Congratulations to three of our VCE students, Andrew Koster, Hannah Deighton and Claudia Rosenow. Andrew was awarded the Lions Youth of the Year Award, Hannah was awarded the Lions Youth of the Year Public Speaking Award. Claudia Rosenow of Year 11 has been accepted into the UBS Young Women’s Leadership Academy at Sydney University from April 11 to April 15. Our College is very proud of their achievements and wish them all the best in their experiences.

School Council elections closed yesterday and we will be informing the College community of the outcomes in the following week. The new council will sit at our March meeting later this month where we will be having our AGM as well.

On Monday the 28th February we conducted our Student Induction Assembly for all staff, students, parents and special guests. Students received their badges and certificates on this day and will represent our College in a number of different forums throughout the year. I would like to thank Mr. Steve Gale CEO for the Echuca – Moama Beacon Foundation for speaking at the assembly about Leadership in Schools. It was nice to see so many parents attend the assembly to see their sons/daughters inducted. A special mention to our AP, Mrs. Robyn MacLean who organised the induction assembly.

Our new mobile phone policy has been very successful over the last month and I would thank all staff, students and parents for their continued support. Remember the slogan – Heard, seen, used .... GONE.

The new attendance system is also proving to be very accurate and successful in keeping track of student attendance. You should be receiving SMS messages in regard to students not being in class. There are still a few glitches being sorted out, but once again I thank parents for their support. Could I also ask parents to please give us changes to any mobile numbers so we can keep up to date with information coming out via SMS messages.

Our Year 7, 2012 Discovery night is on Monday 2nd May for all parents, students and friends to visit our College to find out as much information about our subject offerings and extra-curricula activities that is offered at Echuca College for Year 7 students. More information will be out in the next few weeks.

Last Friday Mr. Strachan and myself attended a very important conference in Ballarat for all Secondary School Principals and Assistant Principals in the Loddon/Mallee Region, Grampians Region and North Metropolitan Region. There were over 250 people at the conference to look at strategies to improve learning outcomes of all students in secondary schools. At the end of the conference we came back with some action plans to introduce into the curriculum in the future at Echuca College.

Finally I would like to thank Mrs. Gale and Ms. McBeath for organising a wonderful “Retirement Dinner” for Ms. Chris Kelly. Chris has been an Assistant Principal at Echuca College and Echuca High School for a long time. Chris spoke very well at her farewell about her lovely time in Echuca and how she is looking forward to the next part of her life. I wish her all the best in her retirement.

While on retirements, Mr. Garry Salisbury will be having his retirement function on the 25th March at the Border Inn Hotel commencing at 6.30pm.

Karl Stenning
Acting Principal
ATTENDANCE & SMS NOTIFICATIONS

Echuca College uses a system of notifying a student’s daily absence from school with an SMS message sent directly to the parent / guardian’s mobile phone. If you have not provided the College with a Family Mobile number or have recently changed numbers, can you please contact the General Office on 03 5482 1133 to update your information.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

In what circumstances will an SMS be forwarded to a parent?
You will receive an SMS if:
Your son or daughter is not in attendance at school and you have not notified the school of your son/daughter’s absence.

What will the notification work?
The system will send a message to the family mobile. If you wish to change this arrangement you should contact the General Office (03 5482 1133).

At what time of day will the SMS be sent?
After morning administration and relevant data have been entered into the system – approximately 10.00am.

How will the notification work?
The SMS text message you will receive will be similar to this:
Echuca College records show ‘Student name’ is absent 23/02/11. Please reply SMS or phone 54821133 with a reason for this absence.

Who will receive the SMS?
The SMS text message you will receive will be similar to this:
Echuca College records show ‘Student name’ is absent 23/02/11. Please reply SMS or phone 54821133 with a reason for this absence.

What if I change my mobile phone number?
The success of the system requires accurate records of mobile phone numbers. If you change your number or you think that the school does not have your correct mobile number, you can call the General Office (03 5482 1133).

What if I don’t own a mobile?
You will be unable to be contacted via SMS.

What if I change my mobile phone number?
The success of the system requires accurate records of mobile phone numbers. If you change your number or you think that the school does not have your correct mobile number, you can call the General Office (03 5482 1133).

What if I receive this message and I am aware that my child is not at school?
As is the normal procedure, as outlined in the Procedures - Absence from School section of the Student Diary, parents are required to provide an explanation of any student absence. You may choose to do this by: phoning the General Office (03 5482 1133) or providing your son/daughter with a written explanation when he/she returns to school.

Will the SMS system be used for any other purpose?
Possibly. In this era of technology a number of schools are using the system to communicate to parents reminders such as: Parent Meetings, Parent/Teacher Interviews/Book Collection Days/Important Events etc. At this stage it will be used only for the purpose of notifying parents regarding student absences. Based on parental feedback, we will assess other possibilities. If you have any concerns please contact the College Assistant Principal or a School Councillor.

