College Principal’s Report

VALE
Samantha McNeil

The College is sad to inform the community of the passing of one of our Year 12 students, Samantha McNeil, who passed away on April 5 after a long battle with cancer. Although Sam had been suffering with cancer for a long time, her death still came suddenly to staff and students.

Sam fought very bravely for a long time and with a great amount of dignity. She was very well supported by her family, as well as her amazing friends and classmates who supported her greatly. Sam joined the College in Year 7 and was most recently a valued member of the VCAL program. Sam was a well-loved member of the school and made a positive impact on many people within our community.

Sam’s funeral was a celebration of her life. A devoted Western Bulldogs supporter, Sam’s funeral was also attended by a number of members of the Western Bulldogs Football Club. We are immensely proud of the way that Sam’s friends spoke about her during the funeral service and have supported each other during this hard time.

The death of a young person is always difficult, especially when that person is from our own school and community. Any parents or students of the Mill Park SC community who may need support are encouraged to contact the College.

Our thoughts are with Sam’s entire family including her parents Lee and Michael and sister Becky.
WELCOME BACK FOR TERM 2
Term 2 has commenced very smoothly. While we have been enjoying the sunshine it is slowly getting much cooler. I am concerned at the number of students who are not wearing jumpers. With the prediction of a nasty “flu” season, students should keep warm so their resistance is not lowered to put them at risk.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Mill Park Secondary College Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 May at 5.30pm. The Annual Report will be presented at the meeting. The purpose of the Annual Report to the school community is to inform parents and the wider school community of the school's successes, activities and achievements throughout the year, and to meet legislative and regulatory requirements under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 and the National Education Agreement 2008. Please RSVP to Joanne Armarego on 9407 9700 or armarego.joanne.r@edumail.vic.gov.au for catering and printing purposes. We would love to see you there.

ATTITUDES TO SCHOOL
The Attitudes to School survey is an annual survey for Years 5 to 12 students conducted by the Department of Education and Training. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school. Our school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child’s experience at school.

Students in Years 7 to 12 will participate in this year’s survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year the Attitudes to School survey will be conducted at our school over the period Monday 20 April to Friday 1 May. The survey only takes 20-30 minutes to complete and occurs during your child's class time.

The survey results will be reported back to the school later in the year. Last year we used the survey results to further consult with students via a range of forums. The feedback has now been incorporated into the strategic plan goals across the areas of achievement, engagement and wellbeing. Please contact the school if you would like more information.

LEST WE FORGET
This Saturday marks a very important day for Australians and New Zealanders. ANZAC Day – 25 April – is probably Australia's most important national occasion. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. ANZAC is the acronym formed from the initial letters of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, the formation into which Australian and New Zealand soldiers were grouped in Egypt prior to the landing at Gallipoli in April 1915.

When war broke out in 1914, Australia had been a federal commonwealth for only 13 years. The new national government was eager to establish its reputation among the nations of the world. In 1915 Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of the allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula in order to open the Dardanelles to the allied navies. The ultimate objective was to capture Constantinople (now Istanbul in Turkey), the capital of the Ottoman Empire, an ally of Germany.

The Australian and New Zealand forces landed at Gallipoli on 25 April, meeting fierce resistance from the Ottoman Turkish defenders. What had been planned as a bold stroke to knock Turkey out of the war quickly became a stalemate, and the campaign dragged on for eight months. At the end of 1915 the allied forces were evacuated, after both sides had suffered heavy casualties and endured great hardships. Over 8,000 Australian soldiers had been killed. News of the landing at Gallipoli had made a profound impact on Australians at home, and 25 April soon became the day on which Australians remembered the sacrifice of those who had died in the war.

Although the Gallipoli campaign failed in its military objectives, the Australian and New Zealand actions during the campaign left us all a powerful legacy. The creation of what became known as the “ANZAC legend” became an important part of the identity of both nations, shaping the ways they viewed both their past and their future.

ANZAC Day goes beyond the anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli in 1915. It is the day we remember all Australians who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. The spirit of ANZAC, with its human qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity. On ANZAC day, ceremonies are held in towns and cities across the nation to acknowledge the service of our veterans.

Trish Horner
VCE FOR PARENTS - SURVIVAL GUIDE
A number of families joined Assistant Principal Kelli MacDonald and Curriculum Leader Andrew Keating to discuss support strategies that parents can use to help their children during the important years of VCE. Some of the strategies discussed on the evening included providing a study friendly space at home, being well informed about the VCE, and helping students to create a plan for study. The key differences between homework and study were also discussed; to better help parents support their students. Thanks to Ms MacDonald for organising the evening.

