

Important Dates

December

9th

- Orientation Day - Year 7's 2015

11th

- School Council

16th

- Echuca College Celebrates - Awards Night

19th

- Last Day of School

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Echuca College News

2014 VET Industry Tours



Our 2015 VET students participated in an industry tour on Wednesday. Students had the opportunity to visit businesses and organisations in Echuca that related to the chosen course. Our Furnishing students visited Bunnings, St Annes Winery and Nullabor Sustainable Timber. The Building and Construction students visited Echuca Building Centre, Bunnings and Foodmach. Other businesses that were involved in the tour included Manchester Tanks, Maddison Spa, Moama Bowling Club, Moama RSL, Snap Fitness, Morley Ford, Billabong Ranch, Good Start Childcare and Ceres. Our Beauty students completed a walking tour and visited a number of hair and beauty

salons in the central business district. Echuca South Primary, the Campaspe Shire Library and Bendigo TAFE also offered workshops for our students.

The students benefited from experiencing the different work places and opportunities in the Echuca Moama district. It also gave students an insight into pathways their VET studies good lead to.



Year 11 student Mollie Gundry has been diagnosed with a rare form of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Echuca College will "GO GREEN 4 MOLLIE" on Friday the 5th of Dec to support Mollie and her family. Students and staff are encouraged to dress in all things green.

All money raised will be sent to Mollie and her family to support them during Mollie's treatment. Activities on will include green hairspray, nail painting and many other fun activities - it would be great to see as many students and staff as possible dress in green to support this beautiful family.

Week 3 from China



Dear all,

Ni Hao,

It is hard to believe that only last Sunday our initial team of Alpine staff changed over and we had the second team arrive in the morning. Since then, we have continued to be busy and that morning the students finished painting their designs onto the doors at the local primary school. The Principal and all local families of students were extremely happy with the end result. The brightly coloured doors helped provide a facelift to the

school.

In the afternoon students got to experience a traditional Chinese Lion Dance, which was loud and entertaining. Some students even got to have a turn at playing the drums and getting inside the Lion and having a go at bringing it to life. It was a great way to send off the departing staff members.

That evening a talent show was held and some of the finest talent we have seen amongst Alpine School students was put on show. Guitars, keyboard, duet and solo singing, even a magic card trick was shared. Another positive night.

On Monday, our students spent the day as tourists in Dongguan city. Being only an hour away by transport, it has 8.2million people living there. We visited two museums which highlighted the Opium wars that China faced when the British came to China to try and sell Opium. We also had a walk through a Fort on the foreshore that was underneath the Humen Bridge. This bridge is quite an amazing structure that spans some 5 km.

The day finished with a trip into a shopping mall (Dynacity) to highlight what globalization is doing to China. It was a very Western style Mall with most shops being very familiar brands that you would find anywhere around the western world. The students enjoyed spending some money on food and souvenirs. The supermarket was the biggest hit.

Tuesday saw us visit yet another city. Old and new. Rich, poor and middle class, today provided students a snapshot into the fascinating and multi-faceted aspects of modern China. We started the day with a bus trip to the centre of Guangzhou city to visit the Canton Tower. Travelling through a city of 30 plus million people is an eye opening experience before the day's activities begin, with many opportunities to observe the comings and goings of daily life in a big city. Canton Tower is the second tallest building in the world, and from the viewing platform at 480 meters above

ground level, it gave students a better understanding of the size and scope of China's third largest city. Following this experience the students then made a discovery walk in small groups through a traditional medicine market in a different area of the city. Dried snake, scorpion, cockroach, deer antler and turtles were just a few of the interesting goods you could buy. We then walked on foot to a pedestrian shopping precinct, where our group was photographed many times by curious locals. This experience gave us an insight to the growing middle class of China and provided a unique opportunity for students to further develop their intercultural awareness.

On Wednesday, our students had some time to work on their projects then prepare and practise for their second English teaching experience. They went to a middle school in Zengcheng and taught up to 50 students in pairs. They were teaching English to Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 level students. Once again, they all did an amazing job. The Zengcheng students they taught were really engaged and then at the end of their lesson treated us all like 'celebrities' or 'rock stars'. Our students were hounded for their autographs at the end of the session and it was hard to get all the students back on the bus to head back to Utahloy.

