A Message from Holmesglen Vocational College Staff

For students transitioning to further education or employment, good luck, and for those who plan on returning we look forward to another productive year.

We hope that the year has been a successful one for students and their families and wish everyone the best over the festive season.

Work Related Skills

An integral part of the students program, Work Related Skills in second. Semester 2 saw Intermediate students begin a different industry, consider their future career pathways and consolidate their work related skills with a second practical placement.

The Vocational College’s Career Expo held on the 11 September had a conference style format. It gave Intermediate students the opportunity to meet with representatives from vocational courses and consider their options for next year.

Transferring from school to work and/or further study presents young people with many challenges as they determine their future career pathway. At Senior VCAL level students met with the Vocational College counsellor Shary Tan for careers guidance sessions throughout Semester 2 to ensure they are supported throughout the process.

Industry Connections

Understanding how sustainability issues are being addressed through the development of alternative energy sources saw students from Electrical Engineering participate in an excursion to the Waubra Wind Farm near Ballarat.

Modern wind turbines are capable of generating 2-3 megawatts of electrical energy at full power. A single 2 megawatt turbine provides sufficient electricity to power approximately 1,000 homes, saving 7,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Holmesglen extends it’s thanks to Acciona Energy for facilitating this very worthwhile applied learning experience to Electrical Engineering students.

RACV Energy Breakthrough Challenge

The Electrical department at Moorabbin provides students with the opportunity for some extra curricular industry-related activity through their participation in the “RACV Energy Breakthrough” challenge. This year five Vocational College students from Moorabbin will be participating in the challenge, which sees teams from around Victoria meet in Maryborough to trial their designed and self-built pushcarts and Human and Hybrid vehicles over four days. The event is designed to encourage participants to examine and use the latest technology while considering its impact on the environment.

This year the challenge was held from Thursday 22 November through to Sunday November 25 2012. This is the third year Vocational College students have participated in the challenge. George Gidakos, Travis Clively, Daniel Beale, Grey Loader and Michael Drossos are congratulated for participating in the event.

Practical Placement:

Practical Placement is a vital part of the VCAL program providing students with an opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills in a range of workplace settings.
Some fifty-six Intermediate students have completed practical placement this semester. This second round of practical placement allows students to try a job before making a full commitment to a trade or industry. Even if the placement doesn’t work out, deciding what you want to do, is just as important as deciding what you don’t.

Intermediate Community Projects

Each industry group’s focus in Semester 2 was a community project. This was an integrated activity delivered in the Core classes that met learning outcomes in both Literacy and Personal Development Skills, whilst also seeking to build employability skills through teamwork and problem solving. This year the various student groups participated in a range of activities that saw them engaging with the broader community.

Moorabbin Primary School

Continuing our relationship with Moorabbin Primary School, students from Electrical Engineering, Auto-Electrical, Plumbing and Combined A were involved in reconditioning the school’s sports equipment shed. Our students were asked to take an inventory of all the existing equipment, clear unwanted and broken items from the shed and build new shelving.

Combined B students hosted a day at Holmesglen Vocational College for Grade 6 students giving them an insight into future study options.

Many thanks to the principal, Sarah Salter and the Moorabbin Primary School staff for affording our students with these wonderful ‘hands-on’ experiences.

Bentleigh West Primary School

The Carpentry and Wall students delivered skills training sessions in three sports (football, basketball and soccer). They planned and delivered their sessions highly effectively. They surprised themselves by enjoying it so much, as did their Grade 3&4 pupils. Everyone had lots of fun and it was a great success.

Lost Dogs Home

Community Service students elected to attend the Australian Animal Protection Shelter in Keysborough and help out for the day. The AAPS is a community-based, non-government, not-for-profit organisation which relies upon volunteers and community support for both the Animal Shelter and its five Opportunity Shops which provide essential financial support for the Shelter.
Senior Program - Disability in our Community - Understanding diversity and inclusiveness

In our community one in five of us will develop some form of disability over our lifetime.

For Senior VCAL students about to transition to employment and/or further education an awareness of the various forms of disability is seen as a key aspect to better understanding our diverse community. The program in Semester 2 is designed to assist students in exploring their attitudes towards people who have disabilities. One of the main assessment tasks over the semester required senior students to link with community organisations and have hands-on experience of inclusiveness in action.

In-house workshops, guest speakers, as well as excursions to various disability services all created opportunities for students to develop a better understanding of the many forms of disability in our community.

Holmesglen Vocational College would like to express its appreciation and thanks to the following organisations that facilitated our student’s learning experiences:

- Australian Hearing
- Headspace
- Marriott Support Services
- Peninsular Hospice
- Southern Autistic School
- Yarrabah College

Community Engagement - Student Reflections

Initially most of the students were pretty scared of me as they had never seen me before and I was in their class, but on the other hand some students were really playful and wanted to talk to me. – Stephen Pats

I learned that so much patience is needed to teach these students. I understand why there is only six in a class because they egg each other on at times and I couldn’t imagine what would happen if there was a class of around twenty. The behaviors of each student were different. One boy didn’t talk at all; he just made noises and laughed. A few others walked around the classroom for no reason, clearly distracted from the task they were doing. – Stephanie Holak

Working in situations like this has given me an even greater passion and determination to help support needs and quality of life of the disabled. It has also helped me sharpen my verbal and non verbal communication skills with culturally diverse clients and those for whom communication is challenging. - Taylah Garbellini

Senior Camp

In the last week of Term 3 all mid-year senior students attended camp at Holmesglen Rural Learning Centre near Eildon. The weather was good and students had three days in which they were provided with opportunities to develop communication and teamwork skills, through the planned activities.

All students participated in initiative exercises, rafting, archery, bush walking, and an indigenous cultural experience which included painting with ochre and bush tucker tasting.

One of the highlights of this camp had to be the hectic rap battle by the light of the bonfire. Students and staff who committed their time and energy to camp preparations and success are congratulated on their efforts.

Eric Mulder helping out in the gym at Marriott Services Community House

Jake Millikin helping a Yarrabah student with the planting

Jake Pederson and Student from Yarrabah School

Jessica McKenzie at Marriott Industries Moorabbin

Jaime Bishop helping a Yarrabah Student with her gloves
The 2012 Vocational College Regatta

Numeracy - Floats our Boat

This term’s big numeracy project saw Intermediate students participate in the 2012 Vocational College Regatta. Designing and building a boat as well as mapping a course were all part of this year’s Henley-on-Todd style boat race.

The 2012 Regatta was held on Tuesday 23rd October, and as the crowds gathered, students from all the different trade areas competed for the two trophies.

Perfect sailing conditions greeted the boat teams as they came roaring out of the starting blocks with their magnificent creations resplendent with mast and sails full hoist and tilted to the wind.

Four excellent heats were run, with tough competitive attitudes on display as the teams made their way down the course and back. As with any race however, there can only be one winner, and the strength of craftsmanship and the wings of speed belonged to the magnificent Plumbers crew.

Congratulations to Foundation students for taking out the best Design and Encouragement award for their vessel.

The regatta culminated in a barbeque for everyone.

Many thanks to all the regatta participants, student teams, boat builders and teachers for their enthusiasm, creativity, and cheering on the day.