Holmesglen boys had a fantastic first half, leading by 35 points at the half time break. After Coomoorra kicked 6 goals in a row it came down to the wire with a last gasp effort driving the ball into our forward line. From a pack the ball bounced out to the confident hands of James Rainey who threw ball on the boot from 30 meters to kick a brilliant goal. The ball didn’t even make the centre when the umpire called the game giving it to us by 5 points.

Congratulations to the district winning JHC Footy Team!

Gala Day – Holmesglen Rugby Representation

The 13th May turned out to be a big challenge to the Holmesglen Rugby Representative side. The day itself was the opportunity to progress to the Australian School Boys Cup – a very distinguished goal of many Schools throughout Australia.

The Holmesglen Side originally consisted of 25 keen participants for the 1.3a-side round robin tournament. Unfortunately due to schooling commitments only 12 of these students could play. None the less these enthusiastic students came ready to give it their best and have a fun day out testing their rugby skills and know how.

There were 6 teams competing on the day. We were split into 2 sections, in which we ended up playing 3 teams of which Dandenong seemed the most talented. The teams appeared to vary in ability and size, some of which were development squads assisted by development staff from Melbourne Storm.

The first game had them playing Dandenong, a team that had won the previous game by 28 points (very convincing). The boys had a big challenge on their hands. After three tries early on by the opposition, they started to find their feet and get more of the ball which enabled them to compete more plays, grow in confidence and get closer and closer to scoring a try and preventing the opposition from scoring again for the remainder of the half. Fantastic tackling by the boys, in particular by Mitchell Pitt and Sam Blum. They played hard and never gave up all the way through. Although they did not get the win they kept the opposition to only 1 try in the second half. Great effort (this team they played went on to win the day).

In the second and third game they scored a couple of tries in each game, including a very try by Mitchell Badman, fending off a few opponents on his way to a memorable try. James Mackenzie also showed some good tackling techniques and ability to read the play well. Steve Reinh of reliable depth in defence and Harley Russel was courageous throughout, forcing knokowns, regardless of size. Unfortunately they went down in both games, but only by 4, then 6 points, both coming down to the wire.

A great day was had by all and the next day illustrated their commitment by the amount of sore bodies walking around the campus after a long day in the terrible, wet, slippery conditions.

Semester 2 Highlights

As we write this, Intermediate students are experiencing the first Practical Placement. There has been a large amount of class work devoted to preparing students for this challenging time. However the amount of learning and maturity gained by every student from their time in the workplace is very noticeable and well worth the effort. The first Practical Placement in November is also an important and compulsory part of the year program.

The feedback from students on their camp experience has been overwhelmingly positive – even reluctant participants were surprised how much they enjoyed the activities and the new friendships made.

Reading through the reports, most students are progressing very well and have adapted to the TAFE environment. It is really great to see many students who have struggled for a number of years, now finding their strengths in vocational training and realising the great potential they have for a successful career.

We are looking forward to welcoming students back after the holiday break and ensuring that they settle with the new mentor teacher and the new industry choice.

One of the strongest themes for Semester 2 is ensuring every student has a career path for 2011, whether it is continuing in the Vocational College or applying for other TAFE courses or gaining a traineeship or apprenticeship.

Jan Lambert
Principal

Reminder – some Semester 2 enrolments not yet complete.

There are a number of students who have yet to complete semester 2 enrolment procedures. For example, students who originally paid fees using a health care card or other Centrelink card, will need to re-present the card before semester 2 enrolments can be finalised. Personal letters have been sent to the individual students where relevant, but there are still some not yet completed. If you have receive a letter or a reminder, please arrange to complete Semester 2 enrolment as a matter of priority. Deni has the paperwork and can be contacted on 9209 5105.

Work Related Skills and Industry Specific Skills Report

Second term has been an extremely busy time in Work Related Skills and the different industries.

Work Placement

The majority of our students, both Intermediate and Senior are doing some form of work placement this semester thereby meeting the Work Related Skills outcomes. This is a great achievement and is the result of teachers, parents and students working together to ensure participation and success. Employers too have had an important role to play, and Holmesglen Vocational College appreciates the support that they have given our students, especially when students have nervously called them to request a placement.

Our employers offering placement this semester come from communities around Melbourne and rural Victoria being as far flung as Yanwarra and Colac! Work Related Skills teachers will be visiting students on their placements over the last two weeks of term.

Industry Visits

For the Intermediate VCAL students doing the Building and Construction trades, a visit to the site of the new Royal Children’s Hospital in Parkville was a terrific opportunity to see first hand how a large building site operates. The site visit was conducted by Liam from the CFMEU, who emphasised the importance of his role in terms of Occupational Health and Safety and working along young apprentices on both commercial and domestic worksites. Students also met the Children’s Hospital project manger who explained the philosophy behind the design of the hospital and showed a time lapse video of the site’s construction from 2008 to the present.

