As our community would know we held College Council Elections this term and had four parent nominations, for four vacancies and five staff nominations for three vacancies. While we didn’t require a ballot for our parent positions, staff at the College did have to vote for nominated candidates in the DEECD employee category. The election was held last week and the ballot closed on Friday. I would like to thank Helen Williams, Bernie Teasdale and Jill Prowse for nominating again. I would also like to welcome Gavin Hore to our College Council who joins other parent members in Roey Williams, Kevin Simpson, Bruce Smith and Ross Whelan. Our elected members from staff are Chris Kelly, Cheryl Watson and David Mitchell and they join Paul Hon. We also have our two student representatives from Student Council, Molly Edgar and Darcy Elliott. The College also has an option to co-opt community representatives to College Council. Congratulations to the new members of Council and welcome aboard. I would like to thank those members (Ms MacLean, Mr Mellington, Mr Inglefinger) of the 2007/2008 Council for their support and great contribution to our College during their time on Council.

College Council will be meeting this coming Monday and the AGM will be held at 7pm before the March Council meeting. At this month’s meeting Council will be reviewing the College’s Annual Report and AIP before they are forwarded to the Region and Central Offices. The Annual Report is a reflective document constructed from reports such as; Attitudes to Schools data, Parent and Staff Opinion surveys, Attendance and On Track data, and Academic data. While the Annual Report allows us to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of the previous year it also identifies areas where we need to focus our learning and teaching in the future. The second document reviewed at Council is the Annual Implementation Plan and it is generated from the reports listed above and is the template by which we will achieve our goals in 2009. The 2009 AIP was developed late last year by staff and not only reflects the key focus areas for our College but also incorporates key focus areas within the Campaspe Network of schools. As you can see we will have a busy night next week but the efforts of our College Council, both past and present, are really starting to bear fruit.

Last Wednesday we held our ‘Induction of Student Office Bearers’ ceremony at the College Drive stadium. To see the whole College community together was a very impressive sight and only motivates the College administration and staff to work harder to ensure that we get Stage 2 of our building program completed in the next few months. The focus of the ceremony was to congratulate those students who have been elected to positions of responsibility and to acknowledge those who have volunteered their services to help the student population and College. I would like to thank all our student representatives for their commitment to our College community. It was also great to see parents and College Councillors at the ceremony but it would be even better to see more parents attend next year. The feedback from most students was that they enjoyed seeing our singers and dancers and clearly this made the occasion very much student focused. I would like to acknowledge the hard work that Ms Kelly put into organising the Induction Ceremony and thank staff for their support in getting students prepared for the ceremony.

Would you like to receive the newsletter via e-mail? Simply go to www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au/newsletter/ and subscribe.
Last week I attended an information session conducted by the Regional Director, Mr Lake, to inform Principals about ‘Building the Education Revolution’ funding being provided by the Commonwealth Government. There are three categories that schools can apply for funding under this program, Primary Schools for the 21st Century Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools and National School Pride Program. Echuca College has submitted an application for Covered Outdoor Learning Areas and landscaping work for our new site at College Drive. We will also be putting forward a proposal for a Language Centre to be developed in Echuca but for the purpose of serving Network schools, both primary and secondary. We will keep our community informed as to our progress in these areas.

Early notification to parents and students about our end of term Parent/Teacher interviews on Thursday 2nd April. Interviews for all year levels and both campuses will be conducted at our College Drive Campus, with interviews starting at 5pm on the Thursday afternoon and running through to 8.00 pm. Appointment sheets will be distributed to students next week by tutorial class teachers. Students are encouraged to attend the interview with parents. Interim Reports will be issued to students early during the last week of term. I would encourage parents to attend our Parent/Teacher interviews because of the important information that can be gained through discussions about your child’s progress with their teachers. We appreciate that our Parent/Teacher interviews don’t always provide an opportunity for ‘in depth’ discussions but appointments can be made for further meetings if there is a need. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide interview time on the Friday, as has been the practice in previous years, due to new DEECD regulations surrounding ‘Pupil Free’ days, therefore Friday is a normal day with dismissal at 2.30pm. I look forward to seeing parents and students at College Drive on the 2nd April between 5-8pm.

Chris Eeles
Echuca College Principal

College Drive Principal’s Report

Year 7 Camp

The Year 7 camp finally departs on Monday March 23rd after initially being postponed in February due to the threat of fires in the state’s North East. This is a unique opportunity for students to get to know each other and their teachers, the students will participate in a range of activities including canoeing, archery, water slide, low ropes course and a range of team building activities.

Shave For a Cure

What a great effort by the students to raise over $3000 through the shave for a cure campaign. Thank you to Mr Abramovitch and Mrs Richardson for being brave and for their organisation. Well done to all involved.

