‘Diversity Our Strength’

Congratulations to our Rock Eisteddfod Team on their upcoming performance in the ‘Raw’ division of the Rock Eisteddfod in Melbourne this Friday. Our team consists of 100 students, 10 staff and a small band of dedicated parents who accept all challenges everyday, from sewing duties to morale support and enthusiastic audience. The team will leave for Melbourne at 6am Friday morning (12th August) to complete in the first round of the competition. Our students performed last Friday at the College as part of their preparation for this year’s event and as part of their public performance for the local schools and community. The public performance has helped our dancers to refine their dance movements in preparation for Friday’s competition. I would like to thank all those who attended last Friday for their support. I would also like to thank all the staff involved with the Rock Eisteddfod and a special thanks to our dedicated band of parents.

Last week Mr Webb, Ms Costin, Mr Stenning and other members of the Year 12 Team provided a seminar to students and their parents on the process of applying for tertiary courses in 2012 through VTAC (Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre) Information Evening. The evening was well attended and it provided parents with an opportunity to be taken through the process that needs to be completed before students can be included in the race for a tertiary placement. In addition to this information, two of our parents who have already experienced this process with previous students at the College, were able to provide the audience with a very personal insight about post secondary education options and what parents may encounter next year. In addition to their experience 2010 College Captain Nick Castles spoke to the audience about his ‘gap’ year at ‘Stubberfield’s Group’ and his plans to start his studies in 2012. The VTAC process doesn’t really conclude for students and the College until students have obtained a course and accommodation in early 2012. If you were not able to attend the seminar last week and would like to speak to a Pathways Coordinator, please don’t hesitate to contact or get your student to arrange a meeting with Mr Webb or Ms Roberts.

This week the College has conducted three information evenings for students studying Years 10, 11 and 12 (VCE/VET/VCAL programs) in 2012. Each session has provided students and their parents with an opportunity to research subjects and certificates and to discuss with teachers how various subjects may lead to careers paths. The evenings were very well attended and this marks the start of a very important process for students in Years 9, 10 and 11 in their planning for next year and beyond. All students considering starting a VET certificate in 2012 must also attend one of two evening next week, Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th at the Rich River Golf Club. These evenings will have staff available to speak to students about the certificates and the work and study involved with completing a VET certificate. In a fortnight students in these year levels will also participate in a counselling session with teachers to review subject selections/certificates. This provides a further opportunity to discuss career ambitions and to ensure that the subjects/certificates selected match student’s career ambitions. Of course selecting the right subjects is only part of the equation; hard work and commitment are two key factors. Once again, if parents were unable to attend our information evenings and would like to talk to a Pathways Coordinator or Year Level Team Leader, please call the College for an appointment. Participation at the appropriate VET information session is compulsory if students are to gain a position in their chosen certificate for 2012.
On Wednesday August 3rd three Echuca College Teams participated in the Northern Rivers Debating competition at St Joseph’s College. The senior team consisting of Sarah Head, Aidan Milne and Eleanor Denson had to argue that “Technology was destroying the music industry”. Although not successful on the day the team performed admirably especially considering it was the first time Sarah and Aidan have joined the debating team. The intermediate team successfully argued that “funding for education should not be reduced to increase funding for medical research”. The team consisting of Kayla Arkinson, Felicity Prendergast and Tegan Milne were also winners over Kerang Tech High in the secret debate (topic unknown and prepared on the day). Thanks to Georgia McMurdo for helping with the research and preparation. The Junior team consisting of Georgia Harris, Siobhan Thompson and Teasha McInnes had a narrow victory over St Joseph’s in the prepared debate on the topic of the “Australian lifestyle being to blame for our obesity epidemic”. In the secret debate the juniors pitted wits against and proved too strong for Boort Secondary College to take out the junior trophy. Well done to all competitors, Mr McMurdo and congratulations on winning the junior and intermediate debates.

Next Wednesday we College will hold our Athletics Carnival at the College. The carnival is an annual event and is a compulsory school day. Successful competitors will be part of the College’s Athletics team that goes on to compete at Zone and State levels. The students will be allowed to come to school in Community colours (Moira-Green, Whaparilla- Yellow, Perritcoota-Red, Kanyapella-Blue) and it is important that non-competitors support their Community on the day. Students will not be given permission to leave the College for lunch, even if a note is provided. Students can bring their lunch or purchase food from the Canteen and VCAL stalls set up at the College oval. We encourage parents and guardians to attend the athletics carnival but the event is not open to the general public. We are looking forward to an enjoyable day and hopefully the weather will be kind to us.

