

# Lavalla Catholic College

Issue 11  
JULY 28, 2014



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## From the Principal, Mr John Freeman

Welcome back for term 3

Before I discuss those things that are relevant for our community I feel it is important to acknowledge and remember the people on Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 whose lives were senseless taken from them recently. It is stark reminder of the fragility of our own lives as well as stark evidence that conflict in other parts of the world can and does impact everyone. You will find in this newsletter a prayer ritual put together by Paul Skippen, our College Minister, which was used this week at our school that may be relevant and helpful for you and your families.

This term we welcome back Mr Mike Hansen from leave. He will be working mainly at the St Paul's campus. We also have other staff joining us this term as replacement for staff on Long service Leave. They are: Karen MacKay, Georgie Barker and Alison Biram.

As you would be aware we held our Mid-Year Awards recognising Academic Excellence, Diligence and Merit in the first week of term. During the assembly I spoke to all students and challenged them to strive to work hard and do their best and accordingly be recognised in a similar way to the 220 plus young men and women were recognised on the day. Also as part of the awards we recognised some significant achievements from the following students:

**Aman Bhatti (Year 12)** was named Best Designer, Secondary School Category in the 2014 VACC Automotive Design Awards. He was also invited to participate in the Ford Internship Program. Aman's award also earned the College \$2000 which will be used for student benefit. The award and cheque was presented by Murray Collins, Media and Communications Manager VACC.

**Grace Ware (Year 10):** Grace achieved first prize in the Courage to Create Competition and as the sponsoring College we received \$2750. Grace was given a cheque for \$300 in recognition of this and also part of this money will be used to commission Grace to create a piece of art for the College.

**Bianca Gawith (Year 12):** SYN (School Youth Network) Nation Young Media Leader. The College recognised Bianca's role as one of five young media leaders in Australia to create media hubs in their local area, in this case Gippsland, in alliance with their own community radio stations and SYN Nation.

**Shannon Shepley (Year 12):** Once again we publicly recognised Shannon for achieving a study score of 50 in VCE/VET Business Administration.

My thanks to all staff involved in the awards and in particular: Annemarie Clarke for her overall management and organisation; Adrianna Bianconi for taking on the role of MC for the event; Kellyann Armstrong for the creation and printing of certificates as well as the production of the



*Gracious and awesome  
God, it is important that  
we all come together as  
a community,*

*as a family to become  
one voice, one force of  
love and care for each  
other.*

*Help us to think in new  
ways, to have new  
vitality, new energy,*

*with a new strength and  
commitment to share  
your love without  
reserve, without any  
judgment.*

*Help us to be free  
enough to accept each  
other and rejoice in how  
we can be when we  
come together.*

*Amen*

## From the Principal (Cont.)

PowerPoint Presentation; Birgit Sim and Jenny Sutton for logistics; Claire Couling and Suzanne Farley for collation of award recipients; and our maintenance team for the set-up of the stadium and the production of a magnificent set of stairs. Also at the event we heard from our Senior Concert Band, led by Shane Lebbe but prepared by Matthew Harris performing Palladio by Karl Jenkins. The National Anthem was sung by Anneliese Answerth and accompanied by the Senior Concert Band. Also as an interlude during the assembly we heard our Senior Jazz Ensemble, conducted by Shane Reid, perform Angel Eyes by Karl Hoagy. All performances were excellent and highlights the great work of our Music program.

In the second week we conducted interviews for places for Year 7 2015. We had scheduled 229 interviews and I thank all the families who attended and all the staff who did the interviews on one all three of the nights they were conducted. These are a very important part of our process to discern who we make offer to for next year and the success of the evenings was very much due to the hard work of Beverly O'Brien our Registrar and she was assisted on each night by Rebecca Henry, PA to the St Paul's Campus Director.

