

Issue 7

Friday 29th  
May 2009

# Mooroopna Secondary College

## Our Vision

To create and sustain a stimulating and harmonious learning environment in which all students can experience success.

We are committed to:

- Maximising student performance. Expanding the range of programs and pathways.
- Enhancing student engagement, connectedness and leadership opportunities.

### Principal:

Mr. Gary Fletcher

### Assistant Principals:

Mrs. Lynn Emmerson  
Mr. Stephen Bolton

### Address:

Echuca Road  
Mooroopna 3629

### Web Site:

[www.mooroopnasc.vic.edu.au](http://www.mooroopnasc.vic.edu.au)

Phone: 58252344

Fax: 58253747



Absent from school?  
Please ring 5825 1498

This service is an answering machine and is available 24 hours per day—7 days per week.

If your student will be absent from school please ring and leave your name, your student's name and the time and dates of the absence.

**Absence  
Line  
5825 1498**

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### MOORoopNA SCHOOLS CLUSTER 2009 STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May our College presented the Mooroopna Schools Cluster Student Leadership Conference. The Conference brought together the student leaders from all of our Cluster Primary schools.

The sixty student leaders were addressed by State MP Jeanette Powell and the student leaders from MSC in Brad Corken, Cayne Clappitt and Kierra Fordham.

They also participated in leadership activities run by our Student Development Coordinator Mr Nino Atzori. Adam & Joe from Star FM also were participants in the Conference.

Thanks must go to Mr Atzori and Mrs O'Bree who organised the day. It was an outstanding success and all of our Cluster schools are to be congratulated for their enthusiastic participation.

### HUME REGION PRINCIPALS CONFERENCE

This past week the Principal team has attended the Hume Region Principals conference. The theme of this year's conference is "Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". Key focus areas include:

- School Completion, School Effectiveness & Improvement
- Family & Community Engagement
- Engaging & Managing Students

This is an invaluable opportunity to work with world renowned educational leaders on key issues in education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### WELL DONE ADRIAN

One of our teachers, Adrian Camm, was chosen to present at the 2009 Innovation Showcase at the Crown Palladium last Friday (May 15th). His presentation was about Virtual Learning Communities, specifically about the VCE Physics Web2.0 innovation that he has established this year. This is a significant recognition of the work that Adrian and others are doing in the school in relation to ELearning.

This is the link [www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/innovation\\_showcase.htm](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/innovation_showcase.htm)

### TRANSITION

Our Transition Team led by Mrs Ruth O'Bree has conducted a very successful information evening for prospective 2010 Year 7 students and their families.

If you have any questions regarding transition, please have no hesitation in contacting Mrs Ruth O'Bree, Mr Craig Parker or myself. Parents have the opportunity to have tours of the College and to be shown the extra curricular and core curricular undertaken.

### CAN YOU HELP?

We need volunteers for one morning each term (8.00am – 8.45am) to assist with the Breakfast Program.

This program supports 30 students each Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday during Terms 2 & 3.

If you can help out, please contact Mr Nino Atzori via the office during business hours.

*Principal's report continued.....*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Monday 1st June

- VCAL work placement all week

### Tuesday 9th June

- Unit 3 exams start

### Friday 12th June

- Statewide Professional Development Day  
**Student Free Day!**

### Monday 8th June

- Queens birthday holiday

## SCIENCE CENTRES FOR 21st CENTURY SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Last Thursday the College submitted to the Hume Region, an application for a \$2.1 million rebuilding of our Science rooms. This was as part of the Federal Government's Building Education Revolution funding scheme. We hope to hear of the outcome shortly. This is in addition to the \$200,000 we have been granted to update the toilets and the top oval.

## EDUCATION WEEK

Thank you to all parents and community members who participated in the Education Week activities at the school. MSC held open our doors to local parents and the broader community through information nights, open days, student displays and other special events that showcased our programs and achievements.

