Important Dates

August
14th
Yr 9 2014 Course 
Counselling Day
Yr. 7 & 8 Pupil Free

15th
Yr. 10 2014 Course 
Counselling Day
Yr. 9 Pupil Free
SSV Basketball 
Yr. 7 & Inter

20th
Echuca College 
Athletics Sports Day

21st
Girls Football 
Rochester

22nd
Yr 10 & 11 English 
Plays

22nd & 23rd
Beacon Mock 
Interviews

Sept
3rd
SSV Athletics

VET Music Exc

13th
Youth Expo 
Echuca College

16th - 24th
Central Australia 
Camp
Malaysia Tour

20th
Last day of Term 3

Principal’s Report

‘Diversity Our Strength’

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 Spizicia and his great team.

Last 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 2014 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, we invited Alyssa Godfrey to provide the audience with a personal insight to post-secondary education options and what students may encounter next year when applying for university courses and accommodation. Alyssa is studying ‘Early Childhood’ at La Trobe University. Kaye McGrath also shared her insights from the parent perspective, Kaye’s son Wade is studying Physiotherapy at Charles Sturt University. The VTAC process doesn’t really conclude for students and the College until students have obtained a course and accommodation in early 2014. 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 Costin.

On behalf of the College I would like to congratulate Jess Pitts on her achievements to date and wish her all the best in coming weeks as she participates in the under 17 Australian Girls Soccer Team where she will play in a game against New Zealand in Canberra and if she plays well on to the World Cup qualifiers in China.

Late last month the College conducted three information evenings for students studying Years 10, 11 and 12 (VCE/VETis/VCAL programs) in 2014. 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. The following week the College organised and hosted two VETis information sessions with over 250 students from across the district attending over the two evening. I would like to thank the Moama Bowling Club for their support in helping us to present the two VETis evenings. In addition to this, during this month 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.

On Tuesday the 20th of August the College will hold its Athletics Carnival. 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.
Moama Bowling Club played host to some 600 students and parents at the annual Regional VET in Schools Information Nights for 2014 on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th July.

Echuca College is proud to facilitate the highly successful vocational training program on behalf of Echuca College, St Josephs College, Cohuna Secondary College and Rochester Secondary College. In 2013 14 vocational certificates are being completed by more than 300 students across the region, in addition to their senior school (Year 10 and VCE/VCAL) studies.

Certificates offered for the coming year include Automotive, Beauty, Building and Construction, Business, Children’s Services, Dance, Disability Services, Engineering, Equine Industry, Events, Integrated Technology, Furniture Making, Hospitality, Hairdressing, Plumbing, Music and Sport and Recreation.

Certificates are delivered by expert trainers who have experience in the field. They are held both on location at Echuca College, and externally at venues such as BRIT, Billabong Ranch, and next year Murray Human Services.

Most importantly VETiS Certificates allow students to pursue areas of interest and passion whilst still within the Education System, and gain recognition for those studies with employers for post school life.

Interest in courses for 2014 should be expressed through the Course Counselling sessions. Further information and inquiries can be directed to Rachel McAsey on 5482 1133.

PS Canberra Turns 100

Echuca College was represented by Meagan and Courtney Johnson and Ms Caitlyn King-Jones as the PS Canberra celebrated one hundred years of operation. Our students enjoyed a ride on the Canberra and celebrated with morning tea, the College was presented with a plaque to commemorate the event.

Sport

Year 8 Boys soccer Team

It was a very cold winter’s morning when the Year 8 Boys Soccer Team took on the might of Mildura and Bendigo after their superb performances the previous week against the local schools. Our Echuca College lads began the match against a highly skilled Mildura team with terrific enthusiasm and worked really hard for each other to keep the scores deadlocked 0–0 at half time. A fast break from Isaac almost resulted in a superb counter-attacking goal. Alas, the second half saw a penalty and lucky goal go the way of our opponents who posted a well earned 2–0 victory. There was some disciplined defence from Amos, Billy, Jakob and William whilst James and Isaac showed touches of class in the mid and up front. We then confronted an extremely confident BCC unit who had disposed of the highly fancied Bendigo South-East in an earlier round. It proved to be ‘mission impossible’ as the BCC boys used poor Jakob in goals for target practice. The fellas battled valiantly but succumbed ‘many – 0’. Despite only playing for pride in their final fixture against Swan Hill, our boys went out determined to balance the ledger with a win ... And win they certainly did! James crafted a lovely chip over the hapless keeper in the first 30 seconds. Coach Chealy had barely put his ‘board’ down when the back of the net was rattled! Through accurate passes and mazy runs into the heart of the Swan Hill defence, Echuca constructed 4 excellent goals before half-time and match was all over. James had a hat-trick and Isaac scored one. There were commendable contributions from many of the lads including Clayton, Wade, Liam, Amos and Billy although, with his 3 goals, James deserved the accolades. Overall, a great day, the Echuca College boys should be justly proud of their performances, given many of the opposition were involved in soccer academies from their respective regions. MVP – Isaac Warren with tireless running and enormous commitment.