Congratulations to the following students who represented Victoria at the National Indoor Volleyball Competition over the holidays: Bronte Scott (9.8), Alice Shaw (9.3), Monica Harasimiuk (10.3) all who played for the Under 17 team and Phoebe Trembath (12.6) was part of the Under 19 team. Both the Under 17 and Under 19 teams won the National Championship and Monica and Phoebe were selected as a member of the National All Star Team. Well done to all these students.

I have drawn this to your attention previously but I remind you that the Diocese of Sale is conducting a review of Religious Education. To help the review best address the needs of the students in our schools, all parents are urged to complete the survey. Please use the link below for the Diocesan Religious Education Review Survey, which will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Your input will help shape the Diocese's approach to RE in the future and will be very valuable. <https://service.ceosale.catholic.edu.au/index.php?r=survey/index/sid/424249/lang/en>

Finally I ask you to remember in your prayers the family of Mrs Anne Van Berkel – mother of Mr Alby Van Berkel as well as Grandmother and Great Grandmother to: Mr Brett Van Berkel; Mrs Lyndel Van Berkel, Logan and Zali Van Berkel; Ashleigh Van Berkel; Mrs Jenny Savige and Lexi Savige; Alana, and Jordan Spiteri. Mrs Van Berkel passed away peacefully on 14 July 2014. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

## Important Dates

### 29 July

SSV Gippsland Soccer 7—10 Girls  
ICAS English  
Jobskills Expo—Lardner Park  
2015 Information Night—Kildare Campus—  
6.00pm to 7.00pm

### 30 July

SSV Gippsland Soccer 7—10 Boys

### 31 July

SSV Gippsland Netball 7—10  
Year 7 Wellbeing Day

### 1 August

STUDENT FREE DAY  
Careers & Course Expo—Kildare Campus  
11.00am—4.00pm

### 4 August

Whitefriars Music Students

### 5—6 August

Justice Camp

### 5 August

Netball Victoria State Championships  
Immersion to Fiji—6.00pm to 7.00pm

### 6 August

Year 12 Drama Food Focus

### 7 August

McDonalds Cup Basketball  
Clay Target Championships  
Allied Health Excursion—Federation University  
Australian Mathematics Competition  
Unit 4 Food Sacs

### 8 August

Mackillop House Day  
Soup Van



## St Paul's Campus Update

### Mr Andrew Martin, Campus Director

#### College Awards Ceremony:

It is always a thrill to present awards to students in a public forum and last Thursday's iteration of the College awards Ceremony was notable for the number and diversity of recipients who received recognition for their consistent effort and endeavour. I congratulate them and encourage all students to make the receipt of a public award a personal goal for the second semester.

#### Year 7 2015 Interviews:

Over the past week, all of our College Leadership Team and many of our middle leaders have been engaged in the evenings interviewing some two hundred and thirty plus students looking for enrolment at the College in 2015. The consensus was that our applicants are an engaging and enthusiastic cohort who will represent the College ably in future years. Letters of offer will be mailed to successful applicants in the first week of August.

#### Year 9 Transition and Expo processes:

Last week, our Year 9 students underwent 'Careerwise' testing which seeks to marry student ability and interests with pathway opportunities. A parent feedback session was conducted last Thursday evening to provide clarity to the individual reports prepared for each student who undertook testing. Along with individual interviews, careers advice and the upcoming EXPO at Kildare Campus, we believe the process has left students better prepared than ever before to map out a pathway through the senior school and make subject selections which match their identified strengths, abilities and interests.

#### ICAS Science result:

We have had very pleasing results in this Australia wide competition and hope to be able to name students who have achieved significant awards in the near future. I congratulate all those who have received the following certificates.

