Year 8 Man Camp

Sam, Jonothan & Kwame having fun with their hand made raft at Man Camp. More on page 6.
From the Principal

What makes a difference?

I had the privilege of going on Year 9 City Camp last week. Despite the heat (and it was hot!), the students performed their tasks beautifully. I just wanted to share something that really stuck out for me and transformed a ‘good’ camp into something that was quite special.

The purpose of the City camp is to experience what makes the city unique and for the students to begin to understand the key aspects that characterise living and working in this environment. For some, the camp throws up different experiences - from challenging food choices to experiencing real life through the cases at the Magistrates court. Students are encouraged to value street art as opposed to artwork displayed in a gallery. The potential experiences are endless.

It’s often, however, in the random moments that challenge and change is created. Enter the challenging situation. On Thursday night, as a group was coming back to their accommodation, a homeless person became agitated when disturbed by the group. This ageing, weakened man responded with a flurry of words, most of which were not pleasant. The group was ushered in to the accommodation quickly and the experience was debriefed accordingly.

Often, these types of experiences can feed stereotypes about marginalised people. In the throws of society, homelessness can be stigmatised and dismissed as people make sense of their own reality. What then makes a difference?

Despite feeling shaken by their experience, the group members began to write. They wrote elements of God’s care for that man’s life and decided to make a care package, mostly of their calling and responsibility before the Lord. These Biblical foundations were ultimately expressed in the Educational Creed which continues to be the basis on which MECS continues to function and develop.

From the Principal continued next page...

1979 - Senior School Opening

The unbelievable excitement and thankfulness was still at a high pitch during all of 1973 when the President, Keith Greenwood raised the scary question at a Board meeting as to what we thought our Grade 6 students would be looking forward to in 1974. A little break would have been wonderful but the push was ‘on’ to continue to roll out the vision God had given us. Forcing the Grade 6 students to have to change schools and abandon the Christian Foundation was unthinkable so Year 7 – 12 classes were established progressively as the Grade 6s moved up.

Our God-given vision stemmed from the Biblical challenge for Christians to express their commitment in all areas of life including education with the trust and confidence that Biblical principles would be the light on our path. In addition we wanted to continue the idea that, as parents have the prime responsibility for their children’s upbringing, parents ought to determine the direction of their children’s schooling. Hence the name: Parent Controlled Christian Education (PCCE) was adopted in contrast to existing Church schools and State Schools. PCCE was originally developed in the Netherlands by Christians around the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries under the leadership of Dr Abraham Kuyper and others. This idea was brought to Australia by our Dutch migrant parents who considered this the highest priority together with Church and Politics. We studied and adapted the idea and used these principles in all our considerations – particularly in the appointment of Principal and Teachers and the development of curricula. We also held the strong view that, although we would determine the school’s direction, Teachers should be given the freedom and responsibility to develop the curriculum and teach according to this direction. It was challenging and exciting to have the freedom to work this out as a community where everyone could exercise their calling and responsibility before the Lord. These Biblical foundations were ultimately expressed in the Educational Creed which continues to be the basis on which MECS continues to function and develop.

The concept of a Junior Secondary School was developed within the MECS Primary School – Year 7 in 1974 to Year 10 in 1977. Consideration then had to be given to establishing a Senior School to accommodate Year 11 and 12 – if we wanted to give these precious students the opportunity to continue their preparation to enter further education or employment. A committee reported that there was “a responsibility incumbent upon the school community to provide a distinctly Christian education for MECS and other students” at this pre-tertiary level. Also “a Senior Secondary School would need to provide a more specialised and different form of education from that of the State to fit such students for their various tasks within the Kingdom of God.” After much consultation with Australian and overseas experts including Canadian, the Board’s recommendation to establish a separate Senior School at MECS was accepted at the Annual General Meeting of Parents/members in early 1977. The concept was to provide for 100 students who would be drawn from MECS’ Middle School as well as other schools. Plans were developed by architect Paul Lehmann in consultation with, and supervised by, the Board’s Development Committee and construction commenced in mid 1978 for completion by the start of the 1979 school year. Dr Doug Blomberg was the first Senior Secondary School Coordinator and the Teachers were Cor Koole, John Baird and some part-timers. The opening of this separate facility ‘up on the hill’ was a significant and unique step of faith which continued to demonstrate God’s faithfulness through the MECS community. We give thanks and praise the Lord for the many students that have gone on to make a difference in our society based on their Christ-centred education received at MECS.

