By ANNIE BRIEN
YEAR 10 STUDENT

ONE of the many things I loved on the trip was going on a school excursion out bush with a group of the Junior School students. It was great to see all these really young kids (4 and 5 year olds) so respectful and interested in the traditions of their Aboriginal heritage. In a society that rarely focuses on Aboriginal traditions it was wonderful to sit there and watch the kids learning about their land and beliefs. The elders with them lead a smoking ceremony helping with any illness and taught them about the river bed they were sitting in, read them a bible story and made a meal of bush tucker including Kangaroo tail. All of it was in their traditional language, Arrente (Ar - en - dah) and I think it’s great that the students are still connected to their culture.
Dear Parents and Guardians,

Galen is currently involved in reviews in the areas of Pastoral Wellbeing and Stewardship of Resources. Key personnel within the college are involved in looking at what we do in these two key areas of organisation and consider where we are headed and what needs to be done in the future to get there.

Having been involved with our Student Counsellor, Therese Rodway, in the preparation of material for the Pastoral Wellbeing review I have been astounded, and quite proud of the organisation and commitment related to developing the young people in our care. I am equally pleased that students and parents see Galen as a welcoming community and that our focus on Social Justice is acknowledged.

Clearly good things do not happen in isolation, but as a result of the combined efforts of teachers, parents, students and the broader community.

A consequence of these reviews will be recommendations on how we continue to move forward and improve and will highlight future focus areas.

The Sandhurst Catholic Education Office is currently considering the effective involvement of parents in the educational process. At Galen we have the wonderful support of parents particularly at key celebrations and we continue to seek ways of tapping into the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm of our mums and dads which will enhance future college growth.

This week we welcomed back from leave our principal Bernard Neal. We trust that Mr Neal is refreshed after his break and set to steer through the final few weeks of 2013.

Best wishes,
Geoff Welch - Acting Principal

New Arrangements for 2013 Booklists

The school will no longer set aside a day for parents to come in and collect books. Parents will be responsible for collection of books from Edgars Newsagency. Please note: due date for booklists to be returned to the College is 3rd December. Payment options available will be credit card (mastercard and visa only), EFTPOS, cash, or bank cheque made payable to Edgars Newsagency. Payment will be required on collection of book order.

UNIFORM/SECOND HAND BOOK SHOP OPERATING HOURS

UNIFORM SHOP
DECEMBER: Tuesday 4th and 11th (10:30 am – 2:30 pm)
DECEMBER: Thursday 6th and 13th (1 pm – 5 pm)
JANUARY: Sun 20th (10 am – 5 pm), Mon 21st (4 pm – 8 pm), Tues 22nd (4 pm – 8 pm), Wed 23rd (4 pm – 8 pm), Thurs 24th (10 am – 4 pm)
FEBRUARY 2013 ONWARDS: Tuesdays 10.30 am – 2.30 pm and Thursdays 1 – 5 pm

BOOK SHOP
DECEMBER: Mon 10th, Tues 11th, Wed 12th, Thurs 13th, Fri 14th (10 am – 3 pm)

Any queries please contact: Allison (books) 0413 561 586 or Uniform shop 57238320

Catholic students achieve more with less funding

ON AVERAGE, it costs the government 20 per cent less to have a student educated in a Catholic school. Even with school fees, it still costs less to teach students in a Catholic school. In a faith-filled environment, Catholic schools instil discipline and have high expectations of their students. Our school aspires to develop well-rounded learners who achieve their best and who are committed to action for justice and the common good. In all areas, a higher percentage of Catholic students have achieved at or above the National Minimum Standard for the National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing, compared to the Victorian average. Even in our most disadvantaged communities, students in Catholic schools are more likely to study at university after they finish school. According to financial data from schools in Australia, Catholic schools also save the Australian taxpayer $2.2 billion each year. Catholic school funding must keep pace with rising government school costs. Our school cannot afford to have its funding frozen. Any funding freeze would really be a cut. A funding freeze would be unfair because our school already saves the government money. For more information about school funding, please visit: www.ceomelb.catholic.edu.au/funding
**Cows Create Careers**

EACH year, Galen Catholic College participates in the *Cows Create Careers* program. The program involves students in teams of four looking after two calves for three weeks. Students feed the calves, weigh them and clean their shelter each day. Over 3 weeks the students made a “Moovie” about the dairy industry, researched the industry and wrote a letter to the farmer who loaned the calves to Galen. The program is funded by Dairy Australia and aims to encourage students to consider careers in agriculture and the dairy industry in particular.