#### Sport

Volleyball: Australian Championships were held in recent weeks with Two Lavalla students being represented in winning teams. Congratulations to U17 team member, Monica Harasimiuk and U 19 team member Phoebe Trembath who was also selected in the Australian all -stars team

The State School Championships were held last weekend, Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup> through Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> with the Lavalla U16 Girls team claiming the silver medal in a tough final against Billanook College. Our Open Girls team won Bronze on their campaign and the Senior Boys team performed well to come a creditable fifth in their competition. Congratulations to all of the team members on their performance, to Mr Ross Sizeland our Lavalla staff representative for the event and to all those parents and coaches who supported the teams throughout the weekend.

#### Upcoming Dates and Events:

##### Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>:

ICAS English testing

##### Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup>:

Year 7 Wellbeing Day - Presentation Campus

##### Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>:

Student Free day for Year 7 and 8 and 9 Students at St Paul's Campus

Lavalla EXPO 2014: (Kildare Campus - Compulsory attendance for Year 9 students)

NOTE: Year 7 and 8 Students invited to attend in the company of parents

Grade 5 Primary school visits to St Paul's Campus

##### Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>:

Year 7, 2015 – Letters of offer of enrolment mailed to applicants

##### Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>:

Australian Maths Competition

Clay Target Shooting: State Championships





## Kildare Campus Update

Mr Douglas Doherty, Campus Director

'Bravely Walking The Path Unknown' – This is the theme that I have appointed for our Campus this week. It is a prominent theme in regards to this week being the anniversary of St. Marcellin Champagnat undertaking his ordination as a priest (22<sup>nd</sup> July 1816) and leading a group of twelve newly ordained priests in founding a society to honour Our Lady (the Fourviere Pledge – 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1816) through their own example. Sean D Sammon describes the actions of these young men as, "committing themselves to further action."

As all of our young adults undertake the final semester of this academic year, it is clear that many are contemplating and striving towards their life goals after school. This example of St. Marcellin leading his peers, should be an inspiration and direction to our school community. Hopefully their plans and hard work will lead to a commitment of future action to support their charism and ethos developed to date.

The next two weeks will see Kildare Campus alive even more than usual with the different events to support our young adults in choosing their best pathways to success. An invitation was sent to all parents for both the Information Evening and the Pathways EXPO. A copy is also provided in this newsletter. Both events promise to be very worthwhile and informative. The Information Evening on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August will focus on the different pathways available to all students. It will also be an opportunity to meet the leadership team of the Kildare Campus, along with the Careers Advisors. Paperwork for individual students will be present for collection. This paperwork is necessary for EXPO and re-enrolment.

As promised in Assembly last week, I have included a description of the first of the Six Habits of Excellence. This is attached to the newsletter below. There will be questions asked as I meet you around the school! However, I do believe that this Habit of Excellence – Acting with Persistence; is essential for when 'Bravely Walking The Path Unknown'.

'Habits of Excellence' was clearly evident during the past two

weeks with the range of sporting achievements, which are reported on within this newsletter. I would in particular like to congratulate Phoebe Trembath (U19) and Monica Harasimiuk (U17) who both represented a successful Victoria at the National Volleyball Championship. Both girls have now been selected as a member of the National All Star Team!

The Lavalla Marist Netball Team also showed the value of practise when they competed in the Marist Netball Carnival at Mt. Carmel Catholic High School, NSW. The team came 4<sup>th</sup> overall from 18 competing teams. Amelia Charlton was selected in the Highly Recommended Team; whilst Maddie Gibson and Jayde Travers were selected in the All Australian Team. Congratulations must go to these three players!

I would also like to congratulate the Lavalla Clay Shooting Team who came second place in their latest competition. Well done to all those involved.

It was also excellent news to hear that Patrick Harriman was successful in achieving a plumbing apprenticeship with Cameron Plumbing, Traralgon. This is another example of the successful outcomes of our excellent VCAL and LA programme. Well Done Patrick!

The continuous development of social justice practise was evident with the first session of Lavalla community donating blood. Mr Szkwarek and Mrs Scott led the first of over 100 members of our community to give blood at the Traralgon Red Cross donation centre. Mr Szkwarek did comment on how the centre is very low with blood supplies. Therefore, if anyone would like to join our blood donation campaign, please contact one of the four Blood Ambassadors.