Jerry
Board Member 1970 – 1984
Grandparents & Special Friends Day

‘Thank you for a wonderful morning’, was said to us a number of times last Thursday morning. We had over 300 Grandparents and Special Friends visit the Primary classrooms and the 4 Year Old Kindergarten classes to take part in the activities and investigations happening inside and outside the classrooms.

Thank you to our amazing Kindergarten and Primary school staff for your wonderful preparations and activities that the visitors were able to enjoy. Thank you to Primary music teacher Janine Lee and her choir for a wonderful choir performance. Thank you to the car park attendants, Primary ‘TASK’, ‘Welcoming’ and ‘MELT’ teams. Thank you Karen and her team of helpers for a delicious Morning Tea. There were so many words of thanks and appreciation to all our staff and students from the visitors. A thank you letter will be sent home soon to all of our visitors who registered on the morning. It was a wonderful morning, a highlight on our school calendar!

Amanda
Community Relations Officer

From the Principal
Continued

what food was available. As the police came and the ambulance was called, a small package of care came in the most unlikely of circumstances. When I heard this story, I was clearly worried about how the group was feeling, but overwhelmed by the compassion that can be easily dismissed by a society that would seek to judge and hide homelessness away.

Did that small gesture make a difference? Maybe for the homeless man, maybe for the police that moved away a known member of the public and saw love in the face of fear. God loves a heart that is generous. I was very proud of how the group responded. God chooses the timing of change on someone’s life; the students were open to being the agents of change.
MECS Notes

Careers on the Web!

There is now a fortnightly Careers newsletter on the Careers page of the school website, which can be found under ‘Resources’. This newsletter is a compilation of information that is provided to the school from tertiary institutions and other organisations that is deemed most relevant to our students. It will include open day information and details about new courses, scholarships and other careers development opportunities. It will also contain information given at Senior School assembly regarding careers. The second newsletter is now available.

Amelia
Careers Teacher

Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd Closures – 18 to 22 March

This is important information for families who use Mt Dandenong Tourist Road to bring their children to school. In the coming weeks the Department of Sustainability and Environment and Parks Victoria, in conjunction with Vic Roads, will be closing a portion of Mt Dandenong Tourist Road in Montrose. These closures will occur daily between Monday 18 and Friday 22 March and the road closures will be in place between 9am and 3:30pm to minimise the disruption to bus services and the general peak hour traffic flow.

If you need further information please contact the office (office@mecs.vic.edu.au) for a brochure which indicates the exact location of the closures.

Yarra Ranges Book Launch

Congratulations to 2 of our Primary students Alexander Verhagen and Brielle Town, on having their artworks chosen to be published in a book ‘Flying Home’ - A Mount Evelyn Story. Students from primary schools in the area had the opportunity to submit drawings for the book which is dedicated to the people of Mount Evelyn. The book launch is happening on Tuesday March 19, 3.45-4.45 at the Station House Wray Cres, Mount Evelyn. RSVP.

Amelia
Community Relations Officer

Anniversary Events March 16

This weekend we will be celebrating the school’s 40th Anniversary with the founders and people who worked so hard in the early years to get MECS established.

At 2pm on Saturday, we will be re-enacting the original Opening Ceremony that was held on the grounds here in 1973. This will be followed by an afternoon tea and formal dinner for our special guests. There is also a celebratory service at the Mount Evelyn Christian Reformed Church, Mount Evelyn at 9.30am on Sunday 17 March.

You are welcome to come along for the Re-enactment and afternoon tea or the Church service - it would be great to see some of our current families attending and showing interest in the rich history of this school. The Re-enactment will be held on March 16 at 2pm on the Middle School courts followed by afternoon tea under marquees on the oval.

We will also need some volunteers Friday 15 Mar, 1-3.30pm to help set up and Monday 18 March to clean up after these events. Please contact me if you are able to help out.

If you have any questions please call me in the office 9738 6000. I hope to see you there!

