

Cobden Technical School

"Newsletter"

Week 8 – Term 1
24th March, 2011



ROCKY'S RAMBLINGS - Peter Rock (Principal)

It has been an amazingly busy time around the school, typical of this stage of Term 1, with a lot to come over the remaining two weeks of the term. Our students have been involved in some wonderful on and off-campus experiences over the last couple of weeks with the Year 7 Port Fairy Camp in full-swing (and, hopefully, not too wet) as you receive this newsletter! Good luck to all involved and many thanks to the staff who have organised these camps and other experiences, along with the staff and parents prepared to be involved in making sure they are special experiences for our students.

Given that we are at the Week 8 point of Term 1 already, this is the fourth, and second last, edition of the Newsletter for this term, with only two weeks after this prior to the Autumn Holidays – it certainly flies past quickly, particularly Term 1 with so much on. I want to thank the whole school community for their commitment and support over this vital first term of the school year to this stage. Without question, the tone of this term and the terrific approach of most students augurs well for a successful year in all respects. I would particularly like to draw attention to the Year 12 students - I have been delighted with the approach of the senior students to their studies and involvement in the school in all respects, certainly having taken on their mantle as role models and young adults who do a lot in setting the scene for the school culture in a very mature way. This was particularly evident at our recent Athletics Carnival and, prior to that, the Swimming Carnival, where they participated strongly, vocally and colourfully all day.

There is a full report on the **Athletics Carnival** (held on last Friday, March 18th, at the Cobden Recreation Reserve) elsewhere in the newsletter (along with other wonderful sporting achievements), but, can I take the opportunity to once again thank students for their involvement, staff for their work and parents, relatives and friends for their support on the day. It really was a fantastic day. Special thanks to Jo Arundell whose thorough organisation guarantees that the day runs to plan and can be enjoyed by all...or, when things don't go completely to plan, adjustments can be quickly and effectively made! After Tandarook Red's success at the swimming, Shenfield Blue took out the Athletics Shield with a very strong team performance from Tandarook with Glenfyne in third...but sure to push hard for the Cross-Country title in Term 2. It was my honour to present the Shield to Shenfield's Senior House Captains, Amy Meade and Drew Semmens; and, on this note, can I congratulate all House Captains, who, once again, did a terrific job in getting their competitors to their required events. We certainly look forward to the performance of our Athletics Team as they represent the school at the **HSSSA (Hampden Secondary Schools Sports Association) Annual Athletics Carnival** on the last Wednesday of Term 1, April 6th, at the Leura Oval in Camperdown. Presentations of medallions for our individual age group champions from our athletics carnival will be made at an assembly in the near future.

I would also like to congratulate our 'elite' swimmers for their efforts in competing at the Barwon South-West Swimming Championships in Geelong last Thursday. The Under 14 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay Team of Tosh Merret, Jacob Prout, Paul Pekin and Jack Hutt came third after having blitzed the South-West Championships in Warrnambool the week before. And the Under 20 female team of Laurie Symons, Brooke Methven, Emma Giblett and Taylor Rock finished a creditable fifth after a third in Warrnambool. Congratulations on getting to this very high level of competition!

COBDEN TECHNICAL SCHOOL "COMMITTED TO STUDENTS"

McKenzie Street, Cobden. (PO Box 106, 3266) Phone: 55951202 Fax: 55951076

ROCKY'S RAMBLINGS - (Continued)

The **2010 Cobden Technical School Debutante Ball** will be taking place on Friday, April 8th, the last day of Term 1, at the Timboon Hall. This year, the Deb Set is again very large and it will be a wonderful night for the young people involved...the practice sessions have been enthusiastically tackled by all and the organising parents and staff are doing a great job in getting ready for this very special evening. I am really looking forward to what should be a night to remember. I would particularly like to thank our staff liaison team of Margot Horan, Ellen Podbury and Therese Billing who put in such an effort to make this a very special experience for our young people.

Staffing

Sue Styles will be on Long-Service Leave from the start of Term 2 until the last week of the term. During this time, Michael Smart will be taking on the role of Acting Assistant Principal; Michael will be maintaining his Year 11 Chemistry class during the term and his other classes will be taken by Tom McKenzie, Tom having done a fantastic job in his final round as a student teacher in 2010. Sue Blake is on Long-Service Leave for the first two weeks of Term 2 and, from Week 5 until the end of Term 2, Margot Horan will also be on leave; for both of these teachers, we are, again, very fortunate to have Jill Danby who is going to step in and cover the classes of Margot and Sue during their periods of leave.

