Next Friday student representatives from Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 and College Captains, will be involved in a student leadership and development day. The focus of the day is to enhance the leadership skills of our students through a program presented by the Oak Tree Foundation and Mr Hugh Evans. Represents from the Cohuna Campaspe Local Learning and Employment Network and College staff will work with students on a range of activities focusing on identifying issues and using problem solving skills to develop positive outcomes for these issues. While not all students at the College can participate in this program, we believe that students’ ability to participate in groups such as Student Representative Council and College Council will be improved.

At the end of the second week of examinations, senior students and teachers have been happy with examination papers so far. In some subject areas the examinations are conducted over two days with two separate papers. Today three subjects are being examined starting with Systems Engineering at 9am and Business Management at 11.45 am and Specialist Maths at 3pm. Our examination period concludes on the 21st November with the final examination being in LOTE/French but students will not be able to access results until the 17th December. The VCAA (Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority) will forward certificates and formal documentation to the College for distribution at the end of the year. To celebrate their 13 years of education and completion of examinations, the College will hold our Year 12 Celebration Dinner on the 12th December at Rich River Golf Club. All arrangements have been completed and the function is by invitation via the tickets distributed by the College. We look forward to an enjoyable evening where students, parents, and College staff can come together to celebrate the efforts and successes of our Year 12 students. To access tickets please contact the General Office at Crofton Street Campus.

Although the end of the year is rapidly approaching, it is important that students continue to observe College rules and policies. It is expected that all students in Years 7-10 continue to come to school on time and in uniform. Blue jeans, track suit pants and other forms of sporting shorts are not acceptable as school uniform. Again I seek parental support in encouraging students to wear hats to school. I would like to avoid a situation where we have to place our student population in the hall at lunchtime because students do not show enough common sense to wear hats. In recent weeks we have had a number of students wearing thongs to school. In addition to not being part of College uniform, thongs are not permitted at school due to Occupational Health and Safety regulations. Students and parents will be notified of any variation to the College’s rules or policies in relation to school uniform and if a student is out of uniform an explanation must be provided by parents. A reminder to students and parents that in 2008 the College will be in full College uniform at all year levels. The College uniform policy is available at the General office at both campuses and will be printed in the student diaries. The other area of concern is students going down the street at lunch time. Again, students will only be given permission to go down to the street if they provide a signed note from parents. Our preferred option is that requests for lunch passes are only made where there are no other options available to students or parents.

This year the College has entered a team in the RACV Energy Breakthrough (peddle power) at Maryborough. The 24 hour endurance race has been running for over 10 years and is a regular event on many school calendars across the nation. The event is not just about racing but rather incorporates a number of activities that allows students to participate at a variety of levels of interest. The team consists of riders, mechanics, caterers and support staff. All bikes are tested by the RACV before they are allowed to compete and all teams must complete a presentation about their preparation for the race; including their training, diet, bike construction and race plan. The race starts at 1.30pm on the Saturday and finishes at 1.30 pm on the Sunday. The 24 hours out on the race circuit can be quite demanding for drivers/riders and for example at night although the race circuit is very well lit and the bikes have good lights, the conditions are naturally difficult. It will be a very steep learning curve for our first team. There is still some work to be completed on our bike but the students assure me that all will be ready before race time at the end of the month. We believe that this will be the first of many years participation in this great event and if interest is generated as a consequence of this year’s experience the College will build a second bike in preparation for the 2008 Energy Breakthrough.

Chris Eeles
College Principal
Second Hand Book Sale
The campus will be running a second hand book sale to support families. Details of the campus second hand book sale will be sent home shortly. Students should ensure that their books are in good condition if they wish to sell their books for 2008.

Homework Classes
Don’t forget about the homework classes that operate on Wednesday lunchtime from 1.00pm-1.30pm and after school on Wednesdays until 4.15pm. Homework classes are located in the Year 8 learning neighbourhood.

