and 20 shin guards. In this newsletter is Guguei's story, written from his perspective.



BAREFOOT TO BOOTS

My name is Guguei Malual and I was born in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. I moved to Australia when I was 4 years old, with my parents and two sisters and I still remember the living conditions in the camp to this day. Being born there, I didn't know what I was missing until I moved to Australia and saw exactly how much I didn't have. Many people in Australia have so many things, that they go unused. Things that could really benefit the less fortunate in refugee camps. With this in mind, I decided to find a way to help the many children still living in Kakuma refugee camp for my Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) community link project. I was fortunate to be able to partner with the Barefoot to Boots organisation. This organisation was founded by brothers Awer Mabil and Awer Bol, both like me, were born in the Kakuma refugee camp. The brothers started this organisation as they were looking to make a change to the conditions in the camp.

As I started to look into the various issues surrounding this project, I realised the main issue for me was the different groups of people that have been forced to flee their homelands because of war and then face extremely poor living conditions in refugee camps in Kakuma Kenya. All the refugees that made it to Kakuma refugee camp were all running away from their countries, including both my parents. They couldn't live in the war torn South Sudan, so fleeing to Kenya was the only option.

Thousands of refugees living in Kakuma are so poor that finding clothing, let alone shoes is a massive struggle. But they mask their struggle by indulging in activities, with the main one being soccer. You could play soccer all day and forget about everything that

is happening around you. You could be the poorest person in the world, but when you are having fun and playing soccer you can feel rich in heart and mind. This is the impact that sport really has on people and more for those that sport is all they have. So by simply giving the right equipment to be able to enjoy the game even more, can be the smallest thing to ask, but the biggest gift to someone else. Most people that play soccer or footy have soccer boots laying around that are no longer in use for various reasons, though mostly because they may be too small. But those shoes that are laying around could go to a little kid in Kakuma refugee camp and put the biggest smile on their face.

This is what I set out to achieve and succeed at doing, with help from Tony Colman and Latrobe Valley Soccer League (LVSL). Tony Colman got all the soccer clubs in the LVSL involved in the foundation and all, were more than happy to get involved and donate not only soccer boots but strips, soccer balls, socks, shin pads and other equipment. Others in the community also helped by donating what they no longer needed, but would benefit others. My original goal was to provide around 200 soccer boots and a few socks and soccer balls. In the end my team and I ended up collecting more than 500 soccer boots, 300 strips, 20 soccer balls, 50 socks and 20 shin guards. All of the gear we collected for donation was astonishing, and will really put the biggest smile on the many kids and adults in the Kakuma refugee camp that love the game of soccer.

I would like to say the biggest thank you to all those that donated and another to Tony Colman, all of LVSL and Barefoot to Boots organisation for their immense support.



SPEECH TO GRADUATING YEAR 12^s

The following is an edited version of my speech to our Year 12 Graduands and their families at the Valedictory Mass.

So tonight we celebrate and give thanks that our Year 12 Graduands are prepared through the education received from home and at school to be ready to go forward, to be the best they can be and attain true happiness in life. We are also celebrating as we gather as a faith community at this Eucharist, in this Church, knowing that God is with them now and will continue to be with them to love and nourish these fine young people as they navigate the challenges of their various journeys.

Whilst, tonight is an important moment for all the young women and men we are here to celebrate graduating from Lavalla Catholic College, it is also significant for their families, particularly the parents. You, the parents and families, have nurtured and supported your sons and daughters, given them love, support and encouragement to become what they are capable of being. I know that they are grateful for this and we the staff of Lavalla Catholic College are thankful that you have allowed us to be part of their lives and to support you in the process of setting them on their way to reach great heights.

For the students, this is a time to celebrate. You are a success! To start a journey 13 years ago and finish it is a magnificent accomplishment in itself. We are proud of you and I hope you are proud of yourself.

