Vocational College
2009 Newsletter

Vocational College increases in student numbers by 30%
Many students from 2008 have chosen to return for the second year of the Vocational College program to gain their Senior VCAL Certificate as well as a stronger skill set in a range of industry areas. In 2009 four Senior VCAL classes are being run for students to reach a higher level of achievement. Most Senior students will not have a five-day a week program, which will allow them time to complete part-time work. The experience of having a job teaches invaluable employability skills, regardless of the industry.

Students can also choose from an expanded range of industry skills. Each year we negotiate new choices for students; Business marketing skills and Certificate III in IT are two of the new courses available for students in 2009.

Kokoda
Holmesglen is sponsoring five students and one staff member to go to Papua New Guinea and walk the Kokoda Track from 12 – 27 September. Patrick Lithgow, Tyler Redman and Jamie Blankenforth from Vocational College have been selected to go on this trip. They have started a training program and also begun looking into the history of the Track. Chief Executive, Bruce Mackenzie, recently met with these three students.

Music Program
The Music program has launched itself into 2009 with a highly active and skilful group of musicians. THEY ROCK! An application to enter the FREEZA PUSH START Battle of the Bands has been lodged and we are hopeful that it will be accepted. The elimination heats start in June.

Band members include:
James Rancev-Newton - Guitar
Will Vega - Guitar, Vocal
Sean Carney - Guitar
Josh Greco - Bass
Jakk Burgess - Drums

We are keen to attract more musicians and, in particular, vocalists to the program. Contact John Fairbairn or Steven Newstead any time at the Vocational College staffroom. Rehearsals are held between 3pm and 5pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

VSSSA Cricket Team
One way to describe this year’s cricket team is ‘full of potential’. The group of players that were pooled was full of talent and promise, but after a great batting performance in the first match never fully played to its great talents.

The mighty Holmesglen heroes took the early advantage against Chandler with great innings from Mitch Stevens, 47 n.o., and Sam Williams on 27. The game looked in hand when they ran onto the ground for the Chandler innings, leading by 136 runs after 20 overs. Despite a strong showing from Chandler Holmesglen was able to dismiss them for 124 runs. Good bowling from Williams, Kivi and Vuli.

Holmesglen then went on to play Noble Park S.C. at Noble Park. After being full of confidence the team put in a disappointing batting performance, despite Tim Lawson’s 24 and Stevens’ 20, to be all out for 67. Another performance of undisciplined bowling, with only five players taking wickets (Davis, Lavery, Newton, Vuli and Zapantis), lead to a quick win for Noble Park and the end of the VSSSA campaign for our cricketers.

VSSSA Golf
Well done to Alex Tribuaini who made it to the Southern Zone Golf Finals. This was played at Korumburra Golf Club on April 23. Alex shot a gross score of 83, his handicap brought it back to 77 which was 7 over par. Unfortunately Alex missed out on making it to the state finals this year. Well done Alex... a great effort!
Exhibition football game shows off our students’ skills

On Tuesday 5 May, the Holmesglen Vocational College football team won through to the district finals after comfortably defeating Noble Park Secondary College and Coomoora Secondary College.

In the first match of the day against Noble Park Holmesglen came out of the blocks strongly kicking three goals in the first eight minutes to signal their intentions. Final scores: Holmesglen 11. 6. 72 defeated Noble Park 5. 1. 31.

In the second match Coomoora tried hard but Holmesglen again proved too good and was allowed the luxury of experimenting with some positional changes. Final scores: Holmesglen 13. 10. 88 defeated Coomoora 1. 2. 9.

The following day the team backed up for an exhibition match playing the SEDA (Sports Education Development Australia) group’s northern specialist football squad (coached by former Vocational College staff member David Reid). They proved far better competition than the previous day’s, and the boys went down after putting up an excellent fight for four quarters.

This exhibition match was a joint effort between the Vocational College and the Fitness and Complementary Health department. Students undertaking the Diploma of Remedial Massage provided rub downs for both sides and were a big hit with the players. The day was capped off with a BBQ for both sides and support staff.

Camp at Holmesglen’s “Rural Learning Centre” Eildon

Our Intermediate students spent three days at Camp during the last two weeks of Term 1 (March 23 – April 3). Activities included low ropes/initiatives course, yabbying, canoeing, raft building, high ropes course, mountain bike riding, river sledding and a campfire activity, making damper and cooking marshmallows.