Last Thursday, Lavalla Catholic College hosted our mid-year Award ceremony. This was a wonderful event rewarding those students who consistently succeed through striving for excellence on their pathways to success. I would encourage all students to heed Mr Freeman's speech and all strive to walk the stage at some point, so we can recognise each and every student's achievements.

## Kildare Campus Update Continued..

Mr Douglas Doherty, Campus Director

### ACTING WITH PERSISTENCE

Efficacious people stick to a task until it is completed. They don't give up easily. They are able to analyse a problem, to develop a system, structure, or strategy to attack a problem. They employ a range and have repertoire of alternative strategies for problem solving. They collect evidence to indicate their problem-solving strategy is working, and if one strategy doesn't work, they know how to back up and try another. They recognise when a theory or idea must be rejected and another employed. They have systematic methods of analysing a problem which include knowing how to begin, knowing what steps must be performed, and what data need to be generated or collected. Because they are able to sustain a problem solving process over time, they are comfortable with ambiguous situations.

Students often give up in despair when the answer to a problem is not immediately known. They sometime crumple their papers and throw them away saying, "I can't do this," "It's too hard," or, they write down any answer to get the task over with as quickly as possible. Some have attention deficits; they have difficulty staying focused for any length of time, they are easily distracted, they lack the ability to analyse a problem, to develop a system, structure, or strategy of problem attack. They may give up because they have a limited repertoire of problem solving strategies. If their strategy doesn't work, they give up because they have no alternatives.



Above: Tyler Mounsey (Year 11) and Mr Jason Szkwarek

Below: Michael Price (Year 12)



### Uniform Shop Open Days 2014

7th August

21st August

4th September

18th September—Late Session 3.30 to 8.00

16th October

(The previously advertised open day of the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 was in error)

Girls **MUST** try on Kilts to ensure a proper fit. Kilts are altered to the original owner and are therefore not a general size

We accept the following payment methods:  
EFTPOS, Cash and Cheque

**The Second Hand Uniform Shop is Located  
At the St Paul's Campus**

### HELPERS WANTED

**We urgently require volunteer helpers for the Canteen at the St Paul's Campus.**

**If you are able to assist, please contact Allison Farley on 51747355**



# Faithbook

## Mr Paul Skippen - College Minister

In the Ukraine, as in Australia, there are big expanses of wheat-fields. We can easily imagine those wheat paddocks rolling out to the horizon, with an abundant crop for food. But today, we see over those fields in the Ukraine, a different crop has grown. There, lied a broken harvest: the bodies of 293 people and the wreckage of a plane, a black box telling the story.

What has been harvested from this wheat-field? Well, it is now the pain of families, the tension of a country broken by civil war, the on-going trauma of a world where nations have lost their knowledge of peace.

As we remember those who have died who lied in these fields of shame, we also recognise that these are one of many places ... paddocks, hills, coastlines, cities, jungles and deserts where the beauty of the earth is continually disfigured by anger, violence, greed and hatred.

For this sinfulness and for our lack of action for peace, we come in humble prayer to our God.

*Hear our prayer for those who died aboard Flight MH17. May they be at peace in your house, dwelling forever in your peace.*

*For their families and friends who mourn them, for all who live in the fear and puzzlement over this event, for those in airline and government who work on the recovery, we hand all these to you for wisdom and consolation.*

*For all leaders, for citizens of every country, we pray for the courage to speak and act for peace, for a calmness where all have the right to homes of family joy, fields of abundant crops and neighbourhoods of security.*

*For ourselves, too, that this event does not leave us angry and in despair, but transforms us into people who trust in you, and commit ourselves to be lovers of all.*

*May the peace and joy of God the creator, the words of Jesus Christ our saving friend, and the wisdom and patience of the Spirit be with all peoples, now and forevermore. Amen.*

LAVALLA

**SMY@L**  
St. Michael's Youth at Lavalla 38-11-41

PUN.  
FAITH.  
FRIENDS!

