Worth Reading

Newsletter of Western Port Secondary College

No 7, July 2010

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Year 10 Western Port Secondary students celebrating their Beacon Charter signing day, with Mr Nicholls opening address. Guest speakers included past students Brendan McCarthy, Nathan Patterson, Courtney Walker, Dan Wise and Megan Keulen who all spoke about their personal experience during school to work/apprenticeship/university transition.

Anthony Garnham from Beacon Foundation spoke of the successful program at Western Port Secondary College, having been named the ‘Best No Dole School in Australia’ for helping young people achieve personal and career goals.

The keynote speaker was Mr Luke Cain, international rifle shooter whose aim is to represent Australia at the 2012 Paralympics Games in London. Mr Cain was just 19 when a freak accident during a football game between Rosebud and Hastings in 1999 left him a paraplegic.

The year 10 students had their moment in the spotlight on stage, shaking hands with the panel and signing a pledge to commit themselves to remain in education, employment or training.

Gina Mathers
Hello to the Western Port Secondary College community. Welcome back to Term 3 and I hope all families had a restful break. You will have received end of semester 1 reports and I would ask that you discuss with your child their learning goals for semester 2. I have listed some questions below to consider:

- What is your homework routine?
- Where do you complete your homework?
- Do you use a diary regularly to document when tasks are due?
- Where is your major tasks timeline?
- What can I do better in class to maximise my success?

On Friday 18th June we held our annual Beacon Charter signing event for all Year 10 students. This was a wonderful event attended by many people including representatives from Beacon, local industry, parent/carers, staff and students. It was interesting to hear the stories of Western Port Secondary College students who have moved onto different pathways including university and apprenticeships.

The highlight of the event was to hear from Luke Cain who spoke about the football accident that led to him becoming a paraplegic. Since this occurred Luke has taken up the wheelchair sport of air rifle shooting and has become one of the best in the world at this discipline. Luke won the Oceania Championship 10m Prone Air Rifle title late last year shooting 597 out of 600, and defeated a former world champion in the competition. His next goal is the World Championships in Croatia, and his long term goal is representing Australia at the Paralympics Games in London 2012. We wish to thank Luke for giving his time to the College to tell his story. We would also like to thank members of the senior school team who facilitated the event and in particular acknowledge Gina Mathers who coordinates the Beacon Program.

Organisational matters
Senior School Expo: Wednesday 28th July. This important night will update families about VCE, VET and VCAL course options.

Course counselling for Year 9 and 10 students will be held on Wednesday 4th August. It is very important you attend this day to discuss the appropriate course options for next year.

If your child arrives late to school or is leaving early please supply a note with a reason. All students are to sign in/out via the front office. If your child has an unexplained absence by end of period 1 you will be notified via SMS.

We are now expecting all students to be in correct uniform as stated earlier. We would also remind families that students are required to have the correct jumper with colder months ahead. The College will not accept that hangs out under uniform items such as long sleeve tops under polo tops.

Andrew Nicholls
Principal

**NUMERCY**

Numeracy at Western Port Secondary College

I would like to remind all parents and students that the Numeracy centre is based in the HEX, and will be open at lunchtime every day except Friday for students from any year level for help with their Maths. This year we will be registering for world Maths day. Students can log onto Mathletics at school or at home and complete as many live questions as possible. There will be prizes for students and schools completing the most questions. Class Maths teachers will have more information soon.

If you have any queries regarding our programs please feel free to contact the College and speak to me.

Jacqui Smith
Numeracy Co-ordinator
We are pleased to be able to offer the Hands On Learning Program in Semester 2 this year. This program is not subsidised by DEECD. We have been successful in getting a total grant of $20,360 from South East Water and a philanthropic trust to cover wages and create a significant wetland in the Outdoor Classroom. This will provide a wonderful resource across the curriculum but for science in particular. Students participating in Hands On Learning will be involved in planning for the excavation of the site, the construction of pathways, bridges, boardwalks and seating. Students from the Environment Group will also be involved with the planting of 100's of grasses, shrubs and trees. This planting will also contribute to us becoming a Carbon Sink School where all the trees and shrubs we have planted offset our carbon emissions. The Active Learning Class will be propagating indigenous stock from seed collected locally with a permit and cuttings. They have commenced rejuvenation of the frog bog and habitat area in the Outdoor Classroom and are visiting Warringine Park on Friday to look at indigenous habitat with the Ranger.

Friday 30th July is National Tree Day and several classes have volunteered to plant out over 300 plants and trees on the day. It is heartening to see so many students participating actively in improving the school environment.