I hope you may remember when I first spoke to all of you at the 2014 Commissioning Mass and it has been a constant theme since then is that I want for all of you to be a person who had the capacity and the opportunity to make choices for themselves. I hope that you have aspired to this and I hope that we as a community have supported you to achieve that goal.

A goal to make informed choices about the type of future you want for yourselves. We want you to make choices that took into account not only your talents and desires, but also are respectful of the needs of others. Essentially, our wish, is reflected in our College Motto, we want you to be people with Strong Minds and Compassionate Hearts.

A key hope of St Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of the Marist Brothers, was that schools in the Marist tradition produced good Christians and good citizens. I think you will be a great example of that hope.

However, to achieve this goal, I believe there are a few really important things to remember and strive to achieve. The first piece of advice I about to provide I have been saying to students, including my own children, for almost thirty years, and that is to believe in yourself. If you don't it makes it hard for others to believe in you. Success is more about attitude than ability. Descartes, a French Philosopher wrote, "I think therefore I am!" In my experience, this is true, if you think that you are no good and no one will like me then that is how you will act and that is how you will be. However, if you think you can succeed, be a person who can make a difference, a person who can love and be loved, then you will act that way, see the world that way, will be that WAY!

You may have heard the cliché – today is the first day of the rest of your life – and one of the realities of clichés is that they are based in truth. Another truth is encapsulated by the words of US statesman and Secretary of State, Dean Acheson – "the best thing about the future is that it only comes one day at a time." Therefore, living in the present is essential to develop a quality of soul in our lives and in the lives of those for whom we care. This is not suggesting that you do not concern yourself with things of the future and only live for now. I am hoping that you will live your life being present in the present, being aware and reflective about what is happening inside and outside of you and how much influence you have. Don't just allow life to simply wash over you like some huge wave.

Eckhart Tolle captures these sentiments thus:

"Time isn't precious at all, because it is an illusion. What you perceive as precious is not time but the one point that is out of time: the Now. That is precious indeed. The more you are focused on time—past and future—the more you miss the Now, the most precious thing there is. Why is it the most precious thing? Firstly, because it is the only thing. It's all there is. The eternal present is the space within which your whole life unfolds, the one factor that remains constant. Life is now. There was never a time in your life was not now, nor will there ever be. Secondly, the Now is the only point that take you beyond the limited confines of the mind. It is your only point of access into the timeless and formless realm of Being."

Know that every moment counts and how you use it will influence all your nows – now and the futures nows.

* So what should you do with your nows:

- *Rest* – it is the foundation of health and wisdom
- *Think* – it is the source of achievement
- *Read* – it is the foundation to wisdom
- *Play* – it is the secret to staying young
- *Be quiet* – it is the opportunity to seek God
- *Share* – it is too short a life to be selfish
- *Be aware* – it is the opportunity to help others
- *Laugh* – it's music of the heart
- *Be loved* – it nourishes the soul
- *Be friendly* – it is the road to happiness
- *Pray* – it's the greatest power on earth
- *Dream* – it's the well of inspiration

Please know we believe you have the capacity, each in your own way, to make a contribution to life; not just in a functional way by pursuing a career and doing a particular job, but by being good women and men who loves others and can be loved by others; people who serve others, simply because it is the right thing to do; and be Good Christians and Good Citizens who are sensitive and responsive to the needs of those around you and to this Earth we call home.

Tonight we say to each of you young people in front of me – thanks for being part of our lives and of our community, we've valued your presence and contribution, we're glad to see you become the fantastic people you are and we wish you every success and blessing as you continue with the rest of your life. We hope that you take fond memories from your time with us here at Lavalla Catholic College and that you'll continue to be sustained by your friendships with and support of each other.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Lavalla Catholic College Year 12 Class of 2019: know that love and peace in your life that comes from being nurtured and loved by God; may you have much happiness and joy in your lives; be successful; and be a source of uplift and encouragement, strength and support, generosity and hope to others. Thank you Class of 2019.