For students from Hairdressing and Beauty, Desktop Multimedia, Sport and Recreation and Hospitality, a visit to Dracula’s – a theatre restaurant in Carlton gave an insight into the opportunities available in the theatre restaurant industry, from the make up department to the kitchen. Whilst not every student may plan to get a job at a theatre restaurant, seeing the different roles and functions within such an environment gives students an understanding of the different contributions workers make to the workplace and how people work as a team.
Mock Interviews

The students practiced their query learning. Senior VCAL students participated in mock job interviews with staff from Young Connect. This was a great opportunity for anyone who needed a practice session. They gave practice in presenting themselves for a job interview. Practicing interview skills is critical for developing confidence in these situations. Feed back from Young Connect indicated that the senior was all different presentation was good in most instances; that they had very well prepared resumes and cover letters; but that their research on the industry could have been more thorough. Overall, the feedback that students took in the first seriously, and this was evident in their attitude, with good work and enthusiasm.

Broadcasting at Cliffrate-Hospitality

This semester had students in hospitality applying their newly acquired culinary skills to the task of hosting the Breakfast Club at Holmeggian’s Clafrate Restaurant. Every Thursday morning of term 2 the students made a very early start to ensure that delicious cooked breakfasts, coffees and smoothies were ready to go by 7:30 a.m. In the frenzied environment of the Clafrate restaurant and kitchen, hospitality teachers, Helen De Campo and Shannon Hanson set a cracking pace for the students, both front and back of house. It made us proud to look at all the well fed and happy - a great hands-on learning experience!

Literacy Adventures in Public Debate

Across a number of Literacy and Numeracy classes students have been investigating issues in the media relating to gambling, graffiti and the banning of vicious dog breeds. Class projects on graffiti excursions are an example of a project which students have been asked to engage with the topics. The following samples of student works and excursions are some of the ways in which students have responded to the topics.

Holmeggian Students take a snap at graffiti

At the close of 2009 my friend told me about an opportunity on Tuesday the 11th of May a small group of Holmeggian students took a day to view and capture all the different styles of graffiti through the laneways and alleys of Melbourne.

The students separated into three groups; one group tackled Davison’s Place, Hayford Lane, AC/DC Lane, and Croft Alley. The other two groups tackled other laneways and alleys such as Niagra Lane, Rankins Lane and many more.

Many spectacular photographs were taken on the day a total of eighty photographs of the many kinds of graffiti including: tags, murals, stencils, political protest, light boxes and paste ups were taken between all three groups.

The main kind of graffiti that stood out to most of the groups were the outstanding murals throughout the city. If they were legally or illegally done they were all outstanding works of art. The form of graffiti that kept showing up the most frequently was the tags. These were

unapologising to the eye and always illegal as they are not part of the other forms that can be legally done. Legal forms are done with permits and artists are generally paid to do the work.

Overall I noticed that while many of the murals were exceptional and eyes have been drawn. One thing I noticed is that once we left AC/DC Lane, many of the other laneways and alleyways of Melbourne were not half as good. While a few did still stand out, the general standard was a lot worse. Parents of young children should leave the kids alone with dogs that they need to be near by supervising. There was one attack involving a 9 week old baby and a pet dog. This is one of the reasons our parents need to be near to stop this from happening. They should have never left a dog and the baby in the same room. These parents need to learn to respect how other people feel about their dogs and some owners even their own dogs to be aggressive. Owners need to be held responsible for their dogs. In one case the dog has been trained to be aggressive gets out because of a poor enclosure. Whose fault is it? The owner.

The dog doesn’t own any. Maybe it should be the owner’s fault because he has failed to contain his dog.

Yours sincerely

John Sterianos

Hospitality Excursion

On 26 May the Intermediate VCAL Hospitality students went on an educational field trip to The Making Motion, a non profit for animal sanctuary for neglected, abused and discarded farm animals in Watsons Bay (near Newcastle, NSW). The things that the worst point about this is that all the online companies are offshore and we don’t really understand the reasons for all the operations, year to year, to other countries. Pokies and betting on sport are the only forms of gambling where the money stays in Australia.

I think people shouldn’t be allowed to be given free for online, knowing full well that they will eventually lose it all and get them selves into debt. Since 80% of the population gamble at some point in their life, we should just use more poker machines to keep the money in Australia. Sure the pokies might be addictive but they could just put a limit on each of the machines to slow potters down and make gambling less exciting.

In all all Australian gambling addiction programs keep getting worse, online gambling should be criminalized and measures put in place to limit the amount people spend at Dolla/s per week on the pokies.

Yours sincerely

Brendan Watts

Letter to the Editor - Online Gambling Good for Punters

Dear Sir/Madam,

Over terms one and two groups of senior students had the challenge of broadcasting on SYN FM. Planning, preparing and organising their broadcast were key components of the project.