Campus Captain 2008
The position of Campus Captain is a prestigious one that is open to one male and one female student from current Year 8 students. (Year 9, 2008)
The Campus Captain will represent the campus and student body in a variety of ways within the school and the wider community. This will include the organisation of school assemblies, involvement in school information evenings as well as representing the school in community activities such as ANZAC day and Remembrance Day.
The role will require students to be available outside of school hours.

Selection Criteria
1. Academically, a student who tries their best in class at all times
2. Preparedness to represent Echuca College in extra curricula activities
3. Is an excellent role model for other students, staff and the wider community.
4. Has good communication skills

Election Process:
Nov 12th Call for nominations
Nov 19th Nominations Close 4.00pm. All people nominated to have completed appropriate nomination form. Incomplete forms will nullify nomination
Nov 21st Principal interviews with nominated students Principal announces a shortlist of candidates to go to election
Nov 23rd Students to submit a brief statement to be published in the daily bulletin. To be handed in at interview.
Nov 30th Period 4. Student speeches to student body at school assembly
Dec 6th Campus Captain Election
Dec 7th Campus Captains announced

Nomination forms are available from Mr Hon, Ms Kelly and Mrs Shirley

School Captains 2008
I am pleased to announce our School Captains for next year are – Chelsea Ludeman and Riley O’Neill and Vice-Captains are – Tom McQuillan and Aleisha Turner. I would like to congratulate these students and also the other Year 11 students that nominated for the positions.

Katie Leaving
It is with regret that I inform our school community that Katie Sargent our school chaplain is leaving at the end of the year. Katie is moving to Bendigo to be closer to her family and continue her work as a chaplain in Bendigo.
Katie has had a huge impact on our students in her short time as chaplain at our College. Her friendly manner and approachability is something that we will miss next year. I have certainly enjoyed working with Katie this year and have found her bright, bubbly personality as a great asset at our College. I wish Katie all the best in her move to Bendigo and hope she keeps in contact with our school community.

Year 12 Step-up program for 2008
On Monday 19th November 2007 our Year 11 students commence their Year 12 step-up program. This program runs for 3 days, finishing Thursday 22nd November at 3.20pm. There will be no program running on Wednesday 21st Nov. due to Industrial Action on this day. During this program students will be introduced to their Year 12 classes and start work for next year. It is essential that all students attend this program for the 3 days. Timetables and booklists will be issued during these 3 days as well. A reminder to all students that they must attend school in full school uniform.

Year 9 & 10 Program
A reminder to all parents of Year 9 & 10 students, that classes are still running as normal until the 7th December, 2007. Students in Year 10 finish on the 7th December and Year 9 students will do a Transition program from December 10 – 14 at Crofton St. Campus.