Chris Eeles
College Principal
Senior Boys Basketball
The Loddon Mallee event held in Echuca was very competitive and the boys, despite not winning a game, improved throughout the five games against much taller and experienced opposition. Kade Saunders and Sam Cummins, controlled the ball down the court and Brenton Case, Jake Toll and Dylan Abela were good on the boards.

Echuca College Athletics
On Tuesday August 20th the House Athletics sports will be held at the College. Students are encouraged to dress in Community colours, (Perricoota – red, Wharparilla – yellow, Kanyapella – blue and Moira - green), rather than school uniform. All students who participate in an event will get points for their House. A Canteen stall and VCAL B-B-Q will be operating on the day.

Year 8 Netball
On Thursday 25 July, the victorious Year 8 girls netball team ventured to the chilly Echuca South courts hoping to leave as the Loddon Mallee Regional winners. Our first match saw us take on a short Maryborough team. Georgia McKellar was lightning quick in the midcourt, applying outstanding pressure over the ball. Lyndall Taylor was equally as impressive running the centre with ease. EC were eventual winners by 12 goals. Our second match saw us take on an extremely tall St Joe’s Mildura...they made us look like midgets!! Kelly Gould was impressive to watch in wing defence, her tight defence making her opponent think twice. Tyler Thompson’s movement in the goal circle was on song, converting the few opportunities we were given. Alas, our efforts were not enough. Our bad luck continued against the other Mallee team, Swan Hill College. Sarah Hilet caused a headache in wing defence, whilst Rebecca McCluskey was clean in defence taking several rebounds. We were able to bounce back on the winners list with a come from behind win against Donald HS. In a physical encounter, Ashleigh Cartlidge was extremely accurate in the goal ring – sinking the long bombs and earning her the team’s MVP nomination. Steph Chong drove hard right in the wing attack, feeding the goalers seamlessly. In a nail biter, we won by a solitary goal. Our last match for the day saw us take on Catholic College Bendigo (eventual section winners) – who looked as tall as the Vixens and like they had been training together that long too! Ireland Hayes, dual MVP nominee, tried relentlessly in defence contesting every ball possible. Alas, our efforts were not enough with us going down by 3 (or so?!). Thanks to Mr Pearson and Cam Prowse-Wilkins for organising the tournament. Special mention to Tyanah Case who was our team umpire. The girls were excellent sports and represented the College admirably, making Mrs Jones proud – “we might not have been the best team, but we are the best looking team!”

Shakespeare Comes to Echuca College
On Thursday August 22nd the highly regarded Complete Works Theatre Company will be performing the Shakespeare classics “Macbeth” and “Romeo and Juliet” at Echuca College. The performances have been arranged to assist VCE and Year 10 students studying these plays. Each performance will be followed by a discussion forum for students to further their understanding of the key concepts and themes that were central Shakespeare’s plays. “Macbeth” will be performed during lessons 3 and 4 and “Romeo and Juliet” will be performed during lessons 5 and 6.

Wellbeing

BIG CAMP 2014 Challenging Perceptions, Changing Lives
BIG CAMP for Boys - January 04-11, 2014 BIG CAMP for Girls - January 12-18, 2014
Forms Now Available!!!

- It’s Free to apply
- Both the participant forms and the referral forms are now online

What is BIG CAMP? BIG CAMP brings together young people from diverse backgrounds to challenge the perceptions they hold of themselves and others. For one week in January, participants work together through a range of unique challenging activities to develop skills such as self-confidence, determination and teamwork. Participants will push themselves and their team mates and will be inspired to achieve their goals by a range of high profile motivational speakers.

The BIG CAMP program is divided into two specifically designed camps: one for boys known as Lord Somers Camp (4-11 January 2014) and one for girls known as Lady Somers Camp (12-18 January 2014).

Who’s it for? BIG CAMP is for any young person between 16 to 18 years. Participants come from across Victoria, interstate and overseas, and from all cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds. We believe young people who display a willingness to participate, are accepting of others, and willing to challenge themselves will benefit significantly from the BIG CAMP experience.

Why go to BIG CAMP? There is nothing like BIG CAMP and it really is a life changing experience! It is an intense, challenging and fun week where young people are encouraged to push themselves and achieve things they never thought possible. Following BIG CAMP participants return with increased self-confidence, more determination, and greater insight into their own and others’ potential. They learn skills that will help them to achieve their goals and are inspired to become the people they want to be.

Where is BIG CAMP held? BIG CAMP takes place at our beach-side campsite at Somers, on Westernport Bay, Victoria. Among picturesque surroundings we have established fantastic facilities to ensure guests are comfortable, safe, happy and well fed.

Interested? Check it out at: www.lordsomerscamp.org.au or See Mr. Robinson for further information.

Note: Applications submitted by September 9, 2013 will be given preference.
Youth expo coming soon.
Friday September 13th @ Echuca College for all Yr. 7—10 students.
Echuca College Gym

NATIONAL DINOSAUR MUSEUM CANBERA

Dinosaurs Down Under

DATE: Saturday 10th August
TIME: 10am - 2.30pm
PROGRAM: Displays & Talks
Talk 1 - 11am  Talk 2 - 1pm

Echuca Library, 310 Hare St, ECHUCA

WHERE THE GIANTS OF THE PAST COME TO LIFE!