Reports

Teachers are finalising assessments to make judgements for mid semester report writing. Parents can assist by ensuring that they check student planners for work that is due and encourage students to complete set tasks and home work. See you at the parent-teacher sessions

Student Induction

Congratulations to those students who were inducted into leadership positions at our Echuca College induction ceremony on Wednesday. It was tremendous to have the entire student population at our campus and to have so many parents, relatives and friends in attendance to help us celebrate our wonderful student leaders. Congratulations to Larni Williams and Shaun Hon who spoke so well and thank you to our College singers and dancers for the entertainment.

School Photographs

Thank you to students who presented so well for school photographs last week. Photos will be available next term.

Lunchtime Activities

It is great to see a range of activities around the campus at lunchtimes. Students in the library play a variety of board games and keep up to date with newspapers and magazines. Thanks to Miss Bennett, in the stadium there has been a volleyball competition under way which has been well supported by students.

Staff have been conducting trials for summer sports teams, giving all students the opportunity to try out at training sessions before representing the College at inter school level.

Paul Hon
Campus Principal

Crofton Street Principal’s Report

Year 11 Debutante Ball

Last week a meeting was called for interested parents in planning for the Year 11 Deb. Ball. I am pleased to announce that we have a small group of parents willing to assist and plan for the 2009 Echuca College Deb. Ball. A letter has gone out to all Year 11 students seeking expressions of interest from those wanting to make their Deb. Once we ascertain our numbers we can move forward with planning.

World’s Greatest Shave

Last Friday our student council organised the World’s Greatest Shave fundraiser. A number of staff and students had their hair shaved or coloured to help raise money for Cancer. We have raised nearly $3,000.00 for this very important event. I would like to congratulate Mr. Abramovitch and the Student Council executive on this fantastic event. A special mention to Sharon Van De Zand our Daily Activities Co-ordinator who had her head shaved and raised over $1,000.00 herself. Thanks Sharon.

Student Induction Ceremony

On Wednesday 11th March our College had a special assembly for both campuses on College Drive to hand out badges and certificates to our College leaders. Once again it was exciting to see our whole College community together to celebrate student leadership. Seeing 1000 students in the Gym, is a reminder of how big our College is and how much I am looking forward to when we are on the one site in 2010.

Interim Reports

A reminder to all parents that interim reports are being completed this week by teachers and our parent-teacher interviews will be held in the last week of this term. More detail on these interviews will be released closer to the time.

Karl Stenning
Crofton Street Principal
Year 9 News

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Program

On Thursday 12th of March the year nines were given a presentation with information about the Duke Of Edinburgh award.

We had four guest speakers, three of which were students of ours who had taken up the responsibility and opportunity of the Duke Of Ed during the previous year. We would like to thank Shaelyn Scott, Sarah Hore and Josh Preston for sharing their Duke Of Ed experiences with all of us.

We would also like to thank our other guest speaker Mr. Glenn Hall for explaining to us what it involves and how it will help us with our future to further our education and for employment purposes.

Our year level co-ordinator Mr. Paul Challis also explained a lot about the award giving us valuable information needed to complete the process and giving us a few ideas as to what we could do for each of the categories.

To all parents we strongly advise you to encourage your children to participate in this event because it is recognised world wide and will assist your children in their future careers.

By Zoe Keele, Year 9

Questacon Science Show

The Questacon travelling science show was here for year 9 students on March 12th during period 1, 2 & 3. This was a great opportunity for students to gain more experience about science and possible pathways. They were also challenged by the presenters to participate in a young inventors program in Canberra later this year. Special thanks to Sarah Head who was a fantastic helper in setting up for the show.

By Zoe Keele, Year 9

Rubicon camp and the Oceans camp

Students head off on Monday to participate in the camps for a week. Student reports will be in later issues of the newsletter.

Uniform

Most of our students are wearing the uniform with pride and are following the guidelines in their organisers. Some footwear is still an issue. As the weather is beginning to cool down, we encourage some forward planning for jumpers, etc. Parent support with our drive to have students in full uniform would be appreciated. If assistance is needed with uniform, please contact Paul Robinson, The Student Counsellor at the College.

Keefer for a Day @ Healesville Sanctuary

We would like to wish Zoe Keele all the best with her experience during the up coming holidays when she will be working at the Healesville Sanctuary for a day. Zoe will be working alongside Zoo keepers. Some of her tasks will include food preparation, enclosure maintenance, egg sorting and animal handling. We all look forward to a report on the experience in a future newsletter.