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

Softball at Worawa

The bus headed up the highway towards Healesville with the mighty Year 10 MECS softball team on board. It was a super warm day and as we rolled into Worawa Aboriginal College we could see the dry hot oval waiting for us. We were welcomed on our arrival and given a tour of the new art room which reminded me of the art gallery in Yuendumu. We were split into mixed teams and went on to have a great time despite the heat. The girls were able to chat and play with the Worawa girls as we played. The MECS girls held their own in the competition and a special mention to Evie who took a screamer of a catch. Icy poles at the end were most welcome and we came home having enjoyed the chance to visit and mix. A special thanks to Roger Fernando who organised this for the girls.

Cliff
SS Coordinator

Celebrating 40 Years
The Year 7s of 2013 went to Clifford Park for camp this year. There were lots of activities to do like the ‘Challenge Course’ which most people loved (it involved mud!) and there was also abseiling and archery. There was an archery competition with about 15 people competing against each other. Each person tried to get the highest score, and the winner got to take home an arrow trophy. There was also a competition where archers had to shoot as closest to the bull’s eye as possible, and anyone could challenge the winners. Will Barnard managed to shoot very well and won this competition.

We did some low key activities in order to stay cool such as drama and art. We were a bit unlucky having 3 days over 30 degrees, so we needed to have a few activities where we could relax.

We had some delicious meals like spaghetti, pizza, hamburgers and French toast, not to mention the ice creams! By the time we reached the end of the camp, we were all very sleepy and happy to go home. But we have great memories and made lots of friends.

Kate & Caity, Year 7
Year 8 Man Camp

Last week, the Year 8 boys went on a weeklong camp to Gilwell Park, near Gembrook. The aim of the camp was to learn more about becoming a man and working as a team. Over the week we split up into groups of five to compete in various challenges that gave us points to win the ultimate prize of double movie tickets to Reading Cinema. Some of the challenges included sculling a can of warm and cold Coke, going through the gauntlet (an obstacle course) with the fastest time and doing many other challenges that involved stamina, strength, speed and problem solving. We also had many talks around our (imaginary) campfire, about what it is to be man and the situations we would later encounter.

The highlight for most guys was on Wednesday, when our dads or a significant adult male attended for the day. We built a shelter, rafts and spent some quality time talking to them about their personal experiences.

Overall everyone had a great time! Thanks to Brad, Peter, Lance, and Duc for making our camp awesome!

Cameron & Brenton

last week the Year 8 boys went to man camp. It was at Gilwell Park in Gembrook. My highlight of the camp was when we travelled to Warburton for lunch. All of the students were given $10 to buy anything we wanted; most of us got hot chips and a Coke. Another highlight was the Gauntlet, a massive obstacle course that included all types of obstacles. My group completed it in 15:10, beating last year’s record by over 4 minutes! I also really enjoyed Wednesday, when our fathers or a father figure came to do different activities such as building shelters and making rafts.

Rob

Anton, Michael, Ian, David, Josh D, Josh V, Jeremy, Reilly, Kyle & Daniel
Year 9 City Camp

For an unforgettable City Camp experience, take a bunch of Year 9 students, seven staff members, a large metropolis and a SERIOUSLY COOL new booklet. Mix thoroughly over a high heat for five days and spoon into muffin trays to cool. This year’s bonanza, while including many highlights from previous City Camp experiences, also saw the introduction of Jonnys’ new look booklet, including the all-new ‘Melbourne Competition’, and a ‘focus groups’ activity. Students were divided into groups of their nominated interests and spent Wednesday morning looking at either Homelessness with Sue, Coffee and Cafés at ‘Padre’s’ with Jonny, Sport at the MCG with Paul, High-end Fashion with Yvonne, Media with Justine or Street Art with Tim. This proved an exciting opportunity to go deeper with the students who had particular interests in these areas – all this in between finding opportunities to escape the constant heat and sneaking up to the glorious Sofitel bathrooms for some welcome relief. Thanks to everyone who made City Camp such a terrific experience for 2013!