Social Networking...

In the last newsletter, I included some information about the types, and impact, of cyber bullying in general; in this article, I wanted to refer in particular to the explosion of social networking sites via the internet.....and their impact.

Our young people have such amazing access to a huge variety of chat and message sites which now exist. The 21st Century has seen the advent of a totally new and innovative form of social networking amongst our students; the new way for our young people to 'connect' is through texting, emailing, chat rooms and networking websites. Networking websites make up at least six of the top fifteen websites worldwide – examples of these are: Facebook, Youtube; Bebo; Facebox; My Space; Windows Messenger, etc.

At school, we are often talking of ways to reduce their potential negative impact, especially in terms of their capacity to be an anonymous method of bullying and harassment. It is essential for parents at home to have a real awareness that there are undesirable people out there who anonymously trawl these sites. At school, we block these websites, but what as parents can we do at home? Our children are so proficient with ICT that there is very little chance of us knowing exactly what they are up to, even though we may think we have a handle on it.

In most cases, these social networking sites are fun for our children, but, there are things we can do to safeguard and protect our children. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries or concerns on this matter. It is vital that you emphasise as strongly as you can that only people the children know and want should have access to any space they own...and never put any personal information into an open forum which will identify an individual, their school or their address, etc.....these are the sorts of information that 'undesirable' users are looking for.

What can I say about the school's policy about this...well, the internet access is first class in terms of providing access to the latest and the best online resources; however, social networking, for its own sake, or, indeed, the use of a mobile phone at school, particularly in the wonderful world of texting, are not going to be allowed. However, the utilisation of these facilities in terms of appropriate educational outcomes will continue to be explored and encouraged, particularly as we enter the world of the "Ultranet".

This is, without question, a constantly evolving environment, hard to keep on top of for you and us. For your interest/information, I have found the resources included on the following websites to be very helpful:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/technology/cybersafety>

This is a site which has been created for specific use in NSW schools and includes some very clear advice on certain aspects of computer/internet use, for example, where and when to allow computer access to take place in the home.

<http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/site/index.asp>

ROCKY'S RAMBLINGS - (Continued)

ThinkUKnow is an Internet safety program delivering interactive training to parents, carers and teachers through primary and secondary schools across Australia using a network of accredited trainers. Created by the UK Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre, ThinkUKnow Australia has been developed by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Microsoft Australia, and is now proudly supported by ninemsn.

Student/Parent/Teacher Interview Afternoons/Evening

As I referred to in the last newsletter, Week 8 of Term 1 makes it a very good time to reflect upon what has been achieved to this stage and make some very important plans and commitments looking towards the rest of the semester...a part of this will be taken up in our forthcoming Student/Parent/Teacher Interview Afternoons/Evenings.

Our Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews (in the second week of Term 2) are a fantastic opportunity, at the mid-way point of the semester, to have a conversation with your children and their teachers about their progress to this stage and what we need to do to ensure that success is high on the agenda! It's not a matter of blame, nor regret...it's a matter of commitment and preparedness to put in the effort necessary to succeed. Easy? Absolutely not! Worth it? Absolutely!

The interviews themselves will be held on the second Wednesday afternoon/evening of Term 2, on:

Wednesday, May 4th, from 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm

Early in the term holidays, you will receive the Interim Report for your child/children. On the Wednesday evening, bring it along with you and, given the time restraints, try to be specific about which teachers you need to see and limit your conversation time to a few minutes – if there is a need for more detailed discussions (more than five minutes) and/or follow-up, this can be organised with individual teachers at the interview.

For parents of students in Years 7 and 8, remember that the first lot of rotations for Technology Studies and Arts subjects will be completed at the end of Term 1, so, the report sheet will be pretty close to being the student's final level of performance in those two subjects. Have a chat with your child about which subjects they are.

On the evening, I will be in the foyer to provide you with a list of where teachers are located and to direct you to them from 4.00 pm onwards.

Setting Goals

We have spent quite a deal of time in the first newsletters of 2011, through coordination sessions and individual classes, talking about using our diary to plan a student's work and the necessity of setting goals

This is a very strong focus for us as a school in working with our young people. We place a strong emphasis on students planning for their future to:

- Understand themselves - their strengths, weaknesses and learning style.
- Set a purpose to achieve - "Why am I at school?"
- Reflect on their efforts with a view to improve – "Is what I'm doing going to get me what I want?"