At the presentation for the region of the *Cows Create Careers* program, Galen College won first prize of $500 as the leading school and Galen teams finished 1st 2nd and 3rd in the Junior section. The Year 7 team of Emma Gamble, Olivia Curran, Seth Lindsay and Cian Collie won first prize of $50 each.

*Above: The winning group for Cows Create Careers. From left: Seth Lindsay, Emma Gamble, Cian Collie and Olivia Curran.*

**Santa Teresa Experience**

SATURDAY the 13th of October marked the first day that all 11 of us began our journey to the small community of Santa Teresa. We all headed to the airport early in the morning, where we would leave for one of the best experiences of our lives. We arrived at Santa Teresa around lunchtime to a warm welcome and climate. The first few days, were all about getting to know the surroundings, which included attending a mass on Sunday morning and to get ready for the busy weekdays to come. Throughout the week, we did various activities. Everybody got to spend a day or two in the Community Centre, where they have a child care centre with the most adorable kids and a kitchen where food was prepared for the elderly whom got it delivered to their houses. The rest of the week was either spent at the school helping out in the classrooms or at the Spirituality Centre. On the second last night, we drove out to a dry river bed just outside of Santa Teresa. We took a bunch of swags, some dinner and camped out. The last day in the afternoon we got to go to the swimming pool which was heaps of fun, playing with the kids. It was the perfect way to end our trip. It was probably the most fulfilling and enriching experience that we will ever have. Mr Sullivan and Ms Cudini were the perfect people to accompany us on the trip. I highly recommend this trip for those who are interested in Social Justice, Aboriginal Culture and the world around them. I would like to thank everybody who helped us raise over $3000 for the Santa Teresa community.

*Written by Maggie Snowdon*

**2012 Bands Showcase at WPAC**

This year’s Bands Showcase will be held at the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre on Thursday 29th November beginning at 7pm. The concert will feature performances from the Year 7 band, Year 8 band and the Senior band along with performances from several VCE music performance students. A highlight will include a performance from all three bands combined to conclude the showcase. Tickets are available from the WPAC website - www.wangarattapac.com.au

*Written by Rhianna Dunne Year 9*
Junior School News
Lauren Lee - Junior School Director

All Year 7 classes have now been on camp to Melbourne. The students were lucky to experience the following activities; HMAS Castlemaine, Old Melbourne Gaol, State Library, Dinner at Lygon St, Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, Vic Markets, Etihad Stadium, Eureka Tower.

This does not include the free time exploring Melbourne Central, Bourke St Mall or walking up the graffiti alleys. The students have been congratulated on the way they represented Galen during their time away. As always these types of trips do not happen without the support of the staff who put their hands up to attend. Lucky for us the students make it a pleasure to attend trips with them and as their parents you should all be very proud of the way they conducted themselves.

The Junior SRC have been busy organizing some fund raising events, which happened last week. On Wednesday morning students assisted in the preparation of breakfast for a large number of students from the Junior School. The students enjoyed the experience and did a great job feeding pancakes and egg and bacon rolls to many of their hungry peers.

On Thursday night it was Disco time. Again the SRC did an excellent job in their organization of this event and the night was a great success.

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Do you break into a sweat when the ELECTRICITY/GAS bills arrive?

Does paying your utility bills seem impossible?

Come and enjoy FREE COFFEE and CAKE and find out how you can:

- Make significant savings on gas, electricity and water through practical, low or no cost changes
- Reduce the cost of your bills without changing the comfort levels of your home
- Improve the efficiency of your appliances
- Check your eligibility for Government grants to replace appliances or reduce your utility bills.

WHERE: Women’s Health Goulburn North East
57 Rowan St Wangaratta
WHEN: 2pm Wednesday 7th November
RSVP: Karen O'Connor at Women’s Health Goulburn North East to book your seat.
Email: k.oconnor@whealth.com.au Ph: 0357223009

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EMA Info for Parents

Please ensure that you check the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) inserts in this issue of the newsletter. Readers who receive the newsletter as a hard copy will find these enclosed, and parents who receive the newsletter via email will find them at the end of the PDF document.

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BECOMING WHOLEHEARTED

“Brené Brown, PhD, LMSW, author and researcher has spent the last 12 years figuring out what keeps us from the living a wholehearted existence… the findings are staggering!

1. Fitting In Is Not Belonging

Contrary to what most of us think: Belonging is not fitting in. In fact, fitting in is the greatest barrier to belonging. Let people see who you really are. Start with self-acceptance. Be authentic, vulnerable and imperfect.