* Adapted from Christopher Gleeson SJ, "A Canopy of Stars – Some Reflections for the Journey", (Ringwood David Lovell Publishing, 2003), 108



FAITH MATTERS



Chris Roga
Dir. Catholic Identity & Mission

Reflection: True Self and False Self

Today's reflection is selected and adapted from Richard Rohr's message on 24 October, 2019

God transcends creeds and denominations, time and place, nations and ethnicities, and all the boundaries we humans create. We are not defined by gender, nationality, ethnicity, skin colour, or social class. These are not the qualities of our True Self in God! These are but social identifiers and they do influence our lives; but these should only serve to see each other as unique, and then see ourselves together. Often, we mistakenly allow temporary costumes, of the "false self," to pass for the true self, which is always "hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3)?

You are a child of God, and always will be, even when you don't believe it. And so is everyone else! God created us all. We are all God's children. God desires for us to live into the fullness of our humanity and our identity. If we stay small and "hide our light" under a bushel basket, there is almost no place for God to move in, through, and with us for the sake of the world! All learning leads finally to this point: Know who you are. Be who you are. Be the person God created you to be. Amen.

All Hallows Eve, All Saints Day, All Soul's Day

These three days, coming one after another are often confused. Halloween (an ellipsis of 'Hallows Eve'), arouses images of party costumes of witches, wizards and skeletons etc. with a custom of

'begging' for sweets ('trick or treat?'). In the Christian calendar it marks the evening before All Hallows, or All Saints Day.

All Saints Day, 1st November. This day is dedicated to all the saints of the Church. On this day, we remember all those virtuous people who have attained sanctity and heaven. We focus on the known saints and open ourselves to be re-inspired by our special saints.

All Soul's Day, 2nd November is set aside to honour the dead. We dedicate this day to pray for our loved ones and all the departed so that they may attain heaven. Our prayers, we believe, help sanctify them.

Year 12 Farewell

On 24 October, the college farewelled and paid tribute to 139 Year 12 students who completed their school stage of life. Others will speak of the Assembly and the celebration Day. I shall focus on the Mass.

The Mass fittingly celebrated these young people who have contributed much to the culture and life of the college in their time here. With parents and staff around them, in the house of God, Father Francis celebrated the Mass which valued and honoured each person.

Many people, staff, students and parents came together to make this a memorable celebration. At the end of the Mass, each student was individually acknowledged and presented with an award upon their completion of school.

It was a dignified and joyous occasion.



STUDIO ARTS



Lis Scott
Arts Leader

The final excursion for the year 12 Studio Arts students saw us venture over to the Latrobe Regional Art Gallery in Morwell. The students had a chance to view current shows and analyse artworks in preparation for their Studio Art exam. Part of their experience included touring behind the scenes and seeing firsthand the running of a gallery and the conservation techniques that are employed. The students feel more confident and informed as they make their last minute preparations.



YEAR 12 CULTURAL CELEBRATION

Year 12 students, staff, families and well-wishers gathered together on 17th October at the Student Services Centre, Kildare Campus, in celebration of cultural diversity. It was a wonderfully relaxing and fun-filled evening, sharing stories, achievements and, most importantly, a variety of culturally themed food and recipes.



ITALIAN NEWS



Raffaella Cataldo
LOTE Leader

Radio Italia

Rohan Symonds and Nathanael Duffy, as first prize winners of the Dante Alighieri Society Recitation Competition, were invited to be interviewed at Radio Italia

in Melbourne on Thursday 26th September. The interview was conducted all in Italian and our students did us proud! They confidently respond to the questions and at the end of the interview they recited their poems with excellent pronunciation and interpretation. The broadcast aired on Friday 25th October on Radio Italia (AM 1593), but you can listen to the interview online: <https://ilglobo.com.au/podcast/>

Bravissimi, Rohan and Nathanael!