Karl Stenning
Campus Principal
NORTHERN ZONE CRICKET.
The Intermediate Boys coached by Mr Stenning and Mr Hall continue on their winning way with three wins in two days last week. At the Northern Zone Country event in Bendigo last Thursday morning Echuca defeated Irymple easily in a 15 over game and then Josh Cairns and Brad Sanderson scored three runs off the last ball of the match against Golden Square to win the afternoon game. On Friday in the Northern Zone final against Melbourne’s St Helena’s we were in trouble at 4 for 40 after 15 overs and smashed our way to a good score of 9 for 187 off 35 overs. A great bowling performance restricted St Helena’s to 136 all out which means the boys are now Northern Zone champions. Next Monday in Melbourne the boys play the Western Zone Champion in the semi-final of the State competition. A win in this game will mean a grand final berth on the Wednesday again in Melbourne. All the boys are hoping Axel forgets something on Monday and continues his great form with the bat and ball as last week on the first day he forgot his cricket pants and on the second day he forgot his cricket shoes!!!!
Scores:
Echuca 2 for 63 defeated Irymple 7 for 63. Axel Childs 2 for 10, Jake Henson 2 for 12 & Ryan Hon 41 n.o.
Echuca 6 for 79 defeated Golden Square 7 for 78. Jake Henson 2 for 10, Axel Childs 2 for 20, Brad Jones 31 & Ryan Hon 22
On Wednesday 7th November the Year 7 Boys cricket team travelled to Bendigo to compete in the Northern Zone Country cricket finals.
The first game was against Maryborough SC and after losing the toss, Echuca were asked to bat first. After getting away to a solid start, wickets began to fall steadily before some lusty hitting by Marcus Roberts (22) enabled the team to reach a score of 7/98 off 14 overs before time was called. Maryborough never really threatened Echuca’s score as wickets fell steadily.
Excellent bowling from Dylan Slater and Mitch McMullan (3 wickets each) with good support from James Hales (2 wickets) saw the Maryborough challenge end at 9/59.
In the final Echuca lost the toss and were asked to field against Kangaroo Flat. Brilliant early bowling from James Hales and Marcus Roberts reduced the opposition to a score of 3/12 and this soon became 4/38. Kangaroo Flat then built a solid partnership and a late run flurry, combined with some uncharacteristic errors in the field, enabled Kangaroo Flat to reach 7/127 off their allotted 20 overs.
Wickets were shared by James Hales, Marcus Roberts, Dylan Slater (2 each) and Luke Sanderson.
Echuca made a cautious start to their run chase and maintained early wickets. Unfortunately we struggled to build momentum in the middle part of the innings and the run rate blew out to 12 runs per over. Despite this, some lusty hitting from Marcus Roberts and James Hales enabled Echuca to have a sniff of victory.
In the end the run rate proved too great and Echuca fell just 4 runs short of the total at 9/123. Marcus Roberts again top scored with 23, whilst James Hales and Luke Sanderson were the other two batsmen to reach double figures.

GOLF.
Matt Costello and Joel Norwood played in the State Junior Golf final in Melbourne recently. The boys were a little disappointed with their scores but should be very pleased with their efforts to make the final. Matt 84. Joel 98.

LODDON MALLEE SPORTS AWARDS.
The following have been nominated for regional sports awards for their outstanding efforts in 2007.
Individual General Excellence Award – Year 8 - Libby Pellegrino
Individual General Excellence Award – Year 8 – Josh Grover
Individual General Excellence Award – Year 8&10 – Zara Pearson
Individual General Excellence Award– Year 9&10 – Jesse Dundon
Nathan Oman - cycling
Jack Turner – athletics
Brock Norwood - swimming
Matt Costello – golf
Outstanding Team Achievement Award (Female) - Year 8 Girls Basketball team. (The 2006 team)
Outstanding Contribution Award (Teacher) – Paul Leach
Outstanding School Achievement Award (more than 300 students) - ECHUCA COLLEGE.

BASKETBALL.
Good luck to the Year 8 Boys, Intermediate Boys and Intermediate Girls teams who are playing in the State Final at the end of the month.

TERM 4 SPORT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday November 19th</td>
<td>Inter. Boys Cricket - State Semi-Final - Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday November 21st</td>
<td>Inter. Boys Cricket - State Final – Melbourne (If win on the Monday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday November 27th</td>
<td>VSSSA Inter. &amp; Yr. 8 Boys Basketball - Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday November 28th</td>
<td>VSSSA Inter. Girls Basketball - Melbourne</td>
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SPORT CONTACTS.
For all Victorian Secondary Schools Sports Association information visit the website: vsssa.org.au (EC are in the Northern Zone)
David Pearson / Katrina Shirley - Sport Co-ordinators
Email: pearson.david.g@edumail.vic.gov.au
Wharparilla Times

Community Leaders
Paul Leach (College Drive Campus)
Petra Ogden (Crofton Street Campus)
Helen Fontana (Crofton Street Campus)

Wharparilla has continued to forge a positive identity in 2007 and we can be justly proud of our efforts and achievements as one of the four Communities at Echuca College.

On behalf of all Wharparillians I would like to thank and acknowledge the contribution of our Student Leaders across both campuses.