Goal Setting can sometimes be viewed by students as an unnecessary activity because they believe they are in control and it is too formal a process. The reality is that it is a proven, dependable, tried-and-true way to cope with the challenge of getting the things done that have to be done. And, thus, our emphasis on the whole process through all aspects of what students do at school, and the value of the diary process to facilitate this! Please take a strong role with your children in assisting them to reflect on their efforts and set their goals for the week ahead.

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange

We received a package this week explaining the Southern Cross suite of exchange programs for 2011 and 2012. If any student is interested in having a look at the package, please feel free to drop in and see me at anytime. Or, if you would rather, all the information is available at: www.scce.com.au. Southern Cross also have a toll-free phone number at 1800500501.

ROCKY'S RAMBLINGS - (Continued)

Parents continue to ask the school about the education tax refund; though I cannot give you specific tax-related advice, the following article appeared in the 'Age' in February...please consider it carefully - **The strategy: To claim the education tax refund.**

What refund is that? If you don't know, you could be among the taxpayers entitled to about \$500 million in unclaimed tax breaks. Recent figures from the Australian Tax Office show only half of all eligible families have lodged claims for education expenses in their 2009 – 2010 tax returns. Treasurer Wayne Swan says many families were unaware of the education tax refund and could be missing out on a break worth up to \$750 if their child is in high school and \$375 for students in primary school.

With most parents having to dip into their pockets to send their kids back to school, it's important to remember to keep those receipts and claim your tax refund when tax time comes.

How does the refund work? You can claim a 50 cent tax refund for every dollar you spend on education expenses up to \$1500 for each child in secondary school and \$750 for each child in primary school. So if you have two children, one in high school and one in primary, and spend \$2250, you can claim a refund of \$1125.

The refund covers spending on most education related expenses with one big exception - it doesn't cover school fees. It does, however, cover common expenses such as computers and related equipment (printers, USB flash drives, home internet connections, educational software and computer repairs), textbooks, study guides, stationery and prescribed trade tools for various secondary school trade courses.

To be eligible, you must be entitled to Family Tax Benefit Part A, which depends on the number of children you have, their ages and your family's adjusted taxable income. You should also be eligible if your child would have been eligible for FTB Part A but received a government benefit or pension such as Youth Allowance, a disability support pension or ABSTUDY that made them ineligible. Independent students may also be eligible.

How do I claim it? There's a section in your tax return dealing with the refund or, if you don't have to file a tax return, you can ask the Tax Office for a education refund claim form. The refund is actually a refundable tax offset, which means it will reduce the amount of tax you have to pay if you have a tax liability, with any excess being paid out in cash. Expenses incurred this year must be claimed in your 2010 - 2011 tax return.

What if I forgot to claim my expenses last year? The chief executive of accountantsRus, Adrian Raftery, says if you lodged your return through a tax agent, you can ask them to make an online variation to claim the refund. If you lodged it yourself, he says, you need to make an objection to your return to the Tax Commissioner. That's not as onerous as it sounds. Raftery says you should simply write a letter saying you forgot to claim whatever amount of eligible education expenses and would like your return to be amended. If you haven't lodged your return yet, there's still time to hunt down last year's receipts and claim them.

Does the limit apply to each child or to my entire family? You're allowed to pool your expenses, so if you have several eligible children and buy a \$2000 computer you can claim the full cost - so long as all the kids have access to the computer. If you spend more than the limit, any excess can also be carried forward to the next tax year (so long as your child is still eligible). But if it is not claimed in that year the benefit will be lost.

Can I make a claim if my child has just started school? You can claim for the part of the year in which your child was eligible. This also applies if your child left school at the end of last year. But if your child has just moved up to high school, you can claim the higher \$750 refund for the full year. Further information - including a full list of which expenses you can and can't claim - is at www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au.

Dress Code

We have certainly been experiencing a variety of weather conditions lately which I understand has required use of both the summer and winter school uniform. It has also demonstrated the need for some students to make sure they have a Cobden Technical School jumper or the plain black coat available from Reicha's. Students are not permitted to wear 'hoodies' or coloured T-shirts under their white polo tops, only plain short or long-sleeved white shirts. Over the holidays, could all families please make sure your child has the appropriate dress code requirements in accordance with the clear specifications in the front of our school diary, including for footwear.

