Echuca College is not just a school open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Last weekend was a good example of how the College’s facilities can be utilised by the College and Echuca community. Our new Hockey/Tennis field was used all weekend with a large contingent of players from surrounding areas competing on the field on Sunday. The College also supported our local Lions Club’s Junior Public Speaking competition by opening up our Café Learning area for this competition on Sunday. Students in Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 from our local primary school competed in this event. One of our local Church congregations also uses the College facilities for their programs each weekend. Last week school business took priority in the form of course information evenings, and again our great facilities allowed us to provide large audiences with important information in comfortable surroundings. We have a great academic, performing arts, technology, sporting and physical resource in ‘Echuca College’ and we are keen for our community to take full advantage of what we can offer.

Good luck to our Rock Eisteddfod Team on their upcoming performance in the ‘Raw’ division of the Rock Eisteddfod in Melbourne next Thursday. Our team consists of 120 students, 6 staff and a small band of dedicated parents who accept all challenges every day, from sewing duties to morale support and enthusiastic audience. The team will leave for Melbourne at 6am Thursday morning (9th August) to compete in the first round of the competition. Our students performed on Friday at the College as part of their preparation for this year’s event. The performance has helped our dancers to refine their dance movements in preparation for Thursday’s competition. I would like to thank all those who attended the performance for their support and also to the staff involved with the Rock Eisteddfod and a special thanks to our dedicated band of parents. 'Break a leg' on Thursday night.

Congratulations to the students who participated in the Echuca Winter Blues Festival’s - Blues Boot Camp. The students involved included first and second year VET Music students and there was a strong representation of year seven and eight students. Our students joined forces with students from other schools and participated in an intensive two day workshop where, with the help of five industry professionals mentoring them, worked up approximately twenty songs. They performed these songs to a packed crowd at Radcliffe’s on the Friday night. Special mention to Rod Marshall for not only participating in the Boot Camp but for running the PA system, not a small feat considering there were thirty musicians performing on stage at once, four times throughout the evening. This was an ideal opportunity for students to extend their network of like-minded people, enhance their creativity, increase their musical skills and last but not least, show the wider community what fantastic ambassadors Echuca College music students are! Thanks to Mr Spizzica and his great team.

This week Mr Webb, Ms Menz, 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 the 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, we invited Trina and Alyssa Godfrey to provide the audience with a personal insight to post-secondary education options and what parents may encounter next year when their student is applying for university courses and accommodation. Alyssa is studying ‘Early Childhood’ at La Trobe University this year. The VTAC process doesn’t really conclude for students and the College until students have obtained a course and accommodation in early 2013.

Would you like to receive the newsletter via email?
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 Mrs Morrison.

Last week the College conducted three information evenings for students studying Years 10, 11 and 12 (VCE/VET/VCAL programs) in 2013. 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 2013 also had to attend one of two evenings last week at the Rich River Golf Club. Over the next 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.

Next Tuesday the College will hold its 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.

Just a reminder that the course counselling evening for the Yr 8 into Yr 9 for 2013 will be held on Monday 6th August at 7pm in the Café Learning Area

Chris Eeles
College Principal

**Year 7 Tree Planting**

On Monday 23rd of July, 17 enthusiastic year 7 students travelled to Rich River Golf Club Resort to plant trees and shrubs on the course. The aim of the planting day was establish an area around a water source, which is placed near the rear of the driving range. The day was extremely successful, with approximately 700 trees and shrubs being planted in the space of 3 hours. Andrew Johnson (Course Superintendent) invited students in year 7 along for the second year running, as well as committee members, to assist students correctly planting the natives. Three students commented on the day:

‘The tree planting day was so much fun.’ (Jacob Baldock)

‘Tree planting was awesome! I want to go again.’ (Harriet Nilon)

‘Tree planting day was fun and I would recommend it to other people.’ (Jayme Shead)