Chris Eeles
College Principal

Murray River Culinary Challenge

The prestigious Murray River Culinary Challenge is on again. The Challenge is an industry standard cooking competition for Vocational Education and Training Students enrolled in VET in Schools (VETiS) Hospitality. The Challenge spans four regions and this year will involve just over two hundred VETiS students from Shepparton, Deniliquin, Echuca, and Swan Hill districts. The Murray River Culinary Challenge is a three tiered competition. At the school level, students compete individually to vie for a spot in the Regional Final. The two top scoring students from each school are paired and compete as a team in the Regional Final, which for Echuca region will be held on Tuesday 23rd August 2011 at the BRIT Echuca training kitchen. Regional Final winners then progress to the Grand Final, which will also be held at BRIT Echuca on Tuesday 20th September 2011. Echuca college has two competitors in the challenge. Menus in each level of the competition become progressively more difficult and are designed for students to be able to demonstrate their skills learnt during their VETiS Hospitality training. The menu for the school level competition included an entrée of Summer vegetable salad with orange vinaigrette, a main of Risotto with sweet potato, red capsicum and bacon, and for dessert, a fresh fruit platter. Each student was required to present one serve of each dish within a specific time frame; a great simulated work placement experience.

Each level of the competition is judged by top industry representatives in each region. Paul Cohen, Executive Chef at the Rich River Golf Club, and Barry Moyle, Operations Manager at Moama RSL have provided their culinary expertise in judging the school level competitions in the Echuca district. VETiS Hospitality students from Echuca College, Rochester Secondary College, St. Joseph’s College, Echuca and St. Augustine’s P-12 College, Kyabram, who are trained by BRIT Echuca, have now completed their school competitions.

Students from Kyabram P-12 College and Rushworth P-12 College receive their training at GO TAFE, Shepparton, and have participated in school level competitions held there. Ineka Bekarma and Justin Titterrell, Chefs at The Little Gourmet Food Company, Shepparton, Ashley Thorpe, Executive Chef at the Parklake Hotel, Shepparton and Joe Distefano, Head Chef at the Aussie Hotel have been some of the industry experts judging at the GO TAFE school level competitions. As both Kyabram and Rushworth students are part of the Echuca region, they will compete at the Regional Final at BRIT in Echuca. Good luck to Kerith Sims & Jodie West who have won through to the Regional Final on Tuesday, August 23.
**Winter Blues Festival**  
A group of Echuca College music students participated in the Echuca Winter Blues Festival’s ‘Blues Boot Camp’. They were tutored over two days by some of the countries most renowned musicians. The camp culminated in a performance at Radcliffe’s on the Friday night as a precursor to the Blues Festival. They played to a large supportive crowd who cheered them on to an encore. Congratulations to Rebecca Hore, Sean Orr, Brodie Ward, Kiennan Jones, Matt Ivancic and Barry Jones for their fantastic performances. A huge thank you goes out to the Old Port Cafe and Glenn Rowley for their ongoing support and encouragement of our students. Students performed both Saturday and Sunday incorporating original and cover songs which were received well by the crowd. Thanks to all staff, students and parents who stopped by to show their support.

**Year 10 Beacon Charter Signing**  
Year 10 students from Echuca College and St Josephs attended the recent Charter signing at Rich River Golf Club. Students made a pledge to make positive future career and education choices. The audience had the pleasure of listening to guest speakers Bianca Stapleton from the Campaspe Shire and past Echuca College student Melissa Buchanan from Cosgriff Orchard Legal. The message from both speakers was to never give up and to use every opportunity that may come your way. While students were signing the official pledge boards two VET Music students; Rebecca Hore and Brodie Ward entertained the audience with the songs “Sitting on the dock” and “Come together”. They did a magnificent job. Thank you to both students for their musical talents along with their teacher Tony Spizzica for setting up. I would also like to thank our Beacon Ambassadors for their help on the day, they include Kassidy Sellings, Millie Down, Sarah Toll, Matt Bell, Tyler Lethlean and Emma Francis. Thanks also to the Beacon teachers, Year 10 Team, Alan Corby and Rob Strachan.