Paul Challis
Year 9 Team Leader

Year 12 News

Many of our students have been extremely busy both at school and with extracurricular activities. Congratulations to Abbey Jenkins and Shelby Huggett for participating in the Lions Youth of the Year event earlier in the month. Both girls performed extremely well and should be very proud of their efforts. Jordan Williams was named the Riverine Herald’s Junior Sports Star of the Year and is currently representing New South Wales in AFL, a fantastic achievement.

Progress Reports were sent out at the beginning of the month for all Year 12 students and we are currently interviewing students and discussing these reports. Please contact any of the Year 12 team to discuss your concerns with these reports. Parent Teacher Interviews provide an excellent forum to meet with Teachers and discuss issues and expectations for your student.

The RACV are visiting our school and providing an opportunity for all Year 12 to attend their “Free2Go” Program. It is a motoring assistance program developed especially for young Victorians who are new to the road. Free2Go offers all the benefits of RACV membership and comes with Roadside Care. What makes the program really stand out is that for Year 12 students it is free. Free2Go membership includes Emergency Roadside Assistance, that is any Year 12 who joins will be covered for emergency roadside assistance (Roadside Care) in any car they drive, or are a passenger in. We encourage all Year 12’s to attend this free program in the Library at lunchtime on Tuesday the 24th of March.

As we work towards the Easter Break it is really important that all students are working on a study timetable and are developing solid study habits that will aid them throughout the year. It is crucial that students attend all their classes and are only absent when absolutely unavoidable. Congratulations to all the students who have not missed a day this term, the benefits will be evident in your achievements.

Melissa Gould
Year 12 Team Leader
Sports News

INTERSchool SWIMMING
On Tuesday our swimmers headed off to Nathalia for the CSSSA swimming meet.

There were many ribbons won and records broken with standout performances by Brock Norwood, Brad Mellington, Emily Begely and Mitchell and Bryce Keech. Other first place getters were Carissa Crammond, Rochelle Daley, Luke Hubbard, Bryeny Lowndes, Zara Pearson, Libby Pellegrino, Isabella Reid and Allie Sims. We also had 8 of our relay teams make it through to Northern Zone which were the U/14 girls, U/16 boys and U/20 boys Medley and our U/13 girls, U/15 boys, U/16 boys and girls and the U/20 girls Freestyle relays. All this giving us a team of 25 swimmers heading off to Swan Hill for Northern Zone on the 20th of March.

At the end of the day we managed to win the Intermediate section on raw score, but missed out on the overall win by 16 points to Ky. Big Thanks to Petra Ogden, Erin McGurk, Zoe Dannat and Alan Corby for their officiating and Darcy Elliott for the great photos of the day.

AGE CHAMPIONS
Emily Begely- U/13 girls, Rochelle Daley- U/16 girls
Mitchell Keech- U/15 boys, Brock Norwood- U/16 boys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record Breakers</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brock Norwood</td>
<td>U/16</td>
<td>50m Butterfly</td>
<td>29.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U/16</td>
<td>50m Breaststroke</td>
<td>34.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U/16</td>
<td>100m Freestyle</td>
<td>1.02.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td>100m Butterfly</td>
<td>1.05.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U/20</td>
<td>Individual Medley</td>
<td>2.31.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brad Mellington</td>
<td>U/16</td>
<td>50m Backstroke</td>
<td>33.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell Keech</td>
<td>U/16</td>
<td>Medley Relay</td>
<td>2.21.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryce Keech</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brad Mellington</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brock Norwood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petra Ogden</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Co-Ordinator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bree Bennett</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Trainee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bar-rook Field and Game Shoot

Page 4

The annual Bar-rook field and game shoot was at least 15 degrees cooler than the previous year and the ever persistent flies were absent. Echuca College had a record size team consisting of 22 shooters from across every year level. It was destined to be a day of success. Our shooters did not disappoint with top shooting from all our students. April Thompson won the High Gun Award which is the highest scoring female shooter on the day. Amanda Carrington won the Senior Girls Category, Chloe Shortland won the Junior Girls Category and April Thompson, Jami-Lee Haigh and Chloe Shortland won the Senior Girls Team event. Our boys took second in the Junior Boys Non-member Team event, their team consisting of Jordan Mulolland, Luke Hams and Tom McCluskey.

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to all parents, grandparents and coaches who drove and accompanied the students to the shoot. Without the support and encouragement these people such opportunities would not exist. Thank you to our shooters who proudly represented Echuca College and brought home three of the possible six shields to be won. It was a privilege to accompany you all to Bar-rook. Congratulations to all award winners and to everyone for their personal best efforts. What a fantastic day!