Hannah Lewis
Assistant Principal

Environment Report July

Our Vision for the environment group 2010
Help people understand sustainability
- Further reduce our energy reduction
- Increase our media profile
- Changing and add more environment activities in the curriculum
- Design a name and logo for each of the sub-groups
- Double page spread in the local newspaper
- Stronger links with the community

Another great month has passed, with the completion of a range of different environmental actions. One of the major focuses for this month is National Tree day on Friday 30th July. We will be planting about 300 trees in a range of locations around the school. The trees are all native to the area and will be planted by classes on the day. Another action we will be focusing on is getting our commitments for a sustainable world and we came up with: Recruit people to the green team, Implement re-cycling projects into the school, help others understand about sustainability and the problems caused by their littering.

We, as an environment group, are looking forward to the building of a wetland in The Outdoor Class room. This project with help irrigate the water during heavy rains into the wetland. This is a project we will continue to support and keep you informed on the changes and the new developments.

We were interviewed by the Sustainable Communities (formerly Tidy Towns) Judge, a fantastic competition which recognizes and awards schools and other community groups for their contributions to sustainable actions and projects. Western Port Secondary College has been nominated for the Sustainable Communities Energy award this year. On 16th of June representatives for the Sustainable Communities awards came to Western Port to evaluate and decide if the school has done enough to receive the Energy award.

We still need your help so support our committee to achieve our goals. Thank you and remember;
IF NOT YOU; WHO?
IF NOT HERE; WHERE?
IF NOT NOW; WHEN?

Go Green and support the Environment.

Mitchell Bell and Emily Monck
The House Athletics Carnival is on Friday August 6th at the Athletics Track. All students are expected to attend as it is a normal school day; therefore a note for absences will be required. Barbeque sausages and drinks will be available. The day will follow the scheduled times of 8.50a.m. to 3.00p.m. Buses will depart at their regular times. All parents are welcome to attend.

The first House meeting will be on Monday July 26th and a follow up assembly is on Tuesday August 3rd to finalise participants. All students are encouraged to participate. It is a fun day with so many different events available.

Last year at the interschool level WPSC came third. This is a remarkable feat as WPSC is one of the smallest schools on the Peninsula. Hopefully this year with the support of students and parents we will achieve a higher position.

**Year 8 Girls Soccer**

The girls showed skill and determination in the District round robin competition. A great team effort resulted in 5 goals throughout their matches, all scored by Katie Johns. Dayna Carey showed courage as the Goalie and made many brilliant saves. All players made valuable contributions. Thanks to Sam and Kenny for coaching, and the assistance of Meagan and Indy.

*Ms Smith*

**Year 8 Boys Soccer**

Our year 8 boys soccer team participated in a round robin competition also. Our team played brilliantly against Rosebud and we won 7-0 and then another win against Somerville 4-1, then a loss to Mt Eliza 2-1. Well done boys.

*Mr Asaad*

**VSSSA STATE SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Georgia Cox and Molly Palser competed in the State Finals on Tuesday July 13th at Bundoora Park. Georgia finished 37th and Molly 55th excellent results from a field of 120 best cross country athletes from over 160 Secondary Schools throughout the state. Thankyou to their parents for their encouragement and support.
Middle Years

Semester one SUPERSTARS — CASEY RACE!!!!!
On the last Wednesday of term two, the top superstar award recipients from year 7, 8 and 9 were invited to a free day at the Casey Race Aquatic Centre. On arrival we slipped into our bathers and headed to the waterslides which we were give sole access to for 1 ½ hours. We had a great time on the slides, where Nicole, Luke, Tom, Molly and Brooke went nonstop the entire time!
After the water slides we had free time in the shallow pools while we waited for lunch, lunch was chicken nuggets and chips with a can of soft drink YUM!! After lunch we headed across to a deep pool and played volleyball and other various water games.

Next we headed across to the huge blow up floating obstacle course Mr Tyson, Matt and Miss Stephenson were armed with buckets and water pistols and their aim was to knock as many students down as they could. I think the teachers won this event!! After all the fun and excitement on the obstacle course we then headed to the whirl pool for a change of pace, we sped it up and then floated around letting the current drag us around. After this it was time to go. We hit the showers, got changed and headed back to school after what was one of the best excursions I have attended. Thankyou for the beautiful behaviour of all of the students and to Mrs Geritz for organising the day.