At College Drive Campus:
W71 Tameka Branch and Joy Bryson
W72 Jayden Page and Zoe Keelle
W81 Katika Warde and Brock Norwood
W82 Khyshe Keil and Renee Smith
W91 Holly Minogue and Kirrilee Ham

At Crofton Street Campus:
W01 Kelly Cowell and Bridget Booth
W02 Emily Carrington and Jessica Thompson
W03 Cherish Rosenow and Kiara Fox
W04 Daniel Anderson and Sarah Elliott
W05 Laura Pearse and Letitia Murrell-Hunter
W06 Riley O’Neill and Amber Sullivan
W07 Lauren Ham and Judith Elliott

The Community Student Leaders:
Senior Captains – Nathan Whitten and Sarah Craft
Junior Captains – Martyn Lawrence and Renee Smith/ Holly Minogue

On behalf of all Wharparillians I would like to thank and acknowledge the support and encouragement the Home Group teachers and assistants have provided to students on both campuses

Home Group Teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crofton Street</th>
<th>College Drive</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W01 Mr Jordan</td>
<td>W71 Ms Burton</td>
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<tr>
<td>W02 Mr Macey</td>
<td>W72 Ms Butler</td>
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<tr>
<td>W03 Mr Warren</td>
<td>W81 Mr Jennings</td>
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<td>W04 Mrs Kommann</td>
<td>W82 Mr Gallimore</td>
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<tr>
<td>W05 Mrs Maclean/Mrs Gould</td>
<td>W91 Mr Challis</td>
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<td>W06 Mr Ridge</td>
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<td>W07 Mr Muller</td>
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</table>

Assistants: Mrs Smith, Ms Burchell, and Mr Hewitt

Wharparilla is proud of the many students at both Campuses who have achieved the distinction of being awarded Student of the Month. Congratulations to the following College Drive recipients: Holly Minogue, Tameka Branch, Javais Ham, Kayla Lavars, Rachael Duke, Martyn Lawrence, Zoe Keelle, Tim Burke, Devlin Duffy, while at Crofton Street the recipients were Lachlan Challis, Kiara Fox, Clayton Zanella, Kayla Lethlean, Tim Verstage, Trent Castles, Jordan Williams and Angela Hancock.

Congratulations to Laura Stevens on being the Student for the Month on the College Drive Campus. Laura displays a positive attitude to her studies and was a worthy recipient of First Prize River Yarns Competition held in National Water week with her poem “Bush Memories”.

We look forward with eager anticipation the presentation of Wharparilla Student of the Year, with a student from each Campus awarded this honour at Presentation Evening.

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Wharparilla is the Way!

PERRICOOTA

Community Leaders
Frank Bowies (Crofton Street)
Carlie Jones (Crofton Street)
David Mitchell (College Drive)

With only forty three days to Christmas perhaps it is an opportune time to reflect upon some of the ‘Trials and Tribulations’ that our students face in the day to day rigour of school life. Do I have my hat, and is my uniform correct? Did I organise lunch, or money for lunch? Money for an excursion, and homework that is due. So much to remember even before I left home. Then I have to remember the sports uniform and my timetable, and get to home morning tea to be served once the job has been completed!

There are up to 1000 plants to be put in the ground, with drinking water.

The Echuca Landcare group would like to invite members of the public to a community planting day.

Echuca & District 2nd Annual Drum Concert
Featuring one of Australia’s finest jazz/contemporary drummers, Gerry Pantazis in workshop and concert.

Venue: Border Inn Hotel Function Room
When: Thursday 22nd November
Time: Workshop 4pm-5.30pm
     Concert 7.45pm-9.45pm
Cost: Workshop $10
     Concert Admission $5
Enquiries/Bookings to:
Kevin Kiely 5480 9663 / 0407 809 664

HELP!! Echuca Landcare group calls for assistance!!

The Echuca Landcare group would like to raise awareness of the public to a community planting day.