YEAR 12 ENGLISH ORAL PRESENTATIONS
It has been a hive of activity at the Senior Campus this week, especially in the English Department. As part of the Unit 3 English course, students are required to research, write and deliver a persuasive oral presentation to a small group of students and a panel of assessing teachers. This is the second year in a row that I have been privileged enough to assess these oral presentations. This year I witnessed great presentations on topics as diverse as gaming censorship, women’s rights, commercial surrogacy and police use of tasers.

Thanks to Ms Williams the English Coordinator for organising the event, and to all of the staff members who gave up their own time to help assess the presentations.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM
Congratulations to all those students who have organised and submitted their paperwork on time for their Work Experience placement. The Year 10 Work Experience Program is quickly approaching (15-19 June) and by now, all Year 10 students should have organised a Work Experience Placement and submitted their Arrangement Forms. This is a valuable experience and is designed to assist students to explore possible career options and pathways after school. Many students often receive employment offers for part-time work resulting from their placement which builds their skills base and enhances their employability once they leave school. So far we have some very interesting and varied placements submitted by students in places such as Yarrambat Veterinary Surgery, Dolly Magazine (Pacific Magazines, Sydney), Royal Melbourne Hospital Pathology, Gartner (world’s largest IT Research company), and University of Melbourne Astro Physics Department just to name a few. If any student has not already organised a placement, you need to act quickly. If you are experiencing difficulties, please see Belinda Mahony in the Careers Centre as quickly as possible for some guidance and support. Any student that is unable to organise a placement will still be required to attend school.

YEAR 12 ENGLISH STUDENTS - IS YOUR INSIGHT BOOK FALLING APART?
It has come to our attention that a number of students’ Insight textbooks for Year 12 English have been glued together insufficiently and as such, pages are becoming loose after only a small number of weeks use. If you have this problem, could you please drop off your book (with your name on it) to the Block 10 English office on Friday 1st May. Insight has agreed to replace the faulty textbooks.

Note: Books not handed in by Friday 1 May and needing to be replaced will be the responsibility of the owner.

Any questions, please contact Felicity Williams.
KEYS PLEASE - SAFE LEARNER DRIVER EDUCATION

Last Friday all Year 10 students took part in the Keys Please Learner Driver Safety Seminar as part of Mill Park's Pastoral program. Keys Please highlights the different driving skills and experiences a learner will need to master in order to become a responsible and safe licensed driver.

The Keys Please program is a vital component of the Victorian Government’s strategy to reduce the number of road crashes involving young Victorians. Road crashes are the number one cause of death and serious injury to young people, which can be devastating to families and the school community.

If parents have questions about the program or how to help your child as a learner driver, an online resource: ‘Lessons from the Road’ has been developed by VicRoads to help you work through the learning to drive stages. The videos can be accessed from the VicRoads website: vicroads.vic.gov.au/supervisors.

Liam McNaughton,
Year 10 Programs and Learning Outcomes Manager

YEAR 12 ENGLISH

On Wednesday and Thursday this week Mill Park Secondary College students studying Year 12 English discussed, argued, disputed and rebutted, all with the express endorsement of their teachers(!) Each student gave a 5-6 minute presentation arguing a point of view, urging their audience to adopt a way of thinking or take action on a particular issue.

Students presented their speeches to a group of students and a panel of two teacher assessors. They were required, over the Term 1 break, to research their chosen issue extensively and support their calls to action with statistics, expert opinion and case studies.

The broad range of topics chosen by students and the level of depth, maturity and insight with which they expressed their opinions was nothing short of impressive. The topics were many and varied. This short list illustrates just some of the ideas students presented and supported with evidence:

- The Australian government needs to more strictly regulate the food industry, in light of the recent Hepatitis A berry scare.
- Growing human tissue on or in animals for organ donation is unethical.
- More funding needs to be allocated to the research and prevention of non-communicable diseases such as cancer.
- Women and men need wage equality in all industries.
- Vaccinations should be compulsory.
- Laws which allow parents to be arrested for smacking their children should be changed.
- Young women have a responsibility to be better educated about their sexual health.
- Puppy farming is inhumane and greater penalties should be introduced.

On behalf of the English faculty I wish to congratulate our Year 12 English students of 2015. We are incredibly pleased with the diligence and determination with which you approached this SAC. It was a pleasure to see such high levels of conviction and social/political awareness! Thanks must also go to our wonderful team of staff who assisted as assessors – 191 oral presentations across two days is a dizzying feat. Well done and thank you to all involved.

