**Message from Jan Lambert to all parents and students**

The Vocational College program (VCAL) provides every student with the opportunity to be successful. I would like to emphasize some important points to ensure your son or daughter achieve to their highest potential.

**Every student is continuously assessed in every class.**

On the timetable, there are names for particular parts of the program - Work Skills, Numeracy, Personal Development Core. However, being a fully integrated program, students are continually assessed in a range of skills from more than one VCAL area regardless of the subject name on the timetable. The aim is to ensure students have understood and mastered the important skills of the course. These skills may be as specific as measuring accurately, or as general as being on time, working as a team, communicating effectively – what are called “employability skills” – the most important attributes to successful employment in the future.

Short absences due to illness, can be managed by the teacher – longer absences or even worse, consistently avoiding a particular class, is much more difficult for the student to make up and jeopardizes the student’s success across the whole program.

When mentors phone to report unexplained absences, this is to inform the student and the family that there is something needing to be fixed, and soon!

Remember to contact your son or daughter’s mentor teacher if you have information to share, or if you wish to find out how your young person is traveling.

**Students may find out that an industry stream is not what they expected.**

This is part of the experience – I explain to each student that completing a program that is not to your liking is a much greater skill than completing a program that you like. It is also why there is an Industry and Personal Development Activity change after Semester 1. Again, choosing not to participate because of a ‘dislike’ will affect the success of the whole year program.

Enclosed with the newsletter is a form for the student to confirm or request a change to the Vocational Industry stream.

**The first Practical Placement is from Tuesday 15 June to Friday 25 June.**

Both of the two industry Practical Placements are an essential part of the learning program – it is where the students definitely have to ‘step up” and individually contribute in the work place. It is an expectation that every student will be in the workforce for the entire 9 days. The teachers and coordinators work with every student individually to offer them opportunities to make contact, meet with employers and secure their industry placement by completion of the appropriate forms and returning them to their work skills teacher. Only once the forms are completed, signed by all parties and returned to Holmesglen, is the placement set up.

**Work related skills and industry specific skills**

It feels like it was only couple of days ago that Holmesglen Vocational College (HVC) opened its’ doors for 2010’s intake of students, and now we are at the end of Term 1. In Work Related Skills and across all our industry areas it has been a very busy time.

Work Related Skills and Industry Specific Skills both play a vital part in our students’ learning program.

WRS classes are designed to give students a better understanding of the workforce, employer and employee rights and responsibilities and employability skills. While doing Vocational Industry courses students gain important experience that helps them to choose future pathways options either into further study or employment.

This year has seen the introduction of three new industry programs at the Senior VCAL level; The Carpentry Pre-Apprenticeship, Electrical Pre-Apprenticeship and the Certificate III in Tourism and Event Management. These programs greatly expand the range of industry options for our senior students assisting them to make informed choices as they make the transition from study to employment. Each year Vocational College will negotiate new choices.
for students. Next Semester we will offer Small Business, Community Services and some other industry skills.

All of our Intermediate students have come to HVC without a lot of knowledge of their chosen industry. In seven weeks they have made new friends and have learned a lot. Brick laying students can now easily put up a brick fence in your garden. If you need to give your house a facelift our tiling students can organise a wall mosaic there and the Painting students can paint the walls. Most of our Carpentry students will have made their own guitar – part of the project they do in Carpentry. By the end of the day each of us feels tired, our Hair and Beauty students can give you a very relaxing massage. They know how to do it. Trust us.

We are also proud to announce that 100% of our students successfully completed the Safety Card – Building and Construction Industry requirement. OH&S is an essential component of all Industry Training and Holmesglen Institute takes safety very seriously.

On the 19th of March our Event Management students were involved in organising a VALA conference where they executed their responsibilities with maturity and knowledge beyond their age.

**Practical Placement**

Practical Placement is a core component of the Work Related Skills curriculum. Over the year students are required to complete two practical work placements. The first for this year is scheduled over two weeks from:

**Tuesday 15 June to Friday 25 June 2010**

Practical Placement provides students with specific work place experience and may lead to an apprenticeship or part time job.