ROCKY'S RAMBLINGS - (Continued)

Elective Rotations

Students in Years 7 and 8 will continue with their current electives until the end of the term, hopefully completing their models and work requirements over the next couple of weeks. In the last week of term, all parents in Years 7 and 8 will be reminded of the new set of electives the junior students will be undertaking in Term 2.

Bullying

There have once again been many stories in the media about bullying and its effects on people. I would encourage all families to have discussions about bullying and the negative effects it has. Below is a summary that we have put out at various times over the last couple of years which covers some of the forms of bullying. At Cobden Technical School, we have zero tolerance of this sort of behaviour and students will be dealt with in a significant way, including suspension, if they are found to be involved in bullying incidents.

Bullying can be divided into three main categories: Physical, Emotional and Verbal.

Physical Bullying	Emotional Bullying	Verbal Bullying
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hitting, Punching, Shoving, Pinching, Tripping, Spitting, Scratching- Damaging hiding or stealing belongings- Throwing objects at someone- Kicking, Pushing- Physical humiliation (e.g., pulling someone's shorts down in public)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Spreading rumours/nasty stories- Making fun of someone- Ignoring- Excluding from groups- Stopping people befriending someone- Embarrassing someone- Using threatening looks or gestures- Intimidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Name calling- Making offensive remarks- Insulting someone (such as negative comments about a person's appearance, clothing, actions, etc.),- Taunts- Teasing- Threats- Put-downs

Other forms of bullying include:

- Threatening, intimidating, embarrassing...phone calls, emails, SMS messages, notes, letters or graffiti.
- Discrimination, including, ethnic slurs, racism, slurs against students with special needs, religious beliefs.
- Although not necessarily bullying, play fighting or physical mucking around of this type can lead to more serious incidents and is also not acceptable behaviour.

School Council Elections

Just a reminder of the detail provided in the previous two newsletters about the School Council election process; there are still parent vacancies available on our new Council for anyone who might be interested.

Under the constituting order for Cobden Technical School, the membership of our Council is as follows:-

Parents -	6
DEECD -	5
(the Principal is substantially one of these representatives)	
Co-opted Community Members -	2
Student members -	2

The members whose terms expire at the next meeting are:

Parent members	Chris Bodey, John Errey, Lisa Dickinson
DEECD members	Michael Smart, Denise Butler
Student member	Hannah Bodey

ROCKY'S RAMBLINGS - (Continued)

Continuing members of the Council are:

<u>Parent members:</u>	Jacki Nowell	Mark Sullivan,	Sally Rix
<u>DEECD members:</u>	Sue Blake	Michael Nixon	
<u>Community members:</u>	Jim Lock	Ron Greagen	

The following is an article outlining the role of the school council produced by the DEECD.

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

There are three possible categories of membership:-

- **A mandated elected parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. DEECD employees can be parent members at their child's school.
- **A mandated elected DEECD employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of the school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- **An optional community member category.** Its members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be community members.

The term of office for members is two years. Half the members must retire each year and this creates vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in February or March each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider:-

- Standing for elections as a member of the school council;
- Encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March. For parents, this notice will probably be given to your child so you may need to check with them whether it has been sent home.

If you decide to stand for election, you will need to arrange for someone to nominate and second you as a candidate in either the parent category or DEECD employee category. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election.

ROCKY'S RAMBLINGS - (Continued)

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember:

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.
- Consider standing for election to council this year.
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Parent Update

As I referred to in an early edition of this year's newsletter, on the DEECD's (Department of Education and Early Childhood Development) website, there is a section completely, devoted to providing information relevant to parents; it can be found at www.education.vic.gov.au, the Parents' section being the left-hand side.

Once in the parent section, on the right-hand side, you will see a section called 'Popular Links' and, below that a link to the 'Parent Update Newsletter' which provides relevant and up-to-date material which you may find of interest.

The March 2011 edition of *Parent Update* contains the following articles:

- [Cervical cancer vaccine](#)
Experts from the Cancer Council are concerned that many teenage girls are missing out on the cervical cancer vaccine due to their own misconceptions, and those of their parents.
- [Free family fun during Education Week](#)
Education Week, from 15 to 21 May this year, provides the chance to discover the education opportunities available to your child, in your area.
- [Helping children to learn at home](#)
This edition in a series of literacy and maths tips and activities looks at helping your child to read, write, speak and listen.
- [A great time for reading](#)
With the Premiers' Reading Challenge now underway, there's no better time to encourage your child to get reading.
- [Parents the key to preventing childhood obesity](#)
Community centres around the state, together with Deakin University, are trialling a 10-week program designed to help parents instil healthy habits in their children.
- [Explaining serious surgery to children](#)
Allison Harding writes of her mixed emotions about surgery, and concern for her Year 3 daughter.