Felicity Williams, Head of English
STAFF CAR PARK

Parents/carers are asked NOT to drop off or pick up their children from the Staff Car Park. The area is a high traffic area for students and staff, particularly at the beginning and end of the day and already there have been some near misses.

2014 UNCLAIMED LOCKER BELONGINGS (Middle Years Campus only)

Families are asked to collect any unclaimed locker belongings from 2014 (at the Middle Years Campus) by Friday 8 May. If you are unable to collect belongings by this date, please contact the school to arrange collection at another time. Any unclaimed belongings after this date will be recycled or disposed of appropriately.

THE LANGUAGES FACULTY WELCOME OUR NEW ITALIAN LANGUAGE ASSISTANT, MICHELE!

Michele Piscitelli has arrived this week from Italy to join our Languages Faculty for the rest of the year, helping in all Italian classes and assisting the teachers. We are very glad to have his support, fantastic knowledge of Italian language and culture and his enthusiasm. Michele has lived in London for the past two years and taught Italian to adults. He says he loves teaching and finds it rewarding because, “a good teacher never stops being a student and learning lessons”. Michele is looking forward to working with our students and considers it an excellent opportunity for learning new skills. Some Year 7 and 8 students have already enjoyed Michele’s presentation to the class about himself and have been enthusiastically using their knowledge of Italian to ask and answer questions. Make sure you say “Ciao!” to Michele if you see him around the school.

From mid-May to December, Michele will be requiring accommodation in a location that is convenient to get to the school. If you know of any rooms for rent in the surrounding areas please contact Philippa McIlroy at mcilroy.philippa.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Philippa McIlroy, Italian Teacher

YEAR 8 CAMP IN TERM 4, 2015

To all Year 8 parents: On Monday students were provided with a letter to give to you regarding this year’s camp and your/their preferences for the location. A short online survey will allow you to submit this feedback to help the school make an informed decision about the location and program for the Year 8 Camp in 2015. We would appreciate you filling in the online survey if you plan to send your child to camp in Term 4 this year. The link is: http://goo.gl/wFDCZI

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. We are looking forward to offering your child a very rewarding camp experience this year.

Philippa McIlroy, Year 8 Programs and Learning Outcomes Manager

Option 1 - Tasmania  
Option 2 - Canberra  
Option 3 - Waratah Beach  
Option 4 - Philip Island
LIBRARY NEWS

This year in the MYC Library we are remembering our ANZACs in a very special way. Impressive authentic items and memorabilia are on display. ANZAC biscuits have been enjoyed by staff and students. A special thank you to Ms Atkins, staff and students Laila, Natalie and Katerina for their help in making 2,000 poppies. Thank you also to the Campus Principal and staff who dedicated their lunch times reading literature about the ANZACs. Everyone could feel the emotional atmosphere as personal accounts, poetry, stories, letters to loved ones, photographs and songs were presented to students and staff.

**Tuesday:** Cathy Cranfield (A nurse’s story), Jaclyn Curnow (Christmas in the trenches; YouTube), Kylie Wren (personal diary), Luke Matthews (The Red Poppy - book).

**Wednesday:** Heli Dimitriou (story of a local hero), Stella Lambrou (Red Poppies for You - own poem), Karen Eastlake (My Mother’s Eyes - book), Denise Atkins (The Ode to Remembrance - poem).

**Thursday:** Simon McRae (personal account), Penny Gillard (personal account), Melissa Stephens (picture book), Melissa Barnard (picture book).

We thank everyone who celebrated with us the 100 years of the ANZACs.

**Stella Lambrou and Denise Atkins, Library staff**
WHAT ABOUT AN ACCOUNTING CADETSHIP?
The Chartered Accountants Cadetship Program enables Year 12 and first year university students to gain practical and professional experience whilst completing university studies. Advantages of having a cadetship: earn a salary while you study; gain experience in the real business world; make your CV stand out from others; open up a world of business opportunities; take the first step to becoming a chartered accountant – a designation recognised in leading financial centres around the world. To become a cadet you must be accepted to do an Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia approved degree at an Australian university. To find out more about employers offering cadetships, have a look at the Chartered Accountants Employment Guide.

RMIT NEWS
RMIT is a large institution, offering both higher education and VET courses (degrees, diplomas and certificates). The main campus is in the city; it also has smaller campuses in Bundoora and Brunswick. It is ranked highly in the world, with the 2014 QS ranking RMIT in the world’s top 100 universities in electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, computer science and information systems, and accounting and finance. It is also ranked in the top 150 for civil and structural engineering and in communication and media.