**Junior Badminton**  
On a chilly Tuesday morning 8 enthusiastic Yr 7’s trusted Mrs Ogden to drive to Kyabram for the next round of badminton matches. Upon arriving, the stadium was locked so the girls took to a quick warm up on the front lawn, whilst the boys warmed up in the car park until we were let in. The challenge quickly dawned on the lesser experienced Echuca team that there are other schools that took their badminton quite seriously and could all play really well! At this level we use feather shuttles, which we had not played with and soon found that they fly better than plastic ones. All the teams persisted throughout the day, gained confidence and played strategically, but were outplayed. The boys team of Lachlan Thompson, Dylan Robertson, Kane Simons and Wade Baker went down to Kerang 6-0, lost to Charlton 6-1, and were outplayed by eventual winners Crusoe 6-0. MVP was Dylan, winning the lone set for the day. The girls team of Zali McKee, Erena White, Shaela Lamb and Kayla Lear lost to Charlton 6-0 and Bendigo SE 5-1. MVP went to Kayla Lear for winning a singles set and playing well all day. A great effort from all students who took up badminton for the first time this year, showing that Echuca College offers new experiences and opportunities to participate in new activities.
Choosing VCE Subjects – Year 10 students are in the midst of selecting their courses for 2012-3. It is vital that students, with help from Staff and Parents, get this process right so that their last two years of schooling is well planned and suited to their individual needs and future aspirations. Students have begun this planning with their Beacon teachers in class and this week an information night was held at the College. Next Monday and Tuesday evenings the VET program will be on display at Rich River Golf Club. On Tuesday August 23rd all Year 10 students and Parents will have an interview to choose their subjects.

Co-curricular and Extra-curricular activities – Congratulations to all the Year 10 students who are taking the opportunities which the College provides.

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INFORMATION NIGHTS – Many thanks to all parents and students who made the effort to attend the Year 9 into 10 information evening held on Wednesday. There was a substantial amount of information given out in regards to VCE, VET and VCAL pathways. By now all students should have a course counselling interview time to discuss their subject selections. Anyone with questions should contact either Mrs Jones or Mr Pearson.

COURSE COUNSELLING – Monday 22 August will be a student free day for all Year 9 students. Students will have to attend a subject counselling interview with a parent which will be held in the Resource Centre. Parents or students with concerns should contact one of the Year 9 Team.

GYM JUNKIES – I was a very proud teacher last week when the inaugural Gym Junkie Program commenced. 19 students from Year 9 volunteered their class time (and will be catching up on all work missed!) to attend fitness classes at the local YMCA with a buddy from the Specialist School as part of the One & All Inclusion Project. These students had an absolute blast and are now looking forward to the next seven weeks of the program! Photos to come in later editions of the newsletter.

LOOP NEWSPAPER – Congratulations to our recently published authors! Tessa Mellington, Zosie Rosato and Shannon Savage all had pieces of writing published in the last edition of the Riverine Herald’s Loop. Well done to these three students!!

WHEELIE TALK – Next week will see the whole Year 9 cohort participate in a program centred on risk taking, seeing people for their ability rather than disability and responsible choice making. The program is run by a renowned public speaker who is also a paraplegic. Students will also be given the chance to participate in wheelchair basketball or wheelchair races. Students must ensure that they have paid their excursion levies. Those who haven’t will be unable to participate. Look out for pics in the newsletter!

Have a great fortnight! The Year 9 Team
Information Nights
Thank you to all the parents and students that attended the information nights this week. The sessions were a big success and were well attended. Hopefully they were informative for you, and assisted you with decisions for the future.

Unit 3 Exam Results
Students that completed Unit 3 exams received their results on Monday. There were many pleasing results. Keep working hard for the end of year exams, not long to go now!!

Unit 4 Outdoor and Environmental Studies Snow Camp to Mt Buller

Last week 16 Unit 4 Outdoor and Environmental Studies students and 2 lucky staff members went to Mt Buller for 3 action packed days. The weather was glorious and the ski conditions amazing, which made for a lot of fun in the snow! A visit from Louise Perrin from the Mt Buller and Mt Sterling Management Board gave us an insight into the wonderful environment in the area and the strategies put in place to make Mt Buller a fun place to be, but also sustainable for our native flora and fauna. A disco on Thursday night brought out a lot of laughter, with Michael and Jake dressing up as snow bunnies, interesting attempts at Karaoke, and everyone, teachers included, busting a move on the dance floor! The bus ride home was certainly a quiet one as everyone was exhausted! Thanks to all the students for their fantastic attitude and behaviour and to Mr. Stenning for all his help and enthusiasm. Miss Menz

VCAL Trivia Night – 16th September
The VCAL students are hosting a trivia night to raise money for the Beacon Foundation. It will be held on Friday the 16th of September, at the Border Inn, Moama, commencing at 7pm. Tickets are $15 and will be sold in groups of 10. You can purchase your tickets from the main office at the College. There are lots of fantastic prizes and games organised, so get a table together for a night of fun and entertainment and support this fantastic foundation!!