The Shepparton Art Gallery also displayed artworks by our creative Year Nine and Year Ten students; they are on show until June 7<sup>th</sup> (see 'Artwork on Display' overleaf). The Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development now offers 'Parent Update' - a free email newsletter that will keep you 'in the loop' with the latest information and changes to education in Victoria.

## SAFETY ISSUE – SCOOTERS

Recently we have noticed an increasing number of students riding scooters to school. It is not our intention to ban scooters, as these are a legitimate means of getting to and from school. They can however be a health and safety issue if used inappropriately. When our new bike racks for the school have been completed, scooters will be stored and secured in this location. Until then, scooters will be stored in a room next to Mr. Bolton's office which will be locked during the school day. Students may also store their scooter in their own locker. Students and parents are reminded that they are brought to school at the students own risk. MSC can not be responsible for any damage or loss.

For health and safety reasons, scooters are not to be ridden anywhere within the north and south courtyards. If students are caught doing so, their scooter will be confiscated for two days. If repeated, the student may be banned from bringing the scooter to school at all. We would appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

## MUSIC CABARET FUNDRAISING EVENING

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May was our annual Music Cabaret evening at the McLennan Centre. This was another great night and thanks must go to the music team, Ms Tennant, Mrs Gibbs and Mrs Ryan. The students and parents are also to be congratulated for their efforts and support of the evening. This is an invaluable fundraiser that is used to support Music performances.

## FUNDRAISING

One of the College Council's key aims this year is to involve our College Community in fundraising for key projects around our school. On Saturday morning, 24<sup>th</sup> October, the College will hold its major fundraiser for the year.

The fundraiser will be a general market that will raise funds for a bike shed. More details as they become available

## CLUSTER NEWS

At present our school Literacy Team, headed by Kate Stewart and Jan Rabl, is working with our primary school Cluster partners to develop strategic literacy plans for our students'. The aim is to effectively monitor student's literacy from P-12 and to deliver individualised learning plans to support them. Significant progress has been made and several strategies already implemented.

*Mr Gary Fletcher*

## Bus Travellers

All students travelling on the government contract buses, that is, the 'country buses', have now been issued with a bus pass. This pass indicates their allocated bus and any interchange buses for both morning and afternoon. These passes do not cover Shepparton or Mooroopna town students who travel on Shepparton Transit or Mooroopna Passenger Service.

I would advise students to keep this pass in their school bag as they may be asked to show it to the driver, particularly on interchange buses. Failure to produce the pass may mean that the student will not be allowed to travel on the bus. I have had problems with ineligible students catching interchange buses; this results in overcrowding and compromises the safety of all students travelling on the bus.

If your student has not received a pass and you believe they are an eligible traveller, please ask the bus driver in the first instance as all bus companies have been given the passes. If the driver does not have a pass for your student you can contact me at Shepparton High School on 58214322. I am available every day except Thursday.

I would like to thank all parents and students for their support with bussing issues. There are almost 2000 students travelling on government contract buses in the Shepparton district. The number of incidents involving inappropriate student behaviour is very low and students are to be congratulated for their co-operation.

*Heather Griffiths*  
*Shepparton District Bus Coordinator*

## Careers

### Melbourne University Sessions

Focus on Melbourne is our new evening seminar series for Years 10-12 students and their families at our Parkville campus.

For information on subjects, dates and registration please visit: [www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/focusonmelbourne](http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/focusonmelbourne) Toll free: 1800 801 662 (within Australia) Tel: 03 8344 6543 Email: via <http://unimelb.custhelp.com>

### UniExperience

The University of Melbourne is holding a two-day program for Year 11 students from Victoria's rural and border regions. Features of the program include: • Onsite accommodation and meals at one of the University's residential colleges • Guided campus tours • Detailed information on the Melbourne Model and course offerings at the University • Sessions and workshops covering the transition to university, student support services, accommodation options, scholarships, study skills and exam tips • Social activities and the opportunity to meet both peers and current university students .