WHAT IS SURVEYING? Surveying is taught at RMIT. It is the measurement and mapping of our surrounding environment using specialized technology and equipment. The work of surveyors is all around us, and is required by law and underpins property ownership. It sets the framework for all architecture, engineering and navigation. It is used to create maps for GPS and Google maps, and is integral to sustainable development. Demand for graduates is at an all-time high, with 95% of graduates getting a job within 4 months of graduation, with an average starting salary of $52,000. Who is suited to a career in surveying? You would have an interest in maths, geography, IT and science, and a liking for working outdoors, and with technology. You need to be a critical thinker, problem solver and orientated to detail.

It has previously been a male dominated profession but is now attracting an increasing number of females.

RMIT has a one-year Diploma of Surveying (no prerequisite subjects) and a four year Bachelor of Applied Science (Surveying) (Honours) with these prerequisites: Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 30 in English (EAL) or at least 25 in English other than EAL; and a study score of at least 20 in one of Maths: Mathematical Methods (CAS) or Maths: Specialist Mathematics. More information is available at: www.alifewithoutlimits.com.au. (NOTE: EAL is English as an Additional Language).

ENGINEERING AT RMIT – Engineering at RMIT is for those students who are serious about finding an engineering specialty and getting stuck into it right from first year (a large range of degrees are on offer). However, it provides flexibility for those who change their mind about their specialization after they start their degree. Double degrees are available with management, computer science, environment, design and more. All degrees required 12 weeks industry placement before graduation. Project-based learning is a feature at RMIT, with students working in teams and in the lab from first year. What type of student suits engineering? You need a passion for science, maths and design, and you need to be a problem solver. Median starting salaries for engineering bachelor degree graduates in first full-time employment and aged less than 25 in 2014 was $61,800. RMIT has various two-year associate degrees in engineering. Students who complete these with grade point average of 2.0 or higher are eligible for guaranteed entry into and engineering program relevant to their major.

SCIENCE AT RMIT – What makes a science graduate competitive in the workplace? Staff at RMIT have considered this and come up with the following:
✓ Good problem solving skills
✓ Good networking, communications and team work skills
✓ Breadth and depth in qualifications – a double degree should be considered
✓ An honours degree can be an advantage
✓ A strong hands-on component with practical skills and industry experience in the degree
✓ International experience (eg student exchange)
✓ Entrepreneurship and business skills
✓ Willingness to work overseas for a time graduation
✓ Involvement in extra-curricular activities.
A number of pathways exist to move from a diploma to a degree. (eg the Diploma of Land and Conservation Management can lead to the Bachelor of Environmental Management). RMIT offers a Dean’s Scholars Program, a four-year course incorporating an honours year for capable and highly motivated students who want research training through hands-on participation in research projects.
INDIGENOUS STUDENT EXPERIENCE

MONASH DAY - This is an opportunity for Year 9 - 12 students to go to Monash and get hands on experience of what it has to offer. There will be interactive sessions in faculty areas of interest to each participant, a chance to meet staff and current indigenous students, and to learn about support available. The day is hosted by Yuendj, Indigenous Engagement Unit. When: 10am-1.30pm, Fri 1 May (lunch included); Where: Robert Blackwood Hall, Clayton; Book (by 23 April): Kristel Keleher, kristel.keleher@monash.edu, ph 9905 8699; www.monash.edu.au/study/life/indigenous.

VCE AND CAREERS EXPO - The Age VCE and Careers Expo is being held once again this year. There will be more than 170 exhibitors with VCE resources, tertiary course and career information. When: 9am-3pm, Thurs 7 and Fri 8 May and 10am – 4pm on Sat 9 and Sun 10 May; Where: Caulfield Racecourse; Admission: $10 or $25 for families. This is a great opportunity to gain information at one location. Info: www.vceandcareers.com.au.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY TEAMS UP WITH REAL MADRID

VU sports students will gain behind-the-scenes access to Real Madrid Football Club through a new partnership signed this month. The partnership will bring Real Madrid Graduate School Universidad Europea expertise to classes in Australia. This school has some of the world’s most highly-regarded sports educators, in football especially, and this partnership will see these very people deliver lectures at VU campuses.

IGNITED SCHOLARSHIPS

Ignited scholarships at Deakin University are designed to attract more female students into non-traditional areas of study and work. They are awarded to successful applicants entering an undergraduate information technology or engineering course. Each is valued at $5,000pa over normal course duration and recipients are also assigned an academic mentor. Info: www.deakin.edu.au/study-at-deakin/scholarships-and-awards/ignited. NOTE: many tertiary scholarships are on offer; many are for academic performance, but there are many other categories. If you want check them out, go to www.vtac.edu.au and find Scholarships at the top of the screen.

Compiled by: M. Walker