Students were amazed at the beautiful facilities at Rural Learning Centre and appreciated the good food. Most students took on the challenges that Camp offered especially on the high ropes course.

Honourable mentions go to James Scoutas, Frank Talia, Matthew Todd and Brad Pilton, for their sensational mountain biking skills. They navigated the big muddy hole in the cow’s paddock, but may have come out quite a bit dirtier than when they started! Needless to say we have some excellent video footage perfect for Funniest Home Videos. This big muddy hole is now aptly named “Scoutas Hole”!

A very big thanks to Steve Canole at the Oakleigh Chargers for use of their facilities and support throughout the day, students and staff from the Diploma of Remedial Massage, Ben Jones and my fellow coaches Norman Dinnematin and David Felvus. Better players over the three matches were co-captains Tim Lawson and Lloyd Anrep, Liam Grech, Chris Lavery, Sam Williams, Dylan Davis, Jamie Doran, and Toni and Daniel Vuli. Stay tuned for more football news...

Michael De George

Senior VCAL students help out Bushfire Relief

Thursday Senior VCAL students volunteered at St Vincent de Paul to support the Bushfire Relief. The students spent the day sorting, loading and testing goods donated to the victims. Student Jamie Doran said the day surpassed his expectations. “It was really overwhelming; the warehouse that had been hired was as big as a football field,” Jamie said. “It was filled with beds, toys, clothes, bikes and skateboards needing to be tested and sorted.”

Classmate Helene Leloudas said it was an eye opening experience. “It made me realise just how much the bushfires had affected so many people.”

Hospitality – Langham Hotel Visit and Cilantro Brekky Club Report

On Friday 26 March the Vocational College Hospitality Group took part in an excursion to the five star Langham Hotel at Southbank in Melbourne, which included a buffet breakfast and a tour of the hotel facilities. The outing is designed to allow students to sample a magnificent world class breakfast and then tour the various departments and areas of the hotel to gauge whether they might like to work in a big hotel in the future.

Following this excursion the group has been running the Breakfast Club at Cilantro, gaining experience in not only cooking for the restaurant guests at the Moorabbin campus, but also the opportunity to wait on them. The group is about to head off to a variety of hospitality establishments to test out their new skills in a real life working environment. We wish them all the very best on their work placements.

Hospitality teachers - Helen De Campo and Shannon Hanson
‘Girls on the Go!’ Program

‘Girls on the Go!’ was established by the Greater Dandenong Community Health Service Youth Program out of the identified increase in young women presenting to the service with negative body image and disordered eating patterns.

Two Vocational College staff members attended the “Girls on the Go!” facilitator training last year and have been delivering the program to the Hair/Beauty and Community Services girls over the past five weeks. The program covers issues relating to negative body image, nutrition, self confidence and self esteem, inactivity in sport and/or recreation, weight issues and disordered eating patterns.

The students involved have been very attentive and interested in the information delivered, and have valued the opportunity to talk candidly about these issues in a single gender class room.

Graffiti: art or vandalism?

Intermediate students have completed a unit of work exploring many issues regarding graffiti - what is considered to be art, what amounts to vandalism, why young people turn to graffiti and why it has become so widespread. Through our study on the unit and the excursion into Melbourne lanes, the students agreed that some of it is beautiful and definitely art. Students have also acknowledged and understand that it is against the law and a crime, and there are serious consequences in place.

Student Opinion

“I believe from what I have witnessed and experienced, all aspects of graffiti are forms of art, in which people express hatred, anger, love, happiness, and just plain simple art forms and abstract unique textures colours and techniques used to ‘show off’ their ‘names’ and ‘characters’. Some people ‘write’ in public areas to get fame, others just for themselves, a self explanatory hobby that gives the writers a sense of pleasure, to know that places they go, they have been there and they make their mark.

“There are words all over the city that people take on and most people’s mission in graffiti is to ‘get up’ the most and ‘get up’ the best. Ways you do this is ‘getting up’ in hard to reach areas, like rooftops, tall buildings that are in good view of the general public.

“I personally respect and envy those who write in good spots, ‘get up’ often and in a wide range of areas. Graffiti is a sense of achievement to those who do it.