Walking Club News
Some very pleasant weather is allowing Walking Club to continue uninterrupted on Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes. Congratulations to our top Walker, Taylor Hamilton 8T5 who has now reached the 75km mark. For her effort, she has now claimed a prize of a Skins Towel. This is effort is even more remarkable considering she has not missed a day of walking and when required, organises the registrations (and staff) etc. Hot on Taylor’s heels we have the following students who are well over the 50kms and will soon be matching Taylor’s achievement, Isaac Duffy 8T2, Kara Holmes 7T6, Ashleigh Johns 8T5 and Rhianna McCosker 9T4. Their efforts reward them with a pair of new socks. Mr Armstrong, Emily Davis, Courtney Denham, Emma Favaloro, Lochi Graco, Andrea Sandiego, Mrs. Shirley, Tenaya Williams and Natasha Wilson have all passed the 30kms with another 17 students who have clocked up over 10kms.
New Walkers are most welcome to join. Please meet at the Gym at the start of Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes. Any queries can be directed to Denise Leed, School Nurse.

Reminder to parents to keep paying and depositing money for camps and a big thankyou to those parents for their ongoing support in getting money in on time.

Camps Coordinator - Julie Smith
Northern Rivers Debating

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The intermediate team successfully argued that “funding for education should not be reduced to increase funding for medical research”. The team consisting of Kayla Arkinstall, Felicity Prendergast and Tegan Milne were also winners over Kerang Tech High in the secret debate (topic unknown and prepared on the day). Thanks to Georgia McMurdo for helping with the research and preparation.

The Junior team consisting of Georgia Harris, Siobhan Thompson and Teasha McInnes had a narrow victory over St Joseph’s in the prepared debate on the topic of the” Australian lifestyle being to blame for our obesity epidemic”. In the secret debate the juniors pitted wits against and proved too strong for Boort Secondary College to take out the Junior trophy.

Well done to all competitors and congratulations on winning the Junior and Intermediate debates. Brett McMurdo

Rock Eisteddfod

A huge congratulations goes out to all students that participated in the Rock Eisteddfod public performance on Friday 5th August. We all wish you the best of luck for your performance in Melbourne!!

VETIS Information Evening

Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th August 2011
7.00pm to 9.00pm
Rich River Golf Club Resort
Tatalia Room (1st Floor)
24 Lane, MOAMA

THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS WILL BE PROPOSED FOR OFFER IN 2012 FOR VCE/VCAL STUDENTS IN THE ECHUCA SCHOOL DISTRICT.

The following courses will be presented on Monday 15th August 2011
- Automotive Technology
- Building and Construction
- Electro technology (Electrical)
- Furnishings
- Hospitality (Kitchen Operations)
- Plumbing
- Community Recreation (Sport & Rec)

The following courses will be presented on Tuesday 16th August 2011
- Business
- Community Services (Child, Aged & Disability Care)
- Dance
- Equine Industry
- Fashion Design and Technology
- Hairdressing
- Make Up Services (Beauty Therapy)
- Music

Representatives from schools, training providers and trainers/teachers will be available to discuss these VET programs with you.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL VET CO-ORDINATOR
MOAMA ECHUCA SOCCER CLUB
SHOPPING NIGHT
WED 17th AUG, COST $10
6.15pm at the Harvest Hotel
PRIZE $500 GIFT VOUCHER
Nu Manz, Solz Shoes, Echuca Furniture, CollinsBooks, Prato,
Toy Kingdom, Forty Winks,
House, Bennettts Sports, Vincents, Retravision
Tickets: Club Canteen on Saturdays or Sue Teasdale
ah 54807063 bh 54825333

RivADance Studio
Presents
**Echuca College Debutante Ball**
Rich River Golf Club “Tatalia Room”
Friday 26th - Saturday 27th August 2011
Doors open 6.30pm Presentation 7pm.
Tickets are now on sale and available to purchase
through RivADance studio, on Wednesday nights 8pm -
8.15pm and again from 9.30pm - 9.45pm at the school
Gym in College Drive.
Tickets are priced at $55.00pp including Presentation, 2
Course meal and entertainment, these tickets must be
paid for when ordered, cash or cheque made to
RivADance studio.
Or to view only $15.00pp. (No pre purchase, pay on the
night at the door).
Dress Code: Please no denim, as this is a Ball.
Any further enquiries please ring,
Robyn Hayes 0407 511537 or Collette May 0428 303075

Australian Teenage Expo
Where YOU need to be...for what YOU need to know

**Career** – Helping YOU make the right choices

**Life** - Seek support & guidance on teenage issues

**Stuff** – The latest in products you need and like

**Fun** – Entertainment, acts, prizes & giveaways

PARENTS - This is YOUR chance to be INVOLVED and be INFORMED