

# Learning Community Newsletter

Edition: October 2013

## Message from College Principal

G'day Everyone,

Well the business end of the year is upon us and some of our senior students are gearing up for their examinations. We wish them all the best and hope that they have made the most of their opportunities to achieve their best results.

At the end of last term we had two international trips underway.

Our senior History students **journeyed to Italy** where they deepened their understanding of the context of Europe and European Renaissance history in Italy.

Mr Michael Eastham who coordinated the trip reports that there were many great learning opportunities for our students and that they represented themselves impeccably. My thanks to the staff who worked tirelessly on this trip with Mr Eastham; Mrs Andrews and Mrs Fletcher. Well done to our students and their parents for supporting them on this great learning adventure - lifelong memories.

The annual Year 10 **trip to China** also took place during the latter weeks of last term. I had the opportunity to check in with the group at various stages of the trip.

Again, our students represented themselves and our College with great distinction.

Ms Tan, Mr Kline and Mrs Benn worked tirelessly to ensure our students were safe, happy and well cared

for. The experiences of homestay and the opportunity of being exposed to a whole new culture can be challenging but also very rewarding. I know they enjoyed the many cultural experiences and I think the markets got a fair workout too!



There has also been a range of camps and trips conducted recently and these are also fantastic learning opportunities for our students. My thanks to our staff who make them happen and give our students many great life experiences.

Our friends at **The Smith Family** have been with us for a year now and we regularly see the positive impact of the Kurnai Learning Hub as they support us with growing into a more inclusive school. We welcome comments and ideas about how we can build a stronger learning community.

Big changes in the university sector in our region will be a benefit for our



2013 China Trip - students visiting the Great Wall of China.

students and it is great for us that Assoc. Professor Harry Ballis has been appointed Pro Vice Chancellor of the Gippsland Campus of **Federation University**.

Harry is a great friend and advocate of Kurnai and with the less rigid and rural minded Federation University ethos imposing itself in our area, our students will be able to access tertiary education in a more open, flexible and inclusive way.

**Good luck to our senior students** as they near the end of their secondary education.

Talk again soon,  
Anthony Rodaughan

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## Churchill News - Learning through Experience

Churchill Campus has been a hive of activity lately with trips and camps to Melbourne, Karoonda Park in Gelantipy, Sydney and even China!

Year 7 students have had the annual Thinking Championships and a Healthy Lifestyles week. A team are also visiting local primary schools to assist with the transition of Grade 6 students to our campus for 2014.

Year 8 students were hosted by AGL with a visit to Loy Yang and will soon be visiting Monash University for a Discovery Day. VET students from our Senior Precinct Campus have gained experience leading Year 8 PE classes at the Leisure Centre.

Year 9 students will attend an orientation day at the Precinct Campus to support them with subject selection for Year 10. A group of Year 9 students have been accepted on a German



Exchange Program in 2014 whilst a group of Year 10 students are heading to Germany in November to complete their exchange.

Exams are fast approaching for Year 10 students before their move to the Precinct full-time in December for the Headstart Program.

Students and staff participated in the overnight *Relay for Life* at Gaskin Park, Churchill, raising funds for the research, education and support of people with Cancer.

The first of a series of drama productions for the term kicked off to rave reviews with *Secret Bridesmaids Business*. A variety of productions are planned on Thursday evenings through till the end of November.

*Matt Jobling - Churchill Campus Principal*

## Morwell News - Hands On Learning Program

Kurnai College has been involved in the Hands on Learning Program since 2009. Over 200 students have taken part in the program and they have participated in a wide range of projects and activities, one of the most exciting being the construction of "The Hut".

The Hut is a classroom-sized building and was built mainly by students, from digging the holes for the stumps to fitting out the interior. The building has a Certificate of Occupancy, and is a fully fledged finished building.

The Hands On Learning Hut was officially opened by Mr John Allman, Regional

Director for South East Victoria in August. John was welcomed by the Dedlee Kultya Dancers who greeted him by performing a short play.

The Hands On Learning students recently also constructed a hot house - for raising seedlings, which will be replanted into the vegetable garden. Currently the vegetable garden provides fresh produce for students lunches, which they prepare themselves, as well as Food Technology classes.

The garden is fertilized using compost and worm castings from the large worm farm. Students are also installing a watering system from The Hut's rainwater tank.