**Wellbeing**

**Walking Club Report**

Most Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes, an enthusiastic group of walkers can be seen gathering at the Technology offices chomping at the bit and rearing to go. So far we have had 80 students and staff participate in this cheerful and fun activity which usually includes taking a few minutes to try out the exercise stations along the Campaspe River Walking Track. Points/kilometres are awarded each day for walking and bonuses are given for bringing someone who hasn’t walked previously. Leading the pack on 69kms is Kurt Linahan 7T6, closely followed by Josh Phyland 7T4 on 66kms. Harriet Nilon 7T6, Mr Armstrong and Xavier Duffy 7T6 are on 57, 54 and 51 kms respectively, having passed the 50km milestone and received a pair of socks. They are followed by 6 students who have walked more than 30kms (drink bottle) and another 12 who have passed the 10km mark (pen). New walkers are most welcome to participate in this lunchtime activity. For more information see the school nurse, Denise Leed.

**Sport News**

Echuca College will be holding the Athletics Sports next Tuesday August 7th, they will be held on the School Oval. All students are expected to attend and come dressed in your community colours: Kanyapella - blue, Moira - green, Perricoota - red and Whaparilla - yellow. The canteen will be selling dim sims, hot dogs and other items and VCAL students will be running a B-B-Q on the day. Every student who participates in an event gets points for their Community.
Year 10

Shire of Campaspe Visit
On Monday 30th July, Year 10 law students visited the Shire of Campaspe. Here they extended their knowledge of local government by conducting a ‘council meeting’ with the Mayor Kevin Simpson. They also enjoyed a tour of the offices.

Year 11

Year 11 Camp Melbourne 2012
Fifty-three Year 11 students attended a 3 day in camp recently. The purpose of the camp was to familiarise students with University and Tafe campuses.

We stayed in Newman College student accommodation next to Melbourne University. Students had their own rooms and experienced what it would be like to be a university student.

As well as the uni and tafe tours, students had dinner at Lygon St, went to the movies at Melbourne Central Theatres and went ice skating. Most students stayed on their feet while skating and occasionally let go of the rails. Steve McKee had some spectacular falls and ended up hurting her ankle, not too seriously.

Student behaviour and enthusiasm outstanding, it was a pleasure to take such a wonderful groups of students out of the school. Thankyou very much to Mr Glenn Webb and Mr Alan Corby for their work on the camp.

VCE/VCAL

Information Nights
Thank you to all the parents and students that attended the information nights last 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.

Exam motivation for Year 12s
With only 7 weeks of school left before final exam preparations begin, Echuca College was very lucky to be able to secure funding, through School Focused Youth Services (SFYS) and Campaspe Cohuna Local Learning & Employment Network (CCLLEN) to allow Mark Dobson, a motivational speaker, to give the Year 12’s a pre-exam rev up.

Many of the students that attended this presentation were able to realize that all students are experiencing a wide range of emotions in regards to these last SACs and November exams. What was so entertaining and great about Dobbo’s message was the reminder that they all have very different ways to approach these SACs and exams, and that their way of coping with these demands are okay if they include some basic principles into their study routines. By providing these strategies it is hoped that the Year 12 students, over the remaining weeks, will find a new way and energy to make the most effective use of their valuable time. The year 12 students would like to thank Paul Robinson for arranging for Dobbo to speak to the group – a perfect time to put everything into perspective.

Unit 4 Outdoor and Environmental Studies Snow Camp
Last week 21 Unit 4 Outdoor and Environmental Studies students and 2 lucky staff members went to Bogong Outdoor Education Centre for 5 action packed days of fun and learning. The weather was kind and ski conditions were great, which made for a lot of fun in the snow! Students experienced 2 days of downhill skiing and 1 of cross country. Presentations from Parks Victoria and Falls Creek Resort Management gave us an insight into the wonderful environment in the area and the strategies put in place to make Falls Creek and the surrounding Alpine National Park a fun place to be, but also sustainable for our native flora and fauna. 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 Eeles for all his help and enthusiasm. Miss Menz

Congratulations
Congratulations to Javais Ham who has qualified for the National Interschool Equestrian Championships to be held in September. Javais finished in the top 4 of the state championships which secured her spot for the national competition. We wish her all the best!

