



# NEWSLETTER

## Lavalla Catholic College

23 February 2007

### From the Principal

Dear Parents and Students

As you read this newsletter today many of us would have attended the funeral of our former Year 12 student **Daniel Lee** who was killed in a car accident last Sunday 18th February. On Monday we welcomed the presence of this friends returning to the Kildare Campus so that former and present students and teachers could share our grief together in a prayerful community of faith and hope.

The memories of Daniel's presence filling the room, his cheerful and mischievous eyes and his thorough enjoyment of life are what helped this community get through those grief stricken moments during the week. He will be remembered for his laughter, for his athletic abilities, for his warm nature and for adding an element of fun to this community. Few would disagree that as an 18 year old he taught us all, the value of living life to the full and in years to come when we remember him, he will still bring a smile to our face. We give thanks for the gift of Daniel in our lives, for enlivening our spirits and recognise that the goodness of God touched us all through his life.

As we think of the Lee family and especially his sister Chelsea in Year 11, we offer our deepest sympathy at this time and we pray that our faith will be strengthened and that our confidence in the loving care of our God will be renewed.

God, giver of peace,  
Grow hope within and around us.  
God of steadfast love,  
Never leave us hopeless. *Amen.*

This prayer is also helpful for us during this period of **Lent which began on Wednesday**. In Australia we often draw the parallel between Lent and our bushfire season. After some time to heal, devastated black landscapes become scenes of new growth and regeneration. The symbol of ash on our forehead invites us to reflect on our own humanness and our own growth. Lent is an opportunity for each of us to take the time to sit quietly and reflect on our own journey so that we can become the *goodness of God* (2 Corinthians 5: 20 - 6:2). The emphasis on Lent then is on **becoming**...becoming more than most of us could ever imagine; becoming what God created us to be, a reflection of God's own goodness here and now for one another and for ourselves.

Leunig has a unique ability to capture what can seem complicated and difficult in the simplest way.

*'Love one another and you will be happy.'  
It's as simple and difficult as that.  
There is no other way.  
Amen*



From *When I Talk To You*, Michael Leunig

*Ms Erica Pegorer  
Principal*

## Kildare Campus

In many ways it has been a rewarding start to the year. Students have come well-presented to school, ready to start their study for 2007. There is a positive feel to the campus - this was especially evident on the Year 12 retreats. We have celebrated a number of things. This week, however, as Ms Pegorer mentioned, we were saddened by the news of Daniel Lee's sudden death. While it is difficult to come to terms with the significance of this loss, it was heartening to see many of last years Year 12 students return to the Campus looking for support in their grief. As a community we banded together and I thank the staff and students for their support of one-another.

### AUSTRALIAN BRAIN BEE CHALLENGE

The Challenge is a neuroscience competition (national plus New Zealand) that four of our 2006 Year 10 students entered. This is a three-stage competition involving the study of a book on neuroscience and then responding to test items. The competition is co-ordinated by the University of Queensland, but involves academics from all states. The first test was last October and it was extremely challenging. The students participated on a voluntary basis and studied in their own time at home with the support and encouragement of Mrs Mara Bormanis. They attended an intensive after-school tutorial prior to the actual test.

We were informed that all four of our students had passed the test and were eligible for the second stage. We congratulate Ashleigh Dyer, Quinn McGennissen, Jessica Edwards and Melanie Boom and wish them the best of luck with the next stage of the Challenge.

### VIS SOCCER SCHOLARSHIP

The College congratulates Braydon Dunne on his gaining of a full scholarship with the Victorian Institute of Sport Soccer Program. The VIS is committed to the pursuit of excellence in sport and life and will work collaboratively with the College to ensure that a supportive structure is in place that achieves optimal performance with Braydon's study and soccer arrangements.

### SPIRIT OF ANZAC PRIZE SCHOOL COMPETITION

Last week I was privileged to attend the presentation of the Spirit of Anzac School Competition Award, Premier Steve Bracks announced the 10 winners, selected from over 400 entries. Congratulations go to Annie Ferguson of Year 10, who will represent Victoria and Australia as a winner of the 2007 Spirit of Anzac Prize School Competition. Annie will tour sites of historical Anzac significance in Turkey, France, Belgium and Britain culminating in the Anzac Day ceremony at Gallipoli.

After the announcement was made by Premier Bracks Annie was one of 2 students selected to respond to the Premier and invited guests. She has also been approached to speak at the Remembrance Day Service at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance November 11.