2. Guilt Is Not Bad for You

Guilt is good. Guilt helps us stay on track because it’s about our behaviour. It occurs when we compare something we’ve done—or failed to do—with our personal values. The discomfort that results often motivates real change, amends and self-reflection. How to know the difference? If you made a mistake that really hurt someone’s feelings, would you be willing to say, “I’m sorry. I made a mistake”? If you’re experiencing guilt, the answer is yes: “I made a mistake.” Shame, on the other hand, is “I’m sorry. I am a mistake.” Shame doesn’t just sound different than guilt; it feels different. The difference points to the gap between what we did and who we are—and, thankfully, we can change what we do.

3. Perfectionism Is Not About Striving for Excellence

Perfectionism is not about achievement and growth. Perfectionism is the belief that if we live perfectly, look perfectly and act perfectly, we can avoid the pain of blame, judgment and shame. “Most perfectionists grew up being praised for achievement and performance in our grades, manners and appearance. Somewhere along the way, we adopted this dangerous and debilitating belief system: I am what I accomplish and how well I accomplish it.” Unfortunately perfectionism hampers success and can lead to depression, anxiety, addiction and missed opportunities, due to fears of putting anything out in the world that could be imperfect or that may disappoint others.

4. Vulnerability Is an Act of Courage

Vulnerability is not weakness. It’s probably the most accurate measure of our individual courage, for example, “Taking responsibility for something that went wrong at work” or “Telling my boyfriend that I love him” or “Calling my friend whose child just died” or “Sending my kid to school knowing she is struggling but knowing she has to figure it out” or “Meeting with the hospice person who is going to be taking care of my mother.”

We all have those moments of doing vulnerability. The only choice you have is how you handle those feelings of being exposed! Some turn it into rage others into disconnection or numbing or perfectionism. Transform them into courage, recognise them, feel them and simply be there with uncertainty and risk. “When you know what you’re feeling and why, you can slow down, breathe, pray, ask for support—and make choices that reflect who you are and what you believe.”

This material is adapted from an article by Br. Brené Brown on http://www.oprah.com/spirit/Life-Lessons-We-All-Need-to-Learn-Brene-Brown

Find out More at: http://www.brenébrown.com

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Words from Wellbeing
Therese Rodway - Wellbeing & Pastoral Care

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Want to become a DJ?

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING A DJ?

Oak FM Radio (101.3) is inviting you to give being a DJ a go!

Play all your favourite music on air. Oak FM covers a wide area of the North East & Southern parts of NSW.

Phone Marlene on 57222926 to get your training started.
Recycling Week

This year as part of National Recycling Week the Rural City of Wangaratta and VATMI Recycling Centre are offering community members the opportunity to tour Wangaratta’s new recycling facilities. Participants will learn more about recycling, including how items are sorted, processed and what new items can now be recycled.

The session will take place on Thursday the 15th of November 4pm, at VATMI Recycling Centre (9-15 Kerr Street).

For further information please contact the Environment Unit on (03) 57220888.

Art Therapy Workshop

Monday 19th Nov: 3:30pm – 5:30pm

Come to A3 to learn about how art can be medicine! Be guided through an art workshop and take something home!

Parents, teachers, and student’s welcome! 10 places only! Please book in as numbers are limited.

Email: therese.rodway@galen.vic.edu.au

Year 9 Adventure Camps

Parents and students are reminded that the annual Year 9 Adventure Camps for all Year 9 students will take place on the following dates:

- Year 9.1 & 9.2 Wed Nov 14th to Nov 16th
- Year 9.3 & 9.4 Mon Nov 19th to Nov 21st
- Year 9.5 & 9.6 Wed Nov 21st to Nov 23rd

If you have a child in Year 9, please book them in as numbers are limited.

Email: therese.rodway@galen.vic.edu.au

Middle School

In the next few issues of the Newsletter, we’ll introduce you to each of Galen’s sport houses and provide an insight into the history behind their names.

CHAMPAGNAT: MARCELLIN Champagnat (1789-1840) was a young French priest who was born in the mountain village of Marlies in the south of France. The son of a farmer, Marcellin grew up in the years of the French Revolution. He did not begin his formal education until he was 15 and struggled with the academic studies necessary to become a priest.

Early on his life was to take a dramatic turn when he visited an uneducated and ill fifteen-year-old boy who knew nothing of God. Marcellin was deeply distressed and decided that a branch of Brothers was needed to teach children. In 1817 he set about bringing the Marist Brothers to reality. Today the Brothers’ schools exist in 78 countries. The brothers are ‘known for their family spirit and simple Gospel way of being fully present to each other and all people.’