Italian Oral Exam Practice

On Friday 11th October the Lavalla Year 12 Italian class combined with the Nagle College Year 12 Italian class for a practice oral exam conducted by their teachers (Ms Cataldo and Miss Campagna). It was a great opportunity to get feedback and get ready for the VCE oral exam which occurred on Tuesday 15th October. We would like to thank Constantinos Kavadias (former student, 2014 Lavalla Dux and a University of Melbourne graduate) who volunteered to join us and conduct a pre-practice with all of the students. Grazie!

Italian Film Festival

"La Befana vien di notte" (The Legend of the Christmas Witch)

On Wednesday 16th October, the two year 10 Italian classes travelled to Melbourne to view an Italian movie which was part of the Italian Film Festival. It was an opportunity to learn a bit more about the Italian Christmas tradition of "La Befana" and also to be exposed to new words and expressions. A great day spent together surrounded by the beautiful Italian language.



"Mindfulness isn't difficult. We
just need to remember to do it."

Sharon Saltzberg



GEOGRAPHY NEWS



Stephen Erdely

At the start of term 4, the Year 11 Geography class spent 3 days participating in a field trip experience in western Victoria as part of their tourism unit.

Accompanied by Mrs McAllister, we spent the first day travelling via Geelong and Colac, visiting the dormant volcanic region of Red Rocks then onto our first overnight stop at Port Campbell on the Great Ocean Road.

Our second day involved students collecting primary data associated with the socio-economic and environmental impacts which tourism has on the Port Campbell National Parks region. To do this, students immersed themselves in observational tasks, taking photographs, conducting interviews and distributing surveys as well as having the opportunity to listen to Mr Mark Cuthell from the Port Campbell Visitor Information Centre. As part of the experience we visited a range of spectacular

coastal landforms through-out the trip including Loch Ard Gorge, the Grotto, London Bridge as well as the 12 Apostles. Later that afternoon, we drove to Queenscliff for our 2nd overnight stay of the field trip. The evening entertainment centred around a 'Master Chef' style competition in which cabin groups planned and present a 3 course menu to the staff.

On the final morning, a small group of students were engaged in primary data collection through-out the township as well as being privileged to 2 wonderfully engaging talks presented by Brian from the Queenscliff Visitor Information Centre and Monique from 'Sea all dolphins swim'. Our return to Gippsland was capped off with a trip across Port Phillip Bay on the ferry and a relaxing drive back home.

Congratulations to all the students on the manner in which you prepared for and conducted yourselves on the trip. I have no doubt the skills and knowledge gained will not only result in some excellent field reports but also provide a strong foundation for the Year 12 Geography unit.

20th CENTURY HISTORY



Kim Widrich

Year 11 History Students Learn about the Vietnam Conflict

Students recently visited the National Vietnam Veteran's Museum, at Phillip Island, to learn about why this conflict occurred

and how it impacted Australia. Tour guides explained the various exhibits to students. Artefacts and models helped bring this era into stark focus. This activity helped consolidate what students have

learnt about the Vietnam War and the conflicting ideologies that led to it.

Students were also fortunate enough to have a guest speaker in their classroom giving a first-hand oral account of the experience of growing up in Northern Ireland during The Troubles.

Ms Annemarie Clarke shared her insights with the group before they continued with their study of the American Civil Rights Movement and Apartheid in South Africa. Students are able to refer to a number of different contexts to explore the ideas of Challenge and Change in society.



SPORTS NEWS

Lavalla Off to the State Championships

Our junior basketball teams from Year 7 and Year 8 in both girls and boys have progressed through to the SSV State Championships.

The efforts and performances of all teams was outstanding with the two boys teams winning through undefeated while the Year 7 girls escaped with a 1 point win against Wonthaggi SC before winning their next two games quite easily!

The Year 8 girls did it the tough way. After securing a win over Leongatha SC, the girls dropped a vital game against Lowanna College! However, Leongatha upset Lowanna in their later encounter and Lavalla grabbed enough percentage to secure the Regional Championship.