People also write because they have an addiction to the adrenalin rush that you get when you’re out in the public doing illegal murals ‘n tags all over the train systems and other public areas. It’s a good hobby to have if you like the adrenalin rush of being ‘out there’, and doing what you want, when you want, with who you want. Graffiti is freedom.

(Keep in mind that despite the fact that graffiti, in my opinion is a great aspect of art expression, to do it on private property is illegal and people get prosecuted and charged for it.)”

By Eddie Brown (Carpentry & Solid Plastering)

Senior VCAL

As part of the Senior VCAL (Wednesday) core studies, our students have been studying a unit of work about refugees in Australia and around the world. The students have been engaged in a number of activities, including meeting up with some refugees who now live in Melbourne. Students visited ‘Adult Multicultural Education Services’ (AMES) on March 11, shared a morning tea and exchanged email addresses with some of the AMES students. The Seniors also travelled to Lentil as Anything in Abbotsford on May 13, to experience multicultural food and entertainment. The following work is a reflection of their recent experiences.

AMES Excursion

Michael Baker

“I enjoyed my experiences at AMES. I had fun talking to students that were from all different countries because it’s good to see the differences between our countries. I feel it is a good experience to have. I look forward to speaking to them again.”

Jaymee Schmitz

“I had a great time and it was awesome to learn and meet people who did not grow up in Australia. It was also good to listen to what their countries are like and to understand some of their backgrounds. As I grew up in Australia I don’t really know any different to what goes on in other countries. I never realised how different other countries are. So for me it was a great experience because it opened up my eyes and I now understand how lucky we are in Australia.”

Amanda Rickard

“Personally, it was such a good experience for me to talk to these girls and see how they reacted talking to us. They were so nice and so genuine, and I learnt a lot from them. To be honest I was a bit nervous about talking to these students because I didn’t know what to expect and what would happen, but I’m so glad that we did it for an excursion because I believe that everyone enjoyed it.”
Beth Tansey
“I found the experience of getting to know these students and learning about their country very rewarding. At first I found it to be challenging but I managed to get through it all. It was interesting to get the opportunity to go to AMES and getting the feel of things while learning more about refugees. Overall it was a great experience and was an opportunity of a life time.”

Lentil as Anything

Jack Frauenfelder
“The food was really different and was also very nice because it is all vegetarian. One of the staff invited me to play drums, at the start I was very hesitant but as I started to play I became comfortable and I enjoyed playing the drums.”

Kara Aurisano
“We learned about how the restaurant is run the way it is with its “pay as you feel system” rather than set prices. We went on Africa day so there were people playing drums and dancing. After we ate, they came up to us with the drums and a trumpet and started playing. They passed the drums around for all of us to play. Overall it was a good experience and I would recommend it for everyone to go try.”

Sortiria Haltogiannidis
“They don’t have a boss at all to be telling them what to do and they switch jobs around every day so the same person isn’t doing the same thing every day. The people there are from all different cultures so it was a good experience. It was a really enjoyable experience for everyone in Senior VCAL Wednesday group.”

Sarah Bertuna
“After we ate a few of the workers came and spoke to us about their countries and telling us more about Lentil as Anything, we took a tour around the kitchen, which was a good experience for me as I’m doing hospitality this semester. It was a good chance to interact with others and not only see but taste different foods from other cultures.”

Broadcasting on SYN 90.7 FM
This semester Holmesglen’s Senior VCAL students have been involved in live radio broadcasts at the independent youth media organisation, SYN.

Located on the city campus of RMIT this radio project has seen students across the four Senior VCAL classes participate in hands-on media training that has culminated in the production of a weekly radio program entitled Detention.

Throughout the project students have been encouraged to be creative, cooperative and self initiating as different groups have worked together, preparing their scripts prior to delivering their show. The specific requirements of delivering live to air broadcasts have meant that students have had to accept high levels of responsibility and demonstrate independent learning skills. Quite a bit of fun has been had along the way too, and much of the feedback from the students has been that they have enjoyed the experience.

This semester Detention can be heard on SYN 90.7 FM on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 noon to 1.00pm.

Senior VCAL students work with CATE students doing yoga and pilates
Senior VCAL Students had a workshop on May 14 to learn some basic movements and practices of pilates and yoga. The following week a group of Community and Transitional Education (CATE) students joined the class and the Senior VCAL students helped to peer teach the CATE students.