The first Marist Brothers arrived in Australia in 1872. Champagnat College was opened in Wangaratta in 1955 and the Marist Brothers were warmly welcomed as they conducted a day and boarding school for boys, a long held dream of many people. In 1983 this became one of the three schools to form Galen Catholic College. There are now over 50 schools in the Association of Marist Schools in Australia (A.M.S.A). Galen Catholic College is a proud member of this association, and our mission is to continue Marcellin Champagnat’s belief that ‘to educate children you must love them and love them all equally.’ Marcellin Champagnat’s life is a marvelous witness that one man can make a difference. The statue of St. Marcellin Champagnat near the senior resource centre honours his legacy to education and the continuing work of the Marists.
FOCUS ON CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

This information is for students in Year 12 who have applied for TAFE or university courses through a Tertiary Admission Centre (i.e., VTAC).

WHAT IS CHANGE OF PREFERENCE (CoP)?
CoP gives you the chance to add, delete and reorder your university and/or TAFE preferences. This is important, as providing you meet theATAR and selection criteria requirements, you will be accepted into the highest preference course listed through the Tertiary Admission Centre you qualify for. If this is the case, you need to make sure your preference list reflects what you would like to study in the future.

WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR CoP? VTAC – from 9am 26 November to 12pm 24 December 2012. NB: Don’t leave it until the 24th to change your preferences in case the VTAC system has difficulties from being overloaded and you can’t access your account.

UAC – From now until Friday 4 January 2013 for main round offers. NB: You can change your preferences at a later stage to be eligible for late round offers, but many courses will already be full by then and some courses won’t have late round offers.

CoP HINTS, TIPS AND TRICKS
• Research all of your options. Go to change of preference information sessions at the institutions of your choice.
• If adding any new courses, make sure you meet the prerequisites and have not missed any important dates to hand in supplementary forms or book in interviews.
• Put in the courses that you really want to get into at the top of your preference list even if you don’t think you will get the ATAR. The ATAR cut-offs won’t be determined until January 2013, and could go below the 2012 cut-offs.
• Make sure you have applied for all courses you are interested in. Use the course search links on the Tertiary Admission Centre websites.
• Add in plan B courses as back ups in case you don’t get the ATAR you need. Research TAFE to meet the pre requisites and have not missed any important application areas such as epidemiology, mathematical physics and econometrics. Students can also study topics in areas such as medical and biomedicine, business or environments degrees, you should apply for the Diploma in General Studies which you can undertake at either the University of Melbourne, Wodonga TAFE or GO TAFE. For more information, go to http://students.anu.edu.au/applications/pathways.php

HOW DO I MAKE CHANGES?

Victorian courses - VTAC
1. Log onto www.vtac.edu.au
2. Click on Account Login and enter your VTAC ID number and password
3. Click on Course Application
4. Click on the change preferences link
5. Change your preferences and click submit

NSW courses - UAC
1. Log onto www.uac.edu.au
2. Click on ‘I’m an Undergraduate’
3. Click on the ‘Check and Change’ link
4. Log in using your UAC number and password
5. Click on edit preferences
6. Change your preferences
7. Click save

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE SESSIONS
Go to these web links for the institutions you are interested in to find out the following-dates for change of preference information sessions, download information session guides, change of preference hotline numbers and online chat times.

Times
Uni of Melbourne: www.cop.unimelb.edu.au
La Trobe University: www.latrobe.edu.au/allways
Deakin University: www.deakin.edu.au/cop
Swinburne Uni: www.swinburne.edu.au/
rightchoice
University of Ballarat: www.ballarat.edu.au/ future-students/change-of-preference
RMIT: www.rmit.edu.au/cop
Victoria University: www.askvu.vu.edu.au
Aust, Catholic Uni: www.acu.edu.au/youracu
Box Hill Institute: www的服务/ Pages/VTAC-preference-close.aspx
Holmesglen: www.holmesglen.edu.au/open/home
Charles Sturt University: www.csu.edu.au/apply/ change-your-preference

VOCAIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Find out the latest about Youth Allowance: Career information, government, education, employment and industry. Youth Allowance requirements can be confusing. To find out the latest information, please visit this webcast: www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/information/webcast-youth-allowance-austudy-abstudy