Reminder to Families:

Student Resource Structure payments are due by the end of Term One.
We would ask parent/guardians to please pay the $85 Excursion Levy to enable your student to participate in excursions during Term One.
Students that have not paid this levy will not be able to attend any excursions throughout the year.
For further enquiries please contact the administration at the College on 03 5482 1133

BPay:
The College has recently activated B-Pay for all families to access. You will receive your B-Pay
Details on the statement that will be sent to families in the coming weeks. This service is available for immediate use.
For further information please contact the College on 03 5482 1133

Centrepay:
Centrepay is now available for use at the College. It enables anyone who has a valid Centrelink card who currently receives payments to allocate a portion of their payment to fees/camps/excursions. When set up, the deduction comes out of your fortnightly payment before it gets to your bank. For more information or for a form to set up Centrepay deductions, please contact the office on 03 5482 1133.

Immunisations for Yr 7 & 10:
Date: 24th March 2011.
Yr 7 Students: First Dose Hep B
First Dose Chicken Pox
First Dose HPV (Female Students)
Yr 10 Students: Diphtheria/Tetanus/Whooping Cough
News from the Bus Coordinator

Please be advised that the Bus Coordinator—Janis Oscar—is only available at the College on Tuesday and Wednesdays from 9am—2pm. Alternatively Janis can be contacted on 0400 529 339. Please be aware that students wishing to travel casually on the Welton Jacobson’s bus, the two Gunbower O’Brien buses and the Pearson bus to Tongala will not be able to travel on these buses due to loading issues until further notice.

Yr 11 & 12 News

Shave for a Cure
The Piazza area was very busy last Friday lunchtime with a huge crowd watching a number of brave students who volunteered to lose their locks to raise money for Cancer Research. Well done to Jake Upton, Cameron Hay, Josh Patten, Tate Bowen, Jackson Wentworth, Mac Miller, Saxon Wonham, Matt Fullard, Michael Bell and Andrew Koster. Let’s hope the weather doesn’t get too cold too soon for them.

Year 11 Outdoor and Environmental Studies Surf Camp
Last week the Unit 1 Outdoor and Environmental Studies group spent 3 action packed days along the Surf Coast. After the long bus trip down on Wednesday, we enjoyed snorkelling at St Leonards, where we came face to face with many creatures of the deep underneath the pier. We then stopped at Point Lonsdale to see the entrance to Port Phillip Bay and discuss the issues of the area. Once at camp in Jan Juc, the students’ camping skills were put to the test. Tents were erected, sleeping bags rolled out and meals cooked on our trangias (camp stoves). Thursday began with sea kayaking at Torquay at sunrise. We were greeted with wonderful conditions and everyone enjoyed their time out on the water. Tori and Nadine took the prize for the most capsizes with quite a few lining up for the best capsize of the day award. After a rest and some breakfast back at camp it was off to Bells Beach for a stroll and to watch some experienced surfers in action. From here it was off to Point Addis for lunch, before a nature walk through the Great Otway National Park to Anglesea. In Anglesea, after a well earned ice-cream, we were greeted by Regina Gleeson who spoke about coastal impacts and short and long term changes to the area. Then it was back to camp for dinner and rest.

We woke early again Friday morning to pack up our camp before heading to Ocean Grove for surfing. Again we were blessed with fantastic conditions, with everyone able to catch a wave or 30. From here it was back in the bus for the long journey home. For some reason the bus was a lot quieter on the way home than on the way there – a little worn out perhaps?!

Special thanks to Dave Pearson for all his help on the camp.

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of Paul Simpson, teacher at Shelford Girls’ Grammar, who tragically lost his life whilst helping to save students caught in a rip when snorkelling at Bells Beach last Thursday.

VCAL Camp
17 keen VCAL students and 3 staff are at Rubicon Outdoor Centre this week, participating in a range of exciting adventure activities. We look forward to hearing their stories when they return.

SSV Campaspe Swimming Sports

On Tuesday 8th of March the School Sport Victoria Campaspe Swimming Sports were held in Nathalia. The day was a great success with many records broken, personal bests achieved and a lot of fun kicking the footy and chatting in groups in between events. Well done to everyone who participated in races and congratulations to our many winners who will move onto the next stage. Echuca College did very well coming in second place over all. Thanks to all those participants who swam in the relays for the College.

Our age champions of the day include:

Isabella Reid U/14 Girls  Corey McGrath U/14 Boys  Tessa Mellington U/15 Girls
Bryce Keech U/17 Boys  Libby Pellegrino U/21 Girls  Brad Mellington U/21 Boys

Thank you to all the parents that attended and helped on the day. We really appreciate your support. A big thank you to all the staff that helped put this day together and came to support the students.