Thursday saw us return to the local Primary school for the last time to complete the community service project of painting the school's concrete walls. Our students did a fantastic job and enjoyed the opportunity to leave a legacy of doing a service for others. They were very productive and painted a long section of the back wall. It must have been at least 40 metres in length. Again their Principal, staff and parents were appreciative. The afternoon was filled with project work and the evening with a session on globalisation and its impact.

Today we visited the Hitachi factory plant to see the technology behind and witness the assembly of elevators and escalators. The factory was very clean with huge internal cranes responsible for moving large structures for assembling. This was again another eye opening experience as this particular Hitachi factory plant employed over 2000 Chinese people!

Tomorrow morning we are heading off at 6.00am to travel to Yangshou located in the neighbouring province to Guangdong. We return on Thursday evening (Nov 27th) before two final very busy days here at the Utahloy International School. Thus far it has been an amazingly enriching experience for all and our students have continued to rise to all of the challenges faced, experienced and been set to do. They have become a supportive group and I expect them to continue building positively this coming week as we head to Yangshou.

Talk soon.

'Zaijian'

Kind regards,

Russell Shem - Campus Principal



Our Year 9 students participated in a day focused on Information Communication and Technology. The ICT: It's Everywhere forum involved a number of specialised workshops, guest speakers and hands on activities. The keynote speaker was David Joss, CEO Community Telco engaged the students and demonstrated some of the new technologies available. Workshops included La Trobe University Games Technology and LEAP into Engineering Robotics, Splatoon Cartoons, Realm Building Design, Community Telco - Mobie Apps, CCLLEN-Broadening Horizons and Dairy Technology. A highlight for many students was the opportunity to use and manipulate the robotic vehicles.

CCLLEN VET Awards and Scholarships



Once again it is with great pleasure that I am able to bring to your attention some outstanding student achievements. This week the Campaspe Cohuna LLEN hosted the 'VET in Schools Excellence Awards' at the Moama Bowling Club. Echuca College had 12 students nominated for awards and we had three students receive awards for excellence in their chosen areas. Madeleine Clark-Grundy (Beauty Studies), Isaac Duffy (Community and Children's Services) and Luke Dusina (Hospitality) The College also received notification last week from the University of Melbourne that two of our students had received scholarships into the prestigious 'Kwong Lee Dow Program'. Meagan Johnson and Tim Denson will travel to Melbourne in December to be officially welcomed into the program with other participants, and to meet Professor Kwong Lee Dow. The scholarship Program allows students to participate in a range of activities and enhance their secondary school studies, inspires their career plans and provides an opportunity to interact with the University community.

Principal Report November 2014



Last week I had the privilege of interviewing the candidates for the College Captain positions for 2015. The candidates had a series of questions that they had to respond to during their interview with the Principal Class. All responded in a confident manner and had clearly thought about how they would conduct themselves if elected to the position of College Captain. The candidates delivered their campaign speeches to the Year 11 and some Year 10 students and this was followed by a ballot that day. All candidates were very impressive. Equally impressive was the audience of students who eventually voted on the day. I am happy to announce that our Captains for 2015 are Amy Wright and Corey McGrath. Our Vice Captains are Georgia

Harris and Dan Gretgrix. I look forward to working with them next year and the College community wishes them all the best.

Over the last fortnight the College has been busy with preparations for 2015. Next week the College will commence its new 'Academic Year' and once again it will enable our students to get a head start on 2015. In the majority of cases student will follow the same timetable day one next year and teachers will be the same. Students can now look forward to 2015 with a greater insight into the year's study. The 2015 VCE students finish their program on the Friday 5th December and the remaining levels of Years 8, 9 and 10 (2014's Y7, 8 and 9) will finish their programs on the 12th December. The last week of school will see an alternative program put in place for those levels and school finishes on the 19th December. All students are expected at school next week for the start of the new Academic year and failure to attend will put students well behind their peers at the start of 2015.

This year's Orientation Day for Grade 6 into Year 7 will be on the 9th December. The College always looks forward to meeting our new students and Orientation Day is always a day of mixed emotions for Grade 6 students; whilst excited about the thought of entering the College, most are uncertain on how this transition will take place. Over the last 12 months Echuca College and its partner primary schools have worked hard at reducing the concerns held by students moving from primary to secondary schooling. Enrolments for 2015 are still open and if families have not enrolled as yet please contact the general office at Echuca College 54821133.