Interested in working in diplomacy? If you have a passion for politics, human rights, global studies, and LOTE and are interested in global conflicts and terrorism etc, you may be interested in studying peace and security pathways or/diplomacy at university. You should consider studying a second language as part of your degree and undertake a global exchange program/internship. To find a Victorian course, use the course search facility via VTAC at www.vtac.vic.edu.au and to find a NSW course, go to www.uac.edu.au

Core curriculum at Australian Catholic University: Each student at ACU will undertake five core curriculum units, which aim to ‘emphasise critical judgment, clear expression, ethical decision-making and concern for others, as individuals and as a community.’ The goal of the units is not just to pass on knowledge, but to raise some of the most fundamental questions on human experience and meaning.” To find out more, go to www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/why_choose_acu/core_curriculum/

Passionate about Mathematics? From 2013, Flinders University will offer the Bachelor of Mathematical Sciences. Students will study topics in essential mathematics and statistics from First Year, with later studies directed towards relevant application areas such as epidemiology, mathematical physics and econometrics. Students can also study topics in areas such as medicine, business, physics and the environment. Go to www.flinders.edu.au/courses/new-courses-2013

Have you considered locksmithing? A locksmith undertakes a huge variety of tasks and duties and locksmithing is a specialist trade area, Once qualified, you can work in areas such as: design, installing and installing alarm systems; undertaking security surveys in areas such as automotive, residential, commercial or government; and design and construct master key systems. To find out how to study locksmithing, go to: www.lga.org.au

How about working with glass? A glazier installs or replaces glass in both commercial and domestic environments such as skyscrapers, homes, shopping centers, sporting facilities, schools etc. Glass processors work in the manufacturing of glass products such as table tops, splash backs, shower screens and windows. Glass blowers work with heated glass to make artistic products such as vases and bowls. For more information, go to www.careersignlass.com.au

University of Melbourne travel subsidy: If you are a rural student or attend an under represented school, you may be eligible for a travel subsidy to the University of Melbourne Change of Preference Information Day You must apply by 16 November at www.cop.unimelb.edu.au

New Master of Information Technology at the University of Melbourne: Australia is currently experiencing a critical shortage of IT professionals. The Clarius Skills Index for the March quarter of 2012 found that there was a shortage of more than 5,300 ICT professionals in Australia” The University has just released information about their new Master’s program: www.msi.unimelb.edu.au

Aviation units at the University of Ballarat: From 2013, students undertaking the Bachelor of Information Technology (Business Systems) will be able to study two aviation units. Completion of the units will assist students in their pathway into a further qualification in Aviation. For more information, email k.hodgson@ballarat.edu.au

New courses at the University of Ballarat: U has just released information on their new Bachelor of Health Sciences, Bachelor of Biomedicine and Diploma of Building Surveying. Go to www.ballarat.edu.au

Interested in a career in the racing industry? Racing Victoria are taking expressions of interest from secondary school students who would like to learn more about the industry via their community education program. Visit the Racing Victoria website for more information: www.racingvictoria.net.au/careers

Pathways to courses at Australia National University: If you are concerned you won’t receive the ATAR necessary to gain entry into your desired course at ANU, there are several pathway options to consider. For information, go to http://students.anu.edu.au/applications/pathways.php

New Diploma in General Studies at the University of Melbourne: If you are concerned you won’t achieve the ATAR necessary to get into your desired course or if you don’t have the pre requisites to gain a place in the science, commerce or environments degrees, you should apply for the Diploma in General Studies which you can undertake at either the University of Melbourne, Wodonga TAFE or GO TAFE. For more information, go to www.dookie.unimelb.edu.au/generalstudies

Flight attendant pre-employment program: William Angliss are offering this two-week program in January. You will receive a Certificate II in Tourism. RSA and RWC and you will complete training in personal grooming and job interview techniques. For more information, go to www.angliss.edu.au/Flight-Attendant-Pre-Training

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Academy of Design, Australia has released a guide to their 2013 scholarships. You can study in areas such as advertising, fashion design, graphic design, photo media and visual arts. For information on their scholarships, go to www.designacademy.edu.au

Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarships at Swinburne: If you are planning to study at Swinburne next year and you achieve an ATAR of 95+, you may...
The Junior School’s recent success at inter-school tennis continued with Galen dominating the Upper Hume competition, held at the Wodonga Tennis Centre on Wednesday, 31st October. The Year 7 Boys’ team of Harrison Gorman, Frazer Judd, Henry Beck, Charlie West and Patrick Knowles hardly conceded a game all day on their way to a very easy victory.

The Year 8 Boys’ combination of Zac Sullivan, Matthew Wilson, Sam Harvey, Daniel Lloyd, Harry Condon and Fletcher Stewart also won their section, but only after surviving a couple of heart-stopping one game victories, one in the early rounds of the draw and again in the grand final.