When: Sunday 18th November
Where: Echuca Livestock Exchange
Time: Planting will begin at 9am

There are up to 1000 plants to be put in the ground, with morning tea to be served once the job has been completed!

The group is keen to get as many members of the public there as possible – including children! Please wear suitable clothing including sturdy shoes, hat, sunscreen and bring drinking water.

For further information, please contact Rhonda Day, Shire of Campaspe Landcare Coordinator on 1300 666 535

Public Notices

HELP!! Echuca Landcare group calls for assistance!!

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KANYAPELLA

Kanyapella Karma

Community Leader:
Mr Stewart Cheal Crofton Street

Assistants: Mr Warren Duffy - Crofton Street
Mr Trevor Mellington - College Drive

The term is halfway through and the Cup has been won, Year 12 exams nearly over, their study is almost done, Amazing Dances and performances being completed, the concert in Melbourne a blast.
Don’t blink for too long Echuca College the year is going fast!

‘Karma’ would like to especially acknowledge this week the hard working efforts of so many of our students. Right across the campuses students are really working hard to capitalize on their efforts across the year. Long term reports and projects are being completed, assignments carefully researched, tests revised for and exams completed. This is the culmination for most students of many months of self-discipline and many hours at their work stations. It is the chance for so many, as a chief assessor put it recently during an exam lecture, to ‘show off’. This is the core business of Echuca College, we look forward to rewarding and celebrating the efforts of our student (and parent) community, particularly those who just work hard day after day!

As always Kanyapella students have been achieving fabulous heights recently, many of which were reported in the ‘Riv’. Clare Bedford of Year 11 looked stunning at the Cup Day meet at Echuca Racecourse where she won the under 18 ‘race goer of the day’. Always both elegant and original, Clare’s outfit was both creative and unique. As mentioned in previous Karmas, we again congratulate Jesse Dundon, Josh Grover and Zara Pearson for their selection to play basketball for their State at Port Macquarie and Albury in January. Jesse has been playing for the Echuca Men’s Pirates recently and this author has personally observed some terrific matches played against men where Jesse has often been amongst the better players on the court. The tournaments in which these young people are involved include some of Australia’s best young talent and some from New Zealand.

At a recent assembly we were very proud to hear that two of our students will be playing ambassadorial roles in India with a group of fellow athletes who will be working at a school assisting training and coaching their Indian counterparts in athletics. Should be an amazing experience in a truly fascinating country, a nation of remarkable cultural contrasts. Good luck to Bri Bennett and Tom McQuillan on their journey. Whilst noting the role of ambassadors it is with great pride we must acknowledge the speeches and performances of Darcy Elliott and Kanyapella’s Amy Lord for their outstanding efforts in representing the College at the Remembrance Day Ceremony, such an important day in Australia’s history.

The College have also enjoyed our own sporting successes on the pitch last week. Our cricketers have represented us with great pride and talent, enjoying the spoils of some sweet victories and disappointments of narrow losses which are all part of the sporting roller coaster. Character develops through both. Good luck to the Year 9 and 10s in Monday’s State semi! We will let Mr. Pearson reveal the details in the College Sports Report.

In 3 weeks we have scheduled the Year 10 Formal. It is worth all parents knowing that this function serves as both a reward for effort and effective participation in the life of the College. We encourage all Year 10 students to attend in what has been a challenging year for some, especially those who have moved across from College Drive. It must be noted that students who have not been consistently doing ‘the right things’ whilst at school may be withdrawn from the guest list. This should not affect many, leaving all those who deserve it to enjoy an elegant and fun evening.

Kanyapella Karma and extra special congratulations to our new Senior College Captains: Chelsea Ludeman, Riley O’Neill and assistants Aleisha Turner and Tom McQuillan!!

Kanyapella will keep on revvin’ in this year 2007!!