CALENDAR DATES:-

Wednesday, 23 rd to Friday, 25 th March, 2011	Year 7 Camp to Port Fairy leaving 9am
Friday, 25 th March, 2011	Melbourne Grand Prix excursion with Mr Brooks, Mr Nixon and Mr Petrie.
Monday, 28 th March, 2011	"Courage to Care" excursion to Warrnambool for Year 9 students
Thursday, 31 st March, 2011	7-session day
Monday, 4 th April, 2011	School Council – 7.30pm
Wednesday, 6 th April, 2011	H.S.S.A. Athletics, Camperdown – Frederick Street oval
Thursday, 7 th April, 2011	School Sports Victorian State Swimming Championships
Friday, 8 th April, 2011	School Debutante Ball - Timboon Hall
Next Term:- Term 2	Term 2 commences Wednesday, 27 th April
Wednesday, 4 th May, 2011	Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews from 4 pm – 8pm

CANTEEN PARENT ROSTER:-



Please don't forget that help is required to assist our Canteen Manager Denise Robertson:-

If you have a spare day or two (each month) between the hours of 10.45 am and 2 pm, please contact the school on **55951202**.

Mrs Denise Robertson will gladly place you on our Canteen Roster to assist in the serving of food to our students.

As a volunteer helper you are not required to handle money,

Denise is very efficient at this – just help out with the serving of our *hungry* students during morning recess and lunchtime.

Please give this some thought. If you are able to help in our Canteen, please contact the school on **55951202**. Thank you!

As you can see, there are plenty of spare days where your help is required. Please fill out the form below, or telephone Denise.

Thursday	24 th March	Robyn Rosolin
Friday	25 th March	Thelma Hardy
Monday	28 th March	Jodie Walsh
Tuesday	29 th March	Lee Campbell
Wednesday	30 th March	Sharon Robertson
Thursday	31 st March	Jacinta Smith
Friday	1 st April	Joanne Heard
Monday	4 th April	Beryl Meade
Tuesday	5 th April	Sandi Johnstone
Wednesday	6 th April	Rebecca Cecchini
Thursday	7 th April	Danielle White
Friday	8 th April	Help is required
Term 2....		
Wednesday	27 th April	Linda Cartledge
Thursday	28 th April	Help is required
Friday	29 th April	Julie Wetemans
Monday	2 nd May	Kathryn Geddes
Tuesday	3 rd May	Cassie Hunter
Wednesday	4 th May	Help is required
Thursday	5 th May	Help is required
Friday	6 th May	Help is required

Parent Canteen Roster – return slip

Name _____

Address _____

Student name: _____ Group: _____

I am available to assist in the Canteen on _____ days.



Intimo Lingerie Party - Abbey Clarke & Family

This Saturday, 26th March 9:30-4pm

Falk and Co Estate Agents (meeting room)

Curdie Street, Cobden

Sizes 8-24, A-G, bras, briefs, camis, slips and clothing range.

10% of sales to Andrea and Darren Clarke to assist with travel costs whilst Abbey is in Hospital in Melbourne.

For further information contact: Jenny Free 5595-1454

SPORTS UPDATE

Cobden Technical School Athletic Sports -Friday 18th March, 2011 – Results:-

	Shenfield Blue	935.7	(Congratulations Shenfield)
	Tandarook Red	882.6	
	Glenfyne Gold	762.2	
<u>Champions</u>	13Yrs Female	Sam Ayres	Blue
	13Yrs Male	Beau Royal	Blue
	14Yrs Female	Jayde Campbell	Blue
	14Yrs Male	Paul Pekin	Red
	15Yrs Female	Miranda Uwland	Red
	15Yrs Male	Leigh Finlayson	Gold
	16Yrs Female	Cheyenne Rohan	Blue
	16Yrs Male	Ashley Ovens	Blue
	17Yrs Female	Jessica Veenstra	Blue
	17Yrs Male	Leigh Rosolin	Red
	20Yrs Female	Demi Mounsey	Gold
	20Yrs Male	Ben Johnstone	Blue
		Alistair Johnson	Blue
<u>Records</u>	Cheyenne Rohan	Blue	16Year Female Javelin 26.85
	Shenfield Blue		14Year Male 4 x 100m Relay 56.86



HSSSA Athletics

The HSSSA Athletics will be held at the athletics track at Fredrick Street in Camperdown. They will be held on Wednesday, 6th April (the last Wednesday, Term 1). Students who are involved have been given details of the day. If there are any problems, I would appreciate students letting me know straight away so I can make any changes and let emergencies know as soon as possible.