The Year 8 Girls’ team of Tamarah Chambeuron, Sarah Ward, Kate Bear, Sophie Crosbie and Year 7 ‘top up’ player, Bella Carnovale also finished on top after several close matches.

In the Year 7 Girls’ section, the Galen team of Abby Walker, Bronte Morrow, Lucy Lee, Emily Thiele, Emma Ackerly and Amelia Walton were desperately unlucky. The only match they lost all day was by one game, but it was enough to deny them the chance to progress through to the next round.

The 3 winning teams will now play in the Hume Level competition, which fortunately for them is to be held at the Wangaratta Lawn Tennis Club on Thursday, 15th November. Thanks to Mrs Michelle Hill, Mr Peter Hill and Lucy Walch for coaching the teams.

Last Saturday evening, I was privileged to accompany Tess Rowland and her family to attend the annual dinner of the 2/24th Battalion, held at the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre. The 2/24 Battalion, affectionately known as ‘Wangaratta’s own’, was originally formed at the outbreak of WWII from men and young boys from the Wangaratta district. This highly decorated unit saw action in many theatres of war from North Africa, to New Guinea, and was instrumental in the battles of Tobruk, El Alamein and Tarakan, Borneo.

Each year, the 2/24 Battalion make an award to a Year 11 student from schools in Wangaratta, in recognition of the sort of qualities the Battalion has become synonymous with. This year, Tess Rowland was Galen’s worthy recipient of this award. Tess accepted her award with a well-prepared speech, in which she recognized the great honour bestowed upon her by being associated with this venerated organisation. - Written by Mr Evans
Outdoor Ed Windsurfing

On the 29th and 30th of October the Year 10 Outdoor Education Elective groups spent the day over at the Yarrawonga Yacht Club, windsurfing. Students completed both theoretical and practical activities on the day and all involved successfully sailing to the middle of Lake Mulwala and back. The feedback from students was extremely positive but even more so from John Shaw, the windsurfing instructor. John was so impressed with how friendly, cooperative and competent our Year 10 students were on both days that he has offered them a free follow up lesson. Windsurfing runs regularly on a Saturday at Yarrawonga Yacht Club. Anyone interested in finding out more information or booking a lesson can contact John on 0407 850 116.

Class Clowns 2013

Q: Did you hear the one about the teen who won $2000?

A: It’s no joke!

Celebrating its milestone 18th birthday Class Clowns is Melbourne International Comedy Festival’s one-of-a-kind, national comedy competition for teenagers in secondary schools around the country. Alumni include Josh Thomas, Triple J’s Tom Ballard and writer for ROVE Kynan Barker.

The Class Clowns competition encourages cheeky monkeys from Years 9–12 (ages 14–18) to find their comic voice, either through stand up, sketch or musical comedy – any format goes! They might then make it to the National Grand Final to perform at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival and win $2000.

Rules are: time limit for acts is 5 minutes and the maximum group size is 3.
To register for a heat or for additional information visit www.classclowns.com.au
Please Note: heats are limited to 18 acts, so register early to secure your place!

Presented by Melbourne International Comedy Festival and The Cube Wodonga

Date: Tuesday, February 26
Time: 4pm - 6pm workshops/rehearsal and 7pm performance (open to the public)
Venue: The Cube Wodonga
Cost: Tickets for performance - $FREE

Total Solar Eclipse

All students and parents are invited to watch the partial eclipse of the Sun on Wed 14th Nov. The eclipse will start at 7.15 am and reach its maximum, 55% cover, at about 8.10 am. The School has 50 pairs of safe viewing glasses to share and enable people to view the eclipse. For $2 you will receive a breakfast of sausages, fruit, and juice from 7.30 am till 8.30 am.

Warning: There is no time when it is safe to look directly at the sun.

Galen Catholic College
College Street, Wangaratta
PO Box 630 Wangaratta Vic 3676

Principal: Bernard Neal
Email: principal@galen.vic.edu.au
Phone: 03 5721 6322
Web: www.galen.vic.edu.au
GALEN CATHOLIC COLLEGE

2012 Bands Showcase

Featuring the
Year 7 Concert Band & Year 8 Concert Band
40 piece Senior Concert Band
and smaller ensembles

Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre
Thursday 29th November 2012
7.00pm

Tickets now available at - www.wangarattapac.com.au
Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:

The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, $62 million over four years will be redirected to the State’s most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

New EMA payment options:

From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;
- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection OF

-Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses which is the preferred preference of Galen College, where the amount paid will be credited off your fee account.