Prior to the commencement of Practical Placement students are prepared with detailed studies of:

- Occupational Health and Safety
- Understanding the Workplace
- Employability Skills

The Vocational College provides a lot of support to students in finding a relevant work place; however we would also ask that parents support our students to find their own placements. Over the years we have found that parents and their friend’s network are often indispensable in sourcing a place. Students need to be thinking about and organising their placement now.

We would like to thank you in advance for your time and effort in supporting our program. Good luck to all our students. We are hoping that they will have a fantastic experience in all areas of their study.

**Sustainability links Literacy with Industry**

The building and construction industry is one that is confronted with many challenges as the world grapples with the issues of climate change and resource shortages. In their core classes and across the building and construction industry programs students are investigating issues related to sustainability. This has seen many classes working on designing a house that incorporates some aspect of sustainability looking particularly at types of building materials, house orientation and shading, planting, energy efficiency, water usage, cooling and heating. In Carpentry the Pre-apprenticeship students have been learning about illegal logging whilst intermediate carpentry students have been investigating timbers that are near extinction. In the article below an Electrical Engineering student describes a personal project that he has worked on.

**Smart Drive Wind Turbine**

At the start of 2009 my friend told me about a Smart Drive Wind Turbine which is a Wind Turbine made out of the motor from a Fisher Paykel Smart Drive Washing machine. It involves removing and rewiring the motor to create a generator. In November my friend told me he had found a Fisher and Paykel washing machine at work and pulled the motor out of it for me. So I began the conversion, I searched the internet and found there are many websites explaining how to do this.

I found some plans and followed them. It involved cutting and soldering specific wires, which took the better part of two hours to complete. Next I had to create the turbine blades which I made out of PVC pipe, the diameter of the blades is two metres. It was about two and a half hours of work making the turbines. When I tested the generator by spinning it with a power drill, it generated over 300 volt. The turbine generates 3 phase alternating current power which I need to convert, to direct current power with a rectifier. The direct current power is then used to charge up 12 volt batteries. I am yet to build a support tower.

I have tested the turbine by clamping it to a step ladder in low wind, it generated over 20 volts. So far building the turbine has taken about five hours of work. Once I have finished I will take it up to the Murray River where I camp. It will be used to charge up our batteries so we don’t have to run our petrol generators as often saving money and the environment.

**Nathan Kettle.**

Electrical Engineering B

**SYN 2010**

**Broadcasting on SYN 90.7FM**

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 the 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.

Forming a major part of their assessment, the radio broadcast is an opportunity for 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.

**Victorian Applied Learning Association Conference**

On the 12th of March eleven Holmesglen Senior VCAL students undertaking Certificate Ill in Event Management, attended a training day at Rydges Bell City Hotel in Preston, in preparation for the Victorian Applied Learning Association (VALA) 2010 Annual Conference.

The students returned to the venue on 19th March to assist with the actual running of the conference. The students were allocated a particular room within the hotel and conference centre to direct conference participants, answer general questions and introduce and thank the conference presenters.

The accompanying photos were taken on the training day.

**Luke Selleck**

**Camp at Holmesglen’s “Rural Learning Centre” Eldon**

Six Industry groups from Intermediate level spent 3 days on camp at Holmesglen’s Rural Learning Centre during the second last week of Term 1 (March 14th – March 18th) along with the dedicated staff of Brent Govan, Norman Dinnematin, David Felvus, Mick De George, Kelley Sibley and Sally-Anne Sprakel.

The camp is a significant part of assessment at the Intermediate level in that students meet a range of learning outcomes from Personal Development Skills and Work Related Skills through attendance and participation in the planned activities.

After leaving Melbourne bright and early the campers participated in a range of activities that 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.

The high standard of the facilities, beautiful surrounds of the mountains and excellent food all contributed to a really successful and enjoyable camp. By the next camp the new pool will be finished and will offer opportunities for swimming during the downtime students will have between activities.

Returning exhausted but happy, students who participated in the program are well on the way to successfully meeting outcomes. Well done.