Barwon South West Golf

Luke Smith and Tom Andrews have qualified for the Secondary Schools Victorian Senior State Golf Championships to be held at Eastern Golf Club, Doncaster, on Monday, 9th May. Noah Mounsey and Jack Hutt have qualified for the Secondary Schools Victorian Junior State Golf Championship to be played on Friday, 11th November; the venue is yet to be confirmed.

National Ride2school Day – Wednesday 16th March

Tom Toohey, Kye Templeton, Brandon Fish-Kidd and Nick Bell rode their bikes from South Ecklin to school on Wednesday, 16th March, leaving at 7.20am and arriving at Cobden Tech at 9.12am as part of the National Ride2school Day. We had 11 riders participate which was an improvement on last year when we had 7. This was a fantastic effort from these Years 7 and 8 boys, hopefully, inspiring a bigger participation next year.



Our Under 20 Female Barwon South West Relay Team:- I to r: Emma Giblett, Taylor Rock, Laurie Symons, Brooke Methven.



Our Under 14 Male Barwon South West Relay Team:- I to r: Paul Pekin, Tosh Merrett, Jack Hutt, Jacob Prout.



Our "Ride to School" cyclists:- I to r: Tom Toohey, Kye Templeton, Brandon Fish-Kidd and Nick Bell.

SNAPS OF ATHLETIC SPORTS - Friday, 18th March, 2011



CONGRATULATIONS



SHENFIELD (BLUE)

Shenfield Blue 935.7
Tandarook Red 882.6
Glenfyne Gold 762.2



BARWON SOUTH WEST SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Last Thursday, 17TH March, eight students travelled to Geelong to participate in the Barwon South West Swimming Sports at Kardinia Park. Jack Hutt, Paul Pekin, Jacob Prout and Tosh Merrett competed in the Under 14s junior boys freestyle relay and came in 3rd place with an excellent swim. Taylor Rock, Laurie Symons, Emma Giblett and Brooke Methven also competed in the Under 20 senior girls freestyle relay and came in 5th with a solid swim. It was a terrific effort by the students to reach this level of competition and they should be commended on their achievements. Well done!!!

Thanks to **Jarrad Cook** for accompanying our students to Geelong.

ECOTOURISM CAMP 'GREAT OCEAN WALK' - 7th, 8th and 9th MARCH

On Monday, 7th March, our Years 9/10 Ecotourism class all piled onto 'Fuso' ready for our 3-day hiking trip along the Great Ocean Walk. We set off for Shelley Beach from Blanket Bay, where we walked 13km. It was a difficult walk and it was such a relief when we arrived to our campsite just up from the beach. On the walk we saw four snakes and a lot of lizards. We had some very impressive meals that night, especially from Tom and Coleman who deep fried everything! Their food didn't look that appealing, but, they seemed to love it! Our first night was an enjoyable and fun night, just hanging by the fire toasting marshmallows.

On our second day, our wakeup call was at 7am and it was very hard to get moving, as everyone's legs were aching from the previous day. Once the tents were packed up, and breakfast was over, we set off for a 20km walk to Aire River. This walk was very tough; the majority of the walk was on sand and there were lots of hills. After walking 9km, we had a lunch break at the Cape Otway lighthouse. Not long after, we were off again. Once we arrived at Aire River, most of the boys went for a swim; it was way too cold for the girls. That night, everyone was getting cranky as we were tired and sore. Also that night, there were a few other campers next to our tents who were fairly entertaining as they were singing all night. Another bit of entertainment for the whole camp was the drop toilets; everyone was making a big fuss out of them although we did not find them that bad.

The next morning, we packed up in the rain and drove to Apollo Bay. On our last day, we only walked 3km which was good. On our way back to Cobden, we got some McDonald's from Colac and arrived back at school about 3pm. All up, it was a great camp, getting to know everyone and having a great time. Thanks to all our teachers (our organising teacher, Kristen Sheehan and our support teachers James Giblett and Neal Simmonds) for helping us on this camp.