VCE results for our Year 12 students will not be known until Monday 15th December when the VCAA (Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority) forward scores to students. VCE certificates and formal documentation will be sent to the College for distribution at the end of the year at our celebration evening on the 16th December. To celebrate their 13 years of education and completion of examinations, the College held its Year 12 Graduation Dinner last Thursday 20th November at the Moama Bowling Club. The evening provided students, parents, guests and teachers with an opportunity to celebrate the great year that we have experienced and a chance for the students to say their farewells to friends and teachers. It was great to see so many former students attend the evening, some home from university and others doing casual work over the holidays. I would like to thank the Year 12 organizing team, led by our College Captains and Ms. Watson, for an outstanding and entertaining evening.

Our successful 'Peer Support' program for Year 7 students will run for all of first term next year. The focus of the program is to support Year 7 students during the first few months of the year and also to provide a senior student as a friend to talk to if the need arises. This week, 30 Year 10 students were trained as 'Peer Support' leaders and while their main function is to support their younger peers, the training is valuable to them as leaders in the College. The leaders and their groups will meet early into term one and during this time complete activities that provide an opportunity for conversations about school, classes and how the transition from primary to secondary school is going. Students will meet at different times each week to avoid missing the same class and at the end of the term all Year 7s and their leaders will meet for a final celebration. The goal of the program is to help Year 7 students to feel comfortable in their new environment and to also make their secondary experience a great experience.



Our Year 11 students nominating for School Captain presented their speeches to the Years 10 and 11 cohorts and their teachers. All the students represented themselves and their fellow students exceptionally well. The speeches, like the candidates were diverse, well-crafted and engaging. All the candidates are to be congratulated on their wonderful presentations and should be very proud of themselves. I would like to share some quotes from the engaging speeches today;

“I know that being a leader isn’t just about bossing people around; it’s about guiding and helping people to reach their goals and stepping up as a young adult to become a great representative for Echuca College.” Tiffany Chong.

“If I was chosen as one of the Echuca College school captains, I would be sure to represent the school in a positive manner, and do it whilst remaining formal and easy to communicate with. My knowledge of teamwork and experience of leading would aid in portraying Echuca College as a safe and supportive school to study at.” Corey McGrath.

“So what sets me apart from the other leaders? When I encounter an obstacle I turn around to my peers and group them together so we can overcome the obstacle together.” Daniel Gretgrix.

Erik Holt-Crossman spoke about his journey on the Kokoda Trek, “The hardship that those soldiers went through is unimaginable, but if I were to sum up their efforts in 4 words they would be mateship, endurance, courage and sacrifice. Skills that I learnt on the trek are skills I will keep for the rest of my life.”

“Echuca College needs somebody who can show the Echuca Moama community that Echuca College is a fantastic school that is proving time and time again that we are a school of creative, intelligent, bright people.” Georgia Harris.

“I believe a school captain needs to be good at communicating, confident, cooperative, encouraging, inclusive, a good role model and responsible because you need to encourage and work with your peers, communicate with school council and represent Echuca College in a positive manner.” Marley Jones.

“You have all helped me achieve so much, but now I would like to show each of you what I can truly do, how far I can step out of my comfort zone, how far I can diversify my strength and how far I can stretch my leadership towards others, and help support Echuca College.” Isaac Duffy

“A good leader is someone who makes decisions, takes action and understands that to achieve success you have to be willing to see your goals through to the end, a good leader is what I aspire to be.” Amy Wright.

“Over my time at Echuca College, I’ve seen past captains come and go and one thing I realised is that not only were they all great leaders of the school but just genuine people who all had one common goal in their last year to represent and not only lead but serve the school as one. I’m running for school captain today, not only because I feel I could change the school but more so continue to help the school grow and flourish within itself and the community and uphold our motto diversity our strength.” Hannah Sinclair.

Year 7 Downball Competition



Congratulations to Kyal Accurso winner of the Year 7 Downball Competition. The competition was played in good spirits and was very competitive. The rounds were very close and the eventual winner a deserving one as he has been consistent all year. Runner Up Riley Souter also played well and has been a consistent player all year. Thanks goes to Mr Cheal for organising the competition and the great trophy.



Macbeth.com success at the Georgy Awards



A group of Echuca College students travelled to the Eastbank Theatre in Shepparton, on 15/11, to attend the annual Georgy Award Presentations, accompanied by Mr Muller and Mr Jones, various parents and other members of the macbeth.com cast and crew.