**Sally-Anne Sprakel**

PDS Co-ordinator

N.B: Intermediate students who have yet to go on camp in term one will go in week one of term two (14th - 16th April 2010).

**Interested in Music?**

Do you:
- Play an instrument
- Sing
- Would like to learn about setting up and / or operating sound equipment?

If so the VCAL Music Program is for you.

This program gives you the opportunity to:
- Play in a band with others
- Organise gigs
- Receive a Senior VCAL Unit

Expectations:
- You must attend a rehearsal with a band at least once a week
- You must help organise a gig sometime during the semester

If this sounds like you then please see John Fairbairn.

**Looking for something to do before school starts? Come to Breakfast Club!**

Breakfast Club is a great way to meet new people at TAFE, get some free breakfast before class starts, read the paper and socialize.

We meet on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:15 am - 8:45 am in the open learning area (4.2.303). The best part about our club is that it is FREE. We provide students with free toast, jam, vegemite, butter, coffee, tea and Milo.

**The Langham Excursion**

On Thursday 18th March the Vocational College Hospitality group had a taste of life at a 5 star venue on their excursion to The Langham in Melbourne, when they partook in a buffet breakfast and tour of the hotel as part of their curriculum.

**Breakfast in Cilantro**

Come and join the Vocational College Hospitality group for breakfast in Cilantro on Thursday mornings during second term. For $5 you can enjoy a hot cooked breakfast, finished off with a perfect hot coffee. What a great way to start your day.

Breakfast is served from 7.30am - 9.00am, last orders at 8.30am, commencing Thursday 22nd April until Thursday 3rd of June. See you there supporting the students!

**Victorian Secondary School Sports Association**

**Tennis**

It was a great day out at Dingley Tennis Centre for the Holmesglen Vocational College’s (HVC) Tennis team. Six students represent the college – Jason Curtis, Brandon Ralston-White, Mitchell O’Brien, Ben Rhodes, Leigh Bruton and Mac Jones.

Schools from the Moorabbin region were split into two groups. On the day the challenge for HVC was to beat every school in our group (3 schools in total). Each match involved 4 single games and 2 double games with all students having a red hot go and giving their best. HVC did very well and beat the 3 schools, two of them convincingly and the last one in a nail biter.
To distinguish which team would be the best in our zone, HVC played the winning school from the other group.

The opposition’s Number 1 player had a very high ranking in Victoria and came up against our best player, Curtis in the first match. This was a fantastic game to watch; unfortunately however HVC went down 6-4. From here on in HVC’s team valiantly battled on: Ralston-White lost in a sea-saw event, O’Brien lost by the smallest of margins possible and Bruton could not quite get over the line. Ralston-White and Curtis played together in the first doubles match just missing, leaving it near impossible for Holmesglen to come out on top. O’Brien and Jones came out all guns blazing in their doubles, and trounced the opposition, but despite this last stand, HVC went down overall by 4 games.

A terrific effort in teaming and playing was displayed by all students and a big thank you goes out to those who happily participated on the day.

VSSSA Golf, March 3rd at Spring Park Golf Course
The Vocational College had 5 representatives at this year’s Springvale District golf day. The participants were Mac Jones, Anthony Mether, Steven Reinsch, Stephan Taylor and Stuart Milloy (all pictured left).

There were only three other students competing from the district and the mark for qualification to get through to the next round was a round of 45 through nine holes.

Our fantastic five all had up and down days but Reinsch (pictured below right) was able to keep his game under control and when he got to the last 2 holes he had 11 shots to play with. After a 6 on a par 4 on the eighth hole Steven needed a five on a par 3 ninth hole. Steven hit a great iron shot that went straight as an arrow. The only problem was that it went long over the green into some difficult rough. Two chips and he was on the dance floor with two putts to make the cut. His first putt left him about a meter and a half away from the hole. With the pressure all on this one putt Reinsch concentrated and slotted it in to get a 45, putting him through to the next round which will be played at Lang Lang next term.

Well done to all the boys and good luck Steven.

David Felvus