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:
- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

* the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

Payment Amounts - 2013:

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<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1 - 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instalment One</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instalment Two</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
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*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

Contact:

School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is 28 February 2013.
Conveyance Allowance - Changes being implemented in 2013

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Some of the eligibility criteria for the student conveyance allowance have been changed for the 2013 school year. This information sheet is designed to help you understand how the changes might affect you.

The Conveyance Allowance Program provides financial assistance for the journey to and from school in areas where transport options are limited. While the transport of students to school is primarily the responsibility of students’ families, the department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) recognises the need of some students for assistance with getting to and from school. Therefore the Department provides financial support in the form of a conveyance allowance to assist some families. The conveyance allowance contributes to the cost of transporting children to attend their closest appropriate school/campus in rural and regional Victoria. The conveyance allowance is generally restricted to students attending schools located in rural and regional Victoria in recognition of the often limited public transport options to travel to and from school.

Eligibility criteria are being changed to better target those families most in need. The change that will affect Galen Catholic College Students in 2013 will be the new means test requirement, which is explained in detail below.

This change will not affect students who have established their eligibility for the allowance in 2012. As part of the transition arrangements (Grandfathering), already claiming students will continue to receive the conveyance allowance until they complete Year 6 or Year 12 unless their personal circumstances change (that is move residence or school).

Criteria determining eligibility for the conveyance allowance

To receive a conveyance allowance each student must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Attend a school/campus located in rural or regional Victoria i.e. outside the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)
2. Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004. This means the student’s parent/s is/are a holder of an eligible Commonwealth Health Care Card or equivalent Concession Card at the time of application
3. Attend the closest appropriate school/campus
   a) For students attending specialist schools, this will be determined by the specialist school Designated Transport Area (DTA) in which the student resides
   b) For students attending government schools, this will be the closest school/campus appropriate to the age and gender of the student (e.g. primary, secondary)
   c) For students attending non-government schools, this will be the closest school/campus of the chosen denominational group
4. Reside 4.8km or more from the school/campus (as calculated by shortest practicable route in distance from the student’s home to the school/campus attended)
5. Be of school age (between 5 and 18 years-old at the time of application), and reside in Victoria
6. Be enrolled in a school three or more days per week.

Detailed information on each criterion can be located in the Conveyance Allowance Policy (2013) available on our website www.education.vic.gov.au/management/schooloperations/studenttransport.htm

The type of conveyance allowance your child can receive is dependent on the most economical form of transport available for the journey to school. Conveyance allowance can only be paid for the most economical form of transport that is available for the journey to and from school. Public transport is usually the most economical form of transport available where it exists. The Department will consider public transport is available if Public Transport Victoria (PTV) indicates a service in the hours before school (7am-9am) and after school (3pm-5pm).

Families that choose, for whatever reason, to transport their child by means other than the most economical transport option available, will not be eligible to receive conveyance allowance.
The level of transport assistance received is dependent on the type of transport used. Private transport conveyance allowance is available where public transport is either not available or is not the most economic mode of transport. It is based on the one way travel distance by the shortest practicable route from the home to the school. The conveyance allowance rates that apply for each type of transport mode can be viewed on the student transport website www.education.vic.gov.au/management/schooloperations/studenttransport.htm.

How to apply for a conveyance allowance. Your school will provide you with information and an application form prior to your enrolment if they believe you may be eligible for the assistance.

Complete the application form and send it back to your school. It is important to complete the form as accurately as you possibly can. You should refer to bingmaps.com or maps.google.com to check the travel distance that applies for the journey from home to school. Providing accurate information will ensure your application is processed quickly and easily. It should be noted that in some cases online mapping tools cannot take into account practical considerations such as road closures.

Once you submit the application the school will process it in the online conveyance allowance system; in most cases this will enable them to confirm your eligibility straight away and also provide you with advice on the amount of conveyance allowance you will receive.

If the application for your child is not approved it may not have met part of the eligibility criteria. Your school, in most cases, will be able to tell you why it was not accepted. If you have any questions regarding an unapproved application we suggest you talk firstly with your child’s school and read the detailed conveyance allowance policy that is on our website: www.education.vic.gov.au/management/schooloperations/studenttransport.htm. If you are still not satisfied, your school will be able to provide you with advice on how you can pursue this matter with the Department directly.