Courtney Peters
LOTE Domain Leader
Maths homework classes

Maths homework classes for Crofton Street will run from:
Monday lunchtime from 1:05 pm to 1:35 pm
Tuesday after school from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Thursday after school from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm
in the Maths Wing, Room 20A
Thanks
Cheryl Watson

Careers

The Age VCE and Careers EXPO
Will take place at the Caulfield Racecourse on Friday 24th April to Sunday 26th April. The EXPO features more than 120 seminars on VCE subjects and topics. More than 150 organisations will also feature including Universities and TAFE Colleges. More Information can be found at education.theage.com.au. Some free tickets are available by contacting Mr Glenn Webb or Miss Sandy Roberts at Echuca College.

World’s Greatest Shave

The Student Council’s support for the Leukaemia Foundation’s World’s Greatest Shave was an outstanding success. It was run on both campuses and each had its own particular style. The money is still rolling in but is in excess of $3000. A big thank you to all staff and students who supported the Student Council in making the shave possible, as well as to those who donated to this wonderful cause.

And now the thing you have been waiting for – silly photos!
We were unable to get photos of the College Drive shave at this point, so we will have all the photos in the next newsletter.
Make sure that you check out the Riverine Herald from Monday 16th March!

The Student Council &
Steven Abramovitch

Canteen Thanks!

A big Thank-you to all our canteen volunteers (once again) especially the two Dads who have helped so much at College Drive in the past two weeks.
Jeanette Fabry
Canteen Manager College Drive

Go for Your Life Project

We are again asking for parents to give consent for College students to participate in the Go for Your Life Project data collection round 2. The data collected and collated last year proved to be extremely valuable to the Deakin University Principal Researcher Dr Andrea Sanigorski.

What we are looking for in this data collection round is to check whether our Go for Your Life project is changing the eating and activity habits of young people. To find this out, we’d like to survey your child about the type of food they eat and how often, and about the types of activities they do. This information will also be used for your child to participate in the surveys. If you are happy for your child to complete the surveys (these will occur during school time), please sign the GREEN form being sent home and return it to the College with your child.

This information will also be used by local and state governments to improve the support and services they offer today’s youth.

If you would like more information please contact Ms Kate Whitecross, Project Manager, Campaspe Primary Care Partnership on 5484 4490

Dee Richardson
Student Wellbeing Team Leader
Echuca College

Stuck with Homework?

Need a hand with MATHS, SCIENCE, ENGLISH, ASSIGNMENT RESEARCH & STUDY SKILLS?
yourtutor can help!
FREE!

Click to connect to Campaspe Regional Library for a live online learning support service yourtutor now.

Just follow these 3 simple steps to connect to yourtutor from the library or from home.
2. Click on the links...
3. Enter your library card barcode and begin your live session!
Your tutor is online and waiting to help you Monday to Friday from 4pm -8pm!
YOU NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE LIBRARY
To become a member of the Campaspe Regional Library, follow these simple steps –
1. Fill in all your details on membership form available at the Echuca Library.
2. Get a parent or Guardian to print their name on the back and then date & sign it.

Student Absences

Parents please ring and let us know
College Drive 5482 1133
Crofton Street 5482 3366
CALL FOR PLAIN PACKAGING TO PUT AN END TO THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY’S MOST POWERFUL FORM OF ADVERTISING

Young people are being encouraged to celebrate National Youth Tobacco Free Day on Friday 27 March 2009 by calling for advertising of tobacco products in Australia to be stamped out once and for all, by introducing plain ‘generic’ packaging of tobacco products.

Ms Sally Hounslow, National Youth Tobacco Free Day spokesperson and Chairperson of the Australian Network on Young People and Tobacco (ANYPAT), said packaging is the front-line of product branding and was openly recognised by tobacco manufacturers as a form of advertising in its own right.

“Tobacco kills around 15,000 Australians every year, and most of these deaths will occur in people who started smoking before the age of 18 years”, Ms Hounslow said.

Win a $300 JB Hi-Fi Voucher!
To mark National Youth Tobacco Free Day, young people are invited to go to www.OxyGen.org.au to cast their vote as to whether they think tobacco packaging should be plain for the chance to win signed Hilltop Hoods merchandise and $300 JB Hi-Fi vouchers. The competition closes at 5:00pm on 17 April 2009.

How to be a part of the Day
For great ideas on how you can celebrate National Youth Tobacco Free Day or for more information, go to the OxyGen website at www.OxyGen.org.au

National Youth Tobacco Free Day is an annual initiative of the Australian Network on Young People and Tobacco (ANYPAT).

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE FOR WEDNESDAY REHEARSALS- Students are now rehearsing at Crofton Street after school until 6pm starting on the last Wednesday of the term. Please send back notes to Mrs Kornmann if your child needs to be bussed over.