Ben Hall - Sports Coordinator
Tour of Turkey 2012

Given the success of last year’s Tour of Turkey, students will again have the opportunity to visit Turkey in 2012. There will be an information session later in the term. Keep an eye on the newsletter for further information or see Ms Case

Camp Information:
Yr 8 Camp (Shipwreck Coast) and Yr 9 & 10 Camp (Central Australia).

Please come along to an important information evening on Tuesday 15th March to find out about the camps.

Time: 6.30pm Shipwreck Coast information.
7.00pm Central Australia information.

Where: Café Learning Area Echuca College.

See you there!
Camp Coordinator
Julie Smith

Yr 7 News

All year 7 students will have English/Humanities and Maths homework every week. Please check with your student that it is being completed and handed in on time.

We do hold Homework club every Wednesday after school till 4.00. Year 7 teachers will be available to assist during this time. It is open to all year 7 students.

After a rigorous selection process we have elected our 2 year 7 student leaders. All students who nominated were required to provide a written piece about why they would make a good leader and then spoke at year 7 assembly introducing themselves. Congratulations to Maegan Johnson and Michaela Clarke – Grundy. These 2 students will be part of the Echuca College student leadership team and will be involved making decisions that affect the student body.

Please contact us if you wish to talk with a teacher about your student.

Tracey Burton.

Year 9 News

DUKE OF ED – Hopefully all interested students have returned their permission slips and $20 to the College office or Mrs Jones. Any students keen on being involved in Duke of Ed or parents wishing to obtain more info can contact Mrs Jones at the College or access the Duke of Ed website www.dukeofed.org.au – a thoroughly worthwhile and rewarding program!

DAVO’S GARDENING CREW – Mr Davidson is keen on upgrading the College’s veggie garden which is near the bike shelter. Any students wishing to volunteer their time and efforts should see him in order to find out more details. A great way to get your hands on some free tucker too!! Donations of plants, trees, seeds and seedlings of all types would also be greatly appreciated!!

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA TRIP – Is fast approaching! There are still a handful of spots available. Anyone wishing to add their name to the list should see Mrs Smith asap! There will be an information evening for parents and students on Tuesday 15 March at approximately 7pm in the Cafe Space – all students intending on going on the trip should attend.

ONE & ALL PROJECT QUEENSLIFF CAMP – Kudos to Brenton Case and Zosie Rosato who have recently returned from the One & All Project’s Camp to Queenscliff. Whilst on the camp, Zosie and Brenton were mentors for our friends at the Echuca Specialist School! A busy but great three days had at the beach! More info to come in a later edition of the newsletter.

ALTERNATE LEARNING GROUP’S VOLUNTEER WORK – Well done to Ms Rolfe and the ten boys involved in the program for their outstanding efforts and hard work at the Echuca Rotary Park. The boys have been volunteering at the Rotary Park, repairing the damage caused by the recent floods – the Rotary Club is working tirelessly to ensure that the park is ready for the annual Steam Festival. Well done fellas!

TRIVIA – Congrats to Bella Reid who won last edition’s trivia question. James Maiden is the founder of Moama. This edition’s question….Nancy Cartwright is the voice of Bart Simpson on the very funny show "The Simpsons": Name one other character that she voices. First student with a correct response scores a free entry into the end of term draw and an additional prize!!!

The Year 9 Team

Yr 10 News

Great to see a number of Year 10’s involved in co-curricular programs at present.

The camp to Queenscliff with students from the Specialist School featured Millie Down, Ellie Denson, Maddy Steel, Jaimi Elgar, Holly Kornmann, Brent McGrath, Jayden Twigg, Tyler Lethlean and James Deighton.

Tori Candy and I were lucky enough to attend the Year 11 Outdoor Ed camp to the Surf Coast last week. Snorkelling, sea kayaking, surfing, bushwalking, camping were all highlights.

A number of Year 10’s swam at Nathalia on Tuesday after winning at our Community carnival recently. I am sure Jack Buchanan would have done well.

Next Tuesday at 7pm, Year 9 and 10 students going on the Central Australia trip in September have a meeting in the Cafe Learning Area. Parents need to attend also.

Reminders: locks required for your locker. Phones and iPods’ to be turned off BEFORE entering classrooms. Jumpers, Hoodies and Jackets are not to be worn at school. White socks are to worn with the summer uniform, not black.

David Pearson - Year 10 Team Leader.
Discover Engineering
The 2011 Engineering Careers Expo will take place on Thursday the 31st March at Etihad Stadium from 2 pm to 7 pm. This event is free and showcases the many different careers available in Engineering. Registration on-line is essential. For more information visit www.engineeringexpo.org.au

The National Careers and Employment Expo
This free expo will take place on Friday the 25th March from 9am to 4pm and Saturday the 26th March from 10 am to 3 pm at the Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre. This event will offer information on employment and education, industry seminars and a broad range of displays. For more information visit www.eocexpo.com.au

Leadership Scholarship
Congratulations to Claudia Rosenow for being awarded a scholarship to attend the UBS Women in Leadership program in Sydney during the first term break. Claudia will travel to Sydney and join young women from all around Australia in a week of activities and hear presentations from high profile speakers.