MOIRA

Community Leader:
Ms Jennie Ward
Crofton St Campus

Assistants:
Mrs Jenny Morris
Crofton St Campus
Mr David Armstrong
College Drive Campus

Since our last newsletter our year12’s have been working hard on studying and exams and our year 11’s are in the middle of their exams now. We wish them all the best.
Years 7-10 are still working hard and having a bit of fun too!

Coinciding with the Spring Racing Carnival the Year 7 Moira Home groups had their own Cup in Home group time last Wednesday. There were several heats each for the boys and girls. The races were competitive with horses and jockeys (piggybacking) performing to a high standard.

Winners were:

Boys – Ben Wright (horse) Jason Heywood (jockey)
Girls – Rachael Bronsgeest (horse) Kariah White (jockey)

Year 10 Questacon: (by Kim McDonell) On Tuesday year 9 and 10 students from Crofton Street campus had a visit from Lindsay and Amanda from Questacon who travel around to lots of schools around Australia. Olivia Webb and I volunteered for one of the experiments where we each had a balloon in a bucket at each end of the table and we had to get our balloons into each others bucket in less than 30 seconds. The only rule was no touching the balloon or the bucket with your body or clothes, each got to choose an item, Olivia chose a plunger and I chose a skewer and I popped both balloons and Olivia and I got them in each others bucket. They showed us movies about young people who have invented things like a ‘button doer upperer’, an alarm clock with wheels that goes off then hides itself somewhere in your bedroom and it keeps going of until you get up and turn it off which wakes you up, solar powered cars and motorbikes for people who can’t walk. They also told us about music and how it influences athletes’ performance and what music they listen to before they compete and they also allowed us to sign up for the news letter that comes out every month so we could keep up with the new and interesting inventions. It was a great thing to do.

Step Up from year 11 to year 12 will start on 19th November and continue to the 21st. Attendance is compulsory. Students will find they get a good start to the year by attending this program.

As the weather is getting warm don’t forget hats, sunscreen and lunch that won’t go off in the heat. A frozen drink or an ice brick will help keep lunch cold.

Moira Community: we ask that you do your best and work hard for the rest of the month.
At 6:45 am on Monday 29th October a group of excited Year 9 and 10 students from both campuses gathered at Crofton Street to board our coach for the Canberra Tour of 2007. These students were chosen because they have achieved excellent results, perhaps even winning subject awards at last year’s presentation night, and have also shown an excellent attitude to their school work. The student group consisted of Kirrilee Ham, Ashleigh Pearse, Lauren Nesbitt, Holly Minogue, Kirsten Pocklington, Kirrily Stephens, Connie Rue din, Kate Teasdale, Kaylah Hancock, Sarah Key, Ashleigh O’Brien, Nicole Keirl, Jessica Rue din, Tim Perkins, Daniel Scott, Brandon Price, Braiden Fry, Josh McManus, Jarrad Rosenow, Anthony Gambrell, Chris Brame, Nick Castles, Matt Costello, Judd Lanyon, Axel Childs, Jake Henson, Darcy Elliott and special guest, Pernelle Vo Hanh, our exchange-student from France. Also with the group was our bus driver, Simon, who was absolutely fantastic. He knew Canberra like the back of his hand and never seemed flustered if we asked him to deviate from the plans at any stage. He also managed to negotiate the curving streets of Canberra without encountering a MacDonalds, much to the disgust of our carnivorous students. Trekset asked if a trainee employee could join us on the tour, and so Gerry came along for the ride providing great company and help whenever he could. Teachers with the group were Katrina Shirley from the College Drive campus and myself (Morgs) from the Crofton Street campus.

At 7:00 am we departed for the 7-hour drive to Canberra. On the way we passed through Yarrawonga and Albury with a half-hour stop at the Ettamoga Pub. The manager was quick to congratulate us on the behaviour of our students. I knew this was going to be a great trip. We stopped for lunch at Gundagai where we encountered hoards of friendly flies and a statue of a little dog perched up on a box. I think Pernelle is still trying to figure out its importance. By mid-afternoon we had reached Canberra and had plenty of time to relax in the pool and check out the shops at the Gold Creek tourist village next to our motel.