The Anzac legend has been of significant personal interest to Annie. Her research revealed that several family members had fought for Australia overseas. This study tour (April 13-27) will be the realisation of a long held dream. Annie has always actively supported Remembrance Day and Anzac Day services at Lavalla Catholic College.

### GENOVA INTERNATIONAL SOCCER ACADEMY

During 2006 the Genova International Soccer Academy came to the Latrobe Valley to scout for talent. Their aim was to create a squad that would travel to Europe to play Italian Teams with possible scouting opportunities for international soccer clubs.

This year Gianni Romano, Joshua Tanti and Stephen Maselli will travel to Europe to participate in this squad. We wish them well.

### YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

At the Australia Day Ceremonies this year Robert Bruzzese was awarded the Young Australian of the Year. Robert has contributed on a voluntary bases to local soccer in the region and has been an inspiration for younger students. Robert visited Japan last year as part of the Latrobe City Sports exchange. We congratulate Robert and are sure that we will hear more of his achievements in the future.

### STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

We congratulate Mrs Tina Sonka who was offered a position as a member of the VCAL Quality assurance panel in the Gippsland region for 2007. As the Year 11-12 Curriculum Leader at the College we know that Mrs Sonka's wisdom and energy for curriculum innovation will be appreciated by other schools to which she can offer advice and lend support.

We also congratulate Ms Natalia Nadsadina who will be presenting for the VCAA. Ms Nadsadina is a passionate Maths and Science teacher and we are sure that her presentation at the VCAA Conference will allow other schools to glimpse the commitment that Ms Nadsadina has to her students and the subjects that she teaches.

*Mr Marco Di Cesare  
Campus Director*

## St Paul's Campus

Congratulations to all Students and Staff for a smooth start to the new year. They have adapted quickly to the campus routine.

The St. Paul's Campus also congratulates Annie Rose Ferguson for her achievement and recognise the efforts of Ms Roma Valentine and Ms Kim Widrich in their preparation and encouragement.

### YEAR 7 PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOUR

Each Year 7 homeroom will spend a day in the chapel with the Counsellor and the homeroom teacher being coached in self esteem, social interaction and coping skills.

### YEAR 7 CAMPS

The Year 7 Camps have got underway at Wilson's Promontory. Adventure activities like canoeing, abseiling, surfing and beach activities have helped form friendship bonds between peers and teachers. The excitement of the Year 7s in talking about the camp is infectious.

### STUDENT LEADERS

Congratulations to the student leaders for 2007.

#### *Campus Leaders:*

Kosta Psinas, Joey Black, Gemma Wilson and William McCormick.

#### *House Captains:*

DELANY :

Jeremiah Daniels and Eliza Hartley (Captains)  
Adam Kemna and Jessica Hoskin (Vice)

CHAMPAGNAT:

Connan McKenzie and Jordan Byrne (Captains)  
Kosta Chatziconstantis and Stacey Hammer (Vice)

NAGLE:

Jesse Sleswick and Kiah Hillier (Captains)  
Andrew Ware and Jamie Salleh (Vice)

MACKILLOP:

Daniel Erdely and Brooke Ward (Captains)  
Luke Dyt and Alexandra Molinari (Vice)

### ENERGIZERS

Royce Leslie, Logan Edwards, Jessica Hoskin, Jade Shepley, Michael Dennehy, David Beltrame, Chelsea Hinds, Paige Beddard, Michael Frescura, Kate Armstrong, Jamie Heal, Steven Kearns, Matt Pattle, Jamie Pistrin, Nikki Clarke, Mitch Cummins.

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

*Year 8:*

Emily Murphy, Sarah O'Dowd, Nicholas Celima, Greg Farley, Gemma Moran, Maddison Hutchison, Arlia Lappin

*Year 9:*

Luke Gatt, Brendan Over, Josh Phelan, Alicia Harle, Loryn Wilson, Adam Lee, Daniel Giacobbe.

The Year 7 SRC will be elected when the camps have been completed.

Congratulations to these students who have stepped forward to contribute to the student life on the campus. We wish them well for the year ahead.

### ASH WEDNESDAY AND PROJECT COMPASSION

Two staff member and six students from the Campus represented the College at the launch of Project Compassion at Francis Xavier College, Beaconsfield on 20 February.