The Georgy Awards celebrate the year's achievements of dozens of schools and Theatre Groups in the region. Echuca College was invited to perform an excerpt from our 2014 Production – macbeth.com. Reba Brown, Brittany Barnard, Jarren Duncan, Tarika Oosthuizen, Briana Creed, Savannah Ogden, Josh Heddle and Zali McKee did a brilliant job performing a short scene and song from our play and held their heads up high amongst some very intimidating company.

macbeth.com and Echuca College were also awarded the Georgy's Encouragement Award for our efforts this year. That entailed receiving a plaque and a cheque for \$250. Zali McKee received the award on behalf of the team and made a wonderful speech.

We are very proud on a number of fronts. Firstly for being invited to perform, secondly for Zali's calm maturity in receiving the award, thirdly that we were the only school to receive an award, also that we were the only act to have live musical accompaniment and that our students so patiently enjoyed four hours of musical theatre!

macbeth.com was a vehicle for amazing personal growth for so many of our students this year. To stand nervously backstage awaiting their opportunity at a huge theatre event, then deal with those nerves and perform so well in front of a knowledgeable audience just served to remind these guys why they signed up for a school production in the first place.



Dear all,

'Ni Hao' from China.

This past week has been very positive yet again. We have certainly been kept busy to say the least, as last Sunday we headed to Hong Kong. Getting there was an adventure in itself as this involved two separate bus trips, a border crossing through customs, followed by a ferry ride to a quiet little fishing bay off the coast of Hong Kong Island, then a 30 minute walk up and over a hill to reach a beautiful cliff lined valley with a sandy beach at the bottom. This was Pak Lap Wan, which means Pak Lap Bay. This was wonderful scenery.

Over the next three days spent there, our students were challenged in many ways, either emotionally from camping on the beach in tents alongside one another or physically by walking 8 kilometres via some steep tracks and hills to visit one of the neighbouring beaches. They also learnt all about the freshwater dam, Geo Park rock formations and geological history of the area. They were all involved in abseiling, sea kayaking and raft building which for many took them out of their comfort zones at different times, yet they all rose above to meet expectations and now realise how resilient they are. They have reflected on how these activities have helped strengthen themselves as individuals and as a whole group, as they relied on one another for emotional or physical support. Overall, it was a great trip to Pak Lap Wan.

Upon our return to the Utahloy International School, the next morning we made a second visit to the Zengcheng No 1 High School and immersed ourselves in their 30 minute morning exercise routine which involved stretching, then a jog around their sports ground. This was quite a spectacle to witness and a huge logistical exercise coordinating 3000 students to run around so they do not run into each other. Alas, after this mandatory warm up, we broke into small groups and were taken to different classes to teach English to their students. Our students were mostly paired up and we had almost 20 classes being taught simultaneously. Each classroom had between 40 -50 Chinese students in them. This was incredible opportunity for our VYLC (Victorian Young Leaders to China) students and they carried themselves with great pride, engagement and enjoyment. All of the Chinese students and their staff really enjoyed our visit, as did our VYLC students for the experience.

The afternoon was spent on the Utahloy property learning about the importance of bees, worms and sustainable farming looking at the bee hives, compost and vegetable garden. That evening we witnessed some traditional Chinese medicine being practiced like massage, acupuncture and cupping as we had a visit from a local practicing traditional Chinese doctor. This was another great opportunity for intercultural learning.

Last Friday we visited the Baishui Waterfall which boasts having the biggest waterfall drop in mainland China. To reach the top you need to climb 9999 steps. Being a large group as we are, we climbed to around 4600 steps to a reservoir which had a wonderful view down the valley, albeit being a bit hazy on the day. I am told the view is much the same as you climb the remaining steps. Nonetheless, as some tired bodies and tight calf muscles ensued everyone did extremely well. Here is a link to the waterfall

http://www.lifeofguangzhou.com/node_10/node_35/node_155/node_525/node_526/2006/11/14/116348098011083.shtml

After the busy schedule of the past weeks, a rest day was planned so the students could relax and have some 'down time'. This was much appreciated and a great way to 'recharge' their energy levels. Our new team of teaching staff arrived this morning; hence a handover has taken place. We thank them for their guidance and input into the program thus far and wish them a safe return home.

Only two more weeks to go until our China experience is over and I can guarantee it will go fast. More busy times are scheduled for next week.

'Zaijian'

Kind regards,

Russell Shem - Campus Principal

Large number of Lockers for sale.

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CLASS of 2014 GRADUATION



Inland Outrigger Canoe School's Challenge 2014



ICT: IT'S EVERYWHERE