Is Your Child not enjoying school?
If they are in years 7-9,
Encourage them to come along to

CONNECT

Every Monday
3:15pm - 4:30pm in room 6
See/call Mr Quinn or Matt Bodley
TAIKO

On Saturday August 28th, the inaugural all Youth Taiko Spectacular concert is being held at the Drum Theatre in Dandenong. This festival will see approximately 70 students from 7 different schools participate. The concert will showcase each of the groups and the finale of the night will be a mass drum piece with all students on stage. The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are available from the Drum Theatre box office (03 9771 6666) or online (www.drumtheatre.com.au) and following the 'buy tickets online' option.

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MAG
(Hastings Motorcycle Action Group)

On Tuesday the 27th of July the Hastings Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) will be hosting a display about dirt bike riding at lunch time in the court yard. This will be an information display about the right gear for riding, the right condition of bikes and the right places to ride. All students interested or involved in recreational dirt bike riding are encouraged to view the display and enter the competition, with prizes of gift certificates from Mornington Honda.

Matthew Bodley

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Wanted!!

Year 10 Textiles are going to be doing a ‘remake/revamp’ unit and we would like our Mum’s or Nan’s to search through their jewellery boxes for any broken pearl necklaces, (preferably small sized pearls) to give a ‘vintage’ look to our garments. If you do have any, please forward to Mrs Lee’s classroom. Thankyou in anticipation.

Year 10 Textiles.
It was an early start, awake at 5:30am for some, but clearly not for others, who were indeed late for our 7:00am arrival. All packed up and ready to go for our 2 day kayaking experience. Teamwork played a major role in the unpacking of our gear as we constructed a ‘convoy line’. After struggling to squeeze into our wetsuits and our sexy safety gear we all appeared fit for the adventure. It was pretty nerve-racking at first when we slipped our kayaks into the Yarra, particularly when we intentionally crashed into one and other and ‘rocked the boat.’ We were finally able to appreciate the aesthetics of nature, the birds, and the breeze as it swept through the trees. The arguing between Dean and Sally sounding like an old married couple!

It was pure adrenaline as we tore through our first rapid, having really no control over our vessel, the current taking control. Attempting to keep a straight face as Tom the ‘guide’ really got into every minor detail, just to ensure the optimal experience. But what everyone was truly looking forward to was the first couple to capsize. And indeed we were not let down, soon after Kara and Waide were the first and definitely not the last to fall in to the freezing cold water and quote; “feel the fresh water, as it enters their wetsuit onto their young skin.

Back at camp, exhausted after a long day paddling the lengths of the beautiful Yarra, we set off for the showers. ‘Boy’ was that an experience. Next up, Master Chef Tangier style. Justine, Matt and Heff being the judges, there’s a robust debate as to who was the Master Chef. Rumor has it, Kyle’s chicken pasta or something seemed to have impressed the judges. Though we continuously bagged Heff, on behalf of the Year 12 Outdoor Ed group, we’d like to give a massive thanks to Justine, Matt and especially Mr. Heffernan for an experience that we will never forget.

By Sharni Lee-Archer, Sally Kiven and Madeleine Horton.
Mr Wilson invited Somerville Secondary College Leaders to a Leadership Forum at Western Port Secondary College. Our Student Beacon Ambassadors and year 12 captains represented our leadership team from the college.

Leaders from both schools discussed various positive and negative issues relating to their schools and the local community. The most common three issues were highlighted and discussed in depth. Students plan to regroup in term 3 at Somerville Secondary College.

Lonely Planet Tour
Year 11 Business Management and Mr. Wilson’s English classes were privileged to tour The Lonely Planet establishment in Footscray on Monday, 24th May, 2010. The Focus for the students was learning writing processes used to create travel books. The three key topics covered were production process, selection of writers/researchers and the history of the company. After the tour all students were very fortunate to receive a copy of The Lonely Travel book to inspire our students to travel!
Year 12 students and a few brave teachers arrived at school early on the last Thursday of Term 2 for a muffin and Milo breakfast. They received a few strange looks on their way there as they were all in their pyjamas! Most found them so comfortable that they stayed in them all day. Money raised went towards the Year 12 magazine.
Correction of Important Dates

During the first week of term a letter went home to families of year ten students regarding important dates for subject selections etc. Please be advised there were two incorrect dates printed in this letter. Please be advised the correct dates are as follows.

- Wednesday 28th July – Senior School Expo.
- Monday 16th August – Subject Selection Day.

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Grand Opening – Room 13 ¾ - Thursday 29 July lunchtime

The Wellbeing Team has been busily painting and decorating room 13 ¾ so it can be used for programs and lunchtime activities commencing in Term 3.