By

Georgie Rooke and Heidi Loving



Ecotourism Camp "SNAPS"
Pictured:- Heidi Loving,
Sarah Spokes, Georgie
Rooke, Thomas Robertson,
Rachel Giblett, Coleman
Hewish, Jackson Rock,
Leigh Finlayson, Brodie
Parsell and Amber Howard.



S.R.C. AND OTHER BITS AND PIECES:

Green Beans

Our last Green Beans meeting was a huge success. We are slowly seeing growth in the number of students attending, a positive sign. Those who attended the last meeting helped out with the schools' mobile phone recycling program.



We packaged over 40 mobile phones and chargers to be sent off for recycling. This prevents toxic chemicals from entering landfill, and means that some of the precious metals which are mined from important ecosystems around the world get re-used. Don't forget, if you have any old mobile phones, batteries and/or chargers lying around, drop them off at the office. Well done team! PS. More members wanted! Meetings every 2nd Thursday in Room 3. See Miss Kerr for more information.

SRC & Student Leadership

Last week, the SRC was greatly pleased to hear from Andre Bongers (uncle of Will, Year 12, 2010). On a family holiday to Africa late last year, Will accompanied his uncle on a visit to the Voice of Peace Orphanage in Harare, Zimbabwe. While he was there, Will was struck by the poverty the children were living in, and returned to school wanting to make a difference. The SRC then helped him to organise a raffle to be held at last year's presentation evening which raised approximately \$800.

Will's mum, Jenny, then helped us by getting the money through to Andre... via a trip to Holland! The Australian government currently has sanctions against Zimbabwe preventing funds transfers directly to any Zimbabwean bank accounts, so, some lateral thinking got it to Voice of Peace eventually. Despite the delay, Andre assured us our donation was very gratefully accepted. It was used to purchase much-needed food supplies.

It just goes to show that we really can make a real difference!

School Captain and SRC member, Darcy Walsh, returned from a REACH camp at Kinglake this weekend looking exhausted, but totally pumped. The REACH Foundation is an amazing organisation, co-founded by former Melbourne footballer, Jim Stynes, when he recognised a need to inspire young people to truly get the most out of life. Darcy has promised to write an article about his weekend for the next newsletter, so keep an eye out for that.

How can you do the same thing? Anyone can apply to take part in REACH camps, but Darcy took the initiative to apply for the REACH IGA/Leadership Weekend Away (a fully funded camp supported by IGA for young leaders in the community) after hearing about it in the Bulletin. This year, applications open late July, and the camp will be run in October. Keen to get involved? See Miss Kerr.

In other news, this week we appointed two new co-secretaries to help Mel Karlinski with the significant workload that comes with being SRC secretary. Well done to Tyran Dowell and Jayden Sharp who will help to share the workload with Mel for the rest of the year.

We also ran a BBQ at the athletics sports last Friday. Big thanks to Neicy for helping us to organise it, and also to Jo Heard who took some time out of her very busy schedule to help out.

Jessica Kerr – SRC Leader

TIMBOON MOTORS - 55983007



Timboon Motors are currently looking for someone to help out every Saturday morning. Please contact Ray Gillingham on (03) 5598 3007 if you are interested. The Spare Parts Department has a traineeship available for a young person with a strong interest in motor vehicles. Please apply in writing to Employment Manager, Timboon Motors, PO Box 40, Timboon, 3268.

MORTLAKE INTERSCHOOL SHOW JUMPING – MARCH

On Tuesday, 15th March, it was a beautiful day to be competing for Cobden Technical School in the Interschool Championships and doing something you are proud to do. Georgina Heard and her horse “Archie” had a great two rounds of show jumping on the beautifully prepared grounds just behind the lake in Mortlake. “Archie” is just returning to work after injury and only knocked one rail down in the Championship round. The second event was the Power and Speed event. In two rounds, both were clear rounds, with a result of 5th out of a very competitive group of 19.



Well done Georgina and “Archie”.



Do you have an email address.....? If you would like a copy of this, and all Newsletters, emailed to you, please email Heather on petrie.heather.m@edumail.vic.gov.au and a copy will be forwarded to you. Don't miss out on happenings and dates associated with the school; get your own copy of the Newsletter emailed to your home.

The **Corangamite Relay for Life** was a terrific event, bringing the community together for a cause that affects so many of our community.