After the school submits the application online the Department processes all eligible applications and provides conveyance allowance funds to your school. The school is then responsible for distributing the funds. Schools have different ways of providing transport assistance to their families and you should check how this is done prior to submitting your application. The school should be able to advise of the process and give you an indication of the timeframes involved.

Other Key Points

• Late (previous year) applications cannot be accepted or paid.
• DEECD provides financial assistance in the form of a conveyance allowance for the applicant as listed on the application. Schools are not authorised to withhold the financial assistance in lieu of school fees or for any other purpose unless the express and written permission of the family has been provided.
• Schools can divide the conveyance allowance for a child if a split custody arrangement applies. The school is responsible for determining the payment that is made to each parent.
• Your child may be eligible to receive two types of conveyance allowance (multimode) if their journey to school cannot be taken via one mode of transport alone.
• If your child is in Year 11 or 12 you may apply for a conveyance allowance if they need to travel to a TAFE institute, Registered Training Organisation or alternate school to access a subject that is unavailable at their enrolled school. Year 11 and 12 students also may travel to a more distant school than their closest and receive the conveyance allowance if two or more subjects chosen for VCE are not available at their closest school.
### APPLICANT / PARENT DETAILS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>FIRST NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>TOWN/SUBURB</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>POSTCODE</th>
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**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:**

- CENTRELINK PENSIONER
- CONCESSION / HEALTH
- CARE CARD NUMBER (CRN)
- FOSTER
- VETERANS AFFAIRS
- PARENT (*)
- PENSIONER

* Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Human Services (DHS) or Courts, etc.

**ACCOUNT NAME** (e.g. John Smith)

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTION** (e.g. Westpac) AND BRANCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BSB No.</th>
<th>BANK ACCOUNT No.</th>
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* If you are unsure of the above details check your Bank Statements or enquire at your Financial Institution.

### STUDENT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHILD’S SURNAME</th>
<th>CHILD’S FIRST NAME</th>
<th>STUDENT ID</th>
<th>DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)</th>
<th>YEAR LEVEL</th>
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The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development collects your personal information for the purpose of administering the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) payment. Some personal information may be disclosed to other Victorian Government departments, such as the Department of Human Services, for the purpose of evaluation and monitoring of concession card services.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development may disclose some of your personal information to Centrelink to confirm that the details provided matches Centrelink’s records. This is to be used for testing eligibility for EMA applications for 2013.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will provide the above bank account details to Westpac Bank for the sole purpose of making the EMA payment into your nominated bank account. The bank account details provided will not be disclosed or used for any other purpose. You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child’s school.

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT**

**DATE** / /
EMA Eligibility:

The Education Maintenance Allowance is paid to parents of eligible students under 16 years of age, and the student is enrolled at a Government or non-Government School in Victoria on census day, 28 February 2013 for instalment 1 and 2 August 2013 for the second instalment.

The Education Maintenance Allowance will be paid in two instalments and to be eligible you must:

on the first day of 1st Term (29 January 2013) for the first instalment and
on the first day of 3rd Term (15 July 2013) for the second instalment:
(a) be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit, that is, a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, OR
(b) be a Veteran Affairs Pensioner (TPI), OR
(c) be a (temporary) foster parent AND
(d) submit your application to the school by the date/s listed below.

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance (formerly known as Child Disability Allowance), or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink are not eligible for the EMA unless they also comply with one of (a) (b) or (c) above.

Submission dates

The application form must be lodged at the school by:
28 February 2013 for the first instalment or
2 August 2013 for the second instalment.

Important information

A separate application is required for each school if you have children attending different schools.
If your child transfers schools during the year, you will need to make an application at the new school.

How to Complete the Application Form

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT / PARENT

1. Complete the APPLICANT/PARENT DETAILS & STUDENT DETAILS section.

Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your Centrelink card - unless you are claiming as a Foster Parent or Veterans Affairs Pensioner. You will also need to provide your Centrelink card to the school.

If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, tick the appropriate box. In this case, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner card to the school.

2. Nominate your payment method for EMA. You can choose to have your EMA payment;
   • Paid by direct deposit (EFT) into your nominated bank account or
   • Paid by direct deposit (EFT) to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses.
   • Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection or

3. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.

   Enter SURNAME AND FIRST NAMES in full.
   Enter the DATE OF BIRTH e.g. 15/09/2007.
   Enter the YEAR LEVEL, unless the student is ungraded, e.g. attending a Special School or Language Centre, then enter ‘UNGRADED’ in the YEAR LEVEL column.

4. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office.

LATE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED

Queries relating to eligibility and payments of EMA should be directed to your school.