Glenn Webb  Pathways Manager

Moama Touch Football Association
Over the past few months a few students showed sporting initiative and decided to create a touch football team to enhance their fitness and have fun. The team was made up of many students from Echuca College as well as Moama Grammar, Captain Khysa Keil, team manager Milly Denson and players Riley Quinlan, Ellie Denson, Hanna Deighton, James Deighton, Eryn Flynn, Callum Taylor, Alister Holt, Britt Predergast, Matt Fullard, Kari Gulson, Staci Richardson and Kayde Richardson had a fantastic season. Even though half the team had never played before, we were runners up losing 5-4 to Cosmiks in the grand final. Other students who also competed well throughout the season were Jesse Green, Heath Blackley and Raymond Thompson.

Lions Youth of the Year
Andrew Koster won the Echuca Lions Youth of the Year Competition, Andrew spoke of his passion to help the endangered Tasmanian devil, which is rapidly disappearing from the Tasmanian forests. Andrew is hoping to complete a science degree and become a zoologist. Hannah Deighton won the public speaking section, Hannah spoke about the proposed government tax for disaster relief.

ECHUCA MOAMA BEACON FOUNDATION
2011 BUSINESS BREAKFAST
‘The purpose of this important event is to highlight the support and encouragement of the Youth of this region initiated by the Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation in collaboration with the local Secondary Colleges and Business houses’.

Guest Speaker:
Haydn O’Neale – General Manager,
Riverine Herald, Echuca
Madeline McCluskey – Student Ambassador 2010

Date: Thursday March 17th 2011
Time: 7.00am
Location: ‘Radcliffes’ 2-10 Radcliffe St Echuca Vic 3564
** This is a fully catered event – come and enjoy ‘Radcliffes’ fine cuisine! **

RSVP:
To: Steve Gale
By: 12pm Monday 14th March
Phone: (03)5482 1788
In person: ‘Heygarth House’ Heygarth St Echuca 3564
email: beaconem@impulse.net.au
One & All Stars INCLUSION BASKETBALL

Come along and watch the one and all team go head to head with some of Echuca local teams.

What: An All-Stars inclusion basketball game
When: From 5.30pm, 19th March, 2011
Where: Fonterra Centre, Echuca
Entry: Gold Coin Donation

Moama-Echuca Soccer Association Inc.

2011 SEASON
Saturday Morning Competition
Registration Dates

March 23rd
Fonterra Stadium
Jack Esdy
Get Ready
4:00pm to 5:30pm

March 30th
Fonterra Stadium
Jack Esdy
Get Set
4:30pm to 6:00pm

April 6th
Fonterra Stadium
Jack Esdy
Go Day
5:00pm to 7:00pm

Fees:
Under 8 to Under 11
$100.00
Under 12 to Under 17
$125.00

Registration will be available on line for 2011 for commencement dates go to:
www.borderraidersonline.com.au

UMPIRING AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL AS A FIELD, GOAL OR BOUNDARY IS A MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A TRY AT UMPIRING PLEASE CALL NOW AND WE WILL SEND AN INFORMATION PACKAGE OUT TO YOU.
0419 154097 5831 5121

Young Carers Scholarships

Carers Victoria is offering scholarships of up to $500 to secondary school students of Victoria who are providing care and support to a family member with an illness or disability.

Applications close 31 March 2011
For further information and to download an application form, visit www.carersvictoria.org.au or call 1800 633 300

ECHUCA COLLEGE ROCK EISTEDDFOD REHEARSALS

Year 7, 8, 9 and some 10,11-MONDAYS FROM 3.30-4.30 sharp
Year 10, 11 and some 8 and 9’s-WEDNESDAYS FROM 3.30-4.30 sharp
Hip Hop Group-MONDAY LUNCH TIMES
Solo-to be advised

Saver Plus could help your family manage “back to school” savings

By joining Saver Plus you could receive $500 to help pay for school items including text books, computers, excursions and uniforms.

Saver Plus is delivered by Berry Street and ANZ in Echuca and is looking for new participants to join BEFORE 31 March, 2011.

To be eligible you must:
• be a parent or guardian of a student attending school, or be intending to attend accredited vocational training yourself
• have a current health care card or pension card, and
• have some income from paid employment.

To find out more contact Ian Murray, Saver Plus Worker at Berry Street on 5820 3903 / 0429 122 096 or email imurray@berrystreet.org.au