Our first full day in Canberra began with a visit to the CSIRO where we learnt about some of the research and technology being developed by Australian scientists. The highlights were an encounter with some stick insects and also an energy machine that released chocolates if you cranked the handle fast enough. We followed this with a visit to the imposing Parliament House with paintings of prime ministers and lawn on the roof. After lunch we had a guided tour of the National Art Gallery where we came up with many different interpretations of paintings and wondered what the artist really meant. Our day ended with a visit to the War Memorial with its emotional wall of names and the eerie Hall of Remembrance. That night we climbed Mt Ainslie (in the bus) to view the night lights of Canberra.

Wednesday began with a visit to the Sound and Film Archives where we caught glimpses of the first Ned Kelly film and the 1896 Melbourne Cup. Cameo performances by “Men At Work”, Chips Rafferty, and ’Skippy’ and the chance to explore past soaps like ‘Number 96’ and ‘The Box’ brought back congratulations for the ancient in our group. The miniature buildings at Cockington Green were popular although Pernelle was devastated that no French buildings were featured. After lunch we travelled to the National Portrait Gallery where we split into two groups and went off in search of knowledge of the artistic kind. My group had Sam for a guide and his obvious love for art and the thousands of hours of research he had done gave our group a wonderful tour. He asked us questions, respected our answers and made the paintings of famous Australians come alive. Hidden meanings were revealed and thoughts were provoked. The rest of the afternoon was certainly not restful as we toured the Australian Institute of Sport, spent time in an activity room where cricket bowling speeds were measured, basketballs tossed through hoops, and rowing machines were rowed, and finally ventured out onto the playing fields. Split into teams, now was a chance for the ‘jocks’ to impose themselves - but no - it was Katrina Shirley, Gerry from Trekset and Super Morgs who dominated the rugby, lacrosse and soccer games we played. After dinner we said goodbye to October and were entertained by Sarah Key, Tim Perkins and Kirrily Stephens, who celebrated Halloween dressing up as Zombies and terrorising the balconies of our motel.

November began with a visit to Questacon (the National Science and Technology Centre) with its hundreds of ‘hands-on’ activities and the giant, vertical slide. After lunch we visited the National Dinosaur Museum where we saw life-size replicas of prehistoric animals (no, Morgs wasn’t featured) while some of our group visited ADFA (the Australian Defence Forces Academy). ADFA was an eye-opener and our group was pleased and proud to be shown around by Sean Teasdale (our College Captain in 2006) who proved to be a fantastic guide. Sean really is a great ambassador for Echuca College. Finally we went to the National Museum where old Holdens, Hills hoists, Victa mowers, feral rabbits, the “Welcome Stranger”, Phar Lap, and other icons came to life. Thursday night’s entertainment featured a trivia quiz and stand up comedian, Anthony Gambrell, receiving thunderous applause.

On Friday, Simon drove us home safely to an anxious line of waiting parents. We actually arrived early so that Darcy Elliott and Kirrily Stephens could get to the Paramount and star in “Aladdin” that evening.

Some special thanks must be given:

(i) to Simon, our driver, whose knowledge of Canberra and dedication to the safety of our kids was fantastic.
(ii) to Gerry from Trekset, who came as a guest and to learn about school tours, but joined in all activities and led the group that visited ADFA.
(iii) to Katrina Shirley who was a caring and hard-working leader always keeping the kids as her number one focus.
(iv) to the wonderful bunch of kids who participated enthusiastically, were always well-mannered, were prepared to leave their comfort zones and answer questions on topics they may never have encountered before, and always wanted to have fun.
(v) To the Australian Government’s contribution to our tour through their ‘Parliament and Civics Education Rebate Programme’ that helped cover some of the costs of our trip.

Sincere thanks to everyone.
Kevin Morgan.