Senior students have their say about the SYN FM experience:

• The training today helped me understand behind the scenes at a radio station. I feel good about broadcasting a radio show in the coming weeks.
• At the beginning I was nervous, but after, as we have had two sessions and have spoken to our listeners. I have found it to be a lot less frightening. I’ve learnt how to have a good conversation on the air and how hard it is to get everyone involved
• I’ve learnt how you can’t be discriminatory towards anyone or alienate people in a way that would cause controversy, Zariff
• We needed to have our topics organised and researched well; otherwise the show would have been unappealing. Zariff
• Broadcast has been an exciting experience for us. It lets us to be able to cooperate as a team and shows us the different steps of how to broadcast a radio program. SYN FM has been developed for senior students to be in control of the responsibilities of being on air. Lana

Senior Camp

Senior camp is a camp designed to challenge the senior students and set their progress from their previous year. By attending the camp and participating in all the activities the students met the following learning outcomes needed to achieve their Senior VCAL.

The camp itself was at Holmeggian Rural Learning Centre, each camp running for 3 days, varying in dates between 10th May and 14th May (depending on the student – two separate camps over this time). There were a total of 5 groups over the week that all had various activities planned for them; including mountain biking, white water rafting/canoeing, interactive exercises and horse riding. What also turned out to be a big challenge was the evening activities; these included some table games, various sports, yoga and the fabulous Eating & Drinking Challenge.

To the students they credit they fully participated in all activities, behavied appropriately throughout and stepped up from the previous year. A special mention must go to the group that was responsible for organiseing their groups and performed very well.

Finally, the staff and facilities at camp were once again fantastic and a fun week was had by all.

A selection of Senior Student Camp Reflections

When we got off the bus and arrived at the horse ranch the horse riding instructors came up to us and gave as a horse each and explained the steps on how to get on them and the instructions. I was lucky enough to get the horse ‘Solivieh’ which was the horse the instructor was demonstrating on, so I thought he was going to be good. At least until we were halfway into our ride I realised my horse was really aggressive which was not good considering I’ve never been horse riding before. My horse was really aggressive because it would wait for a horse to get close enough behind it and then it would whip it with its tail, or he would bite the horse in front of him for going too slow and take off when the other horses would start to canter. Liam Grech

Our first activity was canoeing, I really didn’t want to do it, but I had to. I was partnered up with Jasmin in the canoe. The scariest part for me was going over rapids! Rapids are were there is a huge flow of water and you can feel the rocks hitting underneath your canoe. I seriously thought I was going to fall in, but I didn’t...Jucyly. The rapids at the end was the

most scariest for me. It was more powerful than anything. But the best part was when I turned over, but the most that happened was that we got a heap of water poured into our canoe. We piled the canoe back up and I was finally finished so I was so happy!! Denise Koukouzas

On the first day my group had the mountain bike activity. The mountain biking course had been set up the day before; this one was all down hill, and what an experience that was! It was short but pretty steep. We had to do it while going down the hill, pedaling as fast as you can, was exhilarating. In the activity there was a first group and slow group. I was in the fast group with Ben, Jamie, Luke, Bekim and Scott. The scenery was incredible and after we got to the bottom of the burnt down trees from the bushfires, it was really a tremendous experience. Jalal Jallal

In the afternoon we went downhill mountain bike riding and really enjoyed it. I don’t care if it’s been in my life. It was so cold at the top of the mountain and going down, there were a few stacks but I was lucky enough not to be one of them. Yianni Pasialis

Over all it was an awesome experience. Some of the activities we did were difficult but everyone overcame that and participated. It was fun and we all have a lot of memories to take home.

Shanell Schmitz

VSSSA Cross Country

A great day as a team and for individuals from the Holmeggian Vocational College. The Cross Country was held at Monash University in Clayton.

Leigh Bruton was our best runner taking first place. He was then followed by William Marshall in 2nd, Chris Mathews in 3rd and James Parker in 22nd. The top ten will go through the next round which means Leigh, William and Harley will try to gain a place in the state finals next term.

The next round will be held on the 21st of June at Dandenong from the start every 2 hours and we wish the three going on, all the best.

VSSSA Football Team

There was a lot of interest this year for the football team with numbers reaching well over the 40 mark of names down, there were 29 players listed as coming to the Springfield District Senior Show Grounds on the 29th of April. So the coach thought there would be organisation problems getting all the players interested in the games.

We only had 16 players show up who meant we had to play two games players down without having enough to play. The game was against Noble Park S.C. Holmeggian got off to a tremendous start with Jordan Davies, Mathew Cares and Lavya starring in the first half. Leading by a couple of goals, the Holmeggian team looked really good in the first few weeks. After our game against Park though had other ideas and if they would have converted more of their points in the final half they would have probably won.

We then went on to the next game against a very well organised Coomoro S.C. Again the