At the campus, Energizers cooked pancakes and served them to students at lunch time to raise funds for Project Compassion. \$150.00 was raised. Congratulations to the Staff and Energizers and to the students for their response.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lent, a joyous preparation period for Easter. The campus will focus on awareness and fundraising for those in need in Bangladesh. The RE and ISC staff have created a display in the ISC for this purpose.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*Swimming Carnival* will be held on 27 February at the Traralgon Outdoor Pool.

*College Commissioning Mass* will be held on 6 March in the Champagnat Centre.

*Year 7 Information Night* will be held on 8 March in the Lecture Theatre

**Mr Chris Roga**  
*Campus Director*

### 2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF LENT

This week's Project Compassion story focuses on Luisa from Timor-Leste. Luisa is working to challenge domestic and sexual violence and to support the survivors of such violence. Through your support of Caritas Australia's Project Compassion you are helping to build peace in Timor-Leste.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> WEEK OF LENT

Building a just world involves reducing poverty and challenging discrimination. This week's Project Compassion story explores the impact of HIV and AIDS on communities in South Africa through the eyes of a grandmother, Selinah, who is the primary caregiver of her three grandchildren. Through your support of Project Compassion you are working towards achieving MDG 6: Fighting HIV/AIDS and other disease.

## Presentation Campus

Welcome to the new school year. The term has begun well staff and students have all settled to the routine of College life. This week was a busy one.

On Friday last week the SRC organised a mad hat and sunglasses day. Students were asked to donate a gold coin. The money raised will go towards assisting South St Primary School which lost classrooms and the canteen in a fire last week. \$200.00 was raised.

On Tuesday the Champagnat Education Council visited the Campus. Our student leaders acted as guides and comments received from members of the committee were both complimentary and encouraging.

Pancakes were cooked for lunch on Tuesday (Shrove Tuesday) and funds raised will go towards the Project Compassion appeal for 2007. As a campus we have agreed to raise \$4.00 per student to purchase 800 fish each to assist with establishment of fish farm in Bangladesh. Our target is raising enough funds to purchase 137,000 fish.

On Ash Wednesday the campus attended Mass at St. Mary's. The mass was concelebrated by Father Mark Godridge and Father Bernie O'Brien.

The Swimming Carnival was held on Friday. In the next newsletter level champions and house results will be published.

All Year 7 parents are invited to attend an Information Evening next Thursday 1st March. It will be held in the Circulation area between 7.30pm-9.00pm.

Please take time to read the 'new' Planner. It is a plethora of information and clearly will assist all students with organisation and planning. The topic for this next week the 26th February is 'If, you believe you can do it, you probably can! (Page 60).

Yours in the spirit of strong minds and compassionate heart.

**Mr Chris O'Brien**  
*Campus Director*

### Umpires Wanted

The Traralgon Umpires Association supplies umpires to the Traralgon & District Junior Football League from April to September. Training every Monday and Wednesday from 5.30pm until 7pm. Further information: Shane on 51918185 or Lynda on 51747102.

## EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. You could be eligible if you have a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 1986 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pension or be a foster parent. For further information please contact Helen Orr, Marcellin House.

**Applications close by 28 February 2007.**

## INTO LIFE

(St Michael's Youth Group for Year 6-9)

FRIDAY EVENINGS

At St Michael's Hall, Church Street, Traralgon.

7pm-9pm

Cost: \$2 (Free if you bring a friend)

Phone Lou 5175 0877 for more information

## CANTEEN ROSTER

### ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

Mon 26 Feb	R. Berryman, (help required)
Tue 27 Feb	T. Pledge, S. Garrett
Wed 28 Feb	R. Crowle, (help required)
Thu 1 Mar	Help required x 2
Fri 2 Mar	Help required x 2
Mon 5 Mar	R. Salleh, M. Korsak
Tue 6 Mar	L. Barrett, (help required)
Wed 7 Mar	S. Fisher, T. Grunwald
Thu 8 Mar	Help required x 2
Fri 9 Mar	L. Weckman, (help required x 2)

### KILDARE CAMPUS

Mon 26 Feb	C. Jackiw, J. Adams
Tue 27 Feb	G. Breed, S. Jacobs
Wed 28 Feb	L. Loyd, (help required)
Thu 1 Mar	Swimming Carnival
Fri 2 Mar	L. Weckman, (help required)
Mon 5 Mar	I. Gregson, D. Buckley
Tue 6 Mar	G. Breed, (help required)
Wed 7 Mar	Help required x 2
Thu 8 Mar	G. Edebohls, V. Sammut
Fri 9 Mar	A. Fogarty, (help required)

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