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH YOUTH GROUP  
FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IN YEAR 5 -  
LOWER SECONDARY

Youth Program -  
Term 3 & 4, 2014



Please note #All youth must be signed in and out of Youth Group by a Parent/Guardian. Permission slips required for some nights. Times may vary for each activity.

Find us on facebook

Fundraising for the year will be for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes (Find out more at [operationchristmaschild.org.au](http://operationchristmaschild.org.au))

Acts 20:35 "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Term 3

**FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY**  
**SUPER SPORTS NIGHT**  
**COMMONWEALTH GAMES THEME NIGHT**

Dress in team colours of a participating country.  
Lots of fun games and modified sports.  
@ Traralgon Secondary College Hall,  
Grey St campus. 6.30pm - 8.30pm Cost: \$3  
Phone Sally 0403282630 or ask Quinn or Jordan for more info



**FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**  
**TALENT EXTRAVAGANZA NIGHT**

A night to dress up! Individual, duo or group Karaoke! Can you tell jokes, stories or dramatize? Do you have the X factor? Anything goes!! Come & have fun & win some great prizes! @ St. Michael's Mackillop Hall. 6.30pm-8.30pm  
Cost- \$3, bring CD's for Karaoke.  
Phone Leah 0438811709 or Mel 0408499012 or ask Jordan or Quinn for more info

**FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**  
**OPERATION SHOE BOX SHOP & PACK**

As part of Operation Christmas Child, we will sort & pack the shoeboxes, a team will go out on a shopping challenge and there'll be some games/activities for those who like to avoid shopping! Will take a group photo to put in the boxes, don't miss out!  
At St. Michael's Mackillop Hall, 6.30 - 8.30pm, Permission form needs to be signed on the night for the shoppers only!  
Cost; Items/donations for the shoeboxes  
Phone Leah on 51750877 or Ben 0439371148 for info

Term 4

**FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**  
**MINUTE TO WIN IT NIGHT!**

Test your skill and see if you can win it in a minute. Lots of awesome & challenging games, can you beat the clock?  
At St. Michael's Mackillop Hall.  
6.30 - 8.30pm  
Cost- \$3  
Phone Sally 0403282630 or ask Quinn or Jordan for more info

**FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**  
**PROGRESSIVE DINNER**

Walking dinner around Traralgon.  
Meet at Newman Park for BBQ tea 6.30pm, walk to dessert venue & pick up from St. Michael's Church, 8.30pm.  
Permission slip required.  
Cost; \$3 for BBQ + money for dessert  
Phone Leah 0438811709 or Mel 0408499012 for more info

**FRIDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER**  
**TRARALGON'S AMAZING RACE RALLY!!**

This will be a night of fun, mystery and competition. Where will the amazing race take you?  
Permission form needs to be signed on the night  
Start at St. Michael's Mackillop Hall @ 8.30pm, Pick up St. Michael's @ 8pm  
Cost: New toys for TOY RUN Donation  
Phone Rachel on 0499077735 or Lou 51750877 for info

For info / queries phone the leaders:

- Sally Kirstine: 0403282630
- Louise Varsaci: 51750877
- Mel Conway: 0408499012
- Ben Kennedy: 0439371148
- Leah Arbon: 0438811709
- Rachel Dodd: 0499077735
- Assistants: Quinn & Jordan
- Contact no. during Youth Group:
- Louise Varsaci: 0414540298
- Leah Arbon: 0438811709

## Uncle Albert Mullett

By Mr Shane Reid

Many in our college community may have heard in the media last week of the passing of local elder 'Uncle Albert' Mullett. Amidst the many stories rippling across Gippsland I have paused to reflect on the thumbprint he left on our own college.