Tim
Year 9 Teacher
6pm - 40th Anniversary Dinner
Ceremony Re-enactment
2pm - 40th Anniversary Opening
Sat 16 March
SP Swimming
Fri 15 March
Celebrating 40 Years
Working Bee
Sat 23 March
SP Swimming
Staff & Year 7, 9 & 10 Immunisations
Fri 22 March
Year 7-10 Interschool Swimming
Wed 20 March
Primary GT (MPA)
Mon 18 March
Christian Reformed Church, 9.30am
40th Anniversary Service at Mount Evelyn
Sun 17 March
End Term 1
Prep Connect Morning Tea
Thur 28 March
MP Afternoon Tea for Parents
Tues 26 March
School Photo Day
Mon 25 March
MP Afternoon Tea for Parents
Thur 28 March
Prep Connect Morning Tea
End Term 1

School Photo Day
Monday 25 March

We are using a different company this year so please read the envelopes for the new instructions. Students need to bring their individual envelope (with money enclosed, if paying by cash) on the day of the photos. They can also bring their envelopes in early, and hand them to their class teacher or for Senior School, to Rosalie in the Senior School Office. Not bringing payment on the day means an additional $20 late fee on top of the cost. Please take time to read the relevant information on the MSP Photography payment envelopes. Family envelopes are available at the school office upon request.

Remember the Working Bee!
Saturday 23 March
7.00am-1pm
BBQ Breakfast

Celebrating 40 Years

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
11am Tuesday on published week. Email articles (images attached as jpg) to the Newsletter Office

MECS COMMUNITY NOTICES
MECS does not endorse the products or services of any private advertiser. No responsibility is accepted by Mount Evelyn Christian School for the accuracy of information contained in advertisements or claims made by them.

Electric Piano and Beanies for Sale
Electronic piano, Casio (CTK - 4000) plus stand. $80
A box full of beautiful Beanies... (38 individual Beanie, excellent condition, no tags) $35
Contact Narelle.

Guitars for Sale
LTD MH103-QM: $500. Mid range electric guitar with a quilted blue finish. Comes with high quality guitar case, strap, and 2 sets of strings. (for more info just google search it)
Boss Micro BR: $180 (rrp $250). A portable recording suite, effects unit, and drum machine for your guitar/bass. Barely used, full packaging and instructions. It is an UK power supply but a complementary adapter supplied.
Zoom G1x: $75. A multi-effects unit with plenty of pre-set and user-definable sounds, plus a bank of drum beats for practicing with. Packaging may look worn, but the product still works perfectly. Full instructions
Peavey 15w amp: $75. This amp has served me well as a beginner. Can go louder than you need it, but still quiet for practice times. Has quite a nice distortion for its size.
Or, $600 for the guitar, Zoom, and amp.
Contact Peter.

Renardi Upright Piano for Sale
Quality, ornate, beautifully toned, iron-framed Renardi upright piano in great condition. Price on application.
Please contact Julian.

Camper Trailer for Sale
2006 Jayco Swan camper trailer. $17,500 ono. G.C. Bed fly's, carpet, awning, reg till August, pole carriers, new cover and lots of other extras.
Contact Ron.

Part-time Work Needed
Parent looking for part-time office work. Skills include MYOB, Quickbooks, accounts receivable/payable, Windows Suite, touch typing, office all rounder. Many years experience. Available during school hours. (Will consider outside school hours). Friendly, hard working and reliable Christian. Contact Keren.

Family Easter Night
Bayswater Bunnings, Thursday March 21 at 6 – 8pm. Sausage Sizzle & drinks are provided.
Booking essential.

Community Market
In support of the RCH Good Friday Appeal the will be a Bubs and Kids community market, Sat 16 March, 9am-1pm, Jean Eales Pavilion, Lilydale Show Grounds.
Second hand baby and kids clothing, toys etc. Gold coin entry.
Contact Simone.

iPods for Sale
2 x 5th Generation ipod nano 8gb. for sale, one orange, one silver. Both with original cable and earphones. No cases. Both working perfectly. $60 each.
Contact Jane.

NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK
(can also be downloaded from website)
- Legal Studies Excursion Letter (last week)
- Prep Pipeline Number 2
- yr 10 & 11 work Experience Note (last week)
- MP Vic Market Excursion Helper Letter