Cost is \$95 and students must register an application form online at: [www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/events/vic/uniexperience](http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/events/vic/uniexperience). For further information about UniExperience please contact Kate Parsons on 1800 801 662 (free within Australia) or 03 8344 8899 or by email at: [kparsons@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:kparsons@unimelb.edu.au) Applications close on Wednesday 3 June 2009.

### Business degrees

La Trobe's Faculty of Law and Management recently launched two exciting new business degrees - the Bachelor of Business (Marketing) and the Bachelor of Business (Human Resource Management). Each course will give graduates a highly competitive edge in their field, with a wealth of career options to choose from. Both courses are accepting applications now for Mid-Year Entry; the deadline is Friday 10th July. For more details call the Faculty on 03 9479 1667, or the Future Students Centre on 1300 135 045. For more information on course content, visit [www.latrobe.edu.au/coursefinder](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/coursefinder)

### Experience La Trobe 2009

Experience La Trobe is a full-day event for students in Years 10-12 to participate in a range of hands-on workshops. This event is replacing the 'A Day in the Life of a University Student' program at the Bendigo campus. Students can register at [www.latrobe.edu.au/experience](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience)

**Mrs Irene Lia-Oster**  
**Careers Co-ordinator**

## Families Matter

The next Families Matter meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd June at 6.00pm in the MSC Boardroom, which is located in the Administration building. The meetings provide another opportunity for families and the school to work in partnership to support the well-being of young people. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings. If you have any queries please contact Ruth O'Bree at MSC or Kim Payne (58254580).

## Sports Report

### Senior Winter Sports Day

The seniors (years 9-12) had their sports day on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Students participated in a variety of sports including netball, basketball, clay target shooting, soccer, badminton, indoor cricket, footy and netball. Our intermediate boys footy team won their section and will therefore now progress to Eastern Zone level. Well done to all students who came along and participated. A big thank you to all teachers who helped out as coaches.



Photos of the intermediate girls netballers in action.

### Junior Winter Sports Day

Our junior students (years 7 and 8) will participate in their sports day on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June. All students must have their indemnity forms back to the PE office by Monday 1st June . The forms can be downloaded from the MSC sports site on the school intranet.

**Simone Nalder (Sports Trainee)**

## Absences /Contact Details

If your student has a planned absence or appointment coming up, you may ring the Absence Line (58251498 – available 24 hours) in advance. Also, please advise us of any updated contact information - Change of Contact Details forms are available at the student window.

## Staff Profiles

Name : Grant Findlay

Background: Kindergaten, primary school and Secondary school in Kyabram. Attended Monash University (Philosophy, Economics and Sociology). Taught at Nhill P-12 College. Then travelled to Central and South America for two and a half years. Worked as a builder and at TAFE before returning to teaching at Echuca High School followed then by Mooroopna Secondary College. Learned Spanish in Latin America and later, Indonesian at Deakin University.

Year started at MSC: 2006

Faculty: Indonesian and SOSE, Maths classes. Junior school Assistant Leader

Subjects taught: This year I am teaching Indonesian at Years 8 and 10/11 and Years 8 and 9 Maths

Teaching Interests: Like all aspects of teaching but could live without the meetings. The holidays drag on a bit too.

Interest /Hobbies: Playing squash, running, swimming and keeping fit. Travel – have been to many places around the world. Especially like the third world countries such as Indonesia, New Guinea, Nicaragua, Columbia and Chile. Enjoy living in and renovating National Trust house, Karlsruhe.



Name : Kirsten Gass

Background: I grew up in Echuca and attended Echuca Central Primary School. I then attended Echuca High School and was one of four sets of identical twins in Year 7 – something was definitely in the water in Echuca the year that I was born! I studied Applied Science at La Trobe University in Bendigo. Since Bendigo was not far to travel, it enabled me to continue to come home and show my horses. My first appointment after graduating from University was here at Mooroopna Secondary College. I have had the chance to take on lots of different roles within the school and have been the Maths/Science Curriculum Program Leader for the past two and a half years.