Mark Dobson aka “Dobbo”
Motivational speaker “Dobbo” was at the College last Wednesday, 25 July where he presented to students in years 9, 10 and 12.

The intention behind Dobbo’s presentations was that he would be an effective agent for raising awareness of pertinent issues affecting young people. For year 12 students at the half way mark of the academic year issues such as: fatigue, feeling disheartened, coming back stronger than before, lack of motivation, regaining momentum and dealing with stress. Dobbo offered students a series of strategies to refresh and refocus. This includes resetting targets, knowing how to take breaks that actually refresh and rethinking what resources we could utilise better.

For yr 9 and 10 students Dobbo provided insight and strategies in relating to the opposite sex, reducing risk at parties, being treated well in relationships, be yourself and developing into a mature adult. Following Dobbo’s presentation to year 9 and 10 the students were then engaged for the rest of the day in a variety of Health and Well Being workshops run by staff and outside presenters. Dobbo’s presentation was made possible by support from School Focused Youth Services(SFYS) and Campaspe Cohuna Local Learning & Employment Network (CCLLEN)
Echuca Moama Hockey Club

Are inviting you to join us for our Dinner dance.

Where - “The Venue”, Moama Bowling club
When - 11th August 2012
7pm till 12midnight. Attire - Formal Dress
Cost - $45 per person. for a 2 course meal and entertainment. Drinks at bar prices. Prizes to be won and auctions to be bid on.
RSVP - 1st August 2012, Jodee Shead moweld@bigpond.com
54826422, 730 Stratton rd Echuca. Annette Bonk cabonk1276@tpg.com.au
Payments to be given to Annette or Jodee ASAP. Please book before or on the RSVP date.
This is our major fundraiser. Gather your mates Get a table together and support your hockey club so we can raise money to better our new turf and training facilities.

EC’s Master chefs
Whitney White and Kaitlyn Wills will be representing Echuca College at the regional final of the Murray River Culinary Challenge, after winning the school level finals last week.
The Culinary Challenge is a Master chef style competition that sees VET Hospitality students all along the Murray River compete in a series of ‘cook offs’ to win a place at the Grand Final in September.
The event is co-ordinated in our region by the Campaspe Cohuna Local Learning and Employment Network and hosted by BRIT. Students were required to cook three dishes – a nicoise salad, veal scaloppine and crème Brule – within 2 hours.
Judging the competition were chefs Scott Pitts from Ceres Restaurant, Lynden Goulding from Radcliffes, Barry Moyle of Moama RSL and Paul Cohen from Rich River.
Best of luck in the regional finals Whitney and Kaitlyn!

Holiday News

Sri Lankan Experience
During the Semester break and at the start of Term 3 I was fortunate enough to visit Sri Lanka, a small island country about the size of Tasmania off the southern coast of India with a population the size of Australia. It was a truly amazing country with remarkable, friendly people, despite a high level of poverty.
One of the most memorable experiences of the journey was the visit to local schools, including a junior school where we distributed some mini ‘socceroo’ soccer balls and cards along with some basic school supplies of pens and pencils. The gratitude of the students verged on embarrassing but was truly delightful. We were then treated to some entertainment from the students including nursery rhymes and songs sung in clear English and speeches also given in English. This was, for some the children, their third language, and from kids as young as 5 years old! We were in awe of their talents. It was quite humbling to witness the reaction of the children to our gifts and presence. They were some of the most polite and happiest young people I have had the pleasure to meet and yet the reminders of their poverty and low standards of living were ever present. Further highlights of the adventure were the safaris, the immersion into Buddhist culture, the spices of Sri Lankan cuisine, surf beaches of the south, the tea plantations in the highlands and the colour and diversity of the local markets. Undoubtedly, an outstanding experience in a fascinating country. Stewart Cheal

ROCK EISTEDDFOD OPEN REHEARSALS
Come along and watch your Rock Eisteddfod team’s full dress rehearsals on Friday August 3rd at 4pm or 6pm.

INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF THE ECHUCA CHEER SQUAD?
THERE IS A SPECTATOR BUS GOING TO MELBOURNE ON AUGUST 9TH - see general office for details