**Grand Opening @ lunchtime Thursday 29 July. Music and sausage sizzle. Come check it out! Be quick!**

13 ¾ will be open at lunchtime every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Keep your eye on daily bulletin for activities. For more information see one of the Wellbeing Team.

**Parents/Carers/Guardians/Grandparents** – if you have any games/puzzles/craft materials, in complete and good condition, that you no longer want, please send them with your son/daughter. They would be greatly appreciated for our lunchtime activities.
Open Days 2010

It is highly recommended that senior school students attend Open Days for Universities or TAFE institutes to gather information about courses and to explore the campuses.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Universities</th>
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<th>Time</th>
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<td><a href="http://www.angliss.edu.au">www.angliss.edu.au</a></td>
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**Education Maintenance Allowance**

**Instalment Two**

The second instalment of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) payment is due to be paid from mid August onwards for those parents/guardians who chose the EFT payment option on their application form at the start of the year.

Parents and guardians who lodged an EMA application at the beginning of the year do not need to lodge another EMA application to receive the second instalment EMA payment.

Parents/guardians whose children have transferred to this school since 26 February 2010 will need to submit a new EMA application form. Applications close on 6 August 2010.

Parents/guardians who have chosen the cheque payment option will receive their payment from late August / early September.


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**Department of Education and Early Childhood Development – Victoria**

**S312-2010 Online Ultranet Information for Parents Main Points**

The external Ultranet information website has been re-launched today.

The new website includes information about the Ultranet to help schools to communicate with parents and the wider school community.


**Actions Required**

Principals are requested to advise their parent community of the Ultranet website as part of the communication on the 9 August 2010 pupil-free day.

**Additional Information**

This website has been designed to help schools communicate the purpose of the Ultranet to parents and the wider school community.

Parents can access the information at their convenience and gain an understanding of the benefits of the Ultranet to their child, their child’s teachers and them.

It is important that parents and the wider school community understand what the Ultranet is prior to the 9 August 2010 pupil-free day.

ENROL NOW AND MAD ATHLETES WILL GIVE YOU A TENNIS RACQUET (4YRS+): HOT SHOTS PACK (features a radio, tennis book, hat, tote bag), AND A MAD ATHLETES SHIRT ALONG WITH 9 WEEKS COACHING FOR ONLY $140*

- JUNIOR AND ELITE SQUAD SESSIONS run every Friday after school. We cover all aspects of becoming a tennis player including fitness, match simulation drills, match play, strategy, etc.
- MATCH PLAY has a focus exclusively on matches. We cover strategy, scoring, court positioning, fitness and more. Student aged 6yrs+ can join.
- GROUP LESSONS are offered numerous days through the week as well as weekends. Students are challenged and more importantly have FUN! (5 STUDENTS PER COACH MAXIMUM)
- PRIVATE LESSONS are offered by appointment most days. We recommend this for the serious player wishing to take their game to the next level, or adults that really want to improve on specific aspects of their game.
- TENNIS FOR MUMS/DADS currently run on Friday mornings and Sundays. We are looking to offer an evening class as well. It caters for all standards, and we teach you everything
**IMPORTANT DATES**

**July**
- 27-30 Ski Trip to Mount Hotham, Outdoor Ed
- 29 Course Counselling slip to be returned

**August**
- 4 Senior School Course Counselling Day
- 6 House Athletics Sports Day
- 6 Second Semester EMA Applications close
- 9 Pupil Free Day—Staff Ultranet Training
- 10-13 Yr 9 discussion groups for subject selection
- 16 Subject Selection Sheets for 2011 years 10, 11 & 12 due.
- 19 Year 9 “Big Day Out”
- 21 Deb Ball
- 23 Final Automatic Deduction Payment
- 23-27 Work Experience Week
- 30/31 Literacy Festival

**September**
- 14/15 Beacon Polish Program
- 17 Final day Term 3

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**Bell Times For 2010**

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<tr>
<td>8.45 am - 8.55 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.55 am - 9.53 am</td>
<td>Period 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.55 am - 10.53 am</td>
<td>Period 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.17 am - 12.15 am</td>
<td>Recess</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.17 am - 1.15 pm</td>
<td>Period 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.02 pm - 3.00 pm</td>
<td>Period 4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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Please ensure your student is here before form assembly or a note will be required to explain absence, and an SMS WILL go out.

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**SCHOOL COUNCIL DATES**

**Term 3**

- July 27th
- September 7th

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**Parents & Friends Association**

Future meeting dates:
- 9th August
- 13th September
- 11th October
- 8th November
- 13th December

VENUE: The Community Meeting Room (next to the music room in the small car park).

TIME: 5:00pm start.