Year started at MSC: 1999

Faculty: Science

Subjects taught: Science, Biology, Maths, Agricultural and Horticultural Studies, IT

Teaching Interests: I enjoy teaching year 11 Biology. Year 7 Science is fun as well.

Interest /Hobbies: Shopping is definitely my weakness (and I spend far too much time thinking about it!). When I'm not swiping my credit card, I enjoy watching movies and eating out. I have a keen interest in real estate and hope that I have the opportunity to build another new house some time soon. I love getting back to Echuca to stay with my family and see my dogs and horses.



## Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

Reminder for parents/guardians who have not yet applied for this payment for 2009.

Parents who have an eligible Healthcare card, Pension card or are a foster parent are able to apply for the EMA payment. Claim forms are available at the main office.

Claims must be submitted before 7 Aug 2009.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY CLAIMED FOR THIS PAYMENT THIS YEAR THERE IS NO NEED TO CLAIM AGAIN. HOWEVER IF YOUR HEALTHCARE OR PENSION CARD EXPIRES BEFORE 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY WE WILL REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR NEW HEALTHCARE OR PENSION CARD IN ORDER TO PROCESS THE SEMESTER TWO APPLICATION.

However if your Healthcare or pension card expires before 14<sup>th</sup> July we will require a copy of your new Healthcare or Pension card.

*Parents are only able to claim for students up til the month the student turns sixteen.*

*No Late Claims Will Be Accepted By The Department*

## Keeping In Touch With Your Childs School

*Brought to you by Hume Region Parent Education Service*

Schools provide an important opportunity for children/young people to practice and refine their skills in 'getting along with others' while achieving their education. The children/young people attending the school and their families, along with the teachers and members of the school staff, create a small community of people all working towards the same goal; that is education and socialization of our children.

How schools operate has changed dramatically since the time we were at school, so getting to know your child's school environment allows you to better understand how your school operates, the time your child/young person spends at school and also what you can do to help your child/young person if issues do arise.

Becoming involved in the activities which support the running of your school either through listening to children read, assisting on excursions, helping out in the canteen, or being involved in what ever way suits your work and lifestyle commitments, can assist you to better understand your child's school environment.

Research clearly indicates the importance of the development of a partnership approach between parents and schools to learning and school attendance, to ensure children/young people achieve to their ability.

The play ground environment and the challenges of the classroom are areas which both provide their own challenges and it is important for parents to feel confident in approaching the school to discuss issues of concern.

Some tips for problem solving in partnership with schools:

- Listen clearly to your child's concerns
- Encourage children to think of things they can do to improve the situation
- Avoid absenteeism as a solution – this teaches children that running away from problems is a valid solution
- Make a time to see your child/young person's teacher to discuss the issue
- Avoid blaming – state your concerns clearly

Work in partnership with the teacher to decide how best to support the situation, looking at the problem from all sides, considering all options and making a time for review.

*For more information about this topic or any other parenting issues please contact Meredith at Hume Region Parent Education Service G.V. Community Health, 399 Wyndham St. Shepparton Tel: 58233200*

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## Senior School News

Yr 11 and 12 Melbourne Camp: A meeting will be held on Monday 1st June. Students will receive another information letter, select their room partners and be informed of their elective choices. Final money is due Friday June 5th. Families should have a strong understanding of what is happening on camp. If you have questions please contact me at school.

Tertiary Information Session: Monday 22nd June, 10.45 to 12.30 at Notre Dame. This will be a compulsory session for any student who is planning on selecting a University next year. Universities will be represented and the process for selecting courses will be explained. Students have received an indemnity form and this needs to be returned to Mr Mills ASAP.



# Experience La Trobe 2009

## A chance to check out university life

**30 June:** Melbourne (Bundoora) campus

**3 July:** Albury-Wodonga campus

**7 July:** Bendigo campus

- Meet our academics and friendly students
- Check out our great campuses
- Get course info and take hands-on workshops!



[latrobe.edu.au/experience](http://latrobe.edu.au/experience)