There are also plans to introduce a few hens later in the year.

The Hands On Learning Program is a real asset to our campus as it allows our students to gain rewarding hands on skills that they will take with them through life - sustainability at its best!

*Michelle Reid-Metcalf  
Morwell Campus Principal*

## Precinct News - Renaissance Italy 2013

On 15 September, 22 Years 11 & 12 History students landed at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport for a two week study tour.

While in Italy, the group studied Renaissance history in the major cities of Rome, Florence, Venice and Milan.

All four cities are famous for and offer rich insights into the Renaissance period (1400 – 1600 AD) which includes; literature and poetry, architecture, sculpture and paintings. This period was also a time that delivered the world many well-known philosophers and artists, whose works are still marvelled at today. They include; Donatello, Raphael, Michelangelo and Da Vinci, to name a few. Students had the

opportunity to observe these works first-hand.

Additional tour highlights included; in Rome, guided tours of the Colosseum, Roman Forum and the Vatican, in Florence a visit to the Galleria degli Uffizi (Uffizi Gallery) which boasts the world's largest collection of Renaissance art, largely collected by members of the Medici family during the 16th and 17th centuries.

Students also had regular workouts with climbs to the top of The Duomo in Florence, the Leaning Tower in Pisa and the Campanile in St Mark's Square, Venice.

It is worth noting their trip was not all pleasure; students also had to soak up the ambience of café life, shopping and the fascinating streetscapes of these wonderful cities.



Congratulations and thanks to Michael Eastham and his team, Kylie Andrews and Christine Fletcher, for all their hard work in organising and the daily support of students, on these clearly arduous two weeks.

*Geoff Block & Nello Carbone  
Precinct Campus Principals*

## Contact List by Campus

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# Campus Calendar of Events

Parents/guardians of students who are going to be absent from school need to call the relevant campus **Attendance Hotline by 9am**

## Churchill

Churchill: 5132 3703 Morwell: 5165 0602 Precinct:

Date	Events
Wed 30 Oct	2013 College Magazine - ORDERS CLOSE
Wed 30 Oct	Year 9 Orientation Day
Thur 31 Oct	Halloween Dress Up Day - gold coin donation
Tue 5 Nov	Melbourne Cup Day - PUBLIC HOLIDAY - STUDENT FREE DAY
Thur 14 Nov	Year 9 AGL Loy Yang (ALPS, 9B & IPS)
Tue 19 Nov	Year 9 AGL Loy Yang (9C & EDGE)
Wed 6 - Fri 8 Nov	Year 9 / 10 Surf Camp
Thur 21 - Fri 22	Year 9 / 10 Edge Surf Camp
Thur 28 Nov	Year 10 Formal

## Morwell

Date	Events
Wed 30 Oct	2013 College Magazine - ORDERS CLOSE
Wed 30 Oct	Year 9 Orientation Day
Tue 5 Nov	Melbourne Cup Day - PUBLIC HOLIDAY - STUDENT FREE DAY
Thur 21 Nov	Year 9 AGL Loy Yang (9A & 9B)
Tue 26 Nov	Year 9 AGL Loy Yang (9C & 9D)
Thur 21 - Mon 25 Nov	Year 9 RACV Human Powered Vehicle Camp

## Precinct

Date	Events
Wed 30 Oct	VCE English EXAM
Wed 30 Oct	2013 College Magazine - ORDERS CLOSE
Tue 5 Nov	Melbourne Cup Day - PUBLIC HOLIDAY - STUDENT FREE DAY
Thur 7 Nov	Melbourne Aquarium
Thur 14 Nov	Year 11 Health & Human Development - Mental Health
Thur 21 - Wed 27 Nov	Year 11 EXAMS
Tue 26 Nov	Year 12 Graduation Dinner
Wed 18 Dec	Years 11 & 12 Awards Evening from 7pm to 9pm (Room: 5N104)

**IMPORTANT  
ADVICE**

### ***Excursions and Camps - DUE DATES***

Please ensure all permission forms for camps and excursions are returned by 2PM ON THE DUE DATE.  
We are unable to accept permission forms after this time due to administrative procedures.

#### **Term Dates for 2013**

**Term 1:** 4 Feb to 28 March    **Term 2:** 15 Apr to 28 Jun    **Term 3:** 15 Jul to 20 Sept    **Term 4:** 7 Oct to 20 Dec