All four teams travel to MSAC (Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre) in Albert Park in mid-November for the SSV State Championships where they will meet some of the Sports Academy schools from Melbourne.



CALENDAR

Monday November 4, 2019

- MID TERM BREAK – Student Free Day

Tuesday November 5, 2019

- MELBOURNE CUP – Public Holiday

Wednesday October 23, 2019

- Unit 2 Sport & Rec Surf Camp
- Onyx Cafe Excursion – Year 10 Food

Thursday November 7, 2019

- Unit 2 Sport & Rec Surf Camp
- Year 9 Business and Economics Pancake Cafe
- 2019 Music Program Recitals – Vocal

Friday November 8, 2019

- Unit 2 Sport & Rec Surf Camp
- Year 9 Italian Excursion
- Sports Enrichment Gala Day
- Year 9 – Community Service – Rail Trail 1

Monday November 11, 2019

- Remembrance Day Commemorative Service

Tuesday November 12, 2019

- Year 9 Economics and Business Egg and Bacon Sandwich Event

Wednesday November 13, 2019

- SSV Gippsland Cricket 7-8 Girls
- 2019 Music Program Recitals – Brass & Percussion

Thursday November 14, 2019

- Cricket Victoria T20 Blast Yr 7- 8 Boys and Girls
- Year 9 – Community Service – Rail Trail 2
- 2019 Music Program Recitals – Woodwind

Friday November 15, 2019

- St Vincent's PS Italian Day



CFA Urges fire safety this Cup Weekend

With much of East Gippsland experiencing drought condition in the lead up to summer, Trevor Owen, Assistant Chief Officer, CFA South East Region urges Gippslanders and travellers to keep safe this coming long weekend.

“Melbourne Cup is a great time for Victorians to travel and spend time with friends and family. I’d urge everybody this long weekend to pay particular attention to the safety of their BBQ, gas and campfires.” Mr Owen said

If it’s been awhile since you used your BBQ, there are three things CFA would really like you to consider.

1. Check to see if the cylinder is damaged. Don’t try to refill a damaged cylinder – exchange it a reputable supplier.
2. Check the hose to make sure it hasn’t deteriorated. Spray the hose and regulator connections with soapy water – if soap bubbles appear, you’ll know that gas is escaping. This means you’ll need to either correct the connections or replace your hose.
3. Check that your barbecue is clean. Excess fat or residue can cause a fire.

“Make sure you keep plenty of clear space between your barbecue and anything flammable. Be aware that if wind blows the flame out, unburnt gas can build up to dangerous levels. If this happens, turn off the gas at the cylinder, and wait a few minutes before you light the barbecue again.”

For those travelling throughout Gippsland on Melbourne Cup weekend, Fire Restrictions will be in place in East Gippsland and Wellington Shires.

“This means that there are some restrictions about when and how you have a campfire. Restrictions apply both at your own property or if visiting any of our forested areas.” Mr Owen said.

There is comprehensive information and guidance in our publication “Can I, can’t I” which can be found on the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au or by calling the VicEmergency on 1800 226 226.





Years 9 - 11 Students.

2019 TEXTBOOKS.

2019 Textbooks for Years 9 - 11 are no longer required for classes after the **28th of November 2019.**

(Excluding textbooks carried over into 2020. These may be needed during Transition. Please check your 2020 booklist)

We recommend taking your textbooks home as soon as possible after this date to start listing them for sale on The Sustainable Schools Shop Website.

www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au

Information regarding The Sustainable Schools Shop Textbook Trading System is included with your 2020 booklist and on The College website.



Years 7-8 Students.

2019 TEXTBOOKS.

2019 Textbooks are no longer required for classes after the 6th December 2019.

(Excluding textbooks carried over into 2020. These may be needed during Transition. Please check your 2020 booklist)

We recommend taking your textbooks home as soon as possible after this date to start listing them for sale on The Sustainable Schools Shop Website.

www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au

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