Cobden Technical School Stage Lighting and Sound team was once again involved in providing the lighting for the many acts over two days at this year's Relay for Life. Students Brodie Parsell, Nick Smith, Tori Boyle and Dillon Leversha spent a long two days setting up and operating the lights for the acts. They did a fantastic job, and were complimented by other members of the entertainment team. They took their tasks very seriously, displaying leadership and creativity, and always asked if they could help others.

Well done! **Jo Brooks, Art/Theatre Dept.**



"World of Maths"

On Thursday, 17th March, 2010, all Year 7 and 8 students attended sessions with the **World of Maths** road show. During these sessions, students worked on a variety of mathematical problem-solving tasks, in a range of contexts, including the rotation of gears, the positioning of trees on land areas and the construction of shapes both in 2D and 3D situations.

It was great to see all students participating positively. Also, a big thank you to all staff involved! Below are photos taken during the "World of Maths" activity.

Sarah Oakley, Maths Coordinator



And our new "Science" building takes shape.....as at 23.3.2011





SPRING INTO **COBDEN'S** **FESTIVAL SPIRIT**

**All eyes looking toward
OCTOBER 14th -16th, 2011**

YOU, your family and friends are invited to be part of the fun and frivolity as we make plans for the 2011 CopRice Cobden Spring Festival.

Each festival, we aim to make the weekend in October even bigger and better but, from time to time, we do need new energy and new ideas – ideas like last year's TRUenergy fun walk/run, the skate park championships and KidZone which were real winners!

If you have a small amount of time to contribute to the cause, we would love to have you on board the Spring Festival flagship.

This year, our aim is for everyone to share the work and enjoy being part of the preparations – not to be saddled with hours and hours of unpaid work.

We aim to have teams working on the various sections of the festival so you won't have to be on deck the whole weekend . . . or even attend every monthly meeting!

You might like to help set up the festival eg compile the program, work on sponsorship and arrange publicity or keep our stakeholders informed or . . .

You might like to help run a festival event eg marshal the skateboarders, register the fun walkers/runners or judge the pet parade or . . .

You might like to just help on the day eg hand out programs, set up a marquee or work a BBQ.

Perhaps come to our meeting on Monday 18th April (7pm, Heytesbury Room, Civic Hall) and check out our approach. You will be welcome!

Inquiries to Garry Moorfield (0407 682603), Barb Cowley (5595 4243), Jo Beard (5595 1951), Milton Parlour (0409 833043), Darcy Walsh (0447 943064), Kerryn Cain (5595 1176), Jackie Nowell (5595 2277) or Dennis and Heather Walsh (5595 1524)

Cobden Junior Football Netball Club

Under 12 and 14 Netballers...

All interested netballers wishing to play the Sunday competition, please contact Phyllis on 0427 946 203 to register your interest as soon as possible.

Cobden Tennis Presentation Night

is on this Saturday, 26th March from 7pm for all players and their families at the Cobden Sports Club. The format is a shared tea so please bring along cold meat, salad and dessert (enough to feed your family). Drinks are at Bar Prices. Presentations will commence at 8.30pm with trophies presented to both Senior and Junior players with each Junior player to receive a certificate. For further information please contact Sharyn on 55946272.



COBDEN TECHNICAL SCHOOL

DEBUTANTE BALL

RAFFLE

Please complete and return tickets and money (in an envelope) to the office on or before Friday, 8th April, 2011.

<p>First prize: 4 Nights accommodation at "The Sands" Second Prize: Nutrimerics basket Third Prize: Bar gift set. Tickets \$1 Drawn 8th April 2011</p> <p>Name _____ Phone _____</p>	<p>First prize: 4 Nights accommodation at "The Sands" Second Prize: Nutrimerics basket Third Prize: Bar gift set. Tickets \$1 Drawn 8th April 2011</p> <p>Name _____ Phone _____</p>
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- First prize will be **4 Nights** accommodation at "**The Sands**", **4 Calendo Court, Unit 4, Merimbula, NSW**:- a 2 bedroom apartment for either 4 adults, or 2 adults and up to 3 children. (Not to be taken in School Holidays).
- Second Prize will be a **Nutrimerics** basket donated by Nicola Couch.
- Third Prize is a **bar gift set**. Tickets are being sent home for each family. Please sell as many of tickets as you can and send money and tickets back before the night of the Debutante Ball. Good luck with the draw.