In 2008 our college choir worked closely with the Central Gippsland TAFE Koorie unit, in particular the staff members Christine Johnson (Albert's daughter) and Lynne Solomon-Dent. One aspect of their work is the reclaiming and recovering of the Gunnai/Kurnai language. We sought permission for our students to sing some of our basic liturgical hymns and chants in the Gunnai language from Uncle Albert himself. This relationship led to the project self-generating a real momentum which culminated in the commissioned piece 'Gunnai Dreaming' composed by one of Australia's foremost composers - Mark Clement Pollard.

I will remain grateful to Albert for his kindness, generosity and advocacy of this project. It is one of the most rewarding and potent experiences our choir has had and his stewardship was the critical lynchpin which ensured its success. With so many false steps made in Australian history in regards to indigenous relations the significance of a choir such as ours receiving this permission and support to use the Gunnai language was lost on no-one. The Gunnai dreamtime story of Boran the pelican and Tuk the musk duck formed the inspiration for 'Gunnai Dreaming'. It was quite humbling to be the only (that we knew of) non-indigenous choirs entrusted with the indigenous history, culture and language. Listening to ABC radio last week, as many callers shared their own stories of Uncle Albert, I was struck that our own story is but one of many that stand as a testament to the breadth of vision that typified Uncle Albert's leadership not just of the Gunnai and Kurnai people but of Gippsland as a whole.

On occasion I still receive messages from people far and wide who have come across our recording of the work. We received some beautiful hand carved clapping sticks and bull roarers made by Albert himself at the culmination of the project and he sent

through messages of support at regular intervals throughout.

I'm a little less clear on the specifics of his broader involvement in other college programs, only to know that he left his mark in many areas. In years past he spoke to different groups of our students when 'Jackson's Track' was studied within the English curriculum, taking groups on tours of the actual site I believe, staff spoke of his gentleness and patience. He probably had involvement in other programs we have offered that I'm not personally aware of.

Uncle Albert's grandchildren, Hollie and Nick Johnson, are fondly remembered past students of our college. His daughter Christine (who worked so hard with us on Gunnai Dreaming) also had many other various involvements at Lavalla and Nick worked with us as an aboriginal liaison officer for some time whilst studying education. I'm sure the family



Hollie Johnson and Mark Pollard. 'Gunnai Dreaming' recording in 2010



Our 2010 choir with Kutcha Edwards



# LAVALLA PARENTS & FRIENDS DEBUTANTE BALL COMMITTEE



email address: pflavalladebball@gmail.com

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## 2015 DEBUTANTE BALL

The Lavalla Parents and Friends Debutante Ball Committee will be hosting an information evening at the St. Paul's lecture theatre on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August** beginning at 7pm. It is important that all students who will be attending Lavalla in 2015 in Yr 11 and who wish to make their Deb attend this meeting.

At this meeting you will be given registration packs and receive all the necessary information needed for you to make a decision as to whether you want to make your deb. The registration packs will Not obtainable from the student services centre.

The 2015 Debutante Balls will be held on

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April.  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April

The Debutante Committee are hoping to run three balls on the above dates in 2015, however this will depend on the number of debutantes that enrol. Each ball is capped at 21 couples per evening.

Please be advised that all debutante balls ran by the Parents and Friends committee will always be held in the 1<sup>st</sup> term holidays.

The Debutante Balls are now run entirely by the Committee. Under no circumstances should Lavalla be contacted with any Deb Ball issues. Any questions or concerns must be emailed to the committee on the above email address.

Our registration evening will be held on **October 22<sup>nd</sup>** at the St. Paul's lecture theatre at 7pm. At this meeting all the paper work and the registration fee will be due. Please note that registration is non refundable. The registration evening is where you will be registered once your paper work and fee is collected. You will also find out at this meeting as to whether you have received your 1st choice for your ball preference

